

# Iran says US failed to win its trust in Islamabad talks

**FM spox:** There are conflicting views on 2-3 key points

## International Desk

Iran and the United States ended Pakistan-brokered negotiations on Sunday without an agreement with the Iranian chief negotiator saying that Washington failed to win Tehran's trust during the Islamabad talks.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in a post on X after the negotiations said that before the talks, he had emphasized that Iran has the necessary good-faith and will, but the country has no trust in the opposite side due to the experience of the two US-Israeli-imposed wars.

"My colleagues raised forward-looking initiatives, but the opposite side ultimately failed to win the trust of the Iranian delegation in this round of negotiations," he added.

"The US has realized our logic and principles, and now it has time to decide whether it can gain our trust or not?" Qalibaf said.

The top legislator also noted that Iran pursues powerful diplomacy, alongside military force, for upholding the rights of the Iranian people.

Tehran, he emphasized, will spare no effort to consolidate

the achievements of Iran's 40-day national defense.

The talks followed a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire agreement which temporarily ended an unprovoked aggression by the US and the Israeli regime against Iran, which began on February 28. The 14-day ceasefire expires on April 22.

Strikes by the US and Israel have targeted Iran's military sites, medical centers, schools, universities and many other civilian structures.

The aggression has claimed the lives of more than 3,700 people in Iran and inflicted severe damage to the country's infrastructure. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as well as many military officials have been martyred in the attacks.

During the war, Iranian armed forces also unleashed 100 waves of successful retaliatory strikes against sensitive and strategic American and Israeli targets throughout the region.

## Closure of Strait of Hormuz

They also blocked the Strait of Hormuz to oil and gas tankers affiliated with the adversaries and those cooperating with them in an attempt to maintain



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (c) is welcomed by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar (R) as he arrives in Islamabad to attend the negotiations between Iran and the US on April 11, 2026.

● IRNA

security at the strategic waterway.

Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz has largely cut off the Persian Gulf and its oil and gas exports from the global economy, sending energy prices soaring. US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the US Navy would immediately start blockading the Strait of Hormuz and would also interdict every vessel in international waters that had paid a toll to Iran.

The US president further said in his Truth Social post that Washington remains "locked and loaded" and its military will "finish up" Iran at the "appropriate moment".

## Matters of difference

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei, who accompanied the Iranian delegation in Islamabad, said the two sides reached a consensus on some issues, but they held different views regarding 2-3 important matters.



"Finally, the talks did not reach an agreement," he noted.

The discussions took place following the 40-day imposed war on Iran in an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion, he emphasized, adding, "Therefore, it was not expected that the talks would reach a consensus."

Baqaei added that the talks covered some new issues with their own complexities, such as the Strait of Hormuz.

The US top negotiator, Vice President JD Vance, in a very short

news conference, said Iranians had failed to agree to the US terms. And he added, "We leave here with a very simple proposal - a method of understanding. This is our final and best proposal. We will see if the Iranians will accept it."

"We need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon, and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," Vance said after the 21-hour-

long talks.

Halting Iran's nuclear capabilities had been a "core goal" that wasn't reached.

Iran has long denied seeking nuclear weapons but has insisted on its right to a civilian nuclear program. Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country will try to facilitate a new dialogue between Iran and the US in the coming days.

"It is imperative that the parties continue to uphold their commitment to cease fire," Dar said.

## Pakistan's mediation ...

This principled position has been a consistent feature of Pakistan's regional and international conduct. This consistency gave Islamabad the credibility with leadership in Tehran, which considered Pakistani position as that of a trusted neighbour with a genuine and demonstrated commitment to peaceful resolution.

## Regional dimension

Pakistan's position is equally significant within the broader regional diplomatic landscape, and the way in which it mobilized that position for the mediation effort. Pakistan's longstanding partnership with Saudi Arabia, and its substantive engagement with Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states more broadly, gave it direct access to the perspectives of the Arab states most immediately affected by the conflict. Its ability to convene the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey in Islamabad in late March for coordinated consultations aimed at building momentum toward de-escalation. This multilateral dimension of Pakistan's diplomatic effort was essential in creating the political conditions within which a ceasefire could become viable.

