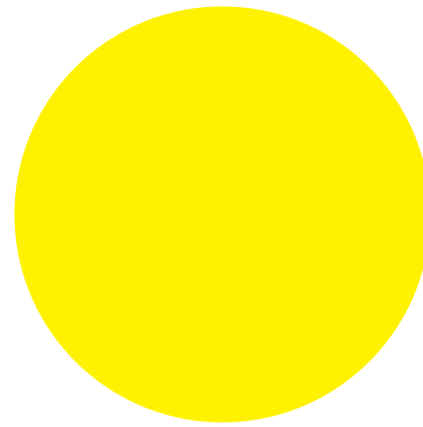


Raisi: Israeli actions reminiscent of Nazis' behavior

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FM: If Israel Attacks Continue, Control of Situation Can't Be Guaranteed

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Emir of Qatar Shekh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (3rd-R) meets with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (3rd-L) in Doha, Qatar, on October 15, 2023.
AFP



By Mohammadreza Gholamreza

OPINION

Considering that, after the strategic defeat of the Zionist regime in the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, it has used all its capacities in the media and propaganda field with the aim of destroying the resistance identity of the Palestinian people, in order to justify the crimes against them. It is necessary for institutions, organizations, political and social parties and currents at the domestic, regional and international levels to stand up under a unit discourse to support the resistance in Palestine. This action should first be done at the domestic level and with the synergy among all governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, especially scientific and academic assemblies and seminars, and in the second step, each institution should take steps in accordance with the corresponding institutions at the regional and international levels towards creating a discourse and integrated support of the resistance in Palestine. The unity of the word between the seminaries of Qom and Najaf and other Islamic countries, as well as scholars of the Islamic world, members of the Inter-parliamentary Union of Islamic States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other Islamic institutions can provide the basis for the promotion and excellence of the discourse and resistance identity of the Palestinian people and deepening it among Muslim nations in the region and the freedom seekers of the world; Especially considering that the enemy has used all its capacities to destroy the Palestinian resistance movement and even criminalize the supporting of it. Integrated media support, or in other words; announcement, doubles the



Mohammad Ali Rajabi / Cartoonist



In Memoriam
Dariush Mehrjui
(1939-2023)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea to fine two Hong Kong banks



REUTERS - South Korea's stock market watchdog said on Sunday it found two Hong Kong-based investment banks had engaged in naked short-selling, which would likely result in record fines. The two unnamed investment banks made naked short-selling transactions of a total 40 billion won (\$29.58 million) and 16 billion won, respectively, the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) said in a statement.

Naked short selling of stocks - in which an investor short sells shares without first borrowing them or determining they can be borrowed - is banned by the Capital Markets Act in South Korea.

Iraq, UAE launch deals to develop oil, gas fields

CNBC - Iraq has launched three energy contracts with UAE-based Crescent Petroleum to develop three oil and gas fields in Iraq, the Oil Ministry said on Sunday.

United Arab Emirates-based Crescent Petroleum signed in February three 20-year contracts to develop oil and natural gas fields in Iraq's Basra and Diyala provinces in north-eastern Baghdad.

The Crescent Petroleum contracts are expected to begin producing 400 million standard cubic feet per day of natural gas within 18 months, the Oil Ministry statement quoted Iraq's Oil Minister Hayan Abdel-Ghani as saying.

IMF calls for new funds, share plan by June 2025



AFP - International Monetary Fund members pledged to complete a review of quota funding by Dec. 15, voicing support for an increase that at least maintains the IMF's overall lending resources as bilateral borrowing arrangements expire. A statement issued by the fund's steering committee chair, Spanish economy minister Nadia Calvino, also called for proposals to change the Fund's shareholding formula by June 2025.

Iran's H1 economic growth hits 5.8%: CBI

Economy Desk

The growth rate of Iran's economy in the first six months of 2023 reached an average of 5.8 percent, while the investment growth in 2022 hit 6.7 percent, announced the governor-general of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Mohammadreza Farzin announced the figures in the meeting of the heads of central banks and ministers of the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP) region, which was held Sunday in Morocco, with the inaugural speech of Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), cbi.ir reported.

Referring to the successes attained by the Iranian government in controlling inflation and economic growth in the last six months, he added the government and the CBI are committed to implementing economic stabilization policies.

The CBI governor noted that Iran's economy has now achieved stability after enduring various impulses. Farzin explained that in response to external impulses, the Iranian government and the CBI have implemented a policy package including a set of balanced policies for economic stabilization.



Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammadreza Farzin speaks at the meeting of the heads of central banks and ministers of the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP) region, in Morocco on October 15, 2023. cbi.ir

One of the current fundamental issues of Iran's economy is inflation, said the top bank official, the control of which along with supporting vulnerable families are some of the basic goals of the balanced stabilization policy.

Iran, Brazil banking cooperation

Meanwhile, top financial officials of Iran and Brazil met to exchange views

about making use of the potential to develop bilateral trade ties and multi-lateral relations under the BRICS emerging economies' mechanism.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 2023 annual meetings of the IMF in Morocco between Farzin and his Brazilian counterpart Roberto Campos Neto.

During the meeting, Farzin said the expansion of

banking and trade relations between Tehran and Brasilia will benefit both countries in the present conditions.

Making use of the potential held by Iran and the BRICS emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa will lead to an increase in banking ties among the mentioned states in a short time period, the CBI chief noted.

For his part, the Brazilian official stressed the importance of strengthening Brasilia-Tehran ties on various issues.

Roberto Neto proposed the use of the BRICS potential to establish a mechanism for promoting financial cooperation. The Islamic Republic of Iran officially became a member of the BRICS bloc of emerging economies in August 2023.

IRANTEX expo kicks off in Tehran

Iran's Minister of Industry Abbas Aliabadi inaugurated the 29th IRANTEX International Exhibition: Textile Machinery, Raw Materials, Home Textiles, Embroidery Machines & Textile Products in Tehran on Sunday.

