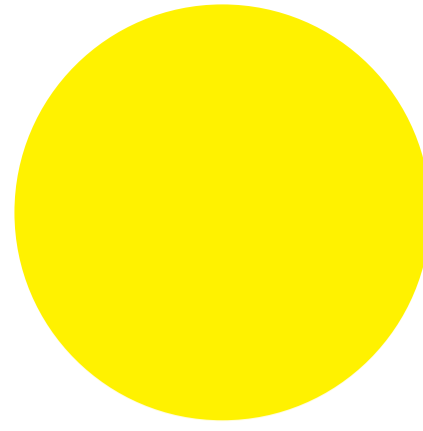




Iran's crude oil production to hit 3.5m bpd: **NIOC**

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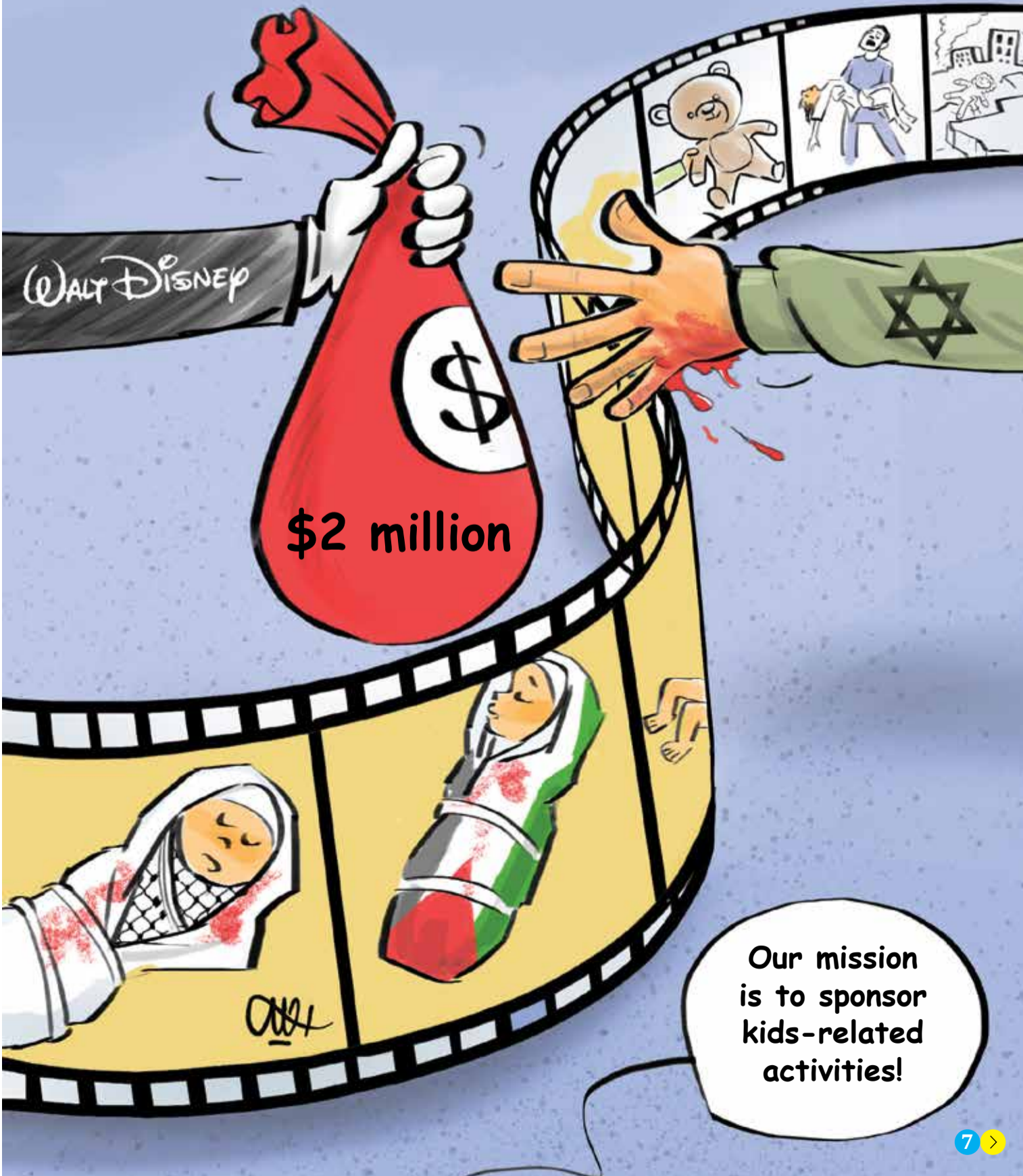
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'War plays require new perspective to attract greater audience'



EXCLUSIVE

Shiva Dinarvand, a renowned actress and theater director, began her journey in the world of performing arts in the mid-2010s with her acting debut in the play 'Bazichegan,' directed by Hassan Ravandeh.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

China saw moderate third-quarter growth



AFP - China's economy is expected to have seen moderate growth in the third quarter, according to an AFP survey.

Analysts polled by AFP saw an average 4.3 percent on-year growth in gross domestic product in July-September.

Beijing has set a goal of around five percent growth for 2023 as experts say China is on track to reach its modest goal for the year, with AFP's survey of analysts forecasting annual growth of 4.92 percent.

World Food Day marked in Tehran



FAO - The Food and Drug Administration of Iran organized a ceremony in Tehran on Monday to mark the globally important occasion of World Food Day 2023 with a theme of "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind".

