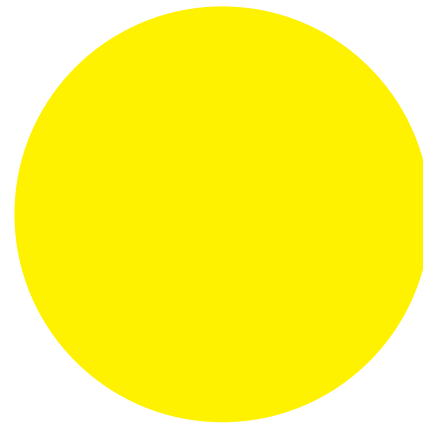


Iran's Leader urges all-out support for Palestine

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# Iran Daily



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### Gaza Genocide

### Over 700 Palestinian Children Killed in Israel's Strikes

Nine days of Israel's nonstop bombings on the Gaza Strip have claimed the lives of more than 700 innocent Palestinian children. The casualties amount to one-third of the total number of Palestinians killed as a result of the recent onslaught on the region by a regime that believes there are no innocent civilians in Gaza.

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Nabila Noufal, a 7-day-old Palestinian baby who was martyred in the bombardment by the Zionist regime. X.com



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## Iran, Qatar emphasize expanding banking-monetary cooperation



The top bankers of Iran and Qatar stressed the need to boost bilateral cooperation in the banking and monetary fields. Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud Al Thani held talks on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Morocco, Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

Highlighting the development of banking cooperation and joint investment after the transfer of \$6 billion of Iranian funds to the account of Iranian banks based in Qatar, the two sides explored avenues for the expansion of banking ties using these financial resources.

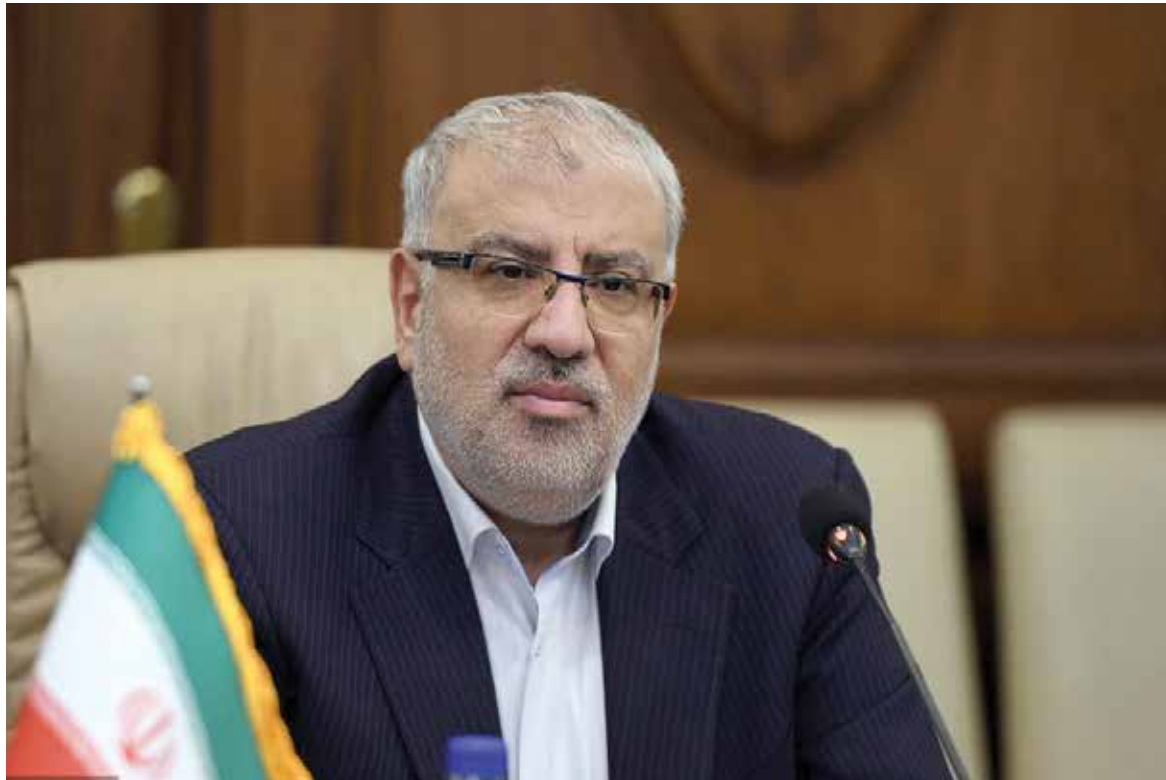
As Iran's foreign exchange resources in Qatar are applicable through the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), and by opening a Letter of Credit (L/C), technical communications between Qatari banks and six Iranian banks about the issue are ongoing, Iran's top banker said.

The governor of the Central Bank of Qatar, in his turn, said that his country is committed to its obligations to Iran and there is no obstacle on the path of the development of banking relations between the two countries.

Turning to the fundamental measures taken over the previous days regarding using Iran's foreign exchange resources in Qatar, Sheikh Bandar said that he will make his utmost efforts to transfer Iran's assets. The IMF and WBG Annual Meetings kicked off in Morocco on October 9 and will end today.

# Oil prices could hit \$100 per barrel: Owji

## Iran's crude output at 3.3m bpd, highest since 2018



● SHANA

### Economy Desk

Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji said oil prices could

hit \$100 per barrel amid escalating war on the Gaza Strip.

"Oil prices are predicted to

reach \$100 per barrel in global markets," Owji was quoted as saying on Friday by Shana, referring to the

ongoing developments in the Middle East.

Crude prices leaped nearly 6%, with Brent posting

its highest weekly gain since February, as investors priced in the possibility that the conflict in the Middle East could widen as Israel began ground raids inside the Gaza Strip on Friday.

Israel's announcement marked a shift from an air war to ground operations to take out Hamas fighters a week after the Palestinian group's deadly rampage in southern Israel.

