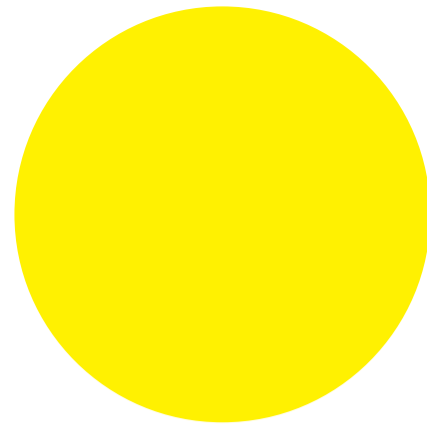


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حضرت اميرالمؤمنين (عليه السلام) دشمن ستمگر و يار ستمديده باشيد نهج البلاغه نامه ٤٧

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Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with students from across the country on November 1, 2023, ahead of National Student Day and the National Day of Fight Against Global Arrogance. khamenei.ir

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Global trade preparing for de-dollarization

The US dollar has enjoyed a privileged status since the end of World War II when the Bretton Woods system established it as the anchor of the international monetary system. However, in recent years, some countries have challenged the dollar's dominance and sought to diversify their currency reserves and trade settlements.



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EXCLUSIVE

Iran to improve rank in Oman exports



Economy Desk

In the first specialized meeting of the Agriculture and Food Industries Commission of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce, which was held with the participation of managers from more than 60 active companies in the field of exports and imports to Oman, Iran will enhance its export ranking to Oman by the end of the Iranian calendar year (March 19).

Oman's import value in recent years has exceeded \$30 billion and, according to the World Trade Organization (WTO) statistics, despite Iran's geographical proximity, the country holds the tenth position in exports to Oman, according to ISNA.

Food product exports are among the items that have the highest value and profitability for Oman, and soft customs regulations in Oman and the freedom of currency exchange have made exports to the country appealing for traders and merchants, said Nese-reidin Eslami-fard, the head of the Agriculture and Food Industries Commission of the Chamber of Commerce of Iran and Oman.

Oman serves as a bridge between the Arabian Peninsula, East Asia, India, and the Persian Gulf, and due to the favorable political, economic, and religious and cultural ties between the two countries, which have a deep historical background, Iranian traders can seize the golden opportunity in Oman for exports to the country and to African and Arab nations.

Exports growth to narrow trade deficit in H2: *MPs*



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Economic experts believe that although the reasons for the deficit in Iran's trade balance in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (starting March 21) should be probed from various aspects, the trade deficit can be compensated in the second half of the current year.

Released figures by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) show that the country's foreign trade reached \$64.4 billion in the seven months to October 22 with a deficit of \$7.7 billion. The country's seven-month non-oil trade stands at 100.4 million tons, with a 23.7% rise in weight terms and a 6.2% increase in value terms, year on year.

Iran exported 79.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$28.3 billion from March 21 to October 22, IRICA data showed. The seven-month non-oil export indicates a rise of over 29% in terms of weight, and a drop of less than 1% in terms of value, year on year. A sum of 20.9 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$36 billion were imported to the country during the period, with a 6.2% growth in weight terms and a 12.6% increase in value, compared to the same period in the previous year. The latest figures suggest a gap of more than 27% between exports and imports.

Liquefied natural gas, liquefied

propane, and liquefied butane were the top exported commodities to various countries, especially China, Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, and India as the main destinations of Iran's non-oil exports.

In the meantime, what has been questionable for economic experts and been met with reactions is the several billion dollars of discrepancy in the value of exports and imports and the country's trade balance deficit of \$7.7 billion.

Hojatollah Firouzi, a member of the Industries and Mines Committee of the Iranian Parliament, told Iran Daily reporter that the figures calculated by the government for the current year's budget bill regarding the sale price of oil and oil derivatives were seemingly not achieved, which were also influential in reducing the country's exports value.

On the other hand, if we look at the country's trade statistics in the past years, we will notice that the government's export revenues in the second half of the year have always been higher than that of the first half, he said.

"In the countries that have been successful in the field of export, the private sector has a greater role. I think we do not have the proper view of the private sector of the country. In words, we emphasize the private sector a lot, but in practice, our support of it is not good."

The MP noted: "Our regulations concerning import and export change every year, and therefore,



our private sector cannot ground its plans for production and export on it. The export of some products may even be stopped at once with the introduction of new regulations. This harms the private sector and, in turn, the country's exports and forex earnings."

Talking to Iran Daily, Shahbaz Hasanpour Biglari, another member of the Parliament's Plan and Budget Committee, described the country's trade balance deficit as unfortunate and said a number of lawmakers have asked the speaker of the Parliament to invite the relevant officials to discuss the problem.

"We should first listen to whatever the officials have to say to the Parliament, and then, after holding detailed talks with experts, we lawmakers should inform the people," he said.

Ramezani Sangdovini, another MP, also maintained: We need to

expand our economic diplomacy to develop our trade and export, which have been given priority by the incumbent government.

That is why we joined the BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Eurasian Union and planned economic cooperation with regional, Latin American, and even African countries, but some other mechanisms are needed to achieve better results, he explained.

"Another thing that confined our exports is that the consumption of some products, including oil products and gasoline, is high in our country, and therefore we could not export as needed."

The next point of great importance is that Iranian traders and producers have done their job, added the lawmaker, but "part of their export income has not yet returned due to sanctions and banking prob-

lems." If we take these calculations into account, the country's trade balance will certainly be positive, he stressed.

Rahim Zare, yet another member of the Plan and Budget Committee, told Iran Daily that in addition to the amount of exports and imports, the amount of smuggling should also be taken into account.

"If we add the amount of goods smuggled into the country to the amount of imports, the trade deficit will increase," he said, describing this as the first point that should be considered.

Iran's target is to claim one percent of the total world trade, a quarter of which, according to the current figures, has been achieved due to various obstacles to export, economic and trade sanctions, and difficulty in transferring forex to the country, the MP noted.

Minister puts daily crude output at 3.4m barrels

Economy Desk

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji on Wednesday announced that Iran's oil production has reached 3.4 million barrels per day (bpd).

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the weekly cabinet session, the minister said the country's oil output amounted to 2.2m bpd when the incumbent administration took office two years ago, according to Shana.

The figure has now soared to 3.4m bpd thanks to the Oil Ministry's measures over the past 24 months, he mentioned.

Given the ministry's plans and in-

vestments in onshore and offshore fields, domestic oil output will hopefully increase, Owji added.

Statistics showed a 19.8 percent economic growth for the oil and gas industry in the spring of 2023, recalled the minister, harboring hope that the upward trend will continue.

Rise in OPEC output

OPEC oil output has risen for a third straight month in October, a Reuters survey found on Tuesday, led by increases in Nigeria and Angola and despite ongoing cuts by Saudi Arabia and other members of the wider OPEC+ alliance to sup-

port the market.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has pumped 27.9 million barrels per day (bpd), the survey found, up by 180,000 bpd from September. Production in August had risen for the first time since February.

The steady rise in OPEC output is largely being driven by a small number of producers managing to overcome internal or external factors that have curbed supply.

Nigeria boosted exports in October without any major disruption to shipments, according to shipping data and sources in the survey, increasing output by 50,000 bpd.

