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Brief Notes

Evidence of Cleanup at North Tehran Nuclear Site: Evidence has emerged of rapid cleanup operations at the Mojdeh nuclear site in Lavizan, north Tehran, which was recently targeted by Israeli airstrikes, potentially eliminating evidence of weapons-related nuclear work. Satellite images from Maxar dated 2 July and 18 August show activity consistent with efforts to erase traces of past research. The IAEA has previously linked Mojdeh, also known as Lavizan-2, near Malek Ashtar University, to the "Amad Plan," the early codename for the regime's nuclear weapons program.

President Underscores Belt and Road Initiative Commitment: President Masoud Pezeshkian highlighted Tehran's commitment to deepening strategic ties with China ahead of his planned attendance at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1. Speaking during a meeting in Tehran attended by several senior ministry and executive agency officials today, Pezeshkian said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in serious and constructive cooperation with China, particularly in advancing that country's strategic Belt and Road Initiative. All other areas of bilateral cooperation can be defined and pursued within the framework of engagement to promote the Belt and Road Initiative."

IRGC Spokesperson Attributes Military 'Success' to Intel Ops: Spokesperson for the IRGC Ali Mohammad Naeini praised the branch's "information bank" as the cause of the regime's military "success" against several foreign and domestic threats, saying, "The counter-revolutionaries had already divided responsibilities, and terrorist operations were planned for Tehran from the northwest, southeast, and even inside Iraq and Pakistan, but all of these plots were thwarted."

E3 Triggers Snapback Sanctions

The E3 notified the UN Security Council of their decision to trigger the snapback mechanism this morning, thus beginning the 30-day process to reimpose UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic under UNSCR 2231.

The sanctions reimposed will encompass all restrictions set out in UNSCRs 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), 1835 (2008), and 1929 (2010). This includes an indefinite ban on the transfer of conventional arms to and from Iran, an indefinite ban on international support for the missile program, a ban on all testing and

development of nuclear-capable missiles, a demand for a total halt to all enrichment-related activities, and an indefinite travel and asset ban for sanctioned individuals.

Tehran has warned of a harsh response. In a statement, the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry "strongly rejects and condemns" the act as "an illegal and unfounded attempt to revive terminated resolutions." The ministry stressed that the three European powers have "no legal or moral authority to resort to the so-called snapback mechanism." The statement warned that the decision will "seriously undermine Iran's cooperation with the IAEA." It added, "This provocative and unnecessary escalation will be met with appropriate responses." Tehran stressed its "readiness to engage constructively with Security Council members committed to preserving diplomacy and preventing a fabricated crisis."

IRGC-affiliated Fars News said, "The resolutions set to be reinstated through the snapback mechanism contain no banking or oil sanctions against Iran, and all such sanctions on Iran are unilateral measures, like those imposed by the U.S. Treasury, which are already in place."

Meanwhile, the Majles (Parliament) today initiated the drafting of an urgent plan for the Islamic Republic to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Learn what the next 30 days will look like, what sanctions will be reimplemented at the end of this period, and more snapback details here.

On the Radar

- Demonstrators gathered outside the Sistan and Baluchestan Province Governor-General's office today to protest the prolonged closure of border crossings. The crossings, vital for local livelihoods, have been closed for over four months. Anti-riot forces are stationed at the site to confront protestors.
- Mohammad Hossein Ranjbaran, media adviser to Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, yesterday resigned after backlash over his interview with Expediency Council member Mohammad Sadr. In the 23 August interview, Sadr alleged that Russia shared intelligence with Israel during the 12-Day War. The Foreign Ministry dismissed the remarks as Sadr's "personal opinion," but the controversy highlighted discontent in the Islamic Republic over Moscow's limited support during and after the 12-Day War.
- Sistan and Baluchestan's provincial law enforcement commander, Mohammadreza Eshaqi, today announced the dismantling of an "explosives workshop" in Iranshahr, allegedly linked to the Sunni militant group Jaish al-Adl. Eshaqi stated the facility produced "suicide vests and homemade bombs". Seized materials allegedly included 64 detonators, grenades, remote controls, and five kilograms of explosives. Authorities said the group planned attacks on economic infrastructure and crowded public areas. The news comes amid a surge in deadly armed clashes between the group and Islamic Republic security forces in southeast Iran.

- A high court in Abuja is reportedly reconsidering the admissibility of confessions used in the indictments of three Nigerians, originally arrested in 2013 for allegedly spying on behalf of the Islamic Republic, due to recent arguments from the defendants that their statements were made under duress. The men face terrorism charges brought by Nigeria's Department of State Services.

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