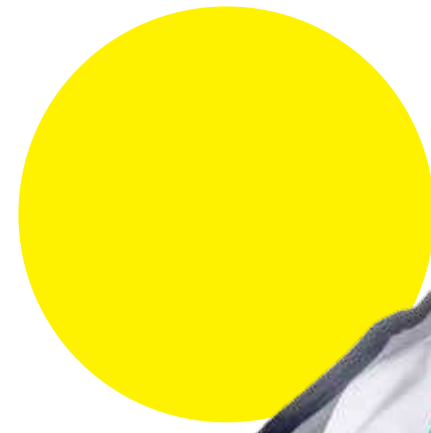




# Loneliness of Herat

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# Iran Daily



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Italy-Milan



France-Marseille



Jordan-Amman



US-New York



Japan-Tokyo



Australia-Sydney



## BRICS to completely ditch US dollar in three years



The BRICS bank, commonly called the New Development Bank (NDB), officially announced a three-year plan to completely end reliance on the US dollar for the whole world.

The three-year de-dollarization initiative will lead to BRICS members settling trade in their local currencies and not the US dollar, according to a report by watcher.guru.

The NDB is seeking alternative ways to dethrone the US dollar from dominating the global financial sector. NDB will later provide details of BRICS leaders' promise of diminishing transactions made in the US dollar.

The NDB has already outlined its first plan where it lends loans to other developing countries in local currencies. The bank suggested to stop lending loans in the US dollar and limit the number of settlements in the USD. The move adds pressure on the dollar, reducing the demands for it by a small margin.

However, the initiative could land further blows on the prospects of the US dollar. The NDB will later provide guidelines for its plans for boosting the usage of local currencies and strengthening the national economy of BRICS members. Businesses in developing countries could thrive if local currencies are given more prominence as they would no longer lose out on forex charges.

Therefore, the global financial sector could change rapidly by 2026, leading the way to a new world order. The financial power could tilt from the West to the East, and developing countries could take the driver's seat.

BRICS already controls 30% of the global economy, and the numbers could shoot up if they completely end reliance on the US dollar.

The report added that if BRICS play their cards well, the US dollar will lose its power in the international markets by 2026. Local currencies will dominate the financial sector, and one among them could potentially become the next global reserve currency.



# OPEC+ alliance helps stability of global oil market: *Owji*

### Economy Desk

With the OPEC member states and the OPEC+ alliance united, there is now a favorable consensus among producers, said the Iranian oil minister, adding that their policies regarding the supply volume are determined in such a way that contributes to the stability of the global oil market.

In response to a question on the sidelines of the 6th Russian Energy Week International Forum about the impact of recent regional developments on oil prices, Javad Owji said: "It is expected that with the well-formed harmony between OPEC and other OPEC+ members, the global oil market will be immune to politics," Shana reported.

He also added that during the last two years, investment plans worth \$12 billion were implemented in Iran to increase the country's oil and gas production and refining capacity. "Considering the increase in energy demands in the post-coronavirus era, we have made a promising investment by increasing our oil and gas production with the aim of ensuring the energy security of the Iranian people as well as

partly meeting the world's energy needs," the minister said.

Saying that Iran's oil production capacity has increased by 40% in the past two years, Owji added that the country will put 67 energy projects worth \$15 billion into operation by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024). Oil and gas officials of Iran and Russia have held talks at the highest levels, which resulted in the signing of a number of contracts, he noted. "Iran and Russia can make the sanctions ineffective by using their joint capacities and be very influential in the world energy market," Owji stated.

Upon his arrival in the Russian capital to attend the forum, the Iranian minister said negotiations are aimed at turning the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) the two sides have already signed to cooperate in upstream and downstream sectors into contracts.

"I participate in the forum at the invitation of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who is the head of the Russian party at the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission," said Owji, adding all oil and gas industrialists and



leading companies of the world have attended the event.

"Since I am heading the Iranian side of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission, a meeting will be also held to follow up the previous talks between other ministries and economic organizations of the two countries,"

continued the minister, saying the next meeting of the commission is slated for November.

Under its incumbent government, Iran has signed favorable energy contracts with neighboring states, stated Owji, reiterating that bilateral talks will be held in Moscow to expand cooperation.

The Iranian minister will deliver a speech in a specialized meeting, dubbed "Global Oil and Gas Market: Surveying a Turbulent Period," on Thursday.

According to the forum organizers, more than 4,000 guests, including prime ministers, ministers, ambassadors of the Commonwealth of Independent States, lawmakers,

and heads of international and regional organizations from over 60 countries are participating in the international event.

Having the motto of "New Reality of Global Energy: Building the Future", the Russian Energy Week International Forum kicks off in Moscow on Wednesday.

