

# 46 villages still inaccessible due to Sistan and Baluchestan floods

## Power, water restored in most parts of flood-hit areas

### National Desk

Deputy Governor of Sistan and Baluchestan Province Mansour Bijar said most of the problems caused by recent floods in the province have been solved but "we are still facing problems in reaching 46 villages" cut off by rising waters.

Bijar said that power and water have been restored in most parts of the flood-hit areas and most of the roads, which had been closed due to the floods, have been reopened. However, he said that 31 villages still have no access to water, adding

that authorities have promised to solve the problem very soon.

Bijar said that no death has been reported so far. Head of the country's national crisis management organization Mohammad Hassan Nami said floods caused by heavy rains since Wednesday have hit 16 cities and 1,947 villages. Vast areas in the province have been inundated by floods.

The cities of Dashtiari Qasrqand, Nikshahr and Chabahar are the hardest hit areas.

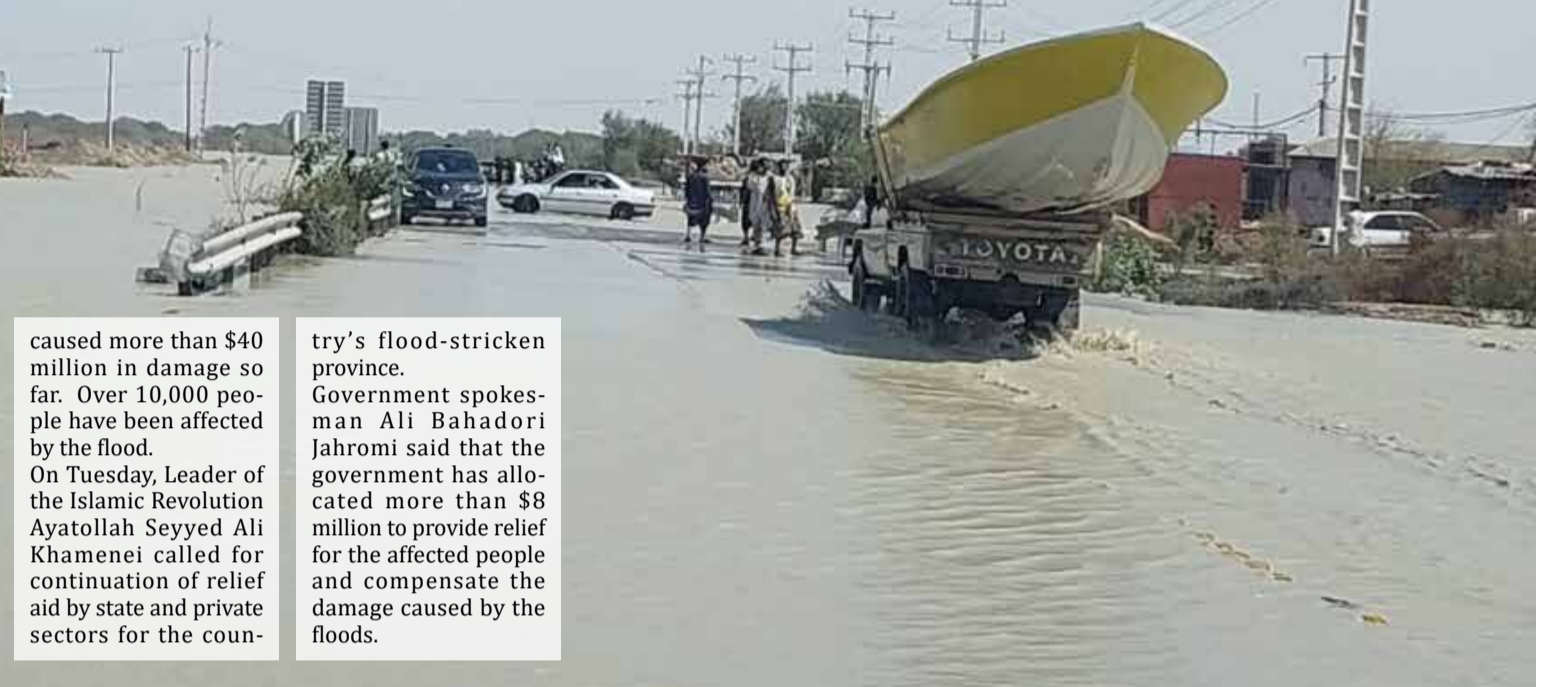
According to the head of the province's crisis management, Majid Mohebbi, floods have

caused more than \$40 million in damage so far. Over 10,000 people have been affected by the flood.

On Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called for continuation of relief aid by state and private sectors for the coun-

try's flood-stricken province.

