

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 45th year | No. 14690 | Wednesday | January 17, 2024 | Dey 27, 1402 | Rajab 5, 1445

Missiles rain down on bases of Mossad and terrorists in Iraqi Kurdistan, Syria's Idlib and Pakistan's Balochistan

Iran Hits Back



Defiant Ansarullah hit U.S. cargo ship

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- Another cargo vessel heading to Israel's ports has been targeted and hit by a missile off the coast of Yemen.

The Greek-owned bulk carrier MT Zografia was sailing from Vietnam to the occupied Palestinian territories, two Greek shipping ministry sources told Reuters on Tuesday.

The vessel was hit by a missile off Yemen while transiting northbound in the Red Sea, sources said. No one was injured.

The development comes shortly after Yemeni Ansarullah forces struck an American-owned cargo ship, setting the vessel on fire. The attack on the cargo ship happened just days after the United States and the British militaries attacked sites belonging to Ansarullah with at least 63 bombs.

In an act of defiance, the Ansarullah movement targeted the Marshall Islands-flagged Gibraltar Eagle container ship, in what is being seen by analysts as an expansion of the Yemeni navy's scope of fire from its previous operations against Israeli-affiliated vessels mainly in the Red Sea. ▶ Page 5

Israel trying to divert attention away from crimes in Gaza by linking Yemeni retaliatory moves to Iran: envoy

TEHRAN- Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations has roundly refuted Western charges regarding the Islamic Republic's involvement in strikes by Yemeni troops in the Red Sea, adding that such accusations are aimed at deflecting the world public opinion from Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip.

Amir Saeid Iravani emphasized in two identical letters to UN Security Council President António Guterres and rotating President Nicolas de Rivière on Monday that the current state of affairs in the Red Sea is primarily due to the ongoing genocide and barbarous massacres carried out by the Israeli regime with full U.S. support.

The full text of the letter from the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations is as follows:

Further to our letter dated 8 January 2024 (S/2024/33), I am writing to address yet another baseless allegation made by the representative of the United States against my Country in the recent sessions of the United Nations Security Council. During the Security Council meeting for the adoption of Resolution 2722 (2024) held on 10 January 2024, under the agenda item "Maintenance of International Peace and Security" ▶ Page 2

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'Girl in pink jacket' comes back to hunt terrorists

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - The January 3, 2024, terrorist attack in Kerman was the worst act of terrorism on Iranian soil to this day. The twin explosions that ripped through the southeastern city of Kerman on the martyrdom anniversary of Iran's anti-tanker icon General Qassem Soleimani killed 94 civilians and injured dozens of others.

On the day of the incident, as the Iranian nation was overcome with shock and horror at the heinous act emergency workers had no time to take in what was happening. They rushed to get the wounded to the hospitals and with a dismal heart, collected the remains of the slain victims some of whom were no longer recognizable due to the extent of their injuries.

While Iranians mourned for every single person whose innocent life was taken in a split second, a picture circulating on the internet made people's hearts ache even more. "Body parts, girl in pink jacket, with heart-shaped earrings, probably 2 years of age" was written on one small body bag engulfing the dead body of a young girl. An emergency worker had hastily inscribed these words on the bag to assist in identifying the victim amid the urgency of the situation.

Details emerge on Iran missile attacks against Mossad, Daesh

TEHRAN - Recent footage capturing a discussion between Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force, and his superior has provided valuable insights into the IRGC's operations targeting Mossad and terrorist installations in Iraq and Syria.

According to the telephone conversation between General Hajizadeh and the IRGC chief, four ballistic missiles were launched from the southern regions of Iran's Khuzestan province, targeting Takfiri terrorist sites in Syria's Idlib. In addition, four more missiles were launched from Kermanshah, and seven missiles were fired from West Azarbaijan Province, striking Mossad-affiliated bases in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The strikes occurred precisely at midnight.

The IRGC aerospace commander specified that the Kheibarshakan missile, a third-generation long-range missile developed by the IRGC, was instrumental in eliminating the terrorist strongholds. The Kheibarshakan missile, equipped with solid fuel and maneuverability during the landing phase,

Who was Pishro Dizaei?

TEHRAN- The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) targeted and eliminated the head of Falcon Company, a Mossad-affiliated organization responsible for protecting and supplying the Israeli spy agency in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The IRGC operation, which targeted Pishro Dizaei's residence in Erbil, was swiftly followed by the hashtag #BigHunt on social media.

Dizaei, a Mossad operative, was primarily responsible for providing security and logistical support to the organization's operations in Erbil.

He was also involved in exporting oil from the Kurdistan Region to Israel and operating a private army.

In addition to Dizaei, his Mossad colleague Karam Mikhail, who holds British citizenship, was also killed in the attack. Mikhail was reportedly present at Dizaei's residence at the time of the missile strike.

Falcon Company, headquartered in Egypt, plays a crucial role in identifying and tracking targets through vehicle license plates and other technologies. It collaborates closely with EIA, a major agency affiliated with the United States Statistics Organization, which collects, analyzes, and disseminates information.

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Strengthening cultural bonds with Iran: India adds Farsi as a classical language

TEHRAN- India's Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who is currently undertaking a two-day visit to Iran, has said that Farsi has been included as one of the nine classical languages in India under the New Education Policy.

"The government of India has decided to include Farsi as one of the nine classical languages of India in our New Education Policy," Jaishankar remarked during a joint press conference in Tehran on Monday with his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, ISNA reported.

This decision reflects India's dedication to promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of the rich heritage connected to Farsi within the Indian educational system, the report added. ▶ Page 8



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Yemen's blow to Zionist regime's lifeline is admirable: Leader

TEHRAN- In a meeting with a large number of Friday Prayer leaders from across the country in the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah on Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei described Yemen's blow to the Zionist regime's lifeline as "admirable" and "fighting on the path of God."

According to Khamenei.ir, at the beginning of this meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei spoke about the significance of the Islamic month of Rajab, describing it as one of the most virtuous days of the year. ▶ Page 2

Iranian 15-year-old Beyranvand makes history

TEHRAN - 15-year-old Iranian shooter Mohammad Beyranvand earned a shock place at the Paris 2024 Games in Kuwait City after winning a shoot-off in the men's trap at the Asian Olympic qualifier.

After China's Guo Yuhao - who secured the second available Olympic quota place - had missed his second effort in the shoot-off to give the Iranian teenager a 2-1 win, the latter raised his arms into the air before falling onto his back with hands over his face, shedding tears, .issf-sports.org reported.

The shock was understandable for a youngster who last year finished 71st at the World Championships and 54th in the Almaty ISSF World Cup.

The next challenge on his horizon could be to better the performance of China's Sheng Lihao, who became the youngest ever shooter to win an Olympic medal when he took silver in the men's 10m air rifle at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

India's Lakshay Lakshay came third, scoring 33 points.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Tehran and New Delhi on the way to remove obstacles to cooperation

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

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the relations between Tehran and New Delhi and wrote: The presence of Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Tehran indicates the beginning of a new phase of bilateral relations between Iran and New Delhi in many areas of cooperation. Iran's position in India's foreign policy is mostly defined based on the country's role in providing the security of energy and India's growing economy and search for a way for this country to access the markets of Central Asia and Russia.

In this regard, India's presence in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS global alliance is considered to be an effective factor in the realization of the set goals of the Islamic Republic, especially in the economic field. Bilateral and multilateral discussions, economic cooperation and emphasis on the development of Chabahar port and the north-south transit route, the development of trade and nation-to-nation relations through the use of existing capacity and the expansion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation were among the topics that were discussed during the consultations between the Indian Foreign Minister and the Iranian officials.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The new dimension of a punishment

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the courageous action of South Africa to pursue the trial of countries such as the United States and England for the crime of supporting the Zionist regime.

It wrote: This action can be considered as an example and an important lesson for other countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran in the legal pursuit of the crimes that were imposed on Iran by the domination system. Although the trial of the leaders and members of the terrorist MKO group in one of Tehran's courts is considered a ceremonial action from some people and media circles' point of view, the truth is that this approach will raise the level of Iran's judicial system and courts to the level of the world's top courts and it can turn them into a reference for dealing with the complicity of other countries and nations about the genocides and crimes of the West. Also, this approach creates a basis for promoting Iran's lawsuits against the crimes and pains imposed on Iran in international forums.

Javan: Britain's claims against Iran are not over

Leader issues message over demise of Karim Mojtahedi

TEHRAN- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei issued a message of condolence over the demise of the Iranian philosophy professor, Karim Mojtahedi.

In a message, he offered condolences to his family, Iran's academic community as well as his wise stu-

dents.

Ayatollah Khamenei also described him as a person having profound knowledge, a critical viewpoint to the Western culture, which is the origin of his education.

He also sought God's forgiveness for such a magnificent figure.

Iran FM says US, UK strikes on Yemen 'illegitimate, strategic mistake'

TEHRAN- Iran's foreign minister has sharply criticized the U.S. and UK recent assaults on Yemeni land, calling them "illegitimate, strategic mistake."

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the comments during a phone conversation with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres early on Tuesday.

The two talked about the most recent events pertaining to the Gaza Strip and the Red Sea.

Iran's top diplomat emphasized throughout the discussion the Islamic Republic of Iran's fundamental position on preserving and enhancing the security of navigation and commerce.

"By stopping ships that are bound for the occupied Palestinian territories, Yemen seeks to put a halt to the Zionist regime's crimes and genocide against civilians in Gaza," Amir Abdollahian added.

He went on to say that the "illegal measures taken by the United States and the UK in attacking Yemen" amounted to a miscalculation in strategy that would cause tensions in the region to rise even worse. Elsewhere in his remarks, Iran's foreign minister reiterated Tehran's willingness to provide humanitarian help to the Palestinian people residing in the Gaza Strip, expressing worry about the complex humanitarian situation there. The UN Secretary-General, for his part, voiced concerns over the rise of violence in the region, stating that the in-

ternational organization is working to end the war and ameliorate the suffering of the region's people.

He once again decried the current military attack against Gaza, emphasizing the importance of halting it and giving humanitarian relief to Palestinians there. Guterres praised the Islamic Republic's efforts in promoting regional peace and stability.

The United States and its Western allies have been giving financial and logistical assistance to the occupying regime in its relentless bombardment campaign against Palestinians in the besieged region since the onset of the Israeli military onslaught on Gaza in early October 2023.

Following several warnings, Yemen's Armed Forces and Ansarullah resistance movement have attacked several Israeli-owned ships over the last month as part of their support for Palestinians. The ships were en route to ports in the occupied regions of the strategically important Red Sea. The Israeli genocide in Gaza has killed over 24,000 Palestinians, the majority of whom are women and children, while also injuring thousands and leaving millions homeless. According to the UN, almost 85% of the territory's population has been displaced and pushed into overcrowded shelters.

The Tel Aviv regime has also imposed an all-out embargo on Gaza, preventing the flow of food, water, fuel, and medication into the region.

