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Kids bear brunt of bombardment



Members of the Al-Zanati, family killed following an Israeli strike, are taken to a vehicle to be driven to a cemetery for burial in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip, on October 23, 2023. MAHMUD HAMS/AFP



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Iran becomes self-sufficient in CK45 steel production



By Reza
Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writer

Saba Steel Complex, a subsidiary of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) inaugurated a production line of CK45 steel that will make Iran needless of importing the product. CK45 steel is classified as medium carbon steel, which is one of the most widely used non-alloy carbon steels. It has good tensile properties and machinability. So, the product is widely used in the field of machinery manufacturing. In the past two years, one of the main strategies of MSC has been the production of new products with greater added value, said Mohammad-Yaser Tayyebnia, the CEO of the company, ILNA reported. "Fortunately, out of the 14 new



of the new grade could be operational with the least damage, he added.

Mehdi Gholami, the casting production technician of the complex, said that the production of CK45 is being done for the first time in Saba Steel Complex with control on cooling parameters, speed, and thickness reduction.

Yadollah Maleki, a production technician at Saba Steel Complex, said to produce CK45, they needed to study and design all the production parameters and replace them in the LEVEL 2 system.

Also, due to the lack of testing and use of mold powder in the new grade, production for the first time was associated with risk. With the participation of domestic firms, Maleki said they succeeded in producing CK45 steel in the complex.



products produced by the MSC last year, Saba Steel Complex produced eight. This achievement shows the expertise and capability of our personnel in Saba Steel Complex."

He pointed to the mass production of stainless steels as one of the most important plans of the company in the upcoming six months. Mahmoud Mohammadi Fesharaki, the manager of Saba Steel Complex, said the company has succeeded in producing three new products this year in order to develop its product portfolio.

The new hot-rolled product of CK45 steel, which has many applications in the agricultural industry as well as making industrial tools, was manufactured by Saba Steel Complex after months of effort and relying on technology and skill, he noted. He stressed that the quantitatively, qualitatively, and economically advantageous manufacturing of products is targeted by Saba Steel Complex in compliance with environmental considerations.

Arash Hajipour, head of Planning and Metallurgy at Saba Steel Complex, said the strategy of the complex has been to produce steel grades that are either not made in the country or seriously challenging to produce.

"This strategy was devised considering the technology and skills possessed by the complex's personnel as well as their focus on CSP as one of the latest steelmaking technologies in the world," he added.

Vast product portfolio

For the current [Iranian] year, Saba Steel Complex's goal for developing its product portfolio is to produce the grades that are made by top foreign factories, including heat-treated grades, spring steels, wear-resistant steels, and martensitic stainless steels. So far, three new grades have been produced by the company, and nine more



grades will be produced by the end of the year (March 19, 2024). The produced CK45 with thicknesses of less than 2.5 mm and width of 1,500 mm is done for the first time by hot-rolling, he noted, adding that all the products are among the most widely used grades of medium-carbon steels. Hamed Safari, an expert in metallurgy and production methods of the complex, said the high strength and hardness of the new product have made these steels widely used in the manufacture of wheels and gears.

In the metallurgical unit, the design of the new product has been proven to be in accordance with the DIN17200 standard after evaluating the mechanical properties of the product.

Ahmad Tarazuyeh-Zar, the production planning expert of Saba Steel Complex, said, "After making the necessary coordination regarding the orders by MSC, the production of CK45 was planned for October, and grades with the thicknesses of 6 mm, 5 mm, and 4 mm were produced according to the orders placed by clients." Moreover, the ability of the complex's rolling equipment to produce steels with lower thicknesses was investigated. After receiving



the approval of the head of the rolling unit and the experts of the rolling technical office, the production of CK45 in thicknesses of 3 mm, 2.5 mm, 2 mm, and 1.8 mm was also carried out, he noted. Rouhollah Jamali, a steelmaking expert at Saba Steel Complex, said the company's diverse portfolio of products fully satisfies the country's need for such grades and makes the production complex more dynamic. CK45 grade has more carbon content than other grades made by Saba Steel Complex. CK45 can save the consumption of electricity, refractories, and aluminum in the



case of mass production, as well as decrease the unloading time of the product.

Online process monitoring

Also, Ebrahim Shokraneh, the foreman of the steelmaking unit at Saba Steel Complex, said that the production of CK45 requires online monitoring of furnace conditions. During the operation of the arc furnace, the percentages of molten carbon and phosphorus were controlled by repeated sampling. During the discharge, some other materials were added so that the molten poured to the ladle furnace

would have suitable conditions, Shokraneh noted, adding: "We tried to ensure that all the desired molten are completely suitable and in compliance with the approved analysis."

Davoud Mirzaei, the head of steel smelting at Saba Steel Complex, said the mass production of CK45 can result in a significant reduction in cost and energy due to the possibility of using a lot of carbon during the process and reducing the consumption of deoxygenating agent in the discharge time.

