

Pezeshkian: Iran's economy at center of 'full-scale war' with US

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that Iran is facing a "full-scale war" in which the economy and people's livelihoods has become the main battleground with the enemy. "The reality is that today the Islamic Republic of Iran is engaged in a full-scale war. Today's war is not merely a war of missiles; the enemy has concluded that it cannot force the Iranian nation to surrender through military attacks," Pezeshkian said during a meeting of the country's Supreme Judicial Council. He described preserving economic stability and safeguarding public support as among the country's top priorities under economic warfare, saying that the economy and people's livelihoods had emerged as the key arena of confrontation. The United States violated a recent

memorandum of understanding reached between the two countries by launching new aggression against Iran since July 11, hitting military sites, residential buildings and infrastructure.

It has also reinstated a blockade on Iranian ports, which had been removed under the agreement, to intensify economic pressure on the country.

"On the military front, Armed Forces are defending the country with strength, but if the economic pressures lead to social discontent, the social capital in support of the establishment could be damaged," the Iranian president warned.

Referring to the country's complex circumstances, Pezeshkian said Iran had to tackle external threats while addressing domestic problems at the same time.

He said Iran's enemies are "using all their capabilities" to block the coun-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) speaks during a meeting of the country's Supreme Judicial Council in Tehran, Iran, on July 20, 2026.

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try's path to progress through various means because they did not want "an independent, powerful and successful country" to emerge in the region. Iran therefore had to counter the enemy plots while simultaneously resolving its internal challenges, the president added.

Pezeshkian said unity, mutual understanding and decision-making based on collective wisdom were essential for managing the country's difficult conditions.

He also reaffirmed Iran's determination to defend its national interests while acknowledging the costs involved. "We will stand to the last breath in defending the country and the nation's interests, and we have



no doubt about this path, but at the same time we must be realistic and

accept the natural consequences of this steadfastness," he said.

Tehran confirms receiving de-escalation proposals from mediators

International Desk

Iran confirmed the receipt of proposals from "certain" mediators aimed at preventing further escalation of tensions with the United States. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said during his weekly press briefing on Monday that mediators are actively striving to prevent further escalation and have conveyed proposals to Tehran, but he did not give further details.

He added that while Iran's armed forces continue to respond "firmly and decisively" to the source of the US aggression, the country's diplomatic apparatus is fully aware of its duties and spares no effort to fulfill them. The Iranian spokesperson emphasized that the diplomatic apparatus remains fully aligned with the armed forces and continues to pursue its duties in defending the country's interests. The United States has perpetrated numerous violations against Iranian territory since April 8, when US President Donald Trump announced a unilateral ceasefire in the latest bout of wholesale American-Israeli aggression targeting the Islamic Republic. The violations continued even after Washington and Tehran signed a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding in June, whose first clause clearly mandates cessation of aggres-



sion on all fronts.

Since July 11, the US has launched new strikes on Iran on the pretext of alleged Iran's attacks on ships in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which is a major source of contention between the two countries.

Baqaei's confirmation follows reports that Qatar has floated a 10-day ceasefire plan between Iran and the US following Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's recent visit to Doha. Baqaei said Iran has never been the first party to breach the war-ending MoU; however, Washington's breaches of its commitments prompted Tehran's reciprocal response.

US not seeking de-escalation

Iran's Parliament speaker also reacted to remarks by the US Secretary of

State Marco Rubio claiming that his country remains open to a diplomatic solution with Iran, saying that the US military build-up in the region proves Washington does not seek de-escalation.

"Americans keep bringing new military equipment to the region and claim they want to stop the war. They have bet on our intelligence being as low as their own IQ," Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said in a post on X.

"We have reached the stage of mastery in recognizing these American games, and on that basis, we have prepared ourselves. Actions must substantiate claims, not contradict them."

Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni also arrived in mediator Pakistan's capital on Monday at the invitation of the country's Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi.

During the visit, the two sides are due to discuss ways to deepen bilateral ties, including strengthening border cooperation and expanding collaboration in trade, transit and agriculture through a series of meetings and joint sessions, according to Tasnim news agency.

