

Iran acts legally and morally in punishing Israel Clean Victory

Iranian missiles pass over Al-Agsa Mosque on their way to their targets in Israel, April 14, 2024

Iran struck only Israeli military bases, Amir Abdollahian says

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, has noted that Tehran targeted only Israeli military bases.

In a meeting with resident ambassadors in Iran on Sunday, he said that "the restraint in legitimate defense and punishment of the Zionist regime means that we did not define any non-military target in our response."

"Our armed forces did not target any economic or civilian location," he added.

Given the recent anti-Israeli operation, Iran's top diplomat stressed that operations were carried out that effectively targeted the intelligence center and the eye of the Zionist regime for directing all operations of the past six months, including the recent operation on the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus.

Tehran says much harsher response awaits Israel if it attacks Iran

TEHRAN- Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff, alongside the Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), have issued a stern caution to Israel, emphasizing the repercussions of any potential miscalculation concerning Iran.

Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, has declared that Tehran achieved all its targets and that the retaliatory operation against Israel has concluded.

Iran launched retaliatory attacks against the occupied territories on Saturday, after the Israeli regime struck the country's embassy in Damascus on April 1, killing 7 high-ranking military officials.

Palestinians celebrate Iran's retaliatory attacks

By Ali Karbalaei

Palestinians in the blockaded Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank as well as occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) have welcomed the Iranian retaliatory operation against the Israeli regime.

Across the occupied Palestinian territories – from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank to al-Quds (Jerusalem) many were quick to point out that Iran's retaliation marks the first time a country and not a resistance movement has launched such a penalizing attack on Israeli military bases in modern history.

Palestinian resistance movements, led by Hamas, have hailed the Iranian response. "We, in the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, consider the military operation carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Zionist entity, occupying

Palestine, as a natural right and a deserved response to

the targeting of the Iranian consulate in Damascus and the

assassination of several Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

commanders there," the Gaza-based resistance movement

said in a statement. > Page 5

President Raisi warns of stronger response to future provocations against Iran

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has issued a stern warning, saying that any further provocative actions against Iran will be met with a forceful and regrettable response.

The statement follows a recent operation by the Iranian Armed Forces (codenamed Truthful Promise Operation), which was executed in retaliation to the Zionist regime's aggressive actions, including an attack on the Iranian embassy in Damascus on April 1.

In a message to the Iranian people on Sunday, President Raisi praised the efforts of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and emphasized the unity among Iran's defense and political sectors in delivering a decisive blow to the Zionist enemy, marking a significant moment in Iran's history of sovereignty.

Iran launched retaliatory attacks against the occupied territories, after the Israeli regime struck the country's embassy in Damascus on April 1, killing 7 high-ranking military officials.

Israeli reports say Iran fired three waves of drones at Israeli positions, as well as a number of cruise missiles. Footage captured by citizens in Iraq, suggests Iran's famous Shahed-136 drones were among the UAVs launched at the occupied territories.

Iran also confirmed it has begun its retaliation against Israel through a TV announcement.

"In response to various crimes of the Zionist regime, including the attack on the Iranian consulate section in Damascus and the martyrdom of some of our country's military commanders and advisors in Syria, the IRGC's Air Force targeted specific objectives inside the occupied territories by hitting them with dozens of missiles and drones," a news anchor said, reading a statement by the Islamic Revolution Gaurd Corps (IRGC).

Iran's cement exports up 12% in nearly two years

Page 2

TEHRAN - Iran's cement exports have grown by 12 percent in nearly two years, according to figures from Iran's Cement Industry Producers Association Ali-Akbar Alvandian, head of the association, said on Saturday that Iran had exported 10.5 million metric tons (mt) of cement in the first nine months of the calendar year 1402 (March 21-December 21, 2023).

As reported, 13 million mt of cement had been exported in 1401, he added.

Alvandian noted that Iran produces about 90 million mt of cement annually, of which 60 million mt is consumed domestically.

According to the official, the cement production in the country has also increased by 12 percent since the current government administration took office in 2021.

There are currently 13 semi-finished projects in the country, he said, adding that the production of white cement will increase by over 8.8 million mt if they become operational.

He went on to add, "Even in the attack on the military base, which was the operational center of the Zionist regime against the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, the necessary precision for dealing with and responding to the Zionist regime was considered." **Page 2** During a televised interview on Sunday, General Bagheri asserted, "We've achieved all our objectives," signaling the completion of the operation from the Iranian perspective. He emphasized that while there are no immediate plans for further action, any provocation by the Zionist regime would elicit a robust response. ► Page 3

Iranian cement is exported to 25 countries, including Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria. Iran produced 63 million tons of cement in 2021 to be ranked the world's seventh biggest cement producer, IRIB reported citing international statistics. > Page **4**

Iranian art, cultural community unites in support of nation's response to Israeli regime aggression

TEHRAN- Iranian artists and cultural figures are coming together to show support for the nation's response to Israeli regime aggression.

Through online posts, they are expressing their sentiments and happiness regarding the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps' retaliatory attacks in occupied territories.

Various artists from different fields are sharing images and captions related to 'Operation Truthful Promise,' launched on Saturday night.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, tweeted a verse from the Quran expressing his support and joy for the actions taken. > Page 8



Global celebrations erupt following Iran's retaliation against Israel

TEHRAN- From Tehran to Toronto to al-Quds, people worldwide have taken to the streets in jubilant displays following Iran's forceful response to Israel's recent assault on Iran's diplomatic mission in Damascus, Syria.

On Saturday, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) unleashed a series of powerful missile and drone strikes on Israeli-occupied territories, in direct retaliation for the April 1 attack that claimed the lives of Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and other IRGC commanders.

In Tehran, crowds gathered at Palestine Square and the University of Tehran, waving flags and chanting slogans in solidarity with the IRGC. **> Page 3**

WHO EMRO director paying visit to Iran

TEHRAN – Hanan Hassan Balkhi, the World Health Organization's director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, is on a four-day visit to the provinces of Isfahan and Tehran to assess the country's healthcare system's capabilities and progress.

She started the travel on Saturday, April 13, visiting Isfahan University of Medical Sciences as well as several healthcare centers and infrastructures in the province.

Her plan for the next two days will include holding meetings with health authorities, and the WHO representative to the country, participating in a G5 (the group of four countries – Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan – plus the World Health Organization) meeting, and non-communicable disease campaign report meeting, and also paying a visit to the Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) as well as some health and treatment centers. ► **Page 7**

POLITICS

APRIL 15, 2024 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

The Strait of Hormuz will be unsafe for the Israelis

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

Kayhan analyzed the seizure of a cargo ship of the Zionist regime in the Strait of Hormuz by the navy of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and wrote: The Strait of Hormuz is under the control of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Islamic Iran can make the strait unsafe for its enemies in any situation. This fact showed itself once again when the fighters of the IRGC navy, bravely and with authority, captured a Zionist ship in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz region.

Ever since the Ansarullah Islamic Movement targeted Israel's interests in the Red Sea, the fake regime has been using UAE ports and a land corridor that passes through India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan to transport goods to the occupied territories.

Evidence shows that the powerful Iran wants to fundamentally disable the transportation and sea trade of the Zionist regime and evoke the conditions of the Red Sea in the Strait of Hormuz for Israel. Also, Iran wants to tighten the ring of siege against the terrorist regime of Israel and warn the governments that support the interim regime practically and seriously.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The old strategy of the West is no longer useful for Iran

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the Western policy towards Iran over many years and wrote: A look at the two decades of nuclear negotiations and then the JCPOA of the West shows that they have always prescribed a policy of unilateral self-restraint and instead of following a win-win approach based on accepting the interests and demands of the other party, they seek to oblige one side of the other party.

In other words, the experiences have shown that the West has not and will not adhere to any commitments and cannot be trusted. These experiences made the Islamic Republic of Iran learn in diplomatic trade with Western governments that it should first make the other party fulfill its obligations and then reveal and announce its policy and strategy.

America and those European countries that claim the necessity of Iran's self-restraint must have realized that this strategy is outdated and can no longer influence Tehran's decisions.

Iran: America has never been honest

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the difficult conditions of Biden's policy in the region and said: Biden has

antithesis positions regarding the escalation of the crisis in the region, from declaring support for Tel Aviv against a possible attack by Iran to numerous messages behind the scenes to "do not involve U.S in war"; so this issue has caused even the European allies of the United States to evaluate the withdrawal of this country from the scene of developments in the Middle East as more useful than its presence.

In such an atmosphere, although Tehran has advised Washington not to interfere in the war in a written message, and also the White House has demanded "safe conduct" to protect its bases and military interests in the region, Biden once again expressed his concern about defense support.

The United States has assured Israel in case of a military attack by Iran and has sent CENTCOM commander Eric Kurila to Israel a few days ago to coordinate with Israeli leaders regarding a possible attack.

This is the same approach that has once again confirmed the inaccuracy of the U.S. foreign policy and has worried domestic and foreign observers about the possible costs for this country due to the Iran-Israel war.

Ettelaat: America does not interfere in the attack on Israel

In an article, Ettelaat dealt with Biden's words regarding the non-participation of the U.S. in Israel's possible response to Iran.

The paper said: An American official told CNN that the President of this country, Joe Biden, spoke on the phone with the Prime Minister of the Zionist regime some hours after the Iran attack.

He made clear to Israel that Washington would not participate in any possible Israeli actions in response to Iranian attacks.

Although Biden once again emphasized America's commitment to supporting Israel, his statement that America will not participate in Israel's possible action against Iran after the Islamic Republic's missile and drone attack against the Zionist regime is worthy of consideration.

The military authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran had warned America before the massive missile and drone attack against the Zionist regime that any American intervention in this war could lead to the targeting of the country's positions and bases in different places; therefore, it is better not to do anything and not fall into Netanyahu's trap.

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN- Iran executed its longawaited retaliation against Israel on Saturday and the early hours of Sunday morning by directly targeting the occupied territories from its soil.

The New York Times claimed Operation Truthful Promise was carried out with at least 185 drones and around 150 missiles. Despite Israel's egregious claim at having intercepted "99%" of the projectiles, footage captured by Israeli settlers in the vicinity of the targets showed Iran's missiles had landed exactly where they were meant to descend.

The missiles and drones were fired from regions all across Iran. They passed by populated cities in Iraq, Syria, Jordan and occupied Palestine before hitting two Israeli military targets, one of them being a large intelligence base, Nevatim Airbase, from where an F-35 jet took off to target Iran's consulate in Damascus. No civilian sites were damaged in the process, which proves the high precision of Iran's domestic-grown weapons.

As mentioned by Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations, the attacks also did not breach any international law. Article 51 of the UN Charter pertains to the inherent right of individual or collective selfdefense in the event of an armed attack against a member state. It



Iran acts legally and morally in punishing Israel

Clean victory

reads:

"Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."

Iran and Israel innately different

attacks and the assaults carried out by Israel across the West Asian region have been different in nature.

Every strike the regime has carried out in the past 7 months and before that, was to assassinate individuals inside residential buildings, packed streets or even diplomatic premises. Israeli moves have all been in violation of international law. Topped with the genocide it is currently committing in Gaza, where every hospital, school, mosque, church, and home has been systematically destroyed, Israel has probably become the biggest breacher of international law in history.

Tehran could have easily destroyed big gatherings to give Israel a taste of its own medicine, or hit critical infrastructure to plunge it into social What's evident is that Iran's recent chaos. It, however, decided to play by the rules, and it still somehow got condemned by Israel's Western patrons, while Israel continues to enjoy full impunity.

