

Pulp Fiction

Why and how has Reuters become a company of lies against Iran?

THOMSON REUTERS

► Page 3

Israeli soldiers tell story of savage cruelty in Gaza

They just keep coming. On the weekend (July 13), Israel launched another devastating air strike on Gaza, killing at least 90 Palestinians and wounding hundreds more, including women, children and rescue workers.

Once again, Israel targeted refugees displaced by its earlier bombs, turning an area it had formally declared a "safe zone" into a killing field.

And once more, western powers shrugged their shoulders. They were too busy accusing Russia of war crimes to have time to worry about the far worse war crimes being inflicted on Gaza by their Israeli ally - with weapons they supplied.

The atrocity committed at al-Mawasi camp, packed with 80,000 civilians, had the usual Israeli cover story - one rolled out to reassure western publics that their leaders are not the utter hypocrites they appear to be for supporting what the World Court has described as a "plausible genocide".

Israel said it was trying to hit two Hamas leaders - one of them Mohammed Deif, head of the group's military wing - although Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seemed uncertain as to whether the strike was successful.

Gaza resistance pounds IOF at "Netzarim"

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Multiple Palestinian factions have announced new operations targeting Israeli occupation troops and military vehicles in the besieged Gaza Strip.

It's been about 290 days since Tel Aviv began its genocidal war on Gaza. Despite the daily bombardment, the Palestinian resistance continues to confront the Israeli occupation forces (IOF).

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam brigades, announced that its fighters have targeted the occupation forces stationed at the Israeli-built Netzarim Corridor, south of Gaza City with a number of 114mm Rajum rockets.

The corridor, where the IOF has mobilized, is coming under an increasing level of attack.

The war media of the Gaza-based Mujahideen brigades released footage of an attack on the Netzarim Corridor with rockets.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs brigades also reported the shelling of an enemy command and control headquarters at the corridor with 107mm rockets and heavy mortar shells for the second time in as many days.

Israelis quaking in their boots

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The recent drone strike carried out by the Yemeni army against Israel has further eroded trust in the regime's military capabilities and highlighted growing frustration with its handling of the Gaza war.

On Friday, Tel Aviv was hit by an unprecedented Yemeni drone attack.

The Ansarullah movement claimed responsibility for the strike which killed one person and injured at least 10 others. It was the movement's first lethal strike into Israel.

Blame game

Israeli officials resorted to blame game to paper over the regime's military failures as the drone penetrated Israel's multilayered air defenses.

The Israeli military spokesman said the drone was detected by air defenses, but an "error" occurred and "there was no interception".

"We are investigating the entire chain," Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari added.

Another military official blamed "human error," according to the Associated Press.

► Page 5

Pezeshkian praises Gen. Soleimani's legacy of unity in meeting with family

TEHRAN - During a Friday meeting with the family of the late Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian lauded the late military leader, calling him the "epitome of unity and convergence."

Pezeshkian stated that General Soleimani's path was marked by inclusivity and a rejection of division. He emphasized the importance of carrying forward Soleimani's ideals of unity as Iranian authorities address the nation's challenges.

Pezeshkian also praised the late commander's dedication to the Iranian people and his ability to transcend political divides, recognizing him as a national hero and revered figure in the Islamic world.

General Soleimani who spearheaded the fight against Daesh terrorists in Iraq and Syria during the 2010s was assassinated in a U.S. drone attack on January 3, 2020.

Belaz: The pride of Belarus

By M.A. Saki

MINSK - I had already seen photos of giant dump trucks made in Belarus. After arriving in Minsk at sunset on July 7, the next day the media group from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization first started visiting the Belaz factory in Zhodino, a small city about 50 km from the capital Minsk.

First, we started touring huge engines, other equipment, and the assembly line. Then we were led to a place where giant mining dump trucks - some largest in the world - and excavators were parked.

I was excited to see the world's largest dump trucks. What was most striking and impressive was a 450-ton dump truck. At least for me, it was unbelievable to see that this truck can carry about half a million tons in one go. It was marked Belaz 75710. Reportedly, two more 75710 models are currently under construction.

It is as long as two double-decker buses parked end-to-end and weighs more than a fully loaded Airbus A380 passenger plane.

With a hauling capacity of 450 tons, it can carry 87 tons more than the current record holder.

Belaz 75710 has eight wheels in pairs compared to the more usual six. Each tubeless pneumatic tire can support 102 tons. ► Page 4

The new concerns of an overextended power

By Zahra Akbari

TEHRAN - On July 10, 2024, Foreign Affairs published an article titled "Iran's New Naval Ambitions" written by Hamidreza Azizi. In this note, I will explore different aspects of the article and discuss the issue from a fresh perspective.

At the beginning of this article, and in the opening lines, Azizi states: "Since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip in October, the Red Sea has become a second battleground. The Houthis, an armed group based in Yemen and backed by Iran, have launched missiles and sent armed drones to strike commercial ships passing through the maritime route."

Instead of an action, the response of the Houthi forces should be seen as a reaction. It is a direct result of the Security Council's inaction and failure to fulfill its duties in action with respect to threats to peace. ► Page 2



Mt. Damavand: Iran's towering gem of nature and legend

TEHRAN - Standing tall in northern Iran, Mount Damavand is one of the nation's premier natural attractions, drawing countless mountaineers and adventure enthusiasts each year.

Towering at an impressive 5,610 meters above sea level, Damavand is not only the highest peak in the country but also the highest semi-active volcano in Asia.

Its towering presence can be observed from Tehran and surrounding areas on clear, sunny days, providing a stunning silhouette against the skyline.

Even for those who do not plan to reach the summit, Damavand offers an array of natural beauties. In spring, the mountain slopes burst into bloom, covered with vibrant flowers that paint ► Page 6

Tehran-Moscow gas co-op to make Iran an energy hub in region: MP

TEHRAN - Deputy head of the Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee has said that the gas cooperation with Russia is going to make Iran an energy hub in the region, Shana reported.

Referring to the signing of a gas transfer agreement between Iran and Russia, Ramezani Sangdovini said: "This agreement will turn the Islamic Republic of Iran into a regional gas hub and a new chapter will be established in the region's international relations."

"Iran has very strong gas transmission lines and pressure boosting stations, which can create a revolution in the region's energy transit," he added.

Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the transfer of Russian gas to Iran in late June. ► Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

Reopening strategic paths for the 14th government

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

In a note, the Iran newspaper discussed four huge projects for economic capacity building and wrote: The premature end of the 13th government does not mean that the country's capacities are going to be handed over to the next government without any changes or developments. The 13th government took important steps in order to create new opportunities and capacities for the country. One of the huge projects is the importance of reproducing the capacity of frontiersmen. The second project is to promote Iran's role in regional transit.

The third project was sea-oriented development, the operational phase of which was followed seriously, and the follow-up of the country's sea-oriented development was on the agenda. The fourth huge project was the signing of an understanding of bilateral cooperation in the field of natural gas transmission from Russia to Iran. It was an important step to turn Iran into an energy hub in the region. Now the path of the next government has been paved in these four major areas and there is no need to follow everything from the beginning. Today, a fresh determination is needed to continue moving in this direction.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The secret to success

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the important and influential approach in the development of the region. It wrote: A historical look at the developments in West Asia shows two important and influential approaches that played a major role in the fate of the equations of this strategic region. Firstly, an approach that has always been promoted by extra-regional actors and rulers, especially Westerners, has been ethnic and racial categories. Secondly, at the opposite point of the domination system, there is the approach of the resistance front centered on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This approach has always followed the principle of unity based on reaching a stable and advanced region in a lasting peace.

The result of this unity can be seen in the region's victory over imposed terrorism and these days in Palestine. The solution of each country in the region in the domestic and regional arena is not to get caught in the divisive game of the domination system under the banner of the word pluralism, as well as to preserve unity, as its concrete manifestation can be seen in the achievements of the resistance front.

Iran does not pursue nuclear weapons: U.S. officials



TEHRAN- The U.S. national security advisor has admittedly said that Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons.

Jake Sullivan claimed at the Aspen Security Forum on Friday that since the mutual attacks between Iran and Israel, the United States has noticed an increase in public statements by Iranian officials regarding the possibility of changing Iran's nuclear doctrine.

"After the recent confrontation between Tehran and Tel Aviv, Iran has adopted new positions in this field, but there is no serious decision to build nuclear weapons," He added.

Following Operation True Promise, Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, stated in an interview with Al Jazeera, "If Iran's security is threatened by enemies, Iran's nuclear doctrine is changeable."

On the sidelines of this forum, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, responding to reporters, criticized the Trump administration's withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the JCPOA.

Sobh-e-No: BRICS and parliamentary diplomacy

In an interview with Shoab Bahman, an expert on international issues, Sobh-e-No wrote about the presence of the heads of parliament of the BRICS member states: Iran's presence in this mechanism is a significant opportunity, as Iran can also be a connecting point for BRICS geographically and provide its surrounding environment to BRICS members. Iran's presence in BRICS shows the failure of the U.S. sanctions project because it shows that both the sanctions did not achieve their goals and they failed to isolate Iran.

Parliaments are one of the components of this development of relations between BRICS member countries. Parliamentary diplomacy can help the synergy between the parliaments of the member countries so that the decisions taken are approved more quickly and easily in the member parliaments. One of the duties of parliaments is legislation, so they can help effectively in the legislative process. Because the presidents of the parliaments predominate on the internal laws of their own country, so the gathering of their presidents can help achieve better results in the policy process.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran should not be a source of tension between America, China, and Russia

In an interview with Heshmatollah Falahat Pisheh, Arman-e-Melli dealt with the de-escalation approach of Pezeshkian. The paper said: The type of election enthusiasm in Iran was such that anyone, including Biden and Trump, who came to power in the United States would seek de-escalation with Iran. A scientific understanding in this field tells us that America's main tensions are with Russia and China, and Iran should not be a source of tensions between America, Russia, and China. The meaning of this approach is not to lose China and Russia.

Anyway, in the current situation, Russia is known as a political and military power and China is a big economic and political power in the world. Despite this, Pezeshkian will try to advance relations with China and Russia in a way that does not play a decisive role in other fields. Iran will not face an obstacle ahead to de-escalate the tension with the West. An important part of this issue also has something to do with sanctions. In the issue of sanctions, Russia and China not only did not help Iran but also took their benefits.

He considered nuclear diplomacy as the most plausible solution for re-engagement with Iran.

Blinken emphasized, "Instead of being at least a year away from the capacity to produce uranium for a nuclear weapon, Iran is now probably only one or two weeks away from doing so, due to the irresponsible actions of the Trump administration.

However, the United States will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons but still prefers diplomatic manners to prevent this."

Following the United States unilateral exit from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018, Iran activated the dispute resolution mechanism within the framework of the JCPOA Joint Committee at the ministerial level.

As a result of this meeting, the JCPOA parties issued a statement, outlining 11 commitments to offset the economic impact of the U.S.'s unilateral actions.

However, the unbalanced implementation of the agreement on one side and the pressures from the U.S.'s unilateral sanctions on the other side led to Iran's Supreme National Security Council deciding to halt the gradual implementation of voluntary nuclear commitments, granting a 60-day window for diplomacy, one year after the U.S.'s withdrawal from the JCPOA.

According to Rafael Grossi, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran's uranium enrichment level has now reached 60% up from the 3.67% stipulated in the JCPOA, and in one instance, it has allegedly reached 84%.

Iran committed to promoting peace in West Asia: envoy

TEHRAN – Iran has expressed its readiness to play an active role in addressing challenges and fostering peace and security in West Asia through collaboration with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the United Nations.

This announcement was made by Iran's ambassador to the UN, Amir Saeed Iravani, during a UN Security Council meeting focused on the cooperation between the UN and regional organizations.

Iravani emphasized the growing importance of enhancing cooperation between the UN and regional organizations to tackle the complexities of the global environment. He noted that maintaining international peace and security now requires coordinated responses at national, regional, and international levels.

"Enhancing collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations is more important than ever," Iravani stated.

He highlighted that regional organizations possess unique insights into local issues, offering tailored preventive mechanisms and realistic solutions to emerging conflicts, which can facilitate peaceful and political resolutions.