Brent futures settled up \$4.89, or 5.7%, at \$90.89 per barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained \$4.78, or 5.8%, to \$87.69 a barrel.

Both benchmarks posted their highest daily percentage gains since April. Brent also recorded a weekly gain of 7.5%, its biggest such increase since February. WTI climbed 5.9% for the week.

### Iran's daily production at 3.3m barrels

Elsewhere in his remarks, Owji said Iran's oil output surpassed 3.3 million barrels per day (bpd), hitting

a record high since the US re-imposed sanctions on the country in 2018, after leaving the 2015 nuclear deal.

The figure indicates a surge of 4.7% compared to a Reuters survey, which put Iran's daily output at 3.15 million bpd in September. "Iran's oil production stood at around 2.2 million bpd when the current government took office [in August 2021], but now it has exceeded 3.3 million bpd," Owji said.

The minister added that new production records would be set in the coming months as Iran aimed to raise its exports to meet the demands of its customers. The latest data by tanker-tracking companies showed that Iran's oil exports reached an average of around 1.9 million bpd in August, a peak not seen in more than five years.

Owji said the boost in Iran's oil production and sales occurred while the country received no waiver from the US.

## Iran's economy minister, IsDB chief weigh cooperation plans

Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Ehsan Khandouzi met with the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser in Morocco to discuss the latest status of joint projects with Iran.

The meeting was a continuation of the intensive talks of the past two years between Iran and the Islamic Development Bank aimed at promoting the joint programs of the two parties, IRNA reported. During the meeting, the latest state of the projects being implemented by the IsDB in Iran was discussed.

The IsDB president thanked and appreciated the initiatives taken by Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in the past two years to solve the outstanding debts of Iran from previous years.

Al Jasser stated that despite the remaining issues related to sanctions, the cooperation between the two parties has changed significantly given the drastic change in the Iranian government's approach to strengthening its relationship with the bank as one of its most important shareholders.

He expressed hope that with the continuation of this trend, the remaining issues between the two parties will also be resolved.

In the meeting, Iran's plans for implementing previous joint projects and cooperating in new fields of health, technology, and science were presented to the officials of the Islamic Development Bank and were welcomed by the bank president.



Russia is Iran's strategic partner in the energy sector, said an Iranian lawmaker on Saturday.

Speaking to Shana, Hossein Hosseinzadeh added that Russia can help Iran develop its oil and gas fields and increase their output.

He pointed to Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji's recent visit to Moscow and said the contracts signed between Iran and Russia should be implemented as soon as possible.

Owji paid a two-day visit to Moscow at the invitation of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak to participate in the 6th Russian Energy Week International Forum, which ended Thursday. Hosseinzadeh, who is a member of Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee, described Tehran-Moscow coop-

eration in the gas sector as positive, saying Russia is a big gas exporter in the world, and Iran must use its capacity.

The legislator quoted Owji as saying, "The world cannot deny Iran's key role in the energy market," adding promotion of energy and regional diplomacy is extremely helpful.

"I am convinced that expansion of cooperation with sanctions-hit countries such as Russia will help Iran increase its oil exports and develop its oil industry," underlined Hosseinzadeh.

The trend of Iran's negotiations with neighbors and countries playing leading roles in global energy market is promising, and big achievements are expected in this area, the parliamentarian concluded.

## Central Asian states to ink agreement on corridor from China to EU via Iran

Central Asian countries are working on signing an agreement on the creation of a new transport and transit corridor from China to the EU through Iranian territory, the press service of the Uzbek Transport Ministry said in a statement.

Negotiations between the representatives of transport and railway agencies of Kazakhstan, Turkmen-

istan, Iran and Turkey have been held via video-conference at an initiative taken by Uzbekistan, the ministry said.

The statement added that important issues related to the signing of an agreement on the creation of an international transport corridor 'China-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey-Europe' were discussed at

the meeting, TASS reported.

The participants of the meeting subscribed to the view that the creation of a new international transport corridor meets the interests of all its parties, and it will provide them with new possibilities for expanding transit traffic and trade ties between the countries, the press service added.

Second Announcement

## Tender invitation

### Invitation to public tender for POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE(POH)// 54000 kg

**Tabrizpetrochemical company** intends to procure its required quantity of POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE(POH) for ABS production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until Oct 22.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: Nov 04, 2023  
**Email:** M.iranmakani@tpco.ir **Phone No.:** +98-41-34282973

Tender	No	Quantity
POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE(POH)	PVS-0241033	54000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company ( Public Stock )

First turn published: Oct 10, 2023
Second turn published: Oct 15, 2023



# Embark on a magical journey into depths of the Earth at Katalah Khor Cave



arasbaran.org



arasbaran.org

## Iranica Desk

The caves are one of the few natural wonders that simulate the experience of traveling inside the earth for us and are therefore very magical and fascinating. Katalah Khor Cave is located in Zanjan Province, 80 kilometers south of Khodabandeh and five kilometers from Garmab. This cave was discovered before 1921 CE. In the spring of 1952, a group of Iran's most famous mountaineers set out to discover and visit the cave, and one of the Zanjani members of the group named Seyyed Assadollah Jamali officially registered the cave. Since then, Katalah Khor Cave has been of great interest to cave enthusiasts as a magnificent natural phenomenon. Katalah Khor Cave is known as one of the world's top limestone caves in terms of the qual-

ity of crystals and stalactites, beauty, and number of floors.

This amazing cave is the second largest in the world, after Son Doong Cave in Vietnam, in terms of size. According to experts, it is unique in terms of beauty and is known as one of the most beautiful caves in the world.

The cave is not only important in terms of tourism but also in the field of geology and paleontology. It was formed during the third geological period, and according to findings, its age dates back to 27 million to 30 million years ago. In recent exploration operations, the skeleton of a dog-like animal was discovered in the second and third levels of the cave, which does not resemble any existing animal.

