

# Pezeshkian, Trump ink MoU to end war, reopen Hormuz

## International Desk

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to end a recent aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran came into effect in the wee hours of Thursday after Iranian and American presidents separately signed the agreement brokered by Pakistan. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian hailed the deal as a "historic document" and a demonstration of Iran's strength on the world stage. US President Donald Trump signed the agreement just before a grand dinner with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Palace of Versailles, the site of the signing of the eponymous treaty that formally ended World War One.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Thursday confirmed that the text of the MoU was finalized with the signatures of the presidents, saying, "Now it is time to test the implementation of the agreement." Iranian Parliament Speaker Baqer Qalibaf and US Vice President JD Vance were scheduled to attend a signing ceremony in Switzerland, but it was canceled as fighting flared in Lebanon.

"When the text is signed by the highest officials of the two countries, violating it will naturally have greater costs, and given our experiences, we preferred this to happen," Baqaei said.

However, he said that, "We are planning to hold a meeting in the coming days."

The agreement between Iran and the US was finalized on Sunday, following months of intensive negotiations mediated by Pakistan, with support from other regional countries. Under the agreement, the war and all military operations, including in Lebanon, have ended immediately, and the US naval blockade against Iran has been lifted.

The MoU also provides for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping. A 60-day verification and negotiation period will follow, during which the parties will address outstanding issues, including the lifting of all sanctions against Iran and Iran's nuclear program. Baqaei warned that implementing the ceasefire agreement with the US will be more difficult than signing it, stressing that Tehran has not forgotten the lessons of the war and will carefully monitor US compliance.

He made clear that Iran will not hesitate to respond if Washington fails to implement its obligations.

## Iran's missiles

Baqaei explained that Iran's wise decision was to postpone nuclear negotiations to a later stage, focusing first on ending the war.

"From the moment the MoU comes into effect, which is now, we will have 60 days to



The combo shows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (l) and his American counterpart Donald Trump signing copies of a memorandum of understanding on June 18, 2026 to end the US-Israeli war on Iran.

negotiate on the nuclear issue and sanctions. If talks reach a conclusion earlier, that is better. But given the complexity of the issue, the 60-day timeframe is reasonable, and if necessary, it can be extended." He added that the MoU specifies that negotiations will only cover the nuclear issue and sanctions removal.

The Iranian official stressed that Iran's missile capabilities are not a subject for discussion.

Baqaei also emphasized that Iran has never abandoned its allies, and that a ceasefire in Lebanon was as important to Tehran as the end of the war on Iran.

Regarding Iran's enriched uranium, the Iranian official reiterated Tehran's red line on the issue.

"We have said from the beginning that enriched nuclear

material will not be transferred out of Iran. Dilution of enriched material is not a new option. It has now been introduced as an option to close the door on other possibilities," he said.

## Management of Strait of Hormuz

The spokesman confirmed that Iran is finalizing a new management mechanism for the Strait of Hormuz which was closed by Iranian Armed Forces following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28.

"Iran will charge fees for services in the Strait of Hormuz. This mechanism and arrangements for managing the strait are being drafted. We began consultations with Oman long ago and have spoken with some other countries," Baqaei said.

# Leader says approved Iran-US deal despite reservations

**President:** SNSC committed to defending national rights, Resistance Front



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei  
IRNA

## National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei said he had initially held a "different view" about the recent agreement reached between Iran and the United States to end war but authorized the agreement based on commitments made by president who has pledged to safeguard the rights of the Iranian nation and the Resistance Front.

In a message on Thursday, Ayatollah Khamenei said President Masoud Pezeshkian assured that he will not accept any excessive US demands.

"From this moment, we — meaning you, the proud nation, and this humble servant — will await the fulfillment of the stated conditions. But it is obvious that the in-person negotiations that will take place in the future will not mean accepting the enemy's view," the Leader said. Praising efforts made by the officials, Ayatollah Khamenei said Iranian officials have made extensive efforts out of compassion and goodwill to reach a memorandum of understanding with the US, while the American president has used various leverage points out of desperation.

"The passionate and loyal Iranian nation, as you have been informed, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the presidents of Iran and America," he said.

"In the course of reaching this stage, officials, out of compassion and goodwill, made many efforts, and of course it was the US president who, out of desperation, was using various leverage points for this purpose."

The MoU, signed remotely by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and US President Donald Trump, calls for a permanent end to hostilities across all fronts, the removal of the US naval blockade within 30 days, the restoration

of commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a reconstruction plan worth at least \$300 billion, and the lifting of US sanctions.

