

Tehran, Washington edge closer to potential peace deal

International Desk

Tehran and Washington inched closer to an agreement to end an aggression against Iran as more details about the long-awaited agreement emerged on Sunday.

Washington and Tehran have observed a ceasefire since April 8 while mediators push for a negotiated settlement, although Iran has imposed controls on Persian Gulf shipping and the US has blockaded Iran's ports. Iranian officials on Saturday confirmed the existence of a draft agreement, but stressed that – contrary to earlier long-standing US demands – talks on the issue of Iran's nuclear program have been deferred for 60 days after any deal.

Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on state television that the two sides were nearing a "a memorandum of understanding, a kind of framework agreement

composed of 14 clauses, in "a trend toward rapprochement."

Details of possible deal

According to Iran's Fars news agency, Washington has agreed to release part of Tehran's funds frozen abroad under international economic sanctions and to end its naval blockade of ships travelling to and from Iranian ports.

In exchange, "according to this draft, passage through the Strait of Hormuz would return to pre-war levels under Iranian management."

And, Fars said, "sanctions on oil, gas, petrochemicals and their derivatives would be temporarily lifted during the negotiation period so that Iran can freely sell its products."

On Sunday, during a visit to India, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters, "I do think perhaps there is the possibility that in the next few hours the world will get some good news."

Hours later, US President Donald Trump said that he had told US negotiators "not to rush into a deal" with Iran.

"The negotiations are proceeding in an orderly and constructive manner, and I have informed my representatives not to rush into a deal in that time is on our side," Trump wrote on his Truth Social account.

"The Blockade will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed."

Bones of contention

Iranian media reported that there are still "one or two" points of disagreement in the potential deal.

Iran's Tasnim news agency said that under draft terms of the US-Iran negotiations, the Strait of Hormuz "will not return" to pre-war status, but adds that ship traffic will return to previous levels.

Following forty days of aggression against Iran aimed at sur-



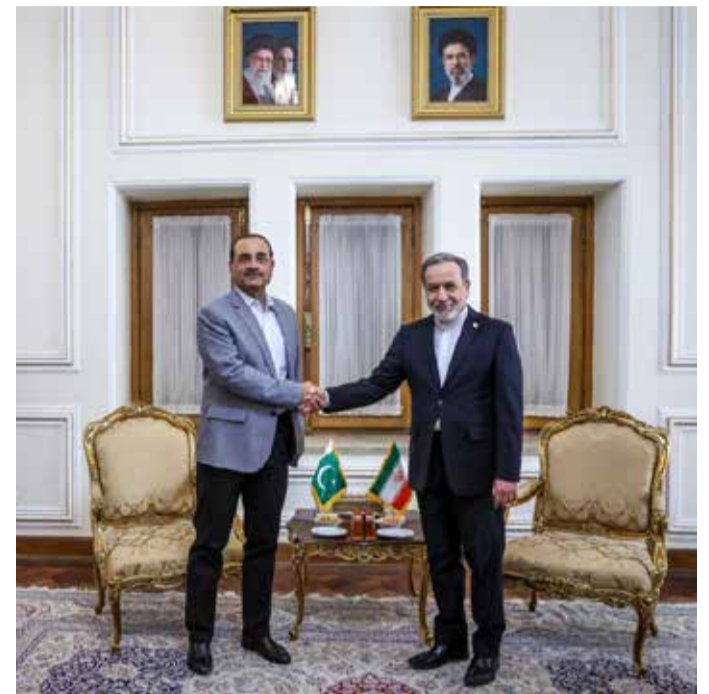
Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) shakes hands with Pakistan's Army Chief Syed Asim Munir during a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on May 23, 2026.

IRNA

rendering the Islamic Republic, the United States, which did not manage to achieve its goals in the war, unilaterally announced a ceasefire and entered peace negotiations with Iran.

On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei posted an image of the rock relief depicting the victory of second king of the Sasanian Empire, Shapur I the Great, over the Roman emperor, saying Iranians shattered the illusion that Rome was the undisputed center of the world.

"In the Roman mind, Rome was the undisputed center of the world. Yet the Iranians shattered that illusion; when Marcus Julius Philippus (Philip the Arab) marched east against Per-



sia, the campaign did not result in Roman victory – it ended in a peace established on Sani-

an terms: the emperor had to come to terms!" Baqaei wrote on his X account.

IRGC warns of 'hellish' response to renewed onslaught

National Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said that Iranian Armed Forces stand ready to deliver a "devastating and hellish" response to the enemy if it wages a new war of aggression against the country.

