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Iran

Digest

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Iran and United States begin indirect talks mediated by Oman

On 26 April, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and the US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff met for the [third round](#) of Omani-mediated nuclear talks in Muscat. Noting that he was cautiously optimistic about reaching an agreement, Araghchi stated that they were gradually moving from discussing generalities to more technical issues and that differences exist on both broad issues and details. Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi issued a statement that the talks had identified "a shared aspiration to reach an agreement based on mutual respect and enduring commitments," adding that core principles, objectives, and technical concerns were addressed. He announced that a further high-level meeting is provisionally scheduled for 3 May. Araghchi and Witkoff, led two previous rounds of indirect talks in Muscat and Rome on 12 and 19 April, respectively. Trump administration has revived the earlier US demands of eliminating Iran's uranium enrichment program as a requirement to ensure the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. On 23 April, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio noted that the US would be willing to allow Iran to retain a civilian nuclear programme as long as it agreed to [halt all domestic uranium enrichment](#). A week earlier Witkoff had suggested that Washington might be willing to allow Iran to enrich uranium at low levels before he retracted his words and called for eliminating Iran's enrichment program. The Iranian side is sticking to its long-held position that under Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), signatories have an inalienable right to independent civilian nuclear capability and that Iran must not be [treated as an exception](#)

within the global non-proliferation framework. Technical talks aimed at working through the finer details of a potential agreement were held in parallel with the third round of high-level talks. On 17 April, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Chief [Rafael Grossi](#) met with Araghchi and Iran's atomic energy agency Chief Mohammad Eslami in Tehran. "We are in a very crucial stage of these important negotiations. We know we don't have much time. This is why I am here... to facilitate this process, Grossi said in remarks to the media. Araghchi noted that the IAEA can play a crucial role in peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear file in the coming months."

Iranian Foreign Minister visits China

On 23 April, Iranian FM Araghchi met with his Chinese counterpart and member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Wang Yi in Beijing. Araghchi delivered Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's written message for the Chinese President to Wang. Araghchi thanked China for its constructive and effective policy on Iran's nuclear issue and briefed Wang Yi on the [latest state of Iran's indirect talks](#) with the US. [Wang Yi](#) emphasized that China has always opposed the abuse of force and illegal unilateral sanctions. He stated that China appreciates Iran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons, respects right to the peaceful use of atomic energy, supports dialogue with all parties, including the United States, and safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests through negotiations. Speaking to the media, Araghchi said that China and Russia are Iran's friends and that Tehran will continue consultations with them after the third round of indirect talks with Washington DC.

Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister visits Iran

On 17 April, [Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister](#), Khalid bin Salman, visited Tehran at the invitation of the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Mohammad Bagheri. Major General Bagheri expressed Iran's readiness to strengthen defence ties with Saudi Arabia, highlighting the importance of regional solutions to regional problems. [Ayatollah Khamenei](#) told the Saudi Defence Minister that Iran views stronger ties with Saudi Arabia as mutually beneficial and noted that "there are certain countries that are adamantly against the expansion of relations between our two nations, but we are ready to counter these hostile motives." He also stated that "Iran is ready to offer assistance in technology to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is far better for regional brothers to collaborate and support one another rather than relying on external powers." Prince Khalid expressed hope that "the constructive dialogue we have had will pave the way for stronger ties between our countries than ever before." In November 2024, the Chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces visited Tehran to discuss the expansion of defence diplomacy with Iran. Prince Khalid also met with Iranian President Massoud Pezashkian and the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Akbar Ahmadian.

Iranian President visits Azerbaijan

On 28 April, President Pezeshkian paid a one-day visit to Baku, Azerbaijan. Pezeshkian described his visit as "marking the beginning of [enhanced trust](#) and new horizons for multilateral cooperation in scientific, economic, cultural and security fields." Pezeshkian and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev held talks on bilateral ties and regional developments.

Aliyev said his country is interested in all-out expansion of relations with Iran, stressing the North-South Corridor is of great importance to the countries participating in the project. In a [media interview](#) in Baku, Pezeskian said, "we must respect each other's territorial integrity and not have any aspirations for the territory," adding that "disputes begin when one side wants to take over the lands of others." He stated that within the same framework of international law and respect for sovereignty, "we have always defended the rights of Azerbaijan and, naturally, within the same framework, we also defend the rights of Armenia." He affirmed Iran's support for the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process. Pezeshkian also attended a conference on Iran-Azerbaijan [economic collaboration](#) and met with Iranian expatriates residing in the neighbouring country.

IRGC Navy unveils high-speed missile-launching vessels

On 30 April, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri announced the successful development of a [missile-launching vessel](#) capable of reaching a speed of 116 knots—equivalent to approximately 215 kilometres per hour on land. He stated that the craft has passed all technical and specialized tests. Tangsiri noted that launching projectiles from high-speed platforms allows the IRGC to "strike distant targets with precision, even beyond nominal missile ranges." In February, the IRGC Navy unveiled the "[Shahid Delvari](#)" vessel, which can reach a speed of 110 knots. These domestically produced vessels, armed with anti-ship cruise missiles are designed to amplify Iran's [asymmetric naval strategy](#), focus on securing Iran's territorial waters and countering potential threats in the region.