Some 160 domestic companies and 180 foreign companies from Germany, Italy, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, South Korea, Turkey, India, Japan, Spain and China are showcasing their latest products and achievements in this edition of the exhibition, Tasnim news agency reported. Simultaneously, the 10th International Apparel Exhibition (IRAN MOD 2023) and the 10th International Exhibition of Footwear, Bag, Leather, and Related Industries (MPEX 2023) were inaugurated at the venue of the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds. They will run until October 18.

In these exhibitions, different kinds of textile-related equipment, industries, and services, including textile machines, parts, sewing machines, embroidery and cutting machines, types of home textiles including blankets, curtain fabrics, bedspreads, sheets and pillowcases, sleeping mats, towels, tablecloths, cashmere, drapery, curtains and related accessories and parts, fabric, clothing, all kinds of yarn, fibers, dyes, as well as various kinds of raw materials for textile industries, bathroom and toilet services and various kinds of fabrics for clothing production are displayed. Holding 15 scientific workshops and two specialized conferences with the presence of experts and university professors, as well as visits by several foreign trade and business delegations are also among the programs scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the expos. Also, 84 domestic companies will be present at the 11th Iran Mod Exhibition. Due to the ban on clothing imports, foreign companies will not be present at this exhibition.

Creating competition, exchanging information between garment manufacturers and exporters, improving the domestic production level in the country, streamlining domestic garment production plan, helping to generate employment, marketing and spurring exports, and increasing the efficiency of domestic production are the most important goals of holding the 10th International Apparel Exhibition (IRAN MOD 2023).



OPEC's September report: Production surges with Iran's output surpassing 3m bpd

OPEC's crude oil production witnessed a noticeable uptick in September compared to August, as per the latest data released in the Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR) published by the organization.

According to the MOMR, OPEC's crude oil production surged to 27.755 million barrels per day (bpd) in September, marking an increase of 273,000 bpd from the previous month's figure of 27.482 million bpd in August, oilandgasmiddleeast.com reported. The report — which relies on secondary sources for its data — highlighted Iran's remarkable surge in its oil production which reached 3.058 million bpd in September, showing a 15,000-barrel increase when compared to its preceding month. This marked a milestone for Iran as it signaled the highest production level the country has seen in years. The increase in production aligns with Iran's efforts to restore its oil output to pre-sanctions levels.

The most significant boost in production came from Nigeria, with a month-over-month increase of 141,000 bpd, the report continued.

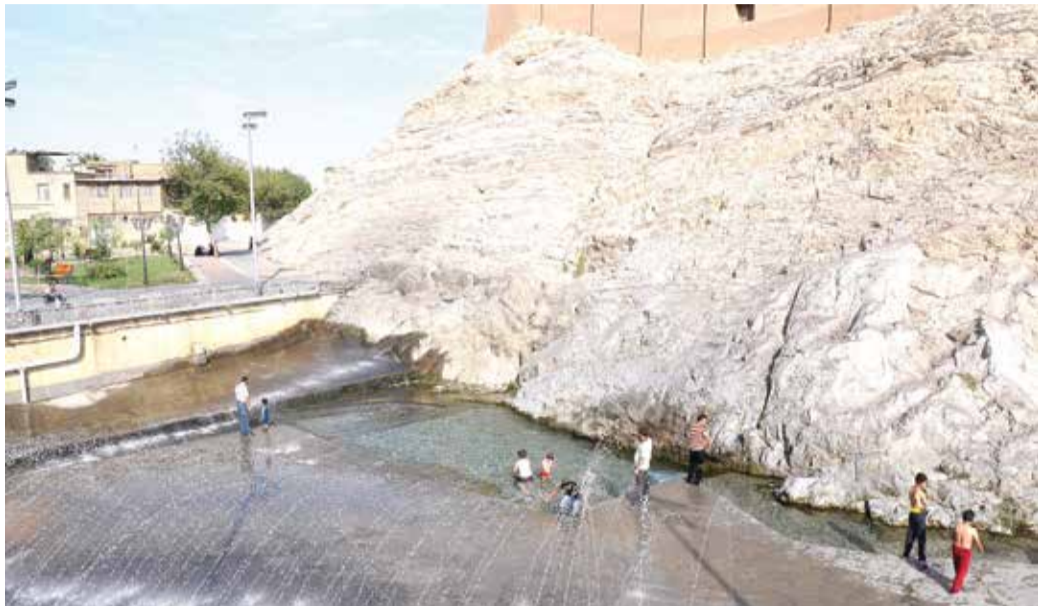
Saudi Arabia, a key player in OPEC, also contributed to the production surge, reporting an increase of 82,000 bpd. Several other OPEC member nations also saw incremental production growth, albeit on a smaller scale.

However, not all OPEC members followed this trend, as some reported a decline in their oil production during the same period. Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Venezuela were among the countries that experienced a decrease in production.

Venezuela, in particular, faced a substantial setback, witnessing a reduction of 25,000 bpd, which brought its production down to 733,000 bpd. This marked the lowest production level for Venezuela since April 2023.



Hope blooms for reviving Cheshmeh Ali Spring



Cheshmeh Ali spring before it dried up
● wikipedia.com



Cheshmeh Ali spring after drying up
● IRAN DAILY



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

In the past month or two, distressing images of the drying up of an eight-thousand-year-old spring called Cheshmeh Ali in Shahr-e Rey, Tehran Province, have stirred up strong reactions and raised concern among environmentalists and heritage enthusiasts. Director of the Shahr-e Rey's Cultural Heritage Sit Ghadir Afroond is optimistic about the restoration of the water flow in Cheshmeh Ali Spring in the near future. Hopefully, we would soon witness the revival and magnificence of this ancient spring, restoring its splendor and grandeur. Cheshmeh Ali is one of the historic, tourist, and sightseeing spots in Shahr-e Rey, located in District 20 of the capital city of Tehran. This ancient spring, with a history dating back eight thousand years, is situated adjacent

