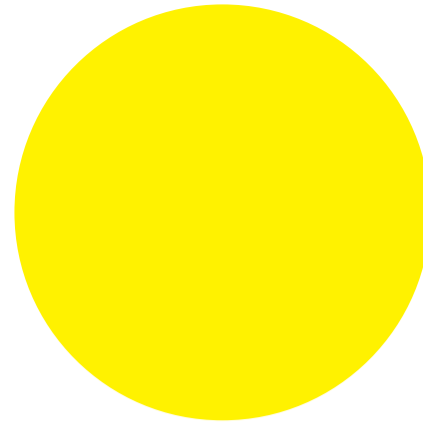


Leader outlines Iran's maritime development policies

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Iran Daily



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir

Vol. 7429 • Wednesday, November 8, 2023 • Aban 17, 1402 • Rabi' al-Thani 23, 1445 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages



UN: Gaza Becoming 'Graveyard for Children'

Palestinians gather as they mourn over the bodies of those killed in Israeli bombardment in Deir Balah in the central Gaza Strip, at the Shuhada Al-Aqsa hospital in the same city on November 6, 2023. MAHMUD HAMS/AFP

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Leader outlines Iran's maritime development policies



National Desk

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has announced the general policies of sea-oriented development to the heads of the three branches of government (Legislature, Executive and Judiciary) and the head of the Expediency Council for implementing them.

According to this communiqué, the executive branch is obligated to present a comprehensive plan to implement these policies includ-

ing submitting bills, approving regulations and necessary executive measures within a six-month timeframe, with the assistance of the Iranian Parliament, the Judiciary, and relevant organizations. The announcement is made in the implementation of Article 110 of the Constitution of Iran, and after consultation with the Expediency Council.

Iran has emerged as a significant player in the maritime industry, not only in the Middle East but on the global stage. Established in 1967,

Iranian National Shipping Lines [later changed to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL)] has achieved remarkable milestones over the years, solidifying its position as one of Iran's leading state-run enterprises and a prominent shipping company worldwide.

With its excellent geographical location, situated between two seas, and possessing thousands of kilometers of coastline, islands, and abundant resources, Iran is required to take effective action in the coastal areas,

offshore regions, seas, and oceans as a focal point for the country's development to secure a rightful regional and global position in utilizing the seas. Accordingly, the general policies of sea-based development have been determined, some of which include:

Achieving a rightful global position and a leading regional rank through coherent maritime policy, national task allocation, and efficient maritime management; Increasing the economic growth rate in the

maritime sector to at least double the country's overall economic growth rate over ten years by developing maritime economic activities and establishing driving maritime development hubs on the coasts, islands, and offshore areas; Formulating a comprehensive plan for maritime-based development with the zoning of seas, coasts, and offshore regions; Expanding domestic and foreign investment by creating the necessary software and hardware infrastructure;

Optimizing the utilization of marine capacities, resources, and ecosystems while preventing environmental degradation, especially by other countries; Developing sea-based initiatives with the enhancement of human resources and efficient management while establishing a scientific foundation; Leveraging maritime capacities and achieving a prominent presence in international transit routes to secure regional leadership positions through economic, commercial, and

investment cooperation in large-scale, knowledge-based infrastructure, production, and service projects with neighboring and other countries; Increasing the country's share in maritime transportation and transit by establishing and reinforcing a multimodal transportation network; And supporting local and indigenous investors in development projects and assisting local economic actors in various sectors, including fishing, agriculture, industry, and tourism.

UN: Gaza becoming 'graveyard for children'

Raisi condemns West's double standards on war crimes

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that the protection of civilians "must be paramount" in the Gaza Strip, warning that the Palestinian territory was becoming "a graveyard for children."

"We must act now to find a way out of this brutal, awful, agonizing dead end of destruction," Guterres told reporters, and again called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire.

"Gaza is becoming a graveyard for children. Hundreds of girls and boys are reportedly being killed or injured every day," Guterres said. Since October 7, Israel has launched brutal attacks on the Gaza Strip in response

to Hamas' Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, killing more than 10,000 people – most of them women and children. The regime has also imposed a total siege on the Palestinian territory, blocking the entry of food, water, medicine, fuel and electricity.

"Ground operations by the Israel Defense Forces and continued bombardment are hitting civilians, hospitals, refugee camps, mosques, churches and UN facilities – including shelters. No one is safe," Guterres told reporters.

Guterres said 89 people working with the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) had been killed in Gaza, which he described as the highest toll for UN

aid workers, higher "than in any comparable period in the history of our organization".

Gaza's Health Ministry said on Tuesday 10,328 people have been killed in the month-long war on Gaza. Israel's atrocities against Palestinians have even infuriated some Western countries.

Disproportionate attacks

Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said on Monday that Israel's attacks on innocent civilians in Gaza are disproportionate. "Bombing down a refugee camp because it allegedly houses one Hamas leader is completely disproportion-

ate. It is never acceptable that so many civilian casualties are caused trying to eliminate one person," Alexander De Croo told reporters after meeting Jordan's King Abdullah in Brussels. Iran, which is the main supporter of the Hamas resistance group, has once again called for establishment of a cease-fire in Gaza.

The Israeli regime has so far rebuffed global calls for a cease-fire, with the regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying that there will be no cease-fire until the people arrested by Hamas are freed.

Extra-regional consequences

Speaking in a phone call

with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the continuation of the killing of the Palestinian people has infuriated all the free nations in the world, warning that the killings will have "extra-regional consequences."

Raisi defended the Palestinian resistance groups' legitimate right to confront the Israeli regime's occupation and called on all countries to support the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom.

He criticized global double standards when it comes to condemning war crimes, saying that the European countries' confrontation against Nazi Germany is regarded as an "admirable and heroic" act but the resistance of the Palestinian people against the child-killing and criminal Israeli regime is condemned.

