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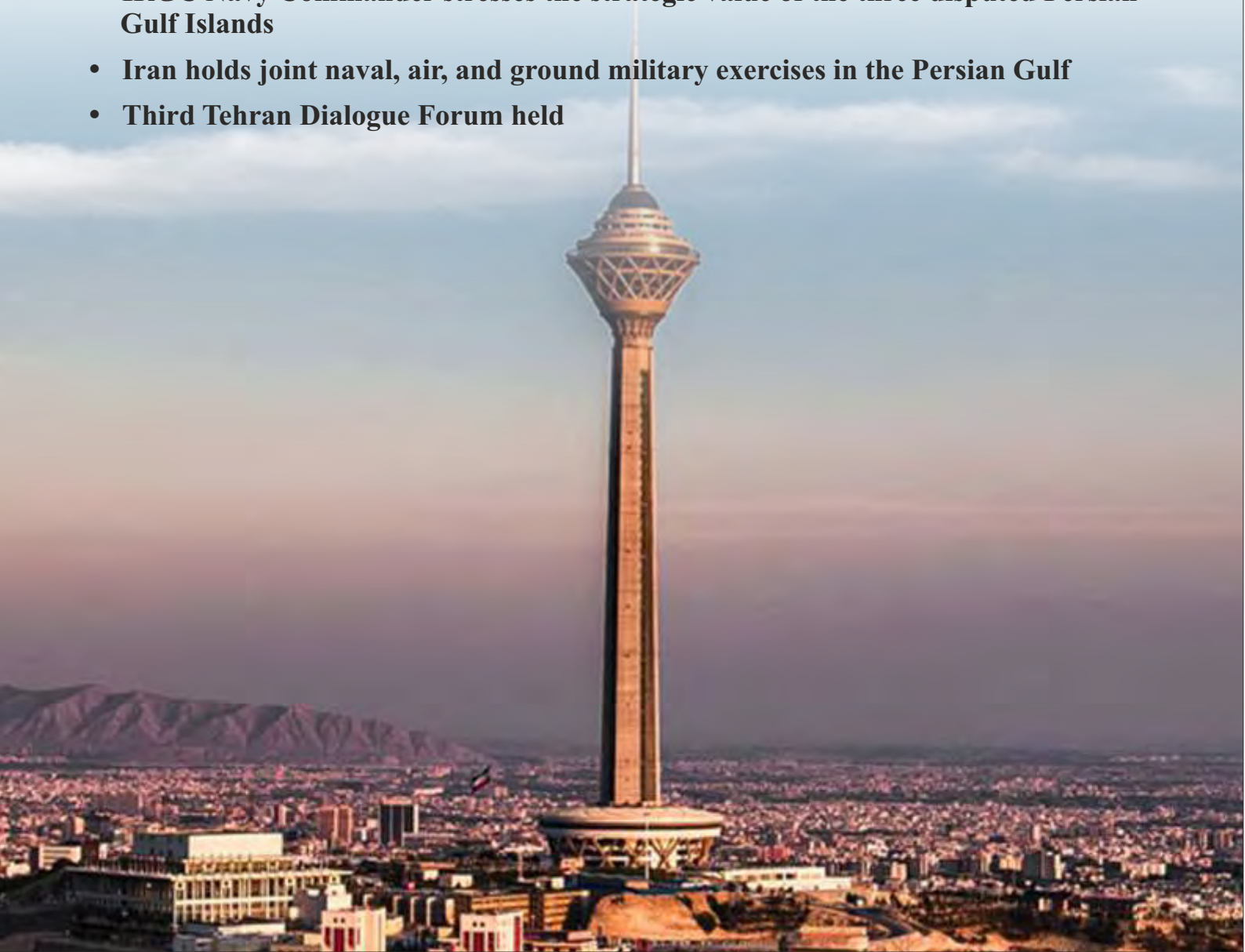
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Digest

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- **Iran's Foreign Minister participated in the 2nd Baghdad Conference in Amman**
- **Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces calls 'allegations' of Iranian drones in Ukraine as Psychological Warfare**
- **IRGC Navy Commander stresses the strategic value of the three disputed Persian Gulf Islands**
- **Iran holds joint naval, air, and ground military exercises in the Persian Gulf**
- **Third Tehran Dialogue Forum held**



Iran's Foreign Minister participated in the 2nd Baghdad Conference in Amman

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian attended the second round of the Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership, hosted by Jordan on 20 December. A day before the summit, Abdollahian expressed Iran's "readiness to hold a meeting at the level of defense and foreign ministers with regional countries," and stated that Iran was open "[to resume ties with Saudi Arabia](#) and reopen embassies if Riyadh is willing to." Upon his return to Iran, Abdollahian tweet in Arabic noted that he had met with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan, who had assured of the Kingdom's "readiness to continue dialogue with Iran." Notably, Iran's Vice President [Mohammad Hosseini](#) met with Saudi Foreign minister on the sidelines Lula da Silva's inauguration as the new president of Brazil. Hosseini also emphasised the need for continuing the bilateral negotiations between Riyadh and Tehran to restore diplomatic ties. In Amman, Abdollahian also met with the Iraqi Prime Minister, the Egyptian President as well as foreign ministers of France, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar. On the sidelines, Abdollahian together with Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri-Kani held delegation-level [talks with European Union foreign policy chief](#) Josep Borrell in a bid to resume stalled nuclear talks in Vienna.

Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces calls 'allegations' of Iranian drones in Ukraine as Psychological Warfare

Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri in a press meet in Tehran on 25 December stated that all the hue and cry regarding the deployment of Iranian drones

in the conflict in Ukraine by the "world of arrogance", a reference to the United States, is "part of the [enemy's psychological warfare](#)". He noted that while many of these allegations are fake, they demonstrate Iran's significant influence, relevance, and its advanced drone technology. He went on to describe Iran as one of the world's top five drone powers, saying Iranian UAVs can carry out a wide range of operations with great precision and flying endurance. On 12 December, [European Union foreign ministers](#) imposed new sanctions on 20 Iranian individuals and one entity over human rights abuses, and added four more people and as many entities to the bloc's sanctions in relation to drone deliveries to Russia. A day later, Iranian Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani noted that [Ukrainian officials](#) in a meeting with Iranian experts had failed to furnish any evidence that Russia was using Iranian drones in Ukraine.

IRGC Navy Commander stresses the strategic value of the three disputed Persian Gulf Islands

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Commander, Rear Admiral [Alireza Tangsiri](#) speaking at Imam Hossein University in Tehran said that Iran is the sole country to have successfully installed missiles on 6-8 meter long vessels, noting that these capabilities prevent enemies from ever coming close to Iranian territory either through the crossing of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, or the Indian Ocean. He noted that Habib Rouhi, a domestically manufactured missile-launching warship with a range of 300 kilometers had intercepted two US warships that intended to sail into the Gulf on December 5. Underlining the strategic importance of islands located in the Strait of Hormuz, he warned that if Iran was to ever lose the Abu Musa Island, it will also result in the loss of

oil-rich Sirri Island, and will then result in the loss of the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb, which is largely populated by fishermen. Tangshiri's remarks came in the wake of the joint statement issued at the China-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit on 9 December, which expressed support for "initiative and endeavours of the UAE to reach a peaceful solution to the issue of the three islands; Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the rules of international law". Following the joint statement, Abdollahian had noted that the three islands are "[inseparable part](#)" of the "holy land of Iran" and that "on the necessity of respect for Iran's territorial integrity" the Islamic Republic shows no leniency "with any side". Iran's Foreign Ministry also [summoned the Chinese ambassador](#) and conveyed its "strong discontent" with the GCC-China statement.

Iran holds joint naval, air, and ground military exercises in the Persian Gulf

All four forces of the Iranian Army carried out a three-day exercise codenamed [Zolfaghar-1401](#) (2022) in the area stretching from the Strait of Hormuz to the Sea of Oman and north of the Indian Ocean. The drills were aimed at testing indigenously built military equipment, including submarines and drones such as military reconnaissance and combat drone Ababil 5, which participated in the annual army exercise for the first time and successfully destroyed the targets in the sea by firing 'Qaem' missiles. General Gholamali Rashid, commander of [Khatam-al Anbiya Central Headquarters](#), on the sidelines of a military exercise said Israel is a top national security threat to Iran and warned its allies that they will receive a harsh response from Iran for cooperating with it. Noting that Iran will respond to any aggressing with the combined power of its

forces, he said that "any enemy who, with a strategic miscalculation, wants to attack the waters, islands, coasts and facilities belonging to our nation, will not only face the power of the navy, but it will also face the entire defensive-offensive power of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army."

Third Tehran Dialogue Forum held

The third edition of [Tehran Dialogue Forum](#), organised by organized by the Institute for Political and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held on 19 December. The forum this year was themed "Iran's neighbourliness, a pathway to friendship and confidence building," and drew participation from 70 political leaders, heads of think tanks and researchers from 36 countries. Former Prime minister of Iraq Adil Abdul-Mahdi, President of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Kamal Kharazi spoke in the opening session. [Amir-Abdollahian](#) noted that the theme of the forum affirmed that Iran has put neighbourliness at the centre of its foreign policy and moves with all its power toward confidence building and promoting friendship with neighboring countries. He stated Iran's willingness to host a joint meeting of foreign and defense ministers of Iran's neighbours, and emphasised that the notion of "ensuring security from outside the region" would have to go away once and for all to allow for sustainable security based on cooperation of regional countries. [Kamal Kharazi](#), who also heads Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (SCFR), an advisory body to the Supreme Leader, said that "Iran is ready to return to its JCPOA commitments. Many problems have so far been resolved. Only the safeguards issue remained which we hope will be resolved during the visit of the [IAEA] experts."