

Iran's Day of Power

8 >

Leader: Missile strike
'least punishment'
for Israel

7 >

Iran backs simultaneous
cease-fire efforts in
Gaza, Lebanon: **FM**

7 >

 Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution
Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei holds
a rifle during a public sermon at the
Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla mosque
in central Tehran on October 4, 2024.
khamenei.ir

OPEC oil output drops to lowest in 2024



OPEC oil output fell in September to its lowest this year, a Reuters survey found on Thursday, as unrest disrupted Libyan supply and Iraq made progress in complying with its cutbacks pledged to the wider OPEC+ alliance.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries pumped 26.14 million barrels per day last month, down 390,000 bpd from August's revised total, the survey found, with Libya accounting for the bulk of the drop.

A drop in Libyan exports and production amid a standoff between political factions over control of the central bank helped boost oil prices, which have come under pressure from concern about demand and rising supply outside OPEC+.

Libya provided the largest supply cut of 300,000 bpd, the survey found. Output should rebound after a dispute over the leadership of the country's central bank was resolved and the national oil company lifted the force majeure at oilfields. Aside from Libya, which is exempt from OPEC+ agreements to limit production, the biggest decline came from Iraq, which is seeking to boost compliance with its OPEC target. Iraq is still pumping 90,000 bpd above quota, the survey found. Nigeria pumped 40,000 bpd less oil as exports declined, according to tanker tracking firms.

Iran's crude exports up

Among countries posting higher output, the only gain was in Iran, which is also exempt from OPEC targets.

Iran has been boosting exports in the last few years despite US sanctions remaining in place and is pumping near its highest levels since 2018. OPEC pumped about 130,000 bpd more than the implied target for the nine members covered by supply cut agreements, with Iraq still accounting for the bulk of the excess, the survey found. The Reuters survey aims to track supply to the market and is based on shipping data provided by external sources, LSEG flows data, information from companies that track flows such as Kpler and Petro-Logistics, and information provided by sources at oil companies, OPEC and consultants.

Iran, Qatar emphasize finalizing electricity connection studies

The energy officials of Iran and Qatar stressed the need to finalize feasibility studies about the connection of the electricity grids of the two countries.

In a meeting held between Iranian Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi and Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi in Doha on Thursday, held on the sidelines of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), the two sides emphasized the need to finalize and accelerate the feasibility studies related to the process of the connection of the two countries' electricity grids, IRNA reported.

Also, the issue of exporting technical, energy and engineering services from Iran to Qatar was raised by Iran's minister of energy, which was welcomed by the Qatari side.

The Iranian official invited his Qatari counterpart to visit Iran to learn about the high potential and capability of the country in the electricity industry. Joint-venture investment using the capabilities of



the two countries in the field of electricity was among the other topics discussed at the meeting. Iran and Qatar on Wednesday inked six agreements and memoranda of understanding

(MoU), paving the way for cooperation in various fields, including economy and culture.

The deals and MoUs were signed in a ceremony in the Qatari capital Doha, by the Iranian ministers

of energy, foreign affairs, and sport and youth with their Qatari counterparts. They covered such areas as collaboration on the development of Iran's Bandar-e Dayyer on the Persian Gulf coast, bilateral

trade, cooperation in the health and welfare sectors as well as a joint cultural cooperation program by the end of March 2027 and a sports cooperation scheme that will go on until 2026.

The deals were clinched shortly after President Masoud Pezeshkian's arrival in Doha for a two-day visit, where he was welcomed by Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Iran's auto output up 8% in one month: *Official*



Iran's auto production in the sixth Iranian month (August 21 to September 21) registered an eight percent growth compared to the previous month (July 21 to August 22), said an industry ministry official. Mehrdad Khosravi added that 81,509 different mod-

els of passenger cars were produced by automakers between August 22 and September 21, 2024, IRNA reported. He went on to say that 75,642 different models of passenger cars had been produced in the country by

auto manufacturers in the Iranian month of Mordad (July 21 to August 22).

Khosravi also said that bus production in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to August 22, 2024) registered a 22 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

The director general of the ministry of industry added that production of dual-fuel cars registered a 45 percent growth between March 21 and August 22, 2024 compared to last year's corresponding period. Some 1,200 hybrid cars were produced in the country from March 21 to August 22, 2024, he added.

Iran-Turkey trade hits \$11.7b in 2023

The governor general of Iran's West Azarbaijan Province announced that the annual trade exchanges between Iran and Turkey stood at \$11.7 billion in 2023.

Speaking at the 7th joint cooperation meeting of West Azarbaijan Province with Turkey's border provinces held in Urmia, Mohammad Sadeq Motamedian said that Iran and Turkey are two friendly neighbors that share cultural and social commonalities. He said the officials of the two coun-



tries should strive to strengthen trade and economic cooperation, IRNA reported. Motamedian pointed to a meeting of the presidents of the two

countries in Ankara last year and added that the 10 cooperation documents were inked between the two countries in various fields at the time.

Russian PM counting on soonest entry into force of Iran-EAEU free trade agreement

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin has said he hopes for the soonest entry into force of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which will significantly improve Russian exporters' position on the Iranian market.

Mishustin said at a government meeting on Thursday that the accession to the Eurasian Economic Union as an observer state was discussed "in a rather detailed manner" during his visit to Tehran this

week, Interfax reported.

"We are also hoping that the free trade agreement between the Union and Iran will take effect in the near future, which will considerably improve conditions for work of Russian exporters on the Iranian market," Mishustin said.

First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref said on Tuesday that Iran's ports in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman can become one of the most important trading platforms for the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) with other countries.

