Straight Truth

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Gaza Needs Concrete Actions Not Words

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Demonstrators wave Palestinian flags as they protest against Israel's bombardment of Gaza, in Pamplona, northern Spain, 11 Nov 2023

Afterthoughts: Riyadh Summit highlighted Iran's return

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TERHAN – The main focus of the extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh was obviously the plight of the Palestinians. But it also included important diplomatic moments for Iran.

Although the public mood in Iran's diplomatic apparatus was gloomy over the Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip, Iran's diplomatic achievements were remarkable, with the Iranian President meeting Arab leaders for the first time in years.

President Raisi arrived in Saudi Arabia on Saturday for the Arab-Islamic summit on Gaza amid a brutal Israeli campaign against the civilians in the Palestinian enclave.

To begin with, President Raisi's trip to Saudi Arabia was a breakthrough in itself. Iran and Saudi Arabia have long been locked in rivalries and disputes over a range of issues, which ultimately led to the breakdown of their diplomatic relations in 2016. The two regional heavyweights remained without any diplomatic relations for almost seven years. Despite countless mediation efforts by regional countries such as Iraq and Pakistan, Riyadh and Tehran failed to patch up their relations until last March when a Chinese-brokered deal broke the ice and heralded a new era in Iranian-Saudi relations. Since then, the officials of the two countries have been busy scheduling mutual trips. ▸ Page 3

Exports from mining sector rises 7.5% in 7 months on year

TEHRAN – Iran exported 35.87 million tons of minerals and mining products worth over $7.4 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), registering a 7.5 percent increase year on year.

The exports from the mentioned sector in the said period also increased by 37 percent in terms of weight, IRNA reported.

Iran had exported 26.03 million tons of minerals and mining products valued at $6.9 billion in the previous year's first seven months.

Steel and steel products were the top exported commodities in this sector, followed by copper and its byproducts, aluminum, and related items, as well as other downstream products.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs to promote the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons, while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons. The country also has 11 million tons of zinc reserves. ▸ Page 4

Iranian universities advance in QS Asia Rankings

TEHRAN – QS Asia University Rankings (QS) has included 31 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2024, compared with 16 and 13 universities in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Sharif University of Technology ranked first among Iranian universities, followed by Amirkabir University of Technology, and Iran University of Science and Technology, Mehr reported.

A total of 856 universities from Asia are included in this year's QS Asia University Rankings.

Peking University has been ranked as the best university in the region.

This year's QS Asia University Rankings can also be viewed in sub-regions: Central Asia (including Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) Eastern Asia (includes mainland China, Japan, and South Korea) South-Eastern Asia (including, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand) Southern Asia (including India and Pakistan). ▸ Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

The failure of the West's plan to isolate Iran

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

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the importance of Raisi's presence at the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Riyadh and wrote: Raisi's visit to Saudi Arabia is a new turning point in Tehran-Riyadh relations, which will bring many achievements for both countries in bilateral, regional and global relations. Especially, the Iranian membership in BRICS and China's One Belt One Road Initiative can help to promote this role. Also, this trip shows another dimension of Iran's role in regional equations. Although the West is still trying to prevent the convergence of countries towards Iran with Iranophobia and isolate Iran, the developments process shows the failure of this plan. Holding the 3+3 meeting on the Caucasus in Tehran, the recent visit of the President to Tajikistan and then to Uzbekistan to attend the ECO Summit and now the Organization of Islamic Cooperation meeting show the effective role of the Islamic Republic in regional equations. Therefore, this trip shows Iran's position in regional and global equations, which reveals the failure of the Western plan to isolate Iran.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Expansion of economic diplomacy with the development of corridors

Vatan-e-Emrooz analyzed the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit and wrote: In addition to improving the country's position from an economic, commercial, political, and military point of view, it can also expand Iran's economic diplomacy because the transportation and transit corridors are the vital arteries in the body of the economy and economic development correlates with the existence of these corridors. The results of restoring Iran's transit role can be defined in several advantages; the main advantage is the serious reduction of Iran's dependence on oil revenues; in addition to receiving transit routes from foreign governments, the creation and development of the transit route creates many jobs inside the country. On the other hand, it is the tying of the interests of the countries of the region to the interests of Iran that increases the geopolitical weight of Iran in the region; this issue will open Iran's hand in dealing with the great world powers. Considering that Iran is trying to form a new order in the Southwest Asia region, restoring Iran's position as a corridor will be a step forward.

Resalat: Let the meetings turn into a rise of God

Resalat wrote in its editorial: The president of our country traveled to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to participate in the emergency meeting of the heads of member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation regarding the Gaza war, and in his comprehensive speech, he mentioned the main cause of the crimes in Gaza, which is the United States. He described the atmosphere of this disaster, condemned the leaders and their perpetrators, and presented ten solutions to get out of this situation. Raisi still considered the lack of results of this meeting as a source of disappointment. He will stimulate some insensitive governors of the region. The spirit of the gathering of heads of Islamic and Arab countries is positive and shows that Palestine is not alone, but this is not enough; this presence and the descriptions and condemnations of the Islamic and Arab leaders regarding the cruelty of the most villain creatures in the world, if not accompanied by a practical confrontation, will cause the enemy to become rude. These meetings should be turned into an uprising and if practically, the enemy sees that the Ummah of Islam and the leaders of the Islamic countries have come to the cause of Palestine, it will undoubtedly reconsider its approach to the Palestinian issue.

Ham Mihan: Iran is very smart

Ham Mihan dedicated its headline to Trump's words about Iran and wrote: The former U.S. president called the current resident of the White House "stupid and incapable" and claimed that the leadership of the situation in the Gaza war is in the hands of Iran. In an interview with the Spanish-language news channel Univision, Donald Trump, in response to the question of how the developments in the occupied territories would proceed if he were the leader of the United States, dragged Iran into this response and said: "If it were me, these events would not have happened." I would have agreed with Iran two weeks after winning the 2020 elections! We had discussions and respected each other. I told them that my emphasis is on your non-acquisition of nuclear weapons. Iran has many financial resources; more than 100 billion dollars. The situation is getting worse, because America is not able to lead the (Palestine) crisis during the Biden era, and Iran is leading in this crisis. Iran is very smart and clever. Describing the October 7 attack by Hamas on the positions of the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip as a "surprise attack", Trump considered it difficult for Netanyahu to manage this complex crisis.

'U.S. providing Israel with weapons, playing major role in ensuring its survival'

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has said that the U.S. is the primary source of weaponry that the Israeli regime uses to murder Palestinian women and children, describing it as playing a major role in ensuring the regime's survival.

Raisi made the statements while speaking to media in Tehran early Sunday after returning from an extraordinary joint meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The summit took place while Israel maintained its genocide in the beleaguered Gaza Strip despite mounting pressure to put an end to the atrocities.

"I introduced the United States as the main culprit in these crimes that are being committed by Israel in Gaza," the Iranian president stated at the conference.

Raisi went on to add, "The most important role that the United States plays is both in helping the Zionist regime survive and in arming and supporting it in its massacre of Palestinian women and children."

"During this trip, I tried to be the voice of the Iranian nation and those people who shout the right of Palestinians in streets," the Iranian president stated, highlighting the Islamic Republic's firm stance on the Palestine issue.

"Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has had clear-cut views on the right of Palestinian people, while at the same time, considering the Zionist regime as a fake and usurping regime with no identity," Raisi averred.

He continued that the Islamic Republic views the liberation of the occupied city of Al-Quds and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people as the main concern of the Muslim world and a standard by which to measure other nations' actual attitudes on this matter.

Raisi stated that among his other major objectives for attending the Riyadh summit were outlining Iran's positions on the Palestine issue and detailing the numerous facets of

"Zionists' crimes against humanity as well as war crimes and genocide" in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Then, he briefly discussed the ten ideas and solutions that Iran had tendered at the summit to help resolve the current Gaza conflict, emphasizing that the only path that would free the holy Al-Quds is to encourage Palestinian resistance.

"In this summit, in contrast to the two-state solution that some parties proposed on the future of Palestine, we offered a totally democratic solution based on having all Palestinians, including Muslims, Christians and Jews, vote through a referendum to determine their fate," Iran's president noted.

He stated that time does not "give a usurping and occupying regime legitimacy and the right of ownership" over Palestinian territory, even if it has existed for 75 years.

Following the surprise Operation al-Aqsa Storm carried out by Hamas in the region in reaction to Israel's increased atrocities against the Palestinian people, the regime launched its war on Gaza on October 7.

Since then, Israel's genocide in Gaza has claimed the lives of over 11,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Raisi, MBS, meet for first time following détente

On the sidelines of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League to discuss the conflict in Palestine, Raisi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met on Saturday for the first time since their tense relations were repaired as part of a deal struck in Beijing earlier this year.

Raisi and bin Salman have agreed at the discussion that Saudi Arabia and Iran should ratchet up their bilateral and regional cooperation.

The two had also pledged to talk in-depth on bilateral interests and regional developments in the future.

The meeting was the highest-profile exchange between Saudi Arabian and Iranian officials since the two regional heavyweights agreed in March to put aside their disputes and restore diplomatic ties.

In an effort to strengthen their economic ties, Iran and Saudi Arabia proceeded to reopen their respective embassies and exchange trade delegations.

Raisi met with other regional leaders on the sidelines of the joint OIC-Arab League summit in Riyadh on Saturday.

Improved relations with 'friendly Egypt'

During a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Iranian president stated that Iran wishes to strengthen ties with Egypt.

"Iran sees no obstacle in expansion of relations with the friendly country of Egypt," said Raisi in the meeting where Sisi also declared that his country is determined to build "realistic relations" with Iran.

El-Sisi, for his part, said that Egypt's clear political goal is to build genuine ties with Iran.

"We have assigned the related ministers to pursue deep relations between the two countries," he said.

The president of Egypt continued, "With regard to Palestine, Egypt is a country that has suffered more than others from the consequences of this issue."

During a meeting on Saturday, Raisi and his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad also underlined that Gaza's future and its fight for freedom from the Zionist regime can only be decided by resistance.

"Resistance is based on deterrence and prevention of aggression by enemies. Hezbollah actions are based on wisdom and prudence, but the Zionist regime has no logic and understands no language but the language of force," Raisi told Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati on Saturday.

In another meeting with his Nigerian counterpart Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Saturday, Raisi said that if Islamic nations had banded together and stood up to the Zionist regime early in the Gaza conflict, the regime would not have dared to perpetrate genocide in Palestinian land.

During his Saturday meeting with Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, the President of Mauritania, Raisi said that the normalization of relations between some nations and the Zionist regime gave it more confidence and led to miscalculations on its part, calling the normalization a stab in the back of the Palestinian resistance.

Speaking with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on the Gaza war on Saturday, Raisi stated that the Israeli regime had committed so many crimes against humanity and genocides that it had already been morally denounced before facing trials in international tribunals.

In a meeting on Saturday with Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the chairman of the Sudanese ruling Sovereign Council, President Raisi said that the Zionist regime is to blame for a number of issues worldwide, including those that arise in Africa.

