

Kremlin: Iran's nuclear program to be subject of future Russia-US talks

International Desk

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that future talks between Russia and the United States would include discussions on Iran's nuclear program; a subject it said had been "touched upon" in an initial round of US-Russia talks last month. "So far, there is only an understanding that the Russian position really is that the issue of Iran's nuclear dossier should be solved exclusively by peaceful political and diplomatic means," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "We believe that there is potential for this, because Iran is our ally, our partner, and a country with which we are developing comprehensive, mutually beneficial and mutually respectful relations, and Russia is ready to do everything possible for this. The United States is aware of this."

Also on Tuesday, the Kremlin spokesman expressed Russia's readiness to help Iran and the US resolve their disputes through negotiations.

On Tuesday, Bloomberg reported that Russia has agreed to assist US President Donald Trump's ad-

ministration in communicating with Iran on various issues, including on Tehran's nuclear program and alleged support for regional anti-US groups.

The Kremlin has not confirmed that, but has made clear that Iran is now one of the subjects that will be discussed in more details by Washington and Moscow.

Peskov said on Wednesday that the subject of Iran was touched upon during Russia-US talks in Saudi Arabia on February 18.

Asked specifically about the Bloomberg report, Peskov said: "Look, the topic of Iran was on the agenda, it was touched upon, but at the same time, not in detail."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov made a one-day visit to Tehran last week and held talks with Iranian officials over a range of issues, including Iran's nuclear program.

In 2015, Iran reached a nuclear deal with Britain, Germany, France, the United States, Russia and China, which is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The US quit the agreement in 2018, during Donald Trump's first term as US president, and Iran

began moving away from its nuclear-related commitments under the deal.

The US unilateral withdrawal from the agreement and re-imposition of sanctions removed under the deal left the future of the JCPOA in limbo.

However, Iran has been trying to revive the JCPOA during the past years and has held several rounds of talks with the European parties to the deal, which their non-compliance to the agreement had a great impact on the implementation of the agreement.

There have been speculations on new negotiations between Tehran and Washington on Iran's peaceful nuclear program in recent months, especially after Trump's return to power in the United States in January.

However, Trump's language of threats and imposition of sanctions against Iran have made Iranian officials skeptical of negotiations with the US.

Trump last month restored his "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran which includes efforts to drive its oil exports down to zero. Iranian officials say that negotiations under pressure are not meaningful.

Iran marks National Arbor Day Leader calls on Iranians to join tree planting movement

National Desk

Iranian officials including Leader of the Islamic Revolution, president and the parliament's speaker planted saplings on Wednesday to mark the National Tree Planting Day.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called on all people to actively participate in a tree planting movement that started during the previous government as he planted saplings on Wednesday.

Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the environmental and economic benefits of the move, describing it as a "profitable investment, forward-thinking action, and a means of wealth generation."

The initiative to plant one billion trees over four years, which began last year, is practical and government institutions must help materialization of the goal, the Leader said.

Describing his move as symbolic, the Leader stressed that, "Planting trees is not just for young people but all people of different ages should show enthusiasm for this important, great, necessary and beautiful work"

President Masoud Pezeshkian also marked the day by planting saplings at the presidential compound. Pezeshkian said that clean air and a healthy atmosphere is possible if "we try to protect our living envi-



President Masoud Pezeshkian plants three saplings at the presidential compound to mark the National Arbor Day on March 5, 2025.
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ronment, prevent its destruction, and develop green environment." The president further expressed hope that the people's participation in the move will help improve environment for themselves and their progeny.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Tehran's mayor Alireza Zakani also participated in the symbolic move elsewhere in Tehran.

National Tree Planting Day is annually celebrated on the fifteenth day of Esfand, the last month on the Iranian calendar. The day also marks the beginning of the National Week of Natural Resources.

Iranians have always paid special attention to nature. They believe planting saplings will make the world a better place to live in for us, our children and the generations to come.

Araghchi: Foreign dependence will only lead to loss of national sovereignty



Abbas Araghchi
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said dependence on other countries for security will only lead to instability and loss of national sovereignty, stressing that Iran has made a "conscious choice" to preserve its independence, for which it is paying the price.

Araghchi made the comments in an op-ed published by the Persian-language Ettela'at daily on Wednesday.

In the article, Iran's top diplomat touched on the "chaotic atmosphere" marked by US President Donald Trump's disastrous Oval Office meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky last week. Trump's first meeting with Ukraine's president in the White House turned into a showdown over issues related to the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. Trump claims that the US under former president Joe Biden has sent \$350 billion to help Ukraine in the war.

Since taking office in January, Trump, whose country has been the main supporter of Ukraine in its war against Russia, has been trying to force Kiev to sign a minerals deal with Washington in exchange for the US military support in the future.

"One of the key messages of this controversy is the shift in Ukraine's

position in the power equation. In the early days of the war, Zelensky relied more than ever on Western aid. But today, in the heart of the White House, he stands before the US president and delivers a sharp response," he wrote.

"This is a sign that even countries that have enjoyed Washington's support for years are no longer willing to be looked down upon. Ukraine, whether as an independent actor or as a pawn on the chessboard of global powers, has now shown that even small allies pay a price for their dignity and standing."

Iran, Araghchi wrote, is "carefully and prudently scrutinizing the turmoil in international politics which is always detrimental to global stability and security."

"Unlike many actors who are engaged in verbal tensions and

quick-tempered policies, Iran has always emphasized principles centered on independence, mutual respect, and avoiding engaging in unconstructive discourses.

"But Iran's independence is not an accident or the result of imposed circumstances; rather, it has been a conscious choice, a strategic decision, and an unchangeable principle in the country's foreign policy," the minister added.

Unlike some countries that have sought their security and stability in dependence on foreign powers, Araghchi wrote, Iran has long understood that dependence will only lead to instability and loss of national sovereignty.

"Real security does not come from the support of extra-regional powers, but from domestic capability, reliance on national capacities, and

reliance on the people," he said.

"Hence, Iran has chosen a different path; a path in which the fate of the country does not depend on the decisions of others, and policies are shaped based on national interests, not in the shadow of foreign advice." Preserving independence, however, comes at a price that Iran has always paid for, Araghchi said.

"From the early days of the Islamic Revolution, economic pressures, sanctions, military threats, and proxy wars were all designed to turn Iran into a subordinate actor in the international system," he said.

Contrary to the predictions of ill-wishers, Iran stood firm and showed that it not only does not give in to pressure, but also continues its path of development and progress by relying on its domestic capacities, Araghchi said.

Pezeshkian stresses consolidation of global ties as Iranian envoys' main duties

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called introducing the country's capabilities and strengthening relations with the world as the main duties of Iran's representatives and ambassadors in other countries.

Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's new envoy to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Vienna Raza Najafi, new Ambassador in Nicaragua Ramin Zare as well as new Ambassador in Slovenia Marzieh Afkham.

He said efforts to introduce the country's capacities, strengthen our country's economic, political, cultural, scientific and academic ties with the world, remove obstacles and pave the way for foreign trade are among the most important duties of Iran's representatives and ambassadors in international forums and other countries.

He underlined that his government seeks maximum inter-



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action with all countries based on mutual respect, avoiding differences, and developing global peace and security. Pezeshkian called on the envoys to do their utmost to clarify the consequences of the oppressive US sanctions against the Iranian nation, and to show the truth about Iran.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