Until now, only three levels of this cave, which is located at an elevation of



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pinorest.com

1,700 meters above sea level, have been discovered, and four other levels remain unknown.

The ceiling of this cave is full of hanging stalactites, and there are many conical sediments on its surface. The connection of these two beautiful phenomena has formed numerous columns in the main path of caving, which increases the beauty of the path.

Katalah Khor Cave's stalactites are unparalleled in terms of beauty and diversity in the world. Due to their high limestone purity, many consider Katalah Khor to be the most beautiful limestone cave in the world. Stalactites and stalagmites have formed columns that carry the weight of the cave and support the ceiling.

Katalah Khor Cave has many sub-tunnels, each of which has been named based on the similarity

and image it brings to our minds. This cave is divided into three cultural, recreational, and sports sections. The sports section is four kilometers long, but only cavers and rock climbers can go to this section. The recreational section is a two-kilometer straight path that all tourists can see. The cultural section is located in the southern part of the cave, and in the main part of it, there is a natural valley, the exit route of which has been artificially cut, and various ceremonies are held there.

Katalah Khor Cave's recreational complex has single and double suites with facilities such as a bathroom, toilet, suitable parking, restaurant, coffee shop, gazebo, gas station, and CNG station along the way, providing a suitable environment for overnight stays for tourists.

The western limit of Qumis was considered to be the station Ra's al-Kalb, in the low mountain spurs to the west of Lasgird; this place was separated from the fertile district of Khuwar by a salt desert in which the village of Dih-e Namak or Diz-e Namak, the Qasr al-Milh of the Arabs, is located. The chief settlement of the district of Khuwar now bears the Turkish name Qeshlaq (winter quarters).

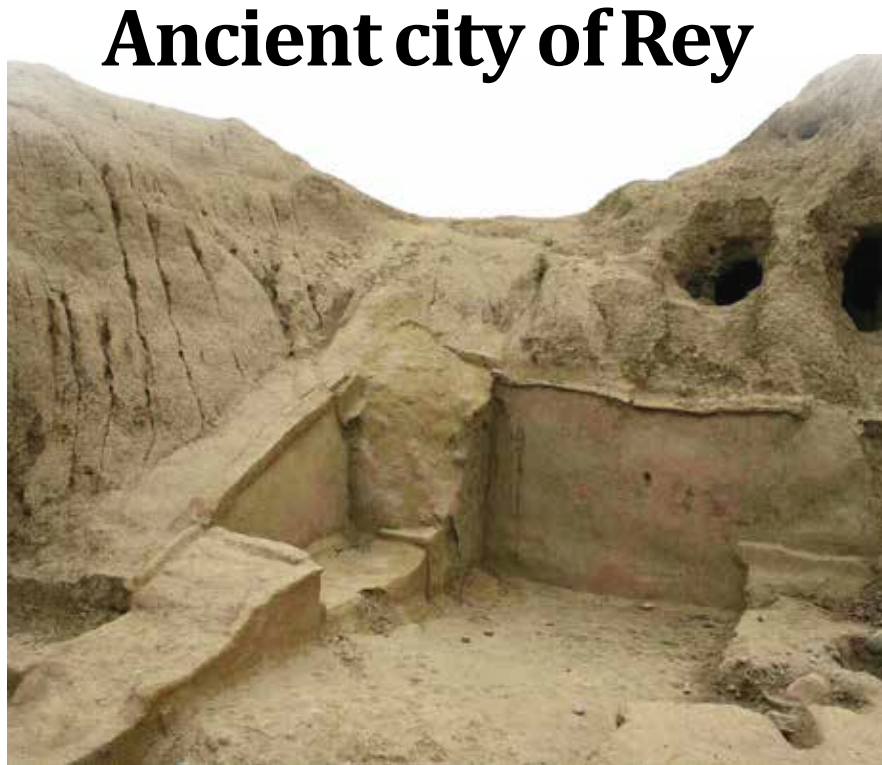
Travelers describe the guard towers and walls that until recently served as protection from incursions by the Turkomans. Such towers were there as early as the beginning of the tenth century.

The district of Khuwar is separated from Rey by a mountain passage; this passage, winds its way in helicoid fashion through the mountain chain; it is, in most scholars' opinion, identical with the "Caspian Gates" of the ancients, through which Alexander

the Great passed in his pursuit of Bessus. Ibn Rus-ta (a tenth-century Muslim Persian explorer and geographer) counts three farsakhs from the western end of this passage to the village Afridun, and from there nine more to the city of Rey (Shahr-e Rey).

Rey, ancient Raga, was one of the earliest cities of Iran; Raga, a city in Media, is already mentioned in Darius's inscriptions of the sixth century BCE. Because of its antiquity, it had the nickname Shaykh al-Bilad (the noble city) or, like Balkh, Umm al-Bilad. Subsequently, the Seleucids founded next to the mountain passage itself the town of Charax, the medieval Arazi, where the Parthian king Phraates I in the first half of the second century CE resettled the people of Mardo.

Rey was conquered by the Arabs in the seventh century, and sometimes served as residence of governors who were in



charge of the entire eastern half of Iran, including Khorasan. One such governor was the future ca-

liph Mahdi (father of Harun al-Rashid), stationed here as governor during the caliphate of his father

Mansur. He developed the city and named it after himself, al-Muhammadiyya;

this name is often found on the coins struck by Mahdi while he was heir presumptive. At the time of the tenth-century geographers, Rey was a considerable town, although it remained behind Naysabur in terms of size and wealth.

Like other large towns, Rey consisted of a quhandiz, a shahrestan, and a rabat; the Friday mosque, built by Mahdi, stood, as in Samarqand and Bukhara, between the citadel and the shahrestan.