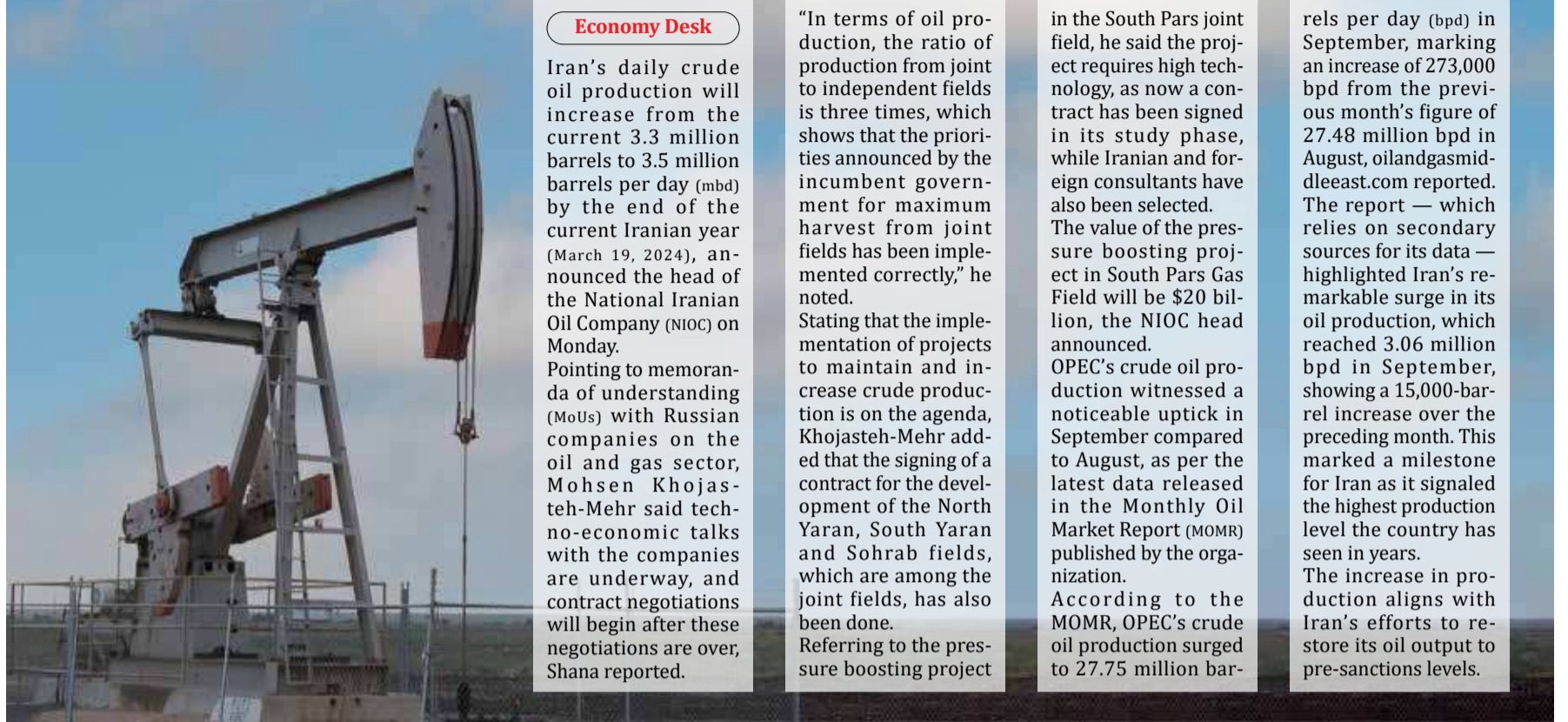
Head of the Food and Drug Administration of Iran delivered a speech in the conference and the message of the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Iran was delivered in the event.

Bitcoin jumps as much as 10%



REUTERS - Bitcoin jumped as much as 10% on Monday, putting it on track for its best day since August. It was last trading up 3.8% at \$28,232. There are hopes that a bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF) could get approved in the coming months, sparking bullish hopes.

The jump seemed to be a continuation of reaction to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) decision to not appeal to a recent Grayscale ruling.

Iran's crude oil production to hit 3.5m bpd: *NIOC*

Economy Desk

Iran's daily crude oil production will increase from the current 3.3 million barrels to 3.5 million barrels per day (mbd) by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024), announced the head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on Monday.

Pointing to memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Russian companies on the oil and gas sector, Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said techno-economic talks with the companies are underway, and contract negotiations will begin after these negotiations are over, Shana reported.

"In terms of oil production, the ratio of production from joint to independent fields is three times, which shows that the priorities announced by the incumbent government for maximum harvest from joint fields has been implemented correctly," he noted.

Stating that the implementation of projects to maintain and increase crude production is on the agenda, Khojasteh-Mehr added that the signing of a contract for the development of the North Yaran, South Yaran and Sohrab fields, which are among the joint fields, has also been done. Referring to the pressure boosting project

in the South Pars joint field, he said the project requires high technology, as now a contract has been signed in its study phase, while Iranian and foreign consultants have also been selected.

The value of the pressure boosting project in South Pars Gas Field will be \$20 billion, the NIOC head announced.

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 27.75 million bar-

rels per day (bpd) in September, marking an increase of 273,000 bpd from the previous month's figure of 27.48 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 3.06 million bpd in September, showing a 15,000-barrel increase over the 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.

NDF ready to allocate \$5b for renewable projects

Economy Desk

The National Development Fund of Iran (NDF) is ready to allocate \$5 billion for construction of renewable power plants, said a member of the board of directors of NDF on Monday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding between his organization and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), Alireza Mirmohammad-Sadeqi said a total of \$2 billion will be given for building renewable power

stations to produce 4.5 gigawatts of electricity, IRNA reported.

He announced the support of the NDF in the past for the construction of 46 power plant projects, the capacity of which was 7.2 gigawatts.

Some of the power plants have been put into operation, and some others are under construction, which are expected to join the national grid for the peak of summer next year, the official added.

For the construction of the power plant by the industry sector of Iran,



considering the necessary arrangements for the re-

payment of the facilities, a tripartite MoU will be

signed with the Ministry of Energy and SATBA.

Iran's annual petrochemical output to stand at 78m tons: *NPC*

Economy Desk

Iran's petrochemical production will reach around 78 million tons by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024), said the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) managing director on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Congress of Safety Process in the Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Industries, Morteza Shahmirzaei added the output targeted for the first six months of the Iranian year (March 21-September 22, 2023) materialized as more than 35 million tons of petrochemicals were produced during the period.