## China saves billions by record import of sanctioned oil

China has reaped savings of nearly \$10 billion this year through record purchases of oil from countries under Western sanctions, according to Reuters' calculations based on data from traders and ship trackers.

An unintended consequence of sanctions imposed by the United States and others on Russia, Iran, and Venezuela has been the reduction in oil import costs for refiners in top economic rival China, which often criticizes such "unilateral" penalties. Reuters' analysis of China's savings on oil pur-

chases from the three sanctioned countries compares the released figures to what Chinese importers would have paid by purchasing similar grades from non-sanctioned producers.

The lower-priced imports have been a boon as it bolsters throughput and margins for the world's second-largest oil consumer and refiner, especially its small independent operators known as "teapots", and facilitates lucrative exports by state-owned refiners of diesel and gasoline. China shipped in a record



2.765 million barrels per day of crude by sea from Iran, Russia, and Venezuela in the first nine months of 2023, according to an

average of data provided by tanker trackers Vortexa and Kpler. The three countries accounted for a quarter of

China's imports between January and September, up from about 21% in 2022 and double the 12% share in 2020.

## Iran producing microalgae in Qeshm



### Economy Desk

Cultivation of various species of microalgae and production of their related products is being implemented in Qeshm Island with cooperation of an Iranian new technology-based firm (NTBF), said Moeen Rastin, the CEO of the firm. The firm is a member of the Persian Gulf Biotechnology Park which developed some extensive surveys on producing some microalgae included Spirulina, Chlorella vulgaris, Nanochloropsis and Dunaliella salina during 2016-18 and finally in 2020 the pilot phase of the Qeshm site produced dry spirulina biomass, accord-

ing to ISNA.

The NTBF has the most completed bank of available microalgae species in the Persian Gulf as well as the country. It also started the industrial phase by production of 2.5 tons per month in Qeshm Site as the largest producer of the country in 2021 as well as obtaining all the valid licenses from Iran Food and Drug Administration (IFDA). Also, having one of the largest photo-bioreactor lines in the country and having a production line with international standards, has enabled the firm to produce all types of microalgae from the initial stages of pre-cultivation to reaching microalgae pow-

der with maximum automation of production.

Currently the company is focused on the production of Haematococcus microalgae and the most valuable substance called Astaxanthin, which is considered as one of the most important scientific achievements in the field of biotechnology, Rastin noted.

Qeshm Island is one of the most effective areas of the country for cultivation of all kinds of microalgae species, and the company is determined to turn Qeshm Island into a pole of microalgae production at the level of the country and the region with the highest amount of investment and creating infrastructure.



# Autumn delights in Marin village



yjc.ir

## Iranica Desk



IRNA



IRNA

The first days of autumn in Marin village, located in Gachsaran, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, have brought about a vibrant market where pomegranates and wild pistachios, known as *baneh*, are processed. The village becomes a magnet for tourists who are captivated by the charm of rural life. With its terraced houses, Marin is often referred to as the “Massuleh of southwestern Iran”. Massuleh is a historical and touristic town, a perfect work of architecture in northern Iran. It is known for its architectural style, in which the yard of the building above is the roof of the building below.

The enchanting gardens, abundant springs, and pristine dreamy nature have earned Marin village the reputation of a lost paradise.

Every year, as autumn begins, the village buzzes with activity as locals diligently collect fruits from *baneh* trees (a type of wild pistachio tree), harvest pomegranates, and create delicious pomegranate

paste known as *robb-e-anar* in Persian.

A wide range of fresh and dried fruits, including wild pistachios, acorns, hawthorn, pomegranates, mulberries, and figs, are directly available to consumers. It can be regarded as a vibrant hub of tourist attractions due to its diverse offerings.

One of the delicious products of this village is wild pistachios, which the men of this village bravely climb the mountain to harvest.

Among the assortment of orchard fruits cultivated in the village, pomegranates have gained widespread recognition throughout Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. The pomegranate orchards in Marin village bear witness to the dedicated efforts of the locals, who diligently harvest the fruit from early August until November.

Some villagers go the extra mile by transforming their produce into dried pomegranates or pomegranate paste, allowing them to generate additional income. The sight of these bustling activities serves as an unforgettable attraction for tourists, leaving a last-

ing impression.

In addition to dried pomegranates, this village also produces exquisite dried figs and raisins that have gained a significant following due to their exceptional quality.

Nestled in the heart of Marin village, you'll find a captivating blend of stair-case houses, refreshing natural springs, lush fruit gardens, delightful weather, and breathtaking landscapes.

But wait, there's more to this enchanting land than just its natural wonders! The locals have diligently preserved their ancestral traditions, transforming Marin into an alluring tourist destination.