The West denounced "in the strongest terms" Iran's lawful attempt at defending itself from a rogue regime that knows no limits, saying it's worried the move could escalate into a widespread conflict. Ironically months of witnessing genocide, heartbreaking scenes of mutilated and starving children, and Israel's continual aggressive assaults on neighboring regions, did not make the West bat an eye.

For Western states, the death of over 34.000 Palestinian civilians is nothing to fret over. What matters is Iran or any other country under Israeli aggression, would agree to come under attacks without an attitude. Western officials will spend their people's hard-earned tax money to help protect Israel's military sites, and defend the regime at UN meetings with an unbelievable audacity. What they won't do, however, is make sure the over 2 million people in the besieged Gaza will not starve to death or get bombed into oblivion.

In the eyes of the U.S. and Europe, a free and democratic world is one where Israel can commit unimaginable crimes without anyone hitting back at it.

Iran foreign ministry issues statement on retaliatory attacks against Israel

TEHRAN- The Iranian foreign ministry issued a statement on Saturday, hailing the "Truthful Promise" retaliatory operation, launched by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), against the Israeli regime.

"On 14 April 2024, the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces have carried out a series of military strikes on Israeli's military bases in response to, and in exercise of its inherent right of self-defense as recognized under Article 51 of the Charter, against Israel's recurring military aggressions, resulting in the martyrdom of the Iranian military advisors present in Syria at the invitation of the Syrian government, in particular the 1 April armed attack against diplomatic premises of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus," it noted.

The statement also said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, while reiterating its determination to forcefully defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests against any unlawful use of force and aggressions."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's resort to defensive measures in exercise of its right of self-defense demonstrates Iran's responsible approach toward regional and international peace and security at a time when the occupying apartheid regime's pattern of relentless genocidal campaign against Palestinian people is accompanied with repeated military aggressions against neighboring States and fanning the flames across the region and beyond."

The ministry went on to add, "The Islamic Republic of Iran would not hesitate to take further necessary defensive measures to protect its legitimate interests against any act of military aggression or unlawful use of force."

Iran launched retaliatory attacks against the occupied territories on Saturday night, after the Israeli regime struck the country's embassy in Damascus on April 1, killing 7 high-ranking military officials.

The overnight escalation came more than six months into Israel's devastating war on the Gaza Strip, which has killed more than 33,000 Palestinians and pushed the besieged territory to the brink of famine.

Israeli reports said Iran has already fired three waves of drones at Israeli positions, as well as a number of cruise missiles.

Footage captured by citizens in Iraq, suggests Iran's famous Shahed-136 drones are among the UAVs launched at the occupied territories.

With the missiles and drone attack, Iran's mission to the United Nations said it now deemed the matter "concluded" and warned Israel of a "considerably more severe" response should the "Israeli regime make another mistake".

Mission: Iran committed to UN Charter principles

TEHRAN- In a post on X on Sunday, Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva said that Tehran is committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and International law.

accountable, the aggressor #Iran carried out a series of military strikes on Israeli military objectives," Iran's Permanent Mission wrote

the @UN, Iran is committed to the

not hesitate to exercise its inherent right of #SelfDefense when required under Int'l Law," it noted.

if Israeli regime commits more "As a responsible Member of **military aggression again: envoy**

and

the Israeli regime's armed attacks

as follows: Iran to react more resolutely Upon instructions from my Government and pursuant to our

letter dated 1 April 2024 concerning

in Syria on April 1.

Iran's Ambassador

Iran struck only Israeli military bases, Amir Abdollahian says



From page **1** • "Our sole goal in legitimate defense is to punish the Israeli regime," the minister said.

Amir Abdollahian continued by saying that "we have announced to our brothers and friends in the region where America has military bases that our sole goal in legitimate defense is to punish the Israeli regime, and we are not seeking to target individuals and bases of America in the region."

"We have never welcomed escalating tensions in the region, but we have warned that if the United States uses the space or territory of targeted countries to defend and support Tel Aviv in a biased manner, then inevitably the American military base in that country will be targeted," he added.

"We consider the security of our neighbors as our own security," he said.

"We appreciate our neighbors and brothers in the region who quickly received this message and urged America and others to immediately

avoid any war from their land. We are always committed to the security of our brothers in neighboring countries and in the region," he highlighted.

He also pointed out that the neighborhood policy of President Ebrahim Raisi's government is one of the fundamental priorities of Iran, and Tehran regards the security of its neighbors as the its own security.

Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel, in an unprecedented attack that came as a response to an Israeli raid on the Iranian consulate in Syria two weeks ago.

The overnight escalation came more than six months into Israel's devastating war on the Gaza Strip, which has killed more than 33,000 Palestinians and pushed the besieged territory to the brink of famine.

The war has driven up tensions in the region, spreading to fronts with Lebanon and Syria and drawing long-range fire at Israeli targets from as far away as Yemen and Iraq.

The international community has reacted with alarm following the attack on Israeli territory.

Tehran had been threatening to attack Israel after an air raid on April 1, widely blamed on Israel, killing 13 people, including two elite Iranian generals.

Tensions between Israel and Iran have soared since Israel's six-month war in the Gaza Strip.

'In exercising its inherent right of #SelfDefense under Article 51 of the #UNCharter, and in response to the Israeli regime recurring military aggressions, particularly its armed attack on 1st April 2024 against Iranian diplomatic premises, in defiance of Article 2 (4) of the #UNCharter and in flagrant violation of Int'l Law, and subsequent to the failure of the **#UNSC** in taking measures necessary to condemn and hold

purposes and principles enshrined in the #UNCharter and Int'l law, and reiterates its consistent position that it does not seek escalation or conflict in the region," it added.

"While warning against any further military provocations, Iran reaffirms its unwavering determination to defend its people, national security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity against any threat or act of aggression. Iran will

Permanent Representative to the UN, Amir Saeid Iravani, stated on Saturday that if the Israeli regime carries out another military aggression, Iran will respond with even greater strength and determination. This warning comes after the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps launched numerous missiles and drones at Israeli targets in retaliation for the Israeli terrorist attack on Iran's consulate building against the diplomatic premises of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, the Syrian Arab Republic, which led to the martyrdom of seven Iranian senior military advisories (A/78/838-S/2024/281), I would like to inform you that, in the late hours of 13 April 2024, the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a series of military strikes on Israeli military objectives.

The full text of Iravani's letter is

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Parliament Speaker says Iran's response to Israel was 'resolute' and 'enlightening'

TEHRAN - The Iranian Parliament Speaker has declared that the response of Tehran to the Zionist regime was "resolute and enlightening." Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf emphasized during the open session on Sunday of the Islamic Consultative Assembly that the Iranian people's unified stance against the Zionist enemy, which had targeted the Iranian consulate, a symbol of the nation's sovereignty, was "resolute and enlightening."

"The decisive and powerful response of those defending our beloved country's sovereignty has brought satisfaction to every Iranian who values the dignity and security of our esteemed nation," he asserted.

Ghalibaf stressed that Iran's military action in response to the Zionist regime's aggression against Iran's diplomatic premises was consistent with the United Nations Charter.

Additionally, he warned that if the Zionist regime or its allies make another mistake, Iran's response will be more severe. "The desire for retaliation against this usurping and oppressive regime has sparked a wave of joy and pride among Muslims worldwide," Ghalibaf noted.

Ghalibaf asserted that Muslim governments should align themselves with the demands of their people, which include holding Zionist aggressors accountable and not opposing the will of the people.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran upholds the principle that any threat from any country will elicit a fitting and severe response," the senior Iranian lawmaker added.

Continuing, he stated that establishing sustainable security hinges on repentance from any aggressor against the nation, adding "the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has demonstrated determination in safeguarding the country's land and security, has fulfilled its national duty with authority."

On behalf of the elected representatives of the people, he expressed gratitude to the guardians of Iran's security and dignity.

In conclusion, representatives in the open session of the parliament, chanting slogans of "Death to Israel" and "Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, Thank You, Thank You," expressed appreciation and support for the Revolutionary Guards' drone and missile attack on Israel.

Iran launched retaliatory attacks against the occupied territories on Saturday, after the Israeli regime struck the country's embassy in Damascus on April 1, killing 7 high-ranking military officials.

Tehran says much harsher response awaits Israel if it attacks Iran

From Page 1
According to reports from Tasnim News Agency, Bagheri announced the successful conclusion of Operation Truthful Promise, highlighting the fulfillment of all its objectives.

General Bagheri elaborated on the strategic significance of the operation, condemning the intolerable actions of the Zionist regime, particularly the targeting of the Iranian consulate in Damascus.

He underscored the widespread condemnation of the regime's actions and stressed the necessity of a response, which was executed with support from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and other branches of the Iranian armed forces.

Providing further insight into the operation, Bagheri outlined the targeting of a major intelligence center and an airbase involved in the attack on the Iranian consulate, both sustaining significant damage.

"Utilizing drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles with precision tactics, the operation successfully penetrated the regime's defenses," noted the Iranian general.

Addressing the involvement of the United States, Bagheri asserted that any collaboration with Zionist provocations would be met with a robust response. He highlighted U.S. efforts to neutralize the operation in Iraq and Jordan but emphasized their failure and the achievement of the operation's goals.

"This operation has accomplished its objectives, and there is no intention to continue it," Bagheri stated. However, he warned, "If the Zionist regime takes action against Iran's soil or in Iranian centers in Syria or elsewhere, our next operation will be even more significant."

Bagheri clarified that while the operation was primarily carried out by the IRGC, other branches



larger scale but the attack "was

limited" to the military bases of

the Zionist regime, from the Golan

Heights to the Negev desert,

that were used in the terrorist

attack on the Iranian consulate in

According to Salami, the

"So far, we have not collected

all the data relating to the strikes

[against Israeli targets], but

detailed, documented reports

from the scene show that the

operation was more successful

The IRGC general explained that

the operation was "unknown"

and "unclear", but had "opened a

new chapter" for Iran in the fight

He noted that Israel has a

multilayered air-defense system

which includes the Arrow,

designed to intercept long-range

missiles, David's Sling, meant to

intercept medium-range missiles,

and Patriot, which is used to shoot

Israel's defense system was

also coping with incoming rocket,

drone and missile attacks from

Iran with assistance from the US,

"The deep and multilayered air

defense with the assistance from

the US was stretching from Iraqi

air space to Jordan and even parts

down aircraft, such as drones.

than we expected," he said.

against the Israeli regime.

operation was "more successful

than expected."

of the Iranian armed forces stand ready to act if necessary. He added, "We had the capability to conduct an operation ten times larger, but we aimed to deliver a proportional punishment."

Damascus. Much harsher response awaits Israel if it attacks Iran: IRGC chief

The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned the Israeli regime that Iran's reaction will be "certainly much harsher" if the regime responds to Iran's retaliatory operation.

"The Zionist regime must stop its past behavior and learn from this [attack]. If the Zionist regime shows any response, our reaction will certainly be much harsher based on this new experience we have gained from their capabilities," Major General Hossein Salami said on Sunday.

"From now on, if the Zionist regime attacks our interests, assets, figures, and citizens at any point, it will face counterattack from within the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

On Saturday night, the IRGC launched extensive missile and drone strikes against the occupied territories in response to Israel's deadly attack on the Iranian diplomatic premises in Syria early this month that killed seven members of its armed forces including two generals.

Salami highlighted that Iran could carry out an operation on a of Syria and Palestine.