The company has given priority to supplying domestic industries with feedstock, the official mentioned.

The NPC had earlier set the annual petrochemical production target of Iran for the current year at 80 million tons. Completion of the value chain is on the agenda of the Oil Ministry, underlined Shahmirzaei, adding, "We are determined to produce all types of petrochemicals."

He stressed the need for installing process system management (PSM) systems in all petrochemical complexes.

Iranian petrochemical plants (70 complexes) produced nearly 70 million tons of various products in the past Iranian year.



MoUs worth \$22.4b signed for development of Kish Island

Economy Desk

Memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth \$22.4 billion were signed with domestic and foreign investors on development of Kish Island, said Rahim Sarhangi, the CEO of Kish Free Zone.

Speaking at the press conference on the sidelines of the International Exhibition of Financial Industries Exchange, Bank and Insurance (FINEX) Sarhangi announced that the FINEX event will be held on November 6-8, 2023, according to ISNA.

There will be foreign delegations from Turkey, Russia, China, the Switzerland and Azerbaijan at the event to showcase their achievements in various economic fields and introducing investment opportunities especially in free economic zones.

Since the beginning of economic development in Kish free zone, more than 742 investment packages worth over \$9 billion and 110 investment packages worth \$4 billion have been introduced. The investment packages are in various sectors of tourism, health tourism, financial industry, industrial estates in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals, related to the marine economy.





Safarzon.com

Visit enchanting Kandolus village, a UNESCO nominee

Iranica Desk

Kandolus is the name of a beautiful and mountainous village in Mazandaran Province, with a pleasant climate and extraordinary nature that attracts thousands of people to the northern part of the country every year. The village is located at the foot of the Alborz Mountains and is considered one of the most important villages in Iran, with a history of thousands of years. In this village, you can find traces of pre-Christian civilization, and Persian civilization, before and after the advent of Islam.

Kandolus is located 75 kilometers from Noshahr. Old houses with wooden facades and ceilings, beautiful small windows, mud walls, and cobblestone alleys, mineral springs and flowing rivers distinguish this village from other settlements.

If you are a traveler and have visited different villages in Iran, the first characteristic that catches your eye is the cleanliness and observance of health principles in this village. There are trash cans everywhere in the village and all the people try to preserve the beauty of the village.

The Museum of Anthropology, abundant waterfalls, the Museum of Medicinal Plants, the old bathhouse that dates back to the Qajar era, and handicrafts and souvenirs are among the other attractions that have caused this village to be nominated for registration on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Many domestic and foreign tourists travel to this village annually to observe its attractions up close. The customs and traditions of the village's people are also among the other attractions that increase the enthusiasm for traveling to this village.



Kandolus village
visitiran.ir



Nature of Kandolus village
visitiran.ir



Old bathhouse of Kandolus village
aminmana.com

Anthropology Museum

Objects kept in the Kandolus Anthropology Museum are classified into different sections. They include rural textiles, clothing, and jewelry, sculptures, traditional paintings and coffeehouse paintings, metal and wooden utensils and tools, pottery, and rural tools and equipment from the second millennium BCE to the Qajar period. Written documents and books, manuscripts, the Holy Qur'an, poetry collections, marriage contracts, and decrees are also among this collection.

In every corner of the museum, there are artifacts that have been placed together beautifully with identification and precise information, and they are the narrators of the culture of the people of Mazandaran.

Botanical Garden

In 1986, the Kandolus Agricultural Complex established the Botanical Garden (Museum of Medicinal Plants), with the goals of cultivation, breeding, production, and packaging of the main medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as the production of plant essences and oils. For the first time in Iran, a botanical garden was established on a 10-hectare land, with over 250 valuable genetic plant species to produce and offer various products in different fields. This complex now exports its products to most countries around the world.

If you are looking for rare herbal medicines, visit this rural museum in Kandolus village, located in a two-story building, which was constructed by Ali Asghar Jahangiri, with the aim of introducing the culture of the village. Jahangiri did not hesitate to collect valuable artifacts with a thousand-year history. In this building, historical documents, jewelry, and traditional paintings are on display.

House of Mina and the Leopard

The story of Mina and the Leopard takes us back to a 400-year-old legend in Kandolus. It narrates the tale of a friendship between a human and a leopard. This friendship formed in a strange way, astonishing and bewildering the villagers.

The story begins with Mina, an orphaned and lonely girl, going to the forest to collect firewood. To dispel her fear, she sings loudly. Her beautiful voice catches the attention of a leopard, luring him to follow her to her house. After some time, an interesting friendship develops between the girl and the leopard, and whispers of this friendship spread among the people of Kandolus. Though the villagers were afraid of the leopard, they refrained from expressing any disapproval due to the beautiful friendship between Mina and the leopard.

One day, Mina was invited to a wedding in another village and, despite the insistence of the locals, she decided to attend. The leopard, by sniffing out the scent of the wedding, finds its location. However, the villagers, who were unaware of the leopard's existence, shoot at it and wound it. Mina, consumed by great sorrow, takes care of the injured leopard. In a spring morning, she ventures deep into the heart of the jungle, forever accompanying the leopard, never to return home again.

The people of Kandolus, who hold a deep belief in this story, have preserved Mina and the leopard's house until today. If you happen to visit the village, make sure to look for the house of Mina and the Leopard.

Competition for global recognition

Mehdi Baharvand, an official from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, recently announced that eight Iranian villages are vying for the title of Global Village awarded by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). One of these villages, Kandolus, has also been nominated for UNESCO status this year.

Mohammad Valipour, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department of Noshahr, confirmed that the village's dossier has been submitted to UNESCO for world recognition. He emphasized the need for collaboration among different organizations to meet the requirements for introducing and globally registering this village.



Anthropology Museum
IRNA



Museum of Medicinal Plants
anyja.ir



House of Mina and the Leopard
MEHR

Raisi: West's 'blind support' of Israel feeding Gaza genocide

International Desk

The support of Western states for Israel has prompted the Zionist regime to intensify the genocide in Gaza, the Iranian president said in a phone talk with his Russian counterpart amid global calls for de-escalation.

