

Raisi: CBI's transparency encourages investors



IRNA

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi underlined that providing timely, quick, and clear information on foreign exchange issues by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) will give more confidence to investors and businessmen. He made the remarks during the 63rd annual session of the Central Bank's General and Extraordinary Assembly on Saturday after listening to the eight-month performance report by CBI Governor Mohammad Reza Farzin, according to president.ir.

Offering some recommendations for improving the performance of the Central Bank, the president added, "All decisions and actions in the foreign exchange sector should be aimed at disciplining the foreign exchange market and guiding it towards compliance with the policies of the Central Bank."

"Every decision of the central bank in the foreign exchange system is mandatory and all institutions and companies should be obliged to comply with these decisions," said the chief executive.

Emphasizing sustainable inflation control and liquidity control due to the direct impact of these two economic phenomena on the banking and monetary system of the country as well as the performance of entrepreneurs and investors, Raisi expressed appreciation for the central bank's measures in order to successfully control liquidity growth.

"Inflation control and liquidity control should be achieved not by creating stagnation but through production growth because recession is harmful to the country's economy as much as inflation and liquidity growth."

The president highlighted the need for serious monitoring and special sensitivity towards bank overdrafts and the planning to prevent this practice in the Central Bank, while stressing the necessity of obtaining appropriate guarantees from banks in exceptional cases.

"The central bank should be careful in reviewing overdrafts so that these evaluations are based on true and real information, not false and illusory information," he underlined.

Pointing out that bank balance sheets are a necessary but insufficient tool for monitoring the performance of banks, Raisi obliged the central bank to examine the effectiveness of the Iranian banks' extension of bank loans in production, and if the desired goals are not met, to reconsider and take action in this field.

Israel launched 'most devastating modern warfare': Report ICJ steps in at last

Defeating Hamas impossible: Former Israeli PMs

International Desk

South Africa has filed an application at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to begin proceedings over allegations of genocide against Israel for its war against Hamas in Gaza, the court said on Friday.

Pretoria accused Tel Aviv of being "in violation of its obligations under the Genocide Convention" in its application and argues that "acts and omissions by Israel ... are genocidal in character, as they are committed with the requisite specific intent ... to destroy Palestinians in Gaza," according to the ICJ.

Moreover, South Africa asked the court to issue provisional or short-term measures ordering Israel to stop its military campaign in Gaza, which it said were "necessary in this case to protect against further, severe, and irreparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people".

Over 21,672 people have been killed in Gaza since October 7, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Israel's aerial bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza have caused widespread devastation in the densely-inhabited coastal strip, prompting outcry from aid groups and the international community, CNN reported.

Arabs and Jews rallied together in Tel Aviv in support of a ceasefire in Gaza as Israeli forces step up their bombardment of the besieged Palestinian territory, according to AFP.

More weapons for Israel

Israeli warplanes struck two urban refugee camps in central Gaza on Saturday, as the Biden administration approved a new emergency weapons sale to Israel despite persistent international cease-fire calls over mounting civilian deaths, hunger, and mass displacement in the enclave.

Residents in the urban refugee camps of Nuseirat and Bureij, two recent hot spots of combat, reported Israeli airstrikes overnight and into Saturday, AP wrote.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Congress he approved a \$147.5 million sale for equipment, including fuses, charges, and primers, that is needed for 155 mm shells Israel bought previously.

It marked the second time this month that the Biden administration is bypassing Congress to approve an emergency weapons sale to Israel.

Hamas says that with the US administration supplying artillery shells to Israeli forces, it is a participant in the war of extermination against children and civilians in Gaza.

The Wall Street Journal has reported that the war in Gaza "is generating destruction comparable in scale to the most devastating warfare in the modern record".

In a report published on Saturday, it confirmed that by mid-December Israel had dropped 29,000 bombs, munitions, and shells on the besieged enclave, destroying or dam-



An aerial view on December 26, 2023, shows destroyed buildings in Beit Lahia following Israeli bombardments in the northern Gaza Strip.
AFP

aging nearly 70 percent of Gaza's homes.

Israeli systems humiliated, inefficient

Israel says it is determined to pursue its unprecedented air and ground offensive until it has dismantled Hamas, a goal viewed by some as unattainable because of the resistance group's deep roots in Palestinian society.

On Friday, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak published an opinion article, in which he said "Despite the clear American support and the openness of many countries in the region to study new ideas to solve the problem in Gaza at the be-

ginning of the war, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu systematically avoided any discussion about what will happen here in the end." Barak described October 7, 2023, as "the most dangerous event in the history of Israel", which led to the killing of 1,300 people and the kidnapping of 250 others, in addition to "humiliation, inefficiency, and dysfunction" in Israel's systems.

An investigation by the New York Times has found that the Israeli army was "undermanned" and "out of position" during the October 7 attack by Hamas. The Times added that the army was "so poorly organized that soldiers com-

municated in impromptu WhatsApp groups and relied on social media posts for targeting information". "Commandos rushed into battle armed only for brief combat. Helicopter pilots were ordered to look to news reports and Telegram channels to choose targets".

Earlier on Thursday, Ehud Olmert, another former Israeli prime minister, wrote in an op-ed on Haaretz that "the odds of achieving the complete elimination of Hamas were nil from the moment that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared it the chief goal of the war".

While Israel has repeatedly vowed to destroy

Hamas, Cairo has proposed a plan involving renewable cease-fires, a staggered release of hostages for Palestinian prisoners, and ultimately an end to the war, say sources close to Hamas.

Speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, a Hamas official said the group's delegation present in Cairo would "give the response of the Palestinian factions, including several observations" regarding the proposal Egypt recently submitted to Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Hamas would seek "guarantees for a complete Israeli military withdrawal" from Gaza, the official said.

Record-breaking arms sales

However, German arms exports remain a complex and challenging issue that requires increased attention and scrutiny from German po-

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litical parties and the public. Key issues that should be further examined by the German public include the impact of arms exports on global peace and security, adherence to

ethical and human rights principles, alignment with foreign policies and international cooperation, and how the defense and security needs of client countries are addressed.

These issues are particularly challenging in the context of German arms exports to Ukraine and the Zionist regime of Israel.

Civil protests in Germany against arms exports to crisis regions began seriously in 2015 when the German government decided to sell 200 Leopard 2 tanks to Saudi Arabia, a country supporting the government of Mansour Hadi in the Yemeni war. This decision sparked widespread protests from peace activists, green and left-wing parties, media, and the general public, who considered it inconsistent with democratic and humane values.

Protesters in Germany have expressed their opposition to arms exports through various means, including organizing peace rallies and marches in various German cities, especially in Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, and

Munich. Symbolic and creative actions, such as painting military tanks and weapons with artificial blood, installing coffins and black flowers, conducting theatrical performances and music, laying coffins and shoes in front of the embassies of countries buying German weapons, legal actions such as filing complaints against the German government in local and international courts, presenting reports to parliamentary representatives and relevant commissions, establishing information networks, and supporting peace activists in client countries are all part of the broader movement against German arms sales.

These German civil protests have contributed to an increase in public awareness and sensitivity regarding the issue of arms exports and their effects on global peace and

security, human rights, and sustainable development. As a result, the German government has faced growing pressure to reform and clarify laws and regulations related to arms exports and adhere to international standards, such as the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.

The tensions and disagreements between the German government and client countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, dissatisfied with these protests, have been tangible outcomes of this civil opposition. Although these protests have also increased risks for peace activists, who, in some cases, have faced threats, detentions, harassment, sanctions, and even death, they have played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and pushing the German government towards reforms in arms export policies.