to several significant historical and tourist sites in Shahr-e Rey: Ibn Babaviyeh Cemetery, Toghrol Tower, and Rashkan Castle; and it is nestled beneath Rey Fortification. The ancient name of this spring was Sorin, which is likely derived from the name of a large family who lived during the Parthian and Sassanian periods. Its current name, Cheshmeh Ali, is taken from the name of the first Imam of Shia Muslims, Imam Ali (PBUH). For many years, water has flowed abundantly from the rocks of this area, pouring downstream. However, recently published images indicate that this historical spring has sadly dried up. Speaking in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily Afroond said that the creation of the spring is the outcome of a fascinating geological phenomenon that took place centuries ago. Historical and scientific evidence substantiate that following the formation of a fault in Rey, a distinctive geologi-

cal structure emerged in the region, giving birth to the enchanting spring. Eight thousand years ago a gush of water emerged from the heart of this region, drawing the attention of the earliest human communities in the Neolithic era. Gathering around this precious spring, they carefully chose to establish their settlements in areas abundant in water resources. The spring became the center of life for these ancient societies, providing them with the vital elements they needed to thrive. He continued that this region has been considered an ideal location for human settlements in the past, as it is neither close to the cold regions of the northern Alborz Mountains, nor to the hot deserts of the south. Therefore, it had a suitable position for the livelihood of early humans. Afroond said that Cheshmeh Ali Spring has always been abundant in water, providing water to the gardens and surrounding areas for years. It used to be a vital source of water for the

local people, sustaining their lives and livelihoods. However, in recent times, the once-flourishing Cheshmeh Ali Spring has unexpectedly run dry, leaving behind well-documented depiction of its desolate state through various images. According to popular beliefs and opinions from cultural heritage experts, as well as public surveys, there is evidence suggesting that the ongoing implementation of Phase 6 of the Tehran Metro in Shahr-e Rey, located a short distance away, has had an impact on the situation at hand. "Many people strongly believe that the construction of the metro line and its related activities are the primary factors causing the drying up of Cheshmeh Ali. In light of this concern, we have engaged in correspondence with the metro authorities. In these exchanges, they have acknowledged the possibility of their actions contributing to the spring's dryness, and they have expressed their willingness to take necessary measures for

water restoration if proven responsible. Nevertheless, further analysis is needed to substantiate this claim," he said. Tehran Metro authorities announced that droughts and water shortages have been identified as the underlying factors for the spring's dryness in recent years. They have presented evidence and arguments supporting this claim. "However, we remain unconvinced by these justifications, and even if they prove to be valid, it is essential for related officials to provide substantial evidence and documentation that can persuade the public to accept this explanation," he said. He reiterated the profound desire of the people to witness the revival of the flowing spring water, adding it is unacceptable for them that this spring would dry up suddenly after thousands of years. However, there is hope that water will return to the spring in the next two to three months because the rainy months of the year have arrived.

"On the other hand," he added, "research is being conducted on the cause of the spring's drying, while rescue measures to restore water to the spring are underway." "We will persistently pursue this matter until the water flows back to the spring. Ongoing research will be conducted. Ultimately, it is crucial to promptly address the future of the spring, ensuring that its water scarcity is resolved without significant delay" he said. "We've had productive sessions with the municipal, metro, and governorate authorities to address this issue. It is crucial that a swift resolution is reached. Additionally, any organization found to be negligent or falling short in their responsibilities must take appropriate measures to rectify their shortcomings. Let's work towards effective solutions together." He concluded by saying that there is hope that water will return to the spring in the next two to three months because rainy days have arrived.

Ancient Iranian dam construction techniques

It is obvious that in the ancient Iran people tried to use local materials as: stone, brick and lime concrete. Perhaps, by the shape and the dimensions of bricks which used in dam construction and compare them with other dams can determine the real age of dams. As a whole, bricks and stones with lime concrete make the dams resistible against lateral pressures. It should be mentioned that dam builders were very enthusiastic about the quality of materials in ancient Iran.

Shape of dams and transferring the lateral pressures: There are two main forces in dam construction, the weight of body and the lateral forces.

Gravity dams

Transferring the vertical force, which is the weight of body makes no difficulty, but the water pressure against dam

makes difficulty to transfer the forces to the ground. Resisting against horizontal forces (water pressure) they had to increase the dimension of the body as large as the result of vertical and horizontal forces pass through equilibrium point and all the forces reflect to the foundation. It is obvious if the dimensions of walls of pools and ponds are not sufficient, the horizontal water pressure will ruin the walls. The experience leads them to make the walls thicker and heavier to resist against horizontal force. In dam construction technology, when they increase the dimension of dam to resist against horizontal pressure, they call it gravity dam. Most of dams in Iran are gravity ones.

Arch dams

As it is possible to transfer the vertical forces to the



Saveh Dam

foundation by arch, the same technique is used in dam construction and transfers the

lateral pressures to the ends of the body. This type of dam call "arch dam". Perhaps it is nec-

essary to mention this point that western countries have believed that the detection and usage of arch in structures belong to Romans and Atroskians. But it is proved that Iranian had used "arch" in their structures before Romans by his excavation in Haft Tapeh. Iranian used many initiatives and discoveries in dome of masques, which are not necessary to mention here. Anyway the Iranian dam builders had known much about arch characteristics and transferring the load by making the dams arch form. So it must have been related this technique to Iranians.

Buttress dams

The body of those dams are rather thin, but there are some triangular pillars which strengthen the dam against water pressure. All the dam sites, which were chosen, had suit-

able conditions, such as narrow valleys and geological situation. They were mostly located in mountainous region, which were very difficult to reach the sites. So we should accept that the old experts and dam builders found these locations by investigation and searching.

Dam foundation

The conditions of dam foundations are quite different. In some places where bedrocks located on the riverbeds, the foundations have still remained without any deformation after centuries, although the reservoirs are full of sediment. But in many cases they were not able to excavate the foundation to reach the bedrock, so they established the dam on alluvial soil. It is obvious that these dams couldn't be stable through the years. For instance: Saveh Dam and Sheshtaraz Dam in Kashmar and so on.

