



Israeli Escalation in the West Bank

Hamda Mustafa

The Israeli occupation has recently started a wide-scale aggression against several occupied West Bank cities, including Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus and Tubas in addition to the nearby refugee camps, in the biggest Israeli military operation in this area since 2002.

The operation, which was carried out under the pretext of chasing up resistance fighters described by the Israeli occupation as "terrorists", has so far resulted in the martyrdom of 21 Palestinians, the injury of dozens, the displacement of thousands and massive destruction of the infrastructure.

By doing so, the Israeli occupation has deepened and expanded the war that had stuck it in Gaza and Lebanon to an addition front.

On August 28th the Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz revealed new Israeli intention behind the escalation in the West Bank by calling for the evacuation of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank as what happened in Gaza Strip.

"The West Bank must be treated like Gaza and the evacuation of Palestinians must be carried out. This is a war in every sense", Katz said in a post on X.

This military operation comes within the framework of the Israeli genocidal war that aims at eliminating the Palestinian presence in historical Palestine. It is part of the Israeli plan to perpetuate the settlement expansion scheme and impose facts on the ground that prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state and create an unacceptable environment that leads to the displacement of the Palestinians in preparation to annex the West Bank and Jordan valley to the Israeli entity.

Behind this Israeli escalation in the West Bank also hides Israeli fears that resistance may expand to all areas of the West Bank which may lead to the eruption of a comprehensive Palestinian uprising that would exacerbate the Israeli crisis as regards the conflict with the Palestinians, so it sought to preempt this matter with a military operation.

The Israeli policies have shown intransigent refusal to reach any political solution that ends the war, and the invasion of the West Bank exposes the hysterical state of the Israeli leaders who insist on striking the steadfast will of the Palestinian people in implementation of the so-called "decisive plan" that the Israeli minister Bezalel Smotrich has been calling for since 2017. The plan aims at consolidating the settlement expansion project and displacing the Palestinians, which practically paves the way for what is called the "alternative homeland" in Jordan, an idea that is completely rejected by all the Palestinians.

In the light of the continuity of escalation in the West Bank, there are fears that the next stage of aggression is expected to affect the Palestinians in the lands occupied in 1948 ❀

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President Al-Assad addresses the People's Assembly marking the beginning of its 4th legislative term



President Bashar Al-Assad on Sunday, August 25th, addressed the People's Assembly marking the beginning of the Assembly's 4th legislative term.

In his speech, President Al-Assad congratulated the People's Assembly members on starting the 4th Legislative Term and on winning the confidence of voters, calling on them to spare no effort in the service of the people as to perpetuate this confidence.

The people's Assembly is the most important state institution and its effect won't be tangible if development is not comprehensive in all institutions due to the close relation between these institutions, he said.

President Assad explained that the immunity of the People's Assembly members does not mean that they can violate the law; rather, it means that these members should be the first to implement the laws as they are responsible for approving them.

He pointed out that the role of the People's Assembly is to ask about the tools when it approves a law or makes a policy and when it does not ask about how to apply the law it, it will be, together with the executive authority, responsible for this negligence.

President Al-Assad said that "severe economic crises are a state of immunodeficiency that is not visible to the naked eye, and was expose the severity this state of weakness, therefore, we must deeply examine the economic policies that we have adopted over decades".

President Assad went on to say that in the light of developments in the region and the world and the changing rules of economy, politics, security, culture and other fields, it is not possible for a policy to be correct all the time, so we have to discuss our policies, pointing out that the government is required to achieve the goals determined in the set policies, and this government needs tools to implement the objectives, and one of these tools may be changing the policies.

He added that it is known that Syria is going through difficult circumstances, and that difficult options are built on facts, so there is a need to determine the most appropriate and least harmful solutions for Syria.

Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises

The President made it clear that among most important options is supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, because they constitute an essential part of economy. Small enterprises are central to productivity and growth not a solution to a temporary problem, in fact they don't only support the economy; rather, they are the backbone of this economy, he said.

On the political situation, President Al-Assad said that Syria is one of the conflict arenas in the world. "The choice before us is between being affected only or being influencing and achieving balance, so, in order for this balance to be complete, we must work hard, find solutions, and refuse to submit to frustration and work to change them.

He added that "the current situation in the world suffers from a crisis, whose repercussions on us necessitates working faster to fix what can be fixed regardless of the pain caused by a friend's stab. This is how we dealt with the initiatives regarding the relation with Turkey that were presented by several parties, including "Russia, Iran and Iraq". He stressed that the damage was accumulating not only on the Syrian side but also on the Turkish side in each day that passed without progress.

"We dealt with these initiatives based on our principles and interests which usually don't conflict with those of the neighboring countries if the intentions are not harmful, as sovereignty and international law are consistent with the principles of all parties that are serious about restoring normal relations," the president clarified, noting that combating terrorism is a common interest for both parties.

Syria always stresses that Turkey must withdraw from the lands it has occupied and stop its support for terrorism

President Al-Assad said "we did not occupy the lands of a neighboring country and now we have to withdraw, and we did not support terrorism and now we have to stop supporting it. The solution is to be frank and identify where the problem is".



He stressed that restoring the relation requires first of all removing the causes that led to the destruction of this relation, pointing out that “we will not give up any of our rights” and that “any negotiation process needs a reference to rely on in order to succeed, and one of the reasons for not reaching results in previous meetings is the absence of a reference.

“Syria always stresses that Turkey must withdraw from the lands it has occupied and stop its support for terrorism,” President Al-Assad reiterated, stressing that sovereignty is the principle on which Syria builds its stances.

“When we talk about sovereignty, the occupied Syrian Golan should be mentioned”

“When we talk about sovereignty, the occupied Syrian Golan should be mentioned, because people in the occupied Golan have given us many lessons. They have proven that the absence of sovereignty over their land does not mean the fall of patriotism from their conscience; rather it means the enhancement of this patriotism. They also have proven that occupying the land does not mean selling one’s honor and that their national belonging is rooted and their souls are cheap in defense of Syria”, the President clarified.

President Al-Assad concluded his speech by affirming that resistance fighters in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen are a role model and an example for us to follow on the path to liberation, dignity, honor and complete independence ❄️

Hamda Mustafa

President Al-Assad’s open dialogue with Syrian ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions



President Bashar Al-Assad on Thursday held an open dialogue with the Syrian ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions abroad, and the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates at the conclusion of diplomats’ periodic meeting held late in August.

The dialogue focused on the current political issues and ways to confront regional and international challenges.

President Al-Assad stressed the firm principles of the Syrian foreign policy regarding the relation with Syria’s Arab and regional environment, as well as the country’s international relations and the way it deals with international challenges in accordance with a strategic and realistic vision, reiterating that bilateral relations are the core for strengthening relations with Arab countries.

The President clarified Syria’s firm position on the Arab-Israeli conflict, pointing out that the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation should be viewed in the context of the Palestinian cause, not as an emergency field event, in the face of the attempts of the United States and its Western allies to convince the world that the Al-Aqsa Flood operation is the cause of the current tension in the region.

President Al-Assad affirmed that dealing with the challenges facing Syria today has to do with its geographical and historical position, and with the fact that it is one of the war arenas and the focus of the greedy aspirations of colonizers throughout history.

The President explained that the chaos created by the United States has increased instability in the world, and the international conflict today is an economic-technological one, especially since the West has begun to lose its technological control over the East, which would contribute to accelerating the formation of a new multi-polar world.

He made it clear that future is for the East, because it has been able to preserve its identity and principles. He pointed out that the successive developments confirm the escalation and continuation of the conflict, which will create more crises for all countries of the world and for all peoples.