The country is targeting a further recovery by next year. Angola also boosted exports in October, the survey found.

Highest production of Iran

Smaller increases came from Iraq and Iran. Tehran's output edged up to 3.17 million bpd, the survey found. This is the highest since 2018, the year Washington re-imposed sanctions on Iran, according to Reuters' surveys and OPEC figures. Analysts have said the higher Iranian exports appear to be the result of Iran's success in evading US sanctions.

There was no immediate boost in

Venezuela's production, sources in the survey said. OPEC+ sources expect the production recovery to be gradual. Output from the 10 OPEC+ members that are subject to OPEC+ supply cut agreements rose by 150,000 bpd, the survey found. Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf members maintained strong compliance with agreed cutbacks and extra voluntary reductions.

Saudi Arabia kept the October and September output close to nine million bpd, the survey found. The country in September extended a voluntary one million bpd output cut until the end of the year to provide extra support for the market.

Global trade preparing for de-dollarization



By Reza Abesh Ahmadi
Staff writer

The US dollar has enjoyed a privileged status since the end of World War II when the Bretton Woods system established it as the anchor of the international monetary system. However, in recent years, some countries have challenged the dollar's dominance and sought to diversify their currency reserves and trade settlements. De-dollarization refers to the process of reducing the reliance on the US dollar as the dominant reserve currency and medium of exchange in the global economy.

One of the main drivers of de-dollarization is the BRICS bloc, which originally consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. These five emerging economies account for about 40% of the world's population and 25% of

the world's GDP. They have expressed their dissatisfaction with the US dollar's role in the global financial system and its use as a tool for exerting economic and political pressure by the US government.

The BRICS countries have taken various steps to reduce their dependence on the dollar and promote their own currencies. For example, they have established the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement to provide alternative sources of financing and liquidity for their members.

They have also increased their bilateral and multilateral trade and investment in local currencies, especially between China and Russia. They have advocated for the inclusion of their currencies in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the International Monetary Fund, which is a supplementary reserve asset that can be exchanged for hard currencies.

In addition, some BRICS leaders have proposed the creation of a common currency for the bloc, as a way to further enhance their economic integration and cooperation. However, this idea faces many challenges and obstacles, such as the different levels of development, inflation, exchange rates, fiscal policies, monetary policies, and political systems among the BRICS countries.

Another factor that has contributed to de-dollarization is the failure of sanctions against Iran, as a new member of the BRICS, in achieving their intended objectives. The US has imposed various sanctions on Iran since 1979, mainly over its nuclear program. However, Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is peaceful and has refused to comply with the demands of the UN Security Council to suspend its uranium enrichment activities.

The restrictions have pushed Iran to seek alternative ways to circumvent

the sanctions and preserve its economic ties with other countries. For instance, Iran has resorted to bartering oil for goods and services, using intermediaries and front companies, conducting transactions in local currencies or cryptocurrencies, and developing its domestic industries and technologies.

Moreover, Iran has found support from some of its allies and partners, such as China, Russia, Turkey, and India, who have continued to trade with Iran

despite the US sanctions. These countries have also opposed the US's unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was a multilateral agreement that lifted some sanctions on Iran in exchange for limits on its nuclear program. They have also tried to salvage the deal by creating a mechanism to facilitate trade with Iran without using the US dollar or US-controlled financial institutions.



Magnificent northern railway: A Journey through Iranian history and heritage



MEHR

Iranica Desk

Iran's northern railway is an enchanting and unparalleled route, showcasing a diverse blend of history and heritage. It spans over 1,000 kilometers, forming an integral part of the trans-Iranian railway and earning its esteemed status as a global heritage site. The launch of the first provincial department of Trans-Iranian Railway's World Heritage Site in Mazandaran Province promises to begin a modern chapter of exploration and experience.

It's hard to find someone who hasn't laid eyes on the captivating and unique part of the railway route of Mazandaran Province, with the length of 331-kilometers, or experienced a journey along this route without being mesmerized by its natural, historical, and architectural beauty, IRNA wrote.

The operation of the northern railway, as a part of trans-Iranian railway, commenced in 1937, and quickly became a prominent symbol of modernity in the lives of the local people. This architectural and industrial marvel, coupled with its profound integration into the



social, economic, and industrial fabric of Mazandaran, has transformed the railway into an inseparable and vibrant component of everyday life.

This charming and fascinating element of modernity, which is in its ninth decade of operation, with all its infrastructure components and surrounding social issues, has become an attractive destination for cultural heritage lovers.

It is so appealing that two years ago, as part of Iran's national railway, it was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The most beautiful and unique part of this 1,400-kilometer historical and world-renowned route, which extends from Bandar-e Torkaman, in Golestan Province, to Imam Khomeini Port, passes through Mazandaran Province and



the heart of the Alborz Mountains.

The head of the newly-established provincial department of the Trans-Iranian Railway World Heritage Site in Mazandaran Province has stated that their main objectives are documenting and updating the architectural, natural, and historical features within the vicinity of the railway fleet located in northern Iran.

Abolfazl Nikubayan also emphasized the continuous monitoring and preservation measures.

"Efforts are underway to establish the first railway museum in the region. Promoting railway tourism and attracting foreign visitors are also among the primary goals of this department," he said. While appreciating the efforts of the experts and managers of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railway Company and the Northern Railway Department for the finalization of the global registration dossier, he stated: Undoubtedly, without these efforts, this dossier would not have reached fruition. Since the preparation and compilation of the dossier, the experienced railway experts, along with a team from the World Heritage Registration Department of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, had extensive collaborations, including cultural liaison with UNESCO.

"Now, with the establishment of the provincial department of the Trans-Iranian Railway World Heritage Site in Mazandaran Province, we still need the same collaboration and concern," he noted.

Reviving Godin Tappeh, a vital transformation from neglect to fame

Iranica Desk

Godin Tappeh (Godin Hill) of Kangavar, Kermanshah Province, is one of the most important historical sites dating back to the Median period, having international recognition and fame, said the head of Anahita National Heritage Site.

Morteza Geravand said that it holds the potential to be internationally recognized and registered, ISNA wrote.

"This ancient hill has only been excavated once, back in 1965. The excavation was carried out by a Canadian team, headed by a famous archaeologist Cuyler Young. Their dedicated efforts unveiled significant archaeological findings, shedding light on important historical information associated with the site."

He added that through these excavations, it was discovered that Godin Tappeh encompasses seven cultural layers spanning prehistoric, historical, and Islamic periods, covering a span of seven thousand years. The second layer specifically corresponds to the Median period.

He noted that, unfortunately, this important historical site has been neglected and left untouched for approximately 60 years in terms of archaeological exploration. Consequently, the structures that were once discovered by the Young archaeologi-



cal team during their excavations have sadly deteriorated and been lost over the past decades. "We are taking action to revive and

transform this historical mound into a renowned archaeological research center. The first step is to establish its boundaries and safeguarding zone," he

noted.

Recently, a team of archaeologists, headed by Kamyar Abdi, an esteemed Iranian archaeologist, who is also a faculty member at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, has been actively working on this project.

In order to define the boundaries of this ancient site, around 20 excavations were undertaken, which led to the discovery of certain cultural artifacts, adding to our knowledge and understanding.