Majid Fat'hi, the material handling foreman of Saba Steel Complex, said in order to produce CK45 steel, all the necessary materials and ferroalloys including carbon wire were provided, and the preparation and calibration of the material transfer equipment were done. The materials were also sent with the required quality and high accuracy in terms of tonnage. Jafar Abbasi, the foreman of Casting Production and Emergency Repairs at Saba Steel Complex, said for the production of the CK45, the content of the carbon in the steel had been increased to about 0.4%. In the production of this grade, the parameters designed for the casting machine were checked and monitored so that the production

This product is used in petrochemical, oil, construction, and automobile industries.

Hamid Hatami, the refractory foreman of Saba Steel Complex, said carefully moving the tundish during the installation of special shapes and using appropriate refractories were among the steps taken for CK45 production.

Iranian steelmakers churned out 19.7 million tons of crude steel in the first eight months of 2023, according to recent statistics released by the World Steel Association, indicating that the country stands in tenth place among steel-producing countries.

Steel mills of the country kept the rising trend for the eight-month period despite a major drop in production during the summer due to problems in electricity supply.

The country's steel ingot production for August 2023 registered a 24.1 percent shrinkage compared to the figure for August 2022.

World crude steel production for the 63 countries reporting to the association was 152.6 million tons in August 2023, a 2.2 percent increase compared to August 2022. Iran's annual steel production capacity is expected to hit a target of 55 million tons by 2025.

The country's steel output capacity had increased by more than six times in 20 years to reach the current figure of 45 million tons per year.

Iran also increased its exports of steel sheets and long steel products by 15% year on year in March-August while the overseas shipments of sponge iron rose by more than 232% over the same period to reach 0.708 million tons, according to official statistics. The increased exports of steel from Iran come despite the fact that exporters and their foreign customers cannot access normal banking services because of US sanctions imposed against the country.

Zanjan Bazaar, an architectural treasure



IRNA



safarbaz.com



iraniantours.com



safarbaz.com

Iranica Desk

Zanjan, a city with a rich history dating back 2,000 years, is the provincial capital of Zanjan Province and is considered one of the oldest cities in the country. Previously known as Zangan, the city boasts many historical landmarks, the most prominent of which is the large and famous traditional bazaar. This bazaar is a popular destination for both domestic and foreign tourists, offering a glimpse into the city's rich cultural heritage.

The traditional bazaar of Zanjan is a highly prized structure in the city and is considered a national treasure. This brick-built bazaar is the longest bazaar in the country, stretching from Enqelab Square to Amir Kabir Square. Despite the passage of time, the bazaar remains a vi-

brant hub of economic activity, with its chambers, alleys, and caravanserais still pulsing with life. The bazaar's historical significance is evident in its unique architecture and the many shops and stalls that offer a wide range of goods and services. A visit to this bazaar is a must for anyone interested in experiencing the rich cultural heritage of Zanjan. This bazaar has been constructed and completed in various stages, and it has had a significant connection with other parts of society. Many events and incidents have taken place in this complex over time.

The old monument is divided into two sections: the upper bazaar (bazaar-e bala) and the lower bazaar (bazaar-e pa'een). The upper bazaar includes Qeisarieh Bazaar, Bazazha Bazaar, Hojjat-ul-Islam Bazaar, Imamzadeh Ba-

azaar, and Abdolali Beyk Bazaar. This section is significant for the production and supply of goods and related services.

Within these bazaars, there are several old caravanserais where merchants engage in their activities. Caravanserais were inns built along roads, near city gates, or within cities, where travelers could rest and rejuvenate during their long journeys. The caravanserais of Zanjan Bazaar are some of the best-preserved examples of these historic structures.

The Haj Aliqoli Caravanserai was constructed in 1928 CE by a person with the same name. It is the largest caravanserai in the bazaar, featuring two porticos, with rooms in four main directions, two separate courtyards, and seven entrance doors.

Architects paid close attention to the principle of symmetry in

the design of the central courtyard of Haj Aliqoli's caravanserai. The porticos surrounding the courtyards are adorned with dignified geometric forms, showcasing the architects' precise and proper use of symmetry in the building's architecture. The caravanserai primarily utilizes brick and stone materials, with some areas incorporating adobe and traditional plaster and mortar. The facades feature clay and straw elements.

The building's decorations feature a combination of brickwork and tilework. The northern and southern courtyards, as well as the southern chamber, showcase tilework in a variety of colors, adorned with intricate geometric and floral patterns. Meanwhile, brickwork decorations can be found throughout various parts of the building.

Iranica Desk

The town of Mayamey is famously nicknamed the "Land of Caravanserais" thanks to its collection of 10 remarkable historical caravanserais.

Nestled in the heart of the city on Imam Reza Street, you'll find the breathtaking Miami Caravanserai. Constructed with brick and boasting a central courtyard along with four impressive *ivans* (porticos), this architectural gem is affectionately known to the locals as the Shah Abbas Caravanserai, IRNA wrote.

This is a significant model of an urban caravanserai. Spanning an area of 4,623 square meters over two floors, this caravanserai was officially listed on Iran's National Heritage List in 1986. The inclusion of an expansive enclosure specifically designed to accommodate camels sets this caravanserai apart from its typical contemporary designs. It beautifully showcases the architectural skill and artistry involved in its creation.

