



# Iran seeking brotherly ties with Qatar ‘not confrontation’: *Pezeshkian*



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani shake hands in Tehran, Iran, on February 19, 2025.  
● **REUTERS**

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian assured Doha that Tehran's retaliatory air strike on the American Al-Udeid airbase in Qatar was not aimed at starting a neighborly confrontation, expressing goodwill toward the Qatari government and people. In a phone call with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, President Pezeshkian reaffirmed his country's commitment to fostering constructive, friendly, and brotherly relations with Doha. "I reached out to you at the ear-

liest opportunity to convey that yesterday's incident was merely a reaction to the direct and overt involvement of the United States in the Zionist regime's aggression against Iranian territory," Pezeshkian emphasized. The Iranian president also expressed his sincere gratitude toward Sheikh Tamim for all his efforts to stop the war and for the support, solidarity, and cooperation with Iranians. The Emir, in response, emphasized that Qatar has made significant efforts, both publicly and privately, to keep the region safe from the Zion-

ist regime's provocations, including its aggression against Iranian territory. Sheikh Tamim also pointed out that the US airbase in Qatar has not been and will not be used for attacks against Iran, adding that he does not hide the fact that what happened on Monday was a significant shock for him and the people of Qatar. He noted, "At the same time, while appreciating your call and sympathy, I emphasize that we in Qatar see a larger picture and a broader horizon. The Qatari people have expressed their solidarity with their

brothers in Iran during the military aggression of the Zionist regime, and we are thinking about deepening and expanding our relations in the future." Pezeshkian's sentiments toward Qatar were echoed by his Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during a phone conversation with his Qatari counterpart on Tuesday. In a post on his X account on Tuesday morning, Araghchi praised the country's military forces for their steadfast defense against Israel's war of aggression as a cease-fire in 12 days of fighting reportedly came into effect on Tuesday morning.

# Israel violates cease-fire announced by US president

## International Desk

US President Donald Trump later early on Tuesday announced a cease-fire between Iran and Israel, which was violated by the regime hours after its announcement. The US president in a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, said, "THE CEASEFIRE IS NOW IN EFFECT. PLEASE DO NOT VIOLATE IT!". Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that his country would not fire at Israel if it was not fired upon but that a final decision will be made later. "As of now, there is NO 'agreement' on any cease-fire or cessation of military operations," Araghchi wrote on his X account early on Tuesday. "Provided that the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against the Iranian people no later than 4 am Tehran time, we have no intention to continue our response afterwards." "The final decision on the cessation of our military operations will be made later," he added.

## Attacks on northern cities

Hours after the announcement by Trump, the Israeli regime launched attacks on Iran's northern cities of Babol and Babolsar as well as Alborz Province, accusing Tehran of violating the terms of the cease-fire agreement by firing missile at Israel.



However, Iran's Armed Forces denied Israel's claims that it fired fresh missiles at Israel after the cease-fire. Trump also accused both Israel and Iran of violating the cease-fire, expressing particular frustration with Israel which had announced plans for major new strikes on Tehran. "Israel unloaded a lot and now I hear Israel just went out because they felt they

were violated by one rocket that didn't land anywhere." "That's not what we want," Trump said. "Israel. Do not drop those bombs. If you do it it is a major violation. Bring your pilots home, now!" Trump wrote on Truth Social shortly after he left the White House for a trip to a NATO summit in The Hague.

nian Armed Forces minutes before the implementation of the cease-fire, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps targeted the military and support centers of the regime by firing 14 missiles across the occupied territories. The attack, which was the 22nd wave of Operation True Promise 3, was in response to a deadly strike by the Israeli regime on four residential buildings in northern town of Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh in Gilan Province. The deputy governor of Gilan Province Ali Baqeri said on Tuesday that the Israeli attack killed nine civilians and wounded 33 others.

## Strike on US base

The cease-fire also came a day after Iran launched an attack on the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in retaliation for the US strike on its three key nuclear sites. The United States joined the conflict between Iran and Israel on Sunday by launching attack on Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear facilities. Trump claimed on Sunday that Iran's nuclear facilities were "completely and totally obliterated."

