

Iran, E3 to re-engage in high-stakes talks in 'coming week': *Report*

International Desk

Iran and three European powers – Britain, France and Germany – are reportedly planning to hold fresh talks on Tehran's nuclear program in the coming days.

The European troika, known as the E3, "are in contact with Iran to schedule further talks for the coming week," a German diplomatic source said, following tensions between the sides over Europe's decision to trigger the so-called snapback mechanism.

The mechanism allows for the return of anti-Iran sanctions suspended under the 2015 nuclear deal from which the US withdrew in 2018 and the European parties failed to fulfill their commitments.

Iran's Tasnim news agency also reported that Tehran had agreed to hold talks with the three European countries, citing an unnamed source.

Consultations are ongoing regarding a date and location for the talks, the report said, falling short of specifying the exact time and venue of the high-stakes negotiations.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has yet to comment on the reports.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a call Friday with his British, French and German counterparts and

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas.

During the call, the Europeans warned that if Iran did not return to talks soon, they would activate the mechanism. Araghchi told his European counterparts that they have no grounds for reactivating UN sanctions.

"If EU/E3 want to have a role, they should act responsibly and put aside the worn-out policies of threat and pressure, including the 'snap-back' for which they (have) absolutely no moral (or) legal grounds," Araghchi said on X.

Iran and the United States held five rounds of nuclear negotiations through Omani mediators before Israel launched its 12-day aggression against Iran on June 13. US President Donald Trump's decision to join Israel in striking Iranian nuclear facilities effectively ended the talks which were set to resume on June 15. The aggression against Iran claimed the lives of more than 1,000 Iranians, most of them civilians.

Despite the aggression, both Tehran and Washington have signaled willingness to return to the table, though Tehran has said it will not give up its right to enrich uranium – a demand by the US for signing an agreement with Iran. "Iran must never be allowed to ac-



quire a nuclear weapon. That is why Germany, France and the United Kingdom are continuing to work intensively in the E3 format to find a sustainable and verifiable diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear program," the German source said.

"If no solution is reached over the summer, snapback remains an option for the E3," the German source said. Iran has on numerous occasions dismissed reports that claim it is pursuing nuclear weapons.

Iran's foreign minister said in an interview with China's CGTN that Tehran should see the US "genuine will" for resumption of nuclear talks, which ran into a snag following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran last month. "If we are still not convinced, it is be-

cause we should see the other side's genuine will — a will to reach a win-win solution," Araghchi said.

"Our nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, and we are certain about this. We have no problem with sharing this with others; however, this can only be achieved through negotiation," he said.

Araghchi asserted that Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing an agreement with world powers in 2015, which was praised by the world as a "major diplomatic achievement."

But suddenly, Washington decided to pull out from the deal in a "regrettable decision," Araghchi said, adding that "everything we are witnessing today stems from that withdrawal."

Leader's aide, Putin meet on regional issues, nuclear program



International Desk

Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with Ali Larijani, top adviser to Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on situation in Middle East and Iranian nuclear program, among other issues. Larijani "conveyed assessments of the escalating situation in the Middle East and around the Iranian nuclear program," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said of the unannounced meeting.

Putin expressed Russia's "well-known positions on how to stabilize the situation in the region and on the political settlement of the Iranian nuclear program," he added.

No further details were immediately available about the surprise visit by Larijani to Moscow. Iran and Russia enjoy a close diplomatic and political relationship.

Army superseded air defense systems damaged in Israeli onslaught: *Iran commander*

National Desk

Iran said on Sunday it had replaced its air defense systems damaged during Israel's 12-day aggression last month.

Iran's Army Operations Chief Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi said Israel sought to destroy Iran's defense capabilities, and some of the country's defense systems were damaged in the aggression.

"Some of our air defenses were damaged, this is not something we can hide, but our colleagues have used domestic resources and replaced them with pre-arranged systems that were stored in suitable locations in order to keep the airspace secure," Mousavi said.

Iran's air defense network includes systems like the domestically built Bavar-373 and Khordad-15, designed to counter missiles and aircraft. Iran also installed Russia's S-300 air defense systems in 2016.