Moreover, the dialogue dealt with the institutional aspect of the diplomatic work. President Al-Assad stressed that this process is inseparable from the institutional development of all other government sectors, reiterating the importance of developing the rules of work, communication and coordination mechanisms between the ministry and its missions abroad, by establishing a permanent dialogue at all levels to ensure the establishment of precise frameworks and standards for implementing all aspects of diplomatic work ❄️

Hamda Mustafa



Regular meeting of Syrian ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions



Between August 25th and 29th, the Syrian ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions held their regular meeting at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in Damascus.

On first day, Faisal Al-Mikdad, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in the caretaker government, spoke about the work of the ministry and its diplomatic missions abroad and the difficulties and challenges facing this work.

He stressed that the ministry's work mechanisms should be developed to ensure better performance, enhance the efficiency of diplomatic work and boost the ability of the ministry and the diplomatic missions abroad to perform their tasks in the best possible way.

Al-Mikdad highlighted the challenges facing the Arab region, most notably the suffering of the Palestinian people from the crimes and genocide being committed by the Zionist entity against them with unlimited support by the United States.

He hailed the steadfastness of the people in south Lebanon and their valiant confrontation of the repeated Zionist attacks on their lands.

Al-Mikdad stressed that Syria places at the forefront of its priorities the situation of the people in the occupied Syrian Golan, stands by them, and affirms their inherent right to restore the Golan to Syria, praising the struggle and sacrifices of the people in the Syrian Golan.

He stressed Syria's firm adherence to its national identity, independent national decision and principled positions on its causes despite all the challenges and difficulties imposed by the colonial powers to dissuade it from this firm position.

2nd day

On the second day of the meeting, the ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions met with Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade in the caretaker government Mohammad Samer Al-Khalil who said that economic diplomacy today is a priority and an important

matter, whether in terms of investment work, commercial work, or agreements that could be beneficial to Syria and Syrian exporters at both the private and public sectors levels.

The diplomats also met with the Minister of Electricity in the caretaker government Ghassan Al-Zamel who affirmed that the electricity sector and the electrical energy system were severely damaged during the terrorist war on Syria, stressing that electricity is the engine of sustainable development in Syria and in all countries of the world.

Al-Zamel explained that the terrorist organizations targeted the electricity system, which put no less than 50 percent of all components of the electrical network out of service, noting the large sums that were required to rehabilitate this system. He pointed out that the terrorist war on Syria claimed the lives of than 300 workers in the electricity sector.

The Minister stressed the importance of meeting with ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions to explain the suffering of the electricity sector as a result of the unjust siege imposed on Syria, as well as to encourage investment in the field of electrical energy and work on developing the electrical system, securing some requirements and facilitating agreement with foreign companies.

3rd day

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Faisal Al-Mikdad has stressed that water has been turned into a political issue and our ambassadors and diplomatic missions need to know the situation of water resources so they can defend it in front of the world public opinion.

"The Syrian diplomatic cadre's knowledge of the water situation is an integral part of the process of following up on international talks on water and the obligations that we should know when we negotiate this file", Al-Mikdad said during a session attended by Minister of Water Resources in the caretaker government Hussein Makhlof.

Makhlof, for his part, spoke about the important role of the



ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions, in obtaining Syria's water rights and in conveying the true picture of Syria's commitment to all water agreements with neighboring countries and with Arab brothers.

He indicated that the ministry has a very important and well-studied set of projects and it needs partnerships with friendly countries to implement them.

He underlined the basic principles of public policies related to water resources and water-sharing agreements with neighboring countries.

Makhlouf stressed that climate change has negative impacts on the country, including drought, lack of rain, decline of snow cover, the frequency of extreme heat and extreme cold, soil degradation, and reduced agricultural productivity, caused desertification, a decrease in rivers' water level and an increase in population.

Makhlouf reviewed the water situation in the occupied territories, especially the Israeli occupation's stealing of the water of the occupied Syrian Golan and exploiting the groundwater there.

He also spoke about the illegal practices of the Turkish occupation and the Turkish-backed terrorists in Hasakah and the northern countryside of Aleppo, which deprived the people of Hasakah of the water coming from the Allouk station, and caused damage to this station.

Moreover, the meeting of the diplomats with Minister of Interior in the caretaker government, Major General Mohammad Al-Rahmoun, shed light on the ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and the Syrian embassies in solving citizens' problems through a joint committee between the two ministries to coordinate work in the services provided to the displaced Syrians wishing to return.

Minister Al-Rahmoun spoke about the issuance of the electronic visa to facilitate procedures to those wishing to visit Syria, reviewing the facilities provided to displaced Syrians on the borders.

4th day

On the 4th day, Al-Mikdad stressed the need that embassies and diplomatic missions should focus in their work on the Syrian cultural heritage, which is a global one.

Minister of Culture in the caretaker government Lubana

Mushaweh spoke about the ministry's mission, vision, goals and role in creating thought, strengthening national identity, disseminating knowledge, developing capacities and skills and protecting and preserving cultural heritage and developing the cultural product.

She noted the difficulties and obstacles facing the Ministry's work, especially after the terrorist war on Syria, which was the reason for the loss, theft and smuggling of thousands of antiquities, presenting some solutions and suggestions that could help in recovering smuggled antiquities.

She called on the diplomatic missions to support the efforts made in the field of recovering smuggled antiquities, noting that cooperation between the Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs will result in a number of proposals and solutions that must be adopted to develop cultural work. She indicated that such proposals include activating cultural diplomacy and concluding bilateral agreements with neighboring countries.

Minister of Local Administration and Environment in the caretaker government and head of the Supreme Relief Committee, Lamia Shakur, also met with the ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions and stressed the importance of international cooperation in the field of relief and humanitarian work in Syria.

She highlighted the diplomats' key role in coordinating mechanisms for humanitarian aid received by the targeted groups and the neediest regions and sectors in Syria.

Another meeting was held with the Minister of industry in the caretaker government Abdulkader Jokhadar. The meeting touched upon the most important challenges that have faced Syria, especially in the industrial filed. The minister focused on the impacts of the unilateral western sanctions imposed on the industry, presenting some attractive projects for investment and for cooperation with commercial offices in the countries where Syrian diplomatic missions are present.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Bassam Sabbagh explained to reporters that the regular meeting of ambassadors and heads of missions comes within the framework of implementing comprehensive institutional reform at the national level ❄

Raghda Sawas

Israeli genocidal war on the **Palestinians continues..** **No agreement on ceasefire yet**

At least 40,265 Palestinians, including women, children and elderly, have been killed and over 93,144 others have been injured in the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza which has been continuous since October 2023, not to mention the thousands of victims who are trapped under the rubble as the civil defense teams couldn't reach them due to Israeli bombardment. The aggression continues while the world has proved its inability to force the occupation to cease fire.

This aggression on Gaza has been synchronized with daily crimes committed by the occupation in the West Bank.

Over the past week, the Israeli occupation forces carried out a wide-scale offensive on several West Bank cities, including Jenin, Tulkarm and Tubas. The aggression has so far resulted in the killing of 21 Palestinians in the three cities. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed by Israeli occupation forces and settlers since October 7, 2023 in the occupied West Bank to 673.

Crimes of forced disappearance

Besides the aggression in Gaza and the West Bank, the Israeli occupation authorities have committed the crime of forced disappearance against thousands of Palestinian detainees since the start of the genocidal war on Gaza Strip.

The Commission for Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Affairs, the Prisoners Club and the AL-Dameer Foundation for Prisoner Care and Human Rights said in a report "the crime of forced disappearance constituted the most prominent aspects of the war of extermination that has been going on for more than ten months, in the light of the continuous wide-scale detentions that affected all categories.

Also, the Prisoners' Institutions and the National Campaign to Recover the Bodies of Martyrs said that the Israeli occupation authorities continue to detain 552 bodies, including 256 in the numbered cemeteries, in addition to hundreds from Gaza Strip.

Unbearable suffering

Moreover, the immense struggle of the Palestinians in Gaza Strip to find shelter or other basic necessities for survival can't be described in words.