The entrance to this building showcases a stunning octagonal shape. Adorning the upper part of the entrance, you'll find ancient stone inscriptions proudly displaying the construction date

Mayamey: Land of caravanserais and cultural gems



Jahanabad Caravanserai
IRNA

as 1064 AH (1653 CE) and name of its builder, a remarkable milestone achieved during the reign of Shah Abbas II.

The existence of Miami Caravanserai, along with the collection of other caravanserais including Miandasht, Abbasabad, Alhak, Sadrabad, Mohammadabad, Pol-e Abrisham, Sangi Sharifabad, and Jahanabad, signifies the historical importance and grandeur of Iranian architecture in this town.

Mayamey boasts an impressive tally of 58 registered historical and national heritage sites. Situated along the Tehran-Mashhad road, it offers ideal conditions for enthusiastic tourists to explore and indulge in its rich cultural treasures.

Mayamey also boasts four distinct tourist zones and seven charming villages that are popular tourist destinations. These include Abbasabad, Ebrahimabad, Namnik, and Nardin villages.

In a momentous achievement, 54 historic caravanserais in Iran have gained recognition at the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. They now proudly stand tall as Iran's 27th tangible cultural heritage on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List.



Miami Caravanserai
wikipedia.org



Abbasabad Caravanserai
iranwonders.com



Pol-e Abrisham Caravanserai
chtn.ir

Hamas gearing up for major move



By Amir Mousavi

Middle East affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

For several days, the Israeli armed forces have maintained a presence on the Gaza border and have signaled their preparedness for a ground invasion on the Palestinian territory. However, a combination of factors have led to uncertainty and hesitation on their part to roll into the besieged Gaza Strip.

Since launching an all-out offensive after suffering a stunning defeat at the hands of Hamas on October 7, the Israelis have been attempting to force Palestinian residents to evacuate the northern and central areas of Gaza, with the intention of relocating them to the south near the Egyptian border. Their attempts have not succeeded, as a dramatic rise in casualties in the coastal enclave suggests that people have not abandoned their homes. On the other hand, Israeli residents near the fence with Gaza and in the northern areas of the occupied territories have fled.

On Sunday, Israeli forces carried out a limited operation to test land incursion into Gaza from Khan Yunis. But they encountered fierce resistance from Hamas. An Israeli soldier was killed, and several others were wounded, forcing the infiltrator to abandon their tanks. The counter-measure indicated Hamas's readiness for an Israeli land invasion.

Furthermore, tensions have grown between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the military top brass, with reports of commanders not effectively executing Netanyahu's orders. Israel's National Security Council held a meeting on Sunday to address this issue.

Hamas's combat readiness, internal disputes, and doubts among Israeli officials, coupled with pressure from the families of soldiers captured by Hamas, have all contributed to the hesitation in launching a ground attack on Gaza.

Another major factor causing Israeli concerns is the potential response of Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran to a ground invasion of Gaza. The reduced media presence of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, has left the Israelis jittery about the resistance group's possible response. The United States and Europe, as supporters of Israel, also fear possible reactions from Hezbollah and Iran, leading them to make various threats.

If the current situation persists, and Israeli bombardment continues to claim more lives in Gaza, it may end up very costly for Israel. The ongoing loss of life could result in the situation spiraling out of control. The relatively restrained response of Palestinian resistance groups and their resilience in the face of brutal Israeli attacks indicate that Hamas and other Palestinian groups are gearing up for a major operation. It is even suggested that Nasrallah may be overseeing these developments.



AFP

Hamas fighters counter Israeli soldiers inside Gaza

Palestinian death toll tops 5,000, nearly half of them children

International Desk

Israel on Monday bombarded Gaza with more airstrikes including refugees as its soldiers fought Hamas fighters on the ground in raids within the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Gaza's Health Ministry said on Monday that 436 people had been killed by Israeli aerial attacks in the past 24 hours, most of them in the south of the narrow, densely populated Gaza Strip, Reuters reported.

According to AP, Israeli warplanes struck targets across Gaza, including in areas where Palestinian civilians have been told to seek refuge, after another small aid shipment was allowed into the besieged Hamas-governed strip.

The Israeli regime is widely expected to launch a ground offensive in Gaza following Hamas's October 7 attack against Israel that killed 1,400 people and captured more than 200 Israelis. Tanks and troops have been massed at the Gaza border.

Israel says it has stepped up airstrikes in order to reduce the risk to troops in the next stages. This is while, at least 5,087 Palestinians, including 2,055 children and 1,119 women, have been killed in two weeks of Israeli strikes, the enclave's Health Ministry said in an update, AFP reported.

This is while 15,273 people have been injured in the relentless bombardments, the ministry added.



The picture shows a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip toward Israel on October 23, 2023.
● JACK GUEZ/AFP

Limited land raids

Both Israel and Hamas reported overnight clashes in Gaza. Israel said ground forces mounted limited raids to fight Palestinian fighters and that airstrikes focused on sites where Hamas was assembling to ambush any wider Israeli invasion.

Hamas's armed wing, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, said its fighters engaged with an Israeli force that infiltrated Gaza and they destroyed some Israeli military equipment. The group said the infiltration by what it described as an armored force took place east of Khan Yunis

in southern Gaza.

