Price 100,000 Rials |

Iran FM talks to Palestinian resistance leaders

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, has reiterated the Islamic Republic's backing for the oppressed Palestinian people and demanded that Israel quickly put an end to its killing of civilians in the Gaza Strip.

Amir Abdollahian made the comments on Monday during separate phone conversations with Ziad al-Nakhaleh, the secretary-general of Islamic Jihad, and Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas Political Bu-

He said that in addition to stopping the forcible relocation of residents in the besieged Strip, Israel must open the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza to allow much-needed relief to pass to Pales-

In addition to the relentless bombardment of the coastal enclave of Gaza, Israel has cut food, water, medicine, and fuel to the people.

In terms of international law, Israel's actions are clear examples of war crimes and crimes against humanity. ▶ Page 2

Opinion



Disney's controversial donation: a clash of values amidst Gaza conflict

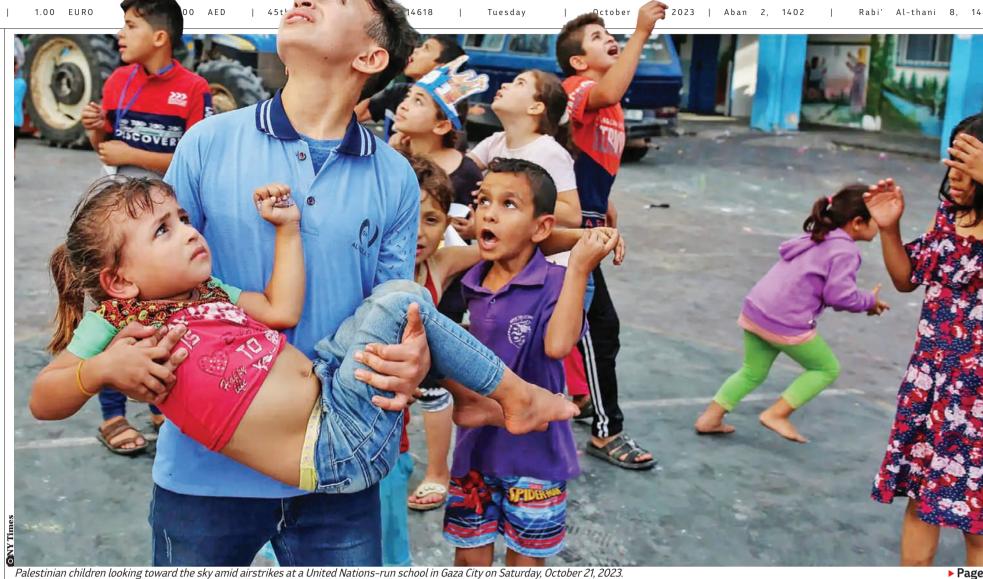
By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN - Amid the ongoing war and genocide in Gaza that has resulted in the tragic deaths of numerous children and teenagers at the hands of Israeli forces, it is disheartening to learn that Disney Company, renowned for producing family-friendly content, has made a donation of two million dollars to the Israeli government.

Such contributions will be utilized towards the procurement of bombs and missiles, directly contributing to the already devastating loss of lives. This contradiction is alarming, as a company that endeavors to bring joy and happiness to children worldwide is also enabling a regime that perpetrates violence against them.

In this new world, however, it is not surprising that the governments of superpowers not only tolerate but actively endorse such heinous deeds. The creators of socalled heroes for children are now aiding the enemies of these innocent kids, making it easier for them to harm children.

Considering the United States' history marred by the tragic displacement and colonization of Native American lands, it is not unreasonable to seek assistance from an animation company like Disney to create heroes for their young generation, to replace the real heroes they have never had the privilege to witness in their own lives. ▶ Page 8



Child-Killer is Busy

Israeli bombing of Gaza has killed nearly 2,000 Palestinian children

A severe political & military paranoia

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT - More than two have passed since the historical epic "Al-Aqsa Storm". The military spokesman for the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Abu Ubaida, has spoken about 250 Zionist prisoners, the majority of whom were from the "elite" brigades. The Zionists believe that through the ground invasion, they will enforce a state of "humanitarian" pressure to reduce their losses. Nevertheless, the entire Palestinian resistance forces have tested its army repeatedly, and know that it is a fragile and helpless cartoon army that is only good at slaughtering children and women with absolute American support and advanced weapons.

During the past days, the enemy's leadership's speech is evidence of weakness: its threats are released from shelters, while the Palestinian resistance is determined to resolve the issue of its own prisoners, and bring joy to their hearts, as Abu Ubaida has promised in his recent speech. ▶ Page 5

Why Israel's invasion of Gaza is still pending

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Israel has been talking up a supposedly upcoming ground offensive into Gaza over the past days. Despite attempts by the Israeli regime to project a united front and strong military presence, recent events indicate that Israel's military as well as its cabinet are grappling with internal challenges following the attack by Hamas on October 7.

Tensions are escalating within Israeli forces, particularly involving high-ranking leaders, suggesting a strained atmosphere. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in particular, has faced calls from various Israeli politicians and settlers to step down.

As reported by Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth on Monday, three Israeli ministers are contemplating resignation to "hold Netanyahu accountable" for the recent Palestinian attack.

The prime minister is also being given the cold shoulder by the military. A video shared online on Saturday shows Netanyahu getting confronted by an Israeli soldier during his visit to a base ▶ Page 5

What position has Iran taken on the Gaza war?

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN - The following report highlights the viewpoints of the top Iranian political and military figures regarding the barbarity of the Israeli rulers against Palestinians in Gaza.

The senior Iranian officials have openly supported the Palestinians' struggle against the Israeli occupation and violence for more than four decades. Iran also praised the Operation Al-Agsa Storm by Hamas against Israel inside the occupied territories on October 7. However, the Islamic Republic has dismissed linking the Storm operation to Iran as non-sensical.

Despite all commotions, Iran stands with the oppressed Palestinians.

Leader's stance regarding Storm operation

Avatollah Khamenei, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, in the joint graduation ceremony for the cadets on October 10 said: "We cannot be indifferent to these matters and to this important event. Fortunately, the stances taken by our officials were correct and good." ▶ Page 3

Iranian transport minister visits Armenia to pursue expansion of ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash traveled to Armenia on Monday to meet the country's senior officials and discuss ways of expanding trade and transit ties between the two countries, IRNA reported.

Speaking to the press prior to the visit, Bazrpash emphasized Iran's readiness to export technical-engineering services to Armenia, announcing the plan of the two countries to strengthen the level of trade and transit, and remove cumbersome regulations in the way of trade development.

Regarding the objectives of his trip to Armenia, the official pointed out that the two countries have common borders with each other, which is an advantage for both, saying: "During this trip to Armenia, we have based negotiations with political and economic authorities on two axes." ▶ Page 4



'Time for peace, cooperation, and progress in South Caucasus': Iran FM

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign minister on Monday said regional countries in the Caucasus now have a historic opportunity to move towards peace and cooperation as "the war in the South Caucasus is over".

Hussein Amir Abdollahian made the remarks on Monday while hosting the foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia in the Iranian capital of Tehran. The meeting, held as part of the 3+3 Format, is the second such ministerial gathering with the first one held in March of 2021.

"The title of this meeting is "Peace, Cooperation, and Progress in the South Caucasus," ▶ Page 3

Discus throwers collect three medals

TEHRAN – Iranian discus throwers Alireza Mokhtari, Asadollah Azimi and Rashid Masjedi claimed three medals in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Monday.

Mokhtari seized the gold with a throw of 22.38 meters in the Men's Discus Throw-F53 Final, followed by Azimi with 21.57 meters and Masjedi with 20.71 meters.

A total of 128 male athletes represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes compete in 11 events.

Iran finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games is "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation is "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 takes place from Oct. 22 to 28. An estimated 3,000 athletes compete across 22 sports.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

-TEHRAN PAPERS-

Tehran not neglecting Caucasus despite developments in occupied Palestinian lands

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

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper addressed the process of peace negotiations in the Caucasus and the Karabakh conflict and said: Critical developments in the occupied (Palestinian) territories and the resistance diplomacy of the Islamic Republic have not prevented the country's authorities from neglecting the process of peace negotiations in the South Caucasus and preventing the unilateral actions of some actors in the region. At the same time as the diplomatic movements increase, some actors outside the region, from the Zionist regime to the European Union and the United States, are trying to create obstacles in the way of holding the "3+3" meeting. They are trying to prevent the resolution of the tension in the Caucasus and at the same time expand their influence in the region. On the one hand, the Islamic Republic is facing Israel's influence in Azerbaijan, which is using all its energy to reduce Iran's position in the Caucasus, and on the other, it is facing the intervention of America and NATO in Armenia. Therefore, Iran is trying to make the most of the opportunity that has arisen in the form of the diplomatic process and prevent the continuation and deepening of the current differences between the parties to

Shargh: The shadow of Gaza war on Iran-U.S. negotiations

Shargh dedicated its headline to the issue of Iran-U.S. negotiations and wrote: Republicans in the U.S. Congress are still looking for pretexts to link Hamas's successful attack against Israel to the release of Iran's 6 billion dollars from South Korea's banks. They claim that there is a penetration network of the Islamic Republic in the official bodies of the American government, which pursues the desired interests of Iran. Of course, the Biden administration's full support for Israel has proved wrong these rumors. But without a doubt, the Republicans will not stop attacking and this space for diplomacy will be more limited than in the past. It must be said that the situation is highly fragile and if the de-escalation agreement between Iran and the U.S. is abandoned, a new nuclear crisis may begin. But if the fate of this war does not spread to other countries in the region and Iran's alleged

role in it does not become more prominent, it can be imagined that the negotiations will be resumed in the coming months or at the end of this year.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran is not looking for war with America

In a commentary, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed the point of view of American officials towards Iran's foreign policy. It wrote: Iran is not looking for a direct war with the United States at the moment. Two Congressional assistants and a U.S. defense official told NBC News that the U.S. intelligence community believes Iran is not currently seeking direct war with the U.S. but is seeking to increase pressure on Israel and the U.S. through groups in the region that are aligned with the Islamic Republic. Tehran's efforts seem to be an attempt to force Israel to limit the scope of the military campaign. These claims were made while the occupying army of the Zionist regime continued to bomb residential areas on the 15th day of its attacks against Gaza, which led to the martyrdom of more innocent people. However American officials are trying to blame Iran for the continuation of the war due to its moral support of the Palestinian resistance groups against the occupiers.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Contradiction in Europe

In a note, Vatan-e-Emrooz discussed the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament to Mahsa Amini and the movement known as "Woman, Life, Freedom". It said: The riots that started last year on the pretext of Mahsa Amini's death were played by Iranian opposition groups in the country with the full support of the United States and Europe. It was not freedom, but it was insecurity for Iran, which failed. But Europe interpreted the disturbances in Iran as a demand for freedom, and Macron awarded the Sakharov Prize to the insurgents of the "women, life, and freedom" uprising under the pretext of Europe's commitment to freedom. This is while over the past 17 days, as Israel is continuously pounding Gaza, the Europeans have also gone to the "war against freedom of speech" by turning a blind eye to the "war crimes" of the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people.

Raisi sees no hope UN can uphold global peace in light of Israeli crimes

TEHRAN- The U.S.-influenced UN Security Council has come under fire from Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who declared that there is no reason to believe that the global organization will uphold world peace and security.

