Brief Notes

Supreme Leader Reportedly Lifts Missile Range Cap: Member of the Majles (Parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, Ahmad Bakhshayesh Ardestani, said, "The Leader had previously limited the missile range to 2,200 kilometers, but that restriction has now been lifted." Responding to remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding Tehran's efforts to develop intercontinental missiles with ranges of up to 8,000km, Ardestani added, "The Islamic Republic has expanded and will continue to expand its missile program as far as it deems necessary." Ardestani further stated, "We are ready to negotiate on the nuclear program, but there will be no negotiations on the missile program."

Parliament Speaker Praises 10/7, Expansion of 'Resistance Front': Majles Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack on Israel delivered a "strategic blow" to the country, plunging it into an "existential crisis" and derailing its plans for the Middle East. Addressing parliament today, Ghalibaf claimed the operation "disrupted the calculations of U.S. and Israeli global arrogance," and said the "Resistance Front" had since expanded from Gaza, Sanaa, and Beirut to cities such as Sydney, Berlin, and London, making Israel "the most hated regime" worldwide. He added that "Hamas not only has not disappeared, but has been forcing its demands on Israel."

Four Caspian Littoral States Sign Naval Pact: Naval commanders of the Islamic Republic, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan today signed an agreement in Saint Petersburg barring any outside powers from interfering in Caspian Sea affairs. The agreement, signed by Artesh Navy Commander Shahram Irani, notably excludes Turkmenistan, the sole Caspian littoral nation not signed onto the pact. The commanders reportedly emphasized that "the Sea belongs exclusively to the five littoral states" and provisions of the pact state "no foreign or extra-regional powers will be permitted to interfere in the internal affairs of the Caspian Sea."

Tehran Releases French-German Teen Cyclist: French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot told AFP today, "Iran has released a 19-year-old French-German national days after dropping spying charges against him…Lennart Monterlos is free," adding that the cyclist would return to France on Thursday. His release follows a meeting between President Masoud Pezeshkian and French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, after which France withdrew its International Court of Justice case against Tehran over violations of consular protection for two French citizens detained by the regime for more than three years.

IRGC Weapons Shipment to West Bank Foiled: Israel's Shin Bet security agency said it recently foiled an Islamic Republic attempt to smuggle a large cache of advanced weapons to terror operatives in the West Bank for attacks on Israeli targets. The seized shipment included explosives, rockets, drones, rifles, and grenades. According to the agency, the operation was directed by IRGC intelligence and Quds Force units. "This shipment, like its predecessors, is part of an ongoing Iranian effort to undermine security in the region by arming terror cells on the ground whose purpose is to carry out attacks against Israelis and IDF troops," the Shin Bet said.

Seizure of Regime Office in London Upheld: The state-run National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has vowed to challenge a UK Court of Appeal ruling that, as part of a broader $2.4 billion arbitration dispute, upheld the seizure of an office building in London owned by NIOC. In response, members of the Majles are questioning previous claims that Crescent Gas had seized $2.3 billion of the Islamic Republic's assets in Malaysia.

FM Warns Trump Not to 'Double Down on Miscalculations'

In a post on X, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused Israel of having "deceived the U.S. into attacking the Iranian people" during the 12-Day War, responding to President Trump's claim that U.S. strikes had destroyed the Islamic Republic's nuclear sites. Araghchi warned Trump not to "double down on miscalculations," comparing the attack and threats of future attacks to the 2003 Iraq invasion, which he said led to "unfathomable destruction, thousands of dead American soldiers, and 7 trillion American taxpayer dollars down the drain." He argued there was "certainly no 'intelligence'" that the Islamic Republic was near developing a nuclear weapon and urged that "there is NO solution but a negotiated outcome."

Araghchi also denied reports that he recently communicated with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff about restarting nuclear talks, calling claims by Kuwait's Al-Jarida "unfounded." Al-Jarida and the Kuwait Times yesterday also reported that Witkoff sought Tehran's support for President Trump's Gaza peace plan prior to the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry statement tacitly supporting the plan two days ago.