Ebrahim Raisi blamed the doomed US policies for the current humanitarian crisis happening in Gaza, president.ir reported.

"The major disaster currently unfolding in the region

is the result of the doomed policies of the United States and other Western supporters of the Zionist regime," he said.

Fears for Palestinians trapped in the heavily bombarded Gaza have grown since Israel began preparation for the launch of a ground offensive against the enclave. Iran has warned that an invasion of Gaza would be met with a response, prompting fears of a wider conflict that could draw in other countries.

In his phone call with Vladimir Putin, Raisi reiterated the warning of expanding the scope of war, saying

that he expects all countries and international organizations, including Russia as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, to play a more effective role in stopping the war crimes of the Zionist regime.

Putin also emphasized that Russia's analysis of the reasons for the current crisis in Gaza aligns with Iran's, saying: "The extensive attacks by the Zionist regime on a densely populated area where over 2 million defenseless people live have no justification and should be halted as soon as possible."

Biden: Occupying Gaza 'big mistake'

US President Joe Biden warned Israel against occupying Gaza in one of his most notable public calls for restraint as Israel responds to the large-scale attack by Hamas that was launched on October 7 killing 1,400 people. The Hamas attack sparked a retaliatory bombing campaign, which according to Gaza authorities, has killed more than 2,750 and wounded

nearly 10,000.

In an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday, Biden said it would be a "big mistake" for Israel to occupy Gaza. Israel has been signaling it is preparing for a ground invasion of Gaza, even as a humanitarian crisis grows inside the coastal Palestinian enclave.

"What happened in Gaza, in my view, is Hamas and extreme elements of Hamas don't represent all the Palestinian people," Biden told interviewer Scott Pelley.

Biden said he believes Hamas should be eliminated entirely, "but there needs to be a Palestinian Authority. There needs to be a path to a Palestinian state."

Call for China's intervention

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian called on China to intervene and put an end to the ongoing carnage in the Gaza Strip where Israel is carrying out incessant attacks against the civilian population living in the enclave.

In a phone call with China's Foreign Minis-

ter Wang Yi on Sunday, Amir-Abdollahian said there is a need for the UN to assume its responsibilities with regard to international peace and security amid the ongoing conflict in Palestine.

He also asked China to use its diplomatic capacity to stop the Israeli regime from at-

tacking civilians in Gaza, IRNA reported.

The foreign minister described the collective punishment imposed by the Israelis on Palestinians in Gaza as "unacceptable" while reiterating the need for setting up humanitarian corridors to deliver aid to the people in the enclave.

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In an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday, Biden said it would be a "big mistake" for Israel to occupy Gaza.



Need to open border crossings

The Iranian president also had a phone call on Monday with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during which the two presidents discussed the ongoing Palestine-Israel conflict, as millions suffer under the Israeli blockade in Gaza. Raisi considered the efforts to reopen border crossings for sending humanitarian aid to Gaza as highly important and emphasized the readiness of his country to cooperate with Turkey and other Muslim states in order to end this humanitarian tragedy.

Furthermore, the Iranian president warned of the expan-

sion of the scope of the conflict to other parts of the region if the Zionist regime's criminal attacks in Gaza do not cease, saying: "The Zionist regime has once again proven that it is a racist and inhumane regime that will stop at nothing to achieve its goals."

Erdogan also said ending the conflict as soon as possible was important for regional and global peace, and Turkey exerted efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza," dailysabah.com quoted the Presidency's Directorate of Communications.

Humanitarian aid stuck

On Monday, Palestinians in besieged Gaza crowded into hospitals and schools, seeking shelter and running low on food and water. More than a million people have fled their homes ahead of the expected Israeli ground invasion aimed at destroying Hamas after its fighters rampaged through southern Israel, AP reported.

As the enclave's food, water, and medicine supplies dwindled, all eyes are on the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, where trucks carrying badly needed aid have been waiting for days. Meanwhile, mediators pressed for a cease-fire that would allow them to enter Gaza and allow foreigners to leave. Rafah, Gaza's only connection

to Egypt, was shut down nearly a week ago because of Israeli airstrikes.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said Israel "has not taken a position to open the crossing from the Gaza side". The Israeli government did not respond to a request for comment.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sheltering in UN facilities are on less than one liter of water per day. Hospitals warn they are on the verge of collapse, with emergency generators that power machines like ventilators and incubators down to about one day of fuel and supplies of medicine almost exhausted.

West is concerned about new fronts against Israel



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

Diplomatic efforts by regional and international players are intensely underway to prevent expansion of the ongoing war between the Israeli regime and Hamas. As of Monday evening, more than 2,700

Palestinians were killed by the Israeli strikes on Gaza. The Israeli forces have also been preparing for three days to invade the city. Meanwhile, cities around the world have been the scene of anti-Israel demonstrations. However, recent positions taken by US officials could be considered as the most important development in recent days.

In an interview with CBS television, US President Joe Biden clearly said that he is against the ground operation and Israel's entry into the Gaza Strip. At the same time, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in Egypt rejected the idea of Palestinians leaving the coastal area, emphasizing that Palestinians should be able to stay in their land.

Since the beginning of the conflict between Hamas and Israel on October 7, the Americans have been active both in sending military equipment for Israel and engaging in diplomatic consultations with regional actors.

Anthony Blinken immediately began a regional tour to Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. At the same time, the US dispatched two aircraft carriers to the region.

On the other side, Hamas and Hezbollah resistance movements have continued their rocket attacks against the Israeli targets in the occupied territories while diplomatic efforts are underway among the leaders of Arab and Muslim countries.

Trips by Iran's foreign minister to several regional countries including Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Qatar, have been the main such diplomatic efforts to find a resolution for the ongoing conflict.

In separate meetings with the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut and the head of Hamas Political Bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, in Qatar, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's support for the resistance movements against the Israeli regime and clearly warned that if Israeli crimes and attacks on Gaza Strip continue, fighting against the Israeli regime may expand to new fronts.

The surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm has revealed Israel's vulnerability and, according to many experts, the intelligence and military grandeur has been broken. Even some people in Israel warn the Netanyahu cabinet about the ground operation on Gaza. Former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak said in an interview that it is not possible to wipe out Hamas. Hamas is an ideology. This movement is present in people's dreams, hearts and minds.

Gideon Levy, an Israeli journalist and author, in an article in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, has predicted that the Israeli Army would suffer heavy losses if it enters Gaza.

The newspaper has pointed out the danger of new fronts against Israel and wrote: "Until this moment, we have not said anything about the multi-front war that is likely to start and upset the whole rules of the game. Israel begins a dangerous and unsuccessful operation, can it ask its allies in Washington what the futile wars of the United States to change the governments in the world have achieved for it? The concern, however, is not exclusive to Israel and its media. On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, The New York Times pointed to the same concern, that is, to have other parties sympathetic to Hamas and Palestinians enter the war. It wrote: "The Biden administration has grown increasingly anxious in recent days that Israel's enemies may seek to widen the war with Hamas by opening new fronts, a move that could compel the United States to enter the conflict directly with air and naval forces to defend its closest ally in the region and ... itself from what came to be called 'the forever wars'."

The newspaper also quoted Jake Sullivan, President Biden's national security adviser, who described the movement of military assets and warships as a "clear message of deterrence [to Iran] to make clear that this war should not escalate".

"Some experts warned that such a scenario remains frighteningly possible because Israel's vulnerability was exposed by Hamas's surprise attack ... Hezbollah poses a markedly more serious threat to Israel than Hamas because of its vast arsenal of precision-guided missiles and thousands of experienced and well-trained fighters. Iran and Hezbollah may decide this is a moment of maximum opportunity to take on a wounded Israel, which is focused on ... Gaza," the article continued.

So, the delay in Israel's ground assault on Gaza can presumably be attributed to the same concern over the opening of new fronts, which is shared between Israel and its Western allies.

Ali Mottahari, a former Iranian lawmaker, said Saturday, "If Israel decides to stage a ground attack and commit genocide, Iran's united forces should give the green light to their troops to get involved. Troops of Hezbollah and Syria will similarly enter the fray, which must be enough for deterrence. Islamic countries must also send arms to Palestine."

The expectation of Western countries for Iran to play a role in de-escalating tensions and preventing the involvement of new forces in the war will be reasonable if, and only if, they would also make efforts to control Israel and stop its aggression and genocide. Currently, things aren't going the way Israel wishes. After talking with his Tunisian, Malaysian, and Pakistani counterparts on the phone, the Iranian foreign minister said Monday on the social platform X, "The time for political solutions is running out, and the possibility of the war expanding to other fronts is approaching an inevitable stage."

LeBron interested in playing at Paris Olympics, media report



USA TODAY SPORTS

REUTERS – LeBron James may have sat out the last two Olympics but the NBA's all-time leading scorer is interested in making a return to the international stage with USA Basketball at the 2024 Paris Games, according to multiple reports on Monday.

Citing unnamed sources, ESPN said James is among a number of top players who are interested in competing in Paris while The Athletic said the Los Angeles Lakers forward has already called multiple stars in a bid to recruit them.

James has not played for Team USA since he won a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

The 38-year-old James, a three-time Olympian and two-time gold medalist, reached out to Kevin Durant, among others, and the two players are viewing the Paris Games as a "last dance" with USA Basketball, sources told The Athletic.

According to The Athletic, James has also spoken to Stephen Curry, Anthony Davis, Jayson Tatum and Draymond Green, who are all prepared to commit as well. Curry has never represented the United States at an Olympics but ESPN said the NBA's all-time leader in three-pointers has expressed an interest in playing for Steve Kerr, his Golden State Warriors coach. James' push to recruit players started well before the United States lost in the bronze medal game of the recently-concluded FIBA Basketball World Cup and his decision was not related to that team's result.

United board to vote on Ratcliffe's bid

THE GUARDIAN – Manchester United's board is expected to vote on Sir Jim Ratcliffe's bid to buy a 25% share in the club for about £1.3bn in the coming days, with sources close to the Ineos owner confident his offer will be accepted.

Ratcliffe's offer values United at £6.2bn, while the whole club is actually valued at about \$3.2bn (£2.63m). It is thought that Ratcliffe, who is one of Britain's richest people, may have offered a premium price for his potential holding in exchange to gain sporting control of the club. Ratcliffe is now the only publicly declared bidder after Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani informed the Glazers that he had withdrawn his 100% offer of more than £5bn for the club.

Wrestling U23 World Championships: Iran looking to complete perfect run in season finale

Sports Desk

Iran will be looking to make a clean sweep of six age-group world titles when the season-ending U23 World Championships get underway in Tirana, Albania, next Monday.

The Iranian Greco-Roman and freestyle squads walked away with double team trophies at the world under-17 event in Istanbul in early August, weeks before the country claimed the under-20 titles in Amman.

A gold medalist in the Jordanian capital, Amir-Reza Ma'soumi will headline the Iranian 10-man freestyle team in Tirana, putting his 125kg crown on the line.

Ma'soumi will be joined by another defending champion in Amir-Ali Azarpira, who was a late addition to the Iranian team for the 92kg contests in September's Senior Worlds in Belgrade – suffering a second-round exit – but will be glad to return to his favorite 97kg division next week.

Mohammad-Mobin Azimi will take part in the 92kg event, fresh from the world and Asian under-20 golds in the summer, while Ali Rezaei will be looking to improve on the 70kg silver he won in Amman, when competing in the 86kg weight class. Ali Khorramdel settled for a 61kg bronze in Amman but will be eager for a better finish in his new 79kg class. Milad Valizadeh will represent the country in the 57kg class, stepping into the event on the back of a disappointing campaign in Belgrade, where he was knocked out in the quarterfinals.

Shahdad Khosravi (61kg),



The photo shows a training session of the Iran U23 Greco-Roman squad in Tehran, Iran, on October 15, 2023.

