

TEHRAN – Iran's top general said Sunday the country's armed forces are fully prepared to deal with any security threat, as he toured the country's strategic southern waters to assess their combat readiness.

Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Bagheri led a high-level military delegation to Bandar Abbas on Sunday to evaluate the readiness of forces stationed in Hormozgan Province. During his visit, which included inspections

(Continued on Page 7)

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "worried about any deal" the Trump administration might strike with Iran, according to NBC News.

Citing a source familiar with the situation, the American news network on Sunday published a report highlighting growing friction between U.S. President Donald Trump and Netanyahu over Washington's Iran policy and Israel's war in Gaza.

(Continued on Page 7)

VOL NO: LV 12527 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Monday, May 12, 2025, Ordibehesht 22, 1404, Zil-Qa'dah 14, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

### Viewpoint

## The Fast Approaching End of the Illegal Zionist Entity

## Women, Children Martyred as Israel Hits Gaza Tents

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) — Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 19 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Another seven people were killed in strikes elsewhere, including a man and his child in a Gaza City neighborhood, according to hospitals and Gaza's Health Ministry.

The Zionist regime has sealed Gaza off from all imports, including food, medicine and emergency shelter, for over 10 weeks. Israel resumed its onslaught in March, shattering a ceasefire that had facilitated the release of more than 30 captives.

The UN and aid groups say food and other supplies are running low and hunger is widespread. Children carrying empty bottles

raced after a water tanker in a devastated area of northern Gaza on Sunday. Residents of the built-up Shati refugee camp said the water was brought by a charity from elsewhere in Gaza. Without it, they rely on wells that are salty and often polluted.

"I am forced to drink salty water, I have no choice," said Mahmoud Radwan. "This causes intestinal disease, and there's no medicine to treat it."

U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration has voiced full support for Israel's aggression, is set to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week in a regional tour that will not include the Israeli occupied territories.

Israel's invasion has martyred over 52,800 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The onslaught has destroyed vast areas of the territory and displaced some 90% of its population of around 2 million.

## Alawites Massacred in New Sectarian Violence by HTS

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Extremist armed groups affiliated with the HTS regime in Syria have carried out a new massacre in the Alawite majority coastal region.

On May 10, at least nine civilians, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed in a massacre in the village of Ain al-Sharqiyah near Jableh, in Latakia province. Two victims were found decapitated in what locals described as sectarian-motivated killings.

Eyewitnesses and local sources attribute the killings to a foreign-backed faction affiliated with the Ministry of Defense's 107th Brigade, reportedly linked to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). Among the victims were Hilal al-Ali, Anwar Hamouda, and his son. Graphic images circulated on social media showed the bodies following the brutal killings.

Pro-regime Syria TV reported on the same incident, stating that "Four people, including a child, were killed by unknown assailants in the village of Ain al-Sharqiyah in the countryside of Latakia and the General Security has begun investigating the incident."

This attack is the latest in a series of abuses carried out by forces associated with the HTS ministry of defense.

On March 7, armed groups belonging to the HTS ministry raided the coastal regions, carrying out a series of massacres and killing over 1,600 Alawite civilians on the basis of their religious

identity, while looting and burning homes.

Residents have accused authorities of failing to rein in foreign factions and auxiliary forces responsible for the massacres.

In a related development, Adham Mukhtar Rajoub, the mayor of Al-Waer neighborhood in Homs, was assassinated by members of an extremist group aligned with the HTS-led regime while driving his car.

Meanwhile, in Damascus, at least 50 homes were seized in the Alawite-majority Ash al-Warwar neighborhood. Armed groups reportedly threatened residents with arrest, labeling them as regime collaborators or "shabiha," to justify the expulsions. Victims claim that even minimal resistance led to verbal abuse, detention, or forced displacement.

On May 7, HTS-affiliated armed groups raided multiple villages in Tartous and Latakia, destroying homes and abducting civilians. In Jableh's Ras al-Ain village, a respected Alawite sheikh, Saleh Mansour, was kidnapped from his home, his family assaulted, and his property looted by auxiliary forces. Locals prevented further kidnappings by intervening.

Since HTS, led by former Al-Qaeda commander Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, took power in Damascus in December, toppling the government of Bashar al-Assad, Syria has witnessed a

(Continued on Page 7)

## Education Ministry to Establish 1,200 Qur'an Schools in Iran



## Iran's Muhammadi, Wushu Sanda Rising Star of Year



## Media: Israel Destroys Only Quarter of Hamas' Tunnels in Gaza



### U.S. Keeps on Making Contradictory Statements

## Fourth Round of Talks: 'Difficult but Useful'



This handout picture provided by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on May 11, 2025, shows Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) arriving in Muscat.

MUSCAT, Oman (Dispatches) — Iran and the United States wrapped up nuclear talks in Oman on Sunday with no apparent breakthrough in a public standoff over enrichment, but with both sides confirming plans for future negotiations.

