# Araghchi: Tehran-Baku disputes should be settled via dialogue

#### **International Desk**

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that differences and misunderstandings between Iran and Azerbaijan need to be resolved through dialogue.

During a joint press conference with his Azeri counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov, in Baku on Monday, Araghchi said Iran and Azerbaijan have agreed to continue consultations and exchange of visits in solving differences.

"We have many commonalities and shared interests in bilateral cooperation. There are also differences and misunderstandings that need to be resolved through dialogue," he said.

He added that the two countries managed to improve ties in the political field last year and expressed hope that Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and foreign minister would visit Tehran.

He expressed confidence that Tehran and Baku would further boost mutual relations, warning that the two sides should not allow any other party to damage or steer this relationship in an undesirable direction

The top Iranian diplomat reiterated Tehran's support for the 3+3 mechanism, a regional cooperation format involving the three Caucasus countries of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, and their three



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (1) and his Azeri counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov, attend a joint press conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, on December

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neighbors of Iran, Russia, and Turkey. He said Iran "supports and welcomes" the peace process and the good path in ties between Azerbaijan and Armenia, throwing Tehran's weight behind Baku's proposal to host the next 3+3 meeting while the following one would be held in Yerevan.

"We believe that this is a good proposal which can strengthen the mechanism and make it more effective," the Iranian foreign minister emphasized.

He added that both Tehran and Baku have serious concerns about security in the region and believe that cooperation plays a key role in ensuring regional security.

"The important point is that regional security must be ensured by the countries of the region and any foreign interference from any side will undermine this security. This is something we agree upon, and on this basis, we continue our cooperation," Araghchi pointed out.

Pointing to the continuation of Israel's war in Gaza, he said Iran welcomes any move that would stop crimes and killings



against Palestinians, provide aid to them, and bring an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territory.

"At the same time, we believe that no plan should undermine the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to determine their own destiny, nor should it affect or diminish their sovereignty over their future," the Iranian foreign minister emphasized.

Earlier on Monday, Araghchi met with Aliyev, who expressed his country's readiness to use all available capacities to strengthen relations with Iran.

The talks focused on key bilateral issues, including political cooperation, neighborly relations, and mechanisms for managing ties between the two countries.

#### Pezeshkian due in Kazakhstan on Wednesday

#### **International Desk**

Kazakhstan's presidential office on Monday confirmed a visit by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on Wednesday and Thursday.

During the two-day visit, the Iranian president will hold talks with Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to discuss enhancing cooperation in trade, economy, transport, logistics, and cultural and humanitarian fields.

On Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei in his weekly press conference



announced Pezeshkian's visit. After Kazakhstan, Pezeshkian will also travel to Turkmenistan,

Baqaei added. Details of the visit to Turkmenistan have yet to be been released.

## Second group of Iranian deportees from US en route home



#### **International Desk**

Iran on Sunday confirmed that 55 Iranian nationals have been deported from the United States, marking the second group repatriated in recent months under US immigration crackdown.

The director of Iran's Interests Section in Washington, Abolfazl Mehrabadi, said that around 50 Iranians left the US on Saturday. He told IRNA that the Iranians, who were held in

an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Arizona, had departed for Tehran through Mesa Airport.

Mehrabadi said they were flown to Kuwait to be repatriated home.

American and Iranian officials announced in September that about 400 Iranians were expected to be returning from the US. The first flight, carrying 120 people, arrived in Qatar in late September before they were transferred to a Tehran-bound

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A report published on Monday by Mizan news agency, quoted Iranian Foreign Ministry official Mojtaba Shasti Karimi acknowledging the deportation of 55 Iranians.

"These individuals announced their willingness for return following continuation of anti-immigration and discriminative policy against foreign nationals particularly Iranians by the United States," Karimi reportedly said.

According to Karimi, the individuals had in recent months completed "legal and administrative procedures" through Iran's Interests Section in Washington DC.

Based on the US claims, "the Iranians were repatriated because of legal reasons and breach of immigration regulations," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said on Sunday.

US President Donald Trump came into office promising the largest mass deportation in US history, targeting more than 10 million unauthorized migrants living in the United States.

### Iranian attack shattered Israel's taboo of regional invincibility: *Deputy FM*



**International Desk** 

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said on Monday that Iran's missile attack against Isreal in June has broken a taboo of the regime's invincibility which has existed in the region since 1960s wars.

Referring to the Six-Day War, or the 1967 Arab-Israeli war between Israel and a coalition of Arab states, Gharibabadi said no country managed to strike such a blow to the regime during the wars of the 1960s. Addressing a ceremony marking National Student Day in the Iranian northern city of Qazvin, the official said that Iranian missiles hit their targets and inflicted heavy damage on Israel's structures, IRNA reported.

On June 13, Israel launched an unpro-

voked 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.

"The Zionist regime means Western coun-

tries, it means the United States, it means every weapon that the United States has and every defensive equipment that some European countries possess is at the disposal of this regime," Gharibabadi said. Despite some Western countries' military support for the Israeli regime during the 12-day war in June, "Israel did not achieve its strategic objectives and suffered a major defeat," the Iranian diplomat stressed. Satellite images along with information from various sources "from inside the occupied territory of the Zionist regime," all indicated that the scale of the damage was "very, very extensive," the Iranian official said.