Raisi: Israeli actions reminiscent of Nazis' behavior

International Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi warned of the danger of the spread of the ongoing conflict in the region if the Israeli regime continues its crimes, including the siege on Gaza and killing of Palestinians. He made the remarks in a phone conversation with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on Sun-

day. Raisi asked Western countries and supporters of the Israeli regime what criteria can justify the killings of 700 innocent children by Israel. He called the actions of the Israeli regime against Palestinians reminiscent of the behavior of the Nazis. Talks with the French president were the latest in a series of Raisi's phone conversations with the lead-

ers of some countries on the situation in the Gaza Strip. In talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman on Saturday, he said Muslim countries and free nations in the world must take "decisive and immediate" action to stop the Israeli "killing machine," as the war on the besieged Gaza is claiming more civilian lives.

Support by Western countries

Raisi warned the unlimited support by Western countries, particularly the United States, for the crimes of Israel has led to more complication and deterioration of the situation. He said the Palestinian resistance groups launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm following the intensification of the regime's crimes in recent months. The operation, he said, has upset the Zionist-Western calculations.

The Iranian president also raised alarm about plots by Israel and its allies to carry out a massacre in Gaza and force Palestinians to evacuate the northern part of the Strip as the Tel Aviv regime continues to cut off water and electricity, and prevents

the entry of medicine and food. In a statement released on Friday, Israel's military ordered residents of Gaza City to evacuate the area within 24 hours, in what is viewed as a precursor to a ground invasion. Raisi also urged that United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League and other international bodies to address the current dire situation in Gaza.

Israel started its onslaught on October 7, after resistance groups launched multi-pronged Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the largest military operation against the occupying regime in decades.

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, the Israeli bombardment of Gaza has killed more than 2,260

people, including more than 700 children, and injured more than 9,800.

In a phone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani on Saturday, Raisi said lifting the siege and preventing genocide in Gaza require immediate action by all Muslim nations, expressing Iran's readiness to cooperate with Iraq and other Muslim states in this regard.

Collective punishment

The Iranian president expressed concern over inhumane acts and the killing of innocent people in Gaza and said Israel is trying to avenge its defeat to the resistance forces through "collective pun-

ishment and systematic crimes" against defenseless and innocent civilians.

Iran's president also held separate talks with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Raisi denounced the Israeli aerial assaults on the besieged Gaza Strip as war crimes.

"The Zionist leaders' statements and actions in recent days are an obvious example of war crimes and genocide in flagrant violation of all international treaties," the Iranian president said.

He also held the US and other allies of Tel Aviv responsible for the atrocities committed by Israel against the Palestinians.

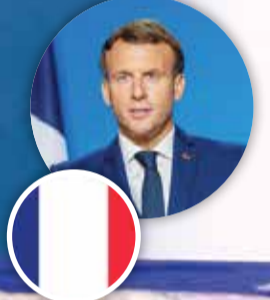
"The situation in Palestine is a clear proof of contradictory and hypo-

critical positions of Westerners who are claiming to defend human rights," he added.

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm is rooted in 75 years of occupation, humiliation and desecration of sanctities of the Palestinians, Raisi said, noting that the oppressed nation's new generation has risen up to demand its breached rights.

The Qatari emir, for his part, underlined the need for Tehran-Doha cooperation towards ending the regime's crimes in Gaza and upholding the Palestinians' rights.

Western media try to show a false and reversed image of regional developments despite a global awakening with freedom-seeking people supporting the Palestinians' rights, he added.



FM warns of uncontrollable situation if Zionists continue attacks

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister reiterated his warning against the Israeli atrocities and the blockade of Gaza, saying, "If the attacks by the Zionist regime continue, the control of the situation cannot be guaranteed."

During the fourth day of his regional tour, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Sunday, emphasizing that if the Zionist regime's attacks against the defenseless people of Gaza persist, no one can ensure control over the

situation and prevent the escalation of hostilities, IRNA reported.

"Those who are interested in preventing the scope of war and crisis from expanding need to prevent the current barbaric attacks ... against citizens and civilians in Gaza," he added.

The foreign minister told reporters in Beirut on Saturday 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.



● AFP

Palestinians find no escape

Residents in Gaza were desperate on Sunday to find safe hiding places within the city as the Israeli military prepared for what is expected to be a ground offensive accompanied by relentless airstrikes. The journey to the south is also fraught with risks.

Israel's bombardments are in retaliation for Hamas' attacks launched last Saturday, killing some 1,400 people.

Clashes at the border with Lebanon reached their deadliest for Israel since 2006, raising fears of a wider war, Reuters reported.

Amir-Abdollahian highlighted the impor-

ance of collective action by Muslim countries to put an end to the war crimes committed by "the Zionist apartheid regime" against the people of Gaza.

In this context, he stressed the significance of convening an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the levels of foreign ministers and heads of states.

He added that the US, while advising others to exercise self-restraint, does not adhere to its own advice and has strengthened its comprehensive support for the Zionist regime.



● AFP



● president.ir

Hamas commitment to civilian prisoners

Regarding his discussions with high-ranking officials of the Hamas movement in Beirut and Doha, the top Iranian diplomat said that these officials emphasized their commitment to addressing the issue of civilian prisoners with an Islamic and humanitarian perspective.

They also expressed their readiness to take the necessary actions in this regard if the field conditions permit, Amir-Abdollahian added.

During the meeting, the Emir of Qatar expressed con-

cern about the humanitarian conditions in Gaza and stated that Doha's priority is to halt the crimes in Gaza, and their position regarding Palestine remains unchanged. He pointed out that the occupying forces are responsible for the crimes they commit.

Prior to visiting Qatar, the Iranian foreign minister demonstrated solidarity with countries resisting the recent crimes of the Zionist regime through visits to Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria and declared that the resistance is prepared for any scenario.

Pro-Palestinian rallies

Pro-Palestinian rallies continued Sunday across various countries and regions of the world including the US, Europe, Middle East, and Asia.

However, Germany and France banned demonstrations supporting Palestine, and several countries stepped up security, fearing protests could lead to outbreaks of violence.

Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered in the US capital on Saturday, marching past the White House to chants of "Free Palestine" as the death toll continued to climb in the conflict between Israel and

Hamas.

"What is happening today is just beyond the pale. It's so upsetting, we are watching people being killed by an army that this country supports," demonstrator Linda Houghton told AFP.

About 1.1 million people in the north of Gaza have been told by Israel's military to move to the south, with Israel saying it will allow a safe route for a limited time.

