

# Leader hopes for settlement of India-Pakistan disputes

*Sharif: Islamabad upholds Tehran's right to peaceful nuclear energy*

## International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Monday expressed hope for the settlement of differences between Pakistan and India, which once again bubbled up following a recent military conflict between the two neighboring countries. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Tehran – the second leg of his four-nation tour which began with Turkey and will take him to Azerbaijan and Tajikistan. The Leader expressed his satisfaction with the end of the military conflict between Pakistan and India, which was triggered by an April 22 attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir, in which 26 tourists were killed. India blamed Pakistan for the attack and launched an operation on its neighbor, which provoked Islamabad's retaliation. More than 70 people were killed during the clashes that began on May 7 and lasted for four days. However, both sides reached

a cease-fire agreement on May 10 following the brief period of hostilities. Earlier in the day, the Pakistani prime minister in a joint press conference with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian underlined that Islamabad wants peace. "We pursue peace through dialogue; we are willing to resolve issues such as Kashmir through dialogue and in accordance with the resolutions of the (UN) Security Council." He also appreciated Pezeshkian's expression of concern at the height of the recent military confrontation between Pakistan and India. "I appreciate your brotherly feelings towards the people of Pakistan," Sharif told Pezeshkian. During the joint press conference on Monday, Pezeshkian said Tehran welcomes the establishment of the cease-fire and peace between Pakistan and India. "Undoubtedly, resolving disputes through dialogue and peaceful ways is a prerequisite for sustainable development and guarantees security at the national, re-

gional, and international levels" Pezeshkian said.

## Iran's peaceful nuclear energy

The Pakistani prime minister also said on Monday that Islamabad fully supports Iran's right to use peaceful nuclear energy, as the Islamic Republic is engaged in negotiations with the US on its nuclear program. He also described as "constructive" a joint meeting earlier held between the high-ranking Iranian and Pakistani delegations, saying that, "We are seeking to reach agreements in the field of trade and economic cooperation with our neighboring country, Iran." Pezeshkian also referred to the joint meeting, saying that Iran and Pakistan emphasized the expansion of political, economic, cultural, and international cooperation in the meeting. The Iranian president also strongly condemned the continuation of the Israel's crimes against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the silence of some Western



countries on the issue and their support for the Israeli regime. "We call on all Islamic countries to adopt

a unified and decisive position in full support of the oppressed people of Palestine and Gaza," he said.

## No interim nuclear deal with US on agenda: Foreign Ministry

*Pezeshkian asserts Iran's survival despite possible failure of talks*

## International Desk

Iran ruled out media reports that it has agreed with an interim nuclear deal and suspension of uranium enrichment for three years to reach an agreement with the US on its nuclear program. Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei dismissed in his weekly press conference that a provisional agreement was being considered as a temporary step towards a final deal during the latest round of negotiations, which was held in Italy on Friday. Asked about reports that Iran could freeze enrichment for three years, Baqaei said, "Iran will never accept that." Iran is waiting for further details from mediator Oman regarding the timing of the sixth round of talks, he said. "If there is goodwill from the American side, we are also optimistic, but if negotiations are aimed at curbing Iran's rights, then talks will get nowhere," he added. The uranium enrichment has come into focus in recent weeks, with Iran staunchly defending its right to enrich uranium as part of its civilian nuclear program, while the United States wants it to stop. US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, who is leading the talks for Washington, said the United States "could not authorize even one percent" of enrichment by Iran. Iran insists it has the right to a civilian

nuclear program, including for energy, and considers the US demand a red line that violates the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to which it is a signatory. The negotiations, which began in April, are the highest-level contact between the two sides since the United States quit a landmark 2015 nuclear accord during US President Donald Trump's first term. Since returning to office, Trump has revived his "maximum pressure" campaign on the Islamic republic, backing diplomacy but warning of military action if it fails. Following the latest round of Omani-mediated talks in Rome, Iran's foreign minister and lead negotiator Abbas Araghchi downplayed the progress, stressing, "The negotiations are too complicated to be resolved in two or three meetings."

