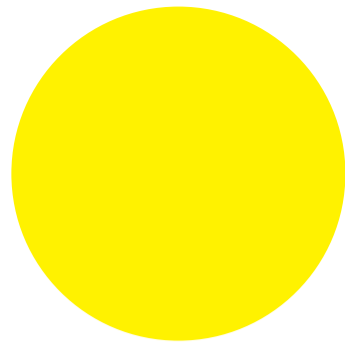


Iran's 'Cold Sigh' sweeps top honors at Richmond film festival

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

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Axis of Resistance has no red lines in punishing Israel

By **Abed Akbari**
Mideast affairs expert
OPINION

Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, as a prominent strategist, has transformed Hezbollah into Israel's main adversary since he became the Lebanese movement's leader in 1992 while also playing a pivotal role among Palestinian resistance groups. The victories of Hezbollah in various political and military arenas in recent years have also left their mark among Palestinians. The Palestinian refugees, particularly the youth who had pinned their hopes on the peace negotiations in the Middle East for years, have realized that the plight of the Palestinians cannot be resolved through negotiations with the occupying regime of Israel. This understanding has been one of the main factors fueling the rise of the resistance movement in Lebanon. The United States has played a role in the assassination of Nasrallah on two fronts: political and operational. Politically, the US has insisted on a 21-day cease-fire in Lebanon and emphasized the need for the White House to control the battlefield in an effort to unilaterally restrain Hezbollah while simultaneously increasing the maneuverability of the occupying regime to launch attacks on southern Lebanon. [Page 2 >](#)



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Ayatollah Khamenei shattered psychological warfare of Zionists

By **Alireza Mohammadlou**
Social media expert
OPINION

In recent days, which are considered among the most intense and challenging wartime conditions for the country since the Iraqi-imposed war in the 1980s, the wisdom, statements, and actions of Ayatollah Khamenei (May God protect him) once again turned the tide, demonstrating that he knows how to handle the American strategy of the "chicken game" and the hard confrontation, or the "shock and awe" doctrine, which was manifested during the recent assassinations, even better and more precisely than the Israeli side. He also outmaneuvered the "trigger doctrine," which essentially threatens, 'if you take any wrong step, I will retaliate.' But how did Imam Khamenei surpass the narratives of anti-Iran media, and what strategic messages did he convey to his adversaries, the battlefield, and public opinion? What pattern did he use to act as an interpreter and adjunct to Iranian ballistic missiles, successfully disrupting the vast and repetitive news cycle of the enemy's media? [Page 2 >](#)

Global Pro-Palestine Rallies Prior to October 7

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. 7 >



Demotors holding placards wave Palestinian flags during a rally in Warsaw, Poland, on October 5, 2024. **SERGEI GAPON/AFP**

Power shortage expected to hit 25,000 MW next year



Iran is expected to face a 25,000-MW power shortage next summer if no measure is taken with regards to Iranian electricity network, said the head of the Niroo Research Institute (NRI) on Saturday, adding that the figure hit 19 MW during the hot days of the current Iranian year. Speaking at the Second International Conference on Air Conditioning and Thermal and Refrigeration Facilities in Tehran, Majid Amidpour noted that during the year to March 19, nearly \$96 billion of financial opportunities were missed in the country's energy sector, IRNA reported.

Mistakes were made in the past as industrial development was done in the country without paying attention to the energy sector, which led to electricity shortages, he criticized.

"It is expected that the private sector will come to invest, and we at the Ministry of Energy have planned different financing models for their investment," Amidpour said. Iran enjoys a high potential in the field of renewables and with its development, the challenges can be solved to a great extent. The abundance of renewable resources such as solar, wind, biomass and geothermal energy in Iran, where the national power grid is under growing pressure from runaway demand, is so great that its development and expansion is inevitable.

Non-oil export to Brazil hits \$163m in five months: TPOI

An official at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said that non-oil goods valued at \$163 million were exported from Iran to Brazil in the first five months of the current Iranian year (started March 20). The country's export of non-oil products to Brazil from March 20 to August 21 registered a 2.5-fold growth compared to last year's corresponding period, the director general of European and American Office of the TPOI said, as reported by Mehr News Agency.

Ahmad Firouzi noted that \$63 million of non-oil products were exported from Iran to Brazil in 2023. He also emphasized the need to facilitate exports to the BRICS member states and remove the export barriers.

Oil minister 'not worried about crises' amid Israeli threats

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Saturday that he was "not worried" amid the conflict in the region, the ministry's Shana news website said, after reports that Israel may strike Iran.

"I am not worried about the crises that the enemies of the Revolution are creating, and this trip is considered a normal work trip," Paknejad was quoted by Shana as saying.

Paknejad's comments were made during a visit to Assaluyeh, a center for Iranian installations exploiting the world's largest offshore gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar across the Persian Gulf.

"The gross domestic product, wealth generation, energy security of the residential, commercial and industrial sectors of the country are made by the oil industry employees, therefore the oil indus-

try staff should be proud of themselves," Paknejad stated.

The minister also held meetings with managers and contractors who work on projects in South Pars Gas Field.

South Pars Gas Field, also known in Qatar as North Dome covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which belongs to Iran and has been divided into 24 standard development phases, most of which have been completed and are fully operational.

It is estimated that the Iranian section of the field, referred to as South Pars in short, contains 14 trillion cubic meters of gas and 18 billion barrels of condensates and with the completion of its onshore facilities, Iran only needs a few offshore installations in order to fully exploit its share.



