



# Weekly Newsletter

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## *Middle East in a Week*

Regarding international relations and world politics, the Middle East may be the most controversial region in the current times. On one hand it sits on most of the world's oil reserves, while on the other hand, it inhibits the followers of the most controversial religion in the world, Islam. These matters combined have created a region filled with drastic events. Every day, there are new wars erupting in the region and every day, there are new ways through which the west and the far east try to increase their influence in the region. This region inhibits 411 million people out of which 28 % are under the age of 25 years old. This newsletter tries to give weekly updates on the important issues in the Middle East and combining them with some analysis, hopes to have a role in changing the region's situation to the better.

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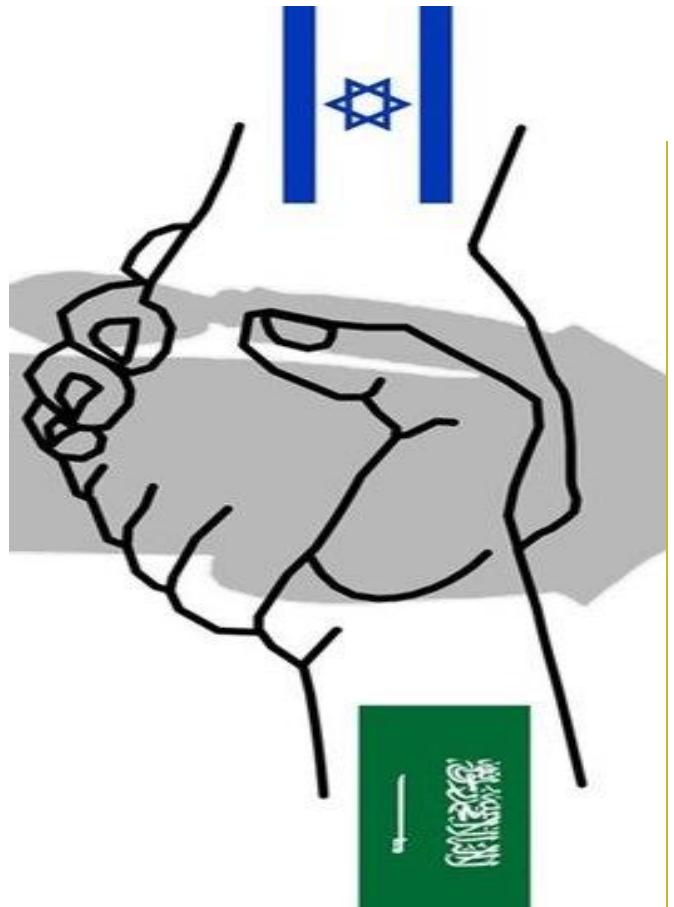
## LEBANON BEING REBUILD IN FRANCE<sup>1</sup>

French President Emmanuel Macron, in a visit to Lebanon, has offered to help provide the crisis-hit nation with vital aid if its politicians make good on long-overdue reforms. Speaking at the palatial French ambassador's residence in Beirut from where Greater Lebanon was proclaimed by colonial France 100 years ago, Macron said on Tuesday he would rally international aid at an October donor conference aimed at rebuilding the capital after a devastating explosion last month and halting the country's economic demise.

But "we will not give Lebanon a carte-blanche, or a blank check," he added, noting that everything was conditional on whether the country's fractious leaders could unite around change. Macron said Lebanese leaders had pledged to form a government within 15 days, which must then implement a host of reforms within one to three months.



## A 40-YEAR-OLD BETRAYAL BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBORS<sup>2</sup>

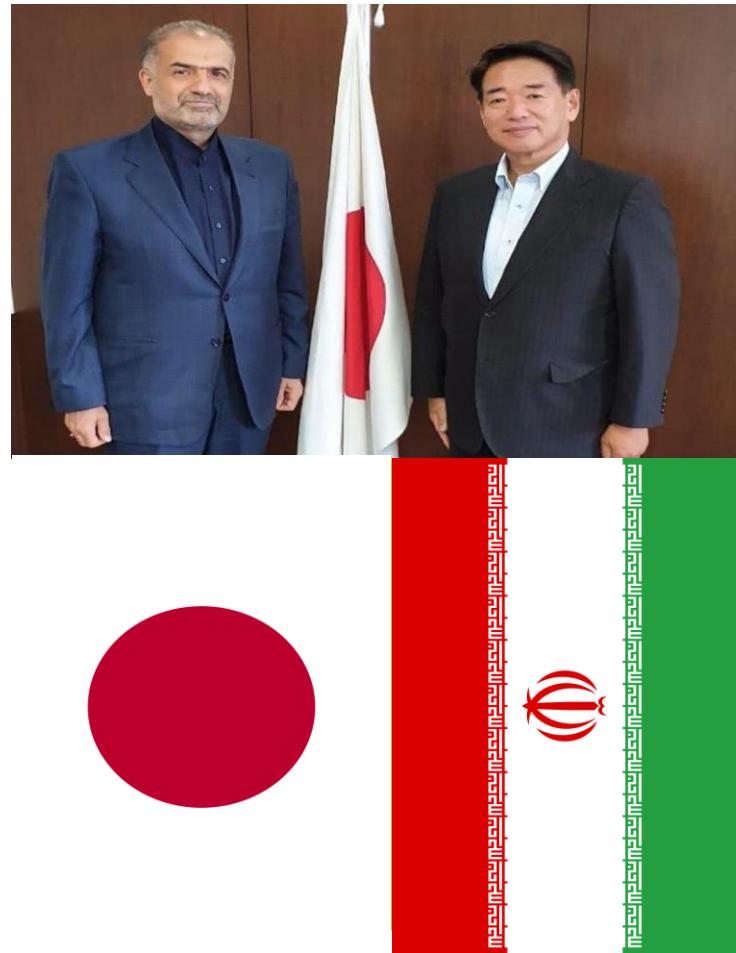
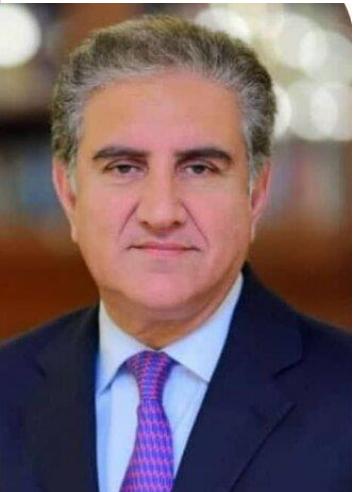