Gaza's Interior Ministry said that at least 18 Palestinians were killed and dozens injured in an Israeli airstrike that hit homes in the Al-Saudi and Janina neighborhoods of Rafah, close to Gaza's southern border with Egypt, after the third small aid shipment was allowed into the besieged Hamas-governed territory. The third aid convoy entered the Gaza Strip on Monday via the Rafah border crossing, AFP said. The UN says at least 100 trucks a day are needed to provide the basic needs of Gaza's 2.4 million inhabitants.

Desperate need for fuel

The development came as UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) warned on Sunday that it was set to run out of fuel within three days, putting the humanitarian response in Gaza at risk.

UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said that without fuel, "there will be no water, no functioning hospitals and bakeries" and that "no fuel

will further strangle the children, women and people of Gaza".

Israel has still not allowed any fuel to enter Gaza, where there has been a power blackout for nearly two weeks. Hospitals say they are scrounging for generator fuel in order to keep operating life-saving medical equipment and incubators for premature babies.

WHO calls for safe passage

World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus issued a new appeal on Monday for "sustained safe passage" for medical essentials and fuel to keep health facilities open.

The UNRWA said Sunday that 29 of its

staff had been killed in Gaza since the outbreak of the war. "We are in shock and mourning. It is now confirmed that 29 of our colleagues in Gaza have been killed since October 7," it wrote on X, raising the death toll released Saturday of 17 staffers.

Western 'license' to kill

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh on Monday accused Western nations of giving Israel a "license to kill" in its war against Hamas, AFP reported.

"What we hear from the mouth of the occupation (Israeli) leaders on preparations for a land invasion means more crimes, atrocities and forced displacement,"

he said.

US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and other leaders have visited Israel in recent days reaffirming its "right to defend" itself, while calling on the Israeli government to stay within international humanitarian law.

'Massacre' in Gaza condemned

However, millions of people across the world, especially Europe and the US, have demonstrated support for Palestinians during the past two weeks.

Thousands of people rallied in Paris on Sunday demanding an end to the Israeli military operation in Gaza which organizers said was a "massacre".

"Israel assassin, Macron complicit" and "No peace without decolonization" were among the slogans at the demonstration in the Place de la Republique Square in eastern Paris, called by a left-wing collective. Police said they made ten arrests

at what was the first pro-Palestinian rally in the capital that had not been banned by the police because of security fears.

Police estimated that 15,000 people attended the rally Sunday, while organizers counted 30,000. Roughly a thousand people also marched in the southern city of Marseille.

Several thousand people also demonstrated support for Palestinians in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo with the city's mayor harking back to the bloody siege the city endured during Bosnia's inter-ethnic war in the 1990s.

Iran support for Palestine

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's support for the oppressed Palestinian people, saying Israel must immediately stop its massacre of civilians, Press TV reported.

Amir-Abdollahian made the remark in separate phone calls with Hamas Political Bureau

Chief Ismail Haniyeh and Islamic Jihad Secretary-General Ziad al-Nakhleh on Monday.

He noted that Israel must open the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza to let desperately needed aid flow to Palestinians running short of basic needs and also stop the forced replacement of people in the besieged strip.



Injured Palestinians await treatment at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City following Israeli strikes on October 23, 2023.
● DAWOOD NEMER/AFP

Iran: Time to promote peace, cooperation in Caucasus



baijan, although it is mostly populated by ethnic Armenians. Azerbaijan won the 2020 war, regaining much of Nagorno-Karabakh. Another battle in September left the entire territory under the control of the Baku government, after months of blockade. Over 100,000 ethnic Armenians were forced to flee, and Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of carrying out ethnic cleansing – a claim Azerbaijan denies, saying people were free to stay and be integrated into Azerbaijan. Before the meeting, the foreign ministers

Foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia and Turkey pose for a photo before a meeting of the so-called 3+3 cooperation format in Tehran on October 23, 2023. **PAYAM SANI/IRNA**

Raisi: We can resolve 'severe energy shortage'



Economy Desk

Noting that the incumbent government has inherited a country with a severe shortage in the field of energy, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi considered it possible to resolve this shortage in light of Iran's capacities.

He expressed his appreciation for the significant measures that were taken so far, but said that to resolve it as soon as possible and prevent its repercussions from damaging other sectors including industries, agriculture, and domestic consumption, no effort must be spared, president.ir reported. Highlighting the importance of optimizing energy consumption during a meeting of the country's Supreme Council of Energy, Raisi obliged the council to carefully examine the current trend of consumption and quickly provide optimization solutions. Iran has the largest known reserves of natural gas in the world after Russia, but Tehran was at times unable to supply enough energy for domestic consumption. An international sanctions regime has prevented the Ministry of Oil from producing enough gas to reliably maintain Iran's own power grid, let alone export at scale. As a result, one of its strategies to deal with chronic energy shortages during the cold seasons was to cut gas supplies to leading industries including steel and petrochemicals.

Iran is a country that still burns its natural gas produced from oil wells and is unable to collect it due to its outdated technology and machinery, AFP reported. In the weeks ahead of predicted power cuts, Iran regularly begins to burn alternatives to natural gas, usually diesel and heavy fuel oil, in order to ease supply issues.