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (white) is being briefed on South Pars Gas Field projects during his visit to Assaluyeh in southern province of Bushehr on October 5, 2024. **SHANA**

Iran's three-month unemployment rate stands at 7.5%: SCI



The latest figures by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) puts the country's jobless rate at 7.5 percent in the second three months of the current Iranian year (June 21-September 21). The data showed that 7.5 percent of the Iranian people aged 15 or older were jobless which is 0.4 percent lower than the corresponding figure for preceding year, IRNA reported on Saturday. The SCI data also sug-

gests that 41.7 percent of the country's above-15 population were economically active which refers to the population either employed or seeking a job. In its latest report, the International Monetary Fund has announced that Iran ranks 17th in the world in terms of unemployment rate, as the index is lower than the figure for six European countries and Turkey. The unemployment

rate in Iran has decreased in the last three years, hitting 8.1% in the past Iranian year of 1402 (ended March 19) from 9.2% for the year 1400. The recent report of the IMF on the unemployment in 99 countries shows that 11 countries have a double-digit unemployment rate in 2024, the highest unemployment rate with 49.5% belongs to Sudan. North Macedonia, Bos-

nia and Herzegovina, Spain, Albania, Serbia and Greece are six European countries that have a higher unemployment rate than Iran, according to the IMF report. Turkey, with an unemployment rate of 9.6% ranked 13th in the world ranking, said the report adding that Sweden, Italy, France and Finland have an unemployment rate close to that of Iran in 2024.

Ayatollah Khamenei shattered ...

Message of unity, superiority

After the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the flag-bearer of the resistance front, which came as a shock and surprise, pushing the Lebanese resistance movement—at least in public opinion—toward despair and fracture, there was a perception that the decades-old resistance might unravel under Israel's onslaught. However, in a post-martyrdom statement, Ayatollah Khamenei declared that "the organization and manpower of Hezbollah in Lebanon are far stronger and more resilient than currently perceived." This statement effectively contained the false and negative perceptions regarding the strength of the resistance and Hezbollah in Lebanon on a cognitive and perceptual level.

Message of calm, progress

The most obvious social el-

ement that suffers erosion and challenge in the midst of war is societal peace and order. As a field leader and far-sighted thinker, he sought to instill calm and order in society. The day after Iran's missile attacks on the occupied territories and the recorded, brazen threats of the Israeli prime minister, he held a meeting with the nation's scientific elites. Through this meeting, he conveyed a message filled with calm and a continued path of progress to society.

Message of power, final Blow

Modern warfare is intertwined with the triad of military, government, and public opinion, as outlined in the works of the famous war strategist, Clausewitz. This means that while one facet of war is military, the other is diplomatic, and the third is related to media and public opinion management. In the past ten days, the Zionist regime's attacks had plunged the social base of the re-

sistance movement into a state of shock and severe challenge, spreading widespread fear and intimidation. However, the news that the Leader would lead Friday prayers, despite earlier media threats from the Zionists, was a strategic message aimed at countering and neutralizing this psychological warfare, rebuilding the community's perceptual foundation, and restoring power and removing threats from the community and the resistance front.

The fact that he pays close attention to public opinion, and in parallel with military operations, also cares for the social front—sending a representative to Tabas over the coal mine incident, continuing the usual scientific and elite meetings without disruption, and holding a public gathering through Friday prayers amidst the war—can be interpreted as a testament to his strategic capability and his accurate reading of public opinion and social leadership.

Axis of Resistance...

In other words, this political maneuvering has revealed a clear synergy between Washington and Tel Aviv.

On the operational front, the bombs used in the recent atrocities are entirely of US made and were supplied to the occupying regime during the Gaza war. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the US accounted for 65% of the arms imports of the occupying regime between 2021 and 2023. Furthermore, the US provides approximately \$3.8 billion annually in military aid to the Zionist regime, and earlier this year, Biden allocated an additional \$14 billion to this regime. In August, the Biden administration informed the US Congress of its approval for a \$20 billion arms sale to Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu believed he could persuade US officials during his visit to New York to allow the attacks to be continued and annul the US peace plan. However, with the order to attack Lebanon announced by Netanyahu, the American plan was not implemented, and according to The Guardian, this was a "diplomatic humiliation"

for Washington and indicated America's inability to control the region and its problematic ally, Israel.

Increased Israeli assassinations against the people of Lebanon, due to their support for the Palestinian people and condemnation of genocide in the Gaza Strip, as well as the blood the regime is shedding in Palestine and Lebanon, necessitates that Islamic nations break their silence and oppose America's bias and support for the Zionist regime. They must stand with Palestine and Lebanon against the aggressive schemes of the Zionist regime, utilizing all available tools in international organizations. The boundless madness of the criminal leaders of the Zionist regime has even obliterated their sense of calculation, leading to repeated provocations against the nations and governments of the region. Israel, after almost a year of brutal and exhausting warfare in the Gaza Strip, sees itself increasingly defeated and loathed in the eyes of world public opinion. In an irrational decision, it has crossed all red lines, and now the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Axis of Resistance have no red lines in punishing this regime.

Great Wall of Gorgan; an engineering landmark of northern Iran

Walls have always been crucial defensive elements for cities, serving as barriers against enemy invasions. Among the most renowned walls in the world are the Great Wall of China, Germany's White Wall, and the Great Wall of Gorgan, also known as Iskander's Great Wall or the Red Wall. This structure is recognized as a National Heritage Site in Iran. Historical texts refer to the Great Wall of Gorgan as the 'Red Snake,' highlighting its strategic location. Unfortunately, much of the wall has succumbed to time, with only small remnants buried beneath the soil.



