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Israelis' exploding anger towards Bibi

'Must Go' and 'Jail Now'

▶ Page 5

Iran's deputy FM repeats calls for sanctions on Israel

TEHRAN - Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs has emphasized the importance of promoting sanctions on Israeli goods, calling on Islamic countries to showcase their commitment towards the Palestinian cause.

Ali Bagheri-Kani made the remarks in a meeting with students from the School of International Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sharing insights into the tragic events unfolding in the Gaza Strip.

Bagheri-Kani asserted that Palestine has become a global human rights focal point, with no international rule safeguarding Zionist invaders from their aggression. He stressed the conflict's asymmetric nature, portraying one side as an aggressor and criminal, while the other is the oppressed Palestinian nation fighting against all odds to preserve its rights.

Tehran's four-decade-long approach toward the Palestinian conflict is aligned with Iran's strategic and national interests, he pointed out.

He also said Iran's farsighted support for the people of Palestine in their struggle against Israeli occupiers has won global recognition. ▶ Page 3

Raisi's visit to Dushanbe a 'turning point' in Iran-Tajikistan ties: ambassador

TEHRAN- Iran's ambassador to Tajikistan, Alireza Haghighian, has highlighted the significant growth in Tehran-Dushanbe ties under the Raisi administration, resulting in concrete outcomes across all fields, particularly trade and economy.

Led by President Ebrahim Raisi, an Iranian delegation met with their Tajik counterparts on Wednesday (November 8) at the Tajikistan Palace of Nation. During the meeting, 18 documents were signed, marking a significant step forward in Tehran-Dushanbe relations.

The visit was called a "turning point" in Iran-Tajikistan relations by Ambassador Haghighian.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was the first country to recognize the independence of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan is a Central Asian country with a population of 10 million and a republic form of government. Its capital, Dushanbe, is located in the south and borders China in the east.

Since the establishment of political relations between Tajikistan and Iran, the presidents of Iran have visited Tajikistan 14 times, and the president of Tajikistan has visited the Islamic Republic 18 times. ▶ Page 2

How Hezbollah helps Gaza

By Ali Karbalaie

To understand how Lebanon's Hezbollah is helping innocent civilians in Gaza from the Israeli bombardment, it is important to first revisit the words of its chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

In his second speech on Saturday since the start of Hamas' retaliatory al-Aqsa Storm operation on October 7, the Hezbollah leader said the front with the Israeli occupation will remain active.

Sayyed Nasrallah explained that Hezbollah "would continue with its position".

"This front will stay, and we are going to continue with our heroic fighters," he said.

The enemy, he said, will ultimately be forced to back down.

Nasrallah said his resistance group had used new types of weapons and struck new targets in Israel in recent days.

There had been "an upgrade" in Hezbollah's operations along its front with the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories in the north, he said. "There has been a quantitative improvement in the number of operations, the size and the number of targets, as well as an increase in the type of weapons." ▶ Page 5

Israel's Eliyahu is criminally insane: nuclear physicist

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN - A senior nuclear physicist describes Israeli far-right minister Amihai Eliyahu who proposed using nuclear arms against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as "criminally insane".

Frank N. von Hippel, who is also a professor of public and international affairs emeritus with Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security, tells the Tehran Times that he does think that this "criminal statement" by a "lunatic" like Eliyahu "changes the situation significantly" in the ground.

The following is the text of the interview:

Amihai Eliyahu, an Israeli far-right minister, has said that "one of Israel's options in the war in Gaza is to drop a nuclear bomb on the Strip." What does this dangerous threat indicate?

I would take it as an indication that Eliyahu is criminally insane and I am glad Prime Minister Netanyahu, whose policies toward the Palestinians I also find abhorrent, immediately removed Eliyahu from the cabinet. ▶ Page 3

South African FM: "Arrest Netanyahu and halt the genocide in Gaza"

TEHRAN - In an article published on Sunday Times, the Foreign Minister of South Africa called on the International Criminal Court to detain Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in order to stop the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza.

In her article published on November 12, Naledi Pandor drew parallels between the overthrown apartheid regime in South Africa and the occupation in Israel, explaining that even during the darkest days of apartheid, no hospitals, schools or residential buildings became the targets of bombs in the African country.

She called Israel an occupying power that has been violating countless international laws in its attacks against civilians. The official noted that any person living under occupation has the right to resist.

"The root causes of this war go back to Israel's oppression of the Palestinians over the past 75 years, the illegal occupation of their land, and the ever-expanding web of illegal settlements deep into Palestinian territory," she wrote.

The South African diplomat also criticized governments supporting Israel, saying those states are abetting the genocide of Palestinian people by not holding Israel accountable for any of its crimes.

Iran, Afghanistan determined to expand trade, transit ties

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran and Afghanistan, two neighbors with many commonalities, believe that the current level of their mutual economic and trade ties is not satisfactory, and they should pursue the development of these ties more seriously.

In this regard, the Iranian and Afghan governments are taking some prominent measures to boost trade between the two countries.

In early March, Iran's trade center and permanent exhibition of Iranian products was inaugurated in Kabul.

In a tweet, the Iranian Embassy in Afghanistan mentioned the purpose of opening this center is to take a ▶ Page 8



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Kish music festival embraces cultural diversity

TEHRAN -The 4th edition of the Kish Music Festival-Yamal was held on the Persian Gulf island of Kish from November 10 to 12.

This year, the festival welcomed six music groups hailing from the southern provinces of Iran, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Bushehr.

Yamal seeks to celebrate cultures, ethnicities, and age-old traditions along the southern coasts from the Oman Sea to the Persian Gulf.

The main theme of the Yamal music festival is the creation of works with and without lyrics, based on epic poetry with local dialects and languages accompanied by traditional and indigenous movements with themes of heroism, peace, and love.

Play about Edoardo Agnelli unveiled at City Theater

TEHRAN-The book "Since the Night the Sun Came" written by Neda Sabeti, which is a play about the life of Italian convert to Shia Islam Edoardo Agnelli, was unveiled at the City Theater in Tehran on November 12.

Published by Amareh Publishing House, the book deals with the dramatic parts of Agnelli's life, Mehr reported.

During the unveiling ceremony, the Iranian playwrights Saeedeh Ajobandian and Gholamhossein Dolatabadi delivered speeches and parts of the documentary he had made about the Muslims were also screened.

Edoardo Agnelli (1954-2000) was the eldest child and only son of Gianni Agnelli, the industrialist patriarch of Fiat and of Marella Agnelli. ▶ Page 8

An end to an ending

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

Kayhan analyzed the failure of oppositionist media and wrote: The current war in Gaza and the struggle of American spy services and the Zionist regime with various challenges has caused the financial and political support for anti-Iran groups to fizzle. Media outlets that have been active against the Iranian nation can no longer be supplied by Israel. In the past year, oppositionists have come to realize that their hopes for the destruction of Iran were nothing but literal illusions. Foreign spy services have also seen the true colors of anti-Iran groups and realized their impotence against the Islamic Republic. This has caused several anti-Iran media outlets to gradually lose the West's support and begin to grapple with financial issues. The process of these media outlets' downfall began right after their vicious plots failed in the fall riots of 2022. Despite the significant investments of foreign spy agencies, all the money spent on Iranian oppositionists failed to bring Iran to its knees. These so-called media outlets, that are nothing but warmongers and misinformation dissemination campaigns, have always been on a quest to find sponsors for their criminal plans. But now that the truth has been revealed, no master is willing to finance these people any longer.

Iran: Skillful stage management

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed the strong and successful diplomacy of the Raisi administration and wrote: Ebrahim Raisi and Mohammad bin Salman held talks in a sincere atmosphere. That's while Western governments and Israel, in order to secure their illegitimate and illegal interests, have been pouring their efforts into spreading Iranophobia among Arab countries for several decades now. They have been doing everything in their power to affect the relations of Iran and its Arab neighbors. The West has been trying to make the ears of the world deaf to Iran's voice and limit the country's clout in the field of diplomacy. Iran's insight, strength, resistance, and appropriate maneuvers were enough to eliminate the Arab countries' previous guard against the Islamic Republic. That has caused the political stance of Iran and Arab countries in the region to become aligned, in the face of the latest conflict in Gaza. Perhaps that's why former U.S. President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran is controlling the region, calling the country's leaders smart and clever.

Israel can't eschew accountability by pinning blame on Iran: diplomat

TEHRAN- Amir Saeid Irvani, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has stated that the Israeli regime cannot avoid accountability for its crimes in Gaza by falsely blaming Iran

"This apartheid regime is unquestionably responsible for the tragic loss of innocent lives as a result of its ongoing atrocities against civilians in Gaza," Irvani said in letters on Monday local time to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN Security Council President Sérgio França Danese.

Below is the full text of Irvani's letter:

Further to our letter dated 13 October 2023 (S/2023/764), I am writing in response to the letter dated 6 November 2023 from the representative of the Israeli regime addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2023/842).

In this letter, the Israeli regime's representative has repeated baseless allegations against Iran and accused Iran of "a policy aimed at igniting a regional war" in an effort to divert the attention of the international community away from the ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the helpless and defenseless Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and occupied Palestine. Similarly, during the UN Security Council briefing on "the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestine question" held on 10 November 2023 (S/PV.9472), the representative of the Israeli regime in his statement attempted to justify and legitimize the daily massacre of this regime against innocent people by employing typical diversionary tactics, including Iran phobia campaigns, making misleading

Shargh: Biden's unwillingness to expand conflicts

Shargh devoted its headline to the expansion of tension in the region. It wrote: It was discussed earlier that now there are efforts to directly involve Iran in the war between Hamas and Israel, and also, the more important issue is combining the developments in the Middle East with the nuclear issue of Iran. It seems that now the Europeans and America are trying to put the issue of Iran's nuclear program on the agenda along with this war. In this regard, on Sunday of this week, American National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said: "Iran's nuclear program and its danger will be on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the leaders of the United States and China." However, the New York Times expressed in a report that Joe Biden has prevented strong military action against forces that he claims are Iranian proxies in the region and has rejected more aggressive bombing options against the militias proposed by the Pentagon to prevent a wider conflict.

Hamshahri: Europe's false and repeated claim against Iran

In a commentary, Hamshahri addressed Europe's false claim and said: The Politico news site considering Iran a direct threat to Europe after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm stems from a false and unrealistic analysis. It says that Iran's government, which is an avid supporter of resistance groups like Hamas and never seems to miss an opportunity to call "death to Israel or death to America," is continuing its path toward nuclear weapons. While slogans in Tehran may be more focused on the United States, Europe is relatively more exposed to suffering from blows caused by Iranian missiles and drones. It is also prone to the danger of getting its oil and gas supplies cut off by the country. In addition, there is a severe economic risk posed to Europe by Iran's threatening position and support for proxy forces throughout the Middle East (West Asia). Finally, having a nuclear weapon along with advanced missile technology to deliver would empower and embolden Iran to escalate its nuclear threat not only against Israel but also against Europe. Thus, one option remains for Israel, Europe, and the United States: an "only Tipstaff" approach that maximizes military, economic, and diplomatic pressure on Iran.

and unsubstantiated claims, spreading misinformation, and pointing a finger at Iran.