"Israel was using its F-15, F-16, and state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jets, Gulfstream jets as well as aerial refueling aircraft [...] they were all deployed to defend Israel's positions," he added.

Penetrating these systems was "extremely difficult", according to Salami.

Moreover, Israel and U.S. electronic warfare could have represented a landmark in deciding the fate of the war crafts, so the operation took tactical ingenuity to render the enemy's defense systems ineffective, Salami added.

"Dozens of ballistic and cruise missiles manage to break into deep layers of Israel's seemingly safe air defense system, impact the aerial coalition between the U.S., France and Israel and reach the designated targets," he said.

Iran's retaliatory missile and drone strikes on Israel were launched after two weeks of strategic patience and meticulous planning and execution.

The operation included at least four waves of drone attacks. It is estimated that a total of 400 to 500 drones were launched.

retaliatory The military operation also included the launch of a series of cruise and ballistic missiles, which were reportedly accompanied by simultaneous drone and missile strikes by the Axis of Resistance groups from Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon.

On Sunday morning, the chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Mohammad Bagheri, said Iran has concluded its retaliatory strikes on the occupied territories.

Bgheri downplayed the extent of the operation compared to what Iran is capable of, saying that it was merely a punishment and the country's response to any further military action by the Israeli regime "will be much greater."

Esteghlal, Persepolis in PGPL two-horse

TEHRAN - The Iranian football premier league, nearing its seven final stretches with what appears to be a two-horse race for the championship title.

In Week 23, Esteghlal managed to secure a victory over Aluminum in Arak with a goal from their Argentine forward Gustavo Blanco. Similarly, Persepolis clinched a win in Tehran with a goal from Issa Alekasir against Malavan.

Esteghlal now lead the league with 50 points, while Persepolis, trailing by just one point, seek to reclaim the top spot and defend their title under the guidance of Brazilian coach Osmar Loss.

Following a heavy 4-1 defeat of Tractor against Zob Ahan and a home draw for Sepahan against Naft Masjed Soleyman, both Tractor and Sepahan have actually fallen out of contention for the championship, leaving the two Tehran football giants in a fierce battle for the title.

Esteghlal, under the leadership of Javad Nekounam, have maintained a consistent performance throughout the season, consistently leading the table for weeks, albeit with the gap to Persepolis now minimized.

In the recent weeks, a fierce competition has erupted between the two teams, not only in terms of the physical battle on the field but also in the strategic mind games.

It all started when Esteghlal made allegations against Persepolis, claiming that they were unfairly benefiting from referee decisions. Following their win in Arak, Esteghlal club issued a statement objecting to the refereeing in their match against Aluminum, hinting at favoritism towards Persepolis in recent officiating decisions.

Meanwhile, Persepolis have responded to these allegations and urged football federation officials to take disciplinary action against the Blues for their accusations.

It appears that the off-field and on-field rivalry between Persepolis and Esteghlal will intensify in the coming weeks, promising fiery encounters and adding further drama to the Iranian league.

Iran earn late win over Canada at 2024 IWBF Men's Repechage

TEHRAN - Mohammadhassan Sayari scored a two-pointer with just over a second remaining against Canada at 2024 IWBF Men's Repechage on Sunday at the 2024 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) Men's Repechage.

sides to have emerged champions in the history of the tournament. title race Women's basketball known as the Persian Gulf Pro League (IPGL), is coach Kapogianni

TEHRAN - Greek head coach Eleni Kapogianni has signed a one-year contract extension to stay with Iran's women's basketball team until the summer of 2025.

pens contract

extension

IRAN IN FOCUS

SPORTS

Under her leadership, Iran reached the final of the Asian Championship in Division B, where Team Melli suffered a narrow 55-54 loss against Indonesia and failed to advance to Division A.

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Japan is the defending champion while the Iran

will be seeking a 13th title with the teams the only

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

After winning back-to-back Greek Women's Basketball League Championships with Panathinaikos Women's team, 55-year-old head coach Kapogianni took charge of Iran.

Kapogianni had a contract with the Iranian Basketball Federation for about three months which ended in August 2023 but has signed a new contract

Iran to host int'l **Beach Tennis for** first time

TEHRAN - The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has approved Iran's hosting of the international beach tennis (BT) tournament for both men and women, marking the first time such an event will take place in the country.

The participating teams consist of 29 men's teams and 15 women's teams.

The tournament's first round will be held in two sessions: April 25th to 28th, and April 29th to May 2nd.

The Southern Iranian Island of Kish, located in the Persian Gulf, will serve as the host venue for this exciting sports event.

Iran squad named for 2024 AFC Futsal **Asian Cup**

TEHRAN - Iran national team head coach has announced his 14-man team for the 2024 AFC Futsal Asian Cup.

Team Melli have been drawn in Group D along with Kuwait, Afghanistan and Bahrain.

The Persians will commence the competition or

Global celebrations erupt following Iran's retaliation against Israel

he added.

From Page 1 > Similar scenes unfolded in Mashhad, where demonstrators outside Imam Reza's Shrine denounced Israeli aggression and celebrated Iran's response.

Even in al-Quds, Palestinians rejoiced upon hearing news of Iran's retaliation, while Gaza residents expressed joy as Iranian missiles targeted occupied territories.

Support for Iran's retaliation extended beyond West Asia, with Iraqis in Karbala and

Lebanese in Beirut showing appreciation outside Iranian embassies.

Pro-Palestinian activists in Toronto joined the chorus of praise, lighting fireworks and waving balloons in recognition of Iran's retaliatory strikes.

The global outpouring of support underscores the significance of Iran's response in challenging Israeli aggression and asserting regional solidarity.



Iran summons envoys of UK, German, France

TEHRAN - The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that it summoned the ambassadors of the UK, Germany, and France following the irresponsible positions of these countries about IRGC's operation against Israel.

The Director General of the Western Europe Bureau in Iranian Foreign Ministry separately summoned British Ambassador Shercliff, German Simon Ambassador Hans-Udo Muzel, and French Ambassador Nicolas Roche to the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs on Sunday.

On Saturday night, the action of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the military bases of the Zionist regime came under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and in response to the series of crimes of the Zionist regime, especially the recent attack on the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Director General of the Western Europe Department told the envoys.

Condemning the double

countries regarding the Israeli regime's attack on the diplomatic places of Iran, the Director General said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran, while reaffirming its adherence to the principles and goals of the United Nations Charter as well as international law, is determined to resolutely defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests against any illegal use of force.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown with its constructive and effective actions that it has standards of the three European always sought to prevent the

escalation of tension, he added." On April 14, a large number of missiles and drones were launched into Israel.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, this attack was carried out within the framework of the right of self-defense, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, in response to attacks on Iranian facilities in the region, including the attack on the building of the consular department of the Iranian Embassy in Damascus on April 1.

Western approach toward Iran's legitimate defense is unbelievably hypocritical

By Ali Naqipour

TEHRAN- Iran's drone and missile attacks on Israel, which were purely in response to Israel's strike on an Iranian diplomatic premise in Syria, drew reactions from some Western countries.

A few of these reactions, such as the one by Italy and the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, were moderate.

However, some of the reactions, especially those by Britain, Germany and France, were

stinging, quite hypocritical and one-sided.

Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said that the European Union strongly condemns Iran's attacks on Israel.

"This is an unprecedented escalation and a grave threat to regional security," Borrell wrote on his X account.

Borrell is generally considered a moderate and rational figure. However, he went to

the extreme on Iran's legitimate response to Israel's provocative and unlawful act of attacking the Iranian consulate which resulted in the death of seven Iranian military advisors.

In fact, it was Israel that triggered the attack by targeting the Iranian diplomatic building and causing an "unprecedented escalation".

President Joe Biden also said the United States' commitment to Israel's security against threats from Iran is "ironclad." ► Page 5

Team Melli won the match 75–74 in Pool A Iran had lost to France 63-62 and the Netherlands 61-53 in their first two matches.

Pool B is comprised of Colombia, Germany, Morocco, and Italy.

The top-four teams in the eight-country tournament earn tickets to the 2024 Paralympic Games set further north in Paris from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8.

Iran, Japan among **AFC Futsal Asian Cup** memorable matches

TEHRAN - Iran and Japan futsal team played a memorable match in the 2014 AFC Futsal Asian Cup final and the-AFC.com has picked it among the best over the years.

Goalkeeper Yushi Sekiguchi saved three penalties in the shootout as Japan claimed the title following a 2-2 draw after extra-time.

Japan twice came from behind through Kotaro Inaba and an extra-time own goal from Hamid Ahmadi after Farhad Tavakoli and Hossein Tayebi had given defending champion Iran the lead.

And in the shootout, Sekiguchi saved from Mohammad Taheri, Ghodrat Bahadori and Asghar Hassanzadeh, with Kazuhiro Nibuya, Tomoki Yoshikawa and Akira Minamoto converting for Japan to seal a 3-0 victory.

Sixteen teams will be vying for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024 title when the 17th edition kicks off in Bangkok on April 17.

April 18 against Afghanistan.

Sixteen teams will be vying for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024 title when the 17th edition kicks off in Bangkok, Thailand on April 17.

Japan are the defending champions while the Iran will be seeking a 13th title with the teams the only sides to have emerged champions in the history of the tournament.

Iran's squad:

Bagher Mohammadi, Saeid Momeni, Ali Khalilvand, Alireza Rafieipour, Mohammadhossein Derakhshani, Mohammadreza Sangsefidi, Aliasghar Hassanzadeh, Moslem Oladghobad, Saeid Ahmad Abbasi, Salar Aghapour, Mehdi Karimi, Ali Akrami, Masoud Yousef, Behrouz Azimi

Taremi scores ss Porto escape defeat against Famalicao

TEHRAN - Porto football team have been dealt a fresh blow after registering a 2-2 draw against FC Famalicao at the Estádio do Dragão Saturday evening.

Jhonder Cadíz gave Famalicao a lead in the ninth minute but Zaydou Youssouf scored an own goal in the 17th minute to equalize the match.

Cadíz scored once again before the break.

With eight minutes remaining, Mehdi Taremi equalized the match.

Porto forward Evanilson was shown a red card in the added time.



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Water inflow to dam reserves declines 10%



TEHRAN - Water inflow to Iran's dams has decreased by 10 percent since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2023) up to April 13, 2024, compared to the same period last year, the new report released by the Water Resources Management Company shows

According to the said report, during the mentioned period, 22.89 billion cubic meters of water entered the country's dam reserves, while the figure stood at 25.57 billion last year, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Despite the recent perspirations across the country, the total volume of water in dam reservoirs has not changed significantly compared to the previous year.

Recent rains have led to the melting of snow cover, increasing the level of water behind dams. However, the water level of dams is still not high in comparison to last

The amount of water outflow from the dams in the aforesaid period reached 14.55 billion cubic meters. Last year and in the same period, the amount of water outflow was 14.61 billion cubic meters.

The report indicates that the volume of water in the country's dams from the beginning of the current water year up to April 13, has reached 30.08 billion cubic meters.

The total capacity of the country's dams stands at 50.5 billion cubic meters, showing that 60 percent of the dams' capacity is full.

TEHRAN - Iran has exported \$2.217 billion worth of goods to India during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), according to an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

Hadi Talebian Moghaddam, the director of TPO department for Indian Subcontinent Affairs, said on Sunday that the figure shows a two percent increase in comparison to the \$2.175 billion reported in 2022.