According to a World Bank ranking, Iran ranks third in the world in burning natural gas, wasting more than \$5 billion worth of gas every year in the exploitation of oil wells. While in the short-term, some of its needs have been met by striking gas swap deals with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, Iran is looking to solve what it calls "energy imbalance" for the long term by boosting renewable energy production. Under a major Energy Ministry plan, 20,000 megawatts of renewable electricity would be generated by 2027.

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said today is a historic opportunity for all countries of the region as the "war in the Caucasus region is now over and the time has come for peace, cooperation and progress". Addressing a meeting of the 3+3 cooperation format on

Monday, the Iranian foreign minister said the meeting aims to use the capacities of the region to resolve issues, establish peace and expand cooperation with the aim of promoting the region's economy and people's welfare. The meeting, dubbed "Time for Peace, Cooperation, and Progress in the South Caucasus," was attended by the foreign ministers of Ar-

menia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkey and Iran. The 3+3 consultative platform, which first held talks in 2021 in Moscow, was established in an attempt to resolve regional problems through the inclusion of regional countries and the exclusion of extra-regional countries. The platform was to include Georgia, but Georgia has stated previously it did not

plan to participate in the initiative and said on Sunday it would not participate in the meeting in Tehran. The Iranian foreign minister expressed hope for the "constructive and effective presence of the friendly country of Georgia" in future meetings. Monday's meeting was overshadowed with the dispute between Azerbaijan

and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The two countries have fought two wars in the past three decades over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and have so far failed to reach a peace deal despite long-running efforts by the United States, EU and Russia. The land-locked region has always been internationally recognized as part of Azer-

of Azerbaijan and Armenia held separate meetings with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. During the meetings, Raisi said that Iran is ready to help resolve the disputes between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Raisi told the Armenian foreign minister that Iran considers extra-regional interference detrimental to regional peace and stability.

Armenia, Iran to construct roads for INSTC

Economy Desk

Armenia and Iran signed a contract on Monday to construct a part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) in southern Armenia during a visit by Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash to Yerevan. Under the contract, the two countries will reconstruct the Agarak-Vardandizor Road (about 21km long), and construct a road that will stretch about 11km from Vardandizor to the tunnel exit within the framework of the INSTC Investment Program - Tranche 4, Armenia's Ministry of Territorial Admin-

istration and Infrastructure announced. The contract was signed by Gor Avetisyan, the executive director of Armenia's Road Department Foundation, and representatives of the Tehran-based Abad Rahan Pars International Group and Tunnel Sadd Ariana joint venture, according to armradio.am. The project is financed by the Eurasian Development Bank loan and the Armenian government. Construction works are planned to start at the end of 2023, and will be completed within three years. The reconstruction of the 32km road section is to fall under the framework of the ongoing Kajaran-Agarak re-

construction project on the border and meet advanced international standards in terms of road safety, convenience, and travel time reduction. Regarding the security of the INSTC, Armenia's Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan said, "There is no way to say that there are no security issues, but at the same time, both Armenia and Iran have a clear commitment to the implementation of this project, and Iran has always expressed unequivocally its unconditional support for Armenia's territorial integrity." The project plans to build five new intersections, six new flyovers, two new tunnels, with a total length of

920 meters, and 17 new bridges. Bazrpash stressed that the current bridge on the Armenian-Iranian border is not enough for the large amount of traffic, adding that this new bridge can contribute to the development of Armenian-Iranian economic relations. The current bridge on the Armenia-Iran border was built in 1995 on the Araks River, news.am wrote. The Iranian minister pointed out that negotiations are underway between Iran and Armenia on holding a tripartite meeting between Iran, Georgia, and Armenia in order to facilitate transit in the INSTC, Tasnim news agency reported.



armradio.am

Bazrpash said that Iranian companies are ready to assist the Armenian side in various projects. "We inform any Armenian company engaged in the field of housing construction and road construction that we are ready to assist them in their projects in Iran," the Iranian official added. During his visit, the two

parties also agreed to nullify road duties for trucking as it "will make it possible to deliver goods at a lower price," Bazrpash said at a press briefing in Yerevan. The Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan described the move as an "important political decision".

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Riyadh to ease Iran participation in Saudi expos: Envoy

Economy Desk

Saudi Ambassador to Iran Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi said that he will pave the way for the presence of Iranian businesspeople in Saudi exhibitions. The Saudi ambassador made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade Mehdi Zeighami in Tehran on Sunday, according to IRNA. For his part, the Iranian official expressed the eagerness of Iranian companies for participating in Saudi

health, food, and petrochemical events. Furthermore, Zeighami called for exchanging the list of businesspeople between the two countries and hoped that Saudi trade delegations will visit Iran in the near future. "Considering the farsighted programs of Saudi Arabia

and the country's current investments, the two countries can benefit from trading in the field of new technologies," he said. The Saudi ambassador and the Iranian deputy industry minister were mainly focused on the growth of trade between the two neighboring countries.



