

Millions Face 'Hunger Cliff' in U.S.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Millions of Americans are facing a "hunger cliff," as more than thirty states plan to phase out emergency food stamp benefits next month, a report says. The cuts, which will take effect in March, will impact more than 30 million people who are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) across 32 states, according to data from the US Department of Agriculture. "This hunger cliff is coming to the vast majority of states, and people will on average lose about \$82 of SNAP benefits a month," Ellen Vollinger, director for SNAP at the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), told CBS News. "That is a stunning number."

Kayhan International

Hezbollah Sends Quake Aid to Syria's Latakia

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has dispatched more humanitarian aid convoy to earthquake-affected areas in Syria, deploring Western governments' "fake advocacy" for human rights. The humanitarian aid left for Syria's western city of Latakia and reportedly included tents, foodstuff, sanitation supplies, other daily necessities and medical equipment. The supplies can meet the needs of thousands of people. Hashem Safieddine, head of the Executive Council of Hezbollah, said the shipment will be followed by other batches of emergency aid to Aleppo and elsewhere in quake-devastated areas of Syria.

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Viewpoint

Bahrainis Confident of Toppling Treasonous Regime that Sells Islands to Israel

Iran Rallies Sent a Message to Enemies



Iranian Athlete Runner-Up in Lebanon Snowboard Tournament



Explosions in Gaza, More Martyrs in West Bank, Hamas Vows Revenge



Old Friends Are Best Partners for a Bright Future

By: Ebrahim Raisi*

I am very happy that at the beginning of the Chinese New Year and the spring festival, I am the guest of the nation of the civilized Chinese nation at the official invitation of Mr Xi Jinping, the Honorable President of the People's Republic of China, and have the opportunity to meet with the Chinese statesmen and intellectuals, and businesspeople. On behalf of the civilized nation of Iran, while expressing my sincerest congratulations to the government and people of China, I wish them well-being and hope that the new year will see a leap in the strong relations between the two nations.

As two living, dynamic human civilizations, Iran and China were connected to each other through the ancient Silk Road in a history-making initiative, and recorded human well-being and prosperity as an indivisible public benefit that can be realized through interaction and cooperation in the historical memory. China became globally-acknowledged through the ancient Silk Road, and this happiness and prosperity found stability by passing through the land of Iran. Now, with the revival of this initiative in the modern world, the two nations once again share the same fate.

The governments of Iran and China, which have chosen the comprehensive strategic partnership program as a model for their sustainable interactions, have common grounds and similar approaches to international developments. The two countries are against hegemony and unilateralism and emphasize the need to respect the rights and interests of all countries. Both Iran and China deeply believe that by prioritizing spiritual-human values and respect for the right of nations to develop, it is possible to spread peace, fairness, and collective justice in the world. Both countries consider unilateralism and resorting to coercive measures, including oppressive sanctions, as the main root of the crisis and creating insecurity, and emphasize the necessity of joint efforts to achieve real multilateralism and the realization of international justice and fairness and the establishment of just global governance.

For Iran and China, who have been in contact and interaction with each other for a long time and have had direct acquaintance and mutual understanding, it is time to get to know each other directly in the new era; not to get to know each other through third parties. Indirect recognition leads to the formation of an understanding between the parties based on the mental framework and interests of the third parties. To achieve this goal, my government seriously supports people-to-people relations, especially academic and tourism interactions between Iran and China. In this regard, I would like to suggest a few points for a better understanding of the lofty goals of the Iranian nation and government:

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that progress is originally an endogenous and outward-looking matter. Based on this, the nations should formulate and implement their development plan based on local and cultural governance values and models. The basic interests and rights of nations, including the right to development, are not negotiable, and any attempt by bullying countries to politicize and ultimately deprive nations of their rights by abusing international mechanisms is condemned.

Based on Islamic principles and respect for all religions and cultures, the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes extremism and terrorism and considers it contrary to pure Islam and human happiness. Pure Islam is against terrorism, extremism, and takfiri actions. We believe that the only way to ensure security is to rely on regional actors. Our experience in West Asia has shown that foreign intervention only leads to the intensification of insecurity and the spread of terrorism. Iran's successful experience in fighting the takfiri terrorism of ISIS and preventing its spread to the east and west of the world indicates that Iran's power is a security-building one and its regional capacities support peace and stability in countries and are only used to counter the threat of domineering powers.

West Asia has experienced extensive changes during the last two decades. The two major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are only part of the developments that resulted in the spread of terrorism, the displacement of millions of people, and the killing of hundreds of thousands of civilians. In all the years of the past two decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown that, as a powerful and responsible actor, it is ready and able to play an active role in creating and expanding stability and security in the region. We responsibly sided with our Arab friends. Due to its deep connection with the Arab nations of West Asia, the Islamic Republic was able to fight terrorism side by side with them and prove in practice that its interests are dependent only on peace, stability and protection of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries of the region.

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Deeping Traditional Friendship

President Raisi Begins Visit to China



President Raisi waves to officials seeing him off at Mehrabad airport on Monday.