Dimensions and construction

Estimates regarding the length of this ancient structure vary; some historians believe it stretches to approximately 180 farsang, an old Iranian unit of measurement equivalent to 6.24 km. Many scholars propose that this wall is part of an even larger fortification system. The Great Wall of Gorgan is approximately 200km long, with a width ranging from two to ten meters and a possible height of six to eight meters. It was primarily constructed from red bricks measuring 40x40x10 cm, held together with lime mud mortar, and, in some areas, sarooj (a traditional Iranian cement). The wall features intricate plaster decorations throughout its length. Additionally, the wall was supported by related defensive structures, including moats, forts connected to the wall, brick kilns, earthen dams, water supply channels, and the castles of adjacent cities on both its northern and southern sides. In terms of fortifications, the Great Wall of Gorgan is considered more advanced than the Great Wall of China.

Construction materials and archaeological discoveries

There are several theories regarding the materials used in the wall's construction. While some suggest stone and lead, others propose combinations of brick and lime, brick and plaster, stone and plaster, or even marble and baked clay. Excavations in the village of Gogieh (north of Kalaleh) reveal sections of the wall constructed with large bricks. Research conduct-



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ed by archaeologists from the universities of Edinburgh and Durham indicates that tens of millions of bricks were utilized in its construction, supported by numerous kilns and brick-making workshops along and near the wall. This suggests a comprehensive industrial operation was involved in building the Great Wall of Gorgan. It is estimated that approximately 30,000 soldiers could be stationed along its length.

Historical context

Throughout history, human lives have been affected by various adversities, prompting the development of solutions to mitigate these risks. Natural disasters and human conflicts in ancient times could devastate communities and erase signs of civilization. Consequently, implementing preventive measures to protect against potential dangers has always been paramount. The Great Wall of

Gorgan stands as a testament to these defensive strategies.

Geographical location

The Great Wall of Gorgan extends from the Caspian Sea in the Gomishan area to the Golidagh, northeast of Kalaleh. The railway line from Gorgan to Central Asia intersects a portion of the historical wall, effectively dividing it into two halves. Geographically, the wall is situated in the mountainous and expansive plains of Gorgan, located in the modern-day Turkmen Sahra region. The Gorgan River, known as the longest river in Golestan Province, flows in an east-west direction along the southern side of the wall, playing a significant role in its construction.

Builders

Most historians attribute the wall's construction to Anushirvan, a king of the Sassanid Empire. Some sources suggest that Yazdgerd I, another

Sassanid king, initiated the project, which Anushirvan later completed. It is widely accepted that the wall was built to deter invasions from desert tribes. Many experts believe that the Great Wall of Gorgan was constructed around the same time as the Great Wall of China.

Historical conflicts and strategic importance

Archaeological studies, including samples and tests of remaining ashes and coals, suggest that the wall dates back to the 5th and 6th centuries CE during the Sassanid period. During this time, the Sassanid Empire was engaged in constant conflicts with the Eastern Roman Empire while also facing threats from the Huns and other northern tribes. As a result, the Great Wall of Gorgan served as a formidable barrier against these invasions, strategically positioned between the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian Sea coastline.

Pirouz, the Sassanid king, spent time in Gorgan between 459 and 484 while fighting the White Huns. It is likely that he or another Sassanid king, either before or after him, constructed the Great Wall of Gorgan to protect the fertile plain of Gorgan, a strategically important area.

Military presence

The forts and barracks along the Great Wall of Gorgan indicate that it remained active for at least a century after its construction. Evidence suggests a military presence along the wall, although it was later abandoned for various reasons. Possible explanations for this abandonment include the need for more soldiers to confront the Byzantine Empire or to resist Arab attacks. Remarkably, the Great Wall of Gorgan is longer than Hadrian's Wall, which was built by Emperor Hadrian on the border between England and Scot-

land. Furthermore, this massive defensive structure predates most parts of the Great Wall of China by over a thousand years. Construction of the wall took approximately 90 years, and at one time, it was the longest brick wall in the world.

Legacy of Sassanid engineering

Iranian engineering during the Sassanid Empire was highly competitive with that of the Roman Empire and, in some aspects, even surpassed it. The first photographic documentation of this wall was made by American archaeologist Eric Schmidt in 1936 and 1937, who captured aerial photographs of ancient sites in Iran. In the Gorgan region, he documented a red wall stretching from the Caspian Sea to the Golidagh, which has since become a significant resource for both Iranian and foreign archaeologists studying this remarkable structure.



Fiery marvels of Tashkooch Mountain

Tashkooch Mountain in Ramhormoz, Khuzestan Province, is one of the most beautiful and astonishing natural phenomena in Iran, renowned for its unique display of flames erupting from the ground. The landscape features hills dotted with openings resembling springs, from which hundreds of flames continuously blaze. These flames have burned uninterrupted from the past to the present; remarkably, they do not extinguish in the rain — instead, they tend to flare up even more. The source of this fiery spectacle

lies in the sulfur-rich ground and the evaporation of natural gas from deep within the earth, which rises to the surface. Hydrocarbon gases traverse various geological layers, igniting as they escape through cracks in the ground, making the flames visible even at night. However, setting fires in the vicinity of Tashkooch is extremely dangerous due to the volatile gases present in the air. In addition to these fiery hills, the nearby Mamatyn village is home to numerous bitumen springs, where natural

bitumen seeps from the earth. Tashkooch is a notable tourist attraction, drawing many visitors, especially at night. The hills, adorned with hundreds of colorful flames, dazzle the eyes and require no assistance to access. The geotourism potential of this region has also captured the interest of many domestic and foreign geologists. Tashkooch is not the only tourist highlight in this region; there are many springs filled with natural bitumen instead of clear water, adding to the area's allure.