The World Health Organization has criticized the order to move hospital patients from the north, saying it is tantamount to a death sentence.

Medics in Gaza warned Sunday that thousands could die as hospitals packed with wounded people ran desperately low on fuel and basic supplies.

Palestinians in the besieged coastal enclave struggled to find food, water, and safety ahead of the expected Israeli ground offensive in the war, AP reported. Israeli forces, supported by a growing deployment of US warships in the region, positioned themselves along Gaza's border and drilled for what Israel said would be a broad campaign to dismantle the Hamas group.

Deadliest of five Gaza wars

The Gaza Health Ministry said 2,329 Palestinians have been killed since the fighting erupted, more than in the 2014 Gaza war, which lasted over six weeks. That makes this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for both sides.

Western countries who support Israel have warned against a regional spillover of the conflict. The United States has deployed a second aircraft carrier to the region in an effort to "deter hostile actions against Israel", Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said.

Israel 'gone beyond self-defence'

China on Sunday condemned the continued Israeli retaliation to the shock attack, saying Israel should stop its "collective punishment" of Gaza's civilians with actions that are beyond self-defence.

In a call with his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned Israel's attacks would worsen regional tensions

and lead to humanitarian disaster, South China Morning Post reported.

"Israel's actions have gone beyond self-defence," Wang told Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry readout released early on Sunday.

The Israeli army is awaiting a "political decision" on the timing of the major ground offen-

sive on the Gaza Strip, military spokesmen said Sunday as civilians stepped up desperate efforts to flee northern Gaza, AFP reported.

The regime has faced pressure from the United Nations and its allies to hold back on any invasion until civilians have been given every chance to leave. The military has not said when the safe passage windows will close.

Will great war lead to great peace?

By Emad Abshenass
Middle East affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE OPINION

Over the past three decades, Israel and the United States have tried to portray Iran as an enemy and a threat to the Middle East, often overshadowing the perceived threat posed by Israel. Unfortunately, this Iranophobic policy has undermined Muslim unity and deepened divisions in the Islamic world in recent years. As a result, the Palestinian issue, which had traditionally been a central focus in the Islamic world, began to fade away.

However, Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the subsequent Israeli crimes against Gaza have redirected the Islamic world's attention back toward the Palestinian cause. A broad consensus has emerged among Muslim nations that firmly supports the Palestinian people and opposes Israel. In fact, the historical injustices against Palestine and the ongoing Israeli atrocities have been recalled to the forefront of the global consciousness. Massive demonstrations have been organized in Islamic and non-Islamic countries against Israel and in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

The United States tried hard to put an end to the Palestinian issue by normalizing relations between Arab nations and Israel, offering no concessions to the Palestinians. However, in recent days, these plans have been called into question, with some nations that had previously signed peace deals with Israel now hinting at a possible withdrawal from those agreements.

For instance, an audio recording of Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's former president, went viral in which he warned Israel against attempting to displace Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt, saying such an act could lead to Egypt withdrawing from the peace treaty and even breaking out of a war. This audio release serves as a clear warning from Egypt to Israel.

Furthermore, even Queen Rania of Jordan, a country with political ties to Israel, responded to the American stance that Israel has the right to legitimate defense by reminding them that Israel is an occupying regime and that "the occupier has no right to self-defense."

Therefore, the political climate in Muslim countries is currently in favor of the Palestinian cause, and it is unlikely that any Muslim leader would dare to establish political relations with Israel under the prevailing circumstances.

The key problem lies in Israel's refusal to recognize any rights or privileges for Palestinians, which has virtually rendered unsuccessful any peace plans proposed so far — be it a two-state solution or a UN-sponsored referendum. Israel continues its actions and expansionist policies with the backing of Western nations. However, the time has come for Western countries to clarify their role, deciding whether to persist in their unwavering support for Israel and overlook its acts, or to come up with a comprehensive solution to this decades-old conflict.

In recent years, even Saudi Arabia and the UAE, who initially did not recognize Yemen's Ansarullah and waged a war against them, changed their stance. Following a brazen strike on Aramco oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi stood down and moderated their tone, with Riyadh now hosting a dialogue with Ansarullah.

Israel and the United States have apparently come to the understanding that they must recognize the historical and legal rights of Palestinians for a lasting peace to be achieved. A potential solution is the idea of United Nations-supervised elections that lead to the formation of a two-nation state.

It is often said that a great war precedes great peace. The Palestinians may have expected a firm Israeli response to their strike in the occupied territories, but they had no alternative and were willing to bear the high costs in order for their voices to be heard globally. Israel and the US now face a decision: to press on with their current policies and take the consequences, or to change course and embrace a path of peace that recognizes the rights of Palestinians.

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The World Health Organization has criticized the Israeli order to move hospital patients from the north of Gaza, saying it is tantamount to a death sentence.



● AFP

Qatari bidder withdraws from process to buy United

BBC – Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani has withdrawn from the process to buy Manchester United. Sheikh Jassim had bid £5bn for the club but further talks this week have broken down. The Glazer family, who bought United for £790m in 2005, announced in November 2022 they were considering selling. British businessman Sir Jim Ratcliffe's Ineos Group was the other main bidder. Sources have told BBC Sport that Ratcliffe is now hoping to conclude a deal for a minority stake in the club, thought to be 25%. Earlier this month BBC Sport reported Ratcliffe was considering whether to offer to buy a minority stake in the club in an effort to break the impasse over the ownership situation.



PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS

The Glazer family's announcement last year that they were considering selling United led to a flurry of interest but only two offers, from Ineos and Sheikh Jassim. Both tabled bids of about £5bn. Sheikh Jassim's camp have always maintained he was only interested in buying the club outright. United supporters have held demonstrations against the Glazer family inside and outside Old Trafford. The club are 10th in the Premier League having lost four of their opening eight matches, and were beaten in their first two Champions League games. In a statement, the Manchester United Supporters' Trust said: "MUFC is in desperate need of new investment and new majority ownership. We hope this news accelerates that process rather than delays it.

