

Iran reiterates full sovereignty over trio islands in Persian Gulf

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei says there is "no doubt or skepticism" about Iran's sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb. Responding to a question on the issue during his weekly press briefing on Monday, Baqaei rejected renewed territorial claims raised by the United Arab Emirates in a [Persian] Gulf Co-operation Council ([P]GCC) statement. "In terms of history, in terms of law, and in terms of what exists in reality, there is no doubt and no skepticism about the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb," he said.

US security strategy secures interests of Israel more than US: Baqaei

Baqaei also commented on the new US national security strategy, saying it openly reflected long-standing American policies in West Asia. He said Iran would study the document but that "what is clear at first glance is that this document very nakedly states the same things that over the past years various US administrations were pursuing and hiding under the banner of human rights and democracy." He said the document identified two key priorities in the region: securing access to energy resources and ensuring the so-called security of the Israeli regime. "From the content of this document, one can assess that the US has placed itself in the position of a judge over all countries; something that no side accepts in today's world," he said, adding that the absence of any reference to Palestinian rights showed that "this document, more than being the US national security document, is the national security document of the Zionist regime at least regarding West Asia." On discussions between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general and the European

Union's foreign policy chief regarding Iran, Baqaei said such contacts did not signal the start of new negotiations. "We are in contact with the agency... through our representation in Vienna. This is a continuous matter," he said. He said that while other parties may raise Iran in bilateral talks with the IAEA, to say that mediation or negotiation in the conventional sense is underway is wrong.

Spokesperson: No indirect channels with US

He also dismissed speculation about indirect channels with the United States following recent comments from Washington about increased pressure on Iran. The official communication channels, he said, remain the US Interests Section at the Swiss Embassy in Tehran and Iran's Interests Section in Washington. "If other countries... carry messages, it is commonplace, but to say that a specific channel exists between us and the US, no," he added.

Iran rejects interference in Lebanon's affairs

Addressing claims that Iran interfered in Lebanon's internal affairs after reports that the Lebanese foreign minister declined an invitation to visit Tehran, Baqaei said, "We have no interference in Lebanon's internal affairs." He described Hezbollah as "a rooted and influential institution" that makes its own decisions. Iran's positions on regional peace and Israeli threats "should not be interpreted as interference" but reflect Iran's sense of responsibility, he added.

'Do as you would be done by': Iran tells Germany

Baqaei criticized the contradictory stance by Germany after Berlin's foreign minister dismissed US con-

cerns over democracy and freedom of expression in Europe as unwarranted external interference. "This is one of those ironies of our time; Germany, which itself has been one of the accused parties in interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, including Iran, now seems to be suffering from the same problem that it was itself one of the creators of," he stated. He said such governments should be advised that "whatever you do not approve for yourselves, do not approve for others," noting that Germany and other European states, "with the help of the United States," had long intervened in other countries' affairs under the pretext of human rights. The official also reacted to recent remarks by the US special envoy for Syria, who said Washington had twice attempted to topple the Iranian government but failed, and now sought a "rational solution" to the Iran question. He said there was nothing new in the revelation. "This has been very clear. Various US administrations over these five decades have always tried to interfere in Iran's internal affairs, and what they themselves call 'changing the system' is in fact an admission of the US acting to violate national sovereignty, which is completely contrary to international law," he said.

Resistance groups are liberation movements: Baqaei

Addressing questions about a brief controversy in Iraq after reports that Hezbollah and Yemen's Ansarullah had been listed as terrorist organizations before the Iraqi prime minister rejected the reports as an administrative error, Baqaei said Iran had nothing to add after the country's top executive clarified the matter. "It is clear to all the nations of the region and the world that Hezbollah and groups similar to Hezbollah fight for a legal and legitimate cause, which is safeguarding the



right to self-determination and resisting occupation," he said. According to Baqaei, under international law and moral principles, such movements are "considered liberation movements," and labels imposed by the United States and some Western states "have no basis or legitimacy."

Tehran voices concerns over Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions

Turning to rising border tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Baqaei expressed deep concern. "We are very worried about the continuation of tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan," he said, citing Iran's cultural, historical and religious affinity with both neighbors as well as shared borders. "Any insecurity in our surrounding borders is definitely harmful to our national security."

Baqaei slams racist US actions against Iranian nationals

Asked about Washington's announcement that Iranian football fans would not be issued visas for the football World Cup, Baqaei said the US, as the host

country, is obligated under FIFA regulations to facilitate the entry of participating teams, coaches and delegations. Any violation of these obligations, he said, entailed "international responsibility" for the United States. Regarding reported mistreatment of Iranian nationals in the US and the return of several individuals on alleged immigration grounds, Baqaei said that although Washington claimed the deportations were legal, "we know that over the past year, racist measures against foreign nationals, especially those from the region and especially Iran, have intensified."

