

Qalibaf, Vance to attend Switzerland signing of Iran-US peace memo

Araghchi: Talks on final deal likely to begin on Friday

International Desk

Iranian deputy foreign minister said on Tuesday that top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and US Vice President JD Vance will attend the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Switzerland on Friday to end a recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Both countries announced the agreement on Monday after a marathon of negotiations mediated by Pakistan, which will be followed by 60-day negotiations on Iran's nuclear issue and sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic.

Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi said on the sidelines of a meeting with foreign diplomats based in Tehran that the second phase of the two-stage process will begin

immediately after the signing of the memorandum on Friday. According to the Swiss Foreign Ministry, the signing ceremony will be held at Switzerland's mountainside Bürgenstock resort.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who addressed the same meeting on Tuesday, also said a new round of negotiations between Tehran and Washington to reach a final agreement will likely begin on Friday.

"In the final agreement, decisions will be made on the nuclear issues and the lifting of sanctions."

Details of MoU

Takht-Ravanchi noted that the MoU addresses war reparations, the release of Iran's frozen assets, and an end to hostilities across the region, in-



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and his deputy Majid Takht-Ravanchi attend a meeting with ambassadors and heads of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations based in Tehran, Iran on June 16, 2026.

● ISNA

aged."

He also emphasized that the memorandum addresses Tehran's long-standing demand for access to its frozen assets and the lifting of restrictions affecting maritime trade routes, referring to an illegal naval blockade imposed by the US on Iran's southern ports and its vessels since the beginning of the recent aggression against Iran on February.

Announcing the agreement in a post on social media on the early hours of Monday, US President Donald Trump said the

Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping route for global oil and gas supplies that Iran has effectively shut down for months, would open on Friday, and that he had ordered the end of the US blockade of Iranian ports.

The memorandum of understanding also includes a \$300bn fund to help rebuild Iran.

Vance on Monday said Iran could have access to a \$300 billion reconstruction fund under its peace agreement with the US if Tehran upholds its obligations outlined in the deal.

When asked about the fund by CBS News's Ed O'Keefe during a Monday morning interview, Vance said, "Well, Ed, that's the sort of thing they could have access to, funded by the [Persian] Gulf Coast Coalition, so long as they honor their end of the obligation."

cluding in Lebanon. The Iranian diplomat said that reconstruction is among the

key issues covered by the document, stressing that a "plan for reconstruction has been envis-

Tehran says US naval blockade on Iranian ports 'lifted'

International Desk

Iranian officials said on Tuesday that a naval blockade imposed by the United States on Iran's ports have been removed ahead of the formal signing of a peace understanding between Tehran and Washington in Switzerland on Friday. Senior member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Alaeddin Boroujerdi said that several Iranian ships have already broken through the US naval blockade which has been in place since April 13.

The US imposed the blockade on Iranian ports after Iran closed the strategic Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in February 28. The closure of the waterway caused the surge in energy prices



Cargo ships are seen near the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf on March 11, 2026.

● REUTERS

across the world.

In an interview with ISNA, Boroujerdi said several Iranian vessels have successfully navigated through the blockade zone, effectively allowing the country to resume its export operations, which marks the first tangible benefit secured by Iran under the agreement.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi also said on Tuesday that the two-month US naval blockade on Iranian ports have been

lifted.

"The lifting of the blockade was something we had emphasized from the outset. It has now begun, and the blockade has been lifted prior to the formal signing" scheduled for Friday, said Takht-Ravanchi, according to the government's website.

Earlier on the day, Iran's state television reported the resumption of shipping by Iranian vessels in the strait.

At least three Iranian oil tankers and two cargo

ships carrying essential goods have successfully broken through the US naval blockade.

The vessels, which had been stranded for months amid the illegal American blockade against Iranian shipping, sailed through international waters unimpeded, according to informed maritime sources speaking exclusively to Press TV.

It came less than 24 hours after the finalized memorandum of understanding (MoU) mediated by Pakistan and Qatar mandated an immediate end to the illegal US naval blockade against Iran as part of a wider cessation of hostilities on all fronts.

Army chief vows 'overwhelming fury' against enemy miscalculation



Amir Hatami

● IRNA

The chief commander of the Iranian Army said the enemy failed to achieve any of its goals during two wars, warning that any miscalculation will be met with the Iranian Armed Forces' overwhelming fury.

Major General Amir Hatami made the remarks during a ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday, a day after Iran and the United States announced they had finalized a tentative agreement to end the war that began in late February, Press TV reported. "The enemy stated in its strategic objectives that it wanted to force Iran to surrender, destroy the Islamic Republic, and shamelessly spoke of changing Iran's map," Hatami said. "Today, none of these objectives have been achieved." The United States and Israel launched a war of aggression against Iran on February 28. They assassinated Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali

Khamenei and struck nuclear facilities, schools and hospitals.

Iran responded with at least 100 waves of decisive retaliatory strikes under Operation True Promise 4.

General Hatami pointed to past aggressions, saying that during the 12-day war in June 2025 and the recent US-Israeli aggression, the enemy pleaded for a ceasefire.

"The Iranian nation has not only refused to surrender, but you saw in the case of Lebanon that Iran's will was imposed on the enemy," he stated.

He also dismissed enemy claims of military victory as false, highlighting the Iranian Navy's powerful defense along 600 kilometers of the Sea of Oman. He noted that enemy naval vessels that entered Iranian waters were targeted by Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

End of war hinges on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon: FM

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that any new Israeli attacks on Lebanon or continued occupation of the recently-seized territories in the country would constitute a violation of a peace agreement that is scheduled to be signed between Iran and the US on Friday.

Speaking at a meeting with foreign diplomats based in Tehran on Tuesday, Araghchi identified the most important provision of the memorandum as declaration of an immediate and permanent end to the war across all fronts, including Lebanon.

The foreign minister also emphasized that the end of the war also requires an end to the Israeli presence in the territories that the regime has occupied since escalating its aggression against Lebanon.



"The end of the war includes the end of occupation. Without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories they occupied during this war, the war will have not been fully brought to an end," he said.

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

The war has claimed at least 3,700 lives since March 2, according to the latest figures released by Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Hezbollah's chief Sheikh Naim Qassem in a message to Iranian Parliament speaker and top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, thanked him for helping stop the "Israeli-American aggression" on Lebanon.

Naim Qassem expressed "profound gratitude" for Iran's efforts "to compel the Israeli entity to an immediate and permanent cessation of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."

Sheikh Qassem added, "We have always said that Iran has given Hezbollah, the resistance and the Lebanese people everything, and has taken nothing in return. It has supported us in our choices and strengthened us to liberate our land."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