"Based on the last 11 months, no-one can be quite sure. The Glazers need to make their position clear." It is understood that Sheikh Jassim's bid would have been a fully cash offer and would have cleared all old debt. There would also have been more than £1.4bn to finance new stadium plans, new training centre facilities, buy players and also for community regeneration projects. Figures in March showed United owed £969.6m through a combination of gross debt, bank borrowings and outstanding transfer fees with associated payments.

MP calls for more investment and dedication in Iranian sports



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

A member of the Iranian Parliament says more investment needs to be made in the sports to contribute to the country's status on the international stage. Speaking to Iran Daily, Ramezan-Ali Sangdovini said: "We have no choice but to acquire the modern-day techniques, tactics, and science, if the Iranians are to reach the global heights of the sport." Sangdovini's remarks came days after the 19th Asian Games concluded in Hangzhou, China, where the Iranian 285-athlete delegation grabbed 13 golds, 21 silvers and 20 bronzes to finish seventh in the overall medals table. Some believe Iran's run in the Games will fairly go down as a failure, as the number of the golds was seven short of the figure the Iranians tallied for a sixth-place finish in Jakarta-Palembang 2018 – the lowest for the country since 2006, when Iran grabbed 11 gold medals in Doha. Iran's total medal haul was also down by eight from five years ago, though the country was represented by 93 more athletes in Indonesia. Still, the Iranian sport reveled in some historic achievements in certain competitions – namely gymnastics, roller skating, chess, table tennis, and mountain cycling. "Given the investment and efforts made in the sports in the country, I don't think we could expect more success than what the Iranians already achieved in the Games, while you have to give credit to some of the athletes for collecting first-ever medals for the



The Iranian athletes parade during the opening ceremony of the Hangzhou Asian Games in China on September 23, 2023. hamshahronline.ir

country," the Iranian lawmaker said. Asked about the importance of investing in sports, Sangdovini said: "Nowadays, sport plays a massive role in promoting the countries worldwide as it is among the factors by which a nation's development and status are measured. You could see in the Asian Games how some countries, with a relatively low profile in other fields, established themselves as successful in the sports." "When you look at other countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, South Korea, and even Uzbekistan and

Mongolia, you can see how they have contributed to the development of the sports," Sangdovini added. With less than a year until the Paris Olympics, the outcome in Hangzhou was a wake-up call for certain federations in Iran and Sangdovini believes more work needs to be done if the Iranians are to succeed in the French capital. "We have to make sure that the Iranian athletes will have no personal life concerns when preparing for the Olympics," said the Iranian MP. "I went to meet with Mahdi Olfati last week to con-

gratulate him on his vault silver at the Asian Games, which was a maiden gymnastics medal for the country in the history of the event. When I saw his poor training facilities, I could realize what a great job done he has done in competing with some high-profile athletes from China, South Korea, and the Chinese Taipei. "You can see how massively the Saudis have invested in football, as the sum they paid to Cristiano Ronaldo to bring him to their league is roughly equal to the Iranian Sport Ministry's annual budget.



Ramezan-Ali Sangdovini
TASNIM



That's what makes the difference between us and them. The Iranian athletes surely possess the talent and skills; all they need is more support," added the member of the Parliament,

who also underlined the "shortcomings in the sporting infrastructures" as the main reason behind some Iranian athletes leaving the country to embark on a new career elsewhere.

Qalenoey has points to prove against Queiroz



Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Staff writer

There will be more at stake for Iran and head coach Amir Qalenoey than success in the final showpiece of a friendly tournament, when they square off against Qatar in Amman, Jordan, today. With the AFC Asian Cup less than three months away, a win against the host and defending champion will be a statement towards other title favorites – namely Japan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and South Korea – ahead of the continent's flagship international event. Qalenoey, meanwhile, will have his personal reasons to go all out for a victory against a familiar face on Qatar bench, Carlos Queiroz, from whom the Irani-



IRNA

an took over after a group stage exit in last year's World Cup. When Qalenoey replaced the high-profile Portu-

guese – a former assistant to Sir Alex Ferguson and the ex-coach of Real Madrid as well as Colombia and Egypt – his appoint-

ment was deemed as a step backward for the Iranian football, and today he will be eager to prove his credentials for the job.

Qalenoey has always been outspoken in lamenting the lack of time he was given during his previous spell on the national team bench – a 12-month period ended by a last-eight shootout defeat against South Korea in the 2007 Asian Cup – which was in stark contrast with what Queiroz experienced during his nine-year tenure in Iran. Back in June, after a 5-1 thrashing of Kyrgyzstan in the CAFA Nations Cup, Qalenoey said he had been trying to change his team's "decade-long tactical approach and mindset." "Throughout my career, I've always been known as an attack-minded coach and a free-flowing football is what I want to instill in the national team," said the former manager of Esteghlal and Sepahan, who is the most decorated

coach in the history of the Iranian top flight with five trophies. The Iranian's comments were somewhat of a veiled swipe at his Portuguese predecessor, who, despite some decent World Cup performances against football powerhouses Argentina, Spain, and Portugal, was often criticized for adopting a defensive, boring gameplan, even against relatively easier opponents in the World Cup qualifiers and the Asian Cup. Today's contest at the Amman International Stadium will provide the Iranian with the perfect opportunity to show he is up to the task of steering the three-time champion to a first trophy in 48 years in January's showdown in Qatar, while giving the Iranian fans a more entertaining brand of football.