Jordan's warning

Jordan's Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh said on Monday his country was leaving "all options" open in its response to what it

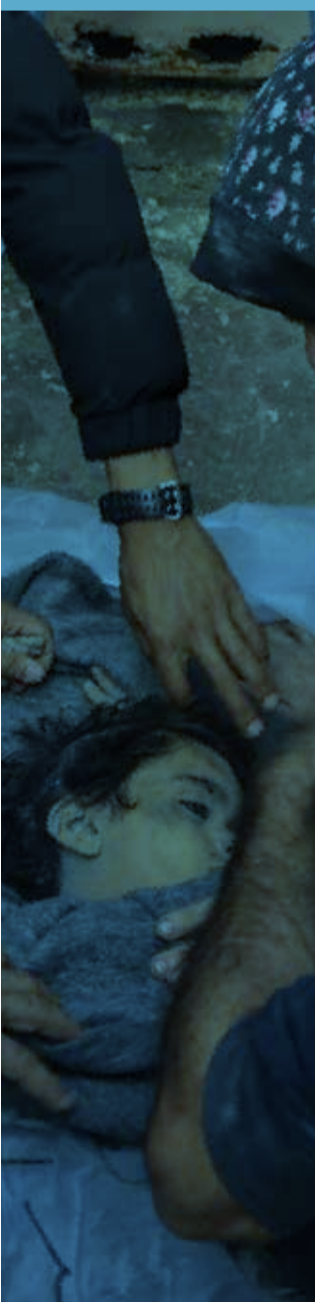
called Israel's failure to discriminate between military and civilian targets in its intensifying bombardment and invasion of the Gaza Strip.

His comments came days after Jordan recalled its ambassador from Israel in protest at Israel's offensive in Gaza.

Israeli Army, which has launched a ground invasion in the Palestinian territory, is gradually making the situation for the Gazans worse.

The regime gave civilians still trapped inside freshly encircled Gaza City a four-hour window to leave, and residents escaping the city said they passed tanks in position to storm it. Israel said its forces have surrounded Gaza City, home to a third of the enclave's 2.3 million people, and are poised to attack it. Netanyahu also expressed openness to "little pauses" in the current fighting to facilitate the release of captives.

Netanyahu ruled out any general cease-fire without the release of the more than 240 people arrested by Hamas in its Oct. 7 operation, but said he was open to "tactical little pauses." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said late on Monday that the regime would take "overall responsibility" for Gaza's security for an unspecified period after the war with Hamas ends.



A man holds one of the injured children of Palestinian cameraman Mohammed Alaloul following an Israeli strike on the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in Deir Balah in the central Gaza Strip, at the Al-Quds hospital in the same city on November 5, 2023.
● MAHMUD HAMS/AFP

Sirik has great tourism and economic potential



TASNIM

Iranica Desk

The coastal city of Sirik, located in the eastern part of Hormuzgan Province, is keeping up with the Oman Sea's Coastal Development Plan. The government has recognized the tourism potential of this region and is taking steps to develop it.

With a population of 53,000, it is one of the six coastal towns of Hormuzgan Province. Due to its proximity to the Sea of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, it has the potential to become a tourism hub and the golden gateway to beautiful beaches.

This town has unique beaches, beautiful landscapes, natural and divine views, and suitable welfare facilities and equipment, making it one of the important tourist destinations in Hormuzgan Province.

Sirik is surrounded by 76 villages under its supervision. Due to its geographical location and suitable

coastal and marine conditions, Sirik has the potential to develop tourism, export and import sectors, especially considering its proximity to the countries bordering the Persian Gulf. This development can create favorable social and cultural conditions for economic prosperity, not only for the people of the region but also for many people in other parts of the country. Speaking in an interview with IRNA, Abbas Raeisi, deputy head of Hormuzgan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization for tourism affairs, said that lighting of 400 meters of beaches in Sirik's City Park has been provided.

He added that the eastern coasts of Hormuzgan Province, especially Sirik, are easily accessible to tourists due to being alongside the main road.

He said that creating a tourism infrastructure can have a significant impact on the economy and

employment in the region. By investing in the tourism infrastructure, steps can be taken to improve the quality of life for residents and promote economic growth.

Sirik County is set to have the second-largest port in Hormuzgan Province, after Shahid Rajaee Port. This development is expected to have a significant impact on the economy and employment in the region.

This port would have commercial, fishing, and tourism applications. The projects for the construction of internal and external access routes in the east of Hormuzgan Province have progressed by 91%. This development is a positive sign for the growing economic transactions and the prosperity of maritime trade in the region. The construction of access routes will improve the transportation infrastructure and facilitate the movement of goods and people.



IRNA



TASNIM



TASNIM

Persian manuscripts in Polish collections

It remains difficult to track down the provenance of some of the Persian manuscripts in Polish collections. These include an early Qajar copy of the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi, illustrated by twenty-four paintings which belonged to the collection of the historian and politician Leon Lipinski (1857-1938 CE). He had a predilection for conservatorial problems and has greatly contributed to the organisation of cultural heritage and monument preservation in Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). In his mansion he created a collection of European art-painting, sculpture, drawings and old books from Spain, Italy, Holland, England and Poland, a large part of which was later transferred to the Royal Castle at the Wawel in Krakow. This was according to his testament (1938) in which he expressed his will to bestow the material to the Ossolinski National Institute in Lwów, known as Ossolineum.

The Ossolineum is one of the largest scientific libraries, as well as one of the oldest still existing publishing houses in Poland. It was founded in

1817 in Lwów by Count Józef Maksymilian Ossolinski (1748-1829).

After World War II, the Ossolineum was moved to Wrocław, the historical capital of Lower Silesia. Both Lwów and Wrocław, which had already developed a scholarly interest in the Oriental world since the 16th century, thus became a centre of linguistics, especially Hebraic philology. This explains why the great number of Oriental manuscripts is found in Lower Silesian libraries. Most books from church and monastic libraries of the province were relocated to the National Museum of Wrocław when it was established in 1947.

