

The army, which claims to be professional, killed some settlers around Gaza on October 7 and now three captives who were holding white flags

Israel Decrepit Forces



Israeli soldiers take positions in southern Israel near the Gaza border, on December 11, 2023.

Most young Americans think Israel 'should be ended and given to Hamas': survey

In a recent poll by Harvard-Harris, a majority of young Americans said they believe that the occupation state of "Israel" should "be ended" and that the Palestinian land should be given back to "Hamas and the Palestinians."

The survey found that 51% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 said they believed the solution to the Palestinian issue was for "Israel to be ended and given to Hamas - the Palestinian Resistance movement - and the Palestinians."

Only 32% said they believed in a "two-state solution", and just 17% said other Arab states should be asked to "absorb Palestinian populations."

Regarding some of the same demographic, 60% said Hamas' Oct 7 operation could be "justified by the grievance of Palestinians" — a position held by 27% of Americans overall.

When questioned about whether "Israel" is engaged in genocide in Gaza or is merely "defending itself and targeting Hamas", 60% of Americans aged 18-24 expressed the view that "Israel" is committing genocide.

Where does Egypt stand on Gaza war 45 years after Camp David Accords?

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Egypt is a country that is often mentioned in the context of decline. The most populous Arab country was home to the Arab League and for more than 6 decades, it was the biggest supporter of Arab independence movements in the region. To the point that many argued the fight for Palestinian liberation runs through the streets of Cairo.

A shift in Egyptian policies in 1978, however, meant that the country would no longer remain the heart of the Arab world.

When Egyptian President Anwar Sadat decided to sign the Camp David Accords with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, under the auspices of the U.S., he was hoping that the deal would bring prosperity and economic development to his country. He was also hoping that the agreement would serve as a basis for peace in West Asia, as it could help stop Israel from attacking more Arab territories in the future.



'Israelis want all of Palestine,' activist says of war on Gaza

TEHRAN - Greta Berlin, an American anti-Zionist activist, says Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip is primarily intended to drive out Palestinians from the coastal enclave and shove them into Egypt.

"The Israelis want all of Palestine with no Palestinians in it, and their current leaders are blatantly saying that Palestinians in Gaza should be shoved into Egypt and live in tent cities. That is their intent," Berlin tells the Tehran Times.

Berlin adds, "If they can't eliminate them with bombs, they will starve them to death or make life so difficult, Palestinians will begin dying of diseases."

Berlin, the co-author of Freedom Sailors and spokesperson for the Free Gaza Movement, also says Israel has resorted to the mad war against the residents of Gaza because the regime is "losing the support of the world".

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Young minds collaborating with research center of Constitutional Council: Kadkhodaei

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN- Head of the Constitutional Council's Research Institute Abbasali Kadkhodaei shed more light on the activities of the Institute in an interview with the Tehran Times.

Kadkhodaei spoke in detail about the activities of the research center of the Constitutional Council, saying it aims to attract young minds specializing in public law.

Following is the full text of the interview:

Please explain the Constitutional Council research institute's products and its activities.

The Constitutional Council research institute was established under the name "Research Center" upon the suggestion of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in the late 1990s (the 1370s in Iranian calendar) and was chaired by the late Ayatollah Shahroudi and some other people later. I was also in charge of the institute on one or two occasions in the past. ► Page 3

Iran warns Biden of global consequences if Gaza conflict persists

TEHRAN - Amir Saied Iravani, Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations, has raised concerns about the potential fallout for the United States due to the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip.

In an exclusive interview with Newsweek, Iravani pointed out that the continuation of the conflict between Israel and Gaza could tarnish the global perception of the United States and pose a threat to U.S. President Joe Biden's reelection campaign.

Iravani urged the United States to conduct a comprehensive reassessment of its national security strategy in West Asia. He expressed deep reservations about the increasing support provided by the U.S. to Israel, emphasizing that Israel's military capacity, including invasions, heavily relies on unequivocal backing from the United States. As the conflict persists, Iravani highlighted the exponentially escalating cost of this support for the U.S.

"Israel has increasingly become a burden for America in terms of material, political, and, notably, moral and reputational costs on the global stage," he noted, underscoring the need for the United States to reconsider its support for Israel to avoid further entanglement in Israel's ambitions. ► Page 2

Iran-Russia trade up 18% in 8 months on year

TEHRAN - The value of trade between Iran and Russia rose 18 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that 3.748 million tons of products worth \$1.756 billion were traded between the two neighbors in the mentioned eight-month period.

The weight of eight-month bilateral trade also rose 43 percent year on year, the official added.

He put the value of Iran's export to Russia at \$616.326 million in the first eight months of the present year, which was 32 percent higher than the figure of the same period of time in the past year. ► Page 4



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Americans gradually packing bags to leave region: IRGC chief

TEHRAN - Tens of thousands of Iranian citizens attended the funeral ceremony of 110 unidentified soldiers who lost their lives during Iraqi Dictator Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran.

The funeral processions were held in several cities across the country on Sunday, including in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

People also reaffirmed their commitment toward the Palestinian cause, with the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) vowing "everlasting support" for the Palestinians. The top general drew parallels with the 8-year war Saddam waged on Iran. ► Page 2

Ghoorchian wins gold at 2023 Horseback Archery World Cup

TEHRAN - Garsha Ghoorchian from Iran claimed a gold medal at the 2023 Horseback Archery World Cup held at the AlFursan Equestrian Village in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia.

Riders from Mongolia and Kazakhstan finished in second and third place, respectively.

The event has brought 11 countries, namely Saudi Arabia, the U.S., Turkey, Iran, Syria, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Canada, Indonesia, Mongolia and Thailand together.

Horseback archery is a martial art, in which a mounted archer shoots an arrow at a target. The archer, his horse, and his skill shall form a trinity.

In present day society, horseback archery is a traditional sport enjoyed by all people everywhere.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Diplomatic consultations and emphasis on Iran's opposition to the displacement of Palestinians

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

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper dealt with the Iranian foreign minister's visit to Geneva to participate in the second meeting of the World Refugee Forum and wrote: The policy of forced migration of the people of Gaza is considered the most important agenda of the decision-makers in Tel Aviv. Recently, Amir Abdollahian stated that "the ultimate goal of the fake and occupying Israel is the forced migration of the residents of Gaza and the West Bank to the Sinai region in Egypt and parts of Jordan. Tel Aviv is trying to establish a Palestinian state outside the historical land of the Palestinians, but the resistance has become the main obstacle to realizing the disturbed dreams of the Zionists." Amir Abdollahian also emphasized that the Israeli regime, by not achieving its goals in the two-month war against Gaza, with massive killings, the complete siege of Gaza and the escalation of crimes in the West Bank, is seeking to displace the Palestinian people from Gaza and the West Bank. Islamic countries must use all their strength to support the Palestinian nation. Amir Abdollahian considered the recently approved resolution of the UN General Assembly condemning Israel's attacks as a strong message for establishing a ceasefire.

Shargh: China supports the development of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia

In a commentary, Shargh discussed the development of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and China's support to strengthen the relations between the two countries and said: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Waleed Al-Khuraji, Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia. He noted that Beijing supports the countries of West Asia in their efforts towards national development, solving security problems through dialogue and advancing the development of relations between Tehran and Riyadh. In addition, China would like to use this trilateral meeting as an opportunity to raise the level of friendship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia and develop stability and security in the West Asia region. The representatives of Tehran and Riyadh emphasized that the "Beijing Agreement" opened a new chapter of China's efforts to play a constructive role in the Middle East. The relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia are moving in a positive direction and the two sides will continue to develop economic and

Americans gradually packing bags to leave region: IRGC chief



From page 1 ▶ saying the U.S. must come to the realization that it cannot defeat Muslims through attacks and pressure.

"Look at the scene in Palestine and see how ruthless and criminal our enemies are. America is repeating its mistakes of the past 45 years and thinks it will win by occupying land. America, Israel, and their allies are repeating bitter experiences of the past. Did occupying Afghanistan bring victory for them? Could they stay in Iraq after occupying it? They are gradually packing their bags to leave this region," Major General Hossein Salami said urging U.S. politicians to heed domestic needs instead of spending money on Israel's killing campaigns.

The general condemned Israel for its deliberate targeting of civilian sites including hospitals, schools, and homes, saying the regime is killing citizens to make up for its helplessness against Hamas fighters.

"Palestine is going to haunt them forever. The more they destroy in Gaza, the more nails they hit on their coffin. Turning hospitals into war zones is nothing but a crime. Try to face off Hamas fighters directly if you believe you have

commercial cooperation in the fields of security and cultural exchanges, joint achievement of security, stability and regional development.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: The high-speed train railway projects

In an article, Vatan-e-Emrooz addressed the country's railway project and wrote: Strengthening the country's corridor capacity was defined under the "Iran-Rah" project in the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, which is being pursued. Due to its special geopolitical position, Iran can be the linking point of Central Asia countries to the open seas and East Asia to Europe. One of the most important projects was the completion of the North-South corridor. It was so important for Iran that the agreement on the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway was made with the presence of the presidents of Iran and Russia in a video conference at the beginning of this year. Strengthening the Pakistan-Iran-Turkey route, the Shalamchah-Basra railway route, as well as the Chabahar-Zahedan railway and the connection of the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf to Europe are other programs being pursued to strengthen the transit position of the Islamic Republic. The president explained the importance of speeding up the implementation of railway projects to actualize the transit capacities and improve the geographical position of our country in the way of regional and international corridors. He also emphasized the importance of "observing both speed and quality" in the implementation of these projects.

Arman-e-Melli: America's messages have no end

In an article, Arman-e-Melli newspaper investigated the American security messages to Iran. It wrote: The United States does not send messages to Iran only in the nuclear case. Apparently, the list of America's messages to Iran is more than what is imagined. America is sending a message to Iran regarding the nuclear issue, Hamas, the non-expansion of conflict in the region, and the security of the Red Sea. The sending of these messages from the U.S. to Iran is not just an analysis, but news that is reflected in the media. Of course, the issue of sending messages is not just a warning, but these requests are sent to Iran by the United States of America in line with its security approach to the world and especially to West Asia. The goal is clear, the United States knows that in the region, based on Tehran's security movements, security depends on Iran's behavior.

the courage," he said.

Salami also noted that Palestinians will ultimately emerge victorious in their fight against occupation.

"A nation that many have sacrificed their lives for is never going down. The people of Palestine are resisting and we know that the losers of this war are America and Israel. We support dear Palestine until the end," he continued.

The military official pointed to the failure of the so-called Abraham Accords, saying despite constant efforts by the U.S. and Israel, public opinion has turned against the Israeli regime.

"Muslim nations today have an endless resentment towards these criminals, and American and Israeli officials do not dare to show up in Islamic lands. Today, wherever you go you can clearly see the detest people hold for these two entities," Salami stressed.

Devastating Israeli attacks on Gaza have so far killed about 20,000 civilians with 70% of the casualties consisting of women and children. The United Nations has warned that there are no safe zones left in the territory and that Palestinians trapped there are spending every second fearing for their lives. The UN has also warned of deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza, saying every person there is currently "going hungry". Israel has imposed a full siege on Gaza denying people food, water, and medication, after announcing that the residents of the enclave should be treated as "human-animals."

The U.S. has so far obstructed any international action aiming to establish a ceasefire in Gaza, arguing that a halt to Israeli attacks would give Hamas the chance to regroup.

