

Araghchi: Upon US to return to diplomacy by gaining Iran's trust

Japan calls for resumption of Iran-US nuclear talks



Abbas Araghchi

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister said on Monday that it was the United States that



Toshimitsu Motegi

should return to diplomacy by gaining Iran's trust after his Japanese counterpart called for the resumption of nuclear talks between Tehran and Washing-

ton as soon as possible. During a 30-minute phone conversation, Abbas Araghchi and Toshimitsu Motegi discussed a range of issues including bilateral ties, international issues, as well as Iran's nuclear program. The Japanese foreign minister also urged Iran to resume full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). On November 20, Iran canceled a cooperation agreement it had signed with the IAEA in Cairo following the passage of an anti-Iran resolution at the agency's Board of Governors. Iran had earlier suspended cooperation with the IAEA over military strikes by the US and Israel on Iran's nuclear sites in June. Tensions between Tehran and the West have increased in recent months, especially after the three European parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal – Germany, France and Britain – triggered the so-called snapback mechanism embed-

ded in the nuclear agreement on August 28, which led to the reimposition of international sanctions against Iran. They accused Iran of not honoring its obligations under the nuclear deal from which the US unilaterally withdrew in 2018 and the European trio failed to fulfil their commitments. Tehran has repeatedly said it was the United States and its European allies who undermined the nuclear deal by failing to live up to their commitments. Despite their failure to fulfil their commitments, Iran began new negotiations with the US in April to resolve differences over its nuclear program. However, in the midst of the negotiations, Israel, greenlit by the US, launched attacks on Iran, which derailed talks between Tehran and Washington. Referring to anti-Iran measures by the Western parties to the Iran nuclear deal, the top Iranian diplomat told his Japanese counterpart that now "It is the United States that must return to

diplomacy by gaining Iran's trust."

West not ready for talks

In response to a question about a recent statement by the French Foreign Ministry, in which it said that "Iran must return to the negotiating table as soon as possible", Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said that repeating the claim that "We are ready to negotiate" would not change the fact that the Western parties were not ready for talks. During his weekly press conference, Esmail Baqaei said that Iran's position on the nuclear issue was clear. "What Iran is doing is focused on exercising a right that, under international law and according to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, has been granted to Iran and every other country," Baqaei said. He also urged the West to refrain from pursuing coercive policies and demands that had no basis in international law.

President offers humanitarian aid to Indonesia after deadly floods

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday expressed sympathies to Indonesia over deadly floods and landslides in the country, saying that Tehran was ready to provide humanitarian aid to the affected people. "On behalf of the government and people of Iran, I extend my condolences to Your Excellency and the people of Indonesia," Pezeshkian said in a message to his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto, according to IRNA. He also hoped for the swift recovery of the people injured in the floods and landslides which claimed the lives of more than 600 people.



Damaged houses hit by flash floods are seen near a river bank in Padang, West Sumatra Province, Indonesia, on November 28, 2025. **REUTERS**

Flooding and landslides have killed more than 1,100 people across Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia following tropical storms in recent days, with efforts under way to help thousands affected by the extreme weather. At least 604 people have

been killed, and hundreds remain missing after days of heavy rain triggered severe flooding and landslides across parts of Sumatra, according to Indonesian tallies. The provinces of Aceh, North Sumatra and West Sumatra have been hardest hit, with thousands of

people reportedly isolated without vital supplies. Hundreds of thousands of people have been evacuated from homes across three provinces on the western Indonesian island of Sumatra alone. In Sri Lanka, the government called for international aid and used military helicopters to reach people stranded by flooding and landslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah. At least 355 people have been killed, according to officials, with another 366 estimated to still be missing. Over 170 people are also reported to have been killed in Thailand, with the southern province of Songkhla being the hardest-hit.

Iran issues ownership documents for its Trio Persian Gulf islands



MEHR

Iran has formally issued land demarcation and ownership documents for the islands of Abu Musa, as well as the Greater and Lesser Tunbs in the Persian Gulf, asserting its sovereignty over the territories.

The State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties announced on Sunday that the title deeds have been registered in the name of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stressing the islands' integral status as part of Iranian territory, Press TV reported.

According to the Judiciary, the move is part of a broader national strategy to safeguard land resources and prevent unauthorized use or encroachment. The Judiciary described the measure as a "practical step" towards safeguarding Iranian territory.

The initiative is also intended to address international disputes and counter "false claims by foreign parties," particularly regarding sovereignty over the three islands.

The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world.

However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands. The islands fell under British control in 1921, but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

Iran hosts SCO anti-terror drill

International Desk

A large-scale anti-terror exercise of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) kicked off in Iran's northwestern province of East Azarbaijan on Monday. Hosted by the Ground Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), the drill, named "Sahand-2025," will run for five days in Shabestar county, said a statement by the IRGC. The exercise has been designed under a directive from the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces and the IRGC, with cooperation from the Iranian

Foreign Ministry and the Executive Committee of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, said Shahram Askarian, the IRGC Ground Force's public relations deputy. He pointed to the strategic importance of the exercise, saying it could enhance regional security cooperation. Referring to over 17,000 victims of terrorist attacks in Iran over the past decades, Askarian said that the country had played a key role in fighting terrorist groups. The drill is expected to bolster international cooperation against terror-

ism and enhance the capabilities of participating nations in addressing security challenges in the region, according to the official. Sahand-2025 is the second joint counter-terrorism drill conducted by the SCO member states. The first, coded "Interaction-2024," was held in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in July last year. The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and international security organization grouping China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.

Iran-Saudi cooperation ...

In your view, what shared priorities do Iran and Saudi Arabia have regarding regional files, and which areas offer the greatest potential for cooperation?

Lebanon is a highly significant issue. Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are closely attuned to Lebanon's circumstances and to how they might act in favor of the Lebanese people, regional calm, and efforts to hold back Israeli violations and aggressions. On Syria, given recent developments, the country needs assistance from both Iran and Saudi Arabia to contain Israeli expansionism on Syrian territo-

ry and to support Syria's reconstruction. Such cooperation is essential.

With tensions rising between Hezbollah and Israel after Tabatabai's assassination, to what extent can this visit be viewed as part of efforts to reduce tensions and manage the crisis?

Hezbollah has its own calculations and capabilities and can adopt whatever response it deems appropriate in reaction to recurring Israeli attacks. Any assistance requested from the Islamic Republic of Iran or from Saudi Arabia will be aimed at curbing Israeli expansionism. These measures are

necessary because such acts could trigger a broader confrontation and, if left unchecked, would likely be repeated over and over, a pattern witnessed across past decades. Therefore, countries invested in regional stability must take the lead in preventing Israeli aggression. Iran and Saudi Arabia need to coordinate on this issue and focus on the shared position of both nations, namely, the pursuit of calm and enforcement of the cease-fire. Although differences may exist in other domains, those can be addressed through dialogue and consultation, allowing for convergence on key positions.

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