Iran values the roles of regional bodies such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the SCO, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in



bolstering peace and stability. Iravani pointed out that Iran sees the collaboration between these organizations and the UN as crucial for enhancing security and development, which are deeply interconnected.

Iravani also addressed significant concerns for Iran, such as drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, proposing these issues as opportunities for practical interaction between the UN and the SCO. He praised the SCO's multifaceted structure, which supports international efforts in conflict prevention, counter-terrorism, and combating illegal drugs.

The ambassador stressed that strengthening partnerships with organizations like the SCO is essential for effectively tackling terrorism, transnational crime, and other emerging threats, thereby

contributing to global peace and development. Last year, Iran's full membership in the SCO was officially approved, and the country participated actively in the 24th SCO summit in Astana earlier this month.

Iravani further expressed Iran's support for closer cooperation between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and SCO member states to combat illicit drug trade and organized crime. He underscored the importance of joint efforts in enhancing stability and development in Afghanistan, a country facing significant humanitarian challenges.

"Given the pressing challenges Afghanistan faces, we believe that enhanced cooperation between the UN and the SCO has significant potential to foster stability and development in Afghanistan," Iravani said. He suggested that collaborative efforts on security, economic

development, humanitarian assistance, political support, and regional integration could contribute to a more stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

Iran stands ready to engage in dialogue and cooperation within the frameworks of the SCO and the UN to address pressing challenges and promote peace and security in the region, according to Iravani.

Afghanistan is grappling with various economic, social, and security issues after two decades of U.S. occupation. Since Washington's military withdrawal from the war-torn country in 2021, the White House has frozen billions of dollars of Afghanistan's assets under different pretexts, further worsening the plight of Afghan civilians.

The United Nations estimates that 23.7 million Afghans will require humanitarian assistance in 2024, illustrating the urgent need for coordinated international efforts to address the ongoing crisis in the country.

Iran, which is home to the largest number of Afghan refugees in the world, has been urging regional and extra-regional countries as well as international bodies to help Tehran soothe the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

It has also repeatedly condemned the U.S. for obscuring the establishment of peace and security in the war-stricken nation.

The new concerns of an overextended power

From page 1 ► breaches of peace, and acts of aggression. According to Article 41 of Chapter Seven in the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has the power to take measures such as complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations. As a result, if international trade is disrupted, the primary accused parties are the Security Council and countries that support Israel's expansionist actions. In this situation, maintaining security in international transportation is dependent on Israel's actions. If Israel ends the war, security will be established.

In a different section of the note, Azizi pens: "The Houthis may be leading this attack, but they are not acting alone." Certainly, the Houthis do not stand alone. In a scenario where Israel has long-standing alliances with external powers, receiving consistent military, financial, and media backing, leading to actions that threaten regional security, it is understandable for other parties to forge alliances to safeguard their own security and survival. In another part of the article, Azizi points out that "Lately, however, Iran's naval forces have acquired more advanced vessels, including new submarines and missile-armed warships, and have begun to venture as far as the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. These changes are in line with Iran's 'forward defense' doctrine, adopted after

the Iran-Iraq War in 1988 and consolidated in the early 2000s." The application of the forward defense doctrine referenced by Azizi is in this framework. Endangering the security of a country by extra-regional forces requires an extra-regional response.

Azizi, while emphasizing the positioning of the revamped Iranian navy at the heart of the country's military strategy, points out that "Previously, U.S. military bases in [Persian] Gulf countries offered easy targets; when diplomatic tensions escalated and Washington intensified its pressure on Tehran, Iran could threaten to strike a U.S. base.

But over the past two years, Iran has taken steps to reconcile with its Arab neighbors. Tehran's threats against the U.S. have significantly decreased a result." It is important to consider that the enhancement of Iran's relations with neighboring Arab countries hinges on the absence of military actions launched against Iran from their territories.

Neighboring countries have no interest in escalating tensions within their borders. This equation is straightforward: without threats originating from American bases in these countries on Iranian territory, there is no imminent danger. Otherwise, American bases within these countries' territories would become legitimate targets. According to what Azizi says, "Iran has begun to focus its threats on American interests farther afield." However, this does not imply

bolstering the security of American bases in the region. Instead, it simply indicates Iran's interest in diversifying its objectives.

In another part of his note, Azizi suggested creating a security framework in the region with the presence of Iran: "A nonaggression pact between Iran and its neighbors could be the first step toward a regional security framework, as it would foster trust and lower the chances of clashes at sea. The United States needs to make clear to its partners that it supports such negotiations." If America is in favor of such negotiations, it should consider that the presence of American bases in the region will be one of the main issues raised. Essentially, these bases pose a significant obstacle to establishing a regional security framework involving Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf.

Also, in another part of his note Azizi suggests that "along with its diplomatic efforts, the United States should urge its regional partners to take military measures to contain Iran's maritime challenge." The question should be raised as to whether the countries in the region are willing to collaborate with the U.S. in addressing issues related to Iran and navigating new security challenges. It appears that the financial markets, trade sectors, and development programs of these countries may not be inclined to engage in such tensions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran rejects claims of Iranian crude on tankers involved in Singapore collision

TEHRAN – Iran's Petroleum Ministry confirmed on Saturday that neither of the two oil tankers that collided off Singapore on Friday carried Iranian crude.

"The crude oil of neither of these damaged oil tankers was related to Iran and did not belong to Iran," the ministry said in a statement

The incident involving two large oil tankers occurred about 55 kilometers northeast of Pedra Branca island, on the eastern approach to the Singapore Straits.

The Singapore-flagged Hafnia Nile, carrying approximately 300,000 barrels of naphtha, collided with the Sao Tome and Principe-flagged tanker Ceres I.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) confirmed that all 22 crew members on the Hafnia Nile and 40 crew members on the Ceres I were accounted for. Two crew members were airlifted to a hospital, while others were rescued from life rafts.

Shortly after the collision, some Western media outlets spurred



speculations about the fuel Ceres I was carrying, alleging that the crude carrier had been transferring 2 million barrels of Iranian oil to China.

The U.S. has been pouring significant efforts into hindering

Iran's oil exports through debilitating sanctions. Despite that, Iran has been successful in selling and transferring its oil, with its biggest customer believed to be China.

Tehran, Bangkok to boost bilateral ties through parliamentary cooperation

TEHRAN – On Friday, Naseruddin Heydari, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Thailand, held a meeting with Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand.

The discussions focused on enhancing and expanding bilateral cooperation, with a particular emphasis on increasing interactions between the parliaments of the two countries.

During the meeting, Ambassador Heydari emphasized the importance of

economic relations between Iran and Thailand.

He called for the assistance of the Thai Parliament in achieving this goal, underscoring the potential benefits of closer economic ties.

Heydari also conveyed warm greetings from Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

He extended an invitation to Wan Muhamad Noor Matha to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's new president, fostering a spirit of goodwill and continued diplomatic engagement.

In response, Wan Muhamad Noor Matha congratulated Iran on the successful conduct of its recent presidential elections.

He extended his best wishes to the new president, Pezeshkian, for success in carrying out his significant responsibilities.

The meeting highlighted the commitment of both nations to strengthening their relationship through parliamentary cooperation and economic collaboration, setting the stage for future engagements and mutual growth.

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Western media has an old habit of oversimplifying and misrepresenting governments and political systems in other parts of the world, especially in Iran.

This tendency is rooted in long-held Western misconceptions about non-Western cultures and a need to rationalize Western dominance by portraying non-Western governments as inherently flawed and incapable.

An article published by Reuters on July 18 was a perfect example of this lasting tradition. The article titled “how Iran’s Khamenei elevated a little-known moderate to the presidency” claims that five people “with knowledge of the matter” informed Reuters about how the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei managed to raise voter turnout from an anticipated “13 percent” to the 50 percent participation rate recorded on the second round of the snap presidential elections on July 5th.

“When intelligence officials briefed Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in May ahead of a snap presidential election, their report was grim: angered by economic hardship and crackdowns on social freedoms, most Iranians planned to boycott the vote and turnout would only be about 13%. That’s when Khamenei decided to plan a carefully orchestrated election, setting the stage for a little-known but trusted moderate, Massoud Pezeshkian, to rise to the presidency in a race that would initially be dominated by hardliners,



five people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters,” the article read.

To discuss the article, we could deep dive and mention how quoting five unidentified sources means Reuters could pretty much be pulling information out of thin air; how unlikely it seems that five influential figures within the Iranian leadership would share sensitive information with a Western media outlet; and how there is no single evidence that suggests the late President Ebrahim Raisi could have been the successor to Ayatollah Khamenei.

We could also point out that Reuters has a track record of lies. For example, in 2020, its initial report denied the Iranian attack on the American Ain al-Assad base in Iraq. In March 2022, Reuters alleged that Saudi energy facilities had been attacked from Iranian soil and not Yemen. In 2023, Reuters reported that Ayatollah Khamenei was displeased with Palestine’s Hamas for not seeking counsel about Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, despite previously claiming that the October 7 operation happened after Iran’s “greenlight.” All these

reports were written based on information provided by unidentified “knowledgeable” figures, similar to what was published on July 18.

But instead of focusing on specific segments of this article and similar ones published before, we will be focusing on the bigger picture and try to understand the modus operandi employed in drafting them.

Western media’s penchant for portraying Iran as simple, noncomplex, and dysfunctional

Western media coverage of the Iranian government and leadership usually has an underlying theme: everything in Iran is controlled by one person or entity and democratic processes don’t exist. Besides that, Western journalists usually portray Iran as simplistic, noncomplex, and dysfunctional.

These two factors combined will make it easy to understand why Reuters felt the need to release a report based on information received from imaginary sources to undermine Iran’s presidential elections.

During the 2022 riots in Iran, at least some authorities in the

West seemed to have come to the conclusion that the Islamic Republic was nearing its end. A previous exclusive report by the Tehran Times revealed that Washington had even come up with a 5-stage plan to topple the Iranian government, and was planning to recognize an “alternative government” similar to what it’s been doing against President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela.

Once the unrest died down and things got under control, Western states decided that while their initial perception may have been wrong, the 2022 saga still dealt an unrepairable blow to the Iranian government. The Islamic Republic did not collapse in 2022, but that was the beginning of the end for it.

So, when snap presidential elections are held two years later in less than 50 days and 50 percent of the eligible voters participate, how is Western media supposed to cover that? It turns to its good old habit of reducing the establishment to the plans and desires of a single figure. In the view of Western media outlets, the success of the snap vote in Iran does not mean the West had misunderstood the nature and reverberations of the 2022 riots. It means a single man had been plotting behind the scenes, and this man somehow managed to think of a plan that would drag 30 million people to the ballot box. And what was the plan? To allow a reformist figure to take part in the elections – something that’s happened in every presidential vote ever held in the country governed by reformists for a total of 32 years.

Israel’s criminal actions in Gaza won’t make up for its ‘strategic defeats’: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN – Iran has vehemently condemned Israel’s deadly strikes on schools and educational facilities in the Gaza Strip, asserting that these actions will not compensate for Israel’s “strategic defeats.”

The condemnation came from Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani in a post on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, on Saturday.

Kanaani criticized Israel for fabricating weak justifications for its assaults on educational institutions, which have resulted in the deaths of thousands of Palestinian students and educators over the past several months.

“In nearly ten months of the Zionist regime’s brutal attack on Gaza, about 8,600 students and more than 500 teaching staff have been martyred,” Kanaani stated.

He highlighted that with the closure of schools and the use of these buildings to shelter refugees, the Israeli military continues to target these places, citing feeble excuses.

“The criminal leaders of the Israeli apartheid regime and their Western supporters should know that none of these criminal actions can compensate for their strategic defeat against the patient and resistant nation of Palestine,”

he added.

Kanaani pointed to a recent incident at al-Falah School in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood of Gaza City, where Israeli airstrikes killed at least two Palestinians and injured five others.

The school was sheltering displaced Palestinians when it was bombed, causing severe damage. Witnesses reported that medical and civil defense teams rushed to the scene to search for victims and tend to the injured.