In Marin village, residential houses gracefully stand, with their unique architectural style. These charming abodes are typically constructed with one or two floors. What sets them apart is the presence of a hidden gem nestled behind their roofs – the enchanting courtyards of neighboring houses. This distinctive feature lends the village a captivating ambiance reminiscent of the renowned village of

Massuleh.

The rural houses in this village boast unique architectural elements that instantly captivate any viewer. With their flat roofs, charming courtyards, small windows, and narrow walls crafted from a medley of stone, brick, mud, clay, and wooden beams, they exude an irresistible allure. It's truly the most enchanting feature of the village, leaving a lasting impression on all who lay eyes upon it.

The travelers who venture to Marin village are treated to a symphony of bird-song, a picturesque blue sky adorned with fluffy white clouds, and a tranquil atmosphere untainted by the smoke and fumes of cars. These elements combine to create an unforgettable experience for visitors.

Ali Akbar Arjmandzadeh, a rural manager, enthusiastically shared that Marin village boasts a plethora of captivating attractions throughout the year. However, he emphasized that autumn, with its bountiful harvests and diverse array of products, offers an unparalleled experience

for travelers. A journey to this village during this season promises to create cherished and everlasting memories.

Owing to the unique architectural design of stair-like houses and the potential risk of water seepage in the lower houses of the residential area, gardens have not been established within the vicinity. Instead, all gardens are thoughtfully situated at the lower part of the village, ensuring a harmonious and safe living environment for residents.

“Almost all villagers own livestock, which is why the sound of sheep bells, the shepherd's melody, and the supply of fresh livestock products are among the other attractions of this village,” he said.

Basket weaving is the main handicraft of this village, which is skillfully produced from the branches of almond trees. Usually, elderly women weave these baskets for storing bread and fruits.

This village, with two eco-lodges, is among the few that can accommodate tourists on most days of the year.

## Hafez poet of compassion, beauty



Compiled by  
Sahba Saffary  
Guest contributor

Shams al-Din Moḥammad was born in Shiraz. At an early age, he memorized the Qur'an and was given the title of Hafez meaning memorizer, which he later used as his pen name.

From the days of his youth, Hafez was faced with the most tyrannous and sanctimonious rulers that neither had an iota of compassion for their own close relatives nor the masses of people and committed many horrible crimes against their opponents. Mubzar al-Din Moḥammad was one of these strict rulers who governed in Shiraz with cruelty.

As the situation got worse and Shiraz was invaded repeatedly, Hafez took refuge in the world of poetry; the poems that had deep roots in philosophy and thought. His poems were as sweet as real honey and attractive



as a charming lady. He was well acquainted with Iranian musical styles and mingled his poems with euphonic sounds skillfully. It is reasonable to deduce from his poems that he might have been familiar enough with music and in justification of his wide mu-

sical knowledge he could create melodious rhymes. He has combined the words so skillfully that it is indeed a remarkable masterpiece of Persian literature. This juxtaposition of words is supposed to be similar to an expert jeweler who has joined

precious stones properly on crown jewels. The aroma of his poems had a vast geographical spread and covered even the farthest lands.

His profound attitude over the meaning of life, perceiving great beauties of the cosmos and his fervent

emotions have given an incomparable manner to his lyric poetry. Freshness, sweetness and happiness undulate in his poems.

This heavenly lyricist imagined a world where nobody suffers from starvation or nobody is to be forced to undergo humiliation and nobody is to be forced to sell his soul. He imagined a world full of joy and strong feelings of enthusiasm that are stronger than death's sensation. He was continually interested in pre-Islamic culture because mendacity was the worst sin in ancient Iran and he was hungry for verities of life.

The final years of his life were accompanied by a state of social chaos, but this heartbroken aged poet was floating yet in love and exhilaration. Twenty years after his death, a tomb, known as the Hafezieh, was erected to honor Hafez in the Musalla Gardens in Shiraz.



The current mausoleum was designed by Andre Godard, a French archeologist and architect, in the late 1930.

Oct. 12 is designated as Hafez Day in Iran to commemorate the great Persian poet of the 14th century CE.



Pro-Palestine rallies held from New York to Tokyo

# Global Support for Gaza

## International Desk

Since the beginning of the great conflict between Israel and Hamas on Saturday, many cities across the world have been the scene of pro-Palestinian rallies. The demonstrators are calling for the international community to break its silence on Israeli crimes and support Palestinians.

The new conflict — which was started by the Hamas resistance group from the besieged Gaza Strip — is in fact a reaction to decades of crimes committed by the Israeli regime against Palestinians across the occupied territories.

Protestors are angry about decades of violation of Palestinians' rights by the Israeli regime, the continuing occupation of the Palestinians' lands, and crimes committed by the regime against Palestinians amid the international silence.

