



VAHID SALEMI / AP

A woman holds an Iranian flag for a pro-government campaign in downtown Tehran, Iran, on Saturday.

Iran's foreign minister returns to Pakistan as Islamabad races to save negotiations with U.S.

By **MUNIR AHMED, SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Iran's foreign minister arrived in Islamabad again on Sunday as Pakistan's political and military leadership scrambled to reignite ceasefire talks between Tehran and Washington.

Abbas Araghchi had left Pakistan's capital late Saturday, creating confusion around an expected second round of talks, but he returned to Islamabad before continuing on to Moscow, Iranian state media said. He had been in Oman, which previously mediated talks and is located on the other side of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Two Pakistani officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the efforts, did not say when the Americans might return to the region to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month.

The White House on Friday said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad for a second round of talks. But shortly after Araghchi's departure was reported, President Donald Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran. "They can call us anytime they want," he said.

Trump last week indefinitely extended the ceasefire that U.S. and Iran agreed to on April 7 that has largely halted the fighting that began with joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28. But a permanent settlement remains elusive in the war that has killed thousands of people and shaken the global economy.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ AT CENTER OF IRAN'S DISCUSSIONS IN OMAN

A standoff remains at the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global waterway, as Iran restricts movement through it and the U.S. enforces a blockade of Iranian ports.

Iran wants to persuade Oman to support a mechanism to collect tolls from vessels passing through the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil flows in peacetime, according to a regional official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter.

The official, who is involved in mediation efforts, said Iran insists on ending the U.S. blockade before a new round of talks and that Pakistan-led mediators are trying to bridge significant gaps between the countries.

He added that Araghchi's talks in Oman have focused on issues surrounding Strait of Hormuz.

Oman's response wasn't immediately clear. Araghchi also spoke by phone with counterparts in Qatar and Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Even before Saturday's developments, Iran's foreign ministry said any talks would be indirect and Pakistani officials would act as go-betweens, reflecting Tehran's wariness after rounds of indirect talks last year and earlier this year ended with Iran being attacked by the U.S. and Israel.

TRUMP SAID IRAN HAS OFFERED 'MUCH BETTER' PROPOSAL

The economic fallout is growing two months into the war as global shipments of oil, liquefied natural gas, fertilizer and other supplies are disrupted by the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Both sides have continued to make military threats. Iran's joint military command on Saturday warned that "if the U.S. continues its aggressive military actions, including naval blockades, banditry, and piracy" it will face a "strong response." Trump last week ordered the military to "shoot and kill" small boats that could be placing mines.

Trump told journalists on Saturday, before a security incident at the

White House Correspondents' Dinner, that within 10 minutes of him canceling Witkoff and Kushner's trip to Islamabad, Iran sent a "much better" proposal.

He did not elaborate but stressed that one of his conditions is that Iran "will not have a nuclear weapon." The status of Iran's enriched uranium has long been at the center of tensions. Tehran has 440 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels, according to the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency.

Syed Mohammad Ali, an independent political analyst in Pakistan, said the delay in the talks must not be seen as a setback and that indirect talks were progressing. He said tensions between Washington and Tehran cannot be eased overnight and the negotiation process requires patience.

"But the good thing is that the ceasefire is holding, and both sides have a desire to end the conflict in a way that does not backfire at home," Ali said.

A GROWING TOLL EVEN AS FRAGILE CEASEFIRES HOLD

Since the war began, at least 3,375 people have been killed in Iran and at least 2,496 people in Lebanon, where the Israel-Hezbollah fighting resumed two days after the Iran war started.

Also, 23 people have been killed in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states. Fifteen Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, 13 U.S. service members in the region and six U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon have been killed.

Another ceasefire — between Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant Hezbollah group, has been extended by three weeks. Hezbollah has not participated in the Washington-brokered diplomacy.

MRI access expanding at MCHs in region

By **David Mamaril Horowitz**
The Daily News

A mobile MRI unit rotating among the Med Center Health hospitals in Albany, Caverna and Russellville is anticipated to save residents thousands of trips for scans at farther-away medical facilities over the next few years alone, MCH Vice President and Administrator Alan Alexander said.

Whereas the three hospitals have leased access to MRI scanners, MCH's \$1.8 million GE Voyager Mobile MRI generates better image quality in less time — roughly halving the length of most exam types com-

pared with older-generation scanners, according to Alexander.

This will allow for additional scheduling opportunities at a lower cost, Alexander said. Also, the quality of images will "enable physicians to make the best diagnosis," he added.

"This investment will help thousands of patients in the coming years improve their health by accessing the highest quality imaging results available anywhere," Alexander wrote in a statement.

As a state-of-the-art MRI, it can generate a wide array of images, including of the brain and spinal cord; joints, muscles, ligaments and

tendons; and organs like the liver, kidneys, pancreas and those for reproduction, according to Alexander.

It will rotate among the hospitals with a regular weekly schedule, at each facility twice during the week, he said — sometimes for half a day, full day or back-to-back half days.

"It would be cost prohibitive for these hospitals to purchase and maintain a fixed unit at each facility," he told the Daily News. "Developing a mobile solution for MRI enables Med Center Health Albany, Caverna and Russellville to provide high-quality MRI services to each of their communities in an economically viable manner."

WCPS

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across a given school site — including sports fields, athletic facilities, extracurricular areas and so forth, according to Cassidy; substitute teachers will also get the buttons, he said.

Currently, communication during incidents warranting a rapid response takes place using cell phones and walkie talkies used by staff such as leadership; the multilingual traceable

messaging platform Talking Points also gets used when the campus body needs to congregate. Once the system is up, WCPS Director of School Safety Matt Edwards will direct the level of intervention as needed, Cassidy said.

"With this new system, it's really about saving time and being more efficient," Cassidy said. "As you can imagine, in some situations across the nation — it's never occurred in Warren County — but seconds matter. And oftentimes,

that can equal potential lives being saved. And that's the true reason behind the entire system — it's a time saver."

The tech requires no Wi-Fi or cellular network, and works during an outage, Cassidy said.

Cassidy describes the tech as an additional layer of security in a large system of layers dedicated to school safety. Also in fall, an SRO addition will bring WCPS's officer count to 20, and a detection dog named Nova will also join the team, he said.



JACK DOBBS / DAILY NEWS

A tulip poplar was dedicated as a "Liberty Tree" in Bowling Green's Pioneer Cemetery on Friday by a group of local officials and members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The dedication comes just a couple months before the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding.

LOCAL

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portrayed figures such as Paul Revere, George Washington and Abigail Adams.

Deputy Warren County Judge-Executive

Bryan Downing and Bowling Green Mayor Todd Alcott also read a proclamation in honor of the tree and the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States' founding.

"The journey towards (this) historic milestone

is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead to the future generations who will carry forward the ideals of democracy," Alcott read from the proclamation.

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