Iran warns Biden of global consequences if Gaza conflict persists

From page 1 ▶ Iran's ambassador also highlighted the increasing conflict of interests between President Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Netanyahu finds his political future tied to the continuation of the war on Gaza, while President Biden perceives his reelection prospects entwined with bringing an end to the hostilities. This conflict of interests becomes increasingly unmanageable as the war persists, posing a significant challenge," Iravani added.

Invoking historical precedents, Iravani referenced the experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq as cautionary tales demanding a reconsideration of the United States' current policies. He further stressed the urgency for President Biden to intervene and bring an end to the ongoing war in Gaza.

Iran's commitment to protect civilian lives amid Gaza conflict

Ambassador Iravani stressed the highest priority for Iran: the protection of civilian lives during the Gaza conflict.

"Iran's unwavering stance advocates for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, signaling an end to bombings and the tragic massacre



of civilians in Gaza," he asserted.

According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, the death toll from Israel's genocidal war on the territory climbed to at least 18,700 in recent weeks, with close to 70 per cent of those killed being women and children.

Iran's Islamic Revolution inspiration for regional resistance movements

Iravani further emphasized the profound intertwining of the Palestinian cause with "the essence and DNA of the Islamic Revolution in Iran."

The ambassador underscores how the Iranian revolution instilled

a deep sense of self-assurance within the Palestinian resistance groups, fostering the belief that they could confront the occupier and emerge victorious. "The genesis of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine stemmed from the influence exerted by the Islamic movement of the Iranian revolution," he told Newsweek.

Highlighting the cultural ethos of resistance against occupation, Iravani noted that the sacrifice of Hamas leaders fortifies the resilience of the movement. While Israel's actions may target figures within Hamas, Iravani made it clear that the organization cannot be obliterated. "Instead, these ac-

tions amplify the strength of resistance, heralding the emergence of new fighters aligning with Hamas or the birth of entirely new groups committed to the cause of resistance," the ambassador claimed.

Iravani asserted that despite the military progressions of the war, the cause of the Palestinian conflict will persist. "It remains our firm belief that the Palestinian crisis cannot find resolution through military means; rather, the solution lies in terminating the occupation and upholding the fundamental principle of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination," he commented.

concluding, Iravani reiterated Iran's commitment to refraining from initiating wars with any country. He clarified that a preemptive war strategy has no place within Iran's defense doctrine.

However, he emphasized that Iran maintains the highest state of preparedness to respond to perceived threats and vigorously defend itself, its populace, and its interests. The ambassador urged diplomatic solutions to ease tensions and avoid further escalation in the region.

Army chief accuses enemies of being behind terrorist attack in southeast Iran



TEHRAN - The chief commander of the Iranian Army, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, accused enemies of orchestrating the terrorist attack that took place in southeast Iran, saying their "dirty hands" are clearly seen in the bloody attack.

Stating that enemies' involvement is evident, he added that his forces would provide full support to the Iranian Police, expressing confidence that the perpetrators would be identified and brought to justice.

The UN Security Council decried the horrific act, calling for the prosecution of the perpetrators.

In a statement on Saturday night, the members of the Security Council asserted that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

"The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the cowardly terrorist attack on the Rask police station in Sistan and Baluchestan province, Iran," read the statement.

Iran urges Pakistan to take action against cross-border terrorism

TEHRAN - Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi has highlighted the imperative for the Pakistani government to take immediate measures in safeguarding its borders and preventing the establishment of terrorist havens within the country.

During his visit to the Rask police headquarters on Sunday, Vahidi revealed that investigations

unveiled the infiltration of the terrorist group into the Islamic Republic of Iran from the border of the neighboring country Pakistan. He stated, "Taking advantage of the cover of night and regional geography, they reached the targeted police headquarters, executing their sinister objectives."

The Minister of Interior condemned the terrorist act, empha-

sizing the tragic loss of lives among defenders of order and security.

Vahidi underscored that the military, police, and security forces are actively engaged in efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice. He assured that those responsible for the incident will undoubtedly face the consequences of their actions, with a severe retaliation awaiting them.

According to official reports, at least 11 Iranian police officers lost their lives in a terrorist-affiliated assault that occurred overnight on Friday at a police station in Rask County, located in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan.

The so-called Jaish-ul-Adl terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack.

China urges elimination of 'external interference' while hosting Iran, Saudi diplomats

TEHRAN - The foreign minister of China, which helped facilitate a reconciliation deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March, has urged the two West Asian nations to continue developing their ties by steering away from "external interference."

Wang Yi made the remarks on Friday while hosting Iranian Deputy Minister Ali Bagheri Kani and his Saudi counterpart Waleed al-Khuraji in Beijing.

"I believe that Saudi Arabia and Iran are fully capable of removing external interference promptly and pushing the reconciliation process forward to maintain long-term peace and stability in the region," Wang was quoted by Chinese media as saying.

The top Chinese diplomat also hoped that the two countries could enhance their financial, security, and trade cooperation by avoiding "miscalculation."

"It is hoped that the two sides will continue to enhance mutual trust through dialogue and consultation, and achieve a lasting and comprehensive good-neighborly friendship," he added.

Iran and Saudi Arabia severed their diplomatic ties in 2016 after angry protesters attacked Saudi Arabia's embassy in Tehran following the execution of a prominent cleric and swelled crackdown on the Shia population in the Arab kingdom.

Since signing a reconciliation deal in March of 2023, the two Muslim nations have swiftly

moved towards a full thaw. Riyadh and Tehran exchanged ambassadors in September and have officially invited each other's leaders to visit.

Iranian and Saudi deputy ministers' recent visit to Beijing was to attend the first meeting of the China-Saudi Arabia-Iran joint committee, a dialogue mechanism to support Riyadh and Tehran's normalization process.

The West Asian diplomats have reportedly discussed a range of issues, including the various aspects of the ongoing crisis in Gaza. Both sides emphasized the need to immediately stop Israeli attacks on the besieged territory and send humanitarian aid to its defenseless residents.



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Young minds collaborating with research center of Constitutional Council: Kadkhodaei

From Page 1 ▶ So, we aimed to attract young individuals to gain experience and help us.

Since 2012 we have requested the Ministry of Science and Research to upgrade the research center which was agreed on at the end of the Rouhani administration.

Therefore, we could have a more formal structure since we had attracted a large number of specialized and pious young minds in the field of public law.

Fortunately, after receiving the final approval, our young minds started working.

Currently, over 40 young researchers, often pursuing master's or doctoral degrees in public law or other fields, are collaborating with us.

Parliamentary resolutions are examined here then our young experts provide reports regularly and the reports will be evaluated by the so-called experts.

There are reports in other parts of the center regarding inquiries made to the Court of Administrative Justice. If someone claims that a resolution is against Sharia, the Court of Administrative Justice will ask the jurists of the Constitutional Council to provide their opinion. This will allow our experts to comment on the resolution.

We also have a research assistant section that carries out fundamental work in the areas essential for the Constitutional Council and society.

The research assistant has been active in the field of public law. It has prepared many books and various articles in the field of the constitution, constitutional law, and

public law.

Even some reference books in public law have been painstakingly prepared by our researchers. Recently, we held an exhibition, and some of the products of the center were introduced to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution as well.

We also have a magazine dealing with public law and publishes the opinions of experts in this field as well as fundamental rights.

The crucial point is that we are responsible for promoting and developing the concepts of public law and fundamental rights.

In the promotion and development domain, moot court sessions are also held, where young researchers come up with hypothetical cases. These cases are reviewed and evaluated by young minds along with judges. So, students get involved in the Constitutional Council's topics, discussions, and procedures.

Also, young students will express their opinions on monitoring the qualifications of election candidates and the election process in the upcoming moot court.

The center has also been active in the field of children and teenagers.

Given that the concepts of the law field are difficult to understand for teenagers, it is essential to produce and adjust suitable literature for children and adolescents.

Over the past year, we have collaborated with the Center for Intellectual Development of Children and Adolescents under a memorandum of understanding. As part of this collaboration, we have provided the center with content

that it can use to produce works in the field of children and adolescents, leveraging their expertise.

The issue of succession is also being carried out automatically. The young minds working with us will enter the job market later. 25 to 26 young minds have now become faculty members.

Well, this is a step forward because these people have become familiar with our work and our activities, and the entry of such people into the job market can help the development of the concepts we are considering. For example, the researchers who have been trained here are now working in different branches such as the judiciary or the parliament.

How can the collaboration between the young researchers of the Council's Research Institute and the media, especially the print media, inform the people about the capabilities of this center?

Legal terms are difficult to understand. In the first step, we must produce and adjust suitable literature for people so they can understand the terms easily. In the next step we, can focus on different age groups, including children and teenagers, making terms understandable for them.

To make legal terminology more accessible, there should be a focus on incorporating it into popular media such as movies, TV shows, animation, and video games.

Please explain the legal case of Martyr Soleimani.

The legal case of martyr Soleimani has different sections that the relevant bodies are working on it.

And every apparatus is dealing with this case according to its field.

The Judiciary, with legal and judicial proceedings, has committees, whose activities are concentrated in the human rights headquarters.

The process of the case of martyr Soleimani is proceeding within the Tehran Prosecutor Office and various courts.

Fortunately, both the legal case and petitions have been concluded and submitted to the court.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a committee some time ago to oversee the case of Martyr Soleimani. Regular meetings are held with the cooperation of relevant bodies and legal experts from the Ministry to pursue the case.

We have also consulted with foreign lawyers so that we can advance the case in the international domain.

Of course, as you know, the arrogant system in the international domain tries to halt the advance of the legal case of Martyr Soleimani because the case will be detrimental to them. So, we should try to have a voice in this matter in our international forums.

Fortunately, necessary correspondence has taken place and the American government should be held accountable anyway. And if it doesn't have a clear answer, which it definitely won't have, we can raise this issue in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) based on the 1973 Convention.

The preparatory works for the case are being carried out and the process moves on step by step.

VAR's experience not satisfying in the first match: PGPL

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iranian football fans were not impressed by the quality of the Tehran derby, and the use of VAR couldn't prevent both teams from disputing the referee's decisions.

The cheers of the passionate crowd echoed through the Azadi Stadium as Persepolis and Esteghlal football teams played to a 1-1 draw in the 2023/24 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) on Thursday.

Despite the intense competition and the need for a win, the critical game concluded with a boring draw. On the other side, Sepahan's victory over Foolad in Isfahan allowed them to narrow the gap to just one point from the top of the standings, with one game in hand.

The 102nd derby was a lackluster match, with little excitement or action to be seen. From the very beginning of the game, Esteghlal's strategy was evident - focusing on defensive play and creating chances through long passes. Despite Persepolis had the ball possession, and struggled to make chances against Esteghlal's solid defensive line.

The entry of Omid Alishah in the second half breathed new life into Persepolis, making the game more thrilling. This player had a significant presence in the second half, appearing in two crucial scenes. The cheers of the crowd echoed through the stadium as he scored the Reds' goal and narrowly missed another incredible shot towards the Blue's goal.

The Iranian domestic games saw the debut of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) in this match.

Instead of alleviating tensions, the VAR made the game longer and did not stop coaches and players from objecting to referee, Mooud Bonyadifar.

With the assistance of VAR, the referee made three crucial decisions that left fans and viewers breathless.

Despite not recognizing any of these scenes as a penalty during the game, Bonyadifar eventually awarded a penalty to Esteghlal in injury time after a VAR review, following a foul on Esteghlal midfielder Arash Rezavand by Persepolis defender Ali Nemati.

Kevin Yamga successfully converted his penalty to secure a 1-1 draw.

In interviews following the game, both Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi and Esteghlal coach Javad Nekounam expressed their belief that the referee made errors against their teams, despite VAR's involvement.