Amir Abdollahian says Muslim, Arab states can put end to Israeli war crimes

TEHRAN- The foreign minister of Iran has asserted that efforts by Arab and Muslim nations can put a halt to Israel's ongoing war crimes against the Palestinian people in the beleaguered Gaza Strip.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the comments in a news interview on Saturday night following his attendance at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit against Israel's assault on Gaza in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, together with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

"The meeting was held tardily. However, we believe that if the leaders of Muslim countries and the general secretaries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League make necessary efforts, we can witness the cessation of war crimes by the Zionist regime at this juncture," he said.

The summit denounced "the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip and the war crimes" and the "barbaric, inhumane and brutal massacres" carried out by the occupying regime against the Palestinian people in the final communiqué.

Additionally, it demanded that the UN Security Council make "a decisive and binding decision" to put an end to the slaughter in Gaza.

The meeting also called for the International Criminal Court (ICC), headquartered in The Hague, to finish delving into war crimes and crimes against humanity that Israel is committing against the Palestinian people.

Originally, the 22 members of the Arab League were expected to attend Saturday's summit. However, the event was later expanded to include the OIC, a wider association of 57 mostly Muslim-majority states.

Speaking at the gathering, Raisi declared that the "army of the occupying and aggressor regime should be designated as a terrorist organization and that the blind bombardment against Gaza must stop."

Important fact, the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to warmly embrace Islamic nations based on a policy of good neighborliness and regional unity," the president stressed.

Raisi cautioned regional leaders about the urgency the Islamic world is facing today. "Today is the day of action," he said, adding that regional states must muster up all they have to defend the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

On October 7, following Hamas's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the usurping entity, Israel launched its brutal war on Gaza which left thousands dead and injured.

Additionally, it has established a complete siege on the coastal sliver, depriving the more than two million Palestinian residents of their water, food, fuel, and power.

Tehrani Moghaddam; from the first missile launch to Iran's self-sufficiency

TEHRAN- Iran owes its missile power to Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, the founding father of Iran's missile power, a man who was martyred on November 12, 2012.

Tehrani Moqaddam is a general known for his relentless efforts to further develop Iran's missile program. He began establishing Iran's missile program amidst the Iran-Iraq war which began on 1980 and lasted for eight years.

The recent incidents clearly demonstrate the necessity of having an adequate military might for national defense.

It is not fair to neglect those who have contributed to Iran's self-sufficiency and progress in missile technology.

Martyr Tehrani Moghaddam was one of the figures who played a special role in empowering the country's missile power.

He is described as "Iran's missile father."

Upon his request, the sentence "Here is the tomb of a person who wanted to destroy Israel" was engraved on his tomb.

A year after the Islamic Revolution's victory, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Khajeh Nasir al-Din Toosi University.

He joined the IRGC in 1980.

He was one of the leading figures in the establishment of the IRGC artillery using 155 mm and 130 mm traction shells as well as Portuguese 105 mm shells.

In the midst of the imposed war, he was tasked with leading the IRGC missile unit due to its need for air combat.

In the meantime, Iraq hardened its missile attacks against Iranian cities, and Iran was trying to make up for its weakness in missile defense with the help of countries such as Syria and Libya.

He, along with his forces, succeeded in firing Iran's first missile at the city of Kirkuk on March 12, 1985.

The second IRGC missile hit the 18th-floor bank in Baghdad on the morning of March 14, 1986, and the next missile landed in the Iraqi army officers' club in Baghdad, killing around 200 Iraqi commanders.

He was chosen as the IRGC Air Force commander in 1986.

According to a previous agreement, Libya sent several Scud missiles with launchers to Iran, and it was decided to prepare the missiles and the launch pad in the barracks that had been determined in advance under the supervision of Libyan experts.

But all of a sudden, the experts put the work on hold. In fact, Muammar Gaddafi wanted to blackmail Iran.

Regarding the capabilities of Tehrani Moghaddam, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said, "Every woman who travels from north to south in Lebanon or vice versa, owes her security to Hajj Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam."

Using Sejjil and Shahab missiles, Tehrani Moghaddam, hypothetically, could have made the 'seven-minute to Tel Aviv' theory a reality.

Finally, on November 12, 2011, he was martyred along with some of his comrades in the Amir al-Mu'minin garrison in Mallard City, west of the Iranian capital of Tehran.

The blast took place during a missile test at a base in Bid Ganeh, which killed 16 other individuals as well.

Israel suffered decisive blow: IRGC commander

TEHRAN- A senior Iranian military official has said that the Israeli regime suffered a major blow to its strategic plans on October 7.

In a recent inspection of Iran's IRGC Operational Base Karbala in the southwest border region of Iran, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Ground Force, praised Operation Al-Aqsa Storm as a significant blow to the strategic plans of the Zionist regime and a symbol of Palestinian resistance against 75 years of oppression and massacres by the occupying entity.

As reported by Tasnim, Brigadier General Pakpour, accompanied by Karbala Base Commander Ahmad Khadem Seyedoshohada, toured operational units, artillery, communication, and tactical units in the southwest region of Iran, assessing the IRGC forces' readiness for combat and defense.

Highlighting the vigilance and continuous efforts of IRGC members, Pakpour emphasized the full equipment and preparedness of Ground Force units, expressing pride in their role securing the country's borders.

Honoring Ground Force commanders in Khuzestan province, Pakpour paid tribute to IRGC retirees, stating that their readiness to protect the Islamic Revolution is a source of pride. He credited military capabilities to the sacrifices of the IRGC.

He made the remarks during the ceremony that followed the IRGC commander's inspection.

Describing Operation Al-Aqsa Storm as a decisive blow to the Zionist regime's military strategies, Pakpour echoed the assertion of the Leader of Islamic Revolution that the defeat of the Zionist regime in this operation is irreparable.

Commander of IRGC Base Karbala, Brigadier General Ahmad Khadem Seyedoshohada, also emphasized IRGC members' resilience, stating they never retire and always seek martyrdom, aligning with the will of Martyr Majid Baqai.

After visiting Karbala base's deprivations elimination workshop, Pakpour commended the base's significant assistance to economically underprivileged areas in Khuzestan. Efforts are underway to continue these activities alongside assigned border missions, according to the commander.

During Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the Palestinian resistance movement inflicted major damages to the Israeli regime' military and security forces, causing a tremendous catastrophe against the occupation forces. This operation was the largest and strongest attack against Israel, leading to Israel's announcement of a genocidal war on the blockaded Gaza Strip on October 7.

Afterthoughts: Riyadh Summit highlighted Iran's return

From Page 1 ▶ The first step was to exchange visits at the level of foreign ministers. Despite some red herrings, the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia exchanged visits to Tehran and Riyadh. Other ministers followed suit but higher-level visits remained off-limits.

The Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip offered a chance. Iran and Saudi Arabia both took the lead in calling for the Arab-Islamic summit, which came a at time when all Muslim countries needed a unified stance not just on Israel but also on its Western allies.

In Riyadh, President Raisi met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, whose country played host to the summit. The meeting was the first between President Raisi and Prince Mohammad bin Salman. Raisi's visit to Saudi Arabia was also the first for an Iranian president to the Arab country in 11 years.

In this meeting, the development of bilateral relations and regional cooperation was discussed and emphasized, and the parties agreed to discuss bilateral and regional issues in detail in the future,

according to a statement by the Iranian presidency.

Iranian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Alireza Enayati said the Iranian president invited the Saudi crown prince to pay a visit to Iran.

This meeting was not the only important one held on the sidelines of the summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). President Raisi also met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who has been at the center of diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating the Israel-Gaza war since the beginning of the war in early October.

Egypt and Iran do not have diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors. They have diplomatic interest sections in each other's capitals, way lower than full diplomatic relations. Several rounds of diplomatic talks and mediations between Tehran and Cairo have not yielded concrete results in terms of exchanging embassies.

In his meeting with President Sisi, President Raisi voiced readiness to upgrade relations with the most populous Arab country.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran sees no obstacle to the development of relations with the friendly country of Egypt," Raisi told his Egyptian counterpart.

President Raisi described the holding of the peace meeting in Cairo as a positive initiative that the Western countries prevented from reaching its conclusion. "The Cairo peace meeting could have been a turning point in ending the Zionist crimes in the massacre of defenseless and innocent women and children in Gaza, but the Western countries supporting the Zionist regime did not allow the Security Council and other international organizations to take effective action to stop these crimes and also prevented the meeting from being fruitful," he added.

President Sisi, for his part, reiterated Egypt's will to boost relations with Iran. "Our definite political will is to establish real relations with Iran," he said.

He added, "We have assigned the related ministers to pursue deep relations between the two countries."

In addition to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the Iranian president met with other Muslim and Arab leaders, which further highlighted the proactivity of Iranian diplomacy.

Threatening to use nuclear arms is 'counterproductive in the extreme': Kimball

ACA chief says every country should strongly condemn Eliyahu for threatening to nuke Gaza

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN – Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director of the Arms Control Association (ACA) in Washington, suggests that threatening or using nuclear weapons, especially against a non-nuclear state or population, goes against "international law", is "immoral" and is "counterproductive in the extreme".

Kimball made the remarks after Israeli far-right minister Amihai Eliyahu told a radio program on November 5 that "one of Israel›s options in the war in Gaza is to drop a nuclear bomb on the Strip."

The ACA director suggests that every country should strongly condemn remarks by Eliyahu.

"Mr. Eliyahu's statement suggesting Israel might use nuclear weapon in Gaza should be strongly condemned by every country because the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, especially against a non-nuclear state or population, is contrary to international law, it is immoral, and it is, from a military perspective, disproportionate and counterproductive in the extreme," Kimball tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

Kimball also refutes the claim that the remarks by Eliyahu openly proved that Israel possesses nuclear arms, saying it is an open secret that Israel has approximately 80 nuclear bombs.

"Eliyahu's reference to an Israeli nuclear weapons capability, however, is not the first such verbal slip by an Israeli or an American official about Israel's nuclear status. Let's be serious, it has been well-known - for decades - that Israel possesses an arsenal of nuclear weapons that consists of approximately 80 nuclear bombs, so Eliyahu's comments do not tell the world anything it did not already know and should not be interpreted as a threat to use nuclear weapons against other states in the region," Kimball notes.

Seyed Hossein Mousavian, a Middle East security and nuclear policy specialist at Princeton University, says France helped Israel to master nuclear bomb about 60 years ago.

Some analysts argue that the Israeli minister's threat to use nuclear weapons on Gaza was a bombshell that might prompt other countries in the region to go after atomic bombs and the region would enter a dangerous nuclear arms race.

The ACA executive director says Israel's possession of nuclear arms is "completely useless" in finding a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and that Israel's nuclear stockpile does not provide an excuse for other countries in the Middle East to seek nuclear arms and violate the NPT.

Kimball says, "The fact that Israel has nuclear weapons, which are completely useless in combatting violence against Israel or for finding a political solution to end its occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, does not justify action by other states in the region, including Iran, to break their nonproliferation treaty commitments and seek to acquire nuclear weapons."

