

President: No interest above preserving unity, cohesion in current situation

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that no interest is above "preserving unity and cohesion," urging political parties and social groups to maintain solidarity amid the country's difficult conditions caused by the US aggression. Speaking at a press conference held to mark National Reporter Day, Pezeshkian said, his sole motivation is to serve the Iranian people based on justice and fairness, while acknowledging the country continued to face significant challenges. "I have no motivation other

than serving the people of my country based on justice and fairness. Clearly, we have many problems, but we are trying to overcome them together," he said. Responding to a question about his assessment of cooperation among political parties over the past year and during the wartime, Pezeshkian thanked political parties, political movements and social organizations for helping strengthen national unity and cohesion under the current difficult circumstances. The president said it was essential to avoid actions and positions that could undermine social cohesion.

Pezeshkian said political groups bore an important responsibility in shaping public opinion and safeguarding social stability, adding that their restraint had helped prevent tensions from escalating. "It was enough for any one of them to strike a discordant note and rally some people in the country against these measures. The same remarks being made today about hardships and rising prices could have been exaggerated and prompted people to protest. But the cooperation and solidarity shown by these political movements is commendable, and I hope this unity and cohesion will contin-

ue," he said. During the press conference, Pezeshkian also addressed other issues, including the economic problems resulting from the US-Israeli imposed war on Iran, and reiterated that the issue of people's livelihoods remains one of the most important concerns of his administration. He said that American and Zionist enemies had thought that they would overthrow Iran through a military offensive, but the Iranian Armed Forces, on the one hand, and the presence of the people in the streets, on the other hand, prevented them from carrying out their evil intentions.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) speaks with reporters and attendees during a press conference marking Iran's National Reporter's Day in Tehran, Iran, on August 8, 2026. president.ir

Iran says Strait of Hormuz reopening hinges on US actions

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday said that talks with Oman on the legal framework and management of navigation routes through the Strait of Hormuz is "approaching the final stages" but cautioned that the reopening of the strategic waterway hinges on other conditions. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Iranian president's press conference, Araghchi said, "Negotiations with Oman on the legal mechanism and management of the Strait of Hormuz regarding the designation of the Strait of Hormuz transit route are under way and we are very close to an agreement, but the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is subject to other conditions, including compensation for breaches of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding by the United States." He was referencing to a June agreement reached between the US and Iran to end the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. Araghchi blamed the US



Vessels are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, on August 3, 2026. [REUTERS](http://reuters.com)

for the current situation in the strait from which a fifth of the world's oil and gas is exported. He accused Washington of breaching the Islamabad agreement by establishing new routes in the strait, warning that the violation of the agreement by undermining Iran's role in management of the strait is by no means acceptable to Iran. Iran and the US signed the agreement in June to end the cycle arising from the latest bout of unprovoked American-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic, which had begun on February 28. Under the understanding, Iran agreed to allow fee-free maritime transit through the strait for a

period of 60 days. In compliance with the MoU, the Islamic Republic devised a special maritime route for vessels to cross the chokepoint, warning vessels against using illegal routes. The US has, however, been trying to escort transit through the strait along an illegal passage-way, prompting Iran to confront every instance of Washington-instigated transit through the chokepoint and shut the corridor until Washington ended its interference in regional maritime movement.

Temporary route

Araghchi said that Tehran and Muscat are currently discussing a temporary route rather than a permanent one.

"Given the technical and legal complexities, for now we are talking about a temporary route. Before reaching an agreement on a new route, a temporary route will be considered as the basis for the main route. In this regard, negotiations have been held between the military and naval forces of the two countries based on existing maps, and once those talks are concluded, the new route will be determined," he said. Oman's Foreign Ministry also said on Saturday that negotiations with Iran about the future administration of the Strait of Hormuz were "positive and constructive". The ministry said that "ongoing negotiations regarding navigation arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz are proceeding in a positive and constructive atmosphere", and urged against any actions that might jeopardize the progress.

Iran's share of Caspian Sea not addressed in legal convention due to disputes: FM

International Desk

Iran's share under the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea has yet to be determined because of disagreements on the baseline and the delimitation of the seabed and subsoil of the sea, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday. Speaking to reporters, Araghchi said the issue of Iran's share had therefore been excluded from the convention altogether and deferred to bilateral and trilateral negotiations. But, he didn't name the countries that Tehran should negotiate with. Araghchi said the Caspian Sea convention had been referred to Iran's Parliament by the previous administration in 2018 and 2019 for consideration. "The Convention on the Caspian Sea was referred by the previous government to parliament in 2018 and 2019 for a decision. Meanwhile, the other four Caspian littoral states have accepted the convention, and acceptance by the Islamic Republic of Iran is subject to approval by the parliament," he said. Araghchi said all Iranians shared concerns about safeguarding the country's interests but accused opponents abroad of pursuing other agendas. "We are all concerned about the country's interests, but those who exploit the issue outside the country are pursuing the interests of others," he said. "Countries such as Russia are seeking the swift implementation of the convention, and one of its features is that there will be no foreign military forces in the Caspian Sea," Araghchi added.



His remarks came as the Iranian government has decided to urgently submit the convention to the parliament for ratification. According to Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, the decision was based on three main considerations: changes in the security environment around the Caspian Sea, the need to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among littoral states, and the resolution of certain legal issues concerning the sea. Gharibabadi noted that the security situation around the Caspian has changed significantly over the past two years, particularly as the presence of non-littoral actors in the region has increased as a result of decisions by some coastal states. The convention, signed by the leaders of Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in the Kazakh port of Aktau in August 2018, takes effect only once all five littoral states ratify it. The other four completed the process long ago. Tehran, alone, held back.

Iran to regional nations: Time to rely only on ourselves, embrace true brotherhood

International Desk

Iran called for greater regional convergence and cooperation, stressing reliance on regional capabilities towards exclusion of foreign interference. "When Muslims stand together, we can face every challenge by malicious outsiders head-on," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X on Friday, Press TV reported. "Time to rely only on ourselves and embrace true brotherhood," he added. Araghchi's remarks came as the Islamic Republic continues to advocate for a regional approach to security in the Persian Gulf, rather than reliance on outside military powers. Also on Friday, Kazem Gharibabadi,

Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, said that security in the Persian Gulf had to be established by the countries of the region themselves, with all regional states participating in its provision. The diplomat said a consensus had emerged among countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf following the 40-day unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran and following conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States. According to the official, the consensus was that regional security concerns had to be discussed and addressed by the countries of the region themselves. Gharibabadi described the consen-

sus as positive, saying Iran had consistently maintained that regional issues belonged to the countries of the region and that they had to be responsible for ensuring their own security. The US-Israeli aggression prompted the Islamic Republic to wage at least 100 waves of decisive and successful retaliatory strikes against sensitive and strategic hostile targets across the region. Iran's Armed Forces kept up the reprisal in the face of the United States' routine violations of the memorandum. Concluding his post, Araghchi praised "Iran's Powerful Armed Forces" for "showing their readiness, capability, and might in face of the world's most expensive military."

