

FM spox: Progress made in Oman talks on Strait of Hormuz governance



International Desk

Iran says talks held with Oman over safe shipping through the Strait of Hormuz made good progress, but no change has been made in the status of transit through the strategic waterway. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Saturday that several

rounds of negotiations were held in Tehran on Friday and Saturday between Iranian and Omani deputy foreign ministers.

"The two sides discussed shared principles and operational mechanisms for ensuring the safe transit of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, while honoring the sovereign rights of the two coastal

nations," Baqaei said.

"The discussions were productive, and advancements were achieved," he said, adding that the Omani delegation departed Tehran on Saturday afternoon, while "technical and political discussions between both parties will carry on."

Baqaei also stated that currently, there



Women swim as commercial vessels are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz on July 12, 2026.

● ISNA

is no alteration in the condition of shipping via the Strait of Hormuz.

The United States has breached the Pakistan-brokered memorandum of understanding (MoU) of June 17 by trying to carry out unauthorized naval maneuvers in the Strait of Hormuz, leading the Iranian Navy to intercept the ships to uphold the agreement.

On Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that the existing instability in the Strait of Hormuz and the surrounding area is entirely due to the United States' violation of its commitments and its disruption of the fulfillment of Iran's responsibilities under Clause 5 of the MoU.

Iran has drafted a plan to charge environmental fees for vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Department of Environment said it has drafted regulations to collect environmental service fees and compensation for environmental damage in the Strait of Hormuz and has submitted the proposal to the government for approval.

The agency said environmental damage caused by the annual passage of more than 50,000 ships and oil tankers through the strait, along with their

contribution to pollution in the Persian Gulf, should be compensated. It said the proposed regulations are consistent with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The United States and its allies said imposing any such charges would violate the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters.

Iran, however, maintains that the Strait of Hormuz is not international waters but consists of the territorial waters of Iran and Oman, and says charging fees to transiting vessels is permitted under international law.

Iran shut down the chokepoint to enemies and their allies after February 28, when the US and the Israeli regime began their latest bout of wholesale unprovoked aggression against the Islamic Republic.

It began exercising far stricter controls after US President Donald Trump announced continuation of an illegal naval blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in spite of a ceasefire that the US president, himself, had declared on April 7.

In May, Iran officially launched a new mechanism for governing maritime traffic through the strategic strait, with the Islamic Republic warning vessels against refusing to coordinate their pending transits with Iranian authorities and using routes other than the supervisory management zone defined by Tehran.

Mediation efforts resume to bring Iran, US back to negotiating table

International Desk

Mediation efforts have reportedly continued to bring Iran and the United States back to the negotiating table as a recent lull in fighting has revived hopes of a return to talks after nearly two weeks of exchange of fire between the two sides.

According to AP, a regional official involved in the mediation efforts said that concerted diplomacy was underway and that a pause in US strikes and Iranian counterstrikes on neighboring countries hosting American forces was a "positive signal that helps their efforts to de-escalate."

The official said that both the US and Iran want to return to the interim ceasefire deal and that a compromise, which is being negotiated now, centers around having Iran run vessel transit through the Strait of Hormuz with fewer restrictions on ships. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iran said on Sunday it has halted retaliatory attacks against US after Washington stopped its strikes on the country for the past two nights.



Pakistani security personnel stand guard outside the Jinnah Convention Center, where international media have gathered to cover talks between US and Iranian officials, taking place in the nearby Serena Hotel in Islamabad on April 11, 2026.

● GETTY IMAGES

"These attacks continued until two nights ago, but over the past two nights the Americans have stopped their attacks," said Army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia on Sunday.

"Since... our strategy has essentially been retaliatory, we have also halted our retaliatory operations." The Iranian declaration came after reports emerged that concerns over dwindling US munitions were restraining plans for further escalation.

But the recent lull has revived hopes of a return to negotiations after nearly two weeks of consecutive nightly US bombardments and Iran's retaliatory attacks, although US media reported the pause could also reflect pressure on stockpiles of Patriot interceptors and other defensive weapons.