TEHRAN - Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi departed Tehran late Monday for Beijing, leading a large delegation to China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping.

Speaking to reporters before leaving the Iranian capital, Raisi said Iran and China have similar views on fighting unilateralism at the international level.

"We have good global and international contacts and have common positions with China on countering unilateralism and maintaining our

political independence," he said. "These positions have brought us close together and we have good cooperation with China in political and economic areas as well as with regard to various issues at regional and global levels," Raisi added.

The three-day trip is Raisi's first state visit to the Asian economic giant and the first by an Iranian president in 20 years.

The president met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei before

starting the visit to brief him on his working plan and the meetings he is going to hold in Beijing.

Ayatollah Khamenei expressed satisfaction with the arrangements that have been made, wishing the president success.

Raisi and Xi had first met as presidents on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan in September. China had supported Iran's now-successful bid to become a full member of the organi-

zation. The Iranian president, who assumed office in August 2021, is accompanied by a wide-ranging team, including the new central bank governor, pointing to his priorities during the trip.

Six members of Raisi's cabinet, including ministers of economy, petroleum, foreign affairs, trade, transport and urban development, and agriculture are also part of the delegation.

Raisi will hold a meeting with Xi, followed by negotiations between delegations that are expected to lead to the signing of several agreements in the presence of the presidents.

Muhammad Jamshidi, Raisi's deputy for political affairs, told state television on Sunday that the main goal of the trip is to "finalize the operational mechanisms" of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement the two countries signed in 2021.

In early 2022, Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian had said the agreement had entered the implementation stage but no major contracts or projects have been announced under the agreement so far as Iran remains under heavy United States sanctions.

China remains Iran's largest trade partner, with Iranian customs data for the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year that ends (Continued on Page 7)

Herzog Warns About 100,000 Protest of Zionist Regime's Collapse in Occupied Al-Quds

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- In one of the largest-ever protests held in occupied Al-Quds, about 100,000 people demonstrated on Monday in opposition to the extremist regime's plans to overhaul the judicial system.

The demonstration followed a dramatic speech on Sunday night by the occupying regime of Israel's mainly ceremonial president, Isaac Herzog, in which he called for compromise and warned that the crisis had left the illegal entity "on the brink of constitutional and social collapse," and possibly "a violent clash."

"I feel, we all feel, that we are in the moment before a clash, even a violent clash. The gunpowder barrel is about to explode," Herzog said.

The scale of the protest reflected deep divisions in the occupied territories over the structure of the Zionist regime's institutions, amid growing fears that the rift could set off political violence between factions or even civil war.

Rooted in a decades-old culture war between different parts of the

entity, the standoff began after Israel's new regime -- the most right-wing and religiously conservative in the entity's history -- entered office in late December and almost immediately sought to significantly reduce judicial oversight of parliament and increase the regime's control over who gets to be a judge.

Critics say the proposals would give too much power to the extremist regime; endangering minority rights; and removing limits on prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ability to enact legislation that might allow him to escape punishment in his ongoing corruption trial.

The focus of the protests on Monday was a road in central Al-Quds that connects the three branches of the regime -- the parliament, the supreme court and the prime minister's headquarters.

Roughly 100,000 people had gathered there by mid-afternoon, according to Kan, the Israeli public broadcaster, many of them from cities elsewhere in the occupied

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Quake Death Toll Mounts; Diseases Spread in Turkey

KAHRAMANMARAS, Turkey) (AFP) - Rescue teams began to wind down the search for survivors on Monday, a week after an earthquake devastated parts of Turkey and Syria leaving more than 35,000 dead and millions in dire need of aid.

While the focus switched to helping desperate survivors who lack food and shelter, stories continue to emerge of people found alive in the rubble seven days after the 7.8-magnitude tremor.

On Monday, a 12-year-old boy named Kaan was pulled from the debris in southern Hatay, 182 hours after the fifth-deadliest earthquake of the 21st century, Turkish media reported.

However, experts warn hopes of finding people alive are dimming.

The confirmed death toll stands at 35,224 as officials and medics said 31,643 people had died in Turkey and at least 3,581 in Syria.

The United Nations said it expects the toll to rise far higher.

Survivors face a lack of water and poor sanitation. In southern Adiyaman an outbreak of scabies -- a skin disease known to spread

in crowded areas -- is affecting adults, while children are suffering from diarrhea, local media reported.

Hatice Goz, a volunteer psychologist in Turkey's Hatay province, said she has been fielding "a barrage of calls" from frantic parents looking for missing children.

In Antakya, clean-up teams have been shifting rubble and putting up basic toilets as the telephone network started to come back in parts of the town, an AFP reporter said.

The city was patrolled by police and soldiers deployed to prevent looting following several incidents over the weekend.

"Send any stuff you can because there are millions of people here and they all need to be fed," Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu appealed late on Sunday.

Aid packages, mainly clothes, were opened and spread across the streets in Hatay province, according to NTV. One video showed aid workers throwing clothes randomly into a crowd as people tried to grab whatever they could.

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