

Pezeshkian: Presence of outsiders not to benefit regional countries

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said regional countries themselves are able to settle their security issues by cooperation, stressing that the presence of extra-regional states would not be in the interests of countries in the region.

"We believe that we can ensure security and address our problems through cooperation. This is the principled policy of Iran's government,"

Pezeshkian told Azerbaijan Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev in Tehran on Monday.

The Iranian president also reaffirmed Tehran's respect for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, saying that the sovereignty of no country should be disregarded.

He said that there is no need to construct walls along the borders in order to strengthen security and establish peace between the countries.

He laid emphasis on im-

proving the cooperation between the two countries, saying that Iran welcomes establishment of railway and highway routes between the two countries and wants the continuation and expansion of cooperation in the fields of energy and agriculture.

Pezeshkian also said that regional countries should pave the way for better relations between people in the region, stressing that Tehran welcomes all projects that further develop relations between the Is-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev in Tehran on October 14, 2024. president.ir

lamic countries.

The Azerbaijani official, for his part, said that Baku attaches great importance to relations with Iran. Shahin Mustafayev underlined that his country wants to further improve its relations with Iran in various fields including economy, culture and security.



Several Israeli soldiers killed, over 60 injured in Hezbollah drone attack



ously launching the drone swarm. The IDF's top spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the military would investigate how the drone got through without raising an alarm at the base.

Israeli forces on Monday launched a string of new air strikes on Lebanon, including one on the north of the country which killed at least 18 people, according to the Lebanese Red Cross.

Israel also faced new criticism over their alleged attacks on United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon.

Just before Sunday's attack, the Pentagon said it would deploy a high-altitude anti-missile system known as THAAD and its US military crew to Israel.

After almost a year of tit-for-tat exchanges between Hezbollah and Israeli forces over the Lebanon border, Israel on September 23 intensified its strikes against targets in Lebanon and sent ground troops across the frontier a week later.

Hezbollah resistance group in Lebanon said it battled Israeli troops on Monday in south Lebanon, and announced several new attacks on Israel's positions in the occupied territories after its deadliest strike since the start of the war.

A drone strike on an Israeli base near Binyamina, south of Haifa, killed four soldiers on Sunday night, while another 60 people were treated for mild to critical injuries, according to the Israeli volunteer rescue service United Hatzalah.

Hezbollah said the attack was in response to deadly Israeli strikes in Lebanon Thursday.

Hezbollah said it had targeted the Golani Brigade, an infantry unit of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) that has been deployed in

southern Lebanon. The claim of responsibility for the attack came shortly after the group released an audio message from its slain leader Hassan Nasrallah calling on its members to "defend your people, your family, your nation, your values and your dignity."

Israeli air defense systems tend to be very reliable, but on Sunday, there were no reports of alerts in the Binyamina area at the time of the attack, raising questions of how the drone was able to penetrate so deep into the occupied territories without being spotted. Hezbollah said it had fired dozens of rockets toward the northern Israeli towns of Nahariya and Acre to engage Israel's air defense systems, while simultane-

Iran, Oman urge swift end to Israeli genocide in Gaza, Lebanon Pezeshkian asks Europe to stop Israel's strikes



International Desk

The foreign ministers of Iran and Oman called for an immediate international intervention to end Israel's genocide and acts of aggression in Gaza and Lebanon.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Omani counterpart Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi made the joint call during a meeting in Muscat on Monday.

The meeting focused on the dangerous situation resulting from the Israeli regime's crimes against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and the possibility of an expansion of war in the region.

Araghchi and Busaidi called

for intensified diplomacy with regional and international players to protect peace and security and prevent the spread of insecurity and war.

The Iranian foreign minister separately met with Mohammed Abdulsalam, senior representative of Yemen's National Salvation Government.

Araghchi visited Oman as part of a diplomatic marathon to de-escalate the situation in the region as Israel pushes its deadly aggression against Lebanon and Gaza. He has so far traveled to Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq.

In talks with regional authorities, the top Iranian diplomat conveyed his

country's message that it is fully ready for a "war situation" while working for establishing peace in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

In recent weeks, Iranian officials have been in talks with many countries in an effort to stop Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and Lebanon.

Pezeshkian-Macron talks

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday in a phone call with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron asked him to work together with other European countries to force Israel to stop the genocide and crimes in Gaza and Lebanon.

Pezeshkian said Iran will support any proposal aimed at restoring "peace and security" to the region. The president emphasized that Iran favors a secure region free from war and conflict and welcomes any effort towards a cease-fire. He noted that Iran exercised restraint following the assassination of Hamas

leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran early in July, allowing Western diplomacy a chance to broker a truce agreement in Gaza.

"However, the Zionists have demonstrated a disregard for any humanitarian framework and international law by intensifying their bombings and crimes in Gaza and extending them to Lebanon," Pezeshkian said.

On October 1 and after nearly two months, Iran launched a missile barrage at Israeli military and intelligence bases in retaliation for the assassination of Haniyeh as well as Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and a senior IRGC commander, who were both killed in a massive Israeli airstrike on southern Beirut.

Macron, for his part, called on Pezeshkian to support a "general de-escalation" in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, his office said.

The two presidents also discussed ways to secure a cease-fire between Hezbollah and Israel.

Israel's Holocaust

Bombing targets Palestinian refugee camp

An Israeli airstrike on a hospital courtyard in the Gaza Strip early Monday killed at least four people and triggered a fire that swept through a tent camp for people displaced by the war, leaving more than two dozen with severe burns, according to Palestinian medics.

The Israeli military claimed it targeted fighters hiding out among civilians, without providing evidence. In recent months it has repeatedly struck crowded shelters and tent camps, AP reported.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah was already struggling to treat a large number of wounded from an earlier strike on a school-turned-shelter that killed at least 20 people when the early morning airstrike hit and fire engulfed many of the tents. Media footage showed chil-

dren among the wounded. A man sobbed as he carried a toddler with a bandaged head in his arms. Another small child with a bandaged leg was given a blood transfusion on the floor of the packed hospital.

Hospital records showed that four people were killed and 40 wounded. Twenty-five people were transferred to the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza after suffering severe burns, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital.

Israel is still carrying out near-daily strikes across the Gaza Strip more than a year into the war, and has been waging a major ground assault in the north.

Israel's offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Women and children make up more than half



the fatalities. Around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the war, often multiple times, and large areas of the coastal territory have been completely destroyed. Israel has ordered the entire remaining population of the northern third of Gaza, estimated at around 400,000 people, to evacuate to the south and has not allowed any food to enter the north since the start of the month. Hundreds of thousands of

people from the north heeded Israeli evacuation orders at the start of the war and have not been allowed to return. That has raised fears among Palestinians that Israel intends to implement a plan devised by former generals in which it would order all civilians out of northern Gaza and label anyone remaining there a combatant — a surrender-or-starve strategy that rights groups say would violate international law.

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