

Pezeshkian denies regional conflict, underlines defensive stance

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted that Iran has no intention of targeting or confronting with any neighboring country, stressing that only facilities from which attacks are launched against Iranian territory will be considered legitimate targets under the principle of self-defense. In a telephone conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, Pezeshkian highlighted that US and Israeli aggressors have been exploiting the sovereignty of neighboring countries to launch attacks on critical infrastructure, hospitals and schools in Iran, the presidential website reported. The remarks came amid heightened tensions following the joint US-Israeli aggression on Iran



Shehbaz Sharif

Masoud Pezeshkian

on February 28.

In retaliation, Tehran has launched strikes, not only on occupied territories, but also on US bases across the region. Tehran, however, has reiterated its commitment to the principle of good neighborliness, stressing that the attacks are on US interests only. "The global community and international organizations must

address the root causes of this imposed war," the president said. "Otherwise, the architecture of worldwide peace and security will remain destabilized." During the phone call, Prime Minister Sharif reiterated Pakistan's "principled stance" in condemning the US-Israeli aggression and expressed "deep solidarity with the Iranian people and government."

He called for continued cooperation to strengthen bilateral ties between the two Muslim majority neighbors and to promote broader Islamic unity in the region.

Utter lie to justify operation 'Epic Mistake'

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minis-

ter Abbas Araghchi had echoed Pezeshkian's position in a separate conversation with his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty on Tuesday.

Araghchi described Iran's strikes on American installations as "legitimate self-defense against aggression" and reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to a "policy of good neighborliness" and to "regional stability without foreign interference."

Before the onset of the war, Araghchi had warned that Iran would respond to any attacks by targeting US assets in the Middle East, since it has no access to American soil.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also explained in a tweet Iran's rationale behind the defensive strikes on US bases and assets in the region.

He noted that missiles are launched at Iran from residential areas in the territory of neighboring countries and US fighters are using the airspace of those states to attack Iran, "all putting regional security at risk".

Araghchi also later dismissed Washington's claim that Iran was planning on attacking the US or US forces "whether preventively or preemptively", calling it "a sheet and utter lie".

He said in post on his X account that the sole purpose of such a lie is to justify what he termed "Operation Epic Mistake," referencing the US codename, "Operation Epic Wrath," for its aggression against Iran.

Araghchi described the operation as "a misadventure engineered by Israel and paid for by ordinary Americans."

US-Israeli economic, banking centers warned to be next targets

Washington sustained \$25b losses in war: **IRGC**

National Desk

The spokesperson for the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters warned on Wednesday that economic centers and banks belonging to the United States and Israel could become the next targets of Iranian strikes following Israel's decision to target an Iranian bank last night.

in war, the enemy has opened our hands to target economic centers and banks belonging to the United States and the Zionist regime in the region," Zolfaghari added. The spokesperson stressed that Washington should expect a painful retaliatory response. "Americans should wait for our reciprocal and painful

of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said the 37th wave of Operation "True Promise-4" was carried out with the most severe and heavy attacks against positions of aggressors. The IRGC launched the heaviest attacks against the positions of the US and Israeli regime on the eve of the martyrdom anniversa-

ged for the second time. In addition, the Iranian armed forces targeted the military centers in Haifa along with US Fifth Naval Base in Erbil of Iraq severely. Meanwhile, the Intelligence Organization of the IRGC said the United States has sustained \$25 billion losses as a result of US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

The management of the Strait of Hormuz has privileged Iran's effectiveness in the economic equations in the worldwide, the IRGC said, adding that victorious battle of the Iranian Armed Forces has imposed more than \$25 billion military cost for the enemy directly. The US bases in the region have become "inactive" and the Europe's gap with its historic ally has been revealed during the war, IRGC noted.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, which led to the martyrdom of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, senior military commanders and civilians. The US-Israeli aggression has damaged or destroyed around 13,000 civilian units so far, according to official figures.



ISNA

Ebrahim Zolfaghari said the United States and Israel carried out an attack on one of Iran's banking facilities after failing to achieve their military objectives in the ongoing aggression against the country. "With this illegitimate and unconventional ac-

tion," he said, warning civilians in the region to stay away from potential targets. "People in the region should not remain within a one-kilometer radius of banks," Zolfaghari underlined. The warning comes as the Public Relations Office

ry of the first Shia Imam, Imam Ali (PBUH), using "Khorramshahr" missile. The IRGC forces pounded the US bases in the region and Israeli positions with highly-sophisticated missiles, in which, a satellite communications center in southern Tel Aviv was tar-

Funeral held for top commanders martyred in US-Israel aggression

We will defend country until last drop of our blood: **Army chief**

National Desk

Thousands of Iranians took to the streets of the capital Tehran on Wednesday to participate in a funeral ceremony held for a dozen of Iranian top commanders martyred during the ongoing military aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran.

The funeral was held for the Chairman of the Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohammad Pakpour, Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, and Representative of the Leader in the Supreme Defense Council Ali Shamkhani and several other commanders who were martyred in the US and Israel's attacks.

The ceremony began in the morning in the iconic Enqelab Square and was also held for many citizens from the capital, who lost their lives in the recent airstrikes. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was also mar-



tyred in the first day of the aggression.

Carrying the pictures of the martyrs and waving black flags and Iran's flags, the mourners chant slogans against the United States and the Israeli regime, which began their aggression against Iran on February 28 by attacking 30 targets across Tehran.

Since then, Iranian Armed Forces have decisively retaliated against the strikes by launching barrages of missiles and drones against the Israeli-occupied territories as well as US bases in region.

Army Commander Brigadier General Amir Hatami in a message praised the huge presence of Iranians in the ceremony, saying that, "We will defend the country until the last drop of our blood". Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also in a message thanked the Iranian people for their presence in the rallies in support of the country in recent days, vowing that Iran's Armed Forces will "cut the hands" of aggressors. Many Iranian top commanders were also killed during an aggression by the Israeli regime against Iran in June.

Hidden bottleneck of ...

Collision of doctrine

This rapid depletion of stockpiles of **Page 1 >** has sparked significant debate at the highest levels of American leadership. Prior to the outbreak of the war, top military officials, including Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Dan Caine, explicitly cautioned President Donald Trump. They warned that a prolonged military campaign against Iran would inevitably degrade U.S. weapons stockpiles, potentially jeopardizing Washington's abil-

ity to support other critical allies. President Trump, however, publicly dismissed these structural concerns. Arguing on social media, he claimed the U.S. possesses a "virtually unlimited supply" of such weapons and stated that munition stockpiles have "never been higher or better." Emboldened by the initial strikes, the President has also signaled an appetite for further foreign interventions, suggesting that other nations could be the next target. As the conflict evolves,

sheer conventional firepower may become less decisive. The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East was irreparably altered following the martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader. In the wake of his passing, reports suggest Tehran is preparing to transition the conflict from a direct conventional exchange into an asymmetric, protracted shadow war. In such a scenario, the rapid expenditure of multi-million-dollar interceptors against low-cost proxy attacks will only exacerbate the West's supply

chain woes. Ultimately, the opening salvos of Operation Epic Fury offer a vital lesson. Technological superiority is an undeniable asset, but it is intrinsically fragile. A nation's capacity to sustain a high-intensity conflict is dictated not merely by its front-line platforms, but by a delicate balance of resilient industrial bases, skilled labor, and secure access to critical minerals. Recognizing that even the deepest arsenals have a bottom is the first step toward true strategic readiness.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

