

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets with his Omani counterpart, Badr al-Busaidi, in Muscat on April 12, 2025.

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The world powers and Iran-US talks

By Abbas Akhoundi

TEHRAN – International media assessments of Iran–U.S. negotiations before the talks on Saturday, April 11, essentially suggested that a military confrontation between the two countries was inevitable.

Most domestic analytical sessions on the Tehran–Washington relationship echoed these views, and most Iranian analysts also believed it was highly unlikely that the two nations could avoid conflict or escalation. However, it is still too early to judge, and we must wait to see how negotiations progress.

That said, I personally have not and do not share this perspective. My analysis, at least thus far, differs. I believe the risk of military conflict between Iran and the United States—or even Iran and Israel—is not so high. To explain why I do not share the belief of an imminent confrontation, various factors must be considered. After examining these factors, I conclude that a military conflict between the two countries is somehow unlikely. ► Page 3

West Asia is a stage for Iranian diplomacy; Muscat is the first stop

By Minoo Khaleghi
Jurist and political analyst

TEHRAN – In a tense regional atmosphere where diplomacy often takes a backseat to power politics, the recent indirect talks between Iran and the United States in Muscat signal a return to rationality in global equations.

Conducted discreetly yet transparently under the professional stewardship of Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, these negotiations showed several clear signs of diplomatic progress and a shift in tone from the American side. In nine key points, I analyze the significance of these recent developments and what lies ahead.

Location Determined by Iran: a sign of strength

Holding the talks in the Omani capital was not a neutral choice—it was the result of Iran’s proactive diplomacy. The fact that the United States came to West Asia to talk means they accepted that Iran sets the terms. This choice of venue is a clear indication of Iran’s upper hand in the negotiations and its considerable influence in regional dynamics. ► Page 2

Araghchi to visit Moscow soon, Iran foreign ministry confirms

TEHRAN – Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is scheduled to travel to Moscow later this week.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei Kani announced the upcoming trip during his weekly press briefing on Monday, noting that the visit had been planned in advance but will also include discussions on the latest developments in indirect Iran–U.S. negotiations.

Iran and the US said over the weekend that they had held “positive” and “constructive” talks although the negotiations remain indirect with Oman acting as mediator.

“Mr. Araghchi will head to Russia later this week in a visit that was previously arranged,” Baghaei stated.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on Monday that Foreign Minister Lavrov will meet Araghchi.

“We are expecting Iranian colleagues, talks with Sergey Lavrov as well as meetings with Russian officials are planned,” ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

Baghaei also added that Iran continues its consultations with European counterparts, referencing a recent trip to Europe by another senior diplomat, Majid Takht-Ravanchi. ► Page 2

Over 1800 Iranian artists and journalists urge world to ‘do something’ for Gaza

TEHRAN – In a statement addressed to “all freedom-loving people of the world,” a group of more than 1800 Iranian artists and media professionals issued a plea for action to end the genocide that’s been taking place in Gaza since October 2023.

In the past 18 months, Israel has pummeled Gaza with U.S.-supplied bombs, killed over 50,000 people, and razed entire neighborhoods to the ground. The regime’s actions have been characterized as a genocidal campaign by rights bodies, who have also been accusing Western states of enabling Israel to continue committing the harrowing crimes.

Below is the full text of the statement:

“Allah dislikes the disclosure of [anyone’s] evil [conduct] in speech except by someone who has been wronged, and Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.” (Quran 4:148)

From representatives active in Iran’s culture and media to all freedom-loving people of the world: ► Page 2

Iran FM talks with regional countries on Oman negotiations with US

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has held a series of phone calls with top diplomats from the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Egypt to discuss regional developments and the ongoing indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States in Oman.

Iran and the US said over the weekend that they had held “positive” and “constructive” talks although the negotiations remain indirect with Oman acting as mediator.

An Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and an American delegation led by U.S. Special Envoy to West Asia Steve Witkoff sat in two separate halls for two and a half hours as Oman’s top diplomat acted as go-between.

Iran’s chief negotiator, Abbas Araghchi, stated ahead of the session that Tehran was offering diplomacy a “sincere opportunity” to resolve outstanding nuclear issues and achieve a lifting of sanctions, while also cautioning against prolonged negotiations. ► Page 2

Anti-Hezbollah team openly doesn’t oppose Israel!