OBITUARY

Dariush Mehrjui

(1939–2023)



Dariush Mehrjui, the renowned Iranian auteur, was stabbed to death on October 14, 2023, at his home in Zibadasht, Alborz Province. The motive for the murder is not yet known. The prolific director has left behind a complex legacy in the world of Iranian cinema. With a career spanning more than five decades, Mehrjui was a visionary director who tried to depict humankind's existential questions on the silver screen. Born on December 9, 1939, in Tehran, Mehrjui's passion for the arts emerged during his teen years. His first artistic pursuit was music, but soon after, he took a liking to the art of cinema. After completing his preliminary education in Tehran, Mehrjui went to California at the age of 20 to pursue his education. First he aspired to major in cinema, but soon left it in favor of philosophy. He graduated from UCLA in philosophy in 1965. One year later, he returned to Tehran. Mehrjui's directorial debut came in 1967, with the expensive movie 'Diamond 33', which turned out a flop. However, this film marked the beginning of his prolific career and established him as a leading figure in the Iranian New Wave Cinema. Throughout his career, Mehrjui continued to experiment, never shying away from making the movies he felt like making. Occasionally, he was able to create cinematic masterpieces that explored complex themes such as social inequality, cultural identity, and the human condition. His films, including 'The Cow' (1969), 'The Cycle' (1977), and

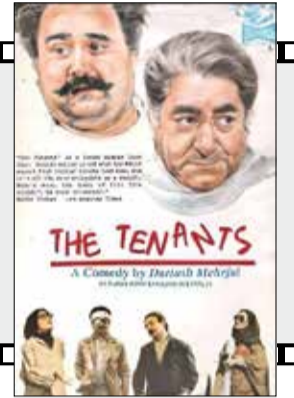
'Hamoun' (1989), embodied his unique storytelling abilities and his deep understanding of the human psyche. Mehrjui's films often reflected the socio-cultural realities of Iran, offering profound insights into the very fabric of Iranian culture. Although Mehrjui was a talented director, he wasn't as skillful in writing original screenplays. His best works are arguably the film adaptations of the stories he liked: 'The Cow', 'Hamoun', and 'Mum's Guest', among others. However, Mehrjui brought his distinctive voice and vision to the stories he told. His ability to craft compelling narratives with rich characters garnered him domestic and international recognition, and his films were screened at prestigious film festivals in Iran as well as around the world. His films have won numerous awards and accolades. Mehrjui's works are known for offering fresh insights into the Iranian psyche, serving as a catalyst for dialogue and reflection. More often than not, his films encourage audiences to question prevailing norms and engage in meaningful conversations. Dariush Mehrjui's impact on Iranian cinema is undeniable. His films will undoubtedly continue to inspire generations of filmmakers and cinephiles. They possess the ability to remind us of the power of storytelling and cinema's potential in transcending boundaries.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY



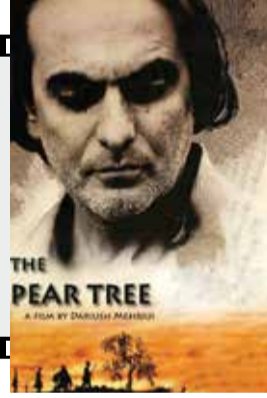
Based on the novella of the same name by Gholam-Hossein Saedi, 'The Cow' stands as a timeless cinematic masterpiece that depicts the profound bond between Masht Hassan, a middle-aged Iranian villager, and his cherished cow. This poignant film opens with a vivid portrayal of the deep connection between the villager and his bovine companion, illustrating the centrality of the cow in his life. In a community where children are scarce and the land is arid, the cow represents not only a source of sustenance, but also a symbol of hope and stability for Masht Hassan. As his sole valued possession, the cow's demise brings about unfathomable tragedy for an alienated Masht Hassan.

In the outskirts of Tehran in the late 1980s, a rundown building stands as witness to the struggles faced by its tenants. With no legal heir to claim ownership, these residents find themselves entangled in a web of housing problems that threaten their very livelihoods. Major repairs loom overhead, while the pending threat of eviction hangs like a dark cloud, fueled by the greed of a building manager who aspires to own the property. With an ensemble cast, the comedy has been widely acclaimed as the best Iranian comedy of the 1980s.



Hamid Hamoun, an executive at a leading import-export firm, lives with his wife Mahshid, a budding artist of abstract paintings. Coming from a well-to-do family, Mahshid has married the middle class Hamoun after falling for his intellectual tastes and progressive views. However, after seven years of marriage, Mahshid's love has begun to fade, and she views Hamoun as a blocking force against her desire to become what she wants to be. Hamoun, who aspires to become a writer, occasionally takes his frustration with a mundane life out on his wife. Filled with major existential themes, Hamoun is arguably Mehrjui's most sophisticated film.

Leila and Reza, an Iranian couple who are espousing somewhat modern ideas, are happily married. Unfortunately, Leila finds out that she is unable to conceive. It becomes a source of concern for the family, as Reza's mother, adhering to traditional beliefs that everything should be passed down to the son, insists that Reza must have children. Despite Reza's firm stance against wanting children, his mother suggests that he take a second wife. Resolutely, Reza refuses the idea, while his mother continues to advocate for it. Mehrjui's social drama remains to this day one of the best critics of a society stuck in the crossing between tradition and modernity.



In this widely acclaimed movie of the late 1990s, Mehrjui narrates the story of Mahmoud, a writer suffering from writer's block. As he is unable to work on the book at hand, he decides to take a break from his routine life. He plans to visit his family's rural estate in northern Tehran, where he also intends to complete his book. While at the estate, an old pear tree, planted by the old gardener, catches Mahmoud's attention. Seeing the tree brings out in Mahmoud nostalgic feelings he harbored towards then 14-year-old cousin, known only as M, and the rest of the film chronicles his thoughts about his past.

Mrs. Effat, a mother of two, receives news that her nephew and his wife will be coming to visit. Despite living a hand-to-mouth life, she endeavors to host a respectable dinner party with the assistance of her cinema-loving husband, Mr. Effat, and their two children, Amir and Bahareh. Their drug-addicted neighbor, Yusef, as well as another neighbor, an eccentric old lady responsible for tending to her chicken, help her throw a feast in a light-hearted, feel-good comedy that has become one of Mehrjui's most beloved movies.



One of Mehrjui's more controversial films, 'Santouri' revolves around the life of Ali Bolourchi, a santour (dulcimer) player, who narrates his journey after his wife Hanieh leaves him. Ali's livelihood now depends on playing music with his band at weddings and house parties, where instead of receiving monetary support, he often receives a substance to fuel his heroin addiction. Tragedy strikes when a mob opposed to a wedding violently interrupts the party, causing chaos, destruction, and leaving Ali with a broken arm. The story then takes us back to happier times, showcasing Ali and Hanieh crafting the lyrics of a song he is to perform at a wedding.