In the US, the main supporter of the Israeli regime, protestors took to the streets of New York and Chicago to show their anger at their country's support for Tel Aviv. Protesters also called on the international community to end its silence on Palestine, adding that US citizens needed to raise their voices in support. Some protestors carried banners saying "End US aid" and "Resistance is not terrorism".

Similar rallies were also held in many cities of European countries including Great Britain, Italy, Spain, France, and Germany.

In Pakistan, protestors gathered at a rally in the country's biggest city on October 8 to express solidarity with the Palestinian people after Israel pounded Gaza.

Jalil Abbas Jilani, the foreign minister of Pakistan, said in a post on X, "Pakistan is deeply concerned by the escalating hostility in the Middle East and the loss of innocent lives."

"We stand in solidarity with Palestinians and call for an immediate end to the violence and oppression by Israeli occupation forces."

In Yemen, thousands of participants took part in a rally in the capital Sana'a to support Hamas' "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm" on October 7 while tens of others gathered in Kuwait City for the same reason. Participants chanted in support of Gaza, Al-Aqsa mosque, and Hamas while waving Palestinian flags. Lebanon has also shown its support for Hamas with hundreds of its citizens coming together in the streets of Beirut in solidarity marches.

Iraq also stood by Palestine, after several people were seen burning both Israeli and US flags in Baghdad, the country's capital city.

The Iraqi government expressed its support for Gaza and the Palestinian people and called the rocket attacks on Israel a "natural result of the systematic oppression... at the hands of the Zionist occupation authority".

In the Middle East, Palestinian solidarity marches were also held in Iran, Turkey, Jordan, and Kuwait.

## Japan-Tokyo



## Australia-Sydney



## Italy-Milan







Germany-Duisburg

## Arab youths heartened by Hamas' military superiority

By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

It has become clearer that Hamas' military superiority over Israel has sparked a movement among Arab youth, which could potentially bring the end of Israel's influence within certain Muslim governments.

After 70 years of Israeli aggression and mass killings against Palestinians, Hamas, for the first time, challenged Israeli arrogance through a sensitive operation aimed at freeing their land. A groundswell of support for the Palestinian cause has been witnessed across Arab countries, permeating mosques, football stadiums, and urban centers. This surge in popular solidarity has generated a palpable atmosphere that calls for intergovernmental unity. From Ramallah to Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad, and Cairo, the streets were awash with jubilation as people handed out sweets, danced, and prayed in unwavering support of the resistance against Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories.

In the Lebanese city of Sidon, residents congregated in public squares, igniting firecrackers and chanting praises for the Palestinian resistance fighters, which resonated from local mosques.

Taking to Instagram, Lebanese comedian Shadan Fakih elucidated the fervent outpouring of support, an expression that has faced scrutiny in Western countries. In a video message, he noted, "What else should we expect from Palestinians? To endure daily losses and do nothing? To silently wither away? The right to take up arms and fight is theirs, and they are exercising it." She further noted that despite her opposition to Hamas, she stands firmly in support of armed resistance against Israeli injustices and apartheid.

In the Tunisian capital, Palestinian flags flew high in schools, while a coalition of political parties and organizations issued a call for widespread rallies in a show of solidarity. The Tunisian presidency unequivocally voiced its full support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate right to resist the unlawful occupation.

Over the Damascus Opera House, the Palestinian flag illuminated the night sky. Syria, a country repeatedly targeted by Israeli aggression, and the Golan Heights, a mountainous region that has been under Israeli occupation since the Arab-Israeli War of 1967, exhibited a united front, with both their government and the people showing support for Hamas.

In the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, paramilitary forces defiantly stomped on the Israeli flag and incinerated it during gatherings in Tahrir Square.

Even the Gulf states joined in this wave of solidarity with Palestine despite Israel's normalized relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain since 2020 under the US-brokered Abraham Accords.



Lebanon-Beirut



US-New York



UK-London



## Kiani bags silver at World Taekwondo GP



Iran's Nahid Kiani (blue) is seen in action against Canadian Skylar Park at the World Taekwondo Grand Prix in Taiyuan, China, on October 10, 2023.  
● WORLD TAEKWONDO

### Sports Desk

Iran's Nahid Kiani settled for a silver medal at the World Taekwondo Grand Prix in Taiyuan, China.

A gold medalist in May's World Championships in Baku, Kiani enjoyed an impressive run en route to the women's -57kg final on Tuesday, only to suffer a 2-1 defeat against Canadian Skylar Park and grab a second silver at this year's event following a runner-up finish in the first series in Rome back in June.

Having stepped into the competitions on the back of a shock

first-round exit at the Asian Games two weeks ago, the Iranian came out victorious (2-1) against American Faith Dillon before defeating Lo Chia-ling of the Chinese Taipei – a two-time world silver medalist and a bronze winner in Tokyo Olympics – by the same scoreline in the quarterfinals.