The acting head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joyce Msuya warned that the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza Strip and the suffering endured by the people there are unbearable.

"Civilians are hungry, thirsty, sick and homeless, pushed beyond the limits of



endurance and beyond what any human being can bear," she said.

The World Health Organization announced on August 30th that only 17 out of 36 hospitals in Gaza are currently operating partially amid the ongoing Israeli aggression.

The WHO also said that thousands of children in Gaza are at risk of severe malnutrition, with approximately 15,000 children in the war-torn region suffering from malnutrition.

An UNRWA official described the situation in Gaza Strip as "catastrophic" amid more evacuation orders for areas across Gaza.

UNRWA spokesperson in Gaza Louise Waterridge said Hundreds of thousands of people are being forced to move every day from one place to another, seeking safe shelter.

"What we are seeing now is families, mothers and children dragging their belongings...most people are being forcibly moved, there is very limited access to any kind of vehicle for this kind of displacement now, and people simply don't know where to go," she added.

The people in Gaza are not only in constant fear for their lives, but they struggle to meet even their most basic needs.

An UNRWA report has stressed that due to the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip; only three out of 18 water wells in Deir Al-Balah area are still functioning, resulting in an 85% water shortage in a complete stripping of humanity and a never-ending tragedy.

Many children in Gaza have also lost their parents due to the ongoing Israeli aggression. UNICEF statistics show that there are 19,000 orphaned children in Gaza.

The World Food Program has affirmed that "Palestinians are being repeatedly

displaced under evacuation orders that also disrupt aid centers dedicated to supporting them.

It indicated that over the past two months, in the light of the ongoing catastrophic hunger, the program was forced to reduce the contents of food parcels in Gaza as the flow of aid decreased and supplies dwindled.

Al-Aqsa Mosque

This month also witnessed remarks by the minister in the occupation government Itamar Ben Gvir in which he called for establishing a synagogue inside Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Palestinian Presidency described the remarks as very dangerous, completely rejected and condemned. The presidency affirmed that the area of Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is 144 dunums, belongs to Muslims only.

August 21st, the Palestinian people marked the 55th anniversary of the crime of burning Al Aqsa Mosque by an extremist Zionist person called Dennis Michael Rohan who, on that day, stormed into Al-Aqsa Mosque from the direction of Bab Al-Ghawanmeh in coordination with the Israeli occupation authorities and set fire to the Al-Qibli prayer hall, causing a huge fire that devoured its furniture, walls, ceiling, carpets, rare decorations, and all its contents of the Qur'an books.

This crime in one of the occupation's continuous attempts to destroy one of the most important religious and historical landmarks that confirm the depth and roots of the Arab Islamic presence in the occupied city of Al-Quds and the Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian people, despite the suffering and the continued brutal attacks, press ahead with their steadfast resistance and stress that they will not stop until they regained their rights and expel the occupation from their lands ❄

Hamda Mustafa

Entrepreneurial Investment Forum “Forsa 2024” encourages establishing startups



The 3rd Entrepreneurial Investment Forum “Forsa 2024”, held by the National Union of Syrian Students and the Syrian Young Entrepreneurs Association (SYEA) between August 28th and 29th, aimed at providing opportunities to university students, graduates and young people to enter the job market by creating an integrated entrepreneurial environment for their projects, including training, quality supervision and financing.

During the forum, a dialogue session was held in the presence of the Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection of the Caretaker government Mohsen Abdul Karim Ali at the Reda Saeed Conference Hall at Damascus University. The participants discussed a number of issues related to encouraging the establishment of startups on an official basis.

They addressed the current challenges and the main problems faced by entrepreneurs when establishing companies, especially the difficulties related to the transition from the informal to the formal economy and how to simplify the registration and licensing procedures, reduce costs and save time.

The participants called for developing a clear roadmap for the creation of a “single window” for business registration, obtaining licenses and developing the WIPO mechanism, drawing up a list of proposed incentive programs aimed at different industries and business sizes. They also stressed the necessity of organizing a public awareness campaign to educate entrepreneurs about the benefits of transition to the formal economy, setting very special conditions for any entity that wants to impose financial burdens on any startup, and determining the corresponding imposition of such burdens.

Minister Ali pointed to the importance of entrepreneurship among the youth, as it is the backbone of economic growth and development that contributes to achieving sustainable

economic and social development, stressing the ministry’s keenness to support the process of growth and development to achieve social progress at the national level and the integration of all components of Syrian society so that the growth process becomes rapid.

He pointed out that the effort will be doubled to cooperate and partner with young people to provide creative ideas and support them to promote and develop the country, in accordance with the directives of President Bashar Al-Assad on the support and development of small projects that form the basis of the economies of most countries of the world.

Dr. Darin Suleiman, president of the National Union of Syrian students, pointed out that the young generation is enthusiastic, committed and it has creative ideas and projects, therefore, it is necessary to provide them with support and care in the field of entrepreneurship, which needs necessary legislation and environment, as well as partnership with state institutions, concerned ministries, universities, banking institutions as well as small and medium enterprises and banks.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Syrian Young Entrepreneurs Association, Moataz Sukriya expressed his hope to establish a special platform for entrepreneurs and start-ups whose procedures are simpler, stressing that it is necessary to support young people to achieve their dreams and serve their country.

Member of the Executive Office of the Student Union, Head of the Office of Higher Education and Student Affairs, Imad Al-Omar, stressed the importance of clarifying all necessary procedures to transform creative ideas into sustainable and successful projects ✳

Amal Farhat

Syria, Russia to enhance cooperation in Oil Sector

MOSCOW - On August 27th, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources in the caretaker government Firas Qaddour stressed the importance of cooperation relations between Syria and Russia, especially in the energy sector.

During a meeting held with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsvetaev in Moscow, Qaddour thanked Russia, its leadership, government and people, for its support for Syria, indicating that cooperation between the two countries has reached unprecedented levels in implementation of the directives of Presidents Bashar Al-Assad and Vladimir Putin.

Qaddour also indicated that the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources is making efforts to rebuild the infrastructure in the field of extracting, transporting and refining oil products that were destroyed by terrorist organizations.

For his part, Russian Energy Minister announced that the Russian side is following up on the implementation of the agreements previously signed with the Ministry of Oil and



Mineral Resources and the use of modern technologies and the experience of Russian companies in cooperation with Syria to extract and refine oil and gas, stressing Moscow's determination to continue developing and strengthening cooperation with Damascus in this field ✳

Basma Qaddour

200 Facilities return to work in Fadlun Industrial Zone in Sbeinah City in Damascus Countryside

Damascus Countryside, (ST) - The joint efforts of economic bodies in Fadlun Industrial Zone and the local council in Sbeinah town in Damascus Countryside have resulted in the completion of more than 70 percent of the infrastructure destroyed by terrorism over the past years.

These efforts contributed to the return of 200 industrial facilities, including big, medium and small ones.

Head of the Sabinah Local Council, Mohammad Haitham Mansour, told SANA correspondent that Fadlun area included 600 industrial facilities in 2011, producing various types of chemical, wood, food, plastic and clothing industries.

After security returned to the area, services began to be provided, including electricity, water, communications, sewage and roads, as 10 big facilities and 40 medium ones returned to the city, while the rest varied between small and workshops.

Mansour stressed the role of economic and local activities and government support in rehabilitating the Fadlun zone through implementing several service projects, the most important of which have to do with sewage, electricity network maintenance, installing a number of electrical transformers and securing water.

Mansour pointed out that the area

still needs to complete these projects, especially sewage, asphaltting the remaining streets and lighting up, which needs to increase electricity supply.

Abdullah Fadlun, a representative of the local community in the industrial area, explained that the focus during the past five years was on rehabilitating industrial facilities and infrastructure, to enable all industrialists to return. He referred to the government's support and the efforts of the local council in Sbeinah that enabled the area to rise again and start production.