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By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref was in Yerevan on Wednesday to attend the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) summit. The EAEU was established in 2014 through the collaboration of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia. The Islamic Republic of Iran signed a free trade agreement with the union in 2022, although it is not yet a fully-fledged member of the regional pact. Iran Daily had an interview with Mohsen Pakaeen, an expert on Eurasian affairs, to discuss the significance of the EAEU and Iran's cooperation with its member states. Pakaeen, the former Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan, shared his insights on the matter.



Transit routes; Iran's advantage in Eurasian union



Iran's transit routes offer a significant economic and tourism opportunity for EAEU member states, and this constitutes a major advantage for the country.

IRAN DAILY: What makes the Eurasian Economic Union significant as a regional pact?

PAKAEEN: Before discussing the EAEU, it's essential to provide some background on the Eurasian region. This vast region is teeming with diverse opportunities for the development of its countries. Stretching from China in the east to Turkey in the west, passing through Central Asia, Iran, and the Caucasus, this region borders Europe and is of immense importance both politically and economically. China and Russia, two permanent members of the UN Security Council, have a significant presence in this region. It's estimated that approximately 60% of the world's natural resources and reserves are located in this region, while around 40% of the global population lives in the area. As a result, it's often said that the Eurasian region will soon become the new hub of the global economy. In light of these vast opportunities, the countries of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia formed the EAEU in 2014, aiming to harness these capacities through joint cooperation to drive their development and that of the region.

How can this union and the opportunities you mentioned be important and beneficial for Iran?

As a country located in the Eurasian region, Iran should naturally tap into the existing resources and opportunities to drive its development. Moreover, Iran has its own strengths that can be leveraged to benefit the other member states and countries in the Eurasian region. Although Iran is not yet a full-fledged member of this regional pact, it has signed a free trade agreement with the EAEU. In the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse and the end of the bipolar world, regional pacts have gained increasing importance. Tehran is well aware of the significance of these regional pacts, as evidenced by its recent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS grouping. The EAEU can also serve as a gateway to new economic opportunities for Iran. In recent years, Tehran's economic ties with the union's member states have gained momentum, with 15% of Iran's non-oil exports going to these countries last year. Therefore, Aref's visit to Armenia and participation in the EAEU summit can certainly pave the way for enhanced cooperation with these countries and potentially lead to Iran's full membership in the union.

The conflicts between Azerbaijan and Armenia have led to several wars between the two countries, resulting in heightened tensions in the region. These security concerns will inevitably

ly impact regional cooperation. Will the finalization of a peace agreement between the two countries lead to more feasible regional cooperation?

It is a universally accepted principle that security is a prerequisite for development. Wherever there is insecurity, capital flees. Therefore, it appears that the EAEU is also engaged in efforts to establish security in the region, with Iran utilizing its good relations with Azerbaijan and Armenia to facilitate a peace agreement between the two countries. The core issue of contention between Azerbaijan and Armenia was the disputed region of Karabakh, which has been resolved with its transfer to Azerbaijan. Although Azerbaijan is not a member of the EAEU, the presence of tensions and insecurity in the region will undoubtedly overshadow regional cooperation. Some extraregional countries, such as France, are seeking to perpetuate these tensions. However, it seems that Armenia is also aware of the risks of Western involvement in the region. Iran will likely encourage Azerbaijan to sign a peace agreement with Armenia.

Do you believe that Azerbaijan's previous claims and plans to establish the contentious Zangezur corridor are no longer valid and will not become a new source of tension?

Azerbaijan and Armenia have recog-



Mohsen Pakaeen
MEHR

nized each other's territorial integrity since the end of the war. They have committed to recognizing international borders at the Prague summit (in October, 2022). Karabakh has been transferred to Azerbaijan, and Baku has announced that it has no claims on Armenia's Syunik Province. Therefore, it appears that there is no basis for continued conflict and renewed war between the two countries. Both Azerbaijan and Armenia have held talks on establishing transportation links with Iran, so it seems unlikely that the issue of creating the Zangezur corridor, which is opposed by Iran and Armenia, will be raised. Both sides are currently seeking to sign a peace agreement, and other regional countries should encourage them in this endeavor. In this context, the Iranian first vice president's visit to Armenia was positive from both the perspective of participating in the Eurasian Economic Union and strengthening cooperation with its member states, as well as from the perspective of bilateral relations with Armenia. Moreover, the visit provided an opportunity for the Iranian representative to hold consultations with delegations from other EAEU member states. These meetings, in conjunction with gaining insight into the new Iranian government and its policies, can also create new opportunities for developing economic and political ties. Iran's transit routes offer a significant economic and tourism opportunity for EAEU member states, and this constitutes a major advantage for the country.

What is your outlook on Iran's potential permanent membership in the Eurasian Economic Union?

Iran's permanent membership in the Eurasian Economic Union is being pursued and will be reviewed by the EAEU Secretariat.



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref (C) attends the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) summit held in Yerevan, Armenia, on October 2, 2024.