“For a regime that can only commit crimes to survive, annihilation is the final and nearest destination,” Kanaani declared, referring to the Israeli government.

The conflict escalated on October 7, 2023, when Hamas, the Palestinian Resistance movement, initiated Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against Israel. This action was a response to Israel’s long-standing campaign of violence and destruction against Palestinians.

In conjunction with its military efforts, Israel has enforced a near-total blockade on Gaza, significantly limiting the availability of essential supplies such as food, medicine, electricity, and water. This blockade has severely impacted the Palestinian population’s access to basic necessities.

The conflict has had devastating consequences, with at least 38,000 Palestinians killed, most of whom are women and children.

Additionally, 89,622 have been injured, and over 1.7 million people have been displaced internally.

Israel faces accusations of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which recently ordered Tel Aviv to cease its military operations in the southern city of Rafah.

This area had become a refuge for over a million Palestinians before it was invaded on May 6.

On Friday, ICJ also ruled that Israel’s continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and should come to an end “as rapidly as possible.”

The court said Israel has no right to sovereignty of the territories, is violating international laws against acquiring territory by force and is impeding Palestinians’ right to self-determination.

“Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the regime associated with them, have been established and are being maintained in violation of international law,” the court said.

court’s jurisdiction to address these issues.

The Gaza war began with a Palestinian attack on October 7, 2023, which saw more than 3000 rockets launched at Israeli towns.

The attack dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm is referred to as the first direct attack by Resistance Forces on Israeli positions in the occupied territories since the Arab-Israeli war in 1973.

built and designed by Iran’s naval forces. The destroyer was unveiled in September 2012 and launched in December 2018.

It is named in the memory of destroyer “Sahand-class Alvand” which in 1988, engaged in heavy fights with the United States Navy fleet in the Persian Gulf and sank during one of its operations.

This is a real genocide.”

“You still want to silence Francesca Albanese and trample truth with threats, calumny, and rumormongering?” he asked.

Francesca Albanese, a human rights reporter for the United Nations, has prepared a report on the Zionist regime’s crimes in the Gaza war and presented it to the U.N.

Human Rights Council, reflecting the signs of non-

combantant genocide in Israel’s aerial attacks on residential areas in Gaza. Albanese says she has been receiving threats since she started her investigation.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is currently considering a request from South Africa regarding the situation of non-combatants and the potential for genocide in Gaza. While the ICJ has not yet issued a formal ruling, its President, Joan Donoghue, has declared the

combantant genocide in Israel’s aerial attacks on residential areas in Gaza. Albanese says she has been receiving threats since she started her investigation.

combantant genocide in Israel’s aerial attacks on residential areas in Gaza. Albanese says she has been receiving threats since she started her investigation.

Devastating signs of genocide in Gaza: official

TEHRAN- The head of Iran’s Guardian Council Research Center in a post on his social media account, described the Israeli regime’s illegal crimes in Gaza as a clear example of genocide.

Abas Ali Kadkhodaii stated, “The number of martyrs in Gaza has exceeded 38,840. The destructive reality in Gaza represents all the dimensions and elements of genocide against non-combatants.

Iranian Navy destroyer rescued after sinking

TEHRAN- The Sahand destroyer of the Iranian Navy has regained its balance and resurfaced, 13 days after an incident in Bandar Abbas caused it to capsize and sink.

The First Naval Region of the Army stated, “On the 7th of July, the Sahand destroyer, undergoing repairs at the Bandar Abbas dock, lost its balance due to water seepage into the tanks, and faced with the shallow

shore, sank after two days. After extensive efforts, the Navy salvaged the destroyer from the water.”

Fars News reported that the Sahand destroyer’s main systems have been detached for repairs and sent to the technical industries of the Navy.

Sahand is the third surfing class destroyer

JULY 21, 2024

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

“Persian Gulf” remains in Taremi’s introduction video

TEHRAN - Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi’s arrival at Inter Milan has caused a stir both on and off the field. A seemingly innocuous introduction video posted on the club’s Instagram page showcasing Taremi’s journey “From the Persian Gulf” to Serie A ignited a social media firestorm.

The controversy stemmed from the use of the rightful term “Persian Gulf” in the video, which beautifully highlighted Iran’s historical sites like Persepolis. This assertion of historical fact resonated deeply with the Iranian fans, who flocked to social media to celebrate the recognition. The video itself garnered a record-breaking nine million views, a testament to the Iranian fanbase’s excitement.

However, the use of “Persian Gulf” did not sit well with Arabic-speaking users and media outlets. They took to Inter Milan’s social media pages, voicing their disapproval and even resorting to false claims about the body of water’s name. This negativity was further amplified by pressure from the club’s main sponsor, Qatar Airways.

The situation took a surprising turn when Inter, seemingly bowing to pressure, removed the original introduction video and its accompanying poster featuring Taremi. This move sparked outrage among the Iranian fans, who felt their voices were being silenced. A wave of protest comments flooded Inter’s latest Instagram post, exceeding 12,000 in a matter of hours.

Faced with this overwhelming backlash, Inter relented and re-released the introduction video. Notably, the video remained unchanged, still proudly displaying the term “Persian Gulf.” This was a significant victory for the Iranian fans, demonstrating their collective power on social media.

The saga took another interesting turn with the video’s re-emergence. The opening sequence featuring Qatar Airways’ logo, a common element in Inter’s player introductions this season, was conspicuously absent. Instead, the introductory message simply read “Sound On,” a stark contrast to the previous version. This subtle change further fueled speculation that Inter might have severed ties with their Qatari sponsor due to the controversy.

While the exact nature of Inter’s relationship with Qatar Airways remains unclear, one thing is certain: Mehdi Taremi’s arrival has ignited a passionate response from the Iranian fans. Their unwavering support and online activism ensured that the term “Persian Gulf” remained central to the narrative, sparking a conversation about historical recognition and the power of social media.

Tractor eye Croat midfielder Igor Postonjski

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Tractor have set their sight on signing Croatian midfielder Igor Postonjski.

The 29-year-old player currently plays at NK Varaždin.

Tractor have previously hired former Iran coach Dragan Skocic.

Postonjski started his playing career in HNK Gorica in 2017 and has also played in Inter Zapresic and NK Zagorec.

He will replace Iraqi midfielder Safa Hadi in the Tabriz-based football team.

Iran U21 handball team edged by Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN – Iran were edged by Saudi Arabia 26-25 in the 18th edition of Asian Men Junior Handball Championship in Group 2 Friday night.

Iran, who had defeated Oman 32-19, are scheduled to meet Japan in Group 2 on Sunday.

The 18th Asian Men’s Junior (U21) Handball Championship started on July 16 and will run until July 27, 2024 in Amman, Jordan.

The championship serves as a qualifying event for the 25th IHF Men’s Junior (U21) Handball World Championship in Poland, slated for June/July 2025. The top four teams from this competition will secure qualification spots for the World Championship.

South Korea have won the most medals in the championship, totaling twelve, including three gold, six silver, and three bronze medals.

Samiei named Esteghlal GM

TEHRAN – Farshid Samiei was named as Esteghlal football club general manager on Saturday.

Samiei was working as the club’s acting president since parting ways with Ali Khatir on May 1.

He is a lawyer and has nearly two decades of experience to the role.

Under his leadership, Esteghlal has completed signing of Milad Zakipour, Saman Fallah and Ramin Rezaeian so far.

Esteghlal is one of the most popular football teams in Iran.

Azerbaijan rejects visas to Iran 3x3 women basketball

TEHRAN - The Iranian women team were denied visas by Azerbaijan, leaving them out of the FIBA 3x3 Women’s Series 2024.

The Iranian team will not be attending an international tournament, as their visa requests have been denied by the Netherlands.

Iran were scheduled to meet Germany’s Düsseldorf ZOOS on July 20 in Pool B but the match was forced to forfeit.

This season of the FIBA 3x3 Women’s Series features a marathon with 20 stops confirmed.

The two-day event is being held in Quba, Azerbaijan.

The first stop of the 2024 season was held in Springfield, the U.S., on April 23-24, marking the first-ever Women’s Series in the United States since the launch of the competition in 2019.

With a total of 20 events throughout this season and over 1.4 million USD in prize, the Women’s Series is set to reach unprecedented heights.

Alireza Koushki joins Esteghlal: IPL

TEHRAN – Alireza Kohshki joined Esteghlal football team from Gol Gohar on Saturday.

The 24-year-old midfielder has penned a two-year deal with the Blues.

Koushki is Esteghlal’s fifth signing in the transfer window.

Esteghlal has previously completed the signing of Milad Zakipour, Mohammad Hossein Eslami, Ramin Rezaeian and Saman Fallah.

Greco-Roman wrestlers win five golds at Asia

TEHRAN - The Asian Youth Championship’s first five weight wrestling matches were accompanied by the unique performance of Iranian representatives and the winning of five gold medals.

The first five weight matches of the Asian Championship youth wrestling competitions were held on Saturday in Sriracha, Thailand.

At the end of the first day’s competition, all five representatives of Iran won gold medals in different weights with excellent performance.

Greco-Roman wrestlers Ali Ahmadi Vafa in 55kg, Erfan Jarkani in 63kg, Ali Reza Abd-e Vali in 77kg, Mohammad Hadi Seydi in 87kg, and Abolfazl Fathi Tazangi in 130kg won gold medals.

The U15 and U20 Asian Championships kicked off in the Thai city of Sriracha on July 16. The games will end on July 24.

Tehran-Moscow gas co-op to make Iran an energy hub in region: MP

From page 1 ▶ Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber has also said that the signing of the strategic MOU for the transfer of gas from Russia to Iran is very important for the two countries and the region, and said that Tehran-Moscow's firm determination in line with the improvement of relations has an important message for the world and the path of gas cooperation has begun between the two countries will lead to greater understandings and contracts.

During a meeting with Alexey Miller, CEO of Gazprom and special representative of the President of the Russian Federation, Mokhber stated that the signing of the MOU on the export of Russian gas to Iran is very important for improving the security and economy of the region.

He emphasized the need for accelerating the completion of the north-south corridor and the Rasht-Bandar Abbas railway line to

connect the countries of the region to this corridor.

The principal framework for gas transfer from Russia to Iran has been on the agenda since a long time ago and the late president insisted on its finalization.

According to Oji, there is the potential for changing the MOU into a contract in a short time, which will be a turning point for both countries.

"With this agreement, Iran's share of trade will rise causing changes in international balances. This agreement will act as a revolution in the energy and industry scene of the region," Oji said.

This MOU between the holders of 60 percent of the global gas reserves, as clean energy, has been signed based on mutual interests in the international frameworks and will soon enter the contract and implementation stage, the minister added.

IMIDRO invites private sector to invest in mining exploration projects



TEHRAN - The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has prepared new investment packages for the country's private sector to participate in mining exploration projects, an official with the organization announced.

"Considering IMIDRO's approach in line with the slogan of the year which is the realization of public participation in the leap of production, the private sector should be ready to invest in the exploration sector," IRIB reported quoted Ahmad Fattahi Mejlaj.

According to Fattahi Mejlaj, the necessary guidelines and conditions for the mentioned investment packages have been prepared by IMIDRO and the organization will soon publish a public notice to invite private contractors to partake in certain exploration projects.

Pointing out that IMIDRO's committee for the compilation of rules, criteria, guidelines and standards has prepared the mentioned guidelines, he emphasized: "These standards and instructions are in accordance with international standards and will be published and informed by reliable media soon after the final revision."

Given the significance of mining sector in Iran, implementation of projects to develop different parts of this sector has been always

a major program of the governments.

In this regard, achieving a 10.5-percent value added rise in the mining sector, and increasing mining exploration to two million meters from 510,000 meters has been a top agenda of Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, IMIDRO is playing a significant part in this regard, and in line with its development role, it is seriously pursuing the target of conducting two million meters of mining exploration by the next three years.

To this end, the organization has defined a number of programs including supporting the contractors active in the mining exploration operation, upgrading the geographical information system (GIS) database based on international standards, exploration of hidden and deep resources using new methods and training of required manpower.

