

UN chief urges US, Iran to return to diplomacy

Pezeshkian says negotiations with Washington 'meaningless'

International Desk

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday urged Iran and the United States to return to diplomacy and end the war, while hailing Pakistan's "pivotal role" in creating conditions for dialogue between the two sides.

"Your efforts helped deliver the 17 June Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, the subsequent ceasefire, and the framework for further negotiations," he said, adding that "every Pakistani should be proud of that pivotal role."

His remarks came during a joint news conference with Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.

"And from Islamabad, I want to send a loud and clear message to all parties: End the conflict. Return to diplomacy. Fully restore navigational rights and freedoms in accordance with international law," Guterres said.

Despite a ceasefire in April, a memorandum of understanding in June and

talks at the UN General Assembly last month, Washington and Tehran remain at odds over several issues including the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

On Monday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said talks with the US were "meaningless" and have only resulted in renewed attacks.

"Our problem with the US is that every time we come to the negotiating table, war is immediately imposed upon us," Pezeshkian said at a meeting with Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Ararat Mirzoyan.

"So far, they have attacked us three times after talks, and this shows that they are not seeking dialogue; rather, their goal is to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

"Negotiations with an enemy that engages every day in assassinations, sanctions, pressure, and threats, and that violates agreements, are meaningless. Our people do not accept such an approach either," he said.

The US and Israel launched an unpro-



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres (L) shakes hands with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar upon his arrival in Islamabad, Pakistan, on October 6, 2026.

● AFP

voked war on Iran on February 28, killing Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, senior military commanders and thousands of civilians.

Iran responded with a series of retaliatory operations targeting US military assets and bases across the region.

The escalation ultimately forced the US and the Israeli regime to agree to a ceasefire on April 8 after Iran's retaliatory operations inflicted significant costs on the aggressors.

The Islamabad MoU was aimed at ending the war, but Washington soon violated the agreement by failing to respect Iran's arrangements concerning the Strait of Hormuz.



The strategically vital waterway was largely closed during the war on Iran. The Strait remains closed, and Iran

has made clear that it will not allow its reopening until the US meets the demands Tehran has announced.

Tehran, Doha to form joint task force to follow up on agreements: *Momeni*

Iran to send technical team to Qatar for further talks on Iranian pilots

International Desk

Iran and Qatar have formed a joint task force between their interior ministries to follow up on decisions and agreements reached between the two countries during recent meetings, Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said.

Speaking after a meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in Doha on Tuesday, Momeni said Tehran and Doha held a "good and constructive" discussion on issues of mutual interest. According to Qatar's News Agency (QNA), the two sides discussed developments in the region and ongoing de-escalation efforts to strengthen security and regional and international stability amid the US aggression against Iran.

Qatar, alongside Pakistan, has mediated between Iran and the US to end the ongoing conflict between the two countries.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry official Ibrahim Al-Hashmi told a regular press briefing on Tuesday that the US and Iran are still engaged in talks despite an apparent deadlock seven months into the conflict.

"I can confirm that the talks are continuing and the exchange of messages between different par-



ties are continuing via Qatar and its regional partners," Ibrahim Al-Hashmi said.

"As you know, the scale of this conflict and the magnitude of the price that the whole world is paying require us to put our best efforts to end this immediately through a negotiable solution on the negotiation table," the official added.

Fate of Iranian pilots

Earlier on the day, Momeni held separate talks with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani on several issues including Iranian pilots held in the Persian Gulf country.

He said Tehran will send a technical team to Qatar to hold further discussions on the fate of Iranian pilots held in Qatar.

Momeni said negotiations have already been held on the issue of the Iranian pilots "and it was decided



Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni (L) meets with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in Doha on October 6, 2026.

● QNA

that a technical delegation would visit again and hold meetings as part of continuing the work."

The case dates back to March 2, when two Iranian Air Force Su-24 aircraft carried out a mission against Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar during the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

The aircraft were struck by "enemy air defense" systems while returning from the mission, forcing the pilots to eject.