Addressing the Eurasian Economic Forum in Yerevan on Tuesday, he stated that Iran is ready to provide special facilities to the member countries of the union regarding the establishment of commercial logistics centers in the northern and southern ports.

On June 12, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law on the ratification of the free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran.

The agreement, signed in St. Petersburg on December 25, 2023, was submitted for rati-



fication by the Russian Federation Council with the goal of removing constraints on trade between the EAEU countries and Iran by reducing or eliminating tariff and non-tariff

barriers, supporting economic and trade cooperation. Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia are the five member states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Tappeh Mill
visitiran.ir

New archaeological excavations underway in Rey

Iranica Desk

Two significant archaeological excavations have been launched in Shahr-e Rey, Tehran Province, after many years, announced Ghadir Afroond, the head of the Rey National Heritage Site. He described this event as “exciting,” considering the long pause in archaeological activities in the region.

“Archaeological research is a fundamental part of the programs at Rey National Heritage Site, and we will soon witness two simultaneous archaeological excavation programs in this ancient area,” he stated, ISNA wrote.

Afroond highlighted that both the historical site of Rashkan Castle and Cheshmeh Ali site are among the most important cultural and civilizational centers of ancient Rey. According to him, the archaeological excavation of Rashkan Castle is being resumed after approximately 17 years, while the excavation of Cheshmeh Ali Hill is being continued after about 25 years.

He added, “Shahid Beheshti University will conduct research and archaeological excavations at the ancient hill of Cheshmeh Ali, while I will oversee research and excavations at Rashkan Castle.”

Afroond explained that the collaboration between the Rey National Heritage Site and Shahid Beheshti University is

grounded in a memorandum of understanding signed between the university, the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and the Cultural Heritage Organization of Tehran Province.

In addition to the numerous projects carried out at the significant archaeological sites of Teppeh Mill and Rashkan Castle, this initiative marks the beginning of an important movement that represents a serious scientific-research transformation in the ancient region of Rey, which boasts a history of over 8,000 years.

Afroond noted that these two important archaeological programs are the result of the interaction, cooperation, and valuable support from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts’ Department for National and World Heritage Sites, Tehran’s Cultural Heritage Organization, and the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Center.

He emphasized, “The presence and collaboration of one of the most successful archaeological groups from Shahid Beheshti University, will undoubtedly create

a valuable and promising opportunity for extensive scientific collaborations with the Rey National Heritage Site.”

Tappeh Mill, which includes the royal palace and hunting ground of the Sassanid era, was mistakenly referred to in the past as the Tappeh Mill Fire Temple or the Bahram Fire Temple and was registered in Iran’s National Heritage List in 1955.

A large earthen mound topped with a magnificent structure of stone and unique brick and plaster decorations, along with a portico, a large and deep

reservoir surrounding it (now dry), and a vast and complex protective and service structure approximately 450 meters in length and 350 meters in width, creates a historical attraction at the ancient site of Tappeh Mill, located about 12 kilometers southeast of Rey.

This site may have last been restored in the 2000s. According to available information from that period, the plasterworks were cleaned and organized, and protective scaffolding was installed, allowing tourists to view the plasterworks and Sassanid architecture from behind the scaffolding. However, the continuation of the organization and restoration of this site has been neglected over time, and many tourists and visitors walk and sit on the architectural structures and Sassanid plasterworks without paying attention to the barriers.

In ancient times, Shahr-e Rey was one of the primary centers of Zoroastrianism. Dating back to the Medes period, the city, known as a sacred land, lies on the route of the Silk Road. That is why it was one of the most prosperous cities of the world in various historical periods. The 7,000-year-old Cheshmeh Ali (Spring of Ali), also known as Cheshmeh Surin, is an ancient site, which is one of the oldest in the country. Cheshmeh Ali is now a recreational center located near Toghrol Tower.

Rashkan Castle
asriran.com

Architectural elegance and historical significance of Chartaqi Tomb

Iranica Desk

North Khorasan Province, like various other provinces in Iran, boasts numerous historical and cultural attractions that can significantly enhance the travel experience. One of the notable historical sites in this province is the Chartaqi Tomb, also known as the Timurid Tomb. This tomb, recognized as one of the highlights of Shirvan, dates back to the Timurid period. It has been designated as a national heritage site in Iran.

The tomb is situated six kilometers from the city of Shirvan and three kilometers from the near-

est asphalt road. This striking octagonal structure resembles a tomb and is widely believed to be associated with Amir Timur; a belief supported by the inscription found on the gravestone. This inscription indicates the year 1357 CE, corresponding to the period of Timur’s rule. The structure features a simple black gravestone, although the inscription on it has faded over time, making it difficult to discern; only the name “Eid Khwajeh” remains somewhat visible. Historical sources from the Timurid period confirm that Eid Khwajeh was a significant figure and commander during that era, IRNA wrote.

History

The construction of *chartaqi* (four-arched) buildings in Iran has a long and storied history, extending back to mythical times. The Chartaqi Tomb itself has several centuries of history, dating back to the early Timurid period. This structure includes a crypt that is one and a half meters deep, leading historians to associate its construction with the Ilkhanid period, a time when the use of crypts was prevalent.

Restoration

The structure underwent its first restoration in 1977, which unfortunately led to signifi-

cant damage to its authenticity, altering its appearance considerably. To prevent the collapse of various sections of the structure, positive restoration measures were undertaken in 2005 and 2007. These actions resulted in the discovery of the building’s entrance and the enclosing wall surrounding it. Archaeologists believe that this wall was likely constructed to prevent graves in the vicinity from encroaching upon the structure.

