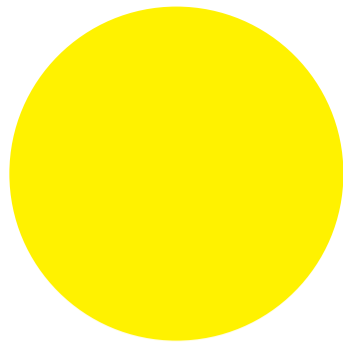


Iran says US bans on ICC aim to grant Israel impunity for criminal acts



Leader says Hamas vanquished Israel, US in Gaza war

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Foreign countries show interest in investing in Chabahar: MP

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writers

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

A member of Parliament announced that foreign countries are interested in investing in the port city of Chabahar, stating that Chabahar is Iran's only oceanic port in the southeast and provides access to international waters and distant continents for many regional countries.

Mohammad Anwar Bajarzehi, in an interview with Iran Daily, highlighted the significant economic and commercial potential of Chabahar Port, emphasizing that the port alone could revitalize the country's economy. He noted, however, that achieving this potential requires "infrastructure development, increased investment, and the reduction of bureaucratic hurdles in the region".

Bajarzehi added that Chabahar is the only port in Iran with high re-export capacity, the sole port connecting the North-South Corridor to international waters, and the only port exempt from sanctions.

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700 domestic, foreign firms to attend Tehran tourism exhibition

Arts & Culture Desk

The 18th International Tourism Exhibition in Tehran will commence on Wednesday, with the participation of 12 countries and approximately 700 domestic and foreign companies, in the presence of President Masoud Pezeshkian. Announcing the above, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts added that the international exhibition will take place from February 13 to 15 at the International Exhibition Center in Tehran. Addressing the press conference, Anoushiravan Mohseni Bandpey said that representatives from countries including the UAE, Turkey, Madagascar, Tajikistan, Qatar, Thailand, Brazil, Indonesia, and Russia, with two booths each, will participate in the exhibition, which has allocated 395 square meters for foreign booths, IRNA reported.

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a ceremony held to inaugurate a number of projects in the southeastern city of Sirjan in Kerman Province on February 8, 2025. president.ir



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'Watching Gazans walk back to Northern Gaza tells story of a triumphant population'

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

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Leader says Hamas vanquished Israel, US in Gaza war

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Saturday that the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas defeated Israel and the US in their war on Gaza, and described the cease-fire deal a "great achievement." Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with Hamas Shura Council chairman Muhammad Ismail Darwish, acting Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya, and other members of the group's political bureau in Tehran on Saturday, Press TV reported.

"You overcame the Zionist regime and, in fact, the US and by the grace of God, you did not let them achieve any of their goals," the Leader added.

Ayatollah Khamenei touched on the suffering of the Gazan people for a year and half of the Israeli war, saying the ultimate result is "the victory of right over wrong."

"The people of Gaza became an example for all those who have their hearts in resistance," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised Hamas negotiators, saying their deal forcing Israel to halt its brutal war on Gaza and release thousands of Palestinian prisoners is a "great achievement."

The first 42-day phase of the cease-fire agreement calls for 33 Israeli captives and nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners to be released.

So far, the agreement has held, but US President Donald Trump's proposal to clear Gaza of its inhabitants and take over the territory is creating hiccups amid widespread denunciation around the world.

Ayatollah Khamenei called on the Palestinian resistance to stay put, saying it is "necessary to plan for cultural works and continue the current path of PR



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) meets with a high-ranking Hamas delegation in Tehran on February 8, 2025.

● leader.ir

works alongside military affairs and the reconstruction of Gaza." The Leader described faith as the main "asymmetric weapon" of the resistance front against the enemy. "It is because of this faith that the Islamic Republic and the resistance front do not feel weak against the enemies." Ayatollah Khamenei touched on the recent US threats against the Islamic Republic and the people of Iran, saying, "They have no effect on the mentality of the nation and our officials, as well as the country's activists and youth." Iran, which targeted Israel twice with a volley of missiles and drones during the Gaza war, has seen a rise in sanctions and



threats of attack from the US and Israel since Trump came to office.

On Thursday, Washington imposed its first sanctions on Iran after the US president re-

vived his so-called maximum pressure strategy against the Islamic Republic.

Pezeshkian: Enemy mistaken to think Iran will succumb to sanctions

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday shrugged off new US sanctions targeting Iran, saying, "The enemy thinks that we will starve to death due to the sanctions but this is not the case." Addressing a ceremony held to inaugurate a number of industrial and tourism projects in the southeastern city of Sirjan in Kerman Province, Pezeshkian said that the country maintains a great potential to stand atop other states in the region. The Iranian president said progress would not take place by relying on others and underlined that Iran does not lack anything to become the best country in West Asia. "Today, we lack nothing from the

countries in the region; we can be the best country in the region; we have very high capacities, provided that the views of all officials change and we are able to change the status quo," the Iranian president said. The president's remarks came a day after Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that talks with the US would not solve the country's problems, stressing that such negotiations are "not smart, wise, or honorable." US President Donald Trump on Tuesday restored his "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran that includes efforts to drive its oil exports down to zero. The move brings back the tough US policy on Iran that Trump practiced throughout his first term.

During his first term in office in 2018, the US president pulled his country out of Tehran's 2015 nuclear pact with world powers and illegally reimposed crippling sanctions on Iran. As the first measure after reimposing the maximum pressure campaign, the US Department of the Treasury on Thursday announced financial bans on an international network "facilitating the shipment of millions of barrels of Iranian crude oil worth hundreds of millions of dollars" to China. The department's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned more than a dozen people and companies in China, India and the United Arab Emirates. The targets include Iranian and Indian citizens, crew management firms and a collection of ships.

Iran says US bans on ICC aim to grant Israel impunity for criminal acts

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said the United States' decision to sanction the International Criminal Court (ICC) is aimed at granting Israel full impunity for its criminal acts in pursuit of its "colonial erasure" of Palestine. Baqaei made the comments after US President Donald Trump signed an executive order imposing bans on the ICC which has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former military affairs minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes during the war on Gaza.



Esmail Baqaei
● IRNA

"Sanctioning ICC for investigating Israel's heinous crimes marks a new low in the annals of US complicity and collusion with an occupying apartheid regime that has committed all sorts of atrocities in pursuit of its 'colonial erasure' of Palestine," the Iranian spokesperson said in a message posted on his X account. Trump's order, which called the warrants "baseless", freezes US assets of people working on ICC investigations of American citizens or US ally Israel, barring them from visiting the United States. "This is truly an egregious abuse of power aimed at affording Israeli regime the fullest impunity for its criminal acts

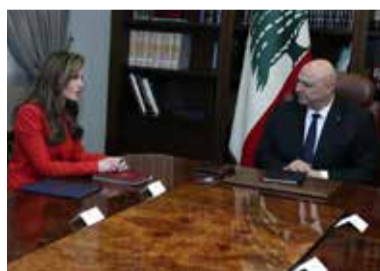
that seriously threaten int'l peace and security," Baqaei further said, calling on the world to "beware and react accordingly" as the US is now targeting inter-governmental institutions through extraterritorial application of its domestic law. Reuters reported that a group of 80 of countries on Friday expressed their "unwavering support" for the ICC, an intergovernmental organization seated in The Hague, Netherlands, which is the only permanent court for the prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression. The ICC itself condemned the sanctions as well, saying it will stand firmly in its pursuit of justice.

