

Iran, Cuba agree on joint production of meningitis vaccine: Official



Economy Desk

Iran has established collaborations with Cuba in various fields, including the biotechnology field, as the two countries have agreed to cooperate in the joint production of a meningitis vaccine, announced an aide to Iran's foreign minister.

Issa Kameli, who is also the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of the Americas, told ISNA on Sunday that there is a bright perspective in the relations between Iran and Latin America, as Tehran has a strong will to expand ties with LatAm states based on common interests.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba was the first country to share the vaccine manufacturing technology with us, said the official, adding that this measure of Havana is important and valuable for Iran.

Tehran's relations with Havana are growing following the visit of the presidents of the two countries and the agreements reached, he said, noting that Cuban officials were also satisfied with the visit they made to Tehran last week.

We are trying to expand relations between Iran and Latin American countries at the highest level, Kameli stated.

Iran talks with 20 countries to foster air transport cooperation: CAO



The head of the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) said negotiations were conducted with 20 countries on the development of air transportation cooperation on the sidelines of the 15th ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN2023) which was held on Decem-

ber 3-7. Speaking on the occasion of commemorating International Civil Aviation Day, Mohammad Mohammadi-Bakhsh pointed to organizing the ICAN2023 in Saudi Arabia and said the talks were held on the development of the flight network, reported Tasnim news

agency. He said the realization of the two components of safety and security, emphasized in the Chicago Treaty, is given serious attention in Iran's aviation transport industry. The CAO has gained eye-catching achievements in this industry, especially in recent years, he further em-

phasized. Despite the economic war the US and its allies have waged against Iran over the past 43 years, the CAO has been successful in the fields of repair and maintenance, design and construction of planes, using the technical know-how and experience of new technology-based

companies, Mohammadi-Bakhsh said. Also, in the ceremony of commemorating International Civil Aviation Day, the memorial stamp of the CAO was unveiled. In April, Mohammadi-Bakhsh said his organization had taken giant strides in the current Iranian year (started March 21) to

develop the air transportation fleet as well as to boost the flight network. He went on to say that the CAO has inked memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with 30 countries over the past 18 months, adding that the country has launched direct flights to 60 destinations worldwide.

Huge fire erupts at refinery; reservoirs explode in East Iran

A huge fire broke out on Sunday morning at an oil refinery in the eastern Iranian province of South Khorasan, leading to the simultaneous explosion of several gas condensate reservoirs, Tasnim news agency reported.

The fire started at one of the reservoirs of the refinery, which is located in Birjand Special Economic Zone, at 8:45 a.m. local time (0515 GMT), the report said.

Firefighting, rescue and emergency teams were dispatched to the scene immediately, while firefighters were trying to contain the fire, it spread to other nearby reservoirs, causing them to explode simultaneously, added the report.

"Five firefighting groups as well as a number of fire engines are at the scene trying to cool the nearby reservoirs down to prevent the further spread of the blaze,"

Tasnim quoted Birjand's Governor Ali Fazelifard as saying.

He added that the refinery had been completely evacuated to minimize potential human casualties, noting the cause of the incident had not been determined yet.

According to Tasnim, the refinery belongs to the Azaran Sanaat Barsava Company, which produces light and heavy hydrocarbons using gas condensates.



Israel has become ...

The consciousness gained by the world's public opinion about the events in Palestine is one of the achievements of the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm by Hamas. On the other hand, Western governments, especially the US, have remained silent regarding this massacre by Israel. We hope that this awakening and public awareness can finally put pressure on Western governments.

The West, led by the US, has claimed universal values over the past decades as it has tried to promote them in different ways in the world. Values such as democracy, human rights, equality and human dignity, conventions

and international law. In your opinion, how is the recent US vetoing of the proposed resolution connected with such values?

Vetoing the proposed resolution for a cease-fire in Gaza, has not only nothing to do with those claimed values, but is in the opposite direction.

With this vetoing, Americans put their political dignity into doubt. Basically, the Gaza war revealed the contradictions of Western countries led by America.

On the one hand, they claim human rights and international conventions on war and respecting the rights of civilians while, on the other hand, they supported Israel against the violation of all international conventions and laws.

They had the same atti-

tude towards the war in Ukraine and condemned and sanctioned Russia as well as President Vladimir Putin, but they have remained silent about the war crimes and genocide in Gaza.

In fact, Westerners highlight their claimed values such as democracy and human rights when their interests demand it, and they are indifferent to the violation of these values wherever their interests do not demand it. On Friday, a US official said that the damage done by Israel to the United States' position in the world is irreparable.

At the head of the international bodies you mentioned is the UN, which despite the efforts made by Secretary General António Guterres, has not succeeded in do-

ing anything against Israel's inhumane attacks.

Having international organizations and institutions is better than not having them, but the fact is that these bodies are under the influence of major powers. Despite the efforts made by its Secretary General, the UN could not even support the lives of its own employees in Gaza. About 130 UN workers and aid workers have been killed in Gaza.

One point that was revealed in the Gaza war was that Israel has never sacrificed its interests for the interests of the US in the past 75 years, but US has always sacrificed its interests and policies for the interests and policies of Israel.

Although the US has tried to justify its indefensible measures by the help of its economic and media power, it cannot justify this humiliation and unconditional support of Israel, which has led to the death

of nearly 18,000 people in Gaza.

I really do not know how the US government will save face in the public opinion of the world and even in the American society.

It is as if Israel is the leader and decision-maker in US policy and Washington is only a provider of Israel's needs.

What is mostly seen in the media is the destruction and the number of victims in Gaza as well as the suffering of the people of Gaza. What have the resistance groups and the people of Gaza achieved against the damage they have seen during the two months of standing against Israel?

The Hamas attack on October 7 is called Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. The result of the storm has been destruction, and it shows that whoever sows wind, shall reap a whirlwind. Is-

rael has been sowing wind for 75 years; therefore it should have expected a whirlwind.

We hope that this storm will ultimately lead to the defeat of Israel. One of the most important achievements of the people and militant groups in Palestine is the global awakening that manifested itself in the form of large demonstrations around the world against the crimes of Israel and in support of the people of Gaza.

On the other hand, contrary to its claims, Israel has not yet succeeded in achieving its declared goals. They announced that they would destroy Hamas, release prisoners and flood Hamas tunnels in Gaza.

The Gaza Strip is about 365 square kilometers, and the Israeli Army is considered one of the most equipped armies in the world. During more than 40 days of entering

the territory of Gaza, it has been engaged in only 50-60km of the Gaza Strip, and it has not been able to take over the total area.

Hamas continues to resist and the Israeli Army could not release even one prisoner without Hamas's approval. Therefore, Israel has not made a significant achievement so far.

Perhaps US's insistence on unconditional support for Israel is because this regime has not been able to achieve its declared goals.

It is now necessary to remind people of the correctness of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on the Israel-Palestine issue. As time passes, the correctness of this policy becomes more apparent. Iran has been defending the historical and legal rights of the Palestinians and human dignity for over 40 years. As long as people support the resistance groups, the groups will not fail.