These groundless accusations, as well as cynical efforts to link and attribute the actions of Palestinian resistance groups fighting against Israeli occupation and military aggression in occupied Palestine to the Islamic Republic of Iran, are categorically rejected as unfounded.

As has been stated on numerous occasions, the decisions and actions made by Palestinian resistance groups are independent, driven by their interests, and aligned with Palestinian aspirations. These actions are firmly grounded in their rights under international law, asserting their right to self-determination and self-defense against Israeli occupation and military aggression. Consequently, any attempt to shift blame or implicate Iran in these matters is unacceptable.

Similarly, Iran strongly condemns and rejects Israel's deceptive endeavors to equate the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination with terrorism, aiming to legitimize its heinous crimes, ethnic cleansing, and massacres against the innocent people of Gaza.

Both international law and the UN Charter recognize the legitimate right to self-determination, as well as the right to self-defense for the Palestinian people, in their ongoing struggle against Israeli occupation and military aggression.

The Israeli regime cannot evade accountability by falsely blaming Iran. This apartheid regime is undeniably responsible for the tragic loss of innocent lives resulting from its ongoing atrocities against civilians in Gaza.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran FM calls Israeli Gaza killings flagrant breach of intl. law

TEHRAN- The continued slaughter of Palestinians in the confined Gaza Strip by Israel has been forcefully denounced by Iran's foreign minister as a flagrant breach of international law.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the comments on Monday during a phone conversation with his Hungarian counterpart, Péter Szijjártó.

During the call, the two senior diplomats reviewed the recent developments in the West Asia region, particularly the situation in Palestine and Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Referring to the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza due to Israel's "savage" crimes, Iran's foreign minister said, "Through indiscriminate bombardment and massacre of people in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli regime has blatantly violated all norms of human rights and international law."



Amir Abdollahian also emphasized the importance of increasing international pressure on Israel to end its assaults against the Gaza Strip, establish a truce, and send relief aid to be besieged Gazans.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Amir Abdollahian expressed pleasure with Iran-Hungary relations, ex-

pressing Tehran's preparedness to host a meeting of the two nations' joint commission.

For his part, Hungary's top diplomat expressed optimism that relations between the two nations would strengthen in all areas of mutual interest.

On Sunday, the International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sounded a stern alarm about the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, saying, "The situation in Gaza is rapidly approaching a humanitarian disaster."

"An unbearable human tragedy is unfolding in front of our eyes. People call us day and night saying they are afraid to open their doors for fear of getting killed and pleading to help them reach safety," said William Schomburg, head of the ICRC's sub-delegation in Gaza.

Targeting densely populated urban areas, the ICRC expressed alarm about the regime's actions, stating that "Israeli attacks taking place in heavily populated urban areas in the Gaza Strip, including around hospitals, endanger the lives of the most vulnerable people like medical staff, patients, the wounded, premature babies, people with disabilities, and the elderly."

Tehran denounces US-EU double standards on Israel's genocidal acts



TEHRAN- The ambassador of Iran to Belgium has slammed the European Union and the United States for adopting a double standard approach toward the "genocide" being committed by Israel against the beleaguered Gaza Strip.

The comments were delivered by Gholamhossein Dehqani on Monday during a news conference in Brussels, the capital of the European Union.

Ambassadors from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) states were also present at the press conference.

"In the past 30 days, we have witnessed the application of double standards by the European Union, the United States, and many European countries towards the criminal acts committed by Israel in Gaza," he added.

He went on to stress, "Despite the global outcry and demands for a ceasefire from people in the streets, from the U.S. to Europe to Australia, Western decision-makers unfortunately do not heed the people's wishes."

The Iranian ambassador harshly criticized American stance on Israel's atrocities in Gaza, saying, "The United States has displayed prejudice to such an extent that even some of its regional allies do not view it as qualified for mediation."

Dehqani stressed that although the European Union always presents itself as an advocate of human rights, it has said nothing about the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza and has actually supported the regime's crimes.

The ambassador emphasized that Tel Aviv will not stop its genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza unless it meets real international pressure and is held accountable for its crimes.

The envoy asked the European Union to modify its stance and take concrete steps to end Israel's attacks.

The Iranian envoy also discussed the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's recent statement denouncing Israel's bombings, emphasizing that "practical measures are needed in the current crisis to compel the criminal regime to halt the bloodshed."

'America is blamed globally for Gaza crimes'



TEHRAN - Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, the chief of Intifada and Quds Headquarters of Iran's Islamic Propagation Coordination Council, said on Tuesday that people worldwide pin responsibility on the U.S. for the continuation of the "war crimes" in Gaza.

The meeting was held in the Islamic Development Coordination Council with the presence of the head and the members of Intifada and Quds Headquarters.

"Almost 40 days have passed since the great operation of Hamas, yet Zionist army has not succeeded in achieving even a minor victory," said Ramezan Sharif.

Referring to Operation al-Aqsa Storm, he said that the Hamas fighters returned to Gaza safely after October 7, preparing themselves for the Israeli ground invasion.

He also said the Israeli army has proceeded 8 percent in Gaza.

Referring to the casualties of the Zionist army, he added that 15 tanks were destroyed just on Monday night.

"Since the early days of the war, Hamas has asked the in-

ternational observers to monitor the Gaza hospitals, and in case there was anything than treatment, they (observers) can announce it to the whole world," added Ramezan Sharif.

He addressed the extensive Israeli brutalities, saying the Tel Aviv regime has extended its barbarities even against the staff of international organizations.

He called CENTCOM and British military advisors "responsible" for the ongoing crimes in the enclave.

According to him, supporting Palestine is of top priority for Iran due to "religious, moral, and humanitarian" aspects.

Elsewhere, he pointed to the pro-Palestinian rallies that have been staged in Iran to denounce the Israeli crimes and back the oppressed Palestinians.

He also announced that there will be a great pro-Palestinian rally on Saturday which will be held in a bid to back the Palestinian children.

The IRGC chief General Hossein Salami is expected to address the rally.

Gaza depicts Western liberal democracy: general

TEHRAN- General Mohammadreza Naghdi, the deputy coordinator of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, has said that the Westerners' true nature has been shown in Gaza.

During the third edition of the global meeting of the underprivileged held at the Basij organization on Tuesday morning, Naghdi said the oppressed Palestinians have given "honor" to the Muslims.

According to General Naghdi, the child-killing regime of Israel has shown no mercy to civilians in Gaza and it has carried out "genocide" by killing the Gazans en masse.

He added the Israeli "war crimes" in the occupied territories are "painful" to all people, yet the resistance fighters will emerge "victorious" in the Gaza war.

"We are all responsible toward the oppressed Gazans," added Naghdi, saying that Israeli "war crimes" have inflamed the feelings of the people worldwide who are ready to "punish" the criminals in the Gaza Strip.

Naghdi called the October 7 al-Aqsa Storm Operation a "turning point" which would lead to a new world order.

In his address to resistance groups, namely Hezbollah fighters, he also insisted that "operations" must be carried out in full, since the Tel Aviv regime does not recognize any limits for its war crimes.

Pointing to the hybrid war, he said media outlets carry a heavy burden on the shoulders to depict the brutalities of the criminals in the enclave.

In the end, he pointed out that the supporters of the Zionist regime must be held accountable for the crimes carried out in the besieged enclave.

Raisi's visit to Dushanbe a 'turning point' in Iran-Tajikistan ties: ambassador

From page 1 ▶ Upon the official invitation of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi made his first official visit to Tajikistan in 2021. Eight documents were signed during that meeting.

The Tajik president, upon the of-

ficial invitation of Raisi, also made a reciprocal visit to Iran. During his stay in Iran, 17 cooperation documents were signed.

Business volume increased by \$150 million in the first six months

"President Raisi's administration aims to strengthen ties with neighboring and allied countries, as evidenced by Raisi's recent visit to Tajikistan," Haghhighian told to Mehr news agency.

As part of the Raisi administration's strategy, the commercial re-

lations between the two countries have significantly improved. In 2021, the volume of trade was 120 million dollars, which increased to 270 million dollars in 2022. In the first six months of this year, the volume of business relations has reached 150 million dollars.

Iran, China, Russia Arab nations condemn Israeli minister's statement about dropping nuclear bomb on Gaza

UNITED NATIONS — China, Iran, Russia and a multitude of Arab nations condemned an Israeli minister's statement that a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip was an option in the Israel-Hamas war, calling it a threat to the world.

At Monday's long-planned opening of a United Nations conference whose goal is to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, many ambassadors expressed condemnations and criticisms of comments by Israel's Heritage Minister Amihai Eliyahu, the Associated Press reported.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its nuclear capability. It is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, and a former employee at its nuclear reactor served 18 years in Israeli prison for leaking details and pictures of Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal program to a British newspaper in 1986.

"Extremely irresponsible and disturbing"

China's deputy UN ambassador Geng Shuang said Beijing was "shocked," calling the statements "extremely irresponsible and disturbing" and should be universally condemned.

He urged Israeli officials to retract the statement and become a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, as a non-nuclear weapon state "as soon as possible."

Geng said China is ready to join other countries "to inject new impetus" to establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Mideast, saying there is greater urgency because of the situation in the current region.

"Any threat to use nuclear weapons is inadmissible"

UN disarmament chief Izumi Nakamitsu, who opened Monday's fourth conference, didn't mention Israel. But she said: "Any threat to use nuclear weapons is inadmissible."

Nakamitsu reiterated the "urgency ... of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction," stressing that "cool heads and diplomatic efforts" must prevail to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians, based on a two-state solution.

"Threat to nuke Gaza reaffirms Israel's extremes and brutality"

Oman's UN Ambassador Mohamed Al-Hassan, speaking on behalf of the six-nation (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which includes Saudi Arabia, said the threat to use nuclear weapons in Gaza "reaffirms the extremes and brutality of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people" and their "disregard for innocent life." He called on the UN Security Council and the IAEA to

take decisive action on the matter.

Israel should stop "rhetoric or posturing"

Lebanon's Charge d'Affaires Hadi Hachem also condemned the Israeli heritage minister's comments, stressing that "this self-acknowledgment of having nuclear weapons and the threat of using them by its officials, poses a serious threat to both regional and international peace and security."

He urged Israel to stop "such rhetoric or posturing" and join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Iravani told the conference the nuclear threats directed toward Palestinians by high-ranking Israeli officials highlight Israel's "pride" in having these weapons in its hands.

"The secrecy surrounding Israel's nuclear capabilities poses a significant threat to regional stability," he said. "In these critical times, the imperative to establish such a zone in the Middle East has never been more urgent."

Efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone date back to the 1960s and include a call by parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1995 and a 1998 General Assembly

resolution asking countries to contribute to establishing it. The first UN conference aimed at creating a zone was held in November 2019.

"Extremely uncomfortable"

Russia's ambassador to the IAEA and other UN organizations based in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, told delegates Monday that given the new escalation of violence in the Middle East, a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region "is more pertinent than ever."

