

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian said Wednesday Iran puts a premium on the expansion of relations with its friendly neighbor Qatar.

In a meeting with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani here, the president said Tehran would speed up the implementation of agreements reached with Doha during his recent visit to the Persian Gulf peninsular country.

The Iranian president hoped that the Qatari side would also pursue the agreements with greater determination. (Continued on Page 7)

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said Wednesday he recently had "constructive" talks with Iranian officials in Tehran and hoped such interaction will continue in the future. Grossi said his meetings produced "concrete results," which could lead to a "less confrontational and more constructive" trajectory in interactions between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran. "What I see is a disposition to engage and to work with us—not only in the context of the meeting with the president but also with the foreign minister." (Continued on Page 7)

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Thursday, November 21, 2024, Azar 1, 1403, Jamadi al-Awwal 19, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

Viewpoint

G20 Summit Accelerates US Decline on the International Stage

Sheikh Naim Qassem: Hezbollah Set to Raise Cost for Enemy

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- The leader of Hezbollah said Wednesday the resistance movement is determined to fight a long war against Israel, and that their response to the recent deadly airstrike on Beirut will be to target central Tel Aviv.

Sheikh Naim Qassem made the remarks in a televised address, referring to deadly Israeli strikes on three central Beirut districts in recent days, one of which martyred Hezbollah's media chief Mohammad Afif and four members of his team.

Sheikh Qassem stated that the regime martyred Afif while he was in a "civilian, media, and political location that is supposed to be protected in such cases."

"(Israel) attacked, assassinated, and assaulted the heart of the capital Beirut, so they must expect that the response will be in the center of Tel Aviv. We cannot leave the capital under the blows of the Israeli enemy unless it pays the price."

Sheikh Qassem referred to Hezbollah's capabilities in handling crises, saying that after Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's assassination, it only took the group ten days to recover.

"The party faced a genuine crisis after the assassination of Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, but within ten days, we recovered and began to heal our wounds."

He emphasized that the group is determined to continue defending Lebanon.

"Today we are resisting in Lebanon in defense of Lebanon and in defense of the Lebanese people from the Israeli occupation, which will only leave by resistance and will only be defeated by resistance. We will continue in this manner, God willing."

He stated that the movement had prepared for a long battle against the Zionist regime.

"They gave us a choice between submission and humiliation... and far from us is humiliation," he said.

X Suspends Account of Leader's Official Website



Iran Edge Kyrgyzstan in World Cup Qualifier



Israel Using AI Weapons System Co-Produced With Indian Firm in Gaza



U.S. Vetoes UN Resolution on Ending Genocide



U.S. Alternate Ambassador to the UN Robert Wood raises his hand to veto a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza at UN headquarters on Nov. 20, 2024.

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) — The United States on Wednesday vetoed a UN resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in the war in Gaza, allowing Israel to press ahead with its relentless genocide of the Palestinians.

The UN Security Council voted 14-1 in favor of the resolution sponsored by the 10 elected members on the 15-member council, but it was not adopted because of the U.S. veto.

The resolution that was put to a vote demanded "an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire to be respected by all parties, and further reiterates its demand for the immediate and unconditional release of all" captives.

With more than 43,000 Palestinians in Gaza martyred, according to its health authority, the threat of famine, especially in the north, and no sign of an end to the war, the council's 10 elected members decided to focus first on a cease-fire.

Guyana's UN Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett introduced the res-

olution on behalf of the elected members, saying "It was prompted by the council's deep concern over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, including what was unfolding in North Gaza, and the need for an urgent response to that situation."

She stressed the resolution's demand for immediate access for humanitarian aid deliveries throughout Gaza, and the Security Council's primary responsibility to uphold international peace and security and its demands for an immediate cease-fire, and for the release of hostages.

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood said, "We made clear throughout negotiations we could not support an unconditional ceasefire that failed to release" the Israeli captives.

Algeria's UN Ambassador Amar Bendjama, the Arab representative and an elected member of the council, was sharply critical of the U.S. vote and the council's failure to take action.

