

'KEEP DREAMING'

Leader rejects Trump's claim of dismantling Iran's nuclear program



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with Iranian athletes and medalists from various sports and international scientific Olympiads in Tehran on October 20, 2025.

● [khamenei.ir](#)

tion during a Monday meeting with hundreds of Iranian athletes and medalists from various sports and international scientific Olympiads. Since the US bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities on June 22, Trump has repeatedly claimed that the US strikes have "totally obliterated" the three flagship nuclear facilities in Iran.

"Fine, keep dreaming!" Ayatollah Khamenei said. "But who do you think you are to make any prescriptions about whether a country can or cannot have a nuclear industry?"

Ayatollah Khamenei also condemned the bullying and baseless rhetoric of the US president, saying his recent behavior aimed to "raise the spirit of the Zionists and make himself look power-

ful through lies about Iran, the region, and its people."

"If he is truly powerful, let him calm the millions of people in all US states who are chanting against him."

"Trump says he is a dealmaker, but if a deal is accompanied by coercion and its outcome is predetermined, it is not a deal but rather an imposition and bullying," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Tehran and Washington engaged in five rounds of indirect nuclear negotiations that ended with the 12-day war in June in which Israel and the US bombed Iranian nuclear sites.

Last week, Trump told the Israeli parliament that it would be great if Washington could negotiate a "peace deal" with Tehran.

Ayatollah Khamenei also called Trump's claims that the US is at war with terrorism yet another example of his lies.

"More than 20,000 children and infants have been martyred in the Gaza war. Were they terrorists? The real terrorist is America, which created Daesh,

unleashed it on the region."

He also described the killing of about 70,000 people in the Gaza Strip, as well as the killing of over a thousand Iranians in the 12-day war, as clear evidence of the terrorist nature of the US and Israel.

He also noted that in June's illegal aggression against the Islamic Republic, Iran delivered an "unbelievable" slap in the face of the Zionists and drove them to despair.

"The Zionists did not expect that Iranian missiles, with their flames and fire, could penetrate deep into their sensitive and vital centers, destroy them, and turn them into ashes," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

He further emphasized that Iran did not buy or rent its missiles from anywhere, but manufactured them by its youth.

"These missiles were prepared and used by our armed forces and military industries, and they still have them. If necessary, they will use them again at another time," he said.

National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei rejected remarks by US President Donald Trump

that the United States has destroyed Iran's nuclear capabilities during its June's aggression, saying, "Keep dreaming!"

Ayatollah Khamenei made the asser-

'Well-structured' security ties to drive Iran-Iraq economic stability: *Larijani*

International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani said on Monday that Iran and Iraq should pay more attention to security issues if they want to have more stable economic relations. Ali Larijani was speaking to reporters after a meeting with Iraqi National Security Advisor Qassem al-Araji in Tehran.

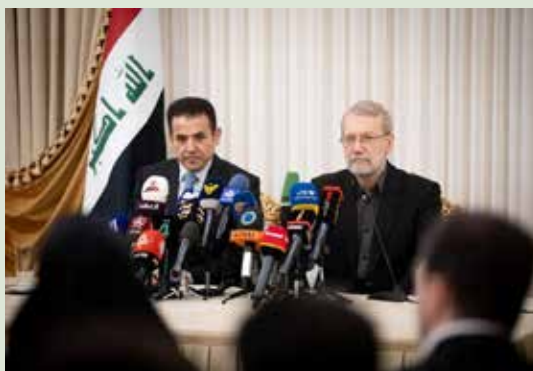
"We discussed a range of security and economic issues. For our economic ties with Iraq to remain stable, our security cooperation must also be well-structured."

The Iranian official also pointed to the US and Israel's use of Iraq's airspace to launch strikes on Iran in June, saying that as the Iraqi official said Baghdad has repeatedly opposed to the issue but it is an example of how the United States behaves with independent countries, including Iraq.

"Iraq is an independent country that has maintained this independence years after dictatorship, but the United States and the Zionist regime do not allow this independence to be preserved," Larijani told reporters.

Araji, for his part, underlined that the Iraqi government is fully committed to the security agreement with Iran, saying that, "Baghdad has repeatedly stressed that it will not allow its airspace to be used against Iran."

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including mil-



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani (R) and Iraq's National Security Advisor Qassem al-Araji take part in a press conference in Tehran on October 20, 2025.

