

Kayhan International

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Defense Minister: No Limit to Defending National Interests



Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Ashtiani talks to reporters after a cabinet session in Tehran Wednesday.

TEHRAN – Iran’s armed forces see no restraints to safeguarding the national interests and protecting the nation, Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Ashtiani said here Wednesday.

“We see no limitations in defending our national interests and the people, and will certainly do this authoritatively. No matter where threats against the Islamic Republic come from, we will react and the response will surely be proportionate, decisive and strong,” he said.

“We condemn terrorism anywhere in the world. We will definitely respond to any action meant to violate our nation’s rights, as well as any act of terror targeting people. We have already demonstrated this forcefully, and see no limits in this regard,” he added.

The Iranian defense minister went on to say that the Islamic Republic respects the sovereignty, interests, rights and regulations as well as the territorial integrity of other countries, especially neighbors.

It, however, won’t allow anyone to

cause mischief on its borders and will deal with any such move, Ashtiani emphasized.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said the force “successfully” launched missile attacks on an espionage center of the Israeli regime’s Mossad spy agency in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and a gathering place of commanders and main elements linked to anti-Iran terrorist activities, especially the Daesh terrorist group, in Syria’s northwestern province of Idlib.

The statement said a total of 24 ballistic missiles were fired during the operation, all of which precisely hit and destroyed the designated targets.

The IRGC said the force fired four Kheibar Shekan (fortress buster) missiles from Iran’s southwestern province of Khuzestan to Idlib, adding that four missiles were launched from the west, and seven more from the northwest of the country to the Mossad spy headquarters in Erbil in Iraq’s Kurdistan Region.

Elsewhere in his remarks on Wednesday, Ashtiani noted that the Iranian armed forces are in possession of various types of indigenously developed and manufactured missiles, describing third-generation long-range Kheibar Shekan missile as a sophisticated armament that is brought into play whenever necessary. “We are a missile power in the world,” he said.

He said Iranian experts have made major strides in the development and production of different kinds of missiles, either cruise or ballistic, as well as military equipment.

Ashtiani also stated that Iranian and Russian military officials are in close contact with each other, and that his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu has reaffirmed his country’s respect for Iran’s security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

“We have a strategic relationship with Russia. I think they are also serious about it, and have pledged to comply with the matter,” the Iranian defense minister said.

FM: Biden Should Not Tie His Fate to Netanyahu

DAVOS (Dispatches) – Iran has warned U.S. President Joe Biden not to “tie his destiny” to that of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is leading the regime’s genocidal war on the Gaza Strip while enjoying Washington’s all-out support.

Speaking to the American business news channel CNBC, Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian described the U.S. backing for the occupying entity as “the root of insecurity” in West Asia.

“The U.S. should not, Mr. Biden should not, tie their destiny to the fate of Netanyahu,” he said during the interview on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss town of Davos.

“The full-scale cooperation of Biden and the White House with thugs like Netanyahu in Israel is the root of insecurity in the region.”

Amir-Abdollahian said Iran wants the U.S. to “stop the war in Gaza,” stressing that security in the Red Sea is important to the Islamic

Republic.

“The people of Yemen and other countries in the region who defend the Palestinian people are acting according to their own experience and through their own interests, and they are not receiving any orders or instructions from us,” he added.

Highlighting the importance of maritime security for Iran as an oil exporter, the top diplomat said, “If there is insecurity near our vicinity, it will not be in our favor.”

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Pakistan, Iran Hold Joint Naval Drill

TEHRAN -- Iranian and Pakistani military forces have staged a day-long joint naval training exercise in the Strait of Hormuz and the northern tip of the Persian Gulf as the two neighbors move to enhance cooperation and forge stronger relations.

Combat vessels and missile-launching warships of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy and the Pakistan Navy took part in the drills, which were held off the coast of the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas on Tuesday.

The main goals of the naval drills were described as elevating the level of training interactions and exchanges, promoting military relations and implementing bilateral maritime

agreements.

Young officers and cadets of Iranian and Pakistani navies employed a raft of naval tactics through their maneuvers and exercised communication and interaction through various telecommunication systems.

They also practiced the transmission and reception of messages during emergencies at sea.

Iran and Pakistan have stepped up military cooperation in recent years and have held a number of joint naval exercises.

Last June, senior military commanders from Iran and Pakistan weighed plans for cooperation between the navies and air forces of the two neighbors.

Iranian Navy chief Rear Admiral

Shahram Irani, who had traveled to Islamabad, held separate meetings with Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and Chief of Air Staff of the Pakistan Air Force Zaheer Ahmad Babar.

The Iranian Navy chief and his delegation were briefed on the Pakistani Navy’s professional activities in ensuring maritime security in the region, and the plans for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The Iranian and Pakistani commanders also discussed plans to promote cooperation between the navies of the two neighboring countries in various sectors, including training courses and the exchange of delegations.