Speaking on Sunday in Tehran during a meeting with South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor, Raisi asserted that by arming the regime with military hardware, the U.S. is helping Israel commit crimes against the helpless people of Gaza.

He also noted that the U.S. has also obstructed a draft resolution by the UN Security Council denouncing the crimes committed by Israel.

"So, there is no longer any hope for this Council to play a role in maintaining global peace." Raisi added.

He also applauded the population and government of South Africa for their support of the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israel.

The president praised South Africa's "responsible" attitude in rejecting the Tel Aviv regime an observer status at the African Union, citing Israel's crimes against civilians, particularly Palestinian women and children.

Pandor, for her part, stated that Iran's inclusion in the BRICS group of developing economies was the result of an agreement among the member countries.

According to the South African minister, Iran can play a useful role in BRICS and boosting concerted efforts to achieve success.

She made clear that South Africa is eager to expand its collaboration with Iran, particularly in the economic area.

"Biden pro-Israel comments are regressive, anti-democratic, and cruel"



Addressing a cabinet session on Sunday, Raisi severely condemned his American counterpart's recent pro-Israeli remarks as reactionary and "anti-democratic".

He was referring to Joe Biden's statements during his visit to the occupied territories earlier this month who said, "I have long said: If Israel didn't exist, we would have to invent it."

Raisi added, "The Americans must answer this question: Which international law, agreement or regulations are compatible with such remarks?"

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi said Biden's comments also serve as a "warning" to Muslim states in the region, adding, "Such remarks are indicative of the fact that for the United States, preserving the Zionist regime is considerably more important than protecting the lives of human beings, especially women and children."

"Today, the question posed to governments, world powers and international organizations by the people of the world is how they can allow an arrogant regime like Israel to kill the oppressed women and children of Palestine in such a barbaric and bloody manner with the U.S. support right in front of their eyes," Raisi said.

He went on to stress, "What is happening in Gaza against the oppressed people of this region is a clear example of war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Iran FM talks to Palestinian resistance leaders

Iran urges immediate cessation of Israeli atrocities, reiterates support for Palestine

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, has reiterated the Islamic Republic's backing for the oppressed Palestinian people and demanded that Israel quickly put an end to its killing of civilians in the Gaza Strip.

Amir Abdollahian made the comments on Monday during separate phone conversations with Ziad al-Nakhaleh, the secretary-general of Islamic Jihad, and Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas Political Bureau.

He said that in addition to stopping the forcible relocation of residents in the besieged Strip, Israel must open the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza to allow much-needed relief to pass to Palestinians.

In addition to the relentless bombardment of the coastal enclave of Gaza, Israel has cut food, water, medicine, and fuel to the people.

In terms of international law, Israel's actions are clear examples of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"Enemy cannot overcome resistances will"

As the Palestinian resistance groups' intense battle with the Israeli regime enters its eighteenth day, their commanders informed the Iranian foreign minister that the enemy cannot weaken the resistance front's resolve.

Haniyeh praised Iran's stance on Palestine, describing it as a "dynamic Islamic diplomacy to reveal the realities."

He went on to say that the U.S. unwavering backing for Israel is one of the main causes of the neo-Nazi regime's ongoing atrocities.

He underlined that Israel's ruth-



less and mindless assaults on the helpless civilians in Gaza demonstrate the regime's incapacity to withstand the valiant resistance movement and Palestinian people's battle against the occupation.

Nevertheless, despite the Zionist enemy's savagery, Haniyah declared that the resistance has inflicted a severe strategic blow to the adversary and is still in charge of the fight against the occupiers.

He issued a dire warning, saying that Gaza's acute medical and fuel shortages will be a forerunner to a major humanitarian crisis.

Haniyeh noted that the resistance group's continuing Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against Israel has been successful in creating a new strategic equilibrium in the region.

'Resistance is still strong'

For his part, Nakhaleh said despite Israel's killing of women, children, and the elderly, destruction of residential neighborhoods, and strikes on civilian targets, resistance is still strong.

The resistance fighters will undoubtedly carry on their fight against the Israeli regime, the Islamic Jihad leader asserted.

He emphasized the significance of bolstering international support

for Palestine, citing Iran as a key player in this respect.

"Forced relocation of Palestinians to Sinai, Jordan, is Israel ultimate objective"

In a phone call with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry Sunday, Amir Abdollahian also said that the Israeli regime's brutal onslaught on the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank are ultimately intended to drive out the Palestinian people from their homeland.

Iran's top diplomat praised Egypt's efforts to end Israel's war on Gaza and open the path for humanitarian supplies to the enclave.

"The ultimate goal of the fake and occupying Israeli regime is forced displacement of the people of Gaza and the West Bank to the Sinai region in Egypt and parts of Jordan," Amir Abdollahian said.

He added, "In fact, Tel Aviv regime is trying to have the Palestinian government established outside the historical land of Palestine, but the resistance has proved to be a real obstacle that does not allow Zionists' dream to come true."

Amir Abdollahian also announced that Iran's Red Crescent Society is fully prepared to use Egypt as a conduit for the delivery of humanitarian supplies to the Gazans.

For his part, Shoukry stated that his nation is against the war's expansion and that the Palestinian people should stay in their own

"Duty of all followers of Abrahamic religions to defend Palestinians"

In a related development also on Sunday, Iran's foreign minister wrote a letter to the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States Paul Richard Gallagher.

Amir Abdollahian stated in his letter that the latest atrocities carried out by the Israeli regime, such as the bombing of a historic church in the Gaza Strip and al-Mamdani Hospital, where women and children had sought refuge, "reveal another facet of the Zionist regime>s savage and brutal nature."

"The attack on a church proves that the Israeli regime applies its systematic apartheid not only to Muslims but also to followers of all Abrahamic religions, including Christians," Iran's foreign minister noted.

"Today, we are facing a new version of modern savagery in the occupied Palestinian territories," Amir Abdollahian noted, adding, "At this critical and determining juncture, defending and protecting the rights and lives of the Palestinian nation is a duty for all followers of Abrahamic religions."

He concluded his letter by saying, "Without a doubt, unity among Muslims, Christians and Jews in countering the crimes of the Zionist regime will play an effective role in restraining Zionists' extremist measures, restoring calm to the world, and establishing moral values."

Israel perpetrates 'political suicide' by Gaza onslaught, Iran's defense chief says

TEHRAN- Iran's Defense Minister, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiyani, has asserted that Israel's savage attacks on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip amount to "political suicide."

During a phone call with Syrian Defense Minister Ali Mahmoud Abbas on Monday, Ashtiyani condemned Israel's unrelenting bombardment on Gaza as a "violation of all rules of war and human rights."

Israeli rulers have awakened the world to the crimes of the "bloodthirsty" nature of the Tel Aviv regime, he said.

According to Ashtiyani, Israel's actions of aggression against the Gazan people have no bounds and the Zionist regime enjoys the approval and backing of the U.S. and its Western allies.

Additionally, he praised the tremendous accomplishments made by Palestinian warriors during Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, noting that it revealed to the world the weakness of the Zionist regime.

He added that the Israeli regime is attempting to kill innocent Palestinian children and adults to exact revenge for its historic operational and in-

telligence failure.

The Iranian defense minister also issued a dire warning about the looming humanitarian disaster in the besieged Gaza.

Israel has cut food, water, medicine, and fuel to Gaza. The United Nations has warned about the spread of disease in the enclave.

Iran's defense chief also denounced Israel's attacks on Syria's airports in Aleppo and Damascus, indicating the regime is making fruitless attempts to project its ability to respond decisively on all fronts.

However, the Iranian defense minister stated that the Tel Aviv regime is more flimsy than the people can imagine.

Referring to a phone discussion he had with his Iraqi counterpart, Thabet al-Abbas, on Friday, Ashtiyani stated that the Syrian and Iraqi governments' staunch opposition to normalization of relations with Israel can serve as an example for Arab states seeking to normalize ties with the regime. For his part, the Syrian defense minister praised Iran for paying particular attention

to matters concerning Syria and the resistance movement, saying that the Zionist regime should be shameful of killing Palestinians.

Israel's strikes on the airports in Aleppo and Damascus, according to Mahmoud Abbas, revealed the regime's inherent flaws.

He pointed out that the Israeli assault on Gaza revealed the savagery of the regime's backers, leading all Arab and Muslim countries along with people around the world to support the Palestinian people.

Syria's defense minister said, "This promises the collapse of the criminals and the beginning of a great development, which is the defeat of the Zionist regime."

Israel declared war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian resistance groups in Gaza, including Hamas, launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm inside the occupied territories. So far,

over 4,740 Palestinians have perished as a result of Israel's bombardment on Gaza, including over 1,900 children, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Tehran urges serious international reaction to Israel's crimes in Gaza

TEHRAN - Amid the occupying regime's brutal bombardment of the beleaguered Gaza Strip, Iran has once again urged the world to take Israel's crimes seriously.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Sunday that Israel has committed a number of "criminal acts" in Gaza and the international community needs to respond "seriously" to such crimes.

He also described Hamas's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm as a "turning point" in the Palestinians' fight against the Israeli regime.

"The reaction of the Zionist regime to the glorious resistance of the Palestinian people is criminal action in such a way that it takes revenge on the defenseless people in the Gaza Strip," he added.

Denouncing the West's inaction towards the crimes of Israel, the spokesman said, "With the silence of the U.S. and its allies on what is happening to the Palestinian people, the mask was removed from the faces of the so-called human rights advocates."

Kanaani urged Muslim nations to stand with the Palestinians, pointing out that Palestinians are adamant in resisting the occupation regime.

"The mask was removed from the faces of the so-called human rights advocates."

"Islamic countries are obliged to support them," Kanaani noted, adding, "Iran continues to support the resistance of the Palestinian people in the political field."

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, on Tuesday warned about the severe situation in the Gaza Strip. He also said an Israeli ground invasion of the beleaguered territory will "open the gates of hell" for the Zionists and

plunge the entire region into chaos.

The Iranian Parliament speaker emphasized that if Israel's atrocities in Gaza continue, the situation will quickly spiral out of control.

Qalibaf criticized the complete blockade on Gaza, which has prevented the coastal enclave from receiving necessities, including water, power, food, and medication.

"The blockade of Gaza and cutting off the supply of water, electricity, medicine and food to this area is a clear example of genocide," he added.

The speaker also highlighted, "In addition, the use of non-conventional military weapons, such as banned phosphorus bombs, in these attacks violates international conventions on the prohibition of chemical weapons."

The Israeli regime, the Parliament speaker said, is at "a political and social impasse" and is prepared to ignite the entire region to maintain its hold on power.

Qalibaf cautioned that another

battle in the region could change the course of history "within a matter of hours" given the high level of tension in West Asia caused by U.S. militarism and the impact of the Ukraine war on the world's political landscape.

By continuing to give military support to the Israeli occupying regime, the United States is "deeply complicit" in Israel's abuses of Palestinians' human rights, the top lawmaker emphasized.

"The parliaments of Islamic countries should ask America to change its policy on Gaza and demand an end to the siege," he said.

Qalibaf also asked Islamic countries to hold multinational firms, that aid the Israeli regime, accountable for their participation in abusing Palestinian rights in Gaza.

Following the unexpected Operation al-Aqsa Storm, which was a reaction to increased Israeli transgressions against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, Israel began its ceaseless bombing of Palestine on October 7.

What position has Iran taken on the Gaza war?

Frome Page 1 > Later the Leader touched on the "irreparable defeat" of the usurping Zionist regime both in terms of "military and intelligence".