Iran will not tolerate any hostile act: Spokesperson

Elsewhere in his remarks, Baqaei addressed reports that Israel might be using Azerbaijani airspace for operations against Iran. He said Iran will tolerate no infringement of its sovereignty and had consistently warned neighbors to prevent Israeli misuse of their airspace. Iran's position on any such allegation, he said, would be based strictly on "documented and substantiated information," and any verified case would be raised "seriously and transparently" with the country concerned.

Araghchi, Aliyev stress expanding Tehran-Baku cooperation

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev stressed the need for expanding the Tehran-Baku bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields. Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, who traveled to Baku for consultations with senior Azerbaijani officials, met with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on Monday morning. The two sides discussed a broad range of bilateral issues, including the trajectory of political engagement, neighborhood-related matters, and mechanisms for managing relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, Araghchi conveyed the warm greetings of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to President Aliyev and emphasized the deep historical and cultural ties connecting the two nations. He reiterated Iran's determination to strengthen and expand cooperation with Azerbaijan across all mutually beneficial areas.

Highlighting the importance of long-term vision in relations between neighboring countries, Araghchi underlined the role of continuous diplomatic dialogue in addressing misunderstandings and managing ongoing issues. The Iranian foreign minister also outlined Iran's perspectives on key regional developments.

President Aliyev, for his part, conveyed his greetings to President Pezeshkian, describing the Iranian president's recent visit to Baku as a "historic" milestone that significantly advanced mutual understanding and improved bilateral relations.

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During 12-day war;

36 killed in Iran's attack on Mossad headquarters

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)'s spokesman says that 36 people were killed in Iran's missile strike on the Mossad headquarters during the 12-day war with Israel. IRGC Spokesman and Deputy for Public Relations Brigadier General Ali-Mohammad Naeini, speaking on Sunday during a Student Day event, outlined Iran's military actions during the 12-day war with Israel, describing the initial response as immediate and coordinated. According to Naeini, quoted by Mehr News Agency, following Israel's strike on a fuel depot in Tehran, Iran targeted the Haifa refinery in two separate strikes within five hours, which he said Israeli sources themselves described as a "Iran's missile masterpiece" that put the facility out of service. He added that after Israel attacked an Iranian intelligence center, Iran responded by striking a Mossad site, saying it resulted in 36 fatalities. Naeini said Iran's "True Promise 3" operation began only hours after the outbreak of the conflict, characterizing it as a multi-layered and innovative campaign combining electronic warfare, cyber operations, missiles, and drones. He emphasized that Iran entered the conflict with full intelligence dominance and a comprehensive data bank. He argued that Israeli military and intelligence casualties were "certainly higher" than Iran's and pointed to Iran's precision capabili-

ties, including striking the minus-one floor of a 32-story building used as a stock-exchange data center in occupied Palestine. Naeini said Israel employed its entire air-defense network, supported by US assets in the region, but still failed to stop Iranian missiles. He stressed that a single Iranian missile, after Israel initially warned of "mass attacks," inflicted damage multiple times larger than anticipated. He highlighted the role of young Iranian specialists in building Iran's defense capabilities and reiterated that the country's post-Iran-Iraq War doctrine is based on people-centered defense and asymmetric warfare, where fronts cannot be compared "symmetrically." Describing the 12-day war as a significant case study for military analysts, Naeini said Iran's rapid recovery of command structures, the execution of 22 consecutive missile waves of attacks against Israel, and the ability to neutralize shock and regain initiative were decisive factors. He also said that US and Israeli think tanks now argue the post-war era should be divided into "before and after the 12-day war," calling the conflict "unprecedented" and suggesting it will remain a major subject for global strategic studies. He also said Iran confronted 400-500 cyberattacks during the conflict and conducted its own cyber operations. According to Naeini, many dimensions of the cyber and intelligence

war cannot be publicly disclosed. On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked aggression against Iran while Washington and Tehran were in a process of nuclear negotiations. The Israeli attack triggered a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians. The United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law. In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the Al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia. On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the aggression.



President Pezeshkian to visit Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan

President Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to visit Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmaeil Baqaei announced on Monday.

In his weekly press conference on Sunday, Baqaei said that Pezeshkian would travel to the two Central Asian countries in the coming days, without specifying the details of the planned visits.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the Kazakh presidential office announced that the Iranian president would pay an official visit to Astana on Wednesday.

According to the statement, during Pezeshkian's two-day trip, the two countries would review bilateral relations, and discuss ways to further strengthen trade and economic cooperation, transport and logistics, as well as cultural and humanitarian activities.

Previously, Deputy for International Affairs of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Hamed Asgari, talked about the president's visit to Kazakhstan at the head of a large trade delegation. "Iran's private sector is ready to take on a leading role in strengthening economic relations with Kazakhstan," Asgari said. The details of Pezeshkian's visit to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, have not yet been announced.