

Behind Leader for Palestine, Lebanon

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians attend Tehran's Friday Prayer on October 4, led by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, to pay tribute to the late Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike last week and to voice their solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in their fight against the occupation.



Middle East placed by United States on powder keg

By Syed Ali Hassan
 Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

PERSPECTIVE

Russia has stated that the increase in violence in the Middle East indicates that all the policies made regarding the Middle East under US President Joe Biden have completely failed. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said that Iran's retaliatory missile attacks against Israel on Tuesday evening clearly demonstrate that US policies have placed the Middle East on

the brink of explosion. Russia's role in the Middle East is based on the Axis of Resistance, and Iran and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad played a key role in engaging Russia in the region. When Russia decided in November 2018 to fight US-backed terrorism in Syria, Saudi Arabia under the leadership of Mohammed bin Salman also tried to balance its relations with both the US and, to some extent, Russia and China. As a result, both of these countries have increased their stakes in the Middle East more than in the past five decades. China played a significant role in restoring relations between

Iran and Saudi Arabia, helping to end their rivalry and agreeing to act as a guarantor to maintain normal relations between the two countries. Saudi Arabia is interested in purchasing weapons from Russia and cooperating in the nuclear sector. It is noteworthy that Iran, as a goodwill gesture, has also offered nuclear cooperation to Riyadh. On Tuesday evening, Iran's missile attacks altered the political and military landscape of the region. Israel claimed that Tehran fired 181 ballistic missiles at dozens of targets inside the occupied territories, while another official source

confirmed the rumble of nearly 400 Iranian missiles across Israel. However, the Israeli military claimed that some of the missiles were destroyed by Israel's air defense system before they hit the ground. Iranian officials said the ballistic missiles had caused significant damage to Israel's military infrastructure. They described the strikes on all Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv, from Tuesday evening to early Wednesday morning as retaliation for the assassination of Palestinian leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut last week. Israel has hinted that it is set

to respond to Iran's missile attacks, but Iran has issued a warning to the occupying regime, stating that if Israel makes any further mistakes, the next attack will be even more severe, and Israel will be unable to stand on its feet. A clear message has been sent to Israel: if it even attempts to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran will preemptively wipe out Israel's nuclear facilities. It should be noted that Israel has not yet conducted a nuclear test, but it has propagated the notion of being a nuclear power to impose its dominance on the Arabs. Western countries, particularly

the US media, continue to claim that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, with estimates ranging from 80 to 400 warheads. However, no definitive evidence has been presented. It has also been speculated that former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir considered using nuclear weapons during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, but no confirmed evidence exists. Israel has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and Western intelligence agencies have suggested that Israel acquired nuclear capability in the 1960s. The discrepancies in the data about Israel's nuclear weapons cast doubt on its truth.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
 Cartoonist



Iran's day of power

By Hassan Hanizadeh
 Regional affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE OPINION

Yesterday, two major and historic events took place in the Islamic Republic of Iran, demonstrating the country's power like never before. Firstly, Tehran hosted a massive Friday Prayer service led by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, which drew a million-strong crowd of people from the Iranian capital and other cities. Secondly, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi paid a daring visit to Beirut amid potential security risks and threats posed by the Israeli regime. Following Iran's missile attack on Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli officials made numerous threats against Iran, with some media

outlets even claiming that Iranians were fleeing to shelters in fear of an Israeli response. However, we witnessed a massive turnout of people at the Friday Prayer, with all government officials. It seemed that the Friday Prayer service was the most well-attended since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Such huge crowd undoubtedly sent a clear message to Iran's enemies, particularly the Israeli regime, demonstrating that Iranians were not intimidated by Israeli threats. Another notable aspect was the Leader's stance during the Friday Prayer. With expectational valor, Ayatollah Khamenei warned that Israel would undoubtedly face a more crushing response should it strike back. He also described Iran's military action against Israel as a legitimate and rational measure, highlighting the country's commitment to defending its national interests, backed by its advanced defense and deterrent capabilities. Moving on to Araghchi's trip, it should

be noted that the visit occurred as the Israeli army was pounding Beirut with airstrikes. It's unlikely that anyone would have predicted that the Iranian foreign minister would take the risk of traveling to the Lebanese capital under such perilous conditions. Meanwhile, all of Iran's armed forces were put on high alert, ready to respond swiftly if the Israeli military made a mistake. Fortunately, no action was taken by the Israeli regime, and Araghchi arrived in Beirut, meeting with Lebanese officials. In fact, it demonstrated Iran's clout, as its foreign minister took a risk and traveled to Lebanon despite the prevailing insecurity. Therefore, October 4 became a historic day for Iran, as the country's power and defense capabilities as well as its people's unwavering support for the Islamic Establishment were demonstrated. The great show of force painted a clean-cut image of the Islamic Republic of Iran's strength.