

US 'carrot-and-stick' approach will not work against Iran: *Speaker*

Qatari delegation makes second visit to Tehran in a week

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Iran's conditions on possible negotiations and ending the war have been clearly and repeatedly articulated, stressing that the "carrot-and-stick" approach will not work against Tehran. In a post on his X account on Thursday, Qalibaf stressed that any progress will be achieved once Tehran's seven conditions are accepted by Washington. His remarks came as regional mediators press efforts to revive peace talks between Iran and the United States to end war between the two countries. According to IRNA, a Qatari delegation headed by a senior adviser to Qatar's prime minister arrived in Tehran on Friday for talks with

Iranian officials.

Senior officials from several countries have flown to Tehran in recent days as fears rise of a return to hostilities in the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which started eight months ago.

The Qatari visit came a day after Iranian media said Iran had received a letter from US Vice President JD Vance addressed to security chief Mohsen Rezaei. The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that Vance had sent the letter to Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei at the direction of US President Donald Trump, in a bid to revive negotiations and avert new US strikes. The New York Times reported that Vance "made the outreach in a letter sent last week via Qatari mediators and delivered Sunday

to Gen. Mohsen Rezaei".

Tasnim news agency reported that "Iran has received the letter but has not yet responded", while Fars news agency carried a similar account, citing "a source familiar with the matter".

The initiative comes despite US president's recent declaration that his administration was not negotiating with Iran and his repeated warnings that further military action could be imminent.

Donald Trump denied that he had instructed Vance to pursue peace negotiations with Iran. The US president said the contact was primarily aimed at facilitating the delivery of medical supplies. The letter comes as Washington has reportedly warned several Persian Gulf Arab countries to prepare for a possible new

military campaign against Iran after the US midterm elections on November 3.

Qatar and Pakistan have been mediating efforts to revive peace talks following a ceasefire agreement in April. A Qatari delegation was also in Tehran on Sunday, according to a senior Iranian official.

Also this week, senior officials from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey – which signed a defense alliance in Mecca in August – flew to Tehran for talks.

On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran was discussing a plan with both mediators, Qatar and Pakistan, to end the war and reopen the waterway.

Tehran insists that Washington meet seven conditions for reopening the strait, including a



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf
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ceasefire across the Middle East, unfreezing Iranian assets abroad, lifting sanctions on its oil sector and ending a US naval blockade on Iran.

The war began on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Iran retaliated with attacks

on Israel and US assets in the region and imposed restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway that normally carries about one-fifth of global oil consumption. The United States has also imposed a blockade on Iranian ports.

Three tankers halted after 'incidents' in Hormuz: *IRGC*

International Desk

Iran's Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Friday said two oil tankers had been halted after encountering unspecified "incidents" while attempting to transit an unauthorized route in the Strait of Hormuz. "Two offending oil tankers, one in the eastern part and the other in the western part of the Strait of Hormuz, which were attempting to pass through the unauthorized route, encountered incidents and were brought to a halt in the waters south of the strait," the IRGC said in a statement.

The tankers had "switched off all their navigation and positioning systems and, with the support of the terrorist US military, were attempting to exit through the unauthorized route," the statement added.

Hours later, the IRGC Navy said a supertanker hit a naval mine in Hormuz and caught fire.

The IRGC did not specify the nature of the incidents, which came a day after Iran's Armed Forces said four tankers had stopped in the area after hitting mines.

The IRGC said Friday's incidents occurred after the vessels received several radio warnings but disregarded them.

In a statement on Thursday, the IRGC's Navy said three offending oil tankers, which were passing through the unauthorized route south of the Strait of Hormuz, struck mines, triggering explosions and fires.



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It said the vessels were subsequently abandoned off the southern coast of the waterway, which has remained under Iran's control over the past eight months.

Another tanker had caught fire east of the strait, after hitting mines while "operating in a restricted and dangerous area", Iran's Army reported later Thursday.

The IRGC Navy also warned that unauthorized routes in the Strait are mined and that vessel owners and crews are responsible for using those paths.

It further noted that vessel owners and crews should not be misled by the United States Central Command's (CENTCOM) claims on social media about the Strait of Hormuz.

"The facts on the ground will determine the outcome. Any provocative action, supported by the terrorist and invading US military's act of mischief, that disregards the regulations governing the Strait will be met with a resolute response," it cautioned.

Mine-clearing claim

In recent weeks, Iran has reported

multiple vessels striking sea mines, prompting CENTCOM, which runs military operations in the region, to reaffirm on social media its insistence that all mines in "primary transit routes" have been cleared. On Thursday, Hossein Mohebi, the spokesman for the IRGC challenged the claim, saying on X: "Prove your Hormuz mine-clearing claim with independent evidence, not statements!"

Iranian forces have demanded that vessels use a designated route through the strait and coordinate their passage with the country's armed forces, labelling a southern corridor closer to Oman's shores as unauthorized.

Iran restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz in response to the criminal US-Israeli aggression, which began on February 28 and came to a halt in early April after 40 days.

On June 17, Tehran and Washington signed a Pakistan-brokered Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), whose Article 5 places responsibility for reopening and managing the Strait squarely in Iran's hands.

However, Washington attempted to undermine Iran's sovereignty over the strait and imposed a naval blockade in violation of the war-ending deal, prompting Tehran to declare the vital global energy chokepoint closed to all traffic.

Tehran has said it will not reopen the waterway until the United States meets its demands.

Iran condemns 'illusory' UAE-Canada claims on Iranian trio islands

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly condemned a joint statement by the United Arab Emirates and Canada over three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, warning that they will not alter established historical and legal realities.

Esmail Baqaei strongly condemned the brazen and interventionist claims made by the UAE and Canada regarding the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb in a joint statement issued by Abu Dhabi's crown prince and the Canadian prime minister on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

The two countries called for an end to what they described as the occupation of the three islands which, they alleged, constitutes a violation of the sovereignty of the UAE and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Baqaei said, "The islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb are inseparable and eternal parts of Iran's territory," adding that "the repetition of illusory and baseless claims about them will not change the established geographical, historical and legal realities." Baqaei further condemned Canada's move to align itself with the UAE government in advancing territorial claims against Iran. "Such an action by Canada—which itself faces territorial claims from the US administration—is short-sighted, violates the fundamental principles of the United



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Nations Charter and runs counter to international law," he said.

He warned that the move will entail "international responsibility for the Canadian government."

Baqaei advised the UAE government to "adhere to the principle of good neighborliness instead of repeatedly making futile territorial claims against a major neighboring country."

The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly baseless laid claim to the islands.

The islands fell under British control in 1921, but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

Iran's Armed Forces capture US spy drone in Strait of Hormuz

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said its electronic warfare unit has seized an American MQM-170 spy and deception drone and landed it intact in the western Strait of Hormuz. In a statement on Thursday, the IRGC Navy's public relations office said its electronic warfare fighters had successfully carried out an offensive electronic warfare operation, identifying the drone before taking control of its guidance and control systems.

The IRGC Navy successfully brought the drone to the ground intact, it added.



FARS

The statement said the drone's mission was to identify Iran's air defense systems along the Persian Gulf coastline and the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the IRGC Navy, data retrieved from the aircraft indicated that it had taken off from the coast of

one of the southern Persian Gulf littoral states.

Earlier, the IRGC Aerospace Force said it had intercepted and destroyed an advanced MQ-1 drone belonging to the US military over the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC said the aircraft was brought down using the Aerospace Force's new air-defense system operating under the control of Iran's Integrated Air-Defense Network.

The latest capture comes amid a sharp escalation between Iran and the United States over the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important maritime chokepoints.