"Today's message is clear to the Is-

raeli occupying power: First you may continue your genocide. You may continue your collective punishment of the Palestinian people with complete impunity. In this chamber, you enjoy immunity," he said.

Bendjama called the resolution's defeat a missed opportunity that will have "devastating consequences for the international order." But he vowed that the elected members will return soon with an even stronger resolution under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which is militarily enforceable — and they will not stop until the council takes action.

China's UN Ambassador Fu Cong said each time the United States had exercised its veto to protect Israel, the number of people killed in Gaza had steadily risen.

"How many more people have to die before they wake up from their pretend slumber?"

"Insistence on setting a precondition for ceasefire is tantamount to giving the green light to continue

the war and condoning the continued killing."

Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said, "It is shocking that the U.S. has vetoed an effort to save the lives of Palestinians and Israelis."

"Though perhaps we should not be surprised about it."

On Wednesday, Zionist forces martyred at least 33 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, including a rescue worker, health officials said, as troops deepened an incursion along the territory's northern edge, bombarding a hospital and blowing up homes.

Medics said at least 12 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a house in the area of Jabalia in northern Gaza earlier on Wednesday, and at least 10 people remained missing as rescue operations continued. Another man was killed in tank shelling nearby, they said.

Later on Wednesday, an Israeli airstrike killed seven Palestinians, including a girl, in Al-Mawasi, a humanitarian-designated area in western Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, Gaza medics said. Palestinian and UN officials say no place in the enclave is safe.

Another airstrike on a house in Remal neighbourhood in Gaza City killed four people, while a strike killed three Palestinians and wounded at least 20 others at a school sheltering displaced families in central Gaza Strip, medics said

Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, one of three medical facilities barely operational in the besieged northern area, said the hospital "was bombed across all its departments without warning, as we were trying to save an injured person in the intensive care unit" on Tuesday.

"Following the arrest of 45 members of the medical and surgical staff and the denial of entry to a replacement team, we are now losing wounded

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Israel Bombs UNESCO-Listed City of Palmyra in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- The Syrian defence ministry said 36 people were killed and more than 50 wounded Wednesday in Israeli airstrikes on the oasis city of Palmyra, renowned for its ancient ruins.

"The Israeli enemy launched an air attack from the direction of the Al-Tanf area, targeting a number of buildings in the city of Palmyra," a ministry statement said.

The attack "killed 36 people and wounded more than 50", as well as causing "significant material damage," it added.

State news agency SANA said the Israeli strike "targeted residential buildings and the industrial area" of the city.

Since a foreign-backed war

erupted in 2011, the occupying regime of Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria in a bid to retract the defeat of terrorist groups which wreaked havoc in the country and elsewhere.

Palmyra's ancient city is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was seized by Daesh terrorists in 2015 and partially destroyed before it was recaptured by the Syrian army.

In Tehran, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei highlighted Syria's pivotal role in the resistance against Zionist forces.

In a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Bassam Sabbagh on Wednesday, Ali Akbar Velayati said Syria has played a critical

role in the fight against Zionists and stands as the principal link in the chain of resistance.

Velayati underscored the shared victories of the resistance front against threats such as Daesh, saying the United States created the takfiri group to destabilize Syria and Iraq, but collaboration among Iran, Syria, and Iraq led to its defeat.

"The resistance front must be strengthened further. There is no path forward except through unity and resilience against common enemies," he asserted, emphasizing the crucial role of Iran and Syria as pillars of this front.

Velayati also lauded Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's leadership, calling him a source of pride for the Syrian Arab Re-

public in confronting Zionist and U.S.-led aggression.

Sabbagh, for his part, reaffirmed the strategic partnership between Tehran and Damascus, stressing the need to deepen cooperation amidst ongoing regional challenges. "Changing circumstances cannot alter realities—our enemy remains the same, and resistance against it is a necessity," he said.

The two sides also discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation to address ongoing crises and promote peace and stability in the region.

Velayati emphasized the growing strategic ties between Iran and Syria, saying such cooperation has significant implications at both regional and international levels.

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