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Pezeshkian: Riots rooted in negligence toward young generation's demands

Parl. speaker likens recent terrorist acts to Israel's pager attack in Lebanon

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Iran's top echelons resolved to address economic woes, ensure security

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Heads of the Iranian branches of power, President Massoud Pezeshkian (R), Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (C) and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei walk inside the Presidential Office to a meeting room in Tehran, Iran on November 15, 2025.

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Iran stands among Tajikistan's top five trade partners in 2025

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US intervention in Iran's unrest
flagrant violation of int'l law

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Persian Gulf Pro League roundup:
Persepolis stunned by Sepasi;
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Naqadeh wetlands host up to 100,000 migratory birds annually

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Iran scraps competition in revamped Fajr visual arts festival

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Relying on people as source of political power key to thwarting enemy plots

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE



Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini
In the early weeks of 2026, Iran witnessed economic protests that escalated into violence with the involvement of external elements, resulting in casualties. Following the deployment of security forces, the deadly unrest was ultimately quelled. However, the roots and causes of this tragic event warrant examination. Iran Daily talked to Mahmoud Ab-

baszadeh Meshkini, a national security expert, to explore the dimensions of the riots. Meshkini said that preserving Iran's integrity was the most important historical duty of all political factions, and that relying on the people as the source of political power was the most crucial step in foiling such plots.

IRAN DAILY: What is your assessment of the government's management and response to the public protests that escalated into violence? What strengths and weaknesses do you see in this approach?
MESHKINI: The constitution autho-

rizes assembly for peaceful protests, with two stipulations: no carrying of weapons and adherence to Islamic principles and public order – a standard practice in all countries worldwide. These recent events began as peaceful protests, as evidenced by a video circulating at the time that showed people rejecting calls for violence and vandalism. The government promptly acknowledged the protests and committed to reviewing the situation and addressing shortcomings within its capabilities and authority, and pledged to do so. Things were progressing well until external elements stepped in, as was

anticipated.

Naturally, the government has weaknesses that contribute to problems, which the enemy exploits. A clear weakness is the need for greater transparency with the people. Every day, people hear news of corruption and rent seeking, but they hear less about serious crackdowns.

The government must first reform itself, eliminating rent seeking and ensuring fair justice in economy. It must also keep the public informed about its capabilities, limitations, and obstacles, so they can understand that the country is facing a sanctions war.

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