He added that the next step for reviving Godin Tappeh, which is part of the Anahita Temple National Heritage Site, is implementing preservation programs.

"In the final phase, as we delve deeper into our archeological explorations, our ultimate goal is to transform this ancient mound into a captivating museum, a prestigious research center, or a national heritage site," he said. Geravand said, "By putting these measures and programs into action, Godin Tappeh has the potential to be recognized worldwide, just like Hasanlu Hill in West Azarbaijan Province, which is currently on the path to globalization."

The site has played a significant role in the field of transit during its cultural and political heyday, so actions need to be taken on it as part of a national project.

mrbilit.com

Leader: Final victory is Palestinians' and won't be far



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with students from across the country on November 1, 2023, ahead of National Student Day and the National Day of Fight Against Global Arrogance.
● khamenei.ir

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that "the final victory belongs to Palestinians" in their fight against Israel and that such a triumph will not be too "far off".

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with students from across the country, ahead of the National Student Day and the National Day of Fighting Against Global Arrogance, which Iranians celebrate on November 4, Press TV reported.

He also called upon Muslim states to press for an end to the ongoing Israeli atrocities against the besieged Gaza Strip, impose sanctions on the Tel Aviv regime, and stop oil and goods exports to the occupied territories.

The Leader lauded the Palestinians for their resistance and steadfastness in the face of Israeli atrocities in the besieged Gaza Strip, stating that their resilience has aroused the human conscience.

"What Muslim states must insist on is the immediate cessation of [Israeli] crimes in Gaza. They must promptly stop the bombardment of Gaza, and stop the export of oil and other commodities to the Zionist regime," he said.

"Muslim states must not cooperate economically with the Zionist regime, but denounce these catastrophes and crimes vociferously and without hesitation in all international forums."

"The scale and circumstances of what is going on must be clarified. The Zionist regime must be condemned, and the entire Muslim world must be mobilized against it," the Leader added.

The Leader noted that protesters in Western countries, Britain, France, Italy and various US states have taken to the streets en masse and chanted slogans in condemnation of Israel and the United States.

"It was an absolute disgrace for them, which they can neither recover from nor justify," the Leader said.

"The Muslim world should not forget that all through the critical issue of Gaza, the countries which stood against Islam and the oppressed Palestinian nation was [the United States of] America, France and Britain."

He went on to say that the central issue nowadays is not the Israeli war on Gaza, but rather the battle between the truth and falsehood, and the fight between the power of faith and the power of arrogance.

US help

The Leader also said, "The blow to the Zionist regime is irreparable. I said this at the beginning, I emphasize it now, and I repeat it. It's now gradually shown in the words of the Zionist regime's officials that the blow they received is not a blow that can be compensated. They cannot compensate for it."

"The Zionist regime is now helpless and confused. Tel Aviv lies to his own people. The fact that they express concern about their captives in the hands of the Palestinians is also a lie. This lying is out of haplessness. The Israeli bombings may kill their own captives."

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed, "Now, the Zionist regime is in shock and confused. It doesn't know what to do. If it weren't for the help of the United States, the Zionist regime would have collapsed in a matter of days."

Bolivia cuts Israeli ties as Chile, Colombia recall envoys

International Desk

Bolivia said on Tuesday it had broken diplomatic ties with Israel because of its "crimes against humanity" in the Gaza Strip, while neighbors Colombia and Chile recalled their ambassadors to Israel for consultations.

Bolivian officials cited the number of Palestinian casualties in Gaza that have resulted from the over-three-week war between Israel and Hamas.

Bolivia decided to break diplomatic relations with "Israel in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive taking place in the Gaza Strip," Freddy Mamani, Bolivia's deputy foreign minister, said at a news conference.

Also, Bolivian President Arce said on social media on Monday, "We reject the war crimes being committed in Gaza. We support international initiatives to guarantee humanitarian aid, in compliance with international law."

The three South American countries called for a cease-fire, with Bolivia and Chile pushing for the passage of humanitarian aid into the zone, and accusing Israel of violating international law. The nations lambasted Israel's attacks on Gaza and condemned the deaths of Palestinian citizens.

According to Gaza health authorities, 8,796 people, including 3,542 children, have been killed in Israeli attacks since Oct. 7.

Chile decided to recall its

ambassador "in the face of the unacceptable violations of international humanitarian law committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip," the its Foreign Ministry said.

Colombia's President Gustavo Petro also announced he was recalling his country's ambassador to Israel. "If Israel does not stop the massacre of the Palestinian people, we cannot remain there," Petro wrote on X.

LatAm states' stance

Bolivia is among the first countries to actively break diplomatic relations with Israel over its war in Gaza, retaliation for an Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel by Palestinian Hamas resistance group, who Israel says killed 1,400 people and abducted 240 prisoners.

But other Latin American countries, such as Mexico and Brazil, have also called for a cease-fire.

According to UN officials, more than 1.4 million, of Gaza's civilian population of about 2.3 million, have been made homeless.

In Asia, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed strong solidarity with the people of Palestine and supported their right to create an independent state.

He also allocated \$1.5 million for essential humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. Mirziyoyev emphasized the need for ceasing hostilities and seeking a peaceful resolution. He warned that an escalation of violence could have far-reaching and unpredictable consequences,

affecting not only the Middle East but also distant countries.

Limited evacuations allowed

As Israeli forces pressed their battle against Hamas fighters in the Palestinian enclave on Wednesday, a first group of injured evacuees from Gaza crossed into Egypt under a Qatari-mediated deal, Egyptian media and a source at the border said.

The evacuees were driven in ambulances through the Rafah border crossing. Under the deal reached between Egypt, Israel and Hamas, a number of foreigners and critically wounded people will be allowed to leave the besieged territory, where Israeli airstrikes pounded Jabalia, Gaza's largest refugee camp, for the second day Wednesday.

Even as bombings have driven tens of thousands from their homes and food, water and fuel run low, no one has been allowed to leave the embattled enclave, except for four prisoners released by Hamas. Another prisoner was rescued by Israeli forces earlier this week.

The Wednesday evacuation

followed another day of bloodshed in Gaza, in which an Israeli airstrike on Tuesday killed about 50 people in a refugee camp, according to Palestinian health officials.

Israel claimed the attack on Jabalia killed a senior Hamas commander and many other fighters.

Israel commits 'massacres' to cover 'defeats'

Meanwhile, the leader of Palestinian resistance group Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, said on Wednesday Israel commits "massacres" in the Gaza war to cover its own "defeats".

Israel is "committing barbaric massacres against unarmed civilians", he said in a speech broadcast by Al Jazeera, adding that "its villainy will not save them from resounding defeat".

Graveyard for children

The UN said Tuesday the Gaza Strip has become a graveyard for thousands of children, fearing more may die also of dehydration.

