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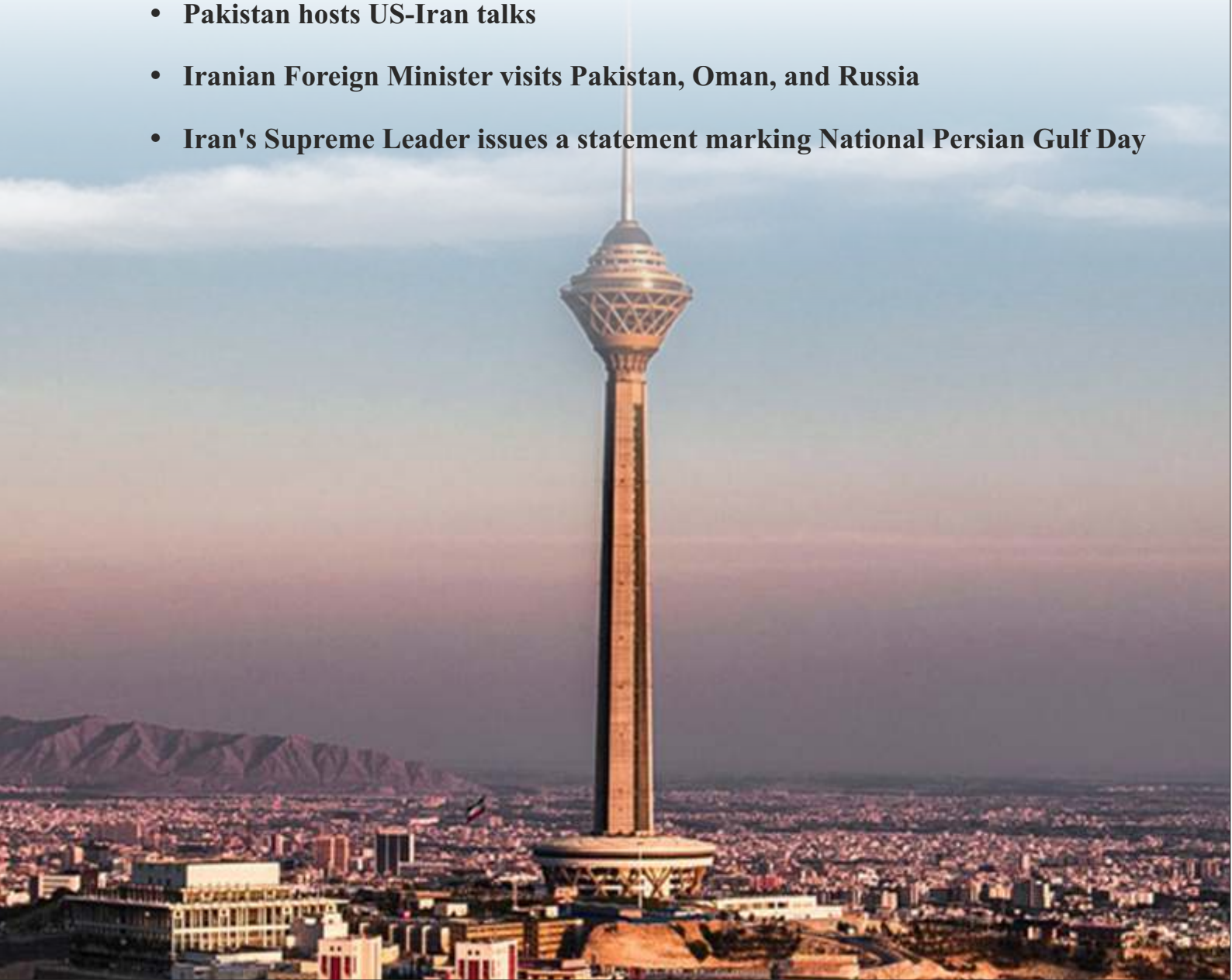
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Digest