The citadel was on a steep hill and that from the top of this hill a view opened up over the entire city. The length and breadth of Rey equaled, according to some reports, one farsakh; according to others, one and one-half farsakhs. Both the citadel and the shahrestan were in the tenth century abandoned by the inhabitants, whose life, as in other commercial and manufacturing towns, completely shifted

to the rabat, where there were many bazaars. The chief market was called Ruda, after the name of the small river that flowed through it.

Besides the water of two small rivers, the inhabitants used well water. The district was famous for its fertility and warm climate because it was protected from northerly winds; at the same time, however, the climate of Rey, like the present climate of Tehran, was considered very harmful to health, especially in summer.

One could see the volcano of Damavand, 5,900 meters high, from many parts of the city and even from a considerable distance further south. The tenth-century sources do not report it as active, but smoke was seen rising from it stop at all times.

As is known, Damavand is reputed in Persian mythology to be the place where the evil Dahhak, defeated by Faridun, was imprisoned.



## Children, victims of Israel's 'savagery'

# Over 700 Palestinian children killed in Israel's strikes

Nine days of Israel's nonstop bombings on the Gaza Strip have claimed the lives of more than 700 innocent Palestinian children. The casualties amount to one-third of the total number of Palestinians killed as a result of the recent onslaught on the region by a regime that believes there are no innocent civilians in Gaza.

The high number of children killed in the attacks has shown the regime's indifference toward human life and the fate of civilians, especially children, during a war.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said on Friday that there are no innocent civilians in Gaza. He said that all citizens of Gaza are responsible for the attack Hamas launched in the occupied territories that left over 1,200 people dead.

He said that it is an entire nation out there that is responsible for the war, adding, "It is not true this rhetoric about civilians not being aware, not involved."

According to the health ministry in the Gaza Strip, Israeli strikes have killed at least 2,215 individuals, including 724 children. Some 458 women were among the deaths, the ministry said on Saturday.

It added that 8,714 people have also been wounded after an earlier statement said at least 324 people were killed in the past 24 hours alone.

### Complete blockade

The regime has also imposed a complete blockade on the Palestinian territory, cutting off water, fuel, and electricity and preventing aid deliveries at crossings into Gaza. The sole power plant in Gaza ran out of fuel on October 11, forcing hospitals to run on backup generators.

The regime's siege is also contributing to a rise in civilian casualties, especially children who suffer more in such situations.

### No food to eat

"My four children are eating one meal a day. There is no water, no electricity, no internet, no fuel in all of Gaza," said Mohammad Abu Rukbeh, senior Gaza field researcher at Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP). "I am carrying my children on foot because they are too paralyzed in fear to walk as we search for somewhere safe. There is no safe place in Gaza as Israeli forces rain down bombs in every direc-

tion, every hour of the day. We are isolated people facing the fiercest war machines."

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in a statement on Friday denounced the killing of children in Gaza. "Hundreds and hundreds of children have been killed and injured. Every hour in Gaza, the number of children killed rises. The killing of children must stop," UNICEF said.

### Call for cease-fire

"UNICEF is calling for an immediate cease-fire as 1.1 million people — nearly half of them children — have been warned to move out of the way ahead of what is expected to be a ground assault on one

of the most densely populated places on the planet but with nowhere safe for civilians to go," the statement said. "Children and families in Gaza have practically run out of food, water, electricity, medicine,

and safe access to hospitals, following days of air strikes and cuts to all supply routes."

"In every war, the ones who suffer the most are children. This is tragically true today."



## Saudis put Israel deal on hold amid war, engage with Iran

### International Desk

Saudi Arabia is putting US-backed plans to normalize ties with Israel on ice, two sources familiar with Riyadh's thinking said, signaling a rapid rethinking of its foreign policy priorities as war escalates between Israel and Palestinian resistance

group Hamas.

The conflict has also pushed the kingdom to engage with Iran. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — known as MBS — took his first phone call from Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi as Riyadh tries to prevent a broader surge in violence across the region, Reuters reported.

The two sources told Reuters there would be a delay in the US-backed talks on normalization with Israel that was a key step for the kingdom to secure what Riyadh considers the real prize of a US defense pact in exchange.

A source familiar with the discussions also told AFP that "Saudi Arabia has

decided to pause discussion on possible normalization and has informed US officials."

US national security adviser Jake Sullivan told a White House briefing this week that the normalization effort was "not on hold," but said the focus was on other immediate challenges.

### US demand rejected

The first source familiar with Saudi thinking said Washington had pressed Riyadh this week to condemn the Hamas attack but said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan pushed back. A US source familiar with the issue confirmed this.

Until Hamas sparked a war on Oct. 7 by launching a devastating attack on Israel, both Israeli and Saudi leaders had been saying they were moving steadily towards a normalization deal.

The first source familiar with Riyadh's thinking told Reuters that talks could not be continued for now and the issue of Israeli concessions for the Palestinians would need to be a bigger priority when discussions resumed — a comment that indicates Riyadh has not abandoned the idea. Hamas launched the large-scale attack on Israel on October 7 that killed 1,300 people, sparking a retaliatory bombing campaign, which Gaza authorities say have killed more than 2,200, a quarter of them children, and wounded nearly 10,000.



Israeli military deploys Merkava battle tanks close to the Gaza Strip in southern occupied territories on October 13, 2023.  
● JACK GUEZ/AFP





## Engagement with Iran

The regional conflict has also prompted the Saudi crown prince and Iran's president to speak for the first time after a Chinese-brokered initiative prompted the two Persian Gulf states to re-establish diplomatic ties in March after seven years of severed ties.

On Thursday, Saudi state media reported that MBS had discussed "the current military situation in Gaza and its environs" with President Raisi.

A Saudi statement said the crown prince told Raisi, "The kingdom is exerting maximum effort to engage with all international and regional parties to halt the ongoing escalation," underlining Riyadh's move to contain the crisis. A senior Iranian official told Reuters the 45-minute call aimed to support "Palestine and prevent the spread of war in the region."

