

# Iran FM: Resistance front should rebuild itself for future

**International Desk**

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that the resistance front should rebuild itself and apply the lessons it has learned from the recent conflicts for the future. Addressing an international conference, dubbed 'Al-Aqsa Storm, Gaza, Narratives and Realities', the top Iranian diplomat said the resistance front in the region has gone through a difficult period, adding that he is confident it will return stronger than before. This is not the first time that Lebanon's resistance group Hezbollah has lost its leader, Araghchi said, adding that it became stronger after the loss of its previous leader and, "I am confident that it will become strong again."

Leader of the Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was assassinated in an Israeli strike in Lebanon on September 27. Many commanders of the resistance movements in the region were also killed in the regime's attacks during its onslaught on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon over the past 16 months. The Iranian foreign minister, however, said the Israeli regime failed to achieve its goals in its aggression against Gaza and Lebanon. Araghchi said the Israeli regime has had a series of successes during the war, which are destruction of homes and the killing of civilians. Araghchi said they aimed to destroy Hamas, but after 16 months of massacre, they were forced to negotiate with the resistance fighters and make concessions.

Israel and Hamas reached a ceasefire deal on January 17 to end the regime's attacks on the Gaza Strip, which came into effect on January 19. Since then, hundreds of Palestinians and several captives held in Gaza have been released under the agreement which has been mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the US. Humanitarian aid has been allowed to enter Gaza and patients have been allowed to leave Gaza for other countries for treatment as part of the ceasefire agreement.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses an international conference, dubbed 'Al-Aqsa Storm, Gaza, Narratives and Realities', in Tehran on February 4, 2025. **IRNA**

## Gov't spox warns banks will be crippled by not joining FATF

**National Desk**

Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said that, "We will cripple our banks" by not accepting the Palermo and the Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) conventions of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Mohajerani said in a weekly press conference on Tuesday

that the Palermo and the CFT conventions, to which Iran has yet to join, alongside the sanctions imposed on Iran have created problems for the country's banking system. She said that to create banking relations with the countries that Iran is cooperating with them, including the members of the BRICS group of emerging economies and Eurasian countries, "it is necessary to



prove that we do not launder money, do not have organized cooperation with terrorism, and do not assist (terrorist) groups such as Boko Haram, etc."

Since January 12, Iran's Expediency Council has started re-examining various clauses of the Palermo and CFT conventions after the country's top leadership allowed

Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani speaks during her weekly press conference in Tehran on February 4, 2025. **IRNA**

renewed discussions on the FATF case in the council. Restrictions imposed by the FATF on Iran's banking system will be removed once the country enacts the Palermo and the CFT conventions. The Iranian Parliament has approved the Palermo and the CFT, but Iran's Guardian Council, which is responsible for vetting parliament legislation, has refused to

ratify them, citing the need for some amendments. Iran has approved other conventions and regulations adopted by the FATF. The renewed push to examine Iran's full accession to the FATF comes amid efforts by President Masoud Pezeshkian and his administration to open up to the world and to improve an economy affected by global inflation and foreign sanctions.

## Iranian naval flotilla docks at UAE's port

**International Desk**

An Iranian naval flotilla docked at the United Arab Emirates' Sharjah's Khalid port early on Tuesday for the first such a move in defense relations between the two Persian Gulf countries. The naval fleet, comprising of vessels belonging to the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, was welcomed at the UAE's port by Emirati vessels and military

officials, as well as foreign diplomats and military attachés residing in the Persian Gulf country, and Iran's Ambassador to the Arab country, Reza Ameri. The naval visit comes amid growing relations between Iran and the UAE. Both countries have demonstrated serious will to strengthen their cooperation in all fields. On Monday, Commander of the IRGC's Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri announced that four military ships from his force and

the Iranian Army's naval division will depart for the UAE for a friendly visit of the Arab nation's naval force. Tangsiri stated that the naval visit to the Arab country is the first of its kind. The Iranian naval forces have increased their presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers. Iran also maintains strong presence in the Persian Gulf in order to protect naval routes and pro-

vide security for merchant vessels and oil tankers, especially in the strategic Strait of Hormuz through which about a fifth of the volume of the world's total oil consumption passes on a daily basis. Iran has repeatedly said that the security of the Persian Gulf can be provided by its littoral states and there is no need for the presence of foreigners in the Persian Gulf, especially the United States. The UAE is Iran's second-largest



Iranian naval vessels docked at the UAE's port. The UAE is Iran's second-largest trading partner after China and expansion of security cooperation between the two countries is of great importance for them.

**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist



## Iran welcomes domestic ...

It is natural that through such partnerships, domestic companies will reap the rewards of their involvement, re-investing their profits in domestic ventures for the nation's benefit. Currently, investment in Asaluyeh, which houses facilities to process natural gas extracted from the South Pars, particularly regarding pressure boosting, is crucial due to the annual decline in Iran's gas reservoir levels. Moreover, since some of Iran's dealing gas fields are jointly utilized with other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait, failure to excel in extracting from these joint fields will not only make it harder to address the energy shortfall in Iran, but it will also allow those countries to exploit far more from these fields than Iran does.

Therefore, the Parliament expect the government's plans for the development of gas fields in the south of the country to be expedited. Due to the sanctions imposed, the country faces challenges in extraction and recovery of resources and lacks access to the necessary technologies. To overcome this challenge, Iran needs to attract investment and embrace new technologies. Given the circumstances, Iran can leverage the capabilities of nations like China and Russia to acquire cutting-edge technologies. Iran possesses some of the world's richest energy resources, ranking second in gas reserves and fourth in oil reserves globally. A nation with such potential in energy should not be grappling with energy shortages. Therefore, to rectify this,

increasing production and optimizing energy consumption should be high on the agenda. The involvement of the private sector in boosting production will be particularly helpful. Simultaneously, the government should make use of the private sector's capabilities to move toward developing renewable and clean energy sources. Efficient energy management is key to tackle the energy deficit in Iran. One strategy is to set energy swap arrangements. Iran can use the mechanism to fulfill the gas demand in the northern regions, sourcing the required gas from Russia. This approach ensures that instead of incurring high costs by transporting gas from distant southern fields, we can secure it through swaps with Russia, allowing the surplus gas in the south to be allocated for industrial use or export.

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