"I say that this devastating earthquake [Al-Aqsa Storm Operation] has managed to destroy some of the main structures of the usurping regime's rule, which cannot be rebuilt so easily," Ayatollah Khamenei remarked.

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, the courageous, self-sacrificing move of the Palestinians was a response to the crimes of the usurping enemy, which have continued for many years and increased in intensity in recent months.

The attempt to show itself as a "victim" was the next point that the Leader touched on, pointing to the "pretext" by the Israeli regime to continue with more ferocity.

The Leader, upon his final point on October 10, stressed the "nonsense" that has been aired by the Zionists and their supporters, which claim "Iran is behind this move (Storm operation)."

"They are mistaken," the Leader pointed out. "Of course, we support Palestine. We support their fight. We praise the minds and efforts of the resourceful, intelligent designers and the brave youth of Palestine. We are proud of them. This is true. But those who say that non-Palestinians are behind what the Palestinians have done do not know the Palestinian nation. They underestimate the Palestinian nation."

In his meeting with Nigeria's Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky on October 14, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution also stated, "One of the manifestations of Islam's power today, can be seen in the incidents that are taking place in Palestine."

"With the Almighty God's grace, this movement that has begun in



Palestine will progress and lead to the complete victory of the Palestinians," Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted.

On October 17, in a meeting with highly talented persons, the Leader also pointed to the responsibility of everybody regarding the ongoing tragedies in Gaza, saying, "Hungry people are being martyred by the hundreds due to the bombardments. We must see what the truth is and

The world is seeing the "genocidal crime of usurping regime," the Leader lamented.

Ayatollah Khamenei disputed statements by the Westerners who claimed that Hamas fighters have killed "civilians", saying this is "not

Addressing the policymakers' plans, which have caused the current events, the Leader said: "The Zionist regime must definitely be prosecuted. The U.S. government must also realize it is responsible in this matter. The Zionist regime's current policy during this past week is being formulated by the U.S."

President's stance

On October 8, one day after the Al-Aqsa Storm operation, President Raisi said the Hamas operation was Tel Aviv's military and intelligence notoriety.

In his call with Ismail Haniyeh, the Iranian president said the authority, honor, and pride of the Palestinian resistance is a source of pride for the Islamic Ummah.

Also, in a call with Islamic Jihad leader Ziad Nakhale, the president said the Zionist regime is in decline, yet the resistance is getting close to

On the occasion of the Palestinian resistance's victories on October 7, Raisi issued a message saying the dignity of nations cannot be achieved in reconciliation with oppression.

In a call with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Raisi said without realizing the rights of the Palestinians, no solution can be applicable, and insisted on the capabilities of the Islamic world to stop the Zionists' war crimes.

Raisi insisted on the Palestinians' rights in his call with the Syrian

President Assad as well. He said that no world order can be shaped in the region without realizing the Palestinians' rights

The president also kept in touch with Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad on October 14, saying in case the tyranny was able to silence the Palestinians, it would have happened within the past 75 years.

Also, speaking to the Sultan of Oman and the Iragi Prime minister. Raisi called for an immediate action by the Muslim countries to stop the Israeli "war crimes and genocide" in the Gaza Strip.

The president referred to the massacre of 700 children (that has now reached 2000) in Gaza by the occupying regime in his call with French President Emmanuel Macron on October 15, asking, "How do Tel Aviv allies justify the massacre in

Also on October 16, Raisi, in a call with Turkish counterpart, listed "condemning the Israeli aggression, ceasefire, and lifting Gaza blockade" as the three top priorities.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IRAN IN FOCUS

OCTOBER 24, 2023 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Hamed Haddadi joins Iranian club Zob Ahan

TEHRAN – Ex-Iran basketball team center Hamed Haddadi joined Zob Ahan on a one-year contract.

At the end of the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup, Haddadi, who has played in prestigious basketball leagues like the NBA, bade farewell to the national team by kissing the court and cheering the fans.

"Although I had negotiations with Chinese club Sichuan Blue Whales but the deal didn>t go through, so I-ve made the decision to play in Iran next season," Haddadi said.

Haddadi spoke about his farewell to the Iran national team and his nonattendance at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games.

"Actually, I intended to be on the Asian Games team, but the intense World Cup games caused me to decide to retire from the national team. I felt physically exhausted and depleted. I always tried to give my best for the national team.

"Moreover, I believe that some changes were necessary for the national team. It was at that point that I conversed with Javad Davari, president of the Iran Basketball Federation, and reached the conclusion," said the 38-year-old star.

Hadaddi also shared his thoughts on Iran national team>s performance at the 2022 Asian Games.

"I watched all of Iran>s matches. They gave their best, but this is the necessary process for the national team to change a generation of players.

"Basketball is the game of moments, and you witnessed Iran's impressive comeback against the Philippines, only to lose in the final seconds. The beauty of basketball lies in these critical moments.

"I hope the national team receives support from the basketball community," concluded Haddadi.

Alipour claims Iran's first gold at Hangzhou **Para Games**

HANGZHOU, China - Amirhossein Alipour seized Iran's first gold medal in the 2022 Asian Para Games.

He came first at Men>s Shot Put-F11 with a throw of 13.92 meters. His compatriot Mehdi Olad won the silver with 13.30 meters. The bronze medal went to Indian Monu Ghangas with 12.33 meters.

Rower Sara Abdolmaleki had won Iran's first medal in the Games, bagging a bronze in the Canoe Sprint women>s KL1.

Women's sitting volleyball start 2022 Asian Para Games on high

TEHRAN – Iran's women's sitting volleyball team swept past South Korea 3-0 (25-10, 25-11, 25-6) in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Monday.

Team Melli will play Mongolia on Tuesday. A total of 128 male athletes represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes compete in 11 events.

Japan

TEHRAN - Iran and Japan blind football teams played out a goalless draw in the 2022 Asian

Team Melli dominated the match but their players lacked the cutting edge.

Guangzhou, Chin and claimed a gold medal four

Javelin thrower Motaghian claims gold

HANGZHOU, China - Iran's Hashemiyeh Motaghian Moavi won a gold medal in the Women>s Javelin Throw Throw-F56 in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Monday.

She came first with a throw of 22.91 meters. Her compatriot Zeynab Moradi seized the silver with 22.13 meters and China's Sitong Lin seized the bronze with 21.53 meters.

A total of 128 male athletes represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes compete in 11 events.

Iran's rower Hosseinpour collects gold

TEHRAN - Saeid Hosseinpour of Iran won a gold medal in the Men>s KL1 of the 2022 Asian Para Games on Monday.

Hosseinpour crossed the line first with a time of 50.468 seconds.

China's Xiaowei Yu and Maxim Bogatyrev of Kazakhstan won silver and bronze with 51.256 and 58.479, respectively.

A total of 128 male athletes represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes compete in 11 events.

Papi snatches gold at javelin throw

HANGZHOU, China - Amanollah Papi of Iran claimed a gold medal at the Men>s Javelin Throw Throw-F57 in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Monday.

He won the gold with a throw of 49.24 meters.

Indonesia's Fauzi Purwolaksono claimed the silver medal with 44.69 meters and the bronze medal went to Vietnamese thrower Ngoc Hung Cao who threw 44.69

Judo athlete **Banitaba takes** gold at Hangzhou

HANGZHOU, China – Iran's judo athlete Meysam Banitaba won a gold medal in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Monday.

He defeated Uzbekistan's Diyorbek Maydonov 10-0 in the Men -60 kg J1 quarterfinal and also beat Indonesia's Junaedi 10-0 to reach the final.

Banitaba defeated Kapil Parmar of India in the final match to win a gold medal.

Discus thrower Darabian bags gold

HANGZHOU, China – Elnaz Darabian of Iran won a gold medal in the Women>s Discus Throw-F53

She finished first with a throw of 14.25 meters.

Hanan Kaab Omeir also from Iran won a silver medal with 11.55 meters and the bronze medal went to Japanese thrower Keiko Onidani with 11.01 meters.

Zeighaminejad claims second gold medal

TEHRAN - Iranian swimmer Sina Zeighaminejad won a gold medal in the Men>s 50m Freestyle - S10 Final of the 2022 Asian Para Games on Monday.

He won the gold with a time of 25.74 seconds.

His countryman Izadvar took the silver with 25.87 and the bronze medal went to Akito Minai of Japan with 25.98.

Mohammadhossein Karimi also won a silver in the Men's 100 meters Backstroke.

The Iranian swimmer came second with a time of 1:09.95 and gold medal went to Indonesian Rifky Yavianda with 1:03.55. Kazakhstan's Roman Potapov won the bronze with 1:10.25.

Zeighaminejad and Izadyar had won a gold and a silver medal in the Men>s 100m Breaststroke -

A total of 128 male athletes represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes compete in 11 events.

'Time for peace, cooperation, and progress in South Caucasus': Iran FM

Frome Page **1** ▶ which is held with the aim of utilizing the region's capacities to resolve regional issues and make collective efforts to establish peace and cooperation for economic development and the promotion of the welfare of the people in the region. In this meeting, foreign ministers will have the opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and interactions with third parties, in addition to exchanging views on regional issues in the Caucasus," said Iran's top diplomat.

Amir Abdollahian also addressed the Israeli regime's relentless bombardment of Gaza. "I feel it is necessary to express my deep concern about the great humanitarian tragedy currently unfolding in Gaza and Palestine. What is happening in Gaza is a war crime committed by the illegitimate Israeli regime against humanity. Any human being is affected by seeing the horrific scenes of the massacre of Palestinian women, children, and civilians,"

The Iranian official also expressed hope that Georgia can show a "constructive" and "effective" participation in the upcoming meetings of the format. Georgia has not taken



part in the last two 3+3 meetings.

The 3+3 cooperation format comprises the three countries of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus, along with Russia, Turkey, and Iran. A key objective of this regional group is to address the challenges within the region, aiming to find solutions independently without external interference from Western and other nonregional countries

Monday's meeting came after an almost three-decade long conflict came to an end between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Baku recently took control of the entire area, which is officially part of Azerbaijan but has been inhabited by a predominantly Armenian population for hundreds of years.

Iran thwarted 10 big cyberattacks in a year

TEHRAN – General Gholamreza Jalali, the head of the Passive Defense Organization of Iran, said Monday that Iran thwarted many big cyberattacks before they were launched.

Speaking at a press briefing in Tehran, Jalali said, "Since last year, with the help of the Ministry of Intelligence and the Intelligence organization of the IRGC, we have been able to identify and repel 10 basic cyber attacks before the attack."

He added, "In one case, the intelligence sources told us that an attack will be made on the electricity dispatching in the next few days. We designed 16 operational measures in a short period of time and were able to identify and repel this attack with the cooperation of the cyber friends of the electricity launched in the next few months." company."

He added, "We took strategic measures in the field of cyber defense. We solved most of the simple problems in this field with training."

Jalali said, "In the field of security holes, we came to the conclusion that we should have internal products. As a result, with the cooperation of knowledgebased companies and the Ministry of Defense, we prepared 300 local products in this area and last year we repelled 80% of attacks with these products."

continued, "Another measure in this field is the establishment of the country>s National Cyber Defense Center, which has been studied for more than two years and will be

He also said Iran came under cyber attacks after the Palestinian resistance groups launched an attack on Israeli sites. "In the last two weeks and after the Al-Aqsa storm operation, the enemy made attempts for cyber attacks, all of which were repelled," he said.

