President says Tehran will pursue talks but will not bow to pressure



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) speaks during a meeting with the country's trade guilds and businessmen in Tehran on November 29, 2026.
president.ir

International Desk

Iran is pursuing diplomatic efforts and hopes negotiations to end the ongoing war will succeed, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday, adding that Tehran would not bow to aggression or coercion and would stand firm against attempts to force it into submission.

"We are trying to pursue the path of negotiations rationally, but we are not going to bow our heads in the face of aggression and whatever wrongdoing our enemies commit. We will not accept humiliation and will stand against force and bullying," Pezeshkian said.

Speaking at a meeting with the country's trade guilds and businessmen, Pezeshkian said managing energy and conserving consumption are of great importance at the current situation.

He accused Iran's enemies of seeking to stoke public discontent and create unrest in the country, saying all Iranians had a responsibility to prevent those efforts from succeeding.

"If we join hands, we can overcome the crisis that has been created, and the country's problems can be resolved through unity, cohesion and solidarity," he said.

He called on Iranians to work together to counter those efforts, saying the enemy is seeking to force the Iranian people into submission through air, sea and land blockades.

"But we can overcome this crisis through cooperation and solidarity," he said.

Pezeshkian reiterated that his government is engaged in diplomatic efforts and hoped diplomacy would bear fruit, while insisting that Iran would not yield to pressure.

He also said the aggressors have faced considerable difficulties during the US-Israeli war against Iran, adding that the results of the elections held in the United States and Israel had demonstrated this.

Hostile drone hits Iranian fishing boat off Persian Gulf coast

Two more tankers hit mines in Strait of Hormuz

International Desk



REUTERS

A hostile drone struck an Iranian fishing boat off the coastal county of Sirik in Hormozgan Province, leaving one person missing and two others requiring hospital treatment.

Ahmad Nafisi, deputy governor of Hormozgan, reported on Sunday that the incident occurred at approximately 3:30 a.m. local time.

The fishing boat belonged to a resident of Sirik and carried three people when the drone struck it, Nafisi explained.

Two of the three occupants were subsequently found and transferred to Sirik County Hospital to receive medical treatment; however, the fate of the third passenger remains unknown, prompting search teams to continue operations to locate the missing individual.

The latest incident follows several reported attacks on civilian sites and fishing vessels in Hormozgan, including a US strike on a wedding gathering in Kuhestak, Sirik County, on September 1.

At least four people, including a four-year-old child, were killed and more than 60 others were wounded when a missile struck a residential home during the celebration.

Meanwhile, two other oil tankers suffered explosions and caught fire after hitting naval mines while attempting to navigate an unauthorized southern route through the Strait of Hormuz, according to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy.

The IRGC Navy said the incidents occurred in the early hours of Sunday after the vessels ignored maritime regulations and warnings and attempted to pass through a "fabricated" southern route.

One of the vessels was a supertanker carrying more than two million barrels of crude oil, the statement said, adding that it hit a naval mine and exploded off the northern coast of Khasab.

The second tanker struck a mine and caught fire while leaving the strait in its eastern section, it further said.

The IRGC Navy also warned tanker owners and shipping companies against risking their remaining vessels and assets by relying on false claims and promises by US Central Command (CENTCOM) commanders.

In recent weeks, Iranian naval forces have reported several incidents involving oil tankers that allegedly entered restricted areas after switching off their navigation and identification systems.

Iran has imposed restrictions on maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli aggression against the country, insisting that the security of the vital waterway cannot be separated from respect for Iran's sovereignty and legitimate demands.

The Iranian Army's Air Defense Force also shot down a hostile reconnaissance drone over the Strait of Hormuz, above the waters of the Persian Gulf.

In a statement on Saturday, the Army's public relations office said the drone was detected and destroyed by domestically developed air defense systems operating under the country's integrated air defense network.

It added that the drone belonged to an "invading" enemy and was flying over the Persian Gulf when it was intercepted.

Tehran, Baghdad discuss border security, bilateral ties

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and visiting Iraq's National Security Chief Qasim al-Aboudi discussed strengthening bilateral ties and border security following Baghdad's move to close several border crossings with Iran.

Iraqi national security adviser's media office said in a statement on Sunday that the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation across various fields in pursuit of the common interests of the two neighboring nations, the statement said.

The talks also covered border crossings, border control and plans drawn up by Ali al-Zaidi, Iraq's prime minister, to deploy Iraqi forces along the borders to contain security threats.

The two sides also discussed the handling of Iranian opposition groups operating inside Iraqi territory, as well as unofficial border crossings outside the control of Iraq's federal government.

The meeting came as Tehran and Baghdad sought to maintain diplomatic contacts and address security concerns along their shared border.

Both sides underscored the need to maintain communication and sustain relations between Tehran and Baghdad, the statement said.

The Iranian side also voiced Tehran's support for measures taken by Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi to combat corruption and strengthen security and stability.

Al-Aboudi, who arrived in Tehran on Saturday, also met with Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, on Saturday evening. During the meeting, Iran's top security official said that economic relations between the two neighbors should not be undermined by foreign interference.

"An independent, powerful and developed Iraq can serve as one of the pillars of a new security order in the region," Rezaee said during the meeting.

The remarks came amid reports that Iraq's increasing restrictions on the flow of trade and passengers through border crossings with Iran are the result of US pressure on Baghdad to reduce its economic exchanges with its eastern neighbor.

Parliament passes bill to reform Intelligence Ministry



ICANA

National Desk

Iran's Parliament passed a bill on Sunday making amendment to a law requiring intelligence minister to have religious education at the level of ijtihad.

The bill, which still needs final approval, eases a requirement in place for more than four decades that candidates have advanced qualifications in Islamic law.

The post of intelligence minister has not been permanently filled since the previous minister was assassinated during the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

Esmail Khatib, a 65-year-old cleric who had held the position since 2021, was killed in March during the most intense phase of the aggression.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Sunday urged the government to appoint a permanent new minister "without delay" once the legislation receives final approval, citing the "current circumstances" as grounds for the urgency. Under the amendment, candidates must have attained "the level of ijtihad or hold a master's degree, alongside intelligence experience and at least 10 years in middle or senior management," according to ISNA news agency.

The previous law, in place since 1983, required the minister to have religious education at the level of ijtihad, without giving an alternative.

The bill still needs approval from the Guardian Council.

The lawmakers also approved a draft submitted to the parliament to establish two new organizations within the Intelligence Ministry.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