Industrialists in Fadlun area confirmed in statements to SANA correspondent that the difficulties and obstacles did not prevent them from continuing to work. They expressed their keenness to restore

the glory of this area whose production was marketed inside and outside Syria.

Industrialist Salem Jorani, who works in the field of production technology and manufacturing spare parts molds needed for factories and plants, spoke about the availability of services in Fadlun area such as communications, electricity, sewage and roads, in addition to the area's closeness to Damascus.

Eng. Samer Sabinati, who is supervising the restoration work of one of the industrial facilities specializing in the design and manufacture of plastic molds, confirmed that despite the economic blockade on Syria and the difficulties, work is continuing to return the facility to production ✳

Raghda Sawas



Participants in 2nd Damascus Countryside Expatriates Forum stress the need to provide appropriate climate for investment

The 2nd Damascus Countryside Expatriates Forum, was held on August 17th in Al-Nabek city in the presence of a number of officials as well as personalities representing economic facilities in Al-Qalamoun area.

Governor of Damascus Countryside Ahmad Ibrahim Khalil said in a statement that "the forum is an important opportunity to meet with the expatriates, enhance their role in reconstructing Syria, secure their needs, respond to their suggestions and eliminate all obstacles that face their work.

Khalil expressed the governorate's readiness to build communication bridges with the expatriates, to reactivate their role inside the country and abroad and to implement development projects that support the national economy.

For their part, the expatriates required preparing the suitable ground for



investment and providing necessary facilitation so that they can carry out big and medium-sized projects. They affirmed their complete readiness to cooperate with the concerned parties to continue with the process of rebuilding in their cities and towns.

The expatriates noted the importance

of establishing a tourism area in Al-Qalamoun region with the aim of restoring brilliance to this diverse region in terms of climate and environment, calling for renewing the legislations relating to investment and service development ❄

Hamda Mustafa

New projects inaugurated to improve the tourism situation in Lattakia

The Minister of Tourism Muhammad Rami Martini and the Governor of Lattakia Amer Hilal laid the foundation stone for the site of the heritage incubator and the handicrafts market at Al-Batrani Park in Lattakia city. He also inaugurated the Ugarit Popular Tourism Project to construct a hotel and an open beach on the site of Ugarit, north of the city of Lattakia.

The expansion of the La Plage Hotel was also opened in the Wadi Qandil area, which includes 21 hotel suites, 20 wooden huts, gardens and children's games.

In a statement to reporters, Minister Martini pointed out that the development dimension of these projects aims at improving the tourism situation and providing the best services in Lattakia Governorate, which is one of the most important tourist destinations in summer and whose natural richness, mountains and sea attract thousands of Arabs in neighboring countries.

It was recorded a steady increase in the number of arriving tourists, along with hundreds of thousands of Syrian citizens and expatriates, as there is a large return of Syrian expatriates, despite the difficult circumstances.



Martini explained that the heritage incubator project at Al-Batrani Park, which is located on an area of 2,500 square meters, is a cultural tourism development project par excellence, as there are more than 22 rare heritage handicrafts in Lattakia.

He also referred to the importance of the Ugarit project as one of the leading projects in the field of popular tourism which reflects the great interest that the government and the ministries of tourism, local administration and governorates have given to this sector after the decline it witnessed in recent years as a result of the terrorist war and the economic blockade and their negative repercussions on the investment and development aspects ❄

Rawaa Ghanam

“Servex 2024” Forum an opportunity to provide investors and businessmen with services they need to start projects



“In Syria, there is what is worth living. Just as we withstood the military war against our country and achieved victory, we will withstand the economic war and the unjust sanctions and siege imposed on our beloved Syria. We are victorious politically, militarily, economically, and socially, thanks to our love for our leader and our country. Damascus was and still is the city of Jasmine which combines the elegance of history and the modernity of the present” Khalaf Mashhadani, Director of the Mashhadani International Exhibitions and Conferences Group told “Syria Times” e-newspaper in an interview on the sidelines of the 9th International Businessmen and Businesswomen and Service Companies Forum “Servex 2024”.

The economic event, which is organized by Mashhadani Group, was held between August 5th and 7th at the Dama Rose Hotel in Damascus under the title “We Meet to Advance”. 50 companies from Arab and foreign countries specialize in business services, investment and economic activities participated in this event.

“The forum is an opportunity to provide the services

that investors and businessmen need to start projects and consolidate communication among participating sides, to exchange experiences on related specializations and to introduce new ideas in different domains” Mashhadani explained.

He pointed out that “Servex 2024” is distinguished by the diverse participation of Arab and foreign countries including Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Russia alongside local companies.

Mashhadani stressed the importance of the forum for what it contains of technology in marketing and managing sciences and implementation experiences in all sectors and services for adopting and developing ideas and transforming them into a product offered in the markets.

“The forum constitutes an opportunity for young ambitious entrepreneurs as well as visitors to find services that contribute to adopting and developing their ideas and turning them into a product to be introduced to the market, through dialogue platforms that have been prepared for this purpose”



Mashhadani affirmed.

Dr. Samer Al-Qassem, representative of the Russian Alternative Energy Company, said to Syriatimes "This is our first participation in this forum. We are happy and proud to strengthen relations between Russia and Syria in economic fields and to introduce modern Russian technologies in such important events.

"Our company has been active in the field of alternative energy production for fifteen years, relying on the power of the wind and solar energy . Through our participation, we have felt the seriousness about cooperation between Syria and Russia. Soon, cooperation agreements will be signed between the Ministries of Agriculture and Electricity of the two countries," Dr. Qassem added.

He stressed " We are supporting Syria to overcome its ordeal and be steadfast and strong to face the siege imposed on it. The Russian side is ready to implement joint projects, and soon, introductory protocols will be signed between Syrian and Russian companies".

Fadi Al-Aflaq from ZEUS Tourism Services Company in the United Arab Emirates highly appreciated the facilitations provided by the Syrian side for participation in this forum, which constitutes an important opportunity for the participants to form one group.

" During the period of recovery and reconstruction Syria is currently witnessing, it needs new ambitious ideas and technical products from young investors, especially Syrians, who are the hope of the future" Al-Aflaq expressed.

He indicated that the forum focused on supporting the start-up companies and linking them to the labor market and on supporting tourism services in Syria as the tourism movement increases year after year.

"The agreements signed during the forum will play a key role in consolidating and exchanging expertise among participating Arab and foreign countries" Al-Aflaq concluded.

Nawaf Munther from Al-Emad Foundation for Development, Human Resources Management and Entrepreneurship in Syria told Syriatimes " the foundation holds courses in the fields of medicine, development, education, entrepreneurship and advertisement, through which we seek to develop and improve the skills of young people and try to provide them with job opportunities".

He added that Al-Emad foundation is the exclusive agent in



the Middle East for some international universities.

Al-Munther stressed that the forum is an incentive for cooperation between local, Arab and foreign companies in which Mashhadani International Exhibitions and Conferences Group plays a major role.

"The participation of Arab and foreign countries is a message that has proven to the world that Syria is capable of overcoming its difficult circumstances as a result of the terrorist war. Syrian youth are able to develop and contribute to building their society through knowledge and science, which is the basis of life" he stressed.

From Iraq, Osama Zwaiti, Director of "Basha'er Al-Haramain for Hajj and Umrah" Company said "This is the first participation in the forum, which attracted and motivated us through its slogan "We meet to advance".

He stressed that the participation of more than 60 local, Arab and foreign companies enhances investment, promotes tourism , develops the economy and helps exchange economic, tourism and work experiences.

"Syria will recover and will be forever the home of civilization, culture, economy and trade," he said, noting a plan to open another branch of the company in Syria.

He called on businessmen and investors to come to Damascus and carry out projects , especially as Syria is witnessing peace , safety and security.

