

# Araghchi: Oman’s proposed solutions could be ‘helpful’ in US talks

Negotiations ‘too complicated’ but on ‘reasonable path’

International Desk

Iran’s foreign minister said on Friday that Oman had suggested solutions that could be helpful in nuclear negotiations between Iran and the US as the two countries concluded their fifth round of talks in Rome. Speaking with Iran’s state TV shortly after the end of negotiations, Abbas Araghchi described the Friday’s talks as one of the “most professional rounds of negotiations” which are aimed at resolving a longstanding dispute on Iran’s nuclear program. Araghchi, who leads the Iranian negotiating team in the talks mediated by Oman, said that Iran’s delegation once again declared the positions and principles of Iran regarding the negotiations. “Our positions are completely clear and we firmly stand by them. We now think that there is a better understanding of these positions on the American side”, he added. The Iranian foreign minister said that Omani Foreign Minister Badr

Al-Busaidi presented some proposals aimed at removing obstacles and paving the way for progress in the negotiations, adding that it was agreed that further expert work would be carried out by both sides on the solutions and will be conveyed to the respective capitals. He noted that Tehran and Washington would present their views on the proposals and then the next round of negotiations will be arranged. Iran’s top diplomat expressed hope that in the next round of talks, Tehran and Washington will be able to go into some detail.

‘Complicated negotiations’

“The negotiations are too complicated to be resolved in two or three meetings,” said Araghchi. “But the fact that we’re now on a reasonable path, in my view, is a step forward in itself.” Oman’s foreign minister said on X that the fifth round of negotiations concluded “with some but not conclusive progress,” adding that he



Members of the Iranian delegation arrive at the Omani embassy in Rome for a fifth round of nuclear talks between Iran and the United States on May 23, 2025. ● AFP

hoped “the remaining issues” will be clarified in the coming days. The fourth round of talks, in the Omani capital Muscat, ended with a public spat over Iran’s uranium enrichment. US top negotiator Steve Witkoff said Washington “could not authorize even one percent” enrichment – a position Tehran called a red line, citing its rights under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ahead of Friday’s talks, Araghchi said “fundamental differences” remained with the US, while adding that Tehran was open to its nuclear sites undergoing more inspections. “We will not have an agreement at all” if the US wants to prevent Iran from enriching uranium, he said. The Atomic Energy Organization of



Iran (AEOI) says the country’s nuclear industry employs 17,000 people, similar to other countries where uranium is enriched for civilian use. “The Netherlands, Belgium, South Korea, Brazil and Japan enrich (ura-

nium) without possessing nuclear weapons,” AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said. US President Donald Trump has threatened Iran with military attack if no agreement is reached.

## Iran’s Armed Forces vow firm response to any hostile act

National Desk

Iran’s General Staff of the Armed Forces in a statement on Friday warned that the country’s military would respond “with strength and authority” to any threat or hostile act against Iran. The statement came on the occasion of the anniversary of liberation of Iran’s southwestern city of Khorramshahr from the forces of Iraq’s Ba’ath regime in 1982. The statement said the arrogant powers incited Iraq’s former dic-

tator Saddam Hussein to impose an eight-year war on Iran. “The outcome of this aggression was nothing but defeat, disgrace, and humiliation for them, and honor and pride for our beloved country,” the statemen added. “Today, as well, the United States has once again fallen into a miscalculation.” Blaming the US for inciting tensions in the region, the statement accused the American President Donald Trump of attempting to provoke Iran’s neighboring countries and revive failed policies of

“Iranophobia” to gain financial and political advantage. “The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic will respond decisively and powerfully to any threat or hostile action targeting the values of the Islamic Revolution,” the statement read. It also warned that any further American “interference” in the region would have consequences similar to the US experiences in Vietnam and Afghanistan. The statement urged US leaders to reflect on Iran’s history of resilience and avoid further missteps.

