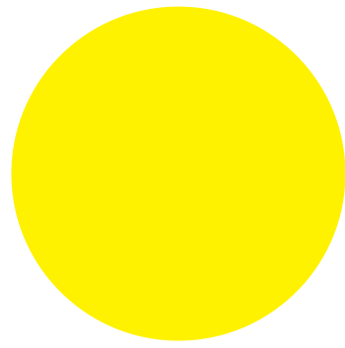


'Reinforcement of ties':
Iran FM to visit Saudi
Arabia, Qatar today

2 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 7827 • Saturday, May 10, 2025 • Ordibehesht 20, 1404 • Dhu al-Qadah 12, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



> irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

Iran dismisses secret nuclear site report as 'absurd'

Araghchi: Such claim by Israeli PM attempts to torpedo Iran-US talks

2 >

Iran Oil Show: Minister announces accelerated investment in upstream petroleum sector

16 contracts, MoUs inked with knowledge-based firms

3 >

SHANA

How Netanyahu using war to buy time?

By Qasem Moheb-Ali
Middle East affairs expert

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

At the outset of the Gaza war, Israel laid out three goals: to destroy Hamas, to free captives, and to set up a new administration in Gaza — one that excluded Palestinians. This alternative governance was envisioned either under direct Israeli control or via an Arab or international consortium. However, a recent decision by Israel's security cabinet marks a dramatic shift: it now envisions the full occupation of Gaza for an indefinite period. This move strongly suggests that Israel is gearing up to dig in and hold onto the territory long-term, while deferring any final decision on Gaza's future until later talks — whether they follow US President Donald Trump's Gaza takeover plan, forcibly displace Palestinians, or settle on some shared administrative model with the participation of Arab countries.

Despite its overwhelming military campaign, Israel has so far failed to wipe out Hamas. The war's main consequence has been the large-scale destruction of Gaza and the killing of civilians — with little to show for it strategically.

So, why does Israel continue this war despite opposition at home and abroad?

For Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Gaza war has thrown him a lifeline. As long as the conflict drags on, his grip on power remains intact. Moreover, the involvement of regional actors like Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen has handed Netanyahu a pretext: he portrays himself as Israel's savior, claiming that its national security is hinged on his leadership and policies. Another stroke of political fortune for Netanyahu came with the return of Donald Trump and the hardliners to the US political scene. This shift has opened the door for Netanyahu to act with fewer constraints. While US Democrats traditionally stood by Israel — it is a fixed policy of Washington to back Tel Aviv — they were critical of Netanyahu's policies and showed greater openness toward centrist factions within Israeli politics.

Trump, by contrast, has thrown his full weight behind Netanyahu and has shown no reservations about his aggressive policies. This alignment has emboldened Israel's far-right factions to press ahead with expansionist ambitions, and the war in Gaza is used as cover for a broader push to annex the West Bank fully. It's nearly impossible to separate out the roles of Israel and the United States.

Pakistan, India exchange fire amid mounting fears of wider military standoff

International Desk

Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged heavy volleys of shells and gunfire across their frontier in Kashmir overnight, killing at least five civilians in a growing military standoff that erupted following an attack on tourists in the India-controlled portion of the disputed region.

In Pakistan, an unusually intense night of artillery exchanges left at least four civilians dead and

wounded 12 others in areas near the Line of Control (LoC) that divides Kashmir, local police official Adeel Ahmad said. People in border towns said the firing continued well into Friday morning.

In India, military officials said Pakistani troops barged their posts overnight with artillery, mortars and gunfire at multiple locations in Indian-controlled Kashmir. They said Indian soldiers responded, triggering fierce exchanges until early dawn.

Page 2 >



A person inspects his damaged shop following overnight shelling from Pakistan at Gingal village in Uri district, Indian controlled Kashmir on May 9, 2025.

AP

Leo XIV elected as new pope Pontiff laments 'technology, money, success, power or pleasure' valued over religion

8 >

AP



Caspian Sea oil exploration resumes after three-decade hiatus

Iran targets 600m cubic meters of in-place crude

3 >



Trust-building key to Iran-Europe relations

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

4 >



Salehi: Tehran Int'l Book Fair platform for expanding cultural diplomacy

Saudi Arabia invited as guest of honor next year

8 >

Page 3 >