It is worth to mention that "Servex 2024" is not just a meeting, but rather a cultural convergence that brings the world together and through which cultures intertwine and ideas converge to formulate a brighter and more advanced future ❖

Interviews and photos by Rawaa Ghanam



“A Space of Hope” Collective Exhibition Highlights Old Damascus



The neighborhoods, alleys and houses of old Damascus, which are considered a symbol of civilization and heritage, were depicted in the “A Space of Hope” (Fushat Amal) collective exhibition held recently at Abu Rummana Cultural Center in Damascus.

The exhibition, which is organized by the Damascus Culture Directorate, included 55 paintings presented by 18 talented male and female artists. The paintings were drawn in various artistic styles depicting still life, Damascene alleys, Arabic calligraphy, women and nature.

Plastic artist Raghda Saeed, the organizer of the exhibition told “Syria Times” that the exhibition is the result of a workshop entitled “Al-Sham is a History and a Civilization”, in a reference to the historical importance of Damascus and Syria in general.

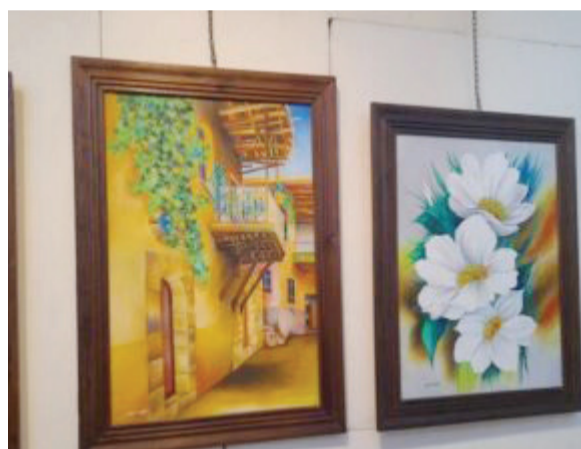
“The workshop lasted for a month at the cultural center and then it was crowned by an exhibition that showcased all the accomplished artworks. The workshop increased the experience of the talented artists, as they became more skillful in using oil colors, pastels, inks, acrylics in coloring their drawings” she added.

Raghda Saeed pointed out that the participants also learned during the workshop how to use other techniques as collage and knife and how to draw in different styles and methods within the artistic schools.

She said that the workshop provided the participants with good experience and help them exchange ideas within an optimistic atmosphere, so that the exhibition was called “Space of Hope.”

Plastic artist and engineer Seham Mhesen displayed two oil colors paintings using using a knife technique related to classical and abstract schools.

The first painting features an old man and his sewing machine which he considered as his friend and his sources of support. The second painting shows a woman expressing



emotions through her eyes.

Seham said: “I used cheerful earthy colors that express inner feeling . I am always optimistic and always have a space of hope. The exhibition expresses hope and the participating artists are creative and talented and each one of them has his own way in expressed hope through his drawings. Therefore, we can see that the exhibition included diverse paintings”.

“Participation in collective exhibitions provides the artist with experience and enhances cooperation between the participating artists” she added.

For her part, Plastic artist Ghaida Al-Hindi displays one painting that shows a horse as is a symbol of vigor, pride and the continuity of life.

“I used oil colors. I always participate in collective exhibitions because artists cooperate with each other, exchange experiences and be familiar with other artists works” She said.

Prominent plastic artist Muhammad Dabour participated with three earthy oil colors paintings showing the beautiful neighborhoods of old Damascus and roses.

“All my paintings belong to the realistic school and they document the old neighborhoods of Damascus. I participate in this exhibition to encourage the younger generation because collective exhibitions bring together different generations” he said.

Rana Al-Taani participated with four paintings using acrylic colors, three of them showed the Damascene neighborhoods and the fourth featured a landscape.

Rana used acrylic colors of earth in a geometric perspective way to give more depth and 3 dimensional space to the paintings using the brush and the knife in her drawings.

Rana, who participated in several collective exhibitions, sees that such events provide her with more experience to improve her talent ❁

Reported and photos by : Nada Haj Khidr

Supporting cultural movement in Syria, Ahfad Ishtar Foundation screens two films by director Almohannad Kalthoum

With the aim of supporting cultural movement in Syria and encouraging film-making, the Cinema Club at the Ahfad Ishtar Foundation recently held a cultural event that included the screening of two short films by Syrian director Almohannad Kalthoum at Al-Kindi Cinema in Damascus, as part of the Club's monthly activities.

The films are (Nahri Bahri), whose script was written by Samer Mohammed Ismail, and (Photograph), whose script was written by Buthaina Naeesa.

Following the screening of the films, a dialogue was held in the presence of Almohannad Kalthoum, the director of the films, a number of filmmakers and Dr. Ayser Midani, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Ahfad Ishtar Foundation.

Kalthoum told "Syria Times" that the audience and the filmmakers gathered in this event to discuss the intellectual and cultural situation in Syria.

"The dialogue, that was held, included different opinions on various ideas and topics and the screened films are completely Syrian made. They are of interest to the Syrian people in the light of the harsh war that the Syrian people have been going through," the director said.

He added: "the films depict our daily life. We tried to document some details of the life of people in Syria through these two films; "Nahri Bahri" and "Photograph".

"The aim of screening these films and holding the dialogue was to document memory and time and to explain what happened in our country and how we have been able, with the will of the Syrians, to



overcome the crisis," Kalthoum pointed out.

"These films are documents for future generations, for our children and grandchildren, so that they can see what happened in their country and how the will of the Syrians triumphed, because the Syrians are the sons of life, and they deserve a better life despite all the challenges," he clarified.

In her turn, Dr. Ayser Midani said that "in general, the cinema club is about films. After screening the two films, we have a dialogue session to criticize, to exchange our ideas and to discuss problems".

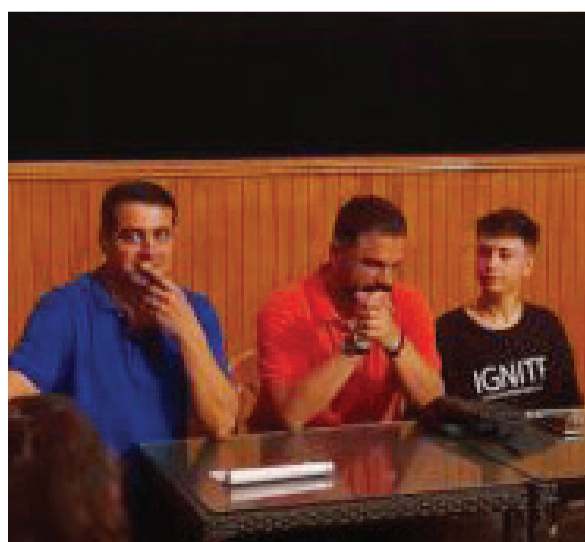
"There is an actual discussion among people about the issues raised in the films. I mean, every film has a certain value that stems from our reality, from our suffering, and through this suffering, we look forward to great and successful works, not only in Syria but in the entire world", Dr. Midani added.

"The main goal of these dialogue sessions is to regain our position by ourselves, our creativity, our capabilities and our energies and to build and develop our lives despite the difficult conditions, because the Syrian person is a creative and rich person in terms of culture, history and authenticity," she pointed out.

She also said "the goal of the cinema club is to help us repossess all our capabilities, history, and culture, and restore our confidence in ourselves, because the basis of construction and success is self-confidence".

It is worthy to mention that the film screenings of the cinema club of the Ahfad Ishtar Foundation continue at Al-Kindi Cinema in Damascus at a rate of one screening per month, and the goal is to support the country's artistic movement ❄

Report and photos by : Nada Haj Khidr



From Clay Tablets to Concert Halls: The Saga of Hurrian Hymn No. 6

The discovery of Hurrian Hymn No. 6, the world's oldest known melody, is a monumental event in the history of music. Dating back to around 1400 BCE, this ancient piece was found in Ugarit (modern-day Ras Shamra, Syria), an Amorite-Canaanite city. The hymn is part of a collection of 36 songs inscribed in cuneiform on clay tablets, with one tablet containing the complete lyrics of the hymn dedicated to Nikkal, the goddess of orchards.