Yassin Rezaei (65kg), Mohammad Bakhshi (70kg), and Salar Habibi (74kg) complete the Iranian freestyle lineup in the Albanian capital.

Iran bagged four golds and a silver in the previous under-23 event in the Spanish city of Pontevedra but still had to settle for a runner-up finish behind Georgia.

Hedayati on high

In the Greco-Roman com-

petitions, Fardin Hedayati will be the other Iranian superheavyweight wrestler to watch as he will compete in the 130kg contests following dominant performances in the world and Asian under-20 championships.

Alireza Mohmadi fell to a shock first-round defeat last year in Pontevedra, but the world No. 1 in the UWW Rankings will be the ultimate favorite for the 82kg crown after a stunning cam-

campaign at the Senior Worlds, which saw the young Iranian – a former world under-20 champion – grab a precious silver medal.

Iman Mohammadi (63kg) and Danial Sohrabi (67kg) will also be among the hopefuls for top-podium finishes, having won the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes last year. Mohammadi will walk onto the mat as a reigning back-to-back senior Asian

champion, while Sohrabi – a 72kg contestant in Belgrade – took the bronze at the Hangzhou Asian Games less than a fortnight ago.

A bronze medalist last year, Amir Abdi will fancy his chances for a second medal in the 72kg competitions, while Mohammad Naqousi will participate in the 77kg class with world junior gold and bronze medals under his belt.

Abolfazl Choubani will seek a better finish than the sil-

ver-winning run in Amman, though he will see tough competition from reigning champion Istvan Takacs from Hungary as well as Georgian Achiko Bolkvadze, who beat the Iranian to the U20 gold, in the 87kg event. Mahdi Ahadi (55kg), Omid Arami (60kg), and Vahid Dadkhah (97kg) will also be part of the squad as Iran will chase a second Greco-Roman crown in a row – third in four years.

Inter considering January move for Taremi: Report



Porto striker Mahdi Taremi (9) scores a goal which is later disallowed for offside during a Champions League game against Barcelona at the Estadio do Dragao, Porto, Portugal, on October 4, 2023.

PEDRO NUNES/REUTERS

Sports Desk

Porto striker Mahdi Taremi could ultimately seal his much-talked-about move to the Italian top flight during the midseason transfer window, according to La Gazzetta dello Sport.

The Milan-based newspaper reported on Sunday that Inter is keen on signing the Iranian international in January to add to the depth of the frontline, though a secondary option could see the Serie A giant move for the Dragons' frontman in the summer.

With Austrian Marko Arnautović out injured until November, and Chilean Alexis Sánchez far from his best form, Inter manager Simone Inzaghi is looking for a new number nine alongside Argentine skipper Lautaro Martínez.

Inter, runner-up in the Champions League last season, is currently second to Milan in the Italian league standing.

The 31-year-old Iranian, who registered 31 goals and 14 assists across all competitions for Porto last season – including 22

strikes which saw him finish as the leading marksman in the Portuguese league – came within inches of a summer contract with the Nerazzurri's archrival, AC Milan, only to see the deal fall through on the transfer deadline day after failing to reach an agreement on personal terms.

Taremi, whose current contract at Porto runs until next July, has had a slow start to the new campaign, finding the net twice in 11 outings for the club.

Having missed out on the previous domestic league crown, Porto is third in the Primeira Liga table – trailing Sporting and Benfica by three and two points respectively – while sitting second in the Champions League group – three points adrift of Barcelona after two rounds of matches.

Taremi's winter departure will be a major blow for head coach Sergio Conceicao but the Dragons could still be tempted to cash in on their Iranian asset in January rather than let him leave as a free agent next summer.

Gaza kids disregarded as Disney donates \$2m to Israel



Social Desk

The Walt Disney Company announced that it would donate \$2 million to “humanitarian efforts” in Israel. Magen David Adom, an Israeli emergency service, will receive \$1 million, while the rest will be donated to Israeli non-profit organizations.

Bob Iger, CEO of Disney, expressed the need to “support the innocent people,” especially children, who are “experiencing pain, violence, and uncertainty” due to the recent “terrorist attacks targeting Jews in Israel.”

His support of the “innocent people” comes whilst the unrelenting bombardment of Gaza by the Israeli military has resulted in the deaths of over 2,700 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, and the displacement of almost half a million civilians from the besieged enclave. Yet, there is no mention of innocent Palestinian children who are expe-

riencing the horrors of a devastating war waged against their motherland. Disney’s decision has faced criticism from pro-Palestinian activists online, with some users expressing their intention to cancel their Disney+ subscriptions.

Needless to say, by donating to Israel, Disney is indirectly supporting Israeli “war crimes,” including the killing of hundreds of innocent Palestinian children. Such a measure is nothing but a blatant act of hypocrisy from Disney, a company that provides entertainment mainly for kids.

Donating money to Israel at this turn is equivalent to being complicit in countless violations of human rights, and supportive of Israel’s disproportionate use of force against the people of Gaza, described by many as the world’s largest “open-air prison.”

Surely, such aid to Israel undermines the rights and well-being of Palestinian children who have also been affected by the bloody conflict.

IRCS in talks to set up field hospital near Gaza border



Social Desk

The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has announced the organization’s commitment to providing humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

“We are currently in consultation to establish a field hospital near the Gaza border in order to provide medical treatment to the injured Palestinians,” said Pir-Hossein Kolivand, according to IRNA.

The head of IRCS expressed his views during the national conference of the Ethics of Aid on Monday. He pointed out the simultaneity of the conference with the brutal attacks carried out by the Zionist regime in Palestine, and said, “The ongoing events in Gaza are unprecedented, and it is disheartening that the world remains silent. There is no way to provide relief or even send the basic necessities to the people of Palestine and Gaza.”

Kolivand went on to explain that efforts are being made to establish a field hospital for the treatment of individuals in close proximity to the Gaza border, with consultations taking place through Egypt.

Highlighting the importance of ethical practices within the IRCS and

among aid workers, Kolivand emphasized that adhering to ethical standards enhances the social capital of the organization.