The expert warns that a nuclear arms race in the region would threaten the entire life in danger in case of a war.

"Doing so would only increase tensions in the region, prompt a dangerous and costly nuclear arms race, and put everyone at risk of annihilation if a regional war were to break out," Kimball cautions.

Void fallacy; linking diaspora's stance to Iranians

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN- The Atlantic Council website ran an October 13 story to depict the Iranian diaspora, who are mostly monarchists that take the side of Israel, as the representative of the Iranian public opinion.

Atlantic Council quoted some Iranian diaspora members who backed the Israeli regime and criticized Hamas. The fallacy of the Atlantic Council is attempting to present the views of a small group of Iranian exiles as the opinion of the entire Iranian population.

The individuals identified by Arash Azizi, the author of the article, in his report as supporters of the Israeli regime are actually long-time adversaries who have been working to overthrow the Islamic Republic for years. It is clear that they are simply saying what they are expected to.

The report presented two premises to prove its false hypothesis; however, both can be refuted.

First, the analysis referred to the "Neither Gaza nor Lebanon, I give my life for Iran" slogan and claimed that the Iranian people oppose support for resistance groups.

Supporting resistance groups, as per the report, would isolate Tehran and put a heavy financial burden on the shoulders of Iran.

The aforementioned slogan, which was coined in Iran's 2009 unrest, has not stemmed from the public opinion of the Iranian people or the demonstrators. Yet it was orchestrated by Western think tanks seeking to widen the gap between people and the state.

On the other hand, the analysis trumpeted Tehran's support for resistance groups in a bid to deviate thoughts from the financial, political, and military support that the West has unwaveringly provided for Tel Aviv in its war against defenseless Palestinians.Metaphorically, the analysis claims that supporting resistance is an extra cost with no benefit for Iran. However, it should be said that nearly all countries consider national security when setting a foreign policy to ensure safety.

So, in case there is any support for the resistance groups, it is not a cost but an effort to ensure the security interests of Tehran.

Elsewhere in the analysis, the author claimed that the Iranian people enjoyed their relations with the Israelis during the Pahlavi era, namely Mohammadreza Pahlavi.

In fact, the claim that the Iranians had warm relations with the Israelis is just a distortion of history.

The Pahlavi regime did its best to prevent the Iranian people's anti-Israeli slogans from being publicized. As part of its efforts to cover up Iranian hatred toward Israel, the Pahlavi regime threatened the religious speakers in order not to speak in public about the Israeli regime. As it was quoted in a book titled "Fourteen Years of Shiite Strategic Competition," there was a match between Iran's national football and that of Israel in 1970.

After the end of the game, an anti-Israeli protest was launched by people in Tehran and they chanted anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans.

The police tried to disperse the people but they pressed ahead with their pro-Palestinian rally.

Mohammadreza Pahlavi called the pro-Palestinian rallies "unpleasant" at the time. In his idea, the people shouldn't have chanted "Long live Palestine" and "Death to Israel."

He said to Prime Minister Asadollah Alam that SAVAK, the intelligence service of the Pahlavi regime, "has not found the reason behind people's protests."

All in all, the Israeli regime tends to show that the Iranian people do not hate it and the anti-Israeli stance is just the government's approach, not the people's.

However, everyone knows that Tel Aviv's terrorist actions have targeted Iran's progress, including its people.

Massacring the Iranian nuclear scientists, fomenting riots inside Iran and many other inhumane acts are all plots hatched by the Zionist regime to halt Tehran's progress since the Israeli regime does not bear the progress of any nation.

Iran takes lead in defending Palestinians' rights: expert

TEHRAN- Mokhtar Haddad, an expert on regional issues, has said that Iran's foreign policy efforts in pursuing the rights of the Palestinians have been one of a kind.

In an interview with IRNA news agency, Mokhtar Haddad stated that Iran has been actively employing its diplomacy to address the Israeli violations against Gazans.

He further mentioned that President Ebrahim Raisi has been in touch with the heads of Islamic and regional states since the beginning of the war in Gaza.

Haddadi stated that the unified support for Palestine by the leaders of Islamic nations was a result of Iran's active diplomacy.

The expert also pointed to the Iranian foreign minister's efforts in discussing issues over supporting the Palestinian people, immediate cease-fire, and a swift end to Israeli war crimes.

He referred to Iran's policy toward Palestine in the OIC summit, saying Iran emphasized issues that have been of main concern for Palestinians and the Islamic Ummah.

According to the expert, Islamic countries should support Palestine and counter the encroachments of the Israeli regime.

He also added that Iran's efforts, especially at the OIC summit, have been second to none.

At the Islamic Republic of Iran's urging, the heads of the 57 member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) met in Riyadh on Saturday, November 11, to find a solution to end the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza.

In the meeting, 10 solutions were suggested by President Raisi in order to terminate the Israeli war crimes.

SPORTS

Sepahan earn hard-fought win over Persepolis: PGPL

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team edged past Persepolis 1-0 at the 2023/24 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) on Sunday.

Reza Asadi scored a stunning free-kick goal in Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium.

Soon after, the visiting team put Sepahan under pressure but their strikers failed to capitalize on their chances.

Persepolis forward Shahab Zahedi was shown a second yellow card in the additional time.

Earlier in the day, Zob Ahan beat Nassaji 2-0 in Ghaemshahr and moved up to second place.

Esteghlal lead the table with 22 points, followed by Zob Ahan and Persepolis, who are on 18 and 17 points, respectively.

Iran learn fate at 2024 Asian Handball Championship

TEHRAN - Iran discovered their fate at the 2024 Asian Men›s Handball Championship.

Team Melli have been drawn in Group B along with South Korea, China, and New Zealand.

The 2024 Asian Men›s Handball Championship will be the 21st edition of the championship scheduled to be held from Jan. 11 to 25, 2024 in Bahrain, under the aegis of the Asian Handball Federation (AHF).

It will be the third time in history that the championship will be organized by the Bahrain Handball Federation. It also acts as a qualification tournament for the 2025 World Men›s Handball Championship, with the top four teams from the championship directly qualifying for the event.

Groups:

Group A: Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Chinese Taipei

Group B: Iran, South Korea, China, New Zealand

Group C: Saudi Arabia, Iraq, India, Japan

Group D: Bahrain, the UAE, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan

Nothing has been done yet: Hossein Abdi

TEHRAN – Iran U17 football team head coach Hossein Abdi says that "nothing has been done yet" in the 2023 FIFA U17 World Cup.

Iran came from two goals down to beat Brazil 3-2 in Group C on Saturday.

"We have not done yet and we know that a tough task is ahead of us. I am happy to make our people happy and I hope we can continue the way we have started," Abdi said.

Iran is scheduled to play England on Tuesday.

"The match against Brazil has ended for us and from now on we focus on the next match. We are here to do our best in the competition," he added.

Abdi was touched by the support given by Indonesian supporters at the Jakarta Stadium.

"I really love them (Indonesian fans). They are very good. This is a country that I really respect. I will raise my two hands to (respect them). They are our 12th player," Abdi stated.

Iran announces roster for matches against Hong Kong, Uzbekistan

TEHRAN - Head coach of the Iranian national football team, Amir Ghalenoei, has announced roster of the players for 2026 World Cup qualification games against Hong Kong and Uzbekistan.

The roaster announced on Sunday is as follows:

Hossein Hosseini, Shojae Khalilzadeh, Majid Hosseini, Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi, Sadegh Moharrami, Ehsan Hajsafi, Milad Mohammadi, Roozbeh Cheshmi, Ali Karimi, Saeed Ezatolahi, Ahmad Nourollahi, Omid Ebrahimi, Mohammad Mohebi, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Mehrdad Mohammadi, Mehdi Taremi, Saman Ghoddos, Sardar Azmoun, Karim Ansarifard and Saeid Saharkhizan.

Ghalenoei will include a few more names in the roaster following a game between Persepolis and Sepahan in Iran›s domestic league later on Sunday.

Nasaf, Bam Khatoon share spoils in 2023 AFC Women's Club Championship

TEHRAN – Uzbekistan's FC Nasaf and Bam Khatoon FC of Iran played out a 2-2 draw at the 2023 AFC Women›s Club Championship on Sunday.

The home side assumed control at the start of the first half and their dominance eventually told in the 27th minute when Gulzoda Amirova's carefully placed shot found the net after Zahra Khajavi had initially produced a save to deny Lyudmilla Karachik.

With half-time fast approaching, Amirova worked her way into the box and was one-on-one with Khajavi, however, this time the Bam Khatoon custodian would win her duel to keep her side in the hunt.

The Iranian side bounced back in the second half with a more spirited display and drew level on 62 minutes when Mona Hamoudi got on the end of a long lofted ball to the back post and finished with aplomb, the-afc.com reported.

Nasaf retook the lead when Amirova set up Karachik for a smart finish from the center of the box in the 71st minute but the Iranians had the last say in the game with Sara Didar's equalizer in the fourth minute of added time.

Earlier in the day, Hyundai Steel Red Angels Women's defeated Sydney FC of Australia 3-0 to finish as Group B winner.

Bam Khatoon had previously lost to Australia's Sydney Football Club and Hyundai Steel Red Angels Women's of South Korea 2-1 in the group.

Iran down Japan at Asian Canoe Polo C'ships

TEHRAN - Iran›s men's canoe polo national team defeated Japan at the 2023 Asian Canoe Polo Championships underway in Singapore.

In the semi-final, Iran›s national squad beat Japan 9-3 and advanced to the final.

Iran will face Chinese Taipei in the final.

Coached by Mehregan Kheirollahi, the Iranian men's team comprised of Mohammad-Reza Jamshidiyan, Shayegan Kheirollahi, Ramin Ghiyasvand, Mohamad-Ali Molaei, Mohammad Virani, Reza Beigi, Amir-Mohammad Fattahpour, Mohammad-Saleh Soltani and Milad Jafari.

Asian Canoe Polo Championships 2023 is underway in Singapore from November 6 to 12.

PMO to attract about $1.97b of investment in ports to develop maritime economy

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has said the organization is going to attract 1.0 quadrillion rials (about $1.968 billion) of investment in the country's ports to develop maritime economy.

As reported by the portal of the Iranian Transport Ministry, Ali-Akbar Safaei, in a televised interview on Sunday, said 470 trillion rials (about $924 million) of the mentioned figure is going to be invested by the private sector and the rest will be supplied by PMO.

According to the official, private contractors have so far signed deals worth 60 trillion rials (about $118 million) with PMO to implement development projects in the country's ports.

"In order to realize the general development policies of the maritime sector, we need an integrated, coordinated and agile management at the highest level," Safaei said.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in the course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

Domestic consortium begins project to develop Shurijeh storage facility

TEHRAN – A Consortium of Iranian companies including Mapna Group and Nirpars, begins a project to develop Shurijeh gas storage facility in the northwest of the country, the news portal of Mapna Group reported.

The project includes the construction of a new storage for the mentioned facility, and Neyr Perse, as the executive body of the consortium, has started laying pipelines for the storage.