One of the four Iranian pilots, Majid Kazemi, was killed, while the other three — Javad Salehi, Abdolmajid Dashtian and Emran Behrouzian — were captured alive by Qatari forces.

Kazemi's body was later returned to Iran and buried in the southern city of Shiraz in late July. Doha initially denied that the pilots had been captured by Qatari forces.

Iran says that three pilots were detained by Qatari forces after their aircraft were downed in Qatar's airspace.

President calls for expansion of ties with India, Denmark, Thailand

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian held meetings with new ambassadors of India, Denmark and Thailand, during which he stressed on expansion of ties and cooperation with their countries.

During a meeting with Indian Ambassador Shri Vishvesh Negi, Pezeshkian said expansion of relations between Tehran and New Delhi would benefit not only the two countries but also serve regional peace and security.

Pezeshkian referred to his recent visit to India, saying extensive and constructive talks had been held with senior Indian officials during the trip.

"Very good understandings" had been reached between the two countries, Pezeshkian said, adding that he had stressed that the agreements should be put into effect and become operational as soon as possible.

Pezeshkian also pointed to cooperation between the two countries within the BRICS group, saying good understandings had been reached there as well. Such understandings, particularly in economic cooperation and strengthening multilateralism, should be pursued and expanded more seriously, he said. During his meeting with Denmark's new ambassador, the Iranian president said Iran is ready to expand bilateral interactions and cooperation with Denmark, adding that more engagement in



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets India's new Ambassador to Tehran Shri Vishvesh Negi in Tehran on October 6, 2026.

● president.ir

economic, scientific and cultural fields could pave the way for deeper ties between Tehran and Copenhagen.

Pezeshkian said the Iranian people had throughout history been a peace-loving nation that had pursued peace, calm, constructive communication and sound engagement with other countries.

Denmark is also among the countries with which Iran sought to expand relations and interactions, he said.

In his meeting with Thailand's new Ambassador Sake Nopthaisong, Pezeshkian highlighted the broad potential for developing relations between Iran and Thailand, saying bilateral ties could be expanded further in the economic, scientific and technological fields.

Six members of same family killed in Saudi strike: *Ansarullah*

International Desk

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement on Tuesday said a Saudi airstrike killed six members of the same family as fighting intensifies in the impoverished country's resurgent war.

The bombing of a village in Hajjah governorate, bordering Saudi Arabia, "caused the deaths of six people from the same family" including the mother, father and four children aged three to eight, the Health Ministry in Sana'a said.

Fighting across Yemen has killed more than 270 Yemeni troops backed by Riyadh and Ansarullah's fighters over the past day, sources on both sides told AFP on Tuesday.

Fighting has intensified in Yemen since the Saudi-backed government in south

launched a counter-offensive aimed at recovering territory seized by resistance fighters last month.

The focus of the violence is on southwest Yemen, around the Bab al-Mandab strait that is crucial to global energy flows.

Ansarullah also said it launched an attack on the Saudi capital's main airport and on Tuesday denied being pushed back by Saudi-backed forces.

The Ansarullah's statements come as Yemen's Saudi-backed forces claimed it had removed the resistance group from areas around the Bab al-Mandab strait, a Red Sea chokepoint, and the port city of Mocha.

Claims by both sides in Yemen have been impossible to independently verify, with the situation on the ground moving fast and access for journalists difficult.

After a four-year ceasefire, Yemen's long-running conflict has reignited during the Middle East war, which has roiled world energy markets and snarled trade routes.

Ansarullah's military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group still held all territory seized last month when they swept through coastal areas along the Red Sea oil-and-cargo route.

Resistance fighters "have full control over all their advances on the ground", he posted on Telegram. Saree said they had carried out dozens of strikes in the past few hours targeting Saudi-backed forces in Yemen's Al-Jawf and Marib regions, while also attacking Taiz governorate. On Monday, Ansarullah said it had struck Riyadh airport and a refinery belonging to Saudi state oil giant Aramco.



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