The UN children's agency UNICEF said there was a risk that the number of child deaths directly from bombardment could be



eclipsed. "Our gravest fears about the reported numbers of children killed becoming dozens, then hundreds, and ultimately thousands were realized in just a fortnight," UNICEF spokesman James Elder said. "The numbers are appalling; reportedly more than 3,450 children killed; staggeringly this rises significantly every day. "Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It's a living hell for everyone else." Without greater humanitarian access into Gaza, "the deaths from the attacks, they could absolutely be the tip of the iceberg," Elder

mass displacement and damage to infrastructure, the World Health Organization spokesperson, Christian Lindmeier, warned of the risk of civilian deaths not directly linked to Israeli bombardment. "It's an imminent public health catastrophe that looms with the mass displacement, the overcrowding, the damage to water and sanitation infrastructure," Lindmeier told reporters. "We have 130 premature infants that are dependent on incubators, of which 61 percent approximately are in the north," he said.

phone networks were down across the strip on Wednesday, in the second such blackout in the besieged territory in less than a week. "To our good people in the beloved country, we are sorry to announce that communications and internet services have been completely cut off in Gaza," the Palestine Telecommunications Company (Paltel) said on X. Global network monitor Netblocks confirmed that Gaza "is in the midst of a new internet blackout, with high impact to the last remaining major operator, Paltel."

Israel Tuesday for the overnight bombing of its cultural center in Gaza and condemned the "direct and unjustified attack".

Iran's warning

In the latest in a series of warnings from Iran, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian warned Israel and the United States that the continuation of the war against the besieged Gaza Strip could result in "another surprise" by the resistance forces. "In my meeting yesterday, political officials of Hamas noted that in case the war is not stopped, the region would be closer to the level

This picture shows buildings in the Gaza Strip that have been destroyed by Israeli bombardment on October 31, 2023.
● YURI CORTEZ/AFP



told reporters in Geneva, via video-link. He said more than one million children living in the Gaza Strip were also suffering from a lack of clean water. Elder said that according to figures from health faculties in Gaza, 940 children were missing. UNICEF is calling for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire, with all access crossings into Gaza opened for the safe, sustained and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid, including water, food, medical supplies, and fuel. Also, UN humanitarian agency spokesman Jens Laerke said, "It's almost unbearable to think about children buried under rubble, but (with) very little opportunity or possibility for getting them out."

'Public health catastrophe'

Amid overcrowding,



People enter the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip before crossing into Egypt on November 1, 2023.
● MOHAMMED ABED/AFP

Communications 'completely' shut off

Israel laid a total siege on Gaza following October 7, cutting off food, fuel, water and power supplies to the territory. From October 21-30, 143 trucks carrying food, water and medicine entered the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing with Egypt. The Palestinian telecommunications agency said that internet and

'All lives matter'

Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron called for "civilians in Gaza to be protected first". He said Wednesday he "hates the debate" over the value of "Jewish lives" and "Palestinian lives" and called for "civilians in Gaza to be protected first". "All lives matter in this world," he stressed. Also, the Orthodox Patriarchate of Al-Quds blamed

of taking a bigger decision," Amir-Abdollahian told a joint press conference with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan.

"If an immediate cease-fire doesn't take place in the Gaza Strip and the rapid attacks by US and the Zionist regime continue, then the consequences would be harsh," he said. Amir-Abdollahian said Iran continues to follow up on political talks to end the Israeli bombing as soon as possible. The country says it supports Hamas but did not play any role in the resistance group's attack on Israel last month. Both Iran and Turkey have condemned Israel's subsequent bombardment of Gaza.

Fidan, for his part, said Turkey doesn't want the conflict in Gaza to spiral into a regional war.

"It is not difficult to predict that this spiral of violence will grow," without a permanent solution to the war, he warned.

AP, AFP, Reuters, and Press TV contributed to this report.

This picture taken on October 31, 2023, from a position near Sderot along the border with the Gaza Strip in southern Israel shows an Israeli tank rolling amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement.
● YURI CORTEZ/AFP

Al-Aqsa Storm debunks Zionist myths

By Mohsen Solgi
Guest contributor

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

One of the myths surrounding Israel was its deterrent power. This myth was debunked by Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, which was carried out by around 200 Hamas fighters alone. Although, during the 33-day war and other operations of the resistance front, these myths were challenged, it was during the recent war that we witnessed the final shattering of this myth.

The apartheid regime of Israel, which classifies even its own Jewish residents into first and second-class citizens, has another symbol known as the Holocaust. But even that symbol has been tainted by the recent war crimes of Israel, especially its targeting of children in Gaza.

A symbolic religion of fear

Zionist Judaism is a phobic religion built on the fear of the other. It is a new, artificial, and counterfeit religion and therefore, inherently incapable of producing symbols on its own. So, myths and symbols such as deterrence must be created for it. Deterrence refers to the Arab-Israeli war and especially the capabilities of the regime to use nuclear weapons. The function of this myth is to allay the natural fears of Jewish residents who live in occupied lands.

Today, however, it has become clear that the regime has limited capability to use its deterring power such as its vast arsenal of nuclear weapons against Hamas. This is mainly because the land is so small that any nuclear radiation will affect Israeli residents too. Iran is not a great target for the nukes as well given the country's vast expanse of land and incomparable population.

Another mass exodus in sight

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm has heightened the phobia of Israeli Jews in a way never seen before. The community, still suffering from the traumatic fear of the Holocaust — whether it be real or delusional — once fled from Europe swiftly. It is predicted that this time, too, the community will witness a mass exodus as the residents of the occupied territories, many of whom hold dual citizenship, probably immigrate to other countries. If the United States' atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shattered the myth that the Japanese never surrenders, Operation Al-Aqsa Storm shattered Israel's myths of deterrence, security, invincibility, and, more importantly, permanence. But the crucial difference lies in the fact that the Japanese are no longer afraid of atomic attacks, while the fears of the Zionists will never be eased unless they abandon the occupied land of Palestine.

Palestinians oppressed yet empowered

Another point to note is that Hamas carried out a historic and defensive act for its besieged people, and in the process, some non-combatant individuals, including an American tourist, have been killed. This prompted the enemies of the Islamic resistance to once again seek to promote and solidify the idea that the Palestinians are not victims. Hamas should know that national and ethnic myths are never shattered by a single act. This is especially true for genuine and deeply rooted national myths. While the victimhood of Palestine is a historical, authentic symbol supported by evidence, the myths of Zionism are artificial, which makes their collapse easier.

Moreover, in the recent war, Palestine — which has so far gained nothing from its victimhood, not even a negotiation or compromise — shattered both its own myth of being submissive and Israel's myth of invincibility. Palestine emerged from this war as a more flourishing, wiser, resilient, and glorious entity. The resistance challenged the so-called "realist" logic of most Western governments. Western realism is primitive, warmongering, and based on aggression and expansionism, whereas the realism governing Hamas is a natural, rights-based one that believes in the face of blockade, invasion, humiliation, and terror, resorting to force and taking arms is necessary.

