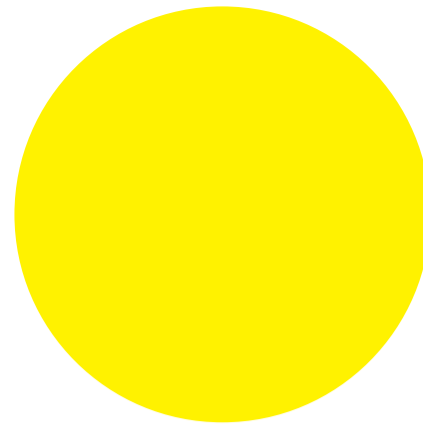


Iran FM: US humanitarian aid in Gaza mere gesture

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International Desk

Two and a half weeks after sending tanks and ground troops into northern Gaza, Israeli forces entered a hospital early Wednesday that they claim Hamas operates out of. Mohammed Zaqout, the director of hospitals in Gaza, said Israeli tanks were inside the medical compound and that soldiers had entered buildings, including the emergency and surgery departments, which house intensive care units. Shifa Hospital has become a symbol of the widespread suffering of Palestinian civilians during Israel's war on Gaza. The Israeli Army claims Hamas uses hospitals as cover for its fighters, and has set up its main command center in and beneath Shifa Hospital, the largest in the besieged territory. Both Hamas and hospital staff have repeatedly denied the Israeli claims.

US responsible for raid

Hamas said US President Joe Biden was "wholly responsible" for the assault, accusing his administration of giving Israel "the green light... to commit more massacres against civilians". Hours before Israel's raid, the US said its own intelligence indicated Hamas fighters have used Shifa and other hospitals — and tunnels beneath them — to support military operations and hold captives. Dozens of Israeli soldiers, some wearing face masks and shooting in the air, ordered young men to surrender, a journalist in contact with AFP reported, as the army said it conducted a "precise and targeted" operation at the facility.

Violation of int'l law

The West Bank-based Palestinian Authority denounced the raid as a "flagrant violation of international law". Witnesses described conditions inside the hospital as horrific, with medical procedures taking place without anesthetic, families with scant food or water living in corridors, and the stench of decomposing corpses filling the air. International concern over the fate of the people inside the hospital has been steadily increasing. Citing the Gaza Health Ministry, UN humanitarian agency OCHA said 40 patients had died in Al-Shifa on Tuesday, while hospital director Abu Salmiya said 179 bodies had been interred in a mass grave inside the complex. The situation in Gaza's other hospitals is also dire, with the World Health Organization saying 22 of 36 are not functional due to a lack of generator fuel, damage or combat.

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Israeli soldiers raid Shifa Hospital in the Gaza Strip on November 15, 2023. REUTERS



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EXCLUSIVE



IEE 2023, an opportunity for Iranian NTBFs

By Mahdiah Qazvinian &
Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writers

The 23rd Iran International Electricity Exhibition (IEE 2023), which kicked off in Tehran on Tuesday, is a great opportunity for startups and new technology-based firms (NTBFs) active in the industry to showcase their achievements and products to the visitors and experts of the industry. The four-day exhibition covers various areas including production, transmission, and distribution, as well as high-, medium-, and low-voltage electrical equipment.

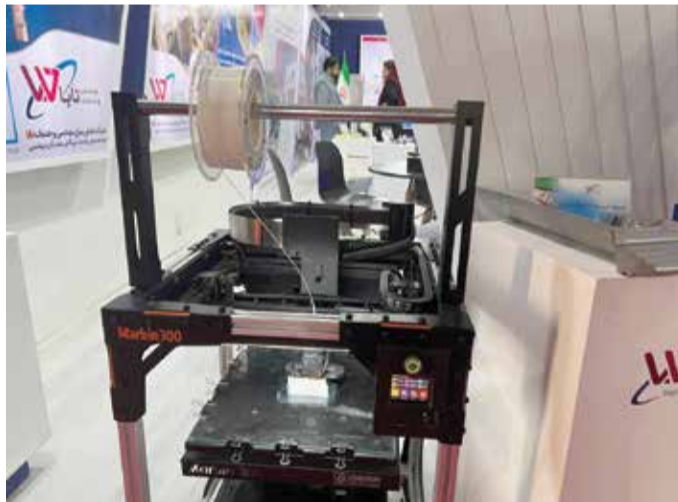
A total of 474 domestic firms, along with 110 foreign exhibitors from different countries, including Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, China, South Korea, Croatia, Turkey, Spain, India, Slovenia, Poland, and Japan, are showcasing their latest products and services in this exhibition. All kinds of electrical panels, lighting equipment, smart equipment, diesel generators and electric motors, batteries, and UPS; earthing and protection systems, transformers, wires and cables, industrial automation and precision instruments, and measuring equipment are being showcased at IEE 2023. The Iranian NTBFs plan for their future activities and innovations

by considering the trend of market demand and the growth of the industry. The Tana Energy Group is among the participant companies in IEE 2023, which was founded in 2010 by renowned key figures in Iran's power sector. Tana Energy Group is active in water and power, oil and gas and rail transportation sectors, Nasrin Asl-Shahrivar, a member of the company told Iran Daily. Relying on its highly qualified and experienced staff, archive, up-to-date documentation system, procedures and methods, implementation of creative solutions, new management approaches, the group is making

efforts to secure its position in the Middle East energy sector as a reliable and rapidly growing entity. To materialize its goal, Tana Energy Group is carrying out its activities through subsidiary companies and partners in various fields including energy, she said. Engineering services, procurement of equipment and construction (site mobilization and commissioning) are among the services of the NTBF. 3D printing is one of the attractive issues in the field of construction in the world, she said, adding that if we attain the technology to manufacture a turbine by 3D printing, a leap will happen in this field.

"Our innovation to present in IEE 2023 is 3D printing of polymer material, and based on the 3D model given to a software, we get its hardware output." The number of visitors of the exhibition was much higher than previous years, and we had negotiations with the Iraqi Minister of Energy at the exhibition on exports of our products to the neighboring country, she noted. Another NTBF, which is showcasing in the 23rd Iran International Electricity Exhibition, is Jebel Electric Manufacturing and Commercial Company. Talking to Iran Daily, Mehran Abolhasani, commercial manager of the company said that as the first producer of industrial switchboard insulators in Iran, the NTBF was founded in 2005, with the aim of providing service and meeting the needs of the electrical industry in the low- and medium-pressure insulators. "We are active in the field of insulation while Iraq, Oman and Pakistan are the main importers of our products, which enjoy the highest quality. Our products enjoy the same quality as the European-made ones, and its price is lower than the Chinese, which makes neighboring countries interested in our products." Our company supplies 80 percent of the domestic market,

Abolhasani claimed, adding that Iran has absolutely no need to import foreign insulators. Moniran Niroo Sanat, another Iranian NTBF, has attended the IEE 2023 to showcase its products, Monireh Taqvaei, the managing director of the company told Iran Daily. By supplying services and products to distribution and transmission systems in the electricity industry, the firm helps eliminate pollution such as fine dust and salt fog by boosting transmission systems' reliability and equipment cost, she said. The NTBF is a manufacturer of one-component Room Temperature Vulcanizing (RTV) silicon rubber for high-voltage insulator coatings (HVIC). RTV silicone is a type of silicone rubber that works at room temperature. It is available as a one-component product, or mixed from two components (a base and curative). We are among the countries that have reached the technology of producing this product (RTV), she said, adding, "We will move forward with the polymer and insulation needs of the country." Most of the exports of the company are destined for Iraq due to the large amount of dust in the country, and Pakistan and Afghanistan are other markets for our products, Taqvaei concluded.



Iran should prioritize finding new export markets for pistachios: MP

By Sadeq Dehqan &
Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writers

In order to increase Iran's pistachio exports and help the country to earn more forex through exports, the Iranian government should prioritize finding new export markets, an Iranian lawmaker told Iran Daily. Calling it green gold, Shahbaz Hassanpour Beyglari said pistachios have always been one of the most valuable export products of Iran, which has fetched lots of forex for the country, but Iran has not had a detailed plan for boosting exports of the product. According to figures by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs

Administration (IRICA), 57% of the total value of Iran's agricultural exports, and 11% of the total value of non-oil exports in the first six months of the current Iranian year (started March 21) have been pistachio exports. The country exported 20,000 tons of pistachios, worth \$137 million, during March 21-September 22, 2023, the IRICA statistics indicated. Russia imported \$28 million worth of pistachios during the six months as Germany (\$13.1 million), the UAE (\$13 million), India (\$12.8 million) and Kyrgyzstan (\$12.5 million) were other main importers of the products from Iran. Pointing out that Kerman Province is the hub of pistachio production in Iran, the MP said, Sir-

jan and Rafsanjan are the main pistachio-producing cities of the southeastern province. Referring to measures taken in Kerman Province to increase pistachio production, he explained that among the measures was the improvement of irrigation efficiency with modern irrigation methods including pressure irrigation and subsurface drip irrigation, which lead to an increased productivity of trees. Subsurface drip irrigation is a highly efficient system that uses buried drip tubes or drip tape to meet crop water needs. Since the water is applied below the soil surface (as opposed to surface irrigation or traditional drip irrigation), the effects of surface infiltration, such as crusting, saturated

condition of ponding water, and water losses via evaporation and surface runoff (including soil erosion) are eliminated. "The increase in pistachio production in Kerman Province during recent years is not due to the increase of the cultivated area of this product, but rather the rise in the amount of harvest per unit area has increased the volume of pistachio production." "The formation of pistachio headquarters composed of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs should be prioritized, with a focus on the export of pistachios," the MP said. Criticizing some measures of the Central Bank of Iran, he



pointed out that some of these actions have been an obstacle in the field of export development. Pointing to policies on forex deposits of farmers, the CBI has created problems for exports of agro-products, which we hope the bank will reconsider.

In many countries, in order to increase exports, their governments consider incentives for exporters, but some of our measures not only do not encourage exporters to export, but cause them to stop exporting, the lawmaker said.

Giveh-weaving handicraft of Abadeh facing challenges

Iranica Desk

Giveh is a kind of soft, comfortable, durable and handmade shoe that is common in several parts of Iran. *Giveh*-weaving is a traditional handicraft in Fars Province, particularly in the city of Abadeh. However, due to the increased use of machine-made products, the demand for handmade items, especially *giveh*, has significantly fallen.

This has resulted in a lack of interest in younger generations to pursue this craft. Economic fluctuations, market instability, high price of raw materials, and low demand have caused *giveh*-weaving, like many other handicrafts, to stagnate.

Despite this, Ali Mostaghni, a 26-year-old nursing graduate, has been practicing *giveh*-weaving for eleven years since he learned it from his grandfather. He believes that *giveh*-weaving was once a

high-income profession in Abadeh, and the *giveh* produced in this city was well-known in the southern region of the country.

However, the shortage in raw materials and lack of interest from the younger generation has led to a decline in the number of *giveh*-weavers in Abadeh.

Mostaghni emphasizes the importance of supporting this profession, which is currently practiced by only a few elderly individuals. The majority of customers for these handicrafts are members of the Qashqaei and Bakhtiari tribes, who use them as traditional clothing.

"We ask the authorities to teach *giveh*-weaving to interested students studying in art schools because they should start it at the age of 15-16, and become skilled after several years of apprenticeship. We urge the city's officials to work on revitalizing the handicraft through media and financial

assistance," he said.

Mohammad Ali Jabari, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Abadeh, stated that facilities are available for those engaged in the handicrafts sector.

"There is a lack of interest in this field, but if we establish the necessary infrastructure and training facilities in the county, more people would be willing to learn this art."

He mentioned that woodcarving workshops have been initiated in the Cultural Heritage Department and similar plans can be made for other handicrafts including *giveh*-weaving.

He emphasized that the Cultural Heritage Department of Abadeh is working on promoting this handicraft, and there is good cooperation between the provincial organization and the municipality of Abadeh.



Renovation of Babol's Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge, path to growth in tourism

Iranica Desk

Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge of Babol, Mazandaran Province, is an ancient structure dating back to the 18th century. It is situated over the beautiful Babolrud (river). It holds great historical significance as one of the remarkable bridges from the Qajar period, ISNA wrote.

This bridge has the largest communication route between the eastern and western parts of Babol.

It is located two kilometers away from the center of Babol, in the southern part of the city, surrounded by five neighborhoods.

In the early years of Karim Khan Zand's reign, in the year 1734 CE, Mohammad Hassan Khan Qajar, the grandson of Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar, who had conquered the current city of Babol and other areas of Mazandaran and had emerged victorious in the war against Karim Khan Zand (1705-1779 CE), built this great bridge over

the river which has remained to this day.

This bridge has seven main arches, with a height of 11 meters from the riverbed. With a length of 140 meters and a width of six meters, it is considered one of the important bridges in the province in terms

of economic and transportation issues.

Until 1964, Babol and Amol were connected through this bridge, but in this year a new road starting from the western side of the city was built.

However, heavy vehicles still pass through it, which has brought some criticism due to

the damages that can be inflicted on this national monument. Over the years, numerous actions have been taken to construct a replacement and remove this bridge from under the traffic load. Vehicle traffic on the bridge and road passage under the bridge has endangered this historical structure.

Deputy Head of the Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization Mohsen Bastani said that all light and heavy vehicles are prohibited from passing under the historic bridge of Mohammad Hassan Khan in Babol. He added, to preserve this historical structure, a new alterna-

tive road should be constructed in this area so that this valuable work is not destroyed any further.

"We need to repair the damaged part of the bridge to prevent further deterioration and widening of the crack."

Head of Babol's Islamic City Council Mohammad Qorbannia said that planning and creating a tourism spot around the Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge could be a great solution for its preservation and maintenance.

"By developing a comprehensive plan, we can revitalize the bridge area, making it a vibrant destination for tourists and locals alike," he said.

He continued that planning and creating a leisure destination around Mohammad Hassan Khan Bridge could be a great solution for its preservation and maintenance.

"Only through solidarity and harmony between Babol's City Council and the municipality can we achieve a great success in this regard," he concluded.



The Horror, The Horror

Israel's genocidal attacks, which are killing hundreds of Palestinians a day, including some 160 children, have expanded to shelling the remaining hospitals in Gaza.



By Chris Hedges
Pulitzer
Prize winner

OPINION

DOHA, Qatar: I am in the studio of Al Jazeera's Arabic service watching a live feed from Gaza City. The Al Jazeera reporter in northern Gaza, because of the intense Israeli shelling, was forced to evacuate to southern Gaza. He left his camera behind. He trained it on Al-Shifa hospital, Gaza's largest medical complex. It is night. Israeli tanks fire directly towards the hospital compound. Long horizontal red flashes. A deliberate attack on a hospital. A deliberate war crime. A deliberate massacre of the most helpless civilians, including the very sick and infants. Then the feed goes dead.

We sit in front of the monitors. We are silent. We know what this means. No power. No water. No internet. No medical supplies. Every infant in an incubator will die. Every dialysis patient will die. Everyone in the intensive care unit will die. Everyone who needs oxygen will die. Everyone who needs emergency surgery will die. And what will happen to the 50,000 people who, driven from their homes by the relentless bombing, have taken refuge on the hospital grounds? We know the answer to that as well. Many

of them, too, will die.

There are no words to express what we are witnessing. In the five weeks of horror this is one of the pinnacles of horror. The indifference of Europe is bad enough. The active complicity by the United States is unfathomable. Nothing justifies this. Nothing. And Joe Biden will go down in history as an accomplice to genocide. May the ghosts of the thousands of children he has participated in murdering haunt him for the rest of his life.

Israel and the United States are sending a chilling message to the rest of the world. International and humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention, are meaningless pieces of paper. They did not apply in Iraq. They do not apply in Gaza. We will pulverize your neighborhoods and cities with bombs and missiles. We will wantonly murder your women, children, elderly and sick. We will set up blockades to engineer starvation and the spread of infectious diseases. You, the "lesser breeds" of the earth, do not matter. To us you are vermin to be extinguished. We have everything. If you try and take any of it away from

us, we will kill you. And we will never be held accountable.

We are not hated for our values. We are hated because we have no values. We are hated because rules only apply to others. Not to us. We are hated because we have arrogated to ourselves the right to carry out indiscriminate slaughter. We are hated because we are heartless and cruel. We are hated because we are hypocrites, talking about protecting civilians, the rule of law and humanitarianism while extinguishing the lives of hundreds of people in Gaza a day, including 160 children.

Israel reacted with indignation and moral outrage when it was accused of bombing the al-Ahli Arab Christian hospital in Gaza, which left hundreds of dead. The bombing, Israel claimed, came from an errant rocket fired by Palestine Islamic Jihad. There is nothing in the arsenal of Hamas or Islamic Jihad that could have replicated the massive explosive power of the missile that struck the hospital. Those of us who have covered Gaza have heard this Israel trope so many times it is risible. They always blame Hamas and the Palestinians for their war crimes,

now attempting to argue that hospitals are Hamas command centers and therefore legitimate targets. They never provide evidence. The Israeli military and government lie like they breathe.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), which has staff working in Al-Shifa, issued a statement saying patients, doctors and nurses are "trapped in hospitals under fire." It called on the "Israeli government to cease this unrelenting assault on Gaza's health system."

"Over the past 24 hours, hospitals in Gaza have been under relentless bombardment. Al-Shifa hospital complex, the biggest health facility where MSF staff are still working, has been hit several times, including the maternity and outpatient departments, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries," the statement read. "The hostilities around the hospital have not stopped. MSF teams and hundreds of patients are still inside Al-Shifa hospital. MSF urgently reiterates its calls to stop the attacks against hospitals, for an immediate ceasefire and for the protection of medical facilities, medical staff and patients."



Three other hospitals in northern Gaza and Gaza City are encircled by Israeli forces and tanks, in what a doctor told Al Jazeera was a “day of war against hospitals.” The Indonesian Hospital has reportedly also lost power. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that 20 of 36 hospitals in Gaza no longer function.

Israel and Washington’s cynicism is breathtaking. There are no differences in intent. Washington only wants it done quickly. Humanitarian corridors? Pauses in the shelling? These are vehicles to facilitate the total depopulation of northern Gaza. The handful of aid trucks allowed through the border at Rafah with Egypt? A public relations gimmick. There is only one goal – kill, kill, kill. The faster the better. All Biden officials talk about is what comes next once Israel has finished its decimation of

Gaza. They know Israel’s slaughter will not end until Gazans are living in the open without shelter in the southern part of the strip and dying because of a lack of food, water and medical care.

Gaza before Israel’s ground incursion was one of the most densely populated spots on the planet. Imagine what will happen with 1.1 million Gazans from the north piled on top of over 1 million in the south. Imagine what will take place when infectious diseases such as cholera become an epidemic. Imagine the ravages of starvation. The pressure will build to do something. And that something, Israel hopes, will be to push the Palestinians over the border into the Sinai in Egypt. Once there, they will never return. Israel’s ethnic cleansing of Gaza will be complete. Its ethnic cleansing of the West Bank will begin. That is Israel’s demented dream. To achieve it, they will make

Gaza uninhabitable.

Ask yourself, if you were a Palestinian in Gaza and had access to a weapon what would you do? If Israel killed your family, how would you react? Why would you care about international or humanitarian law when you know it only applies to the oppressed, not the oppressors? If terror is the only language Israel uses to communicate, the only language it apparently understands, wouldn’t you speak back with terror? Israel’s orgy of death will not crush Hamas. Hamas is an idea. This idea is fed on the blood of martyrs. Israel is giving Hamas an abundant supply.

** Chris Hedges is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist who was a foreign correspondent for fifteen years for The New York Times. He posted this note on his website on November 11. (chrishedges.substack.com)*



Ask yourself, if you were a Palestinian in Gaza and had access to a weapon what would you do? If Israel killed your family, how would you react? Why would you care about international or humanitarian law when you know it only applies to the oppressed, not the oppressors?

If Israel Doesn’t Stop the Genocide of Palestinians, War Will Escalate



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily’s
correspondent
in Pakistan

OPINION

The occupying Israeli government, in its aggressive actions against the Palestinians, has not hesitated to unleash brutality. The region is witnessing the inevitable spread of war and bloodshed, as evident from the reactions of groups in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen who sympathize with the Palestinian cause.

Israel has already claimed the lives of thousands of children, leading to severe public backlash against Israel worldwide. Secretary of State Blinken’s visit to Tel Aviv exposed American support, not just for Israel’s government but also for its oppressive actions, making it clear that the United States, along with its Western allies, uses human rights rhetoric as a mere facade to serve political interests.

Last week, Yemen’s Prime Minister Abdulaziz bin Habtoor expressed his commitment to continue opposing Israeli actions until the Israeli forces and extremist armed Jewish settlers stop their atrocities against Palestinians. Despite facing challenges in negotiations with the Saudi-led military coalition supporting the Yemeni government in Sana’a, bin Habtoor emphasized that defending the Palestinian people and resisting Israel is a sacred religious duty for every Muslim and Arab.

Saudi Arabia is under pressure from the United States and some European countries to break the ceasefire agreement with Yemen and launch an attack on the capital, Sana’a. However, there are doubts about Saudi Arabia falling into the American trap.

Despite severe attacks on Aramco after the intense assault on Yemen, the Saudi government had prepared for conflict with Yemen and is engaged in negotiations to resolve differences. With full military support from the United States, Israel continues its brutal aggression against Palestinians in Gaza, amounting to ethnic cleansing.

American media has acknowledged that U.S. military advisers and commanders are actively involved in Operation Room, and American naval forces are following the orders of Operation Room in Israel. The United States has also sent nuclear submarines to support Israel militarily, escalating the already dangerous game of war. There are reports from Eastern Europe’s media that the United States is working on a project to bring rented military forces from Ukraine to occupied Palestine.

The Jewish president of Ukraine has already subjected the Christian majority to a war that resulted in destruction and ruin. According to Palestinian authorities, more than 50% of the structures in Gaza have been damaged by Israeli bombings. Israeli forces are targeting not only hospitals but also urban infrastructure to make the region uninhabitable for years to come. These actions are contributing to the spread of war.

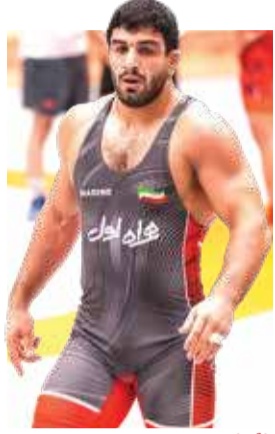
The United States is grappling with intense resistance in Syria and Iraq, where resistance groups are launching continuous rocket attacks on American bases. The Pentagon indicates that U.S. military bases in Iraq and Syria are no longer secure. Besides financial losses, American forces are suffering severe casualties. Russia’s involvement and military advancements in the Middle East suggest that the balance of power is shifting, and if this trend continues, it could lead to a global war, with Israel and its patron, the United States, being responsible for the immense human losses.



A view of the exterior of Al-Shifa Hospital is seen in Gaza City on Nov. 10, 2023, amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement.

AFP

Qasempour to switch weight class ahead of Olympics



iwfir

Sports Desk

Iranian freestyle wrestler Kamran Qasempour will compete in the 97kg contests in the coming months as he will be looking to take part at next summer's Paris Olympics, the country's Wrestling Federation confirmed. Qasempour dominated the 92kg category by claiming back-to-back world golds in 2021 and 2022 – before missing out on September's event in Belgrade with a groin injury – but will now have to move up to the Olympic weight class with just over eight months until the Games in the French capital.

On his return to the wrestling mat, Qasempour will begin his quest for the Olympic berth with the participation in December's Iranian Championships. The winner of the 97kg contests will be "the first choice to represent the country at the Asian Championships [in April] as well as the Olympic qualification tournaments," the Iranian federation said.

The federation's announcement put a lid on speculations over the Iranian 86kg slot at the Olympics.

With Hassan Yazdani set to be sidelined for five to six months after undergoing a surgery on his injured shoulder, rumors in recent weeks suggested that Qasempour could be in contention to replace the nine-time world and Olympic medalist for the Paris Games.

Should Qasempour secure the Olympic quota, he will join the list of favorites for 97kg glory in Paris – including Russian-born Bahraini Akhmed Tazhudinov, who won the world gold in Belgrade, as well as Russian sensation Abdurashid Sadulaev and American Kyle Snyder, a four-time world and Olympic gold medalist.

The men's wrestling competitions will be staged across six freestyle and Greco-Roman weight classes apiece.

Amir-Hossein Zare' sealed a freestyle 125kg for Iran after cruising to the gold at the World Championships. Yazdani and Rahman Amouzad (65kg) also won the berths for the country after finishing runner-up and fifth in Belgrade respectively.

FIFA U-17 World Cup:

Iran heartbroken by late defeat but likely to progress to last 16

Sports Desk

Iran was devastated to concede a late goal in the 2-1 defeat against England in their Group C encounter at the U-17 World Cup but remains on course for a place in the knockout stage of the tournament in Indonesia.

Having rallied from behind to beat defending champion Brazil 3-2 in the group opener, Hossein Abdi's boys looked set to pull off another upset when Abolfazl Zamani gave them the lead on the half-hour mark, only to see his goal canceled out by Reiss Denny's tame effort from behind the box in the 63rd minute.

Manchester City academy product Joel Ndala completed the comeback for England with a sublime first-touch effort from an acute angle in the 90th minute to send the 2017 champion atop the table with maximum points.

Iran is third in the group, equal on points with second-placed Brazil, which thrashed New Caledonia 9-0 earlier on Tuesday.

Apologetic Abdi

"England was lucky to score two goals," Iran head coach Hossein Abdi said after the match, adding: "Of course they are [former] world champions but we had no fear today and could have won it. I have to apologize to the Iranian people for the result."

England enjoyed 62 per-



Iranian keeper Arsha Shakouri looks on as England striker Ethan Nwaneri hits the target during a Group C match at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Jakarta, Indonesia, on November 14, 2023.

ALEX CAPARROS/GETTY IMAGES

cent of the possession and had 21 attempts against Iran's seven, though Abdi was unfazed by the stats at fulltime.

"We were comfortable and in control even after we scored. I don't care if they made a thousand passes

because we were after the victory but unfortunately, that did not happen," added Abdi, who also rued the heavy rain affecting the pitch at the Jakarta International Stadium.

"The English players are more used to playing in this

kind of weather, not to mention my players only had two days of recovery after the game against Brazil. We had to play the champions of the previous two editions in the space of three days, and it is important to get enough rest in those

circumstances. My players were clearly exhausted in the closing stages today," said Abdi.

"I wish we would have played New Caledonia for our second game, so that I could rest some of the players before the final

match."

Iran will face New Caledonia on Friday, with a victory seemingly enough to see Abdi's side progress – at least as one of the four best third-placed teams across the six groups – to the last-16 round.

Iran wins men's title at WT World Cup Team Championships Series



IRNA

Sports Desk

Iran emerged as the men's champion at the WT World Cup Team Championships Series, thanks to a 2-0 victory over Australia in Wednesday's showdown in Goyang, South Korea. The Iranian trio of Mirhashem Hosseini, Amir-Mohammad Bakhshi, and Abolfazl Abbasi began their title run

with a 2-1 triumph over the host country at the KINTEX 2 Exhibition Center before defeating Brazil in straight rounds for a place in the final contest.

Morocco, Mexico, Côte d'Ivoire, and China were the other teams in the men's draw.

Iran was also represented by Melika Mirhosseini, Yalda Valinejad, and Tina Madanlou in the women's

contests, but suffered an early exit after a defeat against China.

South Korea came out on top against Morocco in the women's final, with China beating Mexico for the bronze.

Mirhosseini and Valinejad will team up with Hosseini and Abbasi in the mixed-gender competitions today.

Iran to begin World Cup qualifiers against Hong Kong, Uzbekistan

Sports Desk

Iran will begin its quest for a place in the 2026 World Cup – to be staged across Canada, Mexico, and the United States – with a game against Hong Kong at Tehran's Azadi Stadium today in Group E of the Asian qualifiers.

Iran head coach Amir Qalenoee will have a final insight into his assets during this week's international break before the country heads to Qatar for January's

AFC Asian Cup.

The Asian powerhouse will then visit Tashkent to take on Uzbekistan at the Milliy Stadium on Tuesday.

Qalenoee will hope to have his prolific striker Mahdi Taremi back to his best form ahead of the event in Qatar, after the Porto talisman got off to slow start in the new season, scoring three in 15 appearances for the Portuguese giant in all competitions.

Sardar Azmoun also joined up with the rest

of the Iranian squad on Tuesday fresh from bagging his first goal for AS Roma in a 2-1 victory over Lecce in the Serie A less than a fortnight ago. Iran will again play Hong Kong in Group C of the Asian Cup, also featuring Palestine and the United Arab Emirates, as the three-time champion will be chasing a first trophy since 1976 – the last time Iran went past the semi-finals at the continent's flagship international tournament.



FFIRI

Iran FM: US humanitarian aid in Gaza mere gesture

International Desk

The Iranian foreign minister said that the United States has mostly made a symbolic gesture for sending humanitarian aid into Gaza and, in practice, nothing significant is happening. Referring to the US military aid to Israel, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said as Americans are sending all kinds of weapons, including phosphorous and prohibited weapons to Tel Aviv through Cyprus, or directly from all their bases across the region and killing the oppressed people of Gaza, their humanitarian aid gestures are nothing more than a claim that they are providing humanitarian assistance, and in practice nothing significant is happening. On the sidelines of a meeting with UN humanitarian chief in Geneva on Wednesday, the Iranian official said the aim of his visit to Geneva is to hold talks with UN and other officials on aid deliveries to Gaza. During the meeting with UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths, he called on the United Nations

Wednesday to do more to get desperately needed aid into the besieged strip. "The amount of humanitarian aid sent to Gaza is very small, almost zero, and it is necessary for the United Nations to take immediate and serious action in this regard," Amir-Abdollahian said. Trucks carrying the first delivery of fuel to Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war began on October 7 crossed from Egypt on Wednesday but the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said it was "not at all enough". In his talks with Griffiths, the foreign minister called for "strong and urgent management by the UN to remove the blockage at the Rafah border crossing and get humanitarian aid into Gaza". He also called for an immediate halt to Israel's bloody aggression against the Gaza Strip, stressing that the occupying regime has "no chance" to win the war. The Palestinian enclave has endured more than five weeks of Israeli air and ground attack that have killed 11,320 people, mostly civilians, according to its Health Ministry.



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (R) talks with UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths ahead of a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 15, 2023. **MEHDI BOLOURIAN/IRNA**

Hamas stance

Referring to his meetings in Doha with Qatari and Hamas officials, Amir-Abdollahian said that the Palestinian resistance movement is ready to act regarding the captives being held by Hamas since the October 7 operation. "If the Israeli regime stops

the genocide in Gaza, resistance groups will also stop counterattacks," he noted. The UN humanitarian chief, for his part, expressed his satisfaction with the meeting and expounded on the UN humanitarian efforts in Gaza. He also underlined the

need to find a solution to the issue of Israeli captives and provide basic needs, especially fuel, to the Gazans. Griffiths further voiced concern about the terrible condition inside Gaza's Shifa hospital, which is a tragedy amid Israel's military raid. The general director of

hospitals in the Gaza Strip says Israeli troops have fired at people inside the hospital. He appreciated Iran's efforts to prevent the spread of the war and stressed the need for more efforts to stop the war and end the current alarming situation in Gaza.

Israel storms Shifa Hospital



AFP

'Stop this horror'

The head of the UN children's agency said Wednesday she had witnessed "devastating" scenes on a visit to Gaza and urged both sides to "stop this horror." "What I saw and heard was devastating. They have endured repeated bombardment, loss and displacement," UNICEF's executive director Catherine Russell said. "Inside the Strip, there is nowhere safe for Gaza's one million children to turn," Russell said in a statement. The United Nations and the Red Cross voiced alarm, demanding that thousands of patients and civilians be protected. "I'm appalled by reports of military raids in Shifa hospital in Gaza," UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said on X. "The protection of newborns, patients, medical staff and all civilians must override all other concerns. "Hospitals are not battlegrounds." The United Nations estimates that at least 2,300 people – patients, staff and displaced civilians – are inside and may be unable to escape because of fierce fighting.

'End indiscriminate killing'

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Wednesday urged Israel to end the "indiscriminate killing of Palestinians" in Gaza, in his sharpest criticism of Israel since the regime launched its brutal ground and aerial attacks on Gaza over a month ago. "We demand an immediate cease-fire on the part of Israel in Gaza and strict compliance with international humanitarian law, which today is clearly not respected," he said. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called for Israel to stop "killing babies," earning a furious response from Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu. Trudeau said on Tuesday that the "killing of women, of children, of babies" in the besieged Gaza Strip must end. Israel's ensuing aerial bombardment and ground offensive have so far killed 11,320 people, mostly civilians, including thousands of children.

Iran's Chief Rabbi: Zionism like Daesh

Younes Hamami Lalehzar, the religious leader of Iranian Jews, said that Zionism is like Daesh as both are characterized by radical and extreme ideology and falsely present themselves as the main and only representative of their respective religion. Iran's chief rabbi told Nour News in a recent interview that Jews across the world oppose the Zionist regime in Israel which he claims has no connection to Judaism. He claimed that the root of the issue in the war between Israel and Hamas was "when Zionism was created," asserting that Zionism caused the most significant damage to the image and belief of Jews

worldwide. Hamami Lalehzar also maintained that the Zionist regime has abused the term antisemitism, according to Israel's Ynet news. The rabbi further mentioned that initially "the first opposition to Zionism came from Jews themselves" and added that "this opposition continues to this day." "Israel is trying to correlate between Hamas and Daesh. Daesh wasn't a representative of Islam, and Muslims around the world have been against the ideology and actions of Daesh throughout history. Similarly, the Zionist regime does not represent the beliefs of the majority of Jews worldwide, but this

abuse continues with the support of the West and the United States." Rabbi Hamami Lalehzar added, "Today, the Zionist regime is seen as corrupt in the global public opinion. This significance can be seen from the anti-Zionist actions of nations supporting the oppressed Palestinian nation, including in European and American capitals, traditionally considered great supporters of this regime." "People from all around the world, regardless of religion, language, or race, see Palestinian children as innocents. Iranians gathered on Monday, November 8, in a spontaneous protest in some of our cities against

the crimes of the Zionist regime. This protest, alongside numerous gatherings in different cities worldwide with the participation of Jews and followers of other religions, is a clear testament to the Zionist regime's absurdity." He also claimed that "this illegitimate regime, which was founded on several Jewish ideals and beliefs, now provides fuel to its war machine using those same false beliefs." "Zionism claimed that they are the only refuge for Jews and that Jews would not be safe anywhere except in Israel. However, since the beginning of Iran's Islamic Revolution, we, the Iranian Jews, have been living well. Jews here are separate from

the Zionists. Iran's policy has ensured that the rights of the Jewish minority are respected. Iranian Jews have always stood against the Zionist regime, and there was no tendency to join this movement in Iran's Jewish community."

Iran's Chief Rabbi Younes Hamami Lalehzar (front) **MEHR**



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Hague court orders Dutch firm to compensate for Saddam's chemical attacks

The court in The Hague ordered the Dutch company Forafina Beleggingen (formerly KBS Holland) to compensate five Iranian victims who sustained injuries or health damage during Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's poison gas attacks in the 1980s. The amount of compensation has yet to be determined. KBS Holland did not appear during the trial in June, NL Times reported. The Dutch company Melchemie (Now Otjiaha), owned by billionaire Hans Melchers, who died early this month, is not liable for personal injury, the court ruled. The Iranians were soldiers or volunteers in the Iranian army when they suffered horrific injuries as a result of Iraqi attacks with mustard gas, their lawyer Lisebeth Zegveld said. They were fighting in the border area between Iran

and Iraq at the time and were between 16 and 22 years old. According to the victims, the Dutch companies are liable because they supplied Iraq with raw materials for making mustard gas. The victims still suffer from severe health damage and problems with their lungs, eyes, and skin. "The impact of mustard gas never stops and only gets worse," Zegveld said during the trial.





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More international celebrities show solidarity with Palestine

Prominent figures face backlash and firings for pro-Palestinian statements

A group of world famous figures including artists signed on to powerful statements of solidarity with the people of Gaza, calling for a cease-fire. In addition, as the conflict intensifies, a growing number of public figures find themselves involved in controversy, facing consequences for their expressions on the Israel-Hamas war. From renowned artists experiencing backlash and losing fan support to the tangible impact on their professional lives, the repercussions for those aligning with Palestinians' cause are varied and significant.



Artists voice support for Gaza

A few days ago in Iran, the Tehran Peace Museum and the Iranian House of Artists, in a joint statement, condemned the Israeli regime for its brutal carnage of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and asked for an immediate cease-fire there. Over 120 Iranian actors and war veterans are on the list of the statement addressed to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, asking a measure to put an end to Israel's 'open oppression' against 2.3 million people in the blockaded territory, IRNA reported.

"Dear Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations! We, Iranian actors, together with the veterans

and chemically wounded survivors of the Iran-Iraq war, 1980-1988, by signing this sorrowful letter, ask you to do your utmost to stop the open oppression that is going on against the besieged women, children and civilians in Gaza," the statement reads.

It adds, "Mr. Guterres, the position you hold, whether you like it or not, represents the historical conscience of today's mankind, and your performance will be the proof for the judgment of generations to come."

Renowned Iranian actors and directors including Davoud Mir-Baqeri, Majid Majidi, Leila Hatami, Kamal Tabrizi, Parviz

Parastouei, along with the Iranian war veterans, are on the 126-person list.

Elsewhere, a group of over one hundred literary translators—including International Booker Prize winners Jennifer Croft, Daisy Rockwell, and Deborah Smith, as well as Susan Bernofsky and Antonia Lloyd-Jones—have signed on to a powerful statement of solidarity with the people of Gaza, calling for a cease-fire and identifying aspects of the special role translators play in moments of international conflict.

In addition, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC) and United Nations bodies such as the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UK-based charity Oxfam called for the protection of civilians and pointed to the

deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza amid the Israeli attacks on civilians. Austrian writer and activist Wilhelm Langthaler, in an interview with Anadolu Agency, sharply criticized the government for its unconditional support for Israel and for turning a blind eye to the civilian deaths caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza. Musician and Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters shared a video on social media to call for a cease-fire, and his peer, British singer Yusuf Islam, addressed the "Great Palestine Meeting," a pro-Palestine rally in Istanbul on Oct. 28, also to call for a cease-fire.

More than 2,000 artists demanded an "immediate cease-fire" and the opening of Gaza's crossings to allow residents to leave the enclave amid Israeli strikes. Artists for Palestine UK released a letter signed by more than 2,000 artists includ-

ing famous novelists, singers, playwrights and filmmakers as well as famed actors and actresses such as Tilda Swinton, Charles Dance, Steve Coogan, Miriam Margolyes and Peter Mullan.

Plus, Oscar winning actress Cate Blanchett called for a cease-fire in the besieged Gaza Strip, Anadolu Agency reported.

"I am not Syrian. I am not Ukrainian. I'm not Yemeni. I'm not Afghani. I'm not from South Sudan. I'm not from Israel or Palestine. I'm not a politician. I'm not even a pundit. But I am a witness," the goodwill ambassador for the UN refugee agency UNHCR said in an address to the European Parliament.

She deplored the human cost of war, violence and persecution across the globe, particularly in Israel and Gaza over the past few weeks.



● Davoud Mir-Baqeri



● Majid Majidi



● Leila Hatami



● Kamal Tabrizi



● Parviz Parastouei



● Jennifer Croft



● Roger Waters



● Tilda Swinton

Figures being under fire for solidarity with Palestine



● David Velasco

David Velasco, the editor in chief of Artforum magazine, was reportedly fired after the magazine published an open letter in response to the war.

On October 19, the top art magazine posted a letter entitled: "An open letter from the art community to cultural organizations". The letter, signed by thousands of artists and cultural workers including Nan Goldin (photographer), called for an immediate cease-fire, humanitarian aid into Gaza and broader Palestinian liberation.

"We support Palestinian liberation and call for an end to the killing and harming of all civilians, an immediate cease-fire,

the passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and the end of the complicity of our governing bodies in grave human rights violations and war crimes," the letter read, in part.

A top executive at the talent agency Creative Arts Agency (CAA) has also faced backlash and is stepping back from leadership roles after reposting an Instagram story on Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Maha Dakhil, a co-head of the motion picture department with CAA, has stepped down from the agency's internal board and will be stepping back from her position at the agency, the

● Maha Dakhil

Los Angeles Times reported.



● Susan Sarandon

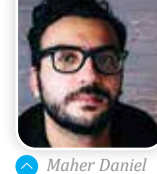
The latest star facing cancellation calls is actress and activist Susan Sarandon, after the 77-year-old declared support for Palestinians on social media.

Taking to X—the social network formerly known as Twitter—on November 4, Sarandon reposted a photo of herself on stage at the #March4Palestine protest in Washington, D.C., according to Newsweek.

"You don't have to be Palestinian to care about what's happening in Gaza," she wrote, alongside the snap with members of the Palestinian Feminist Collective. "I stand with Palestine. No one is free until everyone is free."

This also isn't the first time Sarandon has expressed support for Palestinians. In December 2021, the Oscar winner tweeted a graphic of South African anti-apartheid activist Desmond Tutu that read: "Israel will never get true security and safety through oppressing another people. A true peace can ultimately be built only on justice."

Barcelona-based Palestinian producer Maher Daniel is one of them. Speaking to Resident Advisor, he said one of his Instagram stories condemning the Israeli occupation of Palestine triggered a spate

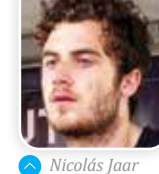


● Maher Daniel

of responses calling him a "terrorism

supporter". He said it's unfair to call out Hamas "atrocities" but not those committed "daily" against Palestinians by "Zionist settlers". The October 7 attacks, he added, were a direct response to human rights violations, land grabs, systemic violence, displacement and illegal settlements imposed on Palestinians, ra.co wrote.

In Germany, where the authorities have been cracking down on pro-Palestinian protests, artists like Nicolás Jaar have been de-platformed for their views. Others have felt compelled to cancel gigs because of the response from certain clubs or venues.



● Nicolás Jaar

response from certain clubs or venues.