IRNA

Gaza under Israel's relentless strikes

Israel's brutal response to Hamas' October 7 attack on the occupied territories is killing thousands of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip on a daily basis. Israel, which enjoys the support of its Western allies, is using all means, including indiscriminate targeting of innocent people, to exert pressure on Gazans to give up their resistance against the occupying regime. At least 5,000 Palestinians have lost their lives since the beginning of the Israel's attack on the Palestinian enclave. These photos, all taken by AFP photojournalists, depict an iota of the ordeal the Gazans are going through these days.





people, and expressed a willingness to meet with the Pope if the Vatican declared its readiness to address the issue. Younes Hamami Lalehzar, the religious leader of Iranian Jews, condemned the crimes committed against innocent people, the bombing of safe places, and hospitals. He stressed that no God-believing or free person could accept such acts. Lalehzar highlighted the desire of people in different countries for Western countries and international assemblies to take action and ensure the welfare of the people in conflict zones. Lalehzar acknowledged the significant loss of life and emphasized the need to support the survivors, aiming to establish peace and tranquility in the region. He expressed hope that immediate actions would be taken to address the situation.

Religious minority leaders in Iran came together to condemn the crimes committed by the Zionists in Gaza, in Tehran on October 23, 2023. **TASNIM**

Minority religious leaders in Iran unanimously condemn Israel

Social Desk

A press conference held on Monday morning featured religious minority leaders in Iran who came together to condemn the crimes committed by the Zionists in Gaza. The event was attended by prominent figures including Sepuh Sargsyan, the Archbishop of Armenian Diocese of Tehran, Vania Sergis, the Assyrian Catholic Bishop of Tehran, and Rabbi Younes Hamami Lalehzar, the religious leader of Iranian Jews. During the conference, Sepuh Sargsyan expressed his concerns, stating, "The world is now in turmoil and, unfortunately, since 1948, when the Israeli regime was established, the Middle East has undergone changes and the fires of various wars. We, the people of the Middle East, have suffered a crisis since that time. We and all

the people of the region are looking for peace, but so far this peace has been unsuccessful. First of all, I would like to announce that the entire Christian world condemned the brutal actions of the Israeli regime and always supported the efforts of Palestine." Sargsyan further revealed that three weeks ago, during a meeting of Asian churches in India, the attacks by the Zionist regime were condemned, and the rights of the Palestinian people were demanded. He emphasized the need for unity and fairness in order to achieve their goals, given the current unjust world. Drawing attention to the plight of Karabakh Armenians, who were displaced from their land, Sargsyan noted the silence of the international community, except for the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and Iranian author-

ities, who mentioned their rights. He pointed out the complicity between Israel and Azerbaijan in displacing Armenians, stating, "It is clear to the whole world that the Israeli regime was behind Azerbaijan, and they brought it to a conclusion with their attacks. We should be able to show the role of the Israeli regime, and if Iranians and Arabs work more purposefully, they can overcome these problems." Ali Akbar Ziyaie, the head of the Center for Dialogue of Religions and Cultures of the Islamic Culture and Communication Organization in Iran, emphasized the center's commitment to peace and coexistence between religions. He condemned the barbaric attacks of Israel, which resulted in the destruction of hospitals and schools, as well as the martyrdom and injury of thousands of Palestinians. Ziyaie also highlighted the tar-

geting of churches and mosques, some of which had a history of 1,600 years. He expressed the heartache caused by witnessing the loss of lives and called for human rights institutions to take action. He emphasized that these actions are condemned by the international community, religions, and followers of divine religions. Ziyaie mentioned the ongoing efforts to engage with leaders of world religions, with the hope of achieving practical results. Vania Sergis, the Assyrian Catholic Bishop of Tehran, expressed his desire for unity and peace, stating, "I wish we could gather today to celebrate and make peace." He highlighted the difficulty of addressing the current crimes, emphasizing that solely praying will not yield results. Sergis raised concerns about the lack of support from the United Nations and

human rights organizations in supplying medicine and food to the people of Gaza, despite prayers being offered for their well-being. Sergis also drew attention to the extensive destruction caused by bombings, including churches, the Baptist hospital, schools, and places of service. The sight of orphaned children prompted him to question the actions of the United Nations. He expressed readiness to serve and assist those in need, hoping for a cease-fire to facilitate the delivery of essential supplies. Sergis denounced the support shown by presidents of various countries towards Israel, emphasizing the ongoing killings. He called on nations to consider how they would react if such atrocities were occurring within their own borders. Sergis expressed appreciation for the support provided by Iran in standing by the Palestinian

Responding to a question regarding the distinction between Judaism and Zionism, Lalehzar clarified that Judaism is a divine religion based on belief in one God and human values. In contrast, he described Zionism as a political party that misused certain ideals and beliefs of Judaism to lay claim to Palestine. He emphasized that just as Daesh is not considered a representative of Islam, Zionism should not be considered representative of the Jewish people. Lalehzar noted that opposition to Zionism initially arose from within the Jewish community. He highlighted Imam Khomeini's statement that "the account of Zionism is separate from Judaism," reiterating the sentiment expressed by the leader of the revolution. Finally, Reverend Yobalit Aldo, the representative of the East Assyrian Church, condemned the crime and expressed gratitude for the freedom to voice diverse thoughts. Aldo expressed hope for an end to the war and the ability to provide assistance from their community to the people of Gaza.

