

MOSCOW (Dispatches) — Russia is preparing for a visit by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Monday. She confirmed that arrangements are underway for Araghchi's trip to Moscow. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghai also said Sunday that Araghchi will hold meetings with senior officials in Russia and Belarus as part of ongoing diplomatic consultations. Araghchi spoke by phone with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on November 20, emphasizing Iran's regional diplomatic initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability.

**Aref: First Phase of 7th Development Plan Successfully Implemented**  
TEHRAN — Iran's government has successfully completed the first phase of its Seventh Development Plan, Deputy President Mohammad Reza Aref said on Monday, emphasizing that the administration's primary focus is on economic and livelihood issues for the public. Speaking at a session of the Supreme Steering Council for the Seventh Development Plan, Aref highlighted that the launch of the plan coincided with the beginning of the current government's term. "Despite being a newly formed government at the time, implementing the Seventh Development Plan was pursued with determination, following the preparation of regulations and instructions," he said.

**Viewpoint**

## US Bid to Topple President Maduro Bound to Fail

## Protecting Iran's Craft Foundations From Silent Threats Within



## Five Iranians Nominated for World's Most Dominant Wrestler



## NY Times: Hamas Stronger After Two-Year War With Israel



## Eslami: No Nuclear Staff Losses in June Strikes, Industry 'Secure'

TEHRAN — Iran's nuclear industry remains secure and operational, with no personnel losses following military attacks on the country's nuclear facilities, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said on Monday.

Muhammad Eslami made the remarks during an event at the University of Science and Technology marking Student Day, emphasizing that all staff at the AEOI were protected during the attacks.

"Under the impact of military attacks on the country's nuclear facilities, we have not experienced any personnel losses. The nuclear industry, thank God, is secure," he said. Eslami added that new staff members have also joined the organization since the attacks.

In response to questions regarding scientists martyred in June attacks, Eslami clarified that the victims were not military personnel nor affiliated with the AEOI.

"The people who were martyred in the military attacks were full professors at Shahid Beheshti University. They participated in all research projects and activities and had over 500 published papers. The brutal Israeli regime targeted them in their homes," he said.

Asked about the reconstruction of sites affected by military attacks, Eslami said the nuclear industry has continued its operations without disruption. "Our nuclear industry has not fallen short in its activities and mission," he said, stressing that ongoing work remains on schedule.

Eslami also addressed the presence of international inspectors, confirming that there are currently

no International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections in Iran. "At present, no inspections by the Agency are taking place in Iran," he said.

During the Student Day event, Eslami discussed the accomplishments of Iran's nuclear program and engaged with students, highlighting the role of research and academic participation in advancing the sector.

He said the event provided an opportunity to update students on the nuclear industry's progress and to encourage greater involvement of students and faculty in AEOI research projects.

"Student Day is a day for dialogue. A concerned and aware student pays attention to the fate of the country, the people, and ultimately their own future," Eslami said.

He invited students and researchers interested in collaboration with the AEOI to join its initiatives, emphasizing that the organization is open to new talent and expertise.

Eslami highlighted the resilience of Iran's nuclear infrastructure and personnel, stressing that the organization's operations have not been hindered by external attacks. He said the industry continues to fulfill all its missions, with a focus on research, development, and the participation of academic and scientific talent.

"Industry and research activities in the nuclear sector continue without interruption. We are fully committed to our missions and to the security and safety of our personnel," Eslami said, reinforcing Iran's stance that its nuclear program remains robust and unharmed despite recent military attacks.

## FM Araghchi Holds Key Talks With Azerbaijani Leaders in Baku

# Iran Asserts Role in South Caucasus Strategic Recalibration

### Focus on Strengthening Bilateral Ties, Trade Corridors, Regional Stability



This combination of pictures shows Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meeting Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and parliament speaker Sahiba Gafarova on Monday.

TEHRAN/BAKU — Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held high-level talks in Baku with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on Monday, emphasizing the expansion of bilateral relations, regional security, and cooperation frameworks in the South Caucasus.

Araghchi said the main outcome of his visit was an agreement to increase diplomatic exchanges and consultations between Iran and Azerbaijan, aiming to elevate relations to a "problem-free" level and expand cooperation across political, economic, and security sectors.

He underscored that both countries share extensive historical, cultural, and civilizational ties, and expressed Iran's determination to strengthen these connections.

"We are committed to developing our relations in all areas and will not allow any third party to

damage or undermine these ties," Araghchi said at a joint press conference with Bayramov in Baku.

The Iranian diplomat also highlighted regional security as a key priority, stressing the importance of local cooperation in maintaining stability. He reaffirmed Tehran's support for the "3+3" regional consultation mechanism, which involves Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and three other regional states, as a platform to enhance political and economic coordination and foster peace in the South Caucasus without external interference.

