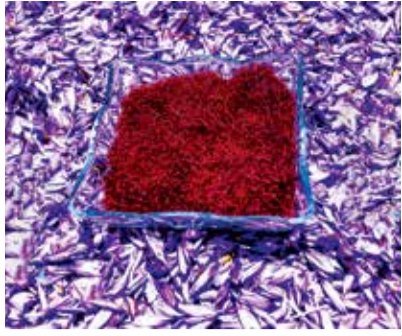
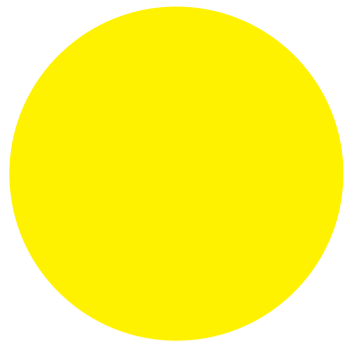


Iran's saffron should regain top global place: **Pezeshkian**



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Israel's Saturday morning aggression on Iran

A hollow attack aimed at swaying media narratives

By Navid Kamali
Senior foreign Affairs Analyst

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Early Saturday morning on October 26, reports emerged of a limited and largely ineffective Israeli missile strike targeting chosen locations within Iran. Analysts quickly noted that the operation, dubbed "Days of Response" by Israeli officials, was more of a spectacle than substance—a publicity stunt aimed at grabbing domestic attention and influencing media narratives.

Despite extensive coverage from Israeli and Western media, a closer examination reveals that this operation achieved little beyond diverting attention from Israel's internal issues, including widespread protests and ongoing military confrontations in Gaza and Lebanon. Indeed, Israel's primary goal seems to be preserving the image of Prime Minister Netanyahu's cabinet amid domestic and regional challenges.

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Cargo handling in Iranian ports tops 135m tons in seven months



Economy Desk

A total of 135,555,142 tons of products were loaded and unloaded in Iranian ports during the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March 20-October 21), according to figures by the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO).

The figures indicate 16 percent of growth compared to the corresponding period last year; IRNA reported on Saturday.

PMO figures also indicated that 46,075,476 tons of non-oil goods were handled in Iranian ports during the seven months to October 21, while the corresponding figure for oil products stood at 62,308,992 tons.

Iran has been seeking the development of its ports and transit infrastructure in recent years. As a result, the country has seen a significant growth in its transit trade and economic prosperity.

The strategic location of Iran, as it sits at the crossroads of key shipping routes connecting Europe and Asia, has made it an important transit hub for trade in the region. The government's efforts to improve its ports and transit facilities have played a crucial role in further enhancing Iran's position as a key player in the global trade network.

The development of ports in Iran has been a top priority for the government, with significant investments being made to modernize and expand key ports across the country. The aim is to enhance the efficiency and capacity of these ports, thereby making Iran an attractive option for transit and trade. In recent years, major ports such as Bandar Abbas, Bandar Imam Khomeini, and Chabahar have seen significant upgrades in terms of infrastructure and facilities. These ports are going to be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and machinery to handle shipments more efficiently. The capacity of these ports has also been expanded to accommodate larger vessels and greater volumes of cargo.

The upgrade of ports has not only benefited Iran's trade network but has also improved the country's economy. The increased efficiency and capacity of these ports have resulted in reduced transit times and costs for shipments passing through Iran. This has made Iran an attractive option for transit trade, with more companies and countries choosing to use Iranian ports as part of their trade routes.

Iran's saffron should regain top global place: *Pezeshkian*

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday stated that Iran's saffron should regain its top place in the global market.

In his note addressing a ceremony in the north-eastern city of Mashhad to mark the National Saffron Day, Masoud Pezeshkian added that, "In an era where the world is booming with scientific and economic advancements, and sustainable development is achieved in the framework of innovation and creativity, leveraging the country's unique potential and talents is crucial to enhance production and export growth."

"Saffron, the red gold, not only symbolizes the ancient heritage of our land, particularly in Khorasan, but it is also a valuable asset for strengthening the country's economy and increasing Iran's global honor," Pezeshkian said.

He emphasized that the promotion of the Iranian saffron brand in international markets will not only ensure the strategic value of the product, but also will provide opportunities for increasing the country's competitiveness in the global saffron market.

"We expect all players in the saffron value chain to collaborate and work together to increase the production, enhance processing capacity for export, and most importantly, as a pioneer, introduce Iranian saffron to international markets," the president said.

He went on to say that the government is tasked with supporting saffron producers, processors, and exporters by paving the ground for all players in the industry.

Gholamreza Miri, the vice chairman of Iran's National Saffron Council (NSC), said in July that the country is expected to produce 30-50% more saffron during the current Iranian year (to end in March 20, 2025).

Last year, between 300 and 350 tons of saffron were harvested from the cultivation fields across the country, he told Iran Daily, adding that some statistics released by the Agriculture Ministry show lower production figures, which seem not to include the production of all farms.

According to official statistics, 127,000 hectares of land are allocated to the cultivation of saffron in Iran, but the figures do not include all the lands under



saffron cultivation across the country.

"Usually, from each hectare of saffron fields, in the previous years, about 6 kilograms of saffron was harvested on average, but due to drought and lack of water, the figure has dropped to 3-3.5 kilograms," Miri said, expressing optimism about a growth in production for the current year, thanks to the high level of precipitation during March,

April and May.

Most of the country's saffron farms are located in provinces and areas with low rainfall, such as South Khorasan, and therefore droughts lead to insufficient water to reach the farms.

Talking on the price of the product, Miri said it depends on the quality of the harvested saffron, which is currently purchased from farmers from 65 million

tomans (\$1,000) to 105 million tomans (\$1,700) per kilo. "Iran is the largest producer and exporter of saffron in the world," he noted, adding that some countries including India, Afghanistan, and Spain are considered our rivals, but some setbacks, such as sanctions, have created some barriers for the export of Iranian saffron," he said, adding that as a result, some rivals take advantage

of the opportunity to export Iranian saffron under their own brands. Surveys show that every month at least 10 tons of saffron products are smuggled out of our country and sold in the world market, Miri criticized.

According to the Iranian official, saffron is used in various industries such as pharmaceutical industries, cosmetics and food industries.