Yemen's blow to Zionist regime's lifeline is admirable: Leader

From page 1 ▶ He advised the people and the believers to make the most of this great divine blessing by engaging in meaningful supplications, invocations, and repentances.

Pointing to the issue of Gaza and the patience and steadfastness of the Palestinians, the Leader emphasized that God's presence is apparent in these events.

"The oppressed and strong Gazans were able to influence the world with their battles and today the world views these people, their fighters and the resistance group as heroes," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei drew attention to the fact that despite facing oppression, the people of Gaza have achieved victory in the eyes of the international community and he attributed this outcome to their patience and their trust in God.

"On the other hand, no one in the world today believes that the evil usurping Zionist regime has won the war in Gaza. In the global opinion and in the opinion of the world's politicians, the [Zionist] regime is an oppressive, ruthless, bloodthirsty wolf that has lost the battle and is being disintegrated," he added.

While emphasizing that the people of Gaza have spread Islam and made the Quran dear to the seekers of truth around the world with their resilience, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution asked God to increase the honor of the fighters of the Resistance Front, especially the Gazan people and fighters.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised and commended the great work of the Yemeni nation and the Ansar Al-



lah government for their support of the Palestinians.

"The Yemenis targeted the key channels of the Zionist regime and did not fear the threats of the U.S., because a God-fearing person does not fear anyone but God. What they did is truly and justly an example of fighting for the cause of God," he said.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution expressed hope that these battles, acts of resistance, and endeavors would continue until victory is achieved, and requested God's help and assistance for those who strive to please Him.

Elsewhere during the meeting, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution expressed that leading the Friday Prayers is regarded as a highly challenging responsibility. The reason for this, noted the Leader, is primarily due to the fact that the individual in this role must maintain a strong connection with God and strive to satisfy Him, and at the same time take into consideration the interests and contentment of the people.

He noted that paying attention to

the people during the Friday Prayer is a sign of the fundamental position of the people in Islam, adding that, "The role and rights of the people in the Islamic system is such that, according to Imam Ali (pbuh), if the people do not want something and if they do not involve themselves in it, even a righteous individual like Imam Ali (pbuh) would not be obliged to fulfill that duty. However, if the people expressed a desire for something, it would become his obligatory responsibility to accept and address that need."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also deemed it necessary to inform the people about "domestic and global issues, the enemy's conspiracies and plots, and societal needs and realities" during Friday prayer sermons.

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that it is crucial for a Friday Prayer leader to connect with the audience and have a good understanding of their needs and thoughts, while pointing out the fact that the minds of today's youth are exposed to a diverse range of information and perspectives.

"To assess the needs and correctly understand the minds of his audience, it is essential for the Friday Prayer leader to socialize with people and for him to be a people person," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that another obligation that needs to be fulfilled by Friday Prayer leaders in their important mission involves showing care and kindness towards the people.

He went on to describe the exceptional qualities of the Iranian people, highlighting their strong morals and faith.

He also noted that even those who do not strictly adhere to certain Islamic practices, still possess a deep reverence for God and spiritual values.

Another quality of the Iranian people, emphasized by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, is their commitment and willingness to defend their country and the Islamic system against all kinds of attacks from detractors.

"Our people have shown their loyalty in every situation when the country and the Revolution needed to be defended. They did this by coming to the streets, by practicing patience, by shouting slogans, by showing their support and even by going to the battlefield," he noted.

Ayatollah Khamenei continued by stressing the necessity of people's participation in the upcoming elections, highlighting that it is their right to take part in the elections so they can choose their representatives in the legislative and law enforcement bodies.

Israel trying to divert attention away from crimes in Gaza by linking Yemeni retaliatory moves to Iran: envoy

From page 1 ▶ (S/2024/9527), as well as the subsequent briefing on the same agenda item on 12 January 2024 (S/2024/9532), it is regrettable that, once again, the representative of the United States has misused the Security Council platform to further its political agenda, by disseminating falsehoods and deliberate disinformation, and leveling unfounded accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the current situation in the Red Sea.

This misuse is particularly concerning in light of the recent serious violation of international law by the United States and the United Kingdom in committing acts of military aggression against Yemen. Within this context, I would like to reaffirm Iran's position on this matter as follows:

1) The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally condemns and categorically rejects the unfounded allegations made at the aforementioned meetings and emphasizes its commitment to maritime security and freedom of navigation. Despite having serious concerns and reservations about the Security Council's approach to the Yemen conflict and its resolutions on Yemen, Iran has never taken any activities in violation of Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015), including any engagement in the sale or transfer of arms or weaponry systems that would contravene this Resolution.

Furthermore, Iran has always advocated for resolving the Yemen crisis through political

means.

2) Iran strongly condemns the military aggression perpetrated by the United States and the United Kingdom against Yemen. This illicit action is not only unwarranted and unjustifiable but also blatantly violates Yemen's sovereignty, territorial integrity, international law, the UN Charter, and Security Council resolutions, thereby posing a significant threat to regional peace and security. The U.S. and U.K.'s invocation of the right of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter to justify their internationally wrongful acts is misleading and lacks a legal foundation in international law. Moreover, Resolution 2722 (2024) explicitly emphasizes the adherence of the member states to international law. The expedited adoption of Resolution 2722 (2024) by the U.S. raises suspicions of an attempt to legitimize its so-called "international maritime coalition" and serve its regional political objectives. Using the Security Council as a basis to justify their illegal actions and shield Israel from accountability for war crimes and crimes of genocide in Gaza is evident. In this legal context, Iran vehemently rejects and condemns any arbitrary and misleading interpretation of Resolution 2722 by the U.S. and its allies, aiming to justify their use of illegal force and military aggression against Yemen.

3) It is clear to all that the root causes of the current situation in the Red Sea are the ongoing genocide and barbaric massacres that are being committed by the Israeli regime and fully sup-

ported by the U.S. against the innocent Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The United States cannot deny or cover up the incontestable reality that recent incidents in the Red Sea are directly related to Israel's continued atrocities against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

I wish to emphasize that the caretaker government in Sanaa maintains independent sovereignty, making decisions and taking actions in its own interest. Any attempt to attribute their actions to the Islamic Republic of Iran is a mere diversion from the reality on the ground in Yemen, as well as a distraction from the atrocities occurring in Gaza. The United States, the United Kingdom, and their contributing allies bear full responsibility for their violations of international law in committing military aggression against Yemen.

4) We urge the international community to unequivocally denounce the military aggression on Yemen perpetrated by the United States and the United Kingdom. This blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter demands strong condemnation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran cautions against the persistent nature of such aggressions, as it poses a threat to regional peace and security, jeopardizes maritime security and freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, and undermines the ongoing UN mediation efforts and political processes dedicated to achieving a lasting solution and peace in Yemen.

Speaker calls for tangible roadmap to foster hope and motivation



TEHRAN - Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Gha-

libaf, on Monday, emphasized the importance of crafting a concrete roadmap that translates into tangible progress for the Iranian people.

"If the roadmap is firmly grounded in the lives of people, encompassing both material and spiritual dimensions, it will instill hope and motivation into society," Ghalibaf stated.

He underscored the urgent need for self-improvement and socializa-

tion from a civilizational and transformative perspective, aligning with the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Ghalibaf also touched upon the upcoming winter elections, urging collective piety as a catalyst for further advancement. "We must strive to achieve this," he declared.

Reiterating the role of Friday prayers and the Friday Imam in fostering social cohesion and harmo-

nizing spiritual enlightenment with social responsibility, Ghalibaf concluded by highlighting the collaborative efforts of both the government and parliament in shaping the Seventh National Development Plan.

Describing the plan as "promising and motivating" for the society, he expressed confidence in its potential to serve as a roadmap for Iran's future growth and prosperity.

Iran, Russia defense ministers discuss cooperation

TEHRAN- The Iranian Defense Minister and his Russian counterpart discussed expanding bilateral defense partnership and regional security challenges.

During the phone call with Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu

highlighted Russia's unwavering respect for Iran's territorial integrity and expressed enthusiasm for deepening cooperation in critical areas, particularly combating terrorism.

Both ministers underscored the significance of regional stability and emphasized their shared commitment to fostering a mul-

tipolar world order and countering U.S. unilateralism.

Shoigu reiterated Russia's commitment to upholding the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, noting that this commitment will be explicitly enshrined in the forthcoming treaty between Iran and Russia.

Iran hits back

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN - Iran has carried out its most substantial missile attacks to date, targeting both terrorist bases in Syria and an Israeli espionage facility located in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

According to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), the initial missile strike focused on locations where commanders and key operatives of recent terrorist incidents in the Iranian cities of Kerman and Rask were believed to be gathering. This strike was said to have been in response to the identification and subsequent destruction of gathering points for the Daesh terrorist group in Syrian territories, achieved through the use of several ballistic missiles.

Subsequently, the IRGC announced that a second missile strike had been executed, aiming at a prominent espionage center operated by the Mossad, Israel's spy agency, in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The IRGC emphasized that this strike was a demonstration of



the Iranian military's substantial intelligence capabilities, asserting its dominance over the activities and bases of the Israeli regime in the region. Furthermore, the IRGC announced that the Mossad center in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region had been completely obliterated by their missile strike.

These missile strikes followed an earlier terrorist attack in December, which targeted a police station in the southeastern Iranian city of Rask, resulting in

the deaths of 11 police officers and injuries to at least six others. Additionally, another attack occurred on January 3, claiming the lives of over 90 civilians as they were en route to the burial site of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani during the fourth anniversary of his martyrdom in the city of Kerman. Although these attacks were carried out by groups such as Daesh, investigations suggested Israeli involvement in the orchestration of these tragic

events.

"I think the strikes that the Iranians have carried out are both to target Mossad offices and terrorist organizations but also to send a message to Israelis and Americans that this escalation will hurt them more than anyone else," Mohammad Marandi, a prominent Iranian political analyst, told Aljazeera. He was referring to Israel's relentless attacks on the Gaza Strip and the regime's recent attempts at trying to widen the horizons of the Gaza war and incite a regional conflict. Some of the missiles fired by Iran traveled around 1,200 kilometers to hit terrorist installations in Syria, which is about the same distance between Iran and the occupied territories.

Also, late on Tuesday two bases of the terrorist group of Jaish ul-Adl (Soldiers of Justice), were destroyed in Pakistan. The bases were targeted by missiles and UAVs in the province of Balochistan, Tasnim reported.

'Girl in pink jacket' comes back to hunt terrorists

From Page 1 ▶ That bag contained the tattered body of an 18-month-old baby girl, Reihaneh Soltaninejad, who was killed alongside her mother and six other family members in the Kerman terrorist attack.

Only one person stayed behind to mourn the death of the family members, Reihaneh's father whose pain and suffering seemed to be immeasurable as he held a picture of his beloved daughter inside a classroom filled with young female students. "I haven't lost my daughter; she will always stay with me," he said as he tried to put on an encouraging smile to console the pupils.