On Friday, Saudi Arabia denounced the displacement of Palestinians within Gaza and attacks on "defenseless civilians," its strongest language criticizing Israel since the war broke out. On Saturday, thousands of Palestinians fled the north of the Gaza Strip from the path of an expected Israeli ground assault, while Israel pounded the area with more air strikes and said it would keep two roads open to let people escape.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said it had received an Israeli order to evacuate the hospital by 4:00 pm, but would not do so because it had a humanitarian duty to keep providing services to the sick and wounded. In Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, where Israeli planes struck a four-story building overnight, neighbors rushed to rescue people.

The UN estimated that tens of thousands of Palestinians headed south from northern Gaza after the Israeli order on Friday, adding to 400,000 Gazans already displaced earlier in the week. "We need immediate humanitarian access throughout Gaza, so that we can get fuel, food and water to everyone in need," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Friday. "Even wars have rules."

The US has firmly backed its ally Israel, but has called on it to protect civilians.

## Pro-Palestinian rallies

Thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched in central London on Saturday, calling for an end to Israel's military action in the Gaza Strip.

Protesters, many of them waving Palestinian flags and signs saying, "Free Palestine," gathered close to Oxford Circus from where they planned to head to Downing Street, the official residence and office of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Chants were aimed at the governments of Britain and the US for supporting Israel. Earlier on Saturday, the headquarters of the BBC broadcaster, which is located close to the start of the march, was daubed in red paint.

Also, hundreds of people gathered in Times Square in New York on Friday to protest the weeklong Israeli bombardment of Gaza, waving Palestinian flags

and antiwar banners as more than 100 police officers and scores of television cameras looked on, nytimes.com reported.

The gathering, and a rally Friday evening in Brooklyn for Jews supporting Palestinians, might once have been considered unremarkable. But in the days leading up to the daytime protest, rumors about it sent a wave of anxiety through New York. The city has been stricken by grief and living on edge since the incursion and the Israeli response, which together have killed thousands of civilians. At the UN, the Palestinian United Nations envoy appealed to Guterres on Friday to do more to stop a "crime against humanity" by Israel, which has warned nearly half of the population of the Gaza Strip to relocate as it plans an assault.

## Caution against 'a huge earthquake'

Ahead of a potential Israeli ground invasion of the Palestinian coastal territory, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian called on Israel to stop its attacks on Gaza, warning that the war might expand to other parts of the Middle East and that would make Israel suffer "a huge earthquake," AP reported.

Amir-Abdollahian told reporters in Beirut that Lebanon's Hezbollah group has taken all the scenarios of a war into consideration and Israel should stop its attacks on Gaza as soon as possible. He stressed that the Islamic Republic would continue to take all necessary diplomatic measures to stop the

Israeli atrocities and the blockade of Gaza. The top Iranian diplomat added that in any case, the resistance is to decide, and that in the case of a cease-fire, it is the resistance that will propose its conditions. Hezbollah fighters have been on full alert along Lebanon's border following last Saturday's attack. Amir-Abdollahian said he met Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who briefed him on the group's conditions in Lebanon. He said: "I want to warn the war criminals and those who support this entity before it's too late to stop the crimes against civilians in Gaza, because it might be too late in few hours."

## European people's advocacy of Palestine



By **Abed Akbari**  
International  
affairs expert

**OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE**

The recent conflict between Israel and Hamas, which started on October 7, has sparked a wave of protests and solidarity rallies across Europe in support of the Palestinian people. Thousands of people have taken to the streets in major cities, such

as London, Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Rome, and others, to denounce the Israeli aggression and occupation and to demand justice and freedom for Palestine.

These demonstrations reflect the growing sympathy and awareness of the European public toward the Palestinian cause, as well as anger at the inaction of their governments and the international community.

The conflict, triggered by a massive and unprecedented attack by Hamas on Israel, resulted in thousands of deaths on both sides. Hamas claimed that the attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, was a response to the repeated Israeli violations of the holy sites in Al-Quds and the rights of the Palestinians.

Israel retaliated with a brutal bombardment of Gaza, targeting civilian infrastructure and residential buildings and cutting off electricity, water, and food supplies. Israel also threatened to launch a ground invasion of Gaza, which would have escalated the humanitarian crisis and the bloodshed.

The European Union condemned the Hamas attack as a terrorist act and fully supported Israel's right to self-defense. However, it also called for an immediate cease-fire and urged Israel to act proportionately and by international law. The EU also expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and pledged to provide humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

However, many European people felt such statements were insufficient and did not reflect reality. They accused their governments of being biased in favor of Israel and ignoring the root causes of the conflict, such as the Israeli occupation, apartheid, and oppression of the Palestinians. They also criticized their governments for failing to hold Israel accountable for its violation of human rights and international law and for continuing to provide military and economic aid to Israel. They demanded that their governments take concrete actions to end the Israeli occupation and support the Palestinian right to self-determination. According to various polls conducted in Europe before and after the conflict, there is a significant gap between the official stances of the European governments and the public opinions of their citizens regarding the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

For example, a poll by Ifop in France in 2020 showed that 57 percent of French people supported Palestine as a state. The same poll also suggested that 69 percent of French people considered Israel's policies toward the Palestinians as a form of apartheid. Another poll by YouGov in Germany in 2020 indicated that 42 percent of Germans had a negative view of Israel, compared to 18 percent who had a favorable idea. The same poll also revealed that 62 percent of Germans supported imposing sanctions on Israel for its settlement expansions in the occupied West Bank. According to a third poll by Ipsos MORI in Britain in 2019, 43 percent of Brits sympathized more with the Palestinians than with the Israelis. The same poll also showed that 66 percent of the British supported recognizing Palestine as a state.

These polls suggest a generational divide within Europe about the Israeli-Palestinian issue, with younger people more likely to hold a favorable view of Palestine and a critical view of Israel. This may be attributed to several factors, such as increased exposure to alternative sources of information through social media and online platforms, growing awareness of human rights issues and social justice movements around the world, greater interaction with various communities and cultures within Europe, and more disillusionment with traditional politics and institutions.