Economic sustainability key policy of gov't: *VP*



Economy Desk

Iran's vice president said on Saturday that the government's principal economic policy includes economic sustainability and stabilizing key factors. Speaking at the meeting on coordination for forex and stock market management, Mohammadreza Aref added that the administration considers improving people's livelihoods and maintaining stability in markets as important principles, so all economic sectors must make efforts to help market stability, ISNA reported.

Strategies for improving forex market management and boosting the stock exchange were discussed in the meeting chaired by Aref and attended by the ministers of agriculture and economic affairs and finance, the head of the Stock Exchange Organization, the government's spokesperson as well as senior officials of the Central Bank of Iran.

Speaking at the meeting, Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati called for changes in macroeconomic and banking policies, such as interest rates, supervision of banks and issuance of government bonds.

Iran's oil facilities, power grid operating normally after Israeli raids

The Iranian oil Ministry announced that all activities are going on normally after the Zionist regime attacked a number of military sites across the country.

According to the investigations, none of the Iranian oil facilities were damaged and the activity in the industry is normal.

Meanwhile, CEO of Iran's Power Grid Management Company Mahdi Moqimzadeh told IRNA that Iran's electricity network is in normal condition and no special problems have been reported.

Necessary plans have been made in the Energy Ministry in case an accident occurs, he added.

Also, a spokesman of Tehran Oil Refinery rejected reports the facility was a target of attacks by the Israeli regime, saying that the refinery is operating normally.

There has been no attack on the facilities of this refinery and the production in the refining unit continues as usual, Shaker Khafaie said on Saturday.

He also rejected reports of attack on the facilities of Tehran Oil Refinery and announced the full readiness of Passive Defense for possible incidents.

Meanwhile, Managing Director of the Abadan Oil Refining Company Hakim Qayyem emphasized that all units and employees at the company continue operating normally.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Qayyem said operations at the refinery are normal and employees are busily engaged in their units as they do on a routine basis.

The CEO denied rumors on any missile attack on the Abadan Oil Refining Company, adding that there is no problem at the refinery.

Qayyem also explained that the sounds heard by citizens were the echoes of air defense fire, and no missile or shell was fired towards the refinery; therefore, all oil facilities at this refinery are intact and operational.

The spokesperson for the Civil Aviation



Organization of Iran said on Saturday the process of flights in the country has returned to normal since 9 a.m. local time on Saturday following a hiatus in the wake of the Israeli regime's act of aggression.

Jafar Yazarlou said all flights across Iran have continued to operate normally since 9 a.m. on October 26. He advised the passengers to stay in contact with the airlines and notice the messages from the aviation companies. The spokesman also called on the travelers to get the latest

information about the departure time before going to the airports. The public relations office of the Iranian air defense command issued on Saturday a statement announcing that Israeli airstrikes against military centers in Tehran, the western province of Ilam, and the southwestern province of Khuzestan were intercepted and countered successfully. The Islamic Republic's air defense force confirmed the airstrikes, stressing that they were part of Israel's escalating

measures and caused "limited damage."

The aggression occurred despite Iran's warnings against Israel's adventurous actions, the statement said.

The statement also urged people to remain calm, maintain solidarity, and rely only on news from state media. It called on the nation to ignore enemy media rumors. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had said earlier this month during a tour of Middle East states that Iran was not seeking escalation.

Located in the ancient city of Persepolis in Marvdasht, Fars Province, the Apadana Palace stands as a remarkable testament to the grandeur of the Achaemenid Empire. This architectural masterpiece, dating back to the 6th century BCE, offers a fascinating journey through history and unique insights into the artistic and cultural achievements of ancient Persia.

The term 'Apadana' is derived from Old Persian and refers to a type of monumental audience hall or palace. Within the context of the Achaemenid Empire, an Apadana served as a grand reception hall where the king could receive nobles, officials, and foreign dignitaries. These structures were often adorned with elaborate artworks and architectural features that symbolized the wealth and power of the empire. The term is closely associated with the opulence and grandeur of ancient Persian architecture and royal customs, destinationiran.com wrote.

As you approach Apadana Palace, the sheer scale and intricate design immediately captivate visitors. The grand staircase, adorned with detailed reliefs depicting scenes from ancient Persian life and mythology, leads to the imposing entrance. The colossal gate and impressive façade create a monumental and awe-inspiring sight.

The grand staircase is particularly notable for its intricate reliefs, showcasing tribute-bearing representatives from various nations of the Achaemenid Empire. These artworks highlight the empire's diversity and dominance, celebrating the different cultures and peoples within the Achaemenid realm. The staircase itself is a marvel of engineering, designed to accommodate large processions and ceremonies.

Inside, the palace continues to amaze. The grand hall, with its towering columns and elaborately decorated capitals, exudes regal splendor. The walls feature mesmerizing carvings and bas-reliefs that narrate stories of conquests, royal ceremonies, and the diverse peoples of the Achaemenid Empire. Every inch of the palace showcases the artistic and architectural prowess of its creators.

The grand hall, known as the Apadana Hall, was used for official audiences and ceremonies, accommodating thousands of people and reflecting the power and wealth of the Achaemenid kings. Each of the 24-meter-tall columns is topped with capitals depicting twin-headed bulls, lions, or eagles—symbols of strength and protection. These capitals are masterpieces of Achaemenid art, combining elements of Persian, Median, and Mesopotamian styles.

The walls of the grand hall are adorned with bas-reliefs depicting various scenes from the empire's life, including royal processions, battles, and religious rituals. One of the most famous reliefs illustrates Darius the Great seated on his throne, receiving tribute from representatives of subject nations—a powerful symbol of the unity and diversity of the Achaemenid Empire.

Insights into Apadana Palace of Persepolis



Architectural features

The Apadana Palace is a large hypostyle hall, meaning its roof is supported by columns. Originally consisting of 72 columns, only 13 still stand today, offering a glimpse into the palace's former glory. These columns are topped with elaborately carved capitals depicting twin-headed bulls, lions, or eagles, each a symbol of strength and protection. The palace walls, constructed of clay with a brick façade, feature inner walls covered in glazed brick reliefs that showcase soldiers, mythical creatures, and floral motifs. The monumental stairways on the north and east sides are adorned with beautifully executed reliefs depicting scenes from the New Year's festival and processions of representatives from 23 subject nations of the Achaemenid Empire. The architectural design of the Apadana Palace reflects the Achaemenid emphasis on grandeur and symmetry. The layout is based on a grid pattern, with the grand hall at the center and smaller rooms and courtyards arranged around it. This design facilitated efficient movement during ceremonies and allowed for effective control of the space.