Under the MoU, the two sides have entered a 60-day negotiation period, with the goal of reaching a comprehensive final agreement. The agreement followed an unprovoked US-Israeli war of terrorism against Iran that began in late February.

Pezeshkian in a statement issued on Thursday warmly welcomed the Leader's message, describing it as a clear and decisive roadmap that defines the responsibilities of all state institutions in safeguarding Iran's national interests and dignity.

"As President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), along with the other members of the Council, we consider ourselves fully committed to paying maximum attention to the concerns of the Supreme Leader and to safeguarding the rights of the Iranian nation and the Axis of Resistance," president said in his statement.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also said that Iranian officials will treat the directives of the Leader as their guiding light in upcoming negotiations, promising never to let the American-Zionist enemy undermine the rights of the Iranian nation and the Axis of Resistance.

Qalibaf said that the recent MoU is not the end of the road but merely the beginning of a difficult and complex struggle to fully secure Iran's legitimate rights from a "covenant-breaking" adversary.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warmly welcomed the "guiding message" from the Leader, emphasizing full commitment to his directives in defending the nation's dignity, independence, and revolutionary ideals.

# Pezeshkian thanks Pakistan, Qatar for MoU roles; hails Tajik support

## International Desk

The Iranian president expressed appreciation for the critical roles played by Pakistan and Qatar in achieving a peace agreement between Iran and the United States, also thanking Tajikistan for its supportive position toward Iran.

Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country mediated the peace talks between Tehran and Washington, expressed appreciation for Pakistan's "extremely critical role in steering the mediation process with great skill and sincerity," saying that Iran would "always remember Pakistan's positive and constructive ef-

forts and its support for Iran during these difficult times." Sharif, for his part, said the landmark deal would not only help restore peace in the region, but also go a long way in rebuilding the Iranian nation and further strengthening Pakistan-Iran ties.

He also wished the Iranian side success in the next phase of negotiations.

In a separate conversation with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Iranian president also praised Qatar for its role in facilitating diplomatic efforts that led to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and the US.

Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's commitment to

strengthening political, economic, and cultural ties with neighboring and Islamic countries and expressed hope that the new atmosphere created by the MoU would deepen relations between Iran, Qatar, and other regional states.

Welcoming the MoU, Sheikh Tamim emphasized the importance of diplomacy and dialogue in reducing tensions and enhancing regional stability, adding that the current circumstances offer an opportunity to expand cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian president also held a phone conversation with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, during which Pezeshkian expressed appreciation for the sup-

portive, fraternal, and sympathetic position of the government and people of Tajikistan toward Iran.

Both sides welcomed the agreement and emphasized the importance of strengthening peace and stability across the region.

President Pezeshkian, referring to recent regional developments, expressed hope that greater unity among Islamic countries would help prevent destabilizing and aggressive policies in the region and pave the way for sustainable peace and security.

President Rahmon congratulated Iran on reaching the recent MoU with the US, describing it as a hopeful development for the peoples of the region.

# Israel pummels Lebanon in disregard of Trump's Iran deal

**Araghchi:** Tel Aviv regime wants 'permanent war'

## International Desk

Israel intensified its strikes on Lebanon on Friday despite an agreement between Iran and the United States, which includes halt to regime's attacks on the Arab country.

According to the Lebanese Health Ministry, Israeli airstrikes and bombardments killed at least 47 people and wounded 97 others in Lebanon on Friday. Later in the day, Israel and Lebanon's resistance group Hezbollah reportedly agreed to a ceasefire brokered by US and Qatari mediators following talks with Israel and Iran. However, Lebanese state media reported further Israeli airstrikes in violation of the ceasefire. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the latest Israeli strikes on his country, saying the "killing



and destruction constitutes a dangerous escalation."

"It effectively targets all ongoing efforts to consolidate the ceasefire and end the war," a statement from the presidency said. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also reacted to the developments in Lebanon, saying the regime was after a "permanent war" following remark from

its far-right national security minister Itamar Ben Gvir saying "all Lebanon must burn" after four Israeli soldiers were killed there.

"This is not a rant by a random genocidal lunatic. It's a public post by the national security minister of the Israeli regime. The genocidal death cult headquartered in Tel Aviv is a threat to all of humanity. It threatens all humans. Its only interest is permanent war," Araghchi said on X. Israeli attacks on Lebanon began in March after Hezbollah launched military operations against the regime in response to the regime's aggression against Iran.

The war has claimed at least 3,800 lives since March 2, according to the latest figures released by Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

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