Iraq's government also said its prime minister will soon visit Iran and Turkey as part of efforts to strengthen relations with neighboring countries, advance bilateral issues and help reduce regional tensions.

'Siege for siege': Yemen slaps maritime blockade on Saudi Arabia

International Desk

Yemen declared a naval blockade against Saudi Arabia in a tit-for-tat response to the ultraconservative kingdom's years-long embargo, with the country's military spokesman stressing that it will come into effect immediately.

In a statement on Monday, Yemeni armed forces spokesperson Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced "a maritime embargo against the criminal Saudi enemy, based on the equation of 'siege for siege,'" adding that "it will come into force from the moment this statement is issued."

According to the statement, the blockade was imposed in response to Saudi Arabia's continued "unjust and oppressive siege on our dear people for nearly 12 years, plundering our resources and imposing a comprehensive blockade on [the country's] ports and airports by land, sea, and air" as well as the recent attacks on the Sana'a International Airport.

The spokesman affirmed the Yemeni armed forces' "complete readiness for all options," warning that "any foolish act" by Riyadh will be met with a "harsh" response.

Tensions flared earlier this month when Saudi Arabia tried to prevent the return of an Iranian plane

carrying a delegation of Yemeni officials, who had traveled to Tehran for the funeral of Iran's martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The plane was diverted after the Sana'a airport was bombed and landed safely in the city of Hudaydah. The Saudi-backed government in south claimed responsibility for the attack.

Following the bombing, the Ansarullah resistance movement, who blamed Riyadh for the attack, fired missiles at an airport in the southern Saudi Arabian city of Abha.

Hizam al-Assad, a senior member of Ansarullah's political bureau, warned that Yemen is prepared to escalate to all-out war if the 11-year siege of Yemen is not lifted. He said it is unacceptable for Riyadh to continue exporting oil and purchasing weapons to bomb and blockade Yemen while the Yemeni people remain silent.

Al-Assad warned that Yemen's armed forces are ready to target Saudi oil facilities, refineries, and export ports with missiles and drones if the blockade continues. Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies launched the blockade on Yemen as part of a full-scale war on March 26, 2015, with military, political, and logistical support from the United States and other Western states.

Fresh Iranian strikes lash American bases across region

International Desk

Iran's Armed Forces kept up its attacks on US military bases in regional countries on Monday, with its Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announcing they had hit targets in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria.

In Syria, Iranian forces launched "a surprise attack on the enemy special operations command center in the al-Tanf region," according to the IRGC statement.

The US withdrew its troops from al-Tanf in February.

In Jordan, the IRGC said it targeted US military aircraft stationed at Aqaba Airport "with ballistic missiles, causing severe damage to a number of them."

The IRGC also said they hit US military targets based in Kuwait, including an early-warning radar system that was "completely destroyed."

Later in the day, the IRGC issued another

statement, announcing new strikes by its naval forces on Bahrain and Kuwait.

Kuwait's Army said Monday its air defenses were engaging with drone attacks following Iran's strikes.

Bahrain's Interior Ministry also said that its air raid sirens had sounded and urged citizens and residents to head to "the nearest safe place."

Iran's new attacks came after the US launched fresh aggression against Iran. In Bushehr, Governor-general Mohammad Mozaffari told state news agency IRNA that several locations in Bushehr city were hit by American enemy's projectiles.

In East Azarbaijan Province in the northwest, the head of the local crisis management unit Majid Farshi told IRNA that "one person was martyred and several others injured" in an attack there. Areas in West Azarbaijan were also targeted in the US strikes.

Hamed Saffari, director-general of crisis management for the province, said several people were injured in the strikes.

An attack on the Iranian city of Shiraz was also reported by the deputy governor-general of Iran's Fars Province.

"The US launched an aerial attack on one of the areas in Shiraz, it resulted in no casualties, and the situation is under control," the official told state TV. In Hormuz, meanwhile, sailors abandoned a vessel set on fire in an attack, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations agency.

The IRGC had earlier said that two oil tankers trying to transit the strait "exploded and were brought to a halt," according to a statement reported by Tasnim news agency.

On Friday, Iran's Health Ministry reported that 50 people had been killed in recent fighting and more than 500 wounded.



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