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itary commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States also entered the war by bombing three peaceful Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, effectively halted the ongoing terrorist assault.

spect for each other's rights and concerns, and engage in dialogue on equal footing," the spokesman said.

"We are not at that stage, and as long as there are excessive demands and expectations, there will be no basis for negotiation and understanding," he added.

Referring to the efforts of some countries for mediation over the past year, Baqaei said, "It is natural that countries which have tried to play a role in solving the problems during this period will continue to pursue this process."

Iran and the US started nuclear



negotiations in April and held five rounds of talks to resolve a decades-old dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

However, military aggressions by the US and Israel on Iran in June led to the collapse of the negotiations.

Russia ready to expand Iran ties in all areas: *Kremlin*

International Desk

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Russia is prepared to expand cooperation with Iran in all areas.

Asked by reporters how Russia saw the development of events around Iran's nuclear program and if Moscow would deepen ties with Tehran, Peskov said, "Russia is definitely ready to expand cooperation with Iran in all areas. Iran is our partner, and our relations are developing very dynamically."

Peskov said European countries were putting "excessive pressure" on Iran in regards to negotiations over its nuclear program, adding



Dmitry Peskov

that the situation was "very complicated."

Moscow has close relations with Tehran and condemned US and Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear sites earlier this year.

Iran's huge payback in 12-day war served as future deterrent: *Top general*

National Desk

Iran's top military commander said on Monday that the Islamic Republic's enemies received a haunting blow at the hands of the nation and its Armed Forces during the 12-day war, making it highly unlikely for them to resort to another miscalculation. Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi made the remarks during a webinar, basing his forecast on the quality of the country's defensive and retaliatory response to the unlawful war that was imposed on the

country by the Israeli regime and the United States in June. "By their own admission, they (the adversaries) had been planning for 15 years, arming, preparing, organizing infiltrators, and rehearsing their plans multiple times," he said. "They believed they had chosen the best possible moment and [believed they had] executed their scheme with precision," he added. "Yet, under the command of Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei], with divine grace, the vigilance of the nation, and the courage of our Armed Forces, this proud nation served them an unforgettable slap."

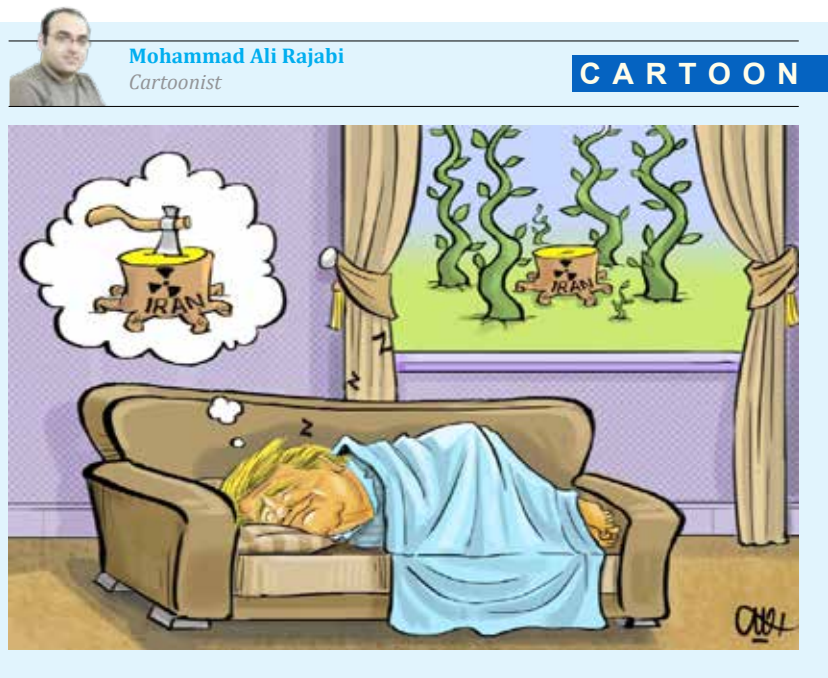
FM spox: Mediated Iran-US contacts not viewed as 'negotiation phase'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Monday that Iran and the United States are in contact through intermediaries but this does not mean "entering a negotiation phase."

Baqaei made the comment in response to a question about recent remarks by the US president's special envoy Steve Witkoff claiming that Washington is "getting calls" from the Iranian officials.

"Negotiations make sense when the parties reach a consensus and a mutual understanding about re-



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

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