

Iran's missile production not affected by Israeli raids: *Minister*

International Desk

The Iranian defense minister said on Wednesday that the country's production of missiles was not impacted by Israel's air strikes against defensive targets across the Iranian provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam last week. Rejecting Tel Aviv's allegations that it had "destroyed" the Islamic Republic's air defense capabilities as a result of the aggression, Aziz Nasirzadeh told reporters that, "There has been no interruption in the process of producing offensive systems such as missiles." "The enemy tried to damage our offensive and defensive system, but did

not achieve much success because we had passive defense measures in place [in advance]."

Israel launched strikes on military sites in Iran on Saturday, citing Tehran's October 1 missile attack that followed more deadly atrocities by the regime against Iran and other regional nations, including Israel's assassinations of the Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and Abbas Nilforoushan, a commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said later that the strikes "hit Iran's defense capabilities and missile production." Iran's armed forces said



A view of Iran's first hypersonic ballistic missile, Fattah-1, developed by the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)

● ALI SHAFIZADEH/IRNA



the attack killed four soldiers and caused "limited damage" to a few radar systems. Iranian media said a civilian was also killed.

Israel has warned Iran against retaliating, with Tehran asserting that it does not seek war, vowing an "appropriate response."

Nasirzadeh, meanwhile, underlined that Iran would not forgive any incursion against the country on the part of the Zionist regime.

"It is not forgivable [for us] that a regime such as the Zionist regime that lacks identity has dared car-

ry out an act of violation against a strong country with an ancient history," he said, adding that the

Islamic Republic "will respond to the regime in the right place and at the right time."

Pezeshkian: No difference between Iranian ethnicities



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said there is no difference between various ethnicities in the country, stressing that we can achieve national strength and consensus through unity.

He made the remarks during a ceremony to appoint the first Sunni governor general, Mansour Bijar, from the Baluch community in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan. Pezeshkian said resolving the problems facing the province has been one of the main concerns of his government. In September, Iran also appointed the first Sunni governor general for the western province of Kurdistan since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

FM: Iran seeking legal action over Israeli use of regional airspace in Oct. 26 attacks

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel had used Iraq's airspace and a US-controlled channel over the Arab country in its latest act of aggression against Iran, adding that the Islamic Republic has lodged a complaint with the United Nations over the issue. Araghchi made the remarks on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday as he discussed Israel's unauthorized use of Iraqi airspace for conducting the October 26 attack on Iran that led to the martyrdom of four Iranian servicemen and one civilian.

"The presence of the US military in the region is a reality and the Zionist fighter jets carried out the recent attack against Iran through the airspace opened up by the United States in the region," Araghchi said. He said that in addi-

tion to US-controlled airspace over Iraq, the Israeli regime also used the airspace of other countries in the region for its aggression against the country. Araghchi said that during his recent trip to the neighboring country before the Israeli attack, Iraq's high-ranking officials had asserted that they would not allow the use of their airspace and soil.

The foreign minister also noted that Iran is following up on the complaint lodged by Iraq with the United Nations over Israel's unauthorized move, adding that the country is also in contact with the Iraqi government and other regional countries whose airspace has been used to carry out the attack to file a complaint.

Another senior Iranian commander also said the Israeli regime and its allies' aircraft hovered across the Iraqi

airspace for 25 consecutive days in preparation for possible attack against Iran.

In early October, Iran's Operation True Promise II saw the Islamic Republic launch 200 missiles towards Israeli military and intelligence bases all over the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories in retaliation for the regime's acts of deadly aggression against the country and other regional nations.

Following the Iranian operation, the Iraqi airspace was "at the disposal" of the Israeli regime and its supporters, including the United States, Britain, France, and some littoral Persian Gulf Arab states, during the 25-day period as "they sought to take an offensive measure against us," said Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination.

Sheikh Qassem: Hezbollah to keep confronting Israeli plots in region



International Desk

Sheikh Naim Qassem delivered his first speech as the secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah on Wednesday, saying that the resistance movement will continue fighting to disrupt the Israeli regime's plots across the entire region. Sheikh Qassem warned that the regime and its Western and European supporters are engaged in a "major scheme" to dominate the region.

He told the audience in his televised address that his practical plan is to continue the work of the late leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Sheikh Qassem said Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, himself, stated at the beginning of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon that it was for the sake of a "New Middle East."

"We are facing a significant project in the region; this is a war that extends beyond Lebanon and Gaza; it is a global war against Resistance."

Anti-resistance plots

"This Zionist war is American, European, and global in nature, seeking to eliminate Resistance in the region."

"All forms of brutality and extermination are being used in this aggression to advance their project, and we must confront it rather

than stand by and watch." "Final victory will be ours," he said in the nearly hour-long video, with the flags of Lebanon and Hezbollah and an image of his assassinated predecessor Nasrallah behind him.

Qassem vowed that under his leadership, Hezbollah will continue the work of Nasrallah and keep fighting a war with Israel while following the same political path. "Helping Gaza is our duty and we will defend it to counter the Israeli threat for the entire region."

'Get out of our land'

Qassem warned Israel it would pay a heavy price if its forces remain in Lebanon, stressing that his group was ready for a prolonged conflict.

"Get out of our land to reduce your losses. If you stay, you will pay more than you have ever paid in your life," Qassem said.

Hezbollah was founded in 1982 to confront Israeli occupation and its expansionist intentions and to liberate the occupied land, Qassem stated.

He also addressed criticisms that the Resistance in Gaza and Lebanon provoked the Israeli aggression. He urged the public not to forget 75 years of Israeli atrocities and the role of Resistance in ending the occupation of Lebanon.

"Some argue that Israel was provoked, but does Israel



Lebanon's Hezbollah new leader Sheikh Naim Qassem delivers a speech from an unknown location on October 30, 2024 in this still image from video.

need a pretext? Have we forgotten 75 years of killing Palestinians, displacing them, seizing the land and sanctities, and committing massacres?"

"It is the Resistance that drove Israel out of our land in the past in cooperation with the army and the people. International resolutions did not expel Israel from our land. Rather, it was the Resistance," he said.

The Hezbollah leader emphasized that Resistance in the region is fighting for a dignified future. "The legendary steadfastness of the Resistance in Gaza and Lebanon is an epic of dignity; it will shape the future of our generations."

Sheikh Qassem clarified that Hezbollah is not fighting on behalf of any party but is defending Lebanon.

He also praised Iran's support for the Lebanese resistance. Iran has never sought anything in return for its assistance, Sheikh Qassem stated.

"Iran understands the price it pays for its support of Resistance and has provided it—through martyr General Soleimani—with what no one else has ever offered," he said.

Iran-IAEA relations continue on daily basis

The head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said the country's relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continue on a daily basis. The officials and inspectors of the UN Nuclear Watchdog are constantly visiting Iran to inspect Iranian nuclear facilities, Eslami said. In an apparent reference to recent Israeli threats to attack Iran's nuclear sites, Eslami said the IAEA is duty-bound to protest the regime's actions in the region under the international laws.

Saudi Arabia says no normalization without Palestinian state

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan on Tuesday reaffirmed his country's position on normalization of ties with Israel, during the opening of the first meeting of the "International Coalition for the Two-State Solution" in Riyadh. "Regarding normalization, the position is clear, as expressed by the Crown Prince: the establishment of a Palestinian state is Saudi Arabia's prerequisite for moving towards normalization," the minister said, stressing that, "The security of the region is linked to resolving this issue."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