Israel began a bombardment campaign against the Gaza Strip on October 7. Since then, Israel has been relentlessly pummeling civilian infrastructures in the besieged Palestinian territory.

On 17 October, Israel committed a heinous crime that shocked the world to the core, bombing a Christian hospital – Al Ahli- which resulted in the killing of hundreds of civilians, mostly injured and patients. The magnitude of the crime was so abhorrent that the

Israeli authorities quickly walked back their statements confirming their bombardment of the hospital and ultimately blamed the targeting of the hospital on a Palestinian resistance group "misfired" rocket.

Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, has said that Israel committed war crimes.

"Our research points to damning evidence of war crimes in Israel's bombing campaign that must be urgently investigated. Decades of impunity and injustice and the unprecedented level of death and destruction of the current offensive will only result in further violence and instability in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories," she said.

Iran blind held by

Para Games on Monday.

In the match held in Hangzhou's GSP Stadium,

Iran are to face Thailand on Tuesday.

Iran won a silver medal in the first edition in years later in Incheon, South Korea.

ECONOMY

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$6.9b to China in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$6.9 billion to China during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

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

Based on the data released by China's customs administration, the value of trade between Iran and China reached \$8.540 billion in the first seven months of 2023, registering an 11 percent decline, year on year.

As reported, the Asian country's export of products to Iran accounted for \$6 billion of the

China's exports to the Islamic Republic in January-July 2023 registered a 17 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

Also, China imported \$2.540 billion worth of products from Iran in the mentioned seven months, registering a 43 percent drop compared to last year's corresponding period.

China had exported \$5.130 billion worth of products to Iran from January to July 2022.

According to China's customs administration, the trade balance of the two countries in this period reached \$3.460 billion in favor of China.

The value of Iran's economic exchanges with its leading trade partner, China, stood at \$6.5 billion during the first six months of 2023.

Based on China's customs data, the sixmonth trade between the two countries had not changed significantly in comparison to the figure for the same period in the previous year.

According to the data released by China's customs administration, the Islamic Republic and China traded \$15.795 billion worth of commodities in 2022, \$1.035 billion more than the figure for 2021.

As reported, China's exports to Iran grew by 14 percent in the period under review compared to the preceding year to reach \$9.44 billion. The Asian country exported \$8.258 billion worth of goods to Iran in 2021.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports to China, however, registered a two-percent decrease in 2022, reaching \$6.355 billion. Iran exported \$6.502 billion worth of goods to China in 2021.

Iran's share of China's total global trade last year was only 0.25 percent. China's trade with the world reached \$6.308 trillion in 2022, of which \$3.593 trillion was the share of the country's exports and \$2.715 trillion was related to imports. China's global trade grew by 4.4 percent last year.

China is one of Iran's main trade partners that has maintained strong trade ties with the Islamic Republic despite the strict U.S. sanctions.

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

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

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

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



Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TCCIMA calls on govt. to ease car production standards



TEHRAN – In a meeting between the members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Industry and Mining and Transport Committees, the TCCIMA Secretary-General called on the government to adjust strict standards applied to commercial vehicle production.

As reported by the TCCIMA portal on Monday, Bahman Eshqi considered the unnecessary strict standards as a major challenge for the producers of the private auto industry and the main cause for the lack of renovation in the country's transport fleet.

"In a situation where the car manufacturing companies are facing problems for production, [instead of supporting them] the Industry Ministry has threatened private carmakers that if they do not produce, their operating license will be revoked," the official said.

Iranian transport minister visits Armenia to pursue expansion of ties

From page 1 ▶ "The main focus of the negotiations with the Armenian authorities is the development of economic relations and the removal of redundant regulations that hinder the two countries> trade development. Also, the development of transit is another goal we are pursuing in this trip, because the development of transit is one of the main foundations of the development of economic relations," he added.

Cooperation between the two countries regarding the issuance of licenses for Iranian airlines, the removal of road tolls, the promotion of cooperation in the framework of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) and the Persian Gulf-Black Sea Corridor, expanding rail transportation and using Iran>s logistics and port capacities were also among the subjects for negotiations during Bazrpash's visit to the neighboring country.

Armenia welcomes companies' presence in construction, transport projects

In a meeting Between Bazrpash and Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan, the two sides negotiated and agreed on the presence of Iranian companies in the construction and transport projects, the construction of the second bridge at Nordouz terminal, and the holding of a trilateral transit meeting with Georgia.

The Iranian minister emphasized the presence of Iranian companies the construction transportation industries, and proposed the elimination of entry and exit tariffs between the two countries to facilitate traffic.

He also proposed the holding of a trilateral meeting between Iran, Georgia, and Armenia to facilitate traffic in the North-South corridor and welcomed the proposal for the construction of a second bridge



Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash (2nd L) and Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan (2nd R)

on the Aras River at the Nordouz border to increase traffic between Iran and Armenia.

The Armenian minister, for his part, said, "We will use the capacity of Iranian companies to build and complete the North-South corridor, and a contract for the construction of a section of the route is ready to be signed with Iranian companies in the field of road construction."

He welcomed the tripartite transit meeting with Georgia and said, "I will meet with the Georgian minister in the next three days and discuss the issue."

The official considered the Armenia-Iran-India transit axis important.

TPO head meets Saudi envoy to discuss expansion of trade ties

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) hosted a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Tehran to explore ways of expanding economic relations between the two sides, the TPO portal reported.

In this meeting, which was organized by the Iran-Saudi Arabia Investment Fund for the development of job opportunities, Mehdi Zevghami and Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi discussed planning to start and develop business relations between the two countries.

As reported, the two sides welcomed the idea of exchanging business delegations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and emphasized the need to actively participate in each other's exhibitions.

Speaking at the meeting, Zeyghami expressed hope for the development of trade relations between the two countries and stressed the importance of boosting trade interactions between the two sides in the field of new and high-tech technologies.

 $\hbox{``Considering Saudi Arabia's future plans} \ and \ the$ investments of this country in new technologies, trade in the field of such technologies can benefit both countries," the official said.

The TPO head also expressed his interest in the presence of Iranian companies in the health, food industry, and petrochemical exhibitions of Saudi Arabia and requested the ambassador of this country to make preparations for the presence of Iran in the form of a pavilion in these exhibitions.

Al-Anzi for his part welcomed Zeyghami's suggestions and said: "Regarding the proposal to attend Saudi exhibitions, the preparations for this will be provided by exchanging the list of

Earlier this month, Head of Iran Chamber of Guilds Mojtaba Safaei also hosted a meeting with Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi, in which the officials discussed ways of expanding trade relations between the two countries.

In that meeting, which was held at the invitation of the head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds, some of the heads of Tehran unions were also present and



TPO Head Mehdi Zeyghami (R) hands a gift to Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Tehran Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi on Sunday.

discussed Iran's export capabilities.

Speaking in this gathering, Safaei said, "We know well that strengthening relations with Saudi Arabia is of interest to Iran. As the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said in his recent meeting with the Sultan of Oman, establishing relations with Saudi Arabia was the result of the correct policy of the government of President Raisi, and we, in pursuit of the implementation of these policies, consider this meeting as an advantage and aim to have a positive impact in this regard."

He said, "According to investigations, the majority of Iran and Saudi Arabia's exports and imports in recent years have been carried out by professional companies, but with the diplomatic relations gap, they have reached the minimum possible level. Today, the private sector and professional enterprises are ready to cooperate with Saudi Arabia in trade."

The head of the Iran Chamber of Guilds went on to say: "We believe that Iran and Saudi Arabia are two major poles of the Islamic world, and this gap has damaged the economies of both countries more than anything else, which is what the global arrogance wanted. Nevertheless, we have very extensive collaborations, and in the field of trade, the chamber of guilds will open a new chapter of relations with Saudi Arabia today, with God's help."

"We know that Saudi Arabia is looking to build the largest and most intelligent city in the world,

and in this regard, Iran's industries are ready to help in various fields of trade, mining, building materials, and so on. Some industries such as Persian carpets, leather bags, shoes, and products have the potential to make an ascending move in the export phase to Saudi Arabia within a week because they are competitive with European countries with the highest quality in the market. Furthermore, medical equipment, food and handicrafts are also available", Safaei continued and said, "In addition to this, we are pushing for cooperation in building hotels, properties, and tourism infrastructure with Saudi Arabia.'

"Since technical and engineering services and skilled labor are cheaper in our country, Saudi Arabia can invest in these areas, and our demands are not one-sided and must be bilateral", he noted, adding, "Therefore, we propose trade facilitation, and in this regard, it is necessary to form a specialized working group to achieve desirable results from this meeting. This working group can deal with different fields in a specialized way and demonstrate the commercial goals at an excellent level between the authorities of both countries.'

The Saudi ambassador to Iran, for his part, said, "God willing, the relationship and interest between Iran and Saudi Arabia will be stable, and good capacity will be created for the trade of both countries.'

The private sector plays an essential role in both countries. The Saudi economy is open and prone to development, and the crown prince has a vision for 2030 and many projects for the progress of Saudi Arabia will be done, which is not just for Saudi Arabia but will be a blessing for all regional countries, the Tenvoy added.

He added: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is a very important neighboring country and has many potentials and has a good strategic position. Therefore, its development with Saudi Arabia will create an opportunity for an equal economy."

At this meeting, it was decided that both sides would introduce representatives to examine the trade capacities of both countries.

Agro-food exports rise 21% in 6 months on year

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 21 percent in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export 3.5 million tons of the mentioned products valued at \$2.428 billion, also registering a two percent rise in terms of weight, IRNA reported.

As reported, 84 percent of the total value and 94 percent of the total weight of the exports in the mentioned period went to 15 neighboring countries.

424,871 tons worth \$616 million

were livestock, fishery, and dairy products, the official said, noting that the export of such products increased by 37 percent in the mentioned six months.

Meanwhile, 2.466 million tons of agricultural and horticultural goods worth \$1.292 billion were also exported during this period.

The value of Iran's non-oil trade reached \$54.6 billion in the first half of the current Iranian year.

According to Head the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvanifar, the value of the Islamic Republic's nonoil trade in the first half of the current Iranian year increased by 4.84 percent compared to the same period last year.

In terms of weight, the country's Of the total exported products, foreign trade reached 82.3 million tons which was 23.78 percent billion were imported into the



more than the figure for the previous year's first half.

Iran exported 67.7 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$24.144 billion in the mentioned six months. The export of non-oil commodities in H1 increased by 29 percent in terms of weight.

Meanwhile, some 17.6 million tons of goods valued at \$30.443 country in the said period, indicating an 11.62-percent rise in terms of value, and a 6.89 percent increase in terms of weight, year

The average value of each ton of exported goods in the first six months of the current year was \$356 and the average value of each ton of imported goods was

TEDPIX drops over 10,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 10,318 points (0.51 percent) to 2,021,893 on Monday.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME),

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

Child-Killer Is Busy International

Israeli bombing of Gaza has killed nearly 2,000 Palestinian children

TEHRAN - So far, Israel has killed over 4,650 people in Gaza, including nearly 2,000 Palestinian children, leveling residential buildings, hospitals, mosques, churches, etc.

It means children make up around 40 percent of those who have lost their lives to the bombardment so far. That is an average of almost 111 children a day. Thousands more have been injured.

"More than 4,600 children are injured as hospitals run out of fuel, electricity, and medical supplies," rights group Defence for Children International -Palestine said in a post on social media platform X on Sunday.

