

Destroyer, floating base join Navy

Iran ready to deliver 'decisive response' to threats anywhere: *Army chief*



Chief Commander of Iran's Army (C), Major General Amir Hatami, speaks during a ceremony marking the joining of the destroyer Sahand and the Kordestan floating base to the Navy's fleet in Bandar Abbas on November 29, 2025.
● IRNA

National Desk

A destroyer and a new floating base joined Iran's Navy's fleet in a ceremony on Saturday to strengthen the Navy's combat capability and enhance Iran's access to international waters. The Iranian-built stealth destroyer, Sahand, was first launched in December

2018. It is equipped with a helicopter deck, torpedo launchers, anti-aircraft and anti-ship guns, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, and electronic-warfare systems. It sank last year in the shallow Persian Gulf waters after being briefly repositioned. During the ceremony, the Kordestan floating base was added to the Navy. It

can provide rescue and relief, accommodate the heaviest helicopters, and support three destroyers on a three-year, around-the-world mission without needing to dock for fuel.

Chief Commander of Iran's Army Major General Amir Hatami said that the Sahand destroyer, was overhauled in a very short time thanks to efforts of the Navy's specialists.

"Today, with more up-to-date equipment, weapons, and capabilities, it is ready to carry out missions in the Navy."

Pointing to the Kordestan floating base, he said that it can carry out important operations in support of naval combat units and other military forces.

Referring to the enemies' rhetoric against Iran, saying that Iran is fully prepared to deliver a crushing response to any threat against its national interests.

Major General Amir Hatami added that "our defensive strategy is based on active defense and smart deterrence."

"This means that we will not wait for the enemy to attack, and we have the necessary readiness for any decisive and crushing response at any point where our national interests require," he added.

Paying tribute to the Navy's sacrifices during the Iran-Iraq War, he said Iran's power remains a stabilizing force for the nation and the wider region.

"Today, one cannot draw a distinction between the security of the region and the security of countries," he said.

Hatami added that nearly five decades of experience since the 1979 Revolution have demonstrated Iran's "constructive and irreplaceable role" in regional security, noting that developments over the past two years have made clear "which countries are the disruptors of regional security," leaving "no doubt for any fair observer."

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked war against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary

civilians.

More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

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, managed to impose a halt to the illegal assault.

Iran's top commanders have warned that any new act of aggression against the country will be met with an even harsher response.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said on Thursday that the country's strategic naval forces are prepared to give a "firm and regret-inducing" response to any possible act of aggression by enemies.

Araghchi, top EU diplomat discuss Iran nuclear issue, West Asia

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a phone conversation with European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas discussed a range of issues including Iran's nuclear program – the main source of tensions between Tehran and European powers in recent months.

According to Iran's Foreign Ministry, Araghchi and Kallas emphasized the importance of continuing contacts and consultations between Tehran and the European parties regarding Iran's nuclear program.

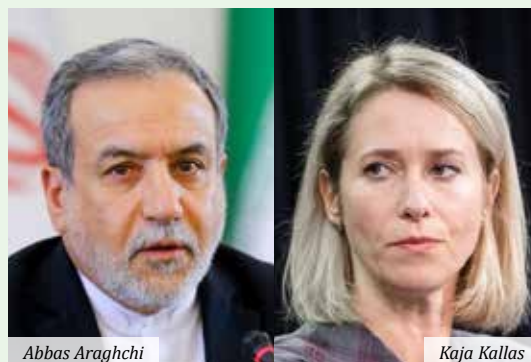
Iran's nuclear program has been a source of contention with Western countries for more than two decades. While Iran insists that its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and aimed at civilian purposes such as energy production and medical research, Western powers – particularly the United

States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany – have long expressed concern that Tehran could be seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons.

Tensions have increased in recent months especially after the three European parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal – Germany, France and Britain – activated the so-called snapback mechanism embedded in the nuclear agreement on August 28, which led to the reimposition of international sanctions against Iran.