As reported, the contractors are going to construct flow pipelines, well facilities and gas collection centers, injection turbocompressors, dehumidification facilities, and gas injection and extraction wells to complete the mentioned development project.

The funding for the completion of the said project is provided by Mapna Group.

Mapna Group is a group of Iranian companies involved in the development and execution of thermal and renewable power plants, oil and gas, railway transportation, and other industrial projects as well as manufacturing main equipment including gas and steam turbines, electrical generators, turbine blade and vane, HRSG and conventional boilers, electric and control systems, gas compressor, locomotive, and other pertinent equipment.

The company was founded in 1993 with the initial aim of becoming a general contractor for thermal power plants but evolved and diversified its business lines and capacities to other industries two decades after its establishment. The group is the first and leading West Asian-based general contractor of thermal power plants in the MENA region.

TEDPIX falls 848 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 848 points (0.04 percent) to 2,053,634 on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week, TSE reported.

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

Iran oil production rises in October: survey

TEHRAN - Iran, which has gained an exemption from OPEC cuts deal due to U.S. sanctions, increased production to 3.05 million barrels per day (bpd) in October, as pipeline issues that affected production and exports in September were resolved, according to a survey conducted by S&P Global Commodity Insights Platts.

Production is now at a five-year high, increasing significantly since sanctions pressure eased after Russia-Ukraine war.

OPEC+ crude oil output grew 180,000 bpd in the mentioned month, adding supply pressures to flagging market sentiment, as Iran and Iraq led the group›s production higher.

As reported, OPEC›s 13 members pumped 27.89 million bpd, up 130,000 bpd month on month, while 10 non-OPEC allies, including Mexico, which is not subject to a quota, boosted production by 50,000 bpd to 14.82 million bpd.

On October 29, the spokesman of the Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union said that Iran's oil production has increased to 3.4 million barrels per day, despite the U.S. sanctions aimed at curbing oil exports and the associated revenue to Iran's government.

"The latest reports show that Iran's oil production has increased to 3.4 million barrels per day, while it was about 2.9 million barrels per day until recently," Hamid Hosseini told IRNA.

Given that previously closed oil wells have been reopened and returned to the production cycle, Iran can increase its oil production to 3.8 million bpd, he said.

"If we seek to increase oil exports from 3.8 million barrels per day to 4.2 million bpd in the 7th National Development Plan, we need to invest an average of $25,000 for each barrel of oil, but now, because these oil wells had been in production cycle previously, we have the opportunity to increase the oil production to 3.8 million barrels per day," he explained.

Hosseini also said that about 40,000 bpd have been added to the country's oil production from the Sepehr and Jafir oilfields, which can help with the economic growth of the country.

Iran produced 3.058 million barrels per day of crude oil in September, registering a 15,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report.

Based on secondary sources, Iran produced 3.043 million bpd of crude oil in August.

The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the third quarter of 2023 stood at 2.990 million bpd indicating a 292,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the second quarter of the year, the report said.

The report put the average Iranian crude output for 2022 at 2.554 million bpd, while the average output in 2021 was 2.392 million bpd.

These statistics show that although with the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions, Iran›s oil production decreased; gradually the country has been able to compensate for the output decline and increase production significantly.

Iran now occupies the third place among OPEC members in terms of production, following Saudi Arabia, and Iraq.

The country's heavy crude oil price also increased by $7.05 in September, to register an 8.0 percent rise compared to the previous month, according to the OPEC report.

Iran sold its heavy crude oil at $94.63 per barrel in the mentioned month, compared to August's $87.58 per barrel.

The country's average heavy crude price was $82.37 since the beginning of 2023 up to the report's publishing date, in comparison to $104.16 in the previous year's same period.

Exports from mining sector rises 7.5% in 7 months on year

From page 1 ▸ The total proven reserves of Iran›s mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Despite the country's huge potential in this area, due to some issues like the lack of necessary machinery and equipment and the lack of access to financial resources and foreign investment because of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian mining sector has been struggling to operate at its maximum capacity over the past few years.

So, the government programs for promoting this industry are mainly focused on relying on domestic sources for helping the mining sector overcome its current problems and hit its ideal targets.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth $1.3b to India in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at $1.3 billion to India during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

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

Also, exporting non-oil commodities valued at $1.1 billion to Iran, India was Iran's fifth source of import during the first seven months of this year, the official announced.

According to the data previously released by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the value of Iran's exports to India increased nine percent in the first seven months of 2023, as compared to the same period of time in 2022.

The Indian ministry put the worth of Iran's exports to India at $393 million in January-August 2023, while the figure was $361 million in the same time span of 2022.

Petroleum products, raw materials for dye production, and various fruits were the top exported goods to India in the first seven months of 2023. India imported $156 million of petroleum products, $105 million of raw materials for the production of dyes, and $70 million of fruits from Iran during this period.

As reported, the two countries' trade dropped 27 percent to $1.171 billion in the first seven months of this year from $1.604 billion in the same period of the past year.

The decrease in trade between Iran and India in the first half of 2023 was caused by the drop in the country's exports to Iran. India's exports to Iran in the mentioned seven months experienced a 37 percent drop and reached $778 million. In the January-August of last year, India exported $1.243 billion of goods to Iran.

Rice had the largest share in India's export basket to Iran in the first seven months of this year, accounting for $539 million of the country's total exports to Iran in this period. Fruits with $30 million and tea with $18 million were the second and third top exported goods to Iran, respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: 1402/08/22 - No.: 55/02/20731

INVITATION TO RENEWAL OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Second Announcement

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

شرکت خدمات حمایتی کشاورزی

وزارت جهاد کشاورزی

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×30000±5% MTS of Granular Mono Ammonium Phosphate GMAP (11-52) through renewal of one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Tuesday** dated **14/11/2023** until **Wednesday** dated **22/11/2023** (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rial 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated **23/12/2023** (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelops will be on **Sunday** dated **24/12/2023** at 14:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

1. The bid bond value should be at € 325000 or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on 5/11/2023 for each lot of 30000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.
2. The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 30000 MTS ± 5% will be IRR 99,405,336,880 which must be only submitted by the bidders.
3. After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and http://iets.mporg.ir or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Public relations and international affairs of agricultural support services company

Commodities worth over $600m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 2,871,480 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than $601 million on its physical market, posting growth of 10 percent in volume of trades compared to the figures of the previous week.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,357,408 tons of commodities valued at nearly $382 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,284,083 tons of cement, 590,000 tons of iron ore, 337,115 tons of steel, 133,000 tons of sponge iron, 7,670 tons of copper, 6,090 tons of aluminum, 1,000 tons of zinc, 500 tons of cast iron and 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate.

Based on this report, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 455,563 tons of commodities worth more than $164 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 167,500 tons of vacuum bottom, 103,779 tons of bitumen, 91,678 tons of polymeric products, 35,067 tons of chemicals, 35,000 tons of lube cut, 13,565 tons of sulfur, 5,584 tons of oil, 5,326 tons of petroleum products, 320 tons of feedstocks and 200 tons of waterproofing materials.

The IME also traded within the same week 58,509 tons of goods on its side market.

As previously reported, IME witnessed trade of 13,344,275 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than $3 billion on its physical market during the past Iranian calendar month (ended on October 22), logging growths of 11.6 percent in volume and 8.4 percent in value of trades compared with the month before that.

The exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor, trade of 11,306,756 tons of commodities valued at nearly $2 billion.

On this floor the IME sold 6,074,037 tons of cement, 2,552,000 tons of iron ore, 1,817,919 tons of steel, 825,000 tons of sponge iron, 36,635 tons of copper, 27,620 tons of aluminum, 3,475 tons of zinc, 2,975 tons of cast iron, 1,000 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of coke and 45 tons of precious metals concentrate.

It's worth noting that the IME also traded 1,150 kg of saffron on its agricultural trading floor.

Moreover, the exchange saw trade of 1,916,459 tons of commodities worth more than $991 million on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor.

Gaza needs concrete actions, not words

Why Riyadh Summit failed to fulfill expectations?

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – The extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in the Saudi capital ended with strong communiqué, but no concrete actions against the Zionist regime or its Western enablers.

After more than a month of relentless bombardment which resulted in the killing of thousands of civilians, the Leaders of the Muslim world came together in Riyadh for a summit on the Palestinian question.

The summit, held on Saturday afternoon, was attended by key Muslim leaders such as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, among other leaders.

Millions of Muslims around the world pinned hope on the summit to produce concrete actions such as boycotting all diplomatic and economic relations with the apartheid Israeli regime for its deliberate targeting of civilian lives and properties.

But the summit failed its constituency.

Before heading to Saudi Arabia, the Iranian president urged action. He called on Muslim and Arab leaders to go beyond declaring positions and adopt punitive measures against the Israeli regime, which has demonstrated a mind-boggling disregard for civilians.

Referring to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), President Raisi said, "This platform is not one

for mere speech and announcement of positions, but must be a platform for action to quickly stop the bombings, lift the blockade of Gaza, and open the way to help the oppressed and authoritative people of this region, as well as to achieve the rights of the Palestinians, which was basically the main philosophy of the establishment of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation."

In his speech at the summit, President Raisi reiterated the need for action, saying the high-level meeting was an opportunity to take historic action in defense of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

He then suggested 10 actionable solutions.

The Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit adopted a good resolution but it was not enough to put real pressure on the Israeli regime and its Western enablers.

The failure to turn up to the heat on Israel derives from many reasons. One such reason is internal divisions among member states regarding many issues including the ways to help end the Israeli aggression.

The enablers of Israel have long pursued a divide-and-rule strategy toward the Muslim world and fostered discord among key Islamic countries. Unfortunately, some Muslim countries have been engaged in rivalries and self-defeating competitions that were detrimental to all. The good news is that the era of rivalries and divisions is over, with key Muslim countries improving relations with each other.

The issue of Palestine has resurfaced again as a unifying force in the Muslim world. All Muslim countries are sensitive to the Palestinian sufferings and are morally obliged to prioritize it.

The second reason is the narrow-minded, short-term interests that some Muslim countries have in relations with the Israeli regime. As a general rule, Israel can never be a reliable strategic partner for any Arab or Islamic country. This is because Israel is built on racism toward Islamic and Arab identities. Racist anti-Arab and anti-Islamic chants in Israeli demonstrations are regular. In a sense, racism is part and parcel of Zionist identity. Add to racism the never-ending Israeli oppression against the defenseless people of Palestine. With such a regime, no Islamic countries can build a lasting relationship. Even if an Arab or Islamic country harbors a genuine desire to build a lasting relationship with the apartheid Israeli regime, the racist Zionist nature of this regime will prompt it to stab that country in the back when the right moment arrives. At the end of the day, Zionist zealots pursue an expansionist agenda, which has been unfolding on Islamic and Arab lands in the last seven decades.

