

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Met and Held Talks With the Governors of the Central Banks of Pakistan and Sri Lanka and Emphasized the Development of Bilateral and Multilateral Monetary and Banking Cooperation

IRAN NEWS

Iran Exported Non-Oil Commodities Valued at \$2.4 Billion to Turkey During the First Six Months of the Current Iranian Calendar Year (March 21-September 22), the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Announced

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Palestinian Movement Headed for Complete Victory

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the movement that has started in Palestine will continue and lead to the complete victory of the Palestinians. Ayatollah Khamenei on Saturday touched on the situation in the Palestinian territories, including the besieged Gaza Strip which is currently under the most ferocious Israeli airstrikes for a seventh day since a Hamas blitzkrieg last Saturday. “Today, one of the manifestations of the power of Islam is the very events that are happening in Palestine,” he said during a meeting with prominent Nigerian cleric Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky in Tehran. “The incidents of the recent days in Palestine, especially the bombings and the martyrdom of women, children and men, injure the heart of every human, but they also show the incredible power of Islam in Palestine,” he said. “And with the grace and mercy of God Almighty, this movement that has started in Palestine will go further and lead to the complete victory of the Palestinians.” Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Everyone in the Islamic world has a duty to help the Palestinian people.” The Leader said the Islamic movement is expanding in different parts of the world such as Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, and “with God’s grace, the success of this movement will continue with greater strength.” Ayatollah Khamenei said the

formation of the Islamic system and a government based on the political Islamic thought in Iran after many centuries is one of the aspects of the power of Islam. “The Islamic Republic has become stronger day by day since its establishment and will become stronger in the future,” he said. The Leader also appreciated Sheikh Zakzaky’s efforts and those of his family in Africa, saying the growing power of Islam in the world despite immense conspiracies is a result of such efforts. “You are an example of a real mujahid [Islamic fighter] in the cause of Allah and we hope that you will be able to continue your fight” for the sake of Islam, Ayatollah Khamenei said. Leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky has arrived in Iran as part of his second foreign visit after the termination of his home arrest by the regime in Abuja. Zakzaky and his wife arrived in Tehran to a warm welcome Wednesday after the termination of his home arrest in Abuja. In 2015, Nigerian army troops attacked Sheikh Zakzaky’s residence and a place of worship belonging to the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, killing over 3,040 of his supporters in Zaria, Kaduna state. Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife have lost their six sons, three of whom were killed during the Zaria massacre.

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm “Solely” Palestinian Decision

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran’s permanent ambassador to the United Nations has categorically rejected groundless accusations about the Islamic Republic’s involvement in retaliatory Palestinian strikes on the occupied territories. Amir Saeid Irvani, in a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday, dismissed the allegations, reiterated recently by the Israeli regime’s envoy, saying the Palestinian operation was a purely Palestinian decision. It came days after The Wall Street Journal claimed Iranian security officials helped plan Palestinian resistance movement Hamas’s surprise attack against the Israeli regime and gave the greenlight for the operation. Top Iranian officials, including Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi, have already dismissed the claim while reiterating the Islamic Republic’s support for Palestinian resistance. “The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically and explicitly rejects any unfounded claim about its involvement in Palestine’s response to Israeli occupation and aggression,” Irvani told Guterres in the letter. “The recent decisions and measures taken by Palestine’s resistance groups are solely determined by the Palestinians themselves and are firmly rooted in the fundamental principle of self-determination,” he added. Stressing that Palestinian people have endured 75 years of relentless aggression, violence, racial discrimination and apartheid policies imposed by the Israeli regime, Irvani said the occupation of their lands continues with the siege of their cities, the destruction and confiscation of their property and agricultural lands, and the forced displacement of residents from their homes by the Israeli regime. Denouncing Israel’s ongoing crimes against Palestinians as a clear violation of the norms of international law, Iran’s UN envoy said, “It is regrettable that the international community’s response to these severe violations has fallen short in holding those responsible accountable.” Irvani underlined that, “The absence of accountability and the deafening silence of the United Nations Security Council have reduced long-standing UN resolutions to mere words.” Iran’s permanent ambassador to the UN further warned against the continuation of Israeli crimes against Palestinians in Gaza and called on the international community to step forward and stop the violence. “Now, the world is witnessing yet another horrific uptick in atrocities and collective punishment against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip that qualify as crimes against humanity and war crimes, orchestrated by the Israeli regime,” he said. “Failure of the international community to intervene promptly could lead to a full-fledged humanitarian crisis with far-reaching consequences,” he added. “The Islamic Republic of Iran urges the international community, United Nations member states, and, in particular, the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities and take decisive action, compelling the Israeli regime to put an end to its occupation, atrocities, and aggressive actions, and to steadfastly comply with its international obligations, including those under international humanitarian law and human rights law,” Irvani added.