Children in Gaza are developing severe trauma symptoms alongside the risk of death and injury, according to a Palestinian psychiatrist.

The psychological impact of the war on children was showing, said Fadel Abu Heen, a psychiatrist in Gaza. Children had "started to develop serious trauma symptoms such as convulsions, bed-wetting, fear, aggressive behavior, nervousness, and not leaving their parents' sides."

The "lack of any safe place has created a general sense of fear and horror among the entire population and children are most impacted," he said.

"Some of them reacted directly and expressed their fears. Although they may need immediate intervention, they may be in a better state than the other kids who kept the horror and trauma inside them."

About half of Gaza's 2.3 million population are children. Since 7 October, they have lived under near-constant bombardment, with many packed into temporary shelters in UN-run schools after fleeing their homes with little access to food or clean water.



Studies conducted after earlier conflicts have shown a majority of children in Gaza exhibiting symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

After Operation Pillar of Defence in 2012, UNICEF, the UN children's agency, found that 82% of children were either continuously or usually in fear of imminent death.

Among UNICEF's other findings were: 91% of children reported sleeping disturbances during the conflict; 94% said they slept with their parents; 85% reported appetite changes; 82% felt angry; 97% felt insecure; 38% felt guilty; 47% were biting their nails; 76% reported itching or feeling ill.

After Operation Cast Lead, the threeweek war in 2008-09, a study by the Gaza community mental health programme (GCMHP) found that 75% of children over

the age of six were suffering from one or more symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, with almost one in 10 ticking off every criterion.

At the time, Hasan Zeyada, a psychologist with the GCMHP, told the Guardian: "The majority of children suffer many psychological and social consequences. Insecurity and feelings of helplessness and powerlessness are overwhelming.

"We observed children becoming more anxious - sleep disturbances, nightmares, night terror, regressive behaviour such as clinging to parents, bed wetting, becoming more restless and hyperactive, refusal to sleep alone, all the time wanting to be with their parents, overwhelmed by fears and worries. Some start to be more aggressive."

Experts also noted a spike in Gaza as "hell on earth".

psychosomatic symptoms, such as a high fever without a biological reason, or a rash over the body.

A report last year by Save the Children on the impact of 15 years of blockade and repeated conflicts on the mental health of children in Gaza found their psycho-social wellbeing had "declined dramatically to alarming levels".

Children that the aid agency interviewed "spoke of fear, nervousness, anxiety, stress and anger, and listed family problems, violence, death, nightmares, poverty, war and the occupation, including the blockade, as the things they liked least in their lives".

The report quoted António Guterres, the secretary general of the UN, describing the lives of children in

OCTOBER 24, 2023 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Why Israel's invasion of Gaza is still pending

Israeli military, cabinet have been thrown into disarray ahead of the claimed Gaza invasion

From page **1** ▶ in the southern region of the occupied territories. The soldier could be heard expressing strong criticism, stating, «You slaughtered all my friends! You have brought ruin upon Israel,» while another soldier attempted to prevent him from approaching Netanyahu.

The rift between Israeli politicians and military officials seems to have already taken a toll on the mentality of the regime's soldiers. Hebrew media outlets have reported that four Israeli soldiers have taken their own lives since the Hamas resistance movement shook the occupied territories through a surprise attack.

With these circumstances, several military figures from Israel have come forward in the past days trying to warn the regime against launching a ground offensive into Gaza.

Yigal Carmon, a former colonel from Amman who previously served as an advisor to two Israeli prime ministers, is among the well-known figures cautioning the Israeli regime about such an attack, suggesting that the regime is barking up the wrong tree. «We don>t have enough information about the situation on the ground and our forces have not been sufficiently trained,» he said during an interview with Israeli television last week adding that attacking Gaza on the ground could soon backfire and turn into an even bigger crisis than the regime is already experiencing.

American military analysts have also been trying to warn Israel against the act. «Israel can refuse to walk into the trap that Hamas has set up,» Edward Story, a retired U.S. Army infantry officer, and Dennis Aftergut, a former federal prosecutor, wrote on MSNBC on Friday. The two tried to persuade Israeli forces that they should not feel «ashamed» if they decide to refrain from a direct battle with Hamas.

Top American officials have also expressed the same concerns. Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin announced on Monday that an Israeli invasion of Gaza would be "extremely difficult".

In addition to the evident demoralization among Israeli soldiers and the growing disconnect between the military and the farright Israeli cabinet, practical factors on the ground further complicate and hinder the possibility of an offensive into Gaza for the Israeli regime.

Palestinian resistance fighters are known for

These tunnels, reportedly reaching depths of at least 100 meters, pose significant challenges for Israeli forces who have limited knowledge of the underground terrain. Some have drawn parallels between this situation and the 1942 Battle of Stalingrad during World War II, where Nazi Germany, despite outnumbering Soviet Union forces and possessing superior equipment, struggled to overcome the Soviet Union>s preparedness and adeptness in underground warfare. The Battle of Stalingrad resulted in the loss of an estimated 1.2 to 2 million lives.

It is believed that at least 100,000 Hamas fighters are waiting for Israeli forces to enter Gaza. However, If Israel decides to invade the territory, it will might not only have to contend with Hamas but also face an even bigger enemy: The Lebanese resistance movement led by Hassan Nasrallah, which many analysts say will join the conflict in case of Gaza invasion.

Since 2006, Hezbollah has become Israel>s primary source of concern. However, its military capabilities have significantly evolved since their last confrontation. Hezbollah now possesses tens of thousands of powerful missiles, capable of bypassing Israel's Iron Dome defense system and striking any point within the occupied territories. The presence of 2,000 American marines floating in the Mediterranean, cautiously staying away from the shoreline, is unlikely to provide significant assistance to Israel if Hezbollah decides to unleash a barrage of missiles upon the occupied territories.

Furthermore, the potential for additional fronts to open against Israel in Syria and Yemen adds to the complexity. Both countries possess well-equipped forces, on par with Hezbollah, thus increasing the challenges Israel would face on multiple fronts.

Overall it seems that the masterminds of Hamas have caused Israel to get caught between a rock and a hard place. The regime needs to launch an offensive into Gaza to make up for its humiliating intelligence and military defeat on October 7, but that might get it into an even bigger crisis. Even if Israel manages to overcome its military and political challenges, invade Gaza, and remove Hamas, another Hamas is sure to appear soon after and create the same issues for the regime. The Palestinians' struggle for national liberation is not going to end through bombardments or invasions.

Support for Palestinians continues around the world



Sympathy for the Palestinian citizens who are being slaughtered in a barbaric way by the Zionist regime of Israel has infuriated people around the world.

Thousands in Paris gathered on Sunday in the first Pro-Palestinian demonstration allowed by police since October 7.

The protest in Paris was called by the collective "National Collective for a sustainable and just peace between Palestinians and Israelis", made up of more than 40 organizations, including left-wing party France Unbowed, the CGT trade union and the organization "France Palestine Solidarity".

Raising Palestinian flags and chanting "Gaza, Paris is with you," the demonstrators voiced solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip amid intense Israeli bombardment and blockade on the enclave.

More than 15,000 people gathered at the



Place de la Republique square, according to police figures.

Local media reported that police allowed the rally because calls to the demonstration condemned a surprise attack by Palestinian group Hamas against Israel.

The protest was called by a French group called the National Collective for a Sustainable and Just Pease between Palestinians and Israelis, along with more than 40 other organizations, including the CGT trade union, left-wing party La France Insoumise (France Unbowed), the Attac movement, and the France Palestine Solidarity organization.

The protesters called for a cease-fire and expressed solidarity with the Gaza Strip, where at least 4,651 Palestinians have been killed, including 1,873 children and 1,023 women, since Oct. 7.

On Monday, members of a left-wing student



group, Students> Federation of India (SFI), also held a pro-Palestine demonstration near the Israeli embassy in Delhi. Many of them were detained by the police at APJ Abdul Kalam Road.

A video of the protests, shared by news agency ANI, showed police officials dragging protesters away. The protesters were seen waving flags at the pro-Palestine rally.

Bosnians demand end to genocide against

Several thousand people gathered in the capital Sarajevo waving Palestinian and Bosnian flags, demanding a halt to Israel's bombardment in Gaza.

"Genocide, genocide," some chanted, while a large and prominent banner read "Yesterday Srebrenica, today Gaza," referring to the 1995 massacre in the Bosnian town, Europe's worst atrocity since World War Two in which Serb forces killed an estimated 8,000 Muslim men and boys.



From page 1 ▶ Meanwhile, more than 5,000 Palestinian prisoners are suffering systematic, barbaric revenge and an infringement on their basic human rights only because the apartheid regime has received a painful blow and has failed to blackmail the resistance and its people. These Palestinian prisoners are unjustly sentenced to long, heavy sentences, deliberately ignored by so-called "human rights" organisations, while deliberately neglecting the groans of their mothers and families.

During the past days, the aggressive war has eliminated all the mock political solutions, and will thus impose new rules in the Palestinian righteous struggle. The people of Gaza have rubbed the enemy's nose in the dirt and have bombed its strategic colonial facilities and settlements. They have told the world that -with the modest weapons we possess- we are capable of liberation, and that there is no point in normalization with an enemy. These are merely quackery and deceptive agreements, as the enemy is an occupier of an indigenous Palestinian Arab land, and it is not possible to coexist with it.



A severe political & military paranoia

So far, the occupation army has failed to invade overcome the ambushes and surprises of the tools are ready; however, its "soldiers" lack the will to fight. Its leaders are naive and unable to

Gaza. Its technological, security and military united Palestinian resistance factions, which consistently coordinate on an ongoing basis with Hezbollah forces on the northern borders.

All it can do is shedding blood and committing genocide, whereas the so-called international community is: deaf, dumb, blind.

For its part, the Western mainstream media is racist, disgraceful, and violates all journalistic ethics. It exploits its major platforms and the algorithms of alternative media platforms to demonise the righteous legitimate resistance, and to justify the "Nazi" genocide committed against Gazan "babies." Meanwhile, it has turn blind eyes and deaf ears to the closure of the crossings, the obstruction of humanitarian aids to Gaza, and the occupation's intentions to displace the indigenous population and to resettle them in an alternative homeland under clear and explicit American sponsorship. What is currently taking pkace is a huge media Storm accompanied by false narratives, systematic deception, information fragmentation, and hideous exploitation of artificial intelligence, just to demonise the right of the people of Palestine to struggle and defend their own lands.

80% of the innocent victims of the Baptist

Hospital massacre are women and children, who took refuge in the hospital as it is an internationally forbidden site to target. Nevertheless, racist Western mainstream media has intentionally adopted the narrative of the colonial occupation, which has insolently disavowed its heinous atrocity, accusing the Palestinian resistance of it, and displaying the bloody event as an "explosion" and not an "air bombardment." In addition to describing the victims as "dead" and not "killed." Besides, the mainstream media avoids mentioning the word "Baptist" since the crime is an attack on a health center affiliated with the Anglican church.

In case the Zionist entity approves establishing an investigation committee, then this would solely be for media-manipulation, as happened with the "Kahane Commission" that published a report on February 7, 1983 in which it concluded that it did not find evidence of any direct involvement of the Zionists in the heinous "Sabra and Shatila massacre." The enemy's acceptance of the investigation is to claim an alleged Zionist "democracy"!

