

Araghchi: Time for E3 to avert 'preventable crisis'

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister told his European counterparts on Wednesday that his country has entered talks with the UN nuclear agency with a responsible approach and now it is the turn of European parties to use the opportunity to continue the diplomatic path and prevent a "preventable crisis". Abbas Araghchi and his counterparts from France, Germany and Britain held new round of nuclear negotiations aimed at preventing the reimposition of international sanctions against Iran. The three countries, the so-called E3, launched a 30-day process at the end of August to reimpose UN sanctions. They set conditions for Tehran to meet during September to convince them to extend the "snapback

mechanism". The offer by the E3 to extend the snapback for as much as six months to enable serious negotiations is conditional on Iran restoring access for UN nuclear inspectors – who would also seek to account for Iran's large stock of enriched uranium – and engaging in talks with the US. The status of Iran's enriched uranium stocks has been unknown since Israel and the US bombed Iranian nuclear sites in June. Wednesday's phone call followed an agreement reached by Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last week on resuming cooperation between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog. There has also been no indication of a willingness from Iran to resume talks with Washington. Iran says it is still working to refine how it will work with IAEA.

Araghchi pointed to Iran's principled stance on the importance of maintaining dialogue and diplomacy to prevent escalating tensions, saying that the move by the three European countries to reinstate the UN sanctions lacks any "legal or logical justification". The Iranian foreign minister stressed that Iran is ready to reach a "fair and balanced solution" that guarantees mutual benefits. "Achieving such a goal requires a responsible and independent approach by the three European countries and refraining from being influenced by actors who place no value on diplomacy or the principles and rules of international law", Araghchi said. Citing two European and one Iranian diplomat, Reuters reported that Iranian and European ministers made little progress

in talks on Wednesday. Germany said Wednesday that the "ball is still in Iran's court". A German Foreign Ministry spokesman said the offer from the so-called E3 powers "to discuss a temporary extension of the snapback if Iran fulfils certain conditions remains on the table", but added that "at this point the steps taken by Iran have not been sufficient". The reimposed sanctions would hit Iran's financial, banking, hydrocarbons and defense sectors. Four European diplomats and an Iranian official said prior to the call that the most likely scenario would be that the E3 would go ahead with the reimposition of sanctions. Two of the diplomats also said that even with a last-minute agreement, it was unlikely Washington would support it. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokes-



man Esmail Baqaei said Wednesday Iran expects European powers to respond positively to its signing of a new cooperation agreement with the UN nuclear watchdog. "We have demonstrated that we are not averse to diplomacy and take every opportunity to safe-

guard the interests and benefits of the Iranian nation," Baqaei said during his weekly press conference. "It is natural to expect that Iran's positive approach and good-faith efforts will be met with similar and reciprocal action from the European parties."

Larijani: Tehran-Riyadh ties to expand in more organized framework

International Desk

Iran's Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani said economic and security cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia will expand in a more organized framework. Larijani made the remarks after a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the Arab country's Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud in Riyadh on Tuesday. The Iranian official said that during his meetings, both sides discussed economic, defensive and regional cooperation. He said that the level of economic relations between the two countries is low and obstacles facing the expansion of relations need to be removed. Larijani also said that they discussed ways to ensure stability in the West Asia region. "Defense cooperation between the two countries was also reviewed, and it was decided that these efforts should be pursued in the form of working groups, God willing, this will take on a more organized form in the future."



Larijani traveled to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the kingdom's defense minister, leading a delegation that included Deputy Secretary for International Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani and Persian Gulf Affairs Advisor Mohammad Ali Bek. The visit follows a series of high-level exchanges between the two countries, including the Saudi defense minister's trip to Tehran earlier this year. The meeting comes just one day after President Masoud Pezeshkian met with bin Salman on the sidelines of the emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha, where both sides expressed satisfaction with the growing momentum in bilateral ties



Iran's Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani (c) talks with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud (r) before a meeting in Riyadh on September 16, 2025.
● IRNA

in the wake of the China-brokered detente in 2023. Larijani's visit to Riyadh is his third regional trip since assuming office on August 5, following earlier stops in Iraq and Lebanon. Iranian officials say the renewed diplomatic outreach reflects efforts to stabilize regional dynamics and expand cooperation with neighboring states.

Top general: Increase in defense, military capacities 'inevitable strategy'

International Desk

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi described the increase in the country's defense and military capacities across various spheres as an inevitable strategy. The top general emphasized that Iran's combat readiness has prevented enemies from conducting a new round of strikes against the country. "Our defensive and combat preparedness has reached a stage that prevents enemies from committing miscalculations, including the notion of launching a fresh invasion of our country," Mousavi said on Wednesday as he was paying a visit to the tactical headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Ground Force in Tehran. The high-ranking military commander praised the comprehensive readiness of the Iranian armed forces to vigorously defend the country's independence, security, and territorial integrity, and to confront all potential threats and dangers. Mousavi also appreciated the vigilance and wisdom of the Armed Forces and lauded their historic experiences, particularly the 1980-88 war imposed by then-Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and the 12-day Israeli-US war in June. The top general described the increase in defensive and military capacities across various spheres as an inevitable strategy.



Mousavi underscored that these strategies ensure sustainable security and strengthen Iran's deterrent defense capabilities against any type of aggression. On June 13, the Israeli regime launched an unlawful aggression against Iran, leading to the assassination of many senior commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary citizens. Iran retaliated in less than 24 hours with a barrage of missiles and drones, and followed it up with a series of retaliatory operations under True Promise III. The US entered the war on behalf of Israel on June 22, when its bombers hit three Iranian nuclear sites in brazen violation of international law. In response, Iran launched a missile strike on Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military air base in West Asia, in an act of self-defense. The embattled Israeli regime was forced to unilaterally accept a truce deal on June 24.

'Nonsense': FM spox rejects US criticism of Iran's missile program

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman on Wednesday dismissed as "nonsense" US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's criticism this week of the Islamic republic's missile program as an "unacceptable risk". "He was speaking nonsense," Esmail Baqaei told journalists, adding that the United States was "not supposed to comment on the defensive capabilities of a nation that has decided to preserve its independence at any cost." The missile program was Iran's means "to stand against the greed, aggression and assaults of foreigners – including the US and the Zionist regime," he said, referring to Israel. During a Monday visit to Israel, Rubio vowed to maintain the "maximum pressure" policy of sanctions against Tehran

which was imposed during US President Donald Trump's first term in office. That policy saw Washington unilaterally withdraw from the landmark 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers. Rubio said at a joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that a nuclear Iran possessing missiles that could deliver nuclear weapons far away is an unacceptable risk, not just for Israel, not just for the United States, but for the world. The United States would press ahead with pressure on Iran until "they change course," he added. In mid-June, Iran launched a barrage of missiles on the occupied territories in response to an unprovoked aggression by the regime, which claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians.



Iran also launched a missile strike on Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military air base in West Asia, after the US joined the aggression which targeted three Iran's nuclear facilities. The embattled Israeli regime was forced to unilaterally accept a truce deal on June 24 following Iran's missile strike on it's the occupied territories.

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