Iran rejects involvement in deadly drone strike on Kuwait

Araghchi calls incident 'precooked recipe for war'

International Desk

Iran rejected accusations of involvement in a "suspicious" drone attack on Kuwait on Thursday, calling the incident a "precooked recipe for war."

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a post on X on Thursday vehemently rejected Iran's involvement in the strike that claimed the lives of two Italian technicians who were working for the Italian unit of the German arms company Rheinmetall (RHMG.DE) in the Persian Gulf Arab country.

"The incident is suspicious and looks like a precooked recipe for war," Araghchi said. "We stand ready to cooperate with Kuwait and Italy to determine the cause of the incident."

The top Iranian diplomat also noted that he had expressed condolences over the deaths during his telephone conversations with his Italian and Kuwaiti counterparts, Antonio Tajani and Sheikh Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, respectively.

During the call with Sheikh Jarrah, Araghchi categorically dismissed allegations that Iran had carried out the drone attack on Kuwait, emphasizing that the Islamic Republic is not involved in the incident.

He further expressed regret over the loss of human lives and the damage caused by the incident, announcing the Islamic Republic's readiness to conduct a joint investigation with the Kuwaiti side aimed at thoroughly examining the various aspects of the incident and identifying its origin and the parties involved.

Speaking in the Italian Senate, Tajani said that the two Italian victims were working at an air-defense surveillance station in Kuwait when it was hit.

Kuwait's Defense Ministry, however, did not specify what exactly had been targeted, saying it was a "vital facility".

Iran's Armed Forces also denied Kuwaiti allegations that Iran attacked the military facility in the country, warning that the accusations are apparently part of a US-Israeli false-flag campaign to escalate regional tensions.

"No military or offensive operation has been carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region," Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, senior spokesperson for Iran's Armed Forces, said on Thursday.

"Given the history of hostile actions and the role of the Zionist regime and American forces in using false flags and regional adventures, these accusations are a cover for the continuation of mischief and an attempt to increase insecurity in the region," he said.

The latest accusations come amid an increasingly desperate Israeli campaign to demonize Iran and manufacture pretexts for renewed military aggression.

Israel's Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly sought to portray the Islamic Republic as an imminent threat, advancing increasingly sensational allegations in an effort to mobilize international support for confrontation with Tehran.

In the latest episode, Israeli officials have raised allegations of an Iranian chemical weapons program, with Netanyahu's regime attempting to portray Iran's pharmaceutical industry and its legitimate production of medicines as part of an alleged effort to develop or conceal chemical weapons.


Abbas Araghchi
● AFP

Iran says it recovered two Iranian oil tankers hijacked by US military


Shahram Irani
● IRNA

International Desk

The commander of the Iranian Navy said on Friday that his forces recovered two Iranian oil tankers that were stolen by the US military.

"The US military stole two Iranian oil tankers, but our forces boarded the ships while their crews were asleep and managed to recover them," Shahram Irani while speaking at Tehran's Friday prayers.

Irani also said the US military was receiving payments from shipowners in exchange for securing their passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Navy's commander also said Iranian naval forces struck the US aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln with a missile on the first day of the war on February 28, inflicting a hit on the vessel.

Irani said Iranian forces identified the central element of the enemy's military presence and fired their first untested missile at the aircraft carrier.

"On the first day of the war, our comrades fired a missile at the USS Abraham Lincoln, which hit its target and struck the enemy's body," he said.

The commander said the enemy subsequently sought assistance from ports in neighboring countries to evacuate wounded personnel, recover casualties and carry out medical and repair operations so that it could resume its aerial attacks against targets inside Iran.

Irani said Iran's naval forces have since further upgraded their operational systems and continued to monitor enemy movements in close coordination with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy.

He stressed that Iranian forces have prevented the enemy from approaching not only the country's territorial waters but even the waters of the Sea of Oman.

"Today, the enemy has deployed all its capabilities, yet it has been unable to get even a single vessel through the Strait of Hormuz, whether manned or unmanned, by sea or air. What a futile illusion! The order is for the Strait of Hormuz to remain closed," he said.

The commander added that Iran's naval forces are continuously receiving new and advanced equipment, developed with the support of domestic industries, scientists, engineers and knowledge-based companies.

He also said several newly developed systems have not appeared in publicly released footage and are already deployed in operational areas.

The commander also vowed retaliation for the attack on the on the Dena destroyer in international waters near Sri Lanka on March 4, 2026, which killed 104 Iranian naval personnel.

Israel seeking to drag US back into war through false claims: *FM*


● REUTERS

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday that Israel is fabricating allegations about Iran's chemical and biological weapons capabilities to create a war atmosphere and draw the United States into another war against the Islamic Republic.

Araghchi said that recent Israeli claims about Iranian pharmaceutical companies and alleged chemical and biological weapons are part of a campaign to pave the way for renewed US aggression against Iran, Press TV reported.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday on the sidelines of a meeting in Khorasan Razavi Province, he stressed that Iran remains fully prepared to defend itself while keeping the path of diplomacy open.

"The Zionist regime (Israel) resorts to lies to create a war atmosphere and level accusations against Iran. It has become entirely clear that every day it comes up with another bizarre statement and makes another sweeping claim, claims that perhaps only naïve people would believe," Araghchi said.

He pointed to a series of allegations made by Israeli officials, including claims that Iran had hidden hundreds of missiles, was producing chemical weapons in pharmaceutical factories, and planned to attack Washington with chemical and biological weapons or carry out assassinations.

Araghchi said the latest US election results have demonstrated growing awareness among the American public that Israeli interests are being placed ahead of those of the United States.

The top diplomat called on Washington to reconsider its regional policies and stop bearing the costs of Israel's actions.

Araghchi's remarks follow claims by Israel's minister for military affairs, Israel Katz, on Tuesday that Tehran was building chemical weapons.

Katz alleged that Iran was developing such weapons but had not yet reached the capability to use them, adding: "We must not allow this to proceed."

Saudi strike kills 11 in Yemen

International Desk

A Saudi strike killed 11 people on Friday in Yemen, the Arab country's media said, as the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Ansarullah group said it shot down a drone targeting Riyadh.

The latest incidents came a day after a deadly Ansarullah's attack on a Saudi oil refinery, and add to a growing tally of violence since Yemen's civil war reignited over the summer.

Saudi warplanes carried out a raid on a residential building in the city of Al-Turba in Taiz governorate on Friday, killing "11 citizens, most of them children", Saba news agency said, citing a local source.

The agency also reported strikes targeting fuel tanks in the Sa'ada region.


● AFP

On Thursday, the Ansarullah group targeted the Jazan refinery in southern Saudi Arabia, killing a Nepalese worker and injuring several other people, according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The attack also triggered a fire that led to the shutdown of the facility, SPA said.

Yemen plunged back into war in July, after years of relative calm, opening a new front in the Middle East war.

Hostilities intensified in September when the Ansarullah group, who already controlled Yemen's most densely populated areas, seized the western coastline overlooking the strategic Bab el-Mandeb strait on the Red Sea.

The Ansarullah group is now advancing toward Aden, a major southern city where the Saudi-backed government has taken refuge after being driven out of the capital Sana'a in 2015.

Since the conflict resumed, fighting in Yemen has killed more than 2,300 people and displaced over 364,000, according to the United Nations.

Ansarullah's attacks in Saudi Arabia have killed 27 people, according to the kingdom's authorities.


Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

