

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran, Syria  
resolved to  
implement  
deals

**TASNIM** – The foreign ministers of Iran and Syria expressed their countries' determination to carry out the bilateral agreements signed during a recent visit to Damascus by the Iranian president. In a telephone conversation on Saturday, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad briefed his Iranian counterpart on the improvement of Syria's ties with the Arab countries and the Syrian president's fruitful participation in the most recent summit of the Arab League in Saudi Arabia.

For his part, Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian congratulated Syria on achieving political success, describing the recent developments as positive and constructive.

Iran's power  
grows as U.S.  
declines:

Top general



**MEHR** – Stating that the power of the U.S. and Israel is on the verge of decline, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces said that Iran's power is growing in all fields.

Referring to the failure of U.S. policies, such as fleeing from Afghanistan, its evacuation of Iraq, and the significant reduction of its forces in the region, Major General Mohammad Baqeri said, "The world stands on the threshold of a new order, in which the U.S. is not the world's most powerful country anymore, and the Zionist regime is also on a path of decline."

Eslami: 60%  
enrichment  
done to  
get sanctions  
lifted

**ISNA** – The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said enrichment with high-purity has been done in order to remove illegal sanctions imposed on the country. Eslami said that the AEOI is enriching uranium to 60% purity to observe the Strategic Action Plan approved in Iran's Parliament to counter the sanctions.

Iran, U.S. held indirect talks  
in Oman: *Report*

## International Desk

Officials of Iran and the United States held indirect talks in Oman last month with Omani officials shuttling between their separate rooms to deliver messages, three sources briefed on the issue told Axios.

The rumored "proximity talks," which haven't been previously reported, would represent the first known indirect engagement between the U.S. and Iran, in this way, in several months, IFP wrote. They took place amid growing concerns

in the White House about Iran's nuclear advances.

White House Middle East Coordinator Brett McGurk traveled to Oman secretly on May 8 for talks with Omani officials on a possible diplomatic outreach to Iran regarding its nuclear program, as Axios reported last week. According to the three sources briefed on the issue, an Iranian delegation also arrived in Oman at the same time. Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, was part of the delegation, one of the sources said. McGurk and the Iranian of-

ficials didn't meet, according to the sources. The two sides were in separate locations, with Omani officials going between them and passing messages.

According to the sources, one of the main messages from the U.S. focused on deterrence. The sources added that the U.S. made it clear that Iran will pay a heavy price if it moves forward with 90% uranium enrichment — the level needed to produce a nuclear weapon. Tehran has repeatedly stated that it has no intention of developing nuclear weapons, with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei even issuing religious edicts against the atomic bomb and other weapons of mass destruction. The aim of the indirect exchange of messages between the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden and Iran was to reach an "understanding" about ways to "de-escalate the Iranian nuclear program, Iran's behavior in the region, and its involvement in the war in Ukraine", the sources stated. Such an understanding and de-escalation in the region could be used later as a basis for future talks on a new nuclear agreement between the parties.

Iran and the United States have denied a recent media report that they were nearing an interim agreement, under which Tehran would

curb its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief.

An Iranian Member of Parliament has confirmed media reports of other secret Iran-U.S. talks in New York, ruling out any bilateral agreement in the near future.

Mojtaba Tavangar wrote in a tweet on Saturday, "Despite the negotiations in New York, due to the U.S. obstructionism, no agreement is possible in the foreseeable future."

The Middle East Eye news outlet earlier reported that Robert Malley, the U.S. special envoy on Iran, has engaged in several face-to-face meetings with Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations.

Quoting "two sources with direct knowledge of the talks," the Middle East Eye added, "Iran and the United States are nearing a temporary deal that would swap some sanctions relief for reducing Iranian uranium enrichment activities." The Iranian MP said, "To have Iran's frozen assets unblocked, the U.S. seeks to get nuclear concessions from Iran, and this runs counter to the law and national interests of Iran."

According to the Middle East Eye, "Under the terms of the deal, Iran would commit to ceasing its 60 percent-and-beyond uranium enrichment activities and would continue its cooper-

ation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the monitoring and verification of its nuclear program."

Tavangar also said the U.S. is still trying to "drag Iran into official direct talks".

Iran has cautioned the United States that the window of opportunity for an agreement on reviving the nuclear deal will not remain open forever, urging Washington to adopt a constructive approach to salvage the accord. Iran showed to the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with six world states — namely the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia, and China. However, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in May 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo.

