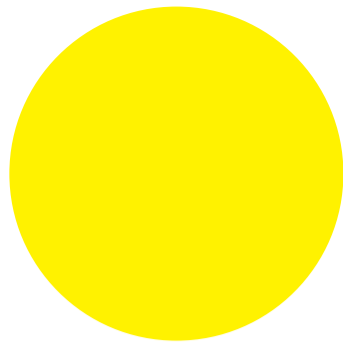


Pezeshkian urges joint effort to fight terrorism in calls with Modi, Sharif

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Massive blast hits key port in southern Iran

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Thick, black smoke rises as rescuers arrive near the source of an explosion at the Shahid Rajaei port dock southwest of Bandar Abbas in the Iranian province of Hormozgan on April 26, 2025.
● IRNA

Iran-US talks grow 'more serious' as both sides resolute for deal: Iranian FM

US official calls meeting 'positive, productive'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday Iran-US talks over Tehran's nuclear program had become "more serious" with both sides demonstrating willpower to strike deal despite "serious disputes" emerging in the expert-level negotiations. Iran and the United States held a third round of talks in the Oma-

ni capital Muscat where negotiators discussed what Araghchi described as "more detailed and more technical" issues regarding the Iranian nuclear work. The talks, which began April 12, saw experts led by chief negotiators Araghchi and his US counterpart Steve Witkoff exchanging messages via Omani intermediaries during latest round.
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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (back row-1st R) is seen discussing with his accompanying delegation ahead of indirect nuclear talks with the United States in the Omani capital of Muscat on April 26, 2025.
● ISNA

Iran can help build bridges between India, Pakistan

By Mashallah Shakeri
Iran's former ambassador to Pakistan

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The tragic incident that took place on April 22 in Indian-administered Kashmir's Pahalgam was deeply unfortunate. The attack left 26 people dead, including foreigners and Indian nationals. Regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or gender, this

incident is a tragic event that is condemned. Questions remain regarding the motive of the perpetrators behind the attack and whether any governments were involved. On the ground, however, tensions have been spiraling between India and Pakistan, as New Delhi blames the attack on Islamabad.

It is important to note that the current situation is not related to the longstanding conflict between the two sides. Three wars have taken place between these two countries, which have many on-

going disputes, including border conflicts. Actions taken by both nations in the disputed Kashmir region are regularly challenged by the opposing side. Therefore, the potential for escalating tensions between these two nations has always existed, and the incident in Pahalgam has sparked a fury that has been bottled up, leading to heated rhetoric and harsh words exchanged. Considering the region is already not in a normal situation, it is hoped that these tensions will subside.
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'National Carpet Center' revived in Iran's Industry Ministry

Hand-woven Persian rugs victim of political rivalries

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Persian Gulf Pro League: Last-gasp winner sends Tractor five points clear

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Archaeologists examine excavated artifacts from historical Shiraz

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Caring Cities in a Divided World

By Jordi Vaquer, Secretary General of Metropolis, the World Association of Major Metropolises



Since 1985 Metropolis, the World Association of Major Metropolises, has been for the large cities of the World a space to meet and exchange their experiences in improving the quality of big city life. Our organization, which counts on the active participation of Mashhad and other Iranian cities, is a microcosm of international relations, but also a space that brings hope for a divided, violent, unequal and ecologically devastated planet, a world where national governments struggle to address global crises and, instead, often add to the global disfunction. However agitated international and domestic political affairs may be, city governments cannot afford to lose sight of the medium term, and even long term. When a large city plans the expansion of its sewage system, its future water supply, or the construction of a metro system, the next news cycle, or even the next election, are almost irrelevant timeframes. Even ten years are a short period of time in the making of a city: for serious planning of the main systems that sustain it, a full generation, 25 years, is probably the minimum relevant scale. Thus, in a world of immediacy and of frequent crises, city administrations are forced to think long term and to engage in foresight, plan future scenarios and anticipate future events. Unsurprisingly, therefore, cities are also some of the most creative and innovative political players. The big cities of the World are often pioneering ideas that, years later, become established in the political mainstream. Climate Change is the most obvious example, a topic where national governments have failed terribly, while local governments take the initiative and act. Local administrations are tireless innovators, often learning and sharing with international counterparts. For example, in the crucial first weeks of the COVID-19 emergency large cities used intensively their international connections to learn from their peers. From refugee and migrant inclusion to the challenges of demographic transitions, from the use of data and artificial intelligence to food security, emergency preparedness or water scarcity, cities innovate and move forward global agendas, while remaining close to citizens and their needs. One concept that has entered international urban debates with force is that of Caring Cities. The pandemic shed light on the essential role played by caregivers, both paid professionals and unpaid, usually women in the family context. We all have needed, need, and will need care in our lives, but the immense benefits to individuals and societies of care work (for children, sick or disabled people, dependent aged people, and even for fully functional adults) are often taken for granted, undervalued and unrecognized, and most care work is badly paid or not paid at all. In all regions of the world, the overwhelming majority of care work is done by women. Some Latin American cities, such as Bogotá, Mexico City or Montevideo, acted with a new level of ambition to support caregivers and transform care into a central element of how cities are planned. By organizing social services and mobility to support caregivers, and creating direct support that allows them to improve their wellbeing, complete their education and enter the job market, cities allow hundreds of thousands of caregivers, mostly women, to recover time for themselves, to achieve economic autonomy, and to participate fully in the live of their family, their community and their city. The examples from Latin America have inspired cities from West Africa to Turkey, from Southern Europe to Korea, who are building their own versions of caring cities. In a world of geopolitical confrontation, environmental degradation, extreme inequality and media controversy, it is my privilege as Secretary General of Metropolis to see cities show a different, much needed leadership, caring for the people and for the planet. Pragmatic urban collaboration is not impeded by the global fault lines that crisscross our planet and, instead, I witness every day in my job the potential of city-to-city sharing and learning to deliver solutions. The World's leaders should take note.