Historical significance

Beyond its architectural beauty, Apadana Palace serves as a living history book, with intricate

carvings and inscriptions offering invaluable insights into the customs, traditions, and beliefs of ancient Persia. Visitors can explore the religious practices, governance, and daily life of the Achaemenid Empire, gaining a deeper understanding of this rich and culturally diverse civilization.

The inscriptions found at the Apadana Palace provide a wealth of information about the Achaemenid Empire. Written in Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian, these inscriptions record the achievements of the kings, the extent of their empire, and their beliefs. One notable inscription lists the territories under Darius the Great's control. The reliefs and inscriptions also illuminate the administrative structure of the Achaemenid Empire, depicting the various officials and dignitaries who served the king, as well as the diverse ethnic groups that made up the empire. This diversity is a testament to the Achaemenid policy of tolerance and inclusion, which enabled them to govern a vast and multicultural realm.

Archaeological expeditions

The history of archaeological expeditions at Apadana Palace is as fascinating as the site itself. The first significant excavation was conducted by German archaeologist Ernst Herzfeld between 1931 and

1934. Herzfeld's work was instrumental in uncovering the layout and intricate details of the palace, assisted by Friedrich Krefter and later Erich Schmidt, who meticulously documented their findings.

During these early excavations, Herzfeld and his team discovered numerous artifacts, including fragments of the palace's decorative elements and inscriptions. These findings provided crucial insights into the construction techniques and artistic styles of the Achaemenid period.

In the 1970s, Iranian archaeologists conducted further excavations focused on preserving and restoring the site, stabilizing the remaining columns and protecting the intricate reliefs from erosion. Their efforts have been essential in ensuring that Apadana Palace remains a valuable resource for understanding the Achaemenid Empire.

One of the most significant discoveries from these excavations was the uncovering of foundation tablets belonging to Darius the Great. Made of gold and silver, these tablets were buried at the corners of the palace and inscribed with texts dedicating the building to the god Ahura Mazda. Their discovery confirmed the significance of the palace and provided valuable information about the construction techniques used by the Achaemenids.



Nature's gift at Dimeh Spring



● eligash.com

Dimeh Spring is a significant source feeding the Zayanderud River, located near Dimeh village in the Kuhrang region of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province. To reach this natural wonder, visitors must travel approximately ten kilometers from the town of Chelgerd. Notably, Dimeh Spring is situated about 120 kilometers from the center of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.

This valuable spring is registered on Iran's National Heritage List. The water from Dimeh Spring is rich in minerals and salts, making it beneficial for health; it is known to strengthen teeth and aid in the treat-

ment of kidney stones. The mineral water is bottled and distributed to cities across Iran and even some international markets. Dimeh Spring is also located near the picturesque Lalehay Vajgoon (Overturned Tulips) Plain.

During the spring, visitors can not only enjoy the mineral water but also take in the breathtaking landscapes. As tourism in the area has increased, several facilities have been established, including restrooms, well-maintained roads, gazebos, and resting areas. Spending time in the shade of trees amidst Dimeh's natural environment can be a memorable experi-

ence for travelers. Additionally, visitors can savor local delicacies such as *kabab Bakhtiari* and *kardi aash*, along with mountain herbs and dairy products as popular souvenirs.

It's worth noting that the Kuhrang and the lands surrounding Dimeh are home to nomadic tribes, offering a glimpse into their traditional lifestyles. The region is also rich in wildlife, with species such as wolves, foxes, jackals, hyenas, and various birds, including partridges. The vegetation in Dimeh includes oaks, Montpellier maples, and other desert plants, adding to the area's natural beauty.

Trump's disturbing plans

BELIEVE HIM

ANALYSIS Donald Trump has described at length the dangerous and disturbing actions he says he will take if he wins the presidency.

His rallies offer a steady stream of such promises and threats — things like prosecuting political opponents and using the military against US citizens. These statements are so outrageous and outlandish, so openly in conflict with the norms and values of American democracy that many find them hard to regard as anything but empty bluster.

We have two words for American voters: Believe him.

The record shows that Mr. Trump often pursues his stated goals, regardless of how plainly they lack legal or moral grounding. The record further shows that many of his most reckless efforts in his first administration were stymied only because of others in his administration who blocked, delayed, or watered down his aims to ensure that he could not put himself above the law or the country. Mr. Trump has learned from that experience to surround himself with supplicants who would instead obey his wishes and bring his words and ideas to life even if they contradict facts, the public interest, or the Constitution.

For this reason, Americans would be wise to see this language as a genuine threat, not simply Mr. Trump on a tangent. We should take the painful step of imagining America were his plans and promises to come to pass, to imagine the impacts to our culture, to our economy, to our security, to our shared commitment to the rule of law.

The promises Mr. Trump made during his first presidential campaign, in 2016, turned out to be a pretty good road map of the policies and priorities he pursued as president. Today, he says he is ready to deploy the military against his political opponents. He says that he will instruct the Justice Department to prosecute critics. He says that he will mobilize the National Guard to deport immigrants, that he is ready to blow Iranian cities to smithereens, that he will allow vigilante violence as a solution to crime in America. Americans should believe him.

A silhouette of Donald Trump, former president of the United States, is seen making a speech while wearing a 'Make America Great Again' hat.

● NYT



Donald Trump appears in court for his hush money trial at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City on May 30, 2024. The former president was convicted of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in the first of his criminal cases to go to trial.

● DAVE SANDERS/NYT

Trump says he will use Justice Department to punish people he doesn't like. Believe him.

In his own words

"Wouldn't it be terrible to throw the president's wife and the former secretary of state, think of it, the former secretary of state, but the president's wife, into jail? Wouldn't that be a terrible thing? But they want to do it. It's a terrible, terrible path that they're leading us to. And it's very possible that it's going to have to happen to them."

After his conviction on 34 felony charges in New York in May, Mr. Trump, in an interview with Newsmax, escalated his threats to use the Justice Department to go after his political enemies.

Why you should believe him

As president, Mr. Trump repeatedly sought to use the power of govern-

ment to punish his political opponents.