“Furthermore, all voluntary and humanitarian actions carried out by the IRCS, both domestically and internationally, are aligned with the ethics of aid workers,” he said.

Kolivand continued by stating that the Ethics of Aid conference focuses on various aspects of ethics, including individual, managerial, organizational, job-related, professional, and extra-organizational ethics.

He then strongly condemned the attack on Palestinian medical staff and aid workers by the Zionists, labeling it a violation of international law. He also announced ongoing negotiations with regional countries to facilitate the delivery of essential supplies and aid to Gaza.

The Ethics of Aid scientific conference aimed to promote the moral motivations of rescuers and volunteers, establish a system to honor voluntary services, improve the ethical standards of rescuers, address ethical dilemmas in rescue operations, and provide spiritual support to the injured and those in need of assistance.

Muslim boy killed in Illinois hate crime



An Illinois landlord accused of fatally stabbing a 6-year-old Muslim boy and seriously wounding his mother was charged with a hate crime after police and relatives said he singled out the victims because of their faith and as a response to the war between Israel and Hamas.

In recent days, police in US cities and federal authorities have been on high alert for violence driven by antisemitic or Islamophobic sentiments. FBI officials, along with Jewish and Muslim groups, have reported an increase of hateful and threatening rhetoric, according to Associated Press.

Officers found the 32-year-old woman and boy late Saturday morning at a home in an unincorporated area of Plainfield Township, about 65 kilometers southwest of Chicago.

The boy was pronounced dead at a hospital. The woman had multiple stab wounds and was expected to survive. An autopsy on the child showed he had been stabbed dozens of times.

“Detectives were able to determine that both victims in this brutal attack were targeted by the suspect due to them being Muslim and the on-going Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis,” the local sheriff’s statement said.

The man suspected in the attack was found Saturday outside the home and “sitting upright outside on the ground near the driveway of the residence” with a cut on his forehead, authorities said.

The boy’s paternal uncle, Yousef Hannon, spoke at a news conference Sunday hosted by the Chicago chapter Council on American-Islamic Relations where the boy’s father was in attendance. There the boy was identified as Wadea Al-Fayoume, a Palestinian American boy who recently had turned 6.

“We are not animals, we are humans. We want people to see us as humans, to feel us as humans, to deal with us as humans, because this is what we are,” said Hannon, a Palestinian American who immigrated to the US in 1999 to work.

The Muslim civil liberties organization called the crime “our worst nightmare” and part of a disturbing spike in hate calls and emails since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

From reviving a date farm to building a mud house: Travels of an eco-tourist

By Mahdieh Qazvinian & Yeganeh Kiari
Staff writers

With its diverse natural attractions, namely its mountains, forests, lakes, and caves, Iran can offer any nature-lover something to appreciate. Any enthusiastic eco-tourist, no matter what their field of interest – zoology, geography, ornithology, history, botany, or photography – can find a place to quench their thirst for sights to see.

Ali Taleqani, a nature enthusiast, was born in Tehran in 1992. At the age of 13, he went to Malaysia with his family. When he was 18, he came back to Iran with a group of eco-tourists. At the age of 19,

he discovered that he was really keen on nature tourism and guiding tours. A tireless, spirited traveler, Ali likes to experience new things. At 21, he decided to start his travel adventures without much money, using cheaper means of transportation. First, he reached the border of Nurduz (between Iran and Armenia), and crossed it into Armenia. He then went on to visit Georgia and, finally, Turkey. Ali considers the adventure he undertook as self-growth.

“As I entered Armenia, the only thing I had with myself was a backpack and little bit of money. So, I decided to work and earn some money. I stayed with locals, which helped me discover new ways to travel. In addition, my hosts guided me in

some of the best journeys of my life. On top of that, I got to enjoy authentic local cuisine, markets, and much more.”

After his travels to the South Caucasus, Ali embarked on another journey to Iran, visiting different cities and learning as much as he could on soil structure and permaculture (the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient). This knowledge helped him restore a date farm that had been dried up for 40 years.

The date farm was located on the southern island of Hengam. The palm trees of the farm were not cared for, and almost never watered. Seasonal rainfall watered the trees, but the canals that carried the water to the

trees were blocked and, therefore, the palms were left thirsty for a long time. However, with his knowledge of permaculture, Ali revived those water canals and thus the dried up date farm was restored. He also taught some of the local teenagers how to take care of the farm on their own.

Recently, Ali has taken a few trips to Iran’s nomadic regions in order to record the traditional lifestyle of nomads. Nomadic lifestyle in Iran could be defined as the harmonious interaction of people, nature, animals, and change of seasons. The nomadic tribes’ subsistence mainly depends on their livestock.

Some of the well-known nomadic tribes in Iran are



the Bakhtiari and the Qashqai, with a population of over 300,000 between them. The rest of the tribes, like the Shabsavan, Mamivand, and others, have less than 50,000 people each.

The nomadic lifestyle has all but one key aspect: migration. They travel twice a year with their logistics. In search of more temperate weather, they climb the hills and mountains, enduring the hardships of crossing valleys and rivers in order to find better pastures and water.

One of Ali’s more memorable

travels came when he decided to go to India. He learned and explored so many new things during his trip to the vast country.

There, he decided to spend a few months in the forest. Therefore, he made himself a house with mud walls and lived in it. Moreover, he learned how to make herbal medicines, and made his living through selling them to the locals.

“I find traveling and ecotourism relaxing and exciting. I don’t think I’ll ever quit,” he said.



Iranian arts displayed at Japan's AGEO World Fair



TASNIM - Iranian arts and culture were showcased at the recent AGEO World Fair, hosted at the International Exhibitions venue of the Saitama Prefecture Municipality in Japan.

The event brought together representatives from 25 nations, including Iran, to celebrate and explore the diverse offerings of the global cultural industry.

Of particular note was the Islamic Republic of Iran's pavilion, which got kudos from those who hold a deep appreciation for Iranian culture, particularly students of Persian language and literature showing keen interest.

