

Tehran receives Pakistan's special message to Ayatollah Khamenei

Contradictory US positions complicate negotiations: **Baqaei**

International Desk

Pakistan's interior minister was in Tehran on Sunday in a fresh bid to restart negotiations between Iran and the US, delivering a message from the country's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

The message was handed over during a meeting between visiting Pakistani Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments concerning the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran.

There were no details on the contents of the message. Pakistani authorities have said Islamabad, with support from regional countries including Qatar,

Turkey and Egypt, has been working to help bridge differences between the United States and Iran and encourage efforts aimed at reducing tensions and ensuring the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Talks between Iran and the US are at an impasse due to the US excessive demands; however, the mediator Pakistan is trying to revive the negotiations which aim to produce a memorandum to end the joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran, end a blockade on Iran's ports, and secure the release of frozen Iranian assets.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Sunday that the main challenge facing the negotiations is the shifting US positions and the contradictory statements issued by its officials. "The main problem in negotiations with this US administration is that we have to constantly deal with shifting positions, red lines, and contradictory statements



Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi (L) hands over a message from his country's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, during a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran, Iran, on June 7, 2026. **IRNA**

from various American officials. This issue has made the negotiation process very difficult and complicated," Baqaei told CNN on Sunday.

However, he said that exchange of messages between the two sides continues through intermediaries.

He went on to say that while numerous unresolved matters remain between the two parties, the core issue is the need for the United States to recognize Iran's rights — especially its right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, as permitted under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Baqaei emphasized



that Tehran insists on the removal of US sanctions and the release of its frozen assets, maintaining that the ongoing re-

strictions on those assets stand out as one of the most significant unresolved issues in the negotiations.

Israel bombs Beirut's southern suburbs despite Iran warnings

Qalibaf: 'Our Armed Forces are poised to strike, as always'

International Desk

Israel's military on Sunday launched airstrikes on Beirut's Dahiyeh district despite a ceasefire in place between the regime and Hezbollah resistance group, sparking a strong warning from Tehran to Tel Aviv.

According to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA), the regime's strike hit a residential building, damaging four of its seven floors. An unexploded weapon was found in the rubble.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the strikes were in retaliation for the Hezbollah firing at northern Israel earlier, and that the attacks targeted "command centers" in the district which is seen as the resistance group's stronghold.

A ceasefire that was supposed to end the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah took effect on April 17, but has never been fully respected.

Earlier this week in Washington, Lebanese and Israeli envoys touted a conditional truce that would have required Hezbollah to stop firing, withdraw from near the occupied territories and would see Lebanon's army deploy to new "pilot zones" in the area, where it would exercise exclusive control. But Hezbollah rejected the agreement, demanding a



A Lebanese soldier stands guard as first responders work at the site of an Israeli airstrike targeting apartments in Beirut's southern suburbs on June 7, 2026. **AFP**

full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, and Israel warned it would strike Beirut's southern suburbs should Hezbollah attack northern Israel.

Sunday's attacks came a day after at least five people were killed in Israeli strikes, including Lebanese army personnel, one of them a general.

Iran's warnings

Iran had earlier warned that it would suspend peace talks with the United States if Israel attacks Beirut. Tehran has insisted that any deal to end the wider war — paused by a separate April ceasefire — must also halt the fighting in Lebanon. Israel earlier this month halted plans for attacks on Dahiyeh after US President Donald Trump reportedly told Netanyahu that attacking Beirut would not be acceptable for Washington. Trump's phone call came

after Iran warned that it would target the Israeli-occupied territories if it went on with plans to target Dahiyeh.

'Painful response'

Shortly after Israel's attack on Dahiyeh, Iran's Khatam-al Anbiya Central Headquarters issued a statement, saying that the regime's attack on Beirut will not go unanswered.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also reacted to the regime's attack, saying that, "They are neither committed to a ceasefire nor believe in dialogue and by demonstrating through the naval blockade and violation of agreements regarding Lebanon that they only understand the language of power".

In a post on X, Qalibaf, who is also Iran's main negotiator in talks with the US, added that, "The

naval blockade against the Iranian nation and America's green light today to the Zionist regime (to attack Lebanon) turn American and regime bases and assets in the region into legitimate targets."

"Our Armed Forces are poised to strike, as always," he added.

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security Committee, also warned that Iran will "deliver a decisive and painful response" to the Israeli attack on Beirut's southern suburbs.

"These rabid dogs must be disciplined and put back in their place. Look at the sky over the occupied lands tonight," he wrote on X.

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah began in March after the Lebanese resistance group launched military operations against the Israeli regime in response to its aggression against Iran.

The war has claimed at least 3,600 lives since March 2, according to the latest figures released by Lebanon's Health Ministry.

FM spox: Minab school carnage one example of US-Israel crimes against Iranians

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman paid tribute to the victims of the Minab school massacre in southern Iran, saying it is just one example among hundreds of crimes committed by the United States and Israel against Iranians.

Addressing a Sunday ceremony in commemoration of the fallen children, Esmail Baqaei said that the city of Lamerd in the southern Iranian province of Fars was targeted on the same day that Minab school was bombed on February 28, and became a test ground for the United States' newest lethal weapon, namely a cluster missile that would explode into 180,000 deadly shrapnel.

The US attack on Shajare Tayyeb Elementary school in the city of Minab left 175 students and teachers dead. On the same day, the US carried out another airstrike on a sports hall in the city of Lamerd in Fars Province, killing 24 innocent Iranians and injuring over 130 others.

"Preserving the memory of these children is not simply a tribute to the past, but rather a responsibility to protect truth, justice, and humanity, and a covenant with the future," Baqaei stated.

He added that world nations, irrespective of all their diversity, have some traits in common, and this commonality is part of human nature.

"All nations cherish their lost children.



Grief over the loss of a child is a protection of human nature and conscience. Children are the most innocent and first victims of war; whether those who fall victim to bullets, bombs, and missiles, or those whose bodies and souls suffer permanent wounds, or those who bear the heavy burden of losing their fathers, mothers, and loved ones for the rest of their lives," Baqaei stated.

The Iranian diplomat emphasized that the fallen children of Minab and Lamerd, as well as many other minors martyred during the June 2025 and the recent 40-day US-Israeli wars of aggression, remind everyone of their responsibility towards the truth.

The spokesperson emphasized that the attack on the Minab school and the residential area of Lamerd is a clear instance of a war crime, saying that Iran will utilize all legal and international mechanisms to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Seizure of Iranian ...

The second is a broader fund that would allow Iran access to a wider range of goods beyond humanitarian items, while Washington would still retain oversight of spending. The third scenario involves full release of the assets, with Iran exercising complete control over how the funds are used.

Under such circumstances, a plan to divert Iranian assets elsewhere would effectively alter the entire course of negotiations because the funds would no longer be made available to Iran in

the first place, an issue that has become one of the main sticking points in the ongoing talks.

My personal assessment is that the reports indicate that the United States is using it as a pressure tool to persuade Iran to accept American conditions in the broader understanding currently under negotiation.

Do you think the recent message from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan's army chief Asem Munir to Iran's leadership is related to

this issue?

According to reports, one of the ideas discussed in the proposal concerns a mechanism for addressing Iran's frozen assets. It appears that the initiative is closer to the second scenario and reportedly envisions transferring those assets to a trusted third country acceptable to both Iran and the United States. In return for reciprocal steps by Washington and Tehran, portions of the funds would gradually be released. I believe this proposal has a better chance of success.