



# President: Security achieved via unified efforts of government, police, public

## Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that the society must be managed with the least cost and damage, stressing that lasting security is achieved through the synergy of the government, law enforcement forces, and the public. Speaking at a graduation ceremony for Iranian Police cadets, Pezeshkian said authorities must maintain order while minimizing harm to security forces and civilians. Underlining that societal management should be carried out with the least cost and damage, he said, "I believe we should govern the country with the least possible harm and incidents, and establish lasting peace and security in society." Pezeshkian stressed that preventing unrest from escalating

into crisis should be a priority. "If there is dissatisfaction or a problem in society, we must not allow it to turn into a crisis. It must be prevented and treated," he said. "When an incident occurs, it must be managed with the minimum cost to the parties involved." The president also called for equipping police and security forces with new technologies to manage incidents without injury to officers, adding that the government would support law enforcement forces. "We must not allow the health of our police forces to be put at risk," he said. "All our efforts must be that none of you, as far as possible, are harmed in any scene." Pezeshkian said public security was essential and credited police forces as "the creators of security in Iran." Late last month, economic hardships, caused and exacerbated by years of Western



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd R) delivers a speech at a graduation ceremony for Iranian Police cadets in the capital Tehran on February 17, 2026.  
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erated by years of Western sanctions, triggered a wave of peaceful protests among merchants in Tehran and other cities. Authorities recognized the protesters' demands as legitimate, but the demonstrations were hijacked by rioters backed by American and Israeli leaders, who publicly called for vandalism and disorder. Officials said that some of the mercenaries were armed, trained, and recruited by US and Israeli spy agencies to incite violence, damage public property, and kill civilians and members of security forces.



## Mazandaran hosts over 3,000 artefacts; 800 officially registered

### Art & Culture Desk

Director General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Mazandaran Province, Hossein Izadi, told ILNA on Tuesday that there are over 3,000 protected artefacts in the northern province and 800 of them have been registered. "Of these, 800 artefacts have been nationally registered, and the rest are in the process of registration or are historically valuable. These artefacts may be governmental, private, or quasi-governmental," Izadi added. The official also pointed to the vastness of historical sites in the province as well as the shortage of funds and legal challenges of national registration. "According to the law, regarding tangible historical sites and monuments, whether



they are under the control of government agencies or in the possession of private individuals, all are obliged to preserve and maintain them," Izadi said. "However, unfortunately, the budget for cultural heritage is insufficient, and with these funds, we can only maintain those among the 3,000 sites that have been nationally registered." The director-general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Mazandaran Province underscored the issue of boundaries and the re-evaluation of historical

sites, which incurs high costs, as one of the most significant problems. "This issue must be institutionalized in the culture of heritage studies and among cultural heritage enthusiasts, otherwise we will face many problems," Izadi said. "When a site is nationally registered, according to the law, it must either be bartered, acquired, or compensated for. However, since we do not have the budget to purchase the property, a right is created for the owner that is practically not fulfilled." Izadi also touched on the emphasis of the Seventh Development Plan (SDP) on the tourism sector, saying, "Issues such as high-rise construction, mixed-use tourism complexes, ecotourism, and health tourism have been exempted from taxes and duties."

## Muslim world's most exquisite handwritten Qur'an published in Iranian Nasta'liq script

### Arts & Culture Desk

The head of the general department of public libraries of South Khorasan Province announced on Tuesday the publication of one of the most exquisite handwritten copies of Qur'an in the Islamic world, which is scripted in Iranian Nasta'liq and in the style of calligraphy master Othman Taha. "This Qur'an, which is the result of over 10 years of calligraphy by the distinguished calligraphy master, Parviz Nikbin, after four years of editing and vocalization, successfully obtained the approval of Dar al-Quran al-Karim of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was able to be published as the first complete Nasta'liq Qur'an, which is considered the bride of Persian scripts," Ali Zohouri was quoted as saying by Mehr News Agency. "This Qur'an had remained



for years without financial support and could not be published. However, with the explicit order and support of Governor-General Mohammad Reza Hashemi, we were able to reach an agreement with the esteemed CEO of Mehr Iran Bank for the allocation of printing costs. This endeavor

was unique and unprecedented in its kind, as 22 billion Rials were secured from Tehran for the printing of a Quran." Zohouri underlined that, "The publisher of this spiritual and artistic work is Chahar Derakht Publications, which has been very persistent and hard-working in this regard."

## Leader's speech shifts ...

Iran has repeatedly stated that negotiations only carry weight when they are grounded in mutual respect, a balance of interests, and reciprocal steps—not in imposed or unilateral results. In effect, this stance lays down the conceptual framework and red lines for talks with Washington and shifts the playing field from "pressure for concessions" to "balanced bargaining." Such a firm position also takes the decision-making space out of a climate shaped by psychological pressure and artificially manufactured security urgency. It signals that Tehran will not make decisions under American deadlines or media narratives portraying the moment as a "last chance."

As the Leader downplays US military

power, how do you assess Iran's deterrent capacities and tools in the face of US military presence and threats in the region, and how might these factors affect the strategic calculations of the other side? The Leader's consistent emphasis on the ineffectiveness of military threats has long formed part of the Islamic Republic's deterrence equation. Iran's deterrence architecture is multilayered, combining defensive capabilities, asymmetric capacities, and regional strategic depth. The timing of these remarks—coinciding with the Geneva talks, which the opposing side had portrayed as a "final opportunity"—amounts to a renewed assertion of Iran's defensive readiness and strategic confidence. The message is clear: nego-

tiation under the shadow of threat does not hold. Such resolve would naturally be expected to factor into the adversary's calculations regarding the potential gains of military escalation. Iran possesses diverse symmetrical and asymmetrical tools for defensive response to any aggression, and any military action against the country could impose broad and unpredictable costs on the United States and its allies. These considerations appear to have influenced Washington's posture and, at least for now, pushed back the war option.

How can the Leader's analysis of the recent unrest in Iran be examined within the framework of geopolitical rivalries

and maximum pressure strategies against Iran, and what implications does it have for domestic policy and national security? The narrative of a "planned coup" and hybrid pressure is not presented merely as domestic political rhetoric. Statements by American and Israeli officials and sources have indicated that the United States and Israel played roles in organizing nationwide unrest, managing scenes of disorder, and planning subsequent scenarios. It should be recalled that during the June war, American and Israeli positions suggested they had expected airstrikes to feed into internal unrest and protests; however, that scenario did not materialize. In the January events as well, efforts were made to intensify unrest and shape

media narratives—including hasty remarks by Donald Trump such as the claim of the "fall of Mashhad"—in order to pave the way for complementary actions. The failure of that scenario cast doubt on the prospects of a swift military success. Accordingly, it is anticipated that a scenario synchronizing domestic unrest with military pressure or threats may remain on the agenda of certain actors. While such overt interference in Iran's internal affairs carries costs for both society and the state, the strategic culture of Iranian society—rooted in independence and resistance to foreign domination—has itself evolved into a factor that strengthens the country's social, political, and defensive resilience, and is likely to continue doing so.