

Araghchi: Iran made no request for negotiations with US

'Diplomacy pursued through military threats cannot produce results'

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that Tehran has not submitted any request for negotiations with the United States, stressing that the imposition of diplomacy through military threats cannot be effective.

"In recent days, there has been no contact between me and Steve Witkoff (special representative of the US president), and no request for negotiations has been made by us," Araghchi told reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting.

Underlining that military threats and diplomacy have often existed simultaneously in international affairs, but each follows its own distinct path, Araghchi said, "Iran's position is clear: diplomacy pursued through military threats cannot produce results. Negotiations don't go along with threats and talks can only take place when there are no longer menaces and excessive demands."

The top Iranian diplomat added that if negotiations are to take shape, threats, excessive demands, and the raising of irrational issues must be set aside. He emphasized that negotiations have their own principles and must be conducted from an equal position and on the basis of mutual respect.

Stressing that several countries are currently acting as intermediaries and engaging in efforts and consultations, Araghchi said Iran remains in contact with such intermediaries.

ies.

The remarks came hot on the heels of the arrival of a US aircraft carrier in the region and a series of escalatory threats from Washington, where some officials have accused Iran of a violent crackdown on peaceful protests earlier in the month.

In a lengthy post on Truth Social, US President Donald Trump warned Iran that "time is running out" and that the next attack "will be far worse," urging Tehran to make a deal as a "massive armada is heading to Iran."

"It is a larger fleet, headed by the great Aircraft Carrier Abraham Lincoln, than that sent to Venezuela." He warned that the fleet was ready to fulfill its mission and resort to violence if needed.

"Hopefully Iran will quickly 'Come to the Table' and negotiate a fair and equitable deal - NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS - one that is good for all parties," Trump claimed.

FM talks with Saudi, Egyptian, Qatari counterparts

In a related development on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister discussed in a phone call with his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan bilateral relations and the escalated regional tensions as a result of the US and Israeli actions.

The two diplomats exchanged views on regional and international developments, warning about the dangerous consequences of any escalation of tensions for regional

peace and stability. Araghchi and Bin Farhan also emphasized the shared responsibility of all regional countries and their joint efforts to maintain stability and security in the region.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian told Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday that Tehran welcomes any process, within the framework of international law, that prevents war.

In another phone conversation, Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty underscored the importance of enhanced cooperation to restore calm across the region and stressed the necessity of prioritizing diplomatic solutions over escalation.

He highlighted Egypt's position that sustainable political agreements are essential to safeguarding regional and international security and stability.

The Egyptian foreign minister also emphasized the importance of maintaining commitment to diplomacy and creating appropriate conditions for the resumption of negotiations between Tehran and Washington. He noted that renewed talks could pave the way for a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear file, one that takes into account the interests of all parties while contributing to regional and global stability.

On Tuesday night, Iran's foreign minister also held a separate telephone conversation with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments.



Abbas Araghchi
IRNA

to the United Nations said on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic is prepared for discussions with the United States but will defend itself if it is provoked.

"Last time the US blundered into wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, it squandered over \$7 trillion and lost more than 7,000 American lives," the mission said in a post on X.

"Iran stands ready for dialogue based on mutual respect and interests- BUT IF PUSHED, IT WILL DEFEND ITSELF AND RESPOND LIKE NEVER BEFORE!"

Iran will defend itself and respond like never before'

Meanwhile, Iran's permanent mission

Top military officials warn anti-Iran adventurism will 'cost enemy dearly'



Ahmad Vahidi



Habibollah Sayyari

International Desk

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination, said on Wednesday that Iran's enemies have failed militarily and are now waging hybrid and cognitive warfare, stressing that any hostile move against the country would cause serious damage and heavy costs for the adversaries.

"When the enemy does not achieve results through military actions, it continuously exerts pressure in the realm of soft war and hybrid war; however, we are not inexperienced in this field. The country's officials and our people are familiar with the concepts of soft war, hybrid war, and cognitive war, and they know that the only way to counter the enemy's tricks under current conditions is unity, cohesion, coordination, empathy, and mutual support," he said.

Sayyari underlined that the enemy has sought to break this unity, but the Iranian people has always neutralized the enemy's tricks in a timely manner,

adding that the enemy is trying to undermine this cohesion and empathy, but would certainly fail, because the people of Iran are aware and insightful and know the enemy very well.