April 2026

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US-Iran ceasefire

On 8 April, US President Donald Trump announced that the US and Iran had agreed to a two-week ceasefire in a Truth Social post, saying it was made on the condition that Iran reopen the critical Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil flows. The ceasefire had been mediated by Pakistan's prime minister and its military chief, he said. Earlier, on 26 March, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, speaking during a cabinet meeting at the White House, said that Washington has sent Iran a "15-point action list" as a basis for negotiations to end the current conflict, with Pakistan acting as a mediator. While announcing the ceasefire, Trump said the US has received a 10-point proposal from Iran, which he called a "workable basis on which to negotiate". Trump also told AFP that China had helped bring Iran to the negotiating table, while Turkiye and Egypt had also been mediating in recent days. On 29 March, the [Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkiye and Pakistan](#) met in Islamabad for high-level consultations aimed at de-escalating tensions and emphasising the need to intensify diplomatic efforts to contain the crisis. Subsequently, on 1 April, Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar travelled to Beijing, where China and Pakistan put forward a [five-point initiative](#) for restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and Middle East. The five points are: immediate cessation of hostilities, starting peace talks as soon as possible, ensuring the security of nonmilitary targets and shipping lanes, and safeguarding the primacy of the United Nations Charter.

Pakistan hosts US-Iran talks

On 11 April, Pakistan hosted Iran-US talks aimed at converting the two-week ceasefire into a durable agreement for a definitive end to the US-Israel-Iran war. Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, set a ceasefire in Lebanon and the release of Iran's frozen assets as conditions for joining negotiations in Islamabad. US Vice President JD Vance led the US delegation to Islamabad, which included Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, Special Envoy for Peace Missions. As the talks started, the US military said it was "setting the conditions" to start clearing the Strait of Hormuz. Iran denied the US military's claim that two of its warships had passed through the waterway. After 21 hours of negotiations, the two sides failed to reach an agreement. Vance told reporters in Islamabad that Iran chose "not to accept our terms" at the talks, adding that the US needs to see a "fundamental commitment" from Tehran not to develop nuclear weapons. Alongside differences over the nuclear file, especially the US demand for 'zero enrichment', Iran's hardened position on sanctions relief and its control over energy and trade flows in the Strait of Hormuz, a key source of leverage, emerged as major sticking points in the negotiations. On 13 April, the US military announced a blockade of Iranian ports. Vance accused Iran of "economic terrorism" by essentially closing the Strait of Hormuz. On 24 April, as Iran and the US failed to reach a lasting agreement, Trump indefinitely extended the United States' ceasefire with Iran, citing internal divisions in the country.

Iranian Foreign Minister visits Pakistan, Oman, and Russia

On 25 April, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met Pakistan's military chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, a key mediator, as well as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad. Describing his visit as "very fruitful", Araghchi expressed skepticism about Washington's intentions. "Have yet to see if the US is truly serious about diplomacy," he said. From Islamabad, [Araghchi went to Oman](#), where discussions with Omani officials covered bilateral relations and regional developments, stressing that both countries, as littoral states of the Strait of Hormuz, share responsibility for stability in the vital waterway. Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said he held "good" talks with Araghchi on the Strait of Hormuz and stressed that diplomacy and practical solutions were needed to ensure lasting freedom of navigation. On 26, Araghchi returned to Islamabad, where he transmitted "[written messages](#)" to the Americans via Pakistan as a mediator regarding Iran's red lines on nuclear issues and the Strait of Hormuz. Following his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg, Araghchi wrote on X, "Pleased to engage with Russia at the highest level as the region is in major flux. Recent events have evidenced the depth and strength of our strategic partnership. As our relationship continues to grow, we are grateful for solidarity and welcome Russia's support for diplomacy." On Araghchi's meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Ministry noted that "there was an exchange

of views on the prospects of shifting the conflict into a channel for a political-diplomatic settlement based on international law and taking into account the legitimate interests of all countries in the region".

Iran's Supreme Leader issues a statement marking National Persian Gulf Day

On 30 April, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei issued a [statement](#) marking National Persian Gulf Day. Pointing to the significance of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, the Leader said they have "shaped part of our identity and civilization and, in addition to being a connecting point for nations, create a vital and unique route for the global economy." He stated that "this strategic asset has provoked the greed of many devils in past centuries." He noted that Iran will implement a new management of the Strait of Hormuz within a legal framework under consideration by the Iranian parliament. He stated that "today, two months after the largest military deployment and aggression by the world's bullies in the region, and the United States' disgraceful defeat in its plans, a new chapter is unfolding for the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz." He emphasised that the United States is not capable of defending the Persian Gulf states, especially in light of the blows US bases suffered during the 39 days of war with Iran. He added, "The bright future of the Persian Gulf region will be a future without America and in the service of the progress, comfort, and prosperity of its nations," noting that Iran shares a "common destiny" with its neighbours in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.