

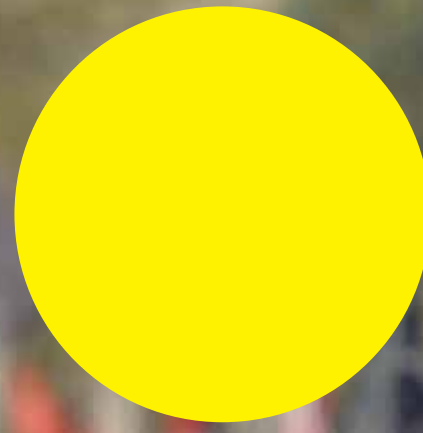
Europe divided on several fronts

Nations Against

Governments

- French rallies for Palestine
- No. 10 can't suppress pro-Palestinians
- Germany bans rallying for Palestine
- Palestinian issue deepens divisions within EU

SPECIAL ISSUE



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Pro-Palestinian protesters with placards and flags take part in the 'National March For Palestine' in central London, the UK, on November 11, 2023. HENRY NICHOLLS/AFP

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Gando a precious gift for Sistan and Baluchestan's tourism

The southern parts of Sistan and Baluchestan province of Iran is home to a remarkable creature known as the Gando, or marsh crocodile. This native reptile, considered a precious gift of nature, has long been regarded as an important asset for the development of the tourism industry in the province. However, the recent years of drought have escalated concerns about the extinction of this unique species within Iran.

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US overt, covert plans for Gaza war



By Jahankhsh Izadi
International relations expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The world is a plurality of entities. That is why we see disparate positions taken by countries regarding the war on Gaza. Regardless, what is plainly obvious is that the United States has fully entered the war.

Whenever the US is brought up in conversation, one should take into account the heightened role that the country plays and now is unimaginable for any other country to play. For example, the US wields an exceptional power in making or breaking coalitions as demonstrated by the mobilization of its allies in support of Israel. Anyone who has seen the country engaged in a battle of narratives or media warfare knows that it also has an undeniable influence on international institutions.

Washington's plans for the Gaza war are either overt or covert, with each probably having short-term and long-term objectives.

We saw the overt plans of the United States in action. They are easily gleaned from the following actions:

1. It has tried to prevent the condemnation or restriction of Israel in international institutions. For example, Washington has vetoed the United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for "humanitarian pauses" in the war.
2. It has delivered military equipment to Israel, some overtly and some not. It has even dispatched its fleet to the region to deter attacks on the occupying regime.
3. It has put a spotlight on the October 7 attack by Hamas on the occupied territories in order to strike preemptively in the battle of narratives in the media. This battle became a means to justify the devastating attacks of Israel on Gaza and the killing of Palestinians.
4. It has also tried and still tries to orient its allies in the Arab world, Europe, and the G7 to conform to its logic and approach.

The covert plans of the US for the war, however, are secret and somewhat unclear. For instance, it is not evident what its plans are for the normalization of ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel after this. The fate of Gaza is equally unclear. Will Gaza be handed over to the Palestinian Authority? Will the plan for the forced migration of Gazans to the Sinai Desert be still on the table? Will Gaza get under the control of international forces? What is certain is that the US admittedly does not want the besieged enclave to be occupied by Israel. Washington will surely have plans for every one of these possibilities.

Tel Aviv is against a cease-fire because a cease-fire is not currently included in any of Washington's plans. The recent G7 statement reflected that the US and its allies prefer to use the new term "humanitarian pause," which is a short-term solution for delivering aid, not for stopping the war.

Israel and the US are not willing to negotiate a cease-fire with Hamas, stressing that to negotiate with Hamas is to recognize it. This is not the whole picture. The other part of it answers the following questions: What country or organization would be assigned the responsibility of negotiating with Hamas, and Gaza will be handed over to which group?

The situation is very complicated right now, and we can't even say who Israel or the US will negotiate with. It seems that Hamas, as a warring party, will not be a side to the negotiation. Israel and the US are dreaming about a Gaza without Hamas. Nevertheless, Hamas, as a school of thinking and a way to stand against greedy demands and horrible crimes of Israel is indestructible. So, it seems that Israeli attacks on Gaza with the support of the US will go on at least for a few more days.

Lives of hundreds of patients at risk at Gaza's Al-Shifa hospital

The director general of hospitals in Gaza warned that the lives of hundreds of patients are at risk due to the catastrophic situation at Al-Shifa hospital as Israel intensified its deadly strikes on the Palestinian territory, especially on the region's health centers.

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

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

Clashes reported around Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, where thousands of wounded and displaced Palestinians are trapped. The compound has been repeatedly hit by strikes in recent days, one of which Hamas health officials said destroyed the cardiac ward on Sunday.

"The occupier (Israel) completely destroyed the cardiac department of Al-Shifa hospital... The two-storey building has been completely destroyed in an air strike," Youssef Abu Rish, deputy health minister in the Gaza Strip, told AFP.

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

The Israeli military, which has killed more than 4,000 children since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza, pledged on Saturday to aid the evacuation of babies from the hospital, claiming that "staff of the Al-Shifa hospital has requested that".

Inside Al-Shifa hospital, Doctors Without Borders surgeon Mohammed Obeid said there was no water, power, food or internet access for about 600 post-operative patients, 37-40 babies and 17 people in intensive care.

The surgeon said in an audio message posted Saturday on social media that two babies died in the Al-Shifa neonatal unit after power to their incubators was cut off and a man also died when his ventilator shut down.



Attack on UN compound

Meanwhile, the United Nations said several people have been killed and wounded in Israeli strikes on a UN facility in Gaza City, where hundreds of Palestinians have taken refuge to escape the war.

"The shelling has reportedly resulted in a significant number of deaths and injuries," the United Nations Development Programme said in a statement issued late Saturday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday called for pressure on the United States to stop Israel's offensive in Gaza, but said there would be no agreement unless Washington accepted the region as Palestinian land.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday ruled out a role for the Palestinian Authority (PA) in Gaza once the war is over.