The Chartaqi Tomb is octagonal in shape, constructed from adobe and reinforced with wood. Externally, the building

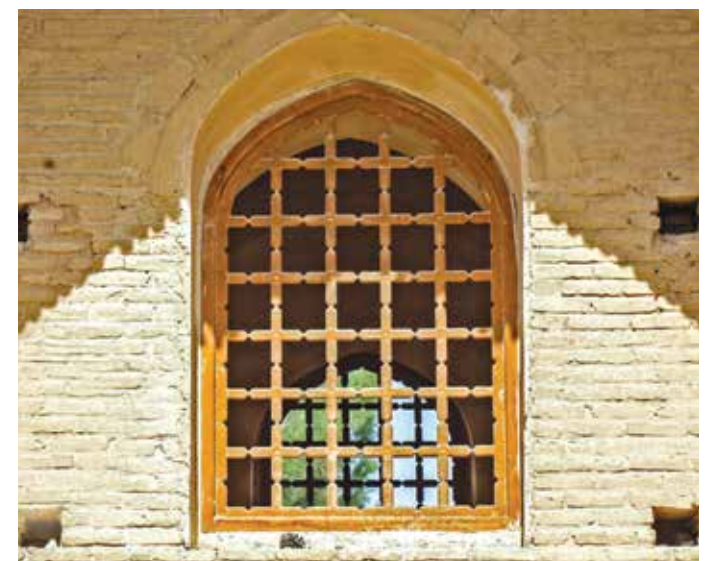
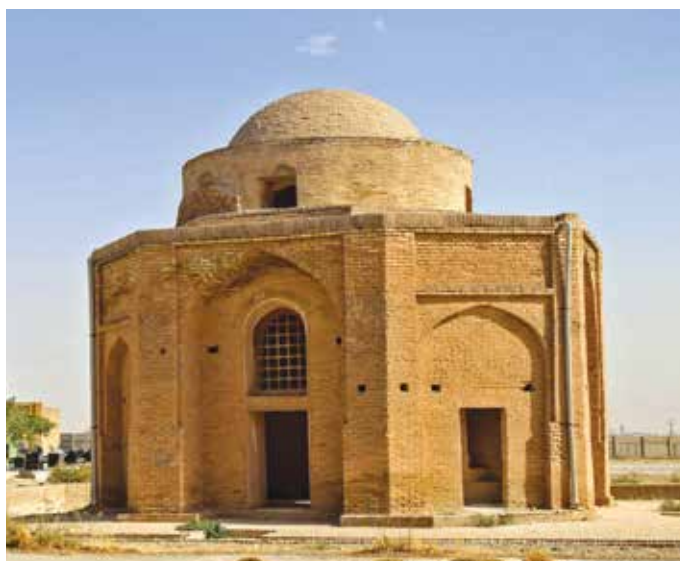
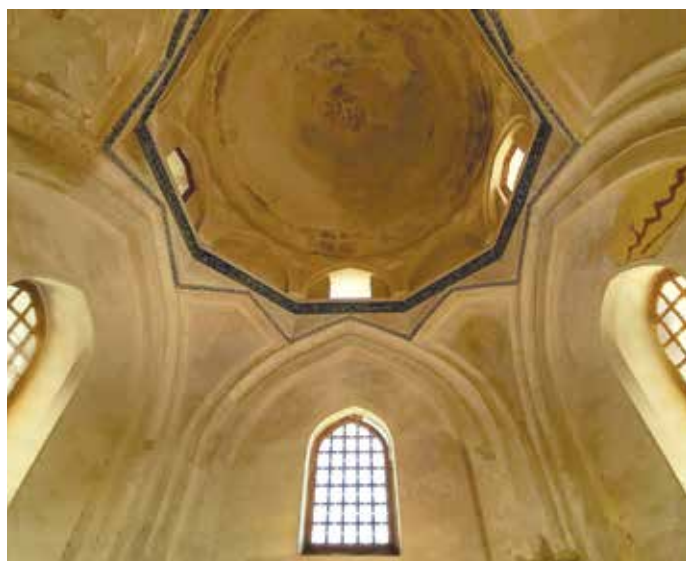
features niches topped with arches, enhanced by horizontal brickwork in the dome’s shaft. The entrance doors are quite large, each approximately two meters tall, with light openings corresponding to their width.

Additionally, the tomb features a dome that rises 2.5 meters above the upper part of the structure, with a height of 4.28 meters from the floor to the base of the dome.

To decorate the interior of the Chartaqi Tomb, bricks have been used both vertically and horizontally in the dome’s shaft. The external surface of

the dome is created using a two-tiered brick-laying technique. The internal space of the structure is square-shaped. The architects employed plaster to cover the interior, incorporating stucco work at the intersections of the sides. Surrounding the top of the entrance, turquoise-colored stucco work and inscriptions can be found.

Today, while most of the inscriptions have eroded, the Chartaqi Tomb remains a prominent historical and architectural landmark in Shirvan, attracting numerous visitors each year.



MP: Israel seeks to expand scope of war in region, world



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff Writer

INTERVIEW

An Iranian parliamentarian said that Israel's efforts to escape the impasse in Gaza have led it to pursue a broader conflict in the region and beyond.

"Israel is currently seeking to expand the scope of the war in the region and the world in order to extricate itself from the quagmire it has become entangled in in Gaza," said the Deputy Chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Abbas Moqtadaei said that the regime wants to drag the US and Western countries directly into the war.