Kiani then came out on top against Russian Tatiana Minina – who won the silver in Tokyo and participated in the Taiyuan event as neutral athlete – for a place in the final showdown.

The silver medal was still enough for Kiani to retain her

fourth spot in the Olympic Kyorugi Ranking and edge ever closer to a quota for the Paris 2024 Games.

Mahdi Hajimousaei and Abolfazl Zandi were the other Iranians in action on Tuesday – both taking part in the men's -58kg contests – but finished their campaigns empty-handed.

Hajimousaei, a gold medalist in September's Series 2 in Paris, was knocked out by South Korean Park Tae-joon, while Zandi, runner-up to Hajimousaei in the French capital, fell to a last-16 defeat against Tunisian Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi, who went on to claim the gold.

## Iran's Geraei suspended by UWW, faces Olympic ban

### Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammad-Ali Geraei has been handed a provisional suspension from all international events by the United World Wrestling due to an incident at September's World Championships in Belgrade. The UWW decision came after the Japan Wrestling Federation lodged a complaint over the Iranian's misconduct during a 67kg bout featuring his younger Mohammadreza and Kyotaro Sogabe of Japan. Mohammadreza had a 10-9 advantage over the Japanese but

was clearly out of breath with 1:15 minutes left on the clock, when his older brother, who had been knocked out of the 77kg contests earlier, threw a bottle of mineral water on the mat to halt the bout, presumably buying the Iranian some time to restore strength.

A world and Olympic champion in 2021, Mohammadreza held on for an 11-10 victory but a technical-fall humiliation against Azerbaijani Hasrat Javrov in the quarterfinals saw the Iranian eventually settle for a bronze medal.

The international governing body of the sport has de-

manded explanation from the Iranian federation before announcing the final verdict, but the worst-case scenario could see Geraei be handed a lengthy ban and possibly miss the chance to take part in next summer's Paris Olympics.

A winner of three world bronze medals, Geraei, 29, was part of the Iranian six-man squad at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago – where, despite some impressive performances, he was unlucky to miss out on a podium finish after a defeat against Japan's Shohei Yabiku in the bronze medal contest.



● UWW

## Meet Nasim Safaei an Iranian badminton player with Olympic aspirations



By Mahdiah Qazvinian  
Staff writer

Iranian girl Nasim Safaei says she has set sights on securing a place in the badminton contests of next year's Paris Olympics.

"It's a dream for every athlete to take part in the greatest sporting showpiece of all," the 22-year-old Iranian told Iran Daily, adding: "I'm currently the top-ranked female player in Iran, so I'll be the favorite to represent the country in Paris."

Safaei, however, is fully aware of the daunting challenge facing her for a spot in the Games. "You need to have an accurate

four-year plan to succeed at the Olympics. I missed out on several international events due to the coronavirus restrictions over the past few years, which is why I fell down the global rankings. I'll have to compete in future events in the coming months to boost my chances for an Olympic berth," added the Iranian.

Iran is not among the top badminton nations in the world, though Safaei believes the Iranians have what it takes to compete with the best of the sport.

"Badminton has gained more public attention in the country in recent years. However, the Iranians are far from being considered top players on the global stage. It takes a lot of efforts to



reach that height. A player needs to have international experience, constant training sessions and

work with world-class coaches to improve. I'm sure the Iranian players have the potentials to

challenge the best in the game," added Safaei, a former doubles champion at the International Fajr Cup.

"Most of the top badminton players in the world are from the Asian countries – notably South Korea, Indonesia, China, and Malaysia – and that makes it even harder for the Iranians to progress in the continental events," said Safaei.

Of the top 20 players in the latest BWF World Tour women's singles rankings, 17 are from Asia, while Denmark's Viktor Axelsen (third) and Anders Antonsen (eighth) are the only non-Asians in the top 20 of the men's ranking. Iran was represented by Yeganeh Kermani in the new-

ly-finished Hangzhou Asian Games in China, where she suffered a first-round exit.

"Badminton is an expensive sport and we often have to use personal funding to prepare for the tournaments. The Iranian federation plays an integral part in developing badminton in the country. The federation's support helped Soraya Aqaei win a berth for the Tokyo Olympics. She was an inspiration for every Iranian female player."

Aqaei came out on top against Maldivian Fathimath Abdul Razzaq in Tokyo, before a loss to the two-time world bronze medalist He Bingjiao of China saw her finish second in the group and fail to reach the knockout round.



● LOREN ELLIOTT/REUTERS

## Nadal to return at Australian Open, says tournament director

REUTERS – Rafa Nadal will return to Grand Slam tennis at the Australian Open in January, tournament director Craig Tiley announced on Wednesday, though the 22-times major champion's representative later said no timeline has been set for his comeback.

