

'Significant progress' made during Iran-Pakistan talks on Islamabad MoU

International Desk

Pakistan said that "significant progress was made" during the Monday's talks between Iranian and Pakistani officials to restore a previously signed memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington. Writing on X, Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated that he and the country's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, had a "very positive and productive meeting with the President of Iran" in Tehran on Monday. He added that their discussion "focused on the Iran US conflict, tensions in the Middle East and the way forward, as well as the steps needed by both sides for

restoration of the Islamabad MoU thereby leading to comprehensive settlement of the conflict". Naqvi said that "the Iranian president candidly shared his government's perspective and concerns, and we had a very constructive exchange on the issues involved". He added that "significant progress was made", that "the meeting concluded on a highly positive note" and expressed hope that "this momentum will help pave the way for further progress and lasting peace in the region". Mehdi Tabatabaei, deputy for communications and information at the Iranian President's

Office, described the visit by the Pakistani delegation as "very fruitful," and said "the results of this visit will be revealed soon." He said the talks with Pakistani officials had "produced very valuable diplomatic achievements." The Pakistani delegation headed by Asim Munir arrived in Tehran on Monday to help restore the June Pakistan-mediated agreement which quickly faltered after the United States violated its terms. According to a statement from the Pakistani military, the delegation held comprehensive discussions with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Supreme National Security Council (SNSC)



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir in Tehran, Iran, on August 24, 2026.
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Secretary Mohsen Rezaei, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni. During the meetings, President Pezeshkian issued a warning to Washington, emphasizing that the United States must abandon its reliance on force and coercion. "The United States must correct its tone and approach in



interacting with Iran," Pezeshkian stated, according to Iranian state media. "Relying on coercion and bullying will only make the implementation process more complicated."

US has no place in future of region: Iran's top security official

Iran's Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Major General Mohsen Rezaei, said on Tuesday that the United States will have no role in the future of West Asia, emphasizing that regional nations are now taking charge of their own destinies. Speaking during a high-level meeting in Tehran with Faeq Zaidan, the Head of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council, Rezaei underscored the deep historical and cultural ties between the two nations, Press TV reported. He reiterated Tehran's steadfast support for a sovereign, strong, and independent Iraq, while asserting a definitive shift in the region's geopolitical landscape. "The United States will have no place in the future of the region,



and the countries of the region will make decisions about their own future," Rezaei stated. Addressing mutual security concerns, the Iranian security chief stressed the urgent need to clarify the status of and dismantle anti-Iranian militant groups operating along the shared borders of the two countries. He noted that neutralizing these elements is essential for main-



Iran's Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Major General Mohsen Rezaei (R) holds talks with Faeq Zaidan, the Head of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council, in Tehran on August 25, 2026.
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taining long-term stability and safeguarding the interests of both nations. In response, Zaidan expressed deep appreciation for the Islamic Republic's continuous political and strategic support for Iraq. Zaidan also emphasized the mutual commitment to enhancing regional cooperation and ensuring robust, coordinated security measures along the shared borders to prevent any cross-border threats.

Iranian, Omani FM's discuss 'regional, bilateral' issues

International Desk

Iranian foreign minister and his Omani counterpart held a meeting in Tehran as both Persian Gulf countries seek a way to regulate the passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz. According to IRNA, Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who arrived in Tehran on Tuesday, discussed the most important regional and bilateral issues. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a statement on Monday, "The visit is aimed at strengthening Iran-Oman bilateral cooperation and Al-Busaidi will meet with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to discuss bilateral and regional issues". Baqaei said the upcoming discussions



are expected to focus on efforts to help promote peace and security in the region. Iran and Oman, as the two coastal states, have been engaged in intensive negotiations for nearly three months to establish a safe shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of global oil demand



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) greets his Omani counterpart Badr al-Busaidi upon his arrival in Tehran on August 25, 2026.
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passes, following the start of the US-Israeli aggression in late February. Earlier this month, Araghchi said Iran and Oman are "very close" to reaching an agreement on a new mechanism for managing shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, but the full reopening of the strategic waterway depends on US compliance with its obligations under the Islamabad Memorandum of understanding. Tehran and Muscat have so far held several meetings on the management of the Strait of Hormuz.

Defense min.: Iran considers US sanctions part of ongoing war

International Desk

Iran's acting defense minister warned that efforts to put pressure on the country's economy and the security of its people should be regarded as part of the ongoing war. Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Ibn al-Reza made the remarks in a message published online on Tuesday, saying Iran considers economic stability, public welfare and security part of its "defense field." "Any pressure that targets the livelihoods and security of the people is part of the war," Ibn al-Reza said. He also warned that those seeking to

widen the pressure campaign against Iran should expect Tehran to broaden its response as well, within the framework of national interests. On Monday, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced new sanctions against Iran, claiming the measures target Iran's financial networks worldwide and warned that no partner is beyond Washington's reach. The new measures expand secondary sanctions risks in areas such as digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping, while sanctioning around 60 entities, individuals and vessels helping facilitate Iranian trade. China, which is Iran's largest trade part-

ner, on Tuesday reacted to the sanctions, saying that it would safeguard its interests after Washington laid out plans for the "economic asphyxiation" of Iran. "Cooperation between China and Iran has always been conducted within the framework of international law and should not be interfered with or disrupted," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a regular news briefing on Tuesday. "China has already stated many times that it firmly opposes illegal unilateral sanctions... China will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its own rights and interests," he added.

UN chief: Superpowers need to recognize their influence has narrowed

'Iran, Ukraine wars prove global power relations have changed'

International Desk

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world's most powerful states need to recognize that their influence has narrowed, citing Russia's war in Ukraine and the US war with Iran. "I think it's time for superpowers to understand the limits of their power," he said. "The weight of different countries has changed, and that inevitably will be having an impact in the way power relations are established," Guterres told the Financial Times. "If you look at what happened in recent times, the capacity of superpowers to impose their will or their strength or their force in several situations has been severely limited." "Look at what happened with Russia and Ukraine," he said, referring to the full-scale invasion in 2022, which Moscow expected to last for a matter of days. "Look at what's happened with the US and Iran," Guterres added, referring to the US and Israeli war on Iran. The US hoped Tehran would capitulate when it attacked in February, but six months later Iran's establishment is holding out and has closed the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important energy waterway. In Guterres's decade in charge, the UN's profile as a mediator in global crises has waned. Some former and current officials argue he and the UN made a mistake in his second term by being less visible in the world's war zones, as his focus has appeared to shift from mediating conflicts to broader societal challenges, such as combating climate



Antonio Guterres
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change. Guterres concedes it has been hard to mediate in the wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Iran. The UN's decision-making body, the Security Council, had been "practically paralyzed," he said, as the US and Russia, two of its five veto-wielding powers, have blocked it while pursuing their goals. "A sense of impunity is now prevailing," he said. "Our leverage is dramatically diminished" by the fact that there is not a Security Council able to tell countries that "they must behave [or] they'll be punished".

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