Armenia could ease Iran's access to Eurasian market

Economy Desk

PERSPECTIVE

Armenia can serve as a crucial gateway for Iran to expand its trade in the Eurasian Economic Union, as it is one of the few remaining routes connecting Iran to Europe and the EAEU. Recently, government officials and private sector representatives have emphasized the importance of strengthening trade relations between the two countries, setting a target of \$3 billion in trade at a major Iran-EAEU trade summit.

A report by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce's Economic Research Department, titled "Armenia: A New Player in the Region's Trade Developments," examines Armenia's economic situation, its trade with the world, and Iran-Armenia trade relations. The report reveals that the volume of trade between Iran and Armenia has undergone significant fluctuations between 2014 and 2022. In 2014 and 2015, the total trade volume remained relatively stable, ranging from \$100 to \$150 million, with a positive trade balance and Iranian exports exceeding imports from Armenia. The peak in trade between the two countries occurred in 2017, when the total trade value reached approximately \$250 million.

This growth was driven by a significant increase in Iranian exports to Armenia, indicating strengthened economic ties and growing demand for Iranian goods and services. However, from 2017 to 2019, trade between the two countries declined due to various factors, includ-

ing sanctions, the COVID-19 pandemic, and economic fluctuations. Nevertheless, from 2020 onwards, trade between Iran and Armenia experienced a remarkable resurgence, particularly after the Karabakh war, and reached new heights in 2021 and 2022. During this period, Iranian exports to Armenia increased substantially, reaching approximately \$300 million in 2022, while imports from Armenia remained at a low level.

Iran's export to Armenia

In the export sector, "pig iron, iron, and steel" top the list of export items, with a value of \$89.1 million and a 24% share of Iran's total exports to Armenia. These products are crucial for various Armenian industries, particularly in construction and industrial production. The second most important group of export goods is "mineral fuels, mineral oils, and products obtained from their distillation," with a value of \$53.3 million and a 14% share, playing a vital role in meeting Armenia's energy needs. These products mainly comprise petroleum products and mineral fuels, which are used for industrial and household purposes.

In third place, "plastics and articles made from these materials" with a value of \$37.4 million and a 10% share, reflecting Armenia's demand for plastic products for various industrial and household uses. Additionally, "milk and dairy products, eggs, honey, and foodstuffs" make up an 8% share, indicating a high demand for Iranian agricultural and food products.



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In terms of imports from Armenia, "nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, and mechanical appliances" with a value of \$3.6 million and a 28% share, takes the top spot. "Optical, photographic, and other instruments" with a value of \$2.8 million and a 22% share, is another significant import item from Armenia, widely used in medical and industrial fields. "Metal ores, slag, and ash" with a value of \$1.7 million and a 13% share, is also a major import item from Armenia, used in the metallurgy and construction industries.

According to data published by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the products with the highest export potential from Iran to Armenia include shaped iron or steel bars, pistachios, and polyethylene

with a specific gravity of 0.94 or higher in its primary form. Iran also has the highest supply capacity in the field of handmade textile floor coverings, pistachios, and dates. On the other hand, products such as shaped iron/steel bars and aluminum have the highest demand potential in the Armenian market.

Trade barriers

The topic of trade between Iran and Armenia has been gaining attention recently, with government officials and private sector representatives attending a major trade summit with the Eurasian Economic Union in Armenia. On the sidelines of the meeting, the Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade discussed several key issues, including

the threefold growth in trade between Iran and Armenia, which reached over \$700 million in the past year, and the significant progress made in implementing Iranian infrastructure projects in Armenia. The governments of both countries have also expressed their commitment to increasing trade volume to \$3 billion.

In addition, the Head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and Industries signed a cooperation agreement with the President of the Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish a joint industrial park in Armenia.

During the meeting, Hervik Yarijanyan, Chairman of the Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce, highlighted several challenges hindering trade between the two countries, including the lack of a postal system and high airport fees in Armenia. He also called for exemptions for Iranian goods from import restrictions and suggested that the joint chambers of commerce produce goods with a shared brand and export them to other countries. By leveraging Armenia's regional influence, the two countries can collaborate on production and participate in exhibitions, thereby reducing costs.

It's worth noting that Armenia's strategic location makes it an important gateway for expanding Iran's trade in the region, as it is one of the few remaining routes connecting Iran to Europe and the Eurasian Economic Union. Conversely, Iran can also play a more significant role in Armenia's economy by meeting the country's needs in the fields of energy, machinery, and consumer goods.

Kazakhstan offers ample opportunities for Iranian cooperation

Economy Desk

PERSPECTIVE

The Republic of Kazakhstan, a member-state to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), boasts numerous mineral and agricultural resources that Iranian engineers can tap into to contribute to the country's development. Iranian experts have already constructed a part of Kazakhstan's first tunnel, and several urban development projects have been implemented through the export of Iranian technical and engineering services. However, opportunities such as transboundary farming are still available for Iranian engineers in this country.

Kazakhstan is the fourth-most populous country among the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) nations. As the world's largest landlocked country, Kazakhstan has a relatively low population density. With a population of 19 million, Kazakhstan is the eighth-largest country in the world and the second-largest among the former Soviet republics, covering an area of 2,717,300 square kilometers. The capital, Almaty, is the largest and most populous city, although the capital has been transferred to Astana, located in the north of the country, in recent years.

Agricultural and mineral resources

The economy of Kazakhstan is heavily dependent on agriculture. With the highest GDP and per capita income among the newly independent states, Kazakhstan is also a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The country is rich in mineral resources, with over \$40 billion in foreign investment in the sector since 1993. Kazakhstan is estimated to have the world's second-largest reserves of uranium, chromium, zinc, and lead, and the third-largest reserves of manganese. The country ranks

among the top 10 in the world for coal, gold, and copper reserves, and has the 11th-largest reserves of oil and natural gas.

