

Salehi: Iran and Turkey have good relations and common positions on various issues

Culture Minister Abbas Salehi (left) shakes hands with Turkish ambassador in Iran on Saturday.

The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance stated that the relations between the nations of Iran and Türkiye are old and historical, and said: "The two governments have had and continue to have good relations and common positions on various issues." The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance stated that the relations between the nations of Iran and Türkiye are old and historical, and said: "The two governments have had and continue to have good relations and common positions on various issues." Abbas Salehi said let's end the year 2025 with quality cultural programs in Iran and Turkey.

In a meeting on Saturday with Hejazi Kerlankic, the Turkish ambassador to Tehran, Salehi said: "The relations between the peoples of Iran and Turkey are old and historical, and the two governments have had and continue to have good relations and common positions on various issues. God willing, we will end the year 2025 with high-quality cultural programs in Iran and Türkiye."

Ghalibaf: Iran supports any Palestinian-backed initiative to end Israeli genocide in Gaza

Ghalibaf described the Gaza ceasefire as a major defeat for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plots to recover from the setbacks of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. Tehran, IRNA – Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf says the Islamic Republic supports any Palestinian-endorsed initiative aimed at ending Israeli war crimes and genocide in Gaza. "In the first place, I emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports any initiative to end war crimes and genocide in Gaza that is supported by the people of Palestine," Ghalibaf said in a speech before Parliament on Sunday. He stressed that ending the Israeli aggression and occupation of Gaza, lifting the siege, reopening crossings, and allowing the free entry of food, medicine, and other essential goods are among the urgent demands of the Palestinian people and resistance groups, and are fully backed by Tehran. The speaker added that Parliament has, over the past two years, worked closely with the parliaments of Muslim and other countries to help establish a ceasefire and stop the Israeli bloodshed in Gaza.

Ghalibaf described the Gaza ceasefire as a major defeat for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plots to recover from the setbacks of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

"Netanyahu sought to restore the lost sense of security among the occupiers by declaring clear objectives such as eliminating Hamas, freeing captives by force, and depopulating Gaza," he said. "After two years of genocide, famine, and the killing of women and children, the steadfastness of the people of Gaza and the support of the Axis of Resistance forced the world to rise against these 21st-century Nazis," he said, adding that the United States and Israel were ultimately forced to accept a ceasefire that failed to achieve any of their declared goals.

"The undeniable reality today is that despite the heavy human cost, not only the Palestinian nation has imposed its demands on the criminal regime, but the Israelis have become some of the most hated people in the world," he said.

Pezeshkian congratulates weightlifting team on world championship victory

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian congratulated the Iranian weightlifting team on their victory at the 2025 World Weightlifting Championships. Tehran, IRNA – Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued a congratulatory message following the victory of the Iranian national weightlifting team at the competition held in Norway.



In a message issued on Sunday, Pezeshkian expressed heartfelt appreciation for the efforts of all team members, coaches, technical staff, and their families over the significant victory. The president described the team's triumph in the 90th edition of the World Championships, achieved after an eight-year gap, as another golden chapter in Iran's sports history, bringing pride

and joy to the nation. He emphasized that this outstanding achievement once again showcased the name of Iran, the flag of the Islamic Republic, and the dedication of the country's hardworking youth on the global stage. In his message, the president extended his sincere congratulations to the Iranian people for this momentous accomplishment and expressed gratitude to all individuals involved. The 2025 World Weightlifting Championships took place in Forde, Norway from 2 to 11 October 2025.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi:

Iran supports stopping genocide in Gaza

The Foreign Minister appeared on IRIB's "Special News Talk" program on Saturday and answered a series of questions about the ongoing developments. Tehran, IRNA - Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi appeared on IRIB's "Special News Talk" program on Saturday and answered a series of questions about the ongoing developments. In a special news interview about the ceasefire in Gaza, the Foreign Minister said: "What our analysis is about the future is one discussion, and what is happening right now is another discussion." We have always supported any plan, any action that leads to stopping these crimes against the people of Gaza, that leads to stopping this genocide, he added.

The Foreign Minister said that there is no one who does not support the fact that all these crimes, all this genocide and destruction that is being committed against Gaza, must be stopped.

He stressed that this has been the position of the Islamic Republic, and we have always emphasized in all international forums, in our bilateral relations with other countries, and in the negotiations we have had, that measures must be taken to stop these criminals. Araghchi said the Islamic Republic has issued necessary warnings about the possibility of non-commitment to ceasefire by either the regime or the United States that has devised the plan. He reminded that Palestinian groups have only agreed to the first phase of the proposal, noting that more difficult stages lied ahead and asserting that there were "serious doubts" regarding the US's adherence to its claims and promises concerning Gaza.

"That will be the time to see to what extent the American officials and other parties will remain committed to the claims and promises they have made."

Iranian Armed Forces are constantly alert

Araghchi, meanwhile, cited Russian President Vladimir Putin's recently conveying a "message" relayed by the regime about its allegedly not seeking war. The official, though, also pointed to the repeated precedence of the regime's attacking the Iranian soil, including during Tel Aviv's unprovoked and illegal war on the Islamic Republic in June. Accordingly, the country's Armed Forces are in a constant state of alert and are increasing their capabilities every day, he said, adding, "The possibility of deception and trickery in the Israeli regime is very high." Elsewhere in his remarks, the official addressed US President Donald Trump's having tried to tie such regional issues with the issue of talks concerning Iran's nuclear energy program.

He ruled out any connection between the two matters.