In subsequent interviews with Iranian media, Reihaneh's father again tried to appear strong for the Iranian nation. Despite his exhausted visage betraying his profound devastation, he spoke of martyrdom and endurance. The grieving father, spouse, and brother seemed to deeply believe that the memories of his loved ones would endure and those safeguarding the nation's borders would not allow this tragedy to go unanswered. He was confident that the ones responsible for the loss of Reihaneh and others would face justice.

In the early hours of Tuesday, the mourning father was finally informed that the proponents

of his family's tragic death had received a part of their reckoning. "When I saw the news today, I was very happy. This act was a source of strength for us and the bereaved families affected by the Kerman attack. I am extremely grateful," he expressed, acknowledging the successful IRGC attacks on Mossad and Daesh bases in Iraq and Syria.

A picture moving around on the internet on Tuesday showed the same words written on Reihaneh's body bag. "Girl in pink jacket" was this time inscribed on powerful missiles, instead of shrouds.

Details emerge on Iran missile attacks against Mossad, Daesh

From Page 1 ▶ possesses a remarkable range and a 1,450-kilometer striking radius. Its capabilities include bypassing missile defense systems, demonstrating its superior operational features.

Another weapon believed to have

been employed during the attacks on Mossad bases in Iraq is the Fateh 110 missile, one of Iran's early ballistic missile developments. With a range exceeding 300 kilometers, the Fateh 110 missile is capable of precise targeting of land and sea installations, enemy concentrations, missile sites,

ammunition depots, radars, and other critical targets.

Several videos depicting the aftermath of Iran's strikes on terrorists in Iraq and Syria have surfaced on social media, showcasing the precision of the missile impacts and the

effective destruction of enemy strongholds.

Iran said the attacks were in response to recent terrorist acts inside the country, as well as the assassination of a top IRGC advisor on Syrian soil at the hands of Israel.

Who was Pishro Dizaei?

From Page 1 ▶ The IRGC's missile attack on Falcon Company's headquarters in Erbil was part of a retaliatory response to recent actions carried out by the Israeli regime, including the martyrdom of IRGC and Resistance Front commanders.

This operation highlights the IRGC's commitment to safeguarding regional

security and thwarting Israeli espionage activities.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps fired barrages of ballistic missiles at Syrian bases of terrorists who were involved in recent attacks in Iran, as well as the Israeli espionage center in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

Iran missile attack aims to prevent violence and terrorism: MP

TEHRAN - A member of the Iranian Parliament emphasized on Tuesday that Iran's recent strikes on terrorist and Mossad facilities in Iraq and Syria were conducted with the intention of preventing the escalation of violence and the proliferation of terrorism in the region, asserting that these actions were in line with international law.

Abbas Moghtadaei Khorasgani,

speaking to Iranian media, highlighted that given the cross-border impact of insecurity and violence, especially evident in recent terrorist activities within Iran, the right to self-defense is inherent according to international legal principles. "We possess a legitimate right to quell the roots of violence and terrorism," he stated. In the early hours of Tuesday, the

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched a series of ballistic missiles targeting positions associated with the Israeli spy agency and the Daesh (ISIS or ISIL) terrorist group in Iraq and Syria.

The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry characterized the missile strikes by the IRGC as a form of retribution against terrorists.

The attacks come after a December terrorist assault on a police station in southeastern Iran, which resulted in the deaths of at least 11 officers. A separate attack in the province of Kerman on January 3 claimed the lives of over 90 civilians and injured many others. In response, Iranian authorities vowed to seek retribution for these heinous acts without leniency.

Iran dismisses Australian PM's allegations as 'baseless'

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Nasser Kanaani, deemed the recent accusations by the Australian Prime Minister against the Islamic Republic of Iran as "unfair" and "baseless" in a statement released on Tuesday.

In a press briefing in Melbourne on Thursday, Australian Prime Minister Albanese demanded Iran to stop "meddling" in West Asia conflict, accusing it of playing a "very destructive role" in the region.

The spokesman emphasized that the Australian government is well aware of Iran's significant role in establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan, effectively combating the heinous phenomenon that is the terrorism of Daesh and other extremist groups in the region, and ensuring energy security in one of the most important international waterways.

Kanaani added, "unfortunately, with a distorted view of the realities of the region and one-sided support, Canberra has once again taken a misguided path, aligning with the

destabilizing actions of the United States in the region. This includes the unilateral support for the Zionist regime's atrocities in Gaza and endorsing the self-centered actions of the U.S. and the UK in the military attack on Yemen, violating the clear sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country."

The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscored the awakened and just Australian public, who have supported the oppressed Palestinian people in their calling for an end to the Zionist regime's attacks on Palestinian people and many civilian infrastructures.

Additionally, he urged Australian officials not to let geographical distance hinder their political foresight in understanding the political and security realities of the region.

Australia has joined the United States, the United Kingdom and a host of other countries to carry out air strikes against Yemen in recent days. The strikes, which included warship-launched Tomahawk missiles and

fighter jets, were launched directly to target Yemen's Armed Forces and popular Anasrullah Resistance movement. As part of support for the Palestinians, the Yemeni Resistance have been targeting several Israeli-owned and -bound ships in the strategic Red Sea after multiple warnings.

Yemenis have expressed their explicit support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occupation following the commencement of a destructive war on Gaza by the regime on October 7. This came in response to a retaliatory attack, named Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, carried out by Palestinian resistance movements against the occupying entity.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, held the United States and the United Kingdom entirely accountable for the "criminal aggression" on the country's forces. He asserted that the assault on their country would not go without a response and would face consequences.

Iranians have big dreams, says Jahanbakhsh

TEHRAN - Iran players are eager to thrive under the pressure of expectations following their winning start to the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 Group C, according to striker Alireza Jahanbakhsh.

The Feyenoord forward set-up Mehdi Ghaedi for the third goal in an emphatic 4-1 victory for Team Melli over Palestine at Education City Stadium on Sunday. Goals from Karim Ansarifard, Shojae Khalilzadeh and Sardar Azmoun rounded off the scoring.

"We knew how important it is to start the tournament in the best way possible," said Jahanbakhsh.

"We tried to start the game in a strong way and luckily we scored the first goal quite early and that helped us to get the confidence and push for more goals.

"Before the game, we said we are not going to underestimate any team. We knew Palestine have nothing to lose and they came to do their best and get some result, but the guys did a great job. We were a bit sloppy and could not avoid conceding the first goal against us, but still 4-1 is a good result to start the tournament."

Iran could book their place in the knockout stage for the eighth consecutive time should they collect the three points again in their second game against Hong Kong, China at Khalifa International Stadium on Friday.

"I think Hong Kong will be sort of a similar challenge. They lost the first game, so they know how important it is to get back and to do their best to get a result for the second game. We try to go step by step and game by game. The second game is important to make sure we secure our place in the next round.

"We will have a good recovery; we will respect Hong Kong and we will do our best to get the result in the second match and ensure we make it to the second round."

"It is a good sign to have pressure. When there is pressure on us, that means there are high expectations and there is quality in the team.

"As a team, we are ready for this tournament but the most important thing is to go game by game and luckily we did well in the first step, but we want to have better performances in upcoming games because we know in latter stages the games will be more difficult and we have to respect all opponents and do our best to make our people happy."

"We know Iranian people in Iran and all over the world expect us to do good things, we have big dreams and are going to make sure we work hard to achieve all our dreams."

Jahanbakhsh had been part of the IR Iran team that reached the quarter-finals in Australia 2015 and the semi-finals in UAE 2019.

Iran fall short against Australia at 2024 IWBF AOZ

TEHRAN - Iran's men's wheelchair basketball team were defeated by Australia 69-60 in the 2024 IWBF Asia Oceania Zone (AOZ) Championships on Tuesday.

Team Melli had previously defeated South Korea 67-48 and Thailand 86-51 and Japan 74-65.

Iran will play China on Thursday.

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.

Vafaei starts 2024 World Grand Prix on high

TEHRAN - Hossein Vafaei defeated English snooker player Matthew Selt 4-3 in his opening match in the 2024 World Grand Prix

He will play the winner of Welshman Mark Williams and Thailand's Thepchaiya Un-Nooh in the tournament's last of 16.

The event features a total prize fund of £380,000, with the winner receiving £100,000.

The tournament is taking place from 15 to 21 January at the Morningside Arena in Leicester, England. It features the top 32 players in the one-year ranking list as it stood after the 2023 Scottish Open.

Mixed team earn silver at Asian Olympic Qualification

TEHRAN - Iran's Mohammad Beyranvand and Marzieh Parvarehnia claimed a silver medal in the trap mixed team of the Asia Olympic Qualification Shotgun.

The Iranian duo registered 137 points.

Alisher Aisabayev and Mariya Dmitriyenko from Kazakhstan won the gold medal with a score of 140 points.

China's Yuhao Guo and Xiaojing Wang came third with 136 points.

The 2024 Asian Shotgun Championships is the 11th Asian Shotgun Championships which takes place from 14 to 21 January in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

It's the last Asian qualifying shooting tournament for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

We focus on Hong Kong match, Ghoddos says

TEHRAN - Iran national football team iconic player Saman Ghoddos says that the match against Palestine is finished and they just need to focus on their next game.

Saman spoke exclusively to the Tehran Times reporter in Qatar, discussing the highlights of the game and his excellent performance.

"We respect all the teams and all the teams are here for a reason. We respect them, they will make it difficult for us so we would like to play as good as possible," he said about Palestine and also about Iran's next opponents Hong Kong.

Asked him what did the coach say after the game, Ghoddos said, "Nothing special, to be honest. We will talk probably when we go to the hotel and tomorrow we will have a meeting but right now after the game we didn't speak so much about the game.

Are Iran the main favorites of the tournament?

"There are too many games left that we don't need to think about them now. We just need to focus on our next game which is against Hong Kong and then we'll see where we go.

"I don't see myself as a star, I just see myself as a team player, where there are other stars of the team which I rely on them. We have a very good squad. We have a couple of superb stars in the team. I'll try to play as good as possible for them and they need to win the game for us and I will try to make them to win the game for us," Ghoddos concluded.

Iran to name Azadi Hall after Mashhoun

TEHRAN - Iran's Azadi Basketball Hall will be named after the country's late basketball legend Mahmoud Mashhoun.

Mashhoun passed away in December 2023 at the age of 82.

He served as President of the Iranian Basketball Federation (IRIBF) from 2002 to 2017, during which time the Iran men's national team rose to prominence in Asia.

This includes winning FIBA Asia Cups in 2007, 2009, and 2013, making their first appearance at the FIBA Basketball World Cup in 2010, which they have yet to miss since, and returning to the Olympic Games for the first time in 60 years in 2008.

120,000 National Housing Movement units to be delivered to applicants by late March



The National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector. According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages.