Smoke rises following Israeli bombardment in southern Lebanon on Oct. 2, 2024.
● BAZ RATNER/AP



Abbas Moqtadaei
● mjpa.ir

"The leaders of the Zionist regime have come to the conclusion that if the conflict is limited to specific and limited areas, only Israel will be involved in the war, and other countries supporting this regime, including the US and Western countries, will ultimately act as supporters and backers."

He continued: "However, the Zionists are now seeking to use the US and the West beyond mere support, increasing the number of countries involved in the war, so that they can distance themselves from the harm of the conflict." Moqtadaei stated that with this approach, "they have attacked Lebanon and other areas beyond Lebanon, such as Yemen, and intend to use the military force of their supporters under various pretexts."

He added that this plan is "a strategic mistake, as the military force in the regions they are attacking is now

strong, and the countries in the region have gained significant military power, sharing it and strengthening each other, and each undertaking part of the mission."

"Contrary to the Zionist regime's current belief that it has found a new way out of its impasse, the reality is that they are stuck in the quagmire of ineffectiveness and failure, and there is no way out," he said.

Referring to the assassination of the Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and other resistance front commanders in recent days, Moqtadaei said, "The Zionist regime is not acting out of power and effectiveness, but out of weakness and desperation."

He explained, referring to the impact of motivation and ideals on the fate of the war, "The reality is that the war between the Zionists and parts of the resistance axis, such as Lebanon, is not

just a border, geographical, or material war, and its outcome is not solely tied to military capabilities."

He added, "Although the Israelis have entered the war relying on their military power, which has been strengthened by the US and Western countries, the opposing side is taking steps based on religious and ideological principles. The fact that many of us have heard in Islamic messages and slogans that 'blood is victorious over the sword' is an objective reality that both historical records and the internal reality of the Islamic world confirm."

He said, "The mistake the Israelis make is that they are seeking success and victory with military tools and weapons, while the martyrdom-seeking spirit on the other side will disrupt all the criteria and foundations of war, rendering the occupying regime of Al-Quds unsuccessful in its predictions."

Contrary to the Zionist regime's current belief that it has found a new way out of its impasse, the reality is that they are stuck in the quagmire of ineffectiveness and failure, and there is no way out.

Israel's enmity leads to challenges, its friendship to devastation



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

OPINION

The assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, has made the already volatile Middle East even more dangerous with the prospect of a direct military conflict. Acting Hezbollah chief Sheikh Naim Qassem stated in a televised speech on Monday, "We are waiting for Israeli soldiers to enter our territories so that Hezbollah's fighters can confront them on the battlefield." Hezbollah's security sources seem unconcerned about the prospect of an Israeli ground invasion, saying they have been preparing for this moment for years and are continuously making preparations.

Though Israeli soldiers haven't suffered significant losses in guerrilla warfare with Hamas in Gaza or Hezbollah's attacks in Israel's northern occupied territories, casualties in ground warfare are inevitable. Jews fear death, as mentioned in the Quran (Surah Al-Jumu'ah), so Israel will not rely heavily on ground warfare and will likely retreat from it soon, despite having superior intelligence and air dominance. Hezbollah and other non-state armed groups are trained more for guerrilla warfare than traditional warfare, enabling them to surprise the enemy. In recent history, conventional armies have not succeeded in fighting guerrilla warfare; Vietnam is an old example, and Afghanistan is a modern one. The US and NATO forces witnessed failure and humiliation in Afghanistan's guerrilla war. During Israel's ground operations in Gaza, Israeli soldiers were killed, but the fighters in Gaza had no open supply routes for weapons. They used their limited resources care-



Hezbollah supporters hold portraits of the resistance movement's late leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, in Sidon, Lebanon on September 28, 2024.
● ALI HANKIR/REUTERS

fully. In Lebanon, however, Hezbollah is in a different position. Firstly, it has the support of its government, and secondly, it has more than one secure supply route for weapons. Hamas caused limited Israeli casualties in ground warfare, but that will not be the case in Lebanon. It's not impossible for Hezbollah sympathizers from around the world to reach Lebanon.

In the 1980s, American and French forces in Lebanon could not withstand the nationalist fighters and were forced to leave Lebanon in disgrace. On the other hand, Israel has said it only wants to eliminate the military strength of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, which has posed a threat to Israel's northern occupied areas for the past year. After October 7, 2023, Hezbollah turned Israel's northern areas into hell for Jewish settlers, forcing 60,000 settlers to relocate to central Israel. Israel is concerned

about the security of these crumbling northern regions and seeks to resettle Jewish settlers there to reduce the risk of losing control. It cannot be ignored that the evolving war situation in Western Asia will lead to bloodshed in the region and could have disastrous consequences for the entire world. The already fragile tensions are now moving toward a full-scale war, which could affect not only Lebanon and Israel but potentially other regional powers like Iran and Turkey as well.

Hezbollah, Iran's primary military and political asset in the region, is already mourning the martyrdom of its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and other key commanders. This raises an important question: What will Tehran's response be in this situation? Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has sent a message to the Iranian people, hinting that they should stop their leadership from tak-

ing anti-Israel actions. Netanyahu's fear is based on reality. Foolish friends and wise enemies are criticizing the Iranian government for not launching a direct war against Israel. Is there any doubt that Iran is currently the axis of Islamic resistance, backing Hezbollah, Hashd al-Shaabi, Ansarullah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad? These military forces have not only shaken Israel but the entire West and have, over the past year, exposed the human rights hypocrisy of Western governments.

