

Disruption in internal cohesion would create problems for country: *Pezeshkian*

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a meeting with a group of lawmakers in Tehran on August 17, 2024.
● president.ir



National Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said at the time when Iran is engaged in a full-scale economic war with the world, any disruption in the internal cohesion would create problems for the country in the face of international challenges. Pezeshkian emphasized the necessity of synergy, cohesion and unity among the country's political factions to overcome external challenges facing the country. He made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian lawmakers in Tehran on Saturday evening. Pezeshkian said strict and exclusionary policies in the

past have led to the isolation of many "caring and hardworking people" from the management of the country's affairs. Therefore, the government of national accord has been seeking to employ competent individuals and elites regardless of any attitude, religion or ethnicity to this end. The meeting came as the Parliament in Iran has already commenced the reviewing of the qualifications of the proposed ministers by the Iranian president. Earlier on the day, the president attended an open session of the Parliament to defend his 19 ministerial picks. "The cabinet that was in-

roduced to the parliament today is the government of national unity; the government of national unity is a government that considers itself the government of all Iranian people. The national unity government is obligated to secure the citizenship rights of all Iranians and is committed to the prioritization of national interests over any other interest," Pezeshkian told the lawmakers at parliament. During the second day of reviewing the ministers' qualifications on Sunday, the lawmakers discussed the plans outlined by the proposed ministers for the ministries of foreign

affairs, intelligence, economic affairs and finance, health and medical education as well as cooperatives, labor, and social welfare. President Pezeshkian submitted the list of his new cabinet members to the Parliament on August 11, less than two weeks after he was sworn in before the country's legislators. Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup has ruffled the feathers of a number of individuals in the Reformist camp but he has defended his proposed ministers and has called on critics to "wait for the cabinet to start work and criticize it based on its performance."

US on trail in Iran over 1953 coup

An Iranian court has begun the trial of the US administration and its officials over the 1953 coup against the democratically-elected government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. The first session of the trial was held at the 55th branch of the court dealing with international affairs in Tehran's Imam Khomeini Judicial Complex on Sunday, on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the coup, Press TV reported. The court will hear a lawsuit filed by some 402,000 Iranians against six American natural persons and legal entities over their role in the ousting of Mosaddegh that consolidated the rule of the pro-Western monarch, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, until the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Lawyer Shami Aghdam, representing the defendants, said documents show the US spy agency CIA, with the help of its British counterpart MI6, planned the coup by using internal and external agents against the legitimate government of Iran on August 19, 1953.

Washington and London, it added, "designed the military coup through violating international principles and rules, and interfering in the internal affairs of Iran, intending to maintain their influence and power in the government, securing their interests and looting the country's property." It added that the coup was perpetrated by military and political figures affiliated with the US and the UK governments, as well as thugs. "In fact, the coup marked the beginning of the US's complete domination over Iran to make it more dependent than before and prevent its independence and progress. The domination lasted for more than 25 years and inflicted costs, as well as material and spiritual damage, on the country and the nation." Also on Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in an X post that the overthrow of the Mosaddegh government, and political, security, and military support for the tyranny, will always re-

main a disgrace to the US and the UK regimes. "Slavery, colonialism, coups, and military interventions in other countries are only part of the dark and shameful history of the US and UK meddling in the world's affairs," he said. The 1953 coup set off a series of events, including riots on the streets of the Iranian capital Tehran, leading to the ousting and arrest of Mosaddegh, who was popular in Iran for nationalizing the country's oil industry and taking it back from largely British control. It also enabled the return from exile of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi who remained in power until the victory of the Islamic Revolution, led by Imam Khomeini. Mosaddegh, who was convicted of treason by a court martial after the coup, served three years in solitary confinement and eventually died under house arrest in exile in 1967. In 2013, the US formally admitted its role in the coup in 2013 with the declassification of intelligence documents.

