

# Pezeshkian reaffirms Iran's firm commitment to lasting stability in region

'We're very close to making a deal,' Trump claims

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian reaffirmed Tehran's firm commitment to lasting peace and stability in the region as there are regional efforts led by Pakistan to end the ongoing tensions in the West Asia region, which have been caused by the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

The Iranian president made the remarks during a meeting with Pakistani Army chief Asim Munir in Tehran on Thursday.

Pezeshkian also applauded Pakistan's constructive mediation in brokering a ceasefire between Iran and the United States.

The meeting came days after Friday's negotiations between Iran and the United States in Pakistan to put an end to a US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which failed to produce an agreement due to the American delegation's excessive demands.

The talks followed a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire agreement which temporarily ended the aggression which began on

February 28. The 14-day ceasefire expires on April 22.

During the aggression, the US and Israel assassinated Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several high-ranking military commanders and killed more than 3,000 civilians.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran seeks lasting peace and stability in the region and emphasizes the realization of the rights of the Iranian nation within the framework of international law," Pezeshkian stated.

## Legitimate self-defense

The Iranian president made it clear that the recent targeting of US military bases in Persian Gulf Arab states by Iran's armed forces was carried out strictly within the framework of legitimate self-defense in response to the aggression imposed on the country.

Pointing to the root cause of regional instability, Pezeshkian said Israel is behind many wars and acts of division among Islamic countries.

"The Islamic Ummah must, through

convergence and cooperation, prevent the Zionist regime from exploiting Islamic lands against Muslims themselves," he emphasized.

The Iranian president expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's responsible and consistent efforts to end the war, urging other Islamic countries to follow the same path.

Pezeshkian warned that war serves no one's interest. "America will not win this conflict; it is the countries of the region and the world that will suffer serious losses, while only the Zionist regime seeks to fulfill its desires."

The Pakistani official, for his part, said that although the war will end, the region will not return to pre-war conditions.

He stressed the need for collective cooperation in reconstruction, stability, and peace, noting the support of countries such as China, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey for the diplomatic process. There are some speculations about holding the second round of the negotiations in Pakistan. However, neither side has confirmed the issue.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets with Pakistani Army chief Asim Munir in Tehran, Iran, on April 16, 2026.  
president.ir

## 'Very close to a deal'

US President Donald Trump claimed on Friday that a deal to end the war in Iran could be reached soon, although the timing remained unclear.

Trump said a two-week ceasefire could be extended, although he did not be-

lieve that would be necessary as Tehran wanted a deal.

"We're going to see what happens. But I think we're very close to making a deal with Iran," he told reporters, adding if an agreement was reached and signed in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, he may go there for the occasion.

## 10-day ceasefire agreed on by Israel, Lebanon goes into effect

Iran says Lebanese truce signifies 'unity of the Axis of Resistance'

### International Desk

A 10-day truce began in Lebanon on Friday that paused fighting between Israel and the Hezbollah resistance group and boosted attempts to extend the ceasefire between Iran, the United States and Israel after weeks of devastating war. US President Donald Trump announced the agreement as a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. Barrages of gunshots rang out across Beirut as residents fired into the air just after midnight to celebrate the beginning of the truce.

Displaced families began moving toward southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs, despite warnings by officials not to attempt to return to their homes until it became clear whether the ceasefire would hold. Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he agreed to the ceasefire "to advance" peace efforts with Lebanon, but said Israeli troops would not withdraw.

Hezbollah said that "Israeli occupation on our land grants Lebanon and its people the right to resist it, and this matter will be determined based on how developments unfold" — a stance that could complicate the ceasefire. The agreement came after a meeting between Israel's and Lebanon's ambassadors in Washington and a flurry of subsequent phone calls from Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, ac-



A damaged building, rubble and a destroyed vehicle are seen in the aftermath of Israeli strikes, near Hiram Hospital in Tyre, south Lebanon, on April 16, 2026.  
REUTERS

ording to a White House official. It is one of the key points of the 10-point Iranian proposal that was initially accepted by the American side in the peace talks between Tehran and Washington in Pakistan.