The 37-year-old former world number one has been sidelined since hurting his hip flexor in a second-round loss to Mackenzie

McDonald at the Melbourne Park major earlier this year.

The Spaniard was initially expected to miss eight weeks but underwent surgery on a hip muscle in June.

Tiley told Nine Network's "The Today Show" that Nadal had confirmed his participation in the Grand Slam.

"We can reveal exclusively here that Rafa will be back," Tiley said.

"He's been off for most of the year and in talking to him over the last few days he confirmed he will be back, which we're really excited about, the champion of 2022. That's awesome."

However, Nadal's representative Benito Perez-Barbadillo told Reuters via text from Shanghai that there was nothing to announce yet on the Spaniard's upcoming schedule.

"I can confirm to you that Rafa is

practising, as everyone saw on his last post on Instagram," Perez-Barbadillo said.

"But there is no date confirmed, scheduled or programmed yet for his comeback."

Tiley said Australian Nick Kyrgios could return in time to play at Melbourne Park after he had knee surgery in January and suffered wrist and foot issues in an injury-plagued 2023.



# Nigeria's Shia cleric Zakzaky in Tehran

Leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky arrived in Iran on Wednesday as part of his second foreign visit after the termination of his home arrest by the Nigerian government.

"We are all under a great test, and it is hoped that the Islamic Revolution will bring about change in the whole world, including in the US and Europe, to set the ground for the emergence of the last Shia Imam, Imam Mahdi (PBUH)," Sheikh Zakzaky said in an address at the airport, Press TV reported.

Sheikh Zakzaky, the founder of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, is scheduled to

attend an official ceremony held in the University of Tehran on Saturday.

In December 2015, Nigerian army troops attacked Sheikh Zakzaky's residence and a place of worship belonging to the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, killing over three hundred and forty of his supporters in Zaria, Kaduna state.

He had remained under state detention in the Nigerian capital pending his release, which was ordered in late 2016. Last year, the Kaduna state higher court exonerated him from any charges and ordered his immediate release after 2,055 days of illegal detention.



IRNA

## Raisi calls on int'l bodies to stop Israeli crimes

### EU: Israel breaks int'l law in Gaza

#### International Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi reminded international organizations of their responsibility to tackle the crisis in the Gaza Strip, which is tormented by the Zionist regime's atrocities.

Addressing a cabinet session on Wednesday, Raisi strongly condemned the Israeli regime's crimes against the people of Gaza, Tasnim news agency reported.

The war between Israel and the Palestinian resistance group Hamas raged for a fifth day on Wednesday, as Israeli warplanes hammered neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip, reducing buildings to rubble and sending people scrambling for safety, AP reported.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell accused Israel on Tuesday of breaking international law by imposing a total blockade of Gaza in response to the large-scale attack by Hamas that killed more than 1,200 people Israelis according to the Israeli military.

He added Israel's response — which has so far killed at least 1,055 Gazans, according to local authorities — had to be in line with inter-

national humanitarian law, and a decision to impose a total blockade on Gaza contravened this standard, Reuters reported.

More than 150 people have also been taken by Palestinian fighters.

#### Aid payments for PA

After an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the attack, Borrell also said an "overwhelming majority" of EU foreign ministers supported continuing aid payments for the Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank.

Borrell made his statement the day after European Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi said all EU development aid for Palestinians was suspended, only for the commission to disown his announcement after a backlash from EU governments.

Borrell had invited the Israeli and Palestinian foreign ministers to take part in the meeting in Oman, by video conference. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen did not want to participate in a meeting that would also be addressed by PA Minister Riyad al-Maliki so neither ended up taking part, officials said.

Israel has vowed an unprecedented offensive against Hamas.

More than 250,000 people in Gaza have fled their homes, the UN said. Most of them have crowded into schools run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. Most of the terri-

fuel, leaving the territory without electricity.

Borrell on Tuesday also mentioned that the UN had stated that "cutting water, cutting electricity, and cutting food to a mass of civilian people is against international law".

Israel criticized the UN



AFP

tor's residents are unable to leave due to a years-long blockade maintained by Israel and Egypt.

Israel has cut off supplies of food, fuel, electricity, and medicine into Gaza, and the sole remaining access from Egypt was shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit near the border crossing. Gaza's power authority said its only power plant has since run out of

statement, accusing the world body's human rights chief of failing to condemn Hamas as terrorists.

The 27-nation EU says it is the biggest provider of external assistance to Palestinians.

#### Letter to UN

Also, in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, raised the alarm in a Iran's Foreign Minister

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has warned of a "human catastrophe" amid ongoing Israeli aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip, calling on the UN to adopt immediate measures to prevent the occupying regime from perpetrating further crimes and rights violations against Palestinians.

