

## NEWS IN BRIEF

US fears  
Iran could  
sell Russia  
ballistic  
missiles

● IRNA

REUTERS - The White House on Tuesday said Iran may be considering providing Russia with ballistic missiles for use in Ukraine.

White House spokesman John Kirby said the United States would monitor the situation between Iran and Russia and take appropriate action as needed.

In return for that support, he said Russia had been offering Tehran "unprecedented defense cooperation" including missiles, electronics, and air defense. Iran was seeking to purchase billions of dollars in military equipment from Russia including attack helicopters, radars, and combat trainer aircraft.

He said the Wagner mercenary group, at Russia's direction, was preparing to provide air defense capabilities to either Hezbollah or Iran.

The Kremlin declined on Wednesday to comment on Kirby's claim.

"We are developing relations with Iran, including in the field of military-technical cooperation, but we do not comment on this information," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in a regular news briefing.

Iran seeks  
to nix dark  
shipping  
terminology

● ALAMY

SPLASH - Iran is proposing amendments to a draft resolution on dark shipping at the upcoming meeting of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly.

In a document submitted ahead of a meeting next week, Iran said that the recently proposed resolution "shows a clear deviation of IMO's concentration from its function and merit, as it includes controversial concepts and terms that lack precise and absolute definitions acceptable to all member states or within international law, such as dark ship or illicit."

# Leader: Athletes who refused to face Israel vindicated



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei hailed those athletes who expressed their support for Palestine and the Palestinian cause and withdrew from compet-

ing with the occupying regime's representatives in international tournaments, saying the veracity of their act is now manifested more than ever before in the wake of Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian athletes, sports personalities, and medal winners who participated in the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Press

TV reported. "Today, the whole world has realized why the Iranian athlete will not agree to face the Zionist side on the field," the Leader said, adding that Israeli athletes are competing for



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of Iranian athletes, sports personalities, and medal winners in Tehran on November 22, 2023.

● Leader.ir

a terrorist and criminal regime. He maintained on Wednesday that Israel was "knocked out" in Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the largest military operation by Palestinian resistance groups against the occupying regime.

"[The Palestinian resistance movement] Hamas, not as a government or country with ample facilities but as a combatant group, managed to deal a knockout blow to the usurping Zionists with all their facilities."

Stressing that the Israeli regime is still reeling from the burden and disgrace of a heavy defeat after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the Leader said, "Their show of power has no value when it is done to the hospitals, schools, and the homeless people in Gaza." Ayatollah Khamenei added, "It's as if an athlete loses on the field, and then in revenge for that loss, he attacks the fans of the op-

posing team, insults them, and beats them up."

Elsewhere in his address, the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution censured the politicization of sports and the double-standard approach by certain international organizations.

"They say sports are not political, but when they need to politicize sports, they politicize it in the worst way. At the slightest excuse, a country is banned from participating in all international sports events," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader stressed that they ban a country on the pretext of war while ignoring another country's war, war crimes, and even genocide.

Pointing to Israel's incessant shelling of Gaza over the past 48 days, the Leader said, "There is nothing more ignominious than what the Zionist regime has perpetrated. The Zionist regime's heavy defeat will not be compensated by these bombings. Such bombardment campaigns will only shorten the life of the occupying regime, [and] this tyranny and cruelty will not go unanswered."

## Will cease-fire become permanent?



By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

### OPINION

As per the latest news, a temporary cease-fire between Israel and Hamas is set to kick off this morning. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been dragging his feet on accepting a cease-fire, holding out until his objectives are achieved. Israel's utmost desire was to wipe out Hamas, treating it as their top priority. Both Israel and its main supporter, the United States, labeled Hamas' actions in the occupied territories on October 7

as terrorism, branding the resistance group a terrorist organization.

Media reports suggested that Israel and the United States hesitated to accept the cease-fire as they saw any negotiations with Hamas as a recognition of its existence. Moreover, Israel, fueled by its military superiority, believed it could swiftly end its operations in the Gaza Strip and crush Hamas. It appears that the United States and European nations supporting Israel shared the same notion, expecting Israel's Gaza operation to swiftly attain its goals. Consequently, they opposed a cease-fire, with the United States vetoing a proposed reso-

lution in the UN Security Council for a humanitarian pause.

Now, after 48 days of war, Israel not only failed to achieve its desired goal of obliterating Hamas, but the regime has eventually come to the negotiating table with Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt. While Israel has yet to secure a decisive victory on the battlefield, it has lost the battle in the media and global public opinion. Soon after the conflict broke out, Israel's propaganda machine and the biased coverage of the mainstream media lost their effectiveness that portrayed Hamas attacks on October 7 as "terrorist and inhumane." On the

other hand, independent media outlets and people on social networking services became the front-runners, disseminating information and documenting Israel's atrocities in Gaza to the world. The images of women, children, journalists being killed, hospitals being bombed and destroyed, and the disruption of basic amenities like water and electricity laid bare Israel's true colors for the world to see. It was only natural for mass protests and rallies to take place in the heart of America and European countries, expressing solidarity with the people of Gaza and condemning Israel's crimes.

Simultaneously, these unprecedented and massive demonstrations sent shiver down the spine of Western politicians who staunchly support Israel. They found themselves pursuing a policy that was openly opposed by their own citizens. Gradually, Western politicians started criticizing Israel's inhumane conduct in Gaza, to the point where even US President Joe Biden was compelled to adopt a critical stance against Netanyahu's stubbornness in rejecting a cease-fire and disregarding civilian casualties. Netanyahu is now facing internal pressure from the families of captives, as well as former Israeli of-

icials, not to mention the hardline factions within Israel, particularly some members of his cabinet like hard-right Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who believes his boss has made too many concessions to Hamas.

At the same time, the Israeli prime minister is also facing external pressure from global public opinion and certain European and American politicians who view further support for the regime and its crimes as detrimental to their political future and party interests. There are hopes that the persistence of such pressure will make the temporary cease-fire a permanent one.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran greenlights entry of IAEA inspectors

### International Desk

Iran's nuclear chief urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to refrain from politicizing the country's nuclear file, saying Tehran has approved 120 inspectors of the UN nuclear watchdog to enter the country.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Wednesday cabinet session, Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said according to Article 9 of the statute, we are entitled to accept or

reject the inspectors that are introduced, IRNA reported. Eslami pointed out that some of those inspectors have not come to Iran for years.

The IAEA criticized Iran's September decision to withdraw the accreditation of several of its inspectors, saying the move "directly and seriously affected" the agency's work.

The Iranian nuclear chief further explained that IAEA's duties regarding Iran fall within the framework of the 2015 nuclear agreement, also known as the Joint Com-

prehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

"The JCPOA states that if several parties fail to fulfill their obligations, the other party may suspend its obligations. In addition, the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, which was approved by the Iranian Parliament, is being implemented."

"Iran's actions are carried out within the framework of the Safeguards Agreement, and the International Atomic Energy Agency supervises these activities," Eslami added.