In a time when the UN has repeatedly warned in vain about the daily killing of Palestinians in the occupied territories by Israel and Jewish settlers, the resistance movement will have no choice but to adopt an offensive stance, a stance that will render Israel even more unstable and restless and bring its integrity closer to total collapse. This stance will empower Palestine and compel the world to take a more serious look at the Palestinian cause and make a more historically informed and accurate judgment about it.

eclipsed. "Our gravest fears about the reported numbers of children killed becoming dozens, then hundreds, and ultimately thousands were realized in just a fortnight," UNICEF spokesman James Elder said. "The numbers are appalling; reportedly more than 3,450 children killed; staggeringly this rises significantly every day. "Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It's a living hell for everyone else." Without greater humanitarian access into Gaza, "the deaths from the attacks, they could absolutely be the tip of the iceberg," Elder

mass displacement and damage to infrastructure, the World Health Organization spokesperson, Christian Lindmeier, warned of the risk of civilian deaths not directly linked to Israeli bombardment. "It's an imminent public health catastrophe that looms with the mass displacement, the overcrowding, the damage to water and sanitation infrastructure," Lindmeier told reporters. "We have 130 premature infants that are dependent on incubators, of which 61 percent approximately are in the north," he said.

phone networks were down across the strip on Wednesday, in the second such blackout in the besieged territory in less than a week. "To our good people in the beloved country, we are sorry to announce that communications and internet services have been completely cut off in Gaza," the Palestine Telecommunications Company (Paltel) said on X. Global network monitor Netblocks confirmed that Gaza "is in the midst of a new internet blackout, with high impact to the last remaining major operator, Paltel."

Israel Tuesday for the overnight bombing of its cultural center in Gaza and condemned the "direct and unjustified attack".

Iran's warning

In the latest in a series of warnings from Iran, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian warned Israel and the United States that the continuation of the war against the besieged Gaza Strip could result in "another surprise" by the resistance forces. "In my meeting yesterday, political officials of Hamas noted that in case the war is not stopped, the region would be closer to the level

This picture shows buildings in the Gaza Strip that have been destroyed by Israeli bombardment on October 31, 2023.

YURI CORTEZ/AFP



told reporters in Geneva, via video-link.

He said more than one million children living in the Gaza Strip were also suffering from a lack of clean water. Elder said that according to figures from health faculties in Gaza, 940 children were missing. UNICEF is calling for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire, with all access crossings into Gaza opened for the safe, sustained and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid, including water, food, medical supplies, and fuel. Also, UN humanitarian agency spokesman Jens Laerke said, "It's almost unbearable to think about children buried under rubble, but (with) very little opportunity or possibility for getting them out."

'Public health catastrophe'

Amid overcrowding,



People enter the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip before crossing into Egypt on November 1, 2023.

MOHAMMED ABED/AFP

Communications 'completely' shut off

Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron called for "civilians in Gaza to be protected first". He said Wednesday he "hates the debate" over the value of "Jewish lives" and "Palestinian lives" and called for "civilians in Gaza to be protected first". "All lives matter in this world," he stressed. Also, the Orthodox Patriarchate of Al-Quds blamed

'All lives matter'

of taking a bigger decision," Amir-Abdollahian told a joint press conference with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan. "If an immediate cease-fire doesn't take place in the Gaza Strip and the rapid attacks by US and the Zionist regime continue, then the consequences would be harsh," he said. Amir-Abdollahian said Iran continues to follow up on political talks to end the Israeli bombing as soon as possible. The country says it supports Hamas but did not play any role in the resistance group's attack on Israel last month. Both Iran and Turkey have condemned Israel's subsequent bombardment of Gaza. Fidan, for his part, said Turkey doesn't want the conflict in Gaza to spiral into a regional war. "It is not difficult to predict that this spiral of violence will grow," without a permanent solution to the war, he warned.

AP, AFP, Reuters, and Press TV contributed to this report.

AP, AFP, Reuters, and Press TV contributed to this report.

This picture taken on October 31, 2023, from a position near Sderot along the border with the Gaza Strip in southern Israel shows an Israeli tank rolling amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement.

YURI CORTEZ/AFP

Al-Aqsa Storm debunks Zionist myths

By Mohsen Solgi
Guest contributor

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

One of the myths surrounding Israel was its deterrent power. This myth was debunked by Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, which was carried out by around 200 Hamas fighters alone. Although, during the 33-day war and other operations of the resistance front, these myths were challenged, it was during the recent war that we witnessed the final shattering of this myth.

The apartheid regime of Israel, which classifies even its own Jewish residents into first and second-class citizens, has another symbol known as the Holocaust. But even that symbol has been tainted by the recent war crimes of Israel, especially its targeting of children in Gaza.

A symbolic religion of fear

Zionist Judaism is a phobic religion built on the fear of the other. It is a new, artificial, and counterfeit religion and therefore, inherently incapable of producing symbols on its own. So, myths and symbols such as deterrence must be created for it. Deterrence refers to the Arab-Israeli war and especially the capabilities of the regime to use nuclear weapons. The function of this myth is to allay the natural fears of Jewish residents who live in occupied lands.

Today, however, it has become clear that the regime has limited capability to use its deterring power such as its vast arsenal of nuclear weapons against Hamas. This is mainly because the land is so small that any nuclear radiation will affect Israeli residents too. Iran is not a great target for the nukes as well given the country's vast expanse of land and incomparable population.

Another mass exodus in sight

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm has heightened the phobia of Israeli Jews in a way never seen before. The community, still suffering from the traumatic fear of the Holocaust — whether it be real or delusional — once fled from Europe swiftly. It is predicted that this time, too, the community will witness a mass exodus as the residents of the occupied territories, many of whom hold dual citizenship, probably immigrate to other countries. If the United States' atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki shattered the myth that the Japanese never surrenders, Operation Al-Aqsa Storm shattered Israel's myths of deterrence, security, invincibility, and, more importantly, permanence. But the crucial difference lies in the fact that the Japanese are no longer afraid of atomic attacks, while the fears of the Zionists will never be eased unless they abandon the occupied land of Palestine.

Palestinians oppressed yet empowered

Another point to note is that Hamas carried out a historic and defensive act for its besieged people, and in the process, some non-combatant individuals, including an American tourist, have been killed. This prompted the enemies of the Islamic resistance to once again seek to promote and solidify the idea that the Palestinians are not victims. Hamas should know that national and ethnic myths are never shattered by a single act. This is especially true for genuine and deeply rooted national myths. While the victimhood of Palestine is a historical, authentic symbol supported by evidence, the myths of Zionism are artificial, which makes their collapse easier.

Moreover, in the recent war, Palestine — which has so far gained nothing from its victimhood, not even a negotiation or compromise — shattered both its own myth of being submissive and Israel's myth of invincibility. Palestine emerged from this war as a more flourishing, wiser, resilient, and glorious entity. The resistance challenged the so-called "realist" logic of most Western governments. Western realism is primitive, warmongering, and based on aggression and expansionism, whereas the realism governing Hamas is a natural, rights-based one that believes in the face of blockade, invasion, humiliation, and terror, resorting to force and taking arms is necessary.

In a time when the UN has repeatedly warned in vain about the daily killing of Palestinians in the occupied territories by Israel and Jewish settlers, the resistance movement will have no choice but to adopt an offensive stance, a stance that will render Israel even more unstable and restless and bring its integrity closer to total collapse. This stance will empower Palestine and compel the world to take a more serious look at the Palestinian cause and make a more historically informed and accurate judgment about it.

Saudi Arabia confirmed as sole bidder for 2034 World Cup



● FIFA

THE GUARDIAN – Saudi Arabia has been confirmed as the sole bidder to host the 2034 men's World Cup, raising concerns over FIFA's ability to fulfil its human rights commitments.