"There will have to be something else there," he said, when asked whether the PA, which has partial administrative control in the occupied West Bank, may govern Gaza after the war.

Erdogan returned from a summit on Saturday of Arab and Muslim leaders in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Israel's 'barbaric' actions

Arab and Muslim leaders at the summit condemned Israeli forces "barbaric" actions in Gaza.

The final declaration on Saturday rejected Israeli claims that it is acting in "self-defense", and demanded that the UN Security Council adopt "a decisive and binding resolution" to halt Israel's "aggression".

"The US should increase its pressure on Israel. The West should increase pressure on Israel... It's vital for us to secure a cease-fire," Erdogan said. He said the US must accept Gaza as Palestinian land.

"We cannot agree with Biden if he approaches (the conflict) by seeing Gaza as the land of occupying settlers or Israel, rather than the land of the Palestinian people," he said.

Turkey has been an increasingly vocal critic of Israel's offensive in Gaza, which was triggered after Hamas fighters staged



Wounded Palestinians receive treatment at the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City on November 7, 2023.
● DAWOOD NEMER/AFP

an October 7 attack into the occupied territories which killed around 1,200 people. Israel's relentless campaign in response has killed more than 11,000 people, mostly women and children, according to the latest figures from the Health Ministry in Gaza.

New protests

Fresh demonstrations in solidarity with Palestinians were also held in many countries. On Sunday, protesters took to the streets of Australia's largest city, Sydney, demanding an end to Israel's atrocities in Gaza. Similar protests were also held in many European cities including London, Paris, Brussels, Barcelona, Dublin and Berlin on Saturday. Argentina's capital and South Africa's Cape Town were also the scene of anti-Israel demonstrations.

GOP candidates bloodthirsty, delusional about Iran

OPINION

It's like Iraq and Afghanistan never happened in the minds of the next generation of Republican warmongers.

Listening to the Republican presidential debate on Wednesday, I heard all the things I expect to hear from Republican candidates — from fearmongering about the Mexican border to deafening silence about the 26 million people who still don't have health insurance in the wealthiest nation on the planet.

I also heard a lot of bloodthirstiness about the Palestinians. Sadly, at this point, I expect that, too. Even those MAGA Republicans who cosplay as "anti-war" when they're talking about Ukraine are all in on this American proxy war. One thing that did slightly surprise me, though, was how eager some of these people seemed to be to start a war with Iran.

Referring to strikes on US forces in the region by Iranian-allied groups in Iraq and Syria and the US engaging in limited retaliation, former UN ambassador Nikki Haley said: "We need to understand this is Iran giving the green light telling them what to do, and we shouldn't be doing the tit for tat like what Joe Biden has done. We need to go and take out their infrastructure that they are using to make those strikes with, so they can never do it again."

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) went even further, tying together Hamas, Hezbollah, and the

fighters in Iraq and Syria to draw the conclusion that "you have to cut off the head of the snake and the head of the snake is Iran and not simply their proxies."

But even if you don't care about the ocean of death and suffering this would bring to Iranian civilians just trying to live their lives, how many Americans would die or come home physically or psychologically broken by the time it was all over?

Why would we do that to ourselves — again?

Afghanistan was the longest war in American history — and surely one of the most pointless. A year and a half after he sent troops to Afghanistan, George W. Bush invaded a second country — Iraq. In some ways that one was such a disaster that it made Afghanistan look good.

By contrast, Iran is — to put it bluntly — a real country with a real army. Not on an American scale, of course, but even so. The Iranian armed forces consist of 610,000 active-duty personnel, plus another 350,000 available for mobilization — not to mention the various closely allied forces, like Hezbollah, that the candidates were talking about on Wednesday night. Saddam Hussein and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan were also diplomatically isolated in a way that Iran just isn't. It exercises massive influence in the region — including,

thanks to Bush's war, Iraq — and it's allied with Russia. The potential for aid coming from all sorts of quarters during a war with the United States should give even as enthusiastic a warmonger as Nikki Haley pause.

Maybe Scott and Haley just want to... what...to bomb the hell out of them for a few days and just get away with it without the Iranians lifting a finger in response? As delusional as that is, Haley seemed to say as much at one point: "Iran responds to strength. You punch them once, you punch them hard, and they back off."

So, in her worldview, Iran is both an incredibly dangerous country that needs to have its whole "infrastructure" "take[n] out" in such a final way that they can "never" provide aid to forces fighting with the US again — but also so weak and cautious that if President Haley tried it, they wouldn't even fight back?

Whatever else you want to say about all this, one thing everyone should stop saying — forever — is that any of these people are "anti-war".

The full article penned by Ben Burgis first appeared on *The Daily Beast*.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



South Khorasan Province's journey to thriving tourism



Akbarieh Garden, Birjand
● ealiya.com



A barberry farm in South Khorasan Province
● apochi.com



Date harvest festival of Tabas
● iribnews.ir



Baladeh Qanat, Ferdows
● alibaba.ir

Iranica Desk

Heritage sites and tourism routes have a crucial role in attracting both domestic and international tourists, making them vital for the development of the tourism industry.

A destination can truly stand out and thrive when it offers distinctive and unforgettable experiences, with the responsibility falling on well-planned tourist events. By combining events with tourism development, we can create captivating attractions and, through effective planning, marketing, and execution, establish them as important strategies for fair and consistent distribution of tourism benefits across various regions and timeframes in the country, IRNA wrote.

By collaborating with local communities, organizing tourism events not only creates social excitement but also increases social participation in various programs. It provides a platform for reviving arts, traditions, and customs, introducing them to new generations, and serves as

an effective means of attracting tourists, especially to rural and pristine areas while promoting targeted regions.