Exploration and processing of rare minerals with special technologies, assistance in equipping and updating the drilling fleet with the help of Mining Investment Insurance Fund, planning to support and upgrade the scientific-technical level of exploration consultants, and conducting additional exploration operations in all existing mines for increasing the reserves tonnage are the other programs of IMIDRO in this due.

Involving the private sector in exploration activities is also an approach that the organization has included in exploration programs.

IMIDRO had also previously announced that considering the importance of exploration operation in the mining sector, IMIDRO was preparing a strategic five-year program for more focus on exploration activities.

ICCIMA calls on president-elect to improve business environment

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh has urged the president-elect Masoud Pezeshkian to prioritize improving the business environment and international relations during his tenure.

Hassanzadeh made the remarks in a meeting between Pezeshkian and the representatives of the country's private sector at the place of the ICCIMA on Saturday few days left to his inauguration, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Hassanzadeh hailed the president-elect's visit to Iran Chamber of Commerce which is his first official visit after winning in the runoff election, noting that this visit is a promising signal.

Pezeshkian has repeatedly said that he intends to make use of the potentials of the private sector. He had paid another visit to the chamber of commerce during his presidential campaign.

Masoud Pezeshkian was elected as the ninth president of Iran in the second round of

the presidential elections with the majority of votes on July 5th.

Earlier this month, Hassanzadeh issued a congratulatory message to the country's president-elect Masoud Pezeshkian shortly after his election.

In his message, Hassanzadeh expressed hope that further cooperation between the government and the private sector would lead to more prosperity of the country and pride for the Iranian people.

He also referred to the large turnout of the Iranian people in the Friday elections which he said doubles the duty of the president-elect.

Hassanzadeh called on the president-elect to create coordination in the economic policy-making wings of the government which he believed are now distributed between several ministries.

He also urged the president-elect to choose his ministers, especially the economic ministers, based on their scientific and executive capabilities.

Belaz: The pride of Belarus

The monster dump truck, Belaz 75710, carries 450 tons

From page 1 ▶ The truck has a diesel-electric transmission system. Two 16-cylinder diesel engines drive generators that produce electricity to power four electric motors, BBC reported on December 4, 2014.

The next-largest mining vehicle, a 360-ton truck, is already being made.

What was also greatly heartening was the production of "hybrid" and "electric" huge mining trucks.

At a time when our mother planet Earth is facing climate change mostly resulting from the consumption of fossil fuels producing the first electric model of such monster vehicles is extremely encouraging. This serves as a lesson that moving fast toward clean energy even in heavy machinery and industries is quite possible.

Also, the factory has already built and exhibited an innovative vehicle - a 130-ton dump truck - running on hydrogen fuel.

Sergei Nikiforovich, the company manager, has said, "We approached toward (producing environment-friendly heavy-duty machines) step by step. We developed an electric dump truck, then a hybrid diesel-electric dump truck, and now we have the skill set to create hydrogen-fueled vehicles."

According to the Belza corporate magazine, the calculation of the life cycle costs of a hydrogen-powered dumper shows annual savings in consumables and fuel costs of 40-50 percent compared to the diesel version. A hydrogen-powered dump truck will not pollute the air. Only water vapor and heat will be released into the atmosphere.

The Belaz plant says a plan is underway to manufacture several dump trucks run on hydrogen fuel cells. Having the technology, equipment and the necessary experience, Belaz plans to produce dump trucks with payloads of 90, 130, and 220-240 tons powered by hydrogen in the next few years.

The company believes that now there are more customers for dump trucks with large and extra-large payload capacities.

Company managers also believe



that "it is no more difficult to assemble a 90-ton dump truck with electric drive than a 55-ton machine."

It is greatly heartening that Belaz has developed an "electric" dump truck.

Yuriy Morozov, the company's deputy general director for production engineering, has also said Belaz is the only company in the world that produces heavy-duty mining machinery through the conveyor method.

The company has also introduced a 220-ton dump truck under model 75304 that can operate in the most extreme climatic conditions: From -50 Celsius to +40 Celsius. The dump truck is in a pilot operation at a coal mine in Kuzbass, Russia.

Belaz also plans to build a hydraulic crawler excavator under model BX20012. The mining excavator is equipped with a 12-cubic meter bucket of straight shovel type. It is designed with modern engineering and based on the demand in the market.

The new heavy-weight excavator is as high as a two-story building (7.1 meters) and almost 7.3 meters wide. In terms of safety, performance and design, it is on par with the best in the world. It is perfect for working in tandem with dump trucks with a capacity

of 90 to 130 tons that are most in demand.

The new excavator (BX20012) is designed to work both in scorching and cold weather: +40 Celsius to -40 Celsius.

Belaz symbolizes the technological development of Belarus. The Belarusians should be mostly proud of Belaz. The company's magazine says Belaz competes with Japanese and American companies in manufacturing mining vehicles. It also says it accounts for almost half of the global market.

That a country of 10 million population in Eastern Europe is manufacturing such heavy-duty mining vehicles is surprising. Belaz is the pride of Belarus. It is also a source of pride that the company has succeeded in producing its first electric model.

We wish to see that all dump trucks and excavators produced in Belaz and other factories in the world will be powered by renewable energy in the not-so-distant future.

MTZ tractors

The media team from the SCO countries also had the chance to visit a plant that produces tractors in Belarus.

The BELARUS tractors, also called the Production Association of Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ), was founded in 1946 in Minsk, one year after the end of the Second World War, in which Belarus as a former Soviet republic was a chief victim.

Currently, the factory offers a diverse range of tractors for different agricultural demands. It

produces small and medium size tractors. For example, the factory offers mini-machinery and small-size tractors for general purpose, specialized, and versatile row crop tractors.

Small-size factories or power tillers are offered in 100, 300, 400, and 600 series. These models are best suited for personal and small contour fields. For example, BELARUS 300 is a model designed for various agricultural works. Its small size allows it to be used in greenhouses and small spaces. It can be used with mounted, semi-mounted, trailed machines, and carry cargo.

Also, versatile row crop tractors are produced in 500, 800, 900, 1000, 1200, and 1300 series. They are designed to perform various agricultural works with mounted, semi-mounted, and trailed machines and transportation.

General purpose tractors are manufactured in 1500, 1800, 2000, and 3000 series. These models are for primary and pre-sowing tillage, harvesting operations, high-performance harvesting complexes, hauling operations, sowing and harvesting of grains and other crops, forage conservation, and construction among other works.

The company exports tractors to dozens of countries. It supplies them to customers at a reasonable price. It offers a good choice for farmers looking for durable and cost-effective tractors.

MTZ also has a history of selling its tractors to North American and Western European countries. Now its tractors are operating in various countries.

Like Belaz, the Eastern European country of Belarus can be proud of its tractor-producing factory. There is a hope that Belaz will share its technology with MTZ to help it produce hybrid and electric tractors or models run on hydrogen.

Belarus is on the path toward more technological and scientific progress in a rapidly changing digitalized world as it has established startups in different technological and scientific fields.



Iran makes over 1.7m refinery equipment items for Venezuela

TEHRAN - Head of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) Jalil Salari said his company has made more than 1.7 million refinery parts and equipment items for Venezuelan refineries which are already being used in this country, Shana reported.

According to Salari, during the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration, NIORDC took significant steps for extraterritorial activities among which reviving Venezuela's refineries can be mentioned.

"It was the first time that National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company started offshore operations, despite the fact that our refining companies were handed over to the private sector, but we managed to use the capacity of these companies and their expert workforce," he said.

"We set up offices inside Iran, Venezuelan experts were invited here and visited the equipment supplying companies and manufacturers and saw and believed Iran's capabilities up close and tested the samples," he explained.

According to Salari, some items were also

reverse engineered, that is, representatives of Iranian knowledge-based companies went to Venezuela and closely examined those parts and determined the plan, and based on that, the construction was done, and the result was that about 1.7 items were produced and transferred to the country.

Iran finished the reviving of the first refinery in Venezuela in October 2022.

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji announced the launching of the extraterritorial refinery called El Palito in Venezuela with a processing capacity of 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) on October 17, 2022.

"This was a long-standing and 43-year-old dream that was realized through the efforts of my colleagues at the NIORDC," Oji said.

Speaking in an energy seminar on fuel supply and services, the minister said launching this refinery in Venezuela is just the beginning of a comprehensive plan based on which the Islamic Republic will build such refineries in other friendly countries as well.

Iran signed a 116-million-U.S. dollar contract with Venezuelan state oil firm PDVSA in May to

repair and expand the refinery.

Iran has also been swapping Venezuelan heavy oil and other commodities for gasoline, condensate, refinery parts, and technical assistance while providing the country with lighter oil to be used as diluent.

As its oil output becomes heavier, Venezuela struggles to source medium and light grades for its refineries, contributing to limited production and intermittent scarcity of motor fuels. The South American country also increasingly needs lighter crudes or refined products to turn its extra heavy oil output into exportable grades.

In total, Venezuela has received this year over 24 million barrels of Iranian crude and provided 21 million barrels under the swap agreement that was expanded earlier this year.

Salari also said in the same seminar that efforts are underway to expand Iran's refinery operation in overseas projects.

NIORDC is pursuing many overseas projects in collaboration with major refining companies in order to realize the goals of the Oil Ministry regarding the expansion of activities in other countries, Salari said.

WORLD HEADLINES

Israelis quaking in their boots

Yemen's drone strike on Tel Aviv has raised concerns about the potential for future attacks

From page 1 ▶

Losing trust in Israeli army

Israel's failure to intercept the Yemeni drone has also caused disillusionment among the public.

Yossi Nevi, a retired evacuee from northern Israel, told AP that he was shaken awake in the hotel he lives in. Nevi said hearing it was a human error that made him lose "all trust in the army".

Some other Israelis also expressed shock at the drone attack, calling for an end to the Gaza war.

The Yemeni strike also hit the headlines in Israel.

Military failure

The Israeli website Walla said the attack has brought the Israeli air force's failure to the fore.

It also brought up a question, saying, "What was the Air Force built for over the past decade?"

The Israeli intelligence site Intel Times also fired a sharp barb at the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a report titled "Today Tel Aviv, and tomorrow they will target the gas platform".

It questioned the regime's ability to deter similar attacks in the future.

War of attrition

A military analyst also criticized Israel's response to the



incident, saying it raises "significant doubts". Amir Bohbot made the comment as he referred to Israel's failure to intercept the drone despite its large size and the distant location from which it was launched, according to Al Mayadeen.

Bohbot said the drone strike is "serious in many ways", citing Israel's "war of attrition" with regional resistance groups.

He added that the drone attack implies the "erosion of the army's power", emphasizing that any attack on Israel is considered an achievement for regional resistance groups.

The Ansarullah movement said the drone strike was in retaliation for Israel's brutal war on Gaza.

Over the past months, the

movement has targeted Israeli-liable ships in the Red Sea and carried out drone and missile attacks against Israeli ports.

The Yemeni resistance movement has reiterated that it won't stop the attacks unless Israel ends its war of genocide on Gaza.

In a desperate attempt to divert attention away from the consequences of the Yemeni army's drone attack, the Tel Aviv regime carried out a series of air strikes targeting the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah on Saturday. Al-Masirah TV said Israeli warplanes targeted oil storage facilities and a power plant in the Yemeni port city, igniting a fire in the area. It cited health officials as saying that the airstrikes resulted in casualties.

Lebanon's Hezbollah has also been exchanging fire with Israel

since October 8. That's a day after Israel declared war on Gaza which has so far claimed the lives of about 39,000 Palestinians in the territory.

Hezbollah, like Ansarullah, says it carries out strikes against Israel in solidarity with Palestinians.

The Lebanese resistance movement has reiterated that its attacks will stop only if Israel brings an end to the Gaza onslaught.

Bubble bursts

The Yemeni drone strike on Tel Aviv also blew out windows, pushing people to sweep up shattered glass of the doors of their houses.

But as they were doing so, they were pondering how regional resistance groups have shattered the image of Israel's invincibility.

Israelis had been happy to live with the myth that Israel is unbeatable and untouchable. But the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas turned this dream into a nightmare on October 7 when it carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel.

For now, the Yemeni army's drone strike on Tel Aviv serves as a strong warning to the Netanyahu regime, indicating that all cities in Israel are in the crosshairs of the regional resistance forces.