Outrage in Lebanon over anti-Hezbollah US meddlesome comments

International Desk

Comments by a US official against Hezbollah resistance movement have sparked outrage in Lebanon, with the popular group decrying them as "blatant interference" in Lebanon's affairs. US deputy special envoy to the Middle East Morgan Ortogus said in a meeting with Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun that Hezbollah "should not be included" in Lebanon's future government and that the inclusion of Hezbollah was a "red line" for Washington. "It is thanks to President Aoun and Prime Minister-designate Nawaf Salam, and everyone in this government who is committed to an end of corruption, who is committed to reforms and who are committed to making sure that Hezbollah is not a part of this government in any form, and that Hezbollah remains disarmed and militarily defeated." Mohammad Raad, head of Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc – the political wing of Hezbollah – in the Lebanese parliament, said the US envoy's statement was "full of hate and irresponsibility." "It targeted a Lebanese component that is an integral part of the national agreement

and Lebanese political life that stood up to Israeli aggression and emerged victorious," Raad said in a statement to the media on Friday. Such American comments "are an unacceptable interference in Lebanese affairs and a disrespect to all diplomatic customs and international diplomacy rules," he added. Mahmoud Qamati, deputy head of Hezbollah's political council, also strongly responded to interventionist remarks by the US envoy and said Ortogus "threatened a large segment of the Lebanese people" through her statements. Stressing that the Lebanese have unanimously agreed to include non-partisan figures in the to-be-formed government, Qamati said, "The US with the Donald Trump administration is implementing a new dictatorship to rule the world but it will not be able to impose its project in the region or prevent Hezbollah from participating in the government." He underlined that, "The US envoy is putting on an empty show of strength and her statement is extreme insolence." Qamati stressed that foreign parties should not be allowed to intervene in Lebanon's internal affairs, saying, "The



Lebanon's President Joseph Aoun (R) meets with US deputy special envoy to the Middle East Morgan Ortogus in Beirut, Lebanon, on February 7, 2025.

● AP

US envoy's statement is a clear threat to a large group of Lebanese citizens." Moreover, a group of young Hezbollah supporters gathered in front of Beirut's airport building on Friday afternoon to protest against the US envoy's comments. Waving Hezbollah's yellow flag, they burned tires and blocked the road leading to Beirut's international airport, with some of them spray-painting the Star of David and the words "USA" and "Trump" on the road for people to trample and cars to drive over.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



President urges efficient use of national resources, underscores investment



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a ceremony held to inaugurate a number of projects in the southeastern city of Sirjan in Kerman Province on February 8, 2025.
president.ir

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said the country's resources and mines are not infinite and will eventually deplete, stressing that the issue is critical and calls for further investment. During his visit to the city of Sirjan in the southeastern Kerman Province on Saturday to inaugurate industrial and tourism projects, including those at the Golgohar Complex, he stated that while making productive use of these resources, it is crucial to invest for the future for the benefit of the next generation. The president acknowledged that the implementation of these projects and investments

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gurate industrial and tourism projects, including those at the Golgohar Complex, he stated that while making productive use of these resources, it is crucial to invest for the future for the benefit of the next generation. The president acknowledged that the implementation of these projects and investments

began during previous administrations, with many individuals contributing to their progress. He expressed gratitude for their efforts, stating, "Today, we are here to inaugurate these projects, but it is important to sincerely appreciate the hard work of all governments and individuals involved in their execution and completion."

Pezeshkian stressed the importance of collective effort in solving problems, noting, "If anyone thinks they are the sole source of wisdom, we will face difficulties. True wisdom lies in the collective efforts of all of us, including future generations who will bring about change."

He highlighted that Iran has resources and capabilities that have not been optimally utilized. "One key discussion is how to use these resources efficiently and with the highest productivity," he said. Pezeshkian pointed out that investments are planned for the next year, which is promising for completing and enhancing the production cycle from mining to market.

The president also emphasized the need to consider future generations. "Our resources and mines are not everlasting; they will eventually run out. Therefore, we must ensure that future generations can live in a suitable environment. While using these resources wisely, we must also invest in sustainable and lasting structures for their prosperity and well-being, rather than depleting them without leaving anything for the future." Pezeshkian addressed the shortage of 1,552 classrooms in the region, noting that the fu-

ture of the country depends on the children and the perspective we provide them.

"If someone is dissatisfied with the current situation and strives to build the future they envision, they can bring about change. It depends on how much we utilize our capabilities. When we elevate our perspective, we can achieve what we aim for," he said.

He reiterated the importance of the Vision Document as a guiding principle, questioning whether current road construction and other projects align with its goals and frameworks. Pezeshkian concluded by expressing confidence in Iran's potential. "If we stop relying on others and depend on ourselves, I believe we will achieve our goals. We aim to become the region's leader in science, economy, and technology, but this will not come easily and it requires immense effort."

The president also thanked all those involved in the projects inaugurated earlier in the day as he reiterated the need for unity. "Let us join hands and work together to resolve the country's challenges. We are determined to solve problems and build the nation with the help, cooperation, and solidarity of all people," he said.

South Pars refinery achieves 70% local production of equipment



The head of the mechanical workshop at the ninth refinery of the South Pars Gas Complex highlighted the facility's significant achievements, stating that over 70% of strategic parts and equipment have been successfully designed and manufactured at the refinery's central workshop, thanks to the expertise and dedication of skilled personnel.

Ahmad Arianmehr explained that the staff and specialists at the central workshop of the ninth refinery have made significant strides in reducing reliance on foreign countries by completing the repair processes for fixed equipment, including various valves, safety valves, and heat exchangers, as well as rotary equipment such as pumps and compressors, Shana reported. Arianmehr emphasized the workshop's high capacity for producing various spare parts and equipment, noting that over 70% of spare parts are now manufactured in-house, while the remaining 30% are sourced through collaboration with domestic and knowledge-based manufacturers. This has enabled the refinery to achieve 100% usage of Iranian-made goods.

He also addressed the necessity of outsourcing 30% of the parts, citing environmental conditions, limited access to advanced facilities, and processes like casting and surface coating. However, he expressed hope that with the installation of additional equipment, the refinery could achieve full self-sufficiency in part production. Arianmehr added that the design and production of a speed-reducing gearbox for TEG pumps have been successfully completed at the workshop, with the first unit set to be installed and monitored in the coming weeks.

He also highlighted other major accomplishments, including the construction and installation of a bridge and a 4-ton overhead crane, which were entirely designed and built by the refinery's specialists. Additionally, the workshop has achieved 100% local production of flare tips, marking another milestone for the team. The head of the mechanical workshop reiterated the refinery's commitment to advancing domestic manufacturing capabilities and reducing dependency on foreign technology.

