

First VP says aggression against Iran threatens foundations of Int'l legal order

International Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said on Tuesday that the 40-day military aggression against Iran was not merely an attack on the Islamic Republic but a direct assault on the foundations of the international legal order and the principle of sovereign equality of states. Speaking at a meeting of prime ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tajikistan, Aref said the international system was facing unprecedented threats in a turbulent period marked by unilateralism and the pursuit of dominance by a handful of countries. Over the past two years, the region and the wider world had witnessed major challenges, including unprecedented, overt and brazen violations

of fundamental human values, international law and the UN Charter by the United States and Israel, he said. These actions had placed peace, security and the achievements of the international community over recent decades at serious risk of destruction, Aref added.

Iran had again come under a military aggression by the United States and Israel in February, in a move that directly violated the UN Charter, Aref said. He said Iran had chosen dialogue and diplomacy, with negotiations to resolve outstanding disputes already under way, but came under "illegal and unjust" military attack. The 40-day military assault went beyond an attack on Iran itself, Aref said, arguing that it had directly challenged the foundations of international law and the sovereign equality



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref speaks during a meeting of prime ministers of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on October 20, 2026.

● IRNA

of states.

Strikes on civilian infrastructure, educational and university facilities, medical centers, economic installations and peaceful nuclear facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency are setting an extremely dangerous precedent, he said.

If such actions were allowed to go uncondemned by the international community, no country would be immune from their consequences, Aref warned.



Baqaei: No talks on uranium enrichment during Lavrov's visit to Tehran

International Desk



Esmail Baqaei

● IRNA

Iran and Russia did not discuss uranium enrichment during Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's visit to Tehran on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said, stressing that

Tehran has not backed down from its fundamental positions.

Speaking at his weekly press conference on Tuesday, Esmail Baqaei also dismissed speculation that the trip had focused on negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

"No, we have absolutely not deviated from our principled positions, because our positions are in line with Iran's national interests," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call that Moscow was ready to help efforts to mediate between Tehran and Washington, with the months-long conflict locked in a stalemate.

Putin also recently offered to transfer enriched uranium from Iran to Russia to help resolve dispute between Iran and the United States.

"We proposed transferring some of the enriched uranium to Russia. This offer remains on the table. I should note that everyone initially agreed," Putin said at a plenary session of the 23rd meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club.

"Our offer remains on the table," he reiterated.

Baqaei said Lavrov's visit was part of ongoing consultations between the two countries and had been on the agenda for some time.

During the meeting, discussions focused on a range of issues serving the national interests of both countries, he added. Regional matters, including Ukraine and the Persian Gulf, were also naturally discussed, alongside the broader nuclear issue. Russia has consistently said it would do whatever it could to help ease tensions, the spokesman said, adding that Tehran had expressed appreciation for Moscow's positive and constructive approach to the issue.

Pakistan's army chief in Tehran for talks on 'strengthening interactions, cooperation'

International Desk



Asim Munir

● IRNA

Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, whose country has attempted to mediate a peace deal in between Iran and Washington, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday for talks with Iranian officials amid the possibility of new conflict between Iran and the US.

"General Asim Munir, the Commander of the Pakistani Army, arrived in Tehran along with a delegation of officials from his country," Iran's state television said in a statement. Earlier, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, Esmail Baqaei, confirmed the visit during his weekly press conference, saying talks would "relate to issues concerning the negotiations, but they are mainly focused on bilateral relations and strengthening interactions and cooperation".

The visit comes with diplomatic efforts between Iran and the United States stalled over issues including the future of the Strait of Hormuz.

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Washington

was responsible for insecurity in the strait, usually a key transport route for oil and gas but which Iran has sought to blockade during the war launched by the US and Israel in February.

Pakistan has played a key mediating role in the so far unsuccessful attempts to end the war. In June, it helped broker a short-lived memorandum of understanding, which Tehran insists should still form the basis of any peace deal.