The Historical Context

The Hurrian Hymn No. 6 is not just a relic; it represents a significant cultural and historical artifact from ancient Syria. The hymn was discovered in the 1950s and has since been a subject of fascination for historians and musicians alike. It provides a glimpse into the musical traditions of the ancient Near East, showcasing the sophisticated musical notation and the cultural importance of music in religious and social contexts. Modern Interpretations and Performances

Syrian musicians have made significant efforts to revive and reinterpret this ancient melody. In 2003, musician Raad Khalaf launched the "Ugarit Tablets" project, which included a full translation of the epic of "Anat" and "Baal," presenting the original manuscript of this Ugaritic melody. The project involved a team of 140 people, highlighting the collaborative effort to bring this ancient music to life.

Another notable project is "Syrian Rhapsody" (a free-form musical composition that is often emotional and



exuberant) by musician Iyad Rimawi, which was part of the Syrian pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. This project celebrated the history of choral singing in Syria and featured around 100 Syrian musicians and singers from both inside and outside Syria, under the direction of maestro Misak Baghboudarian.

Solo Performances and Vocal Analysis

Between these large-scale projects, there have been solo performances that have brought a unique touch to the ancient hymn. One such performance was by young Syrian singer Mirai Askar, who performed the hymn as part of the Syrian pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. Her rendition was accompanied by instruments reminiscent of those from the Kingdom of Ugarit, such as cymbals, lyres, flutes, drums, and reed instruments similar to the modern oud.

Musicologist Nazih Asaad analyzed Mirai's performance, noting her clear and smooth vocal delivery, which suited the ancient style that does not require vocal vibrato or ornamentation typical of modern Eastern music. He emphasized the importance of careful handling of the accompanying music, as it provides only a simple harmonic layer, requiring the singer to maintain precise pitch and musicality.

Mirai Askar's journey as a musician began at a young age, nurtured by her parents and her involvement in church choirs and the Joy Choir. Her dedication and continuous training led her to perform solo at the age of 12 and to accompany the Joy Choir on a tour in France in 2016. Mirai Askar's academic background in media from Damascus University, combined with her musical talents, allows her to communicate and share the rich cultural heritage of Syria with a broader audience.

International Performances and Recognition

Hurrian Hymn No. 6 has also captured the interest of international audiences and renowned musicians worldwide. One notable performance was by Michael Levy, a British musician known for his work with ancient lyres. His interpretation of the hymn has been widely acclaimed and featured in various documentaries, films, and even video games, introducing this ancient melody to a global audience¹.

In 2017, Syrian-American composer Malek Jandali performed his adaptation of Hurrian Hymn No. 6 at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto. His rendition, played on a modern Disklavier, brought a contemporary touch to the ancient piece, further showcasing its timeless appeal.

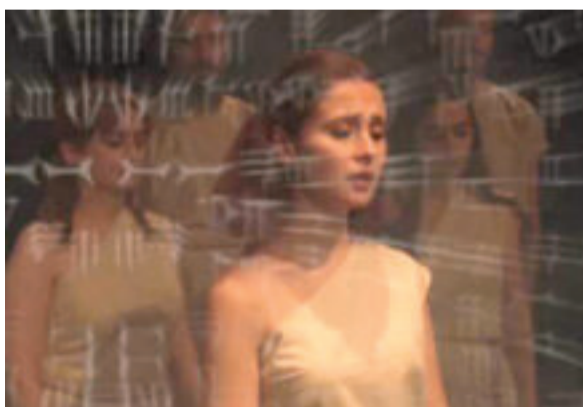
The hymn is a tribute to Nikkal, the goddess of orchards, and describes her as a nurturing figure that provides for and protects her children. This ancient melody, inscribed in cuneiform, is a testament to the sophisticated musical culture of the Hurrians and their contributions to the history of music.

These international performances highlight the universal resonance of Hurrian Hymn No.6, bridging cultures and eras through the power of music. The hymn's journey from ancient Ugarit to modern concert halls around the world underscores its enduring significance and the shared human heritage it represents.

The Legacy of Hurrian Hymn No. 6

The Hurrian Hymn No. 6 continues to inspire musicians and researchers, bridging the gap between ancient and modern musical traditions. The story of Hurrian Hymn No. 6 and its modern interpretations is a testament to the enduring power of music and its ability to connect us with our ancient past ✨

Lama Alhassanieh



Deir Atiyah Museum.. A Unique Syrian Heritage Landmark



The Museum of Deir Atiyah is one of the biggest and richest museums in Damascus countryside. It contains the heritage and folklore of the region.

The Museum is situated close to the peak of Tal Al Malih.

The corridors and walls of Deir Atiyah Museum show a distinctive architectural art and a clear imprint of the high level of architecture and heritage in Syria and the region. The museum is considered as one of the most important Syrian museums as it is distinguished for its rich archeological and historical heritage, starting from its unique location, architectural structure and engineering design, all the way to its diverse and valuable contents.

The museum features collections of important national and historical symbolism. The civil society has contributed to enriching its ten sections since its establishment in 1991, which contributed to increasing the number of artifacts to more than 108 thousand pieces.

The museum seeks to achieve cultural development, and provides an opportunity for learning and live communication with cultural heritage, as it enables visitors to explore history and art through exhibits. In addition, the museum plays essential and important role in raising cultural awareness and enhancing social cohesion, noting that the museum represents a witness to Syria's history and culture and embodies a unique model of heritage and architecture.

The museum covers an area estimated at 15,000 square meters and consists of ten buildings, in addition to the castle building, all of which were built in several stages, in addition to the garden, which in itself is considered an open-air museum. This garden contains large pieces of antiquities that are difficult to move.

The museum's cave contains of flint stone pieces and collectibles dating back to approximately a thousand years BC, including stone axes, arrows, and sickles used by ancient man in the Stone Age for hunting, cutting crops, and other daily uses. These objects were discovered in an areas in Yabroud and Maaloula.

What makes this Museum distinguished from other ones is its special style of construction and architecture, besides its sections which were distributed according to various historical stages.

After it was vandalized and stolen by terrorists in 2013, the museum was liberated and later, several sections in the museum were rehabilitated and the artifacts returned to decorate the place



alongside other heritage collections.

The museum's castle, which was built over a period of thirteen months and within various historical stages, embodies the museum's steadfastness in the face of challenges.

The unique Mamluk wooden ceilings that the museum contains are the oldest archaeological ceilings in Syria, as they were transferred from an ancient house in Deir Atiyah and reinstalled as they were in one of the museum's halls.

The museum's divisions and display method were based on artifacts and their historical historical stage, which distinguished each section separately.

The museum's exhibits are made of various materials that were used in ancient times, such as pottery and glass, and were displayed according to a historical sequence, starting from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age, passing through the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic eras, in addition to collectibles and tools that indicate popular traditions.

The museum's sections also display pottery vessels from inside and outside the region, some of which were found in Tel Saka in the Ghouta of Damascus, and others are dating back to the seventh century BC, found in Tel al-Hamira, which is located to the northeast of Deir Atiyah.

The museum includes hand-made ceramic and silver works from outside Syria, as well as Roman and Byzantine statues and stone and gold artifacts, Roman and Byzantine stone sculptures and decorations, including Roma, Byzantine and Islamic basalt sculptures and doors that were used to close underground tombs, in addition to ancient Islamic bronze vessels.

It also includes ancient manuscripts, contracts, ownership certificates, letters from the Deir Atiyah sons abroad, pieces used in agriculture and harvesting, tools that met the needs of the people in Qalamoun region in the past, tools used in many other professions, in addition to textiles, fabrics and handmade collectibles used in weaving carpets and rugs.