Noting that Iran's balance of trade with India turned positive last year, he put Iran's last year's imports from India at \$1.916 billion. India's Ministry of Commerce

and Industry recently issued a report that put the country's trade exchanges with Iran in January at over \$200 million.

The figure is up three percent in comparison to that of January 2023 when bilateral exchanges



Iran's annual exports to India

hit \$2.217 billion

stood at \$197 million.

The value of trade between Iran and India reached \$1.836 billion in 2023, according to India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The trade exchange between the two countries declined by 26 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year, the figure was reported to be \$2.499 billion in 2022.

by India in 2023 increased by 26 percent compared to the previous year.

Raw materials for dye production and various fruits were also among the top exported goods to India in 2023.

India's exports to Iran in January-December 2023 experienced a 35 percent decrease and reached \$1.187 billion. In the previous year, India had exported \$1.847 billion worth of goods to Iran.

Rice was the top export product of India to Iran in 2023. India's rice exports to Iran decreased by 34 percent in 2023, falling from \$1.98 billion in 2022 to \$723 million.

India's tea export to Iran also declined by almost a third, from \$86 million in 2022 to \$30 million in 2023. The country's fruit exports to Iran however increased by 14 percent and reached \$55 million and spice exports decreased by 28 percent to \$15 million.

Iran's cement exports up 12% in nearly two years

From page 1 **>** The Islamic Republic was ranked the world's fifth biggest cement producer in 2020, producing 69 million tons of the product.

The Iranian cement industry has a history of more than eight decades of activity.

Currently, there are 96 cement production lines active in 74

factories across Iran. and nearly half of them are less than 10 years old. This is an indication that new production units have a greater share of the total output in this sector.

According to the Indian Ministry

data. Iran exported commodities

valued at \$699 million to India

during the past year, registering

Petroleum products were the

top goods imported by India

from Iran in 2023, and India

imported \$221 million worth of

such products from Iran this year.

The import of Iranian oil products

no significant change from 2022.

Neighboring countries are not only consumers of Iranian cement but also demand the transfer of the cement industry's technology to their countries.

13 new petchem projects to go operational by late March 2025: NPC

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has said the company is planning to complete 13 new petrochemical projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025), IRNA reported.

"One of the strategies of the petrochemical industry in the year "production leap with people's participation" is to put 12 new petrochemical projects into operation by the end of [the current Iranian calendar]1403 and use all available capacities," Morteza Shahmirzaei said.

He stated that the completion of 12 petrochemical projects by the end of this year will have a significant impact on the growth of production and economic development of the country.

The NPC head had previously put the country's petrochemical production capacity at over 92 million tons, and said: "Today we are almost self-sufficient in the main petrochemical sectors including products and equipment."

Iran's petrochemical industry accounts for 28 percent of the region's petrochemical capacity and 2.7 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity, he announced.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest



source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to Shahmirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years.

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

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

TEDPIX loses 11,000 points on Sunday

Over 100 foreign journalists visit Changping **District near Beijing**

By Mahnaz Abdi

BEIJING- More than 100 journalists from over 90 countries visited Changping District near capital Beijing in a one-day tour on Friday.

Changping District is a district situated in the suburbs of north and northwest Beijing.

Changping has a population of 2,269,487 as of November 2020, making it the most populous suburban district of Beijing.

Changping District, covering an area of 1,430 square kilometers (550 sq mi), contains two subdistricts of the city of Changping and 15 towns (five of which are suburbs of Beijing).

About 34 km (21 mi) from the city center, Changping is renowned for its numerous scenic spots and tourist facilities, like Datangshan museum. It is rich in natural resources, mineral products, and rural products.

During their one-day trip to Changping, the foreign journalists visited a number of industrial, educational and health centers and t/y and railway transportation line of 331 km.

SPIC has its presence in 36 countries (regions) such as Japan, Australia, Malta, India, Turkey, Pakistan, Brazil and Myanmar, with businesses covering power project investment, technical cooperation, EPC and O&M Projects, etc.

Being one of China's three nuclear power and operators, SPIC embraces outstanding industry advantages in the R&D, design and manufacturing of nuclear power components and equipment, as well as the construction, operation and management of nuclear power plants (NPP).

carrier and research platform to accomplish the introduction of the 3rd generation nuclear power technology-AP1000, and to build AP1000 projects independently in a self-reliant manner. It is the leading entity to proceed with the major project of the CAP1400/1700 large-scale advanced pressurized water reactor and is the main entity to build demonstration projects.

Kong while the other five offer

Beijing Changping Vocational

Beijing Changping Vocational

School was another outstanding

place visited by the foreign

The school was founded in 1958.

It now offers 41 majors including

aviation service, automobile

application and maintenance,

landscaping, drone application

and

It has 334 formal faculty

Beijing GoBroad Hospital was the

members and more than 3,000

Beijing GoBroad Hospital

preschool

A-shares in mainland China.



Future Science City in Changping District of Beijing

last site visited by the journalists. Beijing GoBroad Hospital is a research hospital with a focus on diagnosing and treating challenging and critical cases, conducting clinical research, and strategically transforming the industries of biomedicine and medical devices.

It serves as a public service platform for clinical research in Beijing.

The hospital has gathered a group of renowned clinical research experts in China, along with a complete clinical research an integrated platform for industry and clinical collaboration.

More than half of the team focuses on providing professional services for clinical innovation transformation.

Specialized service teams include the Early Clinical Research Center, Central Laboratory, Imaging Center, Pathology Center, Clinical Evaluation Center for Cardiac Safety, Clinical Pharmacology, Medical and Statistical teams, among others.

Since its establishment, the group has experienced rapid development, having accumulated a wealth of experience in serving hundreds of innovative pharmaceutical companies and conducting numerous trials.

developers chain

SPIC is the main entity, major

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 11,193 points to 2,196,776 on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

In late January, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) stressed the need for diverse financing tools in the country, noting that such tools are currently being provided by the stock market.

"To reduce the speculative and profitseeking activities of dealers in the country, financing tools should be diversified," Mohammad Shirijian said.

"The capital market is an institution that directs capital to production in an efficient manner. Now, to accelerate the process of resource transfer and high productivity, the financing should be directed to the enterprises," the official explained.

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

"One of the main approaches of the Securitas and Exchange Organization during the past year has been to use the power of the private sector, because government entities and the public sector do not have the necessary characteristics for economic prosperity, so we must increase the share of the private sector in the capital market," Eshqi said in a conference in Khorasan Razavi Province.

Large industries have their own problems and fluctuations. but small and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs) can compensate for these fluctuations, the official said, adding that the main part of the world economy is moving towards small and medium-sized companies because value, employment, and innovation lie in such companies.

The SEO head further noted that the stock market should mainly focus on investment and financing, saying: "We need to direct the liquidity flow towards production."

Emphasizing the important role of the seventh National Development Plan (2022-2026) in securing the future of the capital market, Eshqi stated: "One of the major indicators of investment is predictability, so more action should be taken in the seventh development plan to make the economy more predictable."

He pointed to the holding of investment and financing conferences in provinces as a starting point for a new movement towards promoting investment and said: "Economic enterprises do not have enough familiarity with the capital market and such conferences are bridges that provide the necessary platform in this regard."

got acquainted with the Chinese development in that district.

Integrated Intelligent Zerocarbon Power Plant

Integrated Intelligent Zerocarbon Power Plant of state Power Investment Corporation (SPIC) was the first sites that the journalists visited.

China.

School

journalists.

technology,

education.

students.

SPIC

State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC), newlv established through the merger of China Power Investment Corporation and State Nuclear Power Technology Corporation, is a large state-owned enterprise under the administration of the Central Government with a registered capital of RMB 45 billion and total assets of RMB 722.3 billion.

As the only integrated energy group in China that holds assets of hydropower, thermal power, nuclear power and new energy simultaneously, SPIC establishes itself with such industries as power, coal, aluminum, logistics, finance, environmental protection, high-tech industries, etc.

SPIC has achieved a total installed capacity of 120GW, 44 percent of which is clean energy, coal production capacity of 80.4 million tons per year (t/y), aluminum smelting capacity of 2.49 million

support team. SPIC is an equal controlling

shareholder of Hongyanhe NPP in Building on its clinical research capabilities, the hospital integrates Liaoning Province, and the majority the strengths of Beijing's rich shareholder of other projects foundation in basic research, under construction like Haiyang NPP and Rongcheng CAP1400 entrepreneurial enterprises, and Demonstration NPP in Shandong research institutions to create a Province. Besides, SPIC owns a high-level ecosystem for medical number of reserved project sites innovation. in both inland and coastal areas of The hospital is located in

Changping Life Science Park in has about 140,000 Beijing, covering an approximate employees and holds seven listed floor area of 100,000 square companies, two of which are red meters. chip companies traded in Hong It is planned to have 500 beds,

including 100 beds dedicated to early-stage research. Specializing in solid tumors, hematologic tumors, and brain science, the hospital officially opened in July 2023.

Beijing GoBroad Hospital is an explorer and practitioner of the research hospital pattern, serving as one of the flagship hospitals within the GoBroad Healthcare Group which established in 2017, comprises four major business sectors: The Center for Challenging and Critical Care Medicine, Clinical Research Center, Precision Diagnosis Center, and Data Intelligence Center.

With a mission to drive medical innovation, the group has gathered renowned clinical experts and built

It has also brought new hope to tens of thousands of challenging and critical patients.

It should be noted that the foreign journalists visited Changping District in a program organized by China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC).

CIPCC, under the China Public Diplomacy Association (CPDA), has initiated a program to build a platform for the media from countries around the world, especially developing countries, to observe China and study development in this country.

The program aimed at media exchange was halted in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

In each edition of the program, journalists from all around the world gather together to get familiar with the modern China and exchange their experiences in the field of journalism.

In 2024 edition of the program, scheduled to be held from late February until late June, over 100 journalists from more than 90 countries are participating.

Western approach toward Iran's legitimate defense is unbelievably hypocritical

From page **3** > Of course, nobody expects the U.S. to reprimand Israel. As Noam Chomsky has said, Israel is considered an American state. If it had not been for Washington's blind support for Israel over these several decades, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would have probably been resolved long years ago. 42 times the U.S. has vetoed UN Security Council resolutions in favor of Israel.

Since Israel launched the airstrike on the Iranian consulate on April 1 that forced Iran to say that it would not let this provocative act go unpunished, Biden has regularly said Washington's support for Israel is "Ironclad".

Guterres took a middle ground and called for an immediate cessation of these hostilities. «Neither the region nor the world can afford another war,» he warned in his statement.

«I am deeply alarmed about the very real danger of a devastating region-wide escalation. I urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint to avoid any action that could lead to major military confrontations on multiple fronts in the Middle East,» the statement said.

Italy>s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani mentioned that he is in close contact with the ambassadors in Tehran and Tel Aviv, adding, «We have spoken with the Prime Minister and the Defense Minister. The government is prepared to handle any scenario.»

However, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, whose country is responsible for creating Israel on the stolen Palestinian lands through the 1917 Balfour Declaration, took



the toughest stance against Iran.

«I condemn in the strongest terms the Iranian regime>s reckless attack against Israel. Iran has once again demonstrated that it is intent on sowing chaos in its own backyard,» Sunak said.

Contrary to what Sunak claimed it was Israel that launched a "reckless attack" on the Iranian diplomatic premise in violation of the UN Charter and the Vienna conventions. Iran only responded to Israel's highly provocative act to possibly prevent more adventurous moves by Israel in the future.