The trip is the fifth by Munir since the June agreement.

The US has not launched strikes on Iran since September, but the possibility of a return to fighting looms over the country.

"We live with this possibility day and night, and we cannot rule it out, even as we speak," Baghaei told reporters on Tuesday.

Munir's visit follows one by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday.

IRGC: Two violating tankers on fire after hitting mines in Hormuz

International Desk



The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said two oil tankers were set ablaze and halted after hitting mines planted along an unauthorized passage south of the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement on Tuesday, the IRGC said its navy forces reported that two oil tankers were set ablaze and stopped after mines laid by the naval forces exploded along an unauthorized passage south of the strait.

"The IRGC Navy once again warns that passage through the mined route is illegal and will result in violators' assets being set ablaze. If the US regime continues its provocations, oil companies will have to pay a heavier price," it noted. It added that IRGC air defense forces detected and struck a US military MQ-9 drone overnight as it monitored the airspace over the Strait of Hormuz, destroying the aircraft.

The statement said the IRGC's naval and aerospace forces continued to monitor regional developments and uphold their commitment to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian people, while exercising control over the Strait of Hormuz.

The statement praised the Iranian people's continued resilience and presence in public gatherings for more than 230 consecutive nights, describing their steadfastness as a major victory that

has inspired oppressed nations around the world.

Since the onset of the unprovoked US-Israeli war of aggression against the Islamic Republic, Iranian naval forces have exercised control over the Strait of Hormuz to safeguard regional security and ensure orderly transit for vessels that coordinate with Iranian authorities. Iranian officials have repeatedly made clear that the only safe passage through the strait is via routes designated and authorized by the IRGC Navy.

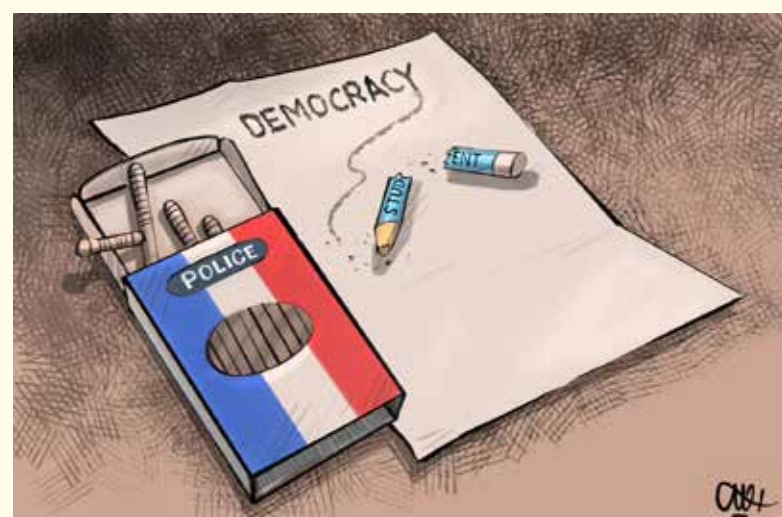
Ships that attempt to evade detection by silencing their systems or that venture into unauthorized corridors do so at their own peril and expose themselves to the defensive measures in place to protect the Islamic Republic's sovereign rights and the security of the Persian Gulf.

The IRGC Navy has consistently warned commercial operators and shipping companies against heeding false assurances from external actors and against endangering crews by flouting established rules.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Brief Notice of International Tender No.1116404 Second Announcement

It is hereby notified that **Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO)** intends to purchase 1,800 Ton Granulated Graphite as per the required conditions and technical specifications through two-stage international Tender. Accordingly, all the prospective bidders are kindly requested to visit ESCO's website www.esfahansteel.ir so as to obtain the tender document and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website (through Sourcing Field) no later than 09.November.2026.

It is evident that this letter is only for notification purpose.

Yours Respectfully, M.Shateri,
Goods & Equipment Purchasing Management
Esfahan Steel Company