



### Iranian president calls for expanded ties with Qatar

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has sent a congratulatory message to the Qatari Emir and people on the occasion of the country's National Day, calling for expanding Tehran-Doha relations. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has congratulated Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of Qatar's National Day. In his message, Pezeshkian highlighted the historical relations and political, cultural, and people-to-people ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar, describing them as a solid foundation for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. He expressed hope that, through the determination and will of officials in both countries, relations between Tehran and Doha would continue to expand and deepen across all fields.

### UK, Iran top diplomats discuss bilateral ties, nuclear issue

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper held a telephone conversation on Friday, exchanging views on bilateral relations, consular matters, and the Iranian nuclear issue. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Yvette Cooper, the UK's foreign secretary, held a telephone conversation on Friday to discuss a range of bilateral and international issues. During the call, the two sides exchanged views on aspects of Iran-UK relations, including consular matters, and stressed the need to continue consultations at various levels in order to enhance mutual understanding and follow up on issues of interest to both sides. Araghchi criticized the irresponsible approach of three European countries toward Iran's nuclear issue, emphasizing that Iran has never rejected negotiations or dialogue based on respect for the legal rights and legitimate interests of the Iranian nation. However, he underlined that Iran firmly opposes negotiations that amount to unilateral imposition. The UK foreign secretary, for her part, reiterated Britain's position on the necessity of using diplomacy in addressing Iran's nuclear issue.

### US Air Force carries out attacks on ISIL sites in Syria

The US Air Force has carried out air raids on positions held by the ISIL terrorist group in northern Syria. US warplanes have carried out their second air raid on positions held by the ISIL terrorist group in northern Syria, the Al Hadath television reported. The report says the US Air Force "has performed a new wave of attacks on the Islamic State's hideouts and command centers, located in Syria's northern regions." ISIL sites in the Deir ez-Zor province were the hardest hit, the channel added. Also, according to Al Hadath, US warplanes attacked terrorist bases in rural areas of Homs and Raqqa and near Tadmor, a Syrian town where the historical site of Palmyra is located and where two US National Guard members and one US interpreter were ambushed and killed.

## Army official says: Iran's Armed Forces rapidly addressing shortcomings

TEHRAN, Dec. 20 (MNA)

– Iran's Armed Forces are moving swiftly to address operational and technological shortcomings by drawing lessons from past operations, Iran's deputy army chief for executive affairs said. Brigadier General Alireza Sheikh, Iran's deputy army chief for executive affairs, said the country's Armed Forces are rapidly working to fix deficiencies by applying lessons learned from previous military operations, especially the recent 12-day Israeli-imposed war. In an interview with Iran's state broadcaster (IRIB), Sheikh highlighted the pivotal role of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in commanding the Iranian armed forces during the 12-day conflict, emphasizing rationality and creativity in battlefield leadership. Sheikh said the Leader's management neutralized the enemy's strategy. He added that such timely decision-making and innovative command will be studied for years in training workshops and strategic education centers. Referring to efforts to address deficiencies revealed during the conflict, Sheikh said covering technological shortfalls that had temporarily altered the balance of power became a priority for the Iranian Army from the third day of the war. He said significant progress has since been made, resulting in a credible deterrent based on

the integrated use of systems, weapons, equipment, and personnel across the army's four branches. Sheikh concluded that lessons learned from the 12-day war have been documented and incorporated into military and academic institutions in the form of manuals, educational materials, and case studies, to be used in teaching tactics, countermeasures, and strategic confrontation methods. On June 13, 2025, 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. TEHRAN, Dec. 20 (MNA) – Iran's Armed Forces are moving swiftly to address operational and technological shortcomings by drawing lessons from past operations, Iran's deputy army chief for executive affairs said. Brigadier General Alireza Sheikh, Iran's deputy army chief for executive affairs, said the country's Armed Forces are rapidly working to fix deficiencies by applying lessons learned from previous military operations, especially the recent 12-day Israeli-imposed war. In

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Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency:

## Grossi urges inspection of Iran's attacked nuclear sites

Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has called for inspections of Iran's nuclear sites damaged in June attacks to verify their safety and accessibility. Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in an interview with RIA Novosti that the agency seeks to visit Iran's nuclear sites that were damaged by US strikes to ensure they are safe and to confirm inspectors' access. He emphasized that Iran's nuclear program is not limited to the three facilities targeted by the US, which are significant for reprocessing, conversion, and uranium enrichment. Iran has a highly advanced nuclear program with strong research and development components and numerous other facilities across the country. The country also operates a nuclear power plant and has plans to build additional plants with Russian assistance. Nuclear activities continue across all sectors. Grossi added that under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the comprehensive safeguards agreement, Iran is obliged to provide access to these facilities. He said discussions

with Tehran are ongoing because Iran argues that some sites are unsafe and inaccessible. In such cases, he said, inspectors must be allowed to confirm whether access is truly impossible. Grossi's remarks come while the Pentagon had claimed that US military operations had completely destroyed Iran's nuclear facilities. Last week, Iran's nuclear chief has criticized the IAEA's call for renewed inspections of attacked nuclear sites, insisting that the Agency lacks clear protocols to inspect sites that have been attacked by the Israeli regime and the US. Eslami said inspections had been conducted at facilities that were not attacked, but emphasized that the key issue now concerns nuclear

sites that were subjected to military strikes. He stated that inspections of such facilities require a clear and defined protocol. "The Agency, which has issued no condemnation [regarding Israel and US attacks on Iran in June] and has no established guidelines, has no right to claim it intends to conduct inspections," Eslami said. He added that

Iran has formally collaborated with the IAEA, but no official position, condemnation, or concrete action has been taken by the Agency. "Pressure exerted on us under the influence of Israel, three European countries, and the United States has no impact on Iran. It is the Agency that must answer—to Iran and to the world," he said. Eslami stressed that



all of Iran's nuclear facilities are fully registered with and have been under IAEA supervision. He said the current situation demands accountability from the Agency, not further questioning of Iran, calling on the IAEA to clarify its position, explain why no condemnation was issued, and specify what procedures it intends to follow. On June 13, 2025, 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.