

Spox: Iran's defense capabilities not up for negotiations with E3



International Desk

Iran said on Monday that its defense capabilities were not up for negotiations, after France called for a "comprehensive deal" with Tehran that cov-

ers its missile program and regional influence.

"Our talks with European sides are clear: they focus on lifting sanctions and the nuclear issue," he said, adding, "Raising unrelated topics sporadically

is a sign of confusion among the European parties," Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said during his weekly press conference.

"There will be absolutely no discussion on our defense capabilities," he said. On Sunday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told CBS News show "Face The Nation" that Western governments were seeking a "comprehensive agreement" with Iran, in part to avert the "risk" that it could covertly pursue a nuclear weapon – an issue Tehran has consistently denied.

Barrot said such agreement would include "the nuclear dimension" as well as the "ballistic component" and what he called the regional destabilization activities that Iran has been conducting.

His remarks followed a meeting on Friday between Iranian diplomats and counterparts from France, Germany, and Britain – the first nuclear talks after an aggression by the Israeli regime, which targeted Iran's residential areas, nuclear facilities and military sites. The aggression claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians. The United States brief-

ly joined the war, striking key nuclear sites.

Snapback mechanism

Friday's talks in Istanbul came as the three European powers, known as the E3, have in recent weeks threatened to trigger a so-called "snapback mechanism" under a 2015 nuclear deal which would reinstate UN sanctions on Iran. "Unless a new and robust and durable and verifiable agreement is reached by the end of the summer, France, Germany and the UK will have no other choice but to reapply the global embargo that were lifted 10 years ago," said Barrot. Iran has previously warned that Tehran could withdraw from the global nuclear non-proliferation treaty if sanctions were reimposed.

"One cannot expect a country to remain in the treaty while being deprived of its stated rights, particularly the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Regarding the snapback mechanism, the Iranian official said the European countries have no legal authority to activate the mechanism.

"Such a right does not exist, and we

oppose the very essence of this issue. We have communicated our position to them," he said.

The last month aggression against Iran by Israel derailed US-Iran nuclear negotiations that began in April, and prompted Iran to suspend its cooperation with the United Nations' nuclear watchdog.

Baqaei said the UN nuclear watchdog will make a visit to Iran within the next two weeks.

Zangezur Corridor

He also referred to the proposed Zangezur Corridor that would pass through Armenia and connect Azerbaijan to its exclave Nakhchivan.

Iran has in the past opposed the plan because it would cut off the transport routes connecting its territories to Armenia.

Baqaei said that the expansion of transportation routes should not in any way violate the national sovereignty of the countries and their territorial integrity, and should not cause changes in the geopolitics of the region or the recognized borders.

Pezeshkian: Tehran ready to work with IAEA over nuclear monitoring



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with France's new ambassador in Iran Pierre Cochard during a meeting in the capital Tehran on July 28, 2025.
● president.ir

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday underlined that the Islamic Republic is ready to continue its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over inspection of its nuclear sites, but he said it does not mean relinquishing Iran's rights. The Iranian president made the remarks in a meeting with the new

French ambassador to Tehran Pierre Cochard while receiving his credentials. "We want our rights within the framework of international regulations and remain committed to its obligations. Just as we have previously subjected to the most extensive nuclear monitoring regime, we are now prepared to engage in this regard. However, this does not mean relinquishing the rights of the Iranian nation", Pezeshkian said.

Pezeshkian said that Iran is seeking engagement with the world. However, he said Western countries, through false propaganda and accusations that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons, are disrupting this path.

On Friday, Iran, France, Germany and the UK held a meeting in Turkish city of Istanbul to discuss removal of Iran's sanctions as well as Iran's nuclear issue.

In a separate meeting with the Brazil's new Ambassador to Tehran Andre Vass Gimaraes, the Iranian president touched upon the issue of Palestine and

the Israel's atrocities in the Gaza Strip.

Pezeshkian said that the situation in Gaza contradicts all international laws.

"Unfortunately, the so-called advocates of human rights and democracy not only fail to take effective measures to prevent the crimes of the Israeli regime but also provide military support for its actions, which is truly shameful", President Pezeshkian said. Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip has claimed the lives of more than 59,000 Palestinians since 2023.

The two sides also discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and other international issues.

Also on Monday, President Pezeshkian received the credentials of Juraj Svotcak, the new Ambassador of Slovakia to Tehran.

US behind terror attack on courthouse in southeast: Judiciary chief

Iran's judiciary chief, Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje'i, strongly condemned the terrorist attack by terrorists from the so-called Jaish al-Adl group on a courthouse in the country's southeastern city of Zahedan, stating that such acts of terror are definitely orchestrated by the United States.

"There is no doubt that the root cause and origin of such crimes and terrorist incidents is arrogant powers, with the criminal US being at the forefront," Eje'i said on Monday as he expressed his deepest condolences over the assassination of several Iranian nationals in the assault.

He added, "America is the primary sponsor of the unspeakable crimes of Zionists in Gaza, and the mastermind and architect of numerous crimes worldwide."

The top judiciary official also instructed his deputy to take necessary measures in support of the families of people who have fallen victim to the terrorist attack in Zahedan.

At least six people were killed and twenty-two others injured in Zahedan's terrorist attack on Saturday. Iranian security forces eliminated three assailants during the ensuing clashes.

A commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Basij force



Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje'i
● IRNA

was also killed in a terrorist attack in Zahedan on Sunday

Sistan and Baluchestan Province, which borders Pakistan, has witnessed several terrorist attacks targeting both civilians and security forces over the past years.

Terrorist groups carrying out attacks against Iranian interests in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the country are believed to be linked to foreign spy agencies.

On October 26 last year, ten members of Iran's law enforcement forces were killed in a terrorist attack in the Gohar Kuh district of Taftan County in the province.

The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group claimed responsibility for the assault, which was one of the deadliest in the province in recent months.

One million illegal Afghan nationals repatriated to Afghanistan, minister says

International Desk

Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said on Monday that one million undocumented Afghan migrants have been repatriated to their country since June.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, Momeni said that approximately six million Afghan nationals are present in Iran, of which around two million are illegal and must leave Iran.

Many of them seek better economic opportunities or have fled conflict in their home country, especially since the 2021 takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban.

The country is four years into a fragile recovery from decades of war under Taliban authorities, who have called



for a "dignified" return of migrants and refugees from neighboring countries. As of today, one million Afghans have returned to their country, Momeni said, adding that more than 70 percent of them voluntarily returned to Afghanistan.

The Iranian interior minister pointed out Iran does not have the capacity to

take in more migrants.

"Many of them (Afghan nationals) are living in Iran legally, working, and have settled down, which we respect them. However, every country has its own laws. Those who are undocumented must go back."

Since June, Iran has begun a plan to repatriate illegal Afghan migrants to their country.

Taliban's caretaker foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, on Sunday called for gradual repatriation of Afghan nationals from Iran.

He made the remarks during a phone conversation with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The Afghan official expressed concern about the process of return of Afghan nationals, urging that their dignity should be respected.

