

# Grossi’s Dream for UN Leadership

How the IAEA chief’s aspirations are influencing his stance on Tehran’s nuclear activities



IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi entered the Foreign Ministry for talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

## Internal progress not dependent on Tehran-Washington talks: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian has reassured the public that the country’s internal affairs are progressing without any delays or interruptions, despite ongoing negotiations between Iran and the United States.

Speaking during a Cabinet session on Wednesday morning, Pezeshkian emphasized that the nation’s daily activities and policies are moving forward as planned, unaffected by the diplomatic discussions.

“The country is continuing its work in a steady and natural course, and the negotiations are being carried out in the usual manner,” Pezeshkian said. “We are not letting these talks cause any pause in the country’s affairs. However, we welcome any agreement that could come from these discussions, as long as it benefits our nation.”

Additionally, President Pezeshkian welcomed the recent appointment of Mohsen Esmaeli as the new Deputy for Strategic Affairs and Parliamentary Relations. He expressed gratitude to the outgoing officials, Mohammad Javad Zarif and Shahraram Dabiri, for their efforts in managing the country’s foreign relations. ▶ Page 3

Scan this QR code to watch the video.



## Araghchi to deliver Leader’s message to Putin

TEHRAN – Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is set to travel to Moscow on Thursday to deliver a message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, to Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Araghchi will briefly meet with his counterpart before being received by the president, reports say.

The top diplomat will then travel to Italy’s capital, where he will engage in indirect talks with U.S. Special Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff. The two countries held the first round of their indirect negotiations in Muscat last week, with Oman’s foreign minister acting as go-between. They discussed Tehran’s nuclear program as well as anti-Iran U.S. sanctions.

The first Iran-US encounter ended on a positive note, with both sides describing the talks as “positive” and “constructive”. However, subsequent remarks by Witkoff, stating that Iran “must stop and eliminate” its nuclear enrichment program to reach a deal with Washington, may have dampened prospects for similar results in the upcoming round. ▶ Page 2

## Iran ready to help seal Armenia-Azerbaijan peace

TEHRAN – After decades of tensions over Nagorno-Karabakh, a peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan seems imminent. Iran, a neighbor with friendly ties to both nations, has offered to facilitate the signing of the finalized treaty.

Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-e-Ravanchi emphasized Iran’s commitment to good neighborliness and its willingness to assist Yerevan and Baku in reaching a deal.

Takht-e-Ravanchi highlighted the agreement’s importance for regional stability and urged both countries to focus on the future, stating the document is ready for immediate signing. He condemned any violations of territorial integrity, stressing that military force should not be used to occupy another nation’s territory.

He called for regional cooperation based on mutual respect and international law to secure a peaceful future. The Armenian Foreign Ministry previously announced the finalized draft peace agreement, signaling readiness to discuss signing details, further indicating a potential resolution to the long-standing conflict.

## The well-balanced arms and diplomacy

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – A military confrontation with Iran remains unlikely for now, but negotiations are expected to be lengthy and complex. Whether the United States continues its talks with Iran or instructs the Israeli occupation entity to initiate a military offensive, in both scenarios, it will be the entity that ultimately bears the cost.

Pursuing negotiations is, in itself, an acknowledgment of Iran’s growing influence and an implicit recognition of its strength. While Trump appears content with the ongoing dialogue, Netanyahu is not. Through these negotiations, Iran gains legitimacy, while the Israeli occupation entity finds itself increasingly constrained, accelerating internal fragmentation due to its failure to achieve any military goal.

What’s currently preventing this disintegration is the ongoing war. If the ceasefire had continued, Netanyahu’s political survival would have been in jeopardy, and the national budget would likely have failed to be passed in the Knesset at the end of March. By breaking the ceasefire, the U.S. has effectively delayed the entity’s further disintegration and contradictions surfacing, although these realities are still present.

## Riyadh interferes in Lebanon’s municipal elections, excludes Hariri

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Not satisfied with the political quarantine it imposed on Lebanon’s former Prime Minister Saad Hariri more than two years ago, Saudi Arabia is seeking to sideline him as he announced his intention to return to political life by actively contesting the municipal elections scheduled for May 2025.

Saad Hariri announced his plan during an event commemorating the anniversary of his father’s assassination.

However, Riyadh, which, along with Washington, has imposed a supreme guardianship over Lebanon, is trying to prevent Saad Hariri from participating in the municipal elections in the capital, Beirut.

Reportedly, the Saudi veto also includes Al-Jama’a al-Islamiyah (the Islamic Group). This indicates that Riyadh is determined to shape the municipal council.

This move inevitably means that Hariri will also be barred from participating in the parliamentary elections scheduled for May 2026.

## Gaza turns into a “mass grave”

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Doctors Without Borders has issued a strong warning over the Israeli regime’s ongoing genocide against civilians in Gaza.

The International humanitarian organization, also known as MSF, has accused Israeli occupation forces of deliberately blocking aid and forcibly displacing Palestinians, creating unlivable conditions in Gaza.

Amande Bazerolle, MSF’s emergency coordinator, said, “Gaza has become a mass grave for Palestinians and those trying to help them. We are witnessing, in real time, the destruction and forced displacement of Gaza’s entire population.”

She noted that the already catastrophic security situation has worsened significantly over the past three weeks.

MSF has reported several incidents in which humanitarian and medical workers were killed.

Sites used for aid, including health centers, MSF offices, and staff housing, whose locations had been formally shared with Israeli authorities, have been shelled or fired upon.

▶ Page 5

## Representatives from 30 countries to attend Iran’s oil investment transformation event

TEHRAN – Representatives from 30 countries across Europe, South America, Asia, and Africa have confirmed their participation in the upcoming “Transformation in Upstream Oil and Gas Investment” event in Iran.

According to Shana, the oil industry is considered the most investment-attractive sector in both Iran and the world. Due to the capital-intensive nature of upstream operations—from exploration to production—as well as the high cost of required technologies, prioritizing investment in this field is essential to ensure Iran keeps pace with global developments. ▶ Page 4



Anti-war protests in Washington in solidarity with Palestinian mothers on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

## Global voices unite for Gaza in mass demonstrations

TEHRAN – As the atrocities in Gaza go unabated, rallies are spreading across the globe with thousands gathering to express solidarity and demand an end to violence. These demonstrations reflect a growing international outcry against Israel’s barbaric acts in Gaza.

In Berlin, Germany, thousands gathered for an anti-Israel rally, chanting “Stop the genocide” to show their anger at Israeli military actions in the coastal enclave.

In Ancona, Italy, residents joined a solidarity march, underscoring the broadening European support for Palestinians. Similarly, Stockholm, Sweden, saw demonstrations that emphasized international solidarity with the Palestinians. ▶ Page 5