Social Desk

Psychological services in Iran would have insurance coverage, announced the country's Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education. In a speech during the National Insurance Day ceremony, the Minister stated that the tariff for psychological services is now covered by insurance systems, IRNA reported. During the ceremony, Bahram

Insurance coverage offered for psychological services in Iran

Einollahi expressed his gratitude towards insurance companies for their assistance in implementing the Daruyar (Medicine Helper) plan. He also urged the health insurance organization to provide free insurance for children under seven years old in state run hospitals. Einollahi further highlighted

that Iran currently boasts the strongest healthcare sector in the region and emphasized that universal insurance for all members of society will soon become a reality. The Minister also expressed his hope that the health system would shift its focus from treatment to disease prevention.

"It is necessary to improve medical services in various regions of the country and strive for both quantitative and qualitative advancements in healthcare," he said, stressing the important role of university professors in disease prevention. Einollahi also mentioned that

the country has state-of-the-art medical centers, and the goal is to advance the healthcare system within the new Islamic Civilization framework. Referring to the increase in insurance coverage during the current administration, the Minister of Health stated that while some countries priori-

tize quantity over quality, the people of Iran expect the best treatment. Insurance should provide favorable conditions to meet these expectations. Finally, Einollahi emphasized the importance of giving more attention to the payment of insurance claims. He emphasized the need to utilize electronic services and ensure that the Ministry of Health's information is updated in all regions.

First Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for:
EC-3305

Tabriz Petrochemical Company intends to procure the amount of 31,000 kg of EC-3305 it needs for the Polystyrene Production Plant.

In order to receive tender documents, interested suppliers should send their request to the following email within 7 days after the second printing of the advertisement.

Email: Mr.ghorbani@tpco.ir Phone No.: +98-21-88737355

Tender	No	Quantity
EC-3305	PVS-0241038	31000 KG

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

First turn published: Oct 24, 2023 Second turn published: Oct 29, 2023

On Monday, October 23, an event took place at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. It was a gathering of international students from medical sciences universities in Tehran, with the participation of 600 international students. The purpose of this gathering was to show support for the oppressed people of Gaza. **NASER JAFARI/TASNIM**



Int'l confab pays tribute to Iran's Beyhaqi

IRNA – An international conference is currently underway to commemorate the Iranian historian Abulfazl Beyhaqi.

The two-day event began on Monday, October 23, a day nationally recognized in the Iranian calendar as a commemoration of Beyhaqi. The conference gathered the participation of writers, scholars, and researchers from a diverse range of countries, including Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Iraq, and the Iraqi Kurdistan region, with attendees joining both in-person and virtually.

The conference, titled 'Revisiting the Relationship between Persian Prose and National Identity,' addresses the highly significant theme of "identity". Regrettably, this subject has faded into oblivion in contemporary times, and the progress and development of society, particularly among the younger generation, requires its revival.

Mahyar Alavi, the secretary of the 13th edition of this conference, emphasized the significance of connecting Persian literature, especially Persian prose, with national identity to promote cultural advancement within society. He remarked, "Fundamentally, the purpose of commemorating influential writers in the intellectual and cultural processes of society is to engage with the elements and concepts of the community's culture."

Abulfazl Beyhaqi (995-1077), is known as the father of Persian prose by experts and analysts, is renowned for his invaluable contribution to literature through his book, 'Tarikh-e Beyhaqi' (literally translated into 'The History of Beyhaqi'). His work is considered one of the richest in the field of Persian prose.

Iran's local music pioneer Sharafi dies



ISNA – Ahmad Ali Sharafi, a pioneer in South Iranian music and a master of the *ney-anban* (a type of bagpipe which is popular in southern Iran), and *ney jofti* (an indigenous and one of the oldest instruments of the Hormuzgan Province and one of the bases of traditional music of Bandar Abbas) instruments, died at the age of 80.

Born in Bushehr, he was one of the well-known and melodious figures in South Iranian music, having participated in numerous national and international festivals, receiving acclaim on several occasions. The funeral of this prominent figure in regional music is set to take place today, in Bushehr, where he will be laid to rest.

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irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7416 ● Tuesday, October 24, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages



Iranian animation 'Smart Kid' breaks box office records



● IRNA



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's animated film, 'Smart Kid,' created a significant impression in the world of cinema, earning over \$320,000 in just under a month since its release in Iranian cinemas.

The film's producer, Hamed Ja'fari, proudly underlines that this achievement marks a historic milestone. "For the first time, an animated film has drawn more than 430,000 viewers to theaters and appealed to both families and children with its narrative in such a short period," he said.

Ja'fari anticipated that 'Smart Kid' would excel in records set by its predecessors, 'The Princess of Rome' and 'The Elephant King,' eventually reaching the title of the most-watched animated film in Iranian cinema.

