

Exclusive: Serious warning delivered to Baghdad and Erbil before missile attack:

'We Told Them Our Patience Is Running Thin'



► Page 3

Iran says national security will be safeguarded regardless of limits

TEHRAN – The Iranian defense minister has declared that there are no limitations when it comes to defending the nation's interests and its people.

"We condemn terrorism worldwide. Any action against the rights of the Iranian people will definitely receive a reaction, and we strongly respond, and we regard no limits when it comes to defending our national interests," Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, Ashtiani highlighted the strategic relationship with Russia, stating that both nations have committed to adhere to the agreed terms in a memorandum of understanding between the two countries that is planned to be pursued with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The minister emphasized the importance of bilateral agreements, urging Russia to fully observe and follow issues related to Iran's security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Ashtiani expressed confidence in Russia's commitment to these matters. ► Page 3

Iran defends counterterrorism efforts against Takfiri, Israeli targets

TEHRAN- The UN representative for Iran has defended the nation's recent counterterrorism efforts, which have targeted the bases of Takfiri terrorists in Syria and anti-Iranian terror groups in Iraq with ties to Israel.

Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, made the remarks in a letter addressed to the world body's Security Council on Tuesday.

According to the ambassador, the actions were carried out in accordance with the Islamic Republic's "inherent right of self-defense under international law and the United Nations Charter."

The full text of the letters from the Iranian ambassador to the UN is as follows:

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to our letter dated 3 January 2024 (S/2024/14), I wish to inform you that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the main victims of terrorism, has, in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defense under international law and the Charter of the United Nations, undertaken anti-terrorist operations. These operations include targeted attacks against the bases and facilities of terrorist groups situated in Syria and Iraq. In this regard, I would like to emphasize the following:

1) In the early hours of 16 January 2024, the simultaneous anti-terrorism operations were carried out by the firing of several ballistic missiles. ► Page 2

" Hamas far from being defeated "

Netanyahu and his war cabinet's only achievements have been starving civilians and "wiping out" entire families rather than Hamas.

By Ali Karbalaee

Israeli minister Gideon Sa'ar has admitted to the Army Radio that "Hamas is far from being defeated" despite more than 100 days of Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.

The remarks come one day after another cabinet minister, Gadi Eisenkot, said Israeli authorities should stop deceiving themselves and reach an agreement to secure the release of captives.

The admission is perhaps the first time that ministers within the Israeli government are starting to publicly acknowledge what the world has already known for more than two months now.

The Palestinian resistance has the upper hand against the

Israeli military in the Gaza Strip, forcing the regime's infantry units to withdraw from the northern Gaza Strip.

The rising casualties among Israeli soldiers fighting in Gaza are also becoming a growing concern for the Israeli public who are questioning why the captives have not been rescued yet and why missiles are still being fired at their settlements.

With the Israeli military effectively withdrawing from northern Gaza, the Palestinian resistance is still firing rockets from the northern part of the enclave.

This spells the initial defeat for the Israeli military as it has failed to "wipe out" Hamas.

And experts argue it has no chance of achieving that goal.

The Israeli military's focus has shifted to the southern Gaza Strip and Khan Younis in particular, yet the ground forces leading the invasion are facing the same difficulties as they did in the north.

On Wednesday, the Palestinian resistance forces continued to confront the Israeli occupation army trying to invade the south, as it engaged in fierce clashes

with the regime's ground forces in the al-Manara neighborhood of Khan Yunis.

Reports indicated heavy clashes have also taken place between the resistance and the Israeli military south of Khan Yunis.

Sources within the Palestinian resistance movement have told regional media that the Israeli army "is rushing to end its ground operations in the southern region of Gaza, after it ended them in the northern region of the Strip."

Despite failing to defeat the

Palestinian resistance in the coastal enclave, the regime has created a humanitarian crisis in the enclave while reducing most of the residential buildings to rubble in the small besieged territory that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians.

Nearly two weeks ago, a Wall Street Journal report said about 300,000 out of 439,000 homes have been destroyed in Israeli attacks on the coastal enclave.

There is nothing else the Israeli regime can be proud of apart from the death and destruction campaign it has carried out against Gaza's civilians, with women and children bearing the brunt of the Israeli aggression. ► Page 5

Iran stands firm against transfer of Cyrus Cylinder to Jerusalem

TEHRAN – Iran is to take legal action against a possible transfer of the revered Cyrus Cylinder to Jerusalem, scheduled to take place next fall in the form of a loan exhibition by the British Museum.

An exhibition of the cylinder, which is often hailed as the first charter of human rights, is set to occur between October 4 and November 28 in the Occupied Territories, sources reported.

Iran's Director General of the General Office of Museums, Hadi Mirzaei, has raised concerns about the planned transfer of the ancient artifact from the British Museum to a library in Jerusalem. ► Page 6



Tehran respects Iraq, Pakistan territorial integrity, never hesitates to jeopardize national security: FM

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has noted that Tehran totally respects the territorial integrity of Iraq and Pakistan, but will never hesitate to counter threats to its national security.

In an interview with Fareed Zakaria on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss town of Davos on Wednesday, Iran's top diplomat said that Tehran has excellent relations with Pakistan and Iraq. ► Page 2

Iranian players welcome positive morale in 2023 AFC Asian Cup

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Milad Mohammadi and Hossein Hosseini, players of Iran's national football team, are satisfied with the positive morale in Team Melli.

In their debut match of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, Iran triumphed over Palestine with a score of 4-1.

"Fortunately, we won the first match against Palestine with a convincing victory and achieved a desirable and ideal result," Mohammadi, left-back of Iran national team, stated on the sidelines of the national football team's training session prior to their second game in the 2023 Asian Cup against Hong Kong. ► Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

Destruction of headquarters of Mossad and ISIS is the first step of revenge*In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the Thursday Iranian newspapers.*

Kayhan devoted its headline to the destruction of the Mossad spy headquarters in the Kurdistan region of Iraq (Erbil city) as well as the headquarters of ISIS terrorists in Syria by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and wrote: The first step of a tough response to the enemy was taken with the IRGC's missile attack on terrorist gathering centers and also the headquarters of Mossad. The Islamic revolution has stood up to the most complex conspiracies and has gone forward with authority. IRGC's missile attack once again showed that the Islamic system does not leave the enemy's attack unanswered and makes them regretful. Iran always supports the peace, stability, and security of the region and adheres to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, but Iran will not hesitate to use its legitimate and legal right to deal deterrently with sources threatening national security, as well as defend the security of its citizens and punish criminals. Terrorism is a pervasive global threat and Iran is determined in its determination to fight terrorism within the framework of joint regional and international cooperation.

Iran: From betraying democracy to supporting terrorism

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper addressed the mission of anti-Iranian media and said: During the riots last year, foreign Persian-language media and channels were promoting violence, terrorism, and normalizing separatism in Iran.

In this regard, we can point out the presence of many members of terrorist groups in these networks, especially BBC Persian. On the other hand, at the same time as the unfolding of the Al-Aqsa Storm operation, these anti-Iranian networks prepared to restore the lost reputation of the Zionists. Accusing the Palestinian resistance, calling Hamas terrorists, covering up the 70-year-old crimes of the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people, and covering up the anti-human face of Israel were actions taken by these media. Anti-Iranian channels, especially BBC Persian, were launched with the claim of impartiality and an expert view of the news, but now, after many years, not only there is no news of the initial claim, but a channel like BBC Persian has become a defender of the criminal and anti-human Zionist regime and the tribune of anti-Iranian separatists.

Iran defends counterterrorism efforts against Takfiri, Israeli targets

From page 1 ► precisely targeting facilities of Daesh and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, two designated terrorist organizations, in Idlib and the region under occupation of the terrorist group in the northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic. Additionally, an intelligence unit used by anti-Iranian terrorist groups associated with the Israeli regime in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan Region, was targeted. The facility has served as a base for intelligence and sabotage operations in Iran.

2) Iran's anti-terrorism operations undertaken in response to the recent heart-breaking terrorist attacks in Kerman, Iran on 3 January 2024 resulted in the martyrdom of over 100 innocent civilians, including children and women, with many others sustaining injuries (S/2024/14). The Daesh-affiliated groups claimed responsibility. Fortunately, the reprehensible attacks in Kerman received strong and unanimous condemnation by the members of the UN Security Council.

3) The operations were necessary and

Javan: Missile storm in the Mossad and ISIS headquarters

In a note, Javan addressed Iran's missile operation. It wrote: One of the notable points in this operation is the attack on the headquarters of Syrian terrorists in Aleppo with missiles with a range of 1,200 km, which is unprecedented. The operation, which is said to have been accurately hit, sends a clear message that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in case of action against its enemies, has the ability to accurately target enemy positions with its deterrent missile power. Therefore, the operation in Syria, in addition to hitting the terrorist forces, will be a valid threat to the adventures of the Zionist regime and America in the region, which means that they will receive a decisive and regretful response in case of any adventure. In addition, one of the spy bases of the Zionist regime was destroyed in Erbil, Kurdistan region of Iraq. As a center of sedition, this base played an effective role in the security and cyber operations of the Mossad, planning and comprehensive guidance of crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region by the U.S. and the Zionist regime

Shargh: Baseless warning of IAEA director general to Iran

In a commentary, Shargh addressed the baseless warning of Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The paper said: Rafael Grossi has claimed that Iran is advancing rapidly in uranium enrichment. Grossi also claimed that Iran continues to create obstacles to inspections and emphasized that Tehran must adhere to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty it has signed. At the same time, Grossi emphasized that he was not saying that the Iranians have nuclear weapons. Iran is the only non-nuclear country that enriches uranium at a very high level and so close to weapons grade. The claims of the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency come at a time when Iran sent a letter to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding the Israeli minister's threat to bomb Gaza, but this letter did not receive a clear answer. On the day that the tourism minister of Israel threatened Gaza with a nuclear attack, we saw against all odds that there was no reaction in the world to this issue.

proportionate, precisely targeting bases of terrorist groups and fully respecting Iran's international obligations, especially international humanitarian law.

4) The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates, once again, its unwavering commitment to fully respect the national sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. As a responsible member of the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, Iran reiterates its inherent rights, as recognized by international law, to safeguard its sovereignty, national security, and its citizens against any threats or attacks. This commitment reflects Iran's resolve to protect its interests and maintain peace and security within its borders.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

Raisi lauds IRGC for promoting peace, security

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has commended the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) for its unwavering commitment to peace and security in the region.

In a speech on Wednesday, Raisi also praised the efforts of all Iranian military, law enforcement, and security forces who tirelessly work day and night to safeguard the country's security.

Raisi underscored the importance of maintaining security as a cornerstone of

national stability, emphasizing that Iran's enemies are constantly striving to undermine its security and stability.

He highlighted the recent atrocities committed by the Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip, noting that despite the overwhelming support it receives from the U.S. and other Western countries, Israel has failed to achieve its goals of suppressing Palestinian resistance and separating the people from their legitimate struggle.

Tehran respects Iraq, Pakistan territorial integrity, never hesitates to counter threats to national security: FM

From page 1 ► “We talked with both countries about the necessity of countering terrorism and securing common borders. What happened yesterday in Erbil, is a topic pertinent to Mossad agents because they carried out operations in Iran and openly claimed responsibility,” he added.

