

Leader vows national victory in cultural, economic fronts beyond battlefield

President casts Minab tragedy as assault on Iran's development path

International Desk

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution vowed that the Iranian nation will defeat the enemy in the cultural and economic spheres as well, following the victory on the military battlefield.

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei made the remarks in a Friday message on the occasion of Teacher's Day and Labor Day.

"Now that the Islamic Republic of Iran, after more than forty-seven years of struggle, relying on divine grace, has proven to the world a part of its remarkable capability in the military battle against the enemies of its progress and excellence, it must also disappoint and defeat them in the phase of economic and cultural jihad," he wrote. "Teachers will be the most influential link in the cultural battle, and workers will be among the most effective elements in the economic battle — so

much so that it can be claimed that these two serve as the backbone of the arenas of culture and economy," he said.

On May 2, Iran marked National Teachers' Day, which coincides with the martyrdom anniversary of legendary Iranian scholar Ayatollah Morteza Mutahhari. Meanwhile, International Workers' Day, also known as May Day, is marked on May 1 every year.

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that the country's progress hinges on "the twin pillars of knowledge and labor," and called for practical support for both groups.

Teachers, he said, carry the "grave responsibility" of teaching skills, nurturing insight, and shaping the identity of the next generation. "Students will reflect, like a mirror, the behaviors and words of their teachers," he added. Turning to workers, the Leader described the workplace as an arena "as



The photo shows portraits of Iranian teachers killed in a US attack on the Shajareh Tayyebeh school in the southern city of Minab on February 28, 2026.

wide as the country itself." He said hard work and commitment are the "pillars of any great success."

President Masoud Pezeshkian also in a message on the occasion of Teacher's Day said achieving educational justice depends on serious attention to teachers' livelihoods, professional conditions, and social status.

The president also praised the resilience of Iran's cultural and educational community in the face of recent threats and aggressions.

Pezeshkian also said meaningful progress would not be possible without improving teachers' economic conditions. Referring to the US deadly attack on the Shajareh Tayyebeh school in south-



ern city of Minab, Pezeshkian called it a tragic example of enemies targeting the most innocent members of society and an assault on Iran's path of development.

At least 168 people including students, their parents and teachers, were killed in the attack by the US on the school on the first day of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28.

Renewed war 'probable' as US fails to uphold commitments: *Iranian cmdr.*

International Desk

A senior Iranian military officer said on Saturday that renewed fighting with the US was "likely", hours after President Donald Trump said he was not satisfied with an Iranian negotiating proposal.

"A renewed conflict between Iran and the US is probable as evidence has shown that America is not committed to any promises or agreement. The actions and statements of American officials are mostly made for the use in media in order to prevent a drop in oil price and to exit the quagmire they created themselves," Deputy for Inspection of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters General Mohammad Jafar Asadi said.

Asadi also clarified Iran's response to any renewed adventure by the US, saying that the country's Armed Forces are in full readiness to confront any hostile action.

His remarks came after Iran delivered the new proposal to mediator Pakistan on Thursday evening, which was not welcomed by the US presi-



The photo shows a US Air Force E-3G Sentry aircraft sitting in ruins at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia after an Iranian missile and drone strike.

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dent. "At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters.

The war, launched by the United States and Israel in late February, has been on hold since April 8, with one failed round of peace talks having taken place in Pakistan since then.

Iran's judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said on Friday that his country had "never shied away from

negotiations", but would not accept an "imposition" of peace terms.

The White House has declined to provide details on the latest Iranian proposal, but news site Axios reported that US envoy Steve Witkoff had submitted amendments to a previous one putting Tehran's nuclear program back on the negotiating table. The changes reportedly include demands that Iran not move enriched uranium from bombed sites or resume activity there during talks.

News of the Iranian proposal briefly pushed oil prices down nearly five percent, though they remain about 50 percent above pre-war levels amid the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has maintained a stranglehold on the strait since the war began, choking off major flows of oil, gas and fertilizer to the world economy, while the United States has imposed a counter-blockade on Iranian ports. Speaking at a rally on Friday, Trump said, "We're like pirates," as he described an earlier helicopter raid on an oil tanker under the blockade.