This was the fourth round of talks that began nearly a month ago, marking the highest-level indirect contact between the two sides since Washington withdrew in 2018 from a landmark nuclear

deal, during President Donald Trump's first term.

Both sides had reported progress in the previous three rounds, and on Sunday Iran said the meeting was "difficult but useful" while a senior U.S. official said Washington was "encouraged".

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the talks were "more serious and more straightforward compared to the previous three rounds".

"We now understand each other

better and hope to make further progress moving forward," he added.

In a post on X, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said the talks could help "better understand each other's positions and to find reasonable and realistic ways to address the differences".

Baghaei earlier said negotiators would push for relief from U.S. sanctions.

The U.S. official, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said Washington was "encouraged by today's outcome and look forward to our next meeting, which will happen in the near future", without specifying when.

Baghaei said that the "next round will be coordinated and announced by Oman", which in turn said "the talks will take place once both parties... consult their leaderships".

According to the U.S. official, the talks Sunday were "both direct and indirect, and lasted over three hours".

"Agreement was reached to move forward" and "continue working through technical elements", the official added.

Iran entered the talks saying that its right to maintain uranium enrichment is "non-negotiable".

Following the talks, Foreign Minister Araghchi, who led Tehran's delegation, reiterated Iran's stance on enrichment, saying it "must continue and there is no room for compromise on it". "Uranium enrichment capability is a source of pride and accomplishment for the Iranian nation, achieved at a great cost, including the blood of our nuclear scientists; this achievement is unequivocally non-negotiable," he said.

The talks come amid a flurry of diplomatic activity in the region, with U.S. President Trump heading to the Persian Gulf for his first

(Continued on Page 7)

## India-Pakistan Truce Holds Despite Accusations of Violations

NEW DELHI/ MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) -- The Indian military sent a "hotline message" to Pakistan on Sunday about violations of a ceasefire agreed this week and informed it of New Delhi's intent to respond if it was repeated, a top Indian army officer said.

India's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) was speaking as a fragile 24-hour-old ceasefire appeared to be holding after both sides blamed the other for initial violations on Saturday night.

The truce announced on Saturday followed four days of intense fighting between the nuclear-armed neighbors. In the worst fighting in nearly three decades, they fired missiles and drones at each other's military installations, killing almost 70 people.

Diplomacy and pressure helped secure the ceasefire deal when it seemed that the conflict was spiraling alarmingly. But within hours of its coming into force, artillery fire was witnessed in Indian Kashmir, the centre of much of last week's fighting.

Blasts from air-defense systems boomed in cities near the border under a blackout, similar to those heard during the previous two evenings, according to local authorities, residents and Reuters witnesses.

"Sometimes, these understandings take time to fructify, manifest on the ground," Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, the Indian DGMO, told a media briefing, referring to the truce. "The (Indian) armed forces were on a very very high alert (yesterday) and continue to be in that state."

The Indian army chief had given a mandate to its commanders to deal with "violations of any kind" from across the borders in the best way they deem fit, Ghai added.

He said his Pakistani counterpart called him on Saturday afternoon and proposed the two countries "cease hostilities" and urgently requested for a ceasefire.

There was no immediate response to the Indian comments from Pakistan. Late on Saturday, the Pakistani foreign ministry had said that it was committed to

the truce agreement and blamed India for the violations.

India maintains that disputes with Pakistan have to be resolved directly by the two countries and rejects any third party involvement.

Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan each rule a part of Kashmir but claim it in full, and have twice gone to war over the Himalayan region.

India blames Pakistan for an insurgency in its part of the territory, but Pakistan says it provides only moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiri separatists.

Among those most affected by the fighting were residents on either side of the border, many of whom fled their homes when the fighting began on Wednesday, two weeks after a deadly attack in Indian Kashmir's Pahalgam that India said was backed by Islamabad.

Pakistan denied the accusation.

In the Indian border city of Amritsar, home to the Golden Temple revered by Sikhs, people returned to the streets on Sunday

morning after a siren sounded to signal a return to normal activities following the tension of recent days.

In some border areas, however, people were asked not to return home just yet. In the Indian Kashmir city of Baramulla, authorities warned residents to stay away due to the threat posed by unexploded munitions.

"People here are hosting us well but just as a bird feels at peace in its own nest, we also feel comfortable only in our own homes, even if they have been damaged," said Azam Chaudhry, 55, who fled his home in the Pakistani town of Khairatta and has now been told to wait until Monday before returning.

In Indian Kashmir's Uri, a key power plant that was damaged in a Pakistani drone attack is still under repair.

"The project has suffered minor damage ... We have stopped generation as the transmission line has been damaged," said an official from state-run NHPC, India's biggest hydropower company, who did not want to be identified.