Technical and engineering services

Investing in joint ventures in the fields of technical and engineering services and agriculture is one of the priorities being discussed in relation to Kazakhstan, as Iran has had good experiences in this area in the past. Strengthening bilateral cooperation with this country is one of the goals of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber, and in this regard, Amir Abedi, the Chairman of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber, discusses opportunities for cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan, from transboundary farming to investing in Kazakhstan's mines and ways to optimize the use of the North-South Corridor.

Abedi says, during the past 30 years, "Kazakhstan has joined regional agreements such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,

the EAEU, and international treaties like the World Trade Organization (WTO), and has managed to establish a good position in international relations. The country has ranked 25th in the ease of doing business index and is among the developed countries."

He says, "Kazakhstan is located on the Silk Road and the North-South Corridor, and its proximity to the Caspian Sea and the 'One Belt, One Road' project has created an important opportunity for the country to play a more significant role in regional exchanges. Kazakhstan has a unique position in terms of mineral resources, and its vast territory makes it the ninth-largest country in the world. It also has a favorable position in terms of natural resources and produces 20 million tons of grain annually, more than half of which is surplus and exported."

Mining cooperation

Given the commonalities in the mining industry and similarities in the mining chain, including steel production and downstream

industries, Iran and Kazakhstan have opportunities for cooperation in the exchange of raw materials.

An official from the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries in the mining sector, referencing the strategic document signed between Iran and Kazakhstan. Director of International Affairs at IMIDRO Fazlollah Heydari Farzan, in his meeting with the country's ambassador to Iran, Oantalap Ounalbayev, in April 2023, highlighted Iran's progress in the mining industry and the capabilities of its specialized workforce, stating, "Iran is ready to cooperate in the transfer of technical knowledge by Iranian experts to Kazakhstan."

Urban development by Iranian engineers

A portion of Kazakhstan's first and longest road tunnel, Shapkap Baba Pass, located in the Shapkap Baba pass, 600 kilometers from Almaty, has been constructed by Iranian engineers. Part of this project, which is a significant section of the international highway 'Western China - Western Europe,' has been implemented by an Iranian company over a distance of 40 kilometers between the cities of Taraz and Chimkent in southern Kazakhstan, at a cost of \$100 million. The project was implemented with the participation of 170 Iranian experts and 700 experienced Kazakh workers.

Majid Damirchilu, the former Iranian Ambassador to Kazakhstan, during his visit to the tunnel project has stated, "The export of technical and engineering services in Kazakhstan, particularly in the field of road construction, demonstrates the high capabilities of Iranian engineers, and we hope that experienced Iranian companies will enter this competitive field in other areas of technical and engineering services."



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An official from the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries in the mining sector.

World Taekwondo Junior Championships: Girls glorious as Iran wins four medals on Day 5



Iran's Ghazal Houshmand (red) is seen in action Yang Xiruo of China in the women's -42kg final at the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on October 5, 2024.
● WORLD TAEKWONDO



Iran's Hana Zarrinkamar (red) takes on South Korean Lim Yerim in the women's -68kg final at the World Taekwondo Junior Championships in Chuncheon, South Korea, on October 5, 2024.
● WORLD TAEKWONDO

Sports Desk

Iranians continued their impressive run at the World Taekwondo Junior Championships, collecting four more medals, including two golds, on Saturday in Chuncheon, South Korea. Hana Zarrinkamar opened the account for the country on the fifth day of the competitions by coming out victorious in straight rounds (11-6, 13-0) over the host's Lim Yerim in the

women's -68kg final.

Ghazal Houshmand clinched a fourth women's gold for Iran when she defeated Yang Xiruo of China in two rounds for the -42kg crown.

In the men's draw, Ali-Akbar Ebrahimi dominated opponents from Portugal, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Bosnian & Herzegovina, and Azerbaijan, not conceding a single round, to reach the -73kg final, only to suffer a 2-1 defeat against South

Korean Park Jae won and take the silver.

Amin-Mohammad Ahmadvand took a bronze medal in his maiden appearance in the championships after a loss to Croatian Oscar Kovacic in the -78kg semifinals.

Saturday's results took Iran's medal haul to a remarkable seven gold medals, as well as two silvers and bronzes apiece across the men's and women's event.

Mahdi Razmian had won a fifth gold medal for Iran on the preceding night in Chuncheon, thanks to an emphatic victory over Spanish Agenjo Trigos, who had not dropped a single round en route to the final, in the men's -48kg showdown. Razmian needed three rounds in three of his bouts earlier in the day – including the last-four victory over Kazakhstan's Temirzhan Taskyn – but showed no signs of the fatigue

against the Spaniard, controlling the first round to win 6-1 before a commanding 12-2 triumph in the second saw the Iranian walk away with the ultimate prize.

On Thursday, Sina Mohtarami pulled off a thrilling 2-1 win (18-7, 9-11, 14-12) against Nurali Makhmut of Kazakhstan for the men's -55kg gold, while Saghar Moradi settled for a silver after a loss to Tunisian Masghouni Wafa in the women's -63kg

weight class.

Amirmohammad Nasir-Ahmadi finished his campaign with a consolation bronze in the men's -51kg contests.