But he said Moscow is "extremely uncomfortable" that along with the two other sponsors of the 1995 resolution — the United States and the United Kingdom — the promise to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Mideast has not been met after almost 30 years. And for more than 20 years, "there's been almost no progress whatsoever," he said.

"In these critical times, the imperative to establish a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East has never been more urgent."

Israel's Eliyahu is criminally insane: nuclear physicist

'Certainly, suggesting to nuke Gaza refugees wouldn't significantly increase Israel's deterrence'

From Page 1 ▶ Don't you think the statement by Eliyahu was a bombshell to the extent that it can prompt other countries in the region to go after atomic bombs and a nuclear arms race begin in the region?

I hope Eliyahu's immediate removal from Israel's cabinet has limited the damage to the nuclear nonproliferation regime caused by his statement.

Some analysts claim that Eliyahu's threat was in coordination with top officials in Israel and that the criticism against him or his suspension was superficial. What do you think?

Netanyahu's cabinet is disturbingly insensitive to civilian casualties in Gaza, but I doubt that, even in Israel's extremist cabinet, there has been any serious discussion of the use of nuclear weapons against Gaza.

Also, some political analysts say the nuclear threat by Eliyahu was mainly aimed at Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. What is your view?



"Netanyahu's cabinet is disturbingly insensitive to civilian casualties in Gaza."

Everyone knows that Israel has nuclear weapons. That constitutes some kind of deterrent against an attack that would threaten Israel's existence. Certainly, a lunatic like Eliyahu suggesting the use of nuclear weapons against innocent refugees would not significantly increase that deterrent.

Now what is the main duty of the IAEA

and the international community at large given that Israel openly admits it has nuclear weapons?

The international community — especially the US — opposed Israel's acquisition of nuclear weapons. The Nonproliferation Treaty review process has forced the discussion of Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and what can be done about it to achieve a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East. I don't think that this criminal statement by a lunatic — from which Israel's Prime Minister quickly distanced himself — changes the situation significantly.

Given such an open threat of nuclear weapons, what is the importance of a nuclear arms-free zone in the Middle East?

I support a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. I support a Nuclear Weapons Free World. There are already too many dangers to the future of civilization. I have devoted my career to reducing the danger from nuclear weapons and will continue to do so as long as I am able.

Commander says Army possesses cutting-edge equipment

TEHRAN — A senior commander has proudly proclaimed the possession of the most advanced and cutting-edge military equipment by the Iranian Army.

"Today, in defiance of all sanctions, we stand independently, providing our essential defense equipment," Deputy Army Chief for Coordination Rear Admiral Sayyari told reporters on Tuesday.

Emphasizing the pivotal role of human resources, particularly in a military context, Sayyari underscored that personnel represent the most critical asset for any organization. He argued that proficient human resources empower organizations to

deliver the most effective response to threats.

Admiral Sayyari proudly declared that, amidst adversities, the army's qualitative human force has successfully acquired the best and most modern equipment, showcasing the nation's resilience and self-reliance.

He cited the Leader of the Islamic Revolution who had previously warned that possessing the best equipment without the qualitative force to utilize them would lead to inevitable loss.

The admiral emphasized that the world continues to be captivated by the successful

Iranian military operations over the past decades, with their lessons now integrated into university teachings.

Despite the challenges posed by sanctions, the Iranian Army, as highlighted by Admiral Sayyari, maintains its independence in supplying necessary defense equipment. This accomplishment, he underscored, is a testament to the empowering slogan, "we can," driven by the nation's qualitative human resources.

Iran has witnessed a surge in the export of military equipment in recent years. Experts believe that this global outreach not only enhances Iran's strategic influence but also solidifies its position as a significant player

in the international defense market. The ability to provide cutting-edge equipment, both domestically and internationally, seems to have positioned the Iranian military as a formidable force, showcasing the nation's commitment to self-sufficiency and excellence in the defense sector.

In the complex landscape of global geopolitics, Iran's achievements in the military sector are believed to underscore its capacity to navigate challenges as a self-reliant force, both at home and on the international stage. This narrative of resilience and success appears to have resonated both within and outside the country's borders.

Iran's deputy FM repeats calls for sanctions on Israel

From Page 1 ▶ Bagheri-Kani positioned Iran as a regional powerhouse against terrorism and power domination, showcasing its active and innovative global role.

He added, "Iran leverages all political and international capacities to defend the ideals of resistance and achieve its objectives."

The senior diplomat emphasized that all outcomes of the conflict's asymmetric nature will signify a clear defeat for the United States.

He added that Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel has confused Tel Aviv and Washington to the extent that despite the passage of more than

a month since the war started they have not yet been able to come to their senses and therefore they have resorted to massacring women and children and destroying the besieged enclave's infrastructure to compensate for their "historic defeat in their own imaginations".

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Team Melli squad announced for upcoming 2026 WCQ's

TEHRAN — Amir Ghalienei has announced the squad list for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Hong Kong and Uzbekistan.

The Iran national football team will begin their journey to qualify for the 2026 World Cup which will be joint-hosted by Mexico, Canada, and the United States of America.

Team Melli will host their first match against Hong Kong on November 16th, followed by a trip to Tashkent to face Uzbekistan on November 21st.

Iran was drawn into Group E in the 2nd round of World Cup qualifiers which includes Hong Kong, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The following squad list was announced to attend the camp for the upcoming qualifiers.

The squad:

Goalkeepers:

Alireza Beiranvand — Persepolis
Payam Niazmand — Sepahan
Hossein Hosseini — Esteghlal

Defenders:

Majid Hosseini — Kayserispor
Hossein Kannani — Persepolis
Shoja Khalilzadeh — Tractor
Amin Hazbavi — Al Sadd
Mohammad Daneshgar — Sepahan

Full Backs:

Sadeq Moharrai — Dinamo Zagreb
Ramin Rezaeian — Sepahan
Ehsan Hajsafi — AEK Athens
Milad Mohammadi — AEK Athens

Midfielders:

Saeid Ezatollahi — Vejle BK
Ahmad Nourollahi — Al Wahda
Ali Karimi — Kayserispor
Omid Ebrahimi — Al Wakrah
Rouzbeh Cheshmi — Esteghlal
Javad Hosseinejad — Sepahan
Mohammad Ghorbani — Sepahan

Attacking Midfielders:

Saman Ghoddos — Brentford
Alreza Jahanbakhsh — Feyenoord
Mohammad Mohebi — FK Rostov
Mehdi Torabi — Persepolis
Mehrdad Mohammadi — Esteghlal
Aria Yousefi — Sepahan
Forwards:
Sardar Azmoun — AS Roma
Mehdi Taremi — FC Porto
Karim Ansarifard — Omonia Nicosia
Reza Asadi — Sepahan
Saeid Saharkhizan — Havadar

U.S. denies visa to Iran's wushu team

TEHRAN — Iran's Wushu Federation announced that the United States did not issue visas for the national team members.

More than 500 martial arts athletes and 900 international delegates from about 75 countries and regions will gather in Fort Worth, Texas, to compete in the HYX 16th World Wushu Championships (WWC), marking the return of the event to the United States after almost 30 years.

The event is scheduled for Nov. 16-20.

Hosted by the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) and organized by the United States of American Wushu-Kungfu Federation (USAWKF), the championships were last held in Baltimore in 1995.

Wushu is the encompassing term for all martial arts styles originating in China and known more colloquially as Kungfu.

Iran victorious over Mongolia at 2023 IBSA Goalball Asia/Pacific

TEHRAN — Iran's men's team defeated Mongolia 11-1 in the 2023 IBSA Goalball Asia/Pacific Championships on Tuesday.

Team Melli, who had overpowered Kazakhstan 10-0 in their opening match, are scheduled to play South Korea in Group B on Wednesday in Hangzhou, China. Group A consists of China, Australia, Thailand, and Pakistan.

Iran, which won a bronze medal in the recent Asian Para Games, are in a very good position to get their ticket to Paris 2024.

China will be participating, but they have already qualified for the Paralympics. Japan, which won a silver medal in the same competition, decided not to participate in this continental championship, opening up all the possibilities for the Persian squad.

Iran too strong for Algeria at 2023 World Para Volley

TEHRAN — Iran eased past Algeria 3-0 (25-5, 25-10, 25-10) in the 2023 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Cup on Tuesday.

Team Melli had defeated Japan 3-0 in Group B in their opening match on Monday.

The World Cup is a Paris 2024 Paralympic qualifier, where one berth per gender is available for the winners or the highest placed non-qualified team of the tournament.

France (hosts), Iran, and Brazil have previously booked their place in the Paralympics.

Egypt, Rwanda, and Iraq are in Group A. Group B consists of Iran, Japan, and Algeria. Group C has Brazil, China, India, t Nigeria while Great Britain, France, Ukraine, and Germany are in Group D.

Iran lose to England at 2023 FIFA U17 World Cup

TEHRAN — Iran suffered a late 2-1 loss against England in the 2023 FIFA U17 World Cup on Tuesday in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Unmarked Abolfazl Zamani found the back of the net in the 31st minute for Iran but two second-half's goals from Denny Reiss and Joel Ndala sealed a win for England.

Reiss leveled the score with a strike outside the area and Ndala scored the winner in the added time after Iran goalkeeper Arsha Shakouri failed to clear the ball and the England forward found the back of the empty net.

Earlier in the day, Brazil defeated New Caledonia 9-0.

Iran, who had defeated Brazil 3-2 in their opening Group C match, will play New Caledonia on Friday in a must-win game.

Abdi apologizes over England's loss

TEHRAN — U17 football head coach Hossein Abdi expressed his apology to the Iranian people following a 2-1 loss against England in the 2023 FIFA U17 World Cup.

Unmarked Abolfazl Zamani found the back of the net in the 31st minute for Iran but two second-half's goals from Reiss Russell-Denny and Joel Ndala sealed a win for England at the Jakarta International Stadium.

"I apologize to everyone because we failed to make them happy," Abdi said after the match.

"We could have won the match but suffered a late loss, unfortunately. England are a great team and have previously won the title in the competition," he added.

"From now on, we concentrate on the match against New Caledonia. We still have a chance of qualifying for the next stage," Abdi concluded.

'Grounds prepared to build renewable power plants with 6,900MW capacity'

TEHRAN – The spokesperson of the Iranian Energy Ministry's electricity sector has said that the necessary preparations have been made for the construction of renewable power plants with a total capacity of 6,900 megawatts (MW) across the country, IRNA reported.

Mostafa Rajabi-Mashhadi put the current nominal capacity of the country's renewable power plants at 1,090 MW, saying that the ministry plans to add 5,400 MW to the capacity of the mentioned power plants across the country over the next Iranian calendar year (begins in late March 2024).

Rajabi-Mashhadi, who is the head of Iran Grid Management Company, expressed hope that with the increase in the share of renewable power plants in the country's electricity network, the use of fossil fuels will decrease in thermal power plants.

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

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



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

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

Back in July, Mahmoud Kamani, the head of the country's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), said the capacity of renewable power plants is increasing regularly and daily in the country.

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

Tehran hosting intl. electricity exhibition

TEHRAN – The 23rd Iran International Electricity Exhibition (IEE 2023) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior energy officials including Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian along with the energy ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The four-day exhibition covers various areas including production, transmission, and distribution, as well as high, medium, and low-voltage electrical equipment.