Sunak is not that much idiot not to understand that it is Israel that is "sowing chaos" in the region by ignoring the UN Security Council resolutions adopted to resolve the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict and that it has been butchering Palestinians in the Gaza Strip for more than six months.

French Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne also said, «France condemns in the strongest terms the attack launched by Iran against Israel. By deciding on such an un-

precedented action, Iran is taking a new step in its destabilizing actions and taking the risk of a military escalation.»

France must also answer this simple question whether it was really Tehran or Tel Aviv that shot the first bullet. Like other countries, France knows well that it was not the first time that Israel assassinated the Iranian military advisors in Syria and each time Iran showed maximum restraint. However, this time Israel was emboldened and directly targeted Iranian military advisors inside the diplomatic premise. According to international law, diplomatic premises are considered part of a country's territory, and this brazen attack was like an attack on Iranian territory. There was no guarantee that the extremist government of Netanyahu would not launch direct military attacks on Iranian territory if the Islamic Republic had shown more restraint.

If France and Britain as two permanent members of the UN Security Council really seek a stable and secure Middle East why they did not condemn the Israeli raid on the Ira-

nian consulate on April 1 when the Council held an emergency meeting on the issue?

The language used by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, whose country is acting like a subservient to Israel, and her country, like the United States, is considered complicit in Israeli genocide in Gaza, also made harsh remarks against Iran.

She said, «We strongly condemn the ongoing attack, which could plunge an entire region into chaos.... Israel offers our full solidarity at this time.»

That Germany has committed crimes against Jews during the Second World War it is unjustifiable that Berlin refused to condemn the regime's highly provocative attack on the Iranian consulate and instead emboldened Tel Aviv by expressing "full support" for Israel.

These three European countries claim that they want a stable Middle East, but in practice they are fueling the fire in the region by providing highly sophisticated weapons to Israel even amid the regime's genocidal acts in Gaza that according to reports have committed about 3000 massacres since October last year.

Likewise, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his nation "unequivocally condemns Iran's airborne attacks against Israel."

Issuing a statement, Trudeau added, «We stand with Israel." He also said, "The Iranian regime's latest actions will further destabilize the region and make lasting peace more difficult."

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

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WORLD HEADLINES -

INTERNATIONAL

restore full Israeli control all over the Gaza Strip," said Bezalel Smotrich, who is Israel's finance minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu.

Smotrich has previously called for Palestinians to leave Gaza.

Israel stands accused of starving Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in particular in the northern part of the territory to force them leave the territory.

Israeli settlers renew attacks on West Bank

Israeli settlers attacked villages in the occupied West Bank, wounding several Palestinians and setting fire to houses and cars, under full protection from the Israeli army.

The rampage came after hundreds of settlers. many of them armed, stormed the village of al-Mughayyir, northeast of Ramallah on Friday.

Barakat Dawabsha, a resident of Duma, south of Nablus, told Middle East Eye that more than 500 armed settlers attacked the village from the northern, western and southern sides.

Pro-Palestine ex-Greek minister banned from **Germany events**

Germany has banned Greece's former finance minister from speaking in the country even through online means, amid Berlin's increasing crackdown on freedom of speech regarding Palestine and Israel, the Middle East Monitor reported

In a statement on X, former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis announced that "Germany's Interior Ministry has issued a 'Betätigungsverbot' against me, a ban on any political activity. Not just a ban on visiting Germany but also from participation via Zoom."

The ban was reportedly caused by a speech Varoufakis published on multiple platforms including X, in which he advocated for the rights of Palestinians and condemned Israel's ongoing offensive on Gaza and the genocide it is committing there.

"Universal human rights are either universal or they mean nothing", he said in his speech, which he was meant to read out at the Palestine Congress - set to take place in Berlin from April 12 to April 14 – before the event was shut down by German police.

Palestinians celebrate Iran's retaliatory attacks

From page 1
Hamas also highlighted that "the peoples of the region have the right to defend themselves against Israeli aggression," calling on all parties, both regional and international, to support the Palestinians and their resistance against Israeli occupation.

In a statement, the joint Palestinian Resistance group's committee went on to praise the "necessary Iranian response" to the Israeli aggression against its consulate in Damascus, emphasizing that "it is an act of self-defense and an inherent right of the Islamic Republic guaranteed by all international laws."

"We are living a new reality and glorious historical moments," which were initiated by Operation al-Aqsa Storm, the statement said.

In the Gaza Strip itself, where the people have been under the ongoing genocidal Israeli war for more than six months cheered with joy as they witnessed firsthand the Iranian drones and missiles flying towards Israeli military targets.

Hospital in the blockaded Gaza Strip shows hundreds of displaced Palestinians sheltering at the medical facility cheering on as Iranian projectiles flew overhead toward Israeli military targets.

Palestinians in occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) held a celebratory gathering inside the compounds of the holy al-Aqsa mosque, rejoicing Iran's response against the Israeli occupation.

Other social media videos that have gone viral show a huge crowd of people in front of the mosque's golden dome chanting against the Israeli occupation after news emerged that Iran had waged a massive retaliatory operation.

It was also a sleepless night in Ramallah and other cities in the occupied West Bank, that saw excited crowds of Palestinians gathering in the streets and pointing to the skies amid the visible trails of Iranian missiles flying, with a celebratory mood until the early hours of Sunday morning.

The social media accounts of well-known Palestinian activists in the occupied West Bank shared



raeli military targets.

They also praised the response by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, with some pointing out that no regional country has ever responded to Israeli crimes, let alone at such an unprecedented magnitude.

The IRGC targeted the Israeli regime late on Saturday with a barrage of drones and missiles in response to the regime's deadly assault on the consular section of the Iranian embassy in the Syr-

Israel has perpetrated nearly 3,000 massacres in Gaza

Hamas demands

that Israel will

written commitment

withdraw from Gaza

Hamas has demanded a "clear written com-

mitment" that Israel will withdraw from the

Gaza Strip during the second of a three-phase

cease-fire deal, a senior Egyptian official and a

The resistance group said Saturday it submit-

ted its response to a six-week cease-fire pro-

posal to Egyptian and Qatari mediators. It said

it's still committed to its demands for a perma-

nent cease-fire, Israeli army withdrawal from all

parts of Gaza, the return of displaced people to

their homes, intensifying the flow of aid and the

start of reconstruction. Israel said earlier Sun-

day that Hamas had rejected the latest proposal

"We confirm our readiness to reach a deal

The proposal presented to both sides calls for a

six-week cease-fire in Gaza, during which Hamas

would release 40 of the more than 100 captives

the resistance group is holding in the territory in

exchange for 900 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli

regarding a serious exchange of prisoners be-

for a deal submitted last week.

tween the two sides," Hamas said.

Hamas official said Sunday, AP reported.

The Israeli army has been committing an average of 16 massacres daily in the Gaza Strip since October 7 where it has been carrying out attacks for over six months, according to officials in Gaza, Turkey's Anadolu reported.

The Gaza government's Media Office issued a statement detailing the 190-day-long bombardment carried out by Israel on Gaza.

The statement reported that the Israeli army has committed "2,973 massacres in the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7, 2023."

The report stated that during the Israeli military's assaults on the Gaza Strip, 14,560 children and 9,582 women were killed.

It was highlighted that in Gaza, where Israel's actions have led to starvation, a humanitarian crisis has emerged due to the blockade of aid.

As a result, 30 children have tragically died due to malnutrition and dehydration.

It was also stated that the Israeli military has launched over 70,000 tons of explosives on Gaza since Oct. 7, targeting not only civilian ar eas but also the healthcare sector.

Israeli protesters accuse Netanyahu of torpedoing, sabotaging Gaza truce deal and stifling rallies

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seems to have been left up the creek without a paddle amid rising public anger over his handling of the Gaza war.

Netanyahu has been under growing pressure from the Israeli public and officials since the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas launched a surprise military operation in southern Israel more than 6 months ago.

On October 7. Hamas carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. More than 1,100 were killed during the operation and about 250 Israelis and foreigners were taken captive.

The resistance movement freed more than 100 captives following a weeklong truce in November last year.

Israel says 129 captives are still in Gaza including nearly three dozen believed to be no longer alive. Some of them have died during Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army has also recovered the bodies of 12 captives.

Over the past months, Israelis have thronged cities to express their anger at Netanyahu's failure to prevent the Hamas attack and secure the release of the remaining captives.

At the weekend, tens of thousands of people once again hit the streets in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other cities.

The protesters asked the Israeli cabinet to call off the Gaza war that was launched following Hamas's military operation. They also called for a ceasefire deal to have the captives released. The demonstrators further demanded early elections and Netanvahu's resignation.

Einav Zangauker, whose son is held in Gaza, denounced Netanyahu in a notably bitter language. Speaking at a rally in Tel Aviv, Zangauker blamed Netanyahu for being "responsible for the abandonment of the hostages in Gaza."

"They could already have been at home, but you torpedoed the deal," Zangauker said.

Some other family members of the captives. who participated in the protest in Tel Aviv, accused the Israeli prime minister of "sabotaging" a deal for the release of captives.

Protesters, who had gathered outside Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem, also made a blistering attack on him.

"I dreamed about sitting with my brother at the Passover Seder table. Benjamin Netanyahu, you shattered this dream by blocking the deal from going through, out of your personal interests and empty slogans about total victory," the brother of one of the captives said.

Anat Arbel, a reservist in the Israeli army who holds the rank of major, came down hard on Netanyahu.

"This government is fighting us," he said. A protest leader also accused Netanvahu of stifling rallies.

The largest anti-Netanyahu protest was held a week ago in Tel Aviv, which according to organizers, drew 100,000 people. The rally turned violent as several people were injured in a ramming when a driver plowed his vehicle through the demonstrators

In addition to public pressure on Netanyahu to reach a truce deal with Hamas, Israeli opposition figures have accused him of prolonging the war in favor of his political interests.

Netanyahu has failed to achieve "total victory" over Hamas and crush the Palestinian resistance in Gaza. Hence, he seeks to continue the war to gloss over his regime's military failures.

The number of Palestinians killed in Israel's sixmonth war on Gaza has surpassed 33,700. The death toll is likely much higher, with an estimated 8,000 bodies believed to have been buried under the rubble of the buildings destroyed in Israeli strikes.

Israel continues the war of genocide in Gaza through unwavering military support provided by the U.S. and some other Western countries.

Not only Israel but also Washington and some of its European allies are complicit in the massacres of Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Israel bars **Palestinians** from returning to northern Gaza

The Israeli military has dismissed speculation that it allowed the return of Palestinians to northern Gaza

The army "does not allow the return of residents, neither through Salah al-Din nor through al-Rashid Street," said spokesperson Avichay Adraee on X, calling the rumors "false and baseless"

He stressed that northern Gaza is still a war zone and no return will be allowed.

Smotrich calls for 'full control over Gaza'

An Israeli far-right minister has stressed that the regime must establish complete control over the besieged Gaza Strip.

"As I warned, giving up on Israel's red lines and chasing after Hamas for a deal only makes the chance of bringing everyone home further away. It's time to learn lessons, change direction, and

Delays by Home Office risk return of vulnerable Afghan families to Taliban

Afghan families who helped UK forces and then fled to neighboring Pakistan are in danger of being deported back to the Taliban due to Home Office delays in bringing them to the UK.

In the chaotic evacuation period in the Afghan capital, Kabul, in August 2021 some family members eligible for resettlement in the UK became separated from the rest of their families. Some boarded flights while others were unable to due to crushes at the airport and instead fled over the border to Pakistan, the Guardian reported.