He was open about trying to get other countries to do his bidding — his attempt to get Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden led to his first impeachment in 2019. Behind the scenes, he was relentless in trying to get his attorneys general and the IRS to investigate people he thought had wronged him, including Hillary Clinton, his former rival; John Kerry, a former secretary of state; his former FBI director, James Comey; and Andrew McCabe, Mr. Comey's deputy. None of these efforts led to any charges being filed, but if he is re-elected, Mr. Trump will continue trying to use the Justice Department to harass his enemies.

After the Watergate scandal in the 1970s, the Justice Department established policies aimed at insulating its decision-making from White House pressure, and during Mr. Trump's presidency, many senior Justice officials honored that policy and resisted his demands. But rules can be rewritten, and Mr. Trump has made clear that he intends to pick officials who will take orders from the Oval Office. According to NPR, during the current campaign, Mr. Trump has made more than 100 specific threats "to investigate, prosecute, jail, or otherwise punish" people he regards as enemies, including Mr. Biden, Kamala Harris, members of Congress, judges, and prosecutors.

Trump says he will round up, deport millions of immigrants. Believe him.

In his own words

"With your vote, we will seal the border, stop the invasion, and launch the largest deportation effort in American history."

Standing on a dirt road along the Mexican border in Arizona in August, Mr. Trump offered a version of the promise that has become the signature of his third presidential campaign.

Why you should believe him

Mr. Trump has repeatedly said that he would move quickly to deport millions of people who are living in the United States without legal permission. A key aide, Stephen Miller, said last year that militarized detention camps — "large-scale staging grounds" near the border — would be constructed. Mr. Trump would have broad authority to pursue such a plan, though he'd need Congress to provide a lot of money. The estimat-

ed cost of mass deportations runs into the tens of billions of dollars. Such a campaign would tear apart families, disrupt communities, and create a host of economic problems. Mr. Trump similarly promised mass deportations during his 2016 presidential campaign, but over the following four years, his administration deported only about 326,000 people; he was stopped from executing a much broader sweep by a lack of funding, as well as legal challenges and resistance from federal, state, and local officials. Mr. Trump's advisers on immigration policy say that they have learned from that experience and that this time they will be ready to mobilize the government's resources and to withstand legal challenges. One idea is to invoke the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, a law that could be used to deport legal immigrants, too.



Trump supporters hold banners calling to remove huge numbers of migrants, a fixture at Trump campaign events.

● GETTYIMAGES

Trump says he will deploy American military against US citizens. Believe him.



In his own words

"I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within. Not even the people that have come in and destroying our country — by the way, totally destroying our country, the towns, the villages, they're being inundated — but I don't think they're the problem in terms of Election Day. I think the bigger problem are the people from within. We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they're the — and it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."

In a Fox News interview on October 13, Mr. Trump said he was primarily concerned about election interference by his domestic political opponents rather than foreign nationals.

Why you should believe him

Mr. Trump has shown his willingness to target people who oppose him and to subject or expose them to violence to suit his ends. After refusing to accept the results of the 2020 election, he incited rioters to sack the Capitol, and several people died as a result. Four years later, he remains insistent that elections are legitimate only if he wins. His power to cause problems after voting ends on November 5 is more limited than it was the last time because he is not in power. But he could still try to foment violence — January 6 cannot be forgotten. His threats to deploy the military against his political opponents, merely for being his political opponents, are a sobering reminder of what kind of president he would be. In June 2020, Mr. Trump threatened to send active-duty military personnel into

A military vehicle passes behind military personnel as protesters rally against the death of George Floyd near the White House in Washington, DC, June 3, 2020.

● REUTERS

the streets of American cities to confront Black Lives Matter protesters. He wanted the soldiers to shoot them in the legs, according to his defense secretary, Mark Esper, who then took the unusual step of publicly rebuffing the president. Mr. Trump subsequently fired Mr. Esper, and the former president has made clear that if he is re-elected, he intends to pick officials who will do what he says. He would continue trying to blur the important boundary that has long kept the American military out of domestic politics, and he is implying that opposing him politically is, in his view, tantamount to treason.

Trump says he will allow violent vigilantism to end crime. Believe him.

In his own words

“One rough hour — and I mean real rough. The word will get out, and it will end immediately.” Addressing what he has described as a plague of unchecked property crime in American cities, Mr. Trump, at a rally in September in Erie, Pa., suggested a brief burst of police violence as a corrective.

Why you should believe him

Mr. Trump has a long history of encouraging violence against those he accuses of crimes, a category that stretches from thieves to legal protesters, public officials,

and journalists. He told people at his rallies to “knock the crap out of” protesters. Former officials say that Mr. Trump wanted the military to shoot Black Lives Matter protesters. On January 6, 2021, he told his supporters to “fight like hell” to prevent Congress from confirming Mr. Biden’s victory. And during the current campaign, he has repeatedly returned to the idea that the government should kill shoplifters. Last October, he called it a “simple” solution to retail theft. Mr. Trump’s campaign insisted

that his call for a “rough hour” shouldn’t be taken literally or seriously. But there’s good reason to: The violent language frequently deployed by Mr. Trump, and by his acolytes, is contributing to an environment in which acts of political violence, especially by right-wing extremists, are increasingly common.

A mob of supporters of then-US president Donald Trump climb through a window they broke as they storm the US Capitol Building in Washington on January 6, 2021. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS



Trump says he will order military to strike foreign civilian targets if US is attacked. Believe him.



Former US president Donald Trump speaks at a hangar rally at Al Asad Airbase in Iraq on December 26, 2018, where he defended his decision to withdraw US forces from Syria. AP

In his own words

“If I were the president, I would inform the threatening country, in this case, Iran, that if you do anything to harm this person, we are going to blow your largest cities, and the country itself, to smithereens.”

At an event in North Carolina in September, Mr. Trump said the Biden administration has not done enough to protect him from assassination attempts, including a possible Iranian plot.