Some 474 domestic firms along with 110 foreign exhibitors from different countries,

including Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, China, South Korea, Croatia, Turkey, Spain, India, Slovenia, Poland, and Japan, are showcasing their latest products and services in this exhibition.

All kinds of electrical panels, lighting equipment, smart equipment, diesel generators and electric motors, batteries, and UPS; earthing and protection systems, transformers, wires and cables, industrial automation and precision instruments, and measuring equipment are being presented at IEE 2023.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Energy, the energy ministers of five countries, including Pakistan, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, are also scheduled to visit this event.

NIOC inks contracts with domestic firms to drill 35 wells in South Pars

TEHRAN – The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) signed four contracts with domestic companies to drill 35 infill wells in the South Pars gas field, the NIOC managing director said on Monday.

According to Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, the mentioned contracts, worth \$1.17 billion, are aimed at enhancing productivity and maintaining gas production in this giant field that Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

Supervised by the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), the projects will be carried out within three years, the NIOC head said.

The megaprojects will not only help develop the country's gas industry and economy but also

create job opportunities and promote domestic capabilities, the deputy oil minister underlined.

According to the official, similar contracts will be awarded to qualified Iranian companies in the near future.

Earlier, the POGC managing director said Iran's gas production capacity in the South Pars field will exceed 730 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) in the upcoming winter.

In an exclusive interview with Shana, POGC head Mohammad Hossein Motejalli added a 30 mcm/d increase in winter output of the world's largest joint gas field has been planned through putting several wells of Phase 11 and Platform 13A as well as a new pipeline of Phase 16 into operation.



Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company

Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of 16 Nos. Floating & Submarine spare hoses Pipes Related to the SPM of the Jask Oil Field project, Tender No. 935010

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase 16 Nos. Floating & Submarine spare hoses Pipes Related to the SPM of the Jask Oil Field project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 30 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Tel: +9821-82841902 (or) with Tel: +9821-82842740 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

Iran, Afghanistan determined to expand trade, transit ties

From page 1 ► fundamental step in the development of trade relations between the two countries of Iran and Afghanistan.

The embassy added that this center will be a place for Afghan businessmen to familiarize themselves with Iranian products.

The development of exports to Afghanistan with the establishment of a permanent trade center for Iranian goods in Kabul was considered the beginning of a new chapter in the economic relations between the two countries.

Then in late July, a joint exhibition of products made in Iran and Afghanistan kicked off in Afghanistan's western city of Herat.

Over 20 major Iranian and Afghan producers showcased their products and services in 22 booths during the four-day exhibition.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by officials from both sides, including the organizer of the exhibition Ali Khaksar, Iran's Consul General in Herat Mohammad Sediqifar, and Deputy Head of Herat Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahmad Saeed Sideqi.

Speaking to the press in the opening ceremony, Khaksar said the economics of Iran and Afghanistan are complementary and, in this regard, Iran seeks to set up production lines in Afghanistan to jointly produce the commodities needed by the Afghan market.

Introducing the Iranian industrialists to their Afghan counterparts can be an effective way to develop trade exchanges between the two countries, Ahmad Saeed Sideqi said on the sidelines of the exhibition.

Sediqifar for his part said the expansion of trade between Iran and Afghanistan benefits the two countries.

In late June, during the visit of the head of the Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Afghan desk to Afghanistan, important agreements were made for the development of trade relations between the two countries.



Hamidreza Karbalaie Esmaili's visit to Afghanistan was aimed at improving trade relations between the two neighbors in the fields of technical and engineering services, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, petrochemical products, food industry, etc.

During the visit, Esmaili met and held talks with the economic, commercial, and medical officials of the country, including the acting minister of public health, first deputy of the chamber of commerce and investment, director general of Afghanistan customs, deputy and senior advisor to the acting minister of trade, consul general of Iran in Herat, border guard commissioner, and director general of Dogharoun customs.

Following the talks, the two sides reached initial agreements for completing several infrastructure projects and decided to begin negotiations on a preferential trade agreement and expanding customs cooperation.

Also, agreements were made regarding the formation of a joint industrial zone at the two countries' border, with energy infrastructure being supplied by Iran and the investment for establishing the zone being provided by Afghan businessmen in collaboration with the Iranian private sector.

The Afghan side also announced its readiness to open a transit route from Pakistan to Iran's Khorasan Razavi Province via the Taftan-Chaman-Islam Qala-Mashhad route, which will reduce the route between the two countries from 1500 kilometers (km) to less than 1000 km.

The most recent important measure taken by the two

neighbors in line with developing trade ties was signing five memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on cooperation in different economic sectors.

The MOUs were signed in a ceremony on November 9 in the presence of Iranian Agriculture Minister Mohammad-Ali Nikbakht, President Raisi's special envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi, and Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Taliban Government Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. The mentioned MOUs include the cooperation document of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting, the document of the two sides' Joint International Road Transport Cooperation Committee meeting, the MOU between Iran's Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) and the Afghan side, the MOU between Iran's Esfahan Steel Company and the Afghan side, and the MOU between Iran's Secretariat of Free Trade and Special Economic Zones and the Afghan sides.

Afghanistan's delegation arrived in Iran on November 4. The 30-member delegation was led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

In the same day, Iran's capital Tehran hosted an Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting for the first time after the new government in Afghanistan took office.

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

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

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

Also, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash hosted a meeting with Afghanistan's Acting Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Hamidullah Akhundzada in which the two sides discussed ways of developing transport ties.

In a televised program on November 6, senior officials from Iran and Afghanistan explored ways of expanding economic ties between the two countries in order to increase trade exchanges to a target of \$10 billion.

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

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

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

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

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

Iran's October oil output rises 46,000 bpd: OPEC

TEHRAN – Iran produced 3.115 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in October, registering a 46,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report.

Based on secondary sources, Iran produced 3.069 million bpd of crude oil in September, the report said.

The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the third quarter of 2023 stood at 2.996 million bpd

indicating a 298,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the second quarter of the year, the report said. The report put the average Iranian crude output for 2022 at 2.554 million bpd, while the average output in 2021 was 2.392 million bpd.

These statistics show that the Islamic Republic has maintained its place as the third largest oil producer among the OPEC members.



Iran exports commodities worth \$303m to Azerbaijan in 7 months

TEHRAN– Iran exported commodities valued at \$303.315 million to Azerbaijan during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22),

according to the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Ruhollah Latifi said that the value

of Iran's export to its neighbor, Azerbaijan, fell 28 percent in the seven-month period of this year, from that of the previous year. As previously announced by the Islamic Republic of

Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of trade between Iran and Azerbaijan increased by 13 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Free Zones High Council to facilitate activity of SMEs in such zones

TEHRAN – The secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council said several programs are being pursued by the council for promoting employment in free zones and providing better conditions for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

"While we encourage small businesses to execute their projects, we are also following programs for improving employment in these areas by providing conditions for small businesses," Hojatollah Abdolmaleki told IRIB.

According to Abdolmaleki, more than 100,000 small businesses and 2,500 medium-sized enterprises have expressed readiness to invest in

the country's free zones and the Free Zones High Council is determined to completely support them.

The establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 - March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the

year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azerbaijan Province and Maku in West-Azerbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

The development of existing free trade zones and the establishment of new FTZs has become one of the major economic approaches of the Iranian government.

TEDPIX drops 9,700 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN– TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 9,788 points (0.48 percent) to 2,046,171 on Tuesday, which is the

fourth day of the Iranian calendar week. TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile

Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

'Must go' and 'Jail now'

Israelis' exploding anger towards Bibi

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Israel has been taking up a massive ground offensive into Gaza for more than a month now. Israeli officials say they are bent on eradicating Hamas while they continue their outside deadly attacks on civilians in the Gaza Strip.

The U.S., amidst calls to pull the plug on Israel, has been doing everything in its power to buttress Israel's lost clout and credibility, refusing to ask the regime to dial down its attacks on women and children.

But many in the occupied territories believe that the biggest victims of the ongoing Israeli onslaughts are Israelis themselves. That's because among the vast carnage caused by the regime's ruthless atrocities, the captives held by Hamas forces are also present.

On November 4, protesters encircled the Israeli prime minister's residence in occupied al-Quds, firmly asserting the demand for Netanyahu's immediate resignation. The demonstrators, comprising families of those affected by the Hamas October 7 operation and individuals held captive in Gaza, expressed deep frustration over what they perceive as inadequate measures to avert the Hamas attack and secure the release of some 200 captives currently held in Gaza. They chanted "must go" and "jail now" asking for the largely detested politician to step down.

"My family wasn't kidnapped because of Hamas. My family was kidnapped because the army didn't come out to defend me. That's the reason. Hamas is tiny compared to the giant Israel," a family member of one of the captives told Israeli media during the protest. Others called on Israeli officials to tone down their animus towards Gaza and take into account the lives of Israeli captives.

Following significant backlash from



Pictures of Faul Azai Mark Asiani, an Israeli captive in Gaza who was killed during the regime's airstrike, and Elizabeth Tsurkov, an Israeli spy arrested in Iraq who has complained about the regime not taking any action to secure her release

affected families and well-known figures within the Israeli war cabinet, the prime minister announced on Sunday the potential for a deal to secure the release of Israeli captives, aiming to calm the waters. However, he refrained from disclosing any specifics about the potential agreement. "I think the less I say about it the more I'll increase the chances it materializes," he said, speaking as if he was commenting on a wish he made after blowing out his birthday candles.

Subsequently, a spokesman for the Al-Qassem Brigades revealed that Israel exhibited reluctance towards the release of captives. Abu Obeida remarked that the regime is prolonging discussions regarding a possible arrangement, one that would entail the liberation of dozens of Israelis in exchange for the release of Palestinian women and children

held in Israel's prisons. He further noted the death of an Israeli female soldier in an airstrike by the regime a few days prior.

Netanyahu seems to be procrastinating on a deal with Hamas to release Israeli captives, mindful that once the war ends, his political career too, will come to an end.

Recent polls indicate that Netanyahu would face defeat if elections were held at present. A poll conducted on November 3 revealed that 76% of Israelis favor Netanyahu's resignation. On November 7, a prominent pro-Netanyahu newspaper altered its position and published an editorial advocating for his removal following the war.

In his 16 years of tenure, Netanyahu has been touting himself as a stalwart figure in matters of security.

His infamous speeches on how Iran poses an existential threat to Israel, have aided him in gaining significant votes during Israel's highly contested elections. But his conduct as well as the occurrence of the regime's biggest security failure under his watch, suggest that Netanyahu has been veering from any security control measures.

Another recent development has also shed light on the true stance of Israeli politicians, implying that they may not truly prioritize the safety and security of Israelis who have been drawn to the occupied territories from across the world to live in the "national homeland of the Jewish people".

An Israeli woman, who was captured in Iraq earlier this year, surfaced in a video aired by Iraq's Al Rabiaa satellite network on Monday. Elizabeth Tsurkov confessed to spying for Mossad in Iraq and Syria, while expressing grievances that Israeli authorities have not taken any tangible measures over the past six months to secure her release.