After the National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), the National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes. The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in February 2022.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by former Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

Also, in July 2022, the minister inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

On September 10, 2023, 1,278 units of the National Housing Movement were handed over to the applicants in a ceremony attended by Aref Norouzi, the acting director of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini.

The mentioned units were delivered to the applicants in five provinces throughout the country. The Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development to construct 100,000 units under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

According to Norouzi, the headquarters also completed and handed over 2,000 such units back in April, 2023. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the official said construction of the National Housing Movement units is underway by the Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini in 27 provinces.

TEHRAN- The head of the Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution announced that 120,000 units of the National Housing Movement will be completed and delivered to the applicants by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19).

Gholamreza Salehi also announced that 386,659 units of the National Housing Movement are under construction in the cities and villages across the country.

The National Housing Movement is one of the major policies of the 13th government in the housing sector, and according to this policy, the construction of four million residential units is planned in four years.

It is one of the projects through which the government is trying to help low-income individuals in society become homeowners.

Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Hadi Abbasi-Asl has emphasized the acceleration in implementing the Housing Construction Leap Law to achieve the goals of the 13th government. In late September 2023, Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash announced the launching of a program for allocating free land (in the framework of the National Housing Movement) to young couples in order to help them build houses.

PMO head visits development, investment making projects in Shahid Rajaei port

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Ali-Akbar Safaei visited the implementation process of development and investment making projects in Shahid Rajaei port, in the southern Hormozgan province, during a two-day trip. As reported by the PMO portal, the board members of the organization accompanied Safaei during this visit. Enjoying the most modern container terminals and port equipment, Shahid Rajaei accounts for 85 percent of the total loading and unloading at the Iranian ports.

Given its significant role in the country's import and export of products as well as transit and transshipment via Iran, the development of Shahid

Rajaei Port has been among the most important development projects in the country.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

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

Average daily gasoline consumption reaches 115m liters

TEHRAN - Average daily gasoline consumption in Iran has reached about 115 million liters, the managing director of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) said.

Pointing out that currently the fleet of light vehicles and motorcycles in the country

consumes 115 million liters of gasoline per day, heavy vehicles consume 63 million liters of gasoil per day, and the country's power plants consume 70 million liters of gasoil per day, Jalili Salari said: "We must think about optimizing fuel consumption in the country."

Iran's 9-month import from Germany stands at \$1.6b

TEHRAN- Iran imported commodities valued at \$1.6 billion from Germany during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2023), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

According to Mohammad Rezvanifar, Germany was Iran's fourth top source of import in the

mentioned nine-month period.

The official has said that Iran 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.

TEDPIX loses 8,000 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 8,029 points (0.37 percent) to 2,186,969 on Tuesday, which is the fourth day of Iranian calendar week.

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

Tehran to host intl. exhibit of renewable energy, energy efficiency next week

TEHRAN- The 13th International Exhibition of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of Iran will be held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds during January 22-25, the Public Relations Department of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) reported.

As reported, the exhibit will be held with the aim of introducing and identifying the capacities and capabilities of producers and investors and informing about the plans, actions and rules of policymakers.

The inaugural ceremony of the event will be participated by Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani.

About 100 domestic companies and 13 representatives of foreign companies in the field of renewable energy and electricity efficiency will present their achievements and products in four exhibition halls with about 113 exhibition booths in a space of 9000 square meters.

In this period of the exhibition, representatives from France, Germany, Austria, China and Japan will present their capabilities and investment potentials.

The participating companies are groups of consultants, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and investors.

Specialized meetings and workshops will be held on the sidelines of this exhibition, and in addition to that, organizations and associations active in the field of renewable energy and electricity efficiency will also have a strong and active presence in this exhibition.

A pavilion has also been considered for holding the specialized meetings of electricity efficiency groups.

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

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

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

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



In last July, the head of SATBA said the capacity of renewable power plants is increasing regularly and daily in the country.

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

In mid-November, 2023, the spokesperson of the Iranian Energy Ministry's electricity sector has said that the necessary preparations have been made for the construction of renewable power plants with a total capacity of 6,900 megawatts (MW) across the country.

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

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

In mid-December 2023, the head of SATBA called on the country's private investors to participate in the construction of 4,500 megawatts (MW) of solar power plants over seven months.

"The construction of 4,500 megawatts of solar power plants can be carried out by investors within seven months because the necessary infrastructure has been provided and the government supports the plan," Kamani said in a meeting with the private companies active in the energy sector.

Emphasizing that the construction of 11,000 MW of renewable power plants has been put on the agenda for the next two years to solve the problem of fuel and electricity imbalance in the country, he continued: "A special work is being done and the top authorities of the country

Deputy Head Alireza Mir-Mohammad Sadeqi and SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani in a ceremony at the place of NDF on October 16, 2023.

Financing for the construction of renewable power plants up to a ceiling of five billion dollars (within two years) will be carried out by the National Development Fund, and includes the use of other methods for supplying resources based on the statutes and regulations of the NDF.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Kamani referred to concerns about future electricity supply shortages and the effectiveness of such plans, and said: "Network capacity, electricity generation, and power plant fuel supplies are limited. Therefore, the development of renewable power plants, in addition to promoting sustainable network development, can help overcome challenges in fuel supply and fossil fuel production."

In late November, 2023, SATBA and Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for paying 3 trillion rials (about \$6 million) of facilities to small-scale projects in the field of renewable energy.

The MOU was inked by SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani and INIF Managing Director Mohammad-Sadeq Khayatian in a ceremony at the place of SATBA.

Addressing the signing ceremony, the SATBA head said: "This memorandum aims to grant facilities to small-scale projects in the field of renewable energy, including green electricity supply power plants, and renewable power plants in industrial and specialized solar towns in five years."

Kamani added that maximum use of the legal capacities and facilities available in Iran National Innovation Fund, including the credits of Article 16 of the Law on the Jump in the Knowledge-Based Production and the resources of the Energy Consumption Optimization Account through the fund, along with the introduction of companies active in the field of renewable energy and electricity efficiency in order to issue the guarantee are some of the purposes of this memorandum.

According to this law, industries with electricity consumption of more than one megawatt are required to supply the equivalent of one percent of their annual electricity needs through the construction of renewable power plants, and this process is supposed to reach five percent within five years, the deputy energy minister further stated.

SATBA has also inked an MOU worth \$5 billion for financing renewable power plant projects belonging to non-governmental public institutions with the National Development Fund (NDF) in mid-October, 2023.

The MOU was inked by NDF

He added that the main issue with the electricity network is financing, and with the cooperation of the National Development Fund and foreign and domestic currency facilities, this problem can be solved.

In September, an official with the SATBA said that the development of renewable power plants in Iran has accelerated since the current government administration took office in August 2021.

According to Ali Shab-Navard, the Energy Ministry in the 13th government has defined new investment packages and strategies to attract more capital to fund new renewable projects across the country.

"Different investment models in the 13th government have been a good incentive for investing in this sector," the official said.

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

Back in July, SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani said the capacity of renewable power plants is increasing regularly and daily in the country.

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

Iranian Energy Ministry has put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government administration (August 2025).

In January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the country's

Commodities worth \$1.2b exported from East Azarbaijan in 9 months



TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, commodities valued at \$1.2 billion were exported from East Azarbaijan province, in the northwest of Iran, during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2023).

Mohammad-Jafar Ozmaei, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that these commodities have been exported to 102 countries, and named Turkey, Iraq, Armenia,

Azerbaijan, and Georgia as the top export destinations of the products.

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.

He named China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, and India as the major export destinations of Iranian goods in the said time span, and the UAE, China, Turkey, Germany, and India as the main sources of import.

The IRICA head said that the value of Iran's trade rose seven percent during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

In the eyes of America, trade is more important than Palestinian lives

Defiant Ansarullah hit U.S. cargo ship

From page 1 ► The spokesman of the Sanaa government's armed forces, General Yahya Saree, confirmed on Monday that the Yemeni navy carried out a missile attack on a U.S. ship in the Gulf of Aden in response to the U.S.-British aggression on Yemen.

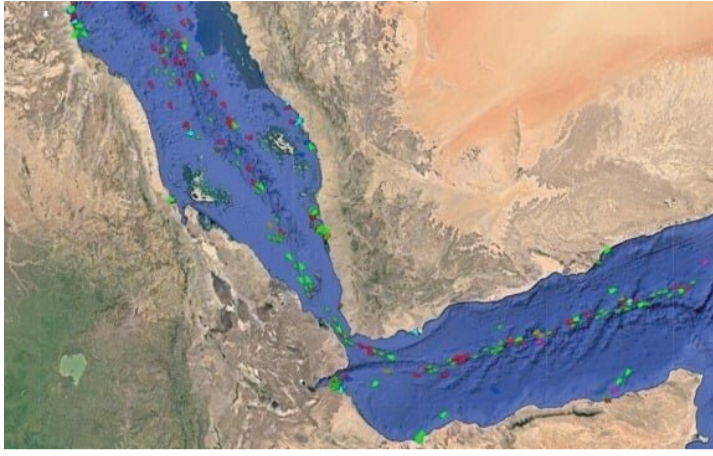
"In support of the oppressed Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, who are still subjected to the worst kinds of massacres by the Zionist entity and in response to the American-British aggression on our country, the Yemeni Armed Forces' Navy, with the help of Allah Almighty, carried out a military operation targeting an American ship in the Gulf of Aden, using a number of suitable naval missiles, achieving a precise and direct hit," General Saree said in a statement.

He also warned that "the Yemeni Armed Forces confirm that a response to American and British attacks is inevitable, and that any new aggression will not go unanswered and unpunished."

Ansarullah says its Armed Forces will continue their military operations and enforce the decision to prevent Israeli navigation in the Arabian and Red Seas until the cessation of Israeli aggression in Gaza and lifting the blockade on the Palestinian people in the coastal enclave.

Questions have been raised over the effectiveness of the U.S.-British naval alliance stationed off Yemen.

On Sunday, Ansarullah fired a cruise missile at the U.S. destroyer



USS Laboon in the Red Sea.

The British defense secretary, Grant Shapps, said the attacks on Yemen that were mounted on Thursday night had been intended as "a single limited action" as opposed to a continuing series of attacks.

Ansarullah's chief negotiator, Mohammed Abdulsalam, warned on Monday that the movement's position has not changed after the American and British bombings on Yemen, and indicated that strikes would continue on Israeli and Israeli-affiliated ships heading to the occupied Palestinian territories.

"Our position on the events in Palestine and the aggression against Gaza has not changed and would not change, neither after the strike nor after the threats," he said.

"The attacks to prevent Israeli ships or those heading to the ports of occupied Palestine are continuing."

He reaffirmed that the movement's demands are still for an end to the indiscriminate Israeli offensive in Gaza and allowing humanitarian aid to the north and south of the enclave.

Yemeni Brigadier bin Amer has also told local media that "the American-British aggression came to us from the Red Sea, so we confronted it from the Arabian Sea."

