

Araghchi: Trump's anti-Iran speech in Riyadh 'deceptive'

US president upbeat as talks 'going to work out'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday rejected US president's claims about lack of progress in Iran as "deceptive," blaming Washington's decades of sanctions for Iran's economic problems. Speaking at an investment summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Tuesday, the US President Donald Trump contrasted Iran's economic situation with that of Saudi Arabia. "While you have been constructing the world's tallest skyscrapers in Jeddah and Dubai, Tehran's 1979 landmarks are collapsing into rubble and they had it going for a little while under a much different system but those buildings are largely falling apart" Trump claimed. "Iran's decades of neglect and mismanagement have left the country plagued by rolling blackouts lasting for hours a day ... While your skill has turned dry deserts into fertile farmland, Iran's leaders have managed to turn green farmland into dry deserts as their corrupt water mafia ... causes droughts and empty river beds." Araghchi said what Trump "stated about the desire of the countries of the region to enjoy a path of progress and prosperity is, in fact, the same path that the Iranian people chose

with their revolution and took it to have an independent, democratic, free, prosperous, and advanced country".

"It is the US that has prevented the progress of the Iranian nation through its own sanctions over the past forty-odd years, with its own pressures, and with military and civilian threats. Araghchi touched on Trump's renewed threat "to inflict massive maximum pressure" on Iran and portraying it as a "source of insecurity" in his address to the Saudi-American investment forum in Riyadh.

Reversal of source of threats

"The US president has ignored all of Israel's crimes in the region and is seeking to portray Iran as a threat; this is pure deception and a reversal of the source of threats," he said. "Who has caused this much destruction in Gaza? Which regime attacks the areas surrounding Palestine, including Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen? The extent of the occupation carried out by the Zionist regime in Syria in recent months is greater than the entire area of Gaza," Araghchi said. Trump's rhetoric came as Iran and the US have launched negotiations to settle a decades-old dispute on Iran's nuclear program.

The have held four rounds of talks

mediated by Oman.

Iran's foreign minister said the fourth round of Iran-US talks held on May 11 was "difficult" as they focused on the issue of enrichment, adding he hoped the US side would come with "more realistic positions" after gaining a better understanding of Iran's fundamental positions.

Next round of talks

A fifth round of talks is to be announced by Oman's Foreign Ministry, which has acted as a mediator since the start of the talks in April. Iran's top diplomat also explained that his recent trip to Saudi Arabia and Qatar was related to the nuclear negotiations, saying Tehran keeps its neighbors informed and seeks a regional understanding regarding a potential agreement with the US. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud said on Wednesday that Riyadh fully supports the nuclear talks and hopes for positive results. Donald Trump, who is on a four-day trip in the Persian Gulf region, voiced hope on Wednesday that diplomatic efforts for a nuclear deal with Iran would succeed, after he held talks with Qatar's emir. "I have a feeling it's going to work out," Trump said in Doha.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi talks with reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting in Tehran on May 14, 2025.
IRNA

Regional partnership to enrich uranium

Meanwhile a report by The Guardian said that Iran has floated the idea of a consortium of Middle Eastern countries – including Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – to enrich uranium, in an effort to overcome US objections to its continued enrichment program. Tehran views the proposal as a concession, since it would be giving neighboring states access to its technological knowledge and making them stakehold-

ers in the process.

The consortium idea was first proposed by former Iranian nuclear negotiator Seyed Hossein Mousavian and Princeton physicist Frank von Hippel long before the current Tehran-Washington talks, in a widely read October 2023 article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The US has demanded that Iran end enrichment and dismantle all its nuclear facilities.

Iran has repeatedly announced that the issue of uranium enrichment is absolutely non-negotiable.

