

Pezeshkian at SCO:

Iran eager to find diplomatic solution to nuclear standoff

President puts forth mechanism to reduce impacts of sanctions

International Desk

Addressing the 25th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State in northern China's port city of Tianji on Monday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian pointed to the decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear program with the West, saying that the Islamic Republic has always been and remains ready to find a diplomatic solution for the peaceful settlement of tensions over its peaceful nuclear program. Pezeshkian said that Europe's decision to trigger the snapback mechanism will only complicate the situation and increase tensions. "We advise the United States and Europe to abandon confrontational approaches and turn to diplomacy

to achieve a balanced and fair solution," he said.

Referring to US-Israel's aggression against Iran in June and Europe's threats to activate the so-called snapback mechanism which would reinstate international sanctions against Iran, Pezeshkian said the US and Israel's aggression against Iran showed that the military option is ineffective.

The Iranian president also said on Monday that Iran enjoys a unique geographical position in the region, expressing the country's readiness to improve regional cooperation and provide access to the interested countries.

Pezeshkian said the Iranian port of Chabahar, which has direct access to the Indian Ocean, would soon be connected to Iran's national railway network, which would mark a

significant development in linking China, Central Asian countries, and Afghanistan to the Indian Ocean.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as one of the important pillars of the multipolarization of the international system, should take practical, clear, and specific steps in two parallel paths to create a more peaceful world and a world conducive to expanding economic cooperation," he added.

He proposed the creation of a specialized initiative — the "Accounts and Settlements of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" — as a practical mechanism to enhance financial cooperation and reduce the impacts of unlawful sanctions on the economic interactions among the member states.

He said the initiative rests on greater use of national currencies in settlements to decrease reliance on the US dollar; the establishment of shared digital infrastructure and the employment of central bank digital currencies to ensure secure and efficient payments and the establishment of a multilateral currency swap fund to assist countries facing sanctions or liquidity shortages.

Iran believes that the SCO's 10-year development strategy will be a historic opportunity for expanding cooperation and investment in the sectors of infrastructure, technology, energy, digital economy, climate and environmental changes, as well as culture and science, Pezeshkian said, expressing Tehran's readiness to play an active role in this regard.



International crises

Elsewhere in his address, Pezeshkian described the SCO as the symbol of peace in a world that faces several crises.

He said the Israeli-US illegal military aggression against Iran in June, the ongoing massacre of the oppressed people of Gaza and the excessive use of unlawful sanctions against various countries are clear examples of the world's failure to achieve a suitable model for governing the world and stabilizing international peace and security. He called for the formation of a committee comprising of the SCO foreign ministers to address crises threatening regional peace and security through providing operative proposals for crisis management and due responses to violation of



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in northern China's port city of Tianjin on September 1, 2025.

● [president.ir](#)

sovereignty of member nations. Hosted by President Xi Jinping, the SCO summit officially opened in Tianjin on Monday with the participation of heads of state and delegations from across the world. The two-day summit, which comes as the US has launched a global trade war, aims to set a long-term vision for regional cooperation amid shifting global alliances and growing calls for a new multipolar order.

Top general: Israel's assassination of Yemeni officials clear violation of int'l law



Yemeni honor guards carry the coffin of the country's Prime Minister Ahmed Ghaleb Al-Rahwi and other officials killed in an Israeli strike days earlier, during a funeral procession in Sana'a on September 1, 2025.

● [AFP](#)

The Iranian commander, however, asserted that such atrocities "will never weaken the revolutionary determination and faith-driven resolve of Yemen's valiant fighters."

The Yemeni nation has, through its sustained struggle, turned into a symbol of resistance against the global hegemonic system and a source of pride for the global Muslim nation, Mousavi concluded, and vowed continued support for the people on the part of the Islamic Republic.

On Monday, Yemen held a funeral for the assassinated officials.

Twelve coffins draped in flags were displayed at Sana'a's Al-Shaab mosque, as masked gunmen patrolled the area and thousands of mourners flooded in.

It was the highest profile assassination to be announced in months of attacks by Israel during the war on Gaza.

Yemen's Armed Forces also fired a missile at an Israeli tanker in the Red Sea on Sunday, reprising a campaign they have waged throughout the Gaza war.

The missile landed close to the Liberian-flagged Scarlet Ray with a "loud bang," the UK Maritime Trade Operations monitoring agency said.

International Desk

Iran's top military commander on Monday strongly condemned Israel's recent assassination of senior Yemeni officials as a "horrific war crime and terrorist attack as well as a clear violation of international law."