Amirmohammad Ashrafi (men's +78kg), Parnian Nouri (women's -52kg), and Aynaz Nasiri (women's -59kg) had grabbed three gold medals for Iran earlier in Chuncheon.

The 14th edition of the World Junior Championships will come to an end today.

Iranian wrestlers ready to rumble in World Championships

Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman and freestyle squads will be looking to build on the country's decent Olympic campaign when the Wrestling World Championships – featuring non-Olympic weight categories – get underway in Tirana, Albania, on October 28.

Represented by 11 wrestlers, Iran collected a total of eight medals, including two Greco-Roman golds, in the sporting extravaganza in Paris – the most won by any country across the two men's competitions, although Japan secured more gold medals (4).

Pejman Dorostkar is back at the helm of the Iranian freestyle team for a second stint, having guided his men to a third-place finish in the 2021 World Championships, followed by successive runner-up finishes in the next two editions in Belgrade, though the Russians were absent in the 2022 event and then their results were declared null and void in the team table last year. Two-time world champion



Iranian freestyle 92kg wrestler Kamran Qasempour is seen in a training session in Tehran on October 3, 2024.
● IAWF

Kamran Qasempour will spearhead the freestyle four-man squad in the Albania capital, making his long-awaited return to the mat in the 92kg contests – the familiar territory for

the 27-year-old, who stood behind Amir-Ali Azarpira in the pecking order for the Iranian 97kg slot in Paris. Standing between Qasempour and a third

world gold medal in four years will be two of the sport's greatest in recent years in Russian sensation Abdurashid Sadulaev and American David Taylor, who have won a remark-

able 11 world and Olympic gold medals between them in the 97kg and 86kg weight classes.

Reza Mo'meni will be the Iranian wrestler in the 61kg class, with his previous international appearance coming in the 2022 FS World Cup, where he won a bout and lost two. Amirmohammad Yazdani will be eager to grab a first world gold medal when taking part in the 70kg contests, having settled for two silvers in 2021 and 2023, while Mohammad Nakhodi, a winner of two world silvers and a bronze, will be among the favorites in the 79kg category.

Geraei eyeing glory

Mohammadreza Geraei is keen to make a flying start to the new chapter of his career in the Greco-Roman 72kg competitions. The 28-year-old was once tipped to dominate the 67kg class for years following his back-to-back Olympic and world crowns in 2021, but his form diminished over the following two years, as he settled for the world silver in 2022 before laboring

to the bronze in the 2023 edition.

He then missed the opportunity to defend his Olympic title after comprehensive defeats against Saeid Esmaeili in the Iranian trials and when the young prodigy took the Games by storm to win the gold, Geraei, who had been clearly struggling with significant weight losses before each tournament, was persuaded to move up to the 72kg division.

Geraei's older brother, Mohammad-Ali, will also have to gear up for a new challenge in the 82kg contests as he will be looking to improve on his world bronzes in the 71kg and 77kg categories.

A former world junior and under-23 champion, Iman Mohammadi will chase a first world medal in the seniors' competitions in the 63kg event to add to his gold and bronze in the Asian Championships. Pouya Dadmarz, meanwhile, will be after a second successive world medal in the 55kg class following his impressive bronze-winning campaign in Belgrade.

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



INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Since **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY** intend to purchase **844 tons of Ferro Titanium** with tender no48596433, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP)** until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time) Saturday 26. Oct.2024 (Saturday 05.08.1403).

Contact Details:
Contact Person: Mr. Dehghani
Email: d.dehghani@msc.ir
Cell Phone/WhatsApp: 00989132677093

Note:
ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY reserves the right of return or rejection of those tender documents in which haven't observed at least one of items of covering letter.

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Iran's 'Cold Sigh' sweeps top honors at Richmond film festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian film 'Cold Sigh', helmed by director Nahid Sedigh, emerged as a triple winner at the 13th edition of the Richmond International Film Festival in Richmond, Virginia. The festival, which ran from September 24 to 29, awarded 'Cold Sigh' the Best Drama, Best Director, and Best Cinematography awards, capping off a successful year for the film, Mehr News Agency reported. 'Cold Sigh' has been making waves on the international film circuit, having already screened at several festivals, including the Santa Barbara Inter-

national Film Festival in the United States, the 46th Moscow International Film Festival, and the Fajr International Film Festival in Iran. The film has picked up several awards along the way, including Best Director Award, the Audience Choice Award for the Best Film, and the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema) Special Mention at the Moscow festival. The drama, which tells the story of a young man seeking revenge against his father for a decades-old tragedy, has resonated with audiences and critics alike. The film's cast, including Iman Sedigh, Ali Bagheri,

Mohammad Ashkanfar, Salar Derakhshandeh, Kourosh Eshraghi, Hossein Rezaian, Ahura Bahrami, and Borhan Bahrami, deliver powerful performances that have been widely praised. The Richmond International Film Festival, which showcases films from around the world, featured 175 official selections from over 25 countries this year, as well as 30 live music performances throughout the week. The festival's organizers said they were thrilled to have 'Cold Sigh' as part of their lineup, and praised the film's thought-provoking themes and stunning cinematography.