## 'Very, very good' talks

But on Sunday Trump said the ongoing discussions had been "very, very good." "I think we could have some good news on the Iran front," he said, adding that an announcement could come "over the next two days." "I don't know if I'll be telling you anything good or bad over the next two days, but I have a feeling I might be telling you something good," he said. No date has yet been set for the next talks, according to Iran's Foreign Ministry. Abbas Araghchi on Sunday described



the negotiations as a "battle of wills," saying that the talks will yield results once the rights of the Iranian people are secured. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting with the members of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, the Iranian foreign minister said Tehran is neither in any rush to reach an agreement with the US nor causing delays in the talks. However, he said that the officials will do their utmost to lift sanctions as soon as possible but not at the expense of Iranians' rights. President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that Iran would be able to survive if negotiations fail to secure a deal. "It's not like we will die of hunger if they refuse to negotiate with us or impose sanctions," Pezeshkian said. "We will find a way to survive." Pezeshkian said Iran is "more powerful than ever" thanks to its scientists and elites, adding that if the Islamic Republic is sanctioned instead of engaged in diplomacy, it has "hundreds" of effective alternatives ready.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza kill over 50 in school-turned-shelter, home

*Iran: Attacks on refugee camps clear example of war crime*

## International Desk

Israeli attacks on northern Gaza killed more than 50 people on Monday as attacks on civilian infrastructure are rising amid the regime's intensified offensive on the Palestinian territory. Among the targets hit was a school sheltering displaced people in Gaza City and a family home in Jabalia, according to Palestinian Civil Defense officials. At least 33 people were killed in an attack in the middle of the night on the Fahmi al-Jarjawi school in the Daraj neighborhood of Gaza City, Civil Defense spokesman Mahmud Bassal told the AFP news agency. The school had been sheltering "hundreds" of people, Bassal said, adding that those killed were mostly children and women. Dozens were injured, he added. The Israeli military claimed on Monday that the target of the attack had been a Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad control center. In a separate attack on a residence in the town of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip, 19 members of the Abd Rabbo family were killed, according to Bassal. A nearby tent camp in Gaza City was also targeted, according to unconfirmed reports, killing six people. The attacks came days after an Israeli air strike hit the home of a doctor and killed nine of her 10 children. Nasser hospital said one of Dr Alaa al-Najjar's children and her husband were injured, but survived. Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Monday that the regime's attacks on refugee camps is a clear example of a war crime and in line with the genocide of the Palestinian people. Baqaei said that Israel has intensified its crimes against defenseless Palestinians on a daily basis



due to the silence and lack of effective international action and knows no boundaries in its brutality and violation of international norms. Despite mounting international pressure, which has pushed Israel to lift a blockade on aid supplies in the face of warnings of looming famine, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated last week that Israel would carry out an intensified military campaign until it controls the whole of Gaza. International humanitarian law forbids attacks on civilian infrastructure, including schools. But Israel has repeatedly bombed schools, mostly being used as shelter by displaced people, throughout its 19-month war in Gaza. The Israeli attacks have triggered international criticism, with European and Arab leaders meeting in Spain calling for an end to the "inhumane" and "senseless" war. In Germany, Chancellor Friedrich Merz voiced unusually strong criticism of Israel, saying, "I no longer understand what the Israeli army is now doing in the Gaza Strip, with what goal." The impact on Gazan civilians "can no longer be justified," he added. Nevertheless, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl said Berlin would continue selling weapons to Tel Aviv.

**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist



## Iran, Oman set...

Iran and Oman remain in close contact regarding regional affairs and unfolding developments. The Islamic Republic has consistently welcomed Oman's role as a mediator, viewing Muscat's decades-long policy of neutrality as a stabilizing force in regional and international diplomacy. Oman has stuck to its neutral stance and has managed to pull it off with notable success, often stepping in when tensions flare up between regional players. This has included disputes between Iran and Saudi Arabia, between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, between the UAE and Yemen. Oman also waded into rifts involving Arab states and Qatar, which ended in 2021. Neutrality and diplomatic skills

have made Oman a go-to player in resolving high-stakes regional disputes, something has always been welcomed by Iran. Oman's reputation as a skilled mediator has grown further, as it plays a key role in mediating indirect nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States. President Pezeshkian's trip follows contacts between top Iranian and Omani officials, who have remained in touch amid tensions in West Asia, which have been escalating since the onset of the Gaza war in early October 2023. The Israeli aggression against in the Palestinian territory has been one of the main topics raised in talks between Iranian and Omani officials.

While Muscat has kept a neutral posture in many international crises, it is natural that both the Omani public and leadership, like much of the world, are deeply disturbed by the suffering of the Palestinian people because of Israeli atrocities. Iran, Oman, and numerous other countries have been calling for a cease-fire, but the main obstacle remains the refusal of the Israeli regime to halt its military campaign. Moreover, Israel has outright dismissed the notion of third-party mediation, largely due to the protective umbrella extended by the United States. Such backing has shielded Israel from pressure, giving it the sense that it is immune to international calls for de-escalation.