Essentially, the main question that has been posed by anti-war activists is the double standards being imposed by the United States.

The Israeli regime is allowed to kill more than 24,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the majority of whom are women and children.

But if Israeli trade is disrupted in the Red Sea, the United States, along with the British, go on a bombing mission in Yemen.

Is Israeli trade more worthy than the lives of Palestinian civilians?

This all comes despite the fact that almost all countries voted in favor of UN resolutions calling for an end to the indiscriminate Israeli attacks on Gaza or for the entry of humanitarian aid to the starved and critically ill patients who have been expelled from their homes.

In essence, Ansarullah is pushing the Israeli regime to implement these two measures.

More importantly, Ansarullah is effectively implementing the will of the international community as reflected by the votes for the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The only exception to the will of the international community has been the United States, which deems Palestinians as not worthy enough to live.

Ansarullah has been commended for its military measures against the Israeli war on Gaza with "genocidal intent".

Within 100 days of the war, the movement has waged at least 24 military operations against Israel to pressure the government of Benjamin Netanyahu to end its regime's indiscriminate attacks against Gaza's entire 2.3 million civilian population.

These have included long-range missile attacks against Israeli military targets in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as its maritime operations against Israeli and Israeli-linked vessels sailing in the Red Sea.

Biden, by escalating tension, has bolstered Yemen's Ansarullah: Time

Ansarullah mocks Biden and Sunak's effort to re-establish deterrence against Yemen

Yemen's Ansarullah has already succeeded in "inflicting a cost onto Israel's economy and making a mockery" of U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's effort to re-establish deterrence in the Red Sea against Yemen, the Time magazine said in a commentary on January 15.

The United States and Britain launched missile strikes in Ansarullah-controlled areas of Yemen on January 12. The aerial raids were aimed at halting attacks on Israeli-affiliated ships in the Red Sea by Ansarullah.

Ansarullah was only targeting ships destined to and from Israel in response to the regime's indiscriminate attacks in the Gaza Strip, which have been described as concrete examples of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Ansarullah insisted if Israel halted attacks on civilians and allowed humanitarian aid to its 2.3 million population, it would stop its attacks. However, Biden's administration not only blocked UN efforts for a ceasefire, it even formed a coalition with Britain, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and Bahrain and attacked Yemen.

Since that attack on Yemen, Yemen's Ansarullah has said from now on American and British ships are not immune from attacks.

Time said escalating tensions will strengthen Ansarullah and elevate the potential for the conflict to expand into a full-fledged regional war.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan also said on Tuesday the attacks by Ansarullah "are connected to the war in Gaza," urging an "immediate" ceasefire in the conflict.

Following is an excerpt of the article titled "How Biden Can Stop Ansarullah Missile Attacks—Without Risking War":

There is a simple reason why American and British military strikes against Yemen's Ansarullah will not achieve their objective of re-opening the crucial Red Sea lanes for international shipping: The Ansarullah don't have to succeed in striking additional commercial vessels, or even successfully retaliate against U.S. military ships. All they need to do is to try. That is enough to sustain a de facto shipping blockade of the Red

Sea, through which a staggering 12% of global trade flows. Many Western commercial vessels will simply not risk moving their ships through those waters, not in spite of Biden's military strikes, but now because of them.

The irony is evident as the wealthiest nation in the world bombs one of the poorest. Biden, by escalating tensions with Ansarullah, has inadvertently bolstered the group's ability to disrupt international shipping. Ansarullah had managed to increase the cost of container shipping in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war by launching missile attacks at cargo ships passing through the vital waterways. But the Biden Administration's retaliatory strikes on Yemen's Ansarullah have turned off shipping companies, perhaps irrevocably, until the war ends.

"Under the guise of restoring deterrence, Biden has done the opposite."

Ansarullah has continued to fire missiles at ships almost daily since Thursday. An Ansarullah missile on Sunday was shot down by the U.S. Navy. It never hit its target, but it still served its purpose: Keeping tensions high and scaring away Western ships heading toward Israel. But even the U.S. ability to continue to shoot down missiles is hardly guaranteed: On Monday, an Ansarullah missile struck an American-owned container ship in the Gulf of Aden. As such, the Ansarullah have already succeeded in inflicting a cost onto Israel's economy, all the while making a mockery of Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's effort to re-establish deterrence.

Biden can certainly choose to up the ante and intensify the targeting of Ansarullah weapons depots and missile launchers. But unless there is a substantial degradation of Ansarullah military capabilities—a scenario that seems improbable given their large arsenal of anti-ship missiles and estimated 200,000 fighters—continued strikes

no longer possible, and accused Seoul of seeking regime collapse and unification by absorption.

Kim said the constitution should be amended to educate North Koreans that South Korea is a "primary foe and invariable principal enemy" and define the North's territory as separate from the South.

"We don't want war but we have no intention of

will only beget more of the same: escalating tensions that strengthen the de facto Ansarullah blockade and elevate the potential for the conflict to expand into a full-fledged regional war. This is an outcome the Biden Administration claims to want to prevent.

It didn't need to reach this point. Ansarullah had consistently expressed their demands publicly: an end to attacks on Red Sea ships in exchange for Israel halting strikes on Palestinians in Gaza, which have killed at least 24,000 so far, most of them women and children.

There's no guarantee the Ansarullah would have upheld their commitment post-ceasefire. But when a temporary truce did reign in Gaza from Nov. 24 to 30 of last year, the number of confirmed Ansarullah attacks in the Red Sea significantly diminished, according to the Institute for the Study of War. Ansarullah issued a statement on the last day of the truce, reaffirming their "full readiness to resume its military operations" when fighting resumed in Gaza.

Biden ignored this warning. In his last call with Netanyahu on Dec. 23, 2023, Biden did not even raise the issue of a ceasefire. Earlier, he had told reporters that there was "no possibility" for a ceasefire. And, of course, his administration vetoed multiple UN Security Council resolutions calling for pauses in the fighting.

Yet a ceasefire is far more likely to curb Ansarullah and Iraqi militia attacks; reduce tensions on the Israeli-Lebanese border, where regular exchanges of fire have been taking place; secure the release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas; and, most important of all, stop further civilian casualties in Gaza.

Instead, under the guise of restoring deterrence, Biden has done the opposite.

If, in the worst-case scenario, Biden's escalation against the Ansarullah sparks a regional war, there should be little doubt that this is another war of choice—and one without Congressional authorization. Not because Biden desired it, but because he refused to pursue the most obvious and peaceful path to prevent it.

avoiding it," Kim was quoted as saying by KCNA.

North Korea should also plan for "completely occupying, subjugating and reclaiming" South Korea in the event of a war, and South Koreans should also no longer be referred to as fellow countrymen, Kim added, calling for the severing of all inter-Korean communication and the destruction of a monument to reunification in Pyongyang.

WORLD HEADLINES

In Gaza, 'children are dying first. Adults will follow': UN expert

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied territories, has said she "never thought we would witness mass starvation of these proportions used in the 21st century. Yet here it is in Gaza, after 100 days of bombing, with insufficient food, fuel and water allowed in."

In a post on X, she said children "are dying fast" before warning that "adults will follow" before the world's eyes.

Albanese also sent a plea to Israeli citizens, saying: "We cannot stop this without you. I fully acknowledge your enduring pain, including for the hostages still in Gaza. Please do not overlook the devastation inflicted on Gaza, especially its children, half of the population trapped in this horror. This makes no one safer."

Of the 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip, the UN agency OCHA says 378,000 are at what it classifies as phase 5, or catastrophic levels of hunger.

Phase 5 refers to extreme lack of food, starvation and exhaustion of coping capacities.

It added that 939,000 people face phase 4 "emergency" levels of hunger.

According to OCHA, nutrition-focused NGOs and other UN agencies can only meet 25 percent of the nutritional needs for malnourished children and vulnerable mothers in the next two months.

the Gaza Strip, it simply won't happen," the Likud Party member added.

On Monday, another cabinet minister, Gadi Eisenkot, said Israeli authorities should stop deceiving themselves and reach an agreement to bring back captives held in Gaza.

Israel has pounded the Gaza Strip since a cross-border attack by the Palestinian group Hamas on Oct. 7, killing at least 24,100 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injuring more than 60,800 others, according to local health authorities.

The death toll in Israel from the October 7 Hamas attacks stands at 1,139.

Israel had announced its goal from the beginning of the operation to destroy Hamas and then release the Israeli captives in Gaza, but after more than three months, not only this goal has not been achieved, but Israel's insistence on these two goals has caused differences in that society.

Experts believe that Israel is now at a dilemma and must choose between destroying Hamas or freeing the captives.

While Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, is under pressure from the families of the captives, experts believe that the destruction of Hamas is a far-fetched goal.

NATO has at least three years to prepare for war with Russia – member state

Estonia believes that NATO has three to five years to prepare for a possible direct confrontation with Russia, Prime Minister Kaja Kallas told The Times on Monday.

Last week German media claimed that Berlin was bracing for hostilities with Russia, which it projected could arise as early as summer 2025. Moscow brushed aside the speculation.

Prime Minister Kallas said the Estonian intelligence service VLA had predicted a three to five-year timeframe, noting that it "very much depends on how we manage our unity and keep our posture regarding Ukraine."

"What Russia wants is a pause, and this pause is to gather its resources and strength. Weakness provokes aggressors, so weakness provokes Russia," she told the British newspaper.

Ex-UK PM lobbied for 'expedited' defense exports to China – Politico

Former British Prime Minister Liz Truss urged the British government to speed up the licensing process for a defense contractor hoping to sell military equipment to China, Politico reported on Monday. Publicly, Truss declared China a "threat" to Britain's security.

Truss wrote to Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch in August, asking him to "expedite" an export license for Norfolk-based Richmond Defence Systems to supply landmine disposal equipment to China, Politico reported, citing a copy of the letter.

Saudi FM: Red Sea Attacks connected to war in Gaza

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah said on Tuesday the attacks by the Iran-backed Houthi militias in Yemen in the Red Sea "are connected to the war in Gaza," urging an "immediate" ceasefire in the conflict. Speaking from Davos, he added: "We are incredibly concerned for regional security and freedom of navigation."

"Priority needs to be de-escalation in [the] Red Sea and [the] whole region," he continued.

He remarked that it was heartening "to see the international community moving more in the direction of a ceasefire, but we need to do more."

Moreover, he stressed that the "priority for Saudi Arabia is finding a path to de-escalation through ceasefire in Gaza."

S. Arabia could recognize Israel if Palestinian issue resolved, top diplomat says

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said on Tuesday that his country could recognize Israel if the Palestinian issue was resolved.

The top Saudi diplomat made the comments during a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia could recognize Israel as part of a wider agreement after a resolution of the Palestinian conflict, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister replied, "Certainly."

ICJP brings war crimes complaint against UK officials, citizens fighting for Israel

The International Centre of Justice for Palestinians (ICJP) has lodged a war crimes complaint against 13 unnamed UK individuals, including officials and those believed to be fighting for the Israeli army.

