

Diplomacy 'essential' to resolve Middle East war: EU

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

Diplomacy is "essential" to resolve the war in the Middle East, a European Union spokesman said Sunday.

Noting failed US-Iranian talks hosted by Pakistan, EU foreign affairs spokesman Anouar El Anouni said "we salute Pakistan for its mediation efforts" and added Brussels would contribute to further efforts to reach a settlement in coordination with its partners.

Putin says ready to help peace efforts in call with Iran president

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday that he was ready to help mediate efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, the Kremlin said.

"Vladimir Putin emphasised his readiness to further facilitate the search for a political and diplomatic settlement to the conflict, and to mediate efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," the Kremlin said in its readout of the call.

All US negotiators left failed Iran talks in Islamabad

AFP | Ramstein Air Base, Germany

The entire US negotiating team has left the failed Iran talks in Islamabad, a US official said Sunday, leaving nobody in the Pakistani capital to pursue back-channel discussions.

During a refuelling stop in Germany's Ramstein Air Base for Air Force 2, carrying Vice President JD Vance back from negotiations on ending the Middle East war, a US official told reporters that no team members stayed behind in Islamabad, including chief negotiators Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Speculation had risen that one or both of Trump's envoys might stay behind to pursue further discussions, after the marathon talks failed to produce any substantive progress over the conflict with Iran.



US Vice President JD Vance (C) walks with Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshall Asim Munir (L) and Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar after arriving for talks with Iranian officials in Islamabad

Peace talks broke down without agreement

Mideast prepares for more fighting



The failure of the talks raises concerns that a return to fighting could drive world energy prices higher and further damage shipping and oil and gas facilities in the Gulf, while civilians in the region were concerned that air strikes could resume with no political endgame in sight.

Iran says talks hinged on avoiding 'excessive demands'

The success of peace talks between the United States and Iran depended on Washington avoiding "excessive" and "unlawful" demands, the Iranian foreign ministry's spokesman said. "The success of this diplomatic process depends on the seriousness and good faith of the opposing side, refraining from excessive demands and unlawful requests, and the acceptance of Iran's legitimate rights and interests," Esmail Baqaei wrote on X.

'No other way' as talks fail

The failure of the talks however did not surprise many in the region

AFP | Doha, Qatar

A sense of dread spread across the Middle East after talks between the US and Iran collapsed.

Following more than 20 hours of talks in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, US Vice President JD Vance admitted the yawning differences between the US and Iran proved to be insurmountable for the moment.

Questions about what would come next and whether the two sides would continue to respect a two-week ceasefire was anybody's guess as both the Iranian and American delegations departed Pakistan without a deal. "Things could change at any moment," said Aishah, a

32-year-old economic consultant based in Doha.

"It's more about taking each day as it comes."

The failure of the talks however did not surprise many in the region.

"I didn't have a lot of hope for them going in, because the two sides want completely opposite things," Laura Kaufman, a 38-year-old school teacher in Tel Aviv, told AFP.

"There didn't seem to be anyone willing to actually negotiate."

A recent poll found that only 10 percent of the Israeli public believe the war against Iran had constituted a "significant success, compared to 32 percent who view it as a failure".

In Iran, a brief spell of hope that talks would end the hostilities between the long-time foes were quickly dashed.

"I really wanted them to make peace," said Mahsa, a 30-year-old employee of an export company in the Iranian capital.

"It's been almost 45 days now that I've seen everyone stressed. It's a bad situation."

'Worried'

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the negotiations' failure only seemed to guarantee more uncertainty.

"I am worried about the continuation of the situation and the return of attacks again, because they were causing me tension," said Imam, an Egyptian

housewife living in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi.

"I was making a great effort not to pass my tension on to the children."

With nerves already battered, President Trump on Sunday ordered an immediate naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, vowing to intercept any ship that pays tolls to Tehran while also preventing Iran from earning future oil revenues.

"Any Iranian who fires at us, or at peaceful vessels, will be BLOWN TO HELL!" he wrote.

The news came as many in the region were hoping for a return to normality.

Earlier Sunday, Saudi Arabia's energy ministry said its

key east-west oil pipeline and other major energy facilities had been restored following attacks by Iran on targets across the Gulf.

"Of course I am worried that the war will return again," said Amin, a pharmacist living in Saudi Arabia's eastern province, who asked to use a pseudonym for security reasons.

Back in Iran, a sense of the inevitable had begun to sink in for many there.

"I would have preferred peace, but I think there is no other way but war and confrontation," said Hamed, 37.

"Based on what I see and hear, unfortunately we are going to war again and it seems like we will have a long war."