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Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi (c) addresses a press conference at the ministry headquarters in Tehran on January 12, 2025. IQNA

West has no plan for peace, security in Mideast



By Mohammad Amir
Iranian lawmaker

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

For years, the United States has pursued a policy of spreading Iranophobia as a means to further its political and economic goals in the Middle East. It is no secret that hegemonic nations, like the US and UK, have never considered regional stability to be in their best interest. They have been sowing the seeds of chaos, reaping the benefits of crises, wars and conflicts among regional nations to exploit their resources, particularly the abundant oil reserves. This has led to the persistent instability in the region, which is rooted in the conspiracies and machinations of these very countries.

The US aims to convince regional countries that without its presence, they would be left defenseless against the perceived threat of Iran or other nations and their security would be compromised. Thus, the US has consistently portrayed Iran as a menacing demon.

Israel, acting as the West's proxy, has executed its plans, while the US and its allies turn a blind eye to Israel's actions. The West supports and justifies Israel's criminal behavior, claiming it is merely self-defense. No one calls the West out for its complicity in these crimes, questioning why it enables the Zionist regime's atrocities it is supposedly defending itself. Based on these justifications, the US does not welcome or support efforts to establish a cease-fire in places like Gaza. Instead, it fuels conflicts and escalate attacks in Yemen and other areas. [Page 7 >](#)

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Necessity of rejuvenating Iran's power amid mudslinging attempts

By Navid Kamali
Foreign policy expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The Islamic Revolution of Iran represents not merely a political transformation but a civilizational leap and cultural renaissance that emerged with the aim of establishing justice, freedom, and spirituality in society and the world. This revolution, inspired by the liberating teachings of pure Mohammedan Islam and relying on the will and faith of the people, challenged the system of domination and arrogance while presenting a new model of governance based on divine and popular values. However, the complete realization of the Islamic Revolution's lofty ideals requires continuous jihad or struggle, unceasing effort, and forward-looking movement in all areas. This jihad is not merely a military struggle but a comprehensive battle in cultural, economic, political, and social domains that requires insight, vigilance, and firm determination, as our country's enemies employ every tactic to strike and create threats against our nation in their hybrid warfare campaign.

For instance, the Wall Street Journal, in its recent report which exemplifies a perception operation, began inflicting damage to our country's image in global and regional perception with the headline "A Weakened Iran." This report and similar ones that have prominently featured the keyword "Iran is Weakened" in their recent headlines are attempting to implement the "broken window" theory in the minds of regional and trans-regional audiences regarding our country and the Axis of Resistance. According to the theory, by presenting an image of weakness and vulnerability of a country, other regional and trans-regional actors with malicious intentions can be encouraged to take provocative actions against that country. [Page 8 >](#)

Iran's annual carpet exports plunge to \$40m



Economy Desk

The value of Iran's handwoven carpet exports dropped sharply from over \$2 billion annually in the Iranian year of 1373 (1994) to around \$40 million today, according to Morteza Haji-Aqamiri, head of the Carpet, Art, and Handicrafts Commission at the Iran Chamber of Commerce.

Commenting on the significant decline in Iranian carpet exports to Germany, one of the primary markets for these goods, Haji-Aqamiri noted that Germany and other German-speaking countries have historically been the largest purchasers of Iranian handmade carpets, ILNA reported.

Haji-Aqamiri added that Iranian carpets are still exported to other European countries, including France, the UK, and Italy, as well as to non-European markets such as the United Arab Emirates, which remains a strong export destination.

He highlighted that Germans have had such a deep connection with Iranian carpets that the academic study of carpets began at universities in Berlin.

Haji-Aqamiri attributed the decline in demand for Iranian carpets in Germany to changing tastes among younger generations in Europe and said younger consumers now view carpets as short-term floor coverings that need to be replaced frequently, making them unwilling to invest in luxurious, high-quality Iranian carpets.

Instead, they opt for cheaper Turkish and Indian carpets that align with their preferences, allowing Indian and Turkish producers to dominate the European market.

He also pointed to international sanctions and flawed domestic currency policies as factors exacerbating the decline in Iranian carpet exports to Europe.

Haji-Aqamiri added that 44% of global carpet exports go to the United States, which has sanctioned Iranian carpets. This leaves Iran's carpet industry focusing on the 56% of the market.

Haji-Aqamiri also said Japan is a promising market for Iranian carpets, emphasizing the importance of participating in expos there.

Pezeshkian reaffirms support for private sector amid challenges

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that he as the head of the government is accountable to the people and the private sector regarding ongoing challenges.

The first meeting of the board of trustees of the National Development Fund (NDF) under the current administration was held on Sunday, chaired by Pezeshkian, according to president.ir.

During the meeting, the fund's performance report was reviewed, the budget for the next Iranian year was approved, and a proposal for the fund's role in addressing energy shortages and national development was discussed.

It was decided that the proposal would be examined by a specialized working group to develop solutions in line with existing laws and regulations. These solutions will be presented for approval at the next board meeting.

According to the proposal, the NDF expressed readiness to collaborate with the private sector in financing projects to address

energy deficits, based on a specific framework designed by the fund's experts.

Due to limitations in the fund's charter regarding direct financial intervention in the economy, the board decided that the proposal would be reviewed by the working group comprising members from the three branches of government.

The group will develop solutions that comply with existing laws and regulations. Given time constraints, the working group was urged to finalize these solutions within two weeks for review and approval at the next board meeting.

Pezeshkian referenced statistics indicating that the private sector incurred losses of at least 175 trillion tomans (\$2.18 billion) due to energy deficits in the first nine months of the year (started March 20, 2024).

He emphasized that the current administration has been actively working to resolve energy shortages since its beginning but has encountered persistent challenges. "As the head of the government,



I am accountable to the people and the private sector for these issues. Given that solar power plants are the fastest, most effective, and cost-efficient solution available, we must not waste any more time. We need to quickly approve and implement action-

able solutions in this area," the president added.

Pezeshkian stressed that having resources but being unable to use them to address critical national issues due to a lack of actionable plans is illogical. He pledged to expedite the de-

velopment of practical solutions aligned with the country's laws and interests.

The president also committed to preventing any misuse, waste, or corruption in the allocation of approved resources for this purpose.

Petrochemical industry exports hit \$10b in nine months: NPC



The CEO of the National Petrochemical Company announced that the industry has exported \$10 billion worth of products in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–December 20, 2024), with projections estimating this figure will reach \$13 billion by yearend (March 20).

Speaking at a meeting of the Oil Ministry's deputies on Saturday, attended by Vice President Mohammadreza Aref, Hassan Abbaszadeh highlighted that the petrochemical sector comprises 70 production complexes and three utility complexes, Shana reported on Sunday.

He noted that 85% of the industry is concentrated within holdings, most of which are subsidiaries of the country's pension funds, while 15% operate within the private sector. Abbaszadeh emphasized that the industry has also supplied \$10 billion worth of feedstock to downstream domestic industries, which are utilized in various sectors such as polymers, footwear, textiles and detergents.

Focus on value chain development

The deputy oil minister stated that the Seventh Development Plan outlines 61 petrochemical projects, with a focus on completing the value chain.

Abbaszadeh explained that while

previous development plans prioritized increasing production capacity, the current plan emphasizes value chain integration and aims to achieve a total capacity of 131.5 million tons by 2027 across methanol, polyethylene, ethylene, and other chains.

He acknowledged that this approach has made the work more challenging but stressed that it will help move the industry toward higher-value-added products.

Abbaszadeh added that the National Petrochemical Company is monitoring and prioritizing value chain completion projects, aligning with the Seventh Development Plan's goals of boosting production capacity while enhancing value chain integration.