People gather with placards and a large Palestinian flag to take part in a 'March For Palestine', part of a pro-Palestinian national demonstration, in London, the UK, on October 14, 2023.  
● ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP



## Four Iranians nominated for AFC awards



### Sports Desk

Four Iranian international footballers and futsal players will be among the nominees at the AFC Annual Awards, which will be staged in Doha, Qatar, on October 31 after a four-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. Mahdi Taremi headlines the list of Iranian nominees at the gala, as the Porto striker is shortlisted for the AFC Asian International Player of the Year Award. The 31-year-old Iranian bagged 31 goals, while providing his teammates with 14 assists, in 51 appearances across all competitions for Porto last season – including 22 strikes which saw him finish as the leading marksman in the Portuguese top flight. On the scoresheet for Iran during a 3-1 victory over Jordan on Friday, Taremi has had a relatively slow start with the Portuguese Dragons this season, finding the net twice in 11 outings. Tottenham striker Son Heung-min is the surprise absentee in the category as Japanese winger Kaoru Mitoma, who has scored 13 goals for Brighton & Hove Albion since rejoining the Premier League side in June 2022, and South Korean defender Kim Min-jae, who lifted the Serie A trophy with Napoli before moving to Bayern Munich in the summer, complete the shortlist.

Also competing with the Japanese and South Korean rivals for a prize is Iranian under-23 center-back Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi, nominated for the AFC Men's Youth Player of the Year Award.

Hazbavi, 20, enjoyed an impressive campaign with the Persian Gulf Pro League's Foolad Khuzestan before a summer move to Qatari giant Al Sadd, where he has netted once in four appearances.

FC Tokyo midfielder Kuryu Matsuki as well as Gangwon FC's Lee Seung-won will also fancy their chances for the award.

Iranian duo Moslem Oladqobad – UEFA Champions League winner with Spanish club Palma de Mallorca – and Saeed Ahmad-Abbasi will compete with Japanese keeper Guilherme Kurotomo, who played an integral part in his team's shock victory over Iran in last year's Asian Cup final, in the AFC Futsal Player of the Year category.

The Football Federation of Iran, meanwhile, received a nomination in the AFC Member Association of the Year (Platinum) category – alongside the football associations of Japan and Uzbekistan.

The major prize of the ceremony, the AFC Player of the Year, will be decided between Melbourne City and Australian international striker Mathew Leckie, Qatar's Almoez Ali, who plays a forward for QSL champion Al Duhail, and Al Hilal winger Salem al-Dawsari, best remembered by his winner in Saudi Arabia's famous 2-1 victory over eventual champion Argentina at the World Cup in Qatar last year.

# Iran survives late scare against Jordan to set reunion date with Queiroz

### Sports Desk

Sardar Azmoun and Mahdi Taremi were both on the score-sheet as Iran held out a late surge by host Jordan for a 3-1 victory in the four-team friendly tournament in Amman.

It was hardly a vintage performance from Amir Qalenoee's men but was still enough to send them into Monday's showdown against Qatar – coached by former Iran manager Carlos Queiroz – which came out victorious against Iraq in the shootout after a goalless stalemate at the Amman International Stadium earlier on Friday.

It seemed to be an easy afternoon for Iran when AS Roma striker Azmoun gave the Asian powerhouse the lead with a composed finish six minutes into the game.

Taremi, who set up Azmoun for the opener, doubled the advantage 20 minutes later, tapping in into the bottom corner on a Ramin Rezaeian's low cross.

Yazan al-Naimat pulled one back for the home side with 15 minutes left on the clock and things could have gone even worse for Iran as the referee blew in his whistle for a penalty when Jordanian star Musa al-Taamari, playing for Ligue 1 club Montpellier, went down in the box by Mohammad Mohebbi in the final minute of normal time.

Jordanian skipper Ehsan Haddad sent Alireza Beiranvand the wrong way but his effort went above the crossbar and then Rouzbeh Cheshmi found his Esteghlal teammate



Iran's Sardar Azmoun (20) and Mahdi Taremi celebrate a goal during a 3-1 victory over Jordan in a four-team friendly tournament in Amman, Jordan, on October 13, 2023.

FFIRI

Mehrdad Mohammadi behind the Jordan backline before the substitute striker lobbed the keeper with a delicate touch to restore the two-goal cushion in the second minute of stoppage time.

This was a seventh successive win in eight outings for Iran under Qalenoee but the ex-Esteghlal and Sepahan manager was left with questions to answer over the team's defensive setup, while his men looked clueless at

times when going forward. Monday's encounter against the reigning Asian champion and its Portuguese head coach, who is best known for devising an accurate defensive gameplan, will surely provide

a trickier test for Team Melli ahead of its quest for a first continental trophy since 1976 in January's AFC Asian Cup in Qatar, where Iran is pitted against the UAE, Palestine, and Hong Kong in Group C.

## Iran names men's kumite squad for World Karate Championships



ikfir

### Sports Desk

The Iranian coaching staff named the country's male kumite squad ahead of the World Karate Championships, starting next Sunday in Budapest, Hungary.

Having last participated in the competitions in 2018, the Iranians will be back in the event after missing out on the previous edition in Dubai two years ago due to positive coronavirus test results for several members of the team. Tokyo Olympic champion Sajjad Ganjzadeh will head-

line the Iranian squad, eyeing a second major +84kg medal in three months, having won a bronze at the Asian Championships in July before walking away with the ultimate prize at the Hangzhou Asian Games nine days ago.

Ali Meskini will take part in the -60kg class, with Amir-Reza Borzouei and Mahdi Kiani fighting before the team leaves for the Hungarian capital to decide the Iranian slot in the -67kg contests.