After Australia decided against a bid, having been given a 25-day window by FIFA to express interest when the deadline was brought forward unexpectedly to 4pm GMT on Tuesday, the prospect of a second World Cup in the Middle East within 12 years is all but a formality. The lack of a competitive tender and the alacrity with which the process has been conducted, however, have prompted alarm among human rights groups. Amnesty International called on FIFA to pull the plug if human rights commitments were not fulfilled.

"Human rights commitments must be agreed with potential hosts before final decisions on holding the tournaments are made," Steve Cockburn, Amnesty's head of economic and social justice, said. "FIFA must now make clear how it expects hosts to comply with its human rights policies. It must also be prepared to halt the bidding process if serious human rights risks are not credibly addressed. "The best chance for FIFA to obtain binding guarantees to protect workers' rights, ensure freedom of expression and prevent discrimination linked to the World Cup is during the host selection process – not after the hosts have been confirmed and tournament preparation has begun."

Under the terms of its bidding process for the 2030 and 2034 men's World Cup finals tournaments, FIFA expects any host to conform with the terms of the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This would require, in FIFA's words, "human rights and labour standards to be implemented by the bidding member associations, the government(s) and other entities involved in the organisation of the competitions, such as those responsible for the construction and renovation of stadiums, training sites, hotels and airports".

The Sports and Rights Alliance, which brings together a number of human rights organisations, argues that the lack of a competitive process has left FIFA with less leverage to enforce necessary change. Minky Worden, the director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch, urged FIFA to be rigorous in its enforcement of its expressed principles. Saudi Arabia has until July 2024 to submit its full bid.

Iranian Oladghobad named AFC Futsal Player of the Year

Sports Desk

Iran's Moslem Oladghobad was named the Asian Futsal Player of the Year at the AFC Annual Awards 2022 in Doha, Qatar, beating international teammate Saeed Ahmad-Abbasi and Japanese keeper Guilherme Kurotomo to the prize.

Oladghobad, 27, bagged five goals – including a double against Thailand in the semifinals – to win the Most Valuable Player award in last year's AFC Futsal Asian Cup in Kuwait, despite Iran being denied a record-extending 13th continental title after a final defeat against Japan.

Having joined Palma de Mallorca in August 2022, the Iranian also enjoyed a glittering debut campaign with the Spanish top-flight side as he notched up five assists to help his team lift the trophy at the UEFA Futsal Champions League.

"I am so happy that I attended the AFC Annual Awards. Today, I am the representative of the entire Iran national futsal team and I want to share this award with all of them. I want to thank all the people who have helped me reach this stage and I want to especially thank my parents and my wife for their support," said Oladghobad after being awarded with the trophy on the stage by Mahdi Taj, the chairman of the Iranian Football Federation.

Oladghobad is the fifth Iranian to win the prestigious award since it was



Moslem Oladghobad (R) receives the AFC Futsal Player of the Year award from Mahdi Taj, the chairman of the Iranian Football Federation, at the AFC Annual Awards in Doha, Qatar, on October 31, 2023.

● AFC

first introduced in 2006, following legendary Vahid Shamsaei – winner of the prize on three occasions – Mohammad Taheri, Mohammad Keshavarz, and record four-time winner Ali-Asghar Hassanzadeh. Meanwhile, Iranian international striker Mahdi Taremi and young center-back Mohammad-Amin Hazbavi were also among the nominees at the ceremony, which took place after a two-year suspension due to coronavirus restrictions, but were left empty-handed in their

respective categories. Porto talisman Taremi lost out the Asian International Player of the Year award to South Korean defender Kim Min-jae – an integral part in Napoli's title-winning campaign in the Italian Serie A before joining Bayern Munich in the summer – while Japanese Kuryu Matsuki came out on top against Hazbavi and Lee Seung-won of South Korea in the AFC Men's Youth Player of the Year category. The major prize of the eve-

ning, the AFC Player of the Year award, went to Saudi Arabia and Al Hilal midfielder Salem Al Dawsari. Beating Australian Mathew Leckie and Qatar's Almoz Ali to the top honor, the 32-year-old superstar played a pivotal role in Al Hilal's 2021/22 Saudi Pro League and 2022/23 King's Cup triumphs, while he registered four goals and three assists as the club finished runner-up in the AFC Champions League. The midfielder's double and an assist in the

last-four 3-2 victory over Flamengo also helped Al Hilal become the first Saudi side to reach the final showdown of the FIFA Club World Cup, before a 5-3 loss to Real Madrid in February. Al Dawsari also found the net twice in the World Cup in Qatar, including a sensational strike against eventual champion Argentina which saw the Asian side pull off one of the biggest upsets in the history of the competition. Chelsea striker and Australia

captain Sam Kerr, meanwhile, won a second AFC Women's Player of the Year award after helping the Matildas reach the Women's World Cup semifinals on home soil in August. Japan's Hajime Moriyasu, who led his country to the last 16 of the World Cup thanks to massive victories over Germany and Spain for a top-spot finish in the group, received the award for the Men's Coach of the Year, with China head coach Shui Qingxia taking home the women's prize.



Spurs complete wild comeback vs. Suns

REUTERS – Keldon Johnson stole the ball from Kevin Durant and scored on a breakaway dunk with 1.2 seconds to play as the visiting San Antonio Spurs scored the final six points to beat the Phoenix Suns 115-114 on Tuesday in the first contest of a two-game set between the teams over a three-day span.

The Suns led by 18 points at halftime and by 13 heading into the fourth quarter. San Antonio did not relent, with a jumper by rookie phenom Victor Wembanyama cutting its deficit to 114-111 with 49 seconds left.

Johnson led the Spurs with 27 points while Wembanyama and Devin Vassell each added 18. Zach Collins scored 14 points and Tre Jones had 10 as San Antonio won for the first time on the road. Durant's 26 points paced the Suns. Eric Gordon scored 20, and Grayson Allen added 19. Jusuf Nurkic finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

**Knicks 109
Cavaliers 91**

Julius Randle posted a double-double for visiting New York, which pulled away in the second half to defeat short-handed Cleveland in the opener of a home-and-home set. Randle had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who outscored the Cavaliers 51-39 in the second half. The two teams are slated to play again Wednesday night in New York. Jalen Brunson also scored 19 points, and RJ Barrett scored 16 points. Donovan Mitchell scored a game-high 26 points for the Cavaliers, who played without Darius Garland, Caris LeVert and Jarrett Allen. Garland and LeVert were out due to hamstring injuries and Allen missed the game because of an ankle injury.

**Clippers 118
Magic 102**

Paul George overcame a poor start to record 27 points, seven rebounds and seven assists to help

Los Angeles post a victory over visiting Orlando. George missed all six of his first-quarter shots and was 2-for-10 before halftime. However, he made four 3-pointers and scored 14 points in the third quarter as Los Angeles gained control. Russell Westbrook scored 16 points in a period that saw the Clippers outscore the Magic 41-21. Paolo Banchero notched 15 points and four steals, Franz Wagner added 14 points and eight rebounds and Moritz Wagner had 13 points for Orlando, which lost its second straight game.

Spurs' Keldon Johnson (3) goes up for the game-winning basket against the Suns at the Footprint Center, Phoenix, AZ, US, on October 31, 2023.

