

Pezeshkian says pins hope on national support not foreign aid to overcome challenges

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday he only relied on the Iranian people, not outside assistance, to take on the country's challenges and confront hostility from the United States and Israel.

"I have no hope in anyone except God and our own people," Pezeshkian told academics and students at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran during an event marking National Student Day, according to his website president.ir. He said it was a "false illusion" to think anyone outside Iran was willing to help the country.

"We concluded during domestic and foreign trips that apart from our dear people and apart from ourselves, no one can save us," the president added.

Pezeshkian noted that those who were at odds with him or with his government were "not necessarily our opponents or enemies".

"If we understand the importance of this issue and tolerate one another, we will no longer fight," he added.

The president, however, complained about "unsupported criticisms" of his government's efforts to resolve major issues, including measures like hiking petrol prices and addressing Iran's growing energy shortages.

"In economic matters, all those who claim they can fix the situation should get into action..., not simply criticize. Instead of unsupported criticisms, they should come up with clear and practical proposals and solutions," he said.

Pezeshkian called mere criticism of



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during an event marking National Student Day at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, Iran, on December 7, 2025.

● president.ir

the status quo "insufficient" and urged that "everyone join hands" to take effective steps to settle problems.

The president said his government aimed to steer the country toward growth and development with the help and synergy of all bodies, organizations and competent individuals.

"We hope that with constructive cooperation we can get through the existing problems and witness positive changes in various economic, educational and industrial sectors," he said.



Iran never sought to dominate region: FM spox



Ismaeil Baqaei
● IRNA

International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Sunday that Iran has never sought to dominate the West Asia region but by no means can any country ignore its regional position.

"We have our own position, role, and place in the region," Ismaeil Baqaei said during his weekly press conference.

He said that the Islamic Republic is the inheritor of an ancient civilization with a rich culture, which over time has learned well how to adapt to changing conditions.

Referring to Israel's expansionist policy in the region, Baqaei said that the only party that has taken over the territory of two regional countries is the Tel Aviv regime.

The issue that should be a shared concern for the countries of the region is the expansionist policy of the Israeli regime, Baqaei said, adding that, "It is enough to look into set of facts."

Since the beginning of the regime's onslaught on Gaza in 2023, it has also launched acts of aggression against several regional countries including Lebanon and

Syria and has occupied parts of their territories.

Over the past two years, Israel has rained down an equivalent of 12 atomic bombs of the type used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Gaza. This is the party that has carried out the massacre of over 70,000 innocent people in Gaza and insists on endless wars against the nations of the region, he added.

Elsewhere, Baqaei was asked about recent remarks by US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack, who said Washington attempted twice in the past to overthrow the Iranian government but achieved nothing.

He said over the past five decades, successive US administrations have consistently sought to interfere in Iran's internal affairs.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that what the Americans themselves refer to as "regime change" is actually an explicit acknowledgment of their illegal attempts to violate Iran's national sovereignty.

"What this American official has recently said, in my view, amounts merely to an admission of two attempts. Yet, we know that over the years, there have been numerous actions aimed at harming the Iranian people and interfering in Iran's internal affairs, ... with the 1953 coup being a very clear example," he pointed out.

"Therefore, these actions have not been limited to the past five decades. The US interference in Iran's domestic affairs has a very long history."

Qalibaf cautions neighbors against testing Iran's resolve over trio islands



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf
● ICANA

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf dismissed the claims about three Iranian islands in the final statement of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), warning the neighboring states not to test Iranian nation's will to safeguard its territorial integrity, Press TV reported.

Addressing a parliamentary session on Sunday, Qalibaf categorically denounced the claims once again raised in the latest statement of the Persian Gulf bloc regarding the three Iranian islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa.

He stated that such unfounded and absurd claims, often pushed by other nations, go against the principles of respecting territorial integrity and maintaining good neighborly relations.