Saman Edalati will be the Iranian -75kg contestant in Budapest, replacing the 2018 world

gold medalist Bahman Askari. Mahdi Khodabakhshi, meanwhile, will be looking to bounce back from a first-round defeat at the Asian Games when competing in the -84kg event.

Ganjzadeh, Askari, and Khodabakhshi will also team up with Zabihollah Poursheib, Saleh Abazari, Mahdi Ashouri, and Mahmoud Ne'mati as Iran will be chasing a fourth team kumite gold at the World Championships, having dominated the event on three successive occasions between 2014 and 2018.

## Mbappe shines as France qualify for Euros with Portugal, Belgium

REUTERS – France, Belgium and Portugal all blinked in their grasps but clung on for one-goal victories on Friday night which made them the first sides to qualify for next year's tournament.

Belgium led by three goals in Vienna and won 3-2 with 10 men to ensure a top-two finish in Group F and a ticket to the finals in Germany.

France led by two Kylian Mbappe goals in Amsterdam and beat the depleted Dutch 2-1.

Cristiano Ronaldo was another to score twice but Portugal also wobbled with a two-goal lead before beat-

ing Slovakia 3-2 in Porto in Group J.

In Amsterdam, Mbappe leapt to hook home a volley after seven minutes and then added a second eight minutes into the second half with a sumptuous curler.

It was his 42nd international goal, overtaking French legend Michel Platini and putting him fourth in the all-time list.

Quilindschy Hartman replied on his Dutch debut but Mbappe almost clinched his hat-trick, when his late drive hit the crossbar.

Greece won 2-0 in Dublin to eliminate Ireland and pull clear of the Dutch.



EPA



# Nothing less than genocide

**Social Desk** The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has thrust Gaza into a state of despair and reduced many parts of it to rubble. Since the beginning of Israel's retaliatory attack, triggered by Hamas's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Israeli forces have committed grave atrocities. They have been killing Palestinians indiscriminately through their relentless airstrikes, while amassing troops for a potential ground assault on Gaza. In the midst of all this, the voices of the people living in Gaza emerge as crucial narrators. They are the ones who are shedding light on the barbarism of Israel – something that they are enduring firsthand. Whilst the western mainstream media are acting out as Israel's propaganda machine, social media and parts of their users are proving crucial for the emergence of the truth. What Israel is doing in Gaza, backed by the US and Europe, is nothing less than genocide.



## Iran self-sufficient in treatment of eye disorders



IRNA

**Social Desk** The Secretary of the Ophthalmology Board of Iran's Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education affirmed that the country has achieved self-sufficiency in treating eye diseases and performing transplants. As a result, no patients are sent abroad for treatment. The Secretary further stated that timely diagnosis and treatment can cure approximately 80 percent of blindness cases. On Thursday, October 12, the World Sight Day was celebrated as a collaborative global effort by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, the World Health Organization, and several international non-governmental organizations. The primary objective of the initiative is to eliminate preventable blindness by 2020. Achieving this goal necessitates the active involvement of various organizations, including the United Nations, governments, eye and vision care institutions, health-care professionals, humanitarian institutions, and individuals who are willing to contribute to this joint action. According to the World Health Organization, World Sight Day serves as a platform to raise public awareness that 80 percent of blindness cases can be prevented or treated. It also emphasizes the need for governments, institutions, and other funding sources to invest in global prevention efforts, as the annual economic cost of preventing blindness worldwide is estimated at 28 billion dollars.

## Political views should not hinder return of Iranian expats



Iranian expatriates, regardless of their political views and leanings, should not feel concerned about returning to the country, especially if their political views "are not according to our wishes and likings", said an Iranian lawmaker. Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljeh told Iran Daily in an exclusive interview that the visit and reentry of all those who have Iranian blood in

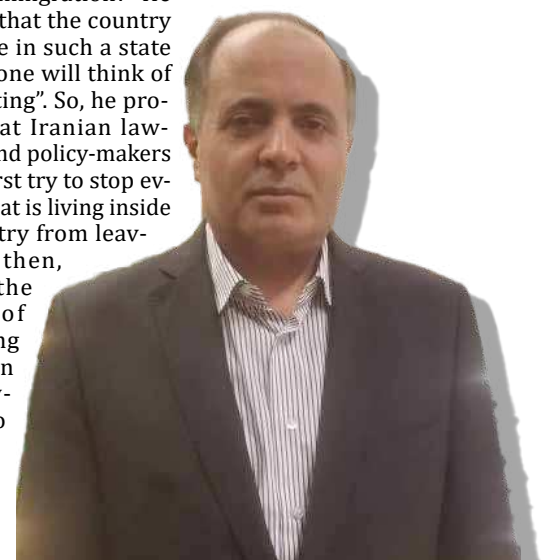
their veins — even if they are a quarter or less Iranian — and consider themselves Iranian should be facilitated. He also made a special mention of Iranian artists living abroad, saying, "Artists whose art and actions have not undermined our national security will find that they are not blocked from returning to the country, just like some other Iranian artists who have returned." In July, the Iranian Parliament passed a bill, titled "Support for Iranians Abroad," aimed at encouraging and engaging Irani-

an expatriates to invest in the country's economy and facilitate their return. Nouri-Qezeljeh expressed hope that the bill will deepen the ties of the Iranian diaspora with their homeland. The bill proposes offering legal and e-government services, among many others, to this end. It also contains plans to identify and employ talented Iranian expats in academic institutions, foster their cooperation with Iranian knowledge-based companies, and encourage investment from abroad. One of the main goals of

the bill is to support Iranian elites living abroad and preserve their cultural ties with the homeland. The MP proposed that a special card, called the "Travel Card of Iranians," should be issued that, in the hands of expatriates, will allow them to visit or reenter the country with minimal legal formalities. "The more we try to facilitate the return of our expatriates, the more cultural and scientific interactions will be had with them and more investments can be attracted, which is why different institutions of the country

including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the economic sectors, and the universities and scientific societies have been tasked with different responsibilities," he maintained. Nouri-Qezeljeh stressed that even though Iranian expatriates are some of the country's greatest scientific and financial capitals, there is no doubt that "we should look at them as a human and an Iranian first." As such, the MP noted that there are major questions that should be diligently answered regardless of

the bill: "Why is the immigration rate increasing? Why should Iranians turn to immigration?" He stressed that the country should be in such a state that "no one will think of immigrating". So, he proposes that Iranian lawmakers and policy-makers should first try to stop everyone that is living inside the country from leaving and then, turn to the matter of facilitating the return of everyone who has left.