Amir Abdollahian also pointed out that Iran will respond with force to any action taken by the Israeli regime, adding, “We targeted the Mossad headquarters in the Kurdistan region with precision guided missiles. This does not mean targeting Iraq. Israel is our common enemy.”

Alluding to the security pact between Iran and Iraq, the foreign minister stressed that “Tehran has inked a security deal with Baghdad. The government and local authorities of Kurdistan pledged to maintain our border security. What we did was in the framework of confronting Israeli misdeeds.”

Highlighting that none of the Pakistani nationals were targeted by Iran in its strikes, he continued that a notorious Iranian terrorist group, Jaish ul-Adl, took refuge in Pakistan and Iran has invariably informed the country's officials about its nefarious moves.

Iran cautions Biden against 'tying destiny' to Netanyahu

U.S. President Joe Biden has received a warning from Iran not to “tie his destiny” to that of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is in charge of the regime's brutal campaign on the Gaza Strip and has the full backing of Washington.

In an interview with the American business news channel CNBC on Tuesday, Amir Abdollahian said that the U.S. support of the occupying regime is “the root of insecurity” in West Asia.

“The U.S. should not, Mr. [Joe] Biden should not, tie their destiny to the fate of Netanyahu,” he



said during the interview on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss town of Davos.

“The full-scale cooperation of Biden and the White House with thugs like Netanyahu in Israel is the root of insecurity in the region.”

Iran wants the U.S. to “end the war in Gaza,” according to Amir Abdollahian, who emphasized that the Islamic Republic places a high value on Red Sea security.

“The people of Yemen and other countries in the region who defend the Palestinian people are acting according to their own interests, and they are not receiving any orders or instructions from us,” he added.

Underscoring the importance of maritime security for Iran as an oil exporter, the top diplomat said, “If there is insecurity near our vicinity, it will not be in our favor.”

“We believe that any action to destabilize the region is rooted in Israel and its genocide in Gaza,” he added.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched a barrage of missile attacks early on Tuesday against an Israeli spy facility in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and a gathering of terrorist groups hostile to Iran, particularly Daesh, in northwest Syria.

Amir Abdollahian said the

attacks were “in line with combating terrorism and legitimate self-defense.”

“We have no reservations when it comes to securing our national interests with any other country,” he continued.

Following a historic operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance group against the usurping regime in retribution for its increasing atrocities against the Palestinian people, Israel launched its genocidal war against Gaza on October 7.

After over 100 days of war, the Tel Aviv regime has killed at least 24,285 Palestinians, the majority of them women and children, and injured 61,154 more, yet it has not succeeded in achieving its goals in Gaza.

The United States has contributed to the Gaza massacre by providing Israel with weaponry and intelligence support, as well as blocking UN resolutions asking for a humanitarian truce in Palestinian territory.

Iran FM exchanges views with world officials

Amir Abdollahian also held several talks with certain officials on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss city of Davos on Tuesday.

During a meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, he

said that only Palestinians have the right to determine their own destiny.

Amir Abdollahian also denounced U.S. plans for the Gaza Strip after the conflict, adding, “No one has the right to impose anything on the Palestinian people.”

He also stated that Lebanon is an essential player in regional affairs.

Lebanon's stability and security have an impact on the entire region, according to Amir Abdollahian, who vowed Iran's unshakable support for the Arab country's peace and security.

The top Iranian diplomat also hailed the Lebanese government, people, and resistance movement for assisting the Palestinians in Gaza.

“Regretfully, under the U.S. support for the Zionist regime, the war against Gaza lingers on and we witness the continuation of the killing of Palestinian citizens, women and children, and the genocide of Palestinians by the Zionist regime.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, Amir Abdollahian emphasized that Tehran places great importance to the advancement of bilateral, regional, and global collaboration with Lebanon.

Mikati, for his part, described the situation in Palestine and the region as worrying and emphasized the need to cease the Israeli regime's onslaught on Gaza.

In a meeting with his Norwegian counterpart, Espen Barth Eide, Amir Abdollahian emphasized that Iran opposes violence and instability in the region, adding that during the last 100 days, Tehran has toiled to put a stop to the Israeli attacks on Gaza, and work toward bringing about peace in the region.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Putin and Raisi to sign new interstate treaty soon: Russia

MOSCOW - Russia's foreign ministry said on Wednesday that it expected President Vladimir Putin and his Iranian counterpart to soon sign a new interstate treaty between the two countries which was in the final stages of being agreed, Reuters reported.

Putin held five hours of talks in the Kremlin with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi last month amid growing political, trade and military ties between Moscow and Tehran that the United States and Israel view with concern.

Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the

Russian foreign ministry, told reporters on Wednesday that the new treaty would consolidate the strategic partnership between Moscow and Tehran and cover the full range of their ties.

“This document is not just timely, but also overdue,” said Zakharova.

“Since the signing of the current treaty, the international context has changed and relations between the two countries are experiencing an unprecedented upswing.”

Zakharova said the new treaty was expected to be signed during what she described as one of the upcoming contacts between the two presidents.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted by the TASS state news agency as saying that an exact date for a meeting between the two leaders had yet to be determined.

The Kremlin in November said Russia and Iran were developing their relations, “including in the field of military-technical cooperation.”

Iran vows to prosecute those who threaten national security

TEHRAN- Iran's Vice President for Legal Affairs Mohammad Dehghan has warned that anyone, regardless of nationality, who endangers the country's national security will face prosecution.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Dehghan emphasized

that Iran maintains jurisdiction over its citizens even if they reside abroad, assuring that any individual, whether Iranian or non-Iranian, found to have acted against Iran's national security will be held accountable swiftly and effectively by the relevant authorities.

Addressing Iran's intervention in South Africa's complaint against the Zionist regime at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Dehghan explained that Iran had initially opted to refrain from filing a direct complaint due to concerns that doing so might inadvertently legitimize the Zionist regime as a state.

However, following South Africa's official submission, Iran

has established a committee to prepare for its own intervention as a third party. Dehghan stated that Iran is poised to file its complaint against the Zionist regime at the ICJ in the near future.

Dehghan also elaborated on Iran's ongoing legal efforts against former U.S. President Donald Trump for his role in the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani. He revealed that two parallel legal paths are being pursued.

Firstly, Iran has filed an internal case within the country, and the judiciary is currently investigating and prosecuting those involved for their individual crimes. A verdict is expected soon.

Secondly, Iran has prepared a complaint against the U.S. government, and a formal warning has been issued to Washington. Dehghan announced that Iran will register its complaint against the U.S. government at the ICJ in late April 2024 and pursue the matter vigorously.

Dehghan's remarks underscore Iran's unwavering commitment to upholding its national security and pursuing justice for those who threaten its sovereignty. His statements send a clear message to both domestic and international actors that Iran will not tolerate any actions that undermine its national security.

Americans have purchased Iranian heavy water, nuclear chief says

TEHRAN- Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) revealed that the United States has previously purchased Iran's heavy water.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Eslami stated that Iran exports heavy nuclear water to various advanced nations.

He emphasized Tehran's commitment to cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), adding that Iran collaborates with the IAEA in accordance with standards.

He also said that under the IAEA terms, the agency can deploy experts and install cameras

in Iran's nuclear facilities.

Eslami clarified that the IAEA is not obligated to report any non-compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) by its parties, stressing that the responsibility to communicate such matters lies with Tehran, but unfortunately, Tehran's reports have not garnered attention.

AEOI chief also underscored Tehran's commitment to employing cutting-edge nuclear technology to address agricultural challenges namely combating pests in the country's groves.

Addressing the recent criticisms from some European nations, Eslami attributed these

concerns primarily to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal. He reiterated Iran's adherence to the JCPOA provisions and safeguards, noting that Iran is fulfilling its obligations despite the European side's failure to fulfill its commitments and lift sanctions.

Eslami concluded by highlighting the importance of nuclear energy, emphasizing its position as the world's cleanest energy source. He acknowledged the global trend towards expanding nuclear power and underscored Iran's goal of establishing nuclear power plants of various scales to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions.

“We told them our patience is running thin”

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – The Tehran Times has learned that Iran had cautioned both Iraq's central government and the authorities in the country's Kurdistan region about its diminishing patience with the presence of Mossad and terrorist groups in Iran's vicinity, before carrying out airstrikes on Iraqi soil.

A source has told the Tehran Times that a security committee met with Iraqi representatives on January 10, reminding them of Baghdad's shortcomings in securing its borders with Iran. According to the source, Tehran warned Baghdad that it would have to take the matter into its own hands if the Arab government failed to address Iran's concerns.

Additionally, Iran has purportedly reached out to Iraq's envoy to Tehran and the representative of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region within the last 20 days, reiterating its escalating frustration with the prevailing and intolerable circumstances. “We told them that our patience is wearing thin,” the source said.

Early on Tuesday, Iran launched ballistic missiles targeted at Israeli espionage facilities situated in Erbil, northern Iraq. Iranian officials stated that Iran's actions were in compliance with international law, serving the aim of securing its borders. Article 51 of the UN Charter affirms the entitlement of nations to defend themselves, individually or collectively, in response to an armed assault.

The southeastern Iranian city of Kerman was rocked by two explosions early this month. The terrorist attacks, which resulted



in the deaths of 94 civilians, were carried out by the Daesh terror group with additional investigations showing Israel's involvement in the tragedy. Iran also targeted Daesh strongholds in Syria on Tuesday.

On March 19, 2023, Iran and Iraq formally ratified a security treaty. As part of this agreement, Iraq committed to preventing militant organizations from utilizing its territory in the Iraqi Kurdish region as a launchpad for cross-border attacks near Iran's borders. In September of the same year, Iraq publicly declared its compliance with the provisions outlined in the treaty. However, several months later, General Mohammad Bagheri, the chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, conveyed to Iraq's Interior Minister Abdul-Amir al-Shammari that Tehran still harbors concerns regarding the presence of anti-Iranian terrorist groups in the vicinity. It is believed that Iran has also expressed its deep apprehensions about the large presence of Israeli spy agents in the Kurdistan region several times.

Local authorities closed targeted site for several hours

The Tehran Times understands that local authorities in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region obstructed the access of emergency vehicles to the affected area in Erbil for at least 4 hours. This action likely facilitated the removal of evidence and the cleansing of the site before permitting cameras to capture the aftermath.

Iran says the compound pinpointed by its precision-guided missiles served as a key hub for Mossad operatives involved in orchestrating attacks and carrying out targeted assassinations within Iran. The site, now obliterated by the missile strikes, was linked to a thwarted drone assault on a military facility in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

While officials in Iraq's Kurdistan region maintained that the location was nothing more than a private villa, footage subsequent to the attack suggested otherwise. The structure exhibited multiple layers of fortified concrete; a feature distinct from other surrounding buildings.

Moreover, the footage unveiled the presence of two heavily reinforced underground levels suspected to have been utilized for the storage of intelligence equipment. The villa's proximity to the U.S. consulate in Erbil is believed to have provided additional security cover for the Mossad center.

High-ranking Mossad agents killed

The Tehran Times has gained access to more information that reveals the identity of the individuals killed during Iran's missile attack.