It seems that the effectiveness of VAR in Iranian football relies on the referees making decisive calls on controversial scenes and it depends on whether the fans and coaching staffs accept this decision or not.

Barkhordari claims gold at Wuxi 2023 Grand Slam

TEHRAN - Mehran Barkhordari of Iran won a gold medal at the Wuxi 2023 World Taekwondo Grand Slam Championships Series on Sunday.

In the -80kg final it was a repeat of the final from the previous Grand Slam with Mehran Barkhordari facing Uzbekistan's Jasurbek Jaysunov.

This time it was Barkhordari who came out on top as he won the match 2:1. Iran's Mirhashem Hosseini made it a bronze for Iran as fellow Iranian Amirmohammad Bakhshi was forced to withdraw in the bronze medal match.

Barkhordari also secured his place at the 2024 Olympic Games.

Rostamian joins Germany's Sportschutzen Pier

TEHRAN - Haniyeh Rostamian, Iranian woman shooter, joined German shooting club Sportschutzen Pier.

The 25-year-old athlete represented Iran at the 2020 Summer Olympics in the Women's 10 meters air pistol event, where she placed tenth.

She also came fifth in the 10 meters air pistol mixed team.

Rostamian has secured Iran's first quota for the 2024 Summer Olympics.

Lorenzetti added to candidates of Iran volleyball hotseat

TEHRAN - Angelo Lorenzetti has reportedly been shortlisted to lead Iran's national volleyball team.

The 59-year-old Italian coach currently leads Sir Safety Susa Vim Perugia.

Vahid Moradi, caretaker of the Iran Volleyball Federation, had previously said the federation finalized a shortlist of three candidates for the national team head coach.

Roberto Piazza, Vladimir Alekno, and Saied Marouf had been named as the candidates for taking charge of Team Melli but Lorenzetti is reportedly a new candidate to lead Iran.

Lorenzetti has just worked in Italy in his coaching career.

He started his job, leading Carifano Gibam Fano in 1988 and has also led Italian clubs Della Rovere Carifano Fano, European Padova, Kerakoll Modena, Marmi Lanza Verona, and Itas Trentino.

Lorenzetti has also worked as head coach of Italy's U-17 and U-21 teams.

15 countries to participate at 2024 Asian Indoor Athletics C'ships

TEHRAN - The Caretaker of the Athletic Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (AAFIRI), Mehdi Mobini, predicted that a total of 15 countries will participate in the 2024 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships.

The Championships will be held in Tehran, the capital of Iran from February 17 to 19.

"Iran has chance to win six quotas for the 2024 Olympic games. We predict 15 countries will take part in the event," Mobini said.

"Hosting the 2024 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships is a good opportunity for the Iranian athletes to win medal," he added.

Hadi Choopan to compete at 2024 Arnold Classic

TEHRAN - Hadi Choopan of Iran will compete at the 2024 Arnold Classic, slated for March 1-3, 2024, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH.

Aside from the honor of being an Arnold Classic champion, the winners of all the contests in Columbus will earn qualifications to compete in the 2024 Olympia weekend in Las Vegas, NV, on October 10-13, 2024.

2022 Mr. Olympia Hadi Choopan will also compete in Columbus to regain momentum following his second-place finish at the 2023 Mr. Olympia contest to Derek Lunsford.

2023 Arnold Classic third-place finisher Andrew Jacked will also attempt to move up the ranks in Columbus. The rest of the deep field of veterans and newcomers will also vie for the Arnold trophy and check for \$300,000.

Iranian female rowers win two gold medals in Asian competition

TEHRAN - Iranian rowers claimed two gold medals in the 2023 Asian Junior Rowing Championships in Pattaya, Thailand.

In the final stage of rowing heavyweight women's double sculls, the Iranian squad comprising Kimia Zarei and Fatemeh Mojallal reached the end line as the first boat after registering 7:27,99 time and claiming the gold medal in the sporting event.

Vietnam and Kazakhstan stood in second and third places respectively in the heavyweight women's double sculls competitions.

Also, Kimia Zarei gained the gold medal in the lightweight single sculls after registering 8:7,45 time and her rivals from Thailand and Kazakhstan stood in the second and third places respectively.

Israel committing crimes surpassing ISIS: Iran FM



TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has asserted that officials of the Zionist regime are perpetrating crimes

even more egregious than those of ISIS.

In a post on his X account on Sunday, Amir Abdollahian underscored the major failure of the Zionist regime's military endeavors.

The minister emphasized Palestine's decisive victory in the uneven battlefield. "The allegations against the Zionist officials include not only ongoing atrocities but also their attempt to compensate for the regime's historically disgraceful defeats," he noted.

The top Iranian diplomat, addressing the ongoing situation, highlighted that despite 70 days of conflict, Hamas persists, resistance remains intact, and the forced displacement

plan for Gaza residents has not yielded the desired outcomes.

At least 18,700 people have been killed and nearly 50,600 injured in Gaza as a result of the Israeli attacks that started on October 7, the day on which Hamas launched a major operation into the occupied territories near Gaza. Hamas's surprise operation came in retaliation to decades of Israeli oppression against the Palestinians.

Nearly 70 per cent of those killed in the besieged area are women and children, as confirmed by the Health Ministry authorities in Gaza.

Iranian officials extend condolences to Kuwait over Emir demise

TEHRAN - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian have expressed their condolences to Kuwait following the death of Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah.

In a message on Saturday, Raisi offered his sympathies to the new Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, as well as the country's government and its Muslim nation.

Sheikh Nawaf, who had been

hospitalized for an undisclosed illness in late November, passed away at the age of 86.

In late November, Sheikh Nawaf was hospitalized for an unspecified illness. The tiny and oil-rich Persian Gulf nation had been waiting for news about his health.

State-run news agency KUNA previously reported that he traveled to the United States for unspecified medical checks in March 2021.

Sheikh Nawaf ruled Kuwait from September 29, 2020, to his death on December 16, 2023. He had succeeded to the throne following the death of his half-brother Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah.

Amir-Abdollahian also conveyed his condolences to the Kuwaiti government and nation, wishing them success, dignity, and security in the future.

On behalf of the President, Iranian

Foreign Minister left Iran for Kuwait on Sunday to offer condolences to the people and government of Kuwait on the death of Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah.

Iran's Foreign Minister was welcomed by his Kuwaiti counterpart Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Kuwait International Airport. Later, Amir Abdollahian met with Kuwait's new Emir Sheikh Meshal on Sunday evening and held talks.

Army Air Force is ready to respond to any threat at any level: commander

TEHRAN - The deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Air Force, Mehdi Hadian, has stated that the Air Force, enjoying a high level of capability, is ready to respond to any threat at any level.

The senior Iranian Army official stressed that enemies have been completely disappointed with a military confrontation with Iran.

Brigadier General Hadian, referring to the

capabilities of the Air Force to deal with threats, said, "Thanks to the blessings of the martyrs, the Islamic Revolution, and the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the armed forces are at the highest level of combat readiness."

The deputy commander highlighted the enemies' desperation in their futile efforts to engage in warfare, adding that the opponents

are investing billions of dollars in combined and cognitive warfare to undermine the Islamic Republic. However, with the guidance of the Leader and the support of the people, the enemies' schemes have been thwarted.

In the end, he reiterated that the Army's Air Force, which is at a high level of capability, is ready to respond to all kinds of threats.

Iran to host ICCIA general assembly in 2024



TEHRAN – The Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) is going to host the 40th general assembly of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) in 2024.

The decision was made during the 39th meeting of the ICCIA general assembly which was held in Qatar's capital Doha on Saturday, the ICCIMA portal reported.

In the meeting, the attendees approved the recommendation of the 35th Board of Directors of the ICCIA to change the name of

ICCIA to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD). The Meeting also approved the new Logo of the ICCIA.

The members also reviewed the report on the implementation of the programs and projects of the ICCIA for 2023 as well as its financial report for 2023. In this context, the participants approved the recommendations of the ICCIA's Board of Directors Meeting on the activities and programs of ICCIA for 2024 and approved the budget of the ICCIA for 2024.

In the previous edition of the meeting in Baku in July, ICCIMA Head Hossein Selahvarzi expressed Iran's readiness to host the 40th edition of the meeting.

The ICCIA was founded under the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1978 and it now covers chambers of commerce from 57 Islamic countries.

Iran's hosting of the ICCIA General Assembly Meeting in 2024 will be the country's first hosting of the meeting since the ICCIA came into existence 45 years ago.

Iran appointed vice chair of UIC regional assembly

TEHRAN- The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) has been re-appointed as the first vice chair of International Union of Railways (UIC) Regional Assembly for the Middle-East (RAME).

As reported, the decision was made during the 32nd Meeting of UIC RAME which was held virtually, on December 15, the portal of the Iranian Transport Ministry reported.

During the meeting which was attended by senior officials from UIC, various issues were discussed, including the financial and budget issues and the recent activities of the UIC Middle

East regional office, the review of the activities of the Middle East Railways Rail Training Center, the activities of the COP28 event in Dubai, projects in this region including harsh weather conditions, work requirements for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, hydrogen hazards, development of a specialized network of security, safety, mobile communication system in the future to evaluate the needs of long-range radio communication in West Asia, etc.

Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE are members of UIC regional assembly for West Asia.

Non-oil goods worth over \$200m exported from Golestan province in 8 months

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, non-oil commodities valued at \$200.731 million were exported from Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21).

Shahriyar Shahriyari, the director-general of the province's Customs Department, put the weight of exported goods at 352,388 tons.

He named Turkmenistan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, Romania, Armenia, Russia, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Turkey, Tajikistan, Georgia, India, Azerbaijan, UAE, Greece, Qatar, Cyprus, Oman, Belarus, Bahrain, and Kuwait as the major export destinations of the products.

The official further announced that 51,743 tons of non-oil goods worth \$103.811 million were imported to the province in the first eight months of this year.

As previously announced by Darvish-Ali Hassan-Zadeh, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, the value of non-oil export from Golestan province increased by 26 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

He said that non-oil commodities worth \$235 million were exported from the province to 33 countries in the previous year.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports exceeded \$32 billion in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Based on the IRICA data, Iran exported 90.044 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$32.243 billion in the mentioned eight months.

The non-oil exports in the mentioned period increased by 27 percent in terms of weight, and 1.6 percent in terms of value, year on year.

The average value of each ton of exported goods in the first eight months of the current year was \$358 while the average value of each ton of exported goods in the previous year's same period was reported to be \$462.

Liquefied natural gas, liquefied propane, methanol, petroleum bitumen, and liquefied butane were the five main exported goods in the period under review.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$9.158 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$6.023 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$4.162 billion, Turkey with \$3.028 billion, and India with \$1.466 billion.

Meanwhile, some 24.709 million tons of goods valued at \$42.199 billion were imported into the country in the said period, indicating a 12.36-percent rise in terms of value, and a 4.32 percent increase in terms of weight, year on year.

The average customs value of each ton of imported goods during this period was \$1,708, which shows a 7.70 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Corn, mobile phones, soybeans, automobile parts, sunflower seeds, and safflower were the five main items of imported goods in the mentioned eight-month period.

The country's top five sources of imports in the first eight months of the current year were the UAE with \$13.054 billion, China with \$12.191 billion, Turkey with \$4.443 billion, Germany with \$1.428 billion, and India with \$1.244 billion worth of imports.

Industrial sector's issues discussed at TCCIMA committee meeting

TEHRAN – Members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Industry and Mining Committee gathered on Saturday to discuss the issues related to the Tehran province's industry and mining sectors.