Plans to escalate the campaign

have been shelved in part because of those shrinking supplies, The New York Times reported, citing two people briefed on the matter. Trump also faces the risk of a wider war, the estrangement of vulnerable Persian Gulf allies and further shocks to the global economy, the newspaper said.

Vice President JD Vance and top US general Dan Caine both raised concerns about escalation at a White House meeting on Friday, CNN reported.

Iran's Army warned on Sunday that the war would widen even further if the US chose to restart its attacks, ahead of a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Washington on Tuesday. Trump said on Friday he had not decided whether to return to an all-out operation.

"We're talking to them right now. I think they're getting more and more serious," he told journalists.

Tehran vows response to Ukraine's attack on Iranian commercial ship

International Desk

Deputy Speaker of Iran's Parliament Ali Nikzad described Ukraine's military attack on an Iranian commercial vessel in the Caspian Sea as a "reckless action," saying that Kiev's move will not go unanswered.

Speaking during a parliament session on Sunday, Nikzad said that Iran will always exercise its legal right to defend its territorial integrity, warning that any location used as an origin for aggression against Iran will be a legitimate target for the country's armed forces.

The warning came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that Kiev had carried out long-range strikes in the Caspian Sea against vessels involved in transporting military cargo involving Iran, as well as a warship.

Ukraine's intelligence services (SBU), for their part, claimed that drone attacks had been carried out against "cargo vessels under international sanctions that were used to transport military cargo between Iran and Russia." Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday condemned Ukraine, saying that the attack on Saturday morning caused the ship "to explode, killing one sailor and injuring others." It also summoned Ukraine's chargé d'affaires in Tehran to protest the "hostile and criminal" attack.

The ministry said in a statement that the attack reflected Kiev's continued "irrational and hostile approach" towards Iran, asserting that the Islamic Republic will defend its national interests.



● IRNA

It described the attack as a violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter and "an act of aggression" with potential escalatory effects.

"Any party genuinely concerned about peace and security in Eastern Europe and the surrounding regions should adopt a responsible position regarding this dangerous action by the Ukrainian regime and hold Ukraine's ruling authorities accountable for this criminal and provocative act," the statement said.

The ministry also said the Islamic Republic would act in accordance with international law to protect its interests and security.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also in a phone conversation with European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas condemned Ukraine's military attack, calling for a decisive response from the UN Security Council, the European Union, and the international community.

Araghchi urged international bodies to hold "the perpetrators and supporters of this criminal act" accountable.

IRGC cautions Israel, UK against abetting US in anti-Iran war

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warned the Israeli regime and Britain against aiding and abetting the United States in its criminal war of aggression against Iran.

IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohebi made the remarks on Sunday, two days after the US appeared to pause its deadly aerial assaults on Iran following nearly two weeks of bombings that prompted Iran's firm response, Press TV reported.

He said that Israel seeks to keep the United States engaged in the region by influencing US President Donald Trump and providing misleading information, "using American power to advance its own goals."

"Israel knows what we would do to it if it returns to the war and we concentrate our efforts against it," he added. Mohebi also warned that continued UK support for US B-1 bomber operations could make British airbases legitimate targets.

"Recently, American B-1 bombers operated from British airbases. If they continue to cooperate, they will be considered our certain and legitimate targets. We have a specific scenario prepared for every situation."

For thirteen consecutive nights, the US military conducted waves of air raids on Iran, committing war crimes by targeting civilian sites and killing 55 people.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces launched heavy reprisal attacks

against strategic American targets across West Asia.

The fresh round of US aggression began after Washington abandoned its obligation under the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tehran, signed on June 18, to end the war.

The United States and the Israeli regime waged their illegal war of aggression against Iran on February 28. However, forty days later, on April 8, the enemies were forced to accept a

ceasefire amid Iran's brave resistance, successful retaliatory operations, and powerful grip on the Strait of Hormuz.

On Saturday, Mohebi said the US death toll following the violation of the MoU has exceeded 200 while the number of those injured is far higher. "The casualty figures reported by the Americans are a sheer lie," he noted. "The American people should not allow their lying commanders to treat them like fools."