Negotiations between the parties to the landmark agreement kicked off in Vienna in April 2021, with the intention of bringing the U.S. back into the deal and putting an end to its "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. The discussions, however, have been at a standstill since August 2022 due to Washington's insistence on not lifting all of its anti-Iran sanctions and not offering the necessary guarantees that it will not exit the agreement again.

## Peaceful coexistence...

Abdeljalil Ben Salem, the former president of Tunisia's Ez-Zitouna University, highlighted that any division within the Islamic world based on the Qur'an is unacceptable and detrimental to the realization of Islamic civilization.

He said there are encouraging signs of convergence among Islamic nations, such as the recent détente in political relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Ben Salem insisted that political leaders must come together now more than ever, recognizing that strong unity is

vital for success.

Ahmad Qashlan, a distinguished professor of jurisprudence at Syria's Bilad Al Sham University, regarded the gathering of Shia and Sunni scholars as a major step toward achieving Islamic unity. In his view, it is essential to foster mutual respect between various Islamic sects while being mindful of the rights of others. Qashlan's emphasis on inclusivity and tolerance resonated well with the conference participants, who were eager to explore ways to promote greater understanding and coop-

eration among Muslims worldwide.

Women's role  
should be increased

In her speech, Zhaleh Heidari Moqaddam, a prominent Iranian lecturer, shed light on the exalted position of women in Islam. She lamented that over time, women's role in society has been marginalized, but she expressed hope that events such as this conference would lead to a positive change.

Moqaddam also suggested that educational programs be designed with the goal of

training more female scholars, so that women can assume roles as jurists, politicians, economists, and other fields. She encouraged Muslim women to expand their jurisprudential thinking and intellectual capabilities.

Abdul Rahman Mohammadpour, a lecturer of religious sciences, cautioned that unless thinkers, artists, and academics accurately depict the true nature of Islam, some people might present themselves as representatives of the faith and, in its name, inflict harm upon fellow Muslims.

Dialogue best way to  
achieve convergence

In an interview with Iran

Daily, Mostafa Zolfaghar-Talab, the chair of the Peaceful Coexistence conference, elucidated on the event's objectives. He highlighted the aim of deepening the notion of convergence and unity among Islamic nations, while also emphasizing the pivotal role of women in Islamic societies.

According to Zolfaghar-Talab, women possess the potential to foster greater convergence among Islamic countries and promote the elevation of Islamic civilization.

He placed great emphasis on highlighting the religious commonalities shared by Muslims, recognizing that a focus on differences and

distinctions would only hinder efforts toward achieving collective progress.

In his opinion, dialogue and interaction serve as the most effective means of attaining convergence within the Islamic world, as they are rooted in the rational principles espoused by the Prophet of Islam.

He further added that it is imperative to create opportunities for dialogue and interaction amongst Islamic elites, as well as between different nations, parties, and groups. One-sided perspectives or approaches to complex issues, he warned, can ultimately lead to greater divergence and disharmony.



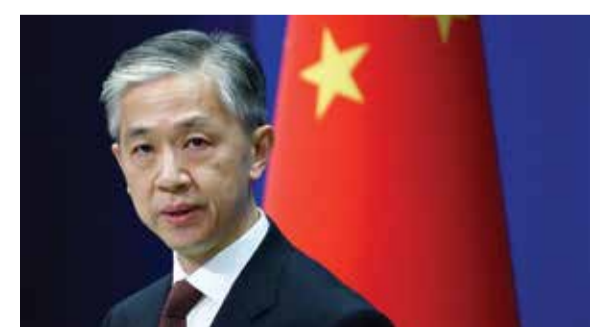
Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## China urges U.S., UK ...

The Chinese foreign minister then urged the U.S., UK, and

**Page 1 >** Australia to earnestly fulfill their international obligations on nuclear non-proliferation and stop double standard and political manipulation. "We call for joint efforts by all the member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to advance an open, inclusive, transparent, and sustainable inter-governmental discussion process to firmly defend the international nuclear non-proliferation system, uphold the in-



ternational order underpinned by international law, and advance peace and security in the world." At the same time, Wenbin expressed hope that the IAEA Secretariat will

follow through the IAEA Statute and its mandate from member states, fulfill its non-proliferation duty, and help advance the inter-governmental discussion process.