Four-month compensatory production plan introduced by gov't

Economy Desk

The Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade introduced a four-month compensatory production plan to address energy shortages and challenges faced by manufacturers and producers.

In recent years, energy imbalances—stemming from neglect in developing energy infrastructure, outdated systems, inefficient subsidy policies, and poor energy resource management—have caused irreparable damage to production across various industrial sectors, including petrochemicals, steel, copper, aluminum, and others, IRNA wrote. Power and gas outages have intensified annually, with producers bearing the brunt of the losses. These imbalances have not only forced the closure of some small factories and left workers partially employed but have also impacted exports and foreign currency earnings.

To address these issues, the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade has prepared the compensatory production plan for manufacturers. Ebrahim Sheikh, the deputy minister of public industries, said that the plan aims to offset production losses.

He added that under the plan, continuous gas and electricity supply will be ensured from early March to late June, allowing producers to compensate for lost production.

Sheikh highlighted supportive measures and incentives for manufacturers, including a minimum 6-month grace period for financial obligations such as tax payments, utility bills, and insurance premiums.

He also noted the establishment of streamlined customs procedures to expedite the clearance of production components and parts, as well as the allocation of foreign currency for raw materials and production inputs. Sheikh mentioned a review and increase in diesel fuel quotas for production units in line with the 2025 production plan, with larger quotas allocated through the SADAF system for applicants in various provinces.

He emphasized that supporting the purchase of diesel generators, maximizing raw material production in key industries (petrochemicals, steel, copper, aluminum, etc.), and ensuring adequate financial resources are critical components of the compensatory package. The deputy minister also reported fair wage payments to workers, stating that employers in workshops and production facilities are providing competitive wages to maintain workforce motivation during both regular and holiday operations.

He added that continuous production and maximizing capacity through three-shift operations will be supported over the four-month period.

Alongside the support package, experts have proposed solutions to address energy imbalances, including requiring manufacturers to establish solar power plants to partially meet their electricity and gas needs.

Additionally, adopting modern technologies, investing in industrial modernization, and generating energy from solar and wind power plants could significantly reduce energy imbalances in the short term.

Foreign countries show ...



He pointed to the high volume of re-exports from

Page 1 > D u b a i ' s ports, noting that the UAE generates over \$180 billion annually through re-exports by shipping goods from various regions worldwide to other countries via its ports. "This is while Chabahar offers better conditions for transit and re-export due to its oceanic location and closer proximity to many export destinations," he said. Bajarzahi explained that Chabahar, located on the Makoran coast near the Indian Ocean, provides access to Africa and Europe, making it a strategic hub for trade. Several of Iran's landlocked neighboring countries in the region and Central Asia can use Chabahar to engage in global trade.

"Afghanistan has expressed readiness to use Chabahar Port for transit, with the potential to move hundreds of containers and trucks daily to meet the country's needs. This could generate at least \$5 billion annually for Iran

as Chabahar is not subject to sanctions for transporting goods to Afghanistan. Currently, Afghanistan sources its goods through Pakistan's Gwadar Port, but Afghan officials prefer using Iran and Chabahar."

Bajarzahi also noted Russia's strong interest in using Chabahar Port and the North-South Corridor for transit. "If the railway along this corridor is completed," the MP maintained, "Russia could transport 100 million tons of coal annually to Africa, Europe, and other regions, generating at least \$5 billion in annual revenue for Iran." Russia has proposed constructing a railway within Iran along the North-South Corridor within two years. This would allow Russia to transport grain, coal, and other goods to Chabahar for global export. While Iran has already begun constructing a railway along this corridor, it has yet to become operational. Russia prefers to use its wider-gauge railway for this route.

"Last year, approximately 30,000 trucks transported goods from Chabahar Port and the Rimdan border to Pakistan, a number that could increase to 50,000 in the short term. Despite subpar road conditions and customs facilities at the Rimdan border, improving infrastructure could enable Iran to extend transit routes to China via Pakistan."

Bajarzahi emphasized that if the necessary commercial, economic, and industrial infrastructure is developed in Chabahar, major industries such as automotive manufacturing could establish operations in the region, with related industries also producing and exporting goods from Chabahar to target markets. He identified complex administrative bureaucracy as a major obstacle to exports from Chabahar, describing it as a form of "self-imposed sanction" that complicates trade. "Simplifying these processes is essential to facilitate business," the lawmaker stressed.

'Watching Gazans walk back to Northern Gaza tells story of a triumphant population'



By Zohreh Qanadi
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

After 15 months of brutal conflict in Gaza, a cease-fire agreement between Israeli and Palestinian side took effect on January 19, providing over 2 million Palestinians in the enclave with some relief.

The first six-week phase of the agreement will involve the release of some Israeli captives held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinians held by Israel, a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces to Gaza's borders, and a significant increase in access to humanitarian aid. The cease-fire has held for first two weeks, allowing for hundreds of aid trucks to flow into the tiny coastal territory and for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to return to shattered homes in Northern Gaza.

Additionally, on Feb. 1, Rafah border was opened to allow fifty wounded Palestinian children to leave Gaza for treatment in Egypt. Rafah crossing is the sole exit point for Gazans and it had been closed for nine long months.

Wholesale destruction of Gaza by Israel started after the October 7, 2023 attack of the Palestinian youth which resulted in the deaths of approximately 1,200 Israelis and the capturing of 251 others.

Many thousands of Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in cold blood by Israel in what has been called a "genocide" by virtually all human rights organizations including Amnesty



International and Human Rights Watch. Currently, the figure 46,700 dead Palestinians, provided by the Palestinian health ministry, is at best an under estimation. An article published by the highly regarded European journal of public health, the Lancet, suggests that over 168,000 people may have been killed by Israel during the first nine months of the genocide. Most of the 2.3 million population has been displaced, and there is

widespread destruction. Severe shortages of food, water, fuel, medicine and shelter has been widely reported. Multiple cases of death caused by starvation, and hypothermia that can kill a person in under one hour, are at hand.

Despite the massive toll that the brutal Israeli military onslaught has taken on Gazans, the truce deal has been hailed as a victory by Palestinians and their supporters. Many analysts, activists,

and even some Israeli officials have admitted that Israelis have lost the war in Gaza.

The former head of the Israeli National Security Council described the war as a disastrous failure for Israel in Gaza, stating on the day the truce deal was made, that Hamas has won the Gaza war and thwarted Israel's objectives.

"This war was a disastrous Israeli failure in Gaza," Giora Eiland, a retired general, told Maariv

newspaper.

"This war was a failure for a very simple reason that Hamas did not only succeed in preventing Israel from achieving its goals, but also remained in power," he added.

A world-renowned international relations theorist John J. Mearsheimer, who had described the Gaza war as a potential genocide, said in an interview with Al Jazeera that the Israelis lost the war in Gaza. They failed to drive Palestinians out



Displaced Palestinians return to Rafah as a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas went into effect in Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Jan. 19, 2025.
● MARIAM DAGGA/AP

of Gaza. He said the deal is the admission of defeat by Israelis.