The challenges that the industrial units are currently facing including the lack of sufficient support for production, lack of attention to the provision of infrastructure, multi-rate currency and lack of access to sufficient foreign currency, mandated pricing and the imposition of

cumbersome restrictions on trade were among the topic discussed at the gathering, the TCCIMA portal reported.

During the meeting, which was attended by the deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister and the representatives of Tehran's major industrial and mining companies, head of the committee Hervik Yarijani said power outages, the high cost of issuing industrial licenses and tax costs are among the problems of the country's industrial units.

Iran-Russia trade up 18% in 8 months on year

From page 1 ▶ The IRICA head also announced that Iran imported commodities valued at \$1.14 billion from Russia in the eight-month period, with 12 percent growth, year on year.

In line with the two countries' determination to increase the level of trade exchanges, during a video conference meeting between the deputy transport ministers of Iran and Russia on November 28, the two sides discussed ways of increasing annual transit through Iran to 10 million tons.

In this virtual meeting, the two sides discussed transportation cooperation between the two countries in all areas including rail, road, and sea.

Speaking in this meeting, Iranian Deputy Transport Minister Shahryar Afandizadeh referred to the high potential for port cooperation between the two countries, especially in the Caspian Sea, and noted that there is a good capacity in Iran's northern ports for receiving goods sent from Russia and sending them to desired destinations using combined transportation methods.

The officials also discussed the Rasht-Astara railway project



and the representative of the Iranian contractor of the project, namely the Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company, presented a report on the project's physical progress.

Iran and Russia have been taking serious steps to boost their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

"We agreed to remove trade barriers and boost the economic exchanges between the two

countries. Currently, the level of mutual trade is not acceptable, so the two countries agreed to increase trade to \$10 billion a year," Raisi said on January 21, upon arrival to Tehran after a two-day visit to Moscow.

As major players in the world and West Asia's political and economic scene, Iran and Russia have been expanding political and economic ties for many years, however, the relations between the two countries have entered a whole new level over the past few months.

The imposition of sanctions on both countries has been a major factor in bringing the two sides closer together, making

them a strong alliance against U.S. pressures. Over the past few months, senior officials from the two sides have been meeting and visiting each other to consolidate bilateral cooperation in various fields, including energy, oil, gas, and transit, as well as diplomatic and political relations.

As the most significant event among the mentioned exchanges, Russia's President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran on July 19 to attend the 7th Summit of the Guarantor States of the Astana Process.

During his visit to Tehran Putin met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Raisi and exchanged views on the recent development in the world and the relations between the two countries.

In these meetings, the two sides reached new agreements and stressed the need to take the necessary measures for broadening political and economic ties between the two countries to nullify the impacts of the U.S. sanctions.

Among other issues, Tehran and Moscow have been negotiating a free trade agreement to ensure acceleration in the economic relations between the two countries.

PBO expects next year's budget bill to be 98% realized

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) has said the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402 (March 2024-March 2025) is expected to be realized by 98 percent, IRIB reported.

"The next year's budget will be realized with 98 percent certainty, events may affect it, but we do not have a hidden budget deficit in the budget," Davoud Manzour said in a televised interview on Friday.

President Ebrahim Raisi submitted the national budget bill for the next Iranian year to the Majlis (parliament) on December 5.

The proposed budget for the next year amounts to about 54.18 quadrillion rials (about \$108.36 billion at the free market rate of

500,000 rials), with an 18 percent rise from the current year's budget.

The bill has estimated the government's budget at 24.29 quadrillion rials (about \$48.58 billion).

Public resources are estimated at 14.95 quadrillion rials (about \$29.9 billion).

The crude oil income is predicted to be 5.54 quadrillion rials (about \$11.08 billion), and oil sales are estimated at 1.35 million barrels per day at an average price of \$65.

Like the current year's budget, the next year's proposed budget requires the government to pay 40 percent of its oil, gas, and gas condensate revenues to the National Development Fund (NDF).

Tax revenues are predicted to be 11.22 quadrillion rials (about \$22.44 billion) which is 49.8 percent more than the figure for the current year's budget bill.

The data provided in next year's budget bill indicate that the government is taking major steps to distance the economy from oil, as a big portion of the income is set to be gained from sources other than oil and gas.

Oil incomes in the next year's budget bill are estimated to be 6.2 percent less than the ceiling allowed in the budget law, accounting for only 22.8 percent of the total incomes. On the other hand, the share of tax revenues is twice the revenues from oil and gas sales, which means changing the budget approach from oil revenues to sustainable revenues.

POGC saves over €20m by domestic production of gas industry equipment



TEHRAN – The head of the Research and Technology Center of the South Pars Gas Complex (POGC) said the complex has saved more than 20 million

euros by advancing projects for the first-time production of gas industry equipment and items inside the country.

"The successful

implementation of these projects, in addition to saving more than 20 million euros, has ended the dependence on foreign sources for the supply of some vital equipment for the country's gas industry and will make Iran one of the producers of technological equipment for the gas industry in the world," Abbas Sayadi told Shana on Saturday.

According to Sayadi, the POGC Research and Technology Center was established with the aim of effective and sustainable communication with universities and science and technology parks of the country and to this end, the

main goal of the center has been to create a technology ecosystem based on the technological needs of the industry.

Over the past two years, Iranian Oil Ministry has inked a total of 51 deals valued at \$68 million with 40 knowledge-based companies for the first-time production of equipment and items needed in the country's oil and gas industry.

The production of the mentioned items and equipment, which have been imported into the country so far, is going to save the country \$305 million.

Over 79m tons of non-oil products loaded, unloaded in ports in 8 months

TEHRAN – As reported by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), 79,698,472 tons of non-oil products were loaded and unloaded in the ports of country during the first eight months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21).

The PMO has also reported that the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by seven percent in the first eight months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As the organization reported, 153,871,295 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the eight-month period.

During the said period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1,787,110 TEUs, which was three percent more than the 1,740,208 TEUs in the first eight months of the past year.

Based on the data previously released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports

of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that the loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the oil sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports

as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

Israel Decrepit Forces

The regime shoots dead its own captives in Gaza

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- The incident of the Israeli army shooting dead its own captives in Gaza has highlighted the regime's troops' anxiety and fear during their land offensives in the enclave.

In the aftermath of Operation al-Aqsa Storm?, the Israeli regime's stated mission had been twofold. One was to recover the captives taken by Palestinian resistance factions on October 7, and the second was to eliminate Hamas.

Now the very confused state of the regime's war on Gaza, which experts say lacks any political agenda? other than killing civilians, has been clear by the murder of three of its own captives who had either been released by the Palestinian resistance or escaped by themselves.

According to the regime's military spokesman, three Israeli captives in Shejaia?, northern Gaza, emerged from a building without their shirts on and had been holding a makeshift white flag?, which is the international sign of surrender.

Two of the captives were shot dead immediately, according to an investigation by the Israeli military. The third captive sustained an injury and fled back into a nearby building. The regime's troops then heard screams for help in Hebrew from the third Israeli captive, only for other soldiers to carry on shooting until they killed him as well.

The captives were killed hundreds of meters from a building marked with writing reading "SOS".

What is clear is that they posed no threat to the Israeli military.

This raises the long-held serious suspicions as to how the Israeli military has been operating in Gaza.

After more than 77 days of the Israeli war on Gaza, the regime has been unable to get its captives out militarily. It has now killed them, triggering angry protests against prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv.

Chants of "Shame", "There's no time" and "Deal now!", the last chant being a demand for a new ceasefire agreement with Hamas and an exchange of the Israeli captives for



Palestinian prisoners. The protesters present a growing threat to the Israeli settler population in the way in which the Israeli war on Gaza is being executed.

There is widespread outrage in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories amid a mounting sense of anxiety over the safety of the remaining captives held in Gaza.

There is also disbelief in what has happened to the Israeli captives. The Israeli settler population is still trying to process this new Israeli military failure, this time against its own people. They say the captives are being left in mortal danger, and the longer the bombs keep falling, the greater the chance of more being killed.

Only through Qatari-mediated negotiations and a ceasefire, Israeli captives have been released safely.

The clear avoidable loss of life of the Israeli captives will now inevitably increase pressure on Netanyahu's war cabinet to re-focus its efforts on securing the release of the remaining captives.

It is perhaps no coincidence that a senior Mossad representative has subsequently been sent back to Doha in a bid to resume indirect negotiations with Hamas.

Hamas, however, appears unprepared to re-engage in that process at the moment, after the Israeli regime violated the last ceasefire agreement and continued to kill innocent civilians on a mass scale.

The group said in a statement on Saturday that it will not conduct more negotiations around prisoner

exchanges unless the regime stops its massacres in Gaza.

Issuing its statement on social media, Hamas said all mediators are aware of its position.

"Hamas reaffirms its stance not to conduct any negotiations to exchange prisoners" until Israel stopped its assault on Palestinians, "once and for all," it said.

But the killing of Israeli captives, who posed no threat to the Israeli army, also raises quite an obvious conclusion.

If Palestinian civilians emerge from a building with their shirts taken off, to show they are carrying no weapons or explosive devices, and wave a white flag of surrender, Israeli troops may shoot them dead.

The incident of Israeli captives made international headlines because the regime's army killed its own people in Gaza.

Many similar incidents of civilians emerging from buildings and shot dead by Israeli soldiers have gone unreported because the victims have been Palestinians.

It might go some way to explain one of the reasons why the Palestinian casualty figures are rising so alarmingly and so quickly.

Furthermore, it is quite clear now that the secretive Israeli policy is to indiscriminately kill as many Palestinian civilians as possible.

It also highlights the state of hysteria, paranoia, and the fear of the Israeli soldiers that have invaded Gaza.

"Our fighters continuously observe the enemy soldiers'

screams and pleas for help after each operation and their hysterical reaction of firing bullets and shells aimlessly at everything to cover up their state of terror," Abu Obeida, the military spokesman for Al-Qassam Brigades, said.

The regime has mobilized over 300,000 military personnel to serve in the war on Gaza.

Having failed to dismantle Hamas and amid heavy Israeli military losses, on December 1, the regime appeared to revise its stated mission?, with Israeli officials repeatedly stating its army will either kill or capture the three top Hamas leaders, Mohammed Deif, Marwan Issa and Yahya Sinwar as the "smoking gun" to achieve a military victory.

This has also proven to be a failure, as none of the three top Hamas leaders have been captured or killed.

It is crystal clear that the Israeli military is unable to defeat the armed wing of Hamas or other Palestinian resistance factions in a tiny blockaded coastal enclave that has the military edge over what was once the most powerful military in the region.

Abu Obeida pointed out that "over the past days?, our fighters have carried out a large number of precision ambushes against the enemy's infantry units."

"This included luring enemy forces into buildings our fighters had identified as accessible to the enemy, then detonating anti-personnel devices. And bombing these forces and attacking them with machine guns at close range."

The regime is quickly losing both its military morale and the support of the vast majority of the international community for its 10 weeks of indiscriminate attacks against Palestinian civilians.

From the onset of the war on Gaza, the Israeli regime said it wanted to "wipe out" Hamas in Gaza. At this rate, it is the Palestinian resistance that appears to be wiping out the Israeli military forces in the enclave.

The ratio of Israeli military personnel being killed far outweighs the ratio of Palestinian resistance members that are being killed on the battlefield.

Palestinians of Gaza and has been actively slaughtering them for 2 months as of this writing. But Israel has been committing 'slow-motion genocide' on Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank since it stole the land from Palestinians in 1948.

The Israelis want all of Palestine with no Palestinians in it, and their current leaders are blatantly saying that Palestinians in Gaza should be shoved into Egypt and live in tent cities. That is their intent. If they can't eliminate them with bombs, they will starve them to death or make life so difficult, Palestinians will begin dying of diseases.