The IRGC General Command issued a message on Sunday, marking the anniversary of the liberation of the strategic Iranian port city of Khorramshahr on May 24, 1982, after 578 days of Iraqi occupation during the eight-year imposed war on Iran.

It said 44 years after the Khorramshahr historic epic, the Iranian nation once again emerged victorious after 40 days of resistance and retaliation in the third imposed war that caused the enemy to humiliatingly request a ceasefire.

"The country's powerful Armed Forces are at their highest level of readiness and active deterrence in all missile, air, naval, land, space, and cyber dimen-



IRNA

sions. Therefore, it is obvious that any renewed aggression by the enemy will result in a devastating and hellish response at the regional and extra-regional level," it added.

Iran has witnessed three imposed wars over the past years, including the 1980s' Iraq war, and two US-Israeli illegal acts of aggression, namely the 12-day one in June 2025 and this year's 40-day one. The latest military assault against the country began on February 28 and stopped under a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire on April 8.

Meanwhile, commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Major General Ali Ab-

dollahi said outsiders will have no place in the future of the region based on the strategies devised by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

"We warn the enemies that the Leader's plans and strategies for 'managing the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz' will guarantee the future of the region and a new regional and international order within the framework of the strategy of a 'strong Iran', in which foreigners will have no place," Abdollahi said.

He added that the Iranian nation's dignity and greatness at the most sensitive juncture of the history of modern humanity and its resistance in the face of the US-Israeli enemies marked "one of the most amazing historical events" and prepared the ground for a new geometry of global power centered on Iran.

"We stand fully prepared to deliver a harsh and hellish response to any form of aggression," Abdollahi pointed out.

President: Iran ready to assure world of not seeking nukes

'Negotiating team will never compromise on national dignity'



Masoud Pezeshkian
president.ir

National Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that Tehran is ready to assure the world that it is not seeking nuclear weapons, adding that the country's negotiators in talks with the United States will never compromise on the "dignity" of the country. Pezeshkian made the remarks during a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), during which he held talks

with the IRIB's chief and managers as Tehran and Washington edge closer in Pakistani-mediated talks to finalize a memorandum of understanding aimed at ending a recent aggression by the US and Israel against Iran.

"During the era of our martyred Leader, we declared – and we declare again today – that we are ready to assure the world that we are not seeking nuclear weapons, nor are we seeking unrest in the region. The one seeking to destabilize the region is the Israeli regime, which pursues the 'Greater Israel' plan."

Pezeshkian emphasized that Israel is trying to keep war and unrest alive in the region through various means.

Referring to the Pakistani-mediated negotiations between Tehran

and Washington to end aggression, he said, "We and our negotiating team will never compromise on the dignity and honor of our country."

The US-Israeli aggression on Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders.

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

On April 8, forty days into the war, an Islamabad-brokered temporary ceasefire went into effect. Since then, the two sides have engaged in negotiations brokered by Pakistan to end a crisis in the region, which has been caused by the aggression against Iran.

US, allies to blame for failure of NPT conference: Deputy FM

International Desk

Iran's deputy foreign minister pointed the finger of blame at illogical stances adopted by the United States and its allies for the failure of a major United Nations Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held in New York earlier this week.

Kazem Gharibabadi said in an X post on Saturday that Western states led by the US were seeking to insert or retain phrases in a draft final document of the UN nuclear disarmament conference as they tried to condemn Iran for alleged non-compliance with its obligations under UN laws and resolutions.

Gharibabadi said, however, that those "desperate efforts" ended in vain, as Iran managed to prevent the adoption of a final document that was po-



Kazem Gharibabadi
IRNA

litically motivated.

"The responsibility for this failure lies with these countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow these countries to continue their indiscriminate instrumental abuse of international bodies and documents in pursuit of their political objectives," said the senior diplomat.

Iran is a member of the UN Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has accepted extensive inspections of its nuclear facilities as a sign that it has never

pursued nuclear weapons.

However, Iranian nuclear installations have come under rounds of attacks by the United States and the Israeli regime during two wars of aggression that took place in June last year and from February to April this year.

Reports on Friday said that the Iranian delegates to the UN disarmament conference had blocked efforts by the US and its allies to legitimize attacks on Iranian nuclear sites by accusing that country of non-compliance with the NPT.

Gharibabadi said in his Saturday post that all countries in the world should be treated the same when it comes to nuclear disarmament.

"If the non-proliferation regime is to survive, it must be built on equal security, equal sovereignty, and equal accountability; not nuclear exceptionalism," he said.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