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Following the September–November Israeli aggression on Lebanon, there are signs of extreme rudeness and impudence among the anti-resistance team in approaching political matters, especially those related to the historical hostility with the Israeli occupation entity.

Interior Minister Ahmad Hajjar systematically ignores the fact that the American film Captain America: Brave New World, starring Israeli actress Shira Haas, who plays the role of Sabra, the head of security for President Thaddeus Ross, is being shown in Grand Cinemas in Lebanon.

The film is inspired by the story of an Israeli character with superpowers and wears a blue and white costume (the colors of the Israeli flag).

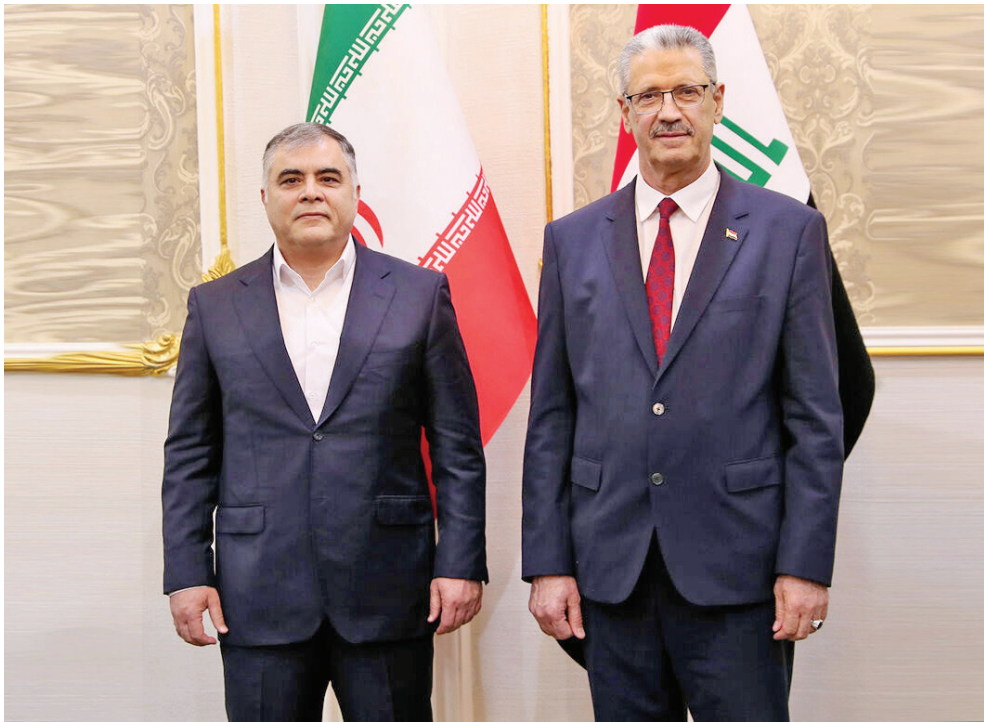
Haas was a conscript in the Israeli army but was relieved of her duty after being diagnosed with cancer. So, she decided to volunteer in the military band and theater unit of the Israeli occupation army.

This suggests that Lebanese cinemas may also be screening Snow White, starring former Israeli soldier Gal Gadot. ► Page 5

Jolani’s trial in France: A long-awaited justice and opportunity to restore Syrians’ dignity

By Najah Mohammed Ali

LONDON – At a critical juncture in the trajectory of the Syrian conflict, the lawsuit filed by human rights organizations against Ahmad Hussein al-Shara (Abu Mohammad al-Jolani) before the French judiciary on charges of genocide and war crimes opens an important door for Syrians and the world: the door of long-awaited international justice. Though delayed, this legal action restores the voices of the victims and reaffirms that impunity is no longer a foregone conclusion, even in the most complex of conflicts. ► Page 5



Oil minister visits Baghdad to boost cooperation with Iraq

TEHRAN – Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad arrived at Baghdad International Airport on Monday for a two-day visit aimed at strengthening energy cooperation between the two countries.

During his stay, Paknejad is scheduled to hold meetings with senior Iraqi officials to discuss ways to expand collaboration in the energy sector, according to Shana.

Prior to his departure, the Iranian minister had noted that various areas of cooperation had already been discussed between the two countries. “We hope that during this visit, with the finalization of these discussions, memorandums of understanding will be signed in the field of energy,” he said, adding that Iran and Iraq enjoy strong and multifaceted relations, particularly in the oil industry and joint energy projects.