Israel wants all of Gaza for three reasons: 1. Israelis are slobbering over the idea of 35 miles of pristine beachfront property after all the debris has been swept away. 2. Israel wants to steal Gaza's gas. The Gaza marine field, discovered by BG in 2000 has 122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.7 billion barrels of oil worth around \$524 billion! 3. Israel has been planning the Ben Gurion Canal Project, originally proposed in the 1960s as an alternative to the Suez Canal. And to accomplish that goal, they need northern Gaza as the starting point. This canal would be under the authority of the Western ally, Israel, and would eliminate the Suez Canal as well as stopping the leverage by Egypt/Iran/Yemen against the West.

And it's not a war. Wars are between states. Gaza is a concentration camp; its people are occupied. Occupied people have the right to resist, according to international law. Israel, on the other hand, is the brutal occupier. Under international law, it has no right to self-defense against people it occupies. It's why Hamas had every right on October 7, 2023, to bust out of the concentration camp, capture hostages to be used for barter to get Palestinian hostages out of Israeli prisons and kill Israeli soldiers and police.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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Where does Egypt stand on Gaza war 45 years after Camp David Accords?

Insighters

From page 1 ▶ The Camp David Accords were seen by many as treachery towards the Palestinian struggle, as they paved the way for the 1993 Oslo Accords between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israelis, which in turn opened the door to the 1994 treaty between Israel and Jordan.

Now more than 45 years after the signing, many are questioning whether Camp David was able to give to the Arabs, as much as Israel took from them.

"The deal might have looked good at first glance as it said that the Egyptians would get a total of \$2.15 billion in aid. But the U.S. also demanded the privatization of the public sector which meant that Egypt could only make money from the Suez Canal and tourism. The money collected from remittances was also another source of income," Muhammad Mahmoud Refaat, the head of the Nasserist National Accord Party in Egypt, tells the Tehran Times. "This led to an economic collapse in Egypt which ultimately forced the country to resort to borrowing. Egypt's total external debt has now reached \$165.36 billion."

Sadat's aspirations for prosperity and economic development are still far from materializing in 2023. Egypt is stuck in political stagnation while it grapples with worsening economic woes. The Egyptian pound has lost more than 50% of its value in recent years and over 60% of the population is categorized by the UN as "either poor or vulnerable".

In an interview Sadat had with American media a year after the signing, he expressed hope that the U.S. could help restrain Israel's military assaults. "The Israelis need an electric shock to tell them: You should behave for peace," he said before defending the Egypt-Israel peace agreement by saying that the U.S. "Holds 99% of the cards in the Middle East".

But the late president's peace vision also failed to take shape. Merely four years after the signing of the

WORLD HEADLINES

French FM urges all parties to 'de-escalate' on Israel-Lebanon border

On her visit to Israel, French FM Colonna has urged all parties, including Israel, to 'de-escalate' on the volatile border with Lebanon.

"The risk of escalation remains... and if things were to spiral out of control, I don't think anyone would benefit, and I say this to Israel too," she said during a visit to the Shura military base in central Israel. "This call for caution and de-escalation applies to everyone."

The visit comes as France condemned the Israeli bombing of a civilian building in southern Gaza that killed one of its diplomatic staff.

Colonna has arrived in Israel where she was due to press for an "immediate and durable" truce.

Captive's mother starts hunger strike

The mother of a captive held in Gaza has started a hunger strike until the return of her 32-year-old son, Israeli news website Ynet reports.

Oksana Lubnov said she decided to take such action after learning that Israeli soldiers mistakenly shot dead three captives in the Gaza Strip.

"What happened the other day made me realise that nothing is being done for them to come back," Lubnov told Ynet. "We only receive dead bodies every day, I have no hope," she said. "Without a deal, there is no hope."

Alex Lubnov is one of about 240 people taken captive on October 7.

Palestinian student expelled from Florida school after his mother made pro-Palestinian posts

Camp David Accords Israel initiated a disastrously destructive attack on Lebanon. Subsequently, it embarked on the Judaization of significant portions of the West Bank and actively participated in a US-led military intervention that continues to plague Syria. The regime's latest belligerent action involves the relentless targeting of the Gaza Strip, resulting in the brutal demise of over 20,000 Palestinian civilians who have been subjected to the most inhumane forms of cruelty and oppression.

Furthermore, people have become growingly critical of Egyptian rulers over time. Citizens, reminiscing about Egypt's past role in the region, have not yet come to terms with their country's significant loss of clout. They have also remained more or less committed to the Palestinian cause.

That's why reports suggesting that Egypt is considering a deal to host Palestinians displaced from the Gaza Strip in exchange for U.S. debt relief is deeply troubling millions of Egyptians who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to express solidarity with the Palestinians.

"Indeed, Egypt has rejected this offer up until now. However, I doubt the current government in Egypt will continue to reject this financial offer, especially since Egypt has reached a point where the people in Egypt cannot bear," commented the head of the Nasserist National Accord Party, while remarking that Cairo must not bow to Western pressure, as supporting the Palestinian cause is the only way of protecting Egypt's national security.

"Once Israel re-occupies Gaza, the Sinai Peninsula is next."

Some analysts, however, believe Egypt has learned from its past mistakes and will continue to resist Washington's demands. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has reportedly warned Israel of "a rupture" in relations if the regime forces Palestinians to flee to the Sinai.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The Council on American-Islamic Relations has requested the US Department of Education investigate the expulsion of a Palestinian American high school student over pro-Palestinian content his mother posted on social media.

Jad Abuhamda, 15, was expelled on November 19 from the Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and his mother, Dr. Maha Almasri, was fired from her position as a math tutor at the school after she made posts criticizing Israel's "collective brutality" against Palestinian civilians and children in Gaza during the ongoing war, CAIR said in a Wednesday news release.

Abu Obeida: Israel is gambling with the lives of its captured soldiers

Military spokesman for the Al-Qassam Brigades, Abu Obeida wrote on X: The enemy is still gambling with the lives of its soldiers captured by the resistance, not caring about the feelings of their families.

On Saturday, it deliberately executed three of them, preferring to kill them rather than liberate them. This is the same blatant criminal behavior that it practiced and continues to practice against its captives in Gaza, in a desperate attempt.

Rights body seeks probe that Israel buried patients alive in Kamal Adwan Hospital

The Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor calls for an international investigation into reports that Israel's military buried patients alive in the courtyard of Kamal Adwan Hospital.

Kamal Adwan Hospital, located in the north of the strip, had been besieged for over a week when forces reportedly bulldozed parts of the site, burying alive and killing Palestinians there on Saturday.

"The occupation [Israeli] bulldozers trampled the tents of the displaced people in the hospital yard and brutally crushed them," said Anas al-Sharif, a reporter for pan-Arab broadcaster Al Jazeera.

'Israelis want all of Palestine,' activist says of war on Gaza

"Israel is the most dangerous country in the world for Jews"

From page 1 ▶

Following is the text of the interview:

What are the reasons for the West's blind support for Israel's indescribable crimes in Gaza while it makes claims about the need to respect international human rights law, the law of war, respect for international law?

The West has three major reasons for supporting Israel's genocide against the indigenous Christian and Muslim Palestinians;

1. Zionist money, blackmail and bribery that influences much of the West.

2. The belief that Israel is the victim instead of the victimizer and they are, somehow, 'the chosen' people. This belief is particularly strong in the West, as there are 30 times more Christian Zionists than Jewish Zionists, especially in the US. When the state of Israel was established in 1948, Christian Zionists saw it as the great historical event fulfilling biblical prophecy that "all Jews should be rounded up and sent back to the Holy Land to be converted or killed, then Jesus returns".

3. Racism from the West who sees black and brown people as somehow lesser human beings. And that's been Western beliefs for hundreds of years. In 1937, for example, when talking about the treatment of "the Red Indians of America or the black people of Australia", Winston Churchill denied any injustice had been done, saying "a stronger race, a higher-grade race, a more worldly-wise race to put it that way, has come in and taken their place".

The Israeli government plays on all three of those reasons, especially now, when you see Netanyahu calling up biblical references to destroy Palestinians. It's also interesting to note that every Israeli Prime Minister has been white from Europe or America. (Yet, Israel is now filled with millions of Arab and Ethiopian Jews who, ironically, are members of the most racist parties).

In comparison to Republicans, Democrats have been making more claims of support for human rights, but Joe Biden and his lieutenants

have been steadfastly supporting Israel which according to the UN has created a "hell on the earth" in Gaza. What are the reasons for this?

There is virtually no difference in support for Israel between Democrats and Republicans. Both parties actively seek Zionist donations, but the Democrats tend to collect from the Jewish Zionists while the Republicans collect from the Christian Zionists. For example, in 2022, much of that money going to the most influential Democrats such as Senator Chuck Schumer and Representative Hakeem Jeffries.

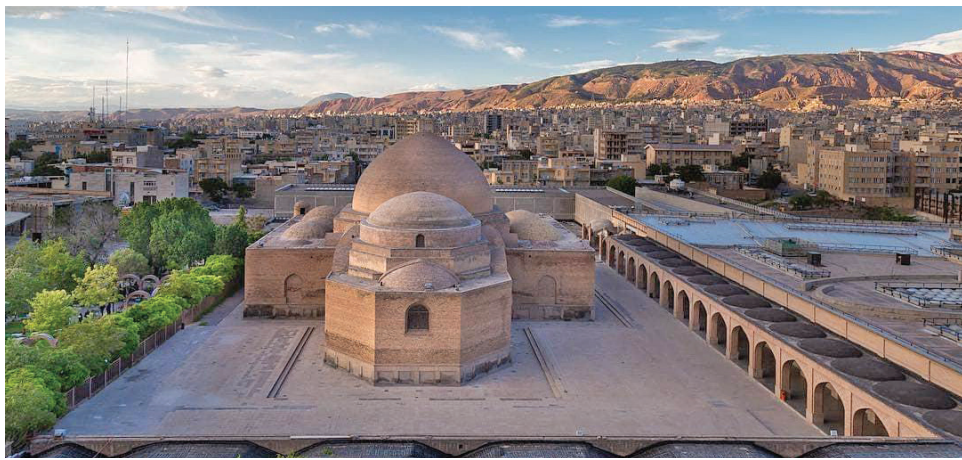
"Israel has been committing 'slow-motion genocide' on Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank since it stole the land from Palestinians in 1948."

President Biden has repeatedly said he is a Christian Zionist, he's proud of that, and "if there were not an Israel, we'd have to invent one." Many of us now call him, Genocide Joe for his unwavering support for Israel and its murderous actions against the Palestinians of Gaza. The US was the only country who voted against the Cease Fire in the UN Security Council. So the idea that the Democratic party is in favor of human rights is ridiculous.

How do you describe the collective punishment of the Gazans, including displacing about 2 million people, bombarding places where people have taken shelter, and horrifically halting water, food, and medicines to civilians? Do you see Israel's moves against Gaza as an instance of war or a kind of madness?

Israel is committing genocide on the

Blue Mosque: project for documentation, photogrammetric maps accomplished



TEHRAN - A project involving the documentation and creation of photogrammetric maps of the Blue Mosque, which is a treasured cultural gem in the ancient city of Tabriz, has been accomplished.

In revealing the conclusion of the documentation and preparation of photogrammetric maps of the Blue Mosque, East Azarbaijan's deputy tourism chief on Saturday said: "Photogrammetry is the science, art, and technique of creating reliable three-dimensional data of objects or structures using two-dimensional images captured from various angles."