"A stronger, more effective 3+3 framework will contribute to stability across the entire region," Araghchi said. He welcomed recent progress in Azerbaijan-Armenia relations and noted that, following a proposal by Baku, upcoming 3+3 meetings are planned in Baku and subsequently in Yerevan.

The Iranian minister also addressed broader regional issues, including the situation in Gaza and Palestine. He reaffirmed Iran's stance that any initiative should respect the inalienable rights of Palestinians to self-determination and sovereignty.

"We welcome any action that ends crimes and killings against Palestinians, facilitates aid to Gaza, and ends the occupation of Palestinian territories," Araghchi said.

Infrastructure cooperation was another key topic during the meetings. Araghchi updated on the Rassht-Astara railway project, which involves Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia. He said the project has made "good progress," with over 50 percent of preparatory work completed, and expressed optimism that construction could begin next year. The railway is

expected to strengthen trade and transport links between the countries and facilitate regional connectivity.

The visit also focused on bilateral economic and security cooperation. Discussions with Azerbaijani officials included cross-border security, countering transnational organized crime such as drug trafficking, transportation, energy cooperation, and the implementation of previous agreements reached during Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visits to Baku.

Araghchi praised the warm reception from Azerbaijani officials and expressed satisfaction at the shared political will for enhanced dialogue and problem-solving. He emphasized that misunderstandings or disputes should be addressed through continuous diplomatic engagement, and he welcomed the increased frequency of high-level visits over the past year, including two official trips by Iran's president and prior meetings between foreign ministers.

Bayramov highlighted the long-standing historical, cultural, and religious ties between Iran and Azerbaijan as a foundation for further strengthening bilateral relations. He described Araghchi's visit as an important step in deepening mutual understanding and fostering closer cooperation between the two neighboring states.

The meetings also reflected ongoing Iranian efforts to engage with regional neighbors and promote peace and stability. Araghchi reiterated Iran's commitment to supporting lasting security and conflict resolution in the South Caucasus and emphasized that regional security should be ensured by the countries themselves without foreign intervention.

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## Towers Uninhabitable Five Months Since Iran's Retaliation

# Hefty Cost of Criminal Adventurism

### Israel Covers \$500,000 Per Month in Replacement Rents

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Five months after Iran's precision strike on Tel Aviv's iconic Da Vinci Towers, Israel continues to grapple with the fallout, exposing the fragility of its security claims and the enormous cost of its military adventurism.

The northern tower, which sustained a direct hit, remains uninhabitable, with rehabilitation work stalled and residents forced into regime-funded alternative accommodations for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, the southern tower, though cleared for habitation, is overshadowed by the looming repair needs of its twin.

According to the Israeli business outlet Globes, the total cost of providing temporary housing for the residents of the northern Da Vinci Tower alone amounts to nearly NIS 500,000 per month (\$185,000 USD), or \$1.85–2.2 million annually.

The most luxurious apartments, including penthouses, cost the Zionist regime up to NIS 70,000 per month (\$25,900 USD) each in replacement rent—a staggering financial burden. On top of that, tens of millions of shekels (equivalent to several million USD) are projected to repair structural, electrical, water, and communications damage, as engineers stress

the northern tower's skeleton and core infrastructure were critically compromised.

The damage extends beyond Tel Aviv. In Ramat Gan, residents of the Elite Tower, also targeted in the June strikes, remain displaced, with the regime covering an estimated \$925,000 annually in alternative housing costs. The scale of Israel's financial liability highlights not only the physical vulnerability of its urban centers but also the crippling economic impact of its confrontation with Iran.

The strikes represent a stark reminder that Iran possesses the

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## Official Warns of Rapid Aging as Marriage, Births Decline

TEHRAN — Iran is facing a steep decline in marriage and childbirth, with the average interval between a first and second child reaching six years and permanent singlehood rising sevenfold, the secretary of the National Population Headquarters said Monday, warning of accelerating demographic risks.

Speaking in an interview with Tasnim news agency, Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi said Iran's population challenge has intensified in recent decades as the country moves rapidly toward ageing, driven by lower marriage rates, delayed childbearing and long gaps between births.

Dastjerdi said the demographic

shift, once expected to unfold gradually, has accelerated beyond earlier forecasts.

"Even though only a few decades ago Iran was among the youngest societies, today changes in marriage patterns, lifestyle and cultural attitudes have brought birth rates to one of the lowest levels in our contemporary history," she said.

Last year, Iran's annual births fell below one million for the first time. She said this transition could create serious economic and social pressures in the coming years, including a shrinking young workforce and rising health and welfare costs for an

ageing population. "The demographic window currently open for Iran — with most of the population in working age — will not last long. Losing this opportunity means losing a historic chance for economic development and sustainable growth," she said.

Dastjerdi noted that while Iran's challenges mirror global trends, the pace of decline has been particularly sharp.

"Across the world the view has emerged that marriage is not necessary. Individualistic attitudes have expanded; people want to grow independently, continue

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