At present the collection preserves only one illustrated Persian manuscript, a two-volume copy of the Masnavi-ye Ma'navi of Rumi, copied in Shahjahanabad, Delhi, in 1662-3 and illuminated with twenty illustrations.

Although the first Polish translations of parts of the Masnavi — made from a third language — were published in the latter 1800s, it was a slightly more recent attempt by



Main building of the Ossolineum.

Tadeusz Micinski (1873-1918) that inspired the composer Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937) in 1914-6 to write his Third Symphony, entitled Song of the Night. It is worth mentioning that the influence of Persian poetry and music can be recognised in some of Szymanowski's earlier compositions too.

Such an Orientalist, "Sufi"-like predilection was characteristic of the early modernist Young Poland movement (1891-1918), and this phenomenon affected a wide range of Polish culture of the time, including music, literature and the visual arts. Proponents of the movement combined diverse

tendencies and, in a continuation of Romanticism, often turned to a vaguely defined "East" for mysterious settings. The Wrocław University Library also has a collection of Persian manuscripts, including two illustrated copies. This Library was established after World War II by merg-

ing two pre-war libraries, the former Municipal Library and University. Originating from the library of Count Hans Oppersdorf at Oberglogau, one of the manuscripts is a late 18th-century copy of the Tuti-Name of Ziya' al-Din Nakhshabi, with ninety-seven illustrations. The history of the Oberglogau library reaches back to the 16th century, to the times of Hans Oppersdorff (1514-1584). Successive owners continued to acquire new books and thereby by the end of 19th century it consisted of several thousand volumes. One of the most important trustees was Count Hans Georg von Oppersdorff (1866-1948), who inherited the library in 1889. He was well-educated and interested in Oriental languages: He is said to have been fluent in eight languages and even able to write essays in Hebrew. In 1927, Oppersdorff donated the Tuti-Name, together with a few other Oriental manuscripts, to the Wrocław (then Breslau) University Library. He also assigned 49,000 books from the family library to the Regional Li-

brary (Landesbibliothek) of Upper Silesia. But the books that remained in Oberglogau have so far counted 35,000 volumes. In addition, Oppersdorf was the owner of another huge library in his Berlin residence. Some historians suggest that his unquenchable desire to increase his libraries went beyond his financial capabilities and brought him to the brink of bankruptcy. The second illustrated Persian manuscript in the Wrocław University Library is a copy of the Yusif wa Zulaykhe of Jami, which originally came from the Church of Mary Magdalene. Based on mediaeval foundations, the golden age of this library occurred in the 16th century, when the collection of the religious reformer Jan Hess (1490-1547 CE), among others, was incorporated into the library. The library of the church, including the Yusif wa Zulaykhe, became part of the Municipal Library in 1865, and, after World War II, the Wrocław University Library. The previous ownership of the Jami manuscript cannot be established.

Defeat's Domino

How did Operation Al-Aqsa Storm foil American initiatives in the region?

Many American experts believe that the Middle East without Iran is not possible; something that American policymakers have been trying to hide in recent years and have failed several times. Crossing the geostrategic and geopolitical issues without Iran will never be feasible. Operation Al-Aqsa Storm has well proven this. At least in the midterm, no one dares to speak about normalization. Therefore, with the return of the Palestinian issue as the most important Middle Eastern issue, the US sees its plans and programs as failures and is now trying to compensate for its setbacks in the region with its actions in occupied Palestine.

Biden's First Visit to Middle East

Joe Biden, the President of the US, in early 2022, at the start of his Middle East journey in Tel Aviv, stated, "You don't have to be Jewish to be a Zionist." Describing this statement as a central theme sets the floating themes of this journey, such as the borderless acceptance of Zionist beliefs and ideas, strengthening the Abraham Accords, continuing the normalization process, emphasizing special ties between Israel and the US, strengthening America's symbolic presence in the Southwestern Asia, and, most importantly, forming strategic coalitions against Iran and hybrid wars in this strategic region.

Important and diverse features indicated that concurrently with Joe Biden's historic trip to Tel Aviv and Riyadh, security engineering in this sensitive and strategic region would undergo significant changes. The positions and actions of regional and transregional governments testified to this important development, showing that significant security transformations were underway in the new Middle East, and a new kind of engineering would be unveiled during Joe Biden's trip to the Middle East. The reality is that a significant part of the objectives of Biden's historic trip, especially to Tel Aviv and Riyadh, had meaningful connections to the ongoing developments in the playing field between the US and the Islamic Republic of Iran from various aspects.

What Biden prioritized during his trip to the strategic Middle East, particularly West Asia, was the adoption of a new security engineering, with the involvement of international friends like NATO and London, as well as regional partners, especially Turkey and Saudi Arabia, in the interest of Israel within the framework of the Abraham Accords and normalization issue. However, what the US and its allies paid attention to

as a central point and a pre-set goal was the deal with Iran on a comprehensive joint action known as the JCPOA, as well as related developments and crises in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

During this trip, Biden aimed to react to the shadow war between Iran and Israel, based on a new software-based approach that prevents it from getting out of control. This is because the lack of control in this space would lead to prolonged political crises in Iraq and Lebanon, intensified conflicts in Syria, a threat to the fragile ceasefire in Yemen, and most importantly, the expansion of China and Russia's hegemony in this crucial region.

The US's focus and attention on the new security engineering is based on a strategy that Biden calls the "Great Middle East Stability Strategy", in which Israel must adhere to the US red lines in the region, one of which is creating restrictions on provocative attacks. With this mechanism, the US will be able to achieve its most important goals for Biden's trip, namely shaping and realizing the strengthening and consolidation of the Abraham Accords and normalization, establishing relative stability in the regional and international energy market dimensions, as well as preserving regional consensus in curbing Iran. Specifically, on this trip, Biden pursued the following plans:

Anti-Iranian Alliances: The Abraham Accords, known as the peace agreement between Israel and the UAE, along with the normalization of ties between Israel and Bahrain and other Arab countries, was signed on September 15, 2020, at the White House. It's the most significant agreement between Israel and Arab nations since the Egypt-Israel (1979) and Jordan-Israel (1994) treaties. The main focus of this agreement is to change the threat landscape and create a common threat in the form of the "Islam-

ic Republic of Iran." The Abraham Accords are an effort to establish peace between Israel and other Arab nations, based on the Abrahamic religious element. Both Islam and Judaism are considered Abrahamic religions, with Arabs being considered the descendants of Abraham and Israelis as the descendants of Isaac, both tracing their lineage to Abraham.

Formation of the Middle East NATO: The Middle East NATO, with Israel alongside other Arab nations allied with the US, is of significant importance due to its impact on the nature of alliances and coalitions on one side and the Middle East security framework on the other. Israel's establishment in 1948 led to the formation of a security structure in the Middle East with the aim of countering this new phenomenon. The basis of the formation of the security alliance against Israel was nationality or Arabness. This conflict was part of the Arab-non-Arab conflict framework. With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, the conflict with Israel transcended the national aspect and took on a religious dimension, framing the global Islamic-Jewish conflict. From this perspective, nationality and religion as two fundamental and classical pillars have played a significant role in shaping regional alliances and security initiatives, clarifying security efforts based on these two elements.

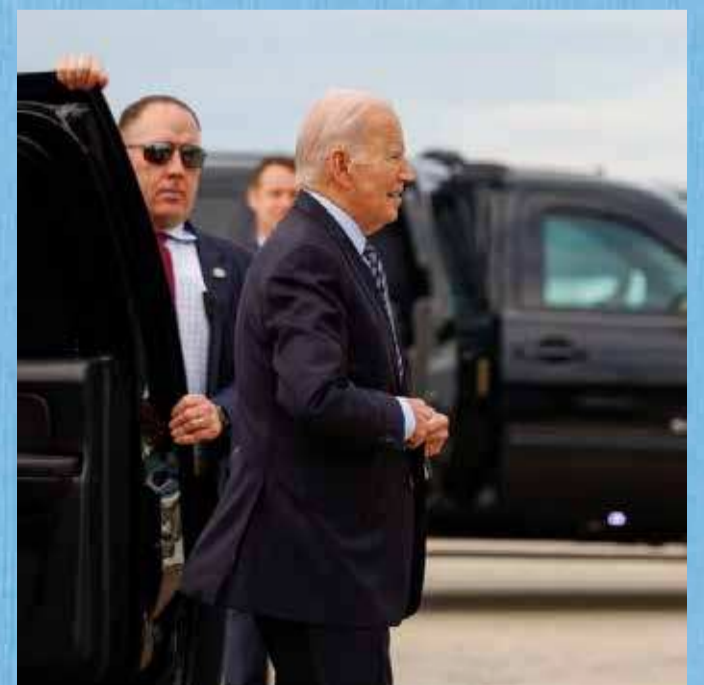
However, assessing the threats arising from Iran's policies in the region and depicting Iran's willingness to acquire nuclear weapons and expand its threat range have created the possibility of a new conceptualization of security in the Middle East, turning yesterday's enemies into today's allies against Iran. In this new framework, the foundations of alliances and security initiatives have taken on a fresh and modern shape, departing from the traditional and classical mold.



It appears that the creation of this coalition, also known as the "Middle East NATO," had several objectives:

- An American military-security pact among allies in the Middle East and safeguarding America's regional interests.
- A practical military-security step following the Abraham Accords to unite Arabs and Israel and protect each other's interests in the region.
- Establishing a robust defense against Iran's actions and thwarting Iran's policies in the region, ultimately weakening the country.

Middle East Air Defense Plan (Middle East Air Defense): The integration plan of Israel and Arab countries' air defense systems gained more prominence with Joe Biden's visit to the region. This plan was initially discussed during the meeting of foreign ministers from Israel, the US, the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Egypt, known as the "Negev Summit." Later on, it was reported that American military officials and senior military officers from Israel and Arab countries held a meeting to advance this initiative. Benny Gantz, Israel's Defense Minister, announced that this plan had reached the operational phase, and Joe Biden's visit would expedite its implementation. According to this plan, instead of using similar physical facilities, countries coordinate their air defense systems through electronic communications from remote locations. Reuters also noted that this idea is based on Israeli technology. In late June, Democratic and Republican members of the US Senate and House of Representatives proposed integrating the air defense systems of Middle Eastern countries and Israel to counter nuclear, missile, and drone threats from Iran.



US President Joe Biden walks as he departs Joint Base Andrews for a high-stakes visit to Israel, in Maryland, US, October 17, 2023.
● EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS



Scenes of devastation in Gaza
● REUTERS





Biden's Trip to Israel and Pursuit of Failed Initiatives

Joe Biden's trip to Israel is primarily motivated by his desire to prevent another crisis in the Middle East on the eve of the 2024 US presidential election. He aims to prevent Israeli generals from implementing a new scenario. Secondly, Biden seeks to calm the situation to foil Hezbollah's operations in the occupied northern territories. Thirdly, he intends to revitalize the normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, using it as an electoral card to gain the support of the Jewish lobby. Hence, it must be said that in the US, demonstrating solidarity with Israel is particularly important, especially when the threat of Iranian interference or support for the Lebanese allies,

namely Hezbollah, continues. Washington has dispatched two aircraft carriers and military ships to the region to deter Iran and Hezbollah. While the Israeli Prime Minister has issued orders for the army to prepare for a bloody ground assault against Hamas in Gaza, Gaza is currently under destructive Israeli airstrikes that have leveled parts of the region, claiming over 10,000 lives. The danger for Biden on this trip is that he may align himself too closely with Israel's invasion of Gaza. President Joe Biden's 7.5-hour trip to Tel Aviv expressed full US support for Israel, but fell short in another key objective: Gaining the attention of Arab leaders. Amid the growing signs that the conflict may escalate beyond control, Biden stated that the US would protect its allies and send a clear mes-