At least 3 high-ranking Mossad agents were eliminated during the offensive. One of them, known as “Michelle,” was a woman with dual Israeli and British citizenship, but had traveled to Iraq with her Belgian passport.

Another person killed during the strike was a woman of Filipino descent, who stayed in the residence under the guise of a maid. She also owned an Israeli passport.

Reason for Iraq's strong response

Iraq's governing authorities are reportedly facing pressure from the United States to emphasize Iran's actions, potentially as a means to divert attention from Israel's faltering campaign in the embattled Gaza Strip. Despite Iran's prior direct attacks in northern Iraq, Iraq's federal government has opted to recall its representative to Tehran for discussions, something it hasn't done before. The increased pressure on Iraqi officials also indicates the significance of the individuals liquidated during the attack.

Iran says national security will be safeguarded regardless of limits

From Page 1 ▶ Addressing regional concerns, Ashtiani stressed Iran's respect for the rights, interests, and territorial integrity of all countries, particularly neighbors, while asserting a firm response to any mischief at its borders.

Speaking on Iran's missile capabilities, he revealed the possession of various missiles with ranges under 2000 kilometers, including the Kheibar-class missile which is one of the most advanced missiles designed by the experts of the Ministry of Defense's Aerospace Industries Organization. It is a liquid-fueled missile with

a warhead weighing 1,500 kilograms with impressive strategic and tactical capabilities. Ashtiani further underscored Iran's position as a global missile power with cruise and ballistic missiles, expressing ongoing efforts to further enhance missile technology.

The minister also referenced ongoing developments in the region, including Iran's missile operation against terrorist headquarters in Syria, framing it as a legitimate act of defense. He clarified that warnings, diplomatic measures, and negotiation attempts definitely precede

any military action, signaling a commitment to exhaust peaceful avenues before resorting to adverse measures. Ashtiani, once again, reiterated Iran's stance against global terrorism, affirming that any action violating the rights of the Iranian people would receive a strong and unrestricted reaction.

In concluding remarks, the defense minister highlighted the Ministry of Defense's continuous efforts in various sectors, emphasizing the ministry's strong commitment to safeguarding national interests and territorial integrity.

Army, IRGC air defense units to launch large-scale drills

TEHRAN – Iran's Armed Forces are planning to launch a large-scale military exercise featuring the country's domestically-developed air defense systems, radars, electronic warfare devices, communication systems and an integrated air defense network.

The joint aerial maneuvers are to be attended by air defense divisions of

the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), codenamed Modafe'an-e Aseman-e Velayat 1402 (Guardians of Velayat Sky 1402).

The drills aim to serve as a warning message to any act of aggression by the country's enemies against the Islamic Republic.

Iran's Armed Forces regularly hold military maneuvers to elevate

their preparedness and military prowess. In recent years, the experts and engineers of Iranian military forces have made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient.

In October of last year, Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General

Mohammad Reza Ashtiani noted that Tehran intends to unveil a brand-new cutting-edge air defense system in the near future. The Defense Ministry has recently been successful in designing and manufacturing a number of surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, including Bavar-373 (Belief-373), Khordad 15, Talaash (Endeavor), and Mersad (Ambush).

National security will be defended with all might: MP



TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has underlined the Islamic Republic's unwavering dedication to its people's security.

“The red line for the Islamic Republic is the security of its people. We've shown that whenever we choose, we can defend our national security at any given moment,” said Vahid Jalalzadeh, the head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

In emphasizing Iran's firm stance against terrorism, he declared that the nation has previously communicated to both regional and trans-regional countries that it will not hesitate to retaliate against terrorist attacks and invasions within its borders to safeguard its interests.

Regarding espionage activities in the semi-

autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq, Jalalzadeh revealed, “We have consistently warned the Iraqi government about anti-Iran activities carried out in this region, making it clear that we will not allow anything to threaten our interests.”

Referencing Iran's missile operation against terrorist headquarters in Syria, the lawmaker stated, “We have defended our interests in the region on multiple occasions. This is neither the first nor the last time. If we perceive that terrorist groups, with the support of a country, are threatening our interests, we will reciprocate the threat.”

Iran, Pakistan conduct joint naval exercise in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN – Iran and Pakistani military forces engaged in a day-long joint naval training exercise in the Strait of Hormuz and the northern Persian Gulf, demonstrating their commitment to enhancing cooperation and strengthening relations.

The drills, which took place off the coast of Bandar Abbas, involved combat vessels and missile-launching warships from both the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy and the Pakistan Navy.

The main objectives of the naval exercises were to elevate the level of training interactions, promote

military relations, and implement bilateral maritime agreements. Young officers and cadets from both Iranian and Pakistani navies participated, employing a range of naval tactics and practicing communication and interaction using various telecommunication systems. Emphasis was placed on the transmission and reception of messages during sea emergencies.

Iran and Pakistan have increasingly intensified their military cooperation, conducting several joint naval exercises. In June of the previous year, senior military

commanders from both nations discussed plans for collaboration between their navies and air forces.

During the meetings in Islamabad, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani engaged with Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and Chief of Air Staff of the Pakistan Air Force Zaheer Ahmad Babar. The Iranian delegation received briefings on the Pakistani Navy's efforts in ensuring maritime security and discussed plans for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The commanders explored ways

to enhance cooperation between the navies of Iran and Pakistan, including initiatives such as training courses and the exchange of delegations. This ongoing collaboration underscores the commitment to mutual strategic interests in the region.

Earlier this month, Irani announced that the Islamic Republic plans to form new regional and extra-regional alliances to enhance security.

He also named Pakistan among other countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Iraq that are eager for collective naval cooperation.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iranian players welcome positive morale in 2023 AFC Asian Cup

From Page 1 ▶ “In tournaments like the Asian Cup, the first game holds special importance. Winning the first game enabled us to pursue future games with a better morale.

“Our victory against Palestine won't make us complacent. We have a goal in mind, and we are committed to making it happen,” he added.

In Mohammadi's belief, the unity among the players in this national team is something that has not been seen before in recent years.

“Being part of the national team for years, I can confidently say that the team's spirit in this camp is incredibly strong. I hope that Iranian people will also pray for what we want as Team Melli strive for success.

Hosseini, national team goalkeeper, also expressed his thoughts on the current situation of Iran's team.

“Thank God, we had a good camp in Kish Island before coming to Qatar, which greatly helped the team,” Hosseini said.

“The first game in any tournament is very challenging, and we were able to put on an outstanding performance against Palestine and emerged victorious,” he added.

Hosseini, acting as the backup goalkeeper for Alireza Beiranvand, team's first goalkeeper, discussed his readiness to step in for critical national team matches when required.

“We are all here, and we must be prepared and ready to help the national team. We are all united as a team and strive for success. When we qualify for the group stage, the games become tougher, but our mindset is to bring joy to the hearts of the Iranian people,” Hosseini concluded.

The Iranian national team are in Group C alongside Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, and Hong Kong. After defeating Palestine 4-1 in their first match, Iran will face Hong Kong in their second game on Friday.

Sayyadmanesh may join Fortuna Sittard on loan

TEHRAN – Iranian winger Allahyar Sayyadmanesh will likely join Eredivisie side Fortuna Sittard on loan.

It is believed he could be heading there on loan as part of the Fortuna Sittard goalkeeper Ivor Pandur deal.

Hull City coach Liam Rosenior revealed last week that forward Sayyadmanesh is close to a loan exit, adding: “We're looking to do some work in his position in the transfer window.”

Owner Acun Ilicali has backed Rosenior with funds to strengthen his squad in a bid to give City a final push in the final knockings of the Championship season.

On 9 July 2022, Sayyadmanesh signed permanently for the English club Hull City from Turkish side Fenerbahçe with transfer fee €4.5 million.

He signed a four-year contract with an option of a further year.

Goalkeeping coach Neneca parts company with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Goalkeeping coach Welesley Neneca parted ways with Persepolis football club.

The 57-year-old Brazilian coach has canceled his contract with the Iranian top-flight club.

Neneca was named as goalkeeping coach of Persepolis in June 2022 and helped the team win Iran league and Hazfi Cup. He had replaced Davoud Fanaei in the team.

He has been reportedly linked with a move to a team from Persian Gulf region.

Persepolis have parted company with head coach Yahya Golmohammadi in early January.

Torabi not fit for Hong Kong: 2023 AFC Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran national football team midfielder Mehdi Torabi will not be fit for the match against Hong Kong scheduled for Friday.

Alireza Shahab, physiotherapist of the national football team, said that the player is still suffering from hamstring injury.

Iran started the 2023 AFC Asian Cup with a 4-1 win over Palestine in Group C.

Team Melli will have to play Hong Kong and the UAE on Jan. 19 and 23, respectively.

Mehdi Taremi gives priority to Inter: report

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi has given ‘his priority’ to Inter ahead of a free transfer over the summer, La Gazzetta dello Sport reported.

Taremi's contract with Porto expires at the end of the season and the Italian side has been in talks with his entourage for several weeks.

According to Gazzetta, the experienced Iran international has prioritized a move to Inter in 2024-25 and has already informed Porto that he would not extend his contract.

The report claims Taremi's purchase will be slightly more expensive than Inter had initially planned as the Italian government scrapped the Growth Decree in the meantime.

Taremi was in talks with both Milan and Inter last summer and according to Gazzetta, he has rejected a move to the Saudi Pro League, favoring Inter option.

Inter will have to pay circa €1.8m per are still expected to finalise the deal.

Sky Sport Italia confirms Inter are in advanced talks to sign both Taremi and Zielinski in June.

Currently in Qatar to take part in the Asian Cup with Iran, Taremi has already informed his current club Porto that he will not extend his contract, which expires in June.

Inter Milan is reportedly ready to offer him a three-year contract worth €3 million a year, with the option of leaving a season early. Taremi is known for his versatility as a striker, capable of playing as both first and second striker, a profile that would be of interest to Italian tactician Simone Inzaghi.

Hanna Hattab to officiate Iran v Hong Kong

TEHRAN – Syrian referee Hanna Hattab has been appointed to officiate the match between Iran and Hong Kong in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

The match has been scheduled for Friday in Group C.

The 35-year-old referee officiated the match between Nassaji and Mumbai City in November.

Iran has won its first match, beating Palestine 4-1 at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar.

Iran defeat China at 2024 IWBF AOZ

TEHRAN – Iran's men's wheelchair basketball team defeated China 84-53 in the 2024 IWBF Asia Oceania Zone (AOZ) Championships on Wednesday.

Team Melli had previously defeated South Korea 67-48, Thailand 86-51 and Japan 74-65 and lost to Australia 69-60.

The winners of both the men's and women's competition will qualify directly for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The IWBF Asia Oceania Zone started on Jan. 12 in Bangkok, Thailand and will run until Jan. 20.

Iran have secured 2nd place in Pool A.

'Iran's petchem industry welcomes but doesn't wait for foreign investment'



Iran's petrochemical industry accounts for 28 percent of the region's petrochemical capacity and 2.7 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity, the NPC head announced.

Stating that Iran's petrochemical industry exported more than 16 billion dollars of petrochemical products to the world markets last year, he added that the products supplied to the world markets are in excess of the domestic demand, because the priority of the petrochemical industry is to meet the domestic needs in order to complete the value chain.