# Sports minister urges FIFA to suspend Israel over anti-Iran aggression

## Sports Desk

Iranian Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali called on FIFA to hand Israel suspension from all international football events. The Iranian official made the request after a football player, a futsal player, and a referee were among the civilians killed by the Israeli airstrikes on the Iranian territory since June 13. "With deep sorrow and grave concern, we draw your attention to the recent blatant war crimes committed by the Zionist regime of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These aggressive acts have resulted in devastating consequences for innocent civilians," Donyamali wrote in a letter to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, adding: "Among the victims of these abhorrent attacks were a footballer named Ali Moradi, a futsal player named Alireza Khalaj, and a referee named Mohammad Asadi, who tragically lost their lives." "This is a heavy blow not only to our nation but also to the global sports community, serving as a bitter and tragic reminder of the unacceptable oppression and widespread violence that continues to plague our world. In light of these deeply distressing events, we respectfully and urgently call upon FIFA to take decisive and appropriate action. "We demand the immediate suspension of the occupying Israeli regime from all international football competitions and events. This necessary measure is not merely a political stance but a fundamental commitment to human rights, ethical principles, and the Olympic Charter — values that football explicitly upholds. Such a decisive act of solidarity would underscore the global football community's unwav-



ering dedication to the victims of war, including the athletes tragically lost in these conflicts. It would send a clear and unequivocal message that the moral values of sportsmanship, peace, and human dignity transcend all other considerations." Meanwhile, the Ministry of Sports and Youth praised the Iranian armed forces' retaliatory strike on U.S. military bases in the region, emphasizing that it was carried out as a legitimate and lawful act of self-defence. Iran responded to U.S. participation in Israel's air war against Iran by firing missiles on Monday at the Al Ubeid air base in Qatar. "The Ministry of Sports and Youth once again expresses its full support for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in their legitimate and lawful defence of the nation's territorial integrity. The Ministry hereby commends and expresses gratitude for the strikes against U.S. military bases in the region, which were conducted within the framework of a nation's inherent right to self-defence," read the statement late on Monday. The official Instagram page of the Iranian national football team again offered solidarity with the Iranian people and armed forces, in separate posts on Tuesday, reading: "My life dedicated to Iran" and "Iran is at stake. We stay loyal to Iran."

# Culture minister says Iran unyielding in face of threats to sovereignty

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, said on Monday that the Iranian people stood united in the wake of recent US-backed Israeli attacks, stressing that the "Iranians do not allow for humiliation or threats to sovereignty." Speaking in at IRNA's newsroom studio following his visit to the Islamic Republic News Agency headquarters in Tehran, Salehi pushed back on what he called miscalculations by Israel and its allies. "They thought Iranian society had collapsed," he said, calling their assumptions a "grave mistake." "They thought they could hit hard and fast," he said, "but what they missed was the deep-rooted resilience in our national identity." He drew a historical parallel to Saddam Hussein's 1980 invasion of Iran. "He made

a similar misjudgment. The army was in disarray, the revolution fresh, and political factions were at each other's throats. He thought Tehran was within reach. He was wrong."



Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi speaks at the Islamic Republic News Agency headquarters in Tehran on June 23, 2025.  
● **IRNA**

Salehi said that same "historical backbone" has once again held firm. "When the Iranian senses humiliation, they stand up. That's not something you can measure in polls or satellite images," he said.

The minister acknowledged internal criticisms and dissatisfaction among Iranians but noted that when national sovereignty is on the line, people draw a clear line. "They might be angry at officials. They

might protest. But they don't confuse Iran with its rulers." He also praised Iranian artists, journalists, and athletes for what he described as an "organic, voluntary" wave of national solidarity.

"In these days, the cultural community acted like never before. Not even at the start of the Iran-Iraq war did we see this level of unity," he said. Salehi warned that the current war is not only military. "We're in a hybrid war. A media and psychological war just as fierce as anything on the battlefield," he said, urging Iran's intellectuals and media to help raise "analytic appreciation" among the public to counter disinformation. He also highlighted the importance of preserving daily life, reopening cinemas, encouraging family outings, and holding public cultural events. "Defense and normalcy must go hand in hand," he said. He thanked journalists, saying "They're not just recording moments. They're shaping the narrative. And in this moment, history will remember who stood their ground."

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