"This war that is being stupidly run by Netanyahu through his wife, Sara, and his son, Yair, will lead to the hostages being killed. If you want your sons and daughters to return alive, the war must stop," Tsurkov told the families of Israeli captives held in Gaza, urging them to stop the regime's devastating attacks on the besieged territory.

While Netanyahu remains flummoxed by the need to fulfill his personal interests, Israelis living in the occupied territories are becoming less inclined by the day to support the occupation. Netanyahu's disregard towards the safety of Israeli captives, and those risking their lives to serve Mossad, has prodded Israelis to think twice about living in what's been propagated as an eternal safe haven for Jews.

How Hezbollah helps Gaza

From page 1 ► The popular Lebanese group is now using new missiles and weaponised drones.

Hezbollah has dispatched a large number of drones to the occupied Palestinian territories, as far as Haifa and beyond.

Some of these are surveillance drones that return with the required spying material.

Other drones that Hezbollah has flown toward occupied territories do not return.

Hezbollah says it prefers that these drones do not return as they use up missiles from the Israeli Iron Dome system, the Patriot Missile system, and sometimes forces the regime to scramble its combat helicopters and warplanes.

This is a daily occurrence and complicates the Israeli regime's military action against the besieged Gaza Strip.

There is heightened anxiety among the Israeli military about another front opening up in the north.

Analysts have pointed out that this anxiety also relieves some of the pressure that Gaza is facing.

Israel's anxiety is also evident in the statements of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant, who have raised their threats against Hezbollah and Lebanon.

For the first time in Hezbollah's history, it has fired what is known as Burkan missiles against the Israeli occupation forces.

The Burkan missile can be loaded with up to half a ton of explosives. These missiles have led to extensive damage against Israeli troops, military bases, and installations that include spying devices, which the Zionists continue to install near the Lebanese border.

Hezbollah says it will continue on this path in solidarity with Gaza and will address, study, and take military measures on a daily basis on the backdrop of the crisis unfolding in the Gaza Strip.

Experts say if the United States wants to prevent the war on Gaza from expanding to other fronts, it can very easily tell the Israeli regime in private to end its bombardment of innocent civilians.

The powerful Lebanese political party and resistance group has been trading fire with the Israeli military on a daily basis since October 8, a day after Hamas' retaliatory al-Aqsa Storm operation.

On Tuesday, Israeli artillery shells and drones struck around a dozen Lebanese border villages and towns.

On Friday, the deputy manager of just one

Israeli hospital in the occupied Galilee said they received more than 350 casualties, among them troops and settlers.

There have been growing casualties on both sides.

Hezbollah says it has inflicted "more than 1,400 casualties among the Zionists since the beginning of the war until Sunday".

Dozens of Hezbollah soldiers have also died.

For about three weeks, the fighting was largely contained within several kilometers between the Lebanese and Israeli-occupied Palestinian border, but Hezbollah has expanded its range of fire.

Over the past ten days, the Lebanese resistance started using Katyusha rockets deeper into the occupied Palestinian territories in retaliation for the aggression that the regime's military has been committing against Lebanese civilians.

Hezbollah immediately retaliated after an Israeli attack killed an elderly Lebanese woman and her three granddaughters by targeting the Israeli settlement of Kiryat Shmona with Katyusha rockets.

The Israeli strike has been condemned as a "reckless disregard for civilian life" by Human Rights Watch (HRW).

The three children and their grandmother were killed when the Israeli military struck a car between the towns of Ainata and Aitaroun.

The children's mother survived the attack and remains in hospital.

The human rights organization said Israeli authorities have "long failed to credibly investigate their own serious abuses, even when they acknowledge they carried them out".

"With Israeli authorities continuing to commit abuses with impunity, Israel's allies should insist on accountability for Israel's violations of the laws of war and this apparent war crime," HRW added.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah's central media released a series of statements each backed by a video entitled "in support of the resilient Palestinian people in Gaza and in solidarity with their brave and honorable resistance." The videos show Hezbollah commandos at the frontline destroying Israeli logistical forces, infantry forces, military bases, barracks, and outposts. The footage shows Israeli troops and military installations being blown up.

One Hezbollah missile attack led to injuries and deaths among Israeli workers at a spying



Hezbollah has dispatched a large number of drones to the occupied Palestinian territories, as far as Haifa and beyond.

center, which Western media referred to as an Israeli electric company. In what has been seen as an attempt by the Israeli military to censor the military events unfolding in the north, it struck a group of journalists in the southern Lebanese town of Yaroun.

The journalists say the regime launched missiles from a drone in the sky that landed very close, lightly injuring some of them.

Hezbollah dismissed Israel's narrative of the attack, saying it was "aimed at preventing the media from exposing its terrorist practices, while they were on an announced and known tour in the town of Yaroun to cover the effects of the Zionist attacks."

The mayor of Yaroun said two successive Israeli strikes "targeted the group of journalists," hitting several meters from the teams' vehicles and causing damage.

Israeli media described Monday as being "the most heated day since the beginning of the battle in the north," adding that "Hezbollah ignored the warnings of Galant". On Monday, Sayyed Hashem Safeiddine, head of Hezbollah's executive council, declared that "the Resistance against the Israeli enemy is enduring and persistent".

Adding further pressure on the regime, the missiles of the Lebanese resistance have weakened the Israeli currency against the dollar and the euro.

Israeli media strongly indicated that tensions on the border with Hezbollah are leading to a decline in the shekel against the dollar and the euro.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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WORLD HEADLINES

U.S. President sued for "complicity" in Gaza war



New York civil liberties group the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) has filed a federal lawsuit against U.S. President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, for their "complicity in the Israeli government's unfolding genocide" in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The CCR filed the lawsuit on behalf of Palestinian human rights organizations, Palestinians in Gaza and U.S. citizens, calling on the U.S. government to put an end to its annual delivery of \$3.8bn in military aid to Israel.

The move comes as more than 11,000 civilians have so far been killed during Israeli strikes in Gaza. More than half of the buildings in the Palestinian territory have sustained damage, as the regime continues to justify its deliberate targeting of civilian sites as "collateral damage".

"Numerous Israeli government leaders have expressed clear genocidal intentions and deployed dehumanizing characterizations of Palestinians, including 'human animals,'" wrote the group in its complaint.

The U.S. president has been casting doubt on civilian casualties in Gaza, saying he does not trust Palestinian health authorities' reports. He, however, has not clarified how he plans to monitor death tolls in the war-torn region.

Over 700,000 children displaced in Gaza: UNICEF

More than 700,000 children in the Gaza Strip have been forced to leave their homes and belongings in a bid to save their lives, according to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

"As humanitarian needs grow, UNICEF calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, for sustained and unimpeded access to provide assistance and safe release of all abducted children," wrote the UN agency on X.

The body previously warned that the lives of an increasing number of Palestinian children are being put in danger each day, as an ongoing Israeli aggression has paralyzed medical and healthcare services in Gaza.

The UN special rapporteur to the occupied Palestinian territories has slammed the international community for their silence in the face of Israel's genocidal attacks on Gaza.

"I am being generous when I say the UN is experiencing its most epic political and humanitarian failure since its creation," said Francesca Albanese on Tuesday.

Thousands of Palestinian children have also been killed since Israel unleashed its deadly onslaughts against Gaza, in response to a Hamas operation on October 7.

Israeli military says has failed in its 'primary objective'

A top military official in Israel has admitted that the regime "failed at its primary objective of providing an early warning of war".

Aharon Haliva was referring to how the occupied territories were infiltrated by forces of the Hamas resistance movement on the morning of October 7. Some analysts believe Hamas practiced the operation at least three times in 2021, 2022, and 2023, inside the Gaza Strip.

"We are required to investigate this incident and take responsibly," wrote Haliva in a letter to Israeli soldiers.

He added that the current war Israel is engaged in is not only limited to Gaza. "It has multi-front and regional aspects that are increasing its complexity".

Resistance forces in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq, have entered the fight against the Israeli occupation by targeting Israeli and American positions in the region. Reports suggest that dozens of Israeli forces have so far been killed during Hezbollah's attacks on the occupied territories. Yemen's Ansarullah movement has also hit Israel by missiles and drones.

Indians stage pro-Palestine rally despite crackdown

In the Indian capital, a group known as the Solidarity Movement orchestrated a pro-Palestine demonstration on Tuesday, advocating for a ceasefire in Gaza. Dozens gathered at Lodhi Garden in New Delhi, adorned in black attire, and formed groups of four, collectively reciting the names of those who lost their lives in the besieged territory since October 7.

The demonstration follows the detainment of several individuals in various Indian cities during recent solidarity rallies for Palestinians. Globally, millions have joined rallies in support of Palestine over the past month. Meanwhile, Western governments have been seeking to suppress peaceful demonstrators in an effort to appease Israel.

Jewish journalist kicked out of train for questioning U.S. senator about Gaza

A renowned Jewish journalist named Aeron mate was forcefully removed from a train in the U.S. city of Philadelphia on Tuesday, after a democratic senator found his questions about the Israeli genocide in Gaza unpleasing.

"Children are dying. U.S. weapons are killing kids in Gaza," mate can be heard asking the senator in a video he later released himself. The senator named Chris Coon, however asks the journalist to stop talking to him. After being pressed about his position on the genocide occurring in Gaza, Coon says that he is not going to call for a ceasefire. "Stop or I'm going to have you thrown of this train," he threatened. Mate was removed from the public transport 30 minutes later.

Western governments have been cracking down on any voices opposing Israel, including the Jews. Hundreds of Jewish Americans were detained in a pro-Palestine rally in the United States earlier this month.

Israel intensifies attacks on Southern Gaza after telling people to flee there

Israel has intensified its attacks on areas across Southern Gaza, despite previously telling civilians in northern Gaza to move south to save their lives.

The regime has also ramped up its assaults in the occupied West Bank. Palestine Red Crescent Society says they have been under relentless attacks by Israeli forces in Tulkarem.

'Strange structure' exposed near ancient stronghold in northern Iran



TEHRAN – The remnants of a “strange structure” were discovered near Qal'eh Rudkhan days after the historical stronghold underwent restoration in northern Iran.

“A team of local researchers has discovered a strange structure which was completely hidden from sight,” Gilan province's tourism chief said.

The ruins, which were hidden under tree trunks, bear exterior coatings of Sarooj (a traditional water-resistant mortar used in Iranian architecture), the official explained.

“This strange structure is not unrelated to Qal'eh Rudkhan... Seemingly, the structure served as an exclusive seat for elite forces related to the rulership of the fortress.”

Providing further details, the official said the structure was probably part of a bigger observation post.

“The opening of this structure is about six square meters and the depth of its specific part is four meters... Moreover, traces of hand-made lime mortar and soil are evident on the floor of this structure.”

“There is a strong possibility that this structure was a part of a tunnel or the entrance to the fortress or a natural cave near this historical monument, and the exact theory of this discovery will be announced after archaeological investigations.”

So far, a (government) budget of 25 billion rials (\$50,000) has been allocated to the restoration project, the official said earlier this week. “Due to its old age and being located in a humid and forested climate, much damage has been caused to this historical monument over centuries.”

Preliminary evidence, uncovered by digging, indicates the foundation of the structure was

built in the Sasanian era (224–651) and rebuilt in the Seljuk's reign (ca. 1040–1157).

Made of brick and stone, the walled fortress occupies an area of about 50,000 square meters. The property is built on two sides of a jagged rocky region, so its architecture benefits from natural mountainous features. To this day, there is no precise information regarding the date of its construction. However, the monument was continually in use until the Zand Dynasty in the 18th century.

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

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

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

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

tally-friendly architecture, and be accessible without a car.

However, travelers can filter their search to find specific interests such as plant-based food, and electric vehicle charging stations powered by renewable energy.

Ms Ombellini says some accommodation providers offer discounts for guests arriving by bicycle, or those not using a car during the trip.

When someone finds a place that they would like to book, Ecobnb does not take the payment. Rather it contacts the property, which then emails the person directly. Ecobnb makes its money by charging the venues a monthly subscription to list on its website.

Ms Ombellini says that 2.8 million travelers now use Ecobnb per year, up from 780,000 in 2018.

“Holidaymakers are rethinking their relationship with planet Earth,” she says. “There is a new awareness, especially in young people, about our responsibility for our future and for the planet.”

Statistics appear to back this up. A study this year found that 69% of travelers were now “actively seeking sustainable travel options.”

In the Netherlands, Conscious Hotels is a chain of seven eco hotels whose environmental features include only using renewable energy and only buying sustainably sourced furniture, and solely serving vegetarian food, of which 90% of comes from a 90km (56 mile) radius.

(Source: BBC)

Cracks on UNESCO-listed tower dormant, director says

TEHRAN – Cracks, which are visible on the exterior and interior sides of Gonbad-e Kavus, are dormant and quite old, the director of the World Heritage site has said.

Cracks that exist on the inside and outside of the tower are not a new problem. In fact, they were visible when the monument was due to gain UNESCO status, Abdolmajid Nourtaghani said on Tuesday.

His comments came days after some Internet users expressed worries over the fate of the UNESCO-registered monument concerning the cracks and lamented the way that the 1,000-year-old tower is treated.

“Field investigations indicate those cracks are not active.”

“The official said a detailed examination should be carried out to detect reasons behind the cracks and formulate solutions... Because any decision regarding possible great risks requires a deep structural study.”



Located in Golestan province, the monument is of high architectural importance as an exemplar and innovative design of early Islamic-era architecture.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said the tower has withstood some magnitude 6 earthquakes.

“This building enjoys a tradi-

tional structure that has survived at least three earthquakes above six on the Richter scale in the last century, earthquakes that caused a lot of damage to other buildings in the city of Gonbad-e Kavus at that time.”

Visible from great distances in the surrounding lowlands near the ancient Ziyarid capital, Jorjan,

the 53-meter high Gonbad-e Qabus dominates a modern town of the same name laid out around its base in the early 20th century.

Its hollow, cylindrical shaft of unglazed fired brick tapers up from an intricate geometric plan in the form of a ten-pointed star to a conical roof. Two encircling kufic inscriptions commemorate Qabus Ibn Voshmgir, Ziyarid ruler as its founder in 1006 CE.

As mentioned by UNESCO, the monument bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The structure capped by an eye-catching conical roof boasts intricate geometric principles and patterns that embellish parts of its load-bearing brickwork.

Centuries-old murals of Safavid palace undergo restoration



TEHRAN – A restoration work has commenced on centuries-old frescoes that once adorned Isfahan's Chehel Sotoun Palace, where Safavid kings received dignitaries and foreign ambassadors in their capital city.

“A team of experienced restorers has started work on murals in the northern hall of Chehel Sotoun Palace,” Isfahan province's deputy tourism chief said on Tuesday.

“Once covered by a plaster layer, those mu-

ralis were taken out decades ago during a protection project,” Seyyed Mehdi Mousavi said.

The official said those frescoes were probably executed by Reza Abbasi (c.1565 – 1635) or his pupils. Abbasi was a leading Persian miniaturist of the Isfahan School during the later Safavid period.

“These murals, which were the product of the Isfahan school of painting and were executed by the master Reza Abbasi or his students, were unfortunately hacked in the past historical periods and covered with plaster, which was revealed during the protection measures of the 1940s.”

Fortunately, according to the arrangements made, the preservation and restoration of these murals was started by experienced restorers and experts of this General Directorate, he stated.

Chehel Sotoun was constructed as a pleasure pavilion and reception hall in the midst of a large park, itself an exemplar of the Persian Garden which has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The royal complex was once part of the royal precinct that stretched between Naqsh-e Jah-

an (Imam) Sq. and Chahar Bagh Abbasi St.

Chehel Sotoun, which literally means “Forty Columns”, derives from the illusion that the twenty columns of the front portico are doubled by the reflecting pool to the south.

Chehel Sotoun is entered via an elegant terrace that connects a pattern of the Persian garden to an interior of elaborate design and splendor. The palace boasts eye-catching frescoes that depict multitudes of human figures, royal meetings, and battle scenes among them: the reception of an Uzbek King in 1646 and the infamous Battle of Chaldiran against the Ottoman Sultan Selim I.

Based on historical records, the building was initially constructed in the mid-17th century and rebuilt in 1706 following a raging fire.

Nicknamed Nesf-e-Jahan (“half the world”), Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Tourist arrivals in Occupied Lands hit steep plunge in October

TEHRAN – Tourist arrivals in Israeli-controlled lands fell by 76% annually in October because of the conflict in Gaza and the cancellation of the majority of flights to and from Tel Aviv, Mehr reported.

The report by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics noted that 89,700 tourists visited Israel in October, with the majority entering before the seventh day of the month, before the outbreak of the

Al-Aqsa Flood Operation, a surprise attack launched by the Palestinian resistance group, Hamas, against Israel.

A comparison with the number of international arrivals during October last year, reveals significant damage inflicted on the sector due to the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation and the subsequent Israeli war against Gaza, the report said.

Since the end of the coronavi-

rus pandemic, the Occupied Lands launched promotional campaigns to encourage tourism aimed at retaining 2019 figures, which had not been achieved by the end of 2022, according to Israeli statistical data.

A report on Monday from Secret Flights, a website that tracks flight data, indicated an 80% average decline in flights to and from Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv since the out-

break of the conflict.

The website reported that around 100 flights per day landed at Ben Gurion Airport during the conflict, compared to 500 daily flights before the war.

Since Oct. 7, the Zionist regime has made relentless air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip. At least 11,180 Palestinians, most of them children and women, have been killed.

Largest ancient floor mosaic in Cappadocia and central Anatolia region uncovered

The structure with the largest floor mosaic in Cappadocia and Central Anatolia Region was unearthed during the excavations carried out in Öreñşehir District of Incesu district of Kayseri province, located in the center of Türkiye.

During ongoing excavations, new mosaics were unearthed from the villa, which is estimated to have been built in the 4th century.

The excavations are carried out under the direction of Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University, Department of Art History, Lecturer Dr Can Erpek.

Kayseri Provincial Director of Culture and Tourism, Şükrü Dursun, stated that the excavation began three years ago and that “the structure is expanding every year.” The initial assess-

ment of the mosaic area, which was 300 square meters, has now reached up to 600 square meters.”

Stating that the excavations carried out with the support of Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality continued in an area of approximately 4 thousand square meters, Dursun continued his words as follows:

“In our assessments, we have come to the conclusion that this place was built in the 4th century. According to the findings, there are also traces dating back to the 3rd century and beyond. The quality craftsmanship used in the floor mosaics suggests that this place was used as a very important villa in its era.”

“In the area identified as the reception hall, a Latin inscription was found. In addition to that,

Greek inscriptions were also uncovered. Geometrically decorated mosaics are predominantly present here. We have reached the end of our excavations for this year. Hopefully, our work will continue next year.”

The excavation director, Can Erpek stated that the structure continued to be used during the Byzantine period and after the Turks came to Anatolia.

He said, “This place has approximately 33 rooms, spread over a very large area, and is a high-level residence. We have not yet fully reached the boundaries of this residence. It has highly valuable floor mosaics. In the Central Anatolia Region, which includes the Cappadocia region, we do not see such a large residence with floor mosaics. In Cappadocia, during the Roman and Byzantine periods,

we generally know about imperial properties. Here, we have encountered the name ‘Hyacinthos’ in the inscriptions. We consider this name to belong to an administrator. When the data becomes clearer, we can more confidently say that it was the residence of an important figure serving in imperial property.”

Stating that Kayseri resembles an open-air museum, Metropolitan Mayor Memduh Büyükkılıç stated that they supported 6 archaeological excavations in different parts of the city.

Büyükkılıç said, “The mosaics unearthed during the excavations here once again emphasized that Kayseri is the cradle of civilization in Anatolia.”

(Source: Arkeonews)

'Tourists are rethinking their relationship with Earth'

It was while visiting an Italian city for work that Silvia Ombellini and her husband Simone Riccardi dreamt up the idea to set up a website dedicated to sustainable tourism.

Mr Riccardi was working for an Italian university at the time, 10 years ago, and had to go to the city of Potenza in the south of the country for a conference.

The couple say they wanted to book a hotel with good environmental credentials, but that they really struggled to find one. “We were looking for sustainable accommodation, but it was not so easy to find online and book,” says Ms Ombellini.

So it sparked the idea for a business - a website called Ecobnb, where people can search for environmentally-friendly hotels, home rentals, B&Bs, and other forms of accommodation.

“We wanted to create a meeting point between eco travelers and accommodation owners investing in a better future,” adds Ms Ombellini.

Today Ecobnb, based in Trento, in northern Italy, lists more than 3,000 properties worldwide, from a vegan and organic farmhouse in Tuscany, to an eco mountain lodge in Costa Rica.

To feature on the site, accommodation providers must meet at least five of 10 standards. These are - use 100% renewable energy, serve organic or locally sourced food, collect and reuse rain water, have low consumption lightbulbs, use solar power to heat water, see that more than 80% of waste is recycled, use eco-friendly cleaning products, have water flow reducers fitted, include environmen-

Over 900 Iranians among world's top 1% most-cited researchers

TEHRAN – A total of 938 Iranian researchers have been recognized among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers in 2023, the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Institute said.

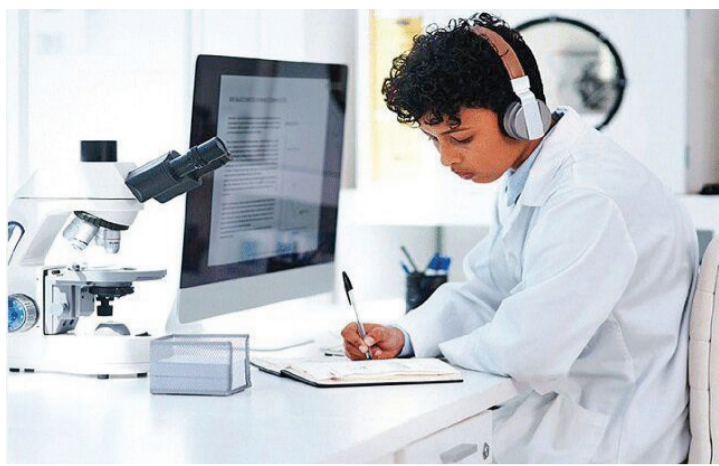
"The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology represents 40 percent, and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education accounts for 48 percent of the most-cited Iranian researchers," ISNA quoted Ahmad Fazelzadeh as saying.

In 2023, 938 top researchers affiliated with Iranian organizations have been identified, which shows a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year. Over the past decade, the number of highly-cited researchers in the country has been growing.

Medicine and Health with 33 percent, Multidisciplinary with 23 percent, Engineering with 20.5 percent, Basic Sciences with 12 percent, Agriculture and Environment with 10 percent, and Social and Human Sciences with 1.7 percent held the highest shares of the most-cited researchers, respectively.

One of ISC's main responsibilities is to introduce highly-cited researchers and to provide the possibility to identify and introduce elite researchers and scholars. That is why scientific elites are the most important factor in the growth and development of scientific systems, and the number of institutions and highly-cited researchers is one of the criteria of scientific authority in the world.

The ISC Institute has extracted and monitored the latest list of the



world's top 1 percent most-cited Iranian researchers in 22 science subject areas based on the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database.

In 2023, the University of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares University and Amirkabir University of Technology from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences from the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education have the highest number of one percent researchers.

Based on 22 subject areas, 23 percent of these researchers belong to the field of Clinical Medicine. The field of multi-disciplinary subjects with 22.6 percent and engineering with 19 percent, are ranked second and third in terms of having the greatest number of highly-cited Iranian researchers. These three fields account for about 65 percent of all

highly-cited researchers in Iran.

First among Islamic countries

The Islamic Republic of Iran ranks first among Islamic countries for having the highest number of top two percent most-cited researchers, Fazelzadeh said in October.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia are in the second and third places, respectively.

The ISC is responsible for monitoring the status of science and technology in Iran and other Islamic countries based on scientometric analyses.

It analyzes and reports the latest findings from various reliable sources and authorities to raise awareness about the scientific performance of the country and its latest developments, IRNA quoted Fazelzadeh as saying.

"It also provides the necessary information to managers of science and technology in the country for planning and policy-making to encourage and reinforce strengths and provide solu-

tions to overcome shortcomings and challenges," he added.

One of these reports is based on the latest findings of the joint project of Elsevier (Scopus Database) and a group of Stanford University researchers known as "Stanford University Scientists Rankings".

The latest update of this database was published in October 2023.

The list analyzed the performance of authors for their published research outputs from 1960 to 2022 in 22 specific fields and 174 sub-fields, and based on that, introduced the scientists who are among the top two percent of the most-cited researchers in the world.

Fazelzadeh pointed out that in each edition, this database publishes two lists of highly-cited researchers in the top two percent of the world.

The difference between these two lists is the time period of the analyzed citations.

In one of the announced lists, the period of citations received is one year, and in the other list, the period of citations received is from 1996 onwards.

In the list published based on the one-year performance of researchers, out of 210,198 international researchers, 2,140 researchers were from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As he said, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken the first place in terms of the number of highly cited researchers in the top two percent among Islamic countries, and Turkey and Saudi Arabia are in the second and third places, respectively.

NCDs account for 83% of mortalities: official

TEHRAN – A significant percentage of deaths, almost 83 percent, in the country are caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs), according to an official with the Ministry of Health.

A large number of deaths in the country are caused by cardiovascular diseases. That's why high blood pressure and diabetes, as risk factors, have been prioritized by the NCD Office and the Ministry of Health, IRNA quoted Farzaneh Farbaksh as saying.

Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure can be easily controlled in the early stages even without taking medication, she added.

The national health campaign, which kicked off on November 11, seeks to improve the health of the population group aged over 18 by extensive screening.

It aims at detecting diseases and informing the target group about these illnesses and their risks.

"The main objective of this campaign is to detect diseases in the early stages to provide more effective care for our countrymen," Farbaksh said.

Universities of Medical Sciences will help in different ways to inform the target population, those over 18, and pregnant mothers in all age groups, about health risk factors i.e. diabetes and high blood pressure.



ness, better care" and will continue until January 5, 2024, ISNA reported.

Nowadays, health is one of the most essential human needs. Before the coronavirus pandemic, people may not have realized its importance, but this disease showed us how precious health is, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said at a ceremony to unveil the Campaign.

"Maybe everyone thinks that our job is treatment, but it is not true. Our main duty is to prevent diseases and promote health." For this reason, we started a project called "national health campaign" on November 11, which will continue till January 5, 2024.

Emphasizing the importance of improving health literacy, Einollahi said, "The level of literacy in the society has increased, and we expect this level to improve in the field of health as well. Also, we hope to manage having an electronic health file for every Iranian with their national identification code to record the history of illnesses in their family, their lifestyle, etc. so that their diseases and their reasons can be traced easily."

He emphasized the campaign should include over 70 percent of the country's population; there is full preparation for its implementation in all universities of medical sciences, and everyone is mobilized to implement the plan.

Einollahi added: "Currently, with the decrease of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases have increased, so that they are responsible for 83 percent of deaths."

Every year, some 300,000 people die in the country due to non-communicable diseases, and more than 150,000 deaths are caused by cardiovascular diseases. Moreover, diabetes accounts for 30,000 deaths every year."

Some 32 percent of people over 18 years of age in Iran have high blood pressure, he said, adding that many may not have even checked their blood pressure once.

The health minister emphasized, "We hope to be able to prevent half a million deaths due to cardiovascular disease and 30 thousand deaths due to diabetes till 2030 with timely awareness."

Over the past 20 years, deaths caused by NCDs have risen by 14.5 percent. In 2016, 304,400 premature deaths were caused by NCDs in Iran, according to WHO.

Cardiovascular diseases have the highest share of 43 percent of the total deaths caused by NCDs.

Over the past 20 years, deaths caused by NCDs have risen by 14.5%.

The Health Ministry is looking for better implementation of the national health campaign by actively using the media, billboards, placards, and posters to communicate information and raise people's awareness, she noted.

The campaign tries to provide detailed information and educational content that will help the target groups learn about diseases they may not be aware of. Then, they will try to change their lifestyle to promote their health.

"By making coordination between governmental departments, private sector organizations, and health centers, our colleagues can undertake diabetes and high blood pressure screening as visiting workforces in labor departments, factories, and industrial estates," Farbaksh said.

The individuals identified in the screening won't be abandoned after the end of the national health campaign; they will be subject to periodic control and receive the necessary care if needed, she added.

National health campaign

The first phase of the national health campaign started with the theme of "earlier aware-

Wellbeing, empowerment programs launched for youth in four provinces

TEHRAN – Two pilot programs for young boys and girls' wellbeing and empowerment have been launched in four provinces of the country.

The Ministry of Sports and Youth and the Drug Control Headquarters in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are implementing these programs in Kermanshah, Alborz, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi provinces.

One program is for empowering adolescents and young boys and the other program is for girls' psycho-social health and their empowerment.

Soft and technical skills are taught to boys aged 15 to 24 in three UNICEF-supported centers located in Kermanshah, Alborz, and Isfahan provinces.

The centers provide different services including on-the-job training, internships, mentoring, psycho-social support, counseling, and social entrepreneurship programs.

The focus of this program is to facilitate a smooth transition from learning to earning, empowering 1,618 adolescents and youth in these provinces, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on November 13.

In the next step, with the expansion of this program, it will encompass the following provinces: Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, Kerman, and Hormozgan.

Some of these provinces have a significant number of Afghan refugee children and adolescents.

Simultaneously, the psycho-social wellbeing and empowerment centers for girls in the cities of Mashhad and Kermanshah have played an important role in addressing the psycho-social challenges of vulnerable adolescent girls in these provinces.

These centers are dedicated to preventing substance use and mitigating social harm among young girls, the report added.

A total of 2,023 adolescent girls and their families, 1,720 girls and 303 parents, have received support through a holistic approach which includes face-to-face meetings, online outreach, and referral services.

After evaluating the results of these programs and enhancing the capacity of non-governmental organizations, these programs will be implemented in other provinces that face the challenge of illegal drug use.

.....Anti-narcotics headquarters, UNICEF co-op

The Iranian anti-narcotics headquarters and UNICEF office in Tehran signed a memorandum of understanding to launch a joint plan of action for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse among teenagers.

The joint plan of action is to be implemented over 2023-2024. It will be the main base of cooperation with UNICEF in combating narcotics.

The joint activities will be defined and carried out in cooperation with relevant national institutions, Fars reported.

Also, in the past four years through implement-

ing two joint plans of action, some activities have been carried out for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse among adolescents.

Setting up two health and rehabilitation centers for at-risk adolescents in two provinces of the country, which are known as exemplary centers providing services to the target community, was one of the measures taken in this regard.

On October 15, UNICEF and the Iranian anti-narcotics headquarters cooperated to develop an emergency protocol for staff working with at-risk adolescents to enhance their capacity for addressing youth needs during emergencies. They also held two workshops in August and September, the UNICEF website reported.

Thanks to these programs, social workers, experts, counselors, volunteers, and peers will be able to provide much more effective services in case of any emergencies to vulnerable youth, adolescents, and their families.

The aim of these workshops was to expand the technical needs of those working with vulnerable and at-risk girls to provide more efficient services to them in case of emergencies.

During the workshops, in addition to capacity building on crisis management and specialized interventions, a protocol for UNICEF-supported Adolescent Wellbeing Centers in Mashhad and Kermanshah was developed to strengthen their emergency response capacity.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Special clinic to relieve bereaved coronavirus families

A special clinic will be opened for the first time in the country to provide free psychological services to families who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The clinic is called "Soog" (literally meaning mourn) will be inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti Educational and Medical Center in Zanjan province on Wednesday.

The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the lifestyle of many families. Sudden changes in life cause stress, while the coronavirus itself has doubled the stress due to its contagion and the number of lives it has claimed in the world to date.

افتتاح 'کلینیک سوگ' برای تسکین خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خود را بر اثر کرونا از دست داده‌اند

نخستین کلینیک سوگ در کشور برای ارائه خدمات رایگان روان‌شناختی به خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خانواده خود را به دلیل ابتلا به کرونا از دست داده‌اند افتتاح خواهد شد. این کلینیک ۲۳ مهرماه امسال در مرکز آموزشی درمانی شهید بهشتی زنجان کار خود را آغاز خواهد کرد. شیوع ویروس کرونا باعث شده است تا سبک زندگی بسیاری از خانواده‌ها دچار تغییر شود. ایجاد تغییرات ناگهانی در زندگی باعث ایجاد استرس می‌شود، این در حالی است که خود ویروس کرونا به دلیل واگیردار بودن و نیز آمار فوتی‌هایی که تا به امروز در دنیا به جا گذاشته، این استرس را دوچندان کرده است.



Nomads go to tent schools

Nomads in western Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province set up schools in tents when they move from place to place.

The education department has established some 170 schools for nomads across the province.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Those who give up religion to better their lot in life seldom succeed. The Wrath of Allah makes them go through more calamities and losses than the gains they gather for themselves.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:49 Evening: 17:17 Dawn: 5:14 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:41 (tomorrow)

Iranian children's book "Little Dino Misinuu" published in Finnish

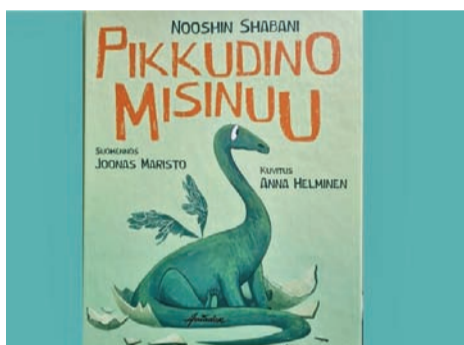
TEHRAN – A Finnish translation of Iranian children's book "Little Dino Misinuu" by Nushin Shabani has recently been published by the Association of Writers for Children and Youth in Tehran.

Children between the ages of eight and ten are the intended readers of this book, which has been translated by the Finnish scholar Joonas Maristo.

Illustrated by Atefeh Malekiju, the book was originally published by Peydayesh Publications in 2013. At the same year the book was included in the prestigious Flying Turtle List, a compilation of the finest children's literature in Iran.

It was also nominated for the Book of the Year by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA).

Within the pages of this remarkable book, children join the adventures of a lovable little dinosaur as they embark on a journey of self-discovery. Through the



captivating prose and vibrant illustrations, young readers will not only be entertained but also gain valuable insights into their own identities and the importance of self-awareness. This empowering tale encourages children to embrace their unique qualities and navigate the world with confidence.

As children accompany the little dinosaur on their self-discovery journey, they will learn valuable lessons about self-reflection, acceptance, and personal growth.

Composer Hushang Kamkar's new album "Memories of My Youth" released

TEHRAN – "Memories of My Youth", the latest album by the celebrated Iranian composer Hushang Kamkar, who is the leader of the Kamkars ensemble, has recently been released.

Featuring Kamkar's own composition and arrangement, the album includes six pieces written for symphony orchestra and Iranian instruments, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

Arsalan Kamkar on violin and viola, Ardeshtir Kamkar on kamancheh, and Ali Jafari Puyan and Sohrab Barahmandi on viola have come together to create this album, the report added.

Other artists including Negar Norad

on cello, Ehsan Emami on tar, and Keyvan Nolahchini on dotar player are also present in this album.

The Kamkars, led by Hushang Kamkar, is a Kurdish family of seven brothers and a sister, who have performed numerous concerts in the country and around the world and have released a number of music albums including "In Memory of Hafez", "Darya", "In Memory of Saba", "Living Fire", "Nightingale with a Broken Wing", "Chant of Drums" and "Music from Kurdistan".

Hushang, who has studied music in Italy and the U.S., was a university professor for over ten years. He is one of the members of the Iran House of Music.

Australia's SmartFone Flick Fest to host two Iranian films

TEHRAN—Two films from Iran are among the finalists of the SmartFone Flick Fest, known as SF3, vying for the best feature film award.

"A Long Afternoon" directed by Sohibanoo Zolghadr and "My Hero" by Morteza Atashzamaz are the Iranian flicks competing with nine other movies at SF3, which will be held in Australia, November 16 and 17, ILNA reported.

A production of 2023, "A Long Afternoon" is a one-shot film about Maryam and her husband Saeid who created an innovative engraving software together. After they get divorced, Maryam plans to make good money by selling it – and hiding all the important details from her ex-husband. What she does not know is that Saeid is aware of her plan and is toying with her. However, none of them is aware that Maryam is also being monitored by the police.

A one-shot film is a full-length movie filmed in one long take by a single camera, or manufactured to give the impression it was.

Iranian actress, producer and director Sohibanoo Zolghadr, 44, has been working in film industry for almost a decade and a half, ever since her acting debut in 2009 in a TV series.

She has acted both on TV series



A scene from "A Long Afternoon" by Sohibanoo Zolghadr

and films. She played a noted supporting role in Asghar Farhadi's 2011 drama "A Separation". While she continues to work tirelessly as an actress – Sohibanoo is increasingly active as an independent author. "A Long Afternoon" is her second directorial achievement.

"My Hero" directed by Morteza Atashzamaz narrates the story of children during the Coronavirus

pandemic.

The movie won the Golden Butterfly for the best direction and best screenplay at the 35th International Film Festival for Children and Youth in October.

A film director and producer Atashzamaz, 45, has directed and produced more than forty independent films, documentaries, and television series.

SF3 is Australia's international smartphone film festival and one of the leading and most innovative film festivals in the world.

It is a platform for filmmakers of all ages from every country; from first-time filmmakers to professionals and from kids and teens all the way to adults as long as their film is shot entirely on a smartphone or tablet.

Play about Edoardo Agnelli unveiled at City Theater

From Page 1 ▶ Agnelli first converted to Sunni Islam in an Islamic center in New York where he was named "Hisham Aziz". Later in Iran, he was reported to have converted to Shia Islam and changed his name to Mahdi.

"One day while I was in New York, I was walking in a library and Quran caught my glimpse. I was curious about what was in it. I started reading it in English and I felt that those

words were holy words and cannot be the words of men. I was really touched and borrowed the book and studied it further and I felt like I was understanding it and I believed it," he had once said.

As an adult, Agnelli claimed to be the heir apparent to the Fiat empire, but his father, who had already been unhappy with Edoardo's conversion to Islam, ensured that he would not

inherit it.

The only official position that the younger Agnelli held in the family businesses was as a director of Juventus F.C. In 1990, he was accused of heroin possession but the charges were later dropped. In mid-November 2000, he was found dead under a bridge on the outskirts of Turin.

Palestinian artists killed in Gaza



An artwork by Heba Zagout

Her vibrant paintings of Jerusalem's holy sites and Palestinian women wearing traditional embroidered dresses were a way to send a message to the "outside world", Palestinian artist Heba Zagout said in a video about her work posted online in late September.

Two weeks later, the 39-year-old was killed with two of her children, Adam and Mahmoud, in an Israeli air strike. Her husband and two other children survived.

According to a report by the Guardian on November 13, Zagout is one of an unknown number of artists, writers and musicians – part of Gaza's surprisingly once thriving arts scene – among more than 11,000 deaths in the coastal strip since the war between Israel and Hamas began on 7 October.

Zagout, who studied fine art at Gaza's Al-Aqsa university, painted scenes of Jerusalem's Old City, Al-Aqsa Mosque – the third holiest site in Islam – and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, precious to Christians as the site of Jesus's birth.

She also painted images of women, some holding a dove or a key or an oud, symbolizing peace, the return to home and ancient culture, respectively.

She built a following through social media, the lifeline for so many Palestinians trapped in Gaza in recent years, but also hoped for a new

exhibition of her work, according to her sister Maysaa Ghazi.

Zagout was a "very special artist", said Mitri Raheb, a Lutheran priest and founder of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem, which specializes in arts and culture and has a satellite branch in Gaza.

"Her art is very inclusive – many of her paintings include churches with crosses and mosques with crescents. She also has a very feminine touch in her work." She was very active in the Dar al-Kalima art centre in Gaza City, he said.

The center is close to al-Shifa hospital, which has come under Israeli bombardment in the past few days. "We're very worried that [the center] might have been destroyed," said Raheb.

A number of artists have been killed in the air strikes on Gaza, he said. One was Mohammed Sami Qariqa, who died last month when a missile hit al-Ahli Baptist hospital where hundreds of Palestinians were sheltering.

Three days earlier, he wrote on Facebook that he felt a responsibility "to convey the news and events that happen inside the hospital, capturing a set of painful details with my phone camera, including photo, video, voice, writing and drawing, etc. I am collecting many of these stories with different techniques." He entertained children in the hospital compound by playing games with them.

Staff at the Tamer Institute for Community Education, a Palestinian NGO, told Sky News: "He was the soul of the art studio at Tamer, as he was the one to open it every day, putting the paintings up, mixing the colors and waiting for other youth members to arrive." He loved life and he loved Gaza, they said.

Hiba Abu Nada, a poet and novelist, was killed along with her son in an air strike in Khan Yunis on October 20, according to the Palestinian ministry of culture. The 32-year-old writer had published collections of poetry and a novel, "Oxygen is Not for the Dead", which won second place at the Sharjah Awards for Arab creativity in 2017. Her last poem was published on X, formerly Twitter, a few days before her death.

"No Exit" on stage at Tehran theater

TEHRAN – A loose adaptation of French philosopher and playwright Jean-Paul Sartre's 1944 play "No Exit" is on stage at Arghavan Theater in Tehran.

Shaqayeq Hedayati is the director of the play, which will remain on stage until November 17. Alireza Nikkhah, Kimia Fania, Sadaf Kuhi and Navid Biniaz are the main members of the cast for the play.

"No Exit" explores the existential themes of freedom, responsibility, and the nature of hell. Set in a single room, three characters – Garcin, Inez, and Estelle – find themselves trapped together for eternity. Through their interactions and revelations, Sartre delves into the complexities of human existence and the torment we inflict upon ourselves.

The trio of characters are seemingly ordinary individuals, thereby highlighting the universal

nature of their predicament. As they gradually disclose their pasts and insecurities, the audience becomes privy to their individual struggles and the intricate web of relationships that develop within their confined space.

The play delves into the psychological imprisonment of the characters, who are stripped of any distractions or escapes. As they confront their innermost thoughts and desires, tensions rise and conflicts emerge. Each character becomes an instrument of torment for the others, highlighting the inevitable suffering caused by human interaction.

The famous line, "Hell is other people," encapsulates the central theme of the play. Sartre explores the themes of self-deception, deceit, and the relentless gaze of others that reveal our true selves.

The absence of physical torture or demons tormenting the characters

intensifies the psychological anguish, encapsulating Sartre's belief in the inherent nature of human suffering. The underlying existentialist ideology suggests that freedom and responsibility are inextricably linked, and the characters are condemned not by external forces, but by their own choices.

Jean-Paul Sartre was a French philosopher, author, and playwright who made significant contributions to the existentialist movement. Born in 1905, in Paris, Sartre developed a keen interest in philosophy at an early age. He is best known for his existentialist philosophy, which emphasized the individual's freedom and responsibility to determine their own meaning in life. Sartre believed that existence precedes essence, meaning that individuals are free to define themselves through their choices and actions

rather than being predetermined by any external forces.

As a writer, Sartre produced an extensive body of work, including plays, novels, and philosophical treatises. His most famous works include novels such as "Nausea" and "The Age of Reason," as well as plays like "No Exit" and "The Flies."

Beyond his literary pursuits, Sartre was also deeply involved in political and social activism. He was an outspoken critic of colonialism and supported various leftist movements. Sartre's commitment to political causes and his influential stance on issues such as the Algerian War earned him both acclaim and critique. His philosophical and political contributions continue to hold relevance and influence in contemporary discourse, making Jean-Paul Sartre a significant figure in the realms of philosophy, literature, and activism.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza hospitals
Cartoonist: Ahmad Rahma from Turkey