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Adm. Irani: Navy to Announce New Achievement

TEHRAN -- Navy chief Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said Friday his force has a "major mission" on its agenda and its new achievement in international waters will soon be announced.

"Currently, we have a major mission on our agenda where we are accomplishing its decision-making process. And we will bring our efforts to a conclusion soon and will witness another achievement by this force," Irani told reporters.

Amid the Western attempts to portray the Indian Ocean as unsafe following Yemen's anti-Israel operations, the commander noted that the Iranian naval forces have increased their presence in the area.

"Despite the fact that the enemy is trying to portray the northern part of the Indian Ocean, particularly the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, as unsafe, the naval forces' fleets are still present in this maritime area not in the same way as before, but in a strengthened manner to secure the shipping."

He noted that all ships other than Israel-related vessels are navigating the ocean safely.

"Today, all flags, except those representing anti-human and child-killing entities, pass safely through the waterways of the Indian Ocean, and the power of the Iranian nation is maintained in the depth of the oceans, which is commendable."

His remarks come as the Yemeni forces have carried out scores of operations in support of the war-hit Palestinians since the onset of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza early last October, targeting Israeli ships or vessels heading towards ports in the occupied territories, in addition to striking targets throughout the occupied Palestinian territories.

The head of the Iranian Air Defense Force said Friday Iran is closely monitoring the activities of adversaries, including the Is-

raeli regime.

"In the Air Defense Force, considering the aerospace threats from global arrogance, we have enhanced our air defense capabilities and remain vigilant against other threats; we are also closely monitoring the wicked Zionist regime," Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard told the Friday prayers in Tehran.

He said his force devotes special attention to the guidelines of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who once stated that the life of a nation depends on strengthening the components of its military might.

General Sabahifard said Iran has fought off the enemies' fiendish plots against its independence, freedom and the Islamic system, leading to their animosity towards the Islamic Republic as the main pillar of the Axis of Resistance.

The Iranian Air Defense Force, he said, is currently at the "highest level of its self-sufficiency, preparedness and combat prowess."

The Air Defense Force can now design and manufacture various types of control systems, radars, sensors, electronic warfare systems and cybersecurity systems, he added.

The force can also detect any kind of the enemy's stealth aircraft from thousands of miles away, Sabahifard said.

The commander said the Iranian Air Defense Force is monitoring potential threats round the clock, stages multiple military exercises throughout the year, and is continuously upgrading its military gear to achieve maximum efficiency.

He urged expansionist superpowers to abandon malice, sanctions, and threats so that the opportunity to resolve global conflicts using Iran's influential power can be realized.

on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

"On the International Day against Nuclear Tests, let's pledge to protect our world by advocating for a complete end to nuclear tests and total elimination of NWs," he added, referring to nuclear weapons.

"Each nuclear explosion is a

Pezeshkian: Iran to Change Direction if Pressured



President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the General Assembly of the Academy of Medical Sciences in Tehran on Aug. 29, 2024.

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian says Iran condemns any aggression in the world, stressing that the Islamic Republic's principled policy is to foster peace and friendship, prevent tensions and interact with world countries.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always tried to spread peace and friendship, condemned aggression anywhere in the world, and is ready to cooperate to stop wars, violence and insecurity in the world," Pezeshkian told Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre over phone on Thursday.

The Iranian president criticized the U.S. for violating the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and complained about the European parties' failure to fulfill their obligations under the accord.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran fulfilled all its obligations under the JCPOA, but it was the United States that, in addition to breaking the agreement and unilateral withdrawal from it resorted to increasing pressure and sanctions against

our country and nation and the European countries unfortunately did not implement even one clause of their commitments, contrary to expectations," Pezeshkian noted.

"Our policy is peace and friendship, avoiding tension and conflict, and interacting and expanding relations with all the countries of the world, but if our country is forced to do something under sanctions and pressure, then our approach and behavior will definitely move in another direction," he added.

He denounced the double standards of the U.S. and certain Western countries vis-à-vis human rights and democracy.

"America and some Western countries accuse other countries of violating human rights because of the mistreatment of one person, but they are not only silent toward the bloodshed against tens of thousands of innocent women, children, young and old in Gaza and the bombing of civilian areas, schools and hospitals by the Zionist regime, they also provide financial support and weapons to this regime. Which criterion and logic is this compatible with?"

Pezeshkian appreciated the positions of the Norwegian government in support of the Palestinian nation, calling on the Norwegian prime minister to work more closely with other European countries to immediately stop Israeli atrocities against oppressed Palestinians in Gaza.

For his part, the Norwegian prime minister described relations between Oslo and Tehran as friendly and historical, stating that Norway has always considered Iran as a friend and wished for the development and prosperity of the Iranian nation and will continue to do so.