Those in favor of the deal underline that it came amid the regime's desperation in the face of interminable and successful anti-Israeli operations by the region's resistance movements.



Mozghan Savabieasfahani



This is a humiliating defeat for Israel. Israel with the full backing of the United States and Europe, which have lavishly supported the genocide of the Palestinian people for one year and four months has lost the fight to a brutalized but unwavering population.

Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani, a justice advocate for Palestine and an award-winning environmental scientist, spoke with Iran Daily regarding this matter:

Watching Palestinians walk back to Northern Gaza, in their hundreds of thousands, using the roads that were forbidden to Palestinians, tells the story of a triumphant population. A population that suffered a massive genocide, on an industrial scale, is on the march back home to Northern Gaza.

This is a humiliating defeat for Israel. Israel with the full backing of the monstrous and criminal governments of the United States and Europe, which have lavishly supported the genocide of the Palestinian people for one year and four months has lost the fight to a brutalized but unwavering population. The massive physical presence of Palestinian Resistance, at the time of prisoner exchange, in areas that Israel had claimed to have been "cleaned" of the existence of Resistance forces, is another testament to victory of Palestinians.

Hamas still controls Gaza

Moreover, Palestinian civil adminis-



tration has resumed work. If there is any authority in Gaza, it still appears to be Hamas.

The massive Israeli bombardment particularly in North Gaza had left many thinking that Resistance had

been decimated. However, we now see that this is not the case. Some displaced Palestinians suggest that

the Resistance may potentially be stronger than before.

One of the main stated goals of Israel was the destruction of a network of tunnels used by the Resistance. However, according to Israeli media, the infrastructure used by the Resistance including the tunnel network is still largely operational, though estimates about how much of it is still intact vary significantly.

The European Council on Foreign Relations was told by members of the Resistance that many of the tunnels have been restored or preserved and, in some cases, even expanded.

The picture that rises is one of massive political and military defeat for the largest nuclear army in Western Asia, that is the apartheid, Israel. A free Palestine is in the horizon and resistance will no doubt continue until complete and total victory.



Displaced Palestinians return to their homes in the northern Gaza Strip on Jan. 27, 2025.
● MOHAMMAD ABU SAMRA/AP

Hamas never greedy for control over Gaza; emphasizes path of Resistance

International Desk

INTERVIEW

The representative of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement in Tehran stated, "Hamas has never been greedy for leadership and management of Gaza; rather, it has sought to manage Gaza without deviating from the path of resistance taken by the Palestinian people."

After 470 days of conflict in the Gaza Strip, Israel and the Hamas resistance group reached an agreement, and the Prime Minister of Qatar announced the cease-fire. This agreement came into effect on January 19, at 8:30 AM local time.

Many believe that the outcome of the truce is a victory for Hamas. The severe and historic blow dealt by Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was for Benjamin Netanyahu a complete and utter defeat. The flames of war that ignited after Oc-



tober 7, 2023, lasting for 15 months, represented a "battle of wills." During these 15 months, the world witnessed unprecedented and indiscriminate bombings in the 365-kilometer-long Gaza Strip, aimed at breaking the will of Hamas and the people

of Gaza. Netanyahu repeatedly attempted to push the people of Gaza out of this narrow strip into Egypt, but the Israeli prime minister failed, and the people held their ground. When faced with the resistance of the people of Gaza and Hamas,

Netanyahu and his cabinet set certain goals for themselves, which included "the complete destruction of Hamas, the occupation and control of the Gaza Strip, the establishment of Israeli settlements within Gaza, and the liberation of prisoners."

Throughout the war days, Netanyahu rejected any notion of retreat or cease-fire. In contrast, Hamas had its own objectives in mind, such as the liberation of prisoners, disrupting the Saudi-Israeli agreement, and seeking revenge against the Israeli regime



Nasser Abu Sharif, the representative of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement in Iran, (L) elaborates on the conditions and contexts surrounding the "Gaza cease-fire agreement" in an interview with Mehr news agency.

● ALI HADDADI ASI/MEHR

for its transgressions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Hamas continued to resist until the very last day, inflicting heavy casualties on the Israeli regime, including 900 killed and over 10,000 wounded. Realizing that the destruction of Hamas' military organization and the resistance of the people of Gaza was nothing but a myth, Netanyahu ultimately conceded to the cease-fire.

Nasser Abu Sharif, the representative of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement in Iran, elaborated on the conditions and contexts surrounding the "Gaza cease-fire agreement" in a conversation, the text of which follows:

Under what circumstances was the Gaza cease-fire accepted? What led the Israel to agree to this truce?

From the outset of the war against Gaza, the Palestinian resistance proposed a cease-fire based on certain conditions. The withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza was the primary condition. Additionally, the second condition involved the release of prisoners between the Israeli and the Palestinian side within the framework of a "prisoner exchange agreement."

Netanyahu obstructed the cease-fire conditions due to personal and party interests; one reason he was reluctant to accept a truce was his intention to free all prisoners by force. He also sought to avoid a withdrawal from Gaza, allowing Israeli soldiers to remain in the area. Netanyahu was focused on suppressing the resistance in Gaza and aimed to put an end to it. After 470 days, the only achievement he could claim was committing even more horrific atrocities, all of which were documented by media outlets and international organizations.

According to experts, the Israeli regime was left with two bad options: to accept the cease-fire or face worse consequences. They chose the lesser of two evils—agreeing to the cease-fire. Former US president Joe Biden had previously proposed a prisoner exchange plan, which was halted with the arrival of Donald Trump and his team. A phased withdrawal was supposed to be designed, allowing Israeli forces to gradually exit Gaza. These represent the fundamental terms and conditions of the truce.

With the truce in Gaza now in effect, how will the management of this territory be organized?

Regarding the governance of Gaza, it is essential that the people of Gaza make their own decisions and govern themselves; this is entirely a Palestinian matter. No one from outside the Gaza Strip can govern Gaza. Management must be entirely internal. Hamas and the Resistance are

part of the people of Gaza and its governance, which is why civil and security administration must be within Gaza itself—no external entity can manage it.

This is an inviolable issue and a red line for us. Hamas has never desired to govern Gaza. There have been several proposals for the Palestinian Authority to come in and take over the administration of Gaza instead of Hamas. However, Hamas has never been greedy for leadership; it seeks to manage Gaza without deviating from the path of Resistance chosen by the Palestinian people.

such as UNRWA, the World Health Organization, and the World Food Programme, have expressed their readiness to assist Gaza.

After the cease-fire began, Israel launched attacks in the West Bank. Should we expect further wars and crimes in the West Bank? Fundamentally, what objectives does Israel pursue in the West Bank?