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West Seeks to Distort Facts in Gaza Strip, Justify Israeli Crimes

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says the West is seeking to distort the facts on the ground in the Gaza Strip and legitimize Israeli crimes in the besieged coastal enclave. Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on Friday evening, emphasizing that the resistance front possesses the capability to stand up against the apartheid Israeli regime for a long period of time. He also scoffed at Washington’s call on Palestinian groups to exercise restraint while, at the same time, supplying the Israeli military with various types of ammunition to be used against ordinary people in the Gaza Strip. The top Iranian diplomat slammed as war crimes the brutal killing of women, children and elderly people in Gaza, the complete siege and cut-off of the supply of water, electricity and fuel to the territory, and the intense bombardment of houses, public facilities and medical centers there. Amir-Abdollahian added that some international and Western authorities are in contact with Iranian officials, and the two sides are exchanging views on the latest developments in Palestine. “The extremist policies of [Israeli prime minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and his provocative measures could be named the main cause of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. Nonetheless, Westerners call on all parties except for the Zionist regime to exercise restraint! Westerners admit that contrary to their imagination, Operation Al-Aqsa Storm demonstrated that Palestine is still thriving,” the Iranian foreign minister said. He stressed that Iran and Syria’s support for Palestinian resistance is known to all, but the recent operation by fighters from Hamas and other groups was purely Palestinian in nature. Amir-Abdollahian also pointed to the critical and miserable situation in Gaza as a result of the ongoing Israeli crimes against its residents, stressing that concerted efforts need to focus on prevention of further Israeli atrocities in the enclave. “The Islamic Republic of Iran has therefore demanded an emergency foreign ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and voiced its readiness to host such an event,” he explained. For his part, Assad expressed his concern about the extent of Israeli crimes against Gazans, stating that Israeli authorities and their advocates want to reverse the course in light of recent developments or use the Palestinian attacks as an excuse to root out the resistance front. Such an approach is being directed under the tutelage of the United States and certain Western countries, the Syrian leader said. He said the reason why Westerners stand by Israel is because of the regime’s acute political, economic and social crises, and their concerns of a looming collapse. The Syrian president also expressed support for Iran’s proposal for an emergency OIC foreign ministerial meeting, stressing the need for all-out efforts to avoid the perpetration of more horrendous Israeli crimes against Palestinians in Gaza.



will make the decision. “If the war crimes stop and the parties agree on a kind of ceasefire, it is the Resistance that will determine and announce its conditions.” “The Resistance alone is capable of doing any action and they have the necessary and sufficient capabilities,” he said, emphasizing that Iran actively supports the Palestinians’ Resistance against the Israeli regime’s occupation and war crimes at the political and international levels. Today, the Resistance in the region is in a situation where it supplies and produces all the defense and technological requirements itself, he stressed. Stressing that Iran will continue its diplomatic efforts to stop the Zionists’ war crimes and lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the Iranian foreign minister cited that the Zionists are now in their worst situation. Today, the Resistance’s leaders in the region have great and excellent cohesion. All scenarios are designed and ready, and everyone’s hand is on the trigger, he said, adding that in case of delay by the international community and the United Nations and the activists who support the Zionist regime’s warmongering, the response will be made at the appropriate time and desired by the authorities of Resistance. He further stressed that the Resistance’s leaders have said that the response would lead to the change of the current map of the occupied territories of Palestine.

Resistance to Give Response If World Delays Stopping Zionists

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says that the Resistance Front will give a decisive response at a proper time if the international community delays stopping the Zionists from committing war crimes. In a press conference in the Lebanese capital of Beirut on Saturday, the top Iranian diplomat offered condolences to the journalists attending the presser over the death of their colleagues by the Israeli regime. Saying that Resistance leaders have told him that their forces are well prepared to respond to the Tel Aviv regime’s aggression, Amir-Abdollahian stressed that in any situation, whether it is the expansion of the war or a ceasefire, it is the Resistance side that

Tabriz to Host 2nd Int’l Tourism Exhibition

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN – Tabriz will host the Second International Tourism Exhibition as well as the 10th National Handicraft Exhibition on October 18-21, 2023. According to reports, General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of East Azerbaijan will hold this event on October 18-21 at Tabriz International Exhibition Center. The Second International Tourism Exhibition will be held in the form of some 160 pavilions and some foreign countries like Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iraq are of the participants in the event. The event is aimed at promoting capacities of Tabriz and East Azarbaijan and presenting tourist attractions and talents of the region. It will also provide opportunity for health tourism, excursion, historical and cultural tourism for the participants. Many provinces of the country will have their own pavilions in this exhibition where they will put on display tourism attractions of their own regions.