● AMIKE CHRISTY/
GETTY IMAGES

Carbon pricing could help Iran reduce greenhouse gas emission: *Expert*

Social Desk

In the past few decades, the surge in greenhouse gas emissions has triggered noticeable changes in our planet's climate. These changes have now emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges, as they pose severe threats to human life and the environment all over the globe.

Greenhouse gases are a collection of gases that trap heat within the Earth's atmosphere. The primary gases in this group are carbon dioxide, ozone, water vapor, and methane. Certain human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal, industrial processes, transportation, and agricultural practices, contribute to the growing presence of these gases in our atmosphere.

Our country stands as a significant energy

consumer and one of the leading contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. According to Dariush Gol'alizadeh, director of the National Center for Weather and Climate Change at the Department of the Environment (DoE), our country witnessed an upward trajectory in greenhouse gas emissions from 1994 to 2010. This worrisome situation is further compounded by the continuous growth in both population and energy consumption, which are key contributing factors.

Iran is first in global energy intensity and ranks sixth in terms of carbon emissions. Also, when it comes to per capita emissions, we find ourselves positioned at the ninth spot worldwide. This situation calls for attention and action to address our carbon footprint and strive for a more favorable standing.



An ailing environment

In an online meeting titled 'Climate Change, Industries, and Greenhouse Gas Emission Policy in Iran,' Gol'alizadeh addressed the issue of climate change in Iran. He highlighted that while people may not fully comprehend the causes of climate change, they are experiencing its impacts in their daily lives.

"For instance, mismanagement and a lack of timely action have rendered forests in the northern part of the country less effective in preventing floods and soil erosion, despite their crucial role," he said.

Despite setting a target to reduce our current energy consumption levels by half by the end of the Sixth Development Plan, we have unfortunately fallen short of achieving this goal. Over the course of the Fourth to Seventh Development Plans, the country established various environmental objectives. The 20-Year Vision Document aimed to create a favorable environment by 2025. However, our current trajectory is leading us in a different direction, resulting in an unsatisfactory state of the environment.

Challenges abound

Climate change in our country presents numerous challenges, as emphasized by Gol'alizadeh. One significant hurdle is the absence of a cohesive database concerning the sources and quantities of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Regrettably, climate change has not received adequate attention in our nation's Development Plans and policies. Furthermore, our macro plans and policies have yet to adapt to the realities of climate change," he said, adding, "Compounding these difficulties, the imposition of sanctions and limited access to technology diminishes our ability to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement necessary adaptations."

As per Gol'alizadeh, the deterioration of infrastructure and an alarming surge in energy consumption within our country are among an abundance of challenges related to climate change. Additionally, the legal, technical, and operational frameworks required to facilitate private sector involvement are lacking.

"To tackle some of these challenges head-on, we are diligently working towards the approval of a comprehensive climate change management plan as part of the Seventh Development Plan Bill," he said. He went on, "Simultaneously, we are revising our national strategy plan, compiling an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, and formulating a robust national plan to adapt to the effects of climate change. These efforts are aimed at addressing the pressing issues we face and charting a more sustainable and resilient path forward."

Accumulation of unimplemented laws

Gol'alizadeh brought attention to the issue of unfulfilled tasks despite the existence of numerous climate change laws. Notably, the Leader's general policies on reforming consumption patterns, which aim to save energy and reduce energy intensity, have not been fully realized. The target is to achieve at least two-thirds reduction by the end of the Fifth Development Plan and one-half reduction by the end of the Sixth. In addition, the Leader announced general environmental policies in 2015, emphasizing the development of a green economy.

This includes promoting low-carbon industries, utilizing clean energy, enhancing public transportation systems, and encouraging green and non-fossil fuel transportation.

Iran has also implemented the low-carbon economy program, a national strategic energy document approved in 2017. This program aims to increase productivity, reduce energy intensity, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and promote a culture of energy conservation. It also seeks to expand the use of clean and renewable energies, aligning with Article 19 of the Clean Air Law. Gol'alizadeh highlighted Iran's

international commitments, such as its membership in the Climate Change Convention since 1996. Over the years, Iran has taken significant measures, including developing methodologies for calculating greenhouse gas emissions, establishing the Green Climate Fund secretariat, improving fuel and vehicle production standards, reorganizing waste disposal centers, and promoting combined cycle power generation.

"However, while these actions are noteworthy, they are still considered insufficient, necessitating continued and expanded efforts," he noted.



Weak performance

Climate change and sustainability expert, Seyyed Shayan Seif, emphasizes the importance of addressing the environment and climate change within the framework of sustainable development. These two interconnected sectors necessitate the formulation of sound policies, enactment of appropriate laws, allocation of sufficient resources, and implementation of effective actions.

"While numerous countries have made commendable strides in these domains, Iran has yet to take decisive action, resulting in a backlog of unfinished



tasks that demand immediate attention," he said.

Seif highlights the disconcerting fact that Iran is among the top 10 countries worldwide in terms of carbon dioxide emissions.

"It is arguable that our industrial activities, encompassing sectors such as iron, steel, oil, and gas, significantly contribute to these alarming emissions. However, it is crucial to note that when considering emissions per GDP dollar, our nation is ranked first globally," he said, adding, "This imbalance leaves much to be desired, and it is unlikely that the global community will remain indifferent to our predicament. Even if they were to do so, it is our moral obligation to fulfill our duty."

With regards to emissions, Seif raises pertinent questions regarding the annual emissions amount, which continues to rise. He elucidates that the industry accounts for approximately 20 percent of emissions, the domestic and commercial sectors contribute roughly 25 percent, transportation constitutes around 21 percent, while power plants responsible for electricity production contribute to approximately 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Notably, the agricultural sector exhibits relatively low emissions in comparison," he said.

Consequences of climate change

Addressing the future trajectory of climate change in Iran, the head of the National Center for Weather and Climate Change of the DoE shed light on several potential outcomes.

"Looking ahead, Iran is poised to witness a shift in weather patterns, characterized by hotter and drier summers, fluctuating rainfall during colder seasons, prolonged periods of aridity, and a gradual decrease in annual precipitation as time progresses," said Gol'alizadeh, adding, "Furthermore, in the wake of global warming, the southern coasts of Iran may undergo rising water levels and temperatures."

In light of this situation, a pertinent question arises: What can we anticipate in the near future?

According to environmental expert, anticipated effects include an upsurge in summer heatwaves and record-breaking temperatures, more frequent and intense droughts, an elevated occurrence of heavy rainfall leading to potential floods, a decline in the number of freezing days and snowfall, and diminished snow reserves in mountainous regions. These outcomes are direct manifestations of the climate change that is already underway in the country.

Solutions

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally, various policy tools can be employed, including economic and regulatory measures. Economic tools include carbon pricing, financial incentives, and the reduction of fossil fuel subsidies. Carbon pricing tools include emission trading systems, carbon markets, and carbon taxes.

"Most countries use one or both of these tools. The carbon market provides incentives, while the carbon tax serves as a penalty and deterrent," Seif said.

According to him, it is essential to remember that the decision on which tools to use should involve consultation at the national level, considering the input of all relevant stakeholders. "Failure to do so will likely result in ineffective actions. This is not my opinion, but rather the experience of the world," he said.