The diverse festivals registered in the national tourism event calendar in South Khorasan Province are a promising sign of increasing tourist influx and the thriving of this industry. Tourism events serve as a wonderful opportunity for people to explore and embrace the diverse cultures of various regions. In this regard, South Khorasan Province has made a significant mark, with 11 of its events registered on the national tourism calendar. This remarkable achievement highlights the province's substantial contribution to the tourism sector.

The promotion of cultural and heritage events across various fields has greatly contributed to the flourishing tourism in South Khorasan Province. A recent noteworthy example is the highly successful second National Barberry Festival, which took place from October 21st to October 26th this year. It is worth mentioning that

alongside this festival, an exciting farm tourism event was introduced as one of the captivating side programs.

The signing of seven memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between the public and private sectors aims to help promote the position of South Khorasan Province's barberry crop, which holds the first rank in its production in the country, and to complete the value-added chain.

Director General of South Khorasan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization Hadi Shahverdi announced recently that the Date Harvest Festival of Tabas has been added to the tourism calendar. Following the registration of this event, dedicated efforts are being made to meticulously plan specialized tours for the Date Harvest Festival in Tabas, ensuring that attendees have an engaging and immersive experience. This thoughtful planning aims to not only introduce and showcase the festival but also to highlight another captivating attraction of the

province.

He mentioned that four other cultural and tourism events are currently being registered.

He noted that one of the effective measures in the realm of tourism development in the province, aimed at attracting tourists, is organizing national and provincial events. Currently, event registration has been initiated at the provincial level, with plans for national registration to follow. This initiative holds great potential for enhancing tourism and increasing the number of visitors to the region.

"Approximately 100 events have been identified that have the potential to be registered on the list of cultural heritage. We are working on refining them and increasing the number of tourism events in the province," he said.

He added that tourists who want to travel to different provinces often consider what events and festivals are happening in that province during their trip.

He said that tourism agencies are important to those who plan, and when tourists travel to a province,

it's important for them to know what events they will encounter. Therefore, the higher the quality of these events, the more attractive it is for tourists and it will lead to attracting more tourists in the coming years and months.

"As an initial step, we have designated autumn as the main tourism season for South Khorasan Province. This is due to the fact that this season has the potential to attract the largest number of tourists to visit the agricultural, mining, historical, and natural sites of the province."

He added that presently, the tourism infrastructure of the province is well-equipped and capable of meeting the needs of travelers. In the event of any deficiencies, a streamlined permit process has been established to address them promptly.

"Moreover, we take pride in our ability to provide ample accommodations for tourists in the urban areas throughout the province," he said.

Shahverdi said the thirteenth government has taken positive steps

in the area of road improvement, and it is necessary to expand the road network in the province to ensure the safety of tourists. Additionally, given the vast expanse of South Khorasan Province, there is a need to increase infrastructure such as health care services, accommodation facilities, and rest areas. Plans are already in progress to address these needs.

He noted that the failure to introduce the capacities of the province has resulted in South Khorasan hosting fewer tourists compared to other parts of the country.

Deputy Governor of South Khorasan Province for Coordinating Affairs Javad Ashrafi said that South Khorasan is an enchanting region that is yet to be fully discovered, despite its exceptional agricultural produce and captivating tourist attractions.

He added that this area boasts some of the most pristine deserts, springs, and mountains, as well as numerous recreational and tourist spots. However, it remains relatively unknown and underappreciated.

Modern Tehran is a creation of the Nasereddin Shah, who in 1870-1872 expanded and rebuilt the city after the manner in which Paris was rebuilt under Napoleon III. Tehran now has the shape of an octagon, and is more than fifteen versts in circumference, with twelve gates; the fortifications are built on the pattern of those in Paris from before the Franco-Prussian War, but are not equipped with cannon, and in general are totally useless for defense of the city.

Some of the gates represent monumental constructions; inside, avenues have been conducted through the city, squares have been laid out, and several beautiful buildings have been added.

However much remains to be done for the welfare of the city, Nasereddin Shah has by and large successfully solved the problem of reconstructing Tehran on a European model without adversely affecting its special Oriental charm.

Like other large cities of Iran, Tehran has its religious sanctuary: The mausoleum of Shah 'Abd al-'Azim, a fifth generation descendant of Imam Hassan (PBUH), who fled to Rey from the caliph Mutavakkil and died here in 861.

The modern structure above his tomb was built, as is shown by an inscription on the frontal, by Nasereddin Shah, and is considered a sanctuary, bast, where a Muslim enjoys the right of asylum; the right is out-

wardly symbolized by a string stretched in front of the building. The mausoleum lies nine versts from Tehran, with which it is linked by a railway, so far the only one in Iran.

Interplay of Aryan and Mesopotamian cultures in Rey

In the course of their westward migration, the Aryans entered in Rey into which the Assyrian armies occasionally penetrated and which thus could come under a certain influence from Mesopotamian civilization.

The Assyrians under King Esarhaddon (681-668 BCE) reached Alborz and Damavand, but these campaigns had the character of incursions and did not prevent the Medes from creating a strong kingdom at a time that coincided with the reign of the following Assyrian king, Ashshurbanipal (668-626 BCE). They seized the opportunity for this at a moment when the Assyrians were busy elsewhere, especially in Khuzestan.

This unification of small clan units into one political organism was achieved by the Medes in the area where Hamadan is located, that is, next to the mountain chains that separate Iran from Mesopotamia. Here was the "land of Dayaukku," the center of activity of that real or mythical founder of the Median empire.

Transformation of Tehran



The above is a lightly edited version of chapter entitled 'Rey and Hamedan,' from a book entitled, 'An Historical Geography of Iran,' written by W. Barthold and published by Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Europe divided on several fronts

Nations Against Governments

The Israel-Palestine conflict has cast uncertainty over Europe's future

French rallies for Palestine

Several major French cities including Paris, Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon, and Bordeaux were the scene of huge rallies calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Demonstrators expressed their protest with slogans like "Stop the massacre in Gaza!" and "France must demand an immediate ceasefire", Figaro reported. According to official estimates, more than 15,000 protestors marched in Paris.