Meanwhile, senior member of the Majles, Ebrahim Azizi, defended the legislature's decision to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, saying it served the Islamic Republic's "national interests" and strengthened its negotiating position. Speaking on state TV, Azizi claimed the move also helped "prevent another attack" on the Islamic Republic following the 12-Day War. He added that the war, like the Iran–Iraq War, demonstrated the need for the Islamic Republic to be "self-reliant."

These comments came after several newly appointed foreign ambassadors presented their credentials to President Pezeshkian in Tehran yesterday. President Pezeshkian used the opportunity to denounce U.S. sanctions, reject accusations over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, and condemn Israel's actions in Gaza. In brief talks with the newly appointed Swiss ambassador to Tehran, Olivier Bangerter, Pezeshkian requested he relay to Washington that "Iran, based on its fundamental principles and policies, has never sought and will not seek nuclear weapons."

In separate brief meetings, Pezeshkian urged Islamic unity with Indonesia against Israel's "shameful crimes" and proposed deeper cooperation with Cote d'Ivoire, calling Africa a priority for Tehran's foreign policy.

On the Radar

- A newly released image shows senior IRGC General Mohammad Saeed Izadi (killed by Israel during the 12-Day War) analyzing the Hamas attack on Israel from an undisclosed location. The accompanying caption reads: "Behind every shot that has struck the enemy in Gaza, your fingerprints are present. God knows." Yesterday, IRGC-run Fars News published a photo it described as the "October 7 Operation Room," showing Quds Force commanders, including Izadi, meeting with senior Hamas figures, presumably in Beirut and on the day of the attack.
- Reports show that judicial cases are being opened against social media users solely for "liking" posts on platforms such as Instagram. Several citizens have been accused of crimes such as "insulting the Supreme Leader" or "propaganda against the regime" merely for liking content shared by opposition figures or media critical of the Islamic Republic. Most of these cases have emerged in smaller towns, though some have also been reported in major cities such as Mashhad. While no verdicts have been issued yet, prosecutors have reportedly imposed heavy bail amounts on some defendants.
- The Taliban-run Ministry of Refugees and Returnees reported that "over the past one week, 80,803 refugees have voluntarily returned or have been deported to the country from Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey."
- The Foreign Ministry summoned European ambassadors in Tehran to protest a joint EU–Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) statement that recognized the UAE's claim over three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, and urged the Islamic Republic to limit its missile and drone programs. Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi condemned the statement as a "political and biased stance," calling the EU's allegations "untrue and exaggerated narratives." Additionally, Majles Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf denounced the EU–GCC statement, asserting that the Iranian nation "will not make the slightest concession" over the issue.
- Today, IRNA reported that an IRGC member, identified as 31-year-old Mehdi Mazinanian, was killed in an incident during a "combat mission" in Iran's northern Semnan Province. No further details were provided.
- Afsaneh Nadipour, a 33-year veteran of the Islamic Republic who defended the regime's violent crackdown on women's rights protesters, has been elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee. The committee, composed of 18 experts from different regions, serves as a think tank that provides studies and research-based advice to the Council on the promotion and protection of human rights. Nadipour's appointment has drawn criticism, as she is seen by many as an adversary of women's rights and democratic freedoms in Iran.

- Australia has introduced new counterterrorism legislation that would, for the first time, allow the government to designate foreign state entities, including the IRGC, as terrorist organizations. Australian lawmakers said the bill "creates an environment in which it is more difficult, more risky, and more costly for malicious foreign actors to cause Australia and our community harm." Once enacted, the law would expand Australia's counterterrorism framework to include state-backed actors and align Canberra more closely with U.S. and Western allies already sanctioning the IRGC. The possible designation will reportedly not affect low-ranking IRGC conscripts.

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