He touched on the plight and suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of the illegal entity over the past seven decades, blaming Western countries, led by the US, for the dire situation in Palestine. Also on Tuesday, he expressed his country's support for the Palestinian resistance spiritually, politically, and media-wise. Rejecting claims that countries other than Palestine are behind the "courageous" operation against Israel, he said the Palestinian resistance itself made the decision to launch it.

#### 'No evidence' of Iran's role

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Tuesday that his country has no evidence of direct Iranian involvement in the attack by Hamas, AFP reported. The Pentagon chief noted that Tehran has backed

Hamas for years, adding, "But in this particular instance, we don't have any evidence that there was direct involvement in the planning or the execution of this attack."

That assessment was echoed by the US State Department, which emphasized that it could nevertheless change.

"Our experience in these matters tells us that it's premature to draw any final conclusions about this issue," spokesman Matthew Miller told journalists.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the Biden administration hasn't ruled out new sanctions against Iran in relation to renewed conflict in the Middle East, but no decisions have been made, Bloomberg reported.

"I wouldn't take anything off the table in terms of future possible actions, but I certainly don't want to get ahead of where we are now," she said.

Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday rejected the claims as "miscalculations," praising the Palestinian youth, who were sole masterminds of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against Israel.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran reaffirms sovereignty over Persian Gulf islands



PRESS TV – Tehran rejected anti-Iran claims raised by foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union, reaffirming full sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb, and the Lesser Tunb. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Wednesday emphasized the country's principled and permanent position on the trio of islands, saying they are "an integral and eternal part of the soil of the Islamic Republic of Iran".

The remarks came after the 27th GCC-EU Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting, which was held in the Omani capital Muscat on October 9-10, suggested in a final statement that the council is concerned about a lack of progress toward resolving the dispute between the UAE and Iran over the three islands.

### Coast guards stage naval drill in southern waters



IRNA – The Iranian Coast Guard launched a large-scale military exercise, dubbed "Mohammad Rasulallah-2," on Wednesday along the shores of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the northern parts of the Indian Ocean.

The drill involved naval units from the country's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan as well as the southern provinces of Bushehr and Hormuzgan.

Commander of the Iranian Border Guards Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi said the exercise also aims to comply with bilateral or multilateral treaties with the neighboring countries, share valuable experiences, and strengthen cooperation and coordination among coast guards.

He pointed out that dozens of marine units, coastal patrol teams, and various border guard forces participated in the drill.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran concerned by new wave of Afghan refugees after quake

The chairman of Iran's Migration Organization voiced Tehran's concerns over the potential new influx of Afghan refugees following a recent earthquake in Afghanistan.

Speaking at the 74th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), Abdollah Mobini said that the recent earthquake that hit the city of Herat in Afghanistan has caused many people to lose their homes, which raised concerns within Iran regarding a surge of new immigrants entering

the country, IRNA wrote. Mobini stressed that while Iran has been a host to large waves of refugees and immigrants, the support cannot be sustained indefinitely.

He pointed out that Iran has not played a role in creating these crises but has nevertheless been a refuge for millions of displaced individuals over the past few decades.

The lack of international aid coupled with the vast number of refugees that pour into Iran has posed significant challenges for the country, Mobini said,

criticizing the double standards regarding refugees, the political considerations of certain donor countries, and the disparity between the proposed annual budget by the commissioner and the budget allocated for Iran. Referring to the Strategic Solutions Document for Afghan Refugees, Mobini emphasized the importance of the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their home country.

He said the only solution to this crisis involves the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.



# Loneliness of Herat



It appears as though Western powers are now punishing the innocent people of Afghanistan for a crime they did not commit. If blame is to be assigned, it lies with the US and its allies.

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Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran  
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453  
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684  
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By Ali Amiri  
Staff writer

Days after a series of earthquakes struck the western province of Herat in Afghanistan, killing more than a thousand people and injuring many more, another powerful tremor shook the same region on Wednesday morning.

"We had woken up for the morning prayers when the ground shook. It was a big quake, perhaps bigger than the last one," says Masoud Mojaddadi, a hotelkeeper based in the city of Herat. With desperation in his voice, he goes on, "They have predicted another one for tonight."

The 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit an area 28 km south of Herat's regional capital at 5:11 a.m. local time on Wednesday, leaving

one dead and at least 80 people injured. "The devastation is huge, with 11 or 12 villages completely flattened," says Mojaddadi, adding, "There have been landslides in some parts as well."

Although the city of Herat has not been much affected by the recent earthquakes, it has lost "one of the historic minarets". Aside from the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), which has responded swiftly to Afghanistan's plea for help, international aid to the natural disaster in Afghanistan has been so far meager and ineffective.