"The United States has been pursuing the implementation of gunboat diplomacy. They try to intimidate the other side by deploying large ships and extensive equipment and to convey the impression that they can inflict damage," said the Iranian commander, on the display of US military power through the deployment of aircraft carriers.

Washington has just deployed the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and its accompanying strike group to West Asia near Iran, and Trump said on Tuesday that another US "armada" of naval vessels was sailing toward the Islamic Republic.

"It should not lead us into miscalculation when the enemy hyps up the arrival of one fleet and then says that another one was added. If an incident occurs, they can rest assured that they too will be damaged, and

this damage will be heavy," Sayyari stressed.

IRGC Deputy Commander Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi said Iran's defense capabilities have been developed in the recent years so greatly that any miscalculation by the enemy in waging war against Iran will be too costly. "Iran's defense power has developed to a great extent that initiating war against Iran will cost it very dearly for the enemy," Vahidi said.

Referring to the enemies' previous failures in confronting the powerful Islamic Iran, Vahidi noted that enemies of the country thought that they could weaken and undermine the Islamic Establishment with exerting pressures and orchestrating plots but the experiences during the eight years of the Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988) as well as the 12-day Israeli imposed war showed that not only the Islamic Establishment was not undermined, but also it strengthened the Islamic Revolution.

The 12-day war imposed by the US and the Zionist regime in June 2025 was fully technology-centric and represented the most modern form of warfare to date, with the highest level of advanced technology employed, he highlighted. Vahidi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran entered the conflict by relying on its own technological capacities as well as the power of faith, and ultimately emerged victorious.

Eslami: Tehran to continue nuclear progress despite sanctions

International Desk

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami underlined on Wednesday that sanctions and political pressure would fail to stop the Islamic Republic from advancing nuclear, quantum, and high-tech programs.

Dismissing recent remarks by the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding Iran's alleged non-compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Eslami questioned how inspections can be conducted at nuclear facilities that have been subjected to military attacks.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, Iran's nuclear chief said Tehran expects Rafael Grossi, head of the IAEA, to refrain from using such language and to act strictly within his legal mandate.

Eslami stressed that the IAEA operates under the United Nations framework and that its statute clearly defines the responsibilities and obligations of its director general. He said the agency must remain committed to its legal duties in both its reports and public statements.

Touching on the obstacles imposed by Western countries on Iran's nuclear progress, Eslami said such challenges stem not from misinterpretation, but from deliberate efforts to hinder technological advancement. He noted that official development and national security strategy documents of developed countries, particularly the United States, place nuclear development at the top of their strategic priorities. Eslami pointed out that a recent document signed and issued by the US president prioritizes the development of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence,



nuclear technology, and quantum science, with defined quantitative and qualitative goals. He said it is therefore a legitimate right of the Iranian nation to prioritize the same fields based on national interests, adding that Iran will not allow any stagnation in its technological development. He also rejected the notion that nuclear technology is limited to atomic weapons, noting that Iran exports nuclear-related products to 50 countries and maintains exports across various sectors. He said Iran's nuclear activities span areas including mining, healthcare, food security, environmental protection, and energy.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Turkey, Tajikistan urge Iran-US de-escalation

International Desk

Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan warned on Wednesday that a United States attack on Iran would be "wrong" calling on Washington and Tehran to resolve their issues diplomatically and gradually.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Fidan called for regional cooperation as the US amasses military assets in the West Asia region amid a spike in tensions with Iran. "It's wrong to start the war again," Fidan said.

The US has sent an aircraft carrier strike group to the Persian Gulf as Washington continues to threaten to launch renewed attacks against Iran after last June's 12-day conflict.

Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry also reacted to the escalation of tension in the region as a result of the United States, stressing that there has to be intensified efforts for de-escalation.

In a statement, Tajik Foreign Ministry emphasized that Dushanbe opposes any military actions against Iran and supports the peaceful resolution of all conflicts ex-

clusively through the diplomatic means. Tajikistan is seriously concerned about the escalation of the situation in the West Asia, particularly with regard to Iran, the statement said, adding that the ministry emphasized that Dushanbe "opposes any military actions and supports the peaceful resolution of all conflicts exclusively through diplomatic means."

The Tajik side also urged all parties to adhere to the principles of the UN Charter and the norms of international law, and to "make every effort to preserve peace and stability in the region."