TOURISM

OCTOBER 24, 2023 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

Isfahan sustainable tourism projects elaborated at Samarkand conference



TEHRAN - On Sep. 20, a host of cultural heritage and travel researchers from Iran, the UK, Malaysia, China, Pakistan, Russia, India, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan addressed a range of issues impacting sustainable tourism and the challenges faced to heritage sites today.

Hosted by the Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Samarkand, the conference was initially dedicated to the development of the tourism industry within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's member states.

Addressing the conference, Nafise Hajati, an Iranian researcher and journalist, chose to elaborate on some projects currently underway in Isfahan, one of the top travel destinations in the heart of Iran.

She first pointed at a "unique perspective" adopted by Isfahan's municipal organization, that defines the city as an intertwined amalgam of antiquity and modernity.

"We should recognize [the whole] Isfahan as a historical city. Therefore, every project we undertake should be approached with the understanding that we are planning for and working within a historical city," Hajati quoted a municipality official as saying.

She said over 40 projects dedicated to the renovation, restoration, and revitalization of historical structures have been carried out in Isfahan since the beginning of the year.

To cite an example, she referred to a giant project, called Baba Qasem, aimed to breathe new life into the city's Jameh Mosque and its nearby spaces. "Our ambitious project, known as the BABA QASEM project, aims to help revive the oldest part of the city, located near the UNESCO World Heritage site of Isfahan Jameh (Friday) Mosque. This quarter is adorned with numerous historical monuments, some of which are lesser-known nationally registered treasures. Our goal is to breathe new life into these remarkable sites and important quarters."

She said among the prominent monuments awaiting revival is a mausoleum dating back to the dynasty of Tamerlane, a 700-year-old madrasa, and an ancient tomb, to name a few.

"By restoring and highlighting these hidden gems, we hope to unveil their historical significance and foster a greater appreciation for their cultural heritage."

To complete the restoration efforts, the BABA QASEM project also involves the addition of various urban facilities. These facilities will enhance the overall livability of the area while accommodating the needs

of residents and visitors alike. We aim to create a harmonious blend of heritage and contemporary urban development. Hajati

"With the Isfahan Jameh Mosque serving as a nearby UNESCO World Heritage site, the BABA QASEM project gains even more significance. Visitors will have the unique opportunity to explore both the renowned mosque and the revitalized quarter, immersing themselves in the rich history and cultural diversity of the area."

The journalist noted the objective of these projects is multifaceted. "We aim to boost tourism in the region, improve living conditions for local residents, and foster the establishment of local handicraft workshops and suitable businesses.'

She added such a scheme would create a more appealing environment for its inhabitants and become more attractive to tourists. "Ultimately, this approach will lead us to achieve sustainable tourism."

"In this project, we spent six months conducting extensive research, encompassing historical, and social aspects, and more. It was rewarding, however, as we discovered connections between this region and cities such as New York, Khojand, Samarkand, Istanbul, and even Urganj."

Furthermore, Hajati briefed about the revival of a significant part of Naghse-Jahan Square, which is a UNESCO World Heritage.

"This area, after years of neglect and being closed off to the public, is finally receiving the attention it deserves. [For example], the International Qeysariye Museum, Gallery, & Café was restored and reopened by the private sector managed by Rafiodin Razavi in

She said the initiative was aimed at supporting artists and activists in various fields of handicrafts, providing a space for the display and sale of fine contemporary works

"Just three months later, Qeysariye set a record with 625 visitors in a single day, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. This means that Qeysariye quickly became a must-visit location in Isfahan. High-ranking guests, ambassadors, ministers, artists, and more consider it a special and VIP part not only in the square but also in the historical city of Isfahan."

The conference was organized on the sidelines of the 25th session of the World Tourism Organization's general assembly, which started in Uzbekistan's Samarkand on October 18.

Human settlements established in Isfahan 5,000 years ago, study finds

TEHRAN – A new study suggests some human settlements were established some 5,000 years ago near Isfahan's Zayandehrood, the largest river of the Iranian Plateau in central Iran.

Archaeological studies conducted on an area extending from the Zayandehrood basin in the east of Isfahan and the Gavkhuni wetland indicate traces of human settlements and a flourishing culture in this part of the Iranian plateau since about five thousand years ago, IRNA quoted an Iranian archaeologist as saying on Sunday.

"Human settlements established in this region for thousands of years and have left behind a flourishing culture that seems to have progressed to the stage of civilization and urbanization... In our excavations, evidence of the establishment of human societies from the third millennium BC, i.e. the Old Bronze Age, was obtained," Yaser Jebraili told the news agency on Sunday.

Moreover, the archaeologist noted evidence concerning the Parthian and Sassanid eras have been discovered around

An aerial view of modern Isfahan with a 17th-century arch bridge constructed over Zayanderood seen in the foreground.

Zayandehrood and in eastern remains, he said. parts of Isfahan.

shows that the lower reaches of the Zavandehrood in the east of Isfahan were of great interest during the Islamic period, especially the Ilkhanid and Timurid epochs."

In this study, the "Carbon-14 test" was used for accurate dating of the obtained evidence and

"The excavations "Also. the obtained evidence researches carried out so far show that human societies were established in the lower reaches of Zayandehrood in the Bronze Age."

> Moreover, there is a piece of weak evidence that suggests the possibility of the establishment of human societies before the Bronze Age, Jebraili said.

conducted on the ancient city in 2020, the ruins of two workshops, estimated to date from the Parthian era (247 BC - 224 CE). were deemed by many to push back Isfahan's history by millennia. Excavations at Tepe Ashraf initially began in 2010 when archaeologists stumbled upon a reconstructed part in the ruins of the castle, which suggested that the structure had been used during the Buyid dynasty.

Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran during the 16th and 17th centuries, and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons.

The ancient city is filled with 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. It has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into "half of the world", suggesting that seeing it is equivalent to seeing half of the world.

Municipalities obliged to establish handicraft markets near cities, interior minister says

TEHRAN - Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi has said all Iranian municipalities have been required to set up handicraft marketplaces near city entrances, CHTN reported on Monday.

"Based on a presidential order, we have notified all municipalities to consider a place [near city entrances] to offer handicrafts," Vahidi stated.

The official said his ministry is set to closely monitor the implementation of this project to help support Iranian crafters.

"We have made a strong determination to set up the bazaars as soon as possible to support handicrafts people."

Vahidi estimated the scheme, when fully

implemented, makes a significant change in the prosperity of handicrafts, employment, and production countrywide.

As mentioned by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the value of Iran's handicraft exports stood at \$400 million during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (Mar. 21, 2022— Jan. 20, 2023). "Compared to the same period a year earlier, the figure represents some 30 percent growth."

At present, a total of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts". The World Crafts Council is a non-profit, non-governmental organization



that was founded in 1964 to promote fellowship, foster economic development through income-generating craft-related activities, and organize exchange programs, workshops, conferences, and exhibitions.

Five rock-cut tombs discovered in northern Iran



TEHRAN – A team of Iranian archaeologists led by Meysam Fallah has discovered five rockcut tombs among other findings while it surveyed manmade caves near Amol, Mazandaran province, northern Iran.

Supervised by the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the archaeological survey was intended to shed new light on Amol's ancient troglodyte architecture, which is called "Kafar Koli" by the locals, ILNA reported on Sunday.

"19 relics and structures, including Five rock-cut tombs, were discovered during the field survey," Fallah said.

He said in terms of appearance,

construction technique, form, and plan, these graves are very similar to the examples found in Fars and southern Iran.

The most famed rock-cut tombs in southern Iran, where Achaemenid Persian Kings have been laid to rest, can be found in the UNESCO-designated Persepolis and a nearby site; Nagesh-e Rostam.

densely nonulated provinces in Iran and has diverse natural resources, notably reservoirs of oil and natural gas. The province's four largest counties are Sari, Amol, Nour, and Tonekabon.

Human habitation in the Mazandaran region dates back to some 75,000 years ago. Recent excavations in Gohar Tappeh in Behshahr a proof that the area has been urbanized for more

than 5,000 years, and the area is considered one of the most important historical sites of Iran. Based on archaeological studies conducted in the caves of Kamarband and Hutu, near the city of Behshahr, it seems that the human presence in the area of Mazandaran dates back some 9500 years BC.

From a geographical point of Mazandaran is one of the most view, Mazandaran can be divided into two parts, i.e. coastal plain and the mountainous area. It has a variety of climates, including the mild and humid climate of the Caspian shoreline and the moderate and cold climate of mountainous regions.

> In the early 20th century, by constructing seven new roads and railways, the provinces of Mazandaran and Gilan became known as Shomal by all Iranians (meaning "the North" in Persian).

'A Neolithic feat of engineering': Orkney dig reveals ruins of huge tomb

The ruins of a 5,000-year-old tomb in a construction that reflects the pinnacle of neolithic engineering in northern Britain has been unearthed

Fourteen articulated skeletons of men. women and children - two positioned as if they were embracing have been found inside one of six cells or side rooms.

The tomb measures more than 15m in diameter and contains a stone structure accessed through a long passage of around seven meters. The excavation was headed by Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark, senior curator of prehistory (neolithic) at the National Museums Scotland, and Prof Vicki Cummings, professor of neolithic archaeology at Cardiff

University.

Anderson-Whymark the "incredible excitement" as they removed topsoil and could see the outline plan of this tomb, a circular shape with a rectangular chamber surrounded by six cells with curved backs. He said: "Seven or eight meters across the interior is really big. We had found not only the tomb, but then in situ articulated skeletons - the icing on the cake."

He noted that the corbelled construction involved stones being built up gradually to create cell chambers that narrowed as they rose: "They really are engineering feats. The tomb would have been an immense feature in the landscape when it was originally constructed, and the stonework inside would have been very impressive."

The site had been overlooked until now as it was flattened and largely destroyed without record in the 18th or 19th centuries when stone was used for a nearby building that was demolished about a decade ago.

Further digging in the ruins by a farmer's son in 1896 revealed traces of walling and the discovery of a stone macehead and ball, as well as eight skeletons. These discoveries were reported in a local paper by an antiquary, James Walls Cursiter, who speculated that it was a ruined tomb but did not realize its significance or age, having only

seen part of it.

Described then as a "chambered cairn". it received a mere couple of paragraphs, which Anderson-Whymark happened to spot during other research. It inspired him to track down the site. With the assistance of students from the University of Central Lancashire and local volunteers, a three-week excavation at Holm, East Mainland, unearthed evidence of a substantial

Most neolithic tombs survive as upstanding monuments in Orkney, but the Holm tomb was buried beneath green rolling fields.

Anderson-Whymark said: "Orkney is exceptionally rich in archaeology, but we never expected to find a tomb

of this size in such a small-scale excavation. It's incredible to think this once impressive monument was nearly lost without record."

Cummings added: "It is incredibly rare to find these tomb deposits, even in well-preserved chambered tombs, and these remains will enable new insights into all aspects of these peoples' lives."

A small motif - three lines and other scratch marks carved on the back of one of the stones - has

Through DNA analysis and other research, there is now the potential to discover if the individuals buried there were all related and their link to other Orkney tombs, some of which might have been used over generations or hundreds of years. Anderson-Whymark said: "They

were certainly putting bodies on top of bodies, but they appear to have gone in over a period of time."

The entrance could have been blocked with a slab of stone, allowing them to go back in, perhaps for various activities and ceremonies within the main chamber.

The tomb dates from around 3000 BC, when local communities had been farming in Orkney for several hundred years. They focused on cattle, and thousands of years later, the field is still used for cattle.