China, Russia, emerging powers to take centerstage in Iran's foreign policy: *Araqchi*

National Desk


Iran's foreign minister designate Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday his foreign policy priorities would center on relations with China, Russia and emerging powers as he addressed Parliament during a debate to review his qualifications. "China, Russia and other countries that sided with Iran while the country was subject to US sanctions as well as emerging powers are the priorities of foreign relations in the upcoming government," Araqchi said as he outlined his plans if approved by lawmakers as Iran's top diplomat, according to IRNA. "New arenas in Africa, Latin America, and East Asia are also among the foreign policy priorities. If Europe rectifies its wrong and hostile behaviors toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, it will be placed on our priority list," he added. The career diplomat said that he will pursue three primary missions in his role as foreign minister: secur-

ing national interests and enhancing national wealth; consolidating national security and preserving and promoting national dignity and prestige. According to the Foreign Ministry designate, distinct plans have been developed for each mission. Among the proposed plans, eight key areas were of paramount importance to the nominee and his advisors. Iran's strategic standing, wealth creation, Iran's border status, active global presence, good neighborliness, lifting of sanctions, parliamentary diplomacy, and Iran's dignity were among the areas that Araqchi elaborated on. He said that the country's policy towards the US will be one of "managing animosity." Meanwhile, Araqchi said that, "Removal of US sanctions on Iran is a top priority for the government." He said the ministry will continue the path of supporting the Axis of Resistance and Palestine. In this session, which was

the second public meeting of the parliament to review the qualifications of the proposed ministers by President Masoud Pezeshkian, the lawmakers delivered speeches both in opposition to and in support of Araqchi's plans. In opposition to the Foreign Ministry nominee, Mohammadreza Sabbaghian Bafqi and Amir Hossein Sabeti criticized Araqchi's performance in negotiations related to 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. Sabeti described the text of the Iran nuclear deal as detrimental and questioned the revival of the deal, while Sabbaghian questioned Araqchi for signing "a one-sided" deal. Meysam Zohourian delivered a speech in opposition to Araqchi's plans, criticizing him for "immature" positions on economic and political issues. "Araqchi held positions that tied the livelihood of the people to the will of foreigners. He has repeatedly stated that the FATF issue must be resolved in order to



continue negotiations with Europe," Zohourian argued. In support of the qualifications of the proposed minister of foreign affairs, Ahmad Azadi-Khah stated that policy-making is not the job of the minister. If we have objections to the policies, they are made elsewhere, and the minister is just an executor. He added that Araqchi was a member of Iran's nuclear negotiation team. If we have any issues or ambiguities regarding the policies, we should direct our criticisms elsewhere. Hadi Qavami was another parliamentarian that delivered a speech in support of Araqchi's plans, saying, "Economic growth cannot be achieved through slogans, and Araqchi has plans for this important matter." Qavami emphasized that to achieve "the 8% growth projected in the five-year development plan, we need \$200b in investments, a portion of which will come from foreign investment. This cannot be achieved through slogans."

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**
Cartoonist



Hamas: US has no genuine will for cease-fire in Gaza

International Desk

A senior member of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said in a statement that there is no genuine will by the United States to establish a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Osama Hamdan, who represents Hamas in Lebanon, noted that the US is trying to give Israel more time to carry out more massacres in the Gaza Strip. Hamdan said that the US's proposal in cease-fire talks does not include any cease-fire or troops' withdrawal from Gaza. His comments came after

the US, Qatar and Egypt, the three mediators of a possible cease-fire deal, concluded two-days of talks on ending Israel's attacks in Gaza in Qatar's capital on Saturday. The talks are expected to resume in Cairo in the coming days after two days of negotiations in Doha. The mediators said they presented a bridging cease-fire proposal to both sides and that negotiations were making progress, but they also cautioned that there is still work to be done. They also reported progress in negotiations and a US official said remaining gaps were "bridgeable."

US President Joe Biden also said a cease-fire was closer after talks in Doha. But Hamas political bureau member Sami Abu Zuhri said the optimism that a deal was close after talks in Doha was "an illusion." "We are not facing a deal or real negotiations, but rather the imposing of American diktats," he said. Meanwhile, the US's top diplomat Anthony Blinken was set to arrive in Israel on Sunday, where he is expected to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior officials. Israel's negotiating team on Saturday expressed "cau-

tious optimism" on the possibility of advancing a deal, according to a statement from Netanyahu's office. However, Hamas sees Netanyahu as the main obstacle to a cease-fire and an exchange deal for the remaining captives and Palestinian prisoners. "From day one, we said we will not accept a temporary arrangement, it was done in November 2023, and the Israelis undermined that," Hamdan has told Al Jazeera. Israel's war on Gaza has left more than 40,000 Palestinians dead and more than 92,000 wounded since last October.