### Tehran's diplomatic efforts

Iranian officials in separate messages welcomed the ceasefire. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said Iran warmly welcomed the ceasefire, underlining that the halt to aggression against the country forms an integral part of the broader ceasefire understanding reached between Iran and the US. Baqaei described the development as the direct fruit of Tehran's unwavering diplomatic efforts. "From the outset of talks with various regional and international parties, including the Islamabad negotiations, the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently stressed the imperative of a simultaneous ceasefire throughout the region, including in Lebanon," Baqaei

affirmed. The speaker of the Iranian Parliament stressed that the ceasefire is a result of the steadfastness of Hezbollah movement and the unity of the Axis of Resistance.

"We will approach this ceasefire cautiously and will remain united until complete victory is achieved," Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said in a post on X. The latest war between Israel and Hezbollah began on March 2, two days after the US and Israel launched a joint aggression against Iran, with Hezbollah firing rockets into northern Israel. The resistance group said it was retaliating for the assassination of Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who was martyred in the US-Israeli aggression.

More than 2,000 people in Lebanon have since been killed, with more than a million - or roughly a fifth of the population - displaced. An estimated 37,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged. Israel says Hezbollah attacks have killed two civilians in Israel, and that 13 Israeli soldiers have been killed in combat in Lebanon.

## Araghchi: Strait of Hormuz 'completely open' during ceasefire

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz "is declared completely open" in line with a ceasefire in Lebanon and would remain open for the remaining period of the ceasefire.

"In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of ceasefire, on the coordinated route as already announced by Ports and Maritime Organization of the Islamic Rep. of Iran," Araghchi wrote in a post on X.

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump announced that the leaders of Israel and Lebanon have agreed to a 10-day ceasefire to end six-week fighting between Israel and the Hezbollah resistance movement. Trump on Friday affirmed the strait is "ready for full passage" in a social media post minutes after Araghchi posted his message.

Iran had blocked the strategic waterway following the launch of the illegal US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28. Oil prices were falling by more than 10 percent after Iran said the Strait of Hormuz is fully open, which would allow oil tankers to exit the Persian Gulf again and carry crude to customers worldwide.

Trump, however, said the US naval blockade

on Iranian ships and ports "will remain in full force" until Iran reaches a deal with the US to end the war.

Since April 14, the US has imposed a naval blockade on the Strait of Hormuz aimed at forcing Iran to reopen the strategic waterway.

### UN envoy underscores respect for Iran's inalienable rights

Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani in a statement delivered during a UN General Assembly meeting on Thursday said sustainable stability in the Strait of Hormuz is only possible through full respect for Iran's inalienable rights and interests.

"The realization of the principles of freedom of navigation and maritime safety in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman — particularly in the Strait of Hormuz, which lies within the territorial seas of its coastal States — is only possible through full respect for the sovereignty and sovereign rights of those coastal States," he said.

"As such, sustainable stability in the Strait of Hormuz and in the region can only be achieved through the cessation of aggression and the full respect for Iran's legitimate rights and interests."

Iravani also warned that the United States' unlawful actions in the region escalate tensions and threaten both maritime security and international trade.

## Army chief: Iran fully prepared to confront any threat with 'iron will'

Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Army Major General Amir Hatami said the country is fully prepared with "iron will" to confront any threats and aggression against the Islamic Republic.

The Army chief issued a message on Friday on the occasion of the National Army Day, saying the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, saved the Iranian Army from the conspiracy of dissolution and weakening and stabilized it to safeguard the Islamic establishment, independence and territorial integrity, Press TV reported.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he added, the Iranian Army strongly confronted sworn enemies and made great efforts in the fields of relief services.

The Army considers itself a self-sacri-



ficing defender of the security of the Iranian nation while maintaining its vigilance and combat readiness, Hatami reiterated.

He said the Army stands ready to confront any threat or act of aggression by enemies "with firm determination, watchful eyes, an iron will, and fingers on the trigger" and will remain committed to its pledge until the last breath.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) also said it stands ready alongside the Army to deliver a "regret-inducing" response to the US and Israeli regime if they renew their criminal act of aggression against the country.

The IRGC made the announcement in a statement released on Friday to mark National Army Day. "The Islamic Republic of Iran Army and the IRGC [using] weapons of unity, integrity, coordination, synergy, empathy, and sacred will ... stand ready amid a lull in the battlefield during the third imposed war, with their hand on the trigger to deliver a powerful, destructive and regret-inducing response to any aggressive and criminal act by the American-Zionist enemy and their companions against Iran and its history-making nation," it said.

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