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Iran

Digest

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Ali Larijani appointed as Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council

On 5 August, Ali Larijani, a former speaker of Iran's parliament, was appointed by Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian as the secretary of the country's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC). Since 2020, he has been a senior advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and a member of the country's Expediency Discernment Council. Khamenei appointed Larijani as his [representative to the SNSC](#) alongside Seed Jalili. Given that Larijani had been disqualified in the last two presidential elections, his appointment to the key position is widely interpreted as rebalancing in Iran's decision-making structures, which have been dominated by conservative and hardliner elements in recent years. On 3 August, the SNSC approved the establishment of the country's Defence Council, which would be responsible for "reviewing in a centralized manner the (country's) defense plans as well as the improvement of the Iranian armed forces' capabilities." Subsequently, Khamenei issued a decree appointing outgoing secretary Ali-Akbar Ahmadian and Ali Shamkhani, another former Secretary of the SNSC, to be his [representatives in the Defence Council](#). Following his appointment, Larijani made a [three-day tour](#) to Iraq and Lebanon. Iranian-backed Iraqi militias have been under renewed pressure to integrate with the Iraqi Armed Forces, while the Lebanese government ordered the army to devise plans by the end of 2025 to disarm Hezbollah. In Baghdad, Larijani met his Iraqi counterpart Qasim al-Araji and Prime Minister Mohammed Shiaa al-Sudani. The two sides also signed a new [joint security agreement](#). The previous agreement signed in 2023, focused on removing terrorist and separatist groups from the Iran-Iraq border region. Lebanon's President [Joseph Aoun](#) told Larijani that "It is forbidden for anyone to bear arms and to use foreign backing as

leverage." Following separate talks with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, whose Amal Movement is an ally of Hezbollah, Larijani stated that "any decision taken by the Lebanese government in consultation with the resistance is respected by us."

Iranian President visits Armenia

On 19 August, President Masoud Pezeshkian embarked on a two-day trip to Armenia. The visit came in the aftermath of the US-brokered agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the establishment of a transport corridor near the Iranian border linking Azerbaijan to its landlocked exclave of Nakhchivan. The US President Donald Trump said the deal grants the US exclusive developmental rights over the corridor named as the "Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity" (TRIPP). Iran has voiced concern that Washington may use the corridor as a pretext to establish a military presence in the region. Armenian [President Vahagn Khachaturyan](#) and Pezeshkian jointly emphasised that establishing stable and lasting peace and creating trade routes based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of states would be beneficial for the entire region. Khachaturyan noted that one of the best examples of close Armenian-Iranian partnership is the impressive work carried out by Iranian road construction companies on the Syunik section of Armenia's North-South transport corridor. Pezeshkian, alongside Armenian Prime Minister [Nikol Pashinyan](#), participated in the opening of the Armenia-Iran Business Forum. Pashinyan emphasised on the development of cross-border infrastructure in the energy, transport, and logistics sectors, under the "Crossroads of Peace" project will boost bilateral ties further. He noted that Armenia can serve as a gateway for Iranians to both the EAEU and the European Union member states.

European Powers trigger “snapback” sanctions against Iran

On 28 August, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (the “E3”) announced they will trigger the “snapback” mechanism under United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2231, formally initiating a 30-day process that is likely to culminate in the full restoration of all UN sanctions lifted under the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement. The E3 action came after Iranian and European diplomats held a second round of [talks in Geneva](#), where they offered a one-time six-month extension of the snapback deadline of 18 October if Iran met conditions such as restoring IAEA monitoring and accounting for enriched uranium stockpiles. Iran rejected the proposal and denied IAEA inspectors access to the facilities attacked by Israel and the US. The US Secretary of State Marco Rubio endorsed the move while proposing direct diplomatic engagement with Tehran. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi told state TV that Iran's response would include suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. On 28 August, Iran's parliamentarians drafted an [emergency bill](#) proposing a full withdrawal from the NPT. On the sidelines of the SCO meeting in Tianjin, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Russian and Chinese counterparts signed a [joint letter](#) emphasising that the European attempt to invoke the snapback mechanism against Iran is legally baseless and politically destructive.

Iranian Navy carries out major Naval exercises in Sea of Oman

On 21 August, the Iranian Navy's “[Sustainable Power 1404](#)” war game began in southern Iran. The drill involved the Navy's surface and subsurface units, flight units, shore-to-sea missile sites, sea-based missile sites, and electronic warfare units. Various types of naval cruise missiles with different ranges, such as ‘Nasir’ and ‘Qadir’, were fired from the coast and the Navy's vessels to hit targets in the Oman

Sea and the northern regions of the Indian Ocean. [Vice Admiral Abbas Hassani](#) stated that forces reviewed both defensive and offensive tactics. From sinking a warship to intercepting enemy missiles, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be getting ready to respond to any threat.” [Iranian Defence Minister General](#) Aziz Nasirzadeh, in a special televised interview on 22 August stated that “If the enemy resorts to another aggression, we will certainly deploy equipment that has not been deployed yet.” He noted that [Qasem Basir missile](#), which was test-fired in May 2025 is “virtually our surgical missile with the highest level of precision.”

Iranian President visits Pakistan

On 2 August, President Pezeshkian made a two-day visit reciprocal to Pakistan after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had visited Iran in May 2025. During a [briefing before his departure](#), Pezeshkian identified boosting border trade with Pakistan via land, air, and sea as among the key priorities for this trip. Through Pakistan, Iran can connect to the Silk Road linking China and Pakistan, and the route can then extend through Iran to Europe, he said. Terming the trade relations between Iran and Pakistan as good, the Iranian President reiterated the plan to increase their mutual trade exchanges to \$10 billion annually. Emphasising that security and border issues are of great importance to both Iran and Pakistan, he said that regional security must be achieved through mutual cooperation. Both countries pledged to boost bilateral trade to \$10 billion and revive key energy and connectivity projects. Pezeshkian attended the [Pakistan-Iran Business Conference](#) in Islamabad, during which a draft of the free trade agreement was finalised and the plans for the next Joint Economic Commission in Tehran and new border infrastructure initiatives like opening a new border [crossing at Chadgi-Kouhak](#) were discussed.