"Currently, nearly 60 percent of the world's economy operates under the carbon pricing mechanism, which is a significant number. In 2021, the turnover of the emissions trading system and carbon tax reached \$84 billion," he said.

Iranian Artists Forum hosts four visual arts exhibitions



IRNA - The Iranian Artists Forum will be the venue for four visual art exhibitions, showcasing the creativity and talent of Iranian artists.

On November 2, the 'Little Artists' exhibition, focusing on children's book illustration, will open under the curatorship of Mahsa Keshvari in the Mirmiran Gallery, celebrating the imaginative world created by young artists. This exhibition is a unique opportunity for children to have their artwork recognized, emphasizing the role of art in boosting a child's self-confidence and fostering their future in the world of painting.

On November 3, three more exhibitions will open their doors to the public. 'From Color to Love and Scream,' a collection of paintings by Ahmad Razavi, will be exhibited at the Momayez Gallery, taking viewers on a journey through artistic narratives and human emotions.

In the Zemestan Gallery, 'Rain Architecture' presents a collection of watercolor paintings by Mojtaba Gholamalizadeh, inspired by the unique architectural heritage of Gilan Province, covering rural, historical, and contemporary urban architectural styles.

In addition, the 'Toy' sculpture exhibition by Bahadur Ehsani will open in the Paez Gallery, inviting visitors to engage with the artwork as if it were a playful game. This interactive display encourages participants to explore the ever-changing rules and discover hidden insights within the art.

The exhibitions will remain open to the public until November 13.

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Iran-Turkmenistan handicrafts festival underway

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Turkmenistan are currently hosting a tourism and handicrafts festival in the city of Ashgabat as a symbol of friendship between the two nations.

Ashgabat's Academy of Visual Arts has been adorned with Turkmen silk carpets and Iranian traditional arts, accompanied by Iranian and Turkmen musical instruments. Both Iranian and Turkmen cuisine is also being featured, along with traditional music performed by groups from Turkmenistan and Iranian provinces, including East Azarbaijan, Kermanshah, Lorestan, and Khorasan Razavi, according to ISNA.

The festival, which started on October 31, is set to continue until November 2. During the opening ceremony of this tourism event, Mahmoud Sadeqi, the deputy head of the Iranian Embassy in Turkmenistan, emphasized the role of tourism in connecting governments and people, especially in culturally intertwined countries like Iran and Turkmenistan. He also mentioned previous cultural exchange activities between the two nations, such as Iran Cultural Week, held in Ashgabat last February.



● ISNA

He highlighted the upcoming Turkmen Cultural Week, scheduled for late November 2023, in the city of Isfahan, Iran.

"Fortunately, with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and the reopening of Turkmenistan's borders, the interaction between the citizens of both countries has significantly increased," said Sadeqi. "Turkmen tourists visit Iran for various purposes, including leisure, trade, religious tourism, and sometimes even medical treatment. Iran's Embassy in Ashgabat, along with our consulate in Merv, facilitates the visa process for Turkmen tourists and continually strives, through relevant organizations in Iran, to simplify and facilitate travel for Turkmen visitors within Iran."

Sadeqi further noted that many Iranian tourists are eager to explore Turkmenistan and its beautiful city, Ashgabat.

He also mentioned that recent months have seen an increase in Iranian tourists visiting Turkmenistan.

He expressed hope that this festival, by bringing Iranian and Turkmen tourism companies together and promoting cooperation between them, will lead to a significant increase in tourism exchange between the two countries.

Gulshat Bakieva, deputy head of the Tourism Department of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Culture, emphasized the growth and development of friendly relations between Turkmenistan and foreign countries, especially in the tourism sector, due to the efforts of the president of Turkmenistan.

She stressed that Turkmenistan's focus on international cooperation, in line with the principle of neutrality, extends to the field of tourism.

She noted that tourism is

a crucial factor in economic growth for any country, and Turkmenistan is actively engaged in a wide range of activities to promote the tourism sector.

Regarding the festival, Bakieva said that she hoped it will pave the way for closer tourism exchange between the two countries, emphasizing the cultural similarities and geographical proximity of Ashgabat to the holy city of Mashhad in Iran.

She expressed optimism that improved visa issuance procedures, with invitations valid for a minimum of 25 to 30 days, will lead to a great increase in the number of Iranian tourists visiting Turkmenistan.

Representing the private sector participating in the exhibition, Mohsen Ahmadi stated, "Due to the fact that both Iran and Turkmenistan are located on the historic Silk Road route, the two countries have been

actively cooperating in the field of tourism for a long time."

Navid Rasouli, Iran's cultural attaché in Turkmenistan, described this event as the first joint tourism and handicrafts festival between Iran and Turkmenistan.

He highlighted the current average of 200 travelers per day from Turkmenistan to Iran, mostly motivated by medical treatment, shopping, and tourism.

Rasouli underlined the necessity of strengthening mutual understanding between the people of both countries to boost tourism activities.

Turkmen tourism companies aim to use their participation in the event to enhance tourism relations between the two countries to pre-pandemic levels.

Around 10 Iranian tourism, handicrafts, and health-related companies are participating in the exhibition.



● ISNA

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



'AI' named most notable word of 2023 by Collins dictionary

The technology that is set to dominate the future - for good or ill - is now the word of the year. "AI" has been named the most notable word of 2023 by the dictionary publisher Collins.

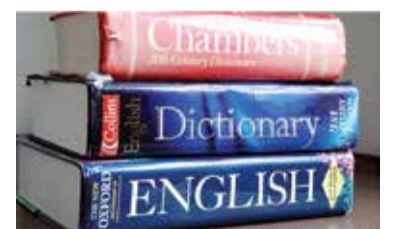
Defined as "the modelling of human mental functions by computer programs", AI was chosen because it "has accelerated at such a fast pace and become the dominant conversation of 2023", the publisher said. The use of the word (strictly an initialism) has quadrupled over the past year, the Guardian reported.

It was chosen from a list of new terms that the publisher said reflect "our ever-evolving language and the concerns of those who use it". They include "greedflation", defined as "the use of inflation as an excuse to raise prices to artificially high levels in order to increase corporate profits", and "debanking", "the act of depriving

a person of banking facilities".

"Nepo baby", the term used to describe the sons and daughters of celebrities whose careers are assumed to have taken off thanks to their famous parent, and "deinfluencing" made the list. "Deinfluencing" is defined by Collins lexicographers as "the use of social media to warn followers to avoid certain commercial products, lifestyle choices, etc".

The annual word of the year is selected by lexicographers monitoring a range of sources, including social media, according to the publisher. Last year's term was "permacrisis", while "NFT" was chosen the previous year. Health concerns were prominent in 2023, according to the publisher. "Ultra-processed", meaning food that is "prepared using complex industrial methods from multiple ingredients, often including ingredients with little or no nutritional value", is listed, as is



"semaglutide", the appetite-suppressing medication. The use of the term has tripled in the past year.

"Bazball", a style of test cricket in which the batting side plays in a highly aggressive manner, was noted by the dictionary, named after the former New Zealand cricketer and coach, Brendon "Baz" McCullum. The term "canon event", "an episode that is essential to the formation of an individual's character or identity", became popular thanks to the movie 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse'.