"True to our word, we have taken the first step in holding those alleged to support war crimes in the UK to account," said the ICJP's director, Tayab Ali.

"We have referred a complaint to Scotland Yard. The complaint names nine UK citizens who are allegedly fighting with the IDF [Israeli military] and four UK government officials," he said.

The organization said it turned over more than 70 pages of evidence, which include details on UK arms exports. The center describes itself as an independent organization of lawyers, politicians and academics who support the rights of Palestinians and aim to protect their rights through the law.

Israel admits that Hamas is far from being defeated

Hamas's enduring control in Gaza, despite Israeli assaults, suggests there is currently no viable alternative to its governance over the enclave, cabinet minister Gideon Saraf told Israel's Army Radio.

"Hamas is far from being defeated, and if anyone thinks that there will be an alternative to its rule in

Archaeological excavation commences at Tepe Beris in Ardabil

TEHRAN – On Tuesday, Ardabil province's tourism chief announced the initiation of a fresh archaeological excavation and stratigraphy project at Tepe Beris which is estimated to date from the third millennium BC.

Fariborz Tahmasbi emphasized that previous exploration of this site has revealed various sequences from prehistoric periods in the eastern section of the Tepe Beris.

Architectural structures, metal melting kilns, and thick layers of ash resulting from significant industrial activities constitute the most notable findings from this site, the official said.

Highlighting the significance of the discovered artifacts at Tepe Beris, Tahmasbi continued: "Preliminary studies on the findings obtained from the stratigraphy of this site indicate that Tepe Beris can be

considered a third-millennium BC."

The current dig, which marks the second phase of studies at Beris hill, is estimated to take 45 days.

Situated in Namin country, the site has been registered as one of Iran's national monuments and is considered one of the few large ancient sites in the Ardabil plain.

The excavation at Tepe Beris reflects ongoing efforts to preserve and explore Iran's rich cultural heritage, offering a window into the past that helps piece together the puzzle of human history in the region.

Situated on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble. It is freezing in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions

The remains of fortified trading posts, erected between 1482 and 1786, can still be seen along the coast of Ghana between Keta and Beyin.

These fortified trading posts, spanning a distance of approximately 500 km along the coast of Ghana between Keta in the east and Beyin in the west, were links in the trading routes established by the Portuguese in many areas of the world during their era of great maritime exploration. The castles and forts were built and occupied at different times by traders from Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Germany, and Britain. They served the gold trade of European chartered companies. Latterly they played a significant part in the developing slave trade, and therefore in the history of the Americas, and, subsequently, in the 19th century, in the suppression of that trade.

The property consists of three Castles (Cape Coast, St. George's d'Elmina and Christiansborg at Osu, Accra), 15 Forts (Good Hope at Senya Beraku; Patience at Apam; Amsterdam at Abandzi; St. Jago at Elmina; San Sebastian at Shama; Metal Cross at Dixcove; St. Anthony at Axim; Orange at Sekondi; Groot Fredericksborg at Princesstown; William (Lighthouse) at Cape Coast; William at Anomabu; Victoria at Cape Coast; Ussher at Ussherstown, Accra; James at Jamestown, Accra and Apollonia at Beyin), four Forts partially in ruins (Amsterdam at Abandzi; English Fort at British Komenda; Batenstein at Butre; Prinzensten at Keta), four ruins with visible structures (Nassau at Mouri; Fredensborg at Old Ningo; Vredenburg

at Dutch Komenda; Vernon at Prampram and Dorothea at Akwida) and two sites with traces of former fortifications (Frederiksborg at Amanful, Cape Coast and Augustaborg at Teshie, Accra).

The basic architectural design of the Forts was in the form of a large square or rectangle. The outer components consisted of four bastions/batteries or towers located at the corners, while the inner components consisted of buildings of two or three stories with or without towers, in addition to an enclosure, courtyard, or a spur. Many have been altered, during their use by successive European powers, and some survive only as ruins.

St. George's d'Elmina Castle, built in 1482, is one of the oldest European buildings outside Europe, and the historic town of Elmina is believed to be the location of the first point of contact between Europeans and sub-Saharan Africans.

The castles and forts constituted for more than four centuries a kind of 'shopping street' of West Africa to which traders of Europe's most important maritime nations came to exchange their goods for those of African traders, some of whom came from very far in the interior.

They can be seen as a unique "collective historical monument": a monument not only to the evils of the slave trade but also to nearly four centuries of pre-colonial Afro-European commerce based on equality rather than on that of the colonial basis of inequality. They represent, significantly and emotively, the continuing history of European-African encounters over five centuries and the starting point of the African Diaspora.

Iran in frames



Captivated by the poetic beauty of Badab-e Surt: Tourists marvel at the stunning stepped travertine terrace pools nestled in northern Iran, enhanced by the enchanting backdrop of snow-clad mountains.

Deputy minister calls for state-of-art technology integration in Iran museums

TEHRAN - In a recent address, Ali Darabi, the Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, emphasized the transformation of museums into dynamic platforms aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of cultural heritage. Speaking at a session with cultural heritage and museum experts attending a digitalization and museum experience transfer workshop in China, Darabi highlighted the need for museums to be both time-aware and audience-aware while preserving historical authenticity.

The workshop was held on the sidelines of Iran's loan exhibition titled "The Glory of the Ancient Persia" at the Forbidden City's Palace Museum in Beijing, IRNA reported on Tuesday. In the digital age, museum professionals should embrace modern technology to effectively convey historical identity to the public, the official said.

He stressed the growing cultural cooperation between Iran and China and welcomed the expanding museum exhibitions and collaborations between the two nations. The official expressed his hope that such training sessions would contribute to advancing knowledge, technical expertise, and museum management skills.

The deputy minister underscored



People visit the upper part of an imposing capital at the National Museum of Iran. The massive stone object was once been installed at Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550-330 BC).

the evolving role of museums in today's world, describing them as symbols of diplomacy, cultural interaction, and communication. He emphasized the pivotal role museums play in introducing and preserving a nation's historical treasures.

Darabi concluded by stating that museums serve as "historical

showcases," guiding societies to reflect on their past and providing valuable lessons for the present and future. He urged cultural heritage professionals to employ both traditional roots and modern technologies in their efforts to transfer historical identity to the people.

Referring to the overwhelming popularity of "The Glory of the

Ancient Persia" among Chinese museumgoers, Darabi said: "All exhibition tickets for the next two weeks have been sold out, indicating global interest in the greatness of Iranian civilization, culture, and art."

Running from January 12 to April 11, the exhibition features 211 historical artifacts and five meticulously recreated (moulage) objects spanning from the Iron Age to the Safavid period, encompassing over 3,000 years of Iranian culture and art. The opening ceremony, graced by the presence of Ali Darabi, Iran's deputy minister for cultural heritage, Li Qun, China's vice minister for culture, and accompanying dignitaries, marked a significant cultural milestone.

The event promises to be a bridge connecting the vibrant histories of Iran and China, inviting all to appreciate the shared cultural tapestry that unites these two ancient civilizations. Its meticulously selected collection aims to provide a comprehensive view of Iran's cultural heritage for the public.

According to organizers, the primary objective of the three-month exhibition is to showcase the rich history and civilization of Iran, encouraging Chinese tourists to explore the beauty and heritage of the country.

Investigation underway for metro crossing near UNESCO-registered mosque in Isfahan



TEHRAN - The possibility of the metro line crossing in proximity to the UNESCO-designated Jameh Mosque of Isfahan is currently under examination by the Iran University of Science and Technology.

On Tuesday, the CEO of Isfahan Urban Railway Organization, Seyyed Mohsen Vaezifar, announced that the matter is currently undergoing

consultation and studies with the expertise of the prestigious Tehran university.

One of the proposed options for the route of Isfahan Metro Line 2 involves passing beneath Imam Ali Square, an area situated near the Jameh Mosque, IRNA reported. He added several options were considered for the metro crossing that line, but the one that was deemed more favorable in terms of cultural heritage and minimizing the likelihood of damage to historical artifacts was the option of passing the metro beneath Imam Ali Square.

In a previous excavation operation for the construction of an underpass at Imam Ali Square, numerous artifacts dating from the Parthian to Islamic periods were unearthed, shedding light on the historical layers of Isfahan's past.

The Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, also known as Atiq Mosque, has a history spanning over a thousand years and is believed to have been constructed upon

the foundations of an ancient fire temple.

UNESCO has it that the mosque can be seen as a stunning illustration of the evolution of mosque architecture over twelve centuries. The complex, covering more than 20,000 square meters, is also the first Islamic building that adapted the four-courtyard layout of Sassanid palaces to Islamic religious architecture.

Throughout history, the mosque complex has evolved into its current condition as extensions have been added. Therefore, this building cannot be attributed to any particular historical era.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards.

Mashhad sees a 2.5-fold increase in its medical tourism revenues

TEHRAN - Mashhad has seen a staggering 2.5-fold increase in revenue from medical tourism in the northeastern Iranian city.

In an interview with ISNA, Davood Khosh-shekan, who presides over the Medical Tourism Department at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, said medical tourism revenues in Mashhad gained a 2.5-fold year-on-year increase during the first nine months of the current Iranian year (started on March 21, 2023). Khosh-shekan on Tuesday revealed that 51,374 patients from foreign countries sought medical care in Mashhad during this period, marking a remarkable 17% growth compared to the same period last year (1401).

He noted that the peak seasons for medical tourism in Mashhad typically occur during the summer and winter. Undoubtedly, the Nowruz holidays are expected to have a significant impact on the influx of health tourists.

Speaking about the revenue generated from medical tourism in Mashhad, he highlighted a remarkable achievement. "The city has garnered some 636 billion tomans (\$12.7 million) from the arrival of these health tourists, showcasing a 2.5-fold increase from the previous year." "Out of this sum, 412 billion tomans (\$82.5 million) contributed to the private sector, while the government sector

saw an income of over 220 billion tomans (\$4.5 million)." Elsewhere in his remarks, the official stated that out of the total visitors, more than 19,000 patients received outpatient treatment, while over 28,000 were admitted to hospitals.

Explaining the fee structure for health tourists, Khosh-shekan clarified that government facilities are restricted from receiving payments outside the national currency. However, private facilities have the flexibility to charge fees in foreign currencies.

Highlighting the prevalent medical conditions among health tourists, Khosh-shekan identified orthopedic and trauma cases, women's health and

maternity, ophthalmological issues, cardiovascular diseases, and urological conditions as the most common. Khosh-shekan concluded by noting that this year, health tourists visited Mashhad from 86 different countries. Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Bahrain, Tajikistan, and Pakistan were among the top countries contributing to the highest number of medical tourists to Mashhad. 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.

Global Wellness Tourism market set to reach \$1.59 trillion by 2030

Explore the booming \$801.6B Global Wellness Tourism market (2020), set to reach \$1,592.6B by 2030, growing at 7.2% CAGR. Discover key trends & players.