"We have always stated firmly that our negotiations are limited solely to the nuclear issue," Araghchi stated. "Neither in the past nor recently have we ever, ever, held any talks with the Americans or any other party on any matter beyond the nuclear issue, especially as far as the resistance is concerned."

Utter rejection of 'Abraham Accords

Araghchi categorically ruled out any prospect of Iran's jointing the so-called Abraham Accords that has seen the US broker detentes between some regional states and the Israeli regime. He called the accords "treacherous" and geared towards enabling recognition of an illegitimate, occupying, genocidal, and child-killing regime, normalization of relations with it, and deprivation of the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights. "This plan is entirely incompatible with our ideals, and such a thing (Iran's participation in



it) will never happen." No grounds for negotiations with Europe Araghchi separately addressed the issue of the European trio of the UK, France, and Germany's having proposed fresh talks with Iran. He noted that the offer came, while the countries in question had triggered the so-called "snapback" mechanism inside a 2015 nuclear deal that has re-imposed nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic. "We do not see any grounds for negotiation with the Europeans," he said, reiterating Tehran's position that by triggering the mechanism, the Europe had lost its role in the nuclear issue. "They should give us just one reason why we should negotiate with them again."

Witkoff turned down multilateral talks

Concerning talks with the United States, Araghchi cited US envoy Steve Witkoff's having most recently voiced readiness for talks, but then refused to join multi-party discussions also involving Europeans and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s director-general. "The reason was that he had insisted that we accept their demands before holding the meeting."

US shouldn't mistake negotiation with dictating

The foreign minister cited Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as describing talks with the US as "a complete deadlock." He, however, noted that "this does not mean a total rejection of negotiations." "If a reasonable, balanced proposal based on mutual interests and mutual respect is presented, one that safeguards the interests of the Iranian people from a position of equality, it will certainly be considered." Araghchi reminded that the rights of the Iranian people were a red line, adding, "We will not give up Iran's right to enrichment." The Islamic Republic, the official said, was ready, as in the past, to work towards confidence-building and ensuring transparency to prove the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. "Provided that, in return, they also build trust with us and lift the unjust sanctions they have imposed." Therefore, in order for fresh talks to take place, the US should "not mistake negotiation with dictating" its preferences, he added.

IAEA ties not completely severed

The official referred to an agreement reached in Cairo on September 9 with the IAEA towards resumption of cooperation between the two sides, saying activation of the "snapback" had caused the deal to "lose its effectiveness." However, if "fair proposals are presented in a way that safeguards the rights of the Iranian nation, and if a role is defined for the agency in the process of reaching a solution, we can return to this agreement," Araghchi said. Therefore, if cooperation is in the country's interest, the Islamic Republic's Supreme National Security Council will make the necessary decisions accordingly, he noted. For this reason, it cannot be said that Iran's relations with the agency are completely severed; rather, the Cairo agreement has been temporarily set aside.

Iran still selling oil despite 'snapback' sanctions

The foreign minister addressed the sanctions returned following activation of the "snapback" mechanism, saying the country was still selling its oil despite the bans. "The markets we control are the result of years of efforts to neutralize and circumvent sanctions; now we have our own markets." The adverse effects of these sanctions, he added, would not be greater than the unilateral and illegal ones that have been returned by the US. "The economic damage will not be greater than what it currently is," he said, adding, "There may be minor issues, but not entirely."

Tony Blair met Jeffrey Epstein while still prime minister

A meeting between Tony Blair and Jeffrey Epstein took place in Downing Street, following lobbying by Lord Peter Mandelson. Tehran, IRNA – Tony Blair met with Jeffrey Epstein while still being the prime minister, the BBC reported on Saturday. The meeting took place in Downing Street, following lobbying by Lord Peter Mandelson, according to the report, which cited a memo written by senior civil servant Matthew Rycroft, dated 14 May 2002. "As far as he can remember, Mr. Blair met with him for less than 30 minutes in Downing Street in 2002, and discussed US and UK politics. He never met or engaged with him subsequently," a spokesperson for Blair said.

"This was, of course, long before his crimes were known of and his subsequent conviction," he said.

The document was released following the dismissal of Mandelson as US ambassador after revelations about his friendship with Epstein.

The BBC said released emails show Mandelson pushed for the meeting, telling Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, that Epstein was "a friend of mine" who ex-US President Bill Clinton hoped to introduce to the British prime minister.

In an email on May 7, 2002, Mandelson described Epstein as "an active scientific catalyst/entrepreneur as well as someone who has his finger on the pulse of many worldwide markets and currencies."

"He is young and vibrant. He is safe (whatever that means) and Clinton is now doing a lot of travelling with him," it added. Epstein was convicted of procuring a child for prostitution and of soliciting a prostitute in 2008. He died in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

Exclusive | VP Ansari terms invasion against Iran's territory as breach of international legal conventions

Majid Ansari said the invasion against Iranian territory violated several international legal conventions. Tehran, IRNA – Vice President for Legal Affairs Majid Ansari has described invasion against Iran's territory by the Israeli regime and the United States as violation of international legal conventions. Each of these illegal actions requires its own specific legal pursuit, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is on the verge of filing legal lawsuits in international bodies, Ansari told IRNA. Iran has raised various demands, and information on this matter will be provided once the legal process begins, he added.

The invasion of Iranian territory violated various international legal conventions, and each requires its own specific legal pursuit; attacks on civilian locations, attacks on hospitals and universities, attacks on journalists and media personnel, attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, etc. will be documented and organized, he stressed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ansari lauded cooperation among the Iranian legal institutions and hoped to be able to restore the rights of the Iranian people in this regard.

