

IRGC Navy Chief Adm. Tangsiri:

Iran, Neighbors Cooperating to Secure Persian Gulf

TEHRAN – Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said Friday there is no need for trans-regional forces in the Persian Gulf, saying Iran and neighboring countries are cooperating to guarantee the security of the strategic waterway.

Rear Admiral Tangsiri said that the Persian Gulf belongs to the countries of this region and they can establish its security themselves.

The IRGC Navy commander said the Islamic Republic has always welcomed and continues to welcome the strategic principle of the alliance and community of the countries of the Persian Gulf. He said Iran's policy has always been de-escalation and has always proven this in practice.

He made the remarks in the Nazeat region, a collection of four islands, Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Siri in the Persian Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz.

These islands are considered as the defense fortress of the Strait of Hormuz.

Separately, Iranian Navy chief Rear Admiral Shahram Irani touched on the homegrown Dena destroyer, saying it had raised the

flag of the Islamic Republic's military might in the world in its round-the-globe voyage.

"All domestic capacities were used to carry out the great mission of the Dena destroyer, and the flag of the system, the revolution and the Islamic Republic was raised on the world stage," Irani said before Friday prayer sermons in Mashhad.

Dena's successful mission, he added, was a gift by Iranian youth to the people of the region.

"It is a source of honor for the Islamic Republic that the security and safety of navigation in the depth of international waters and the geopolitical and strategic depth of the system in the sea borders were expanded thousands of kilometers."

The navy chief said the successful mission caught off the enemies and conveyed the Iranian people's message that "sanctions, threats, and conspiracies will never prevent us from moving forward".

Iranian Army's 86th flotilla comprising Dena, a warship equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes, and naval cannons, and Makran, a major base ship, returned home last month, after completing a voyage around the world which marked the first in the country's history.

Ex-FM Zarif Rules Out Parliamentary Ambitions

TEHRAN -- Former foreign minister Muhammad Javad Zarif has ruled out seeking to run in Iran's upcoming parliamentary elections, after the veteran diplomat raised controversy with his remarks on foreign policy issues during his terms.

"Neither in the past, nor in the present, nor in the future do I intend to participate in elections directly, by proxy or indirectly," said Zarif in reaction to the claims, adding that he is even ready to give guarantees on paper.

Zarif has found himself in hot water over his comments about the challenges he claimed he grappled with during his previous terms in office.

During a newly-released Club House interview, Zarif defended his foreign policy concessions that led to the finalization of the 2015 nuclear deal.

The ex-foreign minister, known as being close to the Reformists, still accused the Principlist camp for trying to run the country based on "dreams" instead of abilities.

The Principlists severely hit back at him, describing his way of thinking as dangerous for the country.

Many also speculated that Zarif's remarks were a prelude to a Reformist election campaign ahead of the parliamentary vote early next year, and that he tried to win votes either for himself or allies.

Iran: Defense Capabilities Legitimate, Conventional



A new hypersonic ballistic missile called "Fattah" with a range of 1400 km, unveiled by Iran, is seen in Tehran, June 6, 2023.

TEHRAN -- Iran has dismissed as "invalid" the meddling statements by certain Western countries on its first hypersonic missile, saying the Islamic Republic's missile activities are "conventional" based on international law.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remarks on Thursday after the U.S., Britain and France expressed concerns over the unveiling of Iran's first hypersonic missile named Fattah.

"The missile activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are conventional, defensive and completely legitimate based on international law," he said.

"Hosting nuclear missiles and playing a destructive role in regional and international issues, these countries, which have a long and clear history of violating their international obligations in various fields, including nuclear tests and the non-proliferation regime, have no right to comment on the legitimate and completely legal defense capa-

bilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Fattah was put on show on Tuesday by the Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The hypersonic missile has a range of 1,400 kilometers, can travel at up to 15 times the speed of sound and bypass air defense systems.

Addressing the unveiling ceremony, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the new missile would boost Iran's "power of deterrence" and "bring peace and stability to the countries of the region."

Reacting to the development, principal deputy spokesperson for the U.S. State Department Vedant Patel said Washington's "concerns about Iran's missile program are well-established."

France said that it notes with concern Iran's development of its new missile, claiming that it is "yet another breach of UN Security Council Resolution 2231."

The UK Foreign Office alleged that the missile unveiling further proves Iran's "continued disregard of international restrictions."

Also in his remarks, Kanaani said the signing of the AUKUS pact by the U.S., the UK and Australia is "a clear example of nuclear powers' political and discriminatory approach on transferring technology and highly-enriched uranium to a non-nuclear country in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

The core of the tripartite deal is a pledge by America and Britain to help Australia build at least eight nuclear-powered, not nuclear-armed, submarines. The spokesman hailed the continuous efforts of the Iranian armed forces and their strategic achievements in strengthening the country's defense might.

Such efforts, he noted, are a correct and effective measure in creating deterrence against foreign threats and defending Iran's national security.

Tehran Calls for Probe Into Ukraine Dam Destruction

TEHRAN -- Iran on Thursday expressed opposition to the war in Ukraine and called for identifying the main cause and perpetrators of the destruction of a dam in the country's Kherson region.

In a tweet, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani reiterated Tehran's opposition to the war in Ukraine, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and threatening the lives of civilians.

He called on both sides to adhere to internationally recognized principles and urged them to find out the main

cause and perpetrators of the destruction of the dam.

Russia and Ukraine have traded blame for the bursting of the Soviet-era Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, which sent waters cascading across the war zone of southern Ukraine in the early hours of Tuesday, forcing tens of thousands to flee.

Russia said Ukraine deliberately destroyed the dam using massive artillery strikes.

Kiev claimed Moscow was behind the burst.

Russia's ambassador to the Netherlands, Alexander

Shulgin, has said Kiev deliberately raised the water level at the reservoir to a critical point before conducting the attack.

The Russian-held Kakhovka dam on the Dnipro River burst on Tuesday, triggering floods that inundated the entire region and prompted the evacuation of thousands of people from areas controlled by Russia and Ukraine.

A total of 600 square kilometers of the Kherson region is underwater, regional governor Oleksandr Prokudin said on social media.

The Holy Qur'an



How (can it be)! while if they prevail against you, they would not pay regard in your case to ties of relationship, nor those of covenant; they please you with their mouths while their hearts do not consent; and most of them are transgressors.

The Holy Qur'an (9.8)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:04
Evening (Maghreb)	19:41
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:48
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:02

Azerbaijani, Iranian FMs Hold Phone Talks

TEHRAN -- The foreign ministers of Iran and Azerbaijan Republic have stressed that ties between the two countries should return to the natural path that would benefit both neighboring countries.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian held phone talks with his counterpart from Azerbaijan Republic, Jeyhun Bayramov, over the situation of bilateral ties.

During the lengthy talks, held on Thursday evening, the two sides stressed the necessity of keeping up interactions and exchanges of technical and expert teams in various fields with the goal of overcoming problems and achieving results.

They reviewed the latest issues between the two countries, emphasizing the need to get rid of misunderstandings and restore the relations between the two countries to a natural path that would serve the mutual interests of the two countries based on good neighborliness.

Ties between Iran and Azerbaijan have been tense over the past few months.

In late January, a man stormed the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran, killing its head of security and wounding others.

Investigations in Iran found the attacker had personal motives, but Baku blamed the Iranian government and later expelled a number of Iranian diplomats in April.

In a tit-for-tat move, Iran expelled four Azerbaijani diplomats last month.