Gaza resistance pounds IOF at "Netzarim"

Rockets and mortars target Israeli forces at the Gaza corridor

From page 1 ▶ Earlier, the al-Aqsa Martyrs brigades released footage of their fighters targeting the IOF troops at corridor with two 107mm rockets and mortar shells.

In another operation, the Abu Ali Mustafa brigades, in coordination with the al-Qassam brigades, struck the command and control site at the corridor with 80mm mortar shells.

Elsewhere, the al-Qassam brigades, in coordination with the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds brigades, said it managed to target "a Zionist Merkava 4 tank with a Yassin 105 missile" in the Shaboura refugee camp in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

In a sign of increasing cooperation between different armed wings of Palestinian resistance factions, the Nasser Salah al-Din brigades, in coordination with the al-Quds brigades, targeted the Israeli Re'im military base east of

central Gaza with a barrage of 107mm rockets.

On Friday, Palestinian resistance attacks were also focused on the Netzarim Corridor, while Israeli and American reports indicated that after more than nine months of war, the resistance retains its skilled commanders and rockets capable of reaching occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) and Tel Aviv.

The al-Qassam brigades said it managed to lure an Israeli foot patrol into a pre-rigged tunnel and detonate it, causing casualties among the soldiers, killing some and injuring others in the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood west of Rafah.

Reports also emerged on Saturday of alarm sirens sounding in Israeli settlements near Gaza.

As the U.S.-backed genocidal Israeli war on Gaza nears its 10-month mark, the death toll

among Palestinians has peaked to 38,919, according to the Palestinian health ministry. The IOF has also injured at least 89,622.

The majority of the fatalities and the injured have been women and children.

In the past 24 hours, four new Israeli massacres claimed the lives of 37 Palestinians and injured 54 others, the health ministry in Gaza added.

Many more remain buried under the rubble, awaiting rescue in the Strip. However, emergency services and hospitals can barely treat the wounded with the IOF almost completely shattering Gaza's health sector.

Experts say the catastrophic reality underscores the difficulty in accurately counting casualties in Gaza and the figures could be much higher.

Israeli soldiers tell story of savage cruelty in Gaza

Women and children are being targeted intentionally, say Israeli whistleblowers

From page 1 ▶ No one in the western media appeared to wonder why the pair preferred to make themselves a target in an overcrowded, makeshift refugee camp, where they were at huge risk of being betrayed by an Israeli informant, rather than sheltering in Hamas's extensive tunnel network.

Or why Israel deemed it necessary to fire a multitude of massive bombs and missiles to take out two individuals. Is that Israel's new, expansive redefinition of a "targeted assassination"?

Or why its pilots and drone operators continued the strikes to hit emergency rescue crews dealing with the initial destruction. Was there intelligence that Deif was not just hiding in the camp, but had hung around to dig out survivors, too?

Or how killing and maiming hundreds of civilians in an attempt to hit two Hamas fighters could ever possibly satisfy the most basic principles of international law. "Proportion" and "distinction" require armies to weigh the military advantage of an attack against the expected toll on civilian life.

Biblical vengeance

But Israel has torn up the rulebook on war. According to sources within the Israeli military, it now considers it acceptable to kill more than 100 Palestinian civilians in the pursuit of a single Hamas commander - a commander, let us note, who will simply be replaced the moment he is dead.

Even if the two Hamas leaders were assassinated, Israel could not have been in any doubt that it was perpetrating a war crime. But it has learned that, the more routine its war crimes become, the less coverage they

receive - and the less outrage they provoke.

In recent days, Israel has struck several United Nations schools serving as shelters, killing dozens more Palestinians. On Tuesday, another strike in the "safe zone" of Al-Mawasi killed 17.

'It is forbidden to walk around, and everyone who is outside is suspicious. If we see someone in a window looking at us, he is a suspect. You shoot'

- Israeli soldier

According to the UN refugee agency, Unrwa, more than 70 percent of its schools - almost all of them serving as refugee shelters - have been bombed.

Last week, western doctors who had volunteered in Gaza said Israel was packing its weapons with shrapnel to maximise injuries to those caught in the blast radius. Children, because of their smaller bodies, were being left with much more severe wounds.

Aid agencies cannot properly treat the wounded, because Israel has been blocking the entry of medical supplies into Gaza. Committing war crimes, if western publics have

not worked it out by now, is the very point of the "military operation" Israel launched in Gaza in the wake of Hamas's one-day attack on 7 October.

That is why there are more than 38,800 known deaths from Israel's 10-month assault - and likely at least four times that number unrecorded, according to leading researchers writing in the Lancet medical journal this month.

That is why it will take at least 15 years to clear the rubble strewn across Gaza by Israeli bombs, according to the UN, and as much as 80 years - and \$50bn - to rebuild homes for the remnants of the enclave's 2.3 million people still alive at the end.

Israel's twin goals have been biblical vengeance and the elimination of Gaza - a genocidal rampage to drive the terrified population out, ideally into neighbouring Egypt.

Shoot-everyone policy

If that was not clear enough already, six Israeli soldiers recently stepped forward to speak out about what they had witnessed while serving in Gaza - a story the western media has entirely failed to report.

Their testimonies, published by the Israel-based publication 972 last week, confirm what Palestinians have been saying for months.

Commanders have authorised them to open fire on Palestinians at will. Anyone entering an area the Israeli military is treating as a "no-go zone" is shot on sight, whether man, woman or child.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

South Koreans rally in solidarity with Gaza

Dozens of demonstrators have taken to the streets in the South Korean city of Incheon to express solidarity with Palestinian people in Gaza, that's according to a video shared on social media.

The protesters condemned Israel's genocide in the Palestinian territory.

They also raised banners in support of Palestine.

Protesters denounce Israeli atrocities in Gaza

People took part in protests in several countries on Friday to vent their anger at Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

The demonstrations were held in Yemen, Pakistan, Lebanon and Jordan.

They blamed the US for supporting Israeli crimes in Gaza. The protesters said Washington is complicit in Tel Aviv's policy of starving Palestinians in Gaza.

HRW: ICJ ruling on Israeli occupation should be wake-up call for US

The executive director of Human Rights Watch (HRW) has said the International Court of Justice ruling had, for the first time, also found Israel responsible for instituting "apartheid" against Palestinians.

The ruling should prompt a reassessment of the US defending Israel's "oppression of Palestinians", Tirana Hassan said, according to Al

Gaza is being slaughtered with an Arab knife in Israel's hands

By Wael Qandil

Middle East Monitor

If all the critical satirical poems written by Arab poets in the past eight decades that have passed since the establishment of the Zionist entity were gathered to describe the official Arab positions on what is happening in the Gaza Strip, they would not be sufficient to express the nature of one of these positions.

If all of Muzaffar Al-Nawab's satires, Najib Sourour's collections and Amal Dunqul's cries in the wilderness were placed in one book, it would not be enough to give those who hold these positions what they deserve.

The past seven days have witnessed a massive reversal in the traditional equation that was based on the Zionist Occupation committing massacres, then attempting to justify them and claiming to investigate the mistakes made when implementing them. There is also the issuance of Arab statements of condemnation, which Tel Aviv usually throws in the trash. Now, there is the rise of a completely difference equation in which Israel enjoys the massacres and considers them victories, supported by international and Arab legitimacy, and in which the official Arabs are not ashamed to express their enjoyment of watching. Some even go as far as expressing schadenfreude towards the Palestinian Resistance and showing their understanding of the Zionist enemy's motives in intensifying its raids, as was the case in Al-Mawasi in Khan Yunis. The Wall Street Journal revealed that Israel targeted the area where it believed Muhammad Al-Deif was located, with approximately eight tons of bombs, while Israeli F-35 planes also dropped eight bombs on the area, each weighing 2,000 pounds.

The crime committed in Al-Mawasi received no Arab reactions other than the announcement of a new round of deal negotiations, repeating the tedious scenes that have not changed for more than seven months, and which have led to nothing. Meanwhile, the strategy of naive attachment to

Jazeera.

"In a historic ruling, the International Court of Justice has found multiple and serious international law violations by Israel towards Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including, for the first time, finding Israel responsible for apartheid," Hassan said in a statement.

"The court has placed responsibility with all states and the United Nations to end these violations of international law," she said.

"The ruling should be yet another wake-up call for the United States to end its egregious policy of defending Israel's oppression of Palestinians and prompt a thorough reassessment in other countries as well," she added.

Jewish senator to skip Netanyahu speech to Congress



Senator Brian Schatz has said he will not attend a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to a joint session of the U.S. Congress in Washington DC on July 24.

The Jewish Democrat from Hawaii criticized what he said was a "partisan address to Congress just months ahead" of the US presidential elections.

"As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I welcome a substantive discussion about the future, not political rhetoric that will do nothing to bring peace in the region. I therefore will not attend Wednesday's address," he said, Al Jazeera reported.

Schatz joins several high-profile Democrats, including Senator Elizabeth Warren, and independent Senator Bernie Sanders in boycotting Netanyahu's speech.

the Israeli public continues, as the only means to convince the war criminal, Benjamin Netanyahu, to respond to the mediators' pleas.

While the Arabs embrace, diplomatically and in the media, the Zionist public's demonstrations and activities, they meet the Arab public with frowns, hostility and harshness if they try to express their anger at the genocide and ethnic cleansing their Palestinian brothers are facing, as most Arab capitals no longer allow their people to show solidarity with Palestine.

Logically, criminalizing solidarity with the Palestinian people, which is happening in Cairo, for example, and recently renewing the detention of a group of young individuals who formed a group called "Students for Palestine" calling for helping Palestinian students in Egypt to pay their tuition fees, means the Israeli aggression is being served and protected from any popular anger.

This Arab shame takes a more exposed form in the reaction of the Palestinian Authority, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, which moved from silence and disappointment to schadenfreude towards the Resistance and incitement against it. The man who openly and frankly declared his concern for Israel's security and stability several years ago when he said at the opening of what was called Palestinian Freedom and Peace Forum, held at the PA headquarters in Ramallah in the presence of Zionist figures, "we do not seek either to flood Israel with millions (of refugees) or to change its social composition ... This is nonsense ... We are working for the future of Israel's youth ... We appreciate Israel's sensitivity towards security, and its fear of the future and extremism, and we agree to NATO carrying out the mission of ensuring security for both parties, and we adhere to all our security agreements to confront the threat of terrorism." This man is looking forward with an overwhelming longing and excitement to slaughter the Gaza Resistance and hand Gaza over to him in order to include it under the influence of his authority.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Tehran to develop tourist facilities in all its districts

TEHRAN – Iran's capital, Tehran, is set to enhance its tourism landscape by developing related facilities across all 22 districts, said a local official.

Each district within the metropolis will have a distinct tourism project based on extensive planning and studies, Mohammad-Nazem Razavi told IRNA on Saturday.

Razavi expressed hope that these new tourist spaces will be operational before this Persian year is out. These new facilities, he explained, will supplement Tehran's existing tourism infrastructure.

"The new tourist centers will offer various services to the citizens," said the official. "They will also provide short-term accommodation options near parks and pilgrimage sites in the city."

He also highlighted that these centers could serve as venues for setting up tea houses dedicated to Imam Reza (AS), where locals could distribute their donations.



The total budget allocated for Tehran's tourism sector this year stands at about eight million dollars, which is intended for developing the city's tourism infrastructure, according to Razavi.

Earlier this year, Seyyed-Ahmad Alavi, the head of the city council's tourism committee, announced the approval of tourist routes for all 22 districts.

The goal, Alavi emphasized, is to enhance the quality of life for Tehran's residents by providing engaging and enjoyable tourism and leisure activities year-round.

'Gateway of Slaves' undergoes restoration after a decade

TEHRAN – After a ten-year hiatus, a restoration project has commenced on Dahana-ye Gholaman, which contains various ruins of an ancient town rich in Achaemenid heritage.

Dahana-ye Gholaman, which literally translates into "Gateway of Slaves," is renowned for its public buildings and domestic architectural elements that provide valuable insights into the urban planning and daily life of the Achaemenid era (c. 550-330 BC).