## Pakistani PM Sharif due in Tehran on Sunday

International Desk

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to visit Iran as part of a four-nation tour which will also take him to Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan from May 25 to 30. According to Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the tour offers an opportunity for the prime minister to express gratitude for the support shown to

Pakistan by friendly nations during its recent diplomatic tensions with India. A deadly April 22 attack on Indian tourists in Kashmir triggered four days of exchange of fire between India and Pakistan, which claimed the lives of more than 70 people. During the visits, Pakistan’s prime minister is expected to hold high-level discussions with the leadership of each country on a broad range of issues, in-

cluding bilateral ties, regional developments, and international affairs. Prime Minister Sharif’s visit will include detailed discussions on regional security, the global political climate, and strategies for long-term cooperation. According to IRNA, Sherif will visit Iran on Sunday. Sharif is also slated to participate in the International Conference on Glaciers in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on May 29–30.

## Yemen says anti-Israel operation ‘successfully achieved its goal’

International Desk

Yemen’s Armed Forces said in a statement that its latest missile attack on the Israeli-occupied territories “successfully achieved its goal.” In a statement, the Armed Forces’ spokesman Yahya Saree said the “operation successfully achieved its goal, causing millions of occupying Zionists to rush to shelters and bringing the airport to a standstill.” The missiles triggered sirens in several areas, the Israeli military said, adding that it had intercepted a missile launched from Yemen towards Israel early on Thursday, prompting suspension of flights at Ben Gurion Airport. Hours later, a second missile was in-

tercepted, again forcing a temporary suspension of flights at the airport. Yemen also said it had launched drones at targets in Tel Aviv and Haifa. More than a million Israeli settlers went into bomb shelters when the first missile was targeted, Israeli media reported. Operations at Ben Gurion were temporarily halted, and several flights were delayed in the air. Israel’s Magen David Adom emergency service said there were no casualties from either launch, though one man was hurt while seeking shelter from the first. Yemen’s Armed Forces have repeatedly fired missiles and drones at Israel in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

Earlier this month, a missile launched from Yemen landed near Ben Gurion Airport, injuring several people after failure of the occupying regime’s air defenses. Yemen paused their attacks during a two-month cease-fire that ended in March, but resumed them after Israel restarted its campaign in Gaza. Yemen’s Armed Forces warned Monday they would impose a “naval blockade” on the Israeli port of Haifa after the occupation army intensified its offensive in Gaza. Israel has carried out retaliatory strikes against Yemen, including one on May 6 that damaged Yemen’s main airport in Sana’a, and others last week that hit the Red Sea ports of Hodeida and Salif.

## FM spox: New sanctions impugn US seriousness in nuclear talks

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on Friday that new US sanctions announced ahead of the fifth round of indirect talks between the two sides cast doubt on Washington’s seriousness to follow the path of diplomacy. Baqaei made the remarks in an X post on Friday, two days after the US State Department said people or entities that provide Iran with certain construction-related materials will face sanctions. In a statement, the US Department of State claimed on Wednesday that it had found Iran’s construction sector was controlled by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and that it had identified another 10 strategic materials now subject to US sanctions. “With these determinations, the United States has broader sanctions authorities to prevent Iran from acquiring strategic materials for its construction sector under IRGC control and its proliferation programs,” it said in a statement. The 10 materials include austenitic nickel-chromium alloy, magnesium ingots, sodium perchlorate, tungsten copper and certain aluminum sheets and tubes, among others, it said. The Iranian Foreign Ministry’s spokesman condemned the coercive US measures as “outrageous” and “unlawful and inhuman,” saying the bans are “no less than crimes



against humanity” as they deprive Iranians of their basic human rights. “The US’s consecutive rounds of sanctions only reinforce our people’s deeply-held belief that the American decision makers are set to make every malign effort to hinder Iran’s development & progress,” he added. “These sanctions, announced on the eve of the fifth round of Iran-US indirect talks, further put to question the American willingness & seriousness for diplomacy.” Baqaei also expressed the Iranian nation’s resolve to “remain steadfast and strong” in the face of US animosity and hostile measures. The remarks came hours before the fifth round of Iran-US indirect negotiations, which was held in the Italian capital of Rome. Since taking office in January, US President Donald Trump has imposed several rounds of sanctions on Iran in order to pressure Tehran to sign a nuclear agreement with Washington.

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