Manuel Bompard, the coordinator of the La France Insoumise party, said that the Marseille protests were attended by at least 1,300 people. Some waved Palestinian flags, while some others carried signs reading "Stop the genocide in Gaza," "Support for Palestine," and "Ceasefire". "This gathering is essential in the face of massacres because what is happening today in Gaza, with over 10,000 killed, is a silent genocide in the eyes of a large

part of the international community," he said. Last week, Gerald Darmanin, the French Minister of the Interior, asked local authorities to ban protests in support of Palestine. A court in Paris suspended the restriction on Friday, stating that the ban is a "serious, illegal, and overt threat to the right to protest". This comes while French President Emmanuel Macron claimed that the ban on demonstrations in support of Palestinians is justified.

Despite efforts to prevent demonstrations in support of Palestinians, university students in the city of Toulouse in southern France condemned the massacre of defenseless Palestinians by the Zionist regime in a gathering on Thursday. Participants in this rally demanded an immediate halt to the bombing of Gaza by the Zionist regime.

No. 10 can't suppress pro-Palestinians

A massive demonstration was also held in London, the capital of the UK, on Saturday in support of Palestine and against the Israeli regime. Protesters demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Sky News estimated that tens of thousands of people attended the demonstration. The Middle East Monitor described the pro-Palestinian protest in London as one of the largest demonstrations in the history of the UK. Published images and videos depict fervent Palestinian supporters in London, with news outlets reporting clashes between the police and protesters. The London police announced that 82 protesters were arrested.

The gathering of a large crowd of Palestinian supporters moving from Hyde Park in London towards the US embassy was expected. As a result, streets surrounding the US and Israel embassies in London were reportedly closed by the Metropolitan Police to deter potential attacks as some in the crowd were justifiably angered by the staunch support that the Biden administration gave the Zionist regime in the Gaza conflict.

Earlier, British lawmakers had made unsuccessful attempts to convince organizers to postpone Saturday demonstrations as it would have coincided with the Armistice Day — the anniversary of World War I.



A court in Paris suspended the ban on pro-Palestinian protests on Friday, stating that it is a "serious, illegal, and overt threat to the right to protest".





Germany bans rallying for Palestine

The New York Times claimed that some European governments have banned demonstrations in support of Palestinians under the pretext of security issues, raising concerns about the violation of civil liberties and freedom of expression in these countries. The newspaper reported that German authorities, under the pretext of combating anti-Semitism — which critics believe is a discriminatory act — have prevented demonstrations in support of Palestinians.

The New York Times added that ever since Hamas attacked the Israeli regime, which was consequently met with the bombardment of Gaza, governments across Europe are struggling to manage the impact of this conflict in their affiliated countries. Some, under the guise of security concerns, have imposed strict restrictions on demonstrations in support of Palestine and even banned them altogether. In Germany, the prohibitions are much stricter than in other European countries. However, many people in immigrant communities in Germany, including Arabs, say these restrictions are not only a violation of the freedom of expression but also a discriminatory act.

In recent weeks, the city of Hamburg in Germany banned holding demonstrations in support of Palestine. In Berlin, authorities instructed schools not to allow students to wear keffiyehs or

use the Palestinian flag or its colors. Berlin police said they had prevented more than half of the 41 demonstrations that were planned to show solidarity with Gaza, some of which were deemed to “arouse the sentiments” of Palestinian residents. Even mourning for Gazan children killed by Israel was restricted. Some of the permitted demonstrations were banned from chanting slogans such as “Stop the war” or “Palestine must be free”.

Some critics argue that the prohibitions that the German government has imposed on demonstrating in support of the people of Gaza not only increase animosity towards immigrants but also boost the popularity of the far-right party — Alternative for Germany. Surveys show that the party is currently ranked second in popularity.



The planned amendment to the citizenship law in Germany includes a clause that prohibits granting citizenship to individuals convicted of racism or anti-Semitism. Such actions have raised concerns about freedom of expression in Germany, with many worried about their citizenship rights or employment given the broad definition of anti-Semitism by German authorities.

Tomer Dotan-Dreyfus, a writer and one of the signatories of a protest letter against the German government's ban on pro-Palestinian rallies, said, “Germany, with these actions, is fueling anti-Semitism in the immigrant community. This will make it difficult for them to combat domestic anti-Semitism, which is much more dangerous than demonstrations in support of Palestine.”

Some European countries, under the guise of security concerns and combating anti-Semitism, have imposed strict restrictions on demonstrations in support of Palestine and even banned them altogether. In Germany, the prohibitions are much stricter than in other European countries. However, many people in immigrant communities in Germany, including Arabs, say these restrictions are not only a violation of the freedom of expression but also a discriminatory act.

Palestinian issue deepens divisions within EU



By Abed Akbari
European Affairs
expert

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The European Union's approach to the conflict between Hamas and Israel has shown a lack of unity, with evident differences of opinion among member countries. During last week's European Union summit, member countries engaged in lengthy debates on whether the Union should request a ceasefire to facilitate humanitarian aid to Gaza. Eventually, European countries reached a consensus on the concept of humanitarian pauses, which allow for intermittent unrestricted access to goods in Gaza. This idea was also mentioned by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a congressional session.

Discussions at the European leaders' summit revealed explicit opposition to declaring a ceasefire from some leaders. Furthermore, certain European countries have been intensifying their military assistance and support to Israel, potentially fueling the escalation of tensions and involving other regional players in the conflict. For instance, Germany's drone assistance to Israel has raised concerns that these forms of support aim to exacerbate the situation, as implied by the German Defense Minister, who hinted at the possibility of a widespread war.

In the midst of this context, the director of the European section in the Eurasia International Group believes that the EU's position on supporting peace is unlikely to change, despite the growing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the intensity of Israel's military campaign. According to the director, Germany may even adopt a stronger stance in favor of Israel's right to self-defense compared to the United States. This position is shared among coalition government leaders in Germany, suggesting that no significant difference will be made in the short to medium term, regardless of the unfolding ground invasion of Gaza and the resulting civilian casualties and destruction.

However, public opinions in Europe regarding the Gaza war have become increasingly divided and complex in recent days. Various factors shape European perspectives and reactions, including historical relationships with Israel or Palestine, religious and national backgrounds, political affiliations, media influences, and personal experiences. Demonstrations held in cities such as Paris and London have expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine, condemning human rights violations and the disproportionate use of force by Israel. These protests call for an end to occupation, settlement expansion, and urge governments to take a firmer stance against Israel, including the imposition of sanctions. In some cases, protests have turned violent, leading to clashes with the police.

European authorities have made efforts to link public responses to anti-Semitism, potentially facilitating the suppression of protests against European government policies toward Israel. European officials, including German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, have emphasized the challenges faced by Jewish communities in Europe, aiming to portray them as victims and laying the groundwork for the suppression of protests against European policies toward Israel.

The Gaza war has stirred emotions and tensions in Europe, revealing deep internal conflicts and divisions within societies. It has also highlighted the gap between the official positions of European governments and the public opinions of their citizens. While most European leaders have expressed support for Israel's right to self-defense and emphasized the importance of respecting international law and protecting non-combatants, many Europeans have questioned this stance and accused their governments of bias or complicity with Israel. The impact of these protests on the decisions of European leaders remains uncertain and depends on various factors, including the duration and intensity of the conflict, pressure from the United States and other international players, domestic political dynamics, and the availability of diplomatic channels.

Some European leaders may feel compelled to adopt a more balanced or critical approach to Israel, as demonstrated by German President Armin Laschet in response to the protests of approximately 300,000 Palestinian migrants in Germany. He acknowledged the need for the Palestinian community in Germany to have a space to express their pain and despair about the non-combatant victims in Gaza and share it with others. However, others may choose to maintain their current policies and attempt to contain public dissatisfaction and social unrest. In any case, European leaders face the challenge of reconciling their interests and values with the realities and expectations of their diverse and dispersed populations.

Wilder, Joshua in talks to fight on same card

BBC – Heavyweights Deontay Wilder and Anthony Joshua are in talks to fight on the same card in Saudi Arabia on 23 December. Wilder's team are "hopeful" a deal can be finalised as organisers aim to fill a gap on the card.

Tyson Fury v Oleksandr Usyk was set to headline, but Fury's difficult encounter with Francis Ngannou last month derailed those plans.

Organisers are very confident a deal is close with Joshua and Wilder.

Queensberry promoter Frank Warren said this week that 23 December would be a "historic" night for boxing.

Turki Alalshikh, of Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority, is leading discussions with Joshua and Wilder alongside Queensberry Promotions.



TALKSPORT

Briton Joshua, 34, is promoted by Matchroom Boxing and Eddie Hearn, while American Wilder has spent most of his career with Premier Boxing Champions and adviser Al Haymon, as well as being managed by Shelly Finkel.

Hopes are high that a deal will be done for Joshua and Wilder to fight separate opponents and could be announced shortly as 23 December is only six weeks away.

The deal could pave the way for Joshua and Wilder to fight each other in 2024, although the possibility of Joshua-Wilder appearing on the same card as Usyk-Fury is unlikely.

WBC champion Fury and IBF, WBO and WBA belt holder Usyk are expected to fight in a long-awaited undisputed heavyweight bout by February in Saudi Arabia.

Earlier this year Joshua and 38-year-old Wilder were in talks with Saudi Arabia-based Skills Challenge about fighting before discussions collapsed. Alalshikh's outfit has now emerged as the power broker for boxing in the country.

Joshua and Wilder are former world champions but are on the comeback trail since losing their world titles to Usyk and Fury respectively.

Fury, 35, is unbeaten in 35 fights, while former undisputed cruiserweight champion Usyk is undefeated in 21 bouts.

FIFA U-17 World Cup:

Incredible Iran shows fighting spirit to salvage victory over Brazil



Head coach Hossein Abdi (2nd R) celebrates Iran's first goal with Yaghoob Barajeh during a 3-2 victory over Brazil in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Jakarta, Indonesia, on November 11, 2023. GETTY IMAGES

Sports Desk

When asked what his half-time message to the Iranian players was after conceding two goals against Brazil in their FIFA U-17 World Cup opener, head coach Hossein Abdi's answer was simple: "Fight, fight and fight again." His young guns responded in style, scoring three inside 19 minutes to beat the defending champion 3-2 at the Jakarta International Stadium in what will surely go down as one of the biggest

upsets in the history of the competition.

Best remembered for being an aggressive player in the middle of the park during his Persepolis career in the 90s, Abdi must have thought that would be the type of football his boys need to deliver, if they were to bounce back against the Brazilians.

The Selecao looked to have put the game to bed when an Abolfazl Zamani's own goal in the added time doubled their lead, hav-

ing found the net through Rayan's sublime strike before the half-hour mark.

However, Abdi and the Iranian players, who made it to the Asian Cup last-four in July to book a place in Indonesia, had other ideas after the restart.

Yaghoob Barajeh's tame effort from inside the box went past Brazilian keeper Philippe Gabriel to pull one back for Abdi's side with nine minutes into the second period, and then Gabriel's opposite number Arsha

Shakouri found Kasra Taheri behind the opposition backline with a long ball, before the substitute striker's low drive nutmegged the keeper to draw Iran level.

"In the first half, playing the Brazilians had too much influence on the players," said Abdi.

"They were maybe thinking: 'They are Brazil, we are not...'. At half-time, we spoke with them, we made two changes to the line-up [bringing on Taheri and

Alireza Homaeifard], we pushed them and gave them hope and inspiration. After that, you see what happened."

"In our program from last month until now, we have been training every day for this match. We know Brazil very well."

The sensational comeback was complete in the 73rd minute, with Taheri the provider as his well-placed pass released Esmaeil Qolizadeh, whose composed finish rounded off a superb

counterattack.

Qolizadeh gave credit to the Iranian coach for his pep talk at the break, saying: "In the second half, we came back thanks to a lot of motivation the head coach gave to us."

"He motivated us to fight. I also thank a lot the fans who gave us a lot of support, too. They helped us to come back in the game and achieve this result," added the Iranian match winner.

Iran still had to hold off the South American giant's pressure in the closing stages, with Shakouri making a couple of late saves.

"We analyzed Brazil and this specific training helped us score the second goal," revealed Shakouri, who was awarded with the Man of the Match prize.

"Brazil is the biggest team in the world but every player gave their biggest effort and performed to our best," he added.

"I'm so glad to help my team with a great performance. It is an amazing feeling to do this at the biggest competition in the world for our age group. It is a great honor."

Next for Iran in Group C is a game on Tuesday against another heavyweight of the age group in England, champion in 2017, which demolished New Caledonia 10-0 earlier in the day to go top of the table on goal difference.

The top two of the six groups will be joined by four third-placed teams in the round of 16.

Magic's balanced attack too strong for Bucks

REUTERS – Paolo Banchero scored 26 points, Franz Wagner added 24 and the Orlando Magic weathered a 35-point, 10-rebound effort from Giannis Antetokounmpo to beat the visiting Milwaukee Bucks 112-97 in NBA on Saturday night.

Orlando took the lead late in the first quarter and never looked back, building an advantage of as many as 21 points behind a balanced offensive attack. Antetokounmpo carried the load for Milwaukee, which was playing a second straight game without Damian Lillard, who was out due to right calf soreness.

Jalen Suggs supplied 20 points as five Orlando scorers finished in double figures, including Moritz Wagner, who had 19 points off the bench. Moritz Wagner scored 12 points in the first half to help ignite the pivotal, second-quarter surge that gave Orlando the lead for the rest of the game.

Jonathan Isaac chipped in 10 points off the bench

and grabbed three of his five rebounds on the offensive glass – part of an overall theme for Orlando on the night. The Magic enjoyed an emphatic 22-4 advantage in second-chance points, a by-product of their 15 offensive rebounds to just five for the Bucks.

Elsewhere, Caris LeVert came off the bench to lead a balanced attack with 22 points, Dean Wade buried a pair of key 3-pointers to open the fourth quarter and the Cleveland Cavaliers completed a season-series sweep over the Golden State Warriors 118-110 with a win in San Francisco.

Donovan Mitchell (21 points), Darius Garland (19) and Evan Mobley (19) led all five starters in double figures for the Cavaliers, who had lost 12 straight regular-season games to the Warriors before a 115-104 home win last Sunday. The sweep was Cleveland's first over Golden State since 2010. Stephen Curry led all scorers with 30 points but shot just 4-for-14 on



Magic's Paolo Banchero (5) goes up for a basket during an NBA victory over the Bucks at Amway Center, Orlando, FL, US, on Nov. 11, 2023. NBA

3-pointers. Jaylen Brown scored a game-high 29 points and Jayson Tatum finished with 27 as Boston Celtics improved its home record to 4-0 by beating visiting Toronto Raptors 117-94. Pascal Siakam tossed in a team-high 17 points and

was one of five Raptors who scored in double figures. Bam Adebayo collected 26 points and 17 rebounds, and rookie Jaime Jaquez Jr. added a season-high 20 points to lift visiting Miami Heat to a 117-109 victory over Atlanta Hawks.

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company –Tender for Rectifier
Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase a 500V/500A rectifier. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specification mentioned in the attached file on our website: www.kswco.com. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswco.com by November 17 2023. For further information please contact Mr. Zanganeh:
Mobile: +989123162409



Gando a precious gift for Sistan and Baluchestan's tourism

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

The southern parts of Sistan and Baluchestan province of Iran is home to a remarkable creature known as the Gando, or marsh crocodile. This native reptile, considered a precious gift of nature, has long been regarded as an important asset for the development of the tourism industry in the province. However, the recent years of drought have escalated concerns about the extinction of this unique species within Iran.

Esmail Hossein Zehi, a member of Iran's Parliament, highlighted the need for the Ministry of Energy and the Department of the Environment (DoE) to acknowledge the water rights of the Gando. In an interview with the Iran Daily reporter, Hossein Zehi emphasized that these crocodiles have the

same rights as humans. "With water resources being crucial for their survival, environmental officials must take immediate action to protect their lives and prevent their extinction," the MP said.

The Iranian short-snouted crocodile, scientifically known as *Crocodylus palustris*, is the only crocodile species native to Iran and the largest reptile found in the country. It inhabits the southern regions of Sistan and Baluchestan Province in southwestern Iran. The name Gando in the local Balochi language refers to its distinct feature – the short snout.

Gandos are primarily found in the south of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, which is considered the sole habitat for these crocodiles in Iran. Their main habitat covers approximately 380,000

hectares, with parts located in the cities of Dashtiari and Rask. These areas fall under the protection of Iranian DoE, named as the Gando Protected Area. The majority of these marsh crocodiles can be found in the ponds between Rask and Bahoukalat, as well as the Delgan and Kalani marshes in the southern region of the province. It is estimated that the population of this crocodile species in Iran ranges from 400 to 500 individuals. Without

the protection of their habitats, the remaining numbers suggest that they may soon be classified as rare animals, raising the alarm for their potential extinction. Gandos are carnivorous ambush hunters with a diverse diet that includes various fish, reptiles, and mammals. The young Gandos

feed on amphibians, crustaceans, and small fish, while adult Gandos prey on birds, reptiles, fish, and even mammals. These powerful creatures have the ability to hunt prey as large as a 230 kg deer or a 450 kg buffalo. Although rare, cases of cannibalism have been observed among Gandos. In Iran, there have been a few incidents of attacks on humans, resulting in bites to their hands and feet. In one rare and tragic case, a 6-year-old child fell victim to a Gando's hunting instinct.

Despite the occasional conflicts, the relationship between the native people of Sistan and Baluchestan and the Gando is generally amicable. The local population refrains from harming these crocodiles and even assists officials in rescuing Gandos from drying ponds during droughts, ensuring their survival by transferring them to more watery habitats and providing them with food. Hossein Zehi shed light on the valuable role of marsh crocodiles in the region: "Gandos often dig channels in their ponds and living areas, creating shelters to rest and escape the scorching hours of the day. This action helps prevent water evaporation, preserving the water in ponds and wetlands during hot seasons and droughts."

The MP further explained that the people of the region hold Gandos in high regard, recognizing their importance and refraining from causing them harm. Consequently, there have been no reports of people hunting or harming these magnificent creatures.

Hossein Zehi also underlined the potential of Gandos to boost the tourism industry in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

"Both domestic and foreign travelers express great interest in observing Gandos in their natural habitat, willing to spend money and endure the challenges of the journey."

To attract more tourists, he pointed out, proper facilities and equipment should be developed in these areas.

"Furthermore, warning signs have been installed to protect both Gandos and humans, ensuring the safety of local residents and tourists. Fencing and other necessary barriers have been imple-

mented around the Gando habitats."

The main challenge faced by Gandos in these areas arises during times of drought when water scarcity deprives them of shelter and food. Apart from the Sarbaz River, their primary gathering place in the province, Gandos typically seek refuge in large water pits known as hutak in the local language. These hotspots are scattered throughout the vast southern region of Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

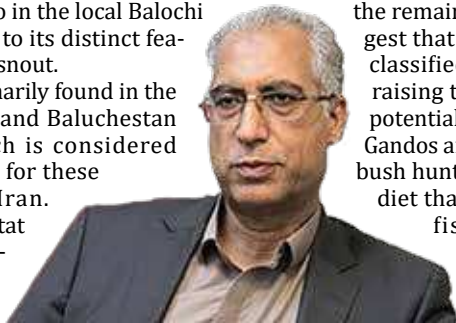
During the scorching summer months when water shortage intensifies, despite the presence of environmental warning signs and the efforts of rangers stationed in the region, villagers and locals still approach the ponds inhabited by the short-snouted crocodiles to collect water or engage in recreational activities. Unfortunately, incidents have occurred where crocodiles have attacked these individuals.

Hossein Zehi emphasized the impact of drought in the Sistan and Baluchestan region, stating, "Drought and decreased rainfall have led to the drying up of ponds, limiting the Gando's habitat. Additionally, some villagers and locals approach the Gando's living areas to access water, which poses risks."

He further clarified, "In previous years, when water shortage was not an issue in the region, we witnessed an increase in the Gando population. However, now measures must be taken urgently to prevent their extinction."

He emphasized the importance of the Ministry of Energy and the DoE fulfilling their responsibility in protecting the rights of Gandos. He stated, "Gandos have the right to access water resources in the region, just like humans and natives. Environmental authorities must prioritize their protection and work towards preventing their extinction."

The MP concluded, "Given the intensification of drought in the region, many Gandos have sought refuge in ponds. Unfortunately, some of these ponds and large water pits have completely dried up. Urgent action must be taken to save the lives of these magnificent creatures, including injecting water from Pishin dam into the ponds."



Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for CHIMEC 3035 // 26000 kg



Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of CHIMEC 3035 for Olefin plant. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until November 20, 2023.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: December 02, 2023.

Email: me.rahimi@tpco.ir Phone No.: +98-41-34282592

| Tender | No | Quantity |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| CHIMEC 3035 | PVS-0231091 | 26000 kg |

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

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Second Announcement



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0040006

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

| items | Material Description | Quantity |
|-------|--|----------|
| 01 | TUBING 3-1/2 IN. API GRADE P-110 SEAMLESS " VAM FLUSH JOINT" THREAD, RANGE-3 (MAX. LEN: 40.6 FT) 9.3 PPF | 700 LE |

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 15,597/47 EURO or 6,129,102,264 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir/material-procurement-management-tab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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Iran's unemployment rate falls to 7.9%: Official



Economy Desk

IRNA – Iran's unemployment rate has dropped to its lowest, 7.9 percent, since the incumbent government took office in August 2021, announced Deputy Minister of Labor for Employment Affairs Mahmoud Karimi Beiravand on Sunday.

Many employers are not aware of some academic fields and specializations which should be introduced to the society by holding exhibitions on scientific and technological opportunities, along with the skills of graduates, the official added.

MoU signed on allocation of \$300m to NTBFs



A memorandum of understanding was signed on Sunday to allocate a total of \$300 million for supporting Iranian new technology-based firms (NTBF), said the director general of the Business Department of the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade. Amirhossein Assadi said the MoU was signed by his ministry with the Economy Ministry, the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology and the Ministry of Science.

Seven-month trade with EAEU hits \$4.2b



TASNIM – Trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states in the first seven months of the current Iranian year (started March 21, 2023) reached \$4.2 billion.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran and the member states of the union exchanged eight million tons of products, valued at \$4.2 billion, during the seven months to October 22, 2023.

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Energy ministers of five countries due in Tehran for IEE

The energy ministers of Pakistan, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan will arrive in Tehran this week to participate in the inaugural ceremony of the 23rd edition of the Iran Int'l Electricity Exhibition (IEE).

The 23rd edition of the expo and the first edition of the Iran Electricity Industry Tech Market Festival will kick off in Tehran tomorrow, Tasnim news agency reported.