(Source: The Guardian)

Iranian crisis management teams attend intl. INSARAG forum

TEHRAN - Iranian crisis management teams participated in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) forum. which was held in Doha, Qatar, on October 18-19.

The country's representatives were invited by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the INSARAG Secretariat in Geneva to attend the meeting, Majid Aron, an official with Tehran Crisis Management Organization, said, ISNA report-

The teams participated in the Global Forum on INSARAG after the action review (AAR) of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) response to the Turkey and Syria earthquakes.

The earthquakes in Turkey and Syria on February 6 resulted in the largest-ever deployment of the INSARAG network.

On the sidelines of the forum, Iranian participants met Lucien Jaggi, representative of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and Winston Chang, representative of the INSARAG Secretariat in Geneva,

They discussed the cooperation of the United Nations OCHA and the INSARAG Secretariat in Geneva in the process of the Iranian urban search and rescue teams' membership in the INSARAG network.

They also discussed when and how the assessment team will examine the current Iranian teams, select a suitable mentor

TEHRAN - A number of uni-

versity chancellors have deliv-

ered a letter to the UN office in

Tehran condemning the crimes

of the Zionist regime in Gaza and

stressing the need to take ur-

gent actions to end this tragedy.

Secretary-General António Gu-

terres to use the capacity of the

United Nations to immediate-

ly stop the attacks on the Gaza

Strip and reopen the routes for

transferring the wounded, and

In this letter, they asked UN



(consultant) for them, hold the required training programs regarding the coordination, standards, guidelines, equipment, systems, and INSARAG software in the coordination and management of information and urban search and rescue operations.

INSARAG global forum 2023

"The meeting was held with the presence of representatives of experienced USAR teams and INSARAG team leaders' network to carefully review each team's performance, and their previous mission reports to revitalize the INSARAG global response," Aron

The meeting had two parts; presenting the analysis of the USAR responses, and reviewing recommendations and sugges-

Holding workshops for capacity building and strengthening localization; quality standards and compliance; INSARAG systems and guidelines; USAR information and operations man-

the needed medicine and inter-

national aid and facilities. IRNA

They also called for more ef-

forts to be made to prevent

human rights violations and

attacks on civilians in Palestine

and ensure their basic human

"Unfortunately, this genocide,

in our opinion, is going on due

to the inability of the Security

Council. Several members of the

United Nations Security Council

istry of Foreign Affairs, firefighting organizations, security services, and the Red Crescent Society were also present in the meeting which was held online. **OCHA, INSARAG**

Representatives of the Min-

OCHA was established in December 1991 by the General Assembly to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disas-

In the first stage, organizing and forming two urban search and rescue teams based on international models was put on the agenda, Aron said.

After that, the Islamic Republic of Iran will become a full member of the international urban rescue and rescue teams, he added.

INSARAG is a global network of more than 90 countries and organizations under the United Nations umbrella.

The INSARAG's primary purpose is to facilitate coordination between the various international USAR teams who make themselves available for deployment to countries experiencing devastating events of structural collapse due primarily to earthquakes.

The group achieves such coordination by facilitating opportunities for communication between these groups ahead of such events. These meetings of teams have resulted in many practical agreements between them that have streamlined working together during actual

OCTOBER 24, 2023 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Some 75% of insured population getting free health coverage

TEHRAN - An official with the Health Insurance Organization has said around 33 million out of nearly 44 million insured people are covered by free health services.

More than 142 million visits were made to 50,000 health service centers across the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), Emad Mollazadeh said, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks on the occasion of National Health Insurance Week, being celebrated from October 21 to 27.

The law for universal health coverage took effect on October 25, 1994.

In this line, different programs are being held annually to get people and health service providers more familiar with the activities and services of the Health Insurance Organization.

The main theme of the week is "Universal health insurance a step towards the realization of social justice."

The first day of Health Insurance Week (October 21st) is named "Education, prevention and family health".

Other days of the week have been named as

October 22nd, "Smart system and electronic health services.

October 23rd, "Supporting incurable, rare disease treatment, Social and health donors' contri-

October 24th, "Universal coverage, Fair access to health services, and Financial support of in-

October 25th, "Improving services, Strategic purchases, and Supervising optimum health ser-

October 26th, "Informing, empowering, and

October 27th, "Supporting the treatment of infertile couples, and Youth population growth."

Universal public health insurance scheme

Iran's universal public health insurance scheme, known as Salamat Health Insurance, covers hospitalization, para-clinical, and outpatient services, including doctor's visits, radiology, lab tests, and medication costs at any public hospital affiliated with the Ministry of Health.

Iran has taken steps to provide health coverage for the whole population, in addition to the refugees. Even during the outbreak of the coronavirus, the country has provided treatment services and vaccination to foreign nationals just like Iranians.

Some 170,000 refugees residing in Iran are now covered by health insurance, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Iran has also gone far to establish a Primary Health Care (PHC) system in 1981, now covering a population of approximately 82 million rural and urban residents, which is considered a great step towards universal health coverage, Mohammad Hossein Niknam, Immunologist in Tehran University of Medical Sciences. told the Tehran Times in 2020.

IHIO services

Iran Health Insurance Organization, together with the Ministry of Health, provided important and significant services in different sectors

during the past year (March 2022-March 2023).

Providing free insurance for low-income families, paying the medical expenses of infertile couples, providing services to the disabled, supporting patients with rare diseases, and providing services to foreign nationals have been done in the past year, IRNA reported.

The government has adopted policies to identify uninsured people. In this regard, the Health Insurance Organization in cooperation and interaction with the Social Security Organization was assigned to identify uninsured people, who are often from the vulnerable groups of society.

Accordingly, some 90 percent of hospitalization costs and around 70 percent of outpatient treatment costs are covered by insurance.

In this regard, by allocating 50 trillion rials (about \$100 million), 107 rare diseases are covered by the health insurance fund, and with the cooperation of universities, a lion's share of treatment costs are paid by the government.

So far, more than 31 rare and special diseases, including high blood pressure, MS, type 2 diabetes, hemodialysis, thalassemia, kidney transplant, hemophilia, diabetic retinopathy, type 1 diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and autism, have been identified in the system of the Health Insurance Organization.

Unfortunately, during the past years, many infertile couples who wanted a child avoided pursuing their problems due to the huge and staggering costs of treatment.

This is while paying attention to this important issue can help increase the young population, which is one of the most important and influential elements in the progress and development of

With the support of the organization, infertile couples without insurance coverage, pregnant mothers, and their babies up to the age of 5 are covered by insurance.

All the indicators of health and treatment have made significant progress after the Islamic Revolution, and now Iran is one of the leading countries in this field.

Electronic health records have been set up so far for 98 percent of people in the country. One of the key features of an EHR is that health information can be created and managed by authorized providers in a digital format capable of being shared with other providers across more than one healthcare organization.

Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said.

Iran to join intl. USAR

On July 4, Aron said the country is seeking to become a member of international USAR teams.

Urban search and rescue teams play a critical role in responding to disasters, and putting together an effective team requires careful planning and preparation.

The concept of USAR originated in the 1960s as a result of the increasing number of high-rise buildings in urban areas.

A coordination meeting was held to assess two urban search and rescue teams in the Tehran metropolis, ISNA quoted Aron as

The meeting was attended by the head of the Tehran Crisis Management Organization, representatives of the United Nations OCHA in Iran, and the director of the emergency response unit of the INSARAG Secretariat

are basically staunch support-

ers and allies of the Zionist re-

We believe that the actions of

the Secretary-General can help

to make peace and justice in the

Negotiations to help Gaza

The Iranian Red Crescent So-

ciety (IRCS) sent the first ship-

ment of humanitarian aid to

Following the brutal large-

scale bombing of Gaza by the

Zionist regime, the IRCS an-

nounced its readiness to send

In this regard, many efforts

have been made and many ne-

gotiations are still going on with

the heads of the Federations,

the International Committee of

the Red Cross, and the Red Cres-

have been made with the head

of the Egyptian Red Crescent to

arrangements

humanitarian aid to Gaza.

cent Movement.

"Necessary

Gaza on October 20.

send these aids.

The first shipment of aid includes almost 60 tons of medicine, medical equipment, and basic foodstuffs," IRIB quoted Pirhossein Kolivand, head of IRCS, as saying.

Currently, many trucks at the Rafah border in Egypt are ready to be sent to Gaza as soon as the crossing opens, Kolivand added.

He also highlighted that three mobile hospitals are ready to be established on the Gaza border to help the casualties. To do so, the international consultations and negotiations are ongoing.

The second relief aid is also being prepared to be sent via sea.

Following the humanitarian crisis caused by the Zionist regime's attacks on Palestinians in Gaza, the Health Ministry is negotiating with international bodies and organizations to provide assistance to people.

ENGLISH IN USE

Take urgent action to end Zionist crimes in Gaza,

academics write to Guterres

region."

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran starts five-year tobaccofree national plan

rights.

A national plan aiming to protect people from secondhand smoking in 63 cities and 63 villages over the course of five years has just piloted in the central city of Qom.

Following Article 8 of the Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization to protect people from tobacco use and reduce its side effects, Iran declared Qom city as the country's first "tobacco-free city".

A tobacco-free city is a place in which the sale, supply, and use of tobacco are regulated in such a way that people are protected from secondhand smoke, and direct and indirect incentive mechanisms are restricted, tobacco consumers will be encouraged to quit.

برنامه ۵ ساله شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات

برنامه ۵ ساله شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و در نهایت ۶۳ شهر و ۶۳ روستای منتخب کشور عاری از

ابتکار شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات بر اساس ماده ۸ کنوانسیون کنترل دخانیات سازمان جهانی بهداشت به منظور محافظت از مردم در مواجهه با دود دست دوم دخانیات مرداد سال جاری در ۶۳ دانشگاه علوم پزشکی

شهرو روستای بدون دخانیات، عبارت از شهرو روستایی که در آن فروش، عرضه و استعمال محصولات دخانی ضابطه مندشده به نحوی که مردم از مواجهه با دود دست دوم محافظت شوند، تبلیغات و ساز و کارهای تشویقی مستقیم و غیرمستقیم آن محدود شده، مصرف کنندگان دخانیات به ترک

Over 4,200 prisoners of unintentional crimes freed

TEHRAN- In the first six months of the current Iranian year (which began on March 21), 4224 prisoners of involuntary crimes were released from prison.

and 192 were female, IRNA reported. The debt of the released prisoners was 56 thou-

Of the total released prisoners 4.032 were male

sand billion rials (about \$112 million).

Governmental contribution

In March, heads of the three branches of the govemment donated sums of money to help release prisoners of unintentional crimes.

President Ebrahim Raisi, Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, and Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bager Qalibaf allocated a total of 8.6 billion rials (about \$17,000) for the issue, IRNA reported.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 23 this year), according to the Blood Money Organization report

Previously, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, earmarked 15 billion rials (\$30,000) for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes

A total of 6,875 prisoners of unintentional crimes have been released over the past 12 months, Asadollah Joulaei, the head of the Blood Money Organization, said on March 26, Mehr reported.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

The Blood Money Organization was established in 1990. Since then, more than 160,000 prisoners of unintentional crimes who had debts have been freed.

On March 6, Mohseni-Ejei said the Leader had pardoned a sizable number of prisoners.

He also said that over 80,000 prisoners have received pardons as a result of the order issued by Ayatollah Khamenei.