Over \$200b of Pending Investment Exist in Iran’s Oil Industry



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has said there is more than \$200 billion of pending investment in the country’s oil industry, the ICCIMA portal reported. Speaking in a meeting between the ICCIMA board members and the directing board of the Association of Petroleum Industry Engineering and Construction Companies (APEC) on Saturday, Hossein Selahvarzi said this situation has led to an increase in labor migration, the costs of production, and the non-competitiveness of the products in this industry. “The Iran Chamber of Commerce [Industries, Mines, and Agriculture] should be able to use the capacity of its subordinate organizations to influence the decisions and policies in the oil industry,” he emphasized. Underlining the significant role of APEC in the country’s oil industry, Selahvarzi called on the board members of the association to dispatch expert delegations to the countries that have the potential for joint cooperation.

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Israel, Gaza Bloodshed Divides the World, Isolates West

PARIS (Dispatches) - The global response to the bloodshed in Israel and Gaza has revealed deep divisions, with Western countries increasingly isolated on the global stage, a trend that has gathered pace since the outbreak of the Ukraine war. On the day of Hamas' unprecedented attacks on Israel, Western countries condemned the militant group's onslaught in the strongest terms insisting "nothing justifies terrorism". While some non-Western countries such as Argentina and India have shown solidarity with Israel, many others have simply called for de-escalation including regional heavyweights Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco and Turkey, as well as global powers Russia and China. Algeria, Iran, Sudan and Tunisia have openly expressed support for Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist organisation that controls Gaza. Thousands of people across the Middle East gathered on Friday to demonstrate in support of the Palestinians, including in Jordan and Bahrain. More than a year-and-a-half after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a number of countries outside of the West's sphere of influence are refusing to bow to pressure from Ukraine's allies to support Kyiv. "The two trends intersect in the narratives of the states of the 'global south'," said Hosni Abidi, director of the Geneva-based Center for Arab and Mediterranean Studies and Research. The war in Israel "further deepens a fissure already visible over Ukraine". This conflict "shows the extent of this divide in the majority of the countries of the South -- and particularly in Africa and in the Arab and Muslim world", he said. In an increasingly fragmented world, all eyes are now on the fate of the Palestinian people. The issue is especially fraught for those Arab states that have normalised relations with Israel while still proclaiming unwavering support for the Palestinians. "Arab countries) are now afraid of the reaction of their own people," said Francois Heisbourg of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. Mobilising popular opinion amid such heightened emotion and anger is "the major unknown", said Bertrand Badie, a professor at Sciences-Po Paris. "Some Arab governments feel that supporting Palestine is too expensive, but their (people's) position is wedded to...



the Palestinian cause," he said. "This is a way for the population to express their own frustrations in authoritarian, corrupt, poorly functioning regimes," he said, recalling the widespread presence of Palestinian flags during the Arab Spring uprisings, as well as during World Cup tournaments. For countries like Morocco, Jordan and Egypt, mobilising public opinion for the Palestinians or against Israeli actions is a veritable "sword of Damocles", Badie warned. The Palestinian cause has long been a rallying cry of non-aligned countries, he said. There has been a shift in influence from countries of the "global south" seeking a balanced global order to those non-Western nations seeking to "reintroduce Palestine into a negotiating game". Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who chairs the UN Security

Council, called on Wednesday for the protection of Palestinian and Israeli children caught up in the war. Feelings toward Israel are "bound to evolve as the scale of the human toll is uncovered, alongside the hostage crisis", said Heisbourg. This is because Israel's response in Gaza "will generate tremendous violence" and a "geopolitical dilemma" between the dismantling of Hamas and the management of hostages. To a greater extent than in Ukraine, foreigners are among the victims of the Israel-Gaza conflict. Around 150 men, women and children of various nationalities are being held by Hamas. Former French foreign minister Dominique de Villepin warned that events were being watched closely by those without a Western perspective, and that such reactions should be "taken into account".