The Holy Qur'an

And they say: Why are not signs sent down upon him from his Lord? Say: The signs are only with Allah, and I am only a plain warner. Is it not enough for them that We have revealed to you the Book which is recited to them? Most surely there is mercy in this and a reminder for a people who believe.

The Holy Qur'an (29:50)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:15
Evening (Maghreb)	17:37
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	07:13
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:45

Official: Europe Taking Advantage of IAEA's Iran Reports

TEHRAN – Iran’s nuclear chief said Wednesday European powers consistently take advantage of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s reports about Iran’s nuclear activities without acknowledging their own failure to honor a 2015 international nuclear deal with the country, known as the JCPOA.

“The noise that European countries, especially the three European countries, make every three months is the results of the reports related to the JCPOA document,” Muhammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), told reporters, referring to Britain, Germany and France.

Back in 2015, Iran agreed to limit certain aspects of its nuclear program in exchange for the termination of the “crippling sanctions” targeting its economy. The agreement – the JCPOA – was struck by Iran and six world powers that also includes U.S., Russia, China. However, the U.S. scrapped the deal in 2018 and restored the anti-Iran sanctions despite Tehran’s full compliance with the JCPOA.

“We accepted those restrictions and conditions so that you terminate the sanctions, but when you do not terminate the sanctions, we respond in accordance with the JCPOA and the Safeguards Agreement,” Eslami said, referring to Iran’s reduction of its nuclear commitments under the provisions of the deal.

“We are a member of the Safeguards Agreement. We cooperate with the agency according to the safeguards, and the agency monitors our activities according to the safeguards by installing cameras and sending inspectors.”

Eslami further said Iran has never violated the Safeguards Agreement and will not do so.

US Fails to Fool Iran’s Neighbours on Destruction of Terrorist Bases

By: Kayhan Int’l Staff Writer

Tehran’s long awaited response which on Tuesday took the form of a barrage of ballistic missiles across its western and eastern borders to destroy bases of US-sponsored terrorists who for years have carried out murderous attacks on Iranian security forces and citizens, has bewildered the regime in Washington and made it embark on another self-defeatist move by inciting naïve officials of neighbouring countries to adopt hostile postures towards the Islamic Republic, thereby exposing themselves as American stooges at a time when the Axis of Resistance is bravely confronting the Zionist-Yankee genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The conscientious peoples in Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan, as well as investigative analysts have welcomed the decisive targeting of the Takfiri terrorists in Idlib, of the Zionist criminals in Erbil and of the murderous Jaysh al-Adl outlaws in Koh-e Sabz, pointing out that the missile strikes strengthen regional security, especially of Iran and its neighbours.

At the same time, they have dismissed the irrational response of certain Iraqi and Pakistani officials by raising the following questions:

How come Mossad agents are allowed to enter the Kurdistan autonomous region and set up bases there when the Iraqi constitution explicitly states that it is a crime carrying imprisonment, and in some cases capital punishment, for any dealing with the Zionist entity – let alone allowing Israelis to openly infiltrate!

Isn’t this a blatant violation of Iraq’s sovereignty, as serious as the US attacks on the pious and patriotic forces of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) for their legitimate targeting of American occupation bases?

Why did the government of Iraq not recall its ambassador from Washington in response to the frequent acts of aggression by the US to kill PMU officials and what makes it delay the closure of US military bases as called for by the Iraqi parliament and the people?

As for the government of Pakistan which in the past had shared information leading to the capture by Iran of the notorious mass murderer Abdul-Malek Rigi, why does it provide safe havens for Iranian terrorists carrying out cross border raids, instead of rounding them up and handing them over to the Islamic Republic?

Moreover, Iranian missiles on Erbil did not cause harm to any Iraqi national (Kurd or Arab) and only wiped out Zionist agents and some traitors to the Iraqi and Kurdish causes, openly collaborating with Israel despite the 75-year long unending holocaust of the Palestinian people.

In the words of Iranian foreign minister, Amir Hossein Abdollahian: “None of the nationals of the friendly and brotherly country of Pakistan were targeted by Iranian missiles and drones. The so-called Jaish al-Adl group, which is an Iranian terrorist group, was targeted. The group has taken shelter in parts of Pakistan’s Balochistan province. We had talked with Pakistani officials several times on this matter.”

In the words of Iran’s minister of defence, Mohammad Reza Ashtiani: “We respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan and Iraq, but we do not allow our national security to be compromised, and we have no compunction about [dealing with] terrorist parties inside Pakistan and Israeli movements in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.”

He rightly remarked: What we did was aimed at boosting the security of Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, and the region. We consider the security of Iraq and Pakistan to be that of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

These facts should make all those officials of neighbouring countries unwittingly biting the poisonous American bait to realize that the Islamic Republic of Iran is their only true and steadfast friend, ready to safeguard their national interests in the broader framework of Islamic unity and the fight against terrorism, as is fully evident by the growing strength of the Axis of Resistance which is all set to erase usurper Israel and end US hegemony in our part of the world.