## Iran's director Tayyeb picked for Czech festival's jury

Iran's filmmaker and documentarian Mohammad Tayyeb was picked to evaluate the films at the European Section of the 26th International Sports Film Festival of Liberec, the Czech Republic.

Sportfilm Liberec 2023 is one of the oldest and most prestigious sports film festivals in the world. This event is held every year in the city of Liberec in the north of the Czech Republic, Mehr news agency reported.

The winners of this festival will be introduced to the Milan World Sports Film Festival, organized by the International Sports Film and Television Federation (FICTS). The headquarters of FICTS is in Milan, Italy, and more than 130 countries are members of this federation. The World Federation of Sports Films in Milan is under the supervision of the International Olympic Committee.

Tayyeb is an official member of FICTS and the secretary of the international festivals commission of FICTS. He has been the director of international affairs for three editions (11th to 13th) of the International Sports Film Festival of Iran.

The Liberec International Sports Film Festival opened on October 12 and will run for four days in the city of Liberec in the Czech Republic.



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# Iran's Leader urges all-out support for Palestine

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called for all-out support for Palestine amid an ongoing aggression by the Zionist regime against the Gaza Strip.

"All (countries) in the Muslim world have a duty to support Palestine," said Ayatollah Khamenei on Saturday in a meeting with prominent Nigerian Shia cleric Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky, and his wife and daughters, leader.ir reported.

During this meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei outlined that Islam's increasing power in the world, despite the widespread conspiracies that are taking place, is the result of the endeavors of the resistance fighters. While referring to the conditions of occupied Palestine, especially Gaza, he stated, "One of the manifestations of Islam's power today can be seen in the incidents that are taking place in Palestine."

Ayatollah Khamenei underscored, "The events that have unfolded in recent days in Palestine, especially the bombings and the martyrdom of the women, children, and men there, have wounded people's hearts. However, another part of these events have revealed the incredible power of Islam in Palestine. With Almighty God's grace, this movement that has begun in Palestine will progress



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) meets with Nigerian Shia cleric Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky in Tehran on October 14, 2023.

and lead to the complete victory of the Palestinians." The Leader of the Islamic Revolution explained that the formation of the Islamic system in Iran after many centuries, and the formation of a government that is based on the mindset of political Islam, is one of the aspects of Islam's power. "The Islamic Republic has be-

come stronger day by day since its establishment, and it will continue to become even stronger in the future," he said. The Leader added that Islamic activities are increasing around the world on a daily basis. "Today, the Islamic movement is expanding in different parts of the world such as Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. With

God's grace, the success of this movement will continue with greater strength." During the meeting, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution expressed his satisfaction with meeting Sheikh Zakzaky and his family, telling them, "You are the epitome of those who truly fight for the cause of God, and I hope you will continue with this en-

deavor." Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife also expressed their boundless satisfaction, while stating that the feelings they have are "indescribable." "We hope that with your prayers and the efforts and endeavors of Muslims, Islam will spread more and more every day," said Sheikh Zakzaky.

## Iranian books on display at Lebanon fair



### Arts & Culture Desk

The Iran Book and Literature House, based in Tehran, is taking part in the 8th Lebanon International Book Fair. Occupying a 160-square-meter pavilion, Iran is offering a collection of 1,200 titles, covering topics such as religion, resistance literature, the Sacred Defense, Palestine, classic

and contemporary literature, children's and adolescent literature, Iranian studies, arts, tourism, and academic publications, ketab.ir reported. Inside Iran's pavilion, books from 60 publishers in the country are on display. Notable publishers like Surey-e Mehr, Boostan-e Ketab, Afra, Hodhod, Beh Nashr, and Nakhl-e Sabz are also displaying,

directly offering their works to visitors. What sets the Iranian pavilion apart is that more than 80 percent of the exhibited works are available in the Arabic language, aiming to reach a wider audience. Furthermore, the Iranian pavilion at this round of the book fair distinguishes itself through its visual appeal and cultural iden-

tity. The pavilion's visual design incorporates a mixture of Iranian tradition, culture, and arts, which has been well-received by the fair's attendees. During the opening ceremony, Lebanese Culture Minister Mohammad Wisam al-Murtada extended his greetings to the resistance front and the Palestinian people. He stated, "We organized

this fair this year because our homeland is the land of thoughts and history. We emphasize that we are victorious through culture, and Beirut will remain the eternal capital of thought." The book fair which began on October 13 and will run through October 22 at the Beirut Forum, aims to allow visitors to explore a wide range of publishing offers.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## 'Twenty-one Weeks Later' awarded at Korean festival

The Iranian short film 'Twenty-one Weeks Later', directed by Nasrin Mohammadpour, won the Sonje Award jointly with the Korean film 'My Dear' by Jeon Do-hee and Kim So-hee at the 28th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), held in South Korea from October 4 to 13. Banafshe Rezaie, Leila Hosseinzadeh, Soudabeh Bahraminejad, and Parisa Asgari are the cast members of the short film, Mehr news agency reported.

Like her previous productions, Mohammadpour's 'Twenty-One Weeks Later' features women's issues. This film depicts issues pertaining to mothers. The festival attracted more than 140,000 movie lovers to the southeastern port city for the past 10 days. The 28th edition of the BIFF screened 209 films from 70 countries at four theaters, including 88 world and international premieres, its organizer said.