Centre-Right Parties Surge to Early Lead in New Zealand Election



WELLINGTON (Dispatches) - A center-right coalition Saturday surged to an early lead in New Zealand's election, as voters punished an incumbent Labour government rocked by Jacinda Ardern's surprise resignation earlier this year. The National Party and its coalition partner ACT were projected to win 65 seats with more than 30 percent of the vote tallied -- enough to secure a majority in New Zealand's 120-seat parliament. Meanwhile the ruling Labour party, which secured a landslide victory under Ardern in 2020, was on track to suffer one of its heaviest-ever election defeats with forecasts pointing to 32 seats. Results began trickling into counting centres after polls closed on Saturday evening, with the country collectively holding its breath to see if the numbers would deliver a widely anticipated change of government. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins replaced Ardern after she stepped down in January, but has lacked the "rock star" appeal of his predecessor while navigating an increasingly dire economic outlook. Instead, the National Party -- led by former airline executive Christopher Luxon -- is the favourite to stitch together a governing coalition. On polling day in New Zealand's capital Wellington many voters were predicting a new government would be elected, but not all were enthused at the prospect. "It feels quite bleak, that people might be voting for change for the sake of change," public servant Olivia Eaton told AFP. Wellington resident Jacqui Barber, who works in the pharmaceutical industry, said she was "filled with trepidation about the outcome of this election". "It has become a personality competition between the major party leaders, punctuated by weekly single-issue promises to elicit support," she said. "Neither of the major parties is willing to adequately address the elephant in the room -- our need for decisive climate action." In small town Waikanae, about an hour's drive north of Wellington, butcher Terry McKee said the spiralling cost of living was the single most important election issue. But the 56-year-old said a new government was not necessarily the answer the country needed. "Things are tight for everyone. Interest rates, fuel costs all drive costs up, but I don't know what another government is going to do," he told AFP. "Are we going to change for the sake of changing, and not for the reason of a better government?"



Russia Calls for Israel-Hamas Cease-Fire at UN

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - Russia's ambassador to the United Nations called for a "humanitarian cease-fire" in the Gaza Strip and Israel on Friday, while blaming the United States for the ongoing conflict. The Russian draft resolution, presented to the Security Council and seen by AFP, calls for an "immediate" ceasefire and the secure release of all hostages, and "strongly condemns all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism." The document did not specifically name Hamas, the militant group that governs Gaza and on Saturday burst through the heavily militarized border into Israel and killed 1,300 people, mostly civilians. Hamas, classified as a terrorist organisation by the European Union and the United States, took about 150 Israeli, foreign and dual-national hostages back to Gaza in the initial attack, Israel has said.

France on Top Alert, Deploys 7,000 Soldiers After Teacher's Murder



ARRAS (Dispatches) - France on Saturday said it will deploy 7,000 soldiers after declaring a top-level alert following the fatal stabbing of a teacher by a Chechen-origin man, who also severely wounded three others at a school. The attack took place in the northeastern town of Arras, home to large Jewish and Muslim populations. Police arrested the suspected attacker, Mohammed Moguchkov, who had cried the Arabic phrase "Allahu akbar!" (God is greatest), according to the preliminary elements of the investigation. Authorities have suggested a probable link to the ongoing violence in the Middle East, with President Emmanuel Macron denouncing the incident as an act of "Islamist terrorism". The deployment of the soldiers from Operation Sentinelle will be completed by Monday evening, according to the Elysee presidential palace. Sentinelle is a French military operation with 10,000 soldiers and 4,700 police and gendarmes deployed since the aftermath of the January 2015 attacks to protect parts of the country deemed sensitive from terrorism. "This school was struck by the barbarity of Islamist terrorism," Macron said after visiting the school, adding that the victim had "probably saved many lives" with his courage in blocking the attacker. Macron said another attempted attack in another region had been foiled by security forces. According to the interior ministry, the president was referring to the arrest of a "radicalised" man who was arrested leaving a prayer hall in the Yvelines

region of Paris for carrying a prohibited weapon. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin later said there was "probably a link between what's happening in the Middle East and this incident" in Arras. France upped its alert level to the highest position following a crunch security meeting chaired by Macron on Friday, the prime minister's office told AFP. A total of eight people were in police custody on Friday, a police source said. In addition to the attacker, several members of his family were arrested "for the purposes of the investigation", including one of his brothers and his sister, other police sources said. The national anti-terrorist prosecutor announced that it has opened an investigation. Moguchkov, who is in his 20s, is from Russia's mainly Muslim southern Caucasus region of Chechnya. He was already on a French national register known as "Fiche S" as a potential security threat, a police source told AFP, and under electronic and physical surveillance by France's domestic intelligence agency, the DGSI. The victim, a French teacher, was stabbed in the throat and chest. Among those wounded were a school security guard who was stabbed multiple times and is fighting for his life, and a teacher in a less serious condition, the source added. No pupils at the school were hurt, another police source said. The attack comes almost three years to the day after the October 16, 2020 beheading of teacher Samuel Paty, also by a Chechen, near his school in a Paris suburb.

