

Pezeshkian voices Iran's readiness to return to peace memo with US

Putin reaffirms support for Tehran after new sanctions

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian denounced the United States for violating the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) but said if Washington returns to its commitments, Tehran will immediately do so.

Addressing the 26th Summit of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Tuesday, Pezeshkian said the US began to make excessive demands and violate its obligations under the Islamabad MoU less than two weeks after its president, Donald Trump, signed it.

The US "honored its commitments to the document bearing the signature of its president for less than two weeks before beginning to make excessive demands and breach its commitments, a course that continues to this day," he said.

"The violation of the US commitments was met with an appropriate response from Iran," Pezeshkian added.



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hands with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in a meeting on the sidelines of the 26th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on September 1, 2026.
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However, he noted that if the United States returns to its commitments under the Islamabad Memorandum, Iran will immediately do the same.

"Unlike the United States, my country has a distinguished record of honoring its international commitments and agreements and has always acted in accor-

dance with the principles of international law," the president said. He also described the recent US-Israeli war against Iran as aggression against the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and international law.

The US and Israel launched their war against Iran on February 28 by assassinating the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, along with senior military commanders as well as hundreds of others on the first day of the aggression.

Iran retaliated with attacks on the US military bases in regional countries and Israel's positions in the occupied territories as the conflict continued to spread. Forty days later, on April 8, Washington and Tel Aviv were forced to accept a ceasefire amid Iran's resistance, successful retaliatory operations, and a powerful grip on the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran and Washington also signed the 14-point Memorandum of Understanding brokered by Pakistan and Qatar.

However, the US began attacking Iran in July after it violated the terms of the agreement under the pretext of Iranian strikes on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The US also recently shifted toward a campaign of what it calls "economic asphyxiation" of Iran, imposing sanctions on various sectors in Iran.

Moscow's support for Tehran

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was also present at the summit, reaffirmed Moscow's support for Tehran and its commitment to maintaining close economic ties.

Putin said Russia would continue to strengthen trade and economic cooperation with Iran despite mounting external pressure and rising tensions in the region.

"The Russian people stand in solidarity with the people of Iran in fighting for their interests," Putin told Pezeshkian during a meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

National interests determine approach to US engagement: *SpoX*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei pointed to recent visits of high-ranking officials from Oman, Qatar, and Pakistan to Tehran, stressing that Iran's national interests determine its approach to negotiations with the United States.

Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Tuesday, Baqaei said decisions are made based on the prevailing circumstances and what is required to safeguard those interests.

He also said that Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, "carried neither a positive message nor a negative one" during his recent visit to Iran.

Baqaei explained that the visit was in line with Pakistan's role as a friendly and neighboring country, and falls within the framework of Islamabad's efforts in recent months to help reduce tensions between Iran and the US.

The spokesman highlighted that de-escalation attempts are not restricted to Pakistan, and that several other countries have also played a role in this regard.

Mediator Qatar on Tuesday urged the US and Iran to return to negotiations after they renewed tit-for-tat attacks. On Sunday, the US carried out strikes on an Iranian island in the Strait of



Esmail Baqaei
● [IRNA](#)

Hormuz, with Tehran quickly retaliating by attacking US military targets in the Middle East.

After six months of war, the foes remain at an impasse, with Iran closing the Strait of Hormuz and the US persisting with a blockade of Iranian ports.

"We have said from day one that leaving the issue unresolved and trying to normalize the closure of the strait would lead to escalation," Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari told a regular press briefing.

"This is precisely what we have witnessed over the past two days," he said.

"We urge the parties to exercise wisdom and return to the negotiating path, and we continue to intensify our efforts with our mediation partners to ensure a return to that path."

"In Qatar, in the region, in the world today, we cannot afford to accept the status quo," Ansari said.

"Discussions with our mediation partners - whether in Pakistan or Oman - are ongoing," he added.

Last week, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani traveled to Tehran as part of the mediation efforts, after Iran and Oman, which border the key waterway, said they were discussing a temporary shipping corridor and the clearance of mines.

Baqaei said that the main problem with the US is that it confuses negotiations with "dictating terms" and assumes it can impose its demands on others, an approach that, he stressed, will not work with Iran.

"There is no doubt that American officials are confused in their approaches and statements; but this does not permit us to overlook our capabilities. We will utilize diplomatic means wherever necessary to elaborate on our stances and uphold the rights of the Iranian nation," Baqaei stated.

Envoy calls for UN action over American attack on Larak Island

Iran formally demanded that the UN Security Council act after a US military strike on Larak Island in the Persian Gulf, calling it a blatant act of aggression, a war crime and a direct assault on the country's sovereignty. In a letter dated Monday to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the president of the Security Council, Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran's ambassador and chargé d'affaires at the United Nations, said US forces attacked the Iranian isle on the evening of Sunday.

The strike, he wrote, led to the martyrdom and injury of Iranian defenders of the homeland as well as civilians and caused damage to public and private property, Press TV reported.

Tehran called the raid a clear violation of Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity and a flagrant breach of Article 2, paragraph 4 of the UN Charter, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

Darzi said the Islamic Republic "strongly condemns this unlawful act of aggression."

He added that the Armed Forces, exercising their inherent right of self-defense under Article 51 of the Charter, carried out defensive and



Gholamhossein Darzi

proportionate attacks against US military bases in Jordan that had been used in Washington's "criminal attacks and aggression" against Iran. The letter placed the Larak strike in a broader pattern of hostility that began with a large-scale and unjustified US military attack on February 28.

Darzi called on the secretary-general and the Security Council to take all necessary measures to address the violation of Iran's sovereignty, ensure accountability for the unlawful use of force, and prevent further escalation that threatens international peace and security.

Iran specifically asked the UN to demand that the United States immediately halt its attacks and end actions that endanger navigation and maritime safety in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Pakistan-Kuwait defense ...

It should be noted that factors such as Pakistan's fragile economy and its heavy dependence on Persian Gulf energy and investment have placed Islamabad in a dependent position. At the same time, multiple military commitments will stretch the country's resources. As a result, simultaneously managing relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia, China and the US is a fragile balancing act, and any overt tilt could carry heavy costs.

Based on the three points above, three possible scenarios can be identified: In the first scenario, Pakistan continues to expand military cooperation with Persian Gulf countries but refrains from deploying large numbers of combat forces. Relations with Iran remain focused on managing tensions and maintaining border cooperation.

The trilateral axis with Turkey and Saudi Arabia operates as a mechanism for collective deterrence, without taking action against Iran. Under this scenario, Pakistan secures its economic interests, while Iran, without entering the newly established defense agreements, independently maintains its deepening influence in the region. In the second scenario, the expansion of Pakistan's military and security relations with the Arab countries of the region and Turkey could pave the way for the creation of a collective regional structure involving Iran, ultimately leading to a region free of an effective US military and security presence.

In the third scenario, which would be particularly unlikely and costly for Pakistan, closer ties between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey raise concerns in Tehran. Proxy tensions in

Afghanistan or Balochistan intensify, while border cooperation is disrupted. Nevertheless, the costs of a direct war prevent a large-scale military confrontation, and the two sides manage tensions through diplomatic channels. Pakistan would then be forced to strike a more delicate balance among its partners and accept damage to its relations with Persian Gulf countries. Overall, the Pakistan-Kuwait memorandum is neither a sign of an inevitable confrontation with Iran nor merely a technical agreement. Rather, the document reflects Pakistan's efforts to turn itself into a central player in the emerging security architecture of the Middle East, where Iran's consolidation as the region's dominant power, Persian Gulf's security vacuum and Islamabad's economic needs are closely intertwined.