He pointed to the development of energy diplomacy in the 13th government and said the activity program in offshore petrochemical industries is being followed seriously and good successes have been achieved in this regard. With the expansion of relations with neighboring and aligned countries, other countries have demanded the supply of catalysts, equipment and machinery from Iran.

It should be announced that before the above-mentioned press conference, seven cooperation documents worth \$58 million were signed between the Petrochemical Special Economic Zone Organization and domestic companies in order to deal with the sanctions and develop the knowledge-based economy and complete the petrochemical value chain.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to Shahmirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years.

In this regard, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said that more than 100 petrochemical projects with a total investment of about \$70 billion have been defined and will be implemented across the country.

Oji noted that the country will also be completely self-sufficient in producing the catalysts used in the petrochemical industry by the end of the current government administration's incumbency (August 2025).

have problems such as mandated pricing, lack of liquidity, lack of foreign currency supply, and exports, which need to be addressed and resolved."

The home appliance industry is one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past few years, so it can be said that Iranian manufacturers were able to take a significant share of the market in the production of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, evaporative coolers, and TV sets, and even in small household appliances, the production status is outstanding.

As reported, over 4,000 items and 18,000 historical photos are showcased in this public museum. This museum also includes a specialized library where all related studies and books and unpublished works about this industry are included.

exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said on Tuesday the country's industry welcomes foreign investment but does not wait for foreign companies' participation to pursue its development projects, NIPNA reported.

Delivering a speech during a ceremony to celebrate the 50th establishment anniversary of Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex in Mahshahr, a city in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, Morteza Shahmirzaei said a comprehensive roadmap for completing the petrochemical industry's value chain according to the existing upstream feeds will be finalized and presented within the next month so that with its implementation, Iran's petrochemical industry will reach its real position in the world.

The official has previously said that completing the value chain is not a motto, while it is a top agenda of the NPC's activities, it is a program and a duty.

Referring to the rapid development of the petrochemical industry from basic products to the end of the value chain in the 13th government, Morteza Shah-Mirzaei reiterated: "Completing the value chain of the petrochemical industry is not a slogan; As an inviolable strategy, it is a task, plan and duty that my colleagues are following up with all their efforts."

The official further put the country's petrochemical production capacity at over 92 million tons, and said: "Today we are almost self-sufficient in the main petrochemical sectors including products and equipment."

Production of home appliances in Iran rises 100%

TEHRAN – The head of the Association of Home Appliances Manufacturers in Iran said that over the past few years, the production of home appliances has increased from eight million units to more than 17 million units

Alireza Mohammadi Daniali made the remarks on Tuesday, saying that the industry has expanded by 25 percent, IRNA reported.

Mentioning some of the challenges that manufacturers of home appliances are currently facing, the official said: "Producers

Iran's 1st petchem industry museum opened

TEHRAN – The first museum of Iran's petrochemical industry was officially opened on Tuesday at Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex in a ceremony attended by the Head of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaei, Shana reported.

TEDPIX drops 990 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 990 points (0.05 percent) to 2,185,979 on Wednesday, which is the fifth day of Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock

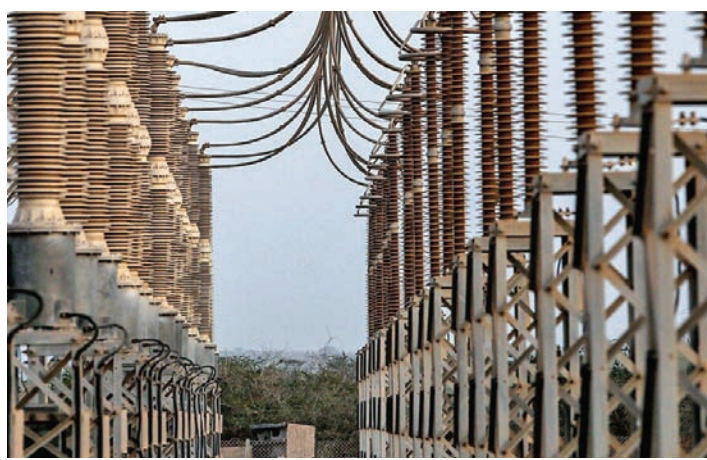
Power plants with 2,000MW capacity built by industrial sector to go operational next year

TEHRAN – The managing director of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has said 2,000 megawatts (MW) of power plants built by the country's major industries are going to go operational by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said the industrial sector has so far built power plants with a total capacity of 850 MW across the country to meet their electricity needs during the summer's peak consumption period, IRNA reported.

According to the new Tavanir head, the government has set a goal to also increase the capacity of the country's thermal power plants by 10,000 MW by the end of the current government incumbency (August 2025) of which so far 8,500 MW has been realized.

The official noted that the



country's electricity consumption increases by four to five megawatts each year that is one percent annually, and to meet this increasing demand every year the capacity of the country's power plants should increase by 5,000 MW.

In July 2021, the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Energy Ministry for constructing power plants for big industries.

Later in November of that year, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian announced that the construction of 10,000 MW capacity power plants was started by various industrial sectors, saying: "Four major industries have started their work in the field of power plant construction. Based on the contract concluded with these industries, the said industries will not be provided with electricity from the national grid if they

cannot deliver the power plants based on the specified schedule."

The first power plant unit constructed by the Iranian industrial sector went operational in Semnan Province in August 2022.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rises and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

Constructing new units in the country's power plants and also building new power plants for major industries are among the mentioned programs that are being pursued seriously by the ministry in collaboration with other related government entities.

Iran welcomes foreign, domestic investment in free, special economic zones



TEHRAN – The Secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council Hojatollah Abdolmaleki has invited domestic and foreign investors to participate in the country's development projects in free and special economic zones, the news portal of Iranian free zones (Freena) reported.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of an exhibition on Iran's export capabilities to Pakistan which was held in Chabahar Port on Wednesday, Abdolmaleki stated that more than \$16 billion of investment has been attracted in Iran's free and special economic zones since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023).

According to the official, 15 percent of the mentioned investments are made by foreign investors and 85 percent by domestic entities.

Abdolmaleki said Iran is offering 1,000 investment packages worth 20 billion euros, to foreign and domestic investors that are willing to participate in free and special economic zones' development projects.

On December 5, 2023, Abdolmaleki had announced that 1,000 investment packages worth nine quadrillion rials (about €20 billion) have been prepared to be offered to investors in the country's free and special

economic zones.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the Second Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Exclusive Exhibition, the official said: "The preparation of investment projects to introduce the country's free and special economic zones to international economic operators and investors was put on the agenda since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (late March 2023)."

"Investment projects are considered as a tool to introduce the opportunities and advantages of investment in the country's free and special economic zones to the economic operators. The preliminary studies of each of these projects have been done, the infrastructure has been provided and the necessary licenses have been issued," Abdolmaleki explained.

According to the official, the mentioned investment packages have been unveiled in four stages since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year, the last of which worth 2.5 quadrillion rials (about \$5.0 billion) was presented in the EAEU exclusive exhibition.

Abdolmaleki noted that over 370 trillion rials (about \$740 million) of investment has been attracted in the country's free and special economic zones in the current year and investors have also applied to invest 4.3 quadrillion rials (about \$8.6 billion) in 1,400 projects based in seven different free zones across the country.

The secretary of the Free Zones High Council emphasized that these zones are considered as poles of the economic progress, adding: "Free and special economic zones are frontiers of the country's international economy and more than a third of the country's non-oil exports was done from these zones.

On December 8, 2023, Abdolmaleki outlined

10 new strategies to increase investment and export in the country's free and special economic zones.

He made the remarks in a meeting with the deputy heads of the country's free zones on the sidelines of the second EAEU Exclusive exhibition in Tehran.

The official stated that the mentioned strategies mainly focus on a network of cooperation among the investment and economic departments of the country's free zones.

"Joint marketing between the free zones in the fields of income, investment, logistics, and export is the main purpose of the said network," he explained.

Implementing a comprehensive plan for developing logistics and re-export from free zones by using the capacities of combined transport and transit among free zones is another part of the mentioned strategies, the official said.

"The third strategy is the use of the capacity of international organizations and agreements such as the Eurasian Economic Union. Shanghai, BRICS, ECO, etc.," he added.

The official stated that identifying the advantages and distinctive features of free zones and introducing them to each other to benefit from the relative advantages of each zone in the network structure is another part of the mentioned coordinated strategies.

"The fifth strategy is to use the passenger goods model to maximize the income of free zone organizations and the sixth strategy, is to attend exhibitions and domestic and international business events to introduce the investment opportunities of free zones in line with the continuation of the path taken this year," Abdolmaleki said.

Export from Khorasan Razavi rises 20% in 9 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of export from Khorasan Razavi province, in the northeast of Iran, increased by 20 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2023), a provincial official announced.

Abolfazl Chamandi, the deputy governor-general of the province for the economic affairs coordination, said that commodities worth \$1.201 billion were exported from the province in the mentioned nine-month period.

As previously announced by Javad Jafari, an official with the province's customs department, non-oil products worth \$1.434 billion were exported from Khorasan Razavi during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).

Putting the weight of exported products at 2.222 million tons, Jafari said that

the annual export indicates 15 percent drop in weight, while 11 percent growth in value.

He named saffron in packages of more than 30 grams, pistachios, steel bars, apples, and flooring as the major exported products, and Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the main export destinations.

The official further announced that 275,000 tons of non-oil goods worth \$644 million were imported to the province in the past year, with 11 percent and 20 percent growth in value and weight, respectively.

He named mobile phone, cotton, rice, yarn, wheat, and hot rolling machines as the main imported items, and the UAE, Tajikistan, Turkey, China, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan as the major sources of import.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported 101.904 million tons of non-oil goods valued at \$36.43 billion during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that the nine-month non-oil export indicates 26.48 percent growth in weight, but 0.68 percent fall in value, year on year.

The official also said that the country's exports in the first nine months of this year, including oil, electricity, and technical and engineering services, and excluding the export via suitcase trade, reached \$63.97 billion.

Appreciating the cooperation of the Ministries of Oil, Energy, and Industry, Mining and Trade in providing relevant statistics, he said: "It is for the first time that the statistics of the export

of oil, electricity and technical and engineering services along with the export of non-oil goods are published by the customs. This government action is aimed at transparency in the performance of foreign trade."

The IRICA head put the value of the export of oil at \$26.46 billion, electricity at \$300 million, and technical and engineering services at \$780 million in the nine-month period.

Rezvani-Far further announced that Iran has imported 28.7 million tons of goods worth \$48.42 billion in the first nine months of the present year, of which \$60 million was the value of electricity import.

The nine-month import indicates 12.29 percent rise in value and six percent growth in weight, year on year, he added.

Feasibility of filing a lawsuit against Israel and its allies in ICJ

Dr. Zeinab Farahmandzad

With more extensive and brutal attacks than ever before, the Zionist regime has destroyed neighborhoods and residential areas in Gaza, paralyzed the medical system, destroyed hospitals, and displaced hundreds of thousands of women and children.

Examining the evidence, images, documents, and official and authentic reports of the international monitoring bodies shows that a diverse set of the most important fundamental and customary rules of international law and regulations of international humanitarian law has been violated on a very wide scale during the recent war of the Zionist regime against the people living in the Gaza Strip. Numerous examples of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide crimes are clearly seen in this war.

