

Iran vows to rebuild nuclear sites 'stronger than before'

Pezeshkian: Nuclear industry aimed at public welfare, not weapons

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that Iran would rebuild nuclear sites damaged by Israeli and US strikes "stronger than before." US President Donald Trump has claimed that the June strikes "totally obliterated" Iran's nuclear program, but the full extent of the actual damage remains unknown. In a visit to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) for visiting an exhibition showcasing the latest nuclear achievements in the fields of healthcare, medicine, and production of radiopharmaceuticals, Pezeshkian said Tehran "will build (the destroyed sites) stronger than before." "By destroying buildings... we will not be set back," he said in a video posted to his official website, adding that Iranian scientists still had the necessary nuclear know-how. Pezeshkian also emphasized that Iran's expansion of its peaceful nuclear in-

dustry is aimed at enhancing the nation's welfare, not acquiring weapons. Pezeshkian said biased propaganda and narratives are meant to insinuate that nuclear activities are synonymous with developing atomic bombs. "However, the nuclear industry is a vast collection of scientific and industrial capacities and only a tiny fraction of its disproportionate and inhumane consequences relates to bomb-making," he added. "Our intention and determination in expanding this industry is to meet the needs of the people and enhance the welfare of our country, not to produce weapons." Israel launched an unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran in June, kicking off a 12-day war that saw it target nuclear and military facilities as well as residential areas, and kill many top scientists, military commanders and civilians. The US joined the aggression by the Israeli regime, targeting three Iranian



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) listens to one of the personnel of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran during a visit to the organization in Tehran on November 2, 2025.

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nuclear facilities. The Israeli strikes on June 13 came as Iran and the US were scheduled to hold sixth round of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program in Oman. The regime's aggression derailed the negotiations which had been underway since April. The United States then joined the aggression on June 22 and bombed Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan nuclear facilities. Iran retaliated with ballistic missile barrages aimed at Israeli cities. Tehran accused the IAEA of effectively paving the way for the Israel-US attacks with a report on May 31 that led the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors to declare Iran in breach of its non-prolif-



eration obligations. Tehran maintains that its nuclear program is for purely civilian purposes. US President Donald Trump has

warned that he will order fresh attacks on Iran's nuclear sites should Tehran try to restart facilities that the United States bombed in June.

Larijani: Iran open to negotiations but demands 'real' talks

International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani said the Islamic Republic is not saying that it will not negotiate, but the negotiations must be real. "No one says we will not negotiate, but we should not be naive. Negotiation is a method, but it must be done at the right time," Larijani said during a meeting on Wednesday. Referring to the nuclear negotiations between Iran and the West, the Iranian official said that they say Iran must stop uranium enrichment, reduce the range of its missiles, and do in the region exactly what they want. Larijani said that the enemy's main goal is to break the will of the Iranian nation, adding, "The enemy's demands are endless and require national resistance. Iranians must stand firm on their own demands." "It is not the case that the Islamic Republic is unwilling to negotiate. We were negotiating when the enemy started the war." Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in an interview with Al Jazeera said that the Islamic Republic will not give up its capacity to enrich uranium and will never negotiate on its missile program to reach an agreement on its nuclear program.



Araghchi said that Tehran is ready to hold talks to remove concerns about its peaceful nuclear program, stressing that it is possible to reach a fair agreement. However, he noted that the United States has set "unacceptable conditions." "We will not negotiate on our missile program, and no rational person would agree to be disarmed. Halting uranium enrichment is not possible," Iran's top diplomat said. Comments by Iranian officials came as Oman urged Tehran and Washington on Saturday to resume talks. "We want to return to the negotiations between Iran (and) the United States," Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi said at the IISS Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain.

A day earlier, Al-Busaidi hosted Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-e Ravanchi in Muscat where the two sides exchanged views on Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Takht-e Ravanchi said that the Islamic Republic expressed its "clear position" on the issue during the meeting in Muscat. Iranian government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said Sunday that Tehran "has received messages" on resuming diplomacy, without providing further details. Oman hosted five rounds of US-Iran talks this year. Just three days before the sixth round, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, which derailed negotiations with the US.

US cranks up pressure on Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah

International Desk

US special envoy for Syria Tom Barrack claimed that Lebanon is collapsing, pressing the Arab country to disarm the popular resistance movement Hezbollah and engage in negotiations with the Israeli regime. Speaking at the Manama Dialogue Forum in Bahrain on Saturday, Barrack labeled Lebanon as a "failed state" over severe shortages within the Arab country's military and public institutions, while pushing for Hezbollah's disarmament amid Lebanon's border tensions with the Israeli-occupied territories. "Lebanon is a failed state. There's no central bank. The banking system is bust. There's no electricity — people rely on private generators. For water and education, you need private providers," Barrack said, disregarding Lebanon's decrepit civilian infrastructure as a result of US sanctions. Claiming that the Lebanese Armed Forces suffer from "a lack of financial and human resources," Barrack said the Israeli regime is prepared to reach an agreement with Lebanon on border demarcation. The American envoy urged the Lebanese leadership to "join the negotiations and safeguard their borders," adding, "It is unreasonable that there is no dialogue between Lebanon and Israel." Stressing that Lebanon's leadership "must move faster to restrict Hezbollah's weapons," Barrack claimed, "There will be no problem between Lebanon and Israel if Hezbollah is disarmed." Barrack's call for Hezbollah's disarmament comes as the Israeli regime has, over the

past years, repeatedly violated Lebanon's sovereignty through airstrikes, drone incursions, and cross-border attacks.

The ongoing breaches of previous UN-brokered cease-fire agreements demonstrate that Tel Aviv has no genuine intention of de-escalation or respecting the Arab country's territorial integrity. Expressing concerns about the regime's security, Barrack warned that "thousands of rockets in southern Lebanon still threaten Israel," saying time is running out for Lebanon to "bring weapons under control quickly." Claiming that regional stability depends on the disarmament of Hezbollah's military power and advancing border discussions with Israel, the envoy warned that the Tel Aviv regime may act unilaterally if Beirut does not "assert state control." Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem criticized on Friday the US role in Lebanon, slamming Washington as a sponsor of aggression rather than an impartial mediator. Sheikh Qassem also held the Lebanese government responsible for protecting the country's sovereignty, expelling the "enemy," and stopping violations by preparing a plan that enables the national army to respond effectively to Israel's regular onslaught. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Sunday that Hezbollah was seeking to rearm and that Israel would exercise its right to self-defense under last year's cease-fire accord if Lebanon failed to disarm the group.



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Crises in Afghanistan ...

The Islamic Republic of Iran maintains friendly ties with both countries, sharing religious and cultural affinities, and despite its cautious and partial recognition of the Taliban government, Iran continues to operate an active embassy in Kabul and several consulates across Afghanistan. Naturally, effective mediation requires more than cordial relations; it also depends on possessing direct

interests and a clear will to help shape a desirable regional security framework. China, for instance, though maintaining good relations with both Islamabad and Kabul, has refrained from involvement, largely due to its lack of direct stakes or motivation to foster such arrangements. Iran, by contrast, holds both the incentive and the interest to assume a more active mediating role. Yet one missing piece remains which is the weak connectivity among the media,

research centers, and think tanks across the three countries. These institutions can play a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding, developing a shared vocabulary, and building trust among policymakers. It might be appropriate for the Iranian side to take the initiative by opening the door to such dialogues and second-track negotiations, thereby paving the way for the mediation efforts of its diplomatic apparatus.