

Leader hails Yemen's 'great job' in support of Palestinians

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei praised the "great job" the Yemenis have done in the Red Sea in support of Palestinians despite US threats.

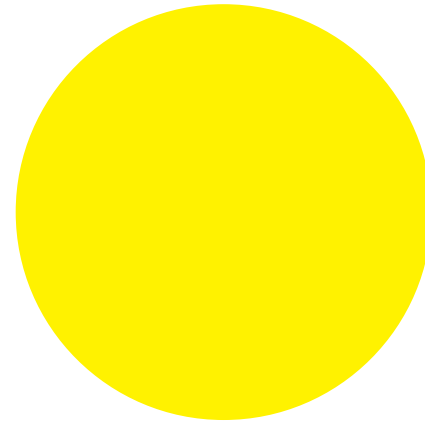
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A man who wished his books would be read after his death

In memory of Professor Karim Mojtahedi, the Iranian Philosopher (1930-2024)

SUPPLEMENT



Iran Daily

irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7487 • Wednesday, January 17, 2024 • Dey 27, 1402 • Rajab 5, 1445 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages

Clear message to Iraq, Israel



By Amir Moussavi
Strategic affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iran's missile strikes on terrorists' positions in Idlib, Syria, and an Israeli espionage center, Mossad, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq serve as a response to recent terrorist activities by Daesh (ISIS) in Kerman and the assassination of an Iranian military adviser in Syria. These attacks carry a specific message for the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Region in Iraq, as well as the Israeli regime.

Following numerous discussions between Iranian and Iraqi military and political officials regarding anti-Iranian terrorist activities in the Kurdistan Region near Iran's border, both countries have reached substantial agreements. During the recent visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister to Iran, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri expressed gratitude for Iraq's partial fulfillment of its commitments to Iran, emphasizing that Iraq's actions to remove terrorists from Iran's border area are insufficient.

For years, the autonomous Kurdistan Region has been a gathering site for anti-Iranian terrorist groups. In recent years, contrary to the will and desire of the central government of Iraq, this region has become a hub for the infiltration and activities of Israeli spies and forces. Officials in the Kurdistan Region do not comply with the central government of Iraq, and consequently, they have not fulfilled their commitments to Iran in addressing the issue of terrorism. This situation may be influenced by extensive American presence in the Kurdistan Region.

In any case, the missile operation targeting the Kurdistan Region was a significant warning to officials of both the central government and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, emphasizing the need to fulfill agreements with Iran against terrorism. Simultaneously, it conveyed a clear message to terrorists with the blood of the Iranian people on their hands that they are under surveillance, and Iran's military will reach them wherever they are.

Another clear message of these missile attacks is addressed to the Israeli regime. The proof that Iranian missiles hit the intended target in Idlib, Syria, 1,200km from the launch site, is an explicit message for the Israeli regime.

Idlib is under the control of the Al-Nusra Front terrorists and outside the Syrian central government's authority. It is a gathering place for terrorists and serves as a hub for their communication, espionage, and training. The attack on Idlib, while responding to Daesh terrorist activities in Iran, also conveys a message to the Israeli regime: Iranian missiles have successfully passed through multiple US bases in Iraq and reached the Israeli regime's borders, emphasizing Iran's high intelligence and military capabilities.

Iran's missile attacks on the Kurdistan Region and Idlib are preventive actions in securing the national interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, some anticipated reactions condemning Iran's response to terrorists may not carry much weight for the country in this context.

Iran Rids Region of Rats

IRGC targets terrorists in Iraq, Syria

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A damaged building is seen at a site of a missile attack launched by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Arbil, the capital of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, on January 16, 2024. **KURDISTAN 24/AFP**

Iranian-Islamic civilization enjoys valuable cultural assets to be presented in cinema: **President**

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Daily delivery of gas to national trunkline tops 840mcm: **Official**

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How Joe Biden became America's top Israel hawk

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Iran removes tariffs on saffron exports



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber has issued a decree ordering the removal of tariffs on saffron exports.

The decree was addressed on Tuesday to the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade, and the Finance Ministry, ordering them to remove saffron from a list of export items subject to payment of a 0.5% virtual water tax, IRNA reported.

Saffron is one of the most important export products of Iran. The country aims to increase overseas shipments of the spice by easing restrictions on exporters.

Iran's saffron export has experienced remarkable growth of \$73 million, accounting for an overwhelming 55%, in the preceding Iranian calendar year which ended on March 20, 2023.

The cultivation of saffron, colloquially known as "the red gold" in Iran, dates back to several millennia ago, with a staggering 120,000 hectares out of the 18 million hectares of arable land being utilized for the cultivation of this coveted commodity.

The largest contributor to the production of saffron is Khorasan Razavi Province in the northeast, boasting an impressive 82,000 hectares. Other notable provinces with significant production include North Khorasan, South Khorasan, Isfahan, Kerman, and Yazd.

Iran is the world's leading producer and exporter of saffron, thanks to favorable weather conditions and an abundance of foreign clientele. The latest customs statistics reveal that 207.4 tons of saffron, valued at \$206 million, were exported from the country in the last Iranian calendar year.

This is while about 241.1 tons of saffron worth \$132 million had been imported to the country a year earlier. The data highlights a remarkable \$73 million growth in the value of saffron export, equivalent to an astounding 55%.

Iranian saffron export statistics demonstrate that the saffron industry has generated approximately \$2.9 billion over the last 17 years. A total of 57 countries worldwide currently buy their saffron from Iran, which accounts for 95% of the world's saffron.

Although primarily utilized for culinary purposes within Iran, European countries predominantly employ saffron in a variety of industries including pharmaceuticals. Iran's reputation for producing the finest quality saffron on the planet attracts numerous global customers for this strategically significant commodity.

Daily delivery of gas to national trunkline tops 840mcm: *Official*



840 million cubic meters of gas are delivered to the national trunkline on a daily base.

Referring to the full readiness of the country's gas refineries in the cold days of the year, the official said all of the gas refining plans of the NIGC for the current year have been completed, ILNA reported.

The maintenance and repair operations are carried out periodically during the spring and summer to have a stable

flow of gas during the winter days, he noted.

Thanks to the overhaul operations, we now enjoy a favorable condition in delivering gas to industries and the household sector. Meanwhile, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) managing director said on Tuesday that oil and gas production in Iran, thanks to its current reserves, will continue for the next 90-100 years.

Addressing the Session to Introduce Opportunities and Framework for

Investment in Drilling Rig Service Provision with Guaranteed Purchase Contracts, Mohsen Khojastehmehr added that Iran's crude oil and natural gas on aggregate is equal to 340 billion barrels of oil, Shana reported.

The country's unconventional resources have yet to be added to the figure, noted the CEO of NIOC, adding, "We are conducting initial studies to add shale oil and gas reserves and clathrate (gas) hydrates to Iran's oil and gas

reservoirs." Iran is a rich country in terms of underground resources and it is necessary to have long-term goals for utilizing them, he underlined.

Drilling is the central core of NIOC's activity, said Khojastehmehr, adding that nothing will be left of the upstream sector if drilling is detached. Development and overhaul operations in the upstream sector are in need of drilling, he pointed out. The drilling sector is the most resilient part of the oil industry, stated the NIOC chief; oil and gas production would face challenges if the industry lacked drilling.

More than 50 percent of the capital required for the development of an oil or gas field is related to the drilling sector, the deputy oil minister added.

Both light and heavy drilling rigs are needed, emphasized the NIOC head, saying 10-year contracts will be signed with private companies to meet the industry's needs.