In a recent study by Allied Market Research titled "Wellness Tourism Market by Service Type, Location, Travelers Type: Global Opportunity Analysis and Industry Forecast, 2021-2030," the market size of wellness tourism was estimated at \$801.6 billion in 2020. This sector is expected to grow to \$1,592.6 billion by 2030, with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.2% from 2021 to 2030. The report elaborates on key investment areas, successful strategies, market drivers and opportunities, competitive landscape, and evolving trends in the wellness tourism industry.

India's Ministry of Tourism has been actively promoting the country as a premier destination for medical and wellness tourism. To this end, a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been established, chaired by the Minister of Tourism, to advocate for medical, wellness, and

Ayurveda tourism.

Wellness tourism is a travel trend focused on maintaining or enhancing one's physical and mental health. It includes various activities aimed at promoting physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being, and it encompasses services

such as transportation, accommodation, food and beverage, retail, and more. The shift towards wellness tourism reflects a growing preference for healthy living, stress reduction, authentic experiences, and self-improvement.

(Source: Travel and Tour World)

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Clean Air, Responsible Official, Responsible Citizen

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Running from January 16 to 22, the National Clean Air Week is being observed this year under the theme of 'Clean Air, Responsible Official, Responsible Citizen'.

Every year, January 19, is the National Clean Air Day in Iran in order to remind and highlight the main factors in maintaining air quality, as well as promoting a sense of responsibility and citizen participation in protecting the urban environment and fulfilling social responsibility for the environment.

This year's theme highlights the significance of raising people's awareness about the effects of air pollution, providing necessary information and health recommendations when confronting unhealthy conditions caused by air pollution, and attracting people's contribution.

The days of the week are named as follows.

Tuesday, January 16, is named 'Clean air, public rights'.

Wednesday, January 17, is 'Clean air, expanding and modernizing public transport fleet'.

Thursday, January 18, is 'Clean air, development of renewable energy'.

Friday, January 19, is 'Clean air, education and public participation'.

Saturday, January 20, is 'Clean air, worn-out cars'.

Sunday, January 21, is 'Clean air, fuel quality'.

Monday, January 22, is 'Clean air, health'.

Clean Air Law

Air pollution is one of the main



concerns of the government; Therefore, all organizations are obliged to act based on the Clean Air Law. The Clean Air Law, enacted in July 2017, was supposed to be a solution to ease air pollution across the country. Still, now, the air is severely polluted, as the responsible bodies neglect their legal duties to implement the law.

The law has defined responsibilities for the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Environment, the police, the municipality, the National TV, and some other organizations.

In this regard, according to the three-year plan of the Ministry of Oil, which was presented to the Department of Environment, the amount of sulfur in diesel fuel is supposed to be reduced to a great extent, in order to

meet the national standard.

The importance of having clean air is such that a week in the country is named after the Clean Air Week.

A total of 1.8 quadrillion rials (nearly \$5 billion) is required to implement the Clean Air Law, Department of Environment chief Ali Salajeh has said.

The first vice president is the chairman of the national working group on air pollution, he noted.

The Department of Environment, as a governing and supervisory body, has determined the duties of the bodies in the implementation of the Clean Air Law, he added.

There are two main types of air pollution sources, mobile sources including cars, buses, planes, trucks, and trains, and stationary sources such as oil refineries, industrial facilities, and factories.

Some 40 percent of the emission is produced by stationary sources,

while 60 percent of the pollution is generated from mobile sources.

However, due to severe air pollution in recent days in some metropolises of the country, including Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, Arak, and Tabriz, many experts have emphasized the share of stationary sources in air pollution in these areas because there are signs of non-standard fuel consumption such as Sulfur gasoline or mazut (a heavy, low-quality fuel oil, used in power plants and similar applications).

Even mazut consumption has been approved in some power plants across the country.

According to Article 18 of the Clean Air Law, the Ministry of Oil is obliged to produce fuel, including gasoline, gas oil, fuel oil, and kerosene in accordance with approved national standards (Euro 4).

Also, the share of motorcycles in the production of gaseous pollutants is about 21 percent and in the production of suspended particles is 10 percent.

In addition, each ten carbureted motorcycles emit as much particulate matter as an old diesel bus per kilometer, which is a major cause of air pollution.

While moving sources of pollutants such as diesel cars, motorcycles, private cars, etc. are one of the most important causes of particulate matter less than 2.5 microns - the most important cause of air pollution in the second half of the year - which unfortunately vehicles that do not have technical inspection are only fined in Tehran and several other metropolises.

Safe housing being provided for vulnerable families in Kхой

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, and the State Welfare Organization in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have supported the reconstruction of damaged houses for vulnerable families in the quake-hit city of Kхой.

On January 29, 2023, an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale hit Kхой in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province, leading to the death of at least 3 people and the wounding of hundreds of others.

Some 261,000 were affected by the earthquake, and about 130,000 were left homeless in sub-zero temperatures.

Unfortunately, people living with disabilities are disproportionately affected during natural emergencies due to their special needs and therefore difficult access to relief services, including shelter, a press release by the UNICEF website on July 10 announced. By providing financial assistance to 473 vulnerable families with children and disabled members, UNICEF helps them repair their destroyed houses.

The initiative was funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). A year after the quake, the reconstruction of the buildings is still going on.

Since some families are living in temporary shelters, UNICEF and its partners are providing extra financial aid to enable them to procure heating equipment and warm clothing.

Sanitation

Meanwhile, UNICEF's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) team, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education provided 82 prefabricated latrines and shower rooms to the affected households.

"Funded by ECHO, these prefabricated sanitation facilities will ensure high-quality hygiene and sanitation facilities for the families, especially children," says Sina Saemian, UNICEF WASH Officer. He went on to add that "Some units will be transferred to UNICEF warehouse to ensure preparedness for any future emergencies."

UNICEF prior services in quake-hit Kхой

UNICEF's support in Kхой County includes a variety of services, from hygiene kits and sanitation facilities to prefabricated health centers and classrooms. In January 2023, the Iranian Red Crescent Society in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized eight educational workshops for students and their family members residing in the city of Kхой which was struck by a strong earthquake in the same month. In November 2023, the Iranian Red Crescent Society in cooperation with UNICEF organized eight educational workshops for students and their family members residing in the city of Kхой.

A total of 1,700 male and female students and 120 of their family members attended these workshops. These educational workshops were held with the aim of empowering children and their families in team building, team support, anger management, emotion regulation, empathy, happiness, self-care, and environmental care.

During these training programs, facilitators,



and members of the IRCS teams, improved their technical skills in emergency preparedness, including providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to children, adolescents, and families during crises, including natural hazards.

On September 11, 2023, UNICEF installed some fabricated classrooms and distributed hygiene and baby kits among people in the earthquake-affected city of Kхой in collaboration with the ministries of education and health.

Four schools in Kхой, affected by the earthquake, were equipped with new educational spaces. Three of these schools were located in inaccessible villages and the fourth one was in Kхой.

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, facilitated the process of purchasing, delivering, installing, and equipping these prefabricated classrooms to ensure the access of earthquake-affected children to quality education.

These classes are made of thermal isolating materials and are equipped with standard educational equipment and air conditioners for all seasons. Moreover, over 750 children studying in these schools would receive educational packages including stationery items for the new academic year. In the next step, UNICEF plans to rehabilitate 12 schools in earthquake-affected, hard-to-reach villages in Kхой County to enhance the learning environment and opportunities for children, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on September 5. Meanwhile, families received health packages in 15 earthquake-affected villages of Kхой. UNICEF prepared and presented these packages in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to ensure children and families access the vital support to be healthy.

Families, especially children had the necessary items to prevent the spread of diseases and improve their overall well-being by receiving 662 baby kits, 2,093 family kits, and 100 incontinence kits. These items were funded by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

In order to ensure the effectiveness of this program, a post-distribution monitoring process had been implemented. The relevance and appropriateness of the hygiene items were evaluated considering the opinions of the beneficiaries.

UNICEF is committed to ensuring that children and families have access to safe water and hygiene products in times of adversity.

Therefore, close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Medical Education, and other stakeholders will continue to provide a coordinated response to the needs of earthquake-affected households.

Tehran, Islamabad stress need for boosting sci-tech ties

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

A delegation of Pakistani academic members headed by Mukhtar Ahmed, chairman of Pakistan's higher education commission, visited Iran's House of Innovation and Technology (IHIT) on Monday, January 15.

"Iran is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in technological fields. Information 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, re-

search, 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."

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers its duty to support science and technology diplomacy between Islamic countries, through conducting joint scientific projects in areas needed by Islamic countries, he highlighted.

The goal can be achieved through creating innovation zones and a union of science and technology parks of Islamic countries, activating the union of universities of Islamic countries, and also exchanging of professors and students, the official noted.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is the second largest organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents.

The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.

The Organization was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 25 September 1969.

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59 Iranian universities among world's top for academic quality

TEHRAN – A total of 59 Iranian universities are listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP). The URAP ranking system's focus is on academic quality. URAP has gathered data about 3,000 Higher Education Institutes (HEI) in an effort to rank these organizations by their academic performance based on several indicators, including article, citation, total document, article impact total, citation impact total, and international collaboration. Data for 3,000 HEIs have been processed and the top 2,500 of them are scored. Thus, URAP covers approximately 12% of all HEIs in the world, which makes it one of the most comprehensive university ranking systems in the world. Three Iranian institutions are ranked below 500, namely, the University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Tarbiat Modares University.

۵۹ دانشگاه ایران در فهرست رتبه بندی URAP

در رتبه بندی سال ۲۰۲۱-۲۰۲۲ انستیتو انفورماتیک دانشگاه فنی خاورمیانه (URAP) که بر کیفیت تحصیلی متمرکز است، ۵۹ دانشگاه ایران قرار دارند.

این نظام داده ها و اطلاعات مورد نیاز رتبه بندی را در باره ۳۰۰۲ موسسه آموزش عالی جمع کرده است که تقریباً شامل ۱۲ درصد موسسات آموزش عالی جهان است. از تقریباً ۳۰۰۰ دانشگاهی که در این رتبه بندی ارزیابی شده است، URAP به معیارهای مختلفی توجه دارد که در مجموع بر عملکرد آکادمیک تأکید می کند.

سه دانشگاه تهران، علوم پزشکی تهران و تربیت مدرس با قرار گرفتن در بین ۵۰۰ دانشگاه نخست افتخار بزرگی را برای آموزش عالی کشور به ارمغان آورده اند.



Red deer in the household

Three years ago, a family living in a mountainous village in northern Mazandaran province bought a baby red deer from a shepherd and decided to take care of the animal.

Now, the red deer is being kept in the household with great tenderness and affection and the village has been turned into a tourism spot.



