

Pezeshkian opens over 20,000 projects aimed at poverty alleviation

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian officially launched over 20,000 projects on Wednesday aimed at reducing poverty across the country, describing the initiative as a significant and commendable step. He emphasized the government's determination to address educational infrastructure deficiencies within the next year, despite financial constraints, saying, "While the government lacks sufficient funds, we are resolute in resolving these issues with the support and cooperation of the people," according to president.ir.

The inauguration ceremony, attended by Mohsen Hajimirzaei, chief of staff to the president, marked the completion of 20,014 projects valued at 210 trillion rials (approximately \$310 million). These projects include 13,000 rural housing units, 2,250 water supply projects and 4,600 small-scale solar power plants.

"We face some issues in constructing adequate schools and sports facilities in underprivileged areas. The health and medical sectors also face numerous problems, but we are committed to achieving a satisfactory level of service within the next year," Pezeshkian said at the ceremony.

Highlighting the country's economic struggles, he noted, "We are in a full-scale economic war that is far more severe than the [1980s Iraqi-] imposed war. This war is causing significant hardship for the middle class and the poor. We must work together to ease this burden and resolve the people's problems."

Pezeshkian pointed to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's vision for the country's development, saying, "According to the vision set forth by the Leader, we must become an advanced nation in economics, science, and innovation."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran cultivates 50,000 hectares of corn in Brazil: *Official*

'Gov't committed to guaranteed purchase of extraterritorial products'

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Iranian companies have cultivated 50,000 hectares of corn in Brazil, announced Reza Fotuhi, the manager of the Extraterritorial Cultivation Project of the Agriculture Ministry, emphasizing that the ministry will make efforts to expand overseas farming to two million hectares by the end of the Seventh Development Plan (2028).

Talking to ILNA on Wednesday, Fotouhi highlighted the government's goal under the Sustainable Food Security Plan to source 10 million tons of agricultural

imports through overseas farming by 2031.

"Currently, the total area under extraterritorial cultivation is estimated at 228,000 hectares. The ministry is focused on promoting this initiative to meet the Seventh Development Plan's target of expanding overseas farming to 2 million hectares, a key strategy to reduce dependence on imported agricultural products." Fotouhi explained that the Iranian government guarantees the purchase of products brought into Iran through overseas farming at market rates. "However, companies engaged in these

projects should sign contracts with the State Livestock Affairs logistics company and the Government Trading Corporation (GTC), ensuring their products meet the required standards for guaranteed purchase."

He added that while some private sector firms currently import overseas-grown products into Iran, these are not yet approved for guaranteed purchase, adding that the Agriculture Ministry is working to ratify contracts with these private entities. Corn, barley, soybeans, and oilseeds are the main crops cultivated abroad and imported into



Iran, mostly from Kazakhstan, Brazil, Belarus, and Russia, the official said, noting that Iranian private sector companies are also engaged in overseas farming in Ghana, Armenia, and Pakistan.

Iran ready to clinch nuclear deal if West honors own promises: *MP*



By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writers

A conservative member of Iran's Parliament, referring to the resumption of nuclear negotiations between Iran and Europe, stated that the Islamic Republic is ready to reach a nuclear agreement with Western and European countries if the West shows commitment to its obligations.

"If the West adheres to its promises, Iran, with its political and military maturity, is ready to be a trustworthy negotiating partner," said Rouhollah Lak-Aliabadi in an interview with Iran Daily. He emphasized that previous experiences show Western commitments often remain in words and do not translate into action. "If the West-

ern countries, including the US, are ready to fulfill their promises in practical terms, and not just in words, Iran will reciprocate with seriousness and reliability." According to Iran's Foreign Ministry, a new round of nuclear talks will begin on Friday, November 29, in Geneva. These discussions will involve Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and their counterparts from France, Britain, Germany, and the European Union.

This marks the first nuclear negotiation under the administration of Masoud Pezeshkian, occurring 100 days after his government took office. Russia and China will not be participating, as there is little divergence in their perspectives on Iran's

nuclear issue. US representatives are also absent, likely due to the ongoing presidential transition in Washington. Speculation suggests that with Donald Trump's return to the White House, representatives from his administration may eventually join the talks to pave the way for new agreements.

Lak-Aliabadi pointed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), noting that while it took years to negotiate, further efforts could still lead to a practical agreement. He admitted that elements such as the "dispute settlement mechanism" have proven to be detrimental to Iran but he maintains that, "A bad deal is better than no deal."

The mechanism, outlined in articles 36 and 37 of the JCPOA to resolve disputes, allows any party to the agreement to raise concerns with the Joint Commission if they believe another party is not honoring its commitments. If the dispute remains unresolved after 35 days, the complainant can suspend its obligations under the JCPOA. Moreover, the plaintiff may notify the UN Security Council, which has 30 days to

pass a resolution to keep up the suspension of sanctions. Failing that, all pre-JCPOA UN sanctions will automatically be reinstated.

Commenting on potential shifts in US policy, Lak-Aliabadi said, "US policy toward Iran has remained largely consistent over the years. It is unlikely that Trump's personality has significantly changed, though his experience during his first term might have led to some tactical adjustments." He suggested that Trump has developed a more profound understanding of Iran's influence in global and regional affairs, which could affect his approach.

Lak-Aliabadi said Trump considers China as an archrival to US dominance, which could shift his administration's focus away from Iran, adding, "Trump also believes the US should not bear the financial burden of securing Europe, a stance that worries European countries." Despite potential changes in Trump's policy, Lak-Aliabadi expressed confidence that Iran's steady approach over the past four decades would allow it to adapt effectively if necessary, emphasizing Tehran's readiness to adjust its strategy in response to any shifts in US behavior.

Tehran urges BRICS to prioritize economic cooperation



Iran urged the BRICS group of emerging economies to place economic and financial cooperation high on the bloc's agenda.

Majid Samadzadeh Saber, an advisor to the Iranian foreign minister, made the remarks on Wednesday in an address before a summit of BRICS' national representatives in Yekaterinburg, Russia, reported IRNA.

The Iranian official also called for the establishment of an "agile and cost-effective" secretariat for BRICS. The summit, known as the Sherpa meeting, has been organized to review Russia's year-long presidency over BRICS and discuss the priorities for the coming year under Brazil's leadership.

During his address, the Iranian advisor called for efforts to streamline BRICS operations with a focus on economic cooperation between member states.

Sergei Ryabkov, Russia's deputy foreign minister and chair of the meeting, also hailed BRICS as a driving force in transitioning the current global system towards a multipolar and multilateral framework.

Daily collection of flare gas hits 6m cubic feet in southern oilfields

Economy Desk

The CEO of Maroon Oil and Gas Production Company announced the launch of a new sweet gas transmission line, which has increased the company's gas transmission capacity and allows for the daily collection of approximately 6 million cubic feet of flare gas in the southern oilfields.

Speaking to IRNA on Wednesday, Qobad Naseri emphasized that the company's technical and op-

erational efforts prioritize environmental protection and the preservation of hydrocarbon resources.

"One of our key priorities is reducing gas flaring, ensuring a stable supply of feedstock for petrochemical industries, meeting the gas needs of the national grid, and contributing to non-oil exports through petrochemical products to help address the country's energy shortages," he stated. The official highlighted that the construction of the new pipeline is part of Ma-



roon Oil and Gas Production Company's gas pipeline modernization project. Naseri also noted that the commissioning of the sweet gas transmission line

to production units will generate an annual profit of \$9 million, while collecting 6 million cubic feet of flare gas daily to prevent environmental pollution.