

Iran, US hold direct talks in Switzerland on implementation of Islamabad MoU



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) shakes hands with Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif (C) next to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir (R) prior to a quadrilateral meeting between the United States, Iran, Pakistan and Qatar at the Burgenstock luxury hotel complex overlooking Lake Lucerne, Switzerland, on June 21, 2026, as part of high-level talks aimed at advancing a deal to end the Middle East conflict.

● AFP

Lebanon," Baqaei said. "We know that this clause has not been implemented and that the US has not been able to or has not wanted to. The Zionist regime keeps violating its commitment. This is the main topic of discussions in today's talks." Baqaei, meanwhile, said in a post on X that the unfreezing of Iranian assets and "issuing the necessary licenses for the sale of Iranian oil will also be on the agenda". The Iranian delegation is led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf while the US Vice President JD Vance is heading the American delegation in the negotiations which is also attended by regional mediators Pakistan and Qatar.

'Historic meeting'

At the start of the talks, Vance said he hopes Washington and Tehran can reset their relationship. "This is a historic meeting," Vance said in the negotiation room. "The question before us now is how much more can we accomplish together?" "Can we turn over a new leaf? Can we

change relations in the Middle East permanently?

"Or do we go back to doing things the old way, which is not our preference, but it's certainly very much something that can happen."

The negotiation table was set up in a U-shape, with Qatar and the United States on one side, Pakistan and Iran on the other – all with three seats each. What Trump "has asked us to do is turn over new leaf to transform our relationship with the people of Iran", said Vance.

No talks on nuclear issue

Iranian state television reported on Sunday that Iran's nuclear program had not been discussed in the talks.

"No negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear program took place during the 80-minute first round of talks," the broadcaster said, adding that the focus had been on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington, and the situation in Lebanon.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country mediated the negotiations, also participated in technical-level talks as a follow-up to the Iran-US MoU.

"I think we will have wonderful discussions which will lead to, hopefully, very productive results in times to come," said Sharif.

"Hopefully when we go back to our homes, we'll have some wonderful paper in our hand which will promote peace, progress and prosperity around the globe."

International Desk

Iran and the United States started direct talks in Switzerland on how to implement a memorandum of understanding (MoU) reached between the two countries last week, with the US vice president calling it a "historic meeting". The negotiations at the Swiss resort of Burgenstock came after Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his American counterpart Donald Trump on Wednesday digitally signed the

agreement that includes an end to attacks on all fronts, including Lebanon, removal of a US blockade affecting Iranian ports and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

The blockade on ports was lifted and the Strait of Hormuz was reopened immediately afterwards. However, the Israeli strikes on Lebanon prompted Iran to announce it had shut the shipping route on Saturday until the regime stops its attacks.

The 14-point MoU also includes a commitment to clinch a final deal within

60 days on sanctions imposed on Iran as well as the country's nuclear program.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei, who is accompanying the Iranian delegation, said on the sidelines of the meeting that the negotiations would focus on the implementation of the first clause of the MoU.

"The start of negotiations for a final agreement is conditional on five specific clauses, including clause one of the MoU, which concerns the cessation of hostilities in all fronts, including

Terms of Iran-US peace memo mostly work to Tehran's advantage: *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that the clauses of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by Iran and the United States last week to end war were mostly to the benefit of Iran, and the tangible achievements of the ongoing negotiations would soon become fully apparent to the public.

Addressing an economic conference in Tehran, Pezeshkian said that \$6 billion worth of Iranian funds held in Qatar would be released as a direct result of the MoU, IRNA reported.

His remarks came as senior US and Iranian officials met in Switzerland for talks on how

to implement the agreement. The president noted that CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati was attending the negotiations to determine exactly how those assets would be allocated to domestic sectors to drive economic growth. Pezeshkian clarified that the sole point raised by the United States was that Iran must not possess an atomic bomb. He reaffirmed that this position aligned perfectly with Tehran's existing policy, as the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei had repeatedly stated over the years that Iran did not want or intend to make nuclear weapons.

"When the US requested to put this long-standing declaration

in writing, the Iranian side proceeded to sign the agreement."

The president added that other negotiated items had also been agreed upon during the lifetime of the late leader, emphasizing that Iran had not and would never back down from its fundamental right to uranium enrichment, which the opposing side had been forced to accept.

Pezeshkian also said that war was not in anyone's interest, yet warned the enemies that the Armed Forces were fully prepared to defend the country and that Iran had no fear of war.

"This does not mean that we are afraid of war. Members of the Iranian Armed Forces,



President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during Iran's 33rd Monetary and Banking Policy Conference in Tehran, Iran on June 21, 2026.

● president.ir

serving either in the Army or the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), as well as the people of our country, have shown that they stand strong, and will continue resiliently if the war drags on," he said.

Iran and the US signed the 14-point MoU on Wednesday, which calls for a permanent end to hostilities across all fronts, including Lebanon, oil export waivers, the lifting of the US naval blockade on Iran within 30 days, and the restoration of commercial traffic



through the Strait of Hormuz. The two sides also agreed to hold talks on removal of sanc-

tions on Iran and the country's nuclear program during a 60-day period.

Social hope; missing ...

The same principle applies to security. Conventional thinking often equates security with military power, intelligence capabilities, or law enforcement. While these remain indispensable, durable security ultimately depends on public confidence. Citizens who trust their institutions and believe their future can improve are more likely to contribute to social stability and collective resilience. In this sense, hope functions as a strategic asset, strengthening the foundations upon which security rests.

History offers numerous examples. Countries that successfully emerged from war, recession, or political upheaval did not recover through material resources alone. Their recovery depended on restoring confidence and rebuilding a sense of collective

purpose. Economic reconstruction became possible because people believed that sacrifice would lead to improvement and that investment would produce results.

This lesson carries particular relevance today. As societies confront uncertainty on multiple fronts, governments face a challenge that extends beyond managing economies or safeguarding borders. They must also cultivate the conditions that sustain public optimism. Hope cannot be legislated, but it can be nurtured through credible institutions, transparent governance, economic opportunity, and a clear national vision.

The relationship between hope, security, and development is therefore not sequential but reciprocal. Security enables development. Development expands opportunity. Hope, however,

energizes both. It is the invisible force that encourages societies to invest, innovate, endure, and move forward. For this reason, social hope should no longer be regarded as a soft or secondary concern. It is a strategic resource. Indeed, in periods of uncertainty, it may be the most important resource a nation possesses.

The countries most likely to succeed in the twenty-first century will not necessarily be those with the largest economies or the strongest militaries. They will be those capable of convincing their citizens that tomorrow can be better than today. Without hope, security becomes fragile and development loses momentum. With hope, both become sustainable. Social hope is not merely the outcome of progress. It is one of the foundations upon which progress itself is built.



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