

Continuation of war not in interest of Iran, region: *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that continuing the war with the United States did not benefit Iran but noted that certain groups in the US saw their interests in the conflict to drag on. "We continue to strive for agreement and understanding, and we believe that the continuation of war is in the interest of neither us, nor the region, nor humanity," Pezeshkian said as he met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 26th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek. Unfortunately, Pezeshkian said, certain groups in the United States see their interests in the continuation of war and seek to prolong conflicts. The president said Tehran had always tried to establish peace and security and resolve issues through dialogue but Washington has unfortunately chosen the path of war, insecurity, and imposing its will through force instead of using diplomatic mechanisms. "We believe that the solution to the existing issues is dialogue and coopera-

tion, and all capacities must be used to prevent the spread of insecurity and conflict." Referring to the June 17 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Tehran and Washington to end the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, he reiterated that Tehran has honored its commitments as per the deal, but the US failed to do so.

Tehran-New Delhi relations

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president said Tehran was ready to promote its longstanding and friendly relations with New Delhi in all areas. "Iran and India have extensive capacities for expanding cooperation in political, economic, scientific, cultural and other areas of mutual interest. It is possible to further enhance relations between the two countries by strengthening bilateral cooperation and neutralizing the effects of sanctions," the president said. The United States and Israel are working to create obstacles to Iran's cooperation with other countries, Pezeshkian said. Tehran is ready to expand cooperation with India in various fields despite such

pressures, he added. For his part, Modi said New Delhi sought to maintain its cooperation and contacts with Iran during the recent difficult period.

The Indian prime minister said he agreed with Pezeshkian's view that some groups see their interests in the continuation of war and stressed the importance of doubling efforts to establish peace.

The Iranian president also held separate talks with the heads of state of Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan. During his meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country mediated the June MoU, Pezeshkian said Iran remained committed to implement the deal provided that the other party also adhered to its obligations.

Pakistan-Turkey-Saudi Arabia pact

Pezeshkian also welcomed a recent defense agreement reached between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, describing it as a step toward strengthening the unity of the Islamic world. "We hope that other countries in the



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi meet in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on August 31, 2026.
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region and Islamic countries will also join this process and expand their cooperation not only in the defense field, but also in the political, economic, and cultural fields," Pezeshkian added.

The three Muslim countries signed the joint defense agreement on August 7 following growing regional tensions caused by the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in February.

Iran batters US bases in Jordan, UAE in retaliation for strike on isle

International Desk

Iran launched barrages of missile and drones at US military assets in the Middle East on Monday to retaliate an American strike on an island in the Strait of Hormuz, the first exchange of fire for over a month in a war that has engulfed the region. More than six months into the conflict, the two sides remain at an impasse, with Iran keeping the strategic strait shut and the United States persisting with a naval blockade of Iranian ports and vessels. The US had signaled a pivot to economic pressure in place of military action, but on Sunday claimed it attacked Iranian rocket launchers on the small island of Larak to prevent Tehran planting mines in the strategic shipping lane. "US forces took limited, precise action against IRGC minelaying forces posing an imminent threat in the Strait of Hormuz," the US military's Central Command wrote on X. Iran's Revolution Guards Corps said they responded by striking two US air bases with ballistic missiles in Washington-allied Jordan, causing "heavy damage". Jordan's army said it had intercepted eight missiles, without stating their origin. Iran also said it targeted US personnel at an air base in the United Arab Emirates and shot down an American drone over Hormuz. The exchange of fire between the United States and Iran came at a time when hostilities had been subsiding.



Economic pressure

In recent weeks, the administration of US President Donald Trump had prioritized "economic warfare" over military action. But the militaries of the two sides remain vying for control of the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran having blocked the passage of commercial ships since the war began. One-fifth of the world's oil passed through the waterway before the US and Israel triggered the war with strikes on Iran on February 28. Trump insists the US navy has "total control" of the conduit and has even called it US territory, with Washington last week claiming it had completed clearing explosives from the waterway. Iran has rejected the US claims of control of the energy chokepoint. Iran's leaders have remained defiant in the face of US pressure, with President Masoud Pezeshkian saying Monday that "we are not seeking war, but we will deliver a decisive response to the aggressors".

Legitimate right to retaliate

Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the US attack on Larak as violation of Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, saying it exercised its legitimate right to retaliate. In a statement, the ministry said the American attack killed two Iranian servicemen and injured several others including civilians. It reiterated that the US attack on the island was a clear violation of the United Nations Charter, and urged the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general to fulfill their responsibilities in preserving international peace and security and holding the aggressor accountable. Diplomatic efforts, spearheaded by mediators including Pakistan and Qatar, have tried for months to bring an end to the war. While a ceasefire was agreed in April and a memorandum of understanding toward a final peace deal was signed in June, no agreement has been forthcoming, and Washington has since declared "economic warfare" against Tehran.

FM says 'serpent' Netanyahu tricked US into war with Iran

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that the Israeli prime minister had fooled the United States into going to war with the Islamic republic, calling Benjamin Netanyahu a "serpent". "In Hebrew, Netanyahu openly crows that he suckered the US Administration into a war on Iran on behalf of Israel. Netanyahu explicitly laughs about how he 'influenced' America through 1,000 hours of airtime on US networks," Araghchi said in a post on X. "In English, he praises POTUS' leadership. Serpent," he added. War broke out between Iran and the US on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on different Iranian cities, which led to the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei along with senior military officials as well as hundreds of others on the first day of the aggression. Iran retaliated with attacks on the US military bases in regional countries and Israel's positions in the occupied territories as the conflict continued to spread. An April ceasefire put an end to the most intense fighting after Tehran and Washington signed a 14-point Mem-



Abbas Araghchi
● [TASNIM](#)

orandum of Understanding brokered by Pakistan and Qatar. However, the US began attacking Iran in July after it violated the terms of the agreement under the pretext of Iranian strikes on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The US also recently shifted toward a campaign of what it calls "economic asphyxiation" of Iran, imposing sanctions on various sectors in Iran. Last week, the Israeli prime minister dismissed any prospect of an Iran-US agreement. Netanyahu has long been skeptical of diplomacy with Iran, openly campaigning against a 2015 nuclear deal hammered out by then US president Barack Obama, but he has been publicly careful not to criticize Trump while he sought a negotiated settlement.

Unmasking US inhumane ...

They overlook the fact that if economic sanctions could destroy Iran's large economy, this should have occurred at least sometime during the past 40 years. It did not. Iran has managed to circumvent and neutralize the sanctions. Had economic pressure been capable of pitting the people against the government, this would have happened during the two wars—the 12-day war and the 40-day war. The joint US-Israeli attacks provided the best opportunity for any dissatisfied segment of the population

to side with America. What actually occurred was the opposite: national solidarity was strengthened. In other words, American sanctions failed to collapse Iran's economy, and military warfare failed to create a rift between the people and the government. Instead, national unity in Iran was reinforced and hatred and enmity toward the United States deepened in public opinion. Another reality that Americans ignore is that the international community and the countries that maintain commercial and economic relations with Iran

are under no obligation to comply with America's anti-human policies—just as they did not stand with the United States during the military aggression against Iran and refused to support the attack on the country. It can therefore be predicted that the new US policy of economic pressure may create difficulties for Iran's commercial exchanges, but it will be neutralized and fail within a short period. More importantly, the Iranian people's sense of distrust toward American policies will deepen further than before.

