

# Iran dismisses claims of interference in Lebanon's internal affairs

Iran complains about Israeli nuclear threats in letter to IAEA

**International Desk**

Iran rejected the accusation of interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs, saying that there had been a "misunderstanding" regarding remarks by Iran's Parliament's speaker about the Arab country. On Thursday, France's Le Figaro quoted Iran's Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf as saying that Iran was ready to negotiate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which is seen as a precondition for a cease-fire in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah group. The resolution calls for the

Lebanese Army and UN peacekeepers to be the only forces deployed to southern Lebanon. In a rare rebuke of Tehran, Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati accused it of "blatant interference in Lebanese affairs and an attempt to establish an unacceptable guardianship over Lebanon." "Iran has never had any intention or (taken any) action that could be suspected of interfering in the internal affairs of Lebanon," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said during a weekly news conference. "We hold discussions with any country that has an initia-

tive and a proposal to end the crimes and aggression against Lebanon and the genocide in Gaza," said Baghaei, adding that there had been a "misunderstanding" regarding Qalibaf's reported remarks. Iran has in recent days intensified diplomatic efforts, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visiting multiple countries in the region to push for cease-fires in Lebanon and Gaza as well as ways to contain the conflicts. "We are happy that we and all the countries of the region have reached this level of maturity and we share the opinion that protecting peace in the re-

gion is our common duty," said Baghaei of the recent visits. **Israeli nuclear threats** Also in his remarks, Baghaei noted that Iran has written to the UN nuclear agency to complain about Israeli threats to strike its nuclear energy sites. "Threats to attack nuclear sites are against UN resolutions... and are condemned and rejected. Our interpretation is that these cases pose a threat to international peace and [thus] the Security Council should intervene," he added. Israel has promised retaliatory attack against Iran after Tehran launched a barrage of around



200 ballistic missiles at Israel on October 1, itself a retaliation for the assassination of resistance leaders and a commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

## Israeli strikes target financial association in Lebanon

Israel carried out air strikes targeting branches of a financial association linked with Hezbollah in the southern suburbs of Lebanon's capital Beirut, as well as the south and east of the country. There were chaotic scenes in parts of Beirut late on Sunday as people tried to get to areas that they thought would be safer and multiple explosions were heard, BBC reported.



The Israeli military said it targeted money held by Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association (AQAH). It offers financial services to civilians in areas where Hezbollah has strong support, but Israel and the US accuse it of being a cover for the group to fund its activities. The attacks appeared to mark an expansion of Israel's war against Hezbollah, going beyond military infrastructure used by the group. They took place hours before US President Joe Biden's special envoy to the Middle East arrived in Beirut to explore the possibility of a negotiated end to the war. Israel began an intense air campaign and ground invasion against Hezbollah after almost a year of cross-border fighting sparked by the war in Gaza. Hezbollah began firing rockets into the northern occupied territories in support of Palestinians on October 8, 2023, the day after its ally Hamas's attack on Israel.

More than 2,400 people have been killed in Lebanon since then, including 1,800 in the past five weeks, according to the country's health ministry. Israeli authorities say 59 people have been killed in northern Israel and the occupied Golan Heights. According to the Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA), there were 11 attacks on Dahieh, in southern Beirut. Videos posted on social media showed one AQAH branch on fire in the Laylaki area, only 500m (1,800ft) away from the runway of Lebanon's only functioning commercial airport, and another just to the north in Burj al-Barajneh. A third video showed a multi-story building where there was an AQAH branch collapsing in the Chiyah area. The NNA also said that strikes hit branches in Nabatieh, Tyre and Shehabieh in southern Lebanon, as well as those in the eastern Bekaa Valley towns of Baalbek, Hermel and Rayak.

## Pezeshkian due in Russia today for BRICS summit



**International Desk**

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian will leave Tehran for the Russian city of Kazan today to participate in the 16th summit of BRICS group of major emerging economies. According to the president's official website,

Pezeshkian will address several meetings including the BRICS's main meeting and the first session of BRICS Plus. Iranian president will also hold talks with the leaders of the group's member states on the sidelines of the event. According to Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali, Iran and Russia will also sign a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty. Before his departure for Russia, the Iranian president chaired a meeting with the country's executive officials on Monday, during which they discussed ways to solve the problems and overcome obstacles fac-

ing the implementation of the agreements reached between Iran and BRICS's member states. The BRICS summit in Russia is scheduled to be held from October 22 to 24 in Kazan. According to Russian president's foreign policy aide, Yuri Ushakov, 32 countries have confirmed participation, with more than 20 heads of state attending. Ushakov mentioned that Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to hold around 20 bilateral meetings, suggesting this could become "the largest foreign policy event ever held" on Russian soil. Iran officially became a

member of BRICS at the beginning of this year, five months after it announced its acceptance as a full member into the group along with Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia have also formally applied, with other countries expressing interest. BRICS was formed by and initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, which collectively represent around 40% of the global population, a quarter of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and about two-fifth of the world's population.

## Iran summons Hungary envoy over Persian Gulf trio islands

The Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned Hungary's ambassador in Tehran to convey Tehran's strong protest to unfounded claims about the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. During their first summit in Brussels, the European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued a joint statement on Wednesday, repeating allegations about Iran's sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands - Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, Press TV reported. Hungary's Ambassador Giola Peto, whose country holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union, was called in by the director general of the Western Europe Department at the Iranian Ministry of Affairs on Sunday. During the session, Iranian Foreign Ministry's Director General of West

European Affairs emphasized that all countries, including the EU member states, must comply with the rules and principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly the principle of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of other states. The ministry's official strongly condemned the European Union's unjustified support for some "baseless and illegal" claims against Iran's territorial integrity. The official reaffirmed Iran's sovereignty over the three islands in the Persian Gulf as a historical and legal fact and criticized the EU for taking a biased, incorrect and thoughtless stance in this regard. He noted that the EU's stance lacks any legal value and urged the union

to prevent its repetition and rectify it immediately. The Hungarian ambassador, for his part, said he would convey Iran's protest to his country as soon as possible. The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands. The islands fell under British control in 1921 but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



**A Revision of the Specific Procurement Notice of the Bidding Documents for Procurement of Remaining Works of DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATION OF SEPIDAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (NCB No: SEP1 - WWTP)**

Following the Tender Notice of Fars Water and Wastewater Company regarding the Design, Build, Installation and Operation of **Sepidan Wastewater Treatment Plant** which was published in this newspaper on September 18, 2024 and September 28, 2024. This is to announce that due to the change in the grade of the qualified bidders from Grade 2 to **grade 3** in Water Category, the Bid submission period has been extended up to 10:30 a.m., **November 24, 2024.**

**اصلاحیه آگهی مناقصه پروژه باقیمانده تدارک، طراحی، ساخت، نصب تجهیزات و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان**

پیرو آگهی شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس در خصوص مناقصه باقی‌مانده کارهای طراحی، ساخت، نصب و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان که در تاریخ‌های ۱۴۰۳/۰۹/۰۷ و ۱۴۰۳/۰۹/۲۸ در این روزنامه به چاپ رسیده است، بدین وسیله به اطلاع می‌رساند به دلیل تغییر در رتبه مورد نیاز جهت شرکت در مناقصه از رتبه ۲ آب به رتبه ۳ آب، تاریخ بازگشایی پیشنهاد قیمت تا تاریخ ۱۴۰۳/۰۹/۰۴ رأس ساعت ۱۰:۳۰ صبح تمدید گردید.