sage to regional rivals like Iran to stay out of war. Biden promised a new package of "unprecedented support" with one US aircraft carrier in the region and another on the way. Therefore, it can be said that with an assessment of the two recent trips by Biden to Israel, the security situation of this regime can be evaluated. Biden's initial trip included the formation of an Arab NATO and support for the Abraham Accords and initiatives such as regional air defense to pressure Iran and an Arab-Israeli coalition against it. However, during these trips, Operation Al-Aqsa Storm by Hamas completely altered the regional conditions and equations. Today, during Biden's term, it can be said that US Middle East plans against Iran have failed, and instead, Israel has become the focus of regional developments. Today, the focus of re-

gional countries and the Muslim world is on Israel's crimes, and it must be said that once again, American-Israeli plans to divert Arab countries' focus to Iran and cover up their crimes against the Palestinian people have failed. During the Biden presidency, Middle East plans were put in place to curb Iran and create a coalition against Iran. From the Abraham's Peace Plan to Middle East NATO initiatives, the Arab-Israeli security alliance, and the Middle East Air Defense plan against Iran, these were aimed at uniting regional players to focus on countering the Iranian threat and stabilizing the security situation for Israel. As a result, Biden's first trip to the Middle East focused on Iran and building a consensus against it. This country became the focal point of the Middle East foreign policy of the Biden administra-

tion and formed the security threat to the countries in the region. Therefore, after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, all of Biden's foreign policy equations in the region fell apart, and Israel, as a strategic partner of the US, became the central figure in security developments, facing significant threats. Today, during the Biden era, American Middle East plans against Iran have failed, and instead, Israel has taken center stage in regional developments. The focus of regional countries and the Muslim world is on Israel's crimes, and Iran is no longer considered a regional threat to Muslim countries. Therefore, it must be said that from the beginning of Biden's term and his first trip to the Middle East, which aimed to build a consensus against Iran, to his latest trip in support of the Zionist regime, all their equations and plans have faced setbacks.



US President Joe Biden descends from Air Force One as he lands for a three-day visit, at Ben Gurion International Airport in Lod near Tel Aviv, Israel. **AMIR COHEN/REUTERS**



Hermoso 'received threats' after Rubiales controversy



JOHN COWPLAND/AP

THE GUARDIAN – Jenni Hermoso has said she received threats amid the controversy after the then Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales kissed her on the lips following their World Cup final win.

Hermoso said the kiss was not consensual and Rubiales was subsequently banned for three years by FIFA.

But the media storm continued for several weeks, with Hermoso dragged into a spotlight she did not choose when she should have been celebrating the biggest achievement of a career which has also yielded seven league titles and one Champions League crown.

Hermoso was left out of Spain's squad in September, with new coach Montse Tomé saying she wanted to protect the 33-year-old, but returned last month and scored a late winner in a 1-0 victory over Italy in the Women's Nations League.

Now Hermoso, who plays for CF Pachuca in Mexico, has opened up on the toll the controversy took on her in an interview with GQSpain. "These weeks have been very difficult," Hermoso said. "Having to tell it over and over again was hurting me a lot. But I know I had to let it go somehow. I continue working on it with the help of my psychologist, who I have been with for many years."

"For me, mental health is as important as daily training, like the hours I have to sleep to be able to go out on the field. Thanks to her I feel strong and I'm not shattered or thinking about not wanting to play football anymore. I have not lost my enthusiasm." She added: "I've had to assume the consequences of an act that I did not provoke, that I had not chosen or premeditated. I have received threats, and that is something you never get used to."

Rubiales has maintained that the kiss was consensual but his actions led to the creation of the hashtag #SeAcabo, meaning 'It's over', as further demands were made for fundamental change in the game.

"Fortunately or unfortunately, there is this story, but I am going to learn to take advantage of it positively to fight for what I believe is good for society. The #SeAcabo movement must bring a new era," Hermoso said.

AFC Champions League:

Sepahan runs riot against AGMK; Nassaji crashes out

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League club Sepahan scored nine goals and had three chalked off by VAR to demolish Uzbekistan's AGMK 9-0 on matchday four of the AFC Champions League at Tehran's Azadi Stadium, boosting hopes of a place in the knockout phase.

Farshad Ahmadzadeh's eighth-minute strike was the difference between the two teams at the break, before eight goals inside 34 minutes sealed the emphatic victory for the Iranian top-flight side.

Mohammad-Javad Hosseini and Issa Aleksir scored a brace apiece, with Reza Asadi, Mohammad Qorbani, Ramin Rezaeian, and Shahriar Moghanlou also finding the net as Sepahan moved up to second in Group C with seven points – thanks to a superior goal difference over Iraqi side Air Force Club, which stunned group leader Al Ittihad by a 2-0 home victory earlier on Monday.

The scoreline marked the third highest margin in the history of the Asian elite clubs competition, while it saw the Iranian club bounce back from Thursday's AFC ruling in style. The Asian football governing body's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee handed Sepahan a 3-0 loss against Saudi side Al Ittihad after their match was called off minutes before the kickoff



Sepahan players celebrate a goal during a 9-0 victory over AGMK in the AFC Champions League at the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on Nov. 6, 2023. MARZIEH SOLEIMANI/IRNA

at Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium on October 3. Sepahan was also fined \$200,000 and banned from playing in the home venue for three matches, due to the Iranian side "displaying a military and/or political statue in the area surrounding the field," which was labeled as the club's

failure to "act in a politically neutral manner." Sepahan will host Air Force Club in three weeks before playing away to Al Ittihad in the final round of the group fixtures on December 4.