Some sections contain valuable glass and ceramic objects that are distinguished by their high artistic form, drawings and decorations, in addition to ancient swords, daggers and military weapons that were used in hunting, various types of recorders and old telephones, mosaic works, oil paintings, documents and writings of some national figures, and some watches and distinctive pieces of art ❄

Raghda Sawas

Diverse Sculptures in the 3rd exhibition of Syrian sculptors at the Blue House Gallery in Damascus

The 3rd Exhibition of Syrian Sculptors was held this month at the Blue House Gallery in Damascus with the participation of 24 male and female sculptors, each of them is displaying one artwork.

The sculptors showcased various works using diverse materials and subjects that reflect the multiplicity of generations to which the participants belong, creating a state of visual richness of beauty.

Sculptor Mustafa Al-Ali participated with a bronze sculpture showing a male and a female. The work depicts the relationship between two people and symbolizes eternity.

Al-Ali told Syriatimes: "This bronze work cannot be made of wood or stone because it may break or burn. I take into account the nature of the material". He told Syria Times that he was born to be a sculptor as he has been practicing sculpture for more than thirty years since he was child.

"The talent appeared since I was a child and my family encouraged me. I studied at the College of Fine Arts in 1974 and graduated in 1979, specializing in sculpture", Al-Ali clarified.

"The most important thing in the art of sculpture is the idea, then choosing appropriate material for the idea so that the material embodies what the artist can express as much as possible, then the sculptor turns the idea into an artwork" he added.

"I use different material in my sculptures including iron, bronze, wood, polyester and chrome in a way that serves the idea. This collective exhibition is a good opportunity for dialogue between the participating sculptors and for exchanging ideas and learning about diversity. The exhibition displays sculptures made of wood, cardboard, marble, bronze, basalt, and various materials. The diversity creates a beautiful atmosphere, and the audience also learns about the importance and beauty of sculpture" the sculptor Al-Ali went on to say.

"Sculpture is an ancient art in our country. we have sculptures that date back to thousands of years, and the modern art is a continuation of the ancient one", he pointed out.

For his part, the participating sculptor Badie Jahjah told Syria Times that the exhibition is an opportunity for sculptors to get acquainted with each other's experiences, to display different works, to exchange experiences and to make people familiar with their sculptures.

"I display four bronze sculptures of dancing dervishes (members of a Sufi fraternity) in this exhibition, and the message they carry is that we are dervishes (Simple people) in front of the things that destroy the soul" sculptor Badie Jahjah said.



"The dervish dancing represents love in all its forms, relationship with the creator, relationship with humans, giving, the relationship with nature, self-knowledge, contemplation and peace" he added.

"It was very important for me, since I am a specialist, to say through the dervish sculptures that whirling is a mixture of cultures and religions that aims at uniting us. I tried to present my works in a special style that expresses humanity and the boundless." Badie Jahjah clarified.

The artist Badie has been practicing sculpture for ten years and he held exhibitions in Beirut and Dubai. He only used bronze in his sculptures because for him the bronze lasts longer.

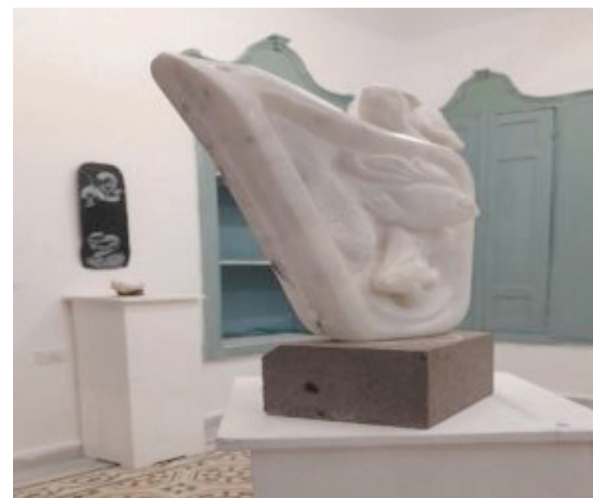
He pointed out that the collective exhibition is an opportunity for sculptors from different generations to meet, exchange experiences and share knowledge.

Sculptor Hadi Obeid participated in the exhibition with a marble work, which embodies a harp with fishes on it. He explained that "it is a surreal state. The harp is a musical state in harmony with life. The fish express marine music".

He said: "Participation in this exhibition adds new experience for each of us. We can see new works for other artists. Sometimes, the place inspires me with the idea of the sculpture".

Obeid, who has been practicing sculpture for twenty years, used wood, marble and stone in his works. He has participated in several exhibitions inside and outside Syria, including in Spain ✳

Interviews and photos by: Nada Haj Khidr



Four Ancient Markets reopened in Aleppo Old City

In the presence of the representative of President Bashar al-Assad, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic, Mansour Azzam and Minister of Culture in the caretaker government Lubana Mushaweh, four markets in the old city of Aleppo were reopened on Wednesday, August 28th after their restoration from the damage caused by terrorism. Also, Aleppo Community Center, affiliated with the Syria Trust for Development, was officially inaugurated.

The four markets are "Al-Ahmadiya, Al-Habbal, Al-Saqatiyya 2 and Al-Haddadin", which are part of the markets of the Straight Street in the old city of Aleppo.

The reopening of the markets witnessed wide participation by the people in Aleppo and the governorate's commercial, industrial and cultural bodies, representatives of the Syria Trust for Development, and a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations and bodies.

The restoration deepened constructive partnership by governmental bodies, organizations and non-governmental institutions, Aleppo City Council, the Syrian Trust for Development, the local community and the people in Aleppo with the aim of restoring life to the old heritage markets.

The attendees toured the markets and viewed the restoration works that were implemented and they met with the owners of the shops, the number of which has now reached approximately 159. All the heritage markets, the number of which has reached 37 markets in the old city of Aleppo will be restored.

In a statement to reporters, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic Mansour Azzam noted that the restoration works were carried out by the efforts of the people in Aleppo and the Syria Trust for Development, with the direct support and supervision of President Bashar Al-Assad.

He added that this work came thanks to the steadfastness and participation of the people in Aleppo, who have a strong will through which they were able to overcome terrorism, as we saw how these markets were destroyed and today life returned to them after their restoration.

In turn, Minister of Culture in the caretaker government Lubana Mushaweh, said that life is returning to the markets of Aleppo thanks to the efforts made, first and foremost by President Bashar Al-Assad, who paid great attention to this place, in addition to the cooperation of all the parties that restored, supported and worked day and night to restore life to these beautiful markets that were



talked about in history and have their mark in Syria and the entire region as industrial, commercial and craft areas.

"This is a great effort that we hope will include all the affected Syrian cities", Mushaweh added.

After that, the attendees celebrated the inauguration of the Old Aleppo Community Center with the aim of providing services to the people in Aleppo and economic parties.

The CEO of the Syria Trust for Development, Shadi Al-Alshi, gave a speech in which he thanked all the participating bodies that contributed to the launch of the community center, including experts and specialists from the Ministry of Culture and the Old City working team who took it upon themselves to set up a development strategy to revive the old city.

He highlighted the historical and architectural structures in the old city, which includes more than 200 archaeological landmarks, including markets, inns, baths and hospitals, which were reflected in the lifestyles of the residents through economic activities professions and handicrafts.

He noted that the old city is considered as one of the most important landmarks registered on the World Heritage, reviewing the devastation and destruction that it suffered as a result of terrorism.

Director of the Syrian Trust for Development in Aleppo, Jean Mughames, underlined the role of the community center in providing social, economic and legal services and financial assistance to residents and merchants in Old Aleppo with the aim of helping them return to their shops, noting the positive results achieved through contributing to the re-launch of seven markets and bringing life back to them, in addition to preparing to revive and launch the markets of Al-Muhammas, Al-Zarb, Al-Kheesh and Al-Arid ❄

Inas Abdulkareem



Syria wins 7 Bronze Medals and 3 Certificates of appreciation at the 2024 Asian Mathematics Olympiad

The National Mathematics team won seven bronze medals and three certificates of appreciation at the Asian Mathematics Olympiad, which was organized by Brazil "remotely" on March 14, and its results were released on August 30th.

