

# Araghchi: Iran ready for constructive nuclear talks without delay

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that the Islamic Republic is ready for constructive negotiations to reach an agreement regarding its nuclear program. Araghchi expressed Tehran's readiness for renewed talks during an exclusive interview with China's CCTV on Friday, Press TV reported. Araghchi said negotiations should be aimed "at reaching an agreement." "We are ready to enter into constructive negotiations without delay," he stated. "The formula we have is the same as the previous JCPOA formula, which is building trust about Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the removal of sanctions. We are ready to negotiate on this basis," he added. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is the agreement signed in July 2015 between Iran, the European Union and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, known as the P5+1. Britain, France, and Germany are set to begin a new round of talks with Iran over its nuclear program in Geneva on January 13. "For more than 2 years, we negotiated with the 5+1 countries in good faith and finally we managed to reach an agreement that the whole world

accepted and admired as an achievement of diplomacy," he stated. Araghchi said that Iran implemented the nuclear deal with good intentions, but it was the United States that decided to pull out from it without any reason or justification. "The US withdrawal from the JCPOA was a very big strategic mistake and was met with a reaction from Iran. Then the US expanded its sanctions," he stated. He said that one round of negotiations has been held with European countries and the second round of these negotiations will be held with three European countries within the next two weeks. In addition, Araghchi said that when the upcoming Trump administration formulates its own policy, "we will make a decision based on it." Iran and Europeans have been conducting on-again, off-again talks since 2018, when the United States illegally and unilaterally left a historic nuclear accord between Iran and world powers under its former president Donald Trump, returning Washington's unlawful sanctions against the Islamic Republic. The trio then failed to live up to their promise of bringing Washington back into the deal. Reacting to the counter-party's non-commitment to its obliga-

The photo grabbed from a video shows Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaking during an interview with China's CCTV.



tions, Tehran initiated a set of retaliatory nuclear steps, including by activating more advanced centrifuges. The country has been stepping up the measures in response to the other parties' continued refusal to uphold their obligations. Earlier this year, the European

states forwarded an anti-Iranian resolution proposed by the US to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which was approved by the board. Elsewhere in his interview, the Iranian foreign minister also said, "The future of the resistance is bright and Hezbollah

is systematically rebuilding itself." "Iran will support any agreement that Hamas and the Palestinians reach on their own," he noted. About the fluid situation in Syria following the fall of the Assad government, Araghchi said, "We do not make deci-

sions about Syria based on external changes, words and slogans." "We are waiting for the transitional government to announce its policies regarding the region and other countries and gain sufficient stability, and then we will make decisions based on behavior," he stated.

## Iran reviewing foreign investment hurdles, hopes for addressing challenges

### International Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman said a working group is reviewing the obstacles facing foreign investment in the country, expressing hope that Iran would witness the presence of investors from Europe and other countries in the next few months. Fatemeh Mohajerani said that there are two categories of countries. One is the member states of BRICS group of emerging economies, in which Iran is also a full member; that interactions with them are reviewed under BRICS, and the other is the non-BRICS countries, such as some European ones. "In the case of BRICS countries, these obstacles have been largely re-



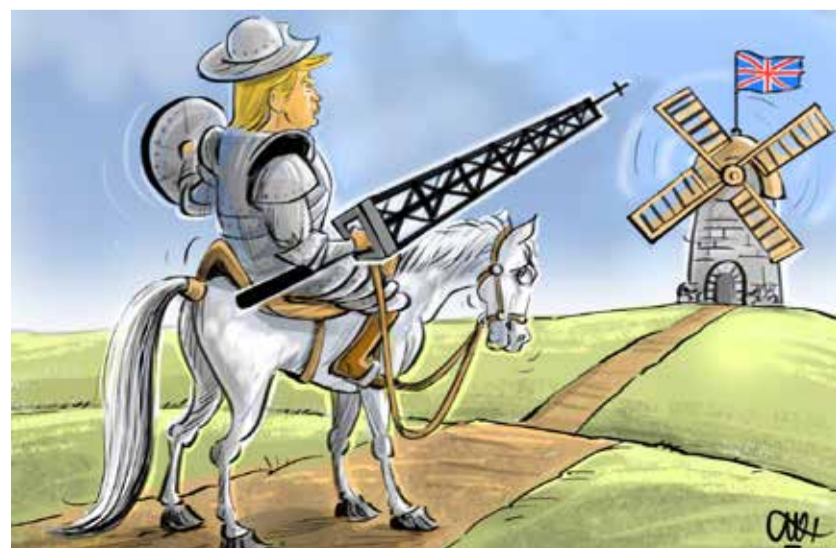
moved and we are witnessing investment in some projects by BRICS members, but in the case of non-BRICS countries, a working group is reviewing the situation and I hope that in the next few months, with the removal of obstacles, we will

witness the presence of investors from Europe and other countries." She said Iran enjoys very good relations with the BRICS member countries but this does not mean that it is disregarding relations with the West.

"Iran has very good relations with BRICS member countries, specifically China, India, and Russia, and we will continue to expand economic relations with all three countries. Of course, Iran pursues a balanced foreign policy, and naturally we give priority to the East and neighboring countries. Of course, this does not mean disregarding [relations with] the West," she said.

The Iranian official pointed to the economic and political agreements reached between Iran and the BRICS countries, which are home to roughly 3.3 billion people and over 40% of the global population. She referred to a comprehensive strategic cooperation treaty which is to be signed between Iran and Russia in the new future to promote relations between the two countries and a 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership agreement reached between Iran and China in 2021 as well as good economic and political relations with India as a sign of Iran's extended relations with the countries in the East.

**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist



## IRGC launches military drill in western Iran



### International Desk

The Ground Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) began a military exercise, code-named Payambar-e-A'azam (Great Prophet) 19, in the western province of Kermanshah on Saturday. Mohammad Nazar Azimi, an IRGC commander, said that the first phase of the war game, which is aimed at enhancing defense capabilities of the forces, has started in the Oramanat region of Kermanshah with the participation of various specialized divisions and units of the IRGC Ground Force, IRNA reported.

He said that the focus of the military drill is on rapid reaction operations. The quick transfer of troops and military hardware to the exercise area was carried out in the first part of the drills. Iranian military forces hold routine exercises according to a de-

tailed schedule in various parts of the country in order to test their weaponry and equipment and evaluate their combat preparedness.

Emphasizing the importance of conducting such drills in the border areas, the IRGC commander said that Kermanshah region has seen many acts of bravery during the period of the Iraq's 1980s imposed war on Iran and in confronting opposition groups and the ongoing is being held to strengthen the capabilities of the armed forces and improve the security of the region.

Iran's Armed Forces hold routine military exercises throughout the year.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will never be subject to negotiations.