

Iran may increase missile ranges to reach Europe, Kharrazi warns

International Desk

Iran might increase the range of its ballistic missiles to reach Europe, a senior adviser to Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Friday, amid strained relations between Tehran and the European Union.

"When they (Europeans) do not take into account Iran's sensitivity, it is no longer necessary for Iran to heed their sensitivity, so it is likely that Iran will develop and increase the range of its missiles," Kamal Kharrazi, who also resides Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, told Lebanese TV channel Al Mayadeen.

Iran's ballistic missiles, including Shahab 3, can hit targets as far as 2,000 kilometers away, enough to pound Israel. Kharrazi also repeated his previous warnings that Iran would change its military doctrine to make a nuclear bomb in case of an existential threat.

"What I said [previously that] if its existence is threatened, the Islamic Republic of Iran will revisit its military doctrine, is still in place and we have the capability to build the whole weapon," the

veteran diplomat said.

The warning came amid heightened tensions between Iran and Israel which saw the two archenemies trading strikes in recent months.

Iran's 'inevitable' response to Israel

Iran reiterated on Thursday that it will respond to Israel's recent attack, with top commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) affirming that a response to the regime's aggression is "inevitable."

Iran's Deputy Commander of IRGC Brigadier General Ali Fadavi confirmed in a statement to Lebanon's Al Mayadeen television network that Iran's response to any Israeli aggression was "inevitable," emphasizing that, "For over 40 years, we have never left any attack unanswered."

"We can target everything the Zionists possess in a single operation," Fadavi said, adding that the martyrdom of Resistance leaders "strengthens rather than weakens the Resistance."

General Fadavi's remarks were the first statement from an Iranian official indicating that the

Islamic Republic intended to retaliate against Israel's October 26 strikes on its soil.

He also noted that, "Israel believed it had eradicated Hezbollah with the martyrdom of its leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and other resistance leaders," however, "Hezbollah is now stronger than before."

According to Fadavi, Hezbollah's attacks on Israeli positions have intensified both on the ground and in the air, which indicates that the Resistance is still as dynamic and strong as before.

IRGC's Chief Commander Major General Hossein Salami also warned Israel that it will receive such a great response for its recent act of aggression against Iran that it cannot conceive, saying that the Israelis are mistaken to think that they can change the history by launching a number of missiles.

Meanwhile, Iran's permanent representative to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva have severely censured the latest Israeli strikes against the country's military sites, stating that the Islamic Republic will not hesitate to exercise its legitimate right



The image taken from video shows missiles fired from Iran over Al-Quds (Jerusalem), on October 1, 2024.

AP

and defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a note addressed to the member states of the Conference on Disarmament on Thursday, Iran's diplomatic mission enumerated a series of the Israeli regime's actions and adventurism that run contrary to international laws and have targeted Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The mission noted that such moves constitute flagrant violations of the fundamental princi-

ples of international law, diplomatic and consular immunities besides Article 2, Clause 4 of the UN Charter and United Nations resolutions, emphasizing that Iran reserves its inherent right to defend its nationals, interests and national security under Article 51 of the Charter.

Cease-fire hopes fade as Israel massacres scores in Gaza, Lebanon

International Desk

Prospects of a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas and Hezbollah ran aground on Friday as Israeli airstrikes killed at least 64 people in the Gaza Strip, according to medics in the Palestinian enclave, and battered Beirut's southern suburbs.

Hamas did not favor a temporary truce that US envoys had been working to secure, the resistance group's Al-Aqsa TV reported on Friday. The cease-fire proposals failed to meet its conditions that any deal must end the year-long war in Gaza and include a withdrawal of Israeli forces from there, it said, Reuters reported.

Medics in Gaza said about 64 people were

killed and dozens more injured overnight and into Friday morning in Israeli strikes on the city of Deir Al-Balah, the Nuseirat camp and the town of Al-Zawayda, all in the central area of Gaza as well as in its south.

Fourteen people were killed by an Israeli strike at the gate of a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Nuseirat, according to medics at the camp's Al-Awda Hospital. Another 10 were killed in a car in Khan Younis in the south of Gaza, medics said.

Israel also pummeled Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday morning with at least 10 strikes, Reuters journalists said. It was the first bombardment on the area - once a densely-packed

district and Hezbollah stronghold - in nearly a week. Resistance media reports said some 40 were killed on Friday in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

The strikes came after Israel issued evacuation orders for 10 separate neighborhoods.

Hamas television, quoting a leading source in the group, said the cease-fire proposals did not meet its conditions. "The proposals do not include a permanent cessation of aggression, withdrawal of occupation forces from the Gaza Strip, or the return of displaced people," the source said. "Nor did they address Palestinians' need for security, relief and reconstruction, and the full reopening of border crossings."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran launches 'strong protest' against Germany's closure of consulates

International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Friday denounced Germany's "irrational" decision to shut the diplomatic missions of the Islamic Republic in the country and deprive Iranians of consular services.

"The decision by the German government to stop the activities of the consulates of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany is an unjustified act," the Ministry's said in a press release.

Iran also summoned German charge d'affaires in Tehran in protest against the European country's decision.

The director of the First Department for Western Europe at the Iranian Foreign Ministry called in the diplomat on Thursday to relay Tehran's "strong protest" and condemn Berlin's "destructive approach" toward the Iranian people, including those residing in Germany.

It came hours after German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock announced that the Iranian consulates in the cities of Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich are to be closed over the execution of German-Iranian convicted terrorist Jamshid Sharmahd. The statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry said the move "deliberately deprives Iranians of the benefit of consular facilities and services," while it "causes unnecessary trouble for Iranians residing in Germany and violates their basic rights."



A view of Iran's Foreign Ministry building in Tehran

IRNA

Also, in a post on his X account on Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated that, "The closure of Iran's Consulates in Germany is a sanction against Iranians residing in that country - most of whom possess German citizenship as well."

"In support of a terrorist who took 14 innocent lives and injured more than 200 others, the German government is sanctioning tens of thousands of other Iranians holding German passport. Anyone can see the wisdom in this decision," he said.

"I assure my Iranian compatriots living in Germany that we are doing our utmost to compensate for this inconvenience by strengthening the consular sections of our embassy in Berlin and other nearby diplomatic missions," Araqchi added.

"Meanwhile, behold the terrorist criminal that German authorities sought to protect." On Monday, Iran's Judiciary executed Sharmahd, the ringleader of a US-based terror group behind a

series of deadly attacks against the Iranian nation. Germany protested to Iran by recalling its ambassador to Tehran and summoning the Iranian charge d'affaires in Berlin.

Announcing the closure of the Iranian consulates, Baerbock said, "We repeatedly made it crystal clear to Tehran that the execution of a German national would have serious consequences."

In its press release, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Baerbock's "meddlesome" and "unprofessional" statement lacks decency and legal value, noting that Berlin's "unconstructive and confrontational approach is a major miscalculation, and the German government will be responsible for its consequences." It also condemned the German government's disrespect for international law, as well as any support for terrorism and the killing of innocent people.

Tehran-Riyadh ties moving in 'right direction'

International Desk

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said on Thursday that his country's relations with Iran is on the right path.

Speaking on stage at an investment conference in Riyadh, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said, "I think our relations (with Iran) are moving in the right direction," adding, however, that, "Of course, they are complicated by the issues of regional dynamics," Reuters reported.

Bin Farhan revealed that he had emphasized to his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, that any escalation in the region must be avoided.

"Tehran informed us that the continuation of the regional escalation cycle is not in its interest. Saudi Arabia's dialogue with Iran aims to keep relations on the right track," he said.

He also addressed recent reports about a possible joint military exercise between Saudi Arabia and Iran, stating that no such exercises have taken place and it is unlikely they will occur in the near future given the current regional conditions.

'Russia-Iran partnership deal to be inked'

Russia and Iran will sign a strategic partnership agreement "in the near future," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday, as political and military ties between the two countries deepen. "The treaty is being prepared for signing in the near future," Lavrov said at a Eurasian security summit in Belarus on Thursday, The Moscow Times reported.

"It will affirm both parties' commitment to closer defense cooperation and collaboration for regional and global peace and security," Lavrov added in televised remarks.

Terrorist teams disbanded

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) dismantled on Thursday four teams of terrorists during a round-up operation in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan. The operation was part of a boarder war game in the southeastern province, Tasnim reported. Spokesperson for the drill Ahmad Shafaei said the IRGC servicemen killed four terrorists and arrested eight others "acting as proxies for the enemy" in the region. On October 26, gunmen opened fire on a patrol unit of Iranian border guards, killing 10 forces.