Tehran rebukes assassination of Shia cleric near Damascus shrine

Iran strongly condemned a terrorist attack near the Sayyida Zaynab shrine south of the Syrian capital Damascus, which martyred a prominent Shia preacher.

In a statement on Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei expressed deep disgust at the heinous crime on Friday, which led to the assassination of Sheikh Farhan Mansour, a member of the Shia sect's scholarly body and a Friday sermon preacher, Press TV reported.

Baqaei said acts of terror against religious sites and scholars in Syria and other countries in West Asia are part of the sinister plot of the Israeli regime and the United States to sow discord and incite division in the region.

It is imperative that all sides remain vigilant in the face of such plots and fulfill their responsibilities to decisively counter terrorism and extremism, he added.

The Iranian spokesperson emphasized the need to identify and punish the perpetrators and supporters of this terrorist crime and improve collective cooperation in the region to uproot terrorism. He extended his condolences to the family of the martyred cleric as well as the Syrian nation and the community of religious scholars.

Baqaei also reiterated the Syrian transitional government is responsible to



ensure security of the Syrian people, scholars and all ethnic and religious groups.

According to a Britain-based monitoring group, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), the attack occurred after Mansour left the shrine. Sources cited by SOHR said a hand grenade was thrown into his car near the Safir al-Zahra hotel.

The explosion left Mansour with "very critical injuries," and he was taken to a hospital. Security forces later imposed a strict cordon around the site of the blast, the monitor added.

The attack comes amid rising sectarian tensions in Syria since the fall of the government of former president Bashar al-Assad in late 2024. Minority communities have faced increasing violence, including targeted massacres of Alawites and deadly clashes in Druze-majority areas.

UAE exit from ...

However, even if the UAE were to immediately ramp up production to its full 4 million barrels per day, it would still be unable to export more than current levels. At present, exports are conducted through the pipeline running from Fujairah, which bypasses the Strait of Hormuz and has a maximum capacity of around 1.8 million barrels per day. This pipeline represents the UAE's effective export ceiling.

As a result, there is currently a gap of roughly one million barrels per day between export capacity and last year's export levels, forcing the UAE to cut production as storage capacity is also limited.

Looking ahead, if export constraints and tensions in the Strait of Hormuz are resolved, the UAE could bring on stream its spare capacity within a relatively short period and reach full production of 4 million barrels per day. Exports could then rise to around 3.3 to 3.4 million barrels per day. Even then, this is not a particularly large volume in global oil markets and might reduce prices by only one to two percent. In the longer term, even the addition

of another one million barrels per day would likely have a limited impact—at most around a two percent effect on prices. However, from a macroeconomic perspective, this could still be significant. Even a three to four percent shift is meaningful in economies where inflation remains below five percent. Politically, a producer that was previously constrained by OPEC quotas would now operate under US influence, effectively becoming a tool for market management.

What impact will this move have on OPEC's cohesion and its ability to manage global oil supply? Could this lead to a weakening of OPEC's role and encourage similar actions by rivals?

OPEC's functioning can be compared to what is often referred to as a "standing spectator" scenario. In a sporting event, if a few individuals stand up to watch the game, it benefits them individually. But if everyone does so, the collective outcome is worse.

A similar dynamic applies here. If a limited number of countries leave OPEC, it can be advantageous for them. OPEC continues to manage and stabi-

lize the market, while those outside the organization are free to maximize production and benefit economically and politically. However, if all members were to follow suit, a destructive competition would likely emerge, with each country striving to maximize output, ultimately driving prices down and harming them all.

The UAE's move fits this "standing spectator" analogy. Its exit is unlikely to significantly affect market prices, but by no longer adhering to OPEC constraints, it can maximize its production—especially at a time of elevated prices—and capitalize on the situation.

More broadly, OPEC has weakened in recent years. This is partly due to Saudi Arabia's alignment with the United States, and partly due to Russia's presence. Given the current state of the shale oil market, OPEC may need to make its decisions less predictable. Instead of consistently increasing supply when prices rise and cutting output when prices fall, it may need to adopt less foreseeable strategies so that competitors such as shale producers cannot easily factor in its behavior in their planning.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