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, in a message to the Yemeni nation said the assassination of Yemeni officials reflects the regime's deep fear of the expansion of the Resistance Axis.

By extension, he added, the regime is fearful of growing unity among regional nations in defending the Palestinian cause of liberation from Israeli occupation and aggression.

Mousavi said such atrocities serve

as yet another disgrace for the regime, which he called "the ringleader of terror and nurturer of terrorists worldwide."

The message came after Israeli airstrikes on the Yemeni capital Sana'a claimed the lives of Prime Minister Ahmed Ghaleb al-Rahawi of the National Government of Change and Construction, and 11 officials serving across various other portfolios.

The assaults came in the context of the regime's recurrent raids against the country.

The attacks began after Yemen's Armed Forces started staging near-daily operations against sensitive Israeli targets in response to a genocidal war that Tel Aviv had launched on the Gaza Strip in October 2023.

Powerful earthquake in Afghanistan kills 800, injures 2,800

Tehran says ready to send humanitarian aid

International Desk

One of Afghanistan's worst earthquakes killed more than 800 people and injured at least 2,800, authorities said on Monday, as rescuers struggled to reach remote areas due to rough mountainous terrain and inclement weather.

The disaster will further stretch the resources of the war-torn nation's Taliban administration, already grappling with crises ranging from a sharp drop in foreign aid to deportations of hundreds of thousands of Afghans by neighboring countries, Reuters reported.

Sharafat Zaman, spokesperson for the Health Ministry in Kabul, called for international aid to tackle the devastation wrought by the quake of magnitude 6 that struck around midnight local time, at a depth of 10 km (6 miles).

"We need it because here lots of people lost their lives and houses," he said.

The quake killed 812 people in the eastern provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar; administration spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Ziaul Haq Mohammadi, a student at Al-Falah University in the eastern city of Jalalabad, was studying in his room at home when the quake struck. He said he tried to stand up but was knocked over by the power of the tremor.

"We spent the whole night in fear and anxiety because at any moment another earthquake could happen," Mohammadi said.

Rescuers were battling to reach remote mountainous areas cut off from mobile networks along the Pakistani border, where mudbrick homes dotting the slopes collapsed in the quake.

"The area of the earthquake was affected by



Afghan men search for their belongings amidst the rubble of a collapsed house after a deadly magnitude-6 earthquake that struck Afghanistan around midnight, in Dara Mazar, in Kunar province, Afghanistan, on September 1, 2025.

● [REUTERS](#)

heavy rain in the last 24-48 hours as well, so the risk of landslides and rock slides is also quite significant — that is why many of the roads are impassable," Kate Carey, an officer at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), told Reuters.

Casualties could rise as rescue teams access more isolated locations, authorities said.

"All our ... teams have been mobilized to accelerate assistance, so that comprehensive and full support can be provided," said Health Ministry spokesperson Abdul Maten Qanee, citing efforts in areas from security to food and health.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a message on Monday expressed condolences to Afghanistan and voiced Tehran's readiness to send humanitarian relief aid.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Sanctions undermine Iran's ...

However, the SCO has oscillated between these two visions—one pessimistic, the other optimistic—without firmly settling on either path. Such divergence continues to hold back the organization from realizing its full potential.

Against this backdrop, Iran's membership in the SCO has clear potential benefits. As a nation-state, Iran already possesses a degree of national power; through bilateral ties, it acquires what can be termed "relational power." By joining a multilateral institution, however, it gains another form of leverage: "institutional power." Membership in the SCO can, therefore, help Iran consolidate this insti-

tutional dimension of its influence. Therefore, joining such a body does not automatically translate into new power. A member state's ability to make the most of an organization depends heavily on its own domestic and international circumstances. For Iran, the reality of ongoing sanctions means it cannot fully exploit the SCO's capacities. Furthermore, many SCO members—despite their political rhetoric—are conservative states that may be unwilling to facilitate Iran's effective use of the organization's potential.

An examination of data and outcomes shows that Iran's tangible economic gains from SCO membership remain limited, with the benefits largely con-

fined to the political sphere. If Tehran truly wishes to capitalize on this platform, it must first resolve its international disputes as well as its regional and global challenges. Only then could SCO membership yield concrete economic results.

Otherwise, Iran's achievements will continue to be primarily political—such as joint condemnations of US or Israeli actions against the country. Moreover, membership serves a promotional purpose: Iranian officials, including the president, can use SCO summits to articulate Tehran's political stances on issues like the recent 12-day aggression, while expecting statements of support or condemnation from fellow members.