Støre also expressed concern about the uptick in tensions in the West Asia region, especially Israeli offensives against the residents of the besieged Gaza Strip.

"We have condemned Israel's war against Gaza and its disastrous consequences. Norway, along with Ireland and Spain, was among the first European countries to have recognized the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state. We hope these bitter and unfortunate developments will come to an end as soon as possible," he noted.

'Zionist Regime Seeks to Expand War'

TEHRAN -- Iran says the occupying regime of Israel is pursuing "sinister and racist" plots to expand the scale of killing and crimes across Palestine and violate Islamic sanctities.

In a statement on Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani lambasted Israel's onslaught on the occupied West Bank, calling on the international community to take immediate action to end the regime's genocide against the people of Palestine.

He said Israel's attack on the Palestinian cities and camps in north of the West Bank, the destruction of urban infrastructure and even the armed and violent entry into medical centers and hospitals are in line with the regime's continuation of the genocide in the Gaza

Strip.

They all "indicate the Zionist regime's intention to expand the scope of killing and crime against Palestinian citizens," the spokesman added.

He said Israel's violation of the sanctities of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque in recent days and revelation of the cabinet's provocative plots "clearly show the regime's ominous and racist plots against the entire geography of Palestine, the Palestinian citizens as well as the Islamic sanctities of this holy land."

Kan'ani called on international bodies, especially the United Nations Security Council, to abandon the approach of inaction in the face of Israel's flagrant violation of in-

ternational law.

World bodies are required to fulfill their legal responsibilities and take a swift and effective action to stop the genocide of the Palestinian people by the child-killing Israeli regime, he said.

Kan'ani also hailed the brave resistance of the Palestinian people and resistance groups in the face of the killing machine of the criminal Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

In a statement on Wednesday, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he is "deeply concerned" over Israel's all-out military assault on the occupied West Bank, calling for a swift end to the aggression in the Palestinian territory.

Envoy Renews Iran's Call for Elimination of WMDs

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva has called on the international community to work towards ending nuclear tests and eliminating atomic weapons.

"Nuclear testing is a threat to our planet and future generations," Ali Bahreini said in an X post on Thursday,

on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

"On the International Day against Nuclear Tests, let's pledge to protect our world by advocating for a complete end to nuclear tests and total elimination of NWs," he added, referring to nuclear weapons.

"Each nuclear explosion is a

step backward in the journey towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Today, more than ever, we need a global commitment to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons," Bahreini wrote in a separate post on X in Persian.

In 2009, the UN General Assembly declared August 29 the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimous-

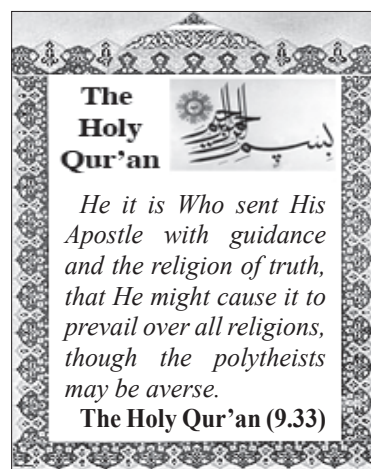
ly adopting Resolution 64/35.

The document calls for increasing awareness and education "about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world."

The United States is the only country on Earth that

has used nuclear weapons in wartime.

On August 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped the world's first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing thousands instantly and about 140,000 by the end of the year. Three days later, it dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki, killing another 70,000.



| PRAYER TIMINGS | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Noon (Zohr) | 12:05 |
| Evening (Maghreb) | 18:51 |
| Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow" | 05:36 |
| Sunrise "Tomorrow" | 04:08 |

Iran Calls for 'New Phase' in Ties With Persian Gulf States

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has called for a "new phase" of mutual understanding and cooperation between Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

During a phone call with GCC Secretary-General Jassim Muhammed al-Budaiwi, Araghchi stressed that Iran is keen to promote its "friendly and brotherly" ties with the council and its member states.

Relations between Iran and the GCC should enter a "new phase of mutual understanding and cooperation," Iran's foreign minister said.

For his part, al-Budaiwi congratulated Araghchi on his appointment as the new Iranian foreign minister and discussed ways to strengthen ties between Tehran and the council.

Stressing that Iran plays an important role in enhancing peace and stability of the region, al-Budaiwi said GCC states are interested in consulting with Iran on the major challenges that face the region.

President Masoud Pezeshkian has pledged that his administration would prioritize bolstering ties with neighbors.

"Under my administration, we will prioritize strengthening relations with our neighbors," Pezeshkian wrote in an article on July 12.

"We will champion the establishment of a 'strong region' rather than one where a single country pursues hegemony and dominance over the others," he added.

On Thursday, Pezeshkian stressed that the Islamic Republic's principled policy is to foster peace and friendship, prevent tensions and interact with world countries.