They accused Iran of not honoring its obligations under the nuclear deal from which the US unilaterally withdrew in 2018 and the European parties to the deal failed to fulfil their commitments.

Tehran has repeatedly said it was the United States and its European allies who undermined the 2015 nuclear deal by failing to honor their commitments



Abbas Araghchi

Kaja Kallas

not Iran.

Despite their illegal move to trigger the snapback mechanism, the European powers have repeatedly called for the resolution of the issue through diplomacy.

Germany: 'We welcome negotiations' with Iran

Germany's envoy to the United Nations Ricklef Beutin in an interview with Al Arabiya said that Europe is ready to continue negotiations with Iran.

"We have been in contact with the Iranians for years. We have never seen sufficient measures from Iran during this time, and Iran has violated all of its commitments," he claimed.

"For that reason, after repeated warnings, we activated the snapback mechanism. But this is not the end of diplomacy. That is why we remain ready to negotiate with Iran."

"We welcome negotiations. The Iranians must change their position; there is no disagreement on this."

Turkish foreign minister Fidan to visit Iran for high-level talks



Hakan Fidan

International Desk

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan is scheduled to visit Iran today for a series of meetings aimed at cementing ties and addressing key regional issues, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said on Saturday.

The sources added that talks would focus on "enhancing the institutional structure of bilateral relations" under the High-Level Cooperation Council, which was established in 2014.

Fidan will also review preparations for the ninth meeting of the council. The discussions will revolve around

fostering cooperation on security and counterterrorism, as well as accelerating infrastructure projects for border trade centers.

The Turkish foreign minister is also expected to call for increased joint efforts to achieve the target of \$30 billion in bilateral trade and emphasize the importance of maintaining dialogue between the two countries to promote regional stability, according to the sources.

He will reiterate Turkey's support for a peaceful resolution to Iran's nuclear program and underline that Israel's aggressive policies continue to obstruct stability in the region, the sources noted.

During the meeting with Iranian officials, Fidan will also stress the importance of Syria's stability for the broader region, discuss the UN Security Council's recent resolution on Gaza, the preservation of the current ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian resistance group Hamas, as well as the reconstruction efforts in Gaza.

Russia-Ukraine war, developments in the South Caucasus as well as recent tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan will also be on the agenda.

Europe, regional states ...

Turkish media report that Turkey's foreign minister is travelling to Iran to discuss a range of issues, including the nuclear file. How do you interpret this visit? Could Turkey be trying to mediate between Iran and the West, or is it mainly pursuing its own regional interests?

Turkey is a NATO member, a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, a close US ally, and at the same time an important neighbor of Iran with strong bilateral ties, not to mention its good personal relations with President Trump. Naturally, Turkey wants to play a role in this long-running international saga over Iran's nuclear program. Its interests demand that a second Iran-Israel war be avoided. Turkey

would be among the countries most affected by such a conflict. It has a fragile economy, and any major energy disruption would hit it hard. So, Turkey's interests lie firmly in resolving this crisis and ensuring political stability in West Asia. Beyond that, any country that contributes to resolving the issue stands to gain political weight. Turkey is no exception.

Under current conditions, how do you assess the role of European and regional states in shaping the trajectory of potential Iran-US negotiations? Are mediators capable of bringing the two sides closer?

All regional states have their own interests at stake. These include achieving greater stability in West Asia, which sustains a multi-trillion-dollar regional

economic ecosystem.

The opposite scenario, namely instability, would be disastrous leading probably to an energy crisis, security breakdowns, refugee flows. So, all these states want Iran's nuclear ambiguity to end and a deal to be reached, because no deal means the looming risk of war. Therefore, everyone is trying, in pursuit of their own interests first, and as international actors seeking political relevance second, to mediate.

But in my view, Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar have a far better chance of mediating at this stage, particularly under President Trump, who harbors deep mistrust toward Europeans. Under these circumstances, regional Arab states are far more likely to succeed as mediators.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

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