The strength of photogrammetry lies in its very high accuracy in reconstructing object details, Vahid Navadad said.

The official detailed the services provided in this project, which included establishing a mapping network in the specialized UTM system, generating dense point clouds and a three-dimensional model of the entire structure, capturing orthophoto images of the main facades and an overhead view of the mosque's roof, producing videos from the three-dimensional model, capturing images of decorations and inscriptions, as well as capturing images of the floor and main ceilings of the structure.

"One of the most important applications of photogrammetry is the accurate documentation of historical monuments, which plays a highly valuable role in preserving these treasures today."

Completed in the mid-15th century, the Blue Mosque of Tabriz (better known as Masjed-e Kabud) was among the most glorious buildings of the time. Once built, artists took a further 25 years to cover every surface with the blue majolica tiles and intricate calligraphy for which it's nicknamed.

The Blue Mosque was once part of a

complex known as Muzaffariya, which included a tomb, cistern, library, and khanqah. The function of the remaining building itself in a state of ruin has not been definitively identified. It survived one of history's worst-ever earthquakes in 1727 but partly collapsed in a later quake in 1773.

Both interior and exterior surfaces were once covered in a variety of tile revetments; remains of tile mosaic, underglaze-painted and overglaze-painted tiles, and luster tiles attest to the richness of the decorative scheme. Patterns are rendered in subtle colors with extensive use of cobalt blue as a ground for inscriptions and arabesque designs in gold and white. The dome was a deep blue, stenciled with gold patterns.

According to Archnet, its plan, which is unique in Iran, comprises a central square chamber covered by a dome and framed on three sides by a continuous arcade of nine domed bays. A domed sanctuary projects from the fourth, the qibla side. An entrance portal with a semi-dome, on axis with the qibla, accesses the arcade, which forms a five-bay vestibule parallel with the façade. The plan bears comparison to the covered Ottoman mosques of Bursa and Byzantine church architecture.

On the exterior walls of the Blue Mosque are many interesting under-glaze tiles, which are adorned with a black line and painted in white on dark blue ground. Most of these are square blue-and-white tiles with floral or geometric ornaments.

Extensive rebuilding took place between 1950 and 1966. The dome over the central chamber dates from this period, as do the undecorated interior walls. Details from the mausoleum's interior, such as alabaster pieces from the wall panels and the main prayer niche, reveal that the mausoleum was never finished.

National Museum set to host exhibit on recovered Achaemenid tablets

TEHRAN - The National Museum of Iran is getting prepared to host a special exhibition of Achaemenid tablets which were returned home after nearly 90 years.

In a recent announcement, Jebrail Nokandeh, who presides over the prestigious museum, revealed that fresh studies on Achaemenid tablets continue to progress, signaling the imminent staging of an exhibition featuring these historical artifacts at the museum.

An exhibition of Achaemenid tablets will soon take place at the National Museum of Iran, IRIB quoted Nokandeh as saying on Friday.

He emphasized that research on the Achaemenid tablets was still ongoing, shedding light on the significance of these ancient relics, whose latest batch was returned in September by the plane carrying President Ebrahim Raisi after addressing the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

After some 80 decades of being on loan at the University of Chicago, the clay tablets were subject to American researchers' scrutiny for a span of merely 8 to 10 years, he said, referring to the need for further studies on the tablets.

Addressing the potential interruptions faced during those studies, particularly due to events like World War II and the demise of Professor Richard Hallock, a linguist involved in the research, Nokandeh



stated that these setbacks somehow affected the overall progress of the studies.

He noted that the studies conducted either found their place in the university's sources or were published in book form, making their content accessible to the public.

The impending exhibition is anticipated to be a celebration of cultural heritage, inviting visitors to delve into the profound legacy of the Achaemenid civilization.

These clay tablets were part of a larger shipment discovered at Persepolis in the Iranian year 1311 (1932), which was entrusted to the Oriental Institute of Chicago for deciphering and study.

Out of over 30,000 pieces held by the Chicago Institute for study and

deciphering, five shipments have been returned to Iran in the Iranian years 1327 (1948-49), 1330 (1951-52), 1383 (2004-05), 1398 (2019-2020), and 1402 (2023-24), ISNA reported.

Yet, portions of these tablets still remain at the institute. Ezzatollah Zarghami, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, had previously mentioned the process of returning the remaining tablets, stating that the groundwork for their return has been laid out. "According to an agreement made by the Americans, our experts will go to that country to verify the remaining tablets, after which they will gradually be returned to Iran."

Studies conducted thus far on the Achaemenid clay tablets indicate that their content encompasses the administration and upper echelons

of society during that historical period.

Archaeologists affiliated with the University of Chicago discovered the tablets in the 1930s while excavating in Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire. However, the institute has resumed work in collaboration with colleagues in Iran, and the return of the tablets is part of a broadening of contacts between scholars in the two countries, said Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

They are very important sources of information revealing economic, social, and religious data about the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) and the larger Near Eastern region in the fifth century BC.

Persepolis, locally known as Takht-e Jamshid, was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It ranks among the archaeological sites that have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

Narratives say that Persepolis was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians, because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier. It was the largest and most durable empire of its time, stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and India at its height.

Iran, Pakistan universities forge path for medical tourism

TEHRAN - Iran's Zahedan University of Medical Sciences and Pakistan's University of Lahore set to deepen cooperation in health tourism and medical sciences.

In a promising development bridging health tourism and scientific diplomacy, the President of Zahedan University of Medical Sciences has outlined forthcoming collaborations with Pakistan's University of Lahore, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Dr. Habib Ghaznavi, addressing colleagues during a video conference with the University of Lahore, highlighted Zahedan University of Medical Sciences' prestigious status in the country, saying this partnership is aimed at fostering bi-national cooperation in Iran's southeastern region, the report said.

He further emphasized the extensive border connections between the Sistan-Baluchestan regions in Iran and Pakistan, underscoring the cultural proximity and the high quality of educational standards, which constitute some of the advantages for academically inclined Pakistani students studying at this university.

Zahedan University of Medical Sciences comprises seven faculties encompassing medicine, paramedicine, dentistry, nursing and midwifery, public health, rehabilitation sciences, and an institute of higher health education, Ghaznavi said.

Expressing the university's keenness on strategically expanding international relations and collaborations in the domains of educational, healthcare, and medical services with Pakistan, Ghaznavi noted that the university has secured necessary permits, infrastructure, and human resources across various sectors, hoping that these efforts will yield fruitful collaborations between the two institutions.

Also, Dr. Seyyed Mehdi Tabatabaei, the advisor to the president of Zahedan University of Medical Sciences on international affairs, emphasized the university's interest in potential joint research activities with the University of Lahore.

Tabatabaei highlighted the significance of collaborative research initiatives in addressing prevalent diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, tuberculosis, and other health challenges in the region.

The collaborative effort between the two universities is intended to establish a promising path for the advancement of medical services, educational excellence, and scientific collaboration between Iran and Pakistan.

Iran was ranked 46th destination for medical tourism [within the 2020-2021 Medical Tourism Index]. According to available data, patients from neighboring countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, Bahrain, Armenia, and Tajikistan, constitute the lion's share of medical tourists arriving in the Islamic Republic.

Experts say medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

The Islamic Republic is branded globally as an affordable destination for health and medical tourism. Credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine and diverse specializations, affordable procedures, and finally, its hospitable people, are considered Iran's trump card when it comes to medical tourism.

Polish archaeologists discovered new petroglyphs dating back to the 3rd century in Colorado

Archaeologists from the Jagiellonian University, southern Poland, have made a significant discovery of ancient indigenous paintings and carvings in the U.S. state of Colorado-Utah border.

This Polish team has been exploring the area for over a decade, unraveling the mysteries of the

3000-year-old Pueblo culture.

Leading the research since 2011, Radosław Palonka, a professor at the Jagiellonian University and a specialist in New World archeology, says the findings dramatically alter the understanding of settlement in the area. His team is the only

Polish and one of the few European archaeological groups to work in the region.

The research is carried out at the Castle Rock Pueblo settlement complex, located on the picturesque Mesa Verde plateau on the border between Colorado and Utah. These areas are popular not only with archaeologists but also with tourists, because of the famous Pre-Columbian settlements built in rock niches or carved into canyon walls as well as numerous works of rock art created by members of the ancient Pueblo culture, which dates back to nearly 3 thousand years ago and is still present almost exactly in the same area.

"The agricultural Pueblo communities developed one of the most advanced Pre-Columbian cultures in North America. They perfected the craft of building multistorey stone houses, resembling medieval town houses or even later blocks of flats. The Pueblo people were also famous for their rock art, intricately ornamented jewellery, and ceramics bearing different motifs painted with a black pigment on white background," Prof Palonka said.

(Source: Arkeo News)

Iran seeks UNESCO heritage status for Mudhif, an arched structure made of reed and cane

TEHRAN - Iran seeks to nominate the tradition of making Mudhif, which is a traditional arched structure made of reed and cane, for inclusion in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage register.

Earlier this month, the time-honored tradition which is shared with Iraq's people in neighboring Iran's Khuzestan province, gained UNESCO status for Iraq during the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

A Mudhif (or Al-Mudif) is a relatively large ceremonial house for use by guests or as a gathering place for weddings, funerals, etc.

On Saturday, an official with Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage revealed recent discussions with Iraqi officials to address a joint UNESCO registration for Mudhif, focusing on the cultural ties between the Arab people of Khuzestan and shared cultural heritage between the two nations.

The Arab people of Khuzestan are renowned for their unique culture of hospitality, parts of which are epitomized in constructing Mudhif structures, the official said.

Mudhif is a large arched building made of reed and papyrus, both of which grow naturally in the marshes of southwest Iran and southern Iraq.

The building serves as a gathering place where members of the community can exchange, address conflicts, share experiences, tell stories, and practice cultural activities and social rituals such as weddings, circumcisions,



religious ceremonies, and national celebrations.

According to the UN cultural body, Mudhif is also viewed as a space for transmitting traditional knowledge, values, handicraft skills, norms, and customs to children and young people.

"It is a place to welcome visitors and guests from within and outside of Iraq. The structures are built by skilled workers and managed by tribal sheiks, but the entire community plays a part in the creation and maintenance of the space, such as by collecting the reeds and weaving the mats and rugs that are used as mattresses inside the building."

The traditional customs and handicraft skills related to constructing Mudhif are transmitted informally through hands-on practice and participation in cultural activities.

According to Iran's tourism minister, Ezzatollah Zarghami, the ancient country ranks 5th in the world for the amount of intangible cultural heritage registered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Second Announcement



ESCO
Esfahan Steel Company

Brief Notice of International
Tender No.184182

It is hereby notified that Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) intends to purchase 100 Ton Refractory Diatomite Bricks K-1 (250×123×65) as per the required conditions and technical specifications through two-stage international Tender. Accordingly, all the prospective bidders are kindly requested to visit ESCO's website www.esfahansteel.ir so as to obtain the tender document and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website (through Sourcing Field) max. up to 25.12.2023 at 14:00 p.m. It is noteworthy that the opening date of technical offer will be 27.12.2023.

It is evident that this letter is only for notification purpose.

Yours Respectfully,
S.J.Rafiei,
Refractory Materials Purchasing Management
Esfahan Steel Company

Iran to host 20th session of APCTT Governing Council

TEHRAN – By a majority vote of the Asian and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology members, it was agreed to hold the 20th session of the Board of Governors of the APCTT in Iran.

The nineteenth session was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from December 6 – 7.

The session was attended by representatives of the member countries including Bangladesh, China, Uzbekistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea, India, Russia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand. Nepal, Malaysia, and Vietnam attended as Observers.

