

Iran FM Araghchi to visit S Arabia, Qatar next week

TEHRAN, May 09 (MNA) – The spokesperson of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will visit Saudi Arabia and Qatar next week on Sat. to hold high-profile talks with high-ranking officials of the two states. Speaking in an interview with the reporters on Friday, Esmaeil Baghaei revealed the upcoming visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to the neighboring countries of Saudi Arabia and Qatar on Saturday. Turning to the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled policy of continuously strengthening relations with its neighbors, he announced that the Iranian foreign minister will travel to Riyadh on Saturday to meet and discuss with high-ranking Saudi officials.

Army cmdr.:

Safeguarding combat readiness top mission of Iran air defense

Iran's Army Commander Brigadier General Abdolrahim Mousavi says that improving operational capability and maintaining combat readiness in all conditions is the main mission of the air defense forces of the country.

He seized this opportunity to express his thanks to the unflinching and round-the-clock efforts of the defenders of the country's skies, emphasizing the key role of air defense in ensuring national security and protecting the air borders of the country against external threats.

Referring to the sublime recommendations of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, he pointed out that improving the operational capability and maintaining combat readiness in all conditions is the main mission of the defense forces.

The army commander also emphasized the need to pay attention to modern training, utilize modern and state-of-the-art technologies, and enhance indigenous capabilities in the field of air defense, noting, "Benefited from the capabilities of the domestic experts, the Army Force of the country has been able to gain valuable achievements in the field of defense that are a source of pride for the Islamic Establishment.

Putin hosts Victory Day parade with tight security

Vladimir Putin is leading Russia's Victory Day commemorations with a parade in Red Square and heightened security after days of Ukrainian strikes targeting the capital.

Addressing Russia's military, veterans, and more than 20 international leaders, including China's Xi Jinping, Putin said Russia remembered the lessons of World War Two and declared that "truth and justice are on our side".

He claimed that the whole of Russia backed the war in Ukraine, which he called a "special military operation" - now well into its fourth year, BBC reported.

A unilateral, three-day ceasefire was announced by Russia to coincide with the lavish 80th anniversary event, which Ukraine has rejected as a "theatrical show".

Ukraine's military said it had come under thousands of attacks since the ceasefire came into force on 8 May. Russia has insisted the ceasefire is being observed and accused Ukraine of hundreds of violations.

Heavy restrictions were in place in the center of Moscow as Russia marked the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany.

Iran's Shiraz sister city to 10 cities across world



Persian Gulf to remain Persian Gulf forever: senior cleric

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TEHRAN, May 09 (MNA) – Tehran Provisional Friday Prayers Leader Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami has said that the Persian Gulf has been and will remain the Persian Gulf forever.

Addressing worshippers at the campus of Tehran University, the senior cleric said that the Islamic Republic, thanks to its wise leadership, is a strong fortress that enemies have not been able to and cannot take any action against the Establishment.

Reacting to some claims about changing the name of the Persian Gulf, the ayatollah emphasized that the Persian Gulf will remain the Persian Gulf forever, and no one is able to change its name.

Ancient Roman historians referred to the Persian Gulf as the Persian Sea, and Arabic sources also refer to it as "al-Khalij al-Farsī" and "Bahr al-Farsī" he said, adding, "We expect our neighbors to take action and advise Trump that we do not agree with these wrongdoings, and that this Gulf is and will always remain the Persian Gulf."

Last week, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that politically motivated attempts to alter the historically established name of the Persian Gulf are indicative of hostile intent toward Iran and its people and are firmly condemned.

"The name Persian Gulf, like many geographical designations, is deeply rooted in human history. Iran has never objected to the use of names such as the Sea of Oman, Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, or Red Sea. The use of these names does not imply ownership by any particular nation, but rather reflects a shared respect for the collective heritage of humanity," he wrote on his X account.

"In contrast, politically motivated attempts to alter the historically established name of the Persian Gulf are indicative of hostile intent toward Iran and its people, and are firmly condemned. Such biased actions are an affront to all Iranians, regardless of their background or place of residence," he said.

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Iran to strike any point used to target its interests

Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami says Iran would strike any point where the enemy uses to act against the country.

General Salami's warning during the unveiling of an IRGC Navy's underground drone hangar on Thursday came amid threats by the US and Israel to target Iran's nuclear energy facilities, Press TV reported.

"A principle in our defense doctrine is that from any point where our enemy acts against our interests and goals, we will target and hit that point and any other point where our enemy's interests lie," Salami said.

"Therefore, we declare that any point in any territory that becomes the origin of an invasion will be the target of an invasion for us, meaning that the origin will become a target," he added.

Gen. Salami assured Iranians of the country's military capabilities to counter any threat. "Our dear nation should know that we stand with our hands full against our enemies," he said.

The underground drone hanger unveiled on Thursday is the latest of similar facilities displayed in recent months against a backdrop of hostile rhetoric from Israel and the US, which have threatened Tehran with potential military action over its nuclear program.