Since then, many separated families have only been able to exchange calls and messages with each other across continents, with no sign of the UK government announcing a promised family reunion scheme.

On 11 February immigration minister Tom Pursglove stated in a letter that the Home Office was committed to establishing a route for eligible separated Afghan families.

However, nothing has yet been announced and the situation has become urgent. Deportations of Afghans who fled to Pakistan are due to restart on Monday. A previous wave of these deportations resulted in about 400,000 Afghans in Pakistan being returned, either forcibly or voluntarily, to Afghanistan.

TOURISM

APRIL 15, 2024 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

TEHRAN – Work has commenced to restore

and stabilize floral tilework that adorns the

main courtvard of the UNESCO-designated

Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili Ensemble, located

"Restoration and stabilization of the tile-

work and decorations in the main courtyard

has commenced in line with the ongoing res-

toration efforts of the Sheikh Safi al-Din Ar-

dabili World Heritage site," Fardin Eyni, who

presides over the World Heritage site, said on

The official emphasized: "Restoration of

the tilework and decorations in the court-

yard, considering that almost all the walls

of this section are adorned with intricate

mosaic work, requires high precision and is a

"Given the vastness of the ensemble and

the multitude of artifacts present, resto-

ration work in the site is an ongoing process,

and maintenance and stabilization work is

constantly being done in various sections of

Eyni continued: "In addition, the ensem-

lengthy and meticulous process."

the ensemble to preserve its allure."

Saturday

in the city of Ardabil in northwest Iran.

85,000 people underpin Hormozgan's reputation as a living museum of handicrafts

TEHRAN - Hormozgan province is home to over 85,000 craftspeople who have inherited ancient skills from their ancestors.

Situated in the south of Iran, on the coasts of the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, Hormozgan has long been somewhat of a living museum of handicrafts.

Speaking to IRNA, on Sunday, Hormozgan's Director-General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts stated that currently, more than 85,000 licensed artisans are actively engaged in handicrafts production across the province.

Mohammad Mohseni added that these craftspeople are mostly active in fields such as Golabton-Duzi [a type of embroidery], needlework, rug weaving, marine crafts, and pottery.

Pointing to one of the most important agendas in the field of handicrafts provincewide, the official



mentioned supporting artisans' productions and registering the ownership of their works.

"During the past year, 23 works by capabilities of Hormozgan, would be 19 artists from the province obtained held in Bandar Abbas in the upcomthe national authenticity seal," ing autumn as part of the joint ses-Mohseni noted, "also two works in sion between Iran and Qatar. the field of traditional embroidery Focusing on enhancing cooperareceived the distinguished handi-

Mohseni also emphasized that the exhibition is planned to facilitate the connection between provincial artisans and a network of regional buy-Earlier this week, the official aners and customers. nounced that an exhibition, showcasing handicrafts and cultural-tourism

tion and synergy with neighboring

The official in his concluding remarks stated that organizing this exhibition will not only create a suitable opportunity to assess the status of handicraft exports but also provide conditions for presenting the provincial capacities in the field of exports.

countries, this joint exhibition is in

line with prioritizing the handicrafts

"Being held for the first time in

the province," the official added, "the

exhibition provides an opportunity

to showcase the tourism and hand-

icraft potential of the province to

neighboring countries, with whom we share many cultural affinities and

industry, Mohseni outlined.

commonalities."

Golestan province exports \$3.3m of handicrafts in year

TEHRAN – Handicraft exports from Golestan province amounted to over \$3.3 million in the past Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), a local official said.

Golestan province exported handicrafts products worth \$3.3 million via official customs or suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and taxfree transfer) in the past, Maryam Haji-Ebrahimi said

Stone and wood crafts, needlework, fabric weaving, kilim weaving, Turkmen jewelry, handcrafted leather, traditional tilework, and embroidery are among the products of the province that were exported to countries such as Turkmenistan. Armenia, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, England, Germany, the United Arab Emirates, Greece, Italy, and the

guantities of various handicraft products such as traditional textiles, wooden and straw handicrafts, traditional embroidery, handcrafted leather goods, woven and non-woven textiles, pottery, and ceramics were produced in workshops across the northern province.

Referring to the activity of 7,500 artists in various fields of handicrafts in Golestan province, she said: that 95% of the activity in the field of handicraft production in the province is carried out by women, 70% of whom reside in rural areas.

Haji-Ebrahimi identified the lack of cooperation in advertising for handicrafts markets, the high cost of booths at international exhibitions, and the high prices of raw materials leading to increased product prices and subsequently reduced demand as some of the problems faced by artists.

Handicrafts, and Tourism Department is striving to facilitate a better supply of artists' products by organizing temporary markets and providing booths at reasonable prices.

"Resolving other problems of handicraft artists also requires the cooperation of relevant institutions at the county, provincial, and national levels, and negotiations with factories and workshops nationwide to provide raw materials at reasonable prices for artists in the province are currently underwav."

Currently, a total of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts". Based on available data, the handicraft sector of the country has generated jobs for more than 2.5 million people, of which some 1.5 million are registered in government databases and around 0.5 million are licensed workers.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas

UNESCO-listed Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili

toration."

west Iran.

Ensemble undergoes restoration

The Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas, contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, with many painted rock shelters, including a cave, with magnificent pictographies surrounded by an outstanding landscape, with the river running through a deep canyon, which were executed between 9,300 and 1,300 years ago.

According to UNESCO, the property takes its name (Cave of the Hands) from the stencilled outlines of human hands in the cave, but there are also many depictions of animals, such as guanacos (Lama guanicoe), still commonly found in the region, as well as hunting scenes that depict animals and human figures interacting in a dynamic and naturalistic manner.

The entrance to the Cueva is screened by a rock wall covered by many hand stencils. Within the rock shelter itself there are five concentrations of rock art, later figures and motifs often superimposed upon those from earlier periods. The paintings were executed with natural mineral pigments - iron oxides (red and purple), kaolin (white), and natrojarosite (yellow), manganese oxide (black) ground and mixed with some form of binder.

The artistic sequence, which includes three main stylistic groups, began as early as the 10th millennium BP [Before Present]. The

last inhabited around 700 CE by the possible ancestors of the first Tehuelche people of Patagonia. The Cueva is considered by the international scientific community to be one of the most important sites of the earliest hunter-gatherer groups in South America during Early Holocene that still maintains a good state of preservation and has a singular environment formation, unique at Santa Cruz province

ble's roof is also scheduled to undergo res-

Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine

Ensemble is a microcosm of Sufism, where

arrays of harmonious sun-scorched domes,

well-preserved and richly-ornamented fa-

cades and interiors, and, above all, an atmo-

sphere of peace and tranquility have all made

a must-see stopover while traversing north-

The ensemble is named after Sheikh Safi

al-Din Ardebili (1253–1334), who was a Sufi

philosopher and leader of Islamic mystic

practices. It embodies the essence of Sufi

traditions by having a microcosmic 'city',

which embraces a mosque, a madrasa, a li-

brary, a cistern, a bathhouse, kitchens, and a

hospital, as well as religious houses amongst

others. The place also boasts a remarkable

Developed between the early 16th century

and the end of the 18th century, this place

of spiritual retreat enjoys the principal ele-

ments of traditional Iranian architecture to

make the best use of the existing space for

collection of antique artifacts.

accommodating various functions.

The rock art, its natural environment and the archaeological sites on this region are some of the very important reasons that made this area a focus for archaeological research for more than 25 years. They made an impact on the observer due not only the deep gorge walls surrounded by a privileged landscape, but also by the artistic compositions, variety of motifs and its polychromies.

These scenes represent a unique evidence to know about he first Patagonian hunters' behaviour and their hunting techniques. Cueva de las Manos, Río Pinturas contains an exceptional assemblage of cave art, unique in the world, for its age and continuity throughout time, the beauty and the preservation conditions of the paintings, the magnificence of the collection of stencilled outlines of human hands and the hunting scenes, as well as the environment that surrounds the place sequence is a long one: archaeological in- of exciting beauty and for being part of the

registration as a World Heritage.

The unmissable eight-towered fortress dominates Khorramabad as one of the most visited travel destinations in the region for both domestic and foreign sightseers. The fortress seems particularly imposing and dramatic when floodlit at night, offering picturesque views of its encircling crenelated battlements.

Some experts believe that Falakol-Aflak is comparable with similar works in Nagsh-e Rostam, Nagsh-e Rajab, Tape Chugan, and Firuzabad in Fars province. In 2018, the UN cultural body added an ensemble of Sassa-

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

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general



renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as the palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble. Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated. yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

She added that during this period, significant

United States, the official explained.

TEHRAN - As one of the most sought-after historical places of interest across Iran, the Falak-ol-Aflak fortress drew in more than 11 thousand visitors in the course of the three-day Eid-al-Fitr holidays.

As per records, Lorestan's Sassanid-era fortress was also among the top ten destinations across the country in terms of the highest amount of ticket sales throughout the time of the Nowruz holidays.

On January 31, in a momentous step, Ali Darabi, the deputy minister of cultural heritage announced that Iran has submitted a dossier on "Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress" to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

She stated that Golestan's Cultural Heritage,

Eid-al-Fitr boost: 11k visits to Sassanid fort recorded in three days Cultural Organization for a possible

Oeshm geosites draw 387k visitors in year

crafts award."

vestigations have shown that the site was cultural value of the site itself.

Iran in frames



A view of Masjed-e Jamkaran, a major mosque and place of pilgrimage located at a distance of six km from the city of Qom, on the Qom - Kashan Road.

TEHRAN - A total of 387,925 visits were made to the main geosites of Oeshm Island by both domestic and foreign tourists during the solar year 1402 [March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024], according to related officials.

In an interview with ISNA, on Saturday, the director of Qeshm Geopark detailed the figure, stating that during this period, 209,515 visits were made by domestic tourists and 1,411 by foreign tourists to the Star Valley geosite.

"Additionally, last year, Chahkooh Canyon geosites with a total of 151,182 visits, and Namakdan Cave with 10,864 visits," Sajad Ashgarf further explained, "ranked as the second and third most visited sites of the Qeshm Global Geopark."

According to the Geopark's director, during this period, the Valley of Statues geosite recorded 7.535 visits and the Oeshm Global Geopark Museum with 7,416 visits secured the next position

"In the course of past year, 3,250 visits by for-

eign tourists to the main geosites of Qeshm Global Geopark were recorded," Ashgarf noted.

"In 1402, for the first time among Iranian Geoparks, with the aim of establishing justice and sustainable development of Qeshm's tourism capacities," the director of Qeshm Global Geopark in his concluding remarks stated, "accessibility for tourists with hearing impairments has been facilitated through the design of brochures with special QR codes for the Star Valley geosite."

Oeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark is part of the huge mountain range of Zagros, which has been deformed and folded as the result of the last phase of the Alpine orogeny in the Plio-Pleistocene.

The geological formations of this mountain belt belong to the Late Precambrian to Cambrian (more than 480 million years old) and include salt diapirs attributed to the Precambrian period called the Hormoz Series.



The island has abundant wildlife, including birds, reptiles, dolphins, and turtles. In Qeshm Island, zoogeographical areas of Palearctic and Oriental, and phytogeographical areas of Afro-tropical, Oriental, and Eurasian, are meeting each other, which generated a huge variety of fauna and flora.