Bombing residential houses, killing innocent people including women and children, attacking civilian facilities, houses, schools, mosques, police stations, and public places, destroying vital infrastructure, cutting off water and electricity distribution networks, destroying hospitals and medical centers, preventing the transportation of the wounded and sending medicine are some of the most important examples of crimes against humanity and war crimes and violations of the four Geneva conventions of 1949 by the Zionist regime in the Gaza war. During the attacks on the Gaza Strip, the forces of the Zionist regime prevented the delivery of essential things for the survival of its residents, knowing that the victims were members of a larger group called the residents of Gaza and massacring them indiscriminately. In this way, both the actus reus and mens rea of the genocide crime have been fulfilled based on the definition provided in Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide (December 9, 1948).



According to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, member states are not only required not to commit genocide or incite it but also, they have an international obligation to prevent the commission of genocide or incitement to genocide as an independent criminal conduct.

According to the 2007 substantive decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case of the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro), the obligation to prevent genocide is a positive commitment and requires the use of all measures and facilities available and provided by a government that can take action to prevent genocide, either in its territory or in other territories, due to the extra-territorial nature of the obligations of the Genocide Convention.

According to the procedure of the International Court of Justice, this obligation is an obligation to means, not an obligation to result, and

even its ineffectiveness in practice does not prevent the fulfillment of this obligation and its validity. In addition to this, the aforementioned obligation begins when a serious threat of genocide is observed and occurs, that is, before the beginning of the genocide, so that deterrence and prevention are possible.

Now, with the massacre of more than 24,500 people in Gaza, more than 10,000 of whom children and more than 7,000 women, the wounding of more than 61,500 others, and the disappearance of 7,000 people, the cutoff of water, food, and electricity, and the destruction of infrastructure such as hospitals and health centers that lead to the total or partial deterioration of the physical strength of the Palestinians in Gaza as the largest open-air prison in the world means that the crime of genocide by the Zionist regime has been fully realized.

Statements like Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant saying "we are fighting against animals" and starving Gaza's 2.3 million population are examples of

collective punishment that prove the occurrence of genocide or incitement to genocide, which prevention of both of these crimes is the obligation of the parties of the convention.

Based on this, the member states of the convention can file a lawsuit against the Zionist regime or one or more allied states of this regime in the International Court of Justice for committing an international criminal act through the violation of a treaty obligation arising from the Genocide Convention.

On December 29, 2023, the South African government filed a lawsuit against Israel based on Article 9 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. The lawsuit is related to Israel's actions against the people of the Gaza Strip. Other governments should support this action and the International Court of Justice should issue an Interim Order to prevent further genocide of Palestinians.

Zeinab Farahmandzad holds a PhD in international law from Allameh Tabataba'i University

" Hamas far from being defeated "

From page 1 ▶ There is not a single safe place where Palestinians can travel in the Gaza Strip without escaping Israeli airstrikes. Even near the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, Israeli airstrikes are "wiping out" entire families, instead of "wiping out" Hamas.

Qatar's prime minister delivered a stinging criticism of Israel and the international community over the situation.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said, "Gaza is not there anymore. I mean, there is nothing over there."

The Israeli occupation is "carpet bombing everywhere," the prime minister said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland

Al Thani warned Hamas's 7 October al-Aqsa Storm Operation and the Israeli military response in Gaza show the region could not return to the way it was before.

Footage has shown starving children in Rafah, southern Gaza, queuing for days to receive food supplies from a charity kitchen.

Many displaced Palestinians from different parts of Gaza have been forcibly displaced by the Israeli military to live in makeshift tents in Rafah, despite the bitter cold weather.

In a bid to hide its growing atrocities, the regime has cut off internet connection for the longest time since the war on Gaza began on October 7 last year.

According to a top United Nations official, a "great majority" of nearly half a million Palestinians that the UN has said are at risk of starving "are actually in famine, not just at risk of famine".

"[The war] has brought famine with such incredible speed to the front of the lines," UN

under secretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator Martin Griffiths told CNN.

Griffiths recalled how attempts to move aid to those living in the north of Gaza remain a very dangerous task.

"If you cannot rely on deconfliction of access routes of people in need, if you cannot rely on hospitals not being attacked... if you cannot rely on people having to move from one place of insecurity to another place of insecurity, those are the issues that make humanitarian aid deliveries," he said.

The UN says a "great majority" of nearly half a million Gazans "are actually in famine, not just at risk of famine".

"It's not a matter of the number of trucks that can get in."

Last week, the office of the top UN official warned that the Israeli regime had denied critical supplies from entering northern Gaza.

As a pretext for its indiscriminate airstrikes, the regime has repeatedly claimed that Hamas is using civilians as "human shields" without providing a shred of evidence.

"Many people are still trapped under rubble and on the roads and rescuers can't reach them," the ministry said.

Israel has pounded the Gaza Strip since the Oct. 7 cross-border attack by Palestinian group Hamas, in which nearly 1,200 Israelis are believed to have been killed.

About 85% of Gazans have been displaced

Yet footage has emerged showing Israeli troops using a Palestinian civilian as a human shield to protect themselves during a raid on the town of Dura near the city of al-Khalil (also known as Hebron) in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinian youth began throwing stones against the invading army.

Footage showed a Palestinian civilian being forcibly marched up a street by a soldier who guided him from behind with one hand and kept a lethal assault rifle resting on his shoulder with the other. Two other Israeli troops advanced carefully behind them, their rifles raised.

Baha Abu Ras said he had been taken from his mobile phone shop on Monday in Dura during a raid in which two Palestinians were shot dead.

"He [the first soldier] told me that he will use me as a human shield, that young people shouldn't hurl stones," Abu Ras told Reuters. "You will walk in front of me. That's what happened, and he took me toward the center of the town."

In Gaza, the Israeli military does not differentiate between Hamas fighters, Hamas members, and Hamas supporters.

With the sharp surge in support for Hamas among Palestinians in Gaza during the war on Gaza, it essentially means that almost all the Palestinian civilian population living in the enclave have been targeted by the Israeli military.

In one instance, the Israeli army carried out a deadly attack against a care home for dozens of disabled Palestinian people. The Israeli military claimed Hamas members were inside the center, without providing any evidence and despite the center's authorities warning that there were no Hamas members, armed or unarmed inside.

It is just one case in a long list of Israeli war crimes being committed against civilians in Gaza.

by the Israeli onslaught, while all of them are food insecure, according to the UN. Hundreds of thousands of people are living without shelter, and less than half of aid trucks are entering the territory than before the start of the conflict.

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Tuesday reiterated his call for a humanitarian cease-fire to ensure sufficient aid gets to where it is needed, and to facilitate the release of hostages.

WORLD HEADLINES

Senate rejects call for human rights investigation into Israel-Hamas conflict

In a notable test Tuesday, Sen. Bernie Sanders forced colleagues to decide whether to investigate human rights abuses in the Israel-Hamas conflict, a step toward potentially limiting U.S. military aid to Israel as its devastating attacks on Gaza grind past 100 days.

Senators overwhelmingly rejected the effort, a first of its kind tapping into a decades-old law that would require the U.S. State Department to, within 30 days, produce a report on whether the Israeli siege in Gaza is violating human rights and international accords. If the administration failed to do so, U.S. military aid to Israel, long assured without question, could be quickly halted.

But the roll call vote begins to reveal the depth of unease among U.S. lawmakers over Israel's prosecution of the war against Hamas. With no apparent end to the bombardment, Israel's attacks against Palestinians, an attempt to root out Hamas leaders, are viewed by some as disproportional to the initial attack on Israel.

In all, 11 senators joined Sanders in the procedural vote, mostly Democrats from across the party's spectrum, while 72 opposed.

Germans rally to decry Israeli crimes in Gaza

Thousands of Germans hit the streets of the capital Berlin on Tuesday night to express their anger at their government's stance on the Zionist regime's crimes against the oppressed and defenseless Palestinians of the Gaza Strip.

According to Deutsche Welle, thousands of residents in Berlin thronged the streets in solidarity with Palestinians and denounced their government's support for barbaric attacks by the Israeli regime.

The rally came just days after the German government announced its official position in support of the Zionist regime at the International Court of Justice, ignoring the massacre of innocent Palestinians in Gaza.

"No to genocide in Gaza" and "All together against fascism", were some of the slogans demonstrators chanted while lighting candles in memory of Gaza killed in Israeli raids.

The German capital has witnessed several rallies against Israel's ongoing attacks on Gaza, which have killed more than 24,000 people and left the coastal territory in ruins.

In an earlier protest, Germans decried their leaders and chanted slogans such as "Shame on German Chancellor Olaf Scholz" and "Shame on (Foreign Minister) Annalena Baerbock."

Despite the growing public anger, the German government is planning to send weapons to the Zionist regime.

West cannot let Russia win, says Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron has announced new deliveries of long-range missiles and bombs to Kyiv while insisting the West "cannot let Russia win" the conflict with Ukraine. He added that he will visit the country next month.

Speaking at a press conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday, the French leader reiterated that his country will continue to assist Ukraine. Amid criticism that France has not been doing enough to help Ukraine, Macron said Paris would send 40 SCALP air-launched cruise missiles, which have a range of more than 250km, as well as "hundreds of bombs."

Local media, citing French officials, reported that the president was referring to munitions equipped with the AASM, or HAMMER module, which transforms ordinary bombs into precision-guided weapons with a range of up to 70km. Russia has repeatedly accused Kiev of using Western-supplied long-range weapons to target civilian infrastructure.

Macron added that he would visit Ukraine in February to finalize a bilateral security agreement with Kyiv, similar to the one the country recently signed with the UK. The ten-year deal between the two, which was announced last week, guarantees Britain's "swift and sustained security assistance" to Ukraine in the event of a future Russian attack, while outlining numerous other support measures.

Putin says past U.S. elections were rigged

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that past U.S. elections had been rigged by postal voting.

"In the United States, previous elections were falsified through postal voting ... they bought ballots for \$10, filled them out, and threw them into mailboxes without any supervision from observers, and that's it," Putin said.

European Parliament members urge EU to support South Africa's ICJ case against Israel

In a compelling plenary session of the European Parliament (EP), members passionately called for the European Union to rally behind South Africa's International Court of Justice (ICJ) case against Israel, accusing the nation of committing "genocide" in Gaza.

Irish EP member Clare Daly delivered a powerful speech, asserting that Israel has lost the support of the international public due to its actions, including the killing of tens of thousands of civilians and relentless bombardment in Gaza. Daly criticized Israel for what she called "provocative" actions aimed at inciting regional conflict and accused the nation of seeking assistance from the US to evade accountability. She also drew parallels to the situation in Yemen, targeting European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the US.

Ciaran Cuffe, an EP member with the Greens group, emphasized the need for Israel and its Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to face consequences for violating international law. Cuffe highlighted the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where continuous Israeli bombardment hinders the delivery of essential aid and medical supplies, leading to surgeries on children being conducted without anesthesia.

Finnish EP member Heidi Hautala urgently called for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza, citing the impossibility of meeting basic medical needs due to Israel's bombings. Hautala stressed the significance of a thorough investigation by ICJ into allegations of Israeli violations of the Genocide Convention. She called on the EU to support South Africa's case and demand Israel's compliance with any interim measures imposed by the court.

