US advised to adopt 'maximum rationality' rather than 'maximum pressure': Araghchi



International Desk

Iran's foreign minister advised the US to adopt the policy of "maximum rationality" instead of "maximum pressure" as the new government in Washington will take office in January. "As they admitted before, we have defeated the maximum pressure," Abbas Araghchi said during a joint press conference with visiting Syrian counterpart Bassam al-Sabbagh.

"Whenever, they have adopted a policy of maximum pressure, we have also adopted a policy of maximum resistance," Araghchi added. "We advise them to adopt the policy of maximum rationality instead of maximum pressure. So, they will probably get a different result."

US President-elect Donald Trump adopted the strategy of the maximum pres-



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) welcomes his Syrian counterpart Bassam al-Sabbagh ahead of a meeting in Tehran, Iran on November 19, 2024

sure against Iran after he announced the withdrawal of the US from the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement in 2018.

The campaign was aimed at pressuring Iran to renegotiate the nuclear deal, adding more restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and expanding the scope of the agreement to cover Iran's ballistic missiles as well as other regional activities.

People familiar with Trump's thinking have recently said that his administration would try to "bankrupt" Iran to force the Islamic Republic into talks.

Response to Israel's strike

The top Iranian diplomat in a separate meeting on Tuesday, reiterated that

Iran has not foregone its right to respond to the Israeli regime's most recent act of aggression, emphasizing that Tehran will decide when to carry out the retaliatory operation.

"We have not renounced our right to react [to Israel] and will show a reaction in due time and in a manner, we deem appropriate," Araghchi said.

Araghchi said that the Foreign Ministry would never take knee-jerk decisions, saying Iran has already given a response after considering the overall conditions as well as probabilities and plots that may have been hatched against Iran, so that it could prevent the spillover of war.

In the early hours of October 26, Israeli warplanes used US-controlled airspace over Iraq to fire projectiles at military installations in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in flagrant breach of the country's national sovereignty.



International Desk

Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif said Zionism [being practiced by the Israeli regime] is the "gravest threat" to the dignity and security of the Jewish

"Aggressive Zionism is nothing but an expansionist secular movement, deceitfully using Judaism to advance its colonial and racist agenda. It abuses the memories and blood of Jewish victims of the Holocaust who perished during World War II, while Zionism itself is nothing but racism, chauvinism, militarism, terrorism, expansionism, apartheid, and hatred against other nations and religions", Zarif said in a rare video message directed at Jewish people across the world.

He said that the Zionism "uses the name of the Lord in vain to justify genocide, adding that the Jewish people are the victims of Zionist assault on their faith and identity. Referring to Israel's ongoing genocidal wars against Palestinians and Lebanese, the Iranian official said Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu along with his Western supporters, "have unleashed the machinery of death and destruction in the region, causing carnage and crimes against humanity in a genocidal campaign that has murdered over 50,000 civilians, including over 10.000 children.

Zarif also accused Netanyahu of killing the 2015 Iran nuclear deal which he said could have been the foundation of a new era of peace, tranquility and regional cooper-

'Progress' made in cease-fire efforts in Lebanon: Officials

International Desk

Officials mediating between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah movement on Tuesday hinted at progress in diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire in Lebanon.

US special envoy Amos Hochstein said during a visit to Beirut on Tuesday that an end to the Israel-Hezbollah war was "now within our grasp" as he met with officials to discuss a truce plan.

The United States and France have spearheaded efforts for a cease-fire in the conflict, which escalated in late September after nearly a year of deadly exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israel.

Israel's attacks on Lebanon have killed more than 3,500 people.

Following a meeting on Tuesday with Lebanese



Parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who has led mediation on behalf of the resistance group, Hochstein told reporters he saw "a real opportunity" to end the fighting.

"I'm here in Beirut to facilitate that decision, but it's ultimately the decision of the parties... It is now within our grasp," he added.

A Lebanese official said Monday that his government had "a very positive view" of the truce plan, while another said Lebanon had been waiting for Hochstein "so we can review certain outstanding points with him."

Israeli Energy Minister Eli Cohen said on Tuesday that, "There are talks regarding an arrangement with Lebanon" but reiterated that, "Israel would agree only if all its demands were met, including pushing Hezbollah away from the border."

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Iran: EU, UK's new sanctions 'systematic human rights violations'

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said the fresh sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United Kingdom on Iran's shipping lines constitute a clear example of systematic human rights violations.

Esmaeil Baghaei made the comment on Tuesday, just a day after the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), its director Mohammad Reza Khiabani, and several other entities and individuals, Press TV reported. Furthermore, Britain also said on Monday that Iran's national airline, Iran Air, and IRISL would face an asset freeze.

The EU and the UK's new sanctions are based on claims that Iran Air and IRISL are purportedly being used by the Islamic Republic to supply drones, ballistic missiles and related technologies and components to Russia for use in the war against Ukraine, a claim that Tehran has time and again strongly rejected.



"While Ukraine's president [Volodymyr Zelensky] himself has admitted that no Iranian ballistic missiles have been supplied to Russia, the EU and UK's decision to impose sanctions on Iran under this pretext is entirely unjustifiable and lacks legitimacy, legal basis, or logical foundation," Baghaei stressed, once again rejecting such allegations.

The sanctions come more than a month after the European bloc levied sanctions on Iran Air over the same claims.