The contracts will be signed in foreign currencies and advance payments will be made for purchasing or renting drilling rigs, said Khojastehmehr, adding the measures are aimed at facilitating the contracts' terms and conditions.

Big contracts on oil and gas production will be signed in the near future, pledged the official, adding drilling rigs are required to achieve the goal.

Over 120 domestic, foreign firms to partake at WATEXT exhibition

The 19th edition of the Iran International Water & Wastewater Exhibition (WATEXT) will kick off in Tehran with the participation of more than 120 firms on January 22.

A sum of 125 domestic and foreign companies will take part in the event to showcase their latest products and achievements, Tasnim news agency reported.

The exhibition will be inaugurated with the participation of Iran's Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian, senior managers in the water and wastewater industry of the country and also

foreign representatives in the relevant industry. Products showcased in the WATEXT exhibition will be metal pipes, industrial valves, pumps and rotary machines, industrial wastewater treatment, polymer pipes and fittings, chemicals, paint and coatings and services including consulting engineering, dam and hydroelectric power plants, irrigation and drainage, water transmission lines, domestic wastewater treatment and leak detection systems.

The 19th Iran International Exhibition of Wa-

ter and Wastewater is one of the most professional exhibitions in the field of water and wastewater management in Iran. In this international event, many domestic and foreign companies will display their latest achievements to the public view.

Such international events are not only great chances to get familiar with the latest technologies and developments of a specific industry in Iran, but also great platforms to find and develop cooperation with potential Iranian and non-Iranian partners.



NISOC says ready to participate in Iraq's oil projects

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) expressed its readiness to participate in various projects in Iraq.

The NISOC managing director made the announcement in his meeting with a visiting Iraqi delegation of Nasiriyah Chamber of Commerce on the sidelines of the 14th Khuzestan Specialized Exhibition of Petroleum Industry Equipment Manufacturing in Ahvaz, the capital city of the southwestern province of Khuzestan, Shana reported on Tuesday.

Alireza Daneshi briefed

the Iraqi delegation on NISOC's capabilities, saying the company is keen to help Iraq promote its technical know-how and solve its problems in different sectors of the oil industry.

The CEO of NISOC also discussed cooperation with Iraqi officials in the fields of collecting associated gases, constructing oil and gas networks, and injecting gas into reservoirs.

The Iraqi side put great emphasis on developing bilateral cooperation, and inviting Daneshi to pay a visit to oil fields, installations, and companies in

Nasiriyah.

Iran exported commodities valued at \$6.9 billion to Iraq during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2023), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration announced.

According to Mohammad Rezvanifar, Iraq was the second top export destination of Iranian products in that nine-month period. The value of Iran's export to Iraq increased by 15 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).

Culinary heritage of Gilan Province



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The rich variety of local foods in Gilan Province, stemming from the culture, customs, and traditions of the region, has made it a compelling reason for travelers and tourists to visit the area. Thanks to its diverse culinary offerings, the provincial capital city of Rasht is renowned as one of the most delightful regions in Iran and the world.

This reputation was solidified a decade ago when UNESCO registered Rasht as the Creative City of Food.

Marjan Nemati Saba, the head of the Public Relations Department of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, emphasized in a note: "Food is one of the basic and essential needs of humans. Human life depends on food and nutrition, after water and air."

While food is indeed a fundamental human requirement, the variety of flavors and tastes in different foods has elevated it to a

culinary art form, chtn.ir wrote. Statistics indicate that approximately one-third of travelers' expenses are allocated to food, underscoring the significance of introducing Iranian and Gilani cuisine to the world as a means to attract tourists to the country.

Given that one of the crucial aspects of travel is food, and with food tourism growing day by day, it's worth noting that Iranians have over 2,500 types of food, 110 types of drinks, and various bread and pastries. The history of Iranian food can be considered alongside Roman and Chinese cuisine.

Considering Iran's history as the cradle of culture and civilization, it's evident that the history of food has a long and rich heritage.

Food culture is an integral part of the cultural heritage of every region and indigenous people; throughout the history of myths, melodies, songs, inscriptions, manuscripts, clothing, customs, and religion, food serves as a testament to the culture of each land.



Baqali Qatoq
saednews.com

Undoubtedly, there is a distinction between societies that thoughtfully and artistically prepare and present food, and those who view

food solely as a means to satisfy a physical need.

It is important to note that despite the many differences, Iranian food

exhibits relative unity. Specific foods and ingredients that were once confined to particular regions are now commonplace on tables across Iran.

The contrast in lifestyle, culture, customs, and cuisine between the two sides of the Alborz Mountain is striking. This disparity extends to the dietary habits and culinary culture of the region, setting it apart from other Iranian ethnic groups.

Gilan Province boasts the most diverse cuisine in the country, with over 350 identified local dishes, many of which are recognized as part of the nation's intangible cultural heritage, and some are on the brink of official registration.

The combination of a wide variety of food ingredients and the art of cooking in Gilan Province has resulted in the creation of one of the most extensive local food menus in the country.

Given the facilitated national registration of Gilan's foods and their increasing global recognition, there is now a prime opportunity

for culinary tourism in the province to take center stage. This not only has the potential to attract tourists but also to expand the reach of Gilani cuisine to a global scale.

The largest national food event in Rasht, known as "Gileh Khorak," was organized with the participation of city management and the Cultural Heritage Office of Gilan. The event received support from hoteliers, hospitality units, and people involved in tourism, and garnered attention from over 30 international journalists. Through the collaborative efforts of the public relations department of the Cultural Heritage Office of Gilan Province and the Rasht Municipality, this delicious event was showcased.

This initiative is a significant endeavor to promote the unique culinary culture of Gilan Province. By organizing events that focus on indigenous and regional culture, there is potential to elevate the culinary culture of Gilan to a global platform.

Patronage and literary return movement in Isfahan

Crucial to the formation and coherence of the early 'literary return' movement is the patronage many of the early poets received from one of Isfahan's mayors during the Zand period – Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab Musavi Isfahani.

That the Isfahani Circle of poets had a patron, let alone the mayor of Isfahan, sheds a different light on the formation of the 'literary return' movement, especially since Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab's involvement occurred after the passing of the movement's putative founder Seyyed Ali Mushtaq. It is unclear when Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab was first appointed to rule Isfahan. It is possible that he served as mayor in 1759, but, if so, it was only for a short time.

Known with more certainty is that he did serve as mayor of Isfahan from 1767 to 1770, the year of his death. Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab hailed from a family that settled in Isfahan and provided medical services to the Safavid kings for several generations. As mayor of Isfa-

han, he was well-respected for the nature of his rule and management of affairs. Being from a respected Isfahani family with a pedigree of government service certainly would have been beneficial, especially in the context of years of uncertainty and tumult. His pedigree and knowledge of Isfahan no doubt helped maintain the relative calm and stability associated with the period of Karim Khan Zand's rule.

Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab 'rose to the office of mayor in the government of Isfahan, out of distinction, purity, generosity, intelligence, good taste and unrivaled genius'. In the preceding period, from 1732 to 1759, more than twenty people had served as mayor of Isfahan, but few were natives of the city.

For almost the entire twenty-year period from 1759 to 1779, corresponding to Karim Khan Zand's suzerainty over Isfahan, the city was ruled by two individuals, both members of respected and reputable Isfahani families: Mirza 'Abd

al-Wahhab and Aqa Muhammad Marbini. These two mayors' tenures stand in contrast to the tenures of those active under Nader Shah, who sought to limit the power of the mayor of Isfahan by both appointing non-Isfahani natives and frequently dismissing them.