Portuguese Socialist EP member Pedro Marques brought attention to the staggering death toll in Gaza, with 70% of victims being women and children. Marques emphasized holding those responsible for violations of international law and war crimes accountable.

French EP member Manon Aubry underscored supporting South Africa's case at ICJ and labeled Israel's actions as "genocidal." She called for suspension of partnership agreements with Israel and a halt to arms exports, urging an end to complicity.

Greek EP member Kostas Papadakis expressed support for South Africa's ICJ case, describing ongoing attacks in Gaza as "genocide."

Swedish EP member Abir Al-Sahlani drew attention to the devastating impact on children in Gaza and emphasized collective action needed to stop being complicit in the face of such atrocities.

Celebration of traditional craftsmanship: Kilims exhibition coming soon to Harsin

TEHRAN - In a celebration of the rich tradition of Kilims weaving, Harsin, a picturesque town in the western province of Kermanshah, is set to host an exhibition showcasing the exquisite hand-woven floorings that have made the town renowned.

Harsin stands as one of the most significant hubs for Kilims production in Iran, and its weavers have earned a distinguished reputation for their craft skills, CHTN reported.

The upcoming exhibition aims to highlight the cultural significance and artistic brilliance of these traditional floor coverings, providing a platform for both locals and visitors to appreciate the intricate designs and vibrant colors that characterize Harsin

Kilims.

According to organizers, Harsin Kilims are not just products; they are a reflection of the region's identity and cultural heritage.

As mentioned by Visit Iran, the know-how of Harsin's Kilims has passed from one generation to another and can be divided into four groups of figurative, animal, floral, and geometric motifs. Each particular design has its local name and is completely inspired by the natural environment and habitat of Harsin.

Handmade Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and their good quality. They are almost expensive, but they are worth every penny!

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Historic Cairo

Historic Cairo is one of the exceptional cities in the world, characterized by the extraordinary survival of its architectural, artistic and urban heritage, which fully expresses its long history and the diversity of its values.

Its siting at a historic crossroads of international trade routes from Europe, Asia and Africa fostered its prosperity as a political, cultural and economic capital, a destination for scholars and a stop on major pilgrimage routes.

The period between the 9th and 15th centuries - also known as the Islamic Renaissance - was a particularly golden age for the city, when pioneering scientists, doctors, astronomers, theologians and writers carried an influence and stature that stretched well beyond the Islamic World.

Historic Cairo still reflects its complex 'medieval' urban layout, which was respected and enhanced in later eras, to reflect its role as a political capital and to accommodate population growth.

Its cohesive traditional urban scene combines elements of four capitals of Islamic states.

Cairo was founded as the headquarter of the Fatimid Caliphate in 969 CE. During the Ayyubid state (1176 CE), the citadel was established as the headquarters of government. The Mamluk state (1250-1517 CE) saw the expansion and extension of Cairo's cohesive urban fabric outside the walls of the Fatimid necropolis to encompass the earlier cities of Fustat (642 CE), Al-Askar (750 CE) and Al-Qata'i (879 CE) in which the mosque of Ahmed ibn Tulun (876-879 CE) is sited, with its spiral minaret and symmetrical arches opening on to a vast square court.

Subsequently Cairo became the most important city of the Ottoman Caliphate (1517-1805 CE).

Historic Cairo is an extraordinary survival not just in terms of grand buildings but because whole neighborhoods have survived, each with an exceptional richness of urban fabric and historic monuments spread throughout.

These include an unparalleled number of Sabil-s, many still with their underground water tanks, Masjid-s, Madrasas, Kuttab-s, palaces and Bimaristan-s, all of which are still integrated into the urban areas which they served and respect the integrity of the original urban layout of the city: this arrangement is considered to be a 'unique feature in the Islamic world'.

Streets and squares still reflect long-standing and distinct commercial activities, underpinned by craft guilds, with streets and markets were named after crafts, such as Al-Nahhasin, Al-Maghreb, and Shamaa'in, as well as foreign and local minorities and communities such as Kom Al-Sa'ida, the Moroccans, the Shawam and others.

Cairo's strategic location at the tip of the Delta, between the River Nile (east) and the Moqattam Hill (west), led to a continuous human interaction with the site that has shaped its settlements and architecture. An aqueduct, Sur Megra El-Ayoun dating back to medieval times, created a link between the city and the Nile that made it possible to accommodate, and accelerate Cairo's development, and erect an extensive network of canals, cisterns, hammams and sabilis.

The historic southern port Al-Fustat was also strongly connected to the use of the Nile through the historic development of trade with Europe.

Iran in frames



Travelers explore the mesmerizing Gonbad-e Kavus, a 1,000-year-old UNESCO World Heritage site in Golestan province, northern Iran. The 53-meter-high brick tower showcases early Islamic-era architectural brilliance with its intricate design, drawing admiration for its innovative and timeless beauty.

Iran stands firm against transfer of Cyrus Cylinder to Jerusalem

From Page 1 ▶ In that line, Mirzaei addressed separate letters to Amir-Hossein Gharibnejad, the vice president for Cultural Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ali-Akbar Mottakan, the secretary-general of the National Commission for UNESCO-Iran.

In those letters, the official outlined the potential dangers associated with moving an artifact of such historical magnitude, stressing Iran's intellectual property rights over the Cyrus Cylinder and calling for an immediate ban on its transfer.

Iran's opposition is based on the 1945 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, a multilateral treaty designed to safeguard cultural treasures, especially in times of armed conflict.

In fact, Mirzaei urges legal measures in accordance with this convention, emphasizing the need for preventive actions to protect the cultural heritage represented by the Cyrus Cylinder.

The Cyrus Cylinder, which bears cuneiform script in the name of the Persian king Cyrus the Great, traces its origins to the ancient



The Cyrus Cylinder in Room 52 of the British Museum in London

Achaemenid Empire and is intricately linked to the legacy of Cyrus the Great.

For Iran, this artifact stands as a pivotal piece of cultural heritage, symbolizing the roots of its ancient civilization.

A closer look at the 2,600-year-old icon of freedom

The 2,600-year-old Cyrus Cylinder is a small barrel-shaped

clay cylinder, almost the size of an American football, which was inscribed in enigmatic-looking cuneiform on the order of the Persian King Cyrus after he captured Babylon in 539 BC.

The cylinder was buried under the walls of Babylon in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) after Cyrus had captured the ancient city. It was concealed undisturbed for more than 2,400 years until it was dug

up in 1879 by a British Museum excavation.

When the Babylonian cuneiform was deciphered and translated, it was immediately realized that the cylinder had a very special significance. It describes how Cyrus was able to defeat the Babylonian king Nabonidus with the aid of the Babylonian god Marduk, who had run out of patience with Nabonidus and his shortcomings.

Once Cyrus and his army entered the city, they did not burn it to the ground (as usually happened with conquered cities in this period) but he freed the population from forced labor obligations, sent them back to various shrines of statues of gods, and allowed the people who had been brought to Babylon by the Babylonian kings to return to their homes. By this act, he was effectively allowing people to pursue unmolested their own religious practices.

The empire, founded by the Persian kings Cyrus and Darius, stretched from the Balkans to Central Asia at its peak. It was the first state model based on diversity and tolerance of different cultures and religions.

Tehran to host academic conference on health tourism

TEHRAN - Tehran will be playing host to a national conference on health tourism from Feb. 21 to 23.

Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, the deputy tourism minister, on Wednesday, announced that the upcoming seminar is set to provide an opportunity for researchers and stakeholders to benefit from the latest research findings.

He added that researchers in health tourism have until February 9 to submit their research work to the secretariat of this event.

Shalbafian emphasized that the goal of organizing this scientific event is to create synergy and strengthen cooperation between the government sector, private sector stake-

holders, and academics.

Scheduled to take place from February 21 to 23, the event is organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Intelligence, the Trade Development Organization, the National Medical System Organization, the Islamic Azad University, specialized organizations, and other stakeholders.

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.

Flames of the past: discover temple's enduring legacy in northeast Iran

TEHRAN - The fire temples, remnants of ancient times on the Iranian soil, continue to grace the mountain peaks and heart of the plains with their enduring presence.

Although their flames may no longer flicker, the magnificence and grandeur of their historical significance resonate through the graceful arches that adorn them.

Among these venerable structures, Atash-Kadeh Espakhu stands as one of the oldest surviving edifices in North Khorasan, Iran.

According to Visit Iran, Archaeological excavations unequivocally trace the origins of Espakhu fire temple to the illustrious Sassanid dynasty. Situated near a village sharing its name, Espakhu is a linguistic evolution from the Pahlavi term "Hesp" or "Esp," gradually transforming into "Asb," meaning horse.

Despite some speculating that Espakhu might have served as a church, the absence of supporting documents leaves such claims unverified. However, the circular layout of the altar, the presence of a fireplace, and strategically placed openings in the dome's ceiling—allowing smoke to escape—all point decisively to Espakhu's true identity as a fire temple.

Internally, the temple assumes a square shape, featuring entrances on the north, east, and south sides. The north and south entrances serve as exterior access points, while the east entrances connect the main room to a terrace.

Notably, the blind windows on the north and south façades bear a striking resemblance to Achaemenid architectural models.

Espakhu's architectural elements reflect a harmonious blend of religious and governmental influences, with a predominant stylistic imprint from the Sassanid era. Given its geographic location and religious significance, the temple plays a pivotal role in archaeological research in the region. Discovered in 1975 by a team of archaeologists, Espakhu was subsequently recognized as a national heritage site. The surrounding landscape, once abundant with gardens and fields, has now dwindled to a few fruit orchards. This stone marvel sits proudly, 115 kilometers from Bojnurd en route to Golestan Forest, and over fifty kilometers from Ashkaneh city.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as the palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on



abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of Sassanid art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanid historical cities in southern Iran - titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography.

Winter weather snarls air, train travel across Europe

Freezing rain in central and southern Germany grounded hundreds of flights and restricted train traffic on Wednesday, while heavy snowfall in Norway's capital led to the closure of its main airport.

Oslo airport said it would remain shut at least until 1330 GMT but the outage could also be extended, while Germany's Frankfurt airport cancelled all its operations from midday as airplanes

could no longer be de-iced, said a spokesperson.

Around 600 of the 1,047 scheduled Frankfurt arrivals and departures had been cancelled earlier in the day. At Munich airport 254 flights were scratched and a smaller airport in the southern city of Saarbruecken ceased operations completely.

"This is extremely rare... there is so much snow that the pilots can't see the lights

on the ground so we've halted all incoming and outgoing flights," said a spokesperson for Norway's national airport operator Avinor.

"I've had nothing but stress since yesterday," said Klaus Ludwig Fess standing in Frankfurt airport's departure lounge, adding both his initial flight and his rebooked one had been cancelled.

"Now I'm taking the train to Berlin," he said.

German rail operator Deutsche Bahn, however, also warned of delays and cancellations because of winter weather, and said it was limiting the top speed for its high-speed ICE trains to 200 kph (124 mph) as a precautionary measure.

Its long distance services from Stuttgart and Frankfurt to Paris had been cancelled due to weather conditions in France, Deutsche Bahn said.

(Source: Reuters)

Private sector runs five protected areas

TEHRAN – There are five private protected areas across the country measuring some 275,000 hectares.

The protected areas started activity in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (March 2013-March 2014). Three of the protected areas are located in the central province of Yazd, one in the southeastern province of Kerman, and one in the northcentral province of Semnan.

The population of species such as goats, rams, and sheep in these areas has increased by three to eight times, IRNA reported.

Throughout the year, the conditions of the habitats and the wildlife are monitored. The wildlife population in the protected areas is counted twice a year, in spring and winter.

Private protected areas do not receive any government grants or funds, their income comes from issuing hunting licenses, which are issued by the Department of Environment after the census and approval of the wildlife population.

Accordingly, legal hunting permits are issued every year proportionate to the increase in the population of each species.

The Department of Environment tends to develop the number of private protected areas as



one of the successful methods of people's participation in preserving biodiversity.

The increase of these areas is on the agenda, and 36 areas have been considered for this purpose, which will be given the needed license following legal steps.

320 protected areas

In December 2023, the number of protected areas increased from 309 to 320 as 11 new sites were added to the previously registered areas by the Department of Environment.

The history of Iran's first protected areas dates back to 1967 when the proposal for the establishment of two national parks and 15 protected areas as the

first protected sites in Iran was approved, ISNA reported.

In 1976, there were more than 65 protected areas covering an area of 6.7 million hectares in the country, which has now extended to 309 areas with an area of 19 million hectares.

In the last 60 years, the world's protected areas have increased by 2.6 times, compared with 4.7 times in Iran.

In West Asia, an average of 5.3 percent of the land surface of the countries is allocated to protected areas, but this figure is 10.4 percent in Iran, almost twice the average. It should be noted that Iran has a much wider biodiversity compared to other countries in the region.

Based on the latest report, there are 183 protected areas, 32 national parks, 54 wildlife refuges, and 40 national natural monuments in Iran.

Protected areas rise 18% in two years

In September 2023, Hasan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment said that during the last two years, the number of protected areas under a comprehensive management plan has increased, indicating a growth of 18 percent.

"The comprehensive plan studies the condition of wildlife, vegetation, water, and soil. Based on that, the land is classified into several zones," IRNA quoted Akbari as saying.

In these zones, parts of the area are considered only for protection, parts for recreation and nature tourism, and small parts for administrative activities, he explained.

"In fact, zoning and management are done based on specific conditions and the use of land."

A series of restrictions are imposed on these zones. For example, road construction or mining are banned. These limitations will ultimately lead to better management and preservation of the region, Akbari concluded.

Iran, Pakistan to set up joint technology park in Chabahar

TEHRAN – A joint science and technology park will be established by Iran and Pakistan in Chabahar County, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, science minister Mohammad-Ali Zolfigol, has said.

Zolfigol met Mukhtar Ahmed, chairman of Pakistan's higher education commission, in Tehran on Wednesday, discussing ways to enhance scientific cooperation.

There are no limitations to the expansion of relations between the two friendly countries of Iran and Pakistan in various fields of science, technology, and innovation. Both countries welcome the development of relations, IRNA quoted Zolfigol as saying.

"We are ready to attract students from Pakistan and send interested Iranian students to Pakistan for study and research opportunities. Also, carrying out joint research and technology projects, joint production of scientific articles and books, patenting and establishing knowledge-based companies are among other areas of cooperation," he added.

He went on to say that Iran supports the promotion of Persian language in Pakistan and Urdu language in Iran.

Tehran, Islamabad to boost scientific co-op

In a meeting in Tehran on January 15, Iran and Pakistan, while expressing willingness to expand cooperation, highlighted the importance of enhancing scientific relations.

A delegation of Pakistani academic mem-

bers headed by Ahmed visited Iran's House of Innovation and Technology (IHIT) on Monday.

"Iran is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in technological fields. Information and communication technology, agriculture, and health are among the fields in which the two countries can boost cooperation," ISNA quoted Amir-Hossein Mir-Abadi, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, as saying.

Ahmed, for his part, said that Iran and Pakistan are confronting similar problems and challenges; these common issues can lay the basis for boosting mutual relations and cooperation. "Pakistan is interested in cooperating and interacting with Iran in scientific and technological fields."

The Pakistani official went on to say that the sanctions have made Iran more successful in scientific fields.

Exchanging academic staff including professors and students and conducting joint projects can be among other options of cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, he added.

Talking about setting up national pavilions in different countries, Ahmed said Pakistan is ready to hold Iranian pavilions, too.

He hoped that the bilateral cooperation

would be extended into regional cooperation including other countries such as India and Bangladesh.

Sharing technological expertise with Islamic nations

In May 2023, the deputy science minister said Iran is ready to share its technological expertise with other Islamic countries.

Science and technology should be applied in order to create world peace and human justice, and Muslim countries can bring peace and progress not only to the Muslim nations but also to human beings with unity and empathy, Vahid Haddadi-Asl said, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks at the 1st Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Dialogue Platform (OIC-15) which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on May 25-26.

"Over the past years, despite the cruel sanctions imposed by the global arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have seen significant progress in the fields of education, research, and technology, which is a sign of reliance on Iranian scholars and scientists. We are always ready to share our technological expertise with other Islamic countries."

Carrying out joint research projects, and establishing knowledge-based companies are parts of scientific cooperation.

National campaign on promoting healthy diet to kick off

TEHRAN – A national campaign on promoting a healthy diet focusing on the benefits of iodized salt and dairy products will commence nationwide in the next Iranian calendar month starting January 21. The first phase of the campaign started in November 2023 aiming to reduce deaths caused by non-communicable diseases.

Since diabetes and high blood pressure, as the main causes of non-communicable diseases are directly affected by one's diet, the second phase of the national health campaign focuses on healthy diets. Salt is the subject of the first week of the campaign, from January 21 to 27, with the theme of "Everyone's choice: little but refined iodized salt."

Dairy is the subject and theme of the second week, from January 28 to February 4, with the theme of "From childhood to old age, consume healthy dairy products."

Each day of the two-week event is named as follows:

Sunday, January 21 – 'Consume refined iodized salt and lessen salt intake.'

Monday, January 22 – 'Sea salt and unrefined salts cause cancer.'

Tuesday, January 23 – 'Salted food consumption promotes the development of stomach cancer, osteoporosis, and high blood pressure.'

Wednesday, January 24 – 'Salt is not just in food, watch out for hidden salt, too.'

Thursday, January 25 – 'Add small amounts of refined iodized salt to food at the end of the cooking process.'

Friday, January 26 – 'Take the salt shaker off the table.'

Saturday, January 27 – 'Colored salts (pink, blue and purple) and rock salt endanger one's health.'

Sunday, January 28 – 'Drink two glasses of milk daily. Better sleep with more dairy products.'

Monday, January 29 – 'Low-fat dairy products lower the risk of osteoporosis.'

Tuesday, January 30 – 'Milk is a nutritious snack to enhance students' overall learning ability and better development of students.'

Wednesday, January 31 – 'Dairy products' consumption reduces the risk of colon cancer.'

Thursday, February 1 – 'Consuming dairy products helps to control blood pressure.'

Friday, February 2 – 'Dairy products intake prevents shortness in children.'

Saturday, February 3 – 'Yogurt consumption boosts immune system.'

Sunday, February 4 – 'Milk and dairy products are rich sources of calcium.'

Over 42m people participate in national health campaign

More than 42.184 million people have so far taken part in the national health campaign aiming to be screened for high blood pressure and diabetes.

Out of the screened people, 796,840 were identified with probable hypertension, and 445,803 were identified with probable diabetes.

The first phase of the national health campaign started in November 2023 aiming to reduce



deaths caused by non-communicable diseases.

The project with the theme of "earlier awareness, better care" will go on until January 20, ISNA reported. The main objective of the campaign is to provide free health care for diabetic and hypertensive patients in the framework of the family physician program and to create an electronic health file for patients.

The identified patients will be checked every month or every three months by healthcare workers and doctors to receive free tests and medicines if needed.

Nowadays, health is one of the most essential human needs. Before the coronavirus pandemic, people may not have realized its importance, but this disease showed us how precious health is, Health Minister Bahram Einoollahi 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, a project called "national health campaign" started on November 11, 2023, and will continue till January 20. Emphasizing the importance of improving health literacy, Einoollahi said, "The level of literacy in the society has increased, and we expect this level to improve in the field of health as well. Also, we hope to manage having an electronic health file for every Iranian with their national identification code to record the history of illnesses in their family, their lifestyle, etc. so that their diseases and their reasons can be traced easily."

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

Talking about the national health campaign, Einoollahi said the campaign focuses on providing electronic health records for each family and screening them for diabetes and hypertension, and 70 percent of people are expected to participate in the campaign.

Einoollahi added: "About 83 percent of all deaths registered in hospitals are caused by non-communicable diseases. Around 300,000 people die from cardiovascular diseases every year. Some 32 percent of people over 18 years old have hypertension, and 60 percent are unaware of their high blood pressure. Some 30,000 deaths per year occur due to diabetes in the country, which are all significant cases." 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.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

"Noora" vaccine successfully passing first phase of clinical trial

"Noora" coronavirus vaccine is successfully passing the first phase of the clinical trial, Hassan Abolqassemi, the chancellor of teh university, has said.

The vaccine is well undergoing the first phase of human testing, he noted, adding, the first phase of human testing lasts 2 months, so far more than a month has passed, IRNA reported on Saturday.

He stressed the need to integrate the human testing phase of the Noora vaccine and said that "this must be done to make the vaccine available for the mass vaccination; while many vaccine producing countries have done the same."

واکسن نورا مرحله پایانی فاز اول تست انسانی را طی می کند

تهران - رئیس دانشگاه علوم پزشکی بقیه الله گفت: تزریق دز اول واکسن نورا به تمام داوطلبان انجام شد و دز دوم هم به نیمه تزریق رسیده است.

دکتر حسن ابوالقاسمی روز شنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا، روند فعالیت کارآزمایی بالینی واکسن نورا را مطلوب ارزیابی کرد و افزود: این واکسن به نحو مطلوبی در حال طی کردن فاز اول تست انسانی است.

وی با یادآوری اینکه طبق برنامه ریزی انجام شده طول دوره مرحله اول تست انسانی ۲ ماه است، ادامه داد: تاکنون بیش از یک ماه از این دوره سپری شده است.

وی بر لزوم ادغام مراحل تست انسانی واکسن نورا تاکید کرد و گفت: این کار باید صورت گیرد و بسیاری از کشورهای تولید کننده واکسن هم از این ظرفیت بهره بردند.



White lion cubs in Tehran zoo

Two white lion cubs born to parents who were imported from South Africa four years ago are kept in a zoo in Tehran.

The cubs are now nine months old. Interested people have been called to choose names for the lion cubs.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One can purchase the world with contentment, and live in happiness with benevolence.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:14 Evening: 17:35 Dawn: 5:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:13 (tomorrow)

Two solo exhibitions by Iranian artists at Dubai's Third Line Gallery

TEHRAN-The Third Line Gallery in Dubai, the U.A.E., is hosting two solo exhibitions by Iranian artists Pouran Jinchi and Kamran Samimi.

Having launched on January 11, Jinchi's works are showcased at the exhibition titled "Fly Like Dandelions" and "Before Nature (I Am Both Created and Destroyed)" is the title of the show where Samimi has put his works on display, Iran Art reported on Wednesday. Inspired by the New York Times article "Great Climate Migration," Jinchi embarked on her latest series. The catalyst was the plight of Jorge A., a Guatemalan farmer compelled to flee due to climate change's impact on agriculture.

Jinchi draws from landscapes affected by climate change, such as ghost forests and arid lands. Using repeated Persian characters for "trees," she crafts depictions allowing legibility to yield to artistic abstraction gradually. Dots, fundamental in Islamic calligraphy, symbolize an arid landscape, representing lingering memories. Merging traditional calligraphy with abstraction, Jinchi explores perception, reality, and meaning.

Her reflective color palette employs black and grey for devastation and blue for hope. The dandelion, symbolizing migration's nuanced nature, becomes a powerful representation in Jinchi's art. The transformed dandelion seed pod drifts across landscapes, echoing the resilience of migrants navigating new paths, much like dandelion seeds dispersed everywhere.

Trained as a classical calligrapher in Iran, she furthered her art education at UCLA and the Art Students League of New York. Synthesizing diverse training, Jinchi forged her unique artistic approach.

Her methodology reflects a creative tension, blending the disciplined control of traditional Islamic calligraphy with the spontaneous fluidity of Western abstract painting.

In "Before Nature (I Am Both Created and Destroyed)" Samimi, inspired by the natural materials defining the region, delves into the ancient stories concealed within the golden

dunes of the desert foundation. Going global, "Small Monuments (2023)" takes on a profound dimension as Samimi unearths stones from significant global locations.

Collaborating with visible and invisible forces, he transforms each stone into a canvas, attuned to the wordless language of the natural world. The exhibition's narrative expands with "Rain Paintings (2023)," a poetic homage to Samimi's childhood, capturing the soothing nightly rain during challenging times.

At the heart of the exhibition stands the sculpture "Unbroken Column (2023)," crafted from limestone segments, paying homage to ancient religious structures in the region.

It symbolizes a connection between ancient traditions and contemporary aspirations, encapsulating Samimi's exploration and the profound narratives interwoven throughout the showcase in a landscape dominated by glass and steel monuments. Attracted to the transient beauty of natural elements like stones, wood, pigment, and land, Samimi approaches both his subject matter and materials with a blend of curiosity and reverence.

Rooted in a strong sense of place, his artistic process delves into the intricate relationships and tensions between human and non-human ancestors, viewed through the prism of his multicultural identity (Iranian/Norwegian).

Samimi endeavors to establish a sense of balance, considering his work as a gift of beauty to a world grappling with injustice and devastation. His artistic practice is inseparable from his worldview, influenced by the principles of Zen Buddhism and Sufi Mysticism that emphasize a direct connection with the natural world. Consequently, his process is both penitent and whimsical, with his hands moving in harmony with the rhythms of Nature: simultaneously deconstructing and reconstructing, exhibiting control and compassion.

The two solo exhibitions at the Third Line Gallery in Dubai will continue until February 16.

New translation of "The Little Prince" to be unveiled



TEHRAN-A new translation of the famous novella "The Little Prince" written by French author Antoine de Saint Exupery (1900-1944) will be unveiled on Thursday at a ceremony in Tehran, where the previous translations of the book will be reviewed.

The unveiling ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Elahieh Book City in Fereshteh St., northern Tehran, in collaboration with Nashr-e Baya, publisher of the book, ISNA reported.

The ceremony will be attended by the translator of the book Nazanin Tabatabaei, director of Nashr-e Baya Ahmad Tamimdari, audiobook narrator Samaneh Hadi, and children's author Seyyed Ali Kashefi-Khansari.

Tabatabaei, 66, holds a Ph.D. in French literature from Sorbonne University and has been involved in teaching and research in the field

of French language and literature for over three decades.

As a part of the ceremony, Kashefi-Khansari will speak about numerous Persian translations of the book in the past years and the best translators of them.

First published in 1943, "The Little Prince" has been translated into 300 languages and dialects, selling nearly two million copies annually. With a total sale of over 140 million worldwide, it has become one of the best-selling books ever published.

In Iran, the first translation of the book was published in 1954 by renowned translator and writer Mohammad Ghazi. Since then, about 130 other translators have rendered the book into Persian. Notable translators of the book include Abolhassan Najafi, Ahmad Shamlou, Abbas Pejman, Kaveh Mirabbasi, Delara Qahraman,

Media Kashigar, Parviz Shahdi, and Mostafa Rahmandoust.

The novella is about a little prince who lives in a faraway asteroid with his rose. One day he comes to earth where he meets an aviator, a fox, a snake and some strange people.

Saint-Exupéry was a French aviator and writer whose works are the unique testimony of a pilot and a warrior who looked at adventure and danger with a poet's eyes.

Equally loved by children and adults alike, "The Little Prince" is one of the most translated books on the planet. With wonderful and whimsical illustrations by the author, the delightful tale straddles a world between adulthood and childhood, philosophy and fantasy, satire and fable.

"The Little Prince" draws unflattering portraits of grown-ups as being hopelessly narrow-

minded. In contrast, children come to wisdom through open-mindedness and a willingness to explore the world around them and within themselves. The main theme of the fable is expressed in the secret that the fox tells the little prince: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Globally, linguists have compared the many translations and even editions of the same translation for style, composition, titles, wordings and genealogy. As an example: as of 2011 there are approximately 47 translated editions of "The Little Prince" in Korean, and there are also about 50 different translated editions in Chinese.

The book has been adapted to numerous art forms and media, including audio recordings, radio plays, live stage, film, television, ballet, and opera.

Masterpieces by top composers to be performed at Azadi Tower



TEHRAN-Tehran's Azadi Tower is set to host a concert on Friday, showcasing the works of the esteemed composers from Iran and around the globe.

Entitled "Masterpieces from Top Iranian and World Composers," the performance, led by Kianoush Eslami, will bring to life compositions by renowned Iranian maestros, including Ruhollah Khaleghi, Homayoun Khosravi, Ali

Tajvidi, Mohammad Sarir, and Hossein Alizadeh.

Works by classical music greats such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, Antonín Dvořák, Frédéric Chopin, George Bizet, Cesar Cui, and Jacques Offenbach will also grace the stage.

The performance will be accompanied by vocalist Mohammadreza Fatemi and conductor Mohadeseh Ebrahimi.

Sahne-ye Abi to show award-winning drama "The Spirit of the Beehive"

TEHRAN-The Cine Club of Sahne-ye Abi Cultural and Artistic Center in Tehran will show the 1973 Spanish drama "The Spirit of the Beehive" directed by Víctor Erice on Saturday.

After the film screening at 6 p.m., it will be followed by a review session in the presence of the film critic and actor Babak Karimi.

The 97-minute movie was Erice's feature directorial debut and is considered a masterpiece of Spanish cinema. It focuses on a young girl named

Ana and her fascination with the 1931 American horror film "Frankenstein" and also explores her family life and schooling. In 1940, after watching and being traumatized by "Frankenstein," the sensitive seven-year-old Ana, who is living in a small Spanish village, drifts into her own fantasy world.

Many have noted the symbolism present throughout the film, as an artistic choice, and a way Erice avoided the censors. Despite censors in Spain, which was under the Franco regime at

the time of its making and release, the film still manages to symbolically portray Spanish life under Franco's rule. The film has been called a bewitching portrait of a child's haunted inner life.

The film won Silver Hugo award at Chicago International Film Festival in 1973 and Golden Seashell award at San Sebastián International Film Festival in the same year.

Sahne-ye Abi Cultural and Artistic Center is located at No. 1595, Valiasr St., after Taleqani junction.

Iran's first fashion and environment event opens in Niavaran

TEHRAN- The first fashion and environment event in Iran, titled "Hanas", was inaugurated at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on Tuesday.

Organized by Khatoon Shahbazi, the event aims to introduce a distinctive, research-oriented approach to the fashion industry in Iran and beyond, IRNA reported.

Highlighting the catastrophic impact of the global fashion and clothing industry on the environment, Shahbazi expressed her aspiration for "Hanas" to inspire designers and producers to adopt new perspectives and unleash their creativity in order to mitigate these damages.

"Our objective is to raise awareness within the fashion and clothing industry and enhance the production process for fashion products to preserve the environment, conserve energy, curb consumerism, and fulfill our social responsibility while promoting employment and embracing product diversity," she elaborated.

The event features the remarkable creations of fashion designer Chia Jabri, whose efforts and perspective resonate deeply with its overarching theme. Shahbazi emphasized

Jabri's vision for a world in which individuals exercise responsibility, expressing concern for the future of their children and the legacy we leave them, while acting responsibly.

Jabri's cultural and artistic contributions have garnered widespread acclaim, Shahbazi noted, highlighting the objective of Hanas to unite creative and proactive youth in this field, while simultaneously capturing the attention of producers, consumers, and dignitaries towards the increasingly pressing global concern for the environment.

Shahbazi further elaborated on the significance of sustainable fashion and its integration of environmental efforts, emphasizing its cultural and economic importance.

She highlighted that each nation's approach to sustainable fashion is contingent upon its individual platform, potential, and priorities.

Indigenous adaptation of sustainable fashion, incorporating elements such as textile weaving, handicrafts, and re-design, reflects cultural, ideological, economic, infrastructural, and native industrial concepts, she noted.

She also emphasized the need for

meticulous planning to ensure its success.

By embracing social responsibility, the progress of sustainable fashion can be closely intertwined with sustainable development, she mentioned.

Shahbazi added, "All the garments designed and produced with a sustainable fashion approach are crafted from discarded workshop materials and complementary fabrics, embodying a contemporary interpretation of Iran's rich clothing culture, which itself represents an infinite treasure."

The event will continue until Friday, welcoming visitors from all walks of life to explore the intersection of fashion and environmental conservation.

The fashion industry has long been recognized as one of the most polluting industries in the world, causing detrimental damage to the environment. The production processes involved in creating clothing, as well as the disposal of textile waste, contribute to air and water pollution, deforestation, and depletion of natural resources. The alarming environmental impact of

fast fashion has led to a growing awareness about the need for sustainable practices in the industry. This has prompted designers, producers, and consumers alike to rethink their approach and seek innovative solutions to minimize the ecological footprint of fashion.

Sustainable fashion has emerged as a key movement within the industry, advocating for environmentally-friendly practices at every stage of the fashion life cycle. From the sourcing of materials to the manufacturing process, sustainable fashion aims to reduce carbon emissions, promote ethical labor practices, prioritize quality over quantity, and support the use of eco-friendly materials.

By embracing sustainable fashion, designers can create pieces that are not only aesthetically appealing but also considerate of the environment. Furthermore, consumers can make conscious choices by supporting brands that adhere to sustainable principles and opting for durable, timeless pieces that have a reduced impact on the planet. The fashion industry's commitment to the environment is crucial in mitigating the harmful effects of its operations and fostering a more sustainable future.

Cartoon of Day



Mikail Çiftçi

Cleanliness in Gaza

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey