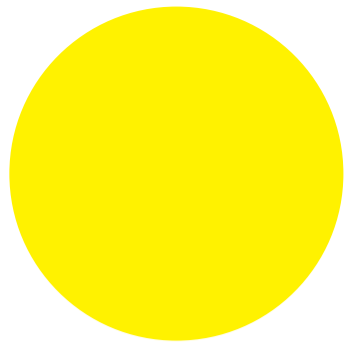


Hezbollah  
backs Lebanese  
efforts  
for cease-fire:  
**Sheikh Qassem**

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## **Araghchi:** Any Israeli attack on Iran to provoke stronger response

FM begins regional tour to denounce Israeli crimes

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**Araghchi's  
diplomatic  
efforts in Riyadh**



By **Mohammad Bayat**  
Mideast affairs  
expert

**OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE**

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi flew to Saudi Arabia yesterday for a regional tour of the region that will take him to other Arab countries, following his visits to Lebanon and Syria. The tour comes at a critical juncture, as the Middle East is grappling with a precarious and complex situation, with the threat of a large-scale war looming on the horizon, involving several countries. In fact, the region has not been this close to the brink of war in the past two decades.

In recent days, Araghchi has been emphasizing three key points of supporting the Resistance Front, countering a potential Israeli attack on Iran and striving to bring an end to the conflict and establish a cease-fire.

It appears that Araghchi's regional tour serves two main objectives. Firstly, he aims to keep regional Arab countries, particularly Sunni-dominated nations led by Saudi Arabia, at a distance from Israel or at least urge them to maintain their neutrality.

Secondly, he seeks to forge a coalition to boost chances for a cease-fire. To this end, the top diplomat intends to launch a campaign involving major Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan that have

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been calling for halting the conflict and establishing peace.



## Clay Tablets Repatriated From US on Display

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Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian looks at the ancient artifacts on display at the National Museum of Iran in Tehran, October 8, 2024, after a ceremony marking the return of 30 Achaemenid clay tablets from the US, part of a total of 1,100 artifacts repatriated to Iran. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

**October 7 and return to square one:  
Why has Israel fallen 70 years behind?**

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**Four water desalination units to open in Iran's south**

Four water desalination units to be launched in the southern provinces of Hormuzgan and Bushehr by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2024), announced the managing director of the Water and Waste Organization on Tuesday.

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**Future bright for Iranian taekwondo after double world junior crowns**

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**Ziaieih School's rich historical legacy in Yazd**

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**Iran's annual pistachio exports could hit \$2m:  
Association head**

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