

Russia pledges help to restore Iran's damaged heritage sites



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## Israel hits Beirut's Dahiyeh in deadly airstrike; Iran vows payback

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### Pezeshkian, IRGC general urge national unity as peace with US nears

National Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian called for national unity ahead of the expected signing of a peace memorandum between Iran and the United States, warning that attempts to sow divisions at home represented the greatest threat facing the country.

"Preserving national unity and cohesion is the country's most important priority under current circumstances," Pezeshkian said during a meeting with a group of domestic media chiefs, adding that Iran was passing through "one of the most sensitive periods" in its history.

Pezeshkian warned that efforts to create rifts within the country and fuel political and social polarization constituted "the greatest threat facing Iran."

"This is exactly what the enemy is waiting for," he said, urging supporters of the Islamic Establishment to remain committed to the country's official decisions.

In recent days, some participants in nightly gatherings held in major squares in cities across Iran since the joint US-Israeli aggression on the country have chanted slogans against Iranian negotiators, accusing them of "betrayal" for pursuing a peace arrangement with the US.

Pezeshkian said all political groups must consider themselves bound by the country's strategic decisions as those decisions were adopted through legal mechanisms.

"Decisions regarding war and negotiations are the responsibility of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), a council in which representatives of all branches of power, including the Leader, are present," he said.

The president added that the SNSC had concluded that the path of dialogue should be pursued.

Separately, Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Mousavi, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force, echoed the call for unity in a message addressed to Iran's "insightful" people.

Mousavi urged people to move "not one step ahead and not one step behind" the Leader.

"Avoid any words that endanger your sacred unity," he said.



President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) poses for a family photo with a group of local media chiefs in Tehran, Iran on June 14, 2026.

president.ir

### Israel steps up efforts to derail Iran-US understanding

By Delaram Ahmadi  
Staff writer

#### INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

As Iran and the United States move closer to an understanding aimed at ending the war, Israel has not only refrained from halting its attacks on Lebanon but also struck Beirut's southern suburb at a moment when the signing of the arrangement appeared imminent. Tehran has consistently insisted that any cessation of hostilities must encompass all fronts, including Lebanon, while Beirut in particular has long been regarded by Iran as a red line. Previous Israe-

li attacks on Beirut had already triggered limited military tensions between Tehran and Tel Aviv.

Although US president Donald Trump later described the strike as unnecessary and called on Israel to halt its attacks across Lebanon, the incident nevertheless raised questions about Washington's seriousness in restraining its ally. In an interview with Iran Daily,



Mansour Barati

Israel's preferred model, prompting Tel Aviv

to seek ways to disrupt the process.

**IRAN DAILY: How do you assess the timing of Israel's actions in Beirut as Iran and the United States edge closer to an understanding? Is Israel trying to influence the negotiations and the prospective arrangement, or is it merely pursuing its own objectives in Lebanon?**

**BARATI:** Israel views any understanding or agreement between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran that leaves intact part of Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities in a negative light. During the two recent wars, Israel's leadership sought to inflict the maximum possible damage on Iran's defense infrastructure and nuclear program and even

pursued political regime change inside Iran. Although significant damage was inflicted on the country—with some estimates placing the losses at as much as \$270 billion—Israel ultimately fell short of achieving its more ambitious objectives.

Now that the contours of the initial understanding between Tehran and Washington have become clearer, and it appears that ending the war and reopening the Strait of Hormuz will come first, followed by two months of negotiations on a nuclear agreement and supplementary arrangements, Tel Aviv has stepped up its efforts to derail the process.

Another highly significant factor is Lebanon's inclusion in the understanding at Iran's insistence. The imposition of a ceasefire in

Lebanon from outside the battlefield would amount to a major setback for Israel's leadership, particularly Prime Minister Netanyahu. Israel has traditionally pursued distinct security assumptions regarding its neighboring countries, and on this issue it also differs from the United States on certain aspects of its agenda.

**How do you assess the prospects for ending the war in Lebanon if an Iran-US understanding is signed?**

**Could such an arrangement pave the way for de-escalation, or does Israel have objectives in Lebanon that would drive it to continue military operations?**

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