Anvar Shalmashi, General Director of Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology, attended the meeting as a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the meeting, a report on activities of APCTT over the past year and programs for the next year were discussed and reviewed.

Also, a summary on activities of the center during the last five years, from 2019 to 2023, was presented and discussed, and the operational and technical issues of the center were also outlined.

APCTT

APCTT is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) servicing the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre was established in



1977 in Bangalore, India.

In 1993, the Centre moved to New Delhi, India. APCTT promotes transfer of technology to and from small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) in Asia and the Pacific.

APCTT implements development projects funded by international donors aimed at strengthening the environment for technology transfer among SMEs in Asia and the Pacific; in this respect the Centre makes special efforts to encourage more participation of women in the field of technology.

APCTT undertakes consultancy assignments in various technology transfer related areas (institution building, human resources develop-

ment, studies, business partnership development).

The objective of APCTT is to strengthen the technology transfer capabilities in the region and to facilitate import/export of environmentally sound technologies to/from the member countries.

The Centre promotes emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, renewable energy biotechnology and fourth industrial revolution technologies which have high growth potential and can address the collective challenges of the region.

It also focusses on green technologies to address climate change mitigation and adaptation needs

for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

APCTT, together with its member states, aims to foster technological innovations for a more sustainable future for the Asia Pacific region.

Science, technology cornerstone of development

In February, President Ebrahim Raisi said science and technology are the cornerstones of national development.

The chain of knowledge, research, innovation, and technology ensures sustainable development in the country, he added.

The president made the remarks at the ending ceremony of the 36th Khwarizmi International Festival, the 24th Khwarizmi Youth Award, and the 1st Khwarizmi Innovation and Technology Award, which was held in Tehran, IRNA reported.

“Our religious leaders benefited from the knowledge and advised the society to learn science and wisdom.

They gave a privileged position to wise men, scientists, and researchers and always encouraged someone who was a person of wisdom and thoughtfulness.”

“Our interaction with all nations and governments in the world should be for the transfer of knowledge and technology, and our interaction with all neighboring countries, in the region and globally, should be based on this criterion,” Raisi highlighted.

Over 16 million people screened for hypertension, diabetes



By implementing the national health campaign, half a million deaths from non-communicable diseases and 30,000 deaths from diabetes can be prevented, he added.

Einollahi went on to say that in the future, each individual with a national ID code, will have a health file. In 93 cities, health information is collected by health care providers.

National health campaign

The first phase of the national health campaign started in November with the aim of reducing deaths caused by non-communicable diseases.

The project with the theme of “earlier awareness, better care” will continue until January 5, 2024, ISNA reported.

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

“Maybe everyone thinks that our job is treatment, but it is not true. Our main duty is to prevent diseases and promote health.”

For this reason, we started a project called “national health campaign” on November 11, which will continue till January 5, 2024.

Emphasizing the importance of improving health literacy, Einollahi said, “The level of literacy in the society has increased, and we expect this level to improve in the field of health as well. Also, we hope to manage having an electronic health file for every Iranian with their national identification code to record the history of illnesses in their fam-

ily, their lifestyle, etc. so that their diseases and their reasons can be traced easily.”

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

Health promotion program

Around 400,000 health volunteers are active in the country, acting as the link between the health system and different strata of the society, ISNA quoted Farshidi as saying on December 5.

Referring to the ‘comprehensive system of social participation’ which was introduced this summer, he said the promotion of health mainly highlights the rights of citizens and social justice.

By people-oriented participatory plans, it is tried to prevent the dominance of a certain group with local influence or the exclusion of some classes from services and facilities.

Health promotion programs aim to engage individuals and communities and promote a healthy lifestyle, prevention, and timely response.

It is a three-pronged plan. The first part involves ‘individual and family’, which refers to individual and family self-care and management. More than three million family ambassadors are active in this field.

The second part is the ‘neighborhood’ that promotes the health and the participation of 400,000 health volunteers.

The third part refers to the workplace and organization that practices a self-care approach at work.

THE WUR 2024 announces best Iranian universities in law

TEHRAN – According to the latest Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking (WUR) 2024 by subject, eight Iranian universities are among top institutions in the world in the fields of law.

The law subject table uses the same trusted and rigorous performance indicators as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024, but the methodology has been recalibrated to suit the discipline.

This year’s table includes 329 universities, up from 290 last year.

A total of 36 Iranian universities have been ranked by THE Ranking 2024 by subject Law.

University of Tehran ranks first among Iranian universities, it ranks 401-500 in the world, ISNA reported.

University of Tabriz ranks 501-600; Imam Khomeini International University and Kashan University rank 601-800.

Ferdowsi university of Mashhad, University of Kurdistan, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and Shiraz University rank 801-1000.

Harvard University climbs five places to lead the table this year, replacing Stanford University, which drops to second place.

73 Iranian universities in THE Ranking 2024

In October, the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 placed 73 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas.

These ten subject rankings included arts and humanities; business and economics; clinical and health; computer science; education; engineering; life sciences; physical sciences; psychology; and social sciences. The eleventh subject was Law.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 included 1,904 universities across 108 countries and regions.

The Ranking was based on the new WUR 3.0 methodology, which included 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution’s performance across five areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook.

In this ranking by subject, 73 Iranian universities were included, and 44 out of 185 majors were ranked below 500, ISNA reported.

“By the end of the seventh development program, the number of universities ranked below 500 in international ranking systems should reach 20,” ISNA quoted Ahmad Fazelzadeh, head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Database, as saying.

He added that the Times Higher Education World Ranking by subject is an important ranking that evaluates and assesses universities’ performance in different subject areas annually.

He added: The conditions for participation in the Times ranking by subject are an acceptable number of scientific publications and faculty members, which are different for each subject.

Other rankings

Based on the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for Sustainability 2024, eleven Iranian institutions were among the top sustainable institutions in the world.

QS, a global higher education analyst, recently published the second edition of the QS World Uni-

versity Rankings: Sustainability 2024, ISNA reported.

Shiraz University ranked 731-740, and the University of Tehran ranked 841-860.

Tarbiat Modares University ranked 1051-1100. Ferdowsi University of Mashhad ranked 1101-1150. Amirkabir University of Technology, Iranian University of Science and Technology ranked 1151-1200; Shahid Beheshti University, Sharif University of Technology, Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Islamic Azad University, and University of Tabriz ranked 1201.

QS Asia University Rankings (QS) included 31 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2024, compared with 16 and 13 universities in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Sharif University of Technology ranked first among Iranian universities, followed by Amirkabir University of Technology, and Iran University of Science and Technology, Mehr reported.

A total of 856 universities from Asia are included in this year’s QS Asia University Rankings.

The Performance Rankings of Scientific Papers for World Universities, released by National Taiwan University (NTU), listed 18 Iranian universities among the top 500 institutions of the world in 2023.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences won the best rank among Iranian universities. It ranked 16 in pharmacology and toxicology, Mehr reported.

Also, the University of Tehran ranked 25 in Energy Science and Engineering, 27 in Mechanical Engineering, and 31 in Chemical Engineering.

Iran ranked second with 80 universities included in D-8 group universities in 2022.

Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and Indonesia have the largest number of universities in the ranking.

The most important criteria to evaluate the performance of D-8 group universities include research, innovation, education, and international activities.”

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, the University of Tehran, and Tarbiat Modares University ranked 4th, 5th, and 13th, respectively.

The performance of 20 out of the 80 Iranian universities has been analyzed as the top universities.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences has won the first rank among the Iranian universities.

The second edition of the Webometrics ranking 2023 of the World Universities ranked 440 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities worldwide.

The first edition of the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2023, in June, ranked 457 Iranian institutions among around 32,000 top universities across the world.

The Academic Ranking of the World Universities (ARWU), also known as Shanghai Ranking, has placed ten universities from Iran among the top 1000 universities in the world in the Shanghai Ranking 2023, according to the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Database.

In the 2023 edition of the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings which includes 605 universities, Iran became the third most represented nation with 39 institutions.

The latest edition of the QS World University Rankings (2024) has placed seven Iranian universities among the world’s top institutes.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Rainfall increases Lake Urmia level

Recent rainfall has increased the level of Lake Urmia to 1,271 meters, a step closer to its ecological level of 1,274 meters.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program’s office in West Azarbaijan province, said that the Lake’s level is now 58 cm higher than it was last year.

According to the latest monitoring, the lake’s water volume is estimated at more than 3.6 billion cubic meters.

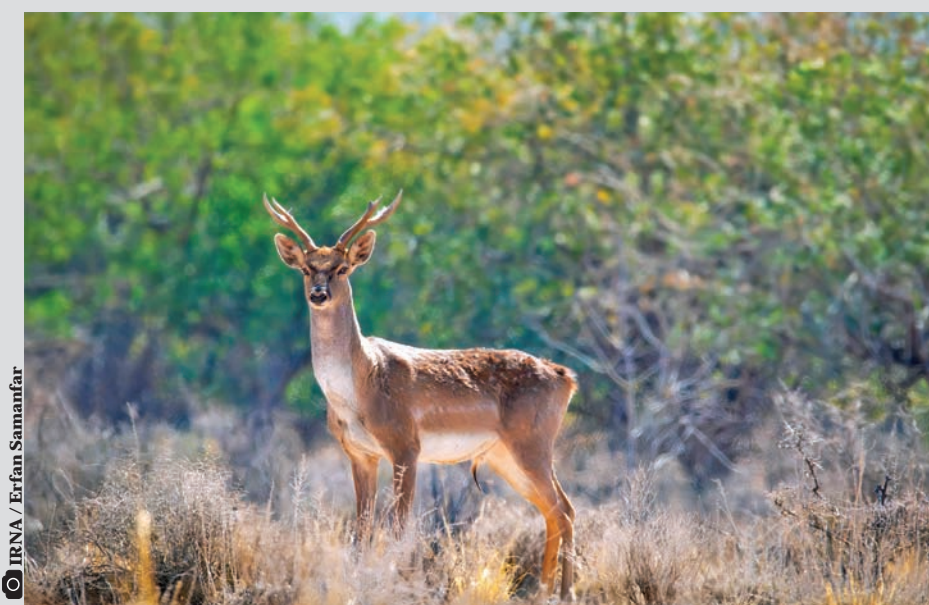
He added that the lake surface area has reached 2,883 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 538 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

افزایش سطح تراز دریاچه ارومیه بر اثر بارش

بارش های اخیر تراز فعلی دریاچه ارومیه را به یک هزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۸ سانتی متر رسانده است که در حال رسیدن به تراز اکولوژیک یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر است.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رییس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه گفت سطح دریاچه ارومیه اکنون ۵۸ سانتی متر بیشتر از زمان مشابه سال گذشته است. طبق آخرین پایش صورت گرفته حجم آب این دریاچه بیش از سه میلیارد و ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب برآورد شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه وسعت دریاچه ارومیه در حال حاضر به بیش از ۲ هزار و ۸۸۳ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، اضافه کرد: وسعت این دریاچه نیز نسبت به سال گذشته ۵۳۸ کیلومتر مربع افزایش دارد.



Persian yellow deer in Khuzestan

Persian yellow deer is one of the most important species in the world, living in a limited number in “Dez” National Park, southwestern Khuzestan province.

The animal is in danger of extinction according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



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DECEMBER 18, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The faithful are tied in kindness and affection together like members of a body, one's pain and hardship affect the others.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:07 Evening: 17:13 Dawn: 5:39 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:09 (tomorrow)

6th Week of Spanish Architecture underway at Iranian Artists Forum

TEHRAN-The 6th Week of Spanish Architecture is underway at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran.

