

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**No need for western forces to ensure Persian Gulf security: IRGC Cmdr.**



**PRESS TV** – A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said there is no need for extra-regional forces to ensure the security of the Persian Gulf given that Iran and neighboring countries are cooperating to guarantee the security of the strategic waterway.

"The Islamic Republic's security umbrella has been expanded across the region, and we have cooperation with other neighboring states in this regard," commander of the third naval zone of the IRGC Rear Admiral Amrollah Nozari said on Tuesday. Pointing to a Sunday naval parade in Bandar-e Mahshahr in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan Province on the occasion of National Persian Gulf Day, he said the IRGC Navy is responsible to maintain national and shipping security in the region. The commander also said that the IRGC Navy has an active and strong presence in the region to ensure the security of the Persian Gulf for the Iranian nation and other neighboring states.

## Iran denies arresting Azerbaijani nationals



**IRNA** – An informed security source has dismissed reports that two citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been arrested in Iran.

"The government of Azerbaijan has made accusations regarding its nationals in Iran. Addressing these accusations requires further investigation," the source told IRNA on Monday.

The individuals are under surveillance while an investigation is being carried out, the source added. Media reports in recent days suggested that two Azerbaijani activists with a Shia movement called the "Husseiniyun Brigade" had been arrested in the holy city of Qom in central Iran.

## Leader urges teachers to promote Iranian, Islamic identity



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets a group of teachers and academics in Tehran, Iran, on May 2, 2023, on the occasion of the National Teachers' Day. [khamenei.ir](#)

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called on Iranian teachers to promote the Iranian and Islamic identity among children.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in an address to a group of teachers and academics on Tuesday on the occasion of the National Teachers' Day, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, who was martyred by Forqan Group soon after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Press TV reported.

The Leader said reviving the feeling of "Iranian-Islamic identity and national personality" in the intelligent youths of the country is a "fundamental" duty.

"Language, nationality and flag are among the basic and important issues. A student should be proud of being Iranian, which indeed is a source of pride," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that strengthening the Iranian identity and teaching the Islamic-Iranian way of life are among the main things required in the country's education system.

The Leader emphasized that all Iranian officials and decision-makers and people from all walks of life must understand the significance of education.

Ayatollah Khamenei called on the authorities to make a revision in the current path of education and evaluate its productivity for the country.

"The main policy of education should be based on teaching useful science and meeting the current and future needs of the country," the Leader stated.

The Leader said that teachers and academics are educators of the precious jewel of the "teenage and young generation" and the future architects of the country.

Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that it is not possible to make progress without the assistance of the education system.

The Leader also praised the country's teachers for their efforts in educating children despite difficulties. He expressed gratitude for the teachers' sincere efforts despite all the woes they are facing, especially those in deprived areas.



**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist



## Nuclear chief: Iran determined to end Western 'uproar'

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said his country is planning to clarify the effective and useful sides of nuclear technology on people's lives and justify its actions.

National Desk

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said his country is determined to end the "uproar" provoked by Western powers over Iran's nuclear program.

Describing the recent accusations of the West against Iran's peaceful nuclear program as a major obstacle to the country's progress, Mohammad Eslami added that Iran has achieved the position of nuclear progress with the research and sincere efforts of all Iranian experts.

The AEOI head said his country is determined to restore the tarnished image of the peaceful program, which may even be questioned among Iranian people themselves.

Eslami said his organization is planning to clarify the effective and useful sides of nuclear technology on people's lives and justify its actions.

According to media reports, the European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal have recently informed some members of the United Nations about triggering the snapback mechanism to re-impose sanctions on Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Monday warned the European parties to the deal that they have been informed of Tehran's response if they take "irrational measures" in connection with the agreement. Kanaani also said that the path of diplomacy is still open and the exchange of messages between the sides continues. Meanwhile, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna said on Saturday that the Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is being dismantled by the U.S. and three other European signatories.

"It looks like the U.S. and E3 have decided to dismantle the JCPOA which was and still is the major achievement in the field of nuclear non-proliferation," he tweeted.

"Every day they delay the resumption of the Vienna talks brings us closer to the point of no return," Ulyanov added.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, plus Germany and Iran signed the JCPOA in July 2015, but former U.S. president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the pact in May 2018, re-imposed sanctions and added new ones.

The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Bushehr Province, southern Iran. [ISNA](#)



## MP: Iran, U.S. continue prisoner swap talks

### Iran's frozen assets

Asafari also said that talks have been held between American and South Korean officials for releasing Iran's frozen assets in the East Asian country. The legislator said South Korea owes Iran \$9 billion for oil shipments, which is expected to be released. He added that promises have been made for the release of \$7 billion of the blocked money in the first stage. He noted that President Ebrahim Raeisi would facilitate the release of the

frozen assets.

### European anti-Iran sanctions

Asafari also touched upon sanctions imposed on Iran by Europe under the pretext of human rights violations. "Western countries have frequently imposed sanctions on Iran over alleged human rights abuses. This shows that they follow the U.S. policy of Iranophobia," he said. The MP also denounced the West's double-standard toward the Islamic Republic. "Europeans have adopted a double-standard approach toward Iran. Once they im-

posed sanctions on Iran under the pretext of its nuclear activities. But when their ploys and non-commitments regarding the 2015 nuclear deal came to light, they used human rights as an excuse for their actions against Iran." Last week, the European Union and the UK imposed new sanctions on multiple Iranian individuals and legal entities over alleged human rights violations. Consequently, Iran retaliated by slapping sanctions on more than 20 individuals and legal entities from the EU and Britain.