

E3 seeking to settle 'political score' with Iran: *Acting FM*



Iran's Interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani (R) is seen in an interview with Russia's RT news channel in the central Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod on June 12, 2024. mfa.gov.ir

Speaking in an interview with Russia's RT news channel on the sidelines of a two-day meeting of foreign min-

isters of the BRICS group of countries in the central Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod on Tuesday, Iran's Interim

Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani censured a recent move by Britain, France and Germany to have spearheaded

a resolution against Tehran at the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Accusing the Islamic Republic of withholding sufficient cooperation with the agency, the 35-nation BoG passed the resolution with 20 in favor and two against with 12 abstentions during its meeting on June 5. "Since about two years ago, the Europeans have not taken any positive action in the field of negotiations. Certainly, the move by the three European countries is one of their deceitful actions and while they show no seriousness and will to pursue the negotiations, they unjustly accuse Iran of evading and violating its commitments," Bagheri Kani said. The top Iranian diplomat stressed that the three European countries had turned the IAEA into a venue to settle "their own political score" with Iran, which he said "will definitely

be of no avail." Elsewhere in his interview with RT, Bagheri Kani said bilateral cooperation between Iran and Russia results in the consolidation of stability and security in the region and across the world. "Relations between Iran and Russia ... are historical. The relations between Iran and Russia have developed and expanded in all aspects. Of course, it is natural that the more serious threats Iran and Russia face, the greater their solidarity will be to face common challenges and threats," he said. Bagheri Kani also underlined that the two strategic partners are simultaneously working within the framework of multilateralism by their active participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS group.

Canadian court blames Ukrainian airline for jet downing

Iran calls ruling 'fair'



IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Vice President for Legal Affairs Mohammad Dehqan described as "fair" a Canadian court ruling on the case of a Ukrainian passenger jet mistakenly shot down by Iran's air defenses in 2020. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice has ruled that Ukraine International Airlines is legally responsible for paying full compensation to the families who lost loved ones in the downing of UIA Flight 752 in Iran in January 2020.

Flight PS752, carrying Canadian citizens and permanent residents, was shot down over Iran's capital, Tehran, by the Iranian Revolution Guards Corps in the early hours of January 8, 2020, at a time when military tensions with the United States were rapidly escalating. The Ontario Court found that UIA was negligent for failing to conduct a proper assessment of the risks of operating the flight out of Tehran.

Justice Jasmine Akbarali ruled that UIA's negligence was grounded in the fact that hours before the departure of Flight 752, Iran had launched ballistic missiles against US forces in Iraq in retaliation for the assassination of Iran's top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani and was on high alert for a counterattack. The judgment followed an 18-day trial in Toronto that ended in January 2024.

The plane was shot down by Iran's air defenses, which mistook the aircraft for a military target amid tensions between Tehran and Washington following the US assassination of the late legendary commander in Iraq days earlier. Iran subsequently acknowledged that the mismanagement of an air defense unit's radar system by its operator was the key human error that led to the accident.

Dehqan noted that the incident was a mistake in which the Ukrainian airline played a role. He said that Tehran welcomes the ruling that will be used by Iran in the international Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), where two cases have been brought against the Islamic Republic on the Ukrainian jet.

Iran rebukes US sanctions on disabled community

The head of State Welfare Organization of Iran (SWO) censured illegal sanctions imposed by the US and Western governments on the country's community of persons with disabilities. "The global community and human rights forums must address these critical questions: Which human rights principles are consistent with and justify the sanctions imposed on the Iranian community of persons with disabilities?" Ali Mohammad Qaderi said. He was speaking at the 17th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP17) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York on Tuesday, Press TV reported. Qaderi said Iran will make every effort to promote services needed for the disabled in accordance with the

convention's framework as the Islamic Republic has prioritized the implementation of community-based rehabilitation programs at the national level. Washington's sanctions against Iran have taken a new turn since May 2018 when the former US president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew his country from the 2015 nuclear deal and reinstated harsh economic bans on Tehran. Qaderi said the Islamic Republic, with a commitment to further enhancing the empowerment, independence, and social integration of persons with disabilities, has embarked on comprehensive initiatives to ensure accessibility in both physical environments and cyberspace for the disabled. "This is notwithstanding the fact that the cruel sanctions imposed by

the United States and many Western countries on the Islamic Republic of Iran have significantly increased the prime costs of rehabilitation items and specialized services, and affected the economic capabilities of individuals receiving such services," he said. Qaderi asked the forum, "Don't you think that creating barriers to the international communication of the Iranian community of persons with disabilities will ultimately deprive them of their equal rights to educational and rehabilitation facilities?" Iranian authorities have on numerous occasions censured the decades-long unilateral US sanctions on the Islamic Republic as a crime against humanity since they severely undermine the basic rights of the entire nation.

Hezbollah rains rockets on Israel after strike kills commander



Female mourners hold the portrait of Hezbollah's commander Taleb Sami Abdallah, who was killed in an Israeli strike during his funeral in Beirut's southern suburbs on June 12, 2024. [ANWAR AMRO/AFP](https://anwar.amro.com)

Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah fired barrages of rockets at Israel on Wednesday and vowed to intensify its attacks after an Israeli strike killed a senior commander in south Lebanon the previous day. Hezbollah has traded near-daily cross-border fire with the Israeli army since the beginning of the regime's war on Gaza in October. "We will increase the intensity, strength, quantity and quality of our attacks," said senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, speaking at the funeral of commander Taleb Sami Abdallah, who was killed in Tuesday's Israeli strike, AFP reported. In Doha, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken renewed calls Wednesday for a diplomatic solution between Israel and Lebanon and said a long-sought Gaza cease-fire deal would "take a tremendous amount of pressure out of the system". Hezbollah in statements said it launched "dozens of Katyusha rockets" at three

bases and a barracks in northern Israel. The group said it also struck a "military factory" with guided missiles "in response to the assassination carried out by the Zionist enemy". Taleb Sami Abdallah was killed along with three Hezbollah comrades in an Israeli strike on Jouaiyya. A Lebanese military source said the commander was "the most important in Hezbollah to be killed... since the start of the war". More than eight months of cross-border violence has killed at least 468 people in Lebanon, most of them fighters but also including 89 civilians, according to an AFP tally. Israeli authorities say at least 15 Israeli soldiers and 11 civilians have been killed. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced on both sides of the border since the violence erupted on October 7. Meanwhile, deadly fighting rocked Gaza on Wednesday as US top diplomat Antony Blinken on a Mid-

dle East tour pushed for an elusive truce and captive release deal to end the war raging since October 7. And in Geneva, a UN investigation concluded on Wednesday that Israel has committed crimes against humanity during the war in Gaza, and that both parties to the bloody conflict were guilty of war crimes. US Secretary of State Blinken arrived in Qatar on his latest regional crisis tour, to promote a cease-fire deal outlined by President Joe Biden on May 31. US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators were studying a reply Hamas issued late Tuesday, but there was no news of a breakthrough as Hamas has insisted on a complete end to the war, a demand rejected by Israel. Hamas and their allies Islamic Jihad said that their response calls for "a complete halt to the ongoing aggression on Gaza". Hamas proposed amendments including a cease-fire timeline and the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, a source familiar with the talks said.

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