The Islamic world should not be discouraged. The economic losses of Israel and the West won't allow their arrogance to last long. The West's paradise is soon to turn into hell. Sayyed Nasrallah was assassinated on America's orders with bunker-buster bombs supplied by the US and Hezbollah has announced its preparedness for a long war. The peace Israel seeks has ended with Nasrallah's

passing because they have crossed the red line. Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was the spiritual leader of Hezbollah and resistance movements worldwide, committed to fighting Israel. Hezbollah's strength will never fade, but Israel's racist ideology might. The Jews don't realize they are merely pawns of the American devil, who could sacrifice them at any time to maintain its power.

The intensity of the regional war will lead to regional instability, threatening global energy markets and international security. The martyrdom of Hezbollah's leader was not entirely unexpected. Israeli intelligence had been trying for years to eliminate Nasrallah. They spent millions of dollars on failed operations. Had the events of October 7 not occurred, it was only a matter of time before Israeli agencies would have eliminated this iron man, whom Israeli leadership viewed as a threat to their

national security. Nasrallah hadn't been seen in public for years, constantly moving from place to place. His martyrdom signals a clear conclusion.

We must also examine Saudi Arabia's policy regarding Palestinians. Saudi eagerness to establish relations with Israel has paved the way for bloodshed in the Middle East, engulfing the entire region in flames. It must be remembered that Israel's enmity leads to challenges and problems, but friendship with it brings nothing but destruction. Israel's ambitions are expansionism, as expressed by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, who said, "Israel's reach extends across the Middle East, and any adversary can be our target at any time." Even if Netanyahu's words are not taken seriously, it must be acknowledged that Israel's terrorist mentality can pose a threat to both the Middle East and the world at any time.

UN resolution and the movement to liberate Palestine



By Craig Moldhiber
An American former UN human rights official

OPINION

On September 18, a world that has stumbled to find its voice through eleven months of genocide in Palestine, finally spoke. The General Assembly of the United Nations, a body unconstrained by the U.S. veto, and in which all countries have a seat, overwhelmingly endorsed the findings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and declared that the occupation of East Jerusalem (Al-Quds), the West Bank, and Gaza is unlawful and must end entirely, that every soldier and settler must be removed, that the apartheid wall must be dismantled, relevant laws repealed, that Palestinians must be compensated and allowed to return home, and that Israeli-imposed racial segregation and apartheid in Palestine must cease. And it declared that Israel must immediately comply with the provisional measures of the ICJ issued by the court in the genocide case brought against Israel by South Africa.

On September 18, a world that has stumbled to find its voice through eleven months of genocide in Palestine, finally spoke.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, a body unconstrained by the U.S. veto, and in which all countries have a seat, overwhelmingly endorsed the findings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and declared that the occupation of East Jerusalem (Al-Quds), the West Bank, and Gaza is unlawful and must end entirely, that every soldier and settler must be removed, that the apartheid wall must be dismantled, relevant laws repealed, that Palestinians must be compensated and allowed to return home, and that Israeli-imposed racial segregation and apartheid in Palestine must cease. And it declared that Israel must immediately comply with the provisional measures of the ICJ issued by the court in the genocide case brought against Israel by South Africa.



Despite intense U.S. and other Western efforts to derail the resolution, the vote was not even close. 124 countries voted in favor (two-thirds of the world), while only 14 voted against, including the United States, Israel, and a few right-wing regimes and pacific dependencies of the United States. The votes in favor included Western countries like Spain, Belgium, Ireland, and Iceland, as well as U.S. ally Japan, P5 powers China and Russia, and almost the entire global South. Several European states abstained.

When the votes were counted, there was a sense that the UN had, at least for a moment, regained its soul. Conscious of the historic nature of the moment, the Assembly broke into applause. As the gavel came down, delegations celebrated in the aisles and lined up to shake the hand of the Palestinian ambassador.

And historic it was. After a three-decade detour during which U.S. pressure and the Oslo smokescreen diverted the world's attention while Israel's repression and dispossession of the indigenous Palestinian people were expedited, the resolution returned the UN to its mandated focus on freedom, on human rights, on equality and on the protections of international law for Palestine.

As such, the resolution vindicated the appeals of the long-suffering Palestinian people, a global movement demanding a free Palestine, and international law itself. And the Assembly did not stop there. In a historic repositioning of the global community, the resolution (following the lead of the ICJ) rejected the unjust (and failed) paradigm by which Palestinians were expected to negotiate for their rights with their oppressor. In its place, the resolution has (re)established a framework of decolonization underpinned by international law. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination is, according to the resolution,

an inalienable right, and is not subject to conditions imposed by Israel. And Israel's "security concerns" do not override Palestinian rights in the Palestinian territory over which Israel can never exercise sovereignty, the resolution declares. Equally important are the demands placed on all other states by the resolution and by the ICJ findings on which it is based.

The resolution, drawing directly from the ICJ opinion, affirmed that all countries are legally obliged to cease any recognition of or support for the Israeli settler-colonial project in the occupied territory, to work to liberate the Palestinian people and to end Israel's racial segregation and apartheid, to ban any products from the settlements, to sanction settlers and others involved in Israel's occupation, and to cut off all military, diplomatic, economic, commercial, financial, investment, trade, political, and legal relations with the Israeli occupation.

In other words, the UN General Assembly has called on all states to participate in a military embargo and in boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) to bring the occupation to an end.

Equally historic is the resolution's endorsement of the court's findings that the Israeli regime practices apartheid and racial segregation, as prohibited by Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, marking the (belated) start of the Organization's alignment with the global movement against apartheid in Palestine (a move urged by UN human rights experts for years). States are called on to work to end these unlawful apartheid systems, and the resolution mandates the UN to prepare a proposal for an international mechanism to combat them.

