

# If Israel repeats its folly: Next Step Will be Fiercer

*Iran punished Israel with hundreds of drones, missiles in response to the attack on its embassy*



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## Iran eyeing observer status in Eurasian Economic Union

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – A few months after signing a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali has announced the Islamic Republic is seeking to gain observer status in the union soon.

Jalali made the remarks at a conference on Iran-Russia cooperation dubbed the International Russia-Iran Cooperation in the Changing World Conference, which was held in the presence of a group of Iranian and Russian experts in the Russian capital Moscow on Thursday.

He also expressed hope that a free trade agreement, which Iran and the EAEU signed in late December, will be implemented as soon as possible following approval by parliaments of the member states of the EAEU.

The Ambassador further pointed out the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), noting that this mega-project can benefit EAEU members economically and would help boost security and peace in the region.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Jalali referred to the Israeli regime's crimes in Gaza, calling them a clear example of injustice, noting that Iran is highly critical of the current world order that is based on unilateralism. ► Page 5

## Israel incites settler violence to ethnically cleanse West Bank

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Brutal settler violence has sharply escalated in the occupied West Bank since Israel launched war on the Gaza Strip on October 7.

The latest deadly settler attack took place in the Palestinian village of Al-Mughayyir located in the east of Ramallah.

Hundreds of armed Israeli settlers stormed the village on Friday and set fire to Palestinian homes and cars.

One Palestinian man was killed by gunfire. More than two dozen others were injured in the rampage.

The deceased Palestinian has been identified as 26-year-old Jihad Abu Alia. It is not yet clear whether he was shot by settlers or Israeli forces who were present at the scene.

The head of the village's council estimated that up to 1,200 settlers surrounded the rural area and around 500 stormed it.

Amin Abu-Alia told CNN that the settlers raided homes and fired guns at residents.

He added that the Israeli military arrived at the scene but did not stop the settlers from attacking the village. ► Page 5

## China denounces attack on Iran embassy, calls on U.S. to act responsibly

TEHRAN – China has demanded that the U.S. take “a constructive role” in the West Asian region, and denounced the Israeli attack on Iran's diplomatic facilities in Syria.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi “expressed China's strong condemnation” of the terrorist attack by Israel on Iran's diplomatic premises in the Syrian capital of Damascus on April 1 during a phone conversation with his U.S. counterpart Antony Blinken on Thursday, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry Mao Ning said on Friday.

According to the spokesperson, the senior Chinese diplomat stressed the “inviolable” right to diplomatic facility security as well as the necessity of respecting Syria's and Iran's sovereignty.

“China will continue to play a constructive role in resolving the Middle East issue and help deescalate the situation,” Mao said.

“The U.S. in particular needs to play a constructive role,” she added.

## Will Iranian restraint prevent a ‘wider war’?

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – In the past few days, as Israel has been awaiting a retaliation from Tehran in response to its April 1 attack on the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Western media outlets have become deranged in trying to “keep the situation calm” in West Asia.

A brief review of the headlines from prominent news channels and websites in the West shows Israel's stenographers deliberately omit how tensions have risen to unprecedented levels in the first place. Titles like “Oil flares up over Iran attack fears”, “Flights rerouted amid Iran fears”, and “The Middle East is on the precipice of the wider war no one wants” all talk about the fact that Tehran is poised to attack Israeli positions, without really mentioning why it is being forced to take such action. An article appearing on Deutsche Welle, titled “Iranian embassy attack has Israel, Middle East on edge” might even make you think that Iran could have prevented Israel's strike by not having an embassy in Syria.

## IRGC seizes Israel-linked ship near Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN – The Special Naval Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) executed a significant operation on Saturday, seizing the Israel-linked MSC Aries container ship near the Strait of Hormuz, according to the official news agency IRNA.

The interception involved a meticulously planned heliborne operation by the Sepah Navy Special Force (SNSF), with commandos descending onto the ship's deck from helicopters. The vessel has since been redirected towards Iranian territorial waters.

Operated under the management of Zodiac Maritime, one of the world's largest shipping companies, the MSC Aries is a container ship flying the Portuguese flag. It's noteworthy that the vessel is owned by Eyal Ofer, an Israeli tycoon known for his involvement in real estate, energy, technology, and shipping sectors. Zodiac Maritime, a subsidiary of Ofer's Zodiac Group, oversees the operations of the vessel.

Born in Haifa in 1950, Ofer ranks among the wealthiest individuals in Israel, boasting a fortune nearing \$10 billion. He is also featured on Forbes' list of the wealthiest people worldwide.

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## Nomadic echoes: tracing Iran's tribal heritage back to millennia

TEHRAN – Due to its unique geographical location, Iran has long been considered one of the most significant nomadic regions in the world.

The earliest historical references to the presence of nomadic tribes in the country date back to the first millennium BC, although the term “Iran” at that time does not refer specifically to Iran with its current defined borders.

According to a recent report by ISNA, early nomadic tribes were initially pastoralists and were involved in horse breeding upon their arrival in Iran. “Discoveries in southwestern Iran indicate a history of nomadism in the country dating back over 8,000 years.” ► Page 6



## Protesters in London urge UK to stop arming Israel

Pro-Palestinians have held another rally in the British capital calling for an end to Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

Protesters in London demanded an immediate ceasefire.

The demonstrators asked the British government to stop arming Israel.

Carrying Palestinian flags, they chanted slogans such as “Free Palestine” and “Stop the genocide”.

There was a heavy Metropolitan Police presence in London with close to 1,000 officers being deployed to several different events taking place across the city.

## Pneumococcal, rotavirus vaccination to target high-risk provinces

TEHRAN –The vaccination program against pneumococcal and rotavirus will focus on tropical and southern regions of the country, an official with the health ministry has said.

The immunization initiative will begin in the coming weeks in provinces that are most vulnerable to these diseases, IRNA quoted Pedram Pak-Aein as saying.

Rotavirus vaccination program will target tropical, southern, and southeastern provinces, while pneumococcal vaccination will be extended to southern provinces as well, he added.

The nationwide implementation of the vaccination program will commence as soon as needed pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines are provided, Pak-Aein further noted. ► Page 7