The third possible reason for the rather tepid resolution of the Riyadh summit could be that some leaders are hoping the behind-the-scene mediations could bring the Israeli regime to reason. If true, that would be wishful thinking as the Zionist regime of Tel Aviv has shown time and again that it only understands the language of power, not suave diplomatic gestures. This regime and its enablers have demonstrated that they lack any moral compass, having slaughtered more than 11,000 civilians. Politics in the West Asia region have always been suffused with human sufferings but only the apartheid regime of Israel was able to break a record in this regard. The Israeli regime will go down in history as one that deliberately targeted baby incubators, killed refugees fleeing war, and forced doctors to perform surgeries without anesthesia before blowing up hospitals.

From Paris to Karachi protesters rally in support of Palestine

Demonstrators the world over have rallied in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, condemning the high rate of civilian casualties in Israeli attacks and demanding an immediate ceasefire.

Major cities, including New York, London, Paris, Baghdad, Karachi, Berlin and Edinburgh, witnessed large marches on Saturday.

Calls for a ceasefire to protect civilians in Gaza have grown more than a month into the war sparked when Palestinian group Hamas attacked southern Israel on October 7.

Israeli authorities have put the fatalities at about 1,200, and say more than 240 people were taken captive.

Israel's non-stop attacks in Gaza have martyred more than 11,000 people in 37 days, including more than 4,500 children.

Palestinians say that no corner of the strip is safe from Israeli bombardment.

More than 160 Israeli military vehicles destroyed

"Gaza will be an arena where Israeli troops meet their death"

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- The armed wing of Hamas has announced it has "completely or partially destroyed more than 160 Zionist military vehicles," including tanks and bulldozers since the regime's ground operations began in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Abu Ubeida, the official spokesperson for the al-Qassam Brigades, has said that more than 25 Israeli military vehicles have been destroyed over the last 48 hours alone.

The Israeli ground forces "operating in the residential buildings and areas it bombed, as well as a scorched earth, are being targeted by traps laid out by the resistance fighters."

He has strongly condemned "American-Zionist warships loaded with hundreds of thousands of tons of weapons, that are indiscriminately attacking Gaza, alongside the warplanes, which are not differentiating between civilians and combatants."

Abu Ubeida has said the "brave resistance fighters are targeting the mobilization of Israeli troops with mortar rounds, artillery, explosive devices that they are quickly planting, explosive drones as well as mortar shells."

"Our resistance fighters remain busy in the battlefield, lurking near the enemy's troops and vehicles. Every hour, they are attacking them," he added.

The military spokesperson for Hamas has also said that "Israeli tanks and infantry are facing powerful resistance and fierce clashes that have compelled the regime's ground forces to retreat from the areas it occupies and change the routes of its ground offensive."

In a warning to the Israeli regime, he has highlighted that "Gaza will be an arena where Israeli troops will meet their death. The enemy, which knows Gaza very well, will not have an hour to rest, but rather it will pay a very strong and unexpected price."

The Israeli military slowly began its ground operations in the Gaza Strip around two weeks ago and claims nearly 50 of its troops have been killed by the Palestinian resistance since then, with scores of others injured, many in serious condition.

The regime tends to downplay its military casualty figures and revise them upwards at a later stage.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Urgent need for emergency session of the Human Rights Council on Palestine

By Parsa Ja'fari

TEHRAN- The current conflict in Palestine stands as the utmost priority for both the Islamic world and the global community. The challenges faced by the Palestinian people, coupled with the oppression imposed by the Zionist regime, resonate across the international community, transcending religious, ideological, or national affiliations.

Despite decades of international attention and over half a century of Zionist occupation, this issue remains unresolved.

The United Nations and its affiliated bodies such as the Human Rights Commission, the current Human Rights Council, the International Court of Justice, the Red Cross, and Amnesty International have repeatedly expressed their views on events in this region. Multiple resolutions have been adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council. Unfortunately, these warnings and resolutions have been unable to prevent continued violations and actions of the Zionist regime that contradict international norms and rights.

Over the past four decades, the Israeli regime has engaged in numerous wars, prolonged occupation, displacement of populations, establishment of Jewish settlements, usurpation and confiscation of lands, mass killings, merciless massacres, assassinations, torture, imprisonment, construction of separation walls, collective punishments, and consistent violations of human rights.

This apartheid regime consistently ignores international human rights conventions, which have evolved into fundamental international rights, as acknowledged by jurists worldwide. For instance, a legal report submitted to the Human Rights Council (November 29, 2000), characterized the human rights situation in the occupied territories as tragic. The report explicitly stated that Israeli forces deployed an excessive amount of military force, disproportionate to the level of danger faced.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel, Palestine, and the colonial question

By Aina Ademola Adeniran

The ugly escalation and disproportionate reaction of the Zionist regime of Israel after the October 7 incident has been a matter of global concern. Articles have been published and rockets have been launched but the only question in the mouths of Western politicians and journalists alike has been: "Do you condemn Hamas?"

This is an unfair and disingenuous question as it tends to simplistically analyze a 75-year illegal and immoral occupation based on one event—the October 7 event. The continuous subjection of the Palestinian people into Nazi-esque concentration camps, their denial of basic human rights and dignity, the incessant scourging of Palestinians with the whips of Israeli apartheid militia and the voyeuristic gaze and endorsement of Western politicians of this ghoulish barbarity have degenerated the Middle East into a spectacle of unending chaos and anarchy. Indeed, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict did not begin on October 7, 2023.

The Palestinian perturbs

Following the Nakba in 1948 and the subsequent illegal appropriation of Palestinian properties and the pummel of two million Palestinian people into less than 30 percent of the land established an apartheid state—a brutally compartmentalized world regimented by weapons of mass destruction. This unbearable injustice automatically morphed Palestine into a theatre of anticolonial resistance. According to Israeli Citizen Law (The Jewish Law of Return), a prerequisite to becoming an Israeli citizen affirms that "all Jews, no matter where they were born, are Israeli citizens by right. With the word "Jew" the law refers to every person born to a Jewish parent, or who is a convert to Judaism, and is not a member of another religion.

This obnoxious law automatically confers a Carte Blanche of immigration right to Jews all over the world to Israel. As a matter of fact, being an Israeli citizen is largely a matter of faith and not a matter of indigenousness, this is the reason Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is originally an eastern European, born in Warsaw, Poland is currently committing genocide in Gaza on the premise of being an Israeli.

Regardless of what cynics, genocide apologists and fanatical orientalists claim, what we have in Palestine today is apartheid, the most violent form of fascism-- a far-right, settler-colonial regime—an occupying power with the long-term intent of exterminating the people of Palestine and appropriating their land. This attitude is reminiscent of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Israeli protesters demand ceasefire, prisoner exchange

A group of Israeli protesters gathered Saturday near the Defense Ministry building in Tel Aviv to demand a ceasefire and prisoner swap deal.

Families of Israeli hostages in the Gaza Strip demonstrate every week in Tel Aviv, demanding the safe release of their relatives in the Gaza Strip, which has been under heavy bombardment for 36 straight days.

Demonstrators chanted slogans expressing their demands.

They shouted in English and Hebrew: "Ceasefire as soon as possible", "Prisoner exchange right now" and "There are no winners in war. They also carried banners that read: "Bombing hospitals, cutting off water, starving, murdering children. These are not the right to defend oneself."

The Palestinian group, Hamas, offered a prisoner swap deal to free all hostages in the Gaza Strip in exchange for all Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails, including women and children.

But the Israeli government opted to continue its operation in the Strip to free the hostages held by Hamas and other groups.

Five Israeli soldiers killed in battles in Gaza: military

The Israeli army announced Saturday that five soldiers were killed during battles in the Gaza Strip with Palestinian fighters.

The Israeli Ynet news website cited a military statement that said four soldiers were killed in a booby-trapped tunnel in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, while the fifth was killed in battles also in the north.

The number of Israeli army soldiers killed since the start of ground operations on Oct. 27 in Gaza rose to 43.

The army is facing fierce battles from the Palestinian resistance groups in different areas across Gaza.

Israel has launched relentless air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip -- including hospitals, residences, and houses of worship -- since a cross-border attack by the Palestinian resistance group, Hamas, on Oct. 7.

At least 11,078 Palestinians have been killed, including 4,506 children and 3,027 women.

The Israeli death toll is nearly 1,200, according to official figures.

According to the new revelations, most of the Israelis were killed by Israeli soldiers while attacking Hamas fighters in settlements near Gaza.

'Enough', says Pope Francis, calling for the war to end

Pope Francis has called for the fighting between Israel and Hamas to end.

"May the weapons fall silent, they will never bring peace, and let the conflict not spread. Enough, enough brothers, enough!" he said while offering prayers at the Vatican.

The Pope also said that the injured in Gaza should be helped and more humanitarian aid should be sent to the besieged enclave.

He added that the people taken as captives by Hamas on October 7 should also be released.

"Every human being, whether Christian, Jew, Muslim, or whatever religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God, and has the right to live in peace," he said.

War against the Palestinian health system

The intensive care unit (ICU) in al-Shifa Hospital has been badly damaged by Israeli army bombing for a second time, the Gaza Health Ministry has said, and it seems that Israel has dragged the war from the battlefields to the hospitals.

While Israel is trying to put pressure on the health system of the Gaza Strip to pressure the world to force Hamas to release the hostages, the news reports indicate that the power cuts in Gaza hospitals have increased the risk of death for the children who are hospitalized in these hospitals.

The director general of hospitals in Gaza has warned that the lives of hundreds of patients are at risk due to the catastrophic situation at al-Shifa Hospital.

About 650 patients, including 36 children, have their lives in danger, Muhammad Zaqout as saying at a press conference, calling on Egypt to save their lives.

Zaqout also confirmed the presence of "about 1,500 displaced people in the al-Shifa Medical Complex," warning that "accumulation of garbage and medical waste, lack of water, and power outages threaten everyone's life".

Palestinian Minister of Health Mai al-Kaila says Israeli forces "are not evacuating people from hospitals; instead, they are forcibly evicting the wounded and patients onto the streets, leaving them to face inevitable death".

"This is not evacuation but expulsion under the threat of arms," she said in a press release, as cited by Palestinian news agency Wafa.

"There is a catastrophe unfolding in hospitals, with patients now dying without receiving their treatments, such as children and adults with kidney failure who are perishing at home without undergoing dialysis sessions."

She said all 3,000 cancer patients who were receiving treatment at al-Rantisi and Turkish hospitals had been abandoned to face imminent death after Israeli forces forcibly evicted them.

Number of Palestinians martyred in Israeli attacks on Gaza surpasses 11,100

The number of martyrs in the ongoing Israeli military attacks on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7 has surpassed the grim figure of 11,100, including more than 8,000 children and women, the government media office in Gaza said on Sunday.

The media office in a statement said: "Due to the targeting of hospitals and the prevention of entry of any of the bodies or wounded, the Ministry of Health was unable, on Saturday, to issue accurate statistics for the numbers of dead and injured during the past hours."

"We recall that the occupation (forces) committed more than 1,130 massacres, and the number of casualties reached more than 11,100 dead, including more than 8,000 children and women, and the number of wounded was more than 28,000," it said.

Eco-lodges in Markazi province welcomed by vacationers

TEHRAN – Staying at eco-lodge units has been welcomed by many domestic and overseas vacationers visiting Iran's Markazi province.

The province is home to 30 eco-lodge complexes, which provided accommodation for some 45000 overnight stays during the first half of the current Iranian year, the provincial tourism chief said.

Considering the richness of the rural fabric in the province, holding cultural events such as harvest festivals can provide a basis for attracting tourists, Masud Farrokhi said.

The number of eco-lodges is on the rise in the province and currently, seven of them are under construction, the official added.

A total of 1004 international travelers visited the province during the six months, Farrokhi stated.

A reason behind the prosperity of eco-lodges is the increasing number of travelers who look for something different, such as spending a day in the tranquil countryside, picking fresh fruits, watching rice grow, fishing by the seaside, eating traditional dishes or even staying with locals. In contrast, traditional forms of transportation are typically booked through travel agencies. As tourists get older, more and more types of travel are welcomed by those looking for undiscovered destinations.

Iran has a lot to offer nature lovers who appreciate pristine, diverse natural resources. The World Tourism Organization is expected to award the title of "Best Tourism Villages" to many rural locations around the world, and the villages of Kharanaq, Barandaq, and Lark have been nominated.

The World Tourism Organization sees rural tourism as a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

Markazi province is located between the mountain ranges of Alborz and Zagros and on the edge of the central desert of Iran. The weather conditions in the semi-arid province differ a lot according to the height of the land. Some of its agricultural products such as pomegranates and cantaloupe are exported to many countries of the world.

Massive 200,000-year-old hand axes rewrite Saudi Arabia history

Archaeologists digging at the Qurh site in Saudi Arabia's AlUla Governorate uncovered a set of enormous stone hand axes that were made by ancient humans living in the region 200,000 years ago, reported the Saudi Press Agency.

These remarkable relics are an exceptionally rare find, and their recovery will provide valuable new information about the toolmaking practices and capabilities of people who occupied the Arabian Peninsula during the Lower Middle Paleolithic Age.

The astonishingly ancient tools were unearthed by archaeologists from TEOS Heritage, a consultancy firm hired by Saudi Arabia's Royal Commission for AlUla to explore the huge Qurh archaeological site in west-central Saudi Arabia.

Although these objects were created in prehistoric times, the makers of the stone hand axes displayed impressive craftsmanship in creating them. The most notable among the tools uncovered in Saudi Arabia is a 20-inch (51-centimeter) long axe crafted from soft basalt stone, mirroring the material of the other axes. This formidable tool possessed the strength and sharpness necessary for cutting and chopping various organic materials, including plants, pieces of wood, animal hides and flesh.

"This hand axe is one of the most important finds from our ongoing survey of the Qurh Plain," said TEOS Heritage Project Director Dr Ömer Aksoy in a Royal Commission for AlUla news release. "This amazing stone tool is more than a half a meter long and is the largest example of a series of stone tools discovered on the site. An ongoing search for comparisons from across the world has not come up with a hand axe of equal size. As such this may well be one of the largest hand axes ever discovered."

Despite its impressive size, this tool could have been held and swung with one hand. The basalt rock employed in its creation is both comparatively lightweight and robust, rendering it the ideal choice for crafting tools of this nature.

Qurh (Al-Mabiyat) is located near the village of Mugheira, 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the modern city of AlUla. In the center of the site is a sprawling excavated area known as Deira (The Town), which includes many ancient buildings, mosques, sections of a city wall and a marketplace courtyard that all date back to the seventh and eighth centuries CE.

This settlement was at its most prosperous during this early Islamic period, and in fact most of the artifacts recovered during the ongoing excavations have been linked to that time. But, despite the preponderance of early Islamic artifacts, archaeologists have never doubted that the site was inhabited by earlier cultures, and they have remained hopeful of eventually discovering artifacts that would reveal the site's true timeline of occupation.

Needless to say, the TEOS archaeological team were delighted to recover items that were made so long ago. The carefully carved prehistoric axes found in Saudi Arabia, of which more than a dozen were unearthed in total, are a singular and extraordinary find. Their existence at the site has proved that the area was occupied by toolmaking Homo sapiens ancestors who lived long before the modern age.

At present, the archaeologists are going over the stone hand axes with a fine-tooth comb. They're trying to figure out exactly how the axes were used and what they were used for, which may be possible from an examination of use marks found on the surfaces of these Paleolithic period artifacts.

It is well known that the largest migrations of ancient humans out of Africa occurred within the last 100,000 years. But the people responsible for the manufacture of the stone hand axes moved into the Arabian Peninsula at an earlier time, when the climate was greener and wetter, and survival in the region was much easier.

(Source: Ancient Origins)

Qal'eh Rudkhan, a historical gem in northern Iran, undergoes restoration

TEHRAN – A restoration project has commenced on Qal'eh Rudkhan, which is a top tourist destination in northern Iran.

So far, a (government) budget of 25 billion rials ($50,000) has been allocated to the project, Gilan province's tourism chief said.

Due to its old age and being located in a humid and forested climate, much damage has been caused to this historical monument over centuries, Vali Jahani added.

Preliminary evidence, uncovered by digging, indicates the foundation of the structure was built in the Sasanian era (224–651) and rebuilt in the Seljuk's reign (ca. 1040–1157).

"Qal'eh Rudkhan is a historical masterpiece of Gilan," the official said.

"Due to the prominent architecture and the eye-catching sceneries, and the exceptional location in the heart of Hyrcanian forests, this castle welcomes many tourists from all over Iran and the world every year."

Talking about the significance and origins of the monument, Jahani said some experts had attributed the establishment of Rudkhan castle to the Sassanid period (or early Islamic era).

The fortress was rebuilt during the Seljuk period and was used as one of the bases by Ismaili warriors, the official said.

Made of brick and stone, the walled fortress occupies an area of about 50,000 square meters. It is built on two sides of a jagged rocky region, so its architecture benefits from natural mountainous features.

To this day, there is no precise information regarding the date of its construction. However, the monument was continually in use until the Zand Dynasty in the 18th century.

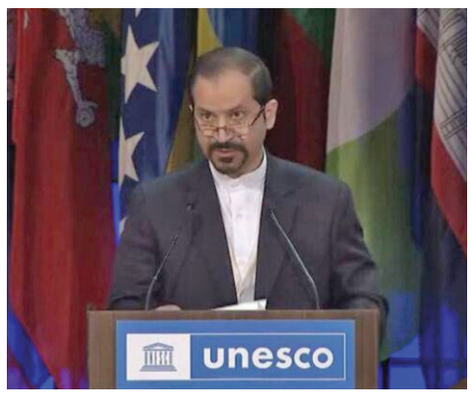
To access the castle, visitors have to pass through a hilly winding route in a dense forest. Upon arrival, a big entrance gate flanked by relatively tall towers welcomes visitors. Stepping inside, there are residential quarters, a bathhouse, and a running spring passing through. This spring was the main water source for the fort but following an earthquake, it ran dry.

The east side of the fort is a bit smaller and has more military characteristics. It consists of two towers, another entrance, a prison, and an emergency exit. Above the north and south walls are several octagonal areas and the deliberate cracks in their walls are assumed to have been for monitoring the adjacent area and shooting arrows at approaching enemies.

Above the front entrance was once an inscribed plaque (which is currently on display in a museum in Rasht) stating that the fort had been renovated for the first time between the years 1539 and 1542 by Sultan Hesamoddin. Historians say that during that time the castle was known as the Hesami Fort.

Though being threatened and even partly eroded by excessive humidity and vegetation rooting in the chinks of its old but lofty walls, the Rudkhan fortress is still standing tall in very good condition as compared to other examples of the same time.

Tehran encourages bigger cultural flow among UNESCO member states



TEHRAN - Iran's Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology Peyman Salehi has introduced a program to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge among the members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, suggests that a program entitled, 'Science Road' be defined and initiated by UNESCO to facilitate the free exchange of ideas and knowledge."

UNESCO may declare its preparation to make use of all its historical and contemporary potential in this respect, the official said in an address to UNESCO's 42nd Session of the General Conference.

Referring to the UN body's long attention to historical routes and traveling, Salehi said: "It has always been valuable for us in this Organization to study the history of the cultural and civil exchanges among nations in the form of such roads as the Silk Road, Spice Route, and Salt Road."

He stated there has always been a road throughout the ages for exchanging knowledge and wisdom, besides having roads for exchanging commercial goods, which can be called the "Science Road", consisting of a network of roads for scientists and scientific ideas.

"This is the road that has linked the East of the world to the West profoundly and has acted as a messenger of peace and progress linking scientific eminence with eminence in ethics."

Salehi added the most important message of the history of science for the time being is that the accumulation of science in one civilization and its lack of expansion would reduce the opportunity for prosperity and would result in recession and even digression.

"This road, which is a complex and intertwined network of roads for exchanging science while observing ethical principles, can pave the way for the materialization of an objective which has been explicitly echoed in the preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO, wherein there is mention of free exchange of ideas and knowledge and adding exchange instruments among nations and using them for mutual understanding."

This way, Iran suggests that a program entitled, "Science Road", be defined and initiated by UNESCO to facilitate the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, the official said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official reminded the attendees of Iran's strategic location that has endowed the nation with a profound legacy of knowledge exchange.

"This historical backdrop has transformed Iran into a cultural bridge, fostering intellectual and cultural interactions that have transcended borders and civilizations. JundiShapur, the oldest university in the world in the southwest of Iran, can be mentioned here as an example, the 1750th anniversary of whose establishment was acknowledged by UNESCO in 2017."

This rich heritage of knowledge exchange is not just a relic of the past but a living testament to Iran's enduring commitment to promoting intellectual collaboration, he explained.

In this context, it is strongly suggested that the Tehran Cluster Office should be promoted to a multisectoral regional office and continue to embrace our unique position in facilitating cross-cultural interactions, the official noted.

The Seven Caves translated into Persian

TEHRAN – The Seven Caves: Archaeological Explorations in the Middle East, which includes archaeological views on caves in Iran and other West Asian countries, has been translated into Persian.

Written by American anthropologist Carleton Stevens Coon (1904 – 1981), the book is a detailed accounting of the "digs" made by the author in the seven caves of the Near East area between 1939 and 1956.

The Seven Caves, which turns the spotlight on some of the oldest human settlements in the region, has been translated by Fakhrosadat Bassampur and released by Nashr-e No Publications in Tehran, Mehr reported on Sunday.

It gives readers an immense account of the land and the people, as the Coons went from Tangier and the High Cave to Bisitun in Iran, to the Belt Cave and the Caspian Shore, to Hoty, one of the great finds of the Middle East, and Afghanistan, to the Syrian desert and the Heifer's Outwash en route to Palmyra.

It contains sensational hypotheses and tentative conclusions about the origins of European culture that have not yet been published in any scientific journal. Here, the focus is sharpened toward caves occupied by European men when the ice sheet began its retreat and Neolithic hunters used weapons comparable to those used for centuries to come.

The book also tells, in human and personal terms, of the dramatic adventures in strange places leading to this crowning achievement. Thanks to Carbon-14 and other post-war scientific marvels, digging into the prehistoric debris of ancient caves has become an exciting profession; and Carleton S. Coon is unquestionably its foremost practitioner.

Moreover, the author tells us how he learned to predict the location of these ancient caves, how he excavated them, and what he found. Coon reveals himself as an adroit storyteller recounting tales of high adventure and personal exploits in remote corners of the world.

Once a professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, a lecturer and professor at Harvard University, Coon served as the president of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. However, his theories on race were widely disputed in his lifetime and are allegedly considered pseudoscientific in modern anthropology.

Tourism's importance for growth highlighted in World Economic Outlook Report

Tourism has again been identified as a key driver of economic recovery and growth in a new report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

With UNWTO data pointing to a return to 95% of pre-pandemic tourist numbers by the end of the year in the best case scenario, the IMF report outlines the positive impact the sector's rapid recovery will have on certain economies worldwide.

According to the World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report, the global economy will grow an estimated 3.0% in 2023 and 2.9% in 2024. While this is higher than previous forecasts, it is nevertheless below the 3.5% rate of growth recorded in 2022, pointing to the continued impacts of the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and from the cost-of-living crisis.

The WEO report analyses economic growth in every global region, connecting performance with key sectors, including tourism. Notably, those economies with "large travel and tourism sectors" show strong economic resilience and robust levels of economic activity. More specifically, countries where tourism represents a high percentage of GDP have recorded faster recovery from the impacts of the pandemic in comparison to economies where tourism is not a significant sector.

As the report Foreword notes: "Strong demand for services has supported service-oriented economies—including important tourism destinations such as France and Spain".

The latest outlook from the IMF comes on the back of UNWTO's most recent analysis of the prospects for tourism, at the global and regional levels. Pending the release of the November 2023 World Tourism Barometer, international tourism is on track to reach 80% to 95% of pre-pandemic levels in 2023. Prospects for September-December 2023 point to continued recovery, driven by the still pent-up demand and increased air connectivity particularly in Asia and the Pacific where recovery is still subdued.

(Source: UNWTO)

Iranian universities advance in QS Asia Rankings

From page 1 ▸ University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong), and National University of Singapore (Singapore) ranked second and third following Peking University.

Sharif University of Technology ranked 85, the University of Tehran ranked 88, Amirkabir University of Technology ranked 121, Iran University of Science and Technology ranked 166, and Shiraz University ranked 184.

QS Rankings methodology

QS ranking is carried out by the "Quacquarelli Symonds" institute in England. It has been independently evaluating the world's universities since 2010. In the recent QS ranking methodology, three indicators including sustainability, employment outcome, and international research network have been used for the first time.

The information on scientific publications of universities in this ranking is calculated from the Scopus citation database in a 5-year period and citations in a 6-year period.

Recent rankings

The Performance Rankings of Scientific Papers for World Universities, released by National Taiwan University (NTU), listed 18 Iranian universities among the top 500 institutions of the world in 2023.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences won the best rank among Iranian universities. It ranked 16 in pharmacology and toxicology, Mehr reported.

Also, the University of Tehran ranked 25 in Energy Science and Engineering, 27 in Mechanical Engineering, and 31 in Chemical Engineering.

Iran ranked second with 80 universities included in D-8 group universities in 2022.

Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and Indonesia have the largest number of universities in the ranking.

The most important criteria to evaluate the performance of D-8 group universities include research, innovation, education, and international activities."

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, the University of Tehran, and Tarbiat Modares University ranked 4th, 5th, and 13th, respectively.

The performance of 20 out of the 80 Iranian universities has been analyzed as the top universities

Tehran University of Medical Sciences has won the first rank among the Iranian universities.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 placed 73 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 included 1,904 universities across 108 countries and regions.

In this ranking by subject, 73 Iranian universities were included, and 44 out of 185 majors were ranked below 500, ISNA reported.

The second edition of the Webometrics ranking 2023 of the World Universities ranked 440 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities worldwide.

The first edition of the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2023, in June, ranked 457 Iranian institutions among around 32,000 top universities across the world.

The Academic Ranking of the World Universities (ARWU), also known as Shanghai Ranking, has placed ten universities from Iran among the top 1000 universities in the world in the Shanghai Ranking 2023, according to the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Database.

In the 2023 edition of the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings which includes 605 universities, Iran became the third most represented nation with 39 institutions

The latest edition of the QS World University Rankings (2024) has placed seven Iranian universities among the world's top institutes.

Kani Barazan intl. wetland hosting migratory swans

TEHRAN –The first flock of migratory swans was observed in the Kani Barazan international wetland and wildlife sanctuary in the northwest of the country.

The wetland is located near the city of Mahabad, West Azarbaijan province. Stretching to 907 hectares, Kani Barazan wetland is home to various bird species including, flamingo, little cormorant, great white pelican, stilt, sternidae, great crested grebe, graylag goose, lesser white-fronted goose, heron, and common shelduck.

These migratory swans have entered the wetland for resting and feeding. Their migration is expected to continue in the coming days, IRNA reported.

The presence of migratory swans in the Kani Barazan wetland and wildlife sanctuary indicates the favorable condition of the wetland in terms of water quality, food access, and its safety.

Its high capabilities, diverse vegetation, and the annual migration of 200,000 species of birds have made this wetland a precious bird-watching site for nature lovers.

Migratory birds in Kani Barazan for wintering

In January, the wetland hosted over 30,000 migratory birds for wintering.

The unprecedented entry of migratory birds into the wetland was due to the revival of parts of the wetland, the existence of security and sufficient food, and the arrival of cold season and snowfall in other parts of the country.

> The wetland is home to various bird species including flamingos, little cormorants, white pelicans, and common shelduck.

Kani Barazan was once recorded as the first bird-sighting site in the country and birdwatchers call it Iran's bird paradise.

With the release of water from the Mahabad dam and the restoration of the springs supplying water to Kanibrazan, the water condition of the wetland is now favorable, IRNA reported.

Migratory and native birds can be seen in a span of 100 hectares of Kani Barazan, where the water is deep enough.

Due to the fact that after passing a month in winter, heavy snowfall and a noticeable drop in temperature did not occur in the region and the water level of the wetland had not yet frozen, migratory birds such as gray geese and swans could still be seen.

Swans, gray geese, a number of endangered species such as white-headed ducks and marbled ducks, and other types of migratory birds including terns, anguts, herons, broad-billed ducks, green ducks, and gulls were observed in the wetland.

So far, 75 species of water birds belonging to 11 families have been identified in this wetland, which will reach more than 180 species counting terrestrial species.

Drought and lack of water rights caused the loss of 70 percent of the wetland, causing negative environmental effects with the beginning of the bird migration season.

The water of this wetland is supplied from the Mahabad River, the spring of "Qarahdagh" village, the speed of water entry is in good condition due to dredging.

Agricultural effluents and chemical fertilizers, entering the water body is a major threat to the wetland and its aquatic species and birds.

Iran ready to donate blood to Gaza

TEHRAN –The Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization is ready to create conditions for blood transfusion to help Palestinians in Gaza.

Mostafa Jamali, CEO of the Blood Transfusion Organization, said that many volunteers have registered to donate blood to Gaza, and we are fully prepared to provide and deliver blood and blood products to the oppressed people in this region, IRNA reported.

Iran ready to send humanitarian aid to Gaza

Some 730 billion rials (around $1.5 million) in humanitarian aid was collected from October 9 until November 8 for people in Gaza through a campaign launched by the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

The campaign aimed to raise funds to help the oppressed people of Gaza is still ongoing, ISNA quoted Vahid Salimi, an official with the IRCS, as saying on November 8.

He went on to say, "From the beginning of the official call for the campaign, more than 730 billion rials (almost $1.5 m) have been deposited by people into the official accounts of the Red Crescent Society."

> Many have volunteered to donate blood to victims in Gaza.

"Simultaneously, in addition to air cargo, a ship carrying humanitarian aid has been sent to Gaza with the cooperation of the Red Crescent Society of Hormozgan province from Shahid Rajaei port. Other shipments are being loaded in this port," he added.

On November 7, Iran 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.

Also, on November 3, the IRCS called the International Committee of the Red Cross to facilitate the process of dispatching humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, met with Vincent Cassard, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran.

The International Committee of the Red Cross should seriously intervene in the clear violation of international humanitarian law and condemn the Zionist regime's airstrikes in the Gaza Strip since it has violated many cases of the four Geneva Conventions, Alishvandi said, IRCS website reported.

Alishvandi stressed, "A safe way should be found to send relief supplies to this country. Iran's humanitarian shipments should reach the people of Gaza as soon as possible."

A consignment weighing 20,000 tons is being prepared to be sent to Gaza from Iran, and we request the International Committee of the Red Cross to follow up on obtaining the necessary permits from the Egyptian government to send these shipments, she stated.

"Moreover, the Iranian Red Crescent Society is ready to provide medical services to the wounded and treat them by establishing three mobile hospitals along with sending experienced medical staff to Egypt (Palestine border)."

Blood donation in Iran

The average blood donation rate in Iran is 26 per thousand people which places the country in a good situation among other countries.

According to the World Health Organization, the median blood donation rate in high-income countries is 31.5 donations per 1000 people. This compares with 16.4 donations per 1000 people in upper-middle-income countries, 6.6 donations per 1000 people in lower-middle-income countries, and 5.0 donations per 1000 people in low-income countries.

Of the 118.5 million blood donations collected globally, 40% of these are collected in high-income countries, home to 16% of the world's population.

In low-income countries, up to 54 % of blood transfusions are given to children under 5 years of age; whereas in high-income countries, the most frequently transfused patient group is over 60 years of age, accounting for up to 76% of all transfusions.

Based on samples of 1000 people, the blood donation rate is 31.5 donations in high-income countries, 16.4 donations in upper-middle-income countries, 6.6 donations in lower-middle-income countries, and 5.0 donations in low-income countries.

In the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, some 2.223 million blood donations were registered across the country, an increase of 9.3 percent compared to the year before.

The average blood donation rate in Eastern Mediterranean member countries is 14.4 per thousand populations, while the rate in Iran is around 25 per thousand, Jamali said in February.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Further measures required to preserve forests'

Iran's forest area is approximately 12 million hectares with 0.2 hectares per capita, which is one quarter of the world average, so attention to preserve the forest areas must be four times the global attention, faculty member of the Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands has said.

Mohammad Darvish made the remarks on the occasion of the National Tree Planting Day, in which people are encouraged to plant trees across the country, held on the first day of the National Week of Natural Resources annually observed on March 6 to 13.

حفظ جنگل ها نیازمند اقدامات بیشتر

بر اساس آخرین آمار موسسه تحقیقات جنگل‌ها و مراتع، وسعت رویشگاه‌های جنگلی ایران حدود ۱۲ میلیون هکتار و سرانه هر ایرانی از جنگل، کمتر از دو دهم هکتار است که یک چهارم سرانه جهانی می‌شود بنابراین باید توجه ما به حفظ رویشگاه‌های جنگلی، ۴ برابر توجه جهانی باشد.

محمد درویش روز چهارشنبه همزمان با روز درختکاری و آغاز هفته منابع طبیعی در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: به نظر می‌رسد در کشور آن‌طور که باید به درختان و حفاظت از آنها توجه نمی‌شود؛ نابودی دو میلیون هکتار از جنگل‌های شمال از دهه ۳۰ تاکنون گواه این ادعاست.

© ISNA / Mohammad-Reza Dehdari

Nomads gather for book reading

The third gathering of nomads in the southern Fars province for the purpose of book reading was held on Saturday, November 11.

Storytelling contests and educational classes were also held during the one-day event.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is negligent, is deprived of rights, and he who listen to a tell-tale, loses a friend.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:18 Dawn: 5:12 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:39 (tomorrow)

Iran, Uzbekistan to hold Cultural Days in 2024

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili met with the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ozodbek Nazarbekov on Friday, discussing ways to expand cultural ties.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 16th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit, which took place in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, it was agreed to hold the Cultural Days of Iran and Uzbekistan in both countries in 2024.

Referring to the discussion with the Uzbekistani side regarding the announcement of sister cities between different cities of Iran and Uzbekistan, Esmaeili emphasized the strengthening of this matter during the session.

The proposal to hold joint cultural programs between the cities of Samarkand and Isfahan, as well as Bukhara and Hamedan, was also raised in the meeting.

Regarding the cooperation between the Avicenna Foundation and relevant institutions in Uzbekistan, Esmaeili stated that Avicenna is a great heritage of Iranian-Islamic civilization, born in Bukhara and buried in Hamedan. In this regard, the continuation of joint cooperation between the Avicenna Foundation and Uzbekistan institutions was discussed in the session.

Iranian culture minister also invited Nazarbekov to visit Tehran.

Esmaeili also mentioned the successful Iranian Film Days in Uzbekistan, which received a positive response from the audience and concluded a few days ago in Uzbekistan.

He added that the Goharshad International Award and cooperation in this field were among the other important topics of this meeting, which received great enthusiasm.

Back in September, on the sidelines of the 12th Conference of Ministers of Culture in the Islamic World, which was held in Doha, Qatar, two ministers met and discussed expansions of bilateral cultural cooperation.

Iranian doc to go on screen at Kyrgyzstan film festival

TEHRAN – Iranian director Farshid Azari's documentary "Drops Give Life" will go on screen at the 17th edition of the International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights-Bir Duino, which will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from November 27 to December 1.

The film follows the life of Masht Hossein, a compassionate rancher who deeply values nature. Despite facing challenging conditions, Masht Hossein has dedicated over three decades to trekking through unforgiving terrain to provide water for the parched animals and birds in the drought-ridden area.

Through his unwavering commitment, the area comes alive with newfound vitality. After completing the arduous journey, Masht Hossein, exhausted yet content, finds solace in witnessing the birds and animals quench their thirst, finding joy in their satisfaction.

The International Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights-Bir Duino is dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and 25th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Cartoon of Day

Gaza

Cartoonist: Mohammad Ali Rajabi from Iran

Iranian artwork at Hessink's auction of Contemporary Art & Modern Design

TEHRAN-An artwork by the Iranian artist Hojat Amani will go under the hammer at the Hessink's auction of Contemporary Art & Modern Design in the Netherlands on November 23.

"Fallen Angels," from the "Angels in Paradise" series, is the title of the work of Inkjet prints on canvas by Amani, which is among the 124 lots presented at the auction at an estimate of between €2,000 and €3,000 ($2,143-$3,214), ISNA reported on Sunday.

The image of this artwork has also used on the binding of a book (Muslims in the Western Imagination by Sophia Rose Arjana) published by Oxford University Press 2015.

Amani, 45, is an accomplished artist and the author of numerous researches, articles, and books. A multi-disciplinary artist involved in photography, painting, and calligraphy, Amani holds degrees from the University of Art in Tehran and Isfahan. He is unique, in that he has the ability to make Iranian art accessible to an international audience.

His artworks have been exhibited in Tehran as well as solo and group exhibitions in Europe, Canada, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Many of his works are kept in museums such as Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, The Los

Angeles County Museum of Art in the U.S., and the Museum Five Continents in Munich, Germany. Amani's works had been offered at Bonham's auctions in 2011 and 2015.

Today, Islamic art has a strong presence in the world. Contemporary artists continue to explore the line between the modern and ancient as they combine modern technology, political messages, and history. Amani is one of the artists who has made a visible impact in contemporary Islamic art.

In the "Angels in Paradise" series, Hojat Amani has managed to depict the struggle of a fallen angel by using different means of artistic expression that thrill the viewers. In his works, Amani has taken a different approach to perceive angels and showed a human side of an angel.

The Contemporary Art & Modern Design auction presents a carefully curated selection of artworks from renowned artists and designers such as Andy Warhol, Salvador Dalí, Kees van Dongen, Banksy, Liu Bolin, David Le Fleming, André Lassen, and an impressive collection of furniture designed by Pierre Jeanerette, and Jindrich Halabala.

Hessink's, originally known as VendueHuis Zwolle and established in 1993, stands as one of the foremost auction houses in the Netherlands. Its expertise spans a wide range of disciplines, including fine arts, arms & armor, coaches & carriages, Oldtimers, collections & memorabilia, decorative arts, Asian antiques, jewelry & watches.

Madrese International Short Film Festival's mobile cinema screening films in 15 provinces

TEHRAN-The first mobile cinema of Madrese International Short Film Festival (MISFF) is visiting various cities, screening the festival movies, the executive secretary of the festival said.

According to the public relations office of the Art Bureau, Mohammad Darvishi said: "The mobile cinema program that started on November 5 includes showing films in the underprivileged regions of 15 provinces".

"The priority is with the remote and deprived towns. The feature film "Mansour", the animated movie "Loupetoo", and two films from among the winners of Madrese Festival are being shown in the program that will run through November 13," he added.

"Upon entering each province, in addition to showing films to children and teenagers, we identify talents and those interested in filmmaking, and then we will have incentive and training programs for them in this regard. Later and after evaluations, they can enter our clubs and start making films to be shown to their peers," Darvishi noted.

Speaking about the Madrese International Short Film Festival, he said: "The festival has cooperated with the Art Bureau since the third edition. This collaboration continued in a more serious form since last year, when the children and teenagers' section of Art Bureau for was launched. And it is the main organizer of the 9th edition of the film festival".

Madrese (literally meaning school) festival was established in 2013 by a group of teachers who had concerns about teenagers' education.

At first, they tried to concentrate on a number of schools throughout the city of Tehran; but step by step and with great effort, they have expanded their work through the whole country during the 5th festival; maintaining themselves as the most important short film festival for students under 19.

In this edition, 1294 works from all provinces of Iran have been sent to the festival's secretariat. The festival's focus is on the works which have been made by students under 19.

MISFF is trying to prepare an appropriate environment for teenagers to grow by discovering gifted ones and educating them by great art teachers, and to introduce them to the world of art and cinema.

The 9th edition of the festival will be held in March 2024.

Adaptation of "Cinderella" folk tale to go on stage in Karaj

TEHRAN –An adaptation of the folk tale of "Cinderella" will go on stage at Karaj's Kowsar Cultural center on Monday.

Nushin Sarkubi is the director of the play, which tells the story of a young girl named Cinderella who dreams of participating in a talent show. However, her stepmother does not support her aspirations and prevents her from taking part in the event. Despite facing this obstacle, Cinderella remains determined to showcase her talents and prove herself.

The play explores themes of perseverance, following one's dreams, and overcoming adversity.

Mahsima Kebari, Elena Asgari, Asal Nurbakhsh, Arad Alikhani, Radan Talebpur and Hamid Goli are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until November 23.

"Cinderella" is a well-known folk tale that has been passed down through generations. It tells the story of a young girl who is mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters but ultimately finds her happily ever after. The tale typically begins with Cinderella living a life of hardship and servitude, forced to do all the household chores while her stepfamily enjoys a life of luxury.

However, Cinderella's fortunes change when a grand ball is announced in the kingdom. With the help of her fairy godmother, Cinderella is transformed into a beautiful princess and attends the ball. There, she captures the attention of the prince, who falls in love with her. But, as the clock strikes midnight, Cinderella must flee, leaving behind a glass slipper.

The prince, determined to find the mysterious girl who captured his heart, searches the kingdom for the owner of the glass slipper. Eventually, he arrives at Cinderella's home, where her stepsisters try to fit into the slipper but fail. Cinderella, who had been hiding all along, finally tries on the slipper and it fits perfectly. The prince recognizes her as the one he danced with at the ball, and they live happily ever after.

The tale of Cinderella has been adapted and retold in various forms across different cultures and time periods. It teaches valuable lessons about kindness, perseverance, and the power of true love. The story has become a beloved part of folklore, inspiring countless adaptations in literature, film, and theater.

"Feline Philosophy: Cats and the Meaning of Life" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – "Feline Philosophy: Cats and the Meaning of Life" by English political philosopher and author John Gray has recently been published in Persian.

Translated by Behnaz Dehkordi, the book has been published by Lega Publications in Tehran.

In his thought-provoking and captivating book, "Feline Philosophy: Cats and the Meaning of Life," esteemed author John Gray explores the enigmatic world of cats and contemplates the profound philosophical insights they offer into the human experience. Published in 2019, Gray's unique approach intertwines feline behavior, ancient wisdom, and existential inquiry, creating a fascinating tapestry that challenges our assumptions about life and meaning.

John Gray, a renowned British philosopher and author, delves into the intriguing and mysterious nature of our feline companions, recognizing them as beings with their own distinct perspectives on existence. Drawing upon various philosophical traditions, including Taoism, Buddhism, and Stoicism, Gray skillfully weaves together a compelling narrative that invites readers to reevaluate their understanding of reality and embrace the inherent uncertainties of life.

"Cats and the Meaning of Life" explores how cats embody non-attachment, free will, and an acceptance of life's transience, offering valuable lessons for humans grappling with their own existential dilemmas. Gray intriguingly suggests that cats can provide a unique framework through which we can reevaluate our own choices, values, and desires, ultimately leading us to a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world we inhabit.

Beyond the analysis of feline behavior, Gray delves into broader philosophical questions, raising issues of consciousness, the nature of reality, and the illusory nature of human control. As he discusses the role cats play in our lives, he challenges the assumption that humans hold a superior status in the natural order and encourages readers to appreciate the dignity and wisdom inherent in all forms of existence.

Throughout the book, Gray's writing is both poetic and profound, inviting readers to engage with their own introspection and contemplate the deeper layers of human existence. By expertly blending anecdotes, historical insights, and philosophical musings, Gray sheds light on our relationship with cats as a potential path to greater self-awareness and personal growth.

Through his inherent love and admiration for cats, John Gray invites readers to see the world with fresh eyes, igniting a curiosity for the philosophies that can be found in the most unexpected places.