

Pezeshkian: Iran standing firm despite facing 'full-scale war'

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that Iran is facing a "full-scale economic, military and security war" but has stood firm and is striving to serve its people. He made the remarks during a visit to the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, and on the first day of Government Week as the United States has declared new economic sanctions against Iran to exert more pressure on the country after it failed to achieve its goals in the battlefield. Pezeshkian acknowledged the immense pressures facing the country while expressing pride in the nation's resilience. He said the government is making every effort to overcome the difficulties. "We are trying with all our

might, but we are sorry that problems still exist. The country is in a full-scale economic, military and security war. The enemies openly declare that they are imposing the harshest and most terrifying sanctions against Iran, but we have stood firm and are trying to serve the people in the face of this unequal war," he said.

Economic pressure

Pezeshkian highlighted the enemy's open efforts to isolate Iran internationally, saying, "When the enemy openly says it is negotiating with Muslim governments not to deal with us to force our surrender, what clearer statement could there be? We must recognize that we are in a full-scale war." He called on the nation to unite and support one another just as they did during the Sacred Defense

era of the 1980-88 war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime. On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump announced new economic measures against Iran and warned that countries that maintain economic engagement with Tehran would face consequences. Trump said on his Truth Social platform that he was announcing "the most crushing economic operation ever taken against any country!" He added that any country that allows its financial institutions, businesses, airports, or government entities to provide any type of lifeline to Iran will itself face tremendous economic consequences. Pezeshkian also referred to the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in February, saying that the country's adversaries had assessed that Iran would collapse

like Venezuela in a short time. "Not only did this not happen, but Iran became a power that amazed the world with the resistance, solidarity and cohesion of the Iranian nation," he added.

Islamabad understanding

Addressing a recent Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington, signed on June 17, the president said the agreement was the result of a "technical consensus" among all those who had a hand in the matter. "What happened in the process of the MoU, after lengthy discussions and negotiations, was a technical consensus of all those who had a stake in the matter: fighters who fought on the battlefield, managers who safeguard-



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini in Tehran on the first day of Government Week on August 23, 2026.

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ed the country's security, and executives who implemented the decisions," he stated. "If we stood firm and did not bow to the enemy, it was because of these individuals. They were the ones who sat together and reached a framework, finding it aligned with 'expediency, dignity and wisdom.' Those who deny this either do not understand the details or have no hand in the matter." He stressed the need for everyone to abide by collective decisions, saying that once a decision had



been made and an agreement reached, everyone must stand by it and act accordingly. The 14-point agreement signed in June aimed to

lay the groundwork for a permanent peace deal, but Washington repeatedly violated the agreement, re-imposing oil sanctions and continuing military strikes.

Pakistan's army chief to visit Tehran today to 'help boost regional peace'

International Desk

Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir will travel to Tehran on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said, as Islamabad tries to mediate a resolution to end ongoing tensions between Iran and the United States. Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a statement Sunday that Munir would lead a delegation to the Iranian capital "as part of efforts to strengthen Iran-Pakistan bilateral cooperation". The visit was also part of "Pakistan's ongoing efforts to help consolidate peace and security in the region", the statement said. Pakistan brokered a Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and the US on June 17 that required both sides to end all hostilities and prepare for further negotiations on more important issues. However, the US violated the deal by conducting deadly aerial assaults on Iran and imposing a naval blockade of the country. In response to the violations, Iran closed the strategic Strait of Hormuz which is one of the world's



most important energy transit routes. The United States has now imposed new sanctions on Iran after it failed to achieve its goals during its aggression against Iran. A Pakistan source told Reuters that the talks in Tehran would also address recent developments in the conflict, including US President Donald Trump's threat of tougher sanctions on Iran. "He (Munir) will discuss peace under Islamabad's MoU, Trump's warning and the situation after the Pakistan-Turkey-Saudi Arab Agreement and Houthi (Yemen's Ansarullah) issues with Iranian leaders," the source said. The visit will coincide with a Monday announcement on details

related to the planned sanctions which US officials have said would be "the toughest sanctions in history" on Iran. Pakistan had previously played a pivotal role in securing the April 8 ceasefire that brought an end to the 40-day illegal US-Israeli aggression against Iran. During a telephone conversation on Saturday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Munir discussed the latest regional developments, as well as effective ways to enhance peace, stability and security in the region. Iran thanked Pakistan for its war-time support for the Islamic Republic and its role in mediating a war-termination deal between Tehran and Washington. The Iranian foreign minister also held a separate phone conversation with his Egyptian counterpart, during which both sides discussed the latest developments in the West Asian region, including the situation in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea regions, and the latest diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions in the region.

FM downplays Trump economic warfare as 'old US bullying tactic'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Trump's economic pressure campaign against Iran is part of Washington's longstanding "bullying" tactics. "Economic warfare is a recurring scenario and the same old bullying tactic in American policy," he said. "It's a familiar movie that we've seen many times, and we know how to deal with it," Araghchi said on the sidelines of a visit by the cabinet ministers to the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini. He said Washington's renewed use of military threats and claims of possible attacks showed that it was "desperate in the face of the Iranian nation" and had "no new solutions". "They must know that there is no other way but to speak respectfully to the Iranian people and find a solution based on justice and honor," the Iranian foreign minister said. US President Donald Trump announced new economic measures against Iran on Wednesday, accompanied by a warning that countries maintaining economic engagement with Tehran would face consequences. Trump said on his Truth Social plat-



form that he was announcing "the most crushing economic operation ever taken against any country!" He added that any country that allows its financial institutions, businesses, airports, or government entities to provide any type of lifeline to Iran will itself face tremendous economic consequences. Iran's top security chief said that the Islamic Republic will neutralize the US economic pressure, including by responding to countries that join an American "economic war" against the country. "We will neutralize the economic war. America is backed into a corner. Either they honor their commitments, or they will have to struggle to get out of that corner, which will make the situation worse," Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei said during a televised interview on Saturday.

Iran slams France's decision to expel diplomats as unjustifiable

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that France's decision to expel two Iranian diplomats is "not justifiable", describing it as a reaction to a "completely legal and consistent with international law" measure taken by Iran. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Tehran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei warned that such actions would be damaging to the relations between Tehran and Paris. On August 18, France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot declared two employees of the Iranian Embassy in France persona non grata in response to what he called the "extremely serious attack" committed by the Iranian

security services against two employees of the French Embassy in Iran on July 19. On Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry declared two French diplomats working at the French Embassy in Tehran persona non grata over activities deemed contrary to international law and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The French diplomats were briefly detained in Tehran after they were found at a meeting linked to a security investigation. France accused Iranian security forces of mistreating the diplomats, while Tehran rejected the allegations and said they had been questioned over "unconventional" conduct. Iran's Intelligence Ministry said the

two diplomats had "extensive records of violations and conduct contrary to domestic laws and diplomatic obligations." Baqaei said on Sunday that the activities of two French diplomats in Iran constituted "unacceptable interference" in the country's internal affairs. "We acted as soon as we felt that the French Embassy in Tehran had acted beyond its responsibilities and what is stipulated in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and that their actions constituted interference in Iran's internal affairs," he told reporters. He said Iran had formally announced that the two diplomats must leave the country and would not be allowed to return.



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