Brief Notes

FM Says Tehran Supports 'Unity' for Lebanon: Islamic Republic Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met Ali Hassan Khalil, a senior Lebanese MP of the Shia Amal Movement and a deputy to Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, on the sidelines of the "International Law Under Assault: Aggression and Self-Defense" conference in Tehran yesterday, using the meeting to reassert Tehran's alignment with Lebanon's Shia factions and to frame Israel as the primary source of "aggression" in the region. Araghchi praised Lebanon's "resilience," underscored the importance of "vigilance and unity" among Lebanon's people and political groups, and pledged continued support as Khalil echoed Tehran's line on alleged Israeli ceasefire violations. Khalil also met Parliament Speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf, who dismissed the ceasefire as "superficial." Khalil also held talks with Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani on Saturday, November 15.

Deputy FM Claims IAEA Inspections Not Allowed Due to Safety Issues: At the same conference, Islamic Republic Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said that Tehran has not resumed uranium enrichment since the June U.S. strikes on its nuclear facilities. Gharibabadi added, "The reason for not granting access to the IAEA is that we ourselves do not have access. There is unexploded ammunition at those locations…Those who carried out the attacks now want to see the extent of the damage," framing the restriction as a safety issue rather than a refusal to cooperate. Gharibabadi warned that Western states are preparing a resolution against the regime at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting beginning on November 19, and threatened that Tehran would "reconsider" its relationship with the IAEA if the measure passes.

Tehran Tells IAEA to Avoid 'Political Behavior': Foreign Minister Araghchi accused the IAEA of bending to U.S. and European pressure ahead of the Board of Governors meeting, beginning on November 19. In a call with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, Araghchi insisted Tehran has been "constructive" in talks with the IAEA and said the Agency must avoid "political behavior and being influenced by political pressure."

IRGC Confirms Seizure of Marshall Islands-Flagged Tanker: On November 15, the IRGC acknowledged seizing the Marshall Islands-flagged Talara after maritime security sources reported the day before that the vessel had been diverted into Iranian waters while sailing from the UAE to Singapore. The IRGC said the move followed a "judicial ruling" and accused the tanker of carrying 30,000 tons of "illegal" petrochemical products. IRGC-linked media claimed the seizure targeted an Iranian entity and "was not a countermeasure against foreign parties." Columbia Shipmanagement, technical manager of the vessel, confirmed that contact was made with the tanker's

captain yesterday. The tanker is now reportedly anchored off Bandar Abbas, and Columbia Shipmanagement said it is working with regional partners to secure the crew's release.

Tehran Conference Signals Defiance Ahead of IAEA Meeting

At the "International Law Under Assault: Aggression and Self-Defense" conference in Tehran yesterday, senior Islamic Republic officials framed the June U.S. and Israeli strikes on nuclear facilities in Iran as illegal and reiterated that Tehran will continue on its nuclear path.

Foreign Minister Araghchi claimed the U.S. had resumed requests for talks because it had realized it cannot halt Tehran's nuclear program through military action, and asserted that the regime is now militarily stronger than before the 12-Day War, saying, "They did not achieve any of their goals. They failed."

Kamal Kharrazi, senior adviser to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, said Tehran is prepared to resume negotiations with the U.S. only based on "equality" and "mutual respect," criticized the UN for doing "nothing for Iran," and described the June strikes on the regime's nuclear facilities as illegal.

Atomic Energy Organization chief Mohammad Eslami said during a panel that the regime will continue nuclear activities regardless of any resolution passed by the IAEA. Eslami also complained of a lack of support for the regime from international organizations, saying, "Not only the IAEA, but also the Security Council, refused to condemn these attacks," referring to U.S. and Israeli strikes during the 12-Day War.

On the Radar

- Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei condemned Israel for the continuation of its "siege" on Gaza. He cited "the prevention of the removal of debris, the prevention of the reconstruction of health and medical networks and vital infrastructure in the Gaza Strip" as part of a broader policy of "genocide against Palestinians." Baghaei also condemned "the spread of the wave of terrorist and destructive attacks by Zionist settlers."
- A delegation led by the Taliban Minister of Industry and Trade, Nooruddin Azizi, visited Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province on Saturday to discuss bilateral trade and transit cooperation. The meeting at the Milak border with provincial officials focused on removing obstacles to trade, enhancing operational coordination, and inspecting economic facilities. The visit coincides with Taliban policy shifts, including a ban on Pakistani imports into Afghanistan.
- Iraq's pro-Tehran Coordination Framework alliance announced today that it had formed the majority bloc in the newly elected parliament, and said that it will nominate the next prime minister. The Coordination Framework "has signed off on forming the largest parliamentary bloc, which includes all of its entities,"

the alliance said in a statement. It is not yet clear if Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani, who hopes to serve a second term, has joined the Coordination Framework alliance.

- Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty held separate calls yesterday with Foreign Minister Araghchi and IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi to discuss Tehran–IAEA cooperation. In both conversations, Abdelatty emphasized the need to "continue de-escalation efforts, rebuild confidence, and create conditions for continued technical engagement." The calls follow Egyptian mediation in September between Tehran and the IAEA.
- Foreign Minister Araghchi, in a phone call with the Foreign Minister of Niger, Bakary Yaou Sangare, today said that the Islamic Republic is determined to strengthen ties with African nation, which has shunned the West and turned to Beijing, Moscow, and Tehran, since its July 2023 coup.

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