Moreover, Qeshm is fringed with biologically diverse mangrove forests, attractive beaches, and 60 Bandari villages. Its blistering interior features geologically significant canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-recognized Qeshm Island Geopark – bliss for nature lovers.

A world first: Greek government compensates tourists affected by wildfires

The Greek government has announced the move following wildfires last July which saw 25,000 tourists forced to evacuate the popular island.

Following last summer's devastating wildfires on the island of Rhodes, Greece has announced it's giving thousands of affected holidaymakers free trips.

In July 2023, thousands of tourists were forced to flee Rhodes as the fires tore through the popular destination.

Under the programme, those who were staying in hotels evacuated due to the fires will be able to take advantage of vouchers of up to €500 to cover accommodation for a weeklong stay.

Up to 25,000 affected holidaymakers are now eligible for the compensation, which will also help to rebuild tourism in Rhodes.

The e-vouchers will be valid in the island's shoulder seasons - from now until 31 May and then again from 1 October to 15 November.

The scheme is a world first, following months of red tape and discussions to get the go ahead.

Speaking to The Guardian newspaper, the Greek tourism ministry's general secretary, Myron Flouris, explained, "It's been a very complicated process not least, I think, because we're the first country in the world to do this."

(Source: Euronews)

WHO EMRO director paying visit to Iran

From page **1** > expanding coop with WHO EMRO

In February, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi announced the country's readiness to foster cooperation with the World Health Organization's Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office.

On the sidelines of the international conference on quality and safety in healthcare in Doha which was held from February 21 – 25, Einollahi held a meeting with Hanan Balkhi, the newly appointed WHO regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean, the health ministry's website reported.

During the meeting, Balkhi lauded the health ministry for remarkable achievements and commendable progress.

She went on to say, "I am trying to focus on three issues in the Eastern Mediterranean region: empowering human resources in the field of health, improving self-sufficiency in the production of medicine and medical equipment, and fighting against narcotics and treating addicts."

She further noted that it's essential to hold talks with the member states to solve the problems of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

In the end, she expressed hope



to travel to Iran to learn more about the implementation of the Family Physician Program in Iran.

Einollahi, for his part, referred to the country's achievements in the field of the health system, saying, "The Family Physician Program is a preventive health program that is being implemented in 195 cities of the country."

Iran enhances regional health security

On May 12, 2023, Syed Jaffar Hussain, the World Health Organization Representative and Head of Mission in Iran, appreciated Iran for its efforts to enhance health security in the region.

The WHO representative also thanked Iran for holding the 26th G5 High-Level Experts Meeting on Health Cooperation and the 1st Healthcare Leadership and Governance Training Program, IRNA reported.

G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) took part in the meetings from May 6 to 10 with the theme of "Joint

Einollahi referred to the unity and cooperation of the countries in the fields of health, treatment, and medical education as a his-

torical necessity.

Achieving, maintaining, and promoting health is never possible in a regional way and does not happen in an isolated region, but requires the cooperation of countries, especially neighboring countries, he stressed.

"To develop health in the countries of the group of five, we must look at health collectively and think about creating and promoting health in all countries.

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has announced the country's readiness to foster cooperation with the World Health Organization.

The health sector of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan is tied to each other. Today, with the relations and cooperation that exist in different sectors between the countries and neighbors, a disease is capable of penetrating all countries."

Caspian states hold meeting to address environmental crimes

TEHRAN -The second meeting of the representatives of Caspian Sea countries to deal with environmental crimes was held from April 4-5 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The five littoral states, namely Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan, discussed the environmental challenges and harms facing the Caspian Sea.

They also exchanged views on protecting the aquatic resources of the Caspian Sea and upholding national laws related to the environment and the management of natural resources in the Sea.

The officials emphasized the need to enhance and expand judicial cooperation among the five states.

The Iranian delegation led by Gholam-Abbas Torki, deputy prosecutor general, highlighted the preservation of the Caspian Sea biodiversity, national laws related to the environment, and management of natural resources in the Caspian Sea.

The right to the environment is considered one of the fundamental rights, Torki said.

"The Caspian Sea is of great economic importance for the littoral states in terms of diverse resources and reserves, distinct ecological features, remarkable genetic richness, and unique biological diversity," he further noted.

"We have gathered to protect the four main components of life in the Sea including water, air, coast, and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea, among which the latter is of significant importance since it involves the preservation of genes and rare species and the ecosystem of the Caspian Sea," Torki highlighted.

The Iranian delegation discussed the necessity of implementing the "Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea", known as the Tehran Conference, and its additional protocols, which include obligations and legal frameworks for cooperation on prevention, reduction, and control of pollution, protection, maintenance, restoration and logical use of marine living resources and the management of coastal areas which was welcomed by the prosecutors' offices of the five coastal countries.

To deal with environmental crimes in the Caspian Sea, in addition to boosting scientific and educational cooperation between the general prosecutor's offices, it was suggested to create a comprehensive joint information bank to tackle Caspian Sea issues, forecast the compensation system and create special funds to protect and address environmental pollution and money laundering caused by environmental crimes.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Torki and his Azerbaijani counterpart Kamran Aliyev, held a meeting.

Referring to the good judicial cooperation between the prosecutor general offices of the two countries, Aliyev lauded Iran's effective measures and approaches in solving some judicial challenges. He expressed hope to expand cooperation between the two countries to safeguard the Caspian Sea environment.



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SOCIET

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

Sea require urgent and coordinated action by the five littoral states bordering the sea.

The meeting of the ministers of the contracting parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea with the presence of the ministers of Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan was held from September 30 to 31 in Geneva.

In his speech at the meeting, Salajeqeh stated that the destruction of livelihoods and the marine environment is the result of the shrinking of the water level of the Caspian Sea, IRIB reported

He said: "Insufficient attention to the quality of the Caspian Sea environment puts the economy and the livelihood of the marginal communities at risk. The only salvation depends on the immediate and coordinated action of all five countries bordering the sea."

Salajeqeh appreciated Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic, and the officials of the United Nations Environment Program European (UNEP) Regional Office for holding the consultative meeting of the ministers and high-ranking officials of the environment of the member countries of the Tehran Convention and the administration of the interim secretariat of this convention.

"The Caspian Sea is a valuable resource for the people living in its vicinity. It is a common natural heritage that must be preserved for current and future generations," IRIB quoted Salajeqeh as saying.

The official pointed out that by preserving the environment of this sea, people and coastal communities will all benefit from the Sea and economic activities will be reinforced to achieve sustainable development.

"Nevertheless, there are still many challenges ahead to achieve sustainable development in the region. Although guaranteeing a stable future for the Caspian Sea has been covered to an acceptable extent by the Tehran Convention and its additional protocols, drifting a timed implementation plan in line with the Convention and its additional protocols to be implemented in full is far more necessary and urgent.

Pointing to the increase in Caspian seal casualties as a major environmental concern, he called for an immediate meeting between the managers of the fisheries organizations and the environment departments of the five coastal countries.

He also mentioned the other issues caused by the decrease in the water level of the Caspian Sea. In addition to its negative effects on shipping, it

Some 12,000 foreign nationals pay insurance premium



TEHRAN -A total of 12,000 non-vulnerable foreign nationals pay insurance premiums on their own, an official with Salamat Health Insurance Organization, has said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees covers the insurance premiums of 95,000 vulnerable foreigners and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not obliged to cover these costs, Mehr news agency quoted Jamshid Shayanfar as saying.

Moreover,42,000 vulnerable foreigners have received basic insurance coverage with limited government funding due to their residence in Iran; it also aims to prevent the spread of infectious diseases that could impact the health of Iranians, he added.

Recently, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the National Organization for Migration, according to which the extension of authorized nationals' residence permits is contingent upon paying their insurance premiums and obtaining health insurance coverage. Shavanfar said.

Insurance premiums for foreign nationals health of refugees," he added. are set to be almost 90 percent higher than for Iranians based on the approval of the Supreme Insurance Council.

Services for legal foreign nationals

On March 13, the National Organization for Migration, and Salamat Health Insurance Organization signed a memorandum of understanding to provide health insurance services for legal foreign nationals.

Referring to the health services provided for refugees, Abdollah Mobini, the head of the National Organization for Migration, said that international organizations should shoulder their responsibility and support Iran with the heavy costs [related to refugees], IRNA reported.

> With over 3.4 million refugees, Iran has become the secondlargest refugeehosting country globally.

The memorandum of understanding takes a big step in improving the health of both host and guest communities. It prevents the heavy costs of prevention, treatment, and healthcare, he noted.

Mohammad-Mehdi Nasehi, the managing director of Salamat Health Insurance Organization, emphasized that providing insurance coverage for foreign nationals is a priority in the country's health system.

He added that it helps both refugees and the country with the heavy costs of treatment and prevention, respectively.

Free health coverage for 200,000 refugees

With over 3.4 million refugees and refugeelike populations, Iran has become the secondlargest refugee-hosting country globally.

About 200,000 foreign nationals in the country have been provided with free health insurance with the financial support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Nasehi said in February.

Foreign nationals who are considered financially struggling can benefit from free health insurance services, Mehr news agency quoted Nasehi as saying.

Stating that the number of refugees in the

Work for Solving Joint Health Problems." Addressing the opening ceremony, Health Minister Bahram

"Our most important concern is the transmission of diseases and other health problems by foreign nationals, and that's why we consider ourselves obliged to promote the

country is far more than the number of people who have been covered by free insurance, he added that legal refugees can enjoy insurance services by paying their insurance premiums.

Immediate action to save Caspian Sea

In September 2023, Ali Salajeqeh, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), said the current environmental problems of the Caspian

has also affected the livelihood of coastal people. aquatic life, and the unique vegetation of the Caspian Sea, he said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Qezel Ozan, longest river in west Iran

With a length of around 765 kilometers, Qezel Ozan is the longest river in the western part of the country.

Recent precipitations have breathed new life into the river.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Education, labor ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haei as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks over the 8th session of council meeting for improving educational standards in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare."The meeting is aiming to live up to educational standards, however, the current conditions are unjustifiable, and we should move faster," he added.

تفاهم وزراء براي بازگرداندن كودكان بازمانده از تحصیل به مدارس

وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشترکی با وزارت رفاه برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل امضا کردند. به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامهای امضا می شود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر كاملا مشخص شود.

بطحایی در هشتمین جلسه شورای هماهنگی بهبود و ارتقای شاخصهای آموزشی و پرورشی مناطق محروم و کمتر توسعه یافته که در وزارت رفاه برگزار شد گفت: هدف اصلی این برنامه و شورای هماهنُكَى ارتقاى شاخصها بود، هرچند اين روند قابل قبول نيست و باید با سرعت بیشتری حرکت کنیم.

TEHRAN TIMES



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs. **Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times » Noon:12:04 Evening: 18:56 Dawn: 4:01 (tomorrow)

: 4:01 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:30 (tomorrow)

Artists unite: Ireland's stance for justice in Palestine



Street art in solidarity with Gaza in Dublin, Ireland, by Emmalene Blake

Amidst the ongoing turmoil in Gaza, Irish artists are taking a stand and their voices are resonating loud and clear.

In a powerful display of solidarity, over one hundred artists, including the likes of Irish artists Kneecap, Mick Flannery, Sprints, Guerrier, and Chalk, have united in boycotting the SXSW festival due to its sponsorship by the US military and other related military-industrial companies. The protestors' message is simple yet profound: Art should not be tainted by associations with oppression, Trinity News reported.

