



Iran to build new nuclear plants: AEOI chief

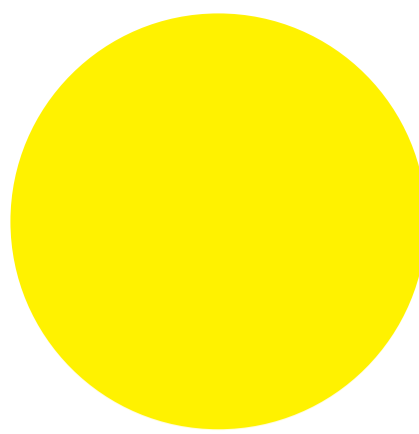
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Innocent victims of forced labor need rescue



EXCLUSIVE

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Leader: Deal possible if Iran's nuclear industry remains intact



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) is briefed by the Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami as he visits an exhibition of Iran's nuclear achievements in Tehran, on June 11, 2023.

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framework of safeguards". However, he called on Iranian authorities "not to yield to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) excessive and false demands," adding that a law passed by Iran's Parliament in 2020 had to be respected. Under the law, Tehran would suspend IAEA inspections of its nuclear sites and step up uranium enrichment if sanctions are not lifted. "This is a good law... which must be respected and not violated in providing access and information (to the IAEA)," Khamenei said. Last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported limited progress over disputed issues with Iran. Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks came days after both Tehran and Washington denied a report that they were nearing an interim deal under which Tehran would curb its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief.

Importance of nuclear industry

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader described the nuclear industry as one of the most important components of the country's power, credibility and strength, saying that the industry is the key to progress in many fields.

He further said that the industry improves people's lives in the technical, economic and health sectors and adds weight to the country's global and international political standing. Ayatollah Khamenei said that the 20-year nuclear challenge demonstrated the extraordinary ability and talent of Iranian youths despite sanctions and threats against our scientists and the assassination of some of them.

The challenge also laid bare the inhumane, unfair and bullying logic of opponents, who have expectations from us beyond existing safeguards agreements, the Leader asserted.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said a deal with the West is possible if Iran's nuclear infrastructure remained intact amid a stalemate in talks over the revival of a 2015 nuclear pact. The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with a group of nuclear experts and officials in Tehran on Sunday. "You may want to reach agreements in some fields. Nothing is wrong with [reaching] agreements, but the infrastructure must remain intact. They must not be harmed. They are the fruit of others' endeavors," Ayatollah Khamenei added. "We were dealt blows because of misplaced trust. It is very important that a nation and the officials of

a country know and understand where they should trust and where not to trust. We have understood it over the past twenty years. We understood who is trustworthy and who is not," the Leader said.

The West's lies

The Leader also said the enemies use the claim that Iran is developing nuclear weapons as an excuse to target Iran, but the claim is no more than a lie and they are well aware of it. "The enemies have created a nuclear challenge for us for twenty years because they know that the movement in the nuclear industry is the key to the country's scientific progress," the Leader said. "The excuse of nuclear weapons is a lie

and they (the enemies) know it, too."

"Based on our Islamic foundations, we do not want to go towards [nuclear] weapons. Otherwise, they (the enemies) would not have been able to stop it, as until now they could not stop our nuclear developments," Ayatollah Khamenei stressed. Iran showed to the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with six world states - namely, the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China. But, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in May 2018, and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against

Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo.

Negotiations between the parties to the deal kicked off in Vienna in April 2021, with the intention of bringing the U.S. back into the deal and putting an end to its "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. The discussions, however, have been at a standstill since August 2022 due to Washington's insistence on not lifting all of the anti-Iran sanctions and offering the necessary guarantees that it will not exit the agreement again.

Cooperation with IAEA

Ayatollah Khamenei said the country's nuclear authorities should continue working with the UN nuclear watchdog "under the

A new chapter in Iran's longstanding ties with LatAm nations

By Hossein Amir-Abdollahian
Iran's foreign minister

OPINION

The incumbent Iranian government has espoused a foreign policy doctrine that prioritizes balanced and intelligent interactions with other nations, characterized by dynamic diplomacy. This doctrine emphasizes the importance of comprehensive development of relations, as well as diversification of long-term cooperation with countries across the globe, including those in Latin America.



In line with this strategy, President Raisi has planned a visit to three nations - Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua - from June 12 to June 15. This represents a big step forward in expanding cooperation with Latin American countries, which have had long-standing cordial ties with Iran for around 120 years.

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Iran's SEPAM to replace SWIFT in trade transactions: ACU chief

The secretary general of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) said Iran's financial messaging system, SEPAM, will replace international payment system, SWIFT, in trade exchanges between the union's members. Farhad Morsali said that Iran's SEPAM has been accepted by ACU members as an internal financial messaging system, according to a report by Fars news agency. He said it will take six months to prepare the union's own messaging system and, in the meantime, members should replace SWIFT with SEPAM, for which Iran will charge a fee. Iran unveiled SEPAM in October 2013 as an alternative to SWIFT, a Bel-

gium-based financial messaging system that is being gradually abandoned by countries because of its sheer reliance on transactions that are based on the U.S. dollar. Last month, central bank chiefs of ACU member states decided at a summit in Tehran to create an internal financial messaging system to replace SWIFT in banking transactions. The decision was in line with efforts made by ACU members to reduce the domination of the U.S. dollar in global trade. Mohsen Karimi, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for international affairs, said in February that all Russian banks and 106 banks in 13 other countries have been connected to SEPAM.

Riyadh seeks cooperation with Beijing, 'ignores' Western worries

Saudi Arabia wants to collaborate, not compete, with China, the kingdom's energy minister declared on Sunday, saying he "ignored" Western suspicions over their growing ties. As the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia's bilateral relationship with the world's biggest energy consumer is anchored by hydrocarbon ties. But cooperation between Riyadh and Beijing has also deepened in security and sensitive tech amid a warming of political ties

- to the concern of the US, Reuters reported. Asked about criticism of the bilateral relationship during an Arab-China business conference, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said: "I actually ignore it because ... as a business person ... now you will go where opportunity comes your way." "We don't have to be facing any choice which has to do with (saying) either with us or with the others."

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