

China FM says willing to 'safeguard' Iran's rights

Araghchi hopes US return to diplomacy to end war

International Desk

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Beijing was willing to "safeguard" Iran's rights during talks with his counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday, as the Asian power seeks to mediate in Washington's war with Tehran that broke out in late February. China is "willing to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Iran, and safeguard Iran's legitimate rights and interests", Wang told Araghchi as they met in the Chinese capital, AFP reported.

"We encourage Iran and the US to stay rational and restrained," he added. The talks come one week before an expected trip by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Washington, where he will meet US President Donald Trump. China, a top economic partner of

Iran, has long sought a detente in the months-long conflict in the Middle East, which has at times spilled over into neighboring countries.

"We do not wish to see regional tensions spilling over into Yemen and the Red Sea," Wang said. Recent fighting that flared up in Yemen between the Houthis and Saudi-backed forces saw Houthi fighters taking over key areas around the strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

"The continued protracted conflict between the US and Iran is not in the common interest of the parties involved or the international community," the Chinese minister said, urging Iran and the US to return to a peace memo the signed in mid-June and conduct "substantive consultations on their respective concerns". He also voiced China's support for di-

alogue between Iran with Persian Gulf Arab states.

Araghchi said Iran does not want the conflict to continue and hopes to return to diplomatic channels for resolution, while firmly safeguarding its own rights and interests.

"Iran believes the US-Iran memorandum of understanding remains valid, and that Iran has reached an agreement with Oman on opening the Strait of Hormuz; the US should earnestly fulfill its commitments," Araghchi said. Araghchi noted that Iran highly values its relations with China and is willing to continue to firmly support each other, maintain close exchanges at all levels, deepen pragmatic cooperation, jointly address challenges, and promote the sustained and in-depth development of bilateral relations.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (3rd R) holds talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Abbas Araghchi (3rd L) in Beijing, capital of China, on September 16, 2026.
● XINHUA

Pakistan says trilateral defense pact will not affect Iran ties



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan (L), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (C) and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pose after signing a joint defense agreement in Mecca, Saudi Arabia on August 7, 2026.
● REUTERS

Pakistan's military spokesperson says a new defense agreement with Saudi Arabia and Turkey will not affect Islamabad's strategic relationship with Iran, describing the pact as defensive in nature and aimed at collective deterrence and regional stability.

Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, director general of Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations, said the joint defense agreement formalizes Pakistan's longstanding strategic relationships with Saudi Arabia and Turkey and is not intended to compete with other countries, alliances or strategic partnerships.

Speaking to Al Arabiya English, Chaudhry said the agreement has "no offensive, no interference, no aggressive element" and is purely defensive in nature.

"There is nothing aggressive. There are no regional aspirations. It is a collective deterrence, and it is complementary because all these countries have independent relations with other alliances, other countries, other blocs," he said.

Chaudhry said the agreement is not directed against any particular country and should be viewed as complementary to Pakistan's existing international relationships.

Asked whether the new defense arrangement could complicate Pakistan's relations with Iran, Chaudhry rejected the suggestion.

"I don't think, not at all," he said, describing the agreement as the product of decades-old strategic relationships between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

He said Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia and Turkey have not "come out of the blue", but are based on longstanding political, military, cultural and people-to-people ties.

"These relationships that Pakistan has with both these countries are special," he said. "They are based on people-to-people relationship. There is an emotional connection, there is a cultural connection, there is a government-to-government, a military connection which spans over decades." Chaudhry described the new defense agreement as "a formalization of these strategic relationship in a peculiar environment", saying it strengthened existing ties without creating an exclusive strategic bloc. He said the three countries would determine how to respond to any attack and would decide how to operationalize their commitments when necessary.

Houthis say shot down Saudi warplane



Yemen's Houthis on Wednesday said they shot down a Saudi fighter jet, noting that a locally made munition was used to target the warplane.

"The Yemeni Armed Forces, with Allah's aid and grace, succeeded in shooting down a Saudi F15 fighter jet while it was carrying out hostile operations in support of its military mobilizations in the airspace of Marib province," Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said on social media, while slamming Saudi Arabia for launching 450 strikes, AFP reported.

He said the jet had been targeted "using a locally made air-to-air missile".

The spokesman also dismissed Saudi claims that the Houthis had

targeted the holy city of Mecca this week.

"Our operations target its oil facilities and military bases, which are far removed from the sacred sites," he said.

The Houthis have been engaged in renewed fighting with Saudi-backed forces since Yemen's civil war reignited in July.

The group have also declared a maritime blockade on Saudi Arabia and have been targeting its ships in the Red Sea.

In a lightning offensive last week, the Houthis seized control of the entirety of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab el-Mandab Strait.

The strait has become vital to Saudi crude exports as the wider Middle East war chokes the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf.

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440049

Second Announcement



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	PDC BITS 4-1/8 & 5-7/8 & 6-1/8 & 8-1/2 & 12-1/4 & 12-1/2 IN	435 NO
2	NOZZLES FOR PDC BITS	8090 ST

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 117,287/29 EURO or 200,388,500,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN. PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D INCLUDING 25% ADVANCE PAYMENT, SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

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