Over 60 projects requiring \$24b in investment

Abbaszadeh identified financing as the primary challenge for implementing petrochemical projects, noting that the Seventh Development Plan requires \$24 billion in investments.

So far, \$12 billion has been spent, with projects averaging 50% physical progress. An additional \$12 billion will be invested to complete the initiatives.

He also mentioned that plans for the Eighth Development Plan have been drafted and are in their initial stages. To ensure sustainable feedstock

supply, petrochemical companies have invested in capturing associated gases.

The CEO highlighted that memorandums of understanding have been signed with petrochemical holdings and companies to develop small gas fields, with some companies preparing contracts to increase gas production and partially address feedstock challenges.

Optimizing household gas consumption

Abbaszadeh noted that the petrochemical industry has also entered the energy optimization sector, targeting several cold-climate cities this year.

The initiative involves replacing equipment and promoting cultural changes to optimize household gas consumption, thereby freeing up gas for use as petrochemical feedstock. He added that major petrochemical companies have begun investing in solar farms, with some signing contracts to build solar power plants. For example, Kaveh Methanol has signed agreements to produce 800 megawatts of solar power and 500 megawatts of wind power to meet its electricity needs.

Regional planning for petchem development

Abbaszadeh stressed the importance of proper regional planning for the petrochemical industry, tailored to each province's water resources, existing industries, and feedstock availability.

This approach aims to attract investors focused on developing downstream industries.

He also mentioned that efforts are underway to study and expand the portfolio of international customers, aiming to identify new markets while retaining traditional ones with the help of petrochemical holdings. Abbaszadeh emphasized that petrochemical projects will be prioritized based on their potential to generate higher value-added products.

Promising prospects for China-Iran cooperation within BRICS: Envoy



China's ambassador to Iran said the prospects of cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the BRICS group of emerging economies are promising.

Speaking with IRNA, Cong Peiwu called for enhanced bilateral cooperation between Iran and China in the economic and multilateral domains.

He described BRICS as a favorable platform for strengthening economic cooperation between the countries of the Global South. "In addition to constructive interaction between the member states, the activities of this group lead to the expansion of cooperation with other countries as well," the envoy said.

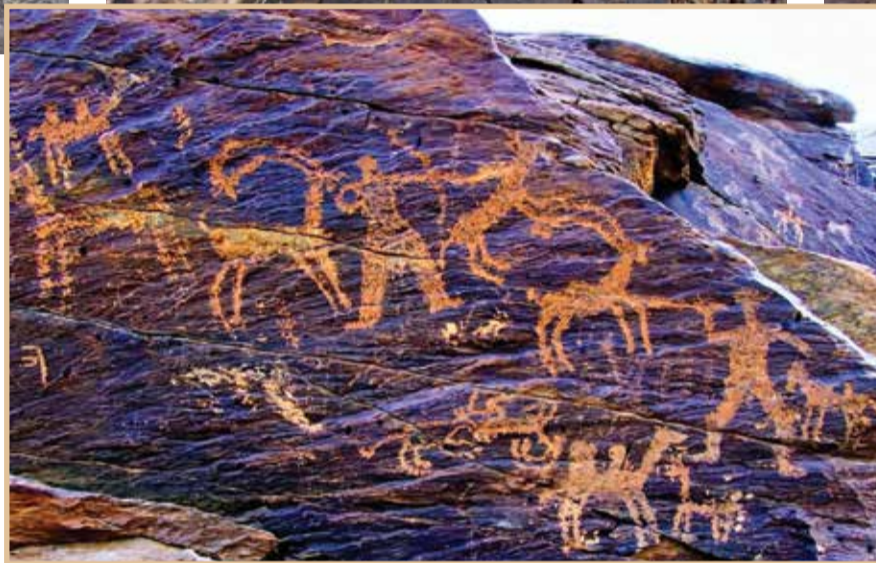
He added that these interactions are not limited to trade exchanges, but rather, cross-border e-commerce and cooperation in various fields of the digital economy, Artificial Intelligence, innovation, and technology are also among other activities carried out within the BRICS bloc.

