

President calls for scientific advances to make country stronger against bullying



President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a ceremony marking the start of the country's agricultural year Karaj, Alborz Province, on October 10, 2026.
● president.ir

at a ceremony marking the start of the agricultural year, which was held in Alborz Province. The president underlined the role of modern technology in improving the country's scientific standing and production capacity. Pezeshkian pointed to Iran's technical expertise, particularly in assembly and artificial intelligence, as an existing resource that should be put to more effective use. "Our experts are among the best assemblers in the world; we have some of

the best in artificial intelligence. Why should we not use the best technology?" he asked. Pezeshkian further called for effective use of artificial intelligence and other advanced tools to improve production methods, increase efficiency, and strengthen Iran's technological capacity. His remarks come as the United States has imposed further sanctions and restrictions on Iran following its recent aggression to force Tehran accept its demands. The war started with US and Israeli attacks on Iran, while Washington and Tehran were locked in negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. The warring parties agreed a memorandum of

understanding in June that spelled out a framework for a permanent resolution to the conflict, but the US violations of the agreement prompted a resumption of military operations. Negotiations have effectively been at an impasse since then, and recent indirect talks between the US and Iran on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly failed to produce a breakthrough. The US also recently shifted toward a campaign of what it calls "economic asphyxiation" of Iran, imposing sanctions on various sectors in Iran. Despite a hiatus in negotiations, exchange of messages and proposals through regional mediators are underway to end the war.

According to Iranian officials, Tehran is reviewing a Washington's response to its recent proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which was delivered to US officials during the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Meanwhile, the Kremlin said on Saturday that Russian President Vladimir Putin has told US President Donald Trump about Iran's position on a possible peace deal. The Kremlin said Tehran's stance was relayed in a phone call held between the two leaders on Friday. Putin met Pezeshkian on the sidelines of a summit in Turkmenistan earlier this week, where the Russian leader expressed an interest in helping broker peace.

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday called for further scientific advances to make the

country stronger against bullying and coercion, stressing on the role of modern technology in improving the country's scientific standing.

"If we are not to bow to the bullying and coercion of our enemies, we must not put ourselves in a position of weakness," President Pezeshkian said

Qalibaf to Rubio: Western arrogance will end in 'dust and shame'

International Desk

A speech by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio invoking memories of ancient Persia has been met with strong reactions from Iranian officials amid Washington's ongoing war on Iran. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf delivered a rebuke to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's imperialist rhetoric, warning that foreign powers seeking to erase ancient civilizations will ultimately face historic humiliation and defeat.

In a post on X, Qalibaf responded to Rubio's recent remarks romanticizing Western hegemony, making it clear that the Iranian nation has successfully defied self-proclaimed "masters of the universe" for millennia. "Throughout history we Iranians have faced those who declared themselves masters of the universe and sought to erase ancient civilizations. They came in fire and flame, only to depart in dust and shame," Qalibaf stated. "Those who chase Alexander's legacy will share Valerian's fate: you will kneel."

Qalibaf's response was triggered by a statement from Rubio on October 8, in which the US Secretary of State attempted to frame Washington's aggressive foreign policy as a continuation of ancient Western glory.

"We believe that the West can awaken



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks in Athens, Greece, on October 7, 2026, with the Acropolis in the background.
● EPA

from its long slumber – and rekindle the fire that was first lit in ancient Greece millennia ago," Rubio claimed. Major General Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), also reacted to Rubio's remarks, invoking the ancient defeat of Rome by Sasanian king Shapur I to counter an attempt by US officials to frame the aggression against Iran as a civilizational war.

"When they go to Athens after defeat and humiliation before Iran to shape a narrative of a civilizational war, it would be better for them to read another important part of history: where the Roman emperor knelt before Shapur I of the Sasanian Empire," he wrote.

He added that "Whoever brings history into it must be ready for its repetition!" Rezaei's response invoked one of the

most significant military episodes in ancient Iranian history, countering the US official's civilizational framing by recalling a time when the Sasanian Empire inflicted a major defeat on the Roman Empire.

Shapur I, who ruled the Sasanian Empire from 241 to 272 AD, fought several campaigns against Rome and expanded Persian influence across Mesopotamia and parts of the eastern Mediterranean. In 260 AD, his forces defeated the Roman army near Edessa, in present-day Turkey, and captured Emperor Valerian, who had led the campaign against Persia.

Culture Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri urged Western politicians to speak about Iran with a "language of respect" since "it is not an enemy created in a political speech but a living civilization, a great nation and a lasting reality in world history" that dates back millennia.

Vali Nasr, professor of international affairs and Middle East studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, said he believes Rubio's aim was to define a common enemy for the US and Europe to rebuild their relations around. "It also reflects US frustration that Europe has not played a major role in the war and seeks to paper over deep divisions between the US and Europe on Russia and Ukraine," Vali Nasr said.

Pezeshkian demands immediate investigation into killing of police official in Zahedan

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday called for immediate investigation into a terrorist attack in southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, which led to the killing of a senior police official.

The president in a message said indiscriminate and terrorist acts aimed at creating insecurity and spreading violence would achieve nothing beyond shedding the blood of innocent people and exposing the criminal nature of their perpetrators.

He called on relevant authorities to swiftly identify those responsible for the crime.

Nosrat Eftekhari, deputy for cultural and social affairs of the police command in southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan was killed after a roadside bomb struck her vehicle on the road to the province's Cheshmeh Ziarat village. Several police officers were also injured in the attack.

The killing of Eftekhari was a bitter example of such inhumane crimes, the president said.

He stressed that such criminal acts would never weaken security forces' resolve to



Nosrat Eftekhari
● FARS

protect the lives, peace and well-being of the public.

Safeguarding citizens' security and confronting terrorism and those responsible for creating insecurity would continue with determination, he added.

Iran's police chief, Brigadier General Ahmadreza Radan, also vowed revenge for the assassination of Eftekhari.

Radan said she was killed while visiting Cheshmeh Ziarat village to help address local communities' concerns.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also reacted to the terrorist act, vowing that those responsible for the assassination of Eftekhari will face justice.

Qalibaf described the police official as a highly educated and dedicated woman who worked in remote areas, addressing the concerns of local communities and ethnic groups while promoting solidarity.

FM says Netanyahu seeking to save himself with 'US blood and treasure'

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is desperately trying to evade justice by sacrificing more American lives and resources. In a post on his X account, Araghchi said Netanyahu is a "wanted war criminal" who is responsible for the deaths of Arabs, Americans and Iranians, Press TV reported.

He added that the Israeli prime minister is seeking to evade justice while showing no regard for the lives of his own people. The top Iranian diplomat likened Netanyahu to a "degenerate gambler," saying he was desperately trying to save himself by spilling more American blood and squandering US resources.



Abbas Araghchi
● IRNA

"Even US Senators want out," Araghchi wrote.

The Iranian foreign minister attached a video to his post featuring Maj. Gen. Avi Gil, a former senior aide to Netanyahu, who has renewed criticism of the Israeli prime minister over the events of October 7, 2023.

Gil, who served as Netanyahu's military

secretary from July 2021 to May 2024, has said that the Israeli leader was warned internally of the potential for war ahead of the October 7 attacks and that there remained "enormous gaps" between what the public knows and what really happened.

Gil woke up the Israeli prime minister on the morning of the deadliest attacks in its history. His comments put fresh pressure just weeks before a critical election that will determine Netanyahu's political future.

Late in February, 36 former Israeli officials, including five former heads of the spy agency Shin Bet, have said Netanyahu bears sole responsibility for the military and intelligence failures that enabled the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation on October 7, 2023.



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