



Iran's delegation in Oman, April 26, 2025, preparing for a third round of indirect negotiations with the United States

# Iran, US Schedule 4th Round of Talks as ‘Differences’ Remain

## Culture Minister attends Pope Francis’ funeral

TEHRAN-The Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi participated in the funeral of Pope Francis at St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City on Saturday, appearing alongside global dignitaries.

Representing President Masoud Pezeshki-an, Salehi was accompanied by Mohammad Hossein Mokhtari, Iran’s ambassador to the Vatican, to pay respects to the late pontiff, who died Monday at the age of 88 after years of declining health, IRNA reported.

Separately, Ali Bahreini, Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations office in Geneva, signed a book of condolences at the Vatican’s permanent mission on Thursday, expressing Tehran’s sympathy, IRNA reported. ▶ Page 8

## Iran offers itself as mediator amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The relations between India and Pakistan are experiencing one of their most delicate moments in years. A terrorist attack on Monday in the Kashmir region administered by India, which resulted in 26 deaths, has significantly increased tensions in one of the world’s most volatile areas. ▶ Page 3

## The myth of Iran’s ‘collapse’: How Western media misreads Tehran’s strategic resolve in Oman talks

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In the last days of April, as Oman prepared to host the third round of indirect nuclear talks between Iran and the United States, the Washington Post published an article titled “Iranian Elite Grows Supportive of Nuclear Talks as Economic Fears Spike,” which disingenuously insists that Tehran entered the nuclear talks “because it faces the prospect of economic collapse.”

Authored by Susannah George and Nilo Tabrizy, the piece recycles a tired narrative: a “sanctions-crippled” Iran, trembling under economic strain, is forced to negotiate with Washington out of desperation. ▶ Page 2

## The legacy of colonialism: The Kashmir wound reopened after the Pahalgam attack

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – The most recent conflict between India and Pakistan in the Kashmir region has once again brought the area to the brink of a deep crisis, especially since both nations are armed with nuclear weapons.

The modern history of Kashmir’s conflict dates back to 1947, when British India was partitioned into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan. Today, India controls the most populous portion of the region, which includes the Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh. Pakistan holds parts of northern Kashmir, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam in the Indian-administered Kashmir, which resulted in the tragic demise of numerous tourists, has not only intensified India’s animosity towards Pakistan but has also garnered global scrutiny regarding the prospects of an extensive military conflict.

## Geagea’s relentless effort to wrest parliamentary seats from the Shiite duo

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The Lebanese Forces and its leader, Samir Geagea, are preoccupied with monitoring the potential repercussions of the success or failure of the negotiations between Washington and Tehran, fearing that any positive outcome will hinder an “achievement” against the resistance movement. This is reflected in the organized campaigns waged by the Lebanese Forces against President Joseph Aoun.

Samir Geagea believes that the success of the agreement will benefit Iran’s regional allies, specifically Hezbollah. Above all, they fear an unprecedented activity by Hezbollah to rebuild its structure and capabilities, which they believed had been destroyed by the recent US-led Israeli aggression.

## Syria vows “no threat to Israel” for sanctions relief

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Syria has reportedly provided a written response to the U.S. conditions for lifting sanctions.

Reuters noted that Syria stated in the letter that it is working to form a committee to monitor the activities of Palestinian resistance groups within its territory, adding that it seeks further discussions on the matter.

Reports have surfaced over the past week of a Syrian government crackdown on Palestinian resistance figures and groups.

Critics accuse the Syrian government of abandoning the Palestinian cause and the ongoing genocide in Gaza in a bid to gain relief from Western sanctions.

Experts have pointed out that the former Syrian government paid a heavy price for supporting anti-Israeli resistance movements in Lebanon and Palestine, even rejecting offers of sanctions relief.

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# Explosion at Shahid Rajaei Port leaves 8 dead, 750 injured



■ The incident occurred at around 12.30 pm local time on Saturday.

■ Some containers carrying chemicals had probably exploded.

■ Twenty rapid response teams were dispatched to the incident site.

■ First Vice-President Mohammad-Reza Aref has ordered immediate and comprehensive investigations. ▶ Page 7