Organized by the Embassy of Spain in Iran, the event showcases 46 photos by Santiago Porras and Oriol Pons, two renowned architects from Spain, who have implemented numerous projects across the world, Mehr reported.

The two Spanish architects as well as the Iranian architect Farhad Azarmi delivered speeches at the opening ceremony on December 14, which was attended by a number of architects, officials and enthusiasts. Angel Losada Fernandez, the ambassador of Spain to Tehran, was the special guest of the ceremony.

Both Porras and Pons hold a Ph.D. in

architecture. While Porras got his degree from the University of Tokyo, Pons finished his studies at Barcelona School of Architecture.

Porras was an assistant professor at the Sungkyunkwan University from 2008 to 2012 and since then, he has worked as an associate professor at the Korea University. He is also the owner of Estudio de Arquitectura Santiago Porras.

Pons has served as an associate lecturer at the Department of Architectural Technology and as speaker at several national and international congresses. He has been the author or co-author of several articles in architecture specialized press.

The event will run through December 21 at the IAF, located at the Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

Naimi brings Schmitt's "Frederick" on City Theater stage

TEHRAN-The play "Frederick" written by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt and directed by Hamidreza Naimi is performed on stage at the main hall of City Theater Complex in Tehran.

Schmitt's play, originally titled "Frederick or the Crime Boulevard" is about the theater - about intrigues between actors, about a stupid playwright and greedy manager, about happiness and curse of the acting and, of course, about love. In the play, theater and life are inextricably intertwined as two poles of the whole.

The story is about Frederick Lemaitre, a 19th-century larger-than-life, popular actor, an eccentric, a seducer and a revolutionary for whom nothing is too much. Paris is fascinated by him. He seems ready for anything except love. On the stage, he is the embodiment of passionate love, whereas behind the scenes he has to buy ready-made love. When he meets Bérénice, a young and mysterious

woman with no connection with the stage, he faces a crucial dilemma: love as an illusion or love as reality? The stage or real life?

Amir Karbalaizadeh, Armin Yaghoubi, Ali Sadeghi, Arsalan Shabahang, Mehran Akbari, Saleh Lavashani, Behnaz Nazi, Javaneh Delshad, Kataneh Afsharinejad, and Sahar Lotfi are in the cast among others.

Schmitt, 63, is a Franco-Belgian playwright, short story writer and novelist, as well as a film director. His plays have been staged in over 50 countries all over the world.

Several plays by Schmitt, including "Partners in Crime," "Enigma Variations," "Oscar and the Lady in Pink," "Between Worlds," and "The Night of Fire" have been performed by various groups in Iran.

"Frederick" will be performed until the end of December at the City Theater located in Daneshjoo Park, the intersection of Enghelab and Valiasr streets.

Cartoon of Day



Genocide in Gaza

Cartoonist: Simon Regis from Tanzania

Cuban, Algerian, South African officials support Palestinian cause

TEHRAN-Cuba defends Palestine and its cause and ultimately resistance will be victorious for sure, said the ambassador of Cuba in Lisbon Maria Domínguez at the unveiling ceremony of the Portuguese translation of the memoirs of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei "Cell No. 14" on Friday.

"After being colonized by Spain, Cuba was able to conquer it, but it was captured again by the US. Our people decided to determine their own system of governance just as the Iranian people did during the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Resistance has been ingrained among our people and we understand this issue very well," Domínguez added.

She was speaking at the ceremony that was attended by a group of dignitaries, media figures and Portuguese and Iranian researchers, as well as a number of ambassadors and businessmen of foreign countries residing in Lisbon, Mehr reported.

Also speaking at the event, Iran's ambassador to Portugal Majid Tafreshi said: "This book is themed around the subject of resistance. Many nations, such as Cuba, Algeria, and South Africa, whose ambassadors are present here, have achieved their goals through resistance. Similarly, the memoirs of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution show that the Iranian Revolution attained victory alongside resistance."

Shakib Rashid, the ambassador of Algeria in Lisbon, was another speaker at the ceremony. "Algeria was occupied from 1830 to 1962



Cuban ambassador to Portugal Maria Domínguez speaks at the book unveiling ceremony in Lisbon on December 15.

and had more than 1.5 million martyrs. We understand the Palestinian situation very well. Our young generation in Algeria has been raised within a cultural environment of resistance and we believe that Palestine will be victorious," he noted.

Referring to the importance of the concept of resistance for South African people, Mmamokwena Gaoretelewe, the ambassador of South Africa in Lisbon, said: "What is happening to the Palestinian people today is understandable for us Africans. After Mandela was released from prison, our country gained victory. As mentioned in Ayatollah Khamenei's book, the Iranian Revolution also won after the nation demonstrated resilience and endured great sufferings. We

are sure victory is certain for the Palestinian people as well"

Palestinian ambassador to Lisbon Nabil Abu Zneid also spoke during the ceremony. "In 1979, after the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini decided to reopen the Palestinian embassy in Tehran in the presence of Yasser Arafat. It was a really important issue for the Palestinians and the people of South Africa. I was in Washington at the time where I had joined the protests in support of the South African people."

Touching upon the situation in Gaza, he called for the resistance of the international community against the coercion of the great powers.

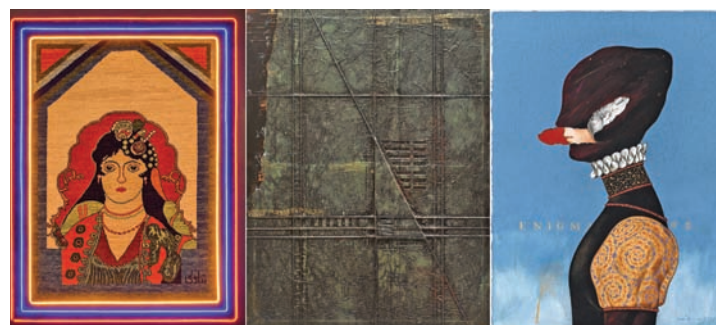
Pointing to resistance as the main concept of Ayatollah

Khamenei's book, vice president of the Intl. Affairs of the Islamic Revolution Research and Cultural Institute Mohammad Akhgari said: "This book depicts the history of the Iranian people's resistance to achieve victory. Today, after 50 years, we are still witnessing the killing of Palestinians. However, victory comes with patience and resistance of the Palestinians."

The charge d'affaires of the embassies of Venezuela, Russia, China, Qatar, Kuwait, and Iraq were also present at the ceremony.

The autobiography book "Cell No. 14" focuses on the first half of the life of Ayatollah Khamenei, from his early childhood all the way to the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought the monarchical regime to an end in Iran.

18th Tehran Auction gross over \$1.235 million



The most expensive artworks of the 18th Tehran Auction by Parviz Tanavoli (L), Massoud Arabshahi (C), and Aydin Aghdashloo.

TEHRAN-The 18th Tehran Auction for contemporary Iranian art, which was held online for the first time, grossed about 620 billion rial (over \$1.235 million) on Friday night.

Of the total of 114 artworks by 113 contemporary veteran and young artists specializing in painting, sculpture, and photography, all but two works were sold, Honaronline reported.

A Bijar rug with LED neons created by veteran painter and sculptor Parviz Tanavoli titled "Farangi Woman on Persian Carpet II" in 2019 was sold for 55 billion rials (\$110,000) to become the most expensive work of this edition.

Works by painters Aydin Aghdashloo and Massoud Arabshahi fetched the next highest price, going under the hammer at 46.2 billion rials (\$92,400) both.

Aghdashloo's work was a gouache-on-cardboard painting titled "Enigma 92" dating back to 2012 and Arabshahi's untitled artwork was mixed media on canvas painted in 1986.

The only artist who had two works at the event was the veteran painter Parviz Kalantari. His two untitled artworks finished on the 5th and 13th place of the most expensive items at the event.

His oil and straw on canvas painted in 2009, with an estimated value of 30 to 40 billion rials (\$60,000 to 80,000) was sold for 34.1 billion rials (\$68,200) and his mixed media on canvas dating back to 1988 with an estimated value of 10 to 15 billion rials (\$20,000 to 30,000) went under the hammer for 11 billion rials (\$22,000).

In addition to works by renowned artists such as Mohammad Ehsai, Parvaneh Etemadi, Yadollah Derakhshani, Kamran Diba, Kurosh Shishegaran, and Farshid Mesghali,

works from young artists such as Zahra Sadri, Hossein Mohammadi, Faramarz Khani, Mostafa Chubtarash, Zahra Amir-Yeganeh, Maede Amiri, Taher Purheidari, Zahra Shafi, and Roshana Rostami were also present at the auction.

The first of its kind in Iran, Tehran Auction was launched in 2012 as an independent and private initiative to introduce the best in Iranian art, ranging from established and emerging Iranian artists to art collectors and the global audience.

The event is aimed at addressing the increasing interest in modern and contemporary Iranian art and facilitating the acquisition of quality works in reliable ways.

In previous years, Tehran Auction held separate contemporary and modern art auctions in summer and winter, but this year, the organizers included an online auction to bridge the gap between the two events.

Al Jazeera to refer journalist Samer Abudaqa's killing to International Criminal Court

The Al Jazeera Media Network says it will refer the killing of its cameraman Samer Abudaqa in Gaza to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

In a statement on Saturday, the Qatar-based network said it has instructed its legal team to "urgently" refer the case of what it called "the assassination" of Al Jazeera Arabic cameraman Samer Abudaqa to the court in The Hague.

Abudaqa was killed by a drone attack on Friday while reporting on an earlier bombing of a school used as a shelter for displaced people in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, Al Jazeera reported.

"Al Jazeera Media Network reiterates its denunciation and condemnation of the assassination crime of its colleague, Samer Abudaqa, who devoted 19 years with the Network to covering the ongoing conflict in the occupied

Palestinian territories," said the network's statement.

"In addition to the assassination of Abudaqa by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip, the legal file will also encompass recurrent attacks on the Network's crews working and operating in the occupied Palestinian territories and instances of incitement against them."

Targeting journalists is a war crime under Article 8 of the Rome Statute.

The media network said it has set up a working group comprising its international legal team and international legal experts to submit a file to the court's prosecutor.

AlJazeeraArabic correspondent Wael Dahdouh - who lost his wife, son, daughter and grandson in a previous Israeli bombing - was wounded in the same attack on Friday. He was hit by shrapnel on his upper arm and managed to

reach the Nasser Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries.

But rescue teams were unable to immediately reach Abudaqa and others at the site as they needed approval from Israeli forces to bulldoze through the debris to get to the location.

By the time rescuers arrived five hours after the attack, Abudaqa had bled to death.

The 45-year-old was laid to rest in southern Gaza on Saturday, with dozens of mourners, including journalists, paying their respects.

Al Jazeera had previously submitted a formal request to the ICC to investigate and prosecute those responsible for shooting veteran television reporter Shireen Abu Akleh in May 2022 while covering an Israeli military raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

Evidence provided in the request, filed in December 2022, includes a comprehensive six-

month investigation by the network, gathering witness accounts and video footage, among other material.

The ICC has acknowledged its receipt, yet no further steps have been taken.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) says the ongoing conflict in Gaza is the deadliest for journalists ever recorded, with at least 64 reporters and media workers killed in 10 weeks of the enclave's bombing.

The CPJ has also called on the international authorities to "conduct an independent investigation into the attack to hold the perpetrators to account".

About 19,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli attacks since October 7. In addition, more than 8,000 people are missing under the rubble from Israel's incessant bombardment of Gaza, about 70% being women and children.