A century of Iranian calligraphy on display in Tehran



Arts & Culture Desk

An exhibition featuring an overview of a century of the development of Iranian calligraphy, titled, 'The Pioneers of Calligraphy,' is underway at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

The exhibition offers a comprehensive overview of a century of calligraphy development in Iran, spanning from the Qajar era to the early 1970s. It features a selection of remarkable artworks from the collections of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, the Iranian Calligraphy Museum, and the Iranian Calligraphers' Association. The exhibition's opening ceremony, held to mark Calligraphy Week on October 14, was attended by prominent figures, including Gholamhossein Amirkhani, the head of the Society of Iranian Calligraphists; Mohammad Khorasani-Zadeh, the director-general of Visual Arts at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance; and the acting director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

Khorasani-Zadeh noted, "This exhibition is an active endeavor by the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, demonstrating its commitment to being proactive on important occasions, rather than remaining indifferent to contemporary events." He added, "Although we initially intended to host this exhibition for a longer duration, we are currently preparing for an international cartoon and caricature exhibition that will feature works by Latin American artists. The exhibition will take place at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art."

Amirkhani also delivered remarks during the ceremony, emphasizing the importance of calligraphy in Iranian culture.

He highlighted the extensive impact and quality of arts in human societies, advocating for better conditions and recognition for it.

The exhibition features over a hundred works by 70 calligraphy artists, including prominent figures like Asadollah Shirazi, Malek-Mohammad Qazvini, Ali-Mohammad Isfahani, Abdolhossein Qazvini, Mohammadreza Kalhor, Mirza Gholamreza Isfahani, Mirza Kazem Tehrani, Mir Hossein Khoshnevis Bashi, Mehdi Sharif Shirazi, and many more.

The exhibition also showcases documents, tools, and calligraphy equipment used by great masters. Art enthusiasts can visit the exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art until October 20, except Mondays.

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Warm autumn colors shine in 'Khazan' painting exhibition



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

In celebration of the arrival of the autumn season and the vibrant display of warm autumn colors in nature, the 'Khazan' group painting exhibition featuring contemporary Iranian artists opened at Laleh Art Gallery in Tehran.

The exhibition showcases 35 artworks by 28 contemporary painters, running from October 13 to 22.

Mohammad Ali Saeidi, the director of Laleh Art Gallery, told Iran Daily in an exclusive interview that "the exhibition brings together a selection of works from contemporary artists with a focus on examining the creations of avant-garde and contemporary artists in the country."

Saeidi added, "Most of these artists are renowned painting masters who have a history of teaching at famous universities in the country. In this exhibition, the essence of autumn is explored in their works."

Notable artists participating in the exhibition include Alireza



IRAN DAILY

artist participating in this exhibition left their unique and distinct signature on their artworks. Their styles also differ from one another. So, when visitors enter the exhibition, apart from the shared color palette, they will feel the distinctiveness in other aspects of the artworks."

Laleh Art Gallery's director also mentioned that the showcased artworks vary in size and dimensions, ranging from 30 by 40 centimeters to 150 by 200 centimeters. Regarding the styles and contexts of the works, they range from abstract art to figurative art, offering diverse expressions.

Saeidi concluded, "In contemporary art, and specifically in contemporary painting, artists infuse their own mood as well as the spirit of their society into their work, massed colors and forms to create a vibrant and profound space. This is evident in 'Khazan' exhibition where the fusion of warm and energetic colors of autumn provides a joyful yet deep atmosphere in the artworks, captivating the viewers with its radiance."

Isfahani-Zadeh, Bahman Boroujani, Behzad Shishegaran, Saeed Mahjoobi, Javad Nobahar, and Kaveh Afaaq. Saeidi explained that several months prior to the exhibition, the artists were invited to submit their autumn-themed works, which incorporate the primary colors of nature in autumn: Yellow, orange, and red. He noted that the beauty of seasons, especially autumn, offers a great opportunity for photographers and painters alike to create exceptional works of art, as all colors are at their peak of beauty during this time of the year. He emphasized, "Each

'Polyarchy: Opposition and Participation' released in Iranian bookstores

Negah-e Moaser Publishing unveiled 'Polyarchy: Opposition and Participation,' a book written by Robert Alan Dahl and translated by Ali Kakadzeffuli.

This work explores the concept of 'polyarchy,' which distinguishes itself from traditional democracy. According to the author, achieving full and comprehensive democracy is far-fetched. Instead, he proposes that political systems that move towards democracy can be termed 'polyarchy'. Kakadzeffuli, the book's translator, offers a concise introduction, emphasizing the book's relevance to Iranian society. He highlights the book's ability to provoke deeper thinking about Iranian politics.

Kakadzeffuli explains that 'Polyarchy' precisely separates the processes related to transitioning to democracy and the influential factors that shape it. It provides valuable insights into why this transition is quicker and easier for some political systems and

more challenging for others. Kakadzeffuli underlines Dahl's method of analysis, which divides the political, economic, historical, cultural, and social characteristics of societies. Given Iran's complex conditions across various fields, he suggests that the book serves as an essential guide as the nation stands at the threshold of a transformative new century. The responsibility for guiding these changes towards desired outcomes falls upon Iranian intellectuals and opinion leaders.

Kakadzeffuli poses thought-provoking questions in the context of Iran's political and social system, particularly regarding government restrictions on citizens and political activism.

The author raises the question of whether foreign interventions can effectively facilitate change in such a constrained environment. He anticipates that the book's discussions may offer unique answers or provide valuable insights.

The content of 'Polyarchy: Opposition and Participation' is highly useful for a broad audience within the Iranian society and those who closely follow its news, issues, and events.

Robert Dahl's scientific approach to politics, incorporating multiple elements such as political, economic, historical, cultural, and social characteristics of societies, results in a rich collection of empirical data and analytical methods. This approach ensures that the book's contents are accessible to most readers, as they touch upon aspects of life that are familiar to many, said Kakadzeffuli.

Robert Alan Dahl, a distinguished political theorist and Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Yale University. Holding a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University, Dahl has made significant contributions to the field of political science and served as the president of the American Political Science Association, receiving numerous prestigious awards for his work.