Iran to hold talks with Europeans on Friday: *FM spox*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Wednesday that Iran will hold a fresh round of nuclear talks with European powers in Turkey later this week. The talks with Britain, France and Germany would be held in Istanbul on Friday, Baqaei said. French diplomatic sources gave the same information, but there was still no word from Berlin or London on the meeting which was originally slated for earlier this month but postponed. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the talks would be held "at the level of deputy foreign ministers." The European nations – known as the E3 – were among the world powers that negotiated the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal along with China, Russia and the United States. Donald Trump, in his first term as president, effectively torpedoed

the accord in 2018 by unilaterally withdrawing the United States. Since returning to office in January, Trump has revived his "maximum pressure" campaign on Tehran, backing nuclear diplomacy but warning of military action if it fails. Iran has held several meetings on the nuclear issue with the E3 since late last year – most recently in February in Geneva – ahead of indirect negotiations with Washington that began on April 12. "While we continue the dialogue with the United States, we are also ready to talk with the Europeans," Araghchi said. "Unfortunately, the Europeans themselves have become somewhat isolated in these negotiations with their own policies," he added. "We do not want such a situation and that's why we have continued our negotiations" with them, he said. Friday's meeting will follow the latest round of Oman-mediated Iran-US talks on Sunday, which Tehran

described as "difficult but useful" while a US official said Washington was "encouraged." European governments have recently threatened to trigger the "snapback" mechanism under the 2015 deal, which would reinstate UN sanctions in response to Iranian non-compliance – an option that expires in October. Following the US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018, relations between Iran and Europe began to deteriorate due to the Europe's failure to fulfill its commitments under the agreement. Iran's foreign minister in an article published by French weekly Le Point said the snapback mechanism had designed as a last-resort dispute tool and now wielded as diplomatic leverage. "This strategy of confrontation risks provoking a global nuclear proliferation crisis that would primarily affect Europeans themselves," Araghchi warned the European countries.

Israeli airstrikes kill 80 people in Gaza

International Desk

Israeli airstrikes pounded northern and southern Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 80 people, including almost two dozen children a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there was "no way" he would halt Israel's offensive in the Palestinian territory before Hamas is defeated. Nearly 60 people, including 22 children, were killed in strikes around Jabaliya in northern Gaza alone, according to hospitals and Gaza's Health Ministry. Israel's military refused to comment on the strikes. It warned Jabaliya residents to evacuate late Tuesday, claiming militant infrastructure in the area, including rocket launchers. In comments released by Netanyahu's office Tuesday, the prime minister said Israeli forces were days away from a promised escalation of force and would enter Gaza "with great strength to complete the mission ... It means destroying Hamas." Israeli media reported that one target in a strike on a hospital in Khan Younis on Tuesday was Mohammed Sinwar, younger brother of the late Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who was killed by Israeli forces last October. Mohammed Sinwar is believed to be Hamas' top military leader in Gaza. Israel has tried to assassinate him multiple times over the past

decades.

International food security experts warned earlier this week that Gaza will likely fall into famine if Israel doesn't lift its blockade and stop its military campaign. Nearly half a million Palestinians are facing possible starvation while 1 million others can barely get enough food, according to findings by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a leading international authority on the severity of hunger crises. French President Emmanuel Macron strongly denounced Netanyahu's decision to block aid as "a disgrace" that has caused a major humanitarian crisis. "I say it forcefully, what Benjamin Netanyahu's government is doing today is unacceptable," Macron said Tuesday evening on TF1 national television. "There's no medicine. We can't get the wounded out. Doctors can't get in." Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni also said Wednesday the humanitarian situation in Gaza was "ever more dramatic and unjustifiable", stressing she had repeatedly urged Israel to find a way to end the conflict. Doctors Without Borders slammed Israel Wednesday for creating a "deliberate humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza and accused it of trying to make aid conditional on forced displacement of Palestinians.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran to sue Google over fake misnomer for Persian Gulf

The National Virtual Space Center will take legal action against Google and other international platforms over the distortion of the historical name of the Persian Gulf, the center's spokesman said. Hossein Dalirian said that the issue will be followed up through international legal channels, describing it as a deliberate falsification of a well-established geographical and historical fact, IRNA reported. Dalirian emphasized that "Persian Gulf" has been consistently used for thousands of years in historical doc-

uments, maps, and treaties, and recognized by authoritative institutions such as the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names under UN ECOSOC Resolution 715. He further said that Iran considers the use of fake names a violation of its national identity and a breach of Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The center will soon host a legal consultation session to assess the issue with legal experts and representatives from relevant government bodies, he added.



The move has drawn strong reactions from the Iranian public, officials and even some international figures.