On Saturday, Mojtaba Sa'adatian, the deputy tourism chief of Sistan-Baluchestan, the southeastern province that embraces the site, announced the beginning of the restoration efforts, CHTN reported.

According to Sa'adatian, the site has suffered various damage over the years due to neglect and environmental factors. Moreover, the last restoration work on the site was carried out a decade ago," he said.

"Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the provincial tourism directorate, and persistent follow-ups, a fresh restoration work commenced on June 21, the official noted.

The renewed restoration project aims to preserve and rehabilitate the ancient ruins, ensuring that Dahana-ye Gholaman continues to offer invaluable insights into the Achaemenid civilization.

He also said there are other historical sites in the region that need extra attention. "Zehak county, situated in the northern part of Sistan-Baluchestan, is abundant in historical structures and archaeological sites. However, these have not received the attention they deserve from local authorities [and related entities] in recent years," Sa'adatian explained.



Dahana-ye Gholaman is located some two km straight south of the village of Qale-Now ca. 30 km southeast of Zabol in Sistan-Baluchestan province, on a basin originally formed by the waters of the Helmand river, very close to the Afghan frontier.

The archeological site was discovered in 1960 by Umberto Scerrato of the Italian archeological mission.

The Achaemenid Empire stretched from the Balkans to Central Asia at its peak. It was reportedly the first state model based on diversity and tolerance of different cultures and religions.

Galikesh sees surge in visitor numbers

TEHRAN – Galikesh county, situated in the eastern part of Golestan province, has seen a surge in tourism during the first quarter of the current Persian year (started on March 20).

Galikesh registered some 20,000 overnight stays and more than 100,000 visits to its historical, cultural, and touristic attractions.

"The accommodation figures include 1,000 guests in hotels, 1,300 in guesthouses, 700 in motels, 2,000 in private homes, 9,000 in in-

formal lodgings, 3,000 in eco-lodges," a local official in charge of tourism brought to light, adding that the remainder spent the night in temporary accommodation units across the county.

In his final words, Rezaqi reported that there were also 100,460 visits to the county's attractions, including historical sites, and natural and man-made wonders, reflecting the region's growing appeal and successful management of travel services.

Japan sees record 17.78 million visitors in first half of 2024

Japan welcomed a record 17.78 million foreign visitors in the first half of 2024, the country's tourism agency has said, as the weak yen helped drive tourist numbers above pre-pandemic levels.

The January-June figure announced by the Japan National Tourism Organization on Friday is more than one million more people than the previous high of 16.63 million in 2019.

Japan is experiencing a tourism boom as a slump in the yen boosts the spending power of foreigners who receive their earnings in stronger currencies.

South Koreans were the biggest visitor group, totaling 4.4 million arrivals, followed by Chinese, Taiwanese and Americans.

The influx of visitors has delivered a much-needed boost to Japan's economy, which has struggled with stagnant growth for decades, but also prompted grumbles from some locals.

In May, authorities in Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi prefecture erected a barrier to stop tourists from swarming a popular viewing spot for Mount Fuji.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Mt. Damavand: Iran's towering gem of nature and legend

TEHRAN – Standing tall in northern Iran, Mount Damavand is one of the nation's premier natural attractions, drawing countless mountaineers and adventure enthusiasts each year.

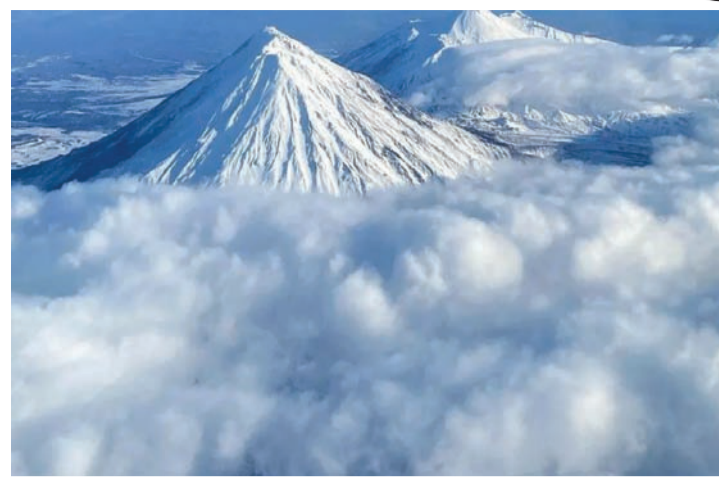
Towering at an impressive 5,610 meters above sea level, Damavand is not only the highest peak in the country but also the highest semi-active volcano in Asia.

Its towering presence can be observed from Tehran and surrounding areas on clear, sunny days, providing a stunning silhouette against the skyline.

Even for those who do not plan to reach the summit, Damavand offers an array of natural beauties. In spring, the mountain slopes burst into bloom, covered with vibrant flowers that paint a picturesque landscape. One of the mountain's most captivating features is the frozen waterfall, which remains icy even during the summer months. Natural glaciers like "Siuleh Glacier," "Dobisel Glacier," and "Arosakha Glaciers" add to the awe-inspiring scenery that surrounds this volcanic giant.

This majestic peak, situated in the Larijan district of Amol within Mazandaran province, is renowned for its breathtaking beauty and formidable challenge to those who seek to conquer its heights.

Geologists note that its most recent eruption occurred around



17 million years ago, leaving behind a landscape marked by sulfur springs and hot springs, offering a glimpse into its volcanic past.

For mountaineers, Damavand offers four main routes, each equipped with shelters or refuges for rest and rescue. These routes are known as the South Route, the West Route, the North Route (Jaan Panah Refuge), and the Northeast Ridge. Among these, the South Route, starting from Polour and Rineh, is the most popular due to its relative ease compared to the others. The North Face, beginning from the village of Nandal, is considered the most challenging, requiring climbers to journey by vehicle to "Sang-e Bozorg" (the Large Stone) before beginning their ascent on foot. Beyond these established paths, there are

numerous other routes for those seeking a less-traveled path, though they lack the shelter facilities found on the main routes.

Climbing Damavand is no small feat. Its elevation demands good physical fitness and preparation. The best time to embark on this adventure is from spring to mid-summer when the weather conditions are more favorable. A typical climb to the summit can take anywhere from two to five days, depending on the climber's experience and physical condition. Essential gear and the guidance of professional climbers are crucial for a successful ascent.

Beyond its natural allure, Damavand is steeped in Iranian mythology and cultural significance. It is considered the center of the world and the abode of deities Mithra

and Gayomard, the first known humans in Iranian lore. The mountain is also linked to numerous legends, including the tale of Zahhak, who was imprisoned within Damavand until the end of the world. The legend of Arash Kamangir, who shot his arrow from Mount Damavand, and the White Demon who resides on the mountain, further enrich its mythical heritage. These stories are immortalized in Persian literature, such as Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and Asadi Tusi's The Garhasp-nama, and in the poetry of Naser Khosrow.

Recognizing its unique value, Mount Damavand was designated as Iran's first natural heritage site in 2008. Since then, July 4th has been celebrated as Damavand National Day on the Iranian calendar, marking the 13th of Tir.

Damavand is strategically located in the central part of the Alborz Mountain Range, just south of the Caspian Sea. This central location makes it accessible from various points, with the cities of Tehran, Amol, and Damavand being the closest urban centers. Travelers from any part of Iran can easily reach the foothills of Damavand by making their way to these cities.

For those seeking a blend of adventure, natural beauty, and cultural richness, Mount Damavand stands as a beacon and promises an unforgettable experience.

Minister's visit to West Azarbaijan highlights heritage, tourism initiatives

TEHRAN – Ezzatollah Zarghami, the minister of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts, has undertaken a one-day visit to West Azarbaijan, packed with significant cultural heritage and tourism-related activities.

The minister, along with his delegation, arrived in Urmia on Saturday to inaugurate several projects, inspect ongoing restorations, and participate in a number of meetings.

Minister's trip started early in the morning, paying a visit to Badelbou castle, where he appreciated ongoing restoration efforts aimed at repurposing the old structure into a boutique hotel.

Moreover, provincial officials provided updates on the castle's condition, the boutique hotel's construction, and access routes to this historic recreational area.

The minister promised to address the issues identified and emphasized the need to expedite restoration efforts through necessary cooperation.

Highlighting the favorable climate of West Azarbaijan and Urmia as a significant opportunity for attracting tourists, he stressed that promoting tourism complexes and infrastructure is crucial for tourism development.



In his next stopover, Zarghami visited Hedayat ancient school which now welcome enthusiasts as a handicraft center.

"The intersection of the ministry's three missions is evident in the handicrafts house," he noted. "Which serves as a platform for showcasing both artisans' products and tourism attractions."

The handicrafts house, the minister underscored, provides a valuable opportunity for artists to conduct both introductory and advanced training courses alongside master artisans in their fields.

Zarghami expressed satisfaction with the collaborative efforts in establishing the handicrafts house in West Azarbaijan, describing it as a commendable initiative that could serve as a national model for similar projects.

The Minister also toured the historical Ansari house in Urmia, a Qajar-era building currently undergoing restoration under the supervision of the provincial cultural heritage department. Once completed, this house will be repurposed as a boutique hotel, according to the local officials.

Zarghami also paid visits to various sections of the Jame Mosque of Urmia, examining the condition of this historical structure. He affirmed that the ministry would allocate necessary funds for the project.

"The planned square around the Jame Mosque should be designed to reflect traditional styles and harmonize with the surrounding environment," Zarghami pinpointed.

Furthermore, the minister visited the Safavid-era Urmia Bazaar and engaged with the vendors. In addition to purchasing items from the vendors, Zarghami explored the traditional bathhouse within the bazaar. He held a candid discussion with several locals and shopkeepers, addressing their requests and concerns.

At the end of the minister's one-day trip, some 41 projects in the fields of infrastructure, tourism, and restoration of cultural heritage provincewide, were inaugurated via webinar.

Shahr-e Yeri, aka 'City of the Mouthless', deserves a UNESCO label, MP says

TEHRAN – Reza Babakzadeh, the Iranian Member of Parliament representing Meshkin Shahr, emphasized the profound historical significance of Shahr-e Yeri, an ancient site in Meshkin Shahr county of Ardabil province.

Babakzadeh underscored the site's potential to gain UNESCO World Heritage status, advocating for increased efforts to preserve and promote the region's rich cultural heritage.

Shahr-e Yeri, aka 'City of the Mouthless,' is a unique archaeological site in northwest Iran. Over the past couple of years, the site underwent extensive restoration work to help safeguard its Iron-Age fortress, three pre-historical temples, and tens of stones which bear bizarre-shaped mouthless faces.

"Historical sites and artifacts convey our nation's identity and civilization, and we must not neglect their preservation and promotion," Babakzadeh said in an interview with CHTN on Friday.

He highlighted the collaborative efforts with the provincial Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, alongside the allocation of adequate funds, to safeguard and revive the historical treasures of Meshkin Shahr.

He noted Shahr-e Yeri, with a history span-



ning over 7,000 years, stands out as one of the pillars of the region's history and civilization.

The MP pointed out that despite Ardabil province's exceptional potential in various sectors, it remains underdeveloped in some areas. He called for a united effort among officials to mobilize existing resources for the province's development.

He advocated for increased investments in tourism, particularly by leveraging the hidden potential of tourist villages, to maximize the benefits of this industry. "The tourism capacities of Ardabil province and Meshkin Shahr, in particular, are notable advantages that should be fully exploited."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Babakzadeh highlighted the importance of the Meshkin Shahr Archaeological Museum project, con-

sidering it a significant asset for the country.

Shahr-e Yeri was inscribed on the list of national heritage sites in 1931. It embraces an Iron-Age fortress, three prehistorical temples, and tens of stones on which bizarre-shaped mouthless faces have been carved. In its heyday, bodies of the dead were buried with special ceremonies and rituals in compliance with religious beliefs... however, the majority of the tombs were found empty of skeletons due to illegal excavations, according to the Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies.

More than 10,000 ancient petroglyphs and rock-carved art have been discovered in and near Meshkin Shahr over the past couple of years. Some of the objects bear depictions of human beings in archery and cavalry in rhythmic and magical themes. There are also petroglyphs depicting mountain goats, boat anchors, shooting and scenes of war, and scenes of deer hunting in individual and collective forms.