Government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi said that the government has allocated more than \$8 million to provide relief for the affected people and compensate the damage caused by the floods.



● IRNA

## Iran, Uzbekistan discuss banking, transit issues

### Tashkent seeks 'advanced technologies' from Iran for key sectors

### Economy Desk

Iran and Uzbekistan have stressed on resolving banking and transit issues between the two countries, as well as increasing economic exchanges to \$2 billion. During a meeting with the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan in Tehran, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber emphasized that solving financial and banking issues plays a fundamental role in the sustainable economic relations and activation of the private sector of both countries.

The vice president proposed that financial transactions could be conducted using the national currencies of both countries, emphasizing the importance of avoiding the use of a third country's currency. "It is crucial for enhancing

the value of the national currencies of Iran and Uzbekistan. The central banks of both countries should establish the required banking mechanisms for this purpose," he added.

During the meeting, the energy minister of Uzbekistan hailed the capabilities of Iran in the energy sector, saying, "During visits to large Iranian companies, the significant industrial progress in the country was noticeable."

"We aim to utilize the advanced technologies in the oil, petrochemical, food, and industrial sectors of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Uzbekistan," said Jorabek Mirzamahmudov.

He considered the establishment of industrial zones in both countries as a significant factor in introducing industrial projects and products to the public and

private sectors.

Emphasizing the necessity of increasing the transit capacity between the two countries, Mirzamahmudov said the current capacity for transporting goods "is up to 3,000 vehicles, which, according to assessments, can be expanded to 24,000 vehicles".

The Uzbek minister also described the historical meetings of the two countries' presidents over the past two years as a sign of deepening relations, adding that the heads of state have stressed the need to increase financial and economic exchanges from \$500 million to \$1 billion, with plans to reach \$2 billion in the near future. It is essential to establish the necessary framework for implementing the agreements between the two countries.

## Children starving to death in northern Gaza: WHO

An aid mission to two hospitals in northern Gaza found horrifying scenes of children dying of starvation, amid dire shortages of food, fuel and medicines, the World Health Organization.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday the agency's visits over the weekend to the Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals "were the first since early October 2023 despite our efforts to gain more regular access to the north of Gaza", AFP reported.

The findings were "grim", he said on X, adding that "the situation at Al-Awda was particularly appalling, as one of the buildings is destroyed".

The Kamal Adwan hospital, the only pediatrics hospital in northern Gaza, was overwhelmed with patients, he said.

"The lack of food resulted in the deaths of 10 children," Tedros said.

In all, the Gaza health

ministry has said at least 16 children have died of malnutrition in aid-deprived northern Gaza.

The United Nations warned last week that famine in the Gaza Strip was "almost inevitable" because of the war that has been raging in the Palestinian territory since the beginning of the Israel's onslaught on Gaza on October 7.

In addition to the dire lack of food at the two northern hospitals, Tedros also cautioned on X that "the lack of electricity poses a serious threat to patient care, especially in critical areas like the intensive care unit and the neonatal unit".

The WHO chief reiterated an appeal to Israel to "ensure humanitarian aid can be delivered safely, and regularly".

"Civilians, especially children, and health staff need scaled-up help immediately," he said,



● AFP

stressing though that "the key medicine all these patients need is peace. Cease-fire."

A senior UN aid official recently warned that at least 576,000 people across the Gaza Strip - one quarter of the population - faced catastrophic levels of food insecurity and one in six children under the age of two in the north were suffering from acute malnutrition. And the regional direc-

tor of the UN's children's agency, UNICEF, said "the child deaths we feared are here, as malnutrition ravages the Gaza Strip". "These tragic and horrific deaths are man-made, predictable and entirely preventable," Adele Khodr said in a statement on Sunday.

Israel's has killed more than 30,500 people so far, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in Gaza.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran calls for 'stronger' actions by OIC against Israel's genocide in Gaza

### International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian called for "stronger and more effective" actions by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to stop Israel's war crimes and genocide in the Gaza Strip. The Iranian foreign minister made the remarks in a meeting with the OIC Secretary General Hissein Brahim Taha in the Saudi Arabian port city of Jeddah on Tuesday.

Amir-Abdollahian ex-

pressed deep concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, where more than 30,500 Palestinians have been killed by Israel's strikes since October.

He said that the Islamic countries participating in the summit should send a strong message to the Israeli regime and its supporters by taking strong decisions and steps in order to put an end to the regime's genocide in the Palestinian territory. The OIC held an extraordi-

nary summit to discuss the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Taha, for his part, expressed gratitude for Iran's strong position in supporting the Palestinian people.



● IRNA