Moreover, Pakistan's partnership with China introduced a further importance to the mediation effort. Direct consultations between Pakistani and Chinese senior officials during the crisis ensured that Beijing's longstanding relationship with

Iran and its considerable interest in regional stability was coordinated. Pakistan's capacity to serve simultaneously as a trusted partner of Washington and a credible interlocutor with Beijing, at a moment of intensifying competition, reflects a distinctive feature of its foreign policy positioning that carries real value in the present international environment.

What made this external outreach effective, however, was the structural coherence with which Pakistan conducted its diplomacy internally. The civilian leadership maintained the formal diplomatic channel while Pakistan's military leadership sustained lines of communication with figures in Tehran whose institutional positioning required a different mode of engagement. This dual-track approach ensured that the mediation effort did not stall at any single point of contact and that both parties could engage without being seen to make premature concessions. It is this coherence, civilian and military working in concert toward a single diplomatic objective, thus, achieving significant results.

## Significance for Pakistan's international standing

Pakistan's facilitation of the United States-Iran ceasefire and its hosting of the Islamabad negotiations carry implications that extend beyond the immediate context of the current conflict. They demonstrate that Pakistan's geographic position, at the intersection of South Asia, the Middle East, and Cen-

tral Asia, combined with the breadth and depth of its bilateral relationships, constitutes a diplomatic asset of significant value. They establish Pakistan as a state capable of exercising constructive influence in matters of regional and global consequence at the highest level of international diplomacy. Sustaining this role will require consistency of conduct and continued investment in professional diplomatic capacity. The credibility that Pakistan has established through this mediation effort is the product of years of sustained engagement. It will be preserved and extended through the same means, and it will be tested by the manner in which Pakistan manages the considerable complexities that the Islamabad negotiations will inevitably present in future. The Islamabad talks, while yet to produce immediate results, reflect precisely the kind of patience and persistence needed in diplomacy. Pakistan remains hopeful that the dialogue will continue and ultimately arrive at a conclusive resolution.

What is clear at this stage is that Pakistan has demonstrated, under demanding conditions, the relationships, the diplomatic acumen, and the coherence necessary to serve as a consequential actor in international affairs. The international community's recognition of that fact, reflected in the presence of American and Iranian delegations in Islamabad this week, is itself a significant marker of how Pakistan's role in the global order is evolving.

## Tehran refutes CENTCOM's claims of Hormuz passage

'US destroyers only a few minutes away from complete destruction'

## International Desk

Spokesman of the Khatam Al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Ebrahim Zolqadr refuted CENTCOM's claims that American vessels have crossed the Strait of Hormuz, stressing that permission of passage of any vessel through the strait lies in the hands of the Iranian Armed Forces. Iran shut the strait down to adversaries and their allies after the United States and the Israeli regime launched their latest wave of unprovoked aggression towards the Islamic Republic. Each year, the waterway hosts 20 percent of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) transit and 25 percent of seaborne oil trade.

Closing it sent shockwaves throughout global energy markets, including in the United States, where gas prices skyrocketed and prompted nationwide resentment at the ruling administration. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Navy on Saturday warned military vessels of a "firm response" to their potential attempts at passing through the Strait of Hormuz. "Permission to transit, in accordance with specific regulations, is granted exclusively to non-military vessels," it noted.

The Navy categorically rejected reports claiming passage of American vessels through the strait, and reiterated that any such attempt would be met with "a decisive and forceful response."

An investigation by Press TV has found that the US military's attempt to sail two destroyers through the strait ended as a failed propaganda stunt timed to coincide with talks in Islamabad.

The investigation, based on information provided by highly placed military-security sources, revealed that the US Navy destroyers came within minutes of complete destruction after attempting a high-risk passage through the strait in a failed propaganda operation aimed at influencing Iran-US talks in the Pakistani capital.

The destroyers attempted to transit the strategic waterway but were intercepted and forced to retreat by Iranian naval forces. The destroyers were only a few minutes away from complete destruction after Iranian cruise missiles locked onto the vessel and attack drones were deployed. They had attempted to use electronic warfare tactics, including turning off its position reporting system, in a bid to deceive the IRGC naval forces.



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