The film's storyline revolves around Mohsen, a young boy with a great love for superheroes. During a fateful journey to the cloud forest in Mazandaran, Iran, he crosses paths with a tiger escaping from illegal hunters. Mohsen's exceptional ability to communicate with animals fosters a unique connection with the tiger. As the tiger finds refuge in Tehran, Mohsen's life takes a thrilling turn, accompanied by a mission to restore the creature to its natural habitat.

In this animation, storytelling is of high significance, avoiding the misconception that, because the audience are children, the story can be illogical. 'Smart Kid' makes an effort to tell a coherent story that captures the interest of new-generation children right from the beginning. Given that children are constantly exposed to superhero characters created in Hollywood's Marvel and

comic book world through satellite networks, tablets, and mobile phones, this film takes advantage of their high interest in these characters. It starts with Mohsen's strong interest in superheroes and even his supernatural abilities, such as communicating with animals. However, he later uses these superhero qualities for the curious and noble cause of saving the forest.

The second part of the story shifts its focus to the serious issue of illegal hunting and the difficulty of endangered species in the forests. Mohsen's friendship with the critically endangered Mazandaran tiger species sheds light on the concept of endangerment and the tireless efforts of environmentalists, who stand as steadfast allies to these endangered creatures.

As this animated masterpiece continues to appeal to audiences, experts discuss the factors behind its unprecedented success. Saeed Sheikhzadeh, the director of dubbing for the animation project, attributes a significant part of its success to voice acting. With an ensemble cast of actors like Hooman Haji Abdollahi, Javad Pezeshkian, George Petrosi, Mina Qiasipour, Maryam Radpour and others, 'Smart Kid' delivers a level of professionalism that sets it apart in the animation world.

He explained that since 'Smart Kid' is a cinematic work, international standards must be adhered to, and it requires coordination with the director. Therefore, before the animation was created, the dubbing team performed the roles. After gradually achieving the desired results in terms of character emotions, actions, and performances, the animation

production began. This approach enhanced the professionalism of the animation in terms of character delivery, actions, and performances.

Some other experts attribute the success of the story to its use of religious themes. Given that the cloud forest is situated on the way from Tehran to Mashhad, in reality, this forest has a special protector referred to as the "Heart of the Forest," who is miraculously healed by the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims, Imam Reza (PBUH), and the animals hold particular respect for him.

This aspect of the story even aids the narrative in bringing wrongdoers to justice by the end, allowing them to become aware of their mistakes. It's a conclusion more acceptable for children and teenagers. Nevertheless, some critics may find that addressing religious themes directly could have an impact on the range of audiences who wish to watch the film.

While the precise factors behind the animation's success may be subject to debate, there is no denying that the film could claim the title of the most-watched animated film in the history of Iranian cinema. However, it is evident that Iran's animation industry still possesses untapped potential, and there is a promising journey ahead toward realizing its full capacities.

For the first time in Iran's history of cinema, 'Smart Kid' drew more than 430,000 viewers to theaters and appealed to both families and children with its narrative in less than a month.

Notre Dame treasures shine at Louvre Museum exhibition

Four years after a devastating fire destroyed much of Notre Dame, Paris's Louvre Museum is holding an unprecedented exhibition of the treasures of the famed 12th-century cathedral. As restoration efforts for the Notre Dame de Paris near their final stages, the Musée du Louvre is hosting a remarkable exhibition dedicated to the treasures of the cathedral. This treasury encompasses a wide array of religious and sacred objects, vestments used in worship, relics, manuscript books, and various precious artefacts, wionnews.com reported. According to the Louvre museum's website, after the exhibition, the priceless treasures will return to the

cathedral's neo-Gothic sacristy, which was originally designed by the architects Jean Baptiste Lassus and Eugène Viollet-le-Duc between 1845 and 1850. Following the fire, the sacristy — a place for sacred objects has been meticulously renovated in anticipation of the cathedral's grand reopening in 2024. The exhibition, which includes over 120 selected works, "provides a condensed history of the treasury". It will be up till January 29, 2024. These exhibits provide a unique opportunity to understand the treasury's rich heritage, tracing its origins back to the Middle Ages and its remarkable revival in the 19th century.



Sistan and Baluchestan handicraft on display in Mexico

Arts & Culture Desk

The first-ever Sistan and Baluchestan Province handicraft exhibition, which showcased the exquisite art of needlework, took place at the Los Pinós Museum in Mexico City, from October 20 to 22.

The exhibition's opening day was attended by Iran's Ambassador to Mexico City Alireza Qezili, alongside representatives from the Mexican Ministry of Cul-

ture and other prominent cultural figures.

Sistan and Baluchestan Governor Mehdi Karami, who couldn't attend in person, extended his invitation to the people of Mexico through a video message. He highlighted the economic potential of the region, particularly in mining, agriculture, and maritime industries, and encouraged Mexican tourists to explore the province's tourist attractions, with a special em-

phasis on Shahr-e Sukhte (Burnt City).

For three days, the exhibition featured an impressive display of Sistan and Baluchestan needlework, including various tablecloths, earrings, bracelets, anklets, belts, leather needlework, bags, and both men's and women's clothing. It provided a unique opportunity for arts and culture enthusiasts in Mexico to witness the rich heritage and artistic craftsmanship of Iran.



● IRNA