In a statement, a copy of which was received by SANA, the Commission for Excellence and Creativity stated, that the bronze medals were awarded by each of the students: Mohammed Mazahem from Damascus, Shafiq Bara from Damascus, Al-Laith Shahat from Aleppo, Mohammed Fajal from Aleppo, Mahmoud Mohammed Asad from Aleppo, Haider Qasem from Homs.

Certificates of appreciation according to the Commission's statement were obtained by each of the students: Aziz Hanna from Homs, Simon Afrem from Aleppo and Mohammed Asta from Aleppo.

It is noteworthy that this is the 14th participation of Syria in the Asian Mathematics Olympiad, where it obtained the 20th ranking, which is the best during its participation in the Asian Mathematics Olympiad.



The Asian Mathematics Olympiad is considered the closest scientific competition in its level and content to the world Olympiad, due to the participation of a selection of the world's most powerful countries in mathematics, and participating in it is an opportunity to prove the competence of Syrian talents on the podium ✳

Amal Farhat

4 Gold Medals For Syria In West Asian Table Tennis Championship



Amman – (ST):

The Syrian women's table tennis team on August 28th won the West Asian Championship held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, in the women's category and in the under 11/15/ years age category in the female doubles.

In the women's category, the Syrian team won the championship title through Hind Zaza and Naya Suleiman after winning three matches against the competing teams, namely the hosted country Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinian team, and losing one match to the Qatari team.

In the under-11 category, the Syrian team won the title of this category after Lynn Mohammed Oghli and Rachel Mohammed About defeated the Qatari doubles.

The Syrian team also won the 15-year-old category title after Julie Diop and Taj Musa defeated the Jordanian national team doubles.

The national team also won the gold medal in the under-17 category after Hind Zaza and Ibaa Hallaq defeated the Iraqi national team doubles ✳

Hanan Shamout

Following 13 years of Hiatus, the Syrian-Italian Mission begins its first excavation season at Ebla Archaeological Site



The Syrian-Italian archaeological mission at the Ebla archaeological site, registered on the UNESCO Indicative List, began its first season of excavation work on August 29th, after a thirteen-year hiatus due to the terrorist war on Syria.

During a field visit Dr. Davide Nadali gave an overview to the Minister of Culture in the caretaker government, Dr. Lubana Mshaweh, to demonstrate the work plan which will be assisted by young researchers in order to be accomplished.

In turn, the Director of Excavation at the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums, Dr. Hummam Saad, reviewed the damage that affected the site, explaining that the mission will sort the rubble resulting from the excavations that destroyed part of the wall of the ancient city, with the aim of searching for any archaeological pieces to preserve and protect them ✳

NR

A Syrian Research Team wins **Gold Medal** at the 9th Canada International Invention Expo 2024

Damascus, (ST):

A Syrian research team won first place and the gold medal at the level of medical innovations in the 9th Canada International Invention Expo 2024, held recently in Toronto.

756 medical innovations and inventions from 50 countries participated in the exhibition where the new medical beauty cream, through which the Syrian team participated, won first place in the medical category, and second place in the list of the top ten inventions in all categories participating in the exhibition.

The medical cream presented by the Syrian team is a natural product, an eco-friendly cream made of silkworm extract which is rich in silk protein "sericin" with Syrian algae marine collagen.

The research team consisted of Dr. Shadi Khatib, Head of the Syrian Scientific Society for Medicinal Herbs and Complementary Medicine, Dr. Ola Mustafa, Head of the Department of Pharmaceuticals and Toxicology at the Faculty of Pharmacy at Al-Baath University, Dr. Kamil Arnouk, General Manager of "Green Pharma" for pharmaceutical products in Tartous, and beauty expert Zein Floum, who specializes in the field of natural cosmetic products, and the young researcher Shafiq Arnouk from the University of Balamand in Lebanon.

According to Dr. Kamil Arnouk, the research team has come up with a product that consists of natural compounds that are available in Syria and that suit the biology of the skin, which reduces the risk of irritation and sensitivity caused by chemical compounds, as the regular use of skin care products rich in natural antioxidants, including this product, can significantly reduce the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles and skin pigmentation.

Eco-friendly beauty cream from silk protein and marine collagen extracts



The Team of Syrian Inventors



Natural Product



Gold Medal 2024



All of these matters are in context of research to invent natural solutions to overcome the signs of aging that worry many and to maintain the youthfulness of the skin,

According to Dr. Khatib, the invention contributes to maintaining the freshness and vitality of the skin through the protein "sericin" or what is called silk protein, which was extracted in an environmentally friendly way without chemicals that harm to the skin and the environment.

This protein helps give the skin of the face a graceful and flexible appearance, and is considered as filler that hides expressive wrinkles and fine lines, and it fights signs of aging in the face, around the eyes, on the forehead, around the mouth, and in the neck area.

According to Dr. Ola Mustafa, the green methods of extracting natural products that are in line with the new global trend of what is called "the environmental footprint of cosmetic products" is what distinguished the invention's formula, as the term green chemistry is the secret to the success of the effective extraction of active compounds from natural sources, such as plants and algae.

According to inventor Zain Floum, participation in international exhibitions that focus on green products and enhance the concept of the green economy is very important, as it is an opportunity to display innovative environmentally friendly products and contribute introducing the Syrian product to new global markets.

According to the researcher Shafiq Arnouk, the cooperation between Syrian and Lebanese universities in conducting the research helped in focusing on using modern and effective methods in extracting marine collagen from brown algae that are naturally widespread on the Syrian coast, and many tests were conducted to obtain the highest extraction yield from the active form of collagen.

Besides the cream, work and research will for developing multiple pharmaceutical products, such as soap, serum and lotion.

It is worth noting that the new cream has obtained a patent from the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection at the beginning of this year ✨

Raghda Sawas

The Honey Production Craft In Ain Halaqim In Hama

Hama (ST):

The town of Ain Halaqim, located in the western countryside of Hama Governorate, is famous for beekeeping and honey production on a large scale. This craft is a basic source of livelihood for the people, in addition to the distinctive quality and flavour of the honey it produces, and the wide demand it enjoys in the markets.

The head of the agricultural guidance unit in Ain Halaqim, Eng. Evonne Qarout, stated that the number of beehives raised in the town exceeds 20,000, and the number of beekeepers is estimated at more than 200, while the production of one hive ranges between 8 and 20 kilograms during one season. Qarout pointed out that the history of beekeeping in the village dates back to the last century, when it was in small numbers and relied on old hives.

"In the nineties, the use of wooden hives began, and then

beekeeping developed to witness a qualitative shift in 2000, as about 70 percent of the town's people work in this field", she added.

Dr. Anas Morani, one of the beekeepers in the village, spoke about the availability of the elements of beekeeping in the town as the vast pastures and dense vegetation cover most of its parts.

Morani called for supporting beekeepers in terms of securing fuel for transport vehicles, securing medicines for bees from reliable sources, establishing a center for manufacturing hive supplies and receiving honey, and setting a price by the Ministry of Agriculture to prevent traders from exploiting beekeepers.

It is noteworthy that the town of Ain Halaqim enjoys a charming nature and is rich with springs as it is located at a crossroads between three governorates; Hama, Homs and Tartous ✨

Nalja Khoury

Life returns to old Aleppo markets

In the presence of the representative of President Bashar Al-Assad, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic, Mansour Azzam, and Minister of Culture in the caretaker government Lubana Mushaweh, four ancient markets in the old city of Aleppo were reopened after their restoration from the damage caused by terrorism. The four markets are "Al-Ahmadiya, Al-Habbal, Al-Saqatiyya 2 and Al-Haddadin".



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