Why you should believe him

A president has broad powers to authorize military action against a foreign country, and the United States has often responded to acts of state-sponsored terrorism with military force. If Iran committed an act of terrorism or tried to harm an American official, Mr. Trump would have the authority to launch a strike. In similar situations, presidents have retaliated against military and intelligence targets. What Mr. Trump is describing — blowing up cities — would go far beyond

those boundaries. During the closing days of Mr. Trump’s presidency, Gen. Mark Milley, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reportedly became so concerned about the possibility of an illegal, unauthorized, or accidental military strike that he instructed the Joint Chiefs to ensure that no unlawful orders were carried out and that no actions were taken without calling him first. When John Kelly was serving as Mr. Trump’s secretary of homeland security and James Mattis was serving as secretary of defense, The Associated Press reported that the two men made a private agreement not to leave the country at the same time, so that one of them would be on hand to restrain the president. Last month, more than 700 former and current national security officials released a letter describing Mr. Trump as unfit for the presidency because he is vengeful and impulsive. If Mr. Trump’s own top advisers did not trust him to use force with prudence and restraint, can the American public?

Trump says he will punish blue states by withholding disaster relief. Believe him.

In his own words

“We’re going to take care of our farmers. We’re going to take care of your water situation. And we’ll force it down his throat. And we’ll say: Gavin, if you don’t do it, we’re not giving you any of that fire money that we sent you all the time for all the forest fires that you have.”

At a rally in the Coachella Valley in October, Mr. Trump suggested that he would withhold emergency aid for California after wildfires unless the state’s Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, complied with his demands for changes in unrelated agricultural policies.

Why you should believe him

As president, Mr. Trump repeatedly sought to prevent the distribution of emergency aid to places run by Democrats. His administration delayed more than \$20 billion in emergency aid for Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria struck the island in 2017, but it expedited aid for the Florida Panhandle af-

ter Hurricane Michael struck the following year. “They love me in the Panhandle,” Mr. Trump said, according to the autobiography of Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida. “I must have won 90 percent of the vote out there. Huge crowds. What do they need?” After wildfires swept California in 2018, the president initially declined to approve emergency aid. Mark Harvey, a senior official on his National Security Council, told Politico that the funding was approved only after aides presented Mr. Trump with data showing that there were more Trump supporters in Orange County, Calif., than in the entire state of Iowa. During the Covid pandemic, Mr. Trump urged Congress to require blue states to adopt his policy priorities, including the elimination of sanctuary cities and payroll taxation, to be eligible to receive emergency aid. The president of the United States is supposed to act in the interests of all Americans. That is a responsibility Mr. Trump has never taken seriously.



Then-US president Donald Trump (c) chats with a survivor of Hurricane Michael at a distribution center in Lynn Haven in the red state of Florida on October 15, 2018. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS



“I think the bigger problem are the people from within. We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they’re the — and it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can’t let that happen.” — Donald Trump



Then-US president Donald Trump (c) among other leaders at the NATO summit in the UK in 2019. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

Trump says he will abandon US allies. Believe him.

In his own words

“No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want. You got to pay. You got to pay your bills.” At a rally in South Carolina in February, Mr. Trump said “one of the presidents of a big country” asked him whether the United States would still defend that country if it was invaded by Russia, even if it doesn’t “pay”.

Why you should believe him

As president, Mr. Trump instructed aides in 2018 to prepare to withdraw the United States from NATO, though he was dissuaded

from following through, in part by promises from European nations to increase military spending. That spending has increased: Two-thirds of NATO’s 32 members are now meeting the pact’s defense spending guidelines. But Mr. Trump remains a skeptic. While NATO was created in 1949 to bind Western democracies together and as a counterweight to the power of the Soviet Union and its allies, Mr. Trump shows no appreciation for either vital national interest. He has said that he does not see the point of the alliance or the purpose in

expending American resources to protect other nations. Last year, Congress passed a law that expressly prohibits the president from withdrawing the United States from NATO without lawmakers’ authorization. But Mr. Trump could act to undermine the alliance even without withdrawing formally, for example, by reducing the number of troops dedicated to NATO, an approach that some experts describe as quiet quitting.

The full article first appeared on The New York Times.

Iranians eyeing glory in inaugural Karate World Cup



Sports Desk

Iranian kumite and kata teams will be looking to enjoy a successful campaign at the inaugural Karate World Cup – starting November 22 in Pamplona, Spain.

Fans in the country could be treated to some thrilling bouts when the Iranians are in action against kumite teams from Italy, Australia, Croatia, and North Macedonia in Group A of the men's draw.

Croatia won the men's kumite team bronze in last year's World Championships – the flagship international event of the sport – while the Italians grabbed the gold medal of category in the 2022 edition.

"All teams in the group will vie for success in the event. Iran has a glorious history in the sport and will enter the competition as a top contender," said Iranian head coach Shahram Heravi, whose team is in a training camp in Tabriz, northwest Iran.

"Italy and Croatia are surely in a different level, especially the Italians, who are in top form after winning the European gold [in May]. The coaching staff and I are analyzing the other three teams. We will have the right plan and tactics against each opponent," added the Iranian coach.

Asked about his side's toughest opponent in Pamplona, Heravi said: "I don't really care who we are going to face

in the competition as we will have to overcome any team toward the title." Egypt, Brazil, Spain, Japan, and Turkey are in Group B, with France, the United States, Kosovo, Kazakhstan, and Greece in Group C.

Jordan, Tunisia, Ukraine, Slovakia, and Colombia will square off in Group D. The top two from each group will progress to the quarterfinals.

Heravi said his men will take part in a warmup tournament in Russia before he and his staff announce the final lineup for the World Cup.

Bahman Asgari, Mahdi A'ashouri, Mahdi Khodabakhshi, Mahmoud Ne'mati, Mahdi Ganjzadeh, Mahdi Shahgol, Alireza Heidari, Saleh Abazari, and Morteza Ne'mati are joined by Erfan Asgaripour and Vahab Shahmir from the Iranian under-23 and juniors' teams in the training camp.

Each male team will be represented by seven to eight karatekas in the World Cup.

Meanwhile, the Iranian four-man squad – comprising Sahand Eslami, Yahya Pisheshari, Sadra Shirazi, and Mahdi Shahin – are drawn in Group D of the kata contests alongside Japan, South Africa, Poland, and Montenegro. In the women's draw, the Iranian quadruple of Maria Hosseinia, Mahsa Afsaneh, Parisa Rahmani, and Kowsar Salehi is pitted against Spain, Colombia, Switzerland, and Czechia in Group C.

Chegini wins judo bronze, gets Iran off the mark in Gymnasiade

Sports Desk

Iranian judoka Amirhossein Chegini won a first medal for the country in the 2024 Gymnasiade – International School Sports Games – in Bahrain.

Representing Iran in the boys' -50kg contests, Chegini began his campaign with a victory over an Indian opponent but fell to a defeat against the Azerbaijani athlete before beating the Kuwaiti judoka for a consolation bronze.

Hossein Ja'fari was the other Iranian schoolboy in action in Friday's judo competitions, missing out on the -60kg podium after a loss to the Ukrainian opponent in the third-place bout.

Mohammad Qorbani also finished his campaign empty-handed following a first-round defeat against a judoka from Azerbaijan in the -66kg weight class.

Iran is represented by 120 contestants in eight sporting events across the 10 days of action the Persian Gulf kingdom.

Participated by athletes from 71 countries, the 19th edition of the International School Sport Federation's flagship event features 26 sports, including four para sports.



● IRNA



● IRISF

Iranian duo wins second Asian diving medal

Sports Desk

The Iranian pair of Sam Vajer and Kiumars Aslani grabbed a second bronze medal at the Asian Diving Championship in Jiangmen, China.

A winner of two medals in March's Asian Age Group Aquatics Championships, the duo finished third behind gold winner China and North Korea in the men's 10m synchronized platform final.

They had also teamed up for a third-spot finish in the 3m springboard synchro event earlier in the competition.

Vajer, who was named the best diver of the 15-17 age class in March's event in the Philippines, made history by grabbing a first medal for the country in the Asian diving meet, taking the bronze in the 1m springboard final.

Bayern to learn from heavy Barca loss and victories will come, Kompany says

REUTERS – Bayern Munich will learn from their 4-1 Champions League defeat to Barcelona but the German team's belief in a successful season is intact, coach Vincent Kompany said on Saturday ahead of today's league game against VfL Bochum.

The Bavarians conceded three goals in the first half on Wednesday as they lost the second consecutive match in the Champions League following their 1-0 defeat to Aston Villa earlier in October.

They are however undefeated in the Bundesliga and in top spot on 17 points, ahead of RB Leipzig on goal difference.

"There are games where it is clear what happened. But that was a game with a lot of moments and not everything went wrong," Kompany, in his first season in charge, told a press conference.

"There were also good moments which we did not use or were not too concentrated."

Kompany said his team could have been more effective in the first half and refused to blame his defence for the four goals.

Bayern are desperate to bounce back this season after failing to win any silverware last season, with Bayer Leverkusen winning the domestic league and Cup double.

"We conceded four goals. But I would not just talk about that (defence). It's too easy. The responsibility lies with the entire team," Kompany said.

"We have the quality and players. I understand we lost and we have to accept the criticism. But I do not want to lose sight of what the boys can achieve if they take the next steps.

"The basis is that the team works and that it learns from such moments," he continued. "We are not surprised that not all was perfect. It is normal. After all we did not win a title last season."



● GETTY IMAGES

Israeli aggression 'successfully' repelled

Iran says has 'right and duty' to defend itself

Four service members fall in overnight attacks

International Desk

Iran said its air defense systems successfully intercepted and thwarted Israel's Saturday attacks on the country, which targeted positions in Tehran, Khuzestan and Ilam provinces and caused "limited damage" in some locations.

"Despite the previous warnings of the officials of the Islamic Republic to the criminal and illegal Zionist regime to avoid any adventurous action, this fake regime attacked parts of military centers in the provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan and Ilam this morning in a tension-causing action," the air defense force said in a statement on Saturday morning.

Footage broadcast by local media showed air defenses continuously firing at apparently incoming projectiles in central Tehran, without saying which sites were coming under attack.

Two members of the Iran's Army were killed in the Israel's pre-dawn aggression which caused loud explosions in Tehran around 2:15 a.m. local time.

Iranian state television said the blasts were caused by the "activation of the air defense system" in response to the Israeli attack.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's Army offered in sacrifice two of its soldiers last night while confronting the projectiles of the criminal Zionist regime in order to safeguard the security of Iran and prevent harm to the Iranian nation and interests," the Army said in a statement on Saturday.

Military officers killed

Media reports identified the two martyred Army forces as Major Hamzeh Jahandideh and Sergeant Mohammad-Mehdi Shahrokhifar.

Later in the day, the number of military fatalities rose to four, with Sajad Mansouri and Mehdi Naqavi having been added to the martyred individuals.

The air defense force said the strikes targeted parts of military sites in the capital Tehran as well as the western and southwestern provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan. The attacks caused "limited damage" in some locations and the dimensions of the incident are under investigation, it added.

On Saturday morning, the Iranian public returned to their routines and daily life continued smoothly across the country.

Flights resumed

Iran's Civil Aviation Organization announced that flights had resumed after a short interruption and footage from Mehrabad Airport in western Tehran showed operations run-

ning normally, with passengers moving through as usual.

The Tehran Oil Refining Company also dismissed rumors of an Israeli attack on its facilities.

The Israeli army said it conducted what it called "precise strikes on military targets in Iran" on Saturday.

The Israeli military claimed it simultaneously struck missile manufacturing facilities, surface-to-air missile arrays and other "aerial capabilities".

It said later that the air attack had "concluded" its response to Iran's October 1 missile attack, saying its warplanes had returned safely and the mission was "fulfilled".

Right to defend

Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the Israeli act of aggression and said Iran has the "right and the duty to defend itself", citing the UN Charter.



The ministry called the attack a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter, especially the principle that prohibits threats or use of force against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of countries.

The ministry emphasized that Tehran will utilize all material and spiritual

capabilities of the Iranian nation to defend its security and vital interests, and firmly stand by its duties towards regional peace and security.

Saturday's attacks were widely expected as a retaliation to a missile barrage launched by Iran on October 1 in which an estimated 180 ballistic missiles

were fired towards Tel Aviv and Israel's military bases. Tehran said the unprecedented salvo was carried out in response to the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's leader, in the Iranian capital in July and the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut.

Terrorists kill 10 Iranian border guards in southeast

National Desk

At least 10 Iranian border guards were killed in a "terrorist attack" in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan on Saturday. They were killed during an ambush on two police vehicles in the province's Taftan county.

The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group, with headquarters in Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Interior Minister Eskandar Mo'meni ordered a team of police commanders and ministry officials to investigate the circumstances surrounding the terrorist attack.

Sistan and Baluchestan borders Pakistan and Afghanistan and is home to a large



number of the Baluch community, an ethnic group spread between Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The province has experienced recurring clashes between Iranian security forces and terrorists and drug traffickers.

Saturday's attack was one of the deadliest attacks in the area in recent months.

In early October, at least six people, including police officers, were killed in the southeastern province in two separate attacks.

The terrorist group Jaish al-Adl claimed responsibility for the two attacks in a message on Telegram.

World reacts to Israeli escalation

Many countries across the world, especially regional ones, condemned Israel's Saturday attacks on Iran while many others called for restraint and de-escalation as the tensions caused by Israel's aggressions against Gaza and Lebanon is dragging more countries into the conflict in the West Asia region.

Iran's Arab neighbors condemned the aggression as a violation of Iran's sovereignty.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry in a statement slammed the attack as a "violation of its sovereignty" and international law, urging all parties to exercise maximum restraint.

Riyadh called on the international community to take action towards de-escalation and ending conflicts in the region.

Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the aggression as a blatant violation of Iran's sovereignty and a clear breach of international law.

Qatar expressed deep concern over Israel's continued

escalation and its repercussions on security and stability in the region.

In a statement, the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of exercising maximum restraint and wisdom to avoid risks and the expansion of the conflict.

Iraq denounced global inaction against Israel's expansion of conflict in West Asia.

"The occupying Zionist entity continues its aggressive policies and widening the conflict in the region through blatant attacks that it carries out with impunity," including against Iranian targets, Government spokesman Basim Alawadi said in a statement denouncing "the international community's silence" on Israeli actions.

Kuwait's Foreign Ministry also expressed condemnation and accused Israel of "endangering the security of the region."

Other Arab states in the region also condemned the Israel's aggression.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry slammed the aggression, expressing its solidarity and support for Iran.

Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sufyan Qudah called on the international community to "assume its responsibilities and take immediate measures to impose a halt to the Israeli aggression on Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon as a first step towards reducing the escalation."

Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain and Lebanon also condemned the attack.

Turkey also condemned Israel's aggression against Iran in the "strongest terms."

"Israel, which is committing genocide in Gaza, preparing to annex the West Bank, and killing civilians every day in Lebanon, with this attack has now brought our region to the brink of a wider war," said the Turkish Foreign Ministry in a statement.

"It is now clear that putting an end to Israeli terror in the region has become a historic task to ensure international security and peace," it added.

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, which is at war with Israel in Gaza, also blasted Israel. "We condemn in the strongest terms the Zionist aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the targeting of military sites in several provinces," the movement said in a statement, calling the move "a blatant violation of Iranian sovereignty and an escalation that threatens the security of the region."

"Explosive escalation" Russia warned of an "explosive escalation" in the region after the Israeli airstrikes.

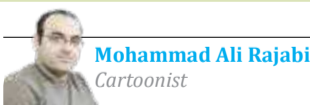
"We urge all parties involved to exercise restraint, stop the violence, and prevent events from developing into a catastrophic scenario," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

The US and Britain called for "de-escalation." The United States urged Iran to stop attacking Israel and break the cycle of violence "without further escalation."

Washington defended the regime's attacks, saying that Israel's "response was an exercise in self-defense." British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also called for "de-escalation" and said Iran should not respond to Israel's strikes.

The European Union on Saturday called for all parties to exercise utmost restraint to avoid an "uncontrollable escalation" in the Middle East, after Israel carried out deadly air strikes in Iran.

"End cycle of violence" Malaysia's Foreign Ministry called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to the cycle of violence. It said Israel's continuous acts with impunity have severely affected and will continue to affect the security and future stability of West Asia, bringing the region closer to the brink of a wider conflict. Pakistan also strongly condemned the aggression, saying, "Israel bears full responsibility for the current cycle of escalation and expansion of the conflict."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Call for Tender 1st Announcement for Supply of Closed Drain Pump Packages Related to the Belal Gas Field Development Project, Tender No. 974240

Second Announcement

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to purchase the Tender of Closed Drain Pump Packages Related to the Belal Gas Field Development Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 21 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Tel: +9821-82842740 under sign for any inquiries and more information.



Mastaneh Mohajer wins Best Editor Award at Turkish Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Mastaneh Mohajer, the editor and producer of the film 'While Time Follows', won the Best Editing Award for the film at the Boğaziçi Film Festival in Turkey. The film, directed by Selim Öncü, was screened at the festival's closing ceremony on October 25, IRNA reported. Öncü accepted the award on behalf of Mohajer, who was unable to attend the ceremony due to illness. He praised Mohajer's work, saying, "Mastaneh Mo-

hajer was supposed to be here tonight, but unfortunately, she couldn't make it due to her health. However, I'm happy to report that she's doing well. I had a great collaboration with her, and she's a valuable filmmaker. I also recently traveled to Iran, and I'd like to thank the jury on her behalf. She'll be thrilled to receive this award." 'While Time Follows' was screened at the Iranian film festival, Masterclass of Cinema, last week, and is set to be released internationally. The film, pro-

duced by Mohajer, was completed in Turkey and features Turkish actors, including Özge Gürel. Öncü, the film's director, is also the founder and artistic director of the Akbank Short Film Festival, which he co-organized with Mohajer. Other crew members of 'While Time Follows' include Cevahir Şahin (cinematographer), Ajm Öncü (makeup designer), Mohammad Reza Loghmani (production manager), and White Dreams Pictures (international distributor). Last year, Mohajer's film 'Hedgehog'

was released to great acclaim. The Bosphorus Film Festival aims to promote the development of film ethics, aesthetics, and technical aspects, as well as provide support to young producers and directors. The festival also aims to promote Turkish cinema both domestically and internationally. The 12th Boğaziçi Film Festival took place in Istanbul from October 18 to 25.



Tehran metro hosts Japan culture photo exhibition

Arts & Culture Desk

A photo exhibition showcasing Japan's culture was launched on October 26 at the Jihad Square metro station in Tehran, with the attendance of Japan's ambassador to Iran, Tamaki Tsukada. According to Reza Hashemi, acting deputy of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company (TUSROC), the exhibition is a great opportunity to promote cultural exchange between Iran and Japan, Mehr News Agency reported.



"We are delighted to host this exhibition at one of our most iconic stations, which is a symbol of traditional Iranian architecture," he said. "With millions of passengers passing through our metro system daily, we have a unique chance to introduce them to the rich culture of Japan." Hashemi added that the exhibition features stunning photos of Japanese culture and customs, and that Japan is a pioneer in public transportation, with Tokyo's metro system being one

of the most advanced in the world. He expressed hope that the exhibition would lead to cooperation between the Tehran and Tokyo metro systems, allowing them to learn from each other's experiences. Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, deputy of international affairs at Tehran Municipality, said that the exhibition is

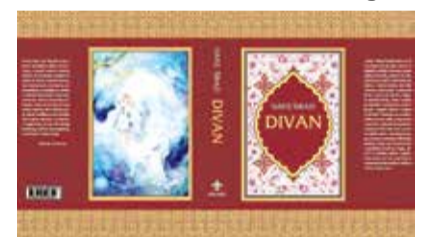
a chance for Tehran citizens to get to know Japan better. He announced that a similar exhibition will be held at Tajrish Square station, and expressed hope that a similar exhibition on Iranian culture would be held in Japan soon. Japanese envoy thanked the TUSROC for hosting the exhibition and said that it was a pleasure to showcase everyday life in Japan to Iranians. He also announced that a screening of Japanese films would take place at the Asman Art Center next week. Despite tensions on the previous night, Tsukada expressed relief that the ceremony went smoothly and according to plan. He praised Iran's high standards in education and technology, and noted that the Tehran and Tokyo metro systems share similarities in terms of passenger density. The photo exhibition, 'A Look at Japan's Culture,' will run from October 26 to November 1 at Jihad Square and Tajrish Square stations on lines 3 and 1, respectively.

Hafez's 'Divan' in Serbian published in Belgrade

Arts & Culture Desk

A Serbian version of the 'Divan' a collection of verses by ancient Persian poet Hafez (1325-1389) was published in Serbian with a foreword featuring the valuable statements of Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, delivered at the 1988 International Hafez Congress. Divan is Hafez's major work and the collection is regarded as a pinnacle of Persian literature. It is found in the homes of most Iranians who learn his poems by heart and even today use them as proverbs and sayings, IRNA wrote. The publication is the result of the efforts of the Iranian Cultural Center in Serbia, in collaboration with the Center for Translation and Publication of Islamic and Humanitarian Sciences of Iran's Culture and Relations Organization. The book was published by the Serbian publishing house "Okrugla" in a 552-page volume. In his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei not-

ed, "Hafez is undoubtedly the brightest star of Persian literature. He is a poet for all centuries and all social classes. His influence extends deep into our society and the hearts and minds of our people. Despite being translated into many languages and studied extensively, Hafez remains largely unknown in his entirety." This is the second edition of the 'Divan of Hafez' to be published in Serbian, and adapted into Serbian by the Slobodan Jolovic, Serbian literary scholar and translator. The new edition has been graphically and linguistically adapted for a wider audience, making it accessible to readers across Serbia and the Balkan region.



A hollow attack...

For decades, Israel has routinely exaggerated external threats, especially from Iran, while simultaneously attempting to project an image of invincible military power. However, Iran's well-established defense capabilities—including advanced missile, drone, and radar technologies and a robust military force—make it a formidable regional actor. Any military action against Iran would invite a swift and forceful response, highlighting Iran's commitment to regional stability and sovereignty. The potential for escalated conflict carries serious consequences not only for Israel but for the entire region and even Western powers. Consequently, Israel limits its actions to minor, largely symbolic attacks intended to draw media attention without provoking a full-scale confrontation.

A brazen show of weakness
Amid prolonged conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon, Israel's internal crises, includ-

ing deepening public protests against corruption and Netanyahu's regime, persist. As domestic issues such as inflation, social inequality, and political corruption threaten his cabinet's stability, Israeli leadership appears to believe that refocusing the public's attention on perceived external threats may serve as a tool to mitigate internal pressures and bolster national morale. By exaggerating the threat posed by Iran, Israel seeks to gain domestic support and mask its failures in the home front. However, this misguided strategy underscores structural weaknesses within the Israeli administration, which, rather than addressing genuine challenges, prefers to manipulate public perception. Such actions expose a regime which is increasingly unable to handle the repercussions of its policies in the Palestinian territories. Creating a fabricated sense of external threat thus serves as a distraction from these issues, aiming to consolidate power while evading ac-

countability for domestic challenges.
Erosion of Israel's image
Israel's Saturday attack, largely inconsequential from a military standpoint, could still have a significantly negative impact on its international reputation. The global community is well aware of Israel's inability to subdue Iran and other resistance movements, and this recent aggression is seen more as an attempt to garner domestic approval than as a meaningful military or diplomatic success. International condemnation has been widespread, with numerous nations describing Israel's actions as violations of international law. In light of these reactions, Israel's aggressive actions seem not only strategically hollow but also diplomatically counterproductive. Instead of reinforcing its standing, these actions have triggered harsh criticism from the global community, damaging Israel's already strained international reputation.

Iran's growing power and strategic restraint
Israel's repeated, ineffective attacks underscore a more profound reality, Iran is fully capable of defending itself against such threats. Esteemed think tanks worldwide acknowledge Iran as a resilient regional power with the capacity to respond decisively when necessary. Iran's emphasis on deterrence and regional security, coupled with its restrained and measured responses, demonstrates the effectiveness of its defensive strategies in countering external threats. Furthermore, Iran's domestic advancements in defense technology and expertise have created a serious obstacle for Israel, which refrains from significant military actions due to the anticipated heavy costs. Iran's advanced defense systems stand as a substantial deterrent, preventing Israel from freely targeting strategic sites within the Iranian territory.

Israel's internal crises cloaked as external threats
Despite its persistent threats, Israel's actions—including Saturday's largely symbolic attack—appear less about achieving military objectives and more about redirecting global and domestic attention away from its involvement in Gaza and Lebanon. By leaning on media tactics, Israel continues to frame itself as under threat, maintaining an illusion of military threat toward Iran to mask its internal struggles. Iran, meanwhile, has consistently demonstrated a calm and rational approach to such provocations, using its defensive strength to deftly manage threats. This measured posture reflects the sophistication of Iranian leadership in navigating regional realities and secures Iran's reputation as a formidable adversary. With continued strategic foresight, Iran is well-positioned to impose further setbacks on Israel and its allies, reinforcing its stance as a central power in the region.