Northern Irish hip-hop trio Kneecap, released a statement explaining: "This decision will have a significant financial impact on Kneecap, both on lost income and on logistical costs already incurred. But it isn't an iota of hardship when compared to the [unimaginable] suffering being inflicted every minute of every day on the people of Gaza." This sentiment was echoed by Gurriers' drummer Pierce Callaghan, who voiced that: "We as Irish people have a lot of solidarity with the people of Palestine as we share a history of occupation and oppression by colonialist countries. It is inherently wrong to taint the celebration of art with links to the genocide going on in Palestine." The boycott has sent shockwaves through SXSW. Many are even calling for a broader boycott in 2025 if SXSW's sponsorship and funding model is not altered. As the pressure mounts, the festival faces a crucial decision: stand by its controversial sponsors or heed the call for change.

Dublin-based muralist Emmalene Blake, has simultaneously captured international attention with her evocative street art. Her most recognized mural is inspired by the photo of a Palestinian woman cradling the dead body of her tiny niece. In her mural, Blake replaces the child's death shroud with a Palestinian flag. A few days after the mural became internationally acknowledged, Samia al-Atrash, the woman in the photo, reached out to Blake, and now the two fundraise for Gaza together. They sell prints of Blake's mural and donate the proceeds to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Blake was also approached by Middle Eastern diner Shaku Maku to create a mural in memory of the thousands of children who have been killed in Gaza. Blake offered her talents free of charge, creating a mural of a young child against the Palestinian flag. Following the unveiling of the mural, the owners of Shaku Maku reported receiving a sudden influx of poor reviews, all brief, single sentences, including "very bad" and "dirty food and place". The owner, Adnan Shabab, said it was "obvious" the reviews were an orchestrated effort following the restaurant's proud display of solidarity with Gaza. Neither Shaku Maku nor Blake were deterred by this backlash, with each continuing to campaign for ceasefire and relief efforts in Palestine.

Crucially, it's not just individual artists taking action–Irish organizations are also making a tangible difference in activism and fundraising. Irish Artists for Palestine is a coalition of artists organizing and engaging in various solidarity events nationwide. Founded in November last year, their resolve remains steadfast as they champion the belief that "art plays a crucial role in opening hearts and swaying minds." In the face of adversity, Irish artists are proving that art is not just a reflection of society–it's a catalyst for change. It is clear their voices will not be silenced until justice prevails.

Iranian art, cultural community unites in support of nation's response to Israeli regime aggression

Frome Page **1** ► "Say by the grace of Allah and His mercy; so, they should rejoice, for this is better than what they amass. (Surah Yunus, Verse 58)."

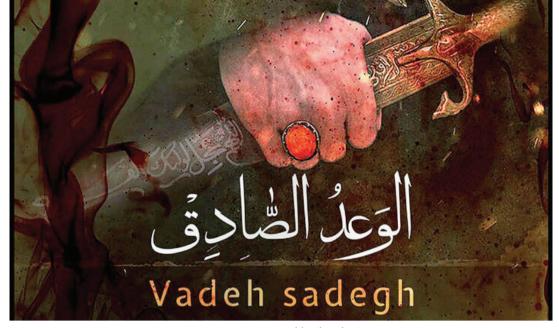
Ali Forouzanfar, Director of the General Directorate of Culture and Guidance of Tehran province, used his Instagram page to thank the forces safeguarding the nation.

Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman, the director of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization (IIDO), also expressed his views on the Islamic Republic of Iran's actions against the Israeli regime through a graphic design with the inscription "Help is from God and victory is close."

The Owj Arts and Media Organization released a poster online, addressing the missile attacks by the IRGC, with a caption emphasizing victory with the help of God.

The caption read: "A promise is truthful! Their fear of you in their hearts is greater than their fear of Allah, because they are unaccountable. (Surah Al-Hashr, Verse 13)."

In addition, many other artists are sharing their support on social media platforms, using images, videos, and captions with the



hashtag #Iran.

Iran launched retaliatory attacks against the occupied territories on April 1, after the Israeli regime struck the country's embassy in Damascus, resulting in the death of seven highranking military officials.

According to Israeli reports, Iran conducted three waves of drone attacks on Israeli positions, along with launching a number of cruise missiles.

A statement issued by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on Sunday noted, "In response to various crimes of the Zionist regime, including the attack on the Iranian consulate section in Damascus and the martyrdom of some of our country's military commanders and advisors in Syria, the IRGC's Air Force targeted specific objectives inside the occupied territories by hitting them with dozens of missiles and drones." Reports indicated that Iran's retaliatory drone and missile strikes on Israel early Sunday caused significant damage to an air base in the Negev desert.

"The most important Israeli air base in the Negev was successfully hit by the Kheibar missile," as reported by the official IRNA news agency, which also stated that "images and data indicate that the base sustained heavy damage."

an 'inferior race,' and "The War of the Worlds" reinforces (rather than challenges) the idea that a hierarchy of races engage in a natural evolutionary struggle for supromacy Like "Dracula" "The War of

Science Fiction: a fanciful way to tell

reinforces (rather than challenges) the idea that a hierarchy of races engage in a natural evolutionary struggle for supremacy. Like "Dracula," "The War of the Worlds" asks audiences to imagine themselves as potential victims of foreign invasion and as possible losers in an evolutionary competition for racial supremacy.

Imperial masochism and imperial critique

Imagining oneself as a colonized victim often serves as the ideological core of imperial fantasy for those who benefit the most from modern-day conditions of empire. Higgins, in his book, uses the term 'imperial masochism' to refer to the way subjects who enjoy the advantages of empire adopt the fantastical role of colonized victims to fortify and expand their agency.

He mentions that in the ideology of imperial masochism, imperial practice is justified on the basis of liberatory decolonization, and privilege is sustained through the appropriation of victimhood. In such an ideological context, the fantasy that "they're coming to take what's ours" operates as a shield against the shameful truth that "we're currently already taking what's theirs."

The tension between imperial masochism and imperial critique in "The War of the Worlds" embodies what Rieder calls a 'double movement' of colonial ideology in reverse colonization narratives.

Given Sci-Fi's long history of entanglement with imperial fantasy, it should come as no surprise an anticolonial revolution to establish the racial supremacy of white America (stories that reflect the Social Darwinian racial politics of "War of the Worlds", but without Wells's implicit critique of imperialism).

Intensification of imperial masochism

By the late 1960s—in the aftermath of widespread postwar decolonization movements, and during a cultural moment dominated by the influence of civil rights, feminism, anti–Vietnam War protest, and various other countercultural challenges to authority and tradition—stories celebrating outward conquest in Sci-Fi were dramatically overshadowed by narratives that invite audiences to see themselves as victims or liberators rather than as colonizers.

Luke Skywalker from "Star Wars" (1977), Neo from "The Matrix" (1999), Jake Sully from "Avatar" (2009), and Katniss Everdeen from "The Hunger Games" (2012) are a few high-profile examples of iconic heroes from recent decades who undertake a dramatic insurgency against oppressive imperial forces.

Reverse colonization narratives become a powerful resource for imperial elites to appropriate victim identity and imagine themselves as unsafe, threatened, and on the verge of succumbing to an overwhelming assault.

By imagining oneself as a rebel and collectively identifying with fantastic forms of victimhood, subjects who already enjoy social hegemony are able to justify economic inequality, expansions of police and military power, climate devastation, new articulations of racism, and countless other forms of violence—all purportedly in the name of security, self-defense, and self-protection.



A scene from "Star Trek"

By Ali Hamedin

Part 2

TEHRAN- Throughout history, humans have harbored a fascination with envisioning the world of tomorrow and its potential appearance, a concept that has been imaginatively translated into literature through the genre of science fiction. Unlike utopian visions, sci-fi narratives frequently paint a future that is far from peaceful and perfect, often portraying scenarios involving alien invasions, malevolent empires, authoritarian dystopias, and the exploration and colonization of new territories – which can sometimes more closely resemble the past than the future.

Colonizers in colonized clothing

Both "Dracula" and "War of the Worlds" are stories of colonizers who themselves are colonized by a superior race. This feature puts them in a category called 'reverse colonization narratives'. In his book "Reverse Colonization: Science Fiction, Imperial Fantasy, and Alt-victimhood", David M. Higgins defines this category of narrations as follows:

Cartoon of Day



Iran vs Israel **Cartoonist:** Masoud Shojaei Tabatabai from Iran "Reverse colonization narratives are most often regarded as fictions of foreign and alien invasion that address fears concerning the supposed decline of British imperial power during the Victorian and Edwardian eras."

Reverse colonization stories invite identification with victims, but they are like a double-edged sword; The stories can also provoke identification 'as' victims.

The Tasmanians, in Wells's description, are

and enabled by science fictional references and metaphors.

As Higgins points out, the United States also has an earlier history of fantastic emancipation narratives and mythologies of imperial masochism. L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" (1900) is among them. The story celebrates Dorothy as a heroic emancipator rescuing colonized races from oppressive slavery.

Philip Francis Nowlan's novella "Armageddon 2419 A.D." (1928) is another example of the U.S. imperial fantasy. This novella imagines a distant future in which the United States has been colonized by 'Mongolians' and must fight Imperialism (particularly U.S. imperialism) radically intensifies in a postwar context dominated by aggressive processes of late capitalist globalization. Although military violence and territorial occupation continue to serve the purposes of postwar empire, new methods of imperial hegemony after World War II often operate without an overt emphasis on direct colonial control of foreign territory.

Concluded.

Iran Day to be held at 18th Poppy Jasper International Film Festival

TEHRAN-The 18th Poppy Jasper International Film Festival (PJIFF) that is underway in California, the U.S., has dedicated a day to Iranian films.

On April 17, the festival will have a special showcase featuring 19 short films from Iran that will also include Q&A with the filmmakers, ILNA reported.

The films include "The Steak" by Kiarash Dadgar Mohebi, "Fruitless" by Solmaz Etemad, "Cow" by Amirali Ziarati, "War" by Mahyar Zaheri, "Now What?" by Saman Darvish, "Cover" by Vahid Alvandifar, "Symphony of the Knots" by Hossein Ranjbar Shirazi, "Aban" by Abbas Taheri and Mahdieh Toosi, "Loser" by Ali Falah Mobarakeh, and "A Minute's Silence" by Mohammad Pourriahi among others.

This year's PJIFF program includes 267 films from 30 countries including features, documentaries, shorts films, animations, and music videos. The festival is dedicated to supporting new and diverse storytellers.

The PJIFF has been entertaining audiences in the greater San Francisco Bay Area for more than 18 years. It is a non-profit arts and educational organization with a mission to promote inclusion, diversity, and women empowerment

along with educating people of all ages about filmmaking; and encouraging them to find their voice through film while also building a strong sense of community around the art of visual storytelling.

In addition to showcasing a diverse spectrum of films, tributes, and galas, PJIFF also offers panels with industry professionals including directors, writers, producers, women in films, and VFX professionals as well as Q&A sessions with a diverse selection of filmmakers. Having started on April 10, the festival will continue until April 17.

Post PJIFF, the Poppy Jasper Asian

Film Festival will take place on May 19 in partnership with DingDing TV to showcase 40 films and June 9th in Los Altos Community Center with a Gala Celebration. The festival will focus on Asian culture and identity, heritage, community, and experience through the filmmakers' lens. The festival was created to have a platform to promote and uplift the wide range of voices in the Asian community throughout the world, with a day of film screening, Asian cultural celebrating, panel discussion, Q&A sessions with filmmakers from a diverse cultural background, and an award ceremony.