During a tweet, Qanem Al-Dousri, a human rights activist, revealed Saudi Arabia's betrayal to Iraq in 1981. This London based critic of Saudi Arabia, as a response to the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab World, wrote: "did you know that in 1981 the Israeli planes which bombed Iraq's nuclear plants, passed through the Saudi Arabia's sky?....one of them had to drop its gas container which is still in Saudi Arabia!!!".

According to the experts, Israeli fighters in this operation called 'Opera' flew close to the surface on the Sina-Jordan, Saudi Arabia-Iraq path; all of which Israel's enemies at the time. Last Monday, the first Israeli plane entered Abu Dhabi through the Saudi Arabia's sky. As it seems, the Arab Region has an inefficient memory, constantly forgetting its own fluctuated history of war, treason and mayhem.

## **IRAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS UNDER US SANCTIONS<sup>3</sup>**

Tehran, Sept 3, IRNA - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi discussed bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan, as well as latest regional developments. Zarif and Qureshi in a telephone conversation on Thursday talked about bilateral relations, the Joint Commission for Cooperation between the two countries, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the latest developments in Afghanistan, as well as Kashmir. Zarif, meantime, extended his condolences to the government and the people of Pakistan regarding the flood incident in the Sindh province of the neighboring. Torrential rains in various parts of Pakistan, especially in the city of Karachi, killed more than 90 people and destroyed 1,000 homes over the last 3 days.



## **IRAN AND JAPAN MEET IN MOSCOW<sup>5</sup>**

The ambassadors of Iran and Japan to Russia discussed ways to expand cooperation and issues of mutual interests in Moscow. Kazem Jalali and Toyohisa Kozuki discussed regional and international issues, including political and economic cooperation between the two countries, Syria, coronavirus, and the Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Jalali stressed the illegality of the US actions against Iran and Washington's attempts to restore sanctions despite the opposition of the world, especially the members of the United Nations Security Council. He added that Iran has been deprived of the economic and political interests of the JCPOA due to US sabotage. Japan's ambassador stressed Iran's constructive role in peace and stability of the region. As it goes, many countries are changing their perception of Iran. Yet, as long as the US policy is against Iran, these 'other' relations do not yield any fruits.

## **PAKISTAN'S VIEW ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT<sup>4</sup>**

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan says the Israel-Palestine issue will not be resolved unless there is a "just settlement" for the Palestinians, even if more countries decide to recognize Israel. "Any one-sided settlement which is going to be imposed on the Palestinians is not going to work," Khan said after he was asked about the recent normalization of relations between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. In a wide-ranging interview with Talk to Al Jazeera, the Pakistani prime minister said Israel must "recognize this: that if they do not allow the Palestinians to have a just settlement, a viable state, this issue will not die down." "Even if other countries recognize it, it will not die down, the issue will continue to fester. It is in Israel's interest that there should be a just settlement," Khan added. Khan said if Pakistan accepted Israel and ignored the oppression of the Palestinians, "we will have to give up Kashmir as well then", adding that this was not something Pakistan could do. The UAE on August 13 became the first Gulf Arab country - and third in the Middle East after Egypt and Jordan - to reach a deal on normalizing relations with Israel, capping years of discreet contacts between the two countries in commerce and technology.



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<sup>1</sup> Exclusive: French reform proposal for Lebanon delves into details, 04-SEP-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/09/exclusive-french-reform-proposal-lebanon-delves-details-200902111359654.html>

<sup>2</sup> ۴۰ سال پیش عربستان به عراق افشای خیانت ۳-SEP-2020, [khabaronline.ir/news/1428588](https://www.khabaronline.ir/news/1428588).

<sup>3</sup> Iran, Pakistan FM discuss mutual cooperation, regional developments, 03-SEP-2020, [en.irna.ir/news/84026016/](https://en.irna.ir/news/84026016/)

<sup>4</sup> One-sided deal imposed on the Palestinians will not work: PM Khan, 4-SEP-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/09/sided-deal-imposed-palestinians-work-pm-khan-200903091323919.html>

<sup>5</sup> Iran, Japan discuss mutual, int'l issues in Russia, 3-SEP-2020, [en.irna.ir/news/84025257/](https://en.irna.ir/news/84025257/)