The top judge stressed that thousands who had been detained during recent disturbances in the country were given amnesty.

He added that the number of pardon cases could approach 90,000.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

God must be thanked for every blessing, and he who is thankful, receives more blessings, and he who neglects it, endangers that blessing and may soon lose it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:37 Dawn: 4:55 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

Persian fiction in Afghanistan

Dart 2

On the one hand the new power elite took repressive measures to curb independent activities of the literati and, on the other hand, sponsored cultural institutions like The Literary Society (Anjoman-e Adabi) and The Historical Society (Anjoman-e Tarikh) and expanded public education and the press to an unprecedented degree.

The government succeeded in establishing an active and prolific, though largely conformist, group of intelligentsia that dominated the literary and cultural scene during the period.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, in addition to the publication of short stories, a number of novels and longer novellas appeared in installments in newspapers.

Panzdah Sal Qabl (Fifteen Years Ago) by Malekzada was an early successful attempt away from the overall romantic atmosphere of the prose fiction of the preceding decades.

Ebrahim Alamshahi's Sham-e Tarik, Sobh-e Rowshan (Dark Dusk, Bright Dawn) was another important story of this period. These stories, along with Solayman-Ali Jaghori's Bigom, Gol-Mohammad Zwanday's Firuz, Jalal ad-Din Khoshnava's Khanjar (Dagger), and Amin ad-Din Ansari's Dar Jostoju-ye Kimia (In Search of Alchemy) were written in a predominantly pedagogic and overtly didactic mode.

These examples of prose fiction were generally critical of the prevalent social relations, and their authors advocated reform and economic progress under the direction of the state

Two influential writers of prose fiction in the 1940s and 1950s were Najibollah Turvayaneh and Abd al-Rahman Pazvak. The more successful of Turvayana's stories consist of his semi-historical narratives, stories that betray the author's nostalgia for a glorious heritage of the past.

Characters of his stories include Mahmud of Hgazna, Mohammad Kharazmshah and his son Jalal ad-Din who resisted the Mongol onslaught, as well as men in Afghan frontiers who successfully fought the Mughal rulers of India

As Pazhvak's collection of short stories, Afsaneha-ye Mardom (1957) suggests, popular stories, folktales, legends, and romance constitute the main component of his essentially lyrical prose fiction.

Aziz al-Rahman Fathi's novel Dar Pay-e Nastaran (At the Sweetbrier's Stem, 1952) was a major contribution to the growth of Afghan fiction.

Although the story lacks a well incorporated narrative plot and technically unified thematic structure, and contains many superfluous episodes, Fathi's work shows a better grasp of the genre of prose fiction than any of his predecessors or contemporaries in Afghanistan.

Fathi's lead was followed by younger writers of the period such as Shafi' Rahgozar, Habibollah Bahjat, Abd al-Ahmad Ada, Hgolam-Hossein Fa'al, Musa Nahmat, and Hasan Ghamin.

A prolific writers of fiction in this period was Musa Hemmat who had edited Peymaneh (Goblet, 1963), the first anthology of contemporary short stories in Afghanistan.

From the late 1950s, Afghan women increasingly engaged in writing fiction. Roq(ay) yeh Abu-Bakr, Nafisa Mobarez, Maga Rahmani, and Malalay Musa, among others, were the leading female writers who were instrumental in introducing such themes and topics as the social marginalization of women and in calling for the improvement of women's status and

The year 1964 was a turning-point for contemporary fiction in Afghanistan. The promulgation of a new constitution that permitted a generally free press helped literary figures to find ready forums to publish their work and, consequently, further establish the genre of prose fiction.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica To be continued.

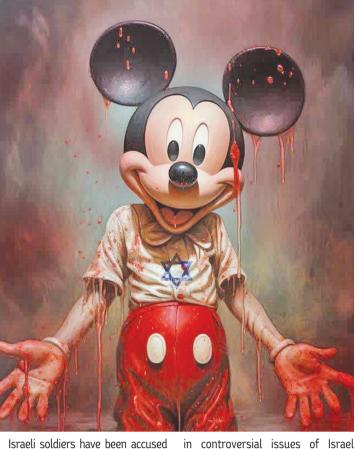
Disney's controversial donation: a clash of values amidst Gaza conflict

Frome Page 1 Disney has a lengthy track record of manufacturing what some may perceive as "fake heroes" in their movies and TV shows. These icons often portray an idealized version of America and its values, selectively ignoring the darker aspects of the nation's history in favor of more palatable narratives.

While Disney has been preoccupied with fabricating these fictional heroes, true heroes can be found in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian children in Gaza face unimaginable hardships and adversity, yet they display remarkable resilience and courage.

Batman, Superman, Catwoman, Spiderman, and other fictional heroes are meant to impart life lessons to children while evoking joy and cheerfulness. However, during the same period, children in Gaza and Palestine have been enduring a decade-long siege, with constant bombardment impeding access to basic necessities like food and medicine. These innocent children have witnessed the loss of their loved ones due to Israeli airstrikes, yet they persistently fight for their rights and stand up for fellow Palestinians.

It is important to recognize the bravery and resilience of the children in Palestine who face unimaginable challenges on a daily basis. These children have shown incredible strength in the face of violence, oppression, and injustice perpetuated by the Israeli occupation.



Israeli soldiers have been accused of using excessive force against these child protesters, resulting in injuries, imprisonment, and torture. The courage displayed by these children in their resistance movements deserves recognition and support from the international community.

While Disney's involvement and demanding an end to the

has raised concerns about the company's stance on human rights, it is essential to separate the actions of the corporation from the courageous individuals fighting for justice. Supporting the child heroes of Palestine means advocating for their rights, amplifying their stories,

occupation and violence that they

Unfortunately, today Disney has become more concerned with creating fictional heroes than supporting real ones and is prioritizing profit over human rights and the well-being of children.

However, this is not the first time that Disney has been involved in a contentious issue related to Israel. In fact, Disney has a long history of supporting Israel and has created numerous characters and stories that promote Israel's narrative and mythology.

Disney has been accused of using its power and influence to whitewash Israel's crimes against Palestinians.

In the face of all this, it is important to remember that the real heroes are the everyday people who are fighting for their rights and the well-being of their families and communities. Whether in Gaza or elsewhere, these people deserve our respect and support, and it is time that we recognize their bravery in the face of incredible adversity.

Disney has a responsibility to use their vast power and influence to promote justice and equality, rather than perpetuating harmful stereotypes and supporting unjust causes. Until they do, we will continue to stand with the real heroes of Palestine and reject the false narratives put forth by those who seek to whitewash the darker parts of American history and the ongoing oppression of the Palestinian people.

Neyanban virtuoso Ahmad-Ali Sharafi passes away



TEHRAN – Ahmad-Ali Sharafi, a veteran musician and neyanban virtuoso died in Bushehr, the southern Iranian city on Monday. He was 80.

Sharafi, a prominent figure in the music industry of southern Iran, died due to illness, ISNA reported.

He was born in Bushehr and had participated in many national and international festivals where he received numerous awards and

recognition.

The Persian instrument of neyanban, which is most common in southern Iran, is a kind of bagpipe.

This old instrument, which has been inscribed on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2015, is mostly played in the provinces of Bushehr, Khuzestan, Kerman and Hormozgan.

Ammar International Popular Film Festival condemns Zionists' crimes

TEHRAN-Following the Zionist Regime's crime in al-Mamdani Hospital in Gaza, a group of artists of the Ammar International Popular Film Festival, released a statement, strongly condemning the crime of the Zionist regime in the massacre of the oppressed people of Gaza.

In the statement, they wrote: "After the legitimate defense and the historic blow of the Palestinian Mujahideen to the deteriorating and feeble Zionist regime, the leaders of disbelief and hypocrisy and force, thinking of compensating for the disgraceful defeat of October 7, 2023, proceeded to punish collectively the civilians of the Gaza Strip and massacre the oppressed Palestinian

"They then purified their delusional

and animalistic image with the aid of the media's absurd and malicious tool and that of their accomplices. The crime of the Zionist regime in the bombing of al-Mamdani Hospital in Gaza, which led to the death and injury of thousands of children, women and innocent people, crossed the red line into barbarism. In front of the eyes of the people of the world, European countries and the American government also support these historical crimes by providing all kinds of WMDs and supporting them," the statement continued.

"Unfortunately, we have witnessed that the most obvious human rights are being subverted by the criminals of the world with the media tool or they are trying to hide the depth and severity of crimes by censoring the facts on the ground,

which hurts the heart of every free person, regardless of religion, profession, or specific geography," the signatories added.

The statement continued by emphasizing the role of true artists in such conditions. "As this delicate situation continues, a great and historical responsibility is placed on the part of the oppressed and the human race towards the members of the media, especially the artists, who have fulfilled their mission by portraying the extent of ongoing crimes and the shameless genocide of the usurper Zionist regime, and by revealing the identity of the arrogant and the murderers should lead the public opinion of the world towards justice and humanity. It would be very foolish if such crimes are covered with silence and the media

and artists turn into modern slaves to serve the arrogance and share in an unpardonable sin."

The artists of the Ammar International Popular Film Festival concluded their statement by a verse from the Holy Quran: "And We desired to show favor to those who were oppressed in the land, making them models of faith as well as heirs". (Holy Quran, Surah al-Qasas, Verse: 5)

The Ammar festival was established in 2010 by a number of Iranian revolutionary figures to honor film and art products promoting topics such as resistance and revolution. It was named after Ammar Yasir, a close companion of the Prophet Muhammad (S).

Intl. fashion, architecture festival to make debut in Iran

TEHRAN – The first edition of the international festival of fashion and architecture is planned to be held in Iran in April 2024.

The festival aims to identify exceptional professionals, professors, designers, and artists in the fields of photography, fashion, and architecture, IRNA quoted the secretary of the event as saying on Sunday.

Additionally, the festival aims to create opportunities for communication and collaboration between designers, photographers, and major companies in the industry, Mehran Ariainia explained.

the selected artists and promote innovative concepts and approaches related to architecture, photography, and fashion, he added.

He also noted that the festival also aims to

The festival seeks to exhibit the works of

enhance the growth and propagation of Iranian culture through modern and traditional design.

"By integrating fashion and architecture, the festival intends to establish the necessary foundation and framework for progression towards favorable conditions concerning

architecture, fashion, and architectural photography."The event targets architecture students and graduates, as well as architecture design and construction companies, talented architecture designers, and students of technical and professional academies, he explained.

The festival also welcomes fashion and clothing design students and graduates, clothing design companies and boutiques, as well as talented clothing design students and photographers, including photography students, graduates, and amateurs, he added.

He expressed hope that the festival would facilitate opportunities for designers to interact and form connections. He added that the first festival is free of charge, and no application fee is required. They anticipate a high turnout of students and graduates in the fields of fashion and architecture.

The festival features eight awards in the area of architecture, eight prizes in the field of fashion, the selection of an architect of the year, the selection of the best clothing designer, and the best photographer of the year, among other



prizes, he mentioned.

He also pointed out that Iran is at the forefront of Islamic clothing globally. "Still, the country has not taken any significant action towards promoting this industry, resulting in Iranian clothing being categorized under world fashion, which is a fundamental problem."

He stated that the festival aims to discover and showcase authentic talent in the fields of fashion design, architecture, fashion, and photography.

The ultimate goal is to introduce Iranian designers to the world and establish the country as a hub of authentic Islamic fashion, he concluded.



Aid to Gaza

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

