

Pezeshkian: Tehran to resume cooperation if IAEA redresses double standards

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Thursday that Tehran will resume its cooperation with the UN nuclear agency if the agency abandons its "double standards" policies regarding Tehran's nuclear program.

"The resumption of cooperation [with the International Atomic Energy Agency] hinges on the rectification of the double standards regarding Iran's nuclear case," Pezeshkian said in a phone call with European Council President António Costa.

Pezeshkian emphasized that a parliamentary law on suspension of Iran's cooperation with the UN nuclear agency was a "reaction to the biased and unprofessional" performance of the agency's director general.

The Iranian president warned that the agency's lack of impartiality in its reports, its overlooking of attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, and its silence in the face of violations of international law have undermined the IAEA's credibility. Late in June, Iran's Constitutional Council approved a parliamentary bill on sus-

pending cooperation with the IAEA after its report against Iran's nuclear program became a lightning rod for the Israeli aggression on Iran.

The suspension, the bill reads, will remain in effect until full assurances are provided regarding Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly the security of its nuclear sites and scientists, as well as the Islamic Republic's inherent rights under Article 4 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including its right to uranium enrichment.

The Israeli regime launched a wave of aggression on Iran's military and civilian infrastructure on June 13 that claimed hundreds of lives, including women and children, as well as a dozen top military brass.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces launched a retaliatory campaign against the Israeli regime by targeting key military, intelligence, industrial, energy, and R&D facilities across the occupied territories.

The United States, which had been in talks with Tehran about its peaceful

nuclear program since April, joined the war on June 22 by targeting several key nuclear sites in a separate military operation, code-named Midnight Hammer. Iran struck a major US military base in Qatar in retaliation.

The Israeli regime was forced on June 24 to declare a unilateral halt to its aggression, which was announced on its behalf by US President Donald Trump. The European Council president said the EU insists on diplomacy to resolve the existing issues and seeks improvement of cooperation with Iran.

Nuclear talks with US

Pezeshkian pointed to Israel's role in disrupting international peace and security and said the regime carried out its acts of aggression against Iran in cooperation with the US at a time that Tehran and Washington were engaged in indirect nuclear talks.

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi has said Tehran is open to resuming negotiations with the US based on dignity and mutual respect.

In a detailed interview with Le Monde



Masoud Pezeshkian

António Costa

published on Thursday, Araghchi emphasized that the US must first change its behavior and guarantee it will not conduct further military strikes against Iran during negotiations.

"Diplomacy is a two-way street. It was the US that broke off negotiations and resorted to military action. Therefore, it is crucial for the US to accept responsibility for its mistakes and to demon-

strate a clear change in behavior. We need assurances that the United States will refrain from military attacks during any future discussions," Araghchi stated. He highlighted that US attacks have caused damage to Iran's nuclear facilities, emphasizing that the country reserves the right to seek compensation once the extent of the damage is assessed.

Armed Forces not to abandon even an inch of Iran's soil: Army chief



Amir Hatami

International Desk

Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami said on Friday that the Iranian Armed Forces will not allow even a single inch of Iran's territory to be separated from the country.

Major General Amir Hatami made the remarks while visiting Shahid Lashgari Air Base in Tehran. In a meeting with the pilots of the

military base, Hatami emphasized that the Army's duty is to safeguard the territorial integrity, independence, and establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Stressing that Iran's Army will continue its mission with full strength, he said, "We demonstrated during the eight-year Sacred Defense (Iraq's imposed war on Iran in the 1980s) that we will never allow a single inch of Iran's soil to be separated."

His comments came amid high tensions between Iran and the Israel following a 12-day unprovoked aggression by the regime against Iran last month, which claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians including women and children, as well as a dozen top military brass.

The Israeli regime launched its aggression on Iran's military and civilian infrastructure on June 13. In response, the Iranian Armed Forces launched a retaliatory campaign, Operation True Promise III, against Israel by targeting its key military, intelligence, industrial, energy, and R&D facilities.

Iran's Armed Forces also launched a missile attack on the US largest military base in the Middle East in Qatar after Washington joined the aggression on June 22 by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

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Araghchi: Triggering snapback tantamount to military aggression

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said triggering the so-called "snapback" mechanism by European countries against Iran would have the same effect as a military attack.

In an interview with Le Monde, the Iranian foreign minister said that activating the "snapback" mechanism would mark the end of France and Europe's role in the issue of Iran's peaceful nuclear program. "We support the constructive role of the three European countries [France, Germany, and the UK] in rebuilding the JCPOA (Iran 2015 nuclear deal), provided they avoid provocative and unconstructive actions such as threatening the "snapback" mechanism, which would have the same effect as a military attack," Araghchi said.

The so-called snapback mechanism allows for the return of anti-Iran sanctions suspended under the 2015 nuclear deal, from which the US withdrew in 2018 and its European parties failed to fulfill their commitments under the deal.

The Iranian foreign minister added that the threat of sanctions does not help diplomacy. If Europe truly seeks to play a central role, it must demonstrate independence and neutrality. In recent months, the three European countries which are the signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal, have repeatedly threatened to activate the mechanism against Iran on different excuses.



Abbas Araghchi

In a latest warning, the UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Wednesday raised the alarm that European nations will act to impose "dramatic sanctions" on Iran in the coming weeks if it does not end what he called the uncertainty about its nuclear program, including by allowing the return of UN inspectors.

His warning was echoed by the French Foreign Ministry, which is working closely with the UK in this regard.

The UK, France and Germany – the E3 – signed the nuclear deal with Iran in 2015 and according to its terms can impose "snapback" UN sanctions without the risk of a security council veto, so long as they act by its expiry in October. Alternatively, they could table a UN resolution to delay the snapback by some months if Iran shows willingness to negotiate.

The three countries are also using their power to reimpose UN sanctions as a lever to persuade the US to join the talks with the Iranians, but have so far had no success.

ASEAN urges Iran, Israel to keep up adherence to cease-fire

International Desk

Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) called on Iran and Israel to continue observing a unilateral cease-fire which ended a 12-day aggression by the regime against Iran. "We expressed concern over the escalation of tensions in the Middle East since 13 June 2025, and welcomed the cease-fire between Israel and Iran on 24 June 2025," according to a Joint Communique of the 58th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was held in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur.

"We urged all parties to respect the cease-fire and avoid further escalation of this conflict."

"We reaffirmed the obligation of all States to resolve their differences through peaceful means and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, in line with international law, including the United Nations (UN) Charter," the communique continued.



The ASEAN members also reiterated the obligations to protect civilians and civilian infrastructures in armed conflicts consistent with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

"We supported ongoing efforts, including those led by the UN, aimed at de-escalating tensions and facilitating the resumption of constructive engagement among parties involved," the document stated. Russia Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who also attended the ASEAN meeting, called for the extension of the cease-fire "without any delays."

Israel launched airstrikes on several mili-

tary and nuclear site as well as residential areas across Iran on June 13, alleging that Tehran was on the verge of producing a nuclear bomb, a claim denied by Iran. The aggression killed 1,100 people and injured more than 5,000 in Iran.

At least 28 people were also killed and more than 3,000 others were wounded in Israel after Iran's Armed Forces targeted Israel's military sites in response to the regime's attacks.

After 12 days of aerial combat between the two sides, US President Donald Trump announced a unilateral cease-fire on June 24, which ended the conflict.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