These provisions in particular will bring important benefits to the global BDS and anti-apartheid movements, and to hu-

man rights defenders in civil society more broadly, who have faced significant repression (especially in the West) for their advocacy on these issues. They can now rightly claim that the world, acting through the General Assembly of the United Nations, has not only endorsed their positions but has called on all states to join them.

Predictably, Israel's defenders are already seeking to deflate the importance of the resolution by saying that it is "non-binding." Such statements are at best a gross misrepresentation.

First, what the resolution (and the court findings on which it is based) has enumerated is the (pre-existing) legal obligations that bind all states, by virtue of their erga omnes (universally binding) character in international law, and the jus cogens (no exceptions) nature of the Palestinian rights in question. The substance of the resolution is thus binding, even if the UNGA has no power to compel states to respect these obligations. Secondly, the resolution was adopted in an Emergency Special Session under "Uniting for Peace," a UN procedure that gives enhanced powers to the General Assembly when the Security Council fails to act (usually, in this case, due to a U.S. veto). Thus, this is not an ordinary UNGA resolution, and the law that it cites is indeed binding, even if the resolution itself cannot command states to act.

The resolution puts Israel on notice that it must completely end its occupation and apartheid within twelve months or face further consequences. Accountability measures in the meantime are to include the establishment of a mechanism to ensure that Israel pays reparations to the Palestinians, an international register of damage to facilitate that process, evidence-gathering initiatives to that end, and consideration of measures for criminal accountability, including prosecutions for the worst Israeli crimes.

It also calls on Switzerland to convene, within six months, an extraordinary Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the convention in Palestine. And it decided, as well, to convene an international conference under UN auspices in the coming months to address the implementation of the many UN resolutions on Palestine of which Israel is in breach.

Finally, the resolution mandates a report from the UN Secretary-General in three months' time on the implementation of the resolution, and decides to keep the matter under UNGA review, so that it does not become dead letter.

Needless to say, the resolution is not a panacea, and it will not end Israel's 76-year reign of terror and impunity. It will undoubtedly be ignored by Israel and by its US sponsor, both of which will work behind the scenes to obstruct its implementation. And the resolution itself leaves unaddressed many crucial aspects of the Palestinian struggle, not least the rights of Palestinians inside Green Line Israel and the fate of those purged from their homes there. And, beyond its reiteration of the UN's obligations under the orders of the ICJ, it does little to end the ongoing genocide.

But seen in conjunction with recent action by UN human rights experts, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, diplomatic advances in the recognition of Palestine, growing solidarity in global public opinion, movements in civil society across the globe, and steadfast Palestinian resistance, it heralds the birth of a new era: an era in which Israeli impunity is no longer guaranteed, and in which the foundations of Israeli settler-colonialism, apartheid and ethnonationalism have begun to crumble.

The article first appeared on mondoweiss.net.

Result of the General Assembly vote on a draft resolution on the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory on September 18, 2024.
● EVAN SCHNEIDER/
UN PHOTO



The recent UN General Assembly vote on the illegality of the Israeli occupation shows Israeli impunity is no longer guaranteed and the foundations of Israeli settler-colonialism and apartheid have begun to crumble.

Nouri, Nasiri aim to capitalise on world junior taekwondo success

WORLD TAEKWONDO – It was a golden opening night of the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, Korea for Parnian Nouri and Aynaz Nasiri, who are the latest athletes hoping to make the most of the pathway to senior success provided by this event.

Iranian athletes Nouri and Nasiri triumphed in the women's -52kg and women's -59kg categories respectively on the first day of competition.

Both impressed throughout their competitions, and for Nasiri her emotions at standing on top of the podium were clear. "I had a very good feeling because I had very hard exercise in our national team, so I got a very good result. I was very happy and had a wonderful feeling about," she said.

That was especially the case having followed on from her compatriot Nouri.

"We had a very wonderful feeling about that, because on the first day we had two golds and our flag was at the top. We hope we can get more medals in our team," Nasiri added.

Nasiri had to recover from losing the first round in both her quarter-final and semi-final, and explained how she masterminded her turnaround in the two matches as her determination to win shone through.

"In the first round I had some problems, but I fixed it for the second round. So when I got to the second round I had more energy, and all that mattered was I won, it doesn't matter how you win," she said.

For Nouri, her attention immediately turned to the future and her ambitions for when she enters senior competition. "We have to focus more on the future because we go to the senior teams. From now, we are going to make a plan and prepare the training to go to the senior national team," she insisted.

Eight of the medallists at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 had previously medalled at the World Taekwondo Junior Championships, which has proven its importance in providing experience of high-quality competition for top young athletes against opponents from around the world.

Nasiri highlighted the benefits of competing in such an environment.

"This has been a very nice experience because we had different opponents from many countries. The organisation was different from other competitions, with more than 900 athletes," she said.

Nouri underlined her ambitions to compete at the Olympic Games, and hopes the World Taekwondo Junior Championships can be the start of accumulating the ranking points she needs.

"Yes of course we have goals for the Olympic Games, that is very important for us. We start from now to get ranking points to qualify for the Olympics," she said.

The World Taekwondo Junior Championships will continue to provide a global stage which serves as a springboard for athletes to succeed in major senior competitions.



Iranian girls Parnian Nouri (L) and Aynaz Nasiri pose with their gold medals at the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on October 1, 2024.
● WORLD TAEKWONDO



Esteghlal is in talks with Spanish coach Javi Gracia (L) and Portuguese José Peseiro for the managerial role.

Esteghlal in talks with Gracia, Peseiro for managerial role: Report

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal is in talks with Spanish coach Javi Gracia and Portuguese José Peseiro to take charge of the Tehran Blues' bench, according to Mehr News Agency. Former head coach Javad Nekounam stepped down from his role after Monday's 2-0 away loss to Al Sadd in the AFC Champions League Elite.

The defeat in Doha was the Blues' third in seven outings in all competitions this season – more than the club conceded across the entire previous campaign (2).

Ex-Esteghlal and Iran international defender Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh was named as the interim coach for today's visit to Havadar in the Iranian top flight,

with the club hierarchy hoping to find a permanent replacement for Nekounam before Esteghlal is back in action against Zob Ahan in the league and Saudi giant Al Nassr after October's international break.

A former head coach of La Liga outfits Osasuna and Valencia, Gracia, 52, was last in charge of Leeds United.

His tenure in the English Premier League club came to an end after only 12 games in charge in February last year after his team won three and lost seven.

Gracia, who led Watford to the FA Cup final in 2019, also enjoyed a successful spell with Al Sadd, steering the Doha-based giant to the Qatar Stars League crown in the 2021/22 campaign. Meanwhile, 64-year-old Peseiro, an assistant to former Iran head

coach Carlos Queiroz during his time in Real Madrid in the 2003/04 season, has been without a job since his Nigeria team suffered a 2-1 defeat against Côte d'Ivoire in the Africa Cup of Nations final in February.

Peseiro is no stranger to Middle East football, working as a manager with Saudi giant Al Hilal as well as Emirati clubs Al Wahda and Sharjah FC.

The Portuguese was also the head coach of Saudi Arabia national team between 2009 and 2011.

Esteghlal is 11th in the Iranian league table with five points – eight adrift of Tractor on top with a game in hand – while sitting fifth in the West Zone's 12-team table after two rounds of matches in the revamped Asian elite clubs' competition.

FIFA defers decision on appeal to ban Israel

AL JAZEERA – FIFA has once again postponed a decision on the Palestinian call to ban Israel from football amid its ongoing war on Gaza.

Following a meeting at its headquarters in Zurich on Thursday, the Federation Internationale de Football Association – FIFA, football's world governing body – said its disciplinary committee will review the allegations of discrimination that have been raised by the Palestinian Football Association (PFA).

"The FIFA Disciplinary Committee will be mandated to initiate an investigation into the alleged offence of discrimination raised by the Palestine Football Association," FIFA said in a statement.

"The FIFA Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee will be entrusted with the mission to investi-

gate – and subsequently advise the FIFA Council on – the participation in Israeli competitions of Israeli football teams allegedly based in the territory of Palestine."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said the council had implemented "due diligence" on the matter and followed the advice of independent experts.

In May, the PFA presented arguments accusing the Israel Football Association (IFA) of violating FIFA statutes with its war on Gaza and its inclusion of teams located in illegal settlements on Palestinian territory in its domestic league.

The PFA wanted FIFA to adopt "appropriate sanctions" against Israel's national side and club teams, including an international ban.

FIFA had passed the issue to independent legal advisers who carried out an

evaluation and compiled a response. This is not the first time that FIFA has deferred a ruling. It had promised to address the issue at an extraordinary meeting of its council in July, but deferred the decision until its last council on August 31. It then moved its decision to its October meeting.

Katarina Pijetlovic, head of the PFA's legal department, termed FIFA's decision "purely political".

"FIFA allowed Israel FA to continue using the Palestinian territory [occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem] as their own territory, and to use football under its umbrella as an instrument of colonial expansion," she wrote in a post on X.

"Will we wait two yrs again, as in 2015-17, for the committee to suggest the obvious and then have their suggestion rejected again?"



Leader: Missile strike 'least punishment' for Israel

Palestinian, Lebanese resistance against occupation 'legal'

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has described as legitimate Iran's latest retaliatory strikes on the Israeli-occupied territories and said the move was the least punishment for the regime's crimes and atrocities. Delivering a public sermon at the weekly Friday prayer to a huge number of worshippers at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla mosque in central Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei hailed "the brilliant work" of Iran's Armed Forces in launching a missile strike on the Tel Aviv area, stressing that it was "completely legal and legitimate."

"The brilliant work of our armed forces was completely legal and legitimate. What our armed forces did was the least

punishment for the usurping Zionist regime over the astonishing crimes of this wolf-like regime and rabid dog of America," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei added, "Whatever duty the Islamic Republic has in this regard, it will fulfill with strength and fortitude. We will neither delay nor hurry in carrying out the task."

He underlined that, "What is logical and reasonable and the opinion of the political and military decision makers will be done in the future if necessary, just like it was done."

The prayer in Tehran followed a commemoration ceremony for Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut. Ayatollah Khamenei last led Friday prayers

in January 2020 after Iran fired missiles at a US army base in Iraq, in response to a strike that martyred anti-terror commander Brigadier General Qassem Soleimani.

Ayatollah Khamenei described Nasrallah as "my brother, my dear and my pride, the beloved face of the Islamic world, and the eloquent voice of the nations of the region, [and] the shining jewel of Lebanon."

The Leader noted, "We are all saddened and mournful for the martyrdom of Dear Sayyed. This is a great loss and we are deeply saddened, but our mourning does not mean depression, distress and despair."

Praising the sacrifices of Nasrallah, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "He was the high flag of resistance against oppressive and predatory demons - an el-

loquent voice and a brave defender of the oppressed. He was a source of encouragement and valor for fighters and rights seekers. His popularity and influence had gone beyond Lebanon, Iran and Arab countries, and now his martyrdom will increase this influence."

Al-Aqsa Storm 'internationally legal'

The relentless defense of the Lebanese people for the Palestinians, he said, is "legal, reasonable, logical and legitimate, and no one has the right to criticize them for entering this battle."

By the same token, the Al-Aqsa Storm operation of Palestinian fighters inside the Israeli occupied territories in October 2023 was "right and internationally legal," he added.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei delivers a public sermon in Tehran, on October 4, 2024.

● khamenei.ir



"The Palestinian nation has the right to stand against the aggressors, and no court has the right to protest to the Palestinian nation for standing against the usurping enemy of Palestine."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the adamantness of the US

and its allies on protecting Israel is a "cover for the deadly policy of turning the usurping regime into their tool to take over all the resources of this region and use it in major global conflicts."

The Leader called on Muslims to unite against the

world's arrogant powers and transgressors who are still following their policy of divide and conquer with all kinds of tricks in the Islamic states.

He also said the time has come for the Islamic Ummah to overcome the plots of the enemies.

Asian actors can present new model in int'l ties: Pezeshkian

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran believes that Asian actors are able to introduce and represent a new model of constructive relations in the modern international relations based on "justice and multilateralism."

Addressing the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) summit in Qatar's capital on Thursday, the Iranian president said, "We all belong to a geographical area which is rich in tremendous culture, history and civilization, that is called Asia."

Pezeshkian said that many of Asian countries' collective interests depend on unity and the creation of a wide network of constructive cooperation between the continent's countries.

He called sports diplomacy as one of the best ways to increase regional interactions, which strengthens relations between governments and people-to-people relations.

The Iranian president said Iran has always focused on Asia which has a high position in the world trade network.

"The largest economic projects in the world, the world's financial, innovation, technological and commercial centers, the most populated consumer markets in the world, the world's richest natural resources and energy, and the most important rail and sea corridors in the geographical area of the Far East to the Persian Gulf all are located in this continent," Pezeshkian said.

The Iranian president who ar-

rived in Doha on Wednesday, also held a meeting with the Persian Gulf country's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

During a joint presser, Pezeshkian said Iran and Qatar have a mutual will to enhance the level of cooperation in various areas, including trade and transportation.

Also on Wednesday, Iran and Qatar signed six agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoU), paving the way for cooperation in various fields, including economy and culture. They covered such areas as collaboration on the development of Iran's Bandar-e Dayyer on the Persian Gulf coast, bilateral trade, cooperation in the health and welfare sectors as well as a joint cultural cooperation

program by the end of March 2027 and a sports cooperation scheme that will go on until 2026.

Iran's frozen assets

Upon his return to Tehran from a Doha, Pezeshkian said Iran has reached a "good understanding" with Qatar on the \$6 billion in Iranian funds that are being withheld by Doha after their release from South Korean banks.

"In Qatar, we have \$6 billion in assets. The issue was discussed during a meeting between the governors of the two countries' central banks, as well as the meeting with the Qatari emir; We reached a good understanding in this regard," he said.

In August 2023, Iran and the United States agreed to a Qa-



tar-brokered deal to secure the release of some \$6 billion of Iranian funds that had remained frozen in two South Korean banks since 2018 under the pretext of US sanctions.

The money was successfully transferred to bank accounts in Doha. Later, however, American media reported that the US had



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian takes part in the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue summit in Qatar's capital Doha on October 3, 2024.

● president.ir

reached a "quiet understanding" with Qatar to stop Iran from accessing its funds.

Iran backs 'simultaneous' cease-fire efforts in Gaza, Lebanon

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday said Tehran backs efforts for a simultaneous cease-fire by the Israeli regime in both the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

"We support the efforts for a cease-fire, provided that first, the rights of the Lebanese people are respected and it is accepted by the (Hezbollah) resistance, and second, that it comes simultaneously with a cease-fire in Gaza," he said during an unannounced visit to Beirut.

Addressing reporters in the Lebanese capital, Araghchi also promised harsher retaliation if Israel strikes Iran in response

to the country's Tuesday missile attack on the regime's military sites. He said the attack was "legitimate self-defense based on the UN Charter."

"Unlike Israel, which targets residential areas, we only attacked military centers," Araghchi said. "We do not intend to continue the attacks unless the Zionist regime chooses to continue its attacks."

The remarks came after the Islamic Republic launched hundreds of missiles towards Israel's military, espionage and intelligence bases all over the occupied Palestinian territories as part of Operation True Promise II on October 1.

The attacks were in re-

sponse to the regime's deadly aggression against Lebanon and other regional nations as well as targeted killing of leaders of the resistance front, including Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and Abbas Nilforoushan, a senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Araghchi said his presence in Beirut at a time when the regime was taking the city under constant aggression, indicated Iran's "continued strong and steadfast" support for the Lebanese nation and resistance.

Since late last month, Israel has intensified its at-



Iran's Minister Foreign Abbas Araghchi gives a press conference in Beirut, Lebanon on October 4, 2024.

● AFP

tacks on Lebanon, including ground operations in its southern regions.

Five days of ground invasion and two weeks of airstrikes by the regime in Lebanon has killed more than 2,000 people, the Lebanon's health ministry said. More than 1 million people have been driven from their homes, including tens of

thousands under Israel's evacuation orders in almost 100 border towns and villages.

The Lebanese resistance group said it shelled Israeli troops in a border area of south Lebanon on Friday, in the latest such clash on the frontier.

Several Israeli soldiers have also been killed in the attacks.

Invitation for Tender



First Announcement

شرکت ملی مس‌ساز ایران

National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO) intends to hold a tender for "procurement of Rotary Blasthole drilling machines with a diameter of 9 7/8 & 13 inches". In order to get more information, please refer to the official website of company as below:

<https://en.nicico.com/>

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.