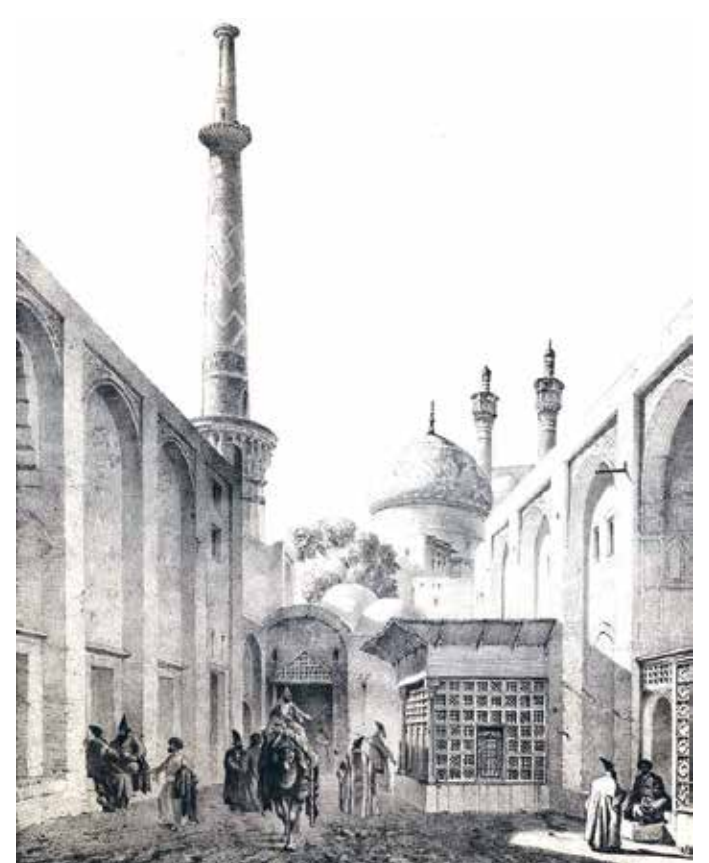
According to the historian Abd al-Razzaq Beg Dunbuli, the general populace during the Zand period was 'overwhelmed in joy and happiness', and 'calamitous misfortune was distant from the face of time'.

The relative calm and stability in Isfahan no doubt helped create the conditions for increased literary activities and productivity. An added benefit for those writers and poets in Isfahan was having a ruler receptive to poetic activities, who maintained an interest in the arts and served as a patron of writing and poetry. Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab, in addition to being mayor, was also a student of the renowned calligrapher and poet 'Abd al-Majid Darvish, who was affiliated with the Isfa-

hani Circle of poets.

Under Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab Isfahan continued to expand the image of its recent glories. Dunbuli referred to Isfahan under Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab's rule as a place experiencing the gathering of 'poets, geniuses, first-rate minds of every type and masters of verse [who] every day upon the branches of poetry ... were constructing lyrics and choice lines'. During his tenure as mayor, Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab remained well-connected to the Isfahani Circle of poets:

Rarely is Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab's role as patron of poetry after Mushtaq's death referenced in relation to the rise of the 'literary return' movement. As Dunbuli's statement makes clear, under Mirza 'Abd al-Wahhab's patronage the Isfahani Circle of poets appears to have expanded by adding several poets not earlier associated with Mushtaq's literary society. The community of poets first started by Mushtaq was accruing members and gaining steam.



How Joe Biden became America's top Israel hawk

By Noah Lanard
Reporter

PERSPECTIVE

Last month, a reporter asked US President Joe Biden about the chances for a cease-fire in Gaza. More than 10,000 people had already been killed there, most of them women and children. Food, water, and medical supplies were scarce. Still, the president did not hesitate in assessing the odds of a cease-fire that he had more power than almost anyone in the world to help bring about. "None," Biden replied. "No possibility." Biden's unconditional support for Israel as it waged one of the most devastating bombing campaigns in modern history was already at odds with most of the world and significant parts of his own political base. The president showed no sign of backing down. It would take another month and nearly 8,000 more Palestinian deaths for Biden to criticize Israel in any meaningful way. At a closed-door fundraiser last week, he warned that Israel's "indiscriminate bombing" was costing the country international support. But Biden's own support for the cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remained largely intact. After saying he favored the eventual creation of a Palestinian state, he reiterated his unwavering backing for the Jewish nation. "We're not going to do a damn thing other than protect Israel," Biden said. "Not a single thing."



In this file photo from March 20, 2016, Joe Biden places his hand over his heart after addressing the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference in Washington.

CLIFF OWEN/AP



In this screen grab, then-Senator Joe Biden makes a heated speech addressing the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference on April 6, 1992.

c-span.org

This article is based on conversations with former members of the Obama and Biden administrations, interviews with leading experts on Israel and Palestine, and a review of hundreds of mostly forgotten congressional hearings, speeches, and articles in which the president has explained how he sees the conflict. Together, they reveal instinctive sympathy for Israel contrasted by incuriosity about Palestinians; an increasingly outdated view of the domestic politics on the issue; and a deep commitment to a repeatedly disproven belief that peace will only come from there being "no daylight" between Israel and the United States. (The National Security Council did not make any officials available for an interview for this story.)

The result is that Biden has prioritized providing Israel largely unconditional support and the space to continue fighting in the face of intense international opposition. This approach is predictable in some respects. Israel has gotten almost whatever it wants from the United States for decades, and any American president would have supported Israel in the wake of a Hamas attack that took the lives of 1,200 people.

But Biden has long gone further than many of his fellow Democrats in defense of Israel. As a senator, he backed moving the American Embassy to Al-Quds (Jerusalem) decades before Donald Trump made that a reality, boasted about attending more fundraisers for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) than any other senator, and savaged an effort by George H.W. Bush to push Israel toward negotiating with Palestinians. As vice president, he undercut Barack Obama's efforts to push Israel toward peace. As president prior to October 7, he continued policies implemented by Trump that sidelined Palestinians.

"The President does not seem to acknowledge the humanity of all parties affected by this conflict," a former Biden administration official said. "He has described Israeli suffering in great detail, while Palestinian suffering is left vague, if mentioned at all."

Biden administration officials are now reportedly trying to get Israel to reduce the intensity of the war in the coming weeks, but they have not said whether the US will impose consequences if it fails to do so. Nor have they been heavily critical in public. Instead, they've relied on the private pressure long favored by Biden, as they've tried — and largely failed — to restrain a far-right cabinet that opposes Palestinian statehood and includes outright bigots in top positions. Despite Israel ignoring many of its recommendations, the Biden administration continues to push Congress to provide \$14 billion in mostly military aid with no strings attached. This comes after the United States has already supplied Israel with thousands of bombs as it has leveled much of Gaza, displaced more than 80 percent of the population, and committed the war crime of using the starvation of civilians as a weapon of war, according to a report from Human Rights Watch.

In the early days of the war, Biden underscored the scale of the Hamas attack by saying it was equivalent to 15 9/11s for a nation of Israel's size. The equivalent figure for Gaza, where more than 20,000 people have been killed, has surpassed 900. Just how much Biden might have been able to restrain Israel in the wake of October 7 will never be known, but a close examination of his record makes it clear why he was not prepared to try.

A lifetime of zealotry

Biden has often traced his unyielding support for Israel to dinner-table conversations with his father about the horrors of the Holocaust and to a 1973 meeting in Israel with Prime Minister Golda Meir during his first year as a senator. Even so, it took "a long, long discussion" with Henry "Scoop" Jackson, a famously hawkish Democratic senator from Washington state, for Biden to adopt a more hardline position. As Biden explained in a 1983 eulogy of Jackson, he had not felt "nearly as strongly" about backing Israel before his senior colleague encouraged him to make multiple visits to Israel and Nazi

concentration camps. As a result, Biden said, Jackson "changed a major part of my political life and my attitude about a whole segment of society that I did not understand before."

