

Iran's retaliatory strike taught Israel 'lesson': Assad

Araghchi: There are initiatives for cease-fire in Gaza, Lebanon

International Desk

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said on Saturday that Iran's missile attack against Israel on October 1 served as a "lesson" for the illegal regime. The missile strike on Tuesday evening, just days after Israel killed the leader of Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah, was "a strong response and taught the Zionist entity a lesson," Assad was quoted as saying as Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Damascus. Assad said the strategic re-

lationship between Syria and Iran is vital to deal with regional challenges and threats, especially Israel's occupation of Arab lands and its daily crimes against civilians in Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. The top Iranian diplomat stressed confidence in the strength of the resistance in Lebanon and Palestine to confront the Israeli machine of destruction and killing. Upon his arrival in the Syrian capital of Damascus on Saturday, Araghchi said there are initiatives for a cease-fire in the besieged Gaza Strip

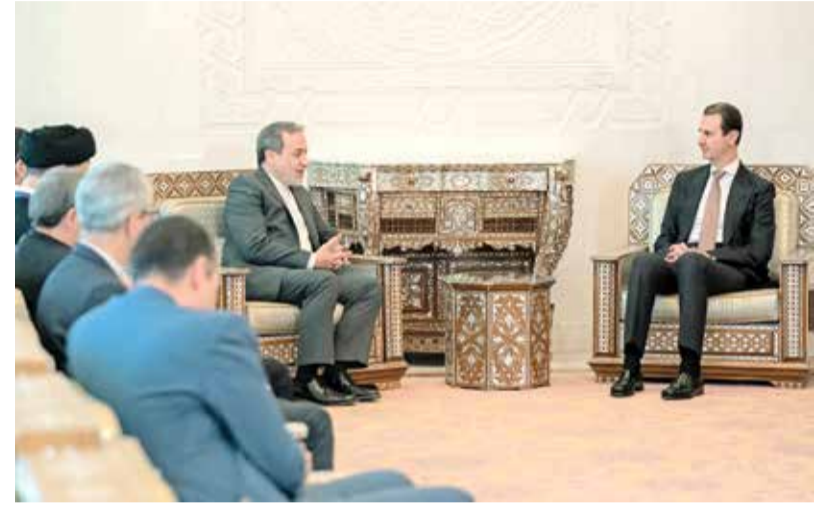
and Lebanon, expressing hope that they come to fruition amid the Israeli regime's continuation of crimes and massacres. Araghchi's visit to Damascus, his first since he took office in August, comes almost a year after Israel's launched its devastating war on Gaza on October 7 in response to a Hamas operation on Israel's position in the occupied territories. The conflict has also drawn in Hezbollah and on September 23 Israel sharply intensified its campaign against the resistance group.



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (R) meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Damascus on October 5, 2024.

SYRIAN PRESIDENCY

"The purpose of my trip to Damascus is to continue consultations regarding the developments in the region," Araghchi said. His meetings in the Syrian capital followed a visit to Beirut Friday during which he voiced support for a truce in Lebanon acceptable to Hezbollah "simultaneously with a cease-fire in Gaza."



Global pro-Palestine rallies prior to October 7

International Desk

Thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators took to the streets in cities across the world on Saturday to call for a cease-fire ahead of the first anniversary of Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip on October 7. Massive rallies were held in several European cities including Paris, London, Berlin and Rome with the largest gatherings expected from Saturday to Monday. Events will peak on Monday, the date of the anniversary. By midday Saturday, thousands had gathered in central London's Russell Square amid a significant police presence. Some of the march's organizers had said they planned to target companies and institutions they claimed were "complicit in Israel's crimes," including Barclays Bank and the British Museum. In Rome, a few thousand demonstrators gathered in spite of a ban by local authorities who refused to authorize protests in the Italian capital, citing security concerns. Protesters chanted "Free



Palestine, Free Lebanon." Rallies also took place in other parts of the world. In the Philippines on Saturday, dozens of leftist activists protested near the US Embassy in Manila, where police prevented them from getting closer to the seaside compound. Pro-Palestine protests calling for an immediate cease-fire have repeatedly taken place across Europe and around the globe in the past year. Ben Jamal, director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign in Britain, said he and others will keep organizing marches until action against Israel is taken. "We need to be out on the streets in even big-

ger numbers to stop this carnage and stop Britain from being drawn into it," Jamal said. Protesters also took to the streets in South Africa and India to call for an end to Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and Lebanon. The Tel Aviv regime has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians - mostly women and children - in Gaza since last October. In late September, Israel shifted some of its focus to Lebanon to fight Hezbollah resistance group which has been exchanging fire with the regime's occupation army in support of Palestinians in Gaza since the beginning of war in the Palestinian territory.

UN refugee agency chief decries 'terrible crisis' in Lebanon

International Desk

The head of the United Nations refugee agency arrived in Lebanon on Saturday on a "solidarity" visit for those affected by Israeli bombardment, decriing a "terrible crisis" that requires international support. UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi said on social network X that "Lebanon faces a terrible crisis" as "hundreds of thousands of people are left destitute or displaced by Israeli air strikes", adding: "I have come here in solidarity with those affected, to support the humanitarian effort and to ask for more international help."

On Saturday, Israel continued its deadly attacks across Lebanon, which have killed more than 2,000 people since late last month. The Lebanese health ministry said in a statement on Saturday that 25 people were killed and 127 wounded in Israeli strikes on Lebanon on Friday. Hezbollah said its fighters launched Fadi-1 rockets on Saturday at Israel's Ramat David air base near the northern city of Haifa, about 45 kilometers (30 miles) from the Lebanese border. In a statement, the group also said its fighters hit an Israeli tank in south Lebanon, near the border, with a missile.



Meanwhile, a Lebanese security source told Al Jazeera that Hezbollah has lost contact with Hashem Safieddine, widely touted as the group's potential next leader, since last Friday.

Venezuela urges formation of 'world front' to rein in Israel

The Venezuelan government underscored the necessity of joining hands with Iran and Arab nations in West Asia to establish a "world front" against Israel's crimes and acts of terrorism. Yvan Gil, the Venezuelan foreign minister, made the call after a meeting with ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar and Sudan in the capital Caracas on Friday. Speaking at the meeting, which was held at Venezuelan President Nicolas

Maduro's request, Gil referred to the creation of a "great world front that condemns the massacre" and uses all available resources in diplomacy to "stop the regime that will only be stopped by international mobilization," Press TV reported. "This force must become a political diplomatic force to stop the barbarism," he said, stressing that in the coming days, concrete actions will begin to advance in containing the "Nazi regime" of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "The fascist regime has already embarked a year ago

on a phase of extermination of all the Muslim population, where the worst practices of war have been applied, including the use of explosive high-generation aircraft to destroy entire urbanization," the diplomat said. Gil underlined that what has been applied in the Gaza Strip is being applied in Lebanon and "this genocide has been developed with the support of the USA, with the silence of the European Union and the international community." "Humanity cannot tolerate one more death and one

more bomb falling on the heads of Palestinian girls and women," he added. The Venezuelan foreign minister described Israel's aggression on Gaza and Lebanon as the greatest attack on humanity since Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, saying, "It seems that we have a new Hitler backed by the Western powers in order to create a political enclave." Gil also warned that Netanyahu attending the United Nations (UN) and threatening the world with a war in the entire region was a destabilizing move and "crazy plan."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



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Contact Details:

Contact Person: Mr. Dehghani
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