

'Fearless Presence'

Leader attends Ashura mourning ceremony

National Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Saturday attended a religious ceremony to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, an issue that turned into a matter of importance after recent Israel's aggression against Iran. The ceremony was held at central Tehran's Imam Khomeini Husseiniyeh, a mosque named after the founder of the Islamic Republic on the eve of Ashura, the tenth day of the Islamic month of Muharram on which Imam Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), was martyred by a tyrannical ruler during a battle in Iraq's Karbala in the seventh century. The leader greeted people from all walks of life and was cheered by participants.

Ayatollah Khamenei did not deliver a speech at the event but his attendance drew reactions from many Iranian officials, especially after he was absent in another religious ceremony held earlier in Tehran. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a post on X said, "the Husseiniyeh of Iran will be eternal and will stand firm forever." First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref in a post on his Telegram account said that the Iranian people would not allow the "sinister dreams of Iran's ill-wishers to come true". Former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also took to X, saying that the "fearless presence" of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in a traditional public gathering "permanently shattered the delusional lies that paid pundits have been pushing". "Time to wake up and admit that

#Iranians_never_surrender", Zarif said. "Stand on the right side of history and #Never_Threaten_Iran", he added. On June 13, the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, which claimed the lives of more than 900 Iranians, including civilians, nuclear scientists and the country's top military commanders. The US also joined the aggression by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan. In response, Iran's Armed Forces launched barrages of missiles at Israel's targets in the occupied territories, which killed at least 28 Israelis. The Iranian forces also pounded the US largest military base in the Middle East in Qatar with missiles. A cease-fire proposed by the US put an end to the 12-day conflict on June 24.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) attends a religious ceremony in Tehran on July 5, 2025.
● khamenei.ir

Pezeshkian: Iran's response to Israel's aggression prevented spread of war



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 17th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit in Khankendi, Azerbaijan, on June 4, 2025.
● president.ir

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said the Iranian Armed Forces' decisive response to Israel during its recent aggression against Iran prevented the spread of war to the region and protected the nation's sovereignty. Speaking at the 17th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit in the Azerbaijani city of Khankendi on Friday, Pezeshkian condemned Israel's criminal acts, which targeted military forces, university professors, ordinary citizens, nuclear facilities under international oversight,

and public infrastructure. Pezeshkian described the 12-day Israeli strikes with American support as clear breaches of the United Nations Charter, including Article 2, paragraph 4, which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. "In this war, the Iranian Armed Forces, in line with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, legitimately defended the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, teaching the aggressors a decisive lesson, and preventing the spread of war throughout

the region," he said. The president praised ECO member countries and the regional countries for their support and condemnation of Israel's aggression, emphasizing the importance of regional solidarity in the face of external threats. "Many international and regional organizations, including the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Islamic Countries, decisively condemned the Zionist regime's attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said. "The 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization is also a valuable opportunity to once again bring recent acts of aggression—and the regional and global threats they pose—to the attention of the international community," he added. President Pezeshkian stressed the role of ECO as a foundation for regional economic strength and cooperation. He urged member states to build on this unity by advancing trade, improving

transit routes, and embracing new technologies to create a prosperous and resilient region. The 17th ECO Summit brought together heads of state and government officials to reinforce cooperation and chart a vision for peace, prosperity, and stability in Central and South Asia, the Caucasus, and West Asia. On June 13, Iran's Armed Forces launched a barrage of missiles at Israel's targets in the occupied territories in response to the regime's aggression against Iran on the same day, which targeted Iran's residential areas, nuclear facilities and country's military sites. Twelve days of Israel's attacks killed at least 935 people including civilians and nuclear scientists as well as the country's top military commanders. The US also joined the aggression by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan. A cease-fire proposed by the US put an end to the conflict on June 24.

Switzerland reopens its embassy in Tehran after two-week closure



International Desk

Switzerland reopened its embassy in Tehran after a closure due to a recent aggression by Israel against Iran, the Swiss Foreign Ministry said on Sunday. "Ambassador Nadine Olivier Lozano and a small team returned to Tehran yesterday overland via Azerbaijan. The embassy will gradually resume operations," the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. It had been closed since June 20. "The decision to reopen the embassy was taken after a comprehensive risk analysis and in consultation with Iran and the United States, for which Switzerland represents Iran's interests as a protecting power. The current situation allows for a gradual resumption of embassy operations on site", the statement said. "Switzerland follows developments in the region closely and is in close contact with its partners. It is crucial that all parties return to diplomacy without

delay. Switzerland's good offices and Geneva as a venue for negotiations are available for this purpose". Switzerland has served as the official protecting power for the US in Iran since 1980, providing a backchannel for critical communications between the two countries. The reopening of the embassy is seen as a significant development, particularly as nuclear talks between Iran and the US were suspended following a recent aggression by Israel and the US on Iran. Iran and the US held five rounds of nuclear talks mediated by Oman. However, a sixth round scheduled for June 15 was canceled after Israel launched strikes on Iran. The US also joined the strikes by targeting Iran's key nuclear facilities in Qom, Markazi and Isfahan provinces. Several countries announced the temporary closure of their embassies in Tehran due to the escalating security situation in Iran after the Israel's aggression.

A suspension with ...

For Tehran, this erosion of neutrality undermines the very basis upon which cooperation is built. Thus, Iran's suspension of voluntary access should be read as a challenge to the current framework of engagement—not as a rejection of oversight per se, but as a demand for recalibration grounded in mutual respect and legal balance.

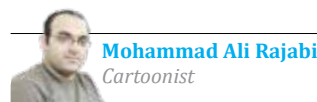
Restoring balance in oversight

Iran's recent recalibration of its cooperation with the IAEA underscores a broader truth often overlooked in technical discussions: diplomacy cannot survive without reciprocity. The durability of any verification regime rests not solely on access and inspection, but on mutual trust, institutional neutrality, and the avoidance of double standards.

If the current imbalance persists—where transparency is expected without recognition, and cooperation is met with suspicion—then the entire architecture of nuclear diplomacy risks further erosion. The challenge now lies not in formulating hypothetical scenarios for Iran's next steps, but in addressing the structural conditions that have prompted its strategic shift. What is needed is a renewed commitment to impartiality by international institutions, a recognition of the legitimate rights of all parties under the NPT, and a willingness to separate technical oversight from political agendas. Absent these, the prospects for rebuilding trust will remain fragile—and the very mechanisms designed to prevent escalation may themselves become sources of instability.

Diplomacy demands reciprocity

Iran's suspension of certain forms of cooperation with the IAEA should not be interpreted as a rejection of dialogue, but rather as a sober call for a more balanced and respectful approach to oversight and diplomacy. Trust, once eroded, can be rebuilt—but only through mutual recognition of rights, responsibilities, and the importance of institutional neutrality. If diplomacy is to remain a viable path, then oversight must return to its foundational role: building trust, not enforcing asymmetry. The onus now lies not solely with Iran, but with the international community to ensure that monitoring does not become a means of manipulation. The rules of engagement must be redefined—constructively, legally, and with an eye on long-term stability.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

