

Iran's missiles meant for defense not aggression: *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted that Iran's missiles are aimed at deterring those seeking to potentially target the country, and are not meant to be used towards waging acts of aggression against other nations. "We have [our] missiles [at our disposal] so they would not dare attack us. Our missiles are not meant [to be used] for carrying out attacks against anyone or [contributing to] expansionism," the chief executive said during a ceremony on Monday,

Press TV reported. He said the country has developed the defensive projectiles so parties such as the Israeli regime would not be able to target the Islamic Republic as they have been targeting the Gaza Strip or bomb any place or any person that they would desire. Pezeshkian, meanwhile, hailed Gaza-based Palestinians for their "esteem and greatness" that has forbidden the Israeli regime from forcing them into surrender, despite targeting the coastal sliver with all that is at its

disposal for more than a year now. In the same context, the president slammed the regime for laying claim to respecting human rights and the international law, while its authorities perpetrate "violence, genocide, crime, and murder behind their neat and tie-wearing appearances." The remarks came amid the regime's October 2023-present war of genocide against Gaza that has so far claimed the lives of more than 43,300 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

The contradiction between the regime's claims and actions points to the regime's "indecent and lack of identity," he noted. Pezeshkian berated those accusing Iran of failure to observe human rights, saying the parties that have leveled the accusations against the country were the same ones that have staged deadly attacks against the Iranian nation, including women and children, with chemical weapons and targeted the people's sources of sustenance with sanctions.



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Iran rebukes US deployment of B-52 bombers as 'destabilizing'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Monday criticized the US's "destabilizing presence" after the deployment of B-52 bombers in the region. "We have always believed that the presence of the US in the region is a destabilizing presence," Baghaei told a news conference in response to a question about the deployment, adding that it "will not deter [Iran's] resolve to defend itself." B-52 Stratofortress strategic bombers from Minot Air Force Base's 5th Bomb Wing arrived in the Middle East, United States Central Command (CENTCOM) CENTCOM said early Sunday, without elaborating. Pentagon officials earlier said the deployment

of B-52 bombers to the Middle East as a warning to Iran, which has vowed to respond to Israeli strikes on its military sites on October 26 as the aggression killed four soldiers and a civilian. Israel's attack was in retaliation for an October 1 Iranian missile barrage, itself retaliation for the assassinations of leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah as well as an Iranian IRGC commander. Baghaei also said Iran's response would be "definite and decisive." He added that Iran supported "all initiatives and efforts" to push for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon. **'Unjustifiable' closure** The spokesman also dismissed reports about



MARZIEH SOLEIMANI/IRNA

the expulsion of Iranian diplomats from Germany and said Tehran has informed Berlin that its move to close three Iranian consulates in the European countries was not justifiable at all. He noted that Germany's move was a reaction to an issue that is related to Iran's jurisdiction and is about an Iranian citizen who has committed a terrorist act. In an announcement on Thursday, German For-

eign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that the Iranian consulates in the cities of Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich are to be closed over the execution of convicted terrorist Jamshid Sharmahd. In a post on his X account on Friday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi slammed the decision which has been taken in support of a terrorist and amounts to sanctions against thousands of Iranians.

Russia to launch Kowsar, Hodhod satellites into space today

Iran's ambassador to Moscow said on Monday that Russia would launch two Iranian satellites into space onboard a Soyuz launch vehicle within the next few hours. "In continuation of the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Iran and Russia, two domestically-developed satellites, Kowsar and Hodhod, will be launched into a 500-kilometer orbit of the Earth on Tuesday by a Soyuz launch vehicle," Kazem Jalali wrote on X on Monday, Press TV reported. He expressed hope that a firm and decisive step towards the entry of Iran's private sector into the space sector would be taken by the satellite launch. Jalali further noted that the two satellites have been designed and manufactured by young Iranian scientists, with the support of the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), and the Iranian embassy in Moscow. Kowsar is a high-resolution imaging satellite, whose design process started back in 2019.



Weighing 30 kilograms, the home-grown Iranian satellite has an estimated orbital lifespan of more than three years. It has a color imaging range of 15km and an imaging rate of 6 frames per second. Kowsar satellite is suitable for agricultural, land survey and cadaster services. Hodhod satellite is a small communications satellite, which weighs 4km and has an orbital height of 500km. Its orbital lifespan is four years and has a variety of uses, including agriculture, land survey, transport and environmental protection.

IRGC general, pilot killed in light aircraft crash in southeast

A gyroplane flown by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force crashed during a military exercise in southeastern Iran on Monday, killing the pilot and a general. According to a statement released by the IRGC Ground Force, the ultralight aircraft was conducting a combat operation during a military drill when it crashed in Sirkan border area in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Tasnim reported. General Hamid Mazandarani, the commander of Naynava Brigade from Iran's Golestan Province, along with the aircraft pilot, Hamed Jandaqi, a member of the IRGC Ground Force, were killed in the incident. The IRGC Ground Force has staged a counterterrorism exercise, codenamed "Martyrs of Security", in Sistan and Baluchestan province since November 1.

US election just around the corner

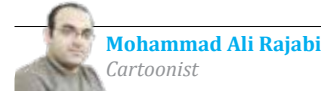
International Desk

With only a few hours before polls close in the US election on November 5 and more than 77.6m votes already cast, preliminary results show Republican candidate Donald Trump and her Democratic rival Kamala Harris separated by less than 3 percentage points in each of the seven battleground states likely to determine Tuesday's winner. Polls going into election week showed a toss-up race, shifting to the possibility that the contest could prove to be a photo finish. An NBC News poll released Sunday showed Trump and Harris tied nationally at 49 percent each. The poll found 48 percent of respondents approved of how Trump handled his presidency, compared to just 41 percent who said they approved of President Joe Biden's time in office, a sign Harris may face some headwinds. A New York Times/Siena College poll of battleground states published Sunday similarly showed a tight race. In their final hours of campaigning, the two candidates were seeking to mobilize their bases and appeal to any remaining undecided voters, with Harris spending the entire day in Pennsylvania — a critical swing state that is regarded as a must-win if either candidate wants to capture the White House — and Trump hitting three battleground states of Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Michigan. The two candidates have offered diverging closing messages. Trump tried to make the case that voters are not better off than they were four years ago when he left the White House and that he can "fix" the economy and the southern border. Harris pledged in Michigan to do everything in her power to "end



People stand in line during the last day of early voting, on Nov. 2, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C. MIKE STEWART/AP

the war in Gaza," as she attempted to appeal to the state's large Arab American and Muslim American population. In an outlandish move on Monday, US authorities installed security fences in Washington D.C. as they braced for potential violent protests following the presidential election. The Secret Service erected new 2.5-meter metal fences around the White House and Treasury Department complex, as well as Harris's residence. The measures come amid concerns of violence breaking out in the days after the election similar to the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol by Trump's supporters following his refusal to accept the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. The former US president claimed that he won the 2020 presidential election and that there was "massive" voter fraud. The attack on the Capitol led to several deaths and Trump was indicted for his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in both Washington and Georgia.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