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Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

JANUARY 17, 2024

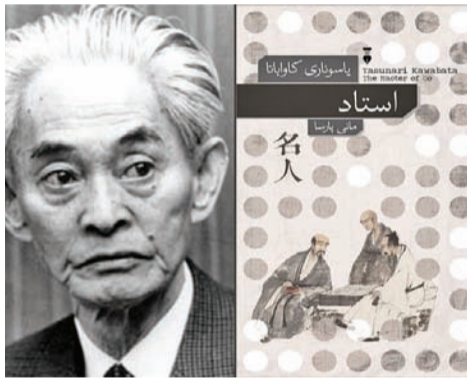
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A person who analyzes himself receives a benefit, and he who neglects it, is a loser. He who learns a lesson from others, finds insight, and with such insight comes understanding and avoiding ignorance, and he who understands, will be well aware.

Imam Ali (AS)

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

Yasunari Kawabata's "The Master of Go" published in Persian



TEHRAN-The novel "The Master of Go" written by the Nobel Prize winning Japanese author Yasunari Kawabata has been released in the Iranian book market.

Translated into Persian by Mani Parsa, the book has been published by Nashre Now publishing house, Mehr reported.

First published in serial form in 1951, Kawabata considered it his finest work. The story itself is a semi-fictionalized account of a lengthy 1938 Go game between the respected master Honinbo Shūsai and the up-and-coming player Minoru Kitani (known as Otaké in the book). The match took almost six months to complete, and was the last of Shūsai's career.

Go is a game of strategy in which two players attempt to surround each other's black or white stones. Simple in its fundamentals, infinitely complex in its execution, Go is an essential expression of the Japanese spirit. And in his fictional chronicle of a match played between a revered and heretofore invincible Master and a younger and more modern challenger, Kawabata captured the moment in which the immutable traditions of imperial Japan met the onslaught of the twentieth century.

The competition between the master of Go and his opponent, Otaké, is waged over several months and layered in ceremony. But beneath the game's decorum lie tensions that consume not only the players themselves but their families and retainers—tensions that turn this particular contest into a duel that

can only end in death. Luminous in its detail, both suspenseful and serene, "The Master of Go" is written with the poetic economy and psychological acumen.

In the novel, the game, as actually played in real life, lasts 237 moves, and is documented in the book by means of diagrams. Otaké (as his historical counterpart Kitani) wins by 5 points with the Black stones. Kawabata had reported on the match for the Mainichi newspaper chain, and some sections of the book are reworked versions of his original newspaper columns.

The novel follows the progress of the game as it moves from location to location, placing particular emphasis on the time between each player's moves (often a matter of days). As Meijin, Shūsai is entitled to certain deference which he does not always receive. Thus, the players regularly come into conflict with one another about the ritual and ceremonial aspect of the game. Finally, Shūsai dies from an illness, mirroring the death of the historical Shūsai just over a year after the end of his match.

Kawabata (1899–1972) was a Japanese novelist and short story writer whose spare, lyrical, subtly shaded prose works won him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1968, the first Japanese author to receive the award. In awarding the prize "for his narrative mastery, which with great sensibility expresses the essence of the Japanese mind," the Nobel Committee cited three of his novels, "Snow Country," "Thousand Cranes," and "The Old Capital". His works have enjoyed broad international appeal and are still widely read.

Translated into more than a dozen other languages, the book remains one of the most popular and critically successful of Kawabata's novels. The novel has also served to increase the popularity of Go in the West, providing a description of the game which does not require already knowing the rules. It has been used by Western Go players as a starting point to explore the place of Go in Japanese society, and the book is commonly recommended to younger players.

Cartoon of Day



War on Gaza

Cartoonist: Hamzeh Hajjaj from Jordan

Strengthening cultural bonds with Iran: India adds Farsi as a classical language

FromPage1▶ Both ministers recognized the power of people-to-people connections and the remarkable cultural, literary, and linguistic bonds that unite both nations.

"Our strong people-to-people connections have always been one of our greatest assets," Jaishankar said and added: "Iran and India share deep cultural, literary, and linguistic ties, which provide a strong foundation for increasing exchanges of tourists, students, artists, athletes, and scholars."

"We discussed ways to strengthen the connections between our cultural and educational institutions," stressed Jaishankar, underscoring the potential for expanded cooperation across various domains.

Persian, also known as Farsi, is an ancient and rich language with a long and fascinating history. It belongs to the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European language family and is primarily spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and parts of Uzbekistan. With over 110 million speakers worldwide, Persian holds the prestigious



status of being one of the world's major languages.

The Persian language has a rich literary tradition that stretches back over a millennium. It can be traced back to the ancient Persian Empire and has been influenced by Arabic, Turkish, and other languages over the years. Persian literature is renowned for its poetry, which includes the

works of famous poets like Rumi, Hafez, and Saadi. Persian poetry is characterized by its lyrical beauty, intricate metaphors, and spiritual themes, making it a significant part of Persian cultural identity.

Persian remains an important language in the modern world, contributing to various fields such as

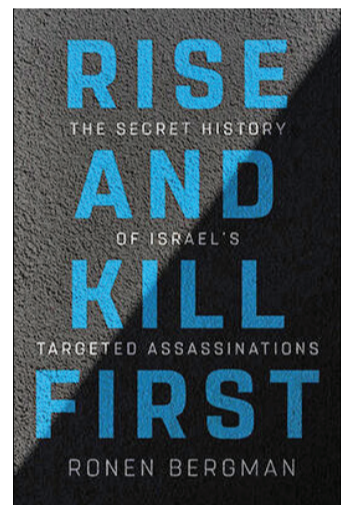
literature, art, science, and diplomacy. It serves as the official language of Iran and is widely used in government, media, education, and literature. Additionally, Persian has had a significant influence on neighboring languages, such as Urdu and Tajik, shaping their vocabulary and grammar.

Tehran meeting to review Israeli writer's "Rise and Kill First"

TEHRAN-The Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization in Tehran is set to conduct a thorough review of Israeli journalist and author Ronen Bergman's book "Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations" on Wednesday.

During this session, Huda Maqled, hailing from southern Lebanon, and Iranian journalist Elham Abedini will grace the occasion to pay tribute to the fallen martyr, "Commander Abu Issa," a highly revered Lebanese resistance leader.

Both individuals will deliver speeches, delving into the subject of Israel and its flagrant acts of assassination. Furthermore, Abedini will share her personal recollection and experiences from her recent trip to the southern region of



Lebanon.

"Rise and Kill First" has garnered tremendous attention and acclaim within literary circles. Published in 2018, this researched work provides an in-depth exploration of Israel's covert assassination program,

shedding light on the country's history of targeted killings.

With attention to detail, Bergman delves into the clandestine operations carried out by the Israeli intelligence agency, Mossad, and other branches of the Israeli security forces. Through interviews with former operatives, political leaders, and intelligence insiders, he presents a comprehensive account of the targeted assassination campaigns executed by Israel, both within its borders and on foreign soil.

According to the author, Israel has been responsible for a higher number of assassinations than any other Western nation post-World War II. This book delves into the targeted killings of various individuals, including

British government officials, leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), as well as Iranian nuclear scientists. To craft this extensive work, Bergman conducted approximately a thousand interviews with political figures and secret agents, and extensively studied thousands of documents.

The book has received widespread praise for its rigorous investigative journalism, masterful storytelling, and fearless exploration of an inherently controversial subject. It has not only ignited important debates about state-sanctioned killings but has also prompted critical discussions on the principles of international law, human rights, and the long-lasting consequences of such actions.

Restored version of Sohrab Shahid-Saless' "Coming of Age" selected for Berlinale classics section

TEHRAN-The digitally restored version of "Coming of Age" directed by Iranian filmmaker Sohrab Shahid-Saless will be shown at the Classics section of the 74th Berlin International Film Festival in February.

Made in Germany in 1976, the film, also known as "Time of Maturity" or by its German title "Reifezeit," is a precisely observed, black-and-white drama of everyday life in Berlin's working-class district of Wedding, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The 111-minute film depicts the everyday life of a boy coming of age, living with his mother and saving money, dreaming of a bicycle.

The restoration was done as part of a transnational project by the Shahid-Saless Archive, with the goal of making the entire oeuvre of the Iranian director, who worked in Germany from 1974 to 1992, available.

Shahid-Saless (1944–1998) was a director and screenwriter and one of the most celebrated figures in Iranian cinema in the 20th century. After 1976 he worked in the cinema of Germany and was an important component of the film diaspora working in the German industry.

He made his first feature, the milestone film "A Simple Event" (1973), he describes the everyday life of a ten-year-old boy living in a small town with an ill mother and a father struggling to make a living smuggling fish. In contrast, "Still Life" (1974) explores the monotony in the life of an old railway switchman – a film that won many prizes, including one at the 1974 Berlinale.

In addition to Shahid-Saless' film, nine others films have been restored and will be screened in the Classics section of this year's Berlinale. The selection ranges from

early sound film experiment to a sober and distanced black-and-white drama, to colorful, artful exploitation. All the restorations will be world premieres.

Among the restored versions, there are two gems by Ernst Lubitsch. One is his silent film "Kohlhiesel's Daughters" and the other is his first talkie "The Love Parade". Ishirō Honda's "Gojira" (Godzilla), "After Hours" by Martin Scorsese, John Schlesinger's "The Day of the Locust," and Andrei Tarkovsky's "The Sacrifice".

The Berlinale is a unique place of artistic exploration and entertainment. It is one of the largest public film festivals in the world, attracting tens of thousands of visitors from around the globe each year. For the film industry and the media, the eleven days from February 15 to 25 are also one of the most important events in the annual calendar and an indispensable trading forum.

Bahram Dabiri's artworks to be displayed at Sohrab Gallery

TEHRAN-The works of the veteran Iranian painter Bahram Dabiri will go on display at Shorab Art Gallery in Tehran on January 19.

A collection of Dabiri's paintings, designs and prints will be showcased at the exhibit titled "Praisers of Life, Love and Beauty," ILNA reported on Tuesday.

In his works, Dabiri, 73,

emphasizes on the simplification of forms and the use of expressive lines, crating figures, especially women, animals, and symbols taken from mythological stories.

Dabiri was attracted to Iranian mythology when he was a child. Listening to the stories of Shahnameh that his mother read to him on various occasions is one of his sweet memories of that time. He is a graduate of painting

from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Tehran. During nearly 55 years of artistic activity, Dabiri has held more than 70 solo and group exhibitions in Iran, Ukraine, Spain, Germany, and the U.S.

Dabiri's work has been displayed, among others, at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran, the French Embassy in Tehran, the 2000 Art Expo New York, 2000 Contemporary

Iranian Modern Art exhibition, New York, Reagan Center, Washington, Fabien Frays Gallery, Marbella, Spain, Hotel Mirage, UAE and the Bernak Gallery in Bremen, Germany.

"Praisers of Life, Love and Beauty" exhibition will run through February 4 at Sohrab Gallery located at No. 142, Somayeh St., between Mofatteh St. and Ramsar St.