

# Meeting in Cairo Anxiety in Tel Aviv



**Israel watches warily as Pezeshkian's Cairo visit raises prospects for Iran-Egypt rapprochement**

## Resistance groups are autonomous, Araghchi tells Egyptian media

TEHRAN – In an interview with Egypt's Alghad TV, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addressed misconceptions surrounding Iran's influence in the region, emphasizing that Resistance groups operate independently and are not under Iranian command.

The interview, which aired on Friday, was recorded following the recent visits by the Iranian President and Foreign Minister to Cairo.

"The notion that Resistance groups follow Iranian directives is incorrect," Araghchi asserted during the Developing Eight (D-8) summit, aiming to dispel such myths.

He clarified that while these groups share common goals with Iran, they are not controlled by it.

Araghchi also emphasized the existence of long-term American-Israeli strategies designed to destabilize the region, underscoring the severe consequences these plans have had.

"The aggressive warfare, resulting in the deaths of over sixty thousand women, children, and civilians in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, starkly reveals the threat Israel poses to regional stability," he stated. ▶ Page 2

## The state of Iran-Egypt relations: past and present

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The Iranian president, Masoud Pezeshkian, visited Cairo this week to participate in the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation Summit, also known as the "Developing 8."

The summit gathered leaders from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey. This event marked the first visit by a senior Iranian official to Egypt in the past 11 years, a significant milestone in the relationship between the two countries.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, diplomatic relations between Tehran and Cairo have not been fully restored, despite numerous attempts at rapprochement. In this context, Iranian media have expressed optimism that Pezeshkian's visit, leading a high-level delegation, could signal the start of a new phase in the relations between Iran and Egypt, two key players in the region's political landscape.

Egypt and Iran severed diplomatic relations in 1979, though they were partially resumed 11 years later. However, the restoration of communication did not equate to a full return to diplomatic ties; interactions remained limited to business representatives and interest protection offices. From a political standpoint, relations between the two countries can be divided into two key phases: pre-Islamic revolution and post-1979. ▶ Page 3

## War and diplomacy during and after the Al-Aqsa Flood

By Batool Subeiti

BEIRUT – Diplomacy during times of war differs significantly from diplomacy during periods of relative calm. This is particularly true when the negotiating parties fundamentally differ in their goals and have different standards. With an enemy that achieves their goals through striking fear, one cannot rely on their goodwill, nor waste available opportunities in the hope of a mirage.

History demonstrates that the trap of diplomacy has often led to setbacks for resistance movements. Delays and misplaced trust in promises from a deceitful enemy have resulted in strategic losses, particularly when officials believed in diplomatic assurances that later proved false. Understanding the true nature of the enemy is critical for success in war.

So far, independence and refusal to compromise by the resistance movement have been key to its achievements. Iran stands out as a model in its defensive and deterrence strategy. Its strength lies in its ability to fortify itself effectively, guided by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's directives.

## Ansarallah undeterred by Israeli attacks

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hebrew media has shed light on the Israeli aggression on Yemen that took place on Thursday.

The Public Broadcasting Corporation stated that "the attack in Yemen was approved by the Prime Minister (Benjamin Netanyahu) and the Defense Minister (Yisrael Katz) but was not discussed or approved by the security cabinet."

It also mentioned that only a general overview of developments was presented to cabinet ministers without revealing the targets of the airstrikes.

Additionally, an Israeli reserve officer, one of the pilots who participated in the aggression on Yemen, described the mission as "extremely complex."

The Israeli major explained that "the strikes were carried out over a distance of about 2,000 kilometers round trip, with more than sixty bombs dropped during the night hours, requiring precision." He added that "the pilots spent six hours in the aircraft from takeoff to landing."

## US diplomats in Syria: A charm offensive to mislead the public

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The presence of a senior delegation of American diplomats in Syria along with their efforts to engage with the country's rebel leaders primarily aims to mislead public opinion and further the US political objectives.

The delegation includes Assistant Secretary of State Barbara Leaf, who is the top State Department official for the Middle East (West Asia).

Daniel Rubinstein, who is tasked with leading the State Department's Syria engagement, is also part of the team.

Also present is Roger Carstens, the Biden administration's top official for freeing Americans held overseas.

The trip marks the first formal American diplomatic appearance in Syria in more than a decade.

The United States closed its embassy in Damascus in February 2012 in protest against the Syrian government's handling of demonstrations that broke out after the 2011 Arab Spring. ▶ Page 5



## Iran tops SCO Countries Worker Skills Contest

TEHRAN – Iranian national robotics team ranked first, securing a gold and a silver medal in the third Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Countries Worker Skills Contest, held in Qingdao, China's Shandong, from December 15 to 18.

The event served as a platform for sharing expertise, attracting skilled workers from 15 teams competing in three programs.

Mohammad-Javad Haqi grabbed the gold medal.

### Achievement in robotics competitions

The 24 Iranian robotics teams that participated in the Federation of International Robosports Association (FIRA) 2024 RoboWorld Cup in Sao Luis, Brazil, managed to win 17 awards. ▶ Page 7

## Iran's presence in Syria: security chief explains the 'why' and 'how'

TEHRAN – In an interview with Khamenei.ir, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), provided a comprehensive explanation of Iran's presence in Syria over the past decade.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government collapsed earlier this month after an insurgency in the country's northwestern Aleppo province quickly spread across the nation in the face of the Syrian army's lack of resistance.

Assad's Syria was a close Iranian ally, maintaining a strongly anti-Israel stance. With Syria's future uncertain following Assad's departure, Western media narratives frequently portray the situation as a significant setback for Iran, suggesting that Assad's Syria was heavily influenced—militarily and politically—by Iran, and his fall represents the loss of a key asset. ▶ Page 2

