

US, European support emboldens Israel to continue crimes: *Iran*



Foreign guests participating in a ceremony to mark Iran's national day of campaigning against chemical and microbiological weapons look at photos of the victims of Iraq's chemical attack on the Iranian city of Sardasht on July 1, 2024.
● MARZIEH SOLEIMANI/IRNA

International Desk

Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani on Monday said the Western support for Israel in international bodies paves the way for the regime to press ahead with its atrocities in the Gaza Strip. Bagheri Kani was speaking at a ceremony that marked the national day of campaigning against chemical and microbiological weapons on the 37th anniversary of a chemical attack on the Iranian city of Sardasht by the Iraqi army under former dictator Saddam Hussein. "European countries and the United States supplied Saddam with materials to make chemical bombs and sometimes provided chemical weapons during the war," Bagheri Kani said referring to the Iraqi war against Iran in 1980s. The top Iranian diplomat emphasized that Saddam's des-

potic nature was not the only factor that led to the chemical attack on Sardasht. He explained that the US incapacitated global mechanisms and thwarted any effort in the international organizations to prevent Saddam from conducting the attack. Bagheri Kani emphasized that the US and its Western allies are now blocking Iran's access to medicines required by victims of chemical attacks despite the Islamic Republic's constant efforts over the past four decades to provide them with medical and therapeutic services. "The same Western nations that backed the Baath regime in Iraq are now supporting the Zionist regime [of Israel] and set the stage for them in international mechanisms to continue their crimes," he added. The top diplomat appeared to be alluding to meetings of the UN Security Council in which

the US and its certain European allies blocked resolutions that demanded an immediate cease-fire to let aid into the Gaza Strip. The Israel's ongoing war on the Palestinian enclave, that started on October 7, has killed nearly 38,000 Gazans, mostly civilians, and displaced more than two million people. "Today, we are witnessing the same situation in Gaza. Chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are condemned because they lead to the massacre of humanity," Bagheri Kani said. He described Western nations as "the main suspects and perpetrators" of crimes against humanity and genocide. The minister called on "independent and freedom-seeking countries" not to allow Western powers to "justify their crimes" through the mechanisms they own.

French parties rush to team up against far right

France's political parties rushed to build a united front aimed at blocking the path to government of Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) on Monday, after it made historic gains to win the first round of a parliamentary election. The RN and its allies won Sunday's round with 33% of the vote, followed by a left-wing bloc with 28% and well ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's centrists, who scored just 20%, official results from the Interior Ministry showed, Reuters reported. While financial markets rallied on relief the RN tally was not greater, it was still a huge setback for Macron who had called the snap election after his ticket was trounced by the RN in the European Parliament election last month. Whether the anti-immigrant, Eurosceptic RN can form a government will depend now on how

successfully other parties manage to thwart Le Pen by rallying round the best-placed rival candidates in hundreds of constituencies across France. Leaders of both the left-wing New Popular Front and Macron's centrist alliance indicated on Sunday night they would withdraw their own candidates in districts where another candidate was better placed to beat the RN in next Sunday's run-off. However, it was not clear whether such a pact would always apply if the left-wing candidate was from the far-left France Unbowed (LFI) party of Jean-Luc Melenchon, one of the main members of the New Popular Front. A fiery orator, Melenchon is one of the most divisive figures in French politics, both enthusing and horrifying voters with his unbridled tax-and-spend proposals and class war rhetoric. Finance Minister Bruno

Le Maire, a Macron party ally, ruled out calling on voters to choose an LFI candidate. "LFI is a danger for the nation", he told France Inter radio. A longtime pariah for many in France, the RN is now closer to power than it has ever been. Le Pen has sought to clean up the image of a party known for racism and antisemitism, a tactic that has worked amid voter anger at Macron, the high cost of living and growing concerns over immigration. An RN-led government would raise major questions over where the European Union was headed, given the party's longstanding resistance to further EU integration. Human rights groups have raised concerns about how its "France first" policies would apply in practice to ethnic minorities, while economists question whether its hefty spending plans are fully funded.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Candidates seeking to expand voter base ahead of July 5 runoff

National Desk

Election fever is heating up in Iran as more officials and political parties threw their weight behind the two presidential candidates ahead of the Friday run-off election. Ali Tayebnia, economy minister under former president Hassan Rouhani, held a meeting with the Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian and supported him in the upcoming election. Meanwhile, a group of religious scholars, clerics and pundits in a statement on Monday supported Pezeshkian who secured a narrow lead over Conservative candidate Saeed Jalili in the first round of election which was held on June 28. The Moderate former president Rouhani, who had the support of Reformists during his tenure, released a statement and called for people to participate in the second round of the election. "Today we have two candidates, one of whom considers sanctions as a blessing and the other one considers them as a disaster. One considers disconnection from the world as an opportunity, and the other calls it the loss of opportunities," the statement said. Rouhani underlined that Iranians are now facing two choices. The first is participation or boycotting elections and the second choice is sanctions or interaction with the world. On the other side, Justice-seekers Party and Motalefeh (Islamic Coalition Party)



Masoud Pezeshkian



Saeed Jalili

in separate statements supported the Conservative candidate Saeed Jalili for the presidency. Campaigning continued on Monday as both candidates met their supporters in different cities before they attend the first televised debate in the second round. Addressing his supporters in the northeastern city of Gorgan, Jalili said that the country should have extensive and constructive interaction with the world, not minimal interaction and from a position of weakness. In a meeting focused on women and girls, the Reformist candidate emphasized that the capacity of Iranian girls should not be used to achieve their rights, but it should be used for the development of the country. The candidates began their campaign-

ing on Sunday after the Guardian Council confirmed the results of the June 28 election. Winner of the competition will replace the late president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash last month. Pezeshkian received 10,415,991 votes while Jalili gained 9,473,298. Conservative parliamentary speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and former interior minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi, the two other candidates, garnered 3,383,340 and 206,397 votes respectively. Iran's presidential race began with six candidates but Alireza Zakani, the current mayor of Tehran, and Amir Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi withdrew from the race on the eve of the election day and have thrown their weight behind Jalili.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1403/10

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 09. July.2024 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 09.July.2024 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %	
Fe%	65.00 Min
FeO%	1.0 Ave
P%	0.05 Max
S%	0.01 Max
SiO2%	3.5 Max
Al2O3%	0.7 Max
CaO%	0.9 Max
MgO%	2.5 Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250
8-16 mm%	Min 90
-6 mm%	Ave 5
A.I%	Max 4
T.I%	Min 95
Prosity%	19-24
Reducibility%	Min 90

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