



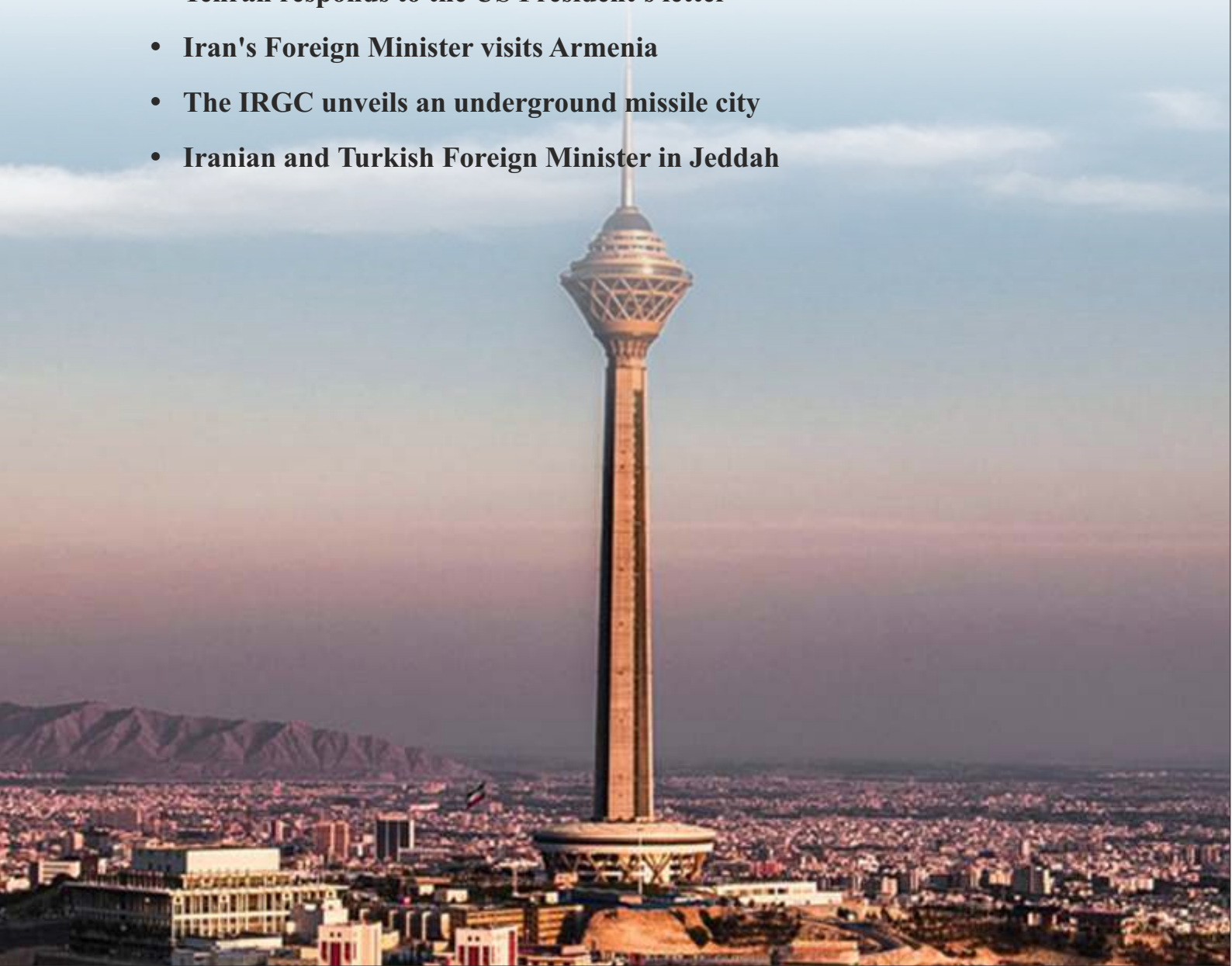
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Iran

Digest

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Iran, Russia and China trilateral meeting in Beijing

On 14 March, Deputy Foreign Ministers of Iran, Russia and China held a [trilateral meeting in Beijing](#) to discuss the latest state of play regarding the nuclear issue and sanctions relief. The meeting followed a closed-door session of the UN Security Council (UNSC), convened by the United States (US) and five other countries to address Iran's growing uranium stockpile. [Britain](#) suggested that it may support reinstating UN sanctions on Iran if necessary. Chinese Foreign Minister [Wang Yi](#) also met the Iranian and Russian deputy foreign ministers Kazem Gharibabadi and Sergei Ryabko. While calling on the US to show political sincerity and return to the talks as soon as possible, Wang opposed a “forced intervention” by the UNSC. He stated that, “initiating the rapid restoration of sanctions will destroy years of diplomatic efforts, so caution must be exercised.” In a [joint statement](#), the three countries said diplomatic engagement and dialogue based on “mutual respect” were the “only effective and viable options” for addressing the issue. In light of US President Donald Trump's letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, giving a two-month deadline for reaching a new nuclear deal or face military action, the joint statement stressed the importance of the UNSC Resolution 2231, including its timeframes and called for relevant parties to refrain from any action that may escalate the situation, so as to create a favourable atmosphere and conditions for diplomatic efforts. The three countries reiterated the importance of upholding the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), welcomed Iran's reiteration that its nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes, commitment to full compliance with its obligations under the NPT and Comprehensive Safeguard

Agreement and supported Tehran's policy to continue cooperation with the IAEA.

Tehran responds to the US President's letter

On 7 November, US President Donald Trump stated in a media interview that he had sent a letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, offering direct talks on the nuclear issue. While holding out the prospect of a 'peace deal', Trump warned against military action against Iran. On the same day, in a meeting with the heads of the three branches of government [Ayatollah Khamenei](#) argued that the US goal is “not to resolve issues but to exert control and impose their agendas.” The letter was handed to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi by [Anwar Gargash](#), senior diplomatic advisor to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) president, during a visit to Tehran on 12 March. On 26 March, Iran officially sent the letter to the US through Oman. [Araghchi](#) had met his Omani counterpart, Badr bin Hamad Al-Busaidi, in Muscat on 17 March. Their discussions covered regional developments, with a particular focus on the situation in Yemen and the latest U.S. military strikes in the country, which Iran has strongly condemned. Al-Busaidi reiterated Oman's dedication to supporting dialogue and diplomatic efforts to bring peace, stability, and prosperity to the region. The contents of Trump's letter and Iran's response have not been made public. On 23 March, Trump, in a media interview, warned that “if they (Iranian leaders) don't make a deal, there will be bombing.” On the same day, during a cabinet meeting, Iranian President [Masoud Pezeshkian](#) noted, “We responded to the US president's letter via Oman and rejected the option of direct talks, but we are open to indirect negotiations.”

Iran's Foreign Minister visits Armenia

On 25 March, Foreign Minister Abbas [Araghchi](#) visited Yerevan. In a joint press

conference with his Armenian counterpart [Ararat Mirzoyan](#), Araghchi said that Iran welcomes an agreement reached between the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the text of a historic peace treaty and encourages them to sign the agreement as soon as possible. The Armenian side briefed Araghchi on the latest developments regarding border delimitation with Azerbaijan and, of course, the process of concluding the Peace Treaty. Ararat pointed out that Armenia has repeatedly emphasised that it "highly appreciates the clear position of Iran regarding the inviolability of territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Armenia." He also noted Iran's participation in infrastructure projects as part of Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" project. On 17 March, just two days after Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on the terms of a peace treaty, President Pezeshkian, in a [telephone conversation](#) with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, welcomed the agreement and reiterated Iran's stance of "advocating for peace, convergence, and stability in the region, particularly among neighbouring nations, while highlighting the importance of maintaining the territorial integrity of all countries."

The IRGC unveils an underground missile city

On 16 March, Major General [Hossein Salami](#), chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said, "Iran will never be the initiator of war, but in the event of a threat, the response will be firm, decisive and conclusive." Stressing that the Yemenis are an independent and free nation in their land and pursue independent policies, the IRGC chief said, "Iran openly and clearly accepts responsibility for any actions it takes, when and where they occur. Salami's remarks came President Trump ordered the US military to launch "decisive and powerful military action" against Yemen. Trump warned that the US will consider any further

attacks by the Houthis in Yemen as emanating from Iran and threatened the Iranian government with "dire consequences." On 25 March, a video released in Iranian state media unveiled one of its largest underground [missile cities](#). The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri and IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Amir Ali Hajizadeh unveiled the large facility, which houses thousands of precision-guided missiles, such as Emad, Sejil, Ghadr H, Kheibar Shekan, and Haj Qassem. Bagheri noted that the new defensive military capabilities are ten times stronger than the one deployed during Operation True Promise II.

Iranian and Turkish Foreign Minister in Jeddah

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met with his Turkish counterpart [Hakan Fidan](#) to discuss regional issues and bilateral ties on the sidelines of the extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Ministers in Jeddah on 8 March. Iran had urged the OIC Secretary-General to convene a meeting for Islamic countries to develop a coordinated and unified stance to thwart the US-Israeli plans for 'forced displacement' of Palestinians from Gaza. Araghchi highlighted the dangerous developments unfolding in Syria, stressing the responsibility of its new rulers to safeguard the security and lives of all groups and segments of Syrian society. Later, in a media interview, Araghchi spoke of Turkey's direct influence and responsibility for developments in Syria. "I don't think anyone doubts that Turkey and several other countries have had a direct influence on events going on in Syria. Therefore, the issues that have arisen now, such as Israel's large-scale occupation of Syrian territory, the destruction of all of Syria's defensive and scientific infrastructure, and the resulting responsibility for all existing conflicts, are naturally borne by those who facilitated these changes and developments," Araghchi said.