Iranian film 'Sculpture' wins two awards at Chicago festival

Iranian filmmaker Ramin Hosseinpour was awarded at the Crown Point International Film Festival (CPIFF) in Chicago, winning the award for Best Director of a Short Film for his documentary 'Sculpture.' Hosseinpour, who also wrote and produced the film, picked up the

award at the 45th edition of the festival, which was held in September 2024. The film's editor, Ehsan Vaseghi, also won the award for Best Editing, Mehr News Agency reported. The CPIFF, which has been running for 45 years, will showcase the winning films on screens in Chicago for a week and present the winners with a cash prize and a trophy at its annual awards ceremony, to be held in three months. 'Sculpture' is a documentary short film based on the true story of the lives of Rumi and Shams. The film is currently competing to qualify for the Academy Awards in the United States and Canada, as well as the BAFTAs. It has also been ranked among the top 50 short films and documentaries on IMDb. Hosseinpour, who combines cinema, architecture, and music in his work, has won several international awards in the past.



US doctors say they 'witnessed crimes beyond comprehension' in Gaza

A group of 99 American healthcare providers who have volunteered in the Gaza Strip over the past year sent President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris a letter detailing "the massive human toll from Israel's attack" and urging the administration to "end this madness now!" In the letter, they shared their firsthand experiences of the dire humanitarian conditions amid Israel's ongoing offensive, saying they had "witnessed crimes beyond comprehension." Anadolu Agency reported. "We wish to be absolutely clear: Not once did any of us see any type of Palestinian militant activity in any of Gaza's hospitals or other health care facilities," they said in the letter, which was published on the website "Gaza Healthcare Letters." "We urge you to see that Israel has systematically and deliberately devastated Gaza's entire health care system and that Israel has targeted our colleagues in Gaza for torture, disappearance, and

murder," they added. "Every day I saw babies die. They had been born healthy. Their mothers were so malnourished that they could not breastfeed, and we lacked formula or clean water to feed them, so they starved," said Asma Taha, a pediatric nurse practitioner, as quoted in the letter. "Gaza was the first time I held a baby's brains in my hand. The first of many," Dr. Mark Perlmutter, an orthopedic and hand surgeon, said in the letter. Doctors said in the letter that Israel's "continued, repeated" displacement of the malnourished and sick population of Gaza, half of whom are children, to areas without running water or even toilets available is "absolutely shocking." The group demanded that the Biden administration support an international arms embargo on both Israel and Palestinian groups until a permanent cease-fire is reached and both Israeli and Palestinian hostages are released. The signatories also asked for a meeting

with Biden and Harris to discuss what they saw and why they feel American policy in the Middle East "must change immediately." "Every day that we continue supplying weapons and munitions to Israel is another day that women are shredded by our bombs and children are murdered with our bullets," they said.



● GETTY IMAGES

Operation True Promise II; crushing blow to West, Zionist regime

PERSPECTIVE

In the wake of the recent missile strike by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) against occupied territories, the scale of the blow dealt to the Zionist regime and its Western allies cannot be understated. The operation, known as True Promise II, marked a pivotal moment in both military strategy and geopolitical calculus, delivering a multifaceted message to the global community. Unlike previous actions, True Promise II demonstrated both restraint and precision, with Iran targeting key military and security installations deep within occupied territories. Jafar Ghanabashi, an expert on West Asia, emphasized in a recent interview that the missiles used in this operation were vastly different from those used in past strikes. With greater destructive power and extended range, this operation signals a new chapter in Iran's military capabilities. But the importance of True Promise II transcends military achievements. As Ghanabashi notes, the operation was

conducted with remarkable rationality and careful consideration of all political, social, and military aspects. Despite the high stakes, Iran refrained from impulsive actions, opting instead for calculated strikes against specific Israeli targets, including intelligence units like Mossad and the Israeli military. This deliberate approach reveals a level of strategic maturity that sets Iran apart from its adversaries. Moreover, Iran's leadership sent a clear message: They possess the capability to strike any region within occupied territories and, if necessary, cripple Israel's economy or depopulate its cities. Yet, their decision to limit the scope of the operation underscores a policy of restraint, showcasing a significant degree of self-control and an avoidance of unnecessary escalation.

Clear legitimacy

In terms of legitimacy, the international community has little ground to challenge Iran's right to respond. Over the years, Israel has carried out numerous acts of aggression, targeting Iranian scientists,

military advisors in Syria and Lebanon, and even violating Iranian sovereignty. As Ghanabashi points out, international law—particularly the UN Charter—grants every nation the right to defend itself when attacked. Iran's operation, therefore, stands on firm legal and moral ground, despite the silence of global institutions in the face of Israeli atrocities.

Failure of Israel's multilayered defense

Perhaps most striking is the failure of Israel's much-touted multilayered air defense system, a defeat that extends beyond the borders of the Zionist state. The West, especially the United States, which has long been Israel's primary military supplier and defender, found itself unable to shield its closest ally from the missile barrage. This failure is not just a military embarrassment for Israel but also a devastating blow to the credibility of Western military technology and defense strategies. As Ghanabashi argues, this failure will have far-reaching consequences for West-

ern arms manufacturers. The inability of these defense systems to intercept Iranian missiles exposes a critical vulnerability, one that will likely lead to a decline in demand for both defensive and offensive weapons systems. The growing efficacy of missile technology, which bypasses expensive and complex air defense systems, could lead to a reduction in the sale of fighter jets and other traditional military equipment. In short, True Promise II has triggered a seismic shift, not just in the military landscape of the Middle East, but also in the global arms market. Operation True Promise II represents a strategic and psychological defeat for both the Zionist regime and its Western backers. It exposes the limits of Western military power, the vulnerability of Israel, and the profound imbalance in the region's military capabilities. The operation sends a message that Iran is both capable and willing to act decisively, yet chooses to do so with restraint and wisdom—an approach that sets it apart in an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment.