

Trump-Xi meeting will revolve around Iran

The fate of war, or the continuation of the cease-fire between Iran and the United States, remains indeterminate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar has announced that Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani met with Marco Rubio, the American secretary of state, and Steve Witkoff, the American envoy for Middle Eastern affairs, in Miami. During this meeting, the strategic partnership between the two countries, as well as the regional situation and Qatar's mediation for the attenuation of tensions, were discussed and examined.

Qatar's endeavor toward mediation between Iran and the United States, comes at a time when the principal loci of tension between the parties remain unresolved, and it remains unclear what decision Israel will make regarding the continuation of the war.

The existing circumstances are accompanied by questions, including: Will mediation and negotiation exert influence upon the current trajectory? What is the plan of the United States regarding war or peace? Will Israel, independently and without preamble, orchestrate a new attack against Iran? Mohsen Jalilvand, professor of international relations and senior foreign policy analyst, and Reza Mirabian, a regional affairs expert, have responded to these questions below:



US President Donald Trump (R) and Chinese President Xi Jinping greet attendees waving American and Chinese flags during a welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, in November 2017.
● QILAI SHEN/BLOOMBERG

Trump irrational, master of surprise



By Mohsen Jalilvand

Expert on international affairs

OPINION

From my perspective, in general, holding Iran-US negotiations and reaching an agreement is not feasible. Let's examine this matter from several angles. The first point is that between Iran and the United States, there exists an exceptionally profound divergence. This divergence is far greater than what could be resolved within the framework of a simple memorandum of understanding. Another issue is that, as long as, from the perspective of the Israelis, Iran's nuclear program threatens the existence of Israel and its missile program and the Axis of Resistance threaten the security of Israel, the subject of negotiation with Iran will, fundamentally, remain devoid of relevance. Before anything else, Iran's nuclear

program, missile program, and the issue of the Axis of Resistance must be resolved. Israel's strategic designs are entirely manifest; after the October 7 attacks, they initiated two wars against us, and the cease-fire memorandum concerning Lebanon is being violated every day through incursions into Lebanon and attacks against Hezbollah. Regarding the Gaza Strip, similar actions are currently underway. So long as these behaviors continue, rest assured that neither the United States, nor Israel, nor the Western world, will reconcile with Iran.

The probability of war is higher Iran desires, through various methods, to disrupt the game. One of the most significant methods for disrupting the game, is closing the Strait of Hormuz. But in general, with consideration of all indications and existing circumstances, the probability of attaining an agreement with which both parties would

be satisfied is not high. The probability of renewed war is substantially higher than the probability of no war. The intensity of the attacks and their dimensions, however, depend upon Iran's reaction. In reality, if following a renewed American attack, particularly in the southern parts of the country, Iran's reaction is extremely severe, war will assume expansive dimensions. Israel shall not attack Iran unilaterally. The operations of these two parties, should they occur, will be of a combined nature. The Americans will intervene with severe assaults and a high level of destruction, whereas actions such as precision targeting and targeted assassinations will be executed by Israel. The Americans are habituated to attacking with high volume and immense intensity.

Upcoming meeting between Trump and Xi

I believe that more than 50% of the

substantive content of this upcoming meeting, will concern Iran, and the situation in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf will be discussed. Let us not forget this point regarding Donald Trump and his decisions, particularly his wartime decisions, that they are usually irrational actions that astonish others. And Donald Trump is a master of surprise. To say that, for logical reasons, Donald Trump will not attack, is erroneous. If one intended to analyze Donald Trump's actions according to normal logic, fundamentally, there would never have been any surprise. From my perspective, war is inescapable, and its probability is exceedingly high because Israel seeks a guarantee for the preservation of its existence against threats from Iran.

The article first appeared in Persian on Fararu.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (front) arrives in China on May 5, 2026, for a meeting with his counterpart.
● IRNA

First meeting where Trump comes empty-handed



By Reza Mirabian

Expert on regional affairs

OPINION

While certain foreign media outlets have claimed that the United States is inclined toward Qatar playing the role of mediator, and considering that other countries such as Pakistan, Oman, and China, are also being presented as mediators, I think the selection of Qatar as mediator, at present, possesses no substantive relevance because with consideration of recent events, it cannot function as an impartial mediator. Iran has retaliated against American bases in Qatar during the last two conflicts with the US. So, even if this idea has been put forward, it appears that the Qataris proposed it. At present, mediation between Iran and the



China will insist upon the positions and rightfulness of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and upon the fact that the United States has transgressed against the Islamic Republic and violated international law and human rights. They have also declared this explicitly. China, as a friendly country and strategic partner of Iran, can articulate our principled positions before the Americans and insist upon them.