Mousavi said Iran's radar and air defense systems were among the first targets of Israel in its 12-day assault, but the Air Defense Force personnel remained at their stations around the



clock and confronted the enemy. Mousavi also noted that by using the existing air defense systems and the new replacements, the Iranian forces managed to cover the country's skies, and thus the enemy failed to achieve its objectives.

He further said that Israel did not enter the war alone and that the United States and NATO helped it.

"The capacity of the Iranian Armed Forces is beyond what the illegitimate Zionist regime can counter. However, the supporters of this usurping regime have been aiding it for months by gathering intelligence, and we consider the US complicit in the Zionist

regime's crimes," he pointed out. On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, killing more than 1,000 people, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

More than a week later, the US also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia. Iranian fire killed at least 28 people in Israel.

Tehran urges UNSC to register 12-day war report as official document

International Desk

Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations sent a report to the Security Council detailing crimes committed by the Israeli regime during its last month aggression against Iran and demanded the registration of the report as an official document.

In separate letters addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the current rotating President of the Security Council, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, the mission presented a comprehensive account of violations, particularly those targeting women and children, during the 12-day military aggression in June.

The report was also sent to the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, as well as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Referring to the loss of lives and widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, the letter underscores the collective responsibility of the Security Council and the international community to hold those responsible for the blatant aggression. According to the report attached to the letter, 1,100 civilians — including 132 women and 45 children — were killed in the Israeli attacks, which began in the early hours of June 13.



The report noted that the strikes were carried out with deliberate targeting of civilian and vital infrastructure — including hospitals, media outlets, and peaceful nuclear facilities — with substantial military, intelligence, and political support from the United States and several Western countries.

It includes names and biographical details of some victims, including 30 schoolchildren, families who lost all their members, and casualties from strikes on Hakim Children's Hospital, kindergartens, public parks, Evin Prison, and ambulances.

The mission condemned the aggression as grave violations of the UN Charter, international law, the Geneva Conventions, and international human rights standards. It called on the Security Council to address the structural impunity of the Israeli regime and its allies, urging decisive action against those responsible.

Sidelining ethnic minorities ...

As a former terrorist leader, Sharaa has systematically sidelined rival groups, consolidating his power. Today, most factions that once opposed him have been stripped from the power structure. He believes the best way to stabilize Syria is by leaning on foreign forces. He is seeking ties with Israel and European nations under Turkey's mediation. Moreover, he is pushing to align Syria closer to Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states like Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Sharaa is trying to entrench his rule through supranational powers. As long as that remains his paradigm, internal order will be neglected. Without broad public support—derived from genuine political inclusion, a constitutional consensus, and representation—his

grip on Syria will only weaken as his incompetence compounds.

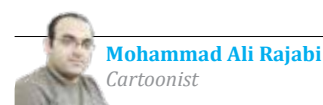
Inevitably, Sharaa's closeness to foreign powers such as Israel, which historically have acted against Syria's national interest, will stir more domestic discontent and cast him as a traitor. That will further destabilize his standing in Syria.

Sharaa may gain some traction internationally—for networking, lifting sanctions, or shaping public perception—but ironically this foreign-facing strategy will intensify Syria's internal unrest, especially while various ethnic and doctrinal groups remain caught in uncertainty, fear, and hostility toward Damascus.

Lastly, Iran's position vis-à-vis the Sharaa regime should not be overlooked. Given Sharaa's ideological

leanings—shaped during his time leading terrorist groups—no optimistic relations with Iran should be expected.

He appears intent on tying many of his own shortcomings and failures to an external actor to deflect blame, and sees Iran as the prime scapegoat. Given that he lacks the political capital or capability to amplify the Syria-Israel conflict, and is in no position to frame another foreign adversary within the Western or European context, the Islamic Republic would become the lowest-hanging fruit. It would therefore not be surprising if, in the coming months, Mr. Sharaa increasingly shifts the blame for Syria's domestic crises onto Iran, ramps up hostile rhetoric, and even forges alliances that align with efforts to contain Tehran.



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