Iran officially joined BRICS as a full member in January 2024, months after it was invited to join the expanding bloc along with Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. BRICS initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It is considered to be a counterpart to the G7 bloc of the world's largest economies.

In his remarks, Cong also underscored the need to support the development and expansion of the open global economy. He slammed the unilateral actions and economic threats of certain countries against Iran and China as "illogical."

"All countries should support the open and win-win [global] economy, and in this regard, we firmly oppose the unilateral actions and economic threats of certain countries," he added.

Artistry, significance of Golpayegan's petroglyphs



Iranica Desk

Human factors are among the most significant dangers and challenges facing the valuable historical petroglyphs of Golpayegan, a city in Isfahan Province, known for its rich cultural heritage and archaeological significance, said an archeologist. Mohsen Jamali added that any kind of line or mark left by human on stones and rocks is referred to as a petroglyph.

He added that the development of mines within the vicinity of the petroglyph sites is a prominent aspect of these threats. Currently, at the Teymareh petroglyph site in Golpayegan, mining activities have become a disaster for these valuable engravings, IRNA wrote. The archaeologist and author of the books "Petroglyphs of Golpayegan" and "The Passage of History"

emphasized that unregulated tourism is another harmful factor affecting these historical engravings. He noted that the entry of some unaware tourists into the pristine areas of the petroglyphs has led to vandalism and digging in their surroundings.

He added that the level of protection for these historical artifacts must be increased, and tourism should be conducted by trained individuals and in an organized manner in the petroglyph region of Golpayegan. He stated that the existence of 36,000 examples of engraved pictorial and linear designs on the Golpayegan petroglyphs is a manifestation of Iran's thousands of years of culture and civilization in the world.

He further noted that the petroglyphs reflect the history and culture of our ancestors, and because most

of them were created by ordinary people without the orders of rulers and sovereigns, they are considered some of the purest and most authentic documents of human life in various parts of the world.

He added that by studying the petroglyphs carefully, signs of various animal

species that once lived in Iran can be identified. Jamali pointed out that the petroglyphs of Golpayegan feature various animal species such as tigers, leopards, cheetahs, lions, deer, wild goats, and mountain sheep. He mentioned that many of these designs can be studied based on findings from ancient ethnological studies (a

branch of social sciences that examines very distant pasts using material evidence), and it is possible to unveil the mysteries of some of their narrative scenes.

He clarified that discussing the history of petroglyphs may be challenging, and currently, the conditions for accurately dating these en-

gravings of inorganic origin do not exist in Iran. However, relatively, the age of some specific artworks can be estimated, particularly as recent research indicates that the history of some petroglyphs reaches back to the beginning of the Copper Age (the period between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, starting around 6,000 years ago and ending about 5,000 years before Christ) and extending to Islamic and contemporary periods. Petroglyphs are divided into two categories: relief engravings and incised carvings, with rock art in Iran predominantly being of the incised type. Across Iran, many petroglyphs have been identified, each reflecting the dominant culture of that specific region. In Golpayegan, there are numerous petroglyphs, and through 17 years of continuous research on various areas of this district, 32

sites with petroglyphs and about 36,000 rock surfaces have been identified, making it one of the largest and most complete collections of petroglyphs and rock engravings in the country. Golpayegan itself is a city steeped in history, situated 170 kilometers west of Isfahan. It is surrounded by beautiful landscapes and is known for its traditional architecture, historical sites, and vibrant local culture. The abundance of petroglyphs in the area not only highlights its archaeological significance but also serves as a testament to the rich cultural tapestry of Iran. Of approximately 50,000 petroglyphs registered in Iran, more than 36,000 examples have been identified in Golpayegan, underscoring its importance as a center for studying ancient human expression and interaction with nature.

