

Pezeshkian Calls on Universities to Help Tackle Problems
TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian described universities as one of the most important centers that can help resolve the country's problems.
Pezeshkian made the comments in a meeting with the president and professors of Imam Hussein University here where he was briefed on the latest measures and achievements of various departments of the academic center.
The president invited academics at the Imam Hussein University to propose ideas for the development of the Makran coastal region in southeast Iran.
"I hope that with your valuable experiences, we can realize (Continued on Page 7)

Official: Iran Ready to Resume Flights to Syria
TEHRAN, IRNA - Iran is ready to resume flights to Syria, which were suspended after the fall of president Bashar al-Assad last month, head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization Hussein Pourfarzaneh said Tuesday.
He said the interim administration in Syria must issue entry and admission permits before the flights can be reinstated. He added that his organization is currently awaiting a response from the Syrian side to determine the specific days and number of flights from Iran to Syria.

FM Araghchi: Resistance ‘Growing’



Raisi’s Martyrdom Named as ‘Day of the Martyrs of Service’



Children’s Corner



Taremi Assists, Scores Against AC Milan in Super Cup



Israeli Analysts: Hamas Evolved, Undefeatable

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- A retired Israeli general who master-minded a plan for displacing Palestinians from northern Gaza believes that military option is not the solution to ending Hamas’ rule in the enclave.

“Israel must declare its willingness to end the fighting in Gaza in exchange for the return of all captives,” Giora Eiland told local radio 94 FM on Tuesday.

“The path to ending Hamas’ rule is not through the military solution, which has proven ineffective,” added Eiland, a former head of Israel’s so-called national security council.

He said continuing the Israeli war on Gaza will lead to the death of more captives and soldiers in the Palestinian enclave.

“Except for the dozens of soldiers who will die every year under military rule, Israel will not achieve anything,” he added.

Eiland was the mastermind of the so-called Generals’ Plan, which calls for imposing a blockade on northern Gaza and forcibly displacing Palestinians from the area as part of Tel Aviv’s genocidal war on the enclave.

According to Israeli military analysts, the Zionist regime has been practically implementing the plan since October 2024 without an official recognition.

The Israeli military has continued a large-scale ground onslaught on northern Gaza since Oct. 5 to allegedly prevent Hamas from regrouping. Palestinians, however, say Israel is seeking to occupy the area and forcibly displace its residents.

Since then, no sufficient humanitarian aid including food, medicine and fuel has been allowed into the area, leaving the remaining population on the verge of imminent famine.

The onslaught was the lat-

est episode in Israel’s genocidal war on the Gaza Strip that has martyred about 45,900 people, mostly women and children, since Oct. 7, 2023.

In November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

Meanwhile, Israeli media has raised new questions about the occupation army’s ability to dismantle Hamas after the group resumed firing rockets from northern Gaza.

Hamas has launched 20 rockets over the past 19 days, 14 of them from northern Gaza, according to Amir Bar-Shalom, the military correspondent for Israel Army Radio.

Bar-Shalom stated that the Israeli army “is no longer facing what was once called the Hamas army. It has now reached a point where it cannot target every last fighter.”

The sentiment was shared by Michael Milstein, head of the Palestinian Studies Department at Tel Aviv University. Speaking to Channel 12, he said: “The army is now facing a second version of Hamas.”

Milstein explained that the Hamas movement has adapted, transitioning from battalions to small fighter groups. “Anyone speaking of defeating Hamas must understand they will never reach the last fighter or the last cell,” he added.

Yossi Yehoshua, a military affairs correspondent for Yedioth Ahronoth, said Hamas “remains resilient, capable of recruiting more members, and enjoys support from nearly all Gaza residents, making it difficult to replace or eliminate them.”

Iran Steps Up Military Drills



Air defense units were tested on the first day of the drills.

TEHRAN -- Iran’s military has begun drills near the Natanz nuclear enrichment plant in the center of the country as part of exercises planned nationwide.

The drills – dubbed Eqtedar or “might” in Farsi – have in-

volved the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) alongside the army.

“The first phase of the joint Eqtedar exercises in the air defense zone of the Natanz nuclear facility has commenced under the orders of the air de-

fense headquarters command-

er,” national broadcaster said. It added that IRGC air forces are undertaking “an all-out point defense” of the site “against a multitude of air threats in tough electronic warfare conditions”.

On Monday, IRGC spokesman Ali Muhammad Naini said the drills, which will also cover other parts of Iran until mid-March, are being conducted in response to “new security threats”.

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Syrians Frustrated by Inaction to Curb Israeli Advances

QUNEITRA, Syria (Dispatches) — A main road in the provincial capital of Quneitra in southern Syria was blocked with mounds of dirt, fallen palm trees and a metal pole that appeared to have once been a traffic light. On the other side of the barriers, an Israeli tank could be seen maneuvering in the middle of the street, the Associated Press reported.

Zionist forces entered the area — which lies in a UN-patrolled buffer zone in the Golan Heights that was established by a 1974 ceasefire agreement between Syria and Israel — soon after the fall of President Bashar Assad last month.

The Israeli military has also made incursions into Syrian territory outside of the buffer zone, sparking protests by local residents. They said the Israeli forces have demolished homes and prevented

farmers from going to their fields in some areas. On at least two occasions, Zionist troops reportedly opened fire on protesters who approached them.

Residents of Quneitra, a seemingly serene bucolic expanse of small villages and olive groves, said they are frustrated, both by the Israeli advances and by the lack of action from Syria’s new authorities and the international community.

Rinata Fastas said that Israeli forces raided local government buildings. Her house lies just inside of the newly blocked-off area in the provincial capital formerly called Ba’ath City, after Assad’s former ruling party, and now renamed Salam City.

She said she is afraid Israeli troops may advance farther or try to permanently occupy the

area they have already taken. Israel still controls the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau overlooking northern occupied Palestinian territories that it captured from Syria during the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed. The international community, with the exception of the U.S., regards it as occupied.

Fastas said she understands that Syria is in no position to militarily confront Israel.

“But why is no one in the new Syrian state coming out and talking about the violations that are happening in Quneitra province and against the rights of its people?” she asked.

The Zionist regime describes its aggression in Syria as defensive and temporary. Officials point to the presence of resistance forces in Syria before Assad was ousted, and say they want to pre-

vent a cross-border incursion like the Hamas-led attack that triggered the war in Gaza.

The United Nations has hit out at Israel for violating the 1974 ceasefire agreement by entering the buffer zone.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said troops will stay in Syria “until another arrangement is found that will ensure Israel’s security.” He was speaking from the snowy peak of Syria’s tallest mountain known as Jabal al Sheikh which has now been captured by Zionist forces.

The new Syrian rulers have lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council about Israeli airstrikes and advances into Syrian territory.

But the issue does not appear to be a priority for Syria’s new rulers as they try to consolidate (Continued on Page 7)