Final Rallies Held in Poland as Tight Parliamentary Race Draws to a Close



WARSAW (Dispatches) - The main party leaders facing off in Poland's upcoming parliamentary election called on voters to give their respective parties winning support as they held final campaign rallies Friday. Opinion polls suggested a close race. The election Sunday will decide whether the ruling conservative, Euro-skeptic Law and Justice party will win a third straight term or whether the liberal, pro-European Civic Coalition and its partners will take power. The Civic Coalition aims to improve Poland's democratic standards and international standing that have suffered under eight years of a conservative government. Law and Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, who is Poland's de-facto ruler, met voters in southeastern Poland, where his party has a small edge over the opposition. His closing rally was held in the central market of the picturesque town of Sandomierz, the location of popular TV series "The Reverend Mateusz," about an investigative priest. A majority of Law and Justice voters are practicing Catholics. "We are the only political formation that guarantees that your voices will be heard," Kaczynski told the crowd. He used the usual party slogans in his speech to draw chants of "YES" for his party's policies and "NO" for the opposition. At the end he told voters that "Poland's prosperity and good opportunities for all ... depend on you, on Poland's citizens," while every vote for the opposition is wrong. Though his hometown is Warsaw, Kaczynski is running from the southern city of Kielce, where he can count on much larger backing than in the capital, where his archival, Civic Coalition leader Donald Tusk, a former prime minister and former European Council president, is running. Voters in large cities have backed Tusk's party in recent votes and have shown support for him in two massive marches in Warsaw this year. His final campaign rally was held indoors in Pruszkow, near Warsaw. Tusk said that during its eight years in office, Kaczynski's party has "desecrated" Poland's values of solidarity, freedom and equality and that, together with his followers, he will "clear their mess" when the opposition wins power. Nobody who is dreaming about our free and happy country should vote for Law and Justice," he said to chants of "We Will Win" and "Donald Tusk".

Borrell Says EU Takes China Seriously, Expects Same in Return

BEIJING (Dispatches) - The European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell said on Saturday his message to Chinese officials on a Beijing visit had been that Brussels takes China seriously and expects the same in return on geopolitical issues and trade. "Cooperation is very much important," Borrell told a press conference ending a three-day visit that had twice been postponed. "Europe takes China very, very seriously," he said. "We also expect to be considered not through the lens of our relationship with others, but in ourselves." The 27-member bloc has long complained it does not receive adequate attention from Beijing, particularly compared to the United States, and that China does not sufficiently recognise the EU's agency in geopolitical affairs. "Since the war in Ukraine, Europe has become a geopolitical power," Borrell said. "We want to talk to China with this approach." He said he discussed with Chinese officials the crisis in Israel and Gaza, and announced that his chief of staff, Enrique Mora, would be visiting Beijing next week to continue to engage Chinese officials on geopolitical issues. On Friday, Borrell met Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who described the talks as "comprehensive, candid and friendly". The two discussed EU-China trade tensions and a broad range of hot-button issues, including the Israel-Hamas conflict and China using its influence on Russia to stop its war in Ukraine. "We are facing a critical moment in Gaza and we cannot say that the problem in Gaza will be solved by the two-state solution because the world has been failing miserably," Borrell said on Saturday. "But what we discussed with my Chinese counterpart is that it is the only solution that can be implemented," he added. The EU's record \$426 billion trade deficit last year with the world's second-largest economy has become a major sticking point in the relationship. Last week Brussels launched an investigation into whether to impose tariffs on Chinese electric vehicle (EV) imports it says benefit from state subsidies. "We have a lot of geopolitical issues

to consider, but certainly this was discussed, and I told my Chinese counterpart that to launch an investigation is just to launch an investigation," Borrell said. During talks in Beijing last month, China's economy tsar, He Lifeng, asked EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis to "exercise restraint in the use of trade remedy measures". The EU plans to open an anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese steelmakers this month, the Financial Times has reported. Beijing has also objected to EU plans for a "carbon border adjustment mechanism" that will set tariffs of 20% to 35% on goods with a high carbon price, such as steel and iron ore. The EU and China plan a summit by the end of the year, with Borrell's visit and those of a number of other top EU officials in recent months having paved the way.