Iran's Cultural Attaché to Japan Ali Sa'adatazar, was among the attendees, who toured the exhibition, saying that the collection featured handmade dolls portraying fictional characters, Iranian cartoons, and traditional clothing. Sa'adatazar highlighted the fair's importance as a platform for introducing the rich cultural achievements of Iran to the Japanese people, highlighting the significance of such cross-cultural exchanges.



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'War plays require new perspective to attract greater audience'

Female directors need more financial support



By **Hamideh Hosseini**
Staff writer

Shiva Dinarvand, a renowned actress and theater director, began her journey in the world of performing arts in the mid-2010s with her acting debut in the play 'Bazichegan,' directed by Hassan Ravandeh.

Her directorial debut came with 'Steel Never Rusts,' addressing themes of family, social issues, and women as breadwinners, with a focus on the destructive aftermath of war on families.

Dinarvand's second work, 'Fragments of Several Lives,' explored the memories of six women during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). However, her third production, 'Three Nights with Madox,' originally written by Romanian-French playwright Matei Vişniec, took a completely different turn into the realm of absurdity.

In a recent interview with Iran Daily, Dinarvand shared her experiences about her theatrical journey and the development of her works.

Dinarvand's earlier productions, 'Steel Never Rusts' and 'Fragments of Several Lives,' were characterized by a realistic approach, evoking images, memories, and emotions.

However, 'Three Nights with Madox' was a departure from this style. When asked about this shift, Dinarvand explained that her commitment to preserving a sense of realism and simplicity in



her works remained constant. Following the production of 'Three Nights with Madox,' she felt a stronger feeling toward Iranian-themed productions. Her next project is set to explore the struggles of a populous family in the Iranian society. 'Three Nights with Madox' has been previously staged by a few Iranian directors. When Dinarvand was asked about the differences in her approach, she highlighted the use of well-known actors, distinct mise-en-scène, and the unique perspective she brought to her work as the distinguishing features of her directorial style.

Touching upon the perception of theater as a medium, the female director emphasized the need for fidelity to the original text in the-

ater productions. She rejected the criticism that 'Three Nights with Madox' is simply a visual representation of the script, pointing out that the live performance, the use of live instruments like the piano, and the nuanced changes in lighting are all important to conveying the depth of the narrative to the audience.

Regarding the number of audience of 'Three Nights with Madox,' Dinarvand said that approximately 2,300 people had watched the show.

In response to questions about government support for theatrical productions, Dinarvand said that, to date, her work had received minimal government support, except for modest discounts on venue rentals.

She expressed gratitude to her

private sponsors, such as the Tabi'at Food Factory and the Mashhad Leather Company, for making her latest production possible.

She stressed the importance of presenting the themes of the Iran-Iraq war in her works in a fresh and comprehensible manner, focusing on the struggles of women, children, and families during those times. The objective is to engage a new generation, making the subject matter more palpable for this generation.

When asked about the demand for works centered on the Iran-Iraq war, Dinarvand noted that it is crucial to introduce new perspectives and fresh storytelling to maintain audience interest.

She believes that simply retelling the same stories of war and weapons would not attract the younger

generation. Addressing the target audience for such productions, Dinarvand stressed the importance of expanding beyond a specific religious or ideological audience, saying that well-produced, engaging plays can attract a wider range of viewers, including young people, in addition to theater enthusiasts. Speaking about her future programs, Dinarvand revealed her plans to quickly move on to her next project, which will be staged in a governmental venue.

Dinarvand concluded that the main challenges faced by female directors are the struggle for financial support and recognition by governmental and private organizations due to the limited trust placed in female directors producing high-budget works.

● TWALL

Palestinian voices 'shut down' at Frankfurt Book Fair, say authors

Several prominent authors and publishers from around the world have accused the Frankfurt Book Fair of "shutting down" Palestinian voices, after an awards ceremony due to honour a novel by a Palestinian author was called off due to the war in Palestine.

Palestine-born novelist and essayist Adania Shibli, who divides her time between Berlin and Al-Quds, was due on October 20 to be awarded the 2023 LiBeraturpreis, an annual prize given to female writers from Africa, Asia, Latin America or the Arab world, the Guardian reported.

On Friday, however, the Lit-Prom association that hands out the prize announced it would postpone the award ceremony "due to the war started by Hamas, under which millions of people in Israel and Palestine are suffering".

In its original announcement, LitProm said it had taken the step to postpone the award as a "joint decision" with the author. But Shibli's literary agency told the Guardian the decision was not made with her consent, and that if the ceremony had been held she would have taken the opportunity to reflect on the role of literature in these cruel and painful times.

An open letter, signed by more than 350 authors including the Irish novelist Colm Tóibín, the American-Libyan Pulitzer winner Hisham Matar, the British-Pakistani novelist Kamila Shamsie and the British historian William Dalrymple, admonishes the organisers of the Frankfurt book fair, the world's largest trade fair of its kind, saying it has "a responsibility to be creating spaces for Palestinian writers to share their thoughts, feelings, re-

lections on literature through these terrible, cruel times, not shutting them down".

Shibli's novel, published in English in 2020 as *Minor Detail*, was hailed by LitProm as a "rigorously composed work of art that tells of the power of borders and what violent conflicts do to and with people". The novel, which was also nominated in the US for the National Book Awards as well as the International Book Awards, juxtaposes the true story of the 1949 rape and murder of a Bedouin girl at the hands of an Israeli army unit with the fictional story of a female journalist investigating the crime in Ramallah decades later.

The novel has proven particularly controversial in Germany, where the journalist Ulrich Noller left the LiBeraturpreis jury this summer in protest over the decision to honour

the book.

A review in the left-leaning newspaper Taz carried the criticism that "all Israelis in this short novel are anonymous rapists or killers, while the Palestinians are victims of poisoned or trigger-happy occupiers".

More favourable reviews have

argued the portrayal of Israeli soldiers is merely consistent with Shibli's detached literary style, which harked back to Albert Camus' 'The Stranger'.



● REUTERS