"Most of the rescue was carried out by the people of Herat themselves," says Mojaddadi, noting a widespread feeling of helplessness as they are weary of staying indoors. "The situation in Herat is critical," says Amena, a UN staff member in Afghanistan, who has been injured during the

Wednesday quake. "No one is at home. Everybody left their houses and came to the streets."

"The state of crisis management and relief efforts in the earthquake-affected areas is really weak," says Setareh Hojjati, an Iranian journalist who has been closely following the news of the Herat earthquake. She has conducted interviews with some medical staff, including the head of a hospital in Herat and several individuals affected by the earthquake.

"The crisis management in the earthquake-affected areas is severely lacking. The distribution of essential items and sanitary materials, in particular, has been incredibly slow and insufficient," Hojjati quotes the head of the hospital, who also pointed out that international aid during the initial Herat earthquake was minimal.

The journalist also highlighted the scarcity of resources for debris removal, resulting in an increase in casualties. "A Herat resident, whose wife was trapped under rubble for a day, told me that there are not even basic tools to help with debris removal and rescue efforts," she says.

Hojjati notes that the affected population is currently gripped by anxiety and fear as there are widespread concerns that the corpses remaining beneath the rubble could deteriorate and spread diseases.

"Another citizen of Herat told me that the earthquake victims have also become victims of the Afghan government and its policies," she says, adding that the citizen believed the international community has shown limited willingness to assist the earthquake victims due to concerns surrounding the Taliban.

## Herat sidelined by Gaza



In the aftermath of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, while the world's attention remains focused on Gaza, the people of Afghanistan, particularly those in the quake-stricken province of Herat, silently endure their own suffering. As the US and Europe continue to provide unwavering support to Israel, the flattened villages of Herat face the grim reality of homelessness, with their lives hanging in the balance.

It is important to point up that the current condition of Afghanistan, particularly

Herat, is a direct consequence of Western powers' meddling in the region for a long time, specifically the US-led NATO forces. Their withdrawal in 2021 after a prolonged two-decade occupation has allowed the Taliban to regain control in Afghanistan. It appears as though these same powers are now punishing the innocent people of Afghanistan for a crime they did not commit. If blame is to be assigned, it lies with the US and its allies.

However, during times of natural disasters that escalate into humanitarian cri-

ses, all differences should be set aside, and everyone should come together to provide assistance. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. Neither during last year's earthquake in Afghanistan nor in the current situation have we witnessed the international community rallying to help.

On the other hand, Iran has been and continues to be the only country standing beside the people of Afghanistan, offering much-needed support during their darkest moments.

## IRCS to the rescue

The specialized rescue teams of the Iranian Red Crescent Society once again demonstrated their swift response and commitment to helping victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan. Within 24 hours of Saturday's 6.3 magnitude earthquake striking western Afghanistan, Iranian rescuers entered the affected areas in Herat Province with specialized equipment and search dogs, according to rcs.ir. Last year, during the devastating 6.1 magnitude earthquake in Afghanistan, the Iranian Red Crescent Society stood as the sole national society in the world to send rescue teams to the affected areas, providing immediate relief to the victims from the very first day of the incident.

The recent earthquake in Herat Province proved catastrophic, claiming the lives of over a thousand individuals, reducing dozens of villages to rubble, and destroying hundreds of houses. There are images

that show torn-down houses, grave expressions of survivors, and empty hands of the earthquake victims. They all tell a heartbreaking tale.

Amidst the rubble, the Iranian Red Crescent Society rescuers, alongside local teams, work round the clock to save people from beneath the ruins.

Despite four days having passed since this devastating earthquake, few institutions around the world have expressed concern or offered assistance to the oppressed and suffering people of Afghanistan. In this dire situation, it is again the Iranian Red Crescent Society members, hailing specifically from the provinces of Razavi, North, and South Khorasan that answered the call for help from Afghanistan.

Mahmoud Zakerian, head of the Razavi Khorasan Red Crescent Society, who led the Iranian rescue teams to Afghanistan, detailed the efforts of rescuers provid-

ing assistance to the earthquake victims. He explained that rescue teams were dispatched from Iran to Afghanistan on Sunday, crossing the land border at Dogharun to reach Herat Province. Upon arrival, the teams immediately initiated the search for bodies and the potential rescue of survivors trapped under the rubble, working alongside emergency teams.

Recognizing the critical importance of the first 72 hours after an earthquake, every effort has been made and continues to be made to aid the survivors.

Currently, the focus is on providing emergency accommodation for those affected. In

alignment with humanitarian goals, the Iranian Red Crescent Society distributed relief goods, including 500 tents, 1,000 carpets, 4,000 blankets, 500 sets of dishes, and 500 10-day food packages among the earthquake victims.

In a meeting with Zakerian, the Afghan Minister of Health expressed gratitude to the Iranian Red Crescent Society for its invaluable relief efforts in assisting the victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan.



● rcs.ir