The real battle is not in the Gaza Strip but in the West Bank. During Trump's first presidency, the "Deal of the Century" was introduced, which included annexing Al-Quds

Gaza Strip. For decades, this issue has been raised, and efforts have been focused on the West Bank. Netanyahu stated that 2010 was the year for the near-complete annexation of Al-Quds and the western regions to the Israeli regime. Now, with the Netanyahu's cabinet and the finance minister, who is effectively the minister for settlements, we can see the current state of affairs.

Bezalet Smotrich holds views that advocate for the expansion of settlements and is extremely supportive of Israeli settlements. On the Palestinian side, we wit-

no rights to their land. In the future, we will witness a widespread confrontation.

What impact will Trump's return to the White House have on the Palestinian issue?

Trump is an unpredictable figure who will ultimately yield to international institutions and global components. He put immense pressure on Arab countries, which eventually led to the "Abraham Accords" or the normalization of relations between the Israeli regime and Arab states. The Abraham Accords coincided with Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. The reason behind the operation was the pressures placed on the Palestinian people.

They aimed to eliminate the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause. The relocation of the US Embassy to Al-Quds and the aggressions against Al-Quds, which Trump endorsed, were among the factors that led to the formation of Operation Al-Aqsa. These pressures will one day result in an explosion of the situation, which will not only harm Palestine but also the Arab world and even Jordan.

Saudi Arabia believed that if it wanted to enter the normalization process, it needed to accept the two-state solution, which they did not and will not accept. Trump must understand that without resolving the Palestinian issue, the region will not see peace and stability. There is a possibility that Trump's pressures could lead to an explosion in the region, resulting in unpredictable changes and transformations.

They pressured the nationalist government of Iran, led by Mossadegh, and ultimately overthrew it, but the Islamic Revolution in Iran occurred. They occupied Afghanistan, which led to the emergence of the Taliban in a new form that took control of the Afghan government. The more pressure they apply to the region, the less effective it will be; rather, it may lead to a significant upheaval.

The interview by Mehr was published on the Persian service of the news agency.



The photo published on Feb. 4, 2025 shows a view of an area in Gaza City destroyed by the Israeli forces in Gaza City.

● ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

The Palestinian Authority has raised the issue of Hamas' leadership due to Arab and international pressures; otherwise, Hamas has never sought power. Instead, Hamas desires a collaborative intellectual approach to managing Gaza. There are many technocrats who can come in and govern Gaza. These individuals come from civil institutions, charities, and unions. We, as the Resistance, are also content with this arrangement.

Charitable organizations and unions in Palestine can play a significant role in providing assistance to the Gaza Strip. Countries like Egypt and Jordan, along with international organizations

and some Israeli settlements to the Israeli regime. Today, the plan has expanded significantly. The current proposal includes the annexation of large portions of the West Bank, Israeli settlements, Area C, and military and border regions to the Israeli regime.

The confrontation we face today is a genuine struggle. The fascist, right-wing, and extremist Israeli cabinet does not believe in the two-state solution for Palestinians and Israelis. Trump and his administration, which is now in power, do not support this two-state solution either.

The battle we are currently engaged in is essentially taking place in the West Bank, not in the

ness both popular and armed resistance. The West Bank is under the influence of the Palestinian Authority; thus, without support from Arab, Islamic, and international countries, nothing can be accomplished. We cannot overlook the significant danger that threatens the West Bank. Trump, who supports the annexation of the West Bank to the Israeli regime, is in power and believes that the Palestinian people have



There have been several proposals for the Palestinian Authority to come in and take over the administration of Gaza instead of Hamas. However, Hamas has never been greedy for leadership; it seeks to manage Gaza without deviating from the path of Resistance chosen by the Palestinian people.

Persian Gulf Pro League: Sepahan held at Malavan as Tractor is back on top

Sports Desk

Sepahan was held to a 1-1 stalemate at Malavan FC in the Persian Gulf Pro League on Friday. A second successive draw away from home saw the Isfahan-based club drop to second in the Iranian top-flight table with 40 points.

Reza Shekari put the visitors in front with three minutes in to the game on a rain-soaked pitch at the Sirous Qayeqran Stadium, before Amirreza Afsordeh drew Malavan level on the hour mark as the home side's winless run in the league extended to nine games.

Sepahan is now one point adrift of Tractor, which walked away with a massive 1-0 over Zob Ahan in Isfahan on the preceding night.

Croatian Domagoj Drozdek, who joined Tractor in January, came off the bench in the second half to find the net in the 89th minute and help Dragan Skocic's side move back atop the table. Elsewhere, third-place Foolad Khuzestan blew the chance to close the gap on Sepahan after a 2-0 defeat at Khaybar on Friday.

Faraz Emam-Ali headed home in the 14th minute and new signing Mohammad-Javad Mohammadi bagged his second goal in as many games for the home side to lift Khaybar to 12th in the table with 20 points – four clear of the relegation zone.

Nassaji Mazandaran remained second from bottom after sharing the spoils with Chadormalou in a goalless game at home.

There were also no goals between Mes and Esteghlal in Rafsanjan, which helped the former move above Shams Azar into 13th on goal difference, while Esteghlal remained ninth with 23 points.

Shams Azar suffered a first defeat in four games under new head coach Mahdi Rahmati on Thursday, losing 1-0 to Esteghlal Khuzestan in Ahvaz, courtesy of Mahmoud Motalaqzadeh's 56th minute strike.



Sepahan fullback Arya Yousefi (14) is challenged by Malavan's Alireza Ramezani during a Persian Gulf Pro League game in Bandar Anzali, Iran, on Feb. 7, 2025.

● **FFIRI**



Ex-Iran setter Mahdavi named new Shadab coach

Sports Desk

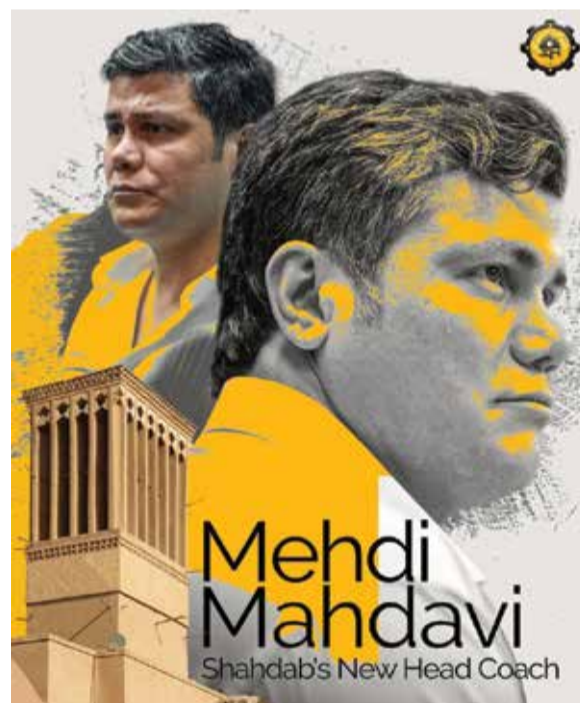
Mehdi Mahdavi, a former setter of the Iranian national volleyball team, was appointed as the head coach of top-flight club Shahdab Yazd on Saturday.

New Shahdab coach replaces Rahman Mohammadi-Rad, to whom Mahdavi worked as a number two before he was sacked following a five-set defeat against Tabi'at Eslamshahr in the Iranian Super League on Wednesday.

Mahdavi's first game in charge will come away to Chadormalou on Wednesday.

Mohammadi-Rad led Shahdab to a runner-up finish in the AVC Asian Club Championship on home soil last year, and fifth place at the FIVB Men's Club World Championship in Brazil last December.

Shahdab is second in the Iranian league table, trailing Shahrdari Orumiye by five points.



Man City's charges outcome 'in a month', Guardiola says

BBC – Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola says the club expects to learn the outcome of the hearing into its 115 charges of alleged Premier League financial rule breaches "in one month".

The hearing took place in front of an independent commission between September and December.

If City – who strongly deny the charges – are found guilty, the commission has unlimited powers, which include a massive points deduction or relegation.

In September, Guardiola, who earlier this season signed a two-year con-



tract extension to 2027, said City's critics wanted the Premier League champions "wiped from the face of the Earth". No-one has stated when a

decision will be reached, although it was widely expected to be in the first quarter of 2025. Guardiola confirmed this as he responded to a

question about whether City's record £180m investment in the transfer market during the winter window was triggered by the possibility of City being hit by a transfer ban. "In one month, I think there will be a verdict and a sentence," he said. "After that, we will see my opinion of what happened so far."

He also stressed it was made possible by City making a profit for the past three seasons, partly due to the sales of players such as Cole Palmer to Chelsea and Liam Delap to Ipswich for a combined £57.5m.

UWW Ranking Series: Keshtkar settles for Greco-Roman silver in Zagreb Open

Sports Desk

Iranian wrestler Mohammad-Mahdi Keshtkar won a first Greco-Roman medal for the country at the Zagreb Open, taking a silver medal in the 63kg contests.

A gold medalist in last December's National Championships, the 23-year-old Iranian overcame Uzbek opponents Aytjan Khalmakhanov (5-4) and Islomjon Bakhrarov (10-1) to reach the final showpiece, before suffering a 10-0 defeat against Russian Dinislam Bamatov, who won a world under-23 silver last year in Tirana, Albania.

Keshtkar's fellow-Iranian Erfan Jarkani, a world junior and U23 bronze medalist last year, finished his 63kg campaign empty-handed after a 3-1 loss to Bakhrarov in the quarter-finals. Elsewhere in the first UWW Ranking Series event of the international season, Iranian duo Ahmadreza Mohsennejad and

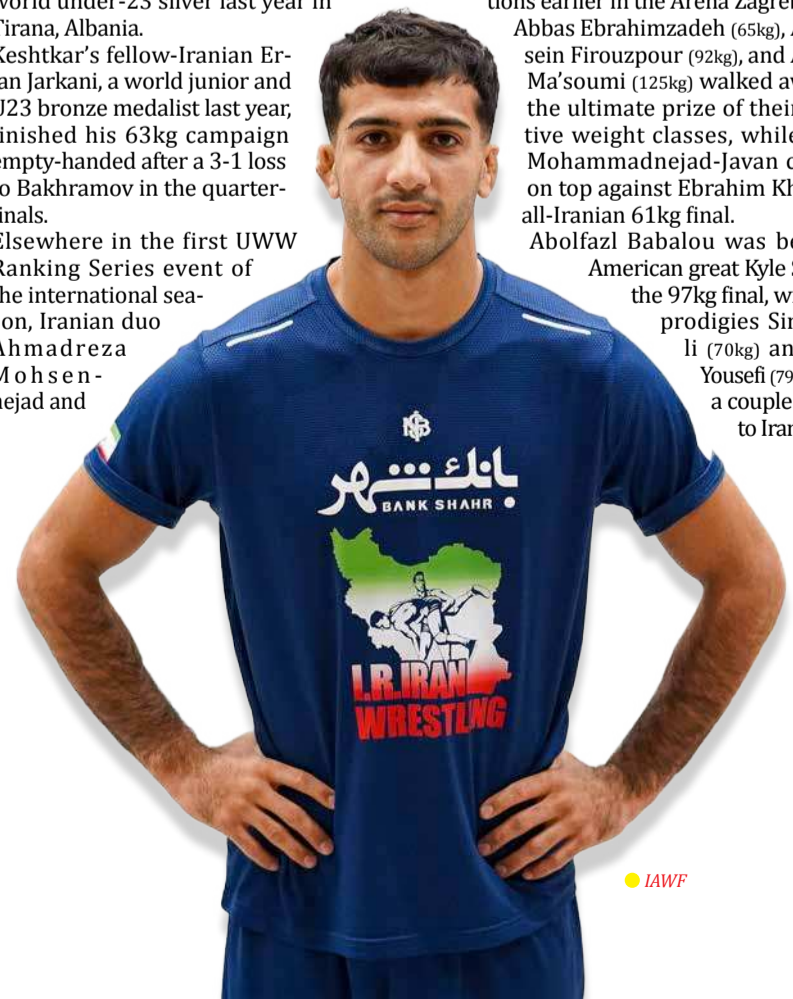
Mohammadreza Gholami missed out on the podium in the 67kg event following defeats in the third-place bouts.

Mohsennejad was beaten 5-0 by Romanian Razvan Arnaut, while Gholami fell to a 10-1 loss to home-favorite Dominik Etlinger.

Haavard Joergensen of Norway grabbed the 67kg gold, thanks to a superiority win (9-1) against Moldovan Valentin Petic in the final. Friday's Greco-Roman results came after the Iranian 16-man squad had collected four golds and silvers apiece to finish runner-up to the United States in the freestyle competitions earlier in the Arena Zagreb.

Abbas Ebrahimzadeh (65kg), Amirhossein Firouzpour (92kg), and Amirreza Ma'soumi (125kg) walked away with the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes, while Ahmad Mohammadnejad-Javan came out on top against Ebrahim Khari in an all-Iranian 61kg final.

Abolfazl Babalou was beaten by American great Kyle Snyder in the 97kg final, with young prodigies Sina Khalili (70kg) and Mahdi Yousefi (79kg) adding a couple of silvers to Iran's haul.



● **IJWF**

Archaeological insights from Shahr-e Sukhteh



Iranica Desk

Shahr-e Sukhteh (Burned City), an ancient treasure located at the easternmost point of Iran, is poised for the resumption of a new season of archaeological excavations following 19 seasons of exploration.

Hossein Sarhaddi-Dadian, head of the Shahr-e Sukhteh World Heritage Site, informed ISNA that the excavations are currently on hold, with a new season yet to commence. Unfortunately, delays have been caused by funding challenges and administrative issues. However, the Cultural Heritage Organization of Sistan and Baluchestan Province is making significant efforts to continue the work.

"We held a meeting with the country's cultural heritage officials, and commitments were made to secure funding for the project. This funding is set to be included in the annual budget

program," Sarhaddi-Dadian stated, ISNA wrote.

He emphasized the social and cultural significance of Shahr-e Sukhteh, noting its location at Iran's easternmost point, bordering Afghanistan. This region is not only scientifically and research-wise important but also plays a crucial social and cultural role. Archaeological excavations instill a sense of pride and connection to heritage among local people. When the media discusses Shahr-e Sukhteh, the community feels that the area is vibrant and continues to hold importance, which can have positive psychological effects, helping address some of the social and economic issues in the region.

Sarhaddi-Dadian recalled that 19 seasons of excavations have been conducted in Shahr-e Sukhteh thus far, with six seasons carried out by Italian teams before the revolution, while



the remaining excavations were conducted by Iranian archaeologists under the supervision of Seyyed Mansour Seyyedsajadi. Despite these efforts, only about six to seven percent of this historical site has been identified.

Regarding the latest status of conservation and res-

toration efforts at Shahr-e Sukhteh, he explained that the site comprises various sections, including eastern and central residential areas, memorial structures, industrial zones, and a cemetery.

Given the possibility of rainfall in the last months of the

year, three sections requiring urgent restoration were prioritized. One of these was a burnt palace in the eastern residential area, the largest structure excavated by Italian archaeologists before the Islamic Revolution. Another selected area for restoration was the ceme-

tery, along with the northern part of the eastern area. These regions are among the oldest excavated parts that have not received adequate restoration for years. Shahr-e Sukhteh is located in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, along the road from Zahedan to Zabol. With a history of approximately 5,000 years, the ancient city is one of the most significant areas of ancient urbanization on the Iranian plateau. According to archaeological findings, Shahr-e Sukhteh was inhabited during four distinct periods. Researchers discovered that the city was abandoned about 1,900 years ago without any war or conflict, indicating a peaceful departure.

Excavations in the central part of the city suggest that the inhabitants gathered their belongings and left, though the reasons for this desertion remain unclear. Archaeologists consider this city, which had a com-

plete range of living tools approximately 5,000 years ago, to be one of the most advanced ancient cities in the world.

Significant artifacts uncovered from Shahr-e Sukhteh include a surgically altered skull of a 13-year-old girl, an artificial eye belonging to a woman aged approximately 28 to 32, made from a combination of natural bitumen, animal fat, and fine golden wires resembling capillaries; a 10-centimeter long ebony ruler measuring to a precision of one millimeter; a backgammon board made of ebony with 60 pieces; and a clay cup designed with an image of a moving goat, considered the oldest animation in the world. Shahr-e Sukhteh was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as the 17th globally registered Iranian site during the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Doha, Qatar, on June 22, 2014.

Enchantment of Vali Castle in Ilam

Vali Castle of Ilam, the capital city of Ilam Province, is one of the most stunning architectural examples from the Qajar period. Constructed in 1908 under the command of Gholamreza Vali Khan, it is situated in the Miankuhi plain, atop Choga Mirak hill in the Hossain Abad Fili district, covering an area of 2,500 square meters.

After the castle's completion, Gholamreza Khan

commissioned an inscription, 180cm long and written in Nastaliq script, to be engraved and placed above the eastern entrance. Unfortunately, this inscription fell during the Iran-Iraq war and is now housed in another part of the castle.

The castle features a large alcove on the north side, which is significantly bigger than the other rooms. At its center lies a small spring, originally adorned with

marble but later renovated with colorful tiles. The ceiling showcases exquisite mirror work, with some sections remaining intact on the western side, adding to the building's allure.

Among the architectural highlights are lattice windows with colored glass, turquoise blue lattice brick fences, round columns, painted capitals, and decorative bow arches. The primary materials used in the

castle's construction are interconnected bricks and stones.

Vali Castle comprises five small and 20 large rooms, four porches, and two small terraces on the south side. Water is supplied through a spring using a traditional method, where spring water is channeled to the central courtyard via a water pipe.

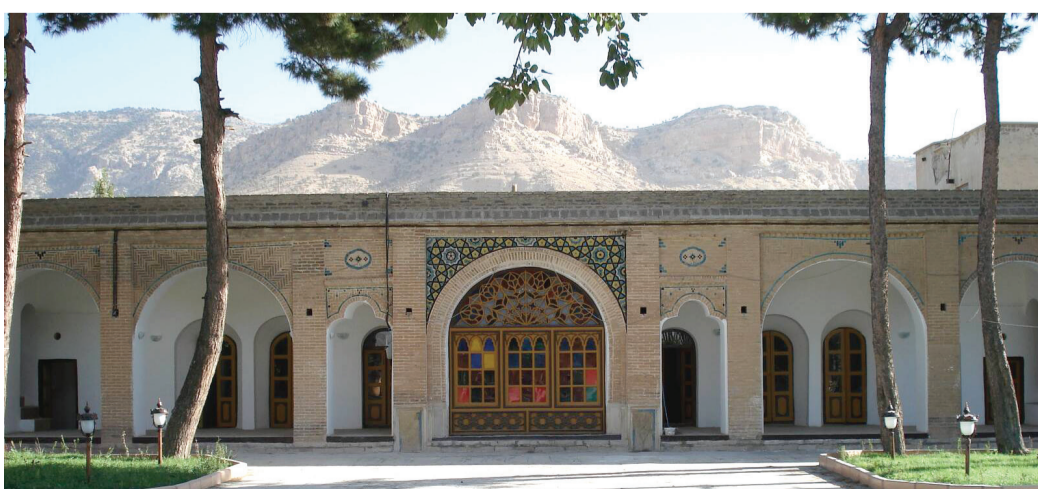
Vali Castle was registered as a national historical site

in June 1997. It has since been converted into the Anthropology Museum, overseen by the Cultural Heritage Organization.

The museum showcases Ilam's customs, culture, tribes, and notable political and cultural figures through various sculptures. Today, the Anthropology Museum of Ilam is considered one of the richest specialized museums in the world. It is located in front

of the Cultural Heritage Organization on Pasdaran Street and is open to the public daily, except Fridays. Ilam, the capital of Ilam Province in western Iran, is known for its rich cultural heritage and stunning natural landscapes. Nestled in the Zagros Mountains, the region is characterized by its diverse ethnic communities, primarily comprising Kurds, Lors, and Persians. The cultural mosaic is re-

flected in the local traditions, music, and festivals. Ilam is also famous for its historical sites, including ancient ruins and traditional villages, which attract visitors interested in exploring the region's history and culture. The area's breathtaking scenery, with lush forests, rolling hills, and vibrant flora, makes it a popular destination for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.



700 domestic, foreign firms to attend Tehran tourism exhibition

Arts & Culture Desk

The 18th International Tourism Exhibition in Tehran will commence on Wednesday, with the participation of 12 countries and approximately 700 domestic and foreign companies, in the presence of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Announcing the above, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts added that the international exhibition will take place from February 13 to 15 at the International Exhibition Center in Tehran.

Addressing the press conference, Anoushiravan Mohseni Bandpey said that representatives from countries including the UAE, Turkey, Madagascar, Tajikistan, Qatar, Thailand, Brazil, Indonesia, and Russia, with two booths each, will participate in the exhibition, which has allocated 395 square meters for foreign booths, IRNA reported.

He said that eight foreign delegations have also expressed their willingness to attend the exhibition, adding that besides tourism activists 500 domestic and foreign officials have been invited to the opening ceremony, which will be held in the Hall of the International Conference Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Summit Hall) with the attendance of Pezeshkian. Meanwhile, addressing the same press meeting, the Director General of Domestic Tourism Development



Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Anoushiravan Mohseni Bandpey addresses the press conference of the 18th International Tourism Exhibition in Tehran on February 8, 2025.
 ● IRNA

at the ministry stated that 700 domestic and foreign companies will participate in the event, with dedicated halls for food, children, and geotourism. According to Mohseni Bandpey, based on experiences from previous exhibitions, the strengths have been enhanced, and weaknesses have been addressed. The deputy minister emphasized, "We have aimed to showcase Iran's various attractions, including water resources, ecotourism, and child-friendly culinary ex-

periences, so that both domestic and foreign tourists can benefit from them." Highlighting the role of tourism in economic, political, cultural, and social aspects, he remarked, "Tourism is the most significant source of income for countries. Moreover, it allows us to showcase historical sites that reflect a nation's identity. When political issues or interactions reach a stalemate, we can leverage tourism. For instance, in addressing the perception of Iran, we can

utilize tourism as a tool to shift perspectives. The 18th tourism exhibition will be held with these approaches." Mohseni Bandpey emphasized that the exhibition will feature 20 workshops led by 27 distinguished instructors in the tourism field, along with 10 educational panels. Additionally, student associations from various disciplines, representatives of creative students, and foreign students studying in Iran will be invited as ambassadors from their respective

countries to visit the exhibition, aiming to institutionalize tourism as a significant discussion in the country.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism noted, "Many countries have moved beyond investing in vehicles, and the average marketing expenditure per tourist abroad is five dollars, while in Iran it is merely two and a half cents. I hope we can capitalize on the existing resources within the country, such as beautiful beaches, price-less ancient sites, health tourism, and magnificent shrines to boost tourism."

He added that while there are security infrastructures in place to attract tourists, challenges remain

in the area of air transportation; therefore, strengthening tourism infrastructure should be considered a strategic priority. The deputy minister of tourism stated that tourism is a "white industry," and incentives such as customs exemptions for importing tourism facilities and tax exemptions for hotels and ecotourism facilities utilizing renewable energy have been planned.

Mohseni Bandpey further noted that to promote tourism and its benefits for all segments of society, affordable travel options have been put in place. In this regard, agreements have been reached with pension organizations, welfare agencies, and hotel associations to allow individuals to travel at lower costs.

He mentioned that there are 1,470 hotels in the country, with 143 of them rated four to five stars. To prevent owners of one- to three-star hotels from raising accommodation costs, they have been exempted from paying taxes.

17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival to kick off in Tehran on Feb. 11



Arts & Culture Desk

The 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, featuring 'My Homeland' segment, will kick off under the artistic direction of Behdad Najafi Asadollahi at Tehran's Rasoul Mehr Gallery on Tuesday. This provincial artistic event will showcase the works of 15 selected artists from Tehran Province in various disciplines, including painting, calligraphy, sculpture, photography, installation, performance art,

printmaking, collage, and digital art. It will be open to enthusiasts daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. until February 19. Najafi, the artistic secretary of the event, said, "The diversity of artistic disciplines and the quality of the works presented have been the main criteria for selecting pieces for this exhibition." He added that, based on these criteria, a number of distinguished artists from Tehran Province have been invited to participate. Najafi further noted, "The

vibrant atmosphere of visual arts and the abundance of prominent teachers and artists in the province have made the selection process quite challenging. We hope that in future editions, with the growth and expansion of the festival's resources and facilities, we can invite a larger number of artistic talents across various fields." Saeedeh Aryan, the national secretary of the 17th Fajr Visual Arts Festival, said, "The 'My Homeland' section is a special segment for the provinces in this year's festival, which has previously been held under the title of 'Visual Art.' This year, the focus of this section is on subcultures, customs, and indigenous arts of the provinces across the country." The exhibition of artists' works, curated by regional artistic directors, will open on February 10 in all 31 Iranian provinces. The 'My Homeland' section of the Fajr Visual Arts Festival will commence in the southern Fars Province, with the opening bell ringing at the Sarv Gallery in Shiraz.

'Kolliyat' group nominated for Iran's Book of the Year Awards

Arts & Culture Desk

Nine books belonging to the 'Kolliyat' group have been nominated for the Book of the Year Awards of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The secretariat for the 42nd edition of the Book of the Year Awards announced these nine titles as nominees within the Kolliyat group's category. In this category, the selected books cover topics such as "Library Science and Research Methodology," "Encyclopedias and Lexicons," "Bibliography," and "Manuscripts and Documents," advancing to the second round of judging for the 42nd edition of the awards, ISNA reported. In the "Library Science and Research Methodology" category, the following four books have made it to the second round of judging: - Foundations of Research Methodology in the Interaction of Humanities and Islamic Sciences, by Ahmad Pakatchi, Tehran: Imam Sadiq University, 2023, 350 pages. - Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods: Philosophical Foundations, by Alireza Ali-Ahmadi and Vahid Saeed-Nahaei, Tehran: Research Institute of Humanities and Cultural Studies, 2023, 629 pages. - A History of Reading, by Alber-



to Manguel, translated by Rahim Qasemyan, Tehran: Hermes, 2023, 507 pages. - Chronicle Writing in Qajar Prose: Essay Writing, Translation, Journalism, by Qahreman Shiri, Hamedan: Bu-Ali Sina University, 2023, 878 pages. In the "Encyclopedias and Lexicons" category, two books have also advanced to the second round of judging: - Encyclopedias and Lexicons of Blindness and the Blind, by Mohammad Noori and Mansour Shadkam, Qom: Tavannaman, 2023, 3 volumes. - Encyclopedia of Toys: Research, Compilation, and Editing, by Gholamali Kiumarsi, Tehran: Donya-ye Mah Pishooni, 2023, 5 volumes. In the "Bibliography" category, only one work has made it to the final judging stage: - Analytical Subject Index of Translated Travelogues by En-

glish Travelers about Iran, by Azadeh Heydari, Tehran: Library, Museum, and Documentation Center of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, 2023, 3 volumes. In the "Manuscripts and Documents" category, the following two books have qualified for the second round of judging for this edition of the Book of the Year Awards: - Guide to the Description and Cataloging of Manuscripts, by Tayebeh Haj Baqerian, Tehran: National Archives and Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2023, 354 pages. - Self-Learning of Contextual Accounting, by Asadollah Abdoli Ashtiani, Tehran: Safir Ardehal, 2023, 306 pages. The closing ceremony for the 42nd edition of the Book of the Year Awards of the Islamic Republic of Iran will take place in March.