Jackson was once seen as Israel's strongest defender in the Senate. As a Saudi ambassador put it, he appeared "more Zionist than the Zionists," despite being the Protestant son of Norwegian immigrants. That was reflected in extreme rhetoric that alienated some liberal American Jews and fellow Democrats. But many American Jews saw Jackson as their champion — in part because of his advocacy for Jews persecuted in the Soviet Union. (Jackson would later be called a "patron saint of neoconservatism"; his former aides Douglas Feith, Richard Perle, and Paul Wolfowitz were architects of George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq.)

Under Jackson's influence, Biden could similarly come across as a pro-Israel zealot. In 1982, the year Biden and Benjamin Netanyahu first met, Israel launched an invasion of Lebanon that caused massive civilian casualties. Israel's tactics in Lebanon as it tried to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization and empower the country's Christian minority outraged people in the Arab world and were opposed by key American officials.

In the initial weeks of the war, Prime Minister Menachem Begin came to Washington to consolidate support. Begin, a right-wing leader — who Hannah Arendt, Albert Einstein, and other prominent Jews once denounced for running a "Fascist" political party — arrived in Washington facing intense public criticism. Ronald Reagan's Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger argued publicly that Israel was employing "military force of a kind that we always have deployed". (Two months later, Reagan privately warned the Israeli prime minister that the Lebanon war threatened the "entire" US-Israeli relationship, calling it a "holocaust" whose symbol was "becoming a picture of a 7-month-old baby with its arms blown off.") Begin received a warmer welcome from Biden. The New York Times reported at the time that Biden told Begin that he

was not critical of the Lebanon invasion. After returning to Israel, Begin provided more detail to the Israeli press by describing how a young senator had given an "impassioned speech" during a private meeting with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Begin said this senator argued that Americans "wouldn't pay attention as to whether men, women, or children were killed" if they had to retaliate against a comparable attack from Canada. The prime minister claimed that he'd criticized the senator for devaluing civilian life. Subsequent reporting confirmed he was referring to Biden. (A National Security Council spokesperson told me he was looking into this but did not respond after that.)

During a 1992 speech to AIPAC, Biden again voiced support for Israel that made some of its strongest backers uncomfortable. Biden started out by saying that he didn't think any senator had "ever done more fundraisers for AIPAC," a group whose supporters were key backers of his 1988 presidential campaign. He then worked himself up to the point where he was shouting and beating his chest for emotional effect as he lambasted an unprecedented public campaign by George H.W. Bush to push Israel toward engaging with Palestinians' demands for sovereignty and an end to the Israeli military occupation of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and other territory seized in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

At the time, Bush was demanding that Israel stop building settlements in occupied territory in violation of international law if it wanted to receive billions of dollars in loan guarantees from the United States to support the arrival of Soviet Jews. He knew that groups like AIPAC considered this to be an affront, but he believed his actions were necessary to advance peace talks. Biden was far from the only member of Congress who opposed Bush, but he did so with uncommon fervor.

Articles in the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs noted that some listeners "squirmed with embarrassment" as Biden ranted about how the

issue of American aid for Israel had become "susceptible to demagoguery". "You know, no one should take Biden seriously here. He is a cheerleader," one attendee said. "He helps us, of course, but does opposing the peace talks or ignoring them or disparaging them really make sense? I don't think so."

The most revealing part of the AIPAC speech was Biden's explanation of what remain the two pillars of his approach to Israel and Palestine. First, he told the audience that he kept his criticism of things like settlements, which he opposed, between him and Israel. Second, he made sure the two nations maintained a united front so that "the Arabs" would bend. These beliefs explained his disgust with what he considered to be a destined-to-fail effort by Bush to exert leverage over Israel and its right-wing prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir.

Shamir was not a credible partner for peace. (He had been a leader of the Stern Gang, a Jewish terrorist group that tried to form an alliance with the Nazis early in World War II to oust the British from Palestine.) His failure to secure the loan guarantees and maintain positive relations with the United States quickly became political liabilities. Two months after Biden's speech, Israelis voted him, Netanyahu, and their Likud party out of power. They replaced them with Yitzhak Rabin and the most dovish cabinet in the country's history. Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the historic Oslo Accord, which, in spite of its flaws, is the closest the two sides have come to peace. The breakthrough was made possible in part because Bush had been willing to do what Biden said the United States should avoid at all costs: publicly pressure Israel.

A more reflective leader might have changed course, but Biden remained committed to his approach. As he explained in an interview while running for president more than a decade later, "In my 34-year career, I have never wavered from the notion that the only time progress has ever been made in the Middle East is when the Arab nations have known that there is no daylight between

us and Israel.”

In doing so, Khalidi said Biden was embracing the diplomatic version of the militaristic right-wing worldview laid out a century ago by Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the founder of the Revisionist Zionism that helped shape the Likud. “In other words,” Khalidi explained, “only when the Arabs understand that they have to accept whatever it is Israel is willing to offer, will there be peace.” Khalidi, one of the world’s most prominent Palestine scholars, continued, “I think that fairly represents his position to this day. I honestly don’t think this man has any sense that there’s another side to this. I don’t think he understands or is interested in the humanity, or the rights, or the very existence of the Palestinians.”

The full article first appeared on *Mother Jones*.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) walks past then-US vice president Joe Biden as he prepares to sign the guest book at the prime minister's residence in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) on March 9, 2010.
● DEBBIE HILL/UPI

Israel provoking US into conflict with Iran

Media ignores the danger



By James North
Editor at Mondoweiss

PERSPECTIVE

For years, Mondoweiss has warned that Israel, especially Benjamin Netanyahu, have tried to instigate the US into a wider war in the Mideast, particularly with Iran. It also regularly indicted the US

Since October 7, the stakes for Netanyahu are much higher. Israelis blame him for the Hamas attack, and the opinion polls show his popularity has never been lower. A number of Israeli commentators have called him the worst leader in the country’s history. If just a handful of members from his own coalition in the Knesset abandon him, his cabinet will fall, and he will be trounced in new elections. Even worse, the pending court cases against him for corruption will then revive, and he could end up in prison. Luring the US into a conflict with Iran will distract from his own troubles, and give him time to maneuver.

So, on December 24, an Israeli air strike assassinated an Iranian top commander in Syria, Razi Mousavi. Also, earlier, a cyberattack “caused two-thirds of Iran’s gas stations to suddenly stop working,” yet another sabotage effort with Israel’s fingerprints all over it. No country will be able to endlessly ignore such provocations.

(Netanyahu is not the only Israeli leader who wants the US to attack Iran. Former prime

mainstream media for ignoring this danger.

Today, the threat is greater than ever. And, true to form, the New York Times, National Public Radio, and the others continue to cover it up, instead treating Netanyahu as the embattled but honest leader of an Israel that is only trying to defend itself. For more than a decade, Netanyahu’s main aim was

minister Naftali Bennett recently published an opinion article in the Wall Street Journal headlined: “The US and Israel Need to Take Iran On Directly.” He disclosed 2 secret Israeli attacks inside Iran during his 2021–2022 tenure as prime minister: the destruction of a drone base and the killing of an Iranian military commander. After the article appeared, some Israeli officials criticized Bennett “for revealing classified information... saying that he was potentially putting the country in danger.”

The New York Times did run a brief report on the December 24 air strike that killed Razi Mousavi in Syria. But the article was a model of dishonesty. The paper feigned ignorance in the report’s opening sentence: “Iran accused Israel on Monday of killing a high-level military figure in a missile strike in Syria at a time when concerns are growing that the war in Gaza could escalate into a regional conflict.” Nowhere do we learn that many observers, including some Israelis, believe that Netanyahu may actually want a wider conflict, as long as he can embroil the US in it.

National Public Radio was even worse. In recent days, the network

to destroy Iran’s alleged (and unproven) program to build nuclear weapons. He openly tried to sabotage the Obama administration’s successful nuclear deal in 2015, and then vigorously encouraged Donald Trump’s abrupt decision to end the agreement 3 years later. Secretly, Israel conducted a long campaign of sabotage against Iran,

ran three on-air reports, including one from a correspondent in the region. The broadcasts were uniformly inept. They barely mentioned Israel’s provocative killing of Mousavi. In one, host Leila Fadel asked: “Does the US or Iran really want this to become a regional war?” Somehow, she forgot to add Israel or Netanyahu to her question, although anyone who follows the story using a range of non-US mainstream sources, even including some in Israel itself, would have known to broaden the inquiry.

The Washington Post report has a single throwaway sentence about how an “airstrike” by an unnamed air force killed a “senior [Iranian] officer” in Syria. That was it.

Of course, the situation in the region is complicated. Ansar Allah, Iran’s allies (commonly referred to as the Houthis) who control much of Yemen, have been attacking shipping in the Red Sea, and Hezbollah, the political/military movement in southern Lebanon that is also allied with Iran, has been clashing with Israel across their mutual border. It is doubtful that even Benjamin

which included cyber warfare, and actual assassinations inside the country, including the November 2020 killing of an Iranian scientist, Mohsen Fakhri Zadeh. Netanyahu wanted to provoke Iranian retaliation, which would draw in the US, and — he hoped — trigger an American attack that that would set back or even destroy Tehran’s nuclear program.

Netanyahu would want to widen the conflict to bring in either of these other two actors.

But what makes Israel’s provocative killing of General Mousavi and its latest cyberattack even more dangerous is that it also raises the risk of a lethal accident. Let’s go back to July 1988, when tensions in the region were similarly high. A US Navy warship in the Strait of Hormuz accidentally shot down a civilian Iranian jetliner, killing all 290 people on board. Iran did show restraint, and so the conflict thankfully did not escalate further.

Today, the danger is arguably even higher: Israel continues to murder thousands of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and attack at least four other nations in the region: Iran, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon. Israel’s desperate leader is rolling the dice for his last time, and the Biden administration is letting him get away with it — while the US media keeps the American public in the dark. The chances for a greater tragedy are high.

This article first appeared on *Mondoweiss*.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shows a crude illustration as he describes his unfounded concerns over Iran’s nuclear program during his address to United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2012.
● GETTY IMAGES

Al-Aqsa Storm, Islam’s new image in Europe



By Abed Akbari
European affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE OPINION

The recent events surrounding Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the developments in the Gaza Strip have presented a different image of Islam than what European media had previously portrayed. Despite extensive efforts by media sympathetic to Zionists in Europe to tarnish the image of Islam and unleash an Islamophobic wave, the prevailing narrative of the Gaza war has not only neutralized these poisonous efforts but has also contributed to a positive change in the European public’s perception of Islam.

The rushed and exaggerated anti-Muslim narratives and caricatures provided by European media in recent weeks that victimized Jews in Europe have even sparked serious criticisms within European media communities.

The German television network Deutsche Welle, which had previously broadcast reports on the educational problems of Jewish children in Germany after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, released a report claiming that four Muslim students in the city of Neuss in North Rhine-Westphalia intended to enforce strict Islamic laws in school. The media presented this as a harsh interpretation of Islamic Sharia that, for example, obliges Muslim women to wear the Islamic hijab, segregates genders in swimming classes, and allows Muslim students to leave school early to participate in Friday prayers. However, this narrative caused a media uproar and was later proven baseless by the German police and intelligence agencies.

In France, which has recently become the epicenter of Islamophobia in Europe, the situation has been similar. Following Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Islamophobia in France has been intertwined with a Zionist narrative and racism, where being Muslim is now considered akin to belonging to a specific race. A French analyst explained that these days, if someone in France converts to Islam without disclosing it, they may not face discrimination; however, if someone has an Islamic name or a Middle Eastern appearance, they will face discrimination even if they don’t identify themselves as Muslim. As the head of the French Committee on Justice and Freedom stated, Islamophobia in the country has become a systemic problem and has, in fact, been engrained into the Republic’s DNA.

While Islamophobic actions seem to have been met with mixed responses from French society, it appears that they have led to an alarming increase in hate crimes against Muslims in various parts of England. According to a report from the Community Security Trust charity a few days after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, incidents related to hate crimes against Muslims in England showed a significant increase. Islamophobic incidence have seen a sixfold rise as well. Muslims in the UK are currently concerned about the safety of their children inside and outside school.

Despite the rise in Islamophobic violence, the repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa and even the way Palestinian fighters interact with Israeli forces in Gaza have mesmerized the world. The patience, composure, faith, and trust exhibited by the people of Gaza, who are grappling with immense difficulties and the tragic loss of their loved ones and homes, have raised a question in the minds of European citizens: What is behind such calmness and patience? Interestingly, they tend to find the answer to this question in the Islamic beliefs of the oppressed Palestinian people.

How are Iranian wrestlers faring ahead of Olympic qualifiers?

Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman and freestyle head coaches are left with crucial decisions to make ahead of the Olympic qualifiers following mixed results for the country's wrestlers at the recently-finished Zagreb Open.

Iran has already secured seven slots across the two divisions for the Games through last September's World Championships, with the remaining five set to be decided in the Asian qualification event – starting April 19 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan – or May's World OG Qualifier in Istanbul.

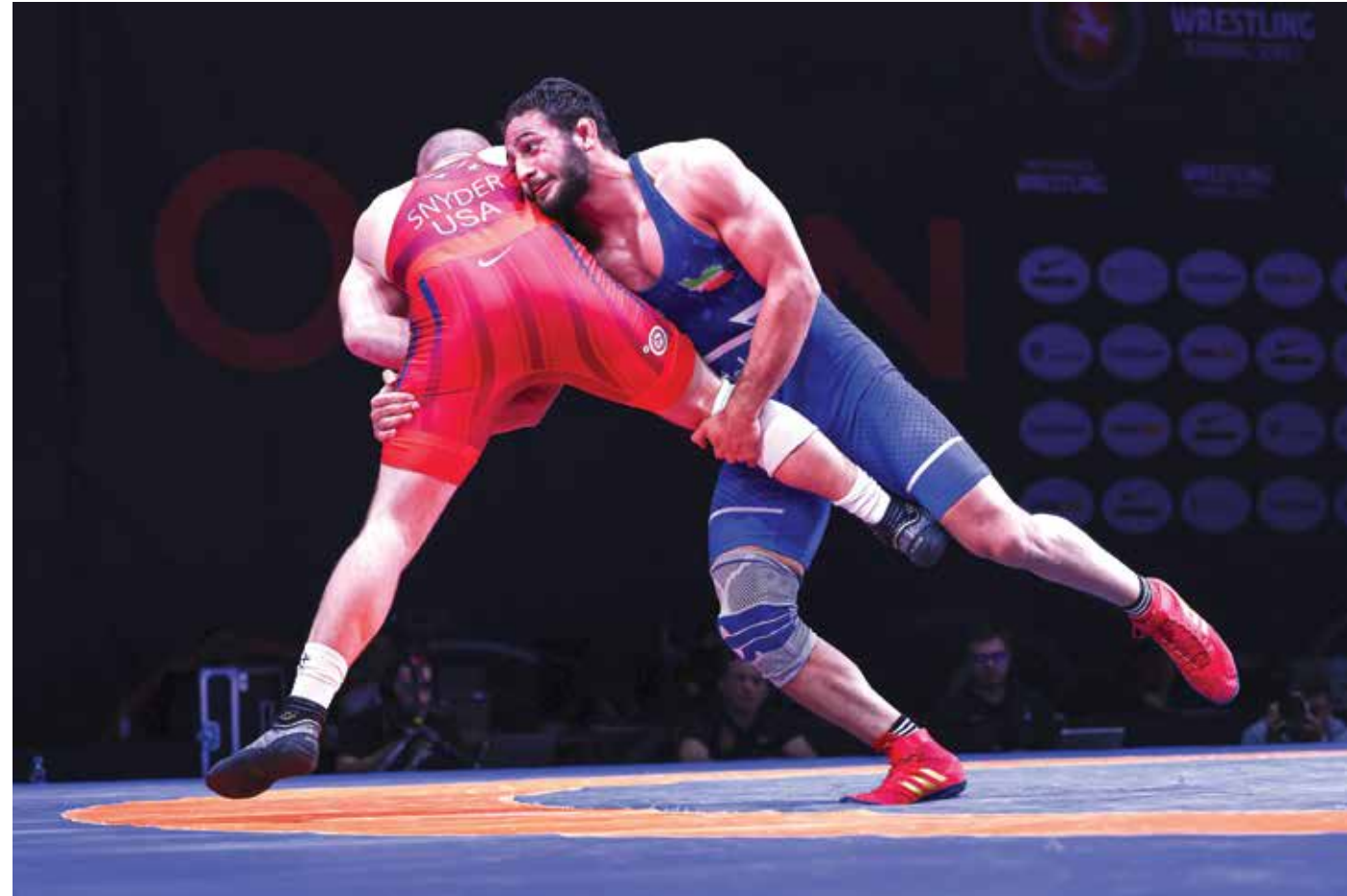
Hassan Yazdani (86kg) and Amirhossein Zare' (125kg) stood on the world podium in their respective weight classes and Rahman Amouzad finished fifth in the 65kg contests to seal three freestyle quotas, with the 57kg, 74kg, and 97kg spots still up for grabs.

Three world Greco-Roman medals for Mohammadreza Gerai (67kg), Mohammad-Hadi Saravi (97kg), and Amin Mirzazadeh (130kg), as well as Mahdi Mohsennejad's fifth place in the 60kg class in Belgrade, mean Iranians will be chasing the 77kg and 87kg berths in the coming months.

Ambitious Azarpira

When the Iranian freestyle squad headed to the season-opening Ranking Series event in the Croatian capital, wrestling fans in the country were eager to see how two-time world 92kg champion Kamran Qassempour would perform in the 97kg competitions.

The final outcome, however, saw Iranian prodigy Amir-Ali Azarpira emerge as a surprise contender for the Olympic place, after the former world under-23 gold medalist recovered from a three-point deficit to claim a massive 6-3 victory over American great Kyle Snyder – a winner of nine



Iranian Amir-Ali Azarpira goes for a takedown against American Kyle Snyder in the freestyle 97kg final at the Zagreb Open Ranking Series in Zagreb, Croatia, on Jan. 11, 2024. **KADIR CALISKAN/UWU**

world and Olympic medals – in the final showpiece.

Meanwhile, returning to the mat following a months-long groin injury that had kept him out of the World Championships and October's Asian Games, Qassempour fell to a 4-0 defeat against Snyder and settled for a bronze. In an interview with Mehr News Agency on Sunday, Iran head coach Mohsen Kaveh said Azarpira still is far from a "safe margin" in leading the line for the country in the Olympic qualifiers, adding: "I believe Kamran had a decent run in Zagreb, given

his long-time injury layoff. He is working hard to get back to his best form and we will decide in the future training camps on who will participate at the Olympic qualifiers."

Amouzad and Zare' punched their tickets for Paris after reaching the final in Zagreb, with the former pulling out of the 65kg showdown with a neck injury, while reigning world super-heavyweight champion Zare' came out on top against fellow-Iranian Amir-Reza Ma'soumi for the 125kg gold and will be the favorite to walk away with

the ultimate prize in Paris.

In the 74kg event, national gold medalist Hossein Abouzari will have a slight edge over Younes Emami – a winner of double world bronzes – thanks a narrow win in an all-Iranian quarterfinal in Zagreb but his 10-1 loss to low-profile American Jason Nolf leaves the Iranian qualification slot hanging in the balance.

Iran had no 57kg participants in Zagreb and Ahmad Mohammadnejad Javan, who dominated the National Championships in December with a final triumph over 2021 world silver medalist

Alireza Sarlak, will likely be the Iranian frontrunner in Bishkek unless the coaching staff decides to send the former world U20 and U23 bronze medalist to the Asian Championships – coming days before the qualification tournament.

77kg headache

Amir Abdi's early exit in Zagreb has left Greco-Roman head coach Hassan Rangraz with unanswered questions about the Iranian 77kg wrestler in the Kyrgyz capital.

With Mohammad-Ali Gerai

serving a one-year ban by the United World Wrestling, Abdi will hope to bounce back from the Zagreb fiasco when he is joined by Amin Kavianejad in March's Yasar Dogu & Vehbi Emre tournament in Antalya.

A world 82kg silver medalist last year, Alireza Mohmadi built on the national title in December – at the expense of Nasser Alizadeh in the final – to flex muscles in his first international outing in the 87kg contests in Zagreb, where he took the silver.

"Alireza is making a consistent progress in the new weight class. He had some great victories in Zagreb, including the last-four win against Alan Ostae, who had beaten Hungarian world champion David Losonczy earlier in the competition," Rangraz said of the Iranian, adding: "He still needs to work on a couple of flaws that cost him in the final [against Milad Alirzaev]."

The other impressive Iranian in Zagreb was the world under-20 champion Fardin Hedayati, who cruised to the gold in his senior 130kg debut.

"Fardin was sensational in the 130kg contests as he defeated high-profile opponents to win the gold," Rangraz said.

On his way to the final, Hedayati outmuscled China's Wenhao Jiang, in a repeat of last year's world junior final, Cuban four-time world medalist Óscar Pino, as well as Lithuania's Mantas Knystautas – world bronze medalist in 2022 – though he remains behind world champion Mirzazadeh in the pecking order for a place in the Iranian squad in Paris.

In the 67kg event, Danial Sohrabi blew the chance to throw down the gauntlet to Mohammadreza Gerai after a third-round 7-2 loss to Lithuanian Kristupas Sleiva in Zagreb, meaning Gerai is all but guaranteed an Olympic title defense in August.

Roma sack Mourinho with club ninth and keen on De Rossi

THE GUARDIAN – Roma have sacked their manager José Mourinho with the club ninth in Serie A. The decision follows Sunday's 3-1 defeat at Milan and last Wednesday's Coppa Italia exit in the derby against Lazio.

"AS Roma can confirm that José Mourinho and his coaching staff will leave the club with immediate effect," the club said in a statement. "Further updates on the new first-team coaching staff will follow imminently."

Daniele De Rossi is Roma's preferred choice to replace Mourinho and talks have been opened.

De Rossi played more than 600 games for the club from 2001 to 2019.

The former midfielder's only experience as a manager was a short stint in Serie B with SPAL that ended last February but he has worked as a coach with Italy under Roberto Mancini and held age-group roles in the Italian Football Federation.

GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

Mourinho took charge of Roma in 2021 and led the club to their first trophy in 14 years by winning the Europa Conference League in 2022. He also reached the final of last season's Europa League, losing on penalties to Sevilla.

Roma have one win from their past five matches – against Cremonese in the Coppa Italia – and also lost to Juventus in that spell. Mourinho departs with the club facing a Europa League tie against Feyenoord next month having been second in their group behind Slavia Prague.

Mourinho finished sixth in each of his two full Serie A seasons with Roma. The former Chelsea, Real Madrid and Manchester United manager, who will be 61 this month, leaves with the club five points behind fourth-placed Fiorentina and 22 points behind the leaders, Inter.

Roma's owners, Dan and Ryan Friedkin, thanked Mourinho "for his passion and efforts" and said: "We will always have great memories of his tenure at Roma but we believe that an immediate change is in the best interests of the club."

Messi named FIFA player of 2023, Spain's Bonmati wins women's award

REUTERS – Argentine Lionel Messi retained the FIFA men's player of the year trophy on Monday, beating Manchester City's treble-winning Norwegian striker Erling Haaland and France's Paris St Germain forward Kylian Mbappe to the award.

Spain's 2023 World Cup winner Aitana Bonmati was voted the best women's player of the year. Messi, who also secured the men's award in 2022 after guiding Argentina to World Cup victory, clinched the Ligue 1 title with PSG alongside Mbappe following that success, before moving to Major League Soccer team Inter Miami.

The 36-year-old, voted the best player by national teams coaches, captains, journalists and fans, helped Inter Miami win the 2023 Leagues Cup – a competition between MLS and Mexico's Liga MX sides – scoring 10 goals.

Messi was not present to collect the trophy. The award period for the men's prize ran from Dec. 19, 2022 to Aug. 20, 2023, and started the day after the World Cup final in Qatar.



FIFA

Haaland, who helped City clinch a treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League titles by scoring 52 goals in 53 matches across all competitions in the 2022-23 season, finished second in the voting.

The 23-year-old had the same points as Messi but lost out by having fewer first-place votes from national team captains. City's Pep Guardiola won the Best Men's Coach award. The Spaniard, who before winning the treble with City last term had achieved

the same feat at Barcelona in 2008-09, dedicated his award to fellow nominees Simone Inzaghi and Luciano Spalletti.

Inzaghi guided Inter Milan to the 2023 Champions League final, where they lost 1-0 to City, while Spalletti won Serie A with Napoli to end the club's 33-year wait for the title.

Sarina Wiegman claimed the Best Women's coach prize after leading England to the World Cup final where they lost 1-0 to Spain.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with the country's Friday prayer leaders in Tehran on January 16, 2024. khamenei.ir

Leader hails Yemen's 'great job' in support of Palestinians

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei praised the "great job" the Yemenis have done in the Red Sea in support of Palestinians despite US threats. Addressing the country's Friday Prayer leaders on Tuesday, Ayatollah Khamenei said that the Yemeni people and the Ansarallah resistance movement damaged the vital channels of the Israeli regime. The Leader underlined that the US threatened them, but they were not afraid of the US and continued their campaign in support of Palestinians. "Their job is rightly and fairly an example of jihad (endeavor for the sake of

God). We hope that these efforts, acts of resistance and activities will continue until victory." Since November, Yemeni forces have repeatedly targeted Israel-bound ships in the Red Sea, saying they were avenging Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip, which has been under the regime's brutal attacks since October 7. In the latest operation, the Ansarallah movement targeted a cargo ship by a missile off Yemen, a maritime risk management company said on Tuesday. The ship, which has visited Israel since the outbreak of war in Gaza and was headed to Suez, changed course and headed to port after the

incident. There was no immediate comment from the Ansarallah movement, who launched attacks on American vessels on Sunday and Monday following US and UK strikes on their territory last week. On Sunday, US forces claimed that they shot down a cruise missile targeting an American destroyer, and on Monday a US-owned cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman was hit by another missile. The incidents followed Friday's US and UK strikes on scores of sites in Yemen in retaliation for the Red Sea attacks which have disrupted shipping in the vital waterway. The Leader also said the people of the world ac-

knowledge that the Gazans are "innocent and victorious," while the usurping regime is "cruel and bloodthirsty" as well as "defeated and disintegrated." "The innocent and powerful people of Gaza were able to influence the world with their struggles, and today the world views these people, fighters and their resistance group as hero," he noted. Israel has waged its genocidal war on Gaza following a historic operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance group against the occupying entity on October 7. The Israeli strikes have claimed the lives of more than 24,000 people in the Gaza Strip.

Iran rids region of rats

IRGC targets terrorists in Iraq, Syria

International Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched missile strikes on terrorist targets in Syria and in Iraq's Kurdistan Region in response to recent terrorist attacks in Iran and assassinations of the resistance front's commanders. Early Tuesday, the IRGC said it fired barrages of ballistic missiles at Syrian bases of terrorists who were involved in the terrorist attacks in the Iranian cities of Kerman and Rask, as well as an Israeli espionage center in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The IRGC said the first missile strike targeted gathering places of commanders and main elements of the two explosions that killed nearly 100 people and wounded scores of others at a memorial for Iran's top anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani in the southeastern Iranian city of Kerman on January 3. The Daesh (ISIS) terrorist group claimed responsibility for the explosions. Last month, another attack hit a police station in the southeastern Iranian city of Rask, killing 11 police officers and injuring at

least six others. The IRGC said in a later statement that another missile attack totally destroyed a main espionage center of the Israeli regime's Mossad spy agency in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. Among the key targets there was Azhi Amin, a former member of an Al-Qaeda affiliate, who was reportedly killed in the IRGC attack. The missile strike against the Mossad center, the statement said, was in retaliation for the recent assassinations of the resistance front's commanders, especially those of the IRGC, by Israel. Senior IRGC commander Razi Mousavi was killed on Jan. 2 in a strike in Syria that was widely blamed on Israel. This month, Hamas No. 2 Saleh al-Arouri was also killed in a Beirut strike that the Lebanese officials blamed on Israel. "The action was in defense of the country's sovereignty and security, and countering terrorism, and was a part of the Islamic Republic's just punishment against violators of the country's security," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

"The Islamic Republic has always supported peace, stability, and security in the region and respected other countries' sovereignty; nonetheless, Tehran will not hesitate to exercise its legitimate and legal right to deter all sources of threat against its national security, defend its citizens and punish the criminals," he said. Iraq summoned Iran's envoy in Baghdad and recalled its ambassador from Tehran over the missile strikes after it claimed that the missiles struck a businessman's family home. Iraq said that it would lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council over the Iranian "attack on its sovereignty". Four people were killed and six wounded in the strikes on Iraqi Kurdistan, the region's security council said. The IRGC said their reprisals "will continue until the last drops of blood of the martyrs are avenged." Iran has repeatedly targeted the terrorists in Iraq and Syria and has frequently urged the two Arab countries not to let anti-Iran groups to be active in the countries.



A car wreck is seen at a site hit by a missile attack launched by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Arbil, the capital of Iraq's northern autonomous Kurdish region, on January 16, 2024. [Kurdistan 24/APP](http://Kurdistan24/APP)

Jordan: Israel placing 'big impediments' to aid for Gazans

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said on Tuesday Israel was placing many obstacles to the entry of aid into Gaza, worsening the plight of Palestinians there. Safadi, speaking at a press conference with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong, said the hurdles meant only 10% of the total needs of more than two million Gazans under siege were being covered, Reuters reported. "The reality now is that Israeli measures are preventing sufficient aid from arriving and only a fraction

is being delivered," he said. Israel, which screens goods going into Gaza and holds back aid it deems to be used for military purposes, denies hampering aid. Israel was also preventing aid from reaching northern Gaza where Israel's bombardment and its occupation for weeks had wiped out infrastructure and much of its residential buildings, Safadi said. The United Nations humanitarian office said on Friday that Israeli authorities were systematically denying it access to north-

ern Gaza to deliver aid and this had significantly hindered the humanitarian operation there. The health ministry in Gaza said Tuesday at least 24,285 people have been killed in the Israel's onslaught on Gaza since October 7. A ministry statement said children, women and the elderly made up more than 75 percent of the dead in the Palestinian territory during the war. The ministry has said thousands of people remain trapped under rubble.

Call for identification of chemical suppliers

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2	NA BENZOATE	15	GREASE VASELINE
3	DHT-4A	16	DONOR D
4	A.O. 3114	17	A.O.B215 & DMDBS (with blue pigment)
5	A.O. 1010	18	A.O.B215 & DMDBS (without blue pigment)
6	M.S. 168	19	ATMER 163 (A.S. 163)
7	A.O. B225	20	CA STEARATE
8	A.O. B215	21	NA BENZOATE+ A.O. B225
9	GMS 90(ATMER 129)	22	UV770
10	CATALYST	23	PEROXIDE DHBP
11	WHITE OIL V-70	24	NALCO 7330
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13	TALC		

The deadline for submitting applications and required documents is from the date of publication of this advertisement until the end of the day on January 31, 2024. Please deliver your application along with the necessary documents to the following address:
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Prince of Persia first game voiced in Farsi



The first version of video game 'Prince of Persia' in 14 years was released, called 'The Lost Crown,' and it is the first edition in the series, and the first videogame ever, to be fully voiced in Farsi.

The franchise draws heavily on Persian mythology and Iranian culture, but until now has always been in English, BBC reported.

The developers say they want to "depict and respect Persia and Iran".

Game fan Sam Mandi-Gohmi said it was "brilliant" that representation was being taken more seriously.

"When I saw the tweet announcing Farsi would be a full game audio option for 'The Lost Crown,' I half thought it was a joke," said Mandi-Gohmi, who lives in the UK.

"I grew up in England to an Iranian father, and often when I was younger we'd play games together, as it wasn't something that was significant in his childhood. "I rushed to show my dad it - he laughed and translated alongside in disbelief."

Sam said previous games in the series, released in the UK in the 1990s and 2000s, did not have characters who "appeared fully Iranian".

"Now, it's not 2003 anymore and representation in media is a significant consideration for developers - that's brilliant - but there is still basically zero Iranian representation within Western media," he said.

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- Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 84711171
- ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892-5
- Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500601
- & Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
- Website: www.irandaily.ir
- Email: newspaper.irandaily.ir
- Printing House: irandaily@icpi.ir
- Iran Cultural & Press Institute



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7487 ● Wednesday, January 17, 2024 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

Iran's cultural assets valuable enough to hit screen: Raisi



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (c) speaks at a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the selection committee, artists, and the head of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran on January 16, 2024.

president.ir

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi highlighted the rich cultural assets of the Iranian-Islamic civilization, expressing a keen interest in presenting them to the world through cinema.

He made the statement during a meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the selection committee, artists and the head of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival on Tuesday.

Raisi underlined the importance of cooperation between the government and people involved in the arts and culture, according to president.ir.

President Raisi praised the organizers of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival and stressed the need to enhance strengths, while addressing any shortcomings.

He emphasized the significance of using the insights and experiences of veterans in the field, preventing their valuable contributions from being marginalized.

Acknowledging the significant increase in submissions from filmmakers of high-quality films, Raisi stated the government's role in promoting talent across all regions, including remote areas.

Addressing the report on the quantitative and qualitative improvements in this year's festival, Raisi expressed satisfaction and noted the potential for artistic, cultural, and literary works inspired by the Sacred Defense era.

He highlighted the vast capacities of bravery, resilience, and self-sacrifice during the eight-year period, suggesting art en-

thusiasts' activities should be included in creative endeavors.

Raisi praised the efforts of the country's youths, who, despite sanctions and restrictions, have achieved valuable milestones through innovation and creativity.

"These accomplishments, reminiscent of the spirit of Sacred Defense, possess significant potential to inspire artistic and literary works," the president reiterated.

Acknowledging the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's attention to the concerns and wishes of enthusiasts in the cultural and artistic fields, President Raisi said that their opinions, experiences, and capacities must be taken into consideration.

Concluding his address, Raisi underscored the significance of presenting artistic, cinematic, and literary works in neighboring and Islamic countries.

He noted the positive reception of such works in promoting the values of the Islamic Republic and called for constant support for the production and spreading culturally significant productions.

Iran objects to planned transfer of Cyrus Cylinder to Israeli Library

Iran raised objections to the British Museum's reported plans to transfer the ancient Cyrus Cylinder to the National Library of Israel, expressing deep concern about the potential risks associated with such a move.

Hadi Mirzaei, director general of the General Office of Museums, raised concerns in separate letters addressed to Amir-Hossein Ghareebnejad, vice president for Cultural Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ali-Akbar Mottakan, the secretary-general of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, IRNA wrote.

Mirzaei expressed worries about the planned transfer, stating, "The transfer of this historical artifact will undoubtedly be inappropriate." The letter pointed out that the British Museum intends to move the Cyrus Cylinder, currently displayed in the US, to the national library of the occupying regime in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) from October 4 to November 28, 2024.

Mirzaei emphasized Iran's intellectual property rights over the Cyrus Cylinder and urged a ban on its transfer. He also called for legal action based on the 1945 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property. The Cyrus Cylinder, a relic from the Achaemenid dynasty, is recognized as the earliest and most ancient declaration of human rights, representing a significant part of Iranian identity and civilization.

The principles within the Cyrus Cylinder influenced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.



man rights, representing a significant part of Iranian identity and civilization. The principles within the Cyrus Cylinder influenced

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



4,000-year-old wall found around oasis in Saudi Arabia

A giant wall dating back around 4,000 years was discovered surrounding an oasis in Saudi Arabia. The wall was originally nine miles (14.5 kilometers) long and surrounded the Khaybar Oasis, located near the city of Al-Ula. It was about 16 feet (5 m) high and 5.6 to 7.9 feet (1.7 to 2.4 m) thick, the team said in a statement. The wall originally had 180 bastions, points projecting out of the fortification. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal remains found during excavations indicate that the wall dates to between 2250

and 1950 B.C., the team wrote in a paper published in the Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports. The wall may have been used for a few centuries before being abandoned, Live Science reported. Today, only about 3.7 miles (5.9 km) of the 9-mile wall and 74 of the 180 bastions remain, the team said in the statement. The wall may have been constructed for several reasons. One likely purpose was mil-

itary defense "against raids from nomads," Guillaume Charloux, an archaeologist with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and lead author of the paper, told Live Science in an email. In their paper, the scientists noted that the people who built the wall may have used it to demarcate their territory and to protect against flash floods. The team noted that other examples of fortified oases have been found on the Arabian Peninsula and may be a sign that populations were becoming more

sedentary. It would have taken 5.8 million cubic feet (164,000 cubic meters) of stone and brick and about 250 people working for four years to build the wall, Charloux said. Work in the Khaybar Oasis is ongoing, and Charloux said we can expect to hear of results discussing a sizable settlement that existed in the Khaybar Oasis. There "is another important publication to come," he said. Before the excavations were conducted, the site was analyzed using satellite surveys. The work on the fortifications was carried out between 2020 and 2023 by researchers with the Khaybar Longue Durée Archaeological Project.