A total of 474 domestic firms and representatives of 110 foreign companies from 12 countries, including Italy, the Czech Republic, Germany, China, South Korea, Croatia, Turkey, Spain, India, Slovenia, Poland and Japan will take part in the IEE 2023 exhibition to showcase their latest products and achievements, while 259 scientific centers and knowledge-based companies will participate in the



First Iran Electricity Industry Tech Market Festival. The IEE is held annually in the country with the participation of a great number of competent domestic and foreign companies and provides the opportunity for domestic companies active in the power industry

to display their latest products and achievements. In this edition of the exhibition, products will be supplied in the fields of electricity generation, transmission, distribution, high-, mid- and low-voltage pressure, electrical equipment; types of

electrical panels, lighting equipment, smart equipment, diesel generator and electric motors, battery and UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply), cathode protection systems, transformer, wire and cable, industrial automation and instrumentation, measuring

equipment, contractor, consultant, scientific research and research centers, power transmission lines and related equipment, medium- and low-voltage substations, and renewable energies. The exhibition will run through November 17.

Fresh US sanctions won't block Iranian oil flow

Economy Desk

China has become the major destination for the Iranian oil flow in recent years in the wake of a "maximum pressure" campaign launched by former US president Donald Trump in 2018 that targeted Iran's economy including its petroleum exports.

The sanctions initially caused a drastic decline in shipments to China, scaring away giant state refiners Sinopec and PetroChina, which were once key Iranian oil customers and had invested in its oilfields. But volumes have rebounded as independent Chinese refiners, known as teapots, replaced those behemoths to lift the Iranian crude. Imports further jumped this year after Iran raised its oil output to almost pre-sanction levels (3.4 million barrels per day (bpd)) and offered generous discounts.

Ship-tracking data from London-based energy market intelligence firm Vortexa showed that Iranian oil arriving in Chinese ports reached around 1.45 million bpd last month, hitting the highest monthly level ever. According to Vortexa, China bought more than one million bpd of Iranian crude in the first 10 months of 2023. This was 60% above peaks

recorded by Chinese customs in 2017 when Iran's oil sales were not subject to US sanctions.

Vortexa data cited by Reuters echoed a similar estimate published by Bloomberg a few days ago which put Iran's overall crude exports in October at 1.43 million bpd, as per data from TankerTrackers – a vessel monitoring service that tracks shipments and oil storage. Bloomberg added the vast majority of Iranian barrels – well over 90% – headed to China, the world's largest crude importer.

Unlike Reuters' report, which pictured an upward trajectory, Bloomberg's account portrayed a declining trend, saying Iran's oil exports plunged in October for the second consecutive month. The US news agency reported that there was a drop of 194,000 bpd in Iran's oil shipments from September, which marked the lowest since July.

While there is a flat contradiction between the two narratives, one thing is for sure: China has built up an appetite for discounted Iranian crude. This appetite has made the Asian economic powerhouse Iran's top client.

The contradiction, however, may stem from the fact that keeping track of Iran's exports is a challenging task. Tankers car-

rying Iranian crude often switch off transponders that feed the shipping industry's conventional tracking systems to go untraceable. Some companies like TankerTrackers bolster their analysis of flows by studying satellite imagery of cargo loadings. Iranian oil is carried to China by a "dark fleet" of older tankers that keep a low profile when loading at Iranian ports. The so-called ghost flotilla uses other tactics which include faking locations and conducting ship-to-ship operations at locations outside of authorized transfer zones and sometimes in poor weather to conceal activities.

So, how exactly does Iranian crude end up in the world's second-largest economy? Except for two cargoes, China's customs has not recorded any direct imports from Iran since December 2020. Almost all Iranian cargoes entering China, mostly at ports in Shandong province, are branded as originating from Malaysia or other Middle Eastern countries, according to Reuters.

More than 40 independent Chinese refiners have so far processed Iranian oil since they have little exposure to the dollar-based global financial system. Most of their transactions are believed to be paid in Chinese cur-

rency. The teapots opt for Iranian oil because it is cheap and of good quality. Iranian Light, the main export grade, trades at a discount of about \$13 a barrel to Intercontinental Exchange Brent in Shandong for December arrival.

On the financial front, China has long used smaller institutions like the Bank of Kunlun – a key Chinese conduit for transactions with Iran – to facilitate commerce and limit the exposure of larger entities with international business links, according to Bloomberg. More recently, Chinese importers have benefited from the development of a pound-based alternative to Western clearinghouses. The Chinese platform is known as the Cross-Border Interbank Payments System (CIPS) launched by the central bank to settle international claims.

The growing Iranian-Sino oil trade comes as hawks in Washington are pushing President Joe Biden's administration to tighten the screw of US sanctions on Iran and exert further pressure on the country over its support for the Palestinian group Hamas – which carried out brazen attacks on Israel from Gaza on October 7.

Earlier this month, the US House of Representatives rubber-stamped a bill that

would target foreign ports and refineries that process petroleum exported from Iran. However, it is unclear whether Washington can actually do much to counter Iran's oil exports if the bipartisan bill becomes law.

Multiple middlemen involved have made the lucrative trade very sophisticated and thus more difficult for the US to tackle. "The US can hit companies that are more public or obvious in their Iranian dealings, but many of these middlemen are small entities," said Homayoun Falakshahi, senior oil analyst at data and analytics group Kpler. "If you find a middleman and decide to go harsh, they'll go out of business. But many of these firms are shell companies with fake offices," Falakshahi added. "The same people can easily set up another new company in one or two months."

US sanctions dealt a heavy blow to Iran's oil sales, pushing them below half a million in 2020. However, the sales began to gain momentum as the seller and buyers found loopholes to offset the embargo. With such valuable experience at the disposal of Iran and its oil partners, any new sanction to curtail Iran's exports appears to be a failed effort in the first place.