Iran calls upon its neighboring countries to refrain from challenging the determination of the Iranian

nation in safeguarding its territorial integrity and the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, which remain an integral part of Iran, Qalibaf emphasized. He stated that Iran has consistently pursued stability, the advancement of peace, and a commitment to the principles of good-neighborliness, while expecting its neighbors to uphold the same values.

The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world.

However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands. The islands fell under British control in 1921, but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

On November 30, Iran officially issued land demarcation and ownership documents for the islands of Abu Musa, along with the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, reinforcing its sovereignty over the territories.

Qatar warns anti-Tehran military actions to have regional consequences



Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Thani attends a session on the opening day of the Doha Forum in Doha, Qatar, on December 6, 2025.
● MAHMUD HAMS/AFP

International Desk

Qatar's foreign minister said on Saturday that there is no effort to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue through diplomatic means, warning that any military action against Iran will have consequences for the regional countries.

"It is very important that we find a way to revive negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. If any actions are taken against Iran, all the countries in the region will be affected," Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani said.

Iran and the United States engaged in nuclear talks in April and held five rounds of negotiations. But, in the middle of the talks Israel launched a surprise attack on Iran and derailed the talks. The US later joined the aggression and launched attacks on three Iranian nuclear facilities.

Iran responded to the attacks with missile strikes on Israel's positions in the occupied territories as well as the largest US military base in the region in Qatar. Despite the brief war between Iran and the US, Iran has repeatedly said that it is ready for ne-

gotiations to settle the nuclear tensions with the West.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in an interview with Japan's Kyodo news agency on Saturday said Iran remained open to diplomacy, but wanted guarantees of a "fair and balanced" outcome.

He reiterated that the deadlock affecting diplomacy stemmed from American demands introduced under President Donald Trump, including the Islamic Republic's halt to all uranium enrichment processes, a position Tehran categorically rejects.

The foreign minister said the core issue remained Washington's reluctance to recognize Iran's right to peaceful nuclear technology, including enrichment, under the NPT. According to Araghchi, the Islamic Republic was prepared to accept limitations on enrichment levels and centrifuge types, and negotiations could progress once the United States accepted the country's peaceful nuclear energy program and lifted the illegal and unilateral sanctions it had imposed on the country.

"For the time being [though], we are not convinced they are ready for a real, serious negotiation," he said.

Russia, China and ...

However, the international landscape has shifted. The United States is now pursuing a full-scale strategy to contain and weaken China, Russia and even India, and therefore has little interest in resolving global issues in partnership with these powers. Moreover, containing Iran is itself part of Washington's broader strategy to constrain China and Russia. A weakened Iran in the Middle East creates more room to encircle Moscow and Beijing. Thus, Russia and China also have strong incentives not to let Washington gain the upper hand in the Iran file.

In this context, economic and security support from Russia and China through bilateral, multilateral or institutional cooperation could reinforce not only Iran's position vis-à-vis the United States but also their own standing in

the face of mounting American pressure.

To what extent are China, Russia and India willing to incur costs to protect Iran's interests under US pressure?

Their readiness to bear costs is naturally bounded. In the short term, these states do not want the Iran-US dispute to evolve into a direct confrontation between themselves and Washington. In the long term, they prefer that support for Iran translate into geopolitical and socioeconomic leverage for them, not merely end in a bilateral deal between Tehran and Washington.

Among them, India—lingering between East and West—is expected to approach the Iran issue with greater caution.

Could the growing intimacy of these

three countries with Iran pave the way for a non-Western coalition against the United States, or is this just situational cooperation?

Based on the considerations outlined, the likelihood of a formal, overt anti-US coalition emerging around the Iran issue is low. Iran, Russia, China and India all seek to expand their power relative to the United States, but their priorities, constraints and issue areas differ. They also have varying dynamics within their bilateral and multilateral relations.

A tactical convergence is possible; a strategic one is not. It should also be remembered that even among the United States and Europe—actors with far deeper structural alignment—their approaches frequently diverge. Washington is, in fact, pursuing dominance even over Europe itself.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

