

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) -- Pakistan's Federal Minister for Defense Production, Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj, called on Wednesday for expanded defense co-operation with Iran, underscoring the importance of bilateral ties.

Speaking during a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri-Moghaddam in Rawalpindi, Harraj said Pakistan values its relationship with Tehran and is committed to strengthening collaboration, particularly in defense production. "The Pakistani government remains dedicated to pursuing solutions that enhance our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said, noting the cordial and growing ties between the two countries.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN -- Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, said here that Islamabad and Tehran are working on a comprehensive roadmap to boost bilateral trade and cooperation, aiming to reach an annual trade volume of \$10 billion.

During his visit to Tehran for the 22nd Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission, Khan highlighted efforts to revise the Special Regulatory Order (SRO) to ease procedural barriers and facilitate smoother non-cash barter trade between the two countries.

"We have a strong consensus to elevate trade to \$10 billion annually," Khan said, noting the long history of commerce between the two countries. (Continued on Page 7)

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Viewpoint

Pager & Other Plots Fail to Break Spirit of Resistance

Iran Warns West Over Pursuing Pressure Tactics

TEHRAN -- Iran on Wednesday dismissed renewed Western criticism of its nuclear and missile programs as politically motivated and hypocritical, saying the U.S. and European powers are obstructing diplomacy while pursuing pressure tactics.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told reporters here that repeated claims by Washington and European capitals about preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons have "no legal basis" and reflect a deliberate attempt to derail cooperation and negotiations.

"This issue is crystal clear. The United States and Britain could not make it more obvious that their real aim is to fabricate pretexts," Baghaei said. "The IAEA has never reported any deviation in Iran's peaceful nuclear program, yet these countries persist in repeating this accusation."

Baghaei described these assertions as "the height of their duplicity and hypocrisy," saying Iranian citizens need to see them as "mere excuses to apply pressure on Iran and block its progress and development."

He added that the Western focus on Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities serves as a "tool to exert pressure and hinder the progress and development of our nation."

Baghaei also forcefully rejected criticism from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who earlier this week described Iran's missile capabilities as a regional and global threat during a visit to the Israeli-occupied territories.

"He was speaking nonsense," Baghaei said bluntly. "Washington has no right to comment on the defensive capabilities of a nation that has decided to preserve its independence at any cost."

He described Iran's missile program as a key element of deterrence against "greed, aggression and assaults by foreigners, including the U.S. and the Zionist regime."

Baghaei's comments came amid escalating tensions over Europe's August 28 activation of the so-called "snapback" mechanism—a process that could restore all UN sanctions on Iran within 30 days.

Iran has condemned the move as illegitimate, noting that the United States unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and denouncing the European trio—Britain, France, and Germany—for aligning with unlawful U.S. sanctions instead of fulfilling their own commitments.

"We will not yield to unlawful pressures or abandon our rightful positions," Baghaei said. "We have made it clear that any hostile act—including reimposing Security Council resolutions—will render the recent IAEA agreement null and void."

Earlier this month, Iran and the UN nuclear agency reached a procedural agreement on inspection modalities. While IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said the deal includes access to nuclear facilities and reporting on sites attacked during recent

hostilities, Iranian officials insist that implementation depends on Western conduct.

"If the IAEA carries out its duties within its technical mandate, this will benefit all parties," Baghaei said. "But if it yields to pressure from the U.S. and Europe, then naturally, co-operation will be reconsidered."

Baghaei condemned Washington's threat to cut funding to the IAEA if the agency adopts a resolution banning military attacks on peaceful nuclear sites, calling it part of a broader campaign against international institutions.

"Such threats—from the IAEA to the ICC and WHO—represent an unprecedented attack on multilateralism," he said. "All countries should be alarmed and work to defend the principles of international law."

Tehran has submitted a draft resolution to the IAEA General Conference calling for a global ban on military attacks against nuclear installations, citing recent U.S. and Israeli strikes on its facilities.

The spokesman confirmed that indirect nuclear talks between Iran and the United States were suspended after Israel launched a large-scale military operation against Iran in mid-June.

That assault, which Tehran says killed senior military commanders, scientists, and civilians, triggered a major Iranian retaliation. In a campaign dubbed "True Promise III," Iran launched ballistic and hypersonic missiles targeting Israeli military and intelligence centers in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and other occupied cities.

When the United States joined the fighting by striking Iranian nuclear facilities, Iran responded by targeting the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American military installation in the region.

Baghaei said the White House proposed a ceasefire, which Israel ultimately accepted.

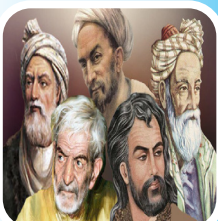
"Let us not forget that we were in the middle of sensitive nuclear negotiations when this aggression occurred," Baghaei said. "The sixth round was suspended, not by our choice, but due to military escalations triggered by others."

Baghaei also criticized European governments for subservience to Washington and Tel Aviv, calling on the EU and the E3 (France, Germany, UK) to act independently in dealing with Iran's nuclear file.

"We understand that some positions expressed by Europe are influenced by external pressure," he said. "But given their historical role in the JCPOA, we expect them to make sovereign decisions based on their own interests."

He added that Iran's recent agreement with the IAEA, which outlines a new method for implementing safeguards obligations, was accepted by both sides. "If the Europeans claim it's not enough, it means they don't even trust the agency they claim to support," he said.