Elsewhere, Nassaji Mazandaran's quest for a place in the round of 16 came

to an end with two games to spare in Group D, after a 3-1 home defeat against Uzbekistan's Navbahor. Igor Golban put the visiting side in front with six minutes into the contest at the Azadi Stadium, with Oston O'runov getting on the scoresheet midway through the first half to

give Navbahor a two-goal cushion at half time. O'runov all but secured the maximum points for his team with his second of the day right after the interval. Mohammadreza Azadi's close-range header in the 68th minute proved too little too late as Seyyed Mahdi Rahmati's men suf-

fered a sixth loss in seven outings across all competitions.

Nassaji remained on three points – seven adrift of Al Hilal and Navbahor – and will play for its reputation in the next two dead-rubbers – at home against India's Mumbai City and the final-day visit to Al Hilal.



HENRY ROMERO/REUTERS

Swiatek avoids rankings distraction, focuses on the 'right stuff'

REUTERS – WTA Finals champion Iga Swiatek said the poor playing conditions in Cancun forced her to focus on her game instead of being distracted by the prospect of regaining the world number one ranking. The four-time Grand Slam champion swept aside Jessica Pegula 6-1 6-0 to claim her first WTA Finals title, and return to the top of the rankings after being deposed by Aryna Sabalenka in September.

The WTA conceded this year's edition of the Finals was "not a perfect

event", with the court condition and stormy weather among the issues affecting players. Sabalenka said she did not feel safe playing on the court.

"The conditions that were kind of tricky also helped me to just, you know, focus on adjust my footwork, my shots ... that kept me busy from thinking about all of that," Swiatek told reporters of the number one ranking on Monday.

"So I think today was ... just being narrow with your head, only think-

ing about the right stuff."

The 22-year-old Pole said she had been distracted by the ranking race at other tournaments and it had affected her performance.

"It played (in my mind) a lot in the US Open and the tournaments before but I kind of learned my lesson," she said.

"This time I didn't want it to have an impact on me ... it's hard not to think about stuff like that but actually when I went on court I knew that I had to focus on different things."

Knicks top Clippers to spoil Harden's debut

REUTERS – RJ Barrett, returning from a two-game absence caused by a sore left knee, scored 11 points during a fourth-quarter surge as the host New York Knicks broke open a tie game and cruised to a 111-97 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday. The Knicks outscored the Clippers 35-21 in the fourth quarter and 69-51 in the second

half, spoiling the debut of new Los Angeles acquisition James Harden. Barrett finished with 26 points while Julius Randle posted a season-high 27 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who won at home for the first time in three tries this season. Mitchell Robinson (13 points, 15 rebounds) also had a double-double for New York. Kawhi Leonard scored

18 points while Harden finished with 17 points in 31-plus minutes in his first action since the Philadelphia 76ers dealt him to the Clippers on Oct. 31. Tyler Herro finished with 22 points despite going just 2-for-10 from 3-point range on a night when the Heat collectively went just 12-for-37 from beyond the arc. The Miami defense forced Los Ange-

les into an even worse shooting performance from deep, however, limiting the Lakers to 8 of 26 from long range. LeBron James scored seven of his game-high 30 points in a 1:19 stretch late in the fourth quarter, helping trim a 10-point Miami lead to one. His last points of the burst, a three-point play with 2:39 remaining, capped the game's scoring.



Knicks guard RJ Barrett (9) shoots during an NBA victory over the Clippers at Madison Square Garden, New York, NY, US, on Nov. 6, 2023. JOHN MUNSON/AP

750 Iranian thalassemia patients fall victim to pharmaceutical sanctions



IRNA

Social Desk

The cruel and illegal sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran have resulted in the lack of essential medicines reaching patients, especially those suffering from thalassemia. This has led to devastating consequences, with over 750 thalassemia patients losing their lives due to the scarcity of medicine and imported drugs. Additionally, more than 12,000 patients are reported to have been seriously injured. Unilateral sanctions, which are imposed against a country unlawfully, can be seen as a form of economic terrorism. However, when these sanctions directly target the health, food, and medicine of citizens, causing immense pain, suffering, and violation of fundamental rights, it becomes a clear violation of human rights and an act of terrorism. The harsh US sanctions against

Iran, which have intensified in recent years, not only restrict the sale of oil and essential equipment, but also hinder the availability of medical and pharmaceutical supplies. These restrictions have had a harmful impact on the lives of countless individuals, particularly those suffering from severe and incurable diseases like cancer. Last year, United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights called attention to the challenges faced by Iranian patients in accessing necessary medicine and medical equipment due to the US sanctions. They emphasized that these sanctions prevent patients from enjoying their basic human rights, especially the right to health. Preventing people from accessing medical equipment violates their freedom to enjoy the right to health. If this obstruction leads to increased pain and suffering, it is entirely inhumane, even if un-

intentional.

While the US government, which claims to champion human rights, insists that drugs and medical equipment are not subject to the sanctions, the reality is far from that. Importing raw materials for the production of vital drugs becomes practically impossible due to the lack of direct delivery channels. Additionally, sanctions also impede acquiring medical equipment parts such as MRI, CT scan, radiology, and angiography devices. United Nations experts believe that the root cause of this dire situation for patients in Iran lies in the US sanctions and the fear of punishment faced by foreign companies and banks if they engage with Iran. However, it is crucial to recognize that medicines and health-related items are of utmost importance. Various international documents affirm that people's health, whether di-

rectly or indirectly, should not be compromised by sanctions, and all governments should adhere to this principle. The impact of sanctions on thalassemia patients is particularly distressing. According to Younes Arab, the head of the Iranian Thalassemia Society, more than 750 thalassemia patients have lost their lives due to the lack of medicine. "Iran falls within the thalassemia belt, with an estimated 23,000 thalassemia major patients and five to eight million thalassemia minor patients," Arab said. Arab emphasized the significance of proper genetic screening and monitoring for couples affected by thalassemia minor, as there is a 25 percent risk of giving birth to a child with thalassemia major in such cases. "Iran has made significant advancements in treating thalassemia and providing free medi-

cation and treatment since 1997, with government support for special patients," he said, adding, "However, these patients require regular blood transfusions and a range of drugs to eliminate excess iron from their bodies." Since 2018, the imposition of sanctions has created challenges in the drug supply chain, affecting both foreign suppliers and domestic companies facing raw material shortages. Tragically, this situation has resulted in the loss of over 750 thalassemia patients' lives and caused serious suffering for more than 12,000 affected individuals. "Importing the necessary drugs for thalassemia patients faces numerous obstacles, including financial transactions with Swiss companies due to sanctions," Arab said, and went on to explain, "Although efforts have been made by the country's Food and Drug Administration and the Central

Bank to transfer currency for this purpose, drug orders have been unsuccessful, leading to returned funds." It goes without saying that although drugs and food are exempt from sanctions, difficulties persist in accessing them for the heavily sanctioned countries. Circumventing the embargo to provide necessary treatments for these vulnerable groups is challenging, and there have been instances of counterfeit medicine being supplied. "The priority should be given to essential drugs for special patients, including thalassemia, as their lives depend on continuous medication," Arab said, and added, "Furthermore, it is crucial for influenza vaccines to be made available to thalassemia patients through insurance coverage or health departments at universities, ensuring their accessibility in medical centers free of charge."

Water crisis looms as country's watersheds extremely dry

Social Desk

Iran's Minister of Energy has expressed concern over the critical water shortage, equating it to a matter of life and death. He emphasized that each individual bears a significant responsibility in managing the country's water resources. Highlighting the unpredictable nature of climate change, the Minister pointed out that Iran has experienced alternating periods of increased rainfall, decreased rainfall, and prolonged droughts, Tasnim News

Agency reported.

According to a recent report by the Supreme Water Council, almost all of the country's watersheds are currently classified as either very dry or dry based on rainfall data from the past 36 months. Mehrabian, in reference to the severity of the situation, stated that some areas have faced severe drought conditions over the past 10 years. However, thanks to the efforts of colleagues, the situation has been relatively managed, with fewer acute problems arising," he said. The Minister further dis-

cussed the two key aspects of water resources management: supply management and demand management. He emphasized that while both are necessary, focusing on managing the demand from a sector can effectively overcome obstacles and challenges at a lower cost. Recognizing the multidimensional nature of the issue, Mehrabian stressed that success in this field requires a comprehensive approach. "While managing the supply sector involves structural, hardware, and policy measures, managing the demand

sector holds special importance," he said. Mehrabian also criticized the lack of specific actions taken in the field of water demand management. He pointed out that consumers can play a role in managing their water consumption through the application of scientific knowledge and optional methods. The Minister then mentioned that the installation of smart water meters is a crucial tool for demand management. Implementing a comprehensive and intelligent management network in this regard can greatly assist

in controlling consumption. Mehrabian emphasized the need for policy modifications and effective regulations in the water consumption and distribution sector. He stressed the importance of using the drinking water network solely for its intended purpose and suggested alternative sources, such as sewage water, for irrigation and other non-drinking purposes. In comparison to the electricity sector, the Minister highlighted that managing water consumption is simpler and more feasible, with higher potential for savings. He called upon the country's water and sewage engineering company to devise a practical and timely plan. Acknowledging the need for incentives, Mehrabian proposed a bonus system for water consumers who manage their consumption below a certain threshold, potentially even offering free water for those who consistently conserve. Conversely, higher tariffs would be applied to those who exceed the designated consumption limits. The Minister emphasized the importance of prioritizing and closely over-



seeing special projects in the water and sewage sector. Timely implementation and effective management of these projects are crucial, with minimal damage and concerns for public safety in the event of any water-related incidents. He emphasized the need for the responsible managers to be available 24/7 and promptly respond to any emergencies. Mehrabian, expressing his satisfaction with the remarkable progress of the high priority water supply projects across various regions of the country, emphasized the pressing need for increased investment in this sector. "This year, unfortunately, only a meager amount of funding has been allocated

to the projects," he said. However, he fervently stressed the importance of completing the funding requirements within the next two to three months. "The president himself has been actively involved, frequently raising, pursuing, and advocating for this crucial initiative in his reports. This plan holds immense significance, giving rise to great hopes for its successful implementation," the Minister said. According to Mehrabian, with the execution of 12,000 high priority water supply projects in rural areas, the majority of water-related challenges faced by these communities should be effectively resolved.

First Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for CHIMEC 3035 // 26000 kg

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of CHIMEC 3035 for Olefin plant. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until November 20, 2023.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: December 02, 2023.

Email: me.rahimi@tpco.ir Phone No.: +98-41-34282592

Tender	No	Quantity
CHIMEC 3035	PVS-0231091	26000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

First turn published: November 08, 2023
Second turn published: November 13, 2023



Iran Nano
2023 show
of proud
progress



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Vol. 7429 ● Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

Iranian nanotech firms eye foreign markets



By Mahdiyeh Qazvinian
Staff writer

In 2003, the Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council (INIC) was established. The council developed a strategic document on nanotechnology within two years and submitted it to the cabinet. Since then, nanotechnology has definitely created wealth for Iran and improved the quality of manufactured materials as well as the lives of Iranians. The Iran Nano 2023 exhibition, held from November 4-7, launched with the participation of various companies and stakeholders that are active in this field. During the event, these nanotechnology companies showcase their achievements in various sectors, including textiles, medicine, polymer, agriculture, and construction.



IRAN DAILY

Future
brighter
than present

Milad Mohammadi, the sales manager of Yas Nano Polymer Company, claims that the company is the first Iranian manufacturer of PVC pipes and fittings using nanotechnology. The company started following this path in 2006 but introduced its first nano products to the market in 2013. "We have improved the mechanical properties of polymers using nanotechnology

and enhanced the strength of our pipes and fittings. The PVC products that were previously prone to the accumulation of dirt and sediment can now resist them with our nanotechnology-produced polymer pipes. Even after five years, they will remain free from dirt and sediment." Mohammadi believes that in recent years, the nanotechnology industry has signifi-

cantly contributed to various other industries in Iran, especially the polymer sector; by improving the quality of products and making them more appealing to consumers. Nevertheless, he pointed out that Iranians recognize traces of nanotechnology in some industries like fashion and healthcare better than others. He maintained that while Iran's Nano poly-

mer industry has not had a substantial impact on the country's economic conditions, it has made significant progress and will undoubtedly find its place. For one thing, Mohammadi added, Iran is already exporting its nanotechnology-produced products to countries like Iraq and Tajikistan, which gives him hope for a brighter future for the industry in Iran.

Time to
make waves
abroad

We asked Reza Bahrami, the commercial director of the knowledge-based Karan Nanoelectronics Technology Development company, to describe the role of nanotechnology in their products. According to him, the company manufactures flexible thermal heaters using nanotechnology "for various industries including medicine (for special belts and waist trainers that improve blood

circulation), sports (for vests, mountaineering shoes, socks, and gloves), poultry farming, and military (for border guards' vests). Since these heaters can be incorporated into work attires, they have applications in various industries. "The heaters used in our clothing products are capable of functioning at below 30 degrees Celsius," Bahrami said. Considering that "all knowl-

edge-based companies are inventors", he added, these products, with their distinctive features, are "the first of their kind in Iran". Bahrami expressed a strong desire by the company to mass produce their products and export them to countries such as Russia and Turkey that have colder climates and naturally, a stronger market demand

for these products. However, he noted that due to the lack of substantial financial support, they don't have enough raw materials for such an expansion, and their production is currently limited. Bahrami emphasizes that financial support from the Iranian government and private organizations can significantly boost the country's economy.

Old
businesses,
new
directions

In a relatively larger and more eye-catching booth, we sat to talk with Rahim Hojati, the owner of the brand and one of the exemplary entrepreneurs in this field. He said, "The fact that we produce smart textiles in Iran today is the result of nearly 50 years of hard work by his grandfather and father in the textile industry, especially sock weaving." Since 2007 when his family-owned business established a research and develop-

ment unit, they have obtained patents for several products. "Thereafter continued our work purely in a scientific manner," he said, expressing his goal to introduce nanotechnologies to the public through positive advertising. "We have a significant share in exports to countries such as Iraq, Turkey, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait, but our target market is Azerbaijan, which puts in large orders. Our

company is export-oriented. In the Iranian market, we don't have a strong presence because copyright laws are not adhered to. So, we neither advertise nor supply our products in Iran out of fear. However, we have a very good reputation in foreign countries, and they make significant purchases from us." Hojati stresses that the future of the Nano industry in Iran depends on proper man-

agement of it. If we are to get our heads out of the statistics and face reality, he states, at least 40% of the Iran Nano 2023 exhibition should have showcased nanotechnology-produced textiles, not the current 0.3% that comes just from the participation of his own company. He said that people have a more tangible view of the effects of nanotechnology in the clothing industry, echoing Mohammadi's words.

Students
with
practical
mind

In the neighboring booths, bright scholars from the Sharif University of Technology had a strong presence. They introduced interesting changes to the glass industry in Iran using nanotechnology. Vahid Niksefat, a PhD student in Materials Engineering and the founder of Nanopad Sharif Company,

explained that using nanotechnology, they have created waterproof glass products for the automotive industry, construction of glass buildings, and some textiles with a shelf life of 10 to 12 months. Considering the changes that occurred in the nano industry in Iran since 2013, he said,

the country's scientific understanding of the field has grown exponentially. However, he expressed his disbelief that the same amount of progress can be witnessed in manufacturing and marketing nano products in Iran as "there is much work to be done." "People tend to associate nanotechnology

with the textile industry, but in the near future, it will prove itself better in medical and healthcare products. We have not yet entered international markets, but with the support of the INIC, the production and supply of nano products will improve day by day."

For children,
adults alike

At the far end of the exhibition, colorful play sands and vibrant paintings catch the eye, hinting that nanotechnology may have made its way into the world of children. Marziyeh Khalilzadeh, the executive deputy of Panter, a company that makes finger paints, pencils, and play sands among others, paints a better picture of how far nanotechnology has entered the children's world. "We have participated in the exhibition both as an affiliate in the stationary sector and as an affiliate in the field of chemical materials," she noted. "We were allowed to participate in the stationary sector since we have used

nanotechnology to manufacture pens that have an antibacterial body as well as various antibacterial play sands, finger paints, and liquid glues with high adhesion properties." According to Khalilzadeh, Panter has found a good market in Iran, even though it entered the market only six months ago, and even provided quality services in kindergartens and schools. She described the progress of the nano industry in Iran as "positive", underlining that it should move towards producing more practical products and increasing exports. "But first, people need

to understand what Nano is and the role it can play in their lives." We humans seem not to be the only living beings that have benefited from the incorporation of nanotechnology. Banafsheh Taheri, an expert from the Atlas Group, said, "In 2015, we entered the livestock and poultry feed industry as the sole holder of veterinary licenses by supplying calcium carbonate compounds. Later, we moved to produce a variety of other products such as bentonite and zeolite in various sizes as well, effectively entering a healthy competitive market." Taheri pointed out that nanotechnology

has helped the company improve the quality of its final products for consumers and the overall health of society. "Currently, we haven't made a significant impact on the export market, but in the near future, we will undoubtedly have a market in neighboring countries," she expressed. Iran is blossoming in the field of nanotechnology because of policies that have put trust in its own talented youth. Despite being under sanctions, not only has the country witnessed significant progress in this industry, but various other countries have also become interested in its products.