"What the dear Iranian nation is witnessing today is a small part of the IRGC Navy's enormous drone capability," General Salami said.

"The drones at the disposal of this force are the most modern and advanced drone technologies in the world, giving our commanders a free hand for various types of strikes and providing flexibility in planning."

On Thursday, Israel's War Minister Katz threatened Iran with 'Gaza-like' action amid an escalation with Yemen, which hit Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv with a hypersonic missile on Sunday. Israel accuses Iran of providing Yemeni armed forces with military assistance.

Gen. Salami said, "Another aspect of our display of power is correcting the enemy's miscalculations and mistakes."

"This is because our enemies must also become familiar with the reality of our power to some extent so that they do not rush into miscalculations and judgments out of ignorance of the extent of our power and do not engage in actions that are detrimental to themselves."

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump stated that he is willing to reach an agreement with Tehran that allows the United States to "blow up" Iran's nuclear energy facilities.

"It's that simple," he stated during an exchange with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt. "I would much prefer a strong, verified deal where we actually blow them up…," Trump said, referring to Iran's nuclear facilities.

The US president added that there were only two possible outcomes, namely "blowing them up nicely or blowing them up viciously."

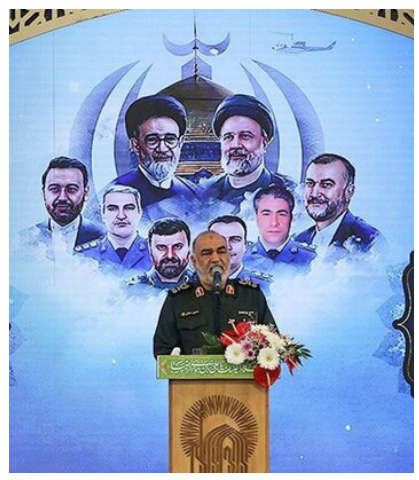
Earlier Thursday, Gen. Salami said while Iran prioritizes diplomacy in the nuclear issue, seeking a fair solution without threats, it remains fully prepared for war at any scale.

"The Americans should know that if they threaten us, we are prepared for war at any scale," he told a ceremony in Mashhad.The US and Iran have held three rounds of negotiations since April 12. A planned fourth round, originally scheduled for May 3, was postponed due to "logistical reasons," according to mediator Oman.

Gen. Salami said, "With their new threats and sanctions, the Americans have demonstrated unreliability and untrustworthiness."

The IRGC chief stressed that Iran does not pursue nuclear weapons, and has voluntarily removed them from its defense doctrine.

Iran, General Salami said, will not relinquish its vital interests. He warned that the "criminal" Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to influence the minds of American officials and draw them into an endless war.



Yemen's Ansarallah leader:

Religious, secular Zionists united to realize Greater Israel

The leader of Yemen's Ansarallah resistance movement says both religious and secular Zionists are united with each other in their hostile agenda to dominate the region and materialize the malicious project of "Greater Israel."

Speaking in a televised speech on Thursday, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said Israel has continued its barbaric aggression on Gaza for 19 consecutive months, "committing what has become known as the crime of the century—a genocide unfolding in the heart of Islamic lands, before the eyes of the entire world."

"The genocide in Gaza is broadcast live, unlike past atrocities that were only known after the fact. This places immense responsibility on the Islamic Ummah, especially the Arabs, who bear sacred duties in jihad and standing against oppression," he stated, Press TV reported.

"The Ummah's continued neglect of Gaza will not absolve it from divine consequences. The more the oppression increases, the heavier the responsibility and the greater the punishment," Houthi said.

He went on to say that abandoning God's commands out of fear, greed, or corrupted education has stripped the Ummah of its conscience, values, and dignity.

Houthi said Israel hates even those Arabs who normalize with it. He said both religious and secular Zionism are united in their efforts to "destroy Al-Aqsa Mosque and build the so-called temple." "Some Arab rulers are enraged by public criticism but not by the Zionist belief that views them as lower than animals—a disgraceful level of subjugation and moral decay," he stated. The Ansarallah leader said that the Palestinian people continue to fight with courage and resolve, and their fighters' operations prove their effectiveness and unbreakable stance.

"Despite facing a genocidal war, their spiritual strength remains intact—but they need the full support of the Ummah," he stated. "In contrast to overwhelming US and Western support for Israel, the Islamic world has largely failed to uphold its responsibilities. Yemen has remained committed—militarily, officially, and popularly—to supporting the Palestinian people," he declared.

The Ansarullah leader said that from March 15 to May 7, "131 operations were carried out in support of Palestine, involving 253 ballistic, cruise, and hypersonic missiles and drones, despite continuous American aggression on Yemen."

"This week alone, 10 missiles and drones were launched toward Yafa, Asqalan, the Naqab, Umm al-Rashrash, and occupied Haifa. The strike on Lod Airport (Ben Gurion) drew major global attention and exposed the enemy's vulnerability," he stated.

He said that the Ben Gurion Airport "was struck despite four layers of air defense, including the American THAAD system."