Honoring Shahriar and Others, Iran Marks National Poetry Day



Leader Hails Iran's Freestyle Wrestling Team After World Championship Triumph



16 Countries Warn Israel Against Attacking Gaza-Bound Flotilla



Israel Extends War of Genocide Into Heart of Gaza



This combo shows patients in Al-Shifa hospital, which others leaving Gaza City on foot in the face of a barbaric onslaught by Israeli troops and tanks.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza City on Wednesday as more people fled the devastated area, and strikes cut off phone and internet services, making it harder for Palestinians to summon ambulances during the Zionist military's new onslaught.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian death toll in the Israeli war on Gaza surpassed 65,000, local health officials said.

The Israeli military said air force and artillery units had struck the city more than 150 times in the last few days, ahead of ground troops moving in. The barbaric strikes toppled high-rise towers in areas with densely populated tent camps.

Regulators said the severed phone and internet services hindered the ability of Palestinians to call for help, coordinate evacuations or share details of the on-

slaught that began Monday and aims to fully occupy the city.

Overnight strikes killed at least 16 people, including women and children, hospital officials reported. At least 90 people were martyred on Wednesday. The death count in Gaza climbed to 65,062, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Another 165,697 Palestinians have been wounded since the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas that triggered the war.

Israeli bombardment has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts announcing famine in Gaza City.

Palestinians streamed out of the city — some by car, others on foot. Israel announced the opening of another corridor south of Gaza City for two days starting Wednesday - a move critics see as hypocritical grandstanding, given

its ongoing campaign that many view as aimed at forcibly displacing Gazans from their land.

More than half of the Palestinians killed in overnight Israeli strikes were in famine-stricken Gaza City, including a child and his mother who died in the Shati refugee camp, according to officials from Shifa Hospital, which received the casualties.

In central Gaza, Al-Awda Hospital said an Israeli strike hit a house in the urban Nuseirat refugee camp, killing three, including a pregnant woman. Two parents and their child were also killed when a strike hit their tent in the Muwasi area west of the city of Khan Younis, said officials from Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

The Gaza Health Ministry said multiple Israeli strikes hit the Rantisi Hospital for children in Gaza City on Tuesday night.

It posted pictures on Facebook showing the damaged roof, water tanks and rubble in a hospital hallway.

The ministry said the strikes forced half of some 80 patients to flee the facility. About 40 patients, including four children in intensive care and eight premature babies, remained in the hospital with 30 medical workers, the ministry said.

"This attack has once again shattered the illusion that hospitals or any place in Gaza are safe from Israel's genocide," said Fikr Shalltoot, Gaza director for the aid group Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Many Palestinians in the north were cut off from the outside world. The Palestinian Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, based in the occupied West Bank, said Israeli strikes on the main network lines in northern Gaza had cut off internet and telephone services Wednesday morning.

An estimated 1 million Palestinians were living in the Gaza City region before warnings to flee began ahead of the onslaught. The Israeli military estimates 350,000 people have left the city. The UN estimates that more than 238,000 Palestinians have fled northern Gaza over the past month. Hundreds of thousands more have stayed behind.

A coalition of leading aid groups Wednesday urged the international community to take stronger measures to stop Israel's genocide on Gaza City. The action came a day after a commission of UN experts found Israel was committing genocide in the Palestinian enclave.

"What we are witnessing in Gaza is not only an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, but

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On Anniversary of Israeli Cyber Terrorism, Hezbollah: Pager Attack Victims Returning to Combat

BEIRUT (Dispatches) — Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem on Wednesday commemorated the first anniversary of the pager attacks against the movement, highlighting the resilience of its fighters and reaffirming Hezbollah's role as Lebanon's key resistance movement.

Addressing members of the organization, Qassem praised the wounded fighters, saying, "You are healing from injuries and rising above them. You have passed the test and are recovering. The enemy sought to neutralize your role in the battle, but you persist."

The attacks on September 18

and 19, 2024, martyred at least 39 people, including civilians, and left more than 3,400 wounded. Many victims suffered serious injuries, particularly to eyes and limbs. The attacks were widely viewed as part of Israel's broader campaign to weaken Hezbollah and destabilize Lebanon.

In response, Hezbollah has demonstrated determination and strength, with injured fighters reintegrating into the organization's military framework, according to a commemorative video released on Wednesday.

The anniversary comes amid ongoing tensions, with Israeli airstrikes targeting southern

Lebanon this week. On Tuesday, an Israeli strike on Nabatieh reportedly killed one person and wounded several others. Another strike was reported in Yater village.

Despite these attacks, Hezbollah remains a central pillar of Lebanon's defense, committed to resisting foreign aggression.

"Israel will fall given its nature of occupation, oppression, criminality, and aggression, and because the resistance fighters are confronting it until liberation," Qassem said.

Hezbollah's position as a sovereign partner with the Lebanese state was underscored recently

with government measures to centralize weapons control. Lebanese media reported the cessation of VIP security cards that previously allowed Hezbollah operatives to bypass inspections at sensitive sites.

Supporters of Hezbollah continue to mobilize publicly, defending the organization's right to bear arms and its role in Lebanon's security.

Prominent religious figures, including Lebanon's Grand Shia Mufti Sheikh Ahmad Qabalan, have described Hezbollah as a historical shield for Lebanon and a guarantor of national sovereignty.