Rock arts can be seen around mountainous regions across Iran where roaming life and livestock farming are typically prevalent. The rock-carved figures of animals and associated tools are regarded as good clues to help shed light on daily life in the distant past, though some figures might be symbolic.

Main environmental policies of president-elect Pezeshkian

TEHRAN –During the presidential election, the environmental committee of the elected President Masoud Pezeshkian offered a program with a focus on the preservation of the environment and the stability of the country.

The program is structured around six axes: moving towards a green economy; managing and improving various quantitative and qualitative dimensions of environmental imbalances (such as economy, energy, and water); effectively protecting biological resources (including natural resources and biodiversity); achieving good environmental governance; addressing public demands in the field of environment, and enhancing international bilateral or multilateral cooperation in the field of environment.

To compile the program, general environmental policies, Article 50 of the Constitution, and other national policy documents have been taken into account.

Moreover, the president-elect has highlighted the necessity of observing environmental considerations in development plans.

Pezeshkian believes that no development plan should be initiated without taking environmental considerations into account; in other words, the environment should be the central pillar of all development matters.

Referring to the increasing occurrence of sand and dust storms (SDSs) in the region and the environmental statement on bolstering environmental diplomacy, the administration of Pezeshkian will definitely endorse regional and global interactions to tackle not only SDSs issue but also water di-



plomacy and transboundary waters as other critical issues.

The program is structured around moving towards a green economy and protecting biological resources.

Exchanging regional and global experiences in the field of environment, laying the ground for facilitating interactions and benefiting from global experiences and modern knowledge, and participating at various levels of environment-related negotiations in order to attract resources, enhance capabilities and secure national interests are parts of objectives in this context.

Drafting a binding legal document within the framework of the

Convention on Biological Diversity to protect biodiversity, and manage valuable ecosystems such as national parks and national natural monuments has been highlighted.

Also, preventing the extinction of endangered species including cheetah, and bustard will be a top priority.

7th development plan on environmental issues

In the Seventh Development Plan of I.R. Iran, whose general policies were announced on September 2022 and the text of the bill was sent to the Iranian parliament (Majlis) for approval on May 2023, the "environmental issues" are mostly cited under the heading of "infrastructural affairs".

The importance of Iran's environment and protection is not taken considerably into account in the implementation of the 7th development plan of I.R. Iran, and we believe that various parts of Iran's life territorial stability, and national security will be exposed to more threats and gradual destruction.

Drought, population increase, air pollution, climate change, industrial and agricultural production, sanctions, inefficient use of water and natural resources, and non-implementation of existing environmental regulations fuel the existing environmental crisis.

Inadequate water resources force people to migrate and the problems of big cities increase with marginalization. The aquifers are being drained. Air pollution has made living conditions in Iranian cities increasingly challenging.

Wind erosion increases the desertification of agricultural lands and creates a demand for more production in the remaining cultivable areas.

Biodiversity is under threat. On the other hand, the future of Iran's environment is greatly endangered by the development plans and annual plans that are implemented as emergency and urgent solutions one after the other.

Water transfer programs to the central plateau are a symbol of unsustainable development, and in addition to pollution and back-breaking costs for Iran's national economy, it will be the source of new environmental crises in the source and destination of water transfer.

The big challenge of the development programs in Iran is that without looking at a long-term strategic plan for the country and based on urgent and emergency cases at any point of time when the plan is being compiled, the list that according to the experts and executive managers has been reached as The clauses of the program have been paid.

Iranian knowledge-based firms to attend Airshow China 2024

TEHRAN –A delegation of Iranian knowledge-based companies will participate in the China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition which is also known as Airshow China.

The exhibition is scheduled to be held in Zhuhai from November 12 to 17.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund supports the Iranian delegation.

Visiting China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, as well as some scientific and industrial centers, and holding B2B meetings, are parts of the plan.

China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition is the only international aerospace trade fair that is endorsed by the Chinese central government and presents a flight show.

The exhibition is organized under the patronage of the "China Administration of Civil Aviation" in order to promote trade talks and technological exchange.

The show features the display of real-size products, trade talks, technological exchange, and flying display.

Since 1996, the show has been successfully held in Zhuhai in every even-number year for



10 sessions. It is a gateway for international aviation and aerospace enterprises to showcase the latest technology and products in the fast-growing Chinese market.

Notable growth of knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before the current administration took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.

Iran's knowledge-based companies exported over 3.6 million tons of products, valued at \$2.506 billion, in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, some 1.158 million tons of goods, valued at \$5.141 billion were also imported by knowledge-based companies into the country from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024.

About 85 percent of the goods imported by the knowledge-based companies came from China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Germany, and India, IRICA reported.

The domestic knowledge-based companies exported their products to China, Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, and Russia in this period, IRICA said.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'City-friendly schools' scheme launched in Tehran

The "city-friendly schools" scheme was launched in the capital to promote environmental protection and urban development issues among students, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Mojtaba Daneshvar, director general of citizenship education at Tehran Municipality, said that the project covers more than 550 schools, consisting of 160,000 students.

It aims to familiarize students with the rights and duties of citizens, the environment, waste, transportation and traffic, safety and security, crisis management, he explained.

The training programs will be in the form of workshops, role plays, cultural and educational camps, production of educational content such as books, brochures and posters, he concluded.

آغاز طرح «مدارس دوستدار شهر» در تهران

طرح «مدارس دوستدار شهر» با هدف آشنا کردن دانش آموزان با حقوق و تکالیف شهروندی، محیط زیست و پسماند، حمل و نقل و ترافیک، و ایمنی و مدیریت بحران در مدارس منتخب شهر تهران آغاز شد.

به گزارش ایسنا مجتبی دانشور، مدیرکل آموزش‌های شهروندی شهرداری تهران، گفت این طرح بیش از ۵۵۰ مدرسه شامل ۱۶۰ هزار دانش‌آموز را در بر می‌گیرد.

برنامه‌های آموزشی این طرح در قالب برگزاری کارگاه‌های آموزشی، تولید محتوای آموزشی در قالب کتاب، بروشور و پوستر، اجرای نمایش و برگزاری اردوهای فرهنگی و آموزشی خواهد بود.

'Student movement' to help improve literacy

TEHRAN – The Literacy Movement Organization plans to benefit from the capacity of students to improve the country's literacy rate in the near future.

"In an effort to promote literacy and make illiterates more interested in learning, we will engage students and leverage their capabilities and knowledge in tackling illiteracy," Pana quoted Gholamreza Boroji, an official with the Literacy Movement Organization, as saying.

High school students who are interested in teaching can volunteer to be chosen as teachers, he added.

They will primarily identify illiterate people in their families and relatives, and then register them in a system designed by the Literacy Movement Organization. Once the recorded information is confirmed, they can start teaching, the official said.

Finally, the learners will sit for an exam and get a certificate in case they successfully pass the exam, he added.

The main objectives of the plan are to lower the illiteracy rate in the country, make students more engaged with society by enhancing their interactions with others, and develop their communication skills. The students will also gain job experience which will serve as a valuable addition to their résumé.

Literacy growth rate in Iran 2.5 times the world average

In the past four decades, the growth of literacy in the world has been about 18 percent, while in the same period, this figure in Iran has been 50 percent, IRNA reported.

Nearly one year after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Literacy Movement Organization was established by the order of Imam Khomeini with the aim of eradicating illiteracy.

At that time more than half of Iran's population, over the age of six, was illiterate. Now, Iran is on the verge of removing illiteracy.



Before the Islamic Revolution, a great number of children were deprived of attending school. With the population growth back then, the number of illiterate people increased.

Literacy Movement Organization's goals

Eliminating illiteracy in the country, promoting cultural independence, and educational justice, were among the most important goals in the formation of the literacy movement.

The gap between literate males and females was 23.4 percent, which has decreased to 6 percent.

The implementation of the general mobilization plan for literacy in 1990 increased the literacy rate to 97 percent in 2023.

In 1990, more than 4.1 million illiterate people were educated within a decade, and in 1996, the literacy rate in Iran reached 79.5 percent (an 18 percent increase).

In 2015, 2016, and 2017, the figures reached 84.6 percent, 84.8 percent, and 87.6 percent respectively.

In 2021, the figure was 90.5 percent (in the age group of six and older).

These figures show a 42.5 percent increase in literacy rate after the Islamic Revolution. In 1976, 48.8 percent of those aged 10-49 (about 51 million people) were literate, while the figure was 94.7 percent in 2016, a 46 percent growth, reaching 97.1 percent in 2021.

Workshop held to promote Persian medicine in healthcare system

TEHRAN – The health ministry has held a workshop on principles and basic concepts of Persian medicine in accordance with the objective of integrating Persian medicine into the country's healthcare system.

The two-day event aimed to promote the experts' knowledge in Persian medicine, particularly in healthy lifestyle, as well as raise their awareness of the rules, guidelines, and national policy documents, the health ministry's website reported.

During the workshop, prominent professors in Persian medicine discussed various topics including temperament, four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda), lifestyle measures, widely-used medicinal plants, and drug interactions.

Persian medicine experts

Around 500 Persian medicine experts are providing health and medical treatment services across the country.

More than 1,000 general practitioners who have passed the Persian medicine courses approved by the health ministry are also offering services, Mehr news agency quoted Nafiseh Hosseini-Yekta, the director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office, as saying in June.

Currently, nine faculties of Persian medicine enroll students in the country's universities, she added.

Training Persian medicine experts has always been at the top of the Persian medicine office's agenda. Therefore, different skill courses have been developed and held under the supervision of the health ministry.

People highly welcome traditional medicine

On January 7, Hosseini-Yekta said surveys show that more than 80 percent of people in the country intend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine, ILNA reported.

Their interest in traditional medicine has never faded, she said, adding that traditional

medicine is being taught in universities.

Traditional medicine has its roots in the culture, customs, and traditions of Iranians and has always been of interest to them, the official highlighted.

With over five hundred graduates in the field and numerous research articles that have been published, the country has been able to improve its position by being ranked fourth in the production of science in the field of traditional medicine in the world, following China, India, and the United States.

She went on to say that traditional medicine and conventional medicine are complementary. Each of these medicines has unique capabilities that can be used together.

But it can only be prescribed by someone who has fully mastered both fields.

Unfortunately, extremists threaten people's health by either misusing their interest in traditional medicine or depriving them of the right to use the indigenous medicine of the country along with conventional medicine.

Over 300 drugs made from medicinal plants

More than 300 medicines are made out of 1,200 medicinal plants in the country.

The production of medicines from plants in the country dates back to 1980.

About 4,400 natural products and over 2,000 traditional products are being supplied by domestic companies to the market.

So far, about 30,000 plant species have been identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species which is more than the whole of species found in Europe.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$4 million) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States is 2.5 kilogram.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
 Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

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



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

JULY 21, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is no price for your soul but heaven; so, beware of selling it for anything else.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:37 Dawn: 3:25 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:05 (tomorrow)

Arasbaran cultural center to review “American Pastoral”

TEHRAN- “American Pastoral”, a 2016 movie by Scottish filmmaker and actor Ewan McGregor, will be reviewed at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday evening.

Film critic Kurosh Jahed is set to attend a screening of the film followed by a review session.

“American Pastoral”, McGregor’s feature directorial debut, is a thought-provoking crime drama that explores the complexities of family, identity, and social upheaval.

Based on Philip Roth’s 1997 novel of the same name, the film premiered at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival and was released in the United States on October 21, 2016.

The story begins at the 45th-year reunion of Weequahic High School’s class of ‘51, where writer Nathan Zuckerman reunites with his old friend Jerry Levov.

They reminisce about Jerry’s older brother, Seymour “Swede” Levov, a former all-state athlete who has recently passed away.

The narrative then flashes back to Swede’s youth, where he falls in love with Dawn Dwyer, a Catholic woman from a different background.

Despite their families’ initial reservations, they marry and settle down in Old Rimrock, where they raise their daughter Merry.

Merry grows up to be a smart and quirky young woman with a stuttering problem. However, she becomes increasingly radicalized as she navigates the tumultuous landscape of the 1960s. As the Vietnam War rages on, Merry becomes involved in anti-war protests in New York City.

When she returns to Old Rimrock, she participates in a protest that turns violent, leading to the destruction of the local post office and store.

Merry disappears, and Swede is left to navigate a complex web of emotions as he searches for his daughter.

He visits Penny Hamlin, the wife of the store owner who was killed, and receives cryptic information from Rita Cohen, a mysterious young woman who claims to know Merry’s whereabouts.

As Swede’s search for Merry continues, he becomes increasingly obsessed with finding his daughter.

He visits Rita again, only to be rebuffed by her mean-spirited attempts to seduce him. Meanwhile, Dawn’s mental health begins to deteriorate under the stress of Merry’s disappearance.

Years pass, and Swede finally tracks down Merry to a skid-row area of Newark.

During their brief reunions, Merry confesses to planting bombs that killed four people and sliding into a life of prostitution and exploitation. She has since found solace in the Indian Jain religion and has withdrawn from society.

The film concludes with Swede attending his own funeral, where he reflects on the impermanence of our assumptions about others.

As the mourners depart, a cleaned-up Merry appears at Swede’s grave, silently acknowledging her father’s passing.

“American Pastoral” is a powerful exploration of the complexities of family dynamics and social upheaval. Through its complex characters and non-linear narrative structure, the film raises questions about identity, morality, and the consequences of our actions.

Ewan McGregor has earned a reputation for his impressive body of work. Among his notable accolades are a Golden Globe Award and a Primetime Emmy Award.

McGregor’s dedication to his craft has been recognized with an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) honor, bestowed upon him in 2013 for his outstanding contributions to the world of drama and charity.

Two Iranian short films competing in Italy’s Giffoni Film Festival

TEHRAN-Two short films from Iran are competing in the 54th Giffoni Film Festival (GFF), which was launched on July 19 in Italy.

The short film “And Next Year, When Spring” co-directed by Saeid Asadi and Mehdi Boroumand and the short animation “The Alchemist’s Apprentice” by Erfan Parsapour are the Iranian works present in two different sections of the Italian festival, Honaronline reported.

Competing in the “Parental Experience” section, “And Next Year, When Spring” narrates the story of a girl whose father gets arrested the day before she has an important test at school.

The girl wanders desperately in the village looking for someone willing to take care of her brother and thus allow her to take the test.

It is the debut film of Asadi and Boroumand as directors. The 18-minute flick, produced in 2023, has Shaghayegh Mokhtari and Yazdan Poorsalimi in the cast.

Participating in the Elements +3 section, “The Alchemist’s Apprentice” is a 2D animated movie about a young alchemy apprentice who tries to fix his master’s creation discreetly.

The short animation, seven minutes, is based on an animated series that depicts Shahrouz, a curious alchemist’s apprentice boy, who goes on strange adventures with his master, Hakim. On their



journeys, they try to get the elixir of life. On the dangerous adventures ahead, there is one thing that saves them: Alchemy!

Together, armed with their knowledge of the arcane and a formidable arsenal of magic potions, the duo confronts a host of fantastical creatures and treacherous foes on their quest to vanquish evil and bring forth justice.

However, as they venture deeper into their quest, Shahrouz proves himself to be a wise and intuitive young man, often saving his master from the consequences of his own errors in alchemy.

As such, their relationship

becomes more than just master and apprentice; Shahrouz takes on a protective role towards Hakim as he guides him through their dangerous adventures.

Hakim, in turn, comes to respect and value Shahrouz’s insight and judgment, leading them to become a formidable and effective team in their pursuit of wisdom and knowledge.

The Giffoni Film Festival is an Italian children’s film festival which takes place annually in Giffoni Valle Piana, Campania. It began in 1971. The festival typically has around 100,000 guests.

It seeks to promote and develop

cinema for young people, elevating it from the marginal position it had back in those days, and leading it where it belongs.

The festival is dedicated to children and young adults. Its international jury is composed of approximately 600 youngsters per section.

Every year various international talent and stars take part in the festival to meet the jurors and discuss with them about cinema. The festival also holds masterclass, workshops, and live shows.

This year’s edition of the festival will conclude on July 28.

“Loteria” to compete at Spanish film festival

TEHRAN- Iranian director Ali Atshani’s film “Loteria” is set to compete at the 10th edition of the International Film Festival of Active Non-violence (FICNOVA), which will take place in multiple cities across Spain.

The 2023 production is the story of a man’s multiple attempts to cross over the border illegally from Mexico to the United States in pursuit of a better life.

Based on a true story, the film is about the time when due to the travel ban imposed on Iran in 2017, immigrants were forced to cross the border illegally into the U.S.

The cast includes Amir Hossein Mousavi, Hamed



Tavasoli, and Hooman Sepantamehr among others.

The winners of the different sections of the festival will be announced on October 2.

FICNOVA is a gathering place for humanists

who share a commitment to non-violence. It is a space for reflection, dialogue, and exchange, where individuals can share their experiences and insights on how to overcome violence, discrimination, and human suffering at both personal and social levels.

Since 2012, the festival has been hosting the International Film Festival of Active Non-violence, showcasing productions that demonstrate the transformative power of non-violence to create positive change in the world.

This festival is a non-profit initiative organized entirely by volunteers who are passionate about promoting peace and social justice.

Bertolt Brecht’s “Mother Courage” on Mehrab Theater stage

TEHRAN-The play “Mother Courage and Her Children” written in 1939 by the German dramatist and poet Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956) is on stage at Mehrab Theater in Tehran.

Directed by Ali Yaghoubi, the play has Morteza Yaghoobpur, Naser Ezzati, Asal Rajabi, Alireza Yousefi, Hamed Mesbah, Fatima Hosenpur, Fatemeh Salehi, and Asal Sadeghi in the cast among others.

Considered by some to be the greatest play of the 20th century,

and perhaps also the greatest anti-war play of all time, “Mother Courage” is composed of 12 scenes.

Following Brecht’s own principles for political drama, the play is not set in modern times but during the Thirty Years’ War of 1618–1648, which involved all the German states, France and Sweden.

It follows the fortunes of Anna Fierling, a wily canteen woman with the Swedish Army, who is determined to make her living from the war. She

is nicknamed Mother Courage for her coolness in safeguarding her merchandise under enemy fire.

Over the course of the play, she loses all three of her children to the very war from which she tried to profit; yet it does not interrupt her profiteering. “Mother Courage” is one of nine plays that Brecht wrote in resistance to the rise of Fascism and Nazism.

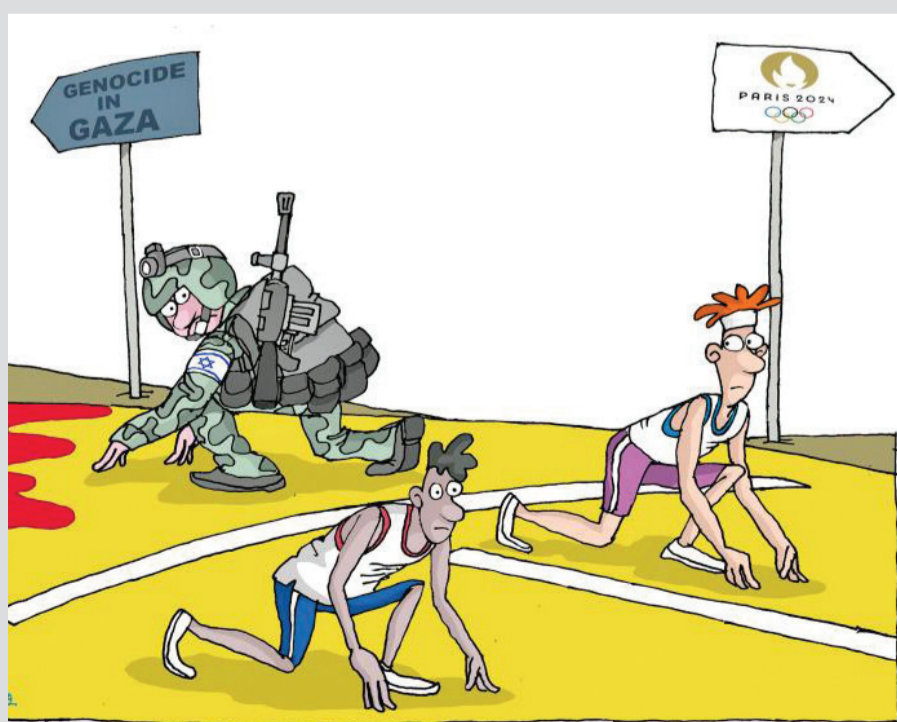
In response to the invasion of Poland by the German armies of Adolf

Hitler in 1939, Brecht wrote “Mother Courage” in a little over a month.

Initially inspired by concern at how neutral countries were profiteering from the war, the play contains a much wider message: that to depend on capitalism and the conflicts it engenders not only leads to disaster but to a coarsening of humanity.

The play will remain on stage until August 2 at Mehrab Theater located at the junction of Imam Khomeini and Vali-e Asr streets.

Cartoon of Day



Paris Olympics Begin Amidst Gaza Violence
Cartoonist: Alfredo Martirena from Cuba

London Art Institute workers say they were fired for supporting Palestine

Berlin-based artist Rheim Alkadhi says she will pull her work out of London’s Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) if the center does not take accountability for allegedly retaliating against workers who have expressed solidarity with Palestinians.

“I cannot accept for my work to be instrumentalized in the service of structural repression, weapons manufacture, apartheid or genocide,” Alkadhi wrote in an Instagram statement. “Unless the ICA leadership responds with disclosure and accountability, I will begin the process of withdrawing my solo exhibition currently on view at ICA.”

“Templates for Liberation” is the artist’s first solo exhibition in the United Kingdom. Slated to run through September 8, the show grapples with the consequences of colonialist exploitation in Iraq and the surrounding region through sculpture, photography, and archival material, Hyperallergic reported on Saturday.

Earlier this month, a group of former ICA workers alleged that the institute fired them in connection with participating in the October 20 Global Strike for Palestine and posting an open letter on the venue’s website calling for a cultural boycott of Israel without the approval of ICA’s leadership.

“On March 13th, it was announced at an all-staff meeting that 14 roles were at risk of redundancy. Among these 14 roles were all the staff who had been given informal warnings in October [for their role in the action], as well as the trade union representatives who were supporting them,” read the terminated workers’ statement posted to Instagram by the groups Cultural Workers Against Genocide (CWAG) and Artists and Culture Workers LDN. “Staff were told the reasons behind these redundancies were financial. The union membership’s demand for senior level pay cuts was rejected.”

In an email to Hyperallergic, the ICA denied the workers’ allegation that they were fired for their support for Palestine.

“We have been transparent with all our employees from the outset that like many UK arts and culture organizations, we are facing significant financial challenges such as the aftershocks of Covid as well as rising inflation and cost-of-living crisis here in the UK,” an ICA representative told Hyperallergic, citing the institution’s 2023 financial report.

While its calls for senior leadership pay cuts to cope with the institution’s financial difficulties were denied, the museum union was able to save three out of the 14 terminated jobs. However, all

of the communications department workers who had received “informal warnings” were fired. Compounding the downsizing, “other workers suffered demotions, pay cuts, and reductions to their roles,” the group of former workers told Hyperallergic.

“As former ICA workers, we want to make clear that those who were part of organizing these events were fired for it,” the group added, also noting that at least six employees have resigned “both in solidarity with the fired workers and against the ICA’s financial mismanagement and mistreatment of its workers.”

In response, the ICA said: “We are having ongoing conversations with all of our partners and are committed to supporting the artists we exhibit.” Since the beginning of war in Gaza on October 7, at least 39,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 89,000 injured.

In recent weeks, Israeli military operations and fighting intensified across Gaza. Rafah is in ruins. Nowhere in Gaza is safe, with 2 million people — nearly the Strip’s entire population — displaced. Almost half a million people face acute food insecurity. Humanitarian convoys are frequently unable to collect and distribute life-saving goods in safety as attacks against them and strikes on or near health and humanitarian facilities continue.