

Araghchi says Iran interested in talks if US is 'serious'

Trump open to 20-year pause on uranium enrichment

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that Tehran has "no trust" in the United States and is interested in negotiating with Washington only if it is serious as talks on ending the war remained on hold.

"Contradictory messages" have made us reluctant about the real intention of the Americans on negotiations, Araghchi told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of the BRICS bloc of nations in India's capital, New Delhi.

The minister said that he had "received messages" from the US saying it is willing to continue talks.

His remarks came as efforts are underway to end the ongoing tensions in the region, which have been caused by a weeks-long US-Israeli aggression against Iran that began on February 28.

On April 11-12, Iran and the US held the first round of negotiations brokered by Pakistan, days after Islamabad mediated a ceasefire to halt the aggression on Iran. However, it failed to produce an agreement due to the US excessive demands.

Araghchi said Iran is trying to keep the ceasefire to give diplomacy a chance but is also prepared to go back to fighting.

Efforts to bring back the sides to the nego-

tiating table also failed after Iran refused to take part in the second round due to the US violation of the ceasefire.

However, the two countries have been exchanging proposals through mediator Pakistan to find a way out of the crisis which has also disrupted global economy.

The latest proposal by Iran submitted to the US on Sunday was rejected by US President Donald Trump as "totally unacceptable".

Trump backs 20-year enrichment halt

Trump, who was returning to the US from a two-day summit in China on Friday, said he agreed in talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping that Tehran must reopen the Strait of Hormuz which has been closed in response to the US-Israeli aggression.

However, he said a 20-year moratorium on Iran's nuclear program would be enough for him to strike a deal and end the war.

The allowance for Iran to enrich uranium at any point in the future — even decades out — marks a shift for the president, who has repeatedly insisted that the country never be allowed to do so.

Even as reports proliferated that the US was negotiating some kind of timeline behind the scenes, the Trump administration denied that they'd accept anything

less than a full surrender and a permanent end to Iran's nuclear ambitions.

But Trump, speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, appeared to move the goalposts.

"Twenty years is enough but the level of guarantee from them is not enough," he said about Tehran's latest offer. "In other words, it's got to be a real 20 years."

Call for fundamental reforms to UN

Iranian foreign minister also addressed the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting on Friday, during which he urged fundamental reforms to the United Nations and international governance structures.

Araghchi said that the world is experiencing "a period of structural instability and a deep crisis of trust."

"The structures governing the international order, designed in the post-World War II era, no longer have the capacity to respond to the realities of the 21st century," he told fellow foreign ministers.

"The gap between emerging powers and traditional decision-making structures not only threatens global stability but has fueled widespread injustice in the distribution of power, wealth, and development opportunities."

The minister criticized what he described



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks during a press conference held on the sidelines of a meeting of the BRICS bloc of nations in India's capital, New Delhi on May 15, 2026.

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as multilateralism in name only.

"What we witness today in some international institutions is not 'multilateralism,' but rather an attempt to preserve 'unilateralism' under the guise of international law," Araghchi said.

The top diplomat called for fundamental reforms to international organizations, particularly the UN Security Council, describing the current body as "a clear symbol of inefficiency and imbalance."

He cited the Security Council's silence regarding the US-Israeli aggression against

Iran as a stark example of its failure.

Araghchi also highlighted attacks on Iran's critical infrastructure, including refineries, petrochemical complexes, bridges, railways, stadiums, cultural and historical centers, energy transmission lines, and major industrial facilities.

"These infrastructures are not just technical or economic facilities; they are the backbone of people's daily lives," he said. The foreign minister warned that silence in the face of such aggression sets a dangerous precedent.

Iran raps UAE for active complicity in war



International Desk

Iranian officials blasted the United Arab Emirates for "direct involvement" in the US-Israeli aggression against their country after it was revealed that UAE warplanes had carried out attacks on Iran.

"The UAE representative speaks about international law, but please tell me which part of international law allows you to support an unjustified and unprovoked act of aggression?" Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said after his UAE counterpart Khalifa bin Shaheen Al Marar accused Iran of attacking his country and labelled Tehran as an aggressor during a meeting of BRICS foreign ministers on Thursday.

"Yesterday it was revealed that UAE fighter jets have participated in attacks against us and have even taken direct action against us. Therefore, the UAE is an active partner in this aggression," Araghchi told the same meeting held in India's capital, New Delhi.

"I didn't name the UAE in my [BRICS] statement for the sake of unity. But the truth is that the UAE was directly involved in the aggression against my country. When the attacks started, they didn't even issue a condemnation," Araghchi said. The top diplomat argued that neither US bases nor an alliance with Israel provided the UAE with security and that it should reconsider its policy towards Iran. "We must live side by side in peace, and this requires peaceful relations and complete understanding between the two countries," Araghchi added.

The spat also came a day after the UAE denied a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he visited the Persian Gulf country during the war on Iran,

to which Araghchi also reacted by saying that "those colluding with Israel to sow division will be held to account."

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi also said on Thursday the UAE could not hide its aggressive nature and role behind false claims and fabricated narratives. Gharibabadi added that Iran could not remain passive while its people and infrastructure were targeted.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei, issued a veiled warning on Friday, accusing the UAE of hidden betrayal. "He who betrays in secret will be openly disgraced," Baqaei wrote in Arabic on the social media platform X without naming the Arab country. After the unprovoked war of aggression by a US-Israeli military coalition launched on February 28, Iran responded in self-defense with countless missile and drone attacks against American and Israeli interests in the region, particularly those in the Persian Gulf states, including the UAE.

Pezeshkian calls for strategic cooperation after new Iraqi PM takes office

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday congratulated new Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi for securing parliamentary confidence after he was sworn in a day earlier, expressing hope the two nations would witness a new chapter of strategic cooperation.

"I hope that in this new phase, and drawing on the deep ties between our two peoples, we will witness a new chapter of strategic cooperation," Pezeshkian said in a post on X.

He added that Tehran would "remain by Iraq's side on the path of development and the consolidation of security".

Iraq's parliament on Thursday voted to approve the government program and part of the cabinet lineup of Zaidi but hit an impasse over some of the ministerial appointments.

The 270 lawmakers in attendance voted to confirm 14 ministers in the 23-member cabinet. Most were newcomers to the government, but foreign minister Fuad Hussein retained his post.

Nominees for three posts — interior minister, higher education minister and planning minister — failed to win parliamentary approval. Voting on other positions — including the defense, labor, housing



Iraqi lawmakers attend a session to approve the new government in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 15, 2026.

AP

and reconstruction and education ministers — was postponed to a later stage, with no date set.

Under a power-sharing arrangement among the political factions, the dominant parliamentary bloc — the Coordination Framework, a coalition of Shia parties — picks 12 ministers, while Sunni parties choose six, Kurdish parties four and religious minorities one.

The government program approved by the MPs includes priorities related to improving public services, addressing the electricity crisis, and supporting economic stability, in addition to combating corruption, reforming public administration, and strengthening the rule of law.

The program also includes provisions related to restricting weapons to the state, which may be difficult to implement in practice.

Resonance of Iran's ...

Amid these developments, talks held with Indian officials carried particular weight. The mutual

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emphasis by Tehran and New Delhi on expanding cooperation across political, economic, transit, and energy sectors demonstrated that the two countries share a common understanding of the deep interlinkage between security and development. This convergence is rooted in a shared strategic rationality—one that is based on independence in decision-making, avoidance of dependency, and a preference for engagement over confrontation.

The coincidence of this visit with the commemoration of Ferdowsi carried symbolic and civilizational meaning. In the "Shahnameh" (Book of Kings), he redefines the relationship between reason and power through an enduring epic: "Wisdom is the eye of the soul, when you look aright;

Without that eye, you cannot pass through the world in joy." The Shahnameh, alongside India's "Ramayana" and "Mahabharata", stands

among the most distinguished civilizational epics of the world. While in the Indian intellectual tradition, the concept of "dharma" underscores responsibility and moral order, in the Iranian tradition, Ferdowsi's wisdom rests on the principle that power finds meaning only in conjunction with reason and justice. This is the very notion of "responsible power" that has gained renewed relevance in today's international relations landscape.

The Iranian Foreign Minister's remarks at BRICS were grounded precisely in this foundation. His emphasis on moving from crisis management to structural reform, strengthening independent mechanisms of cooperation, and the need for a fair redistribution of power in the international system showed that Iran's vision for BRICS is aimed at shaping a new model of global cooperation—one in which justice replaces domination and participation replaces exclusivity.

From this vantage point, the Foreign Minister's visit to New Delhi was not merely a diplomatic engagement; it

was the manifestation of a dialogue between two great civilizational traditions about the future of the world. Iran and India, as two ancient civilizations, carry a form of historical rationality that today's turbulent world needs more than ever—a rationality grounded in prudence, balance, dialogue, and responsibility.

In this visit, New Delhi was not just a diplomatic destination; it emerged as a stage for affirming a central message: that the future of Asia and the Global South will take shape not in the shadow of worn-out arrangements and imposed alliances, but through cooperation among independent powers, endogenous security, sustainable development, and civilizational dialogue. And this is the very message that Ferdowsi conveyed centuries ago in the language of epic—and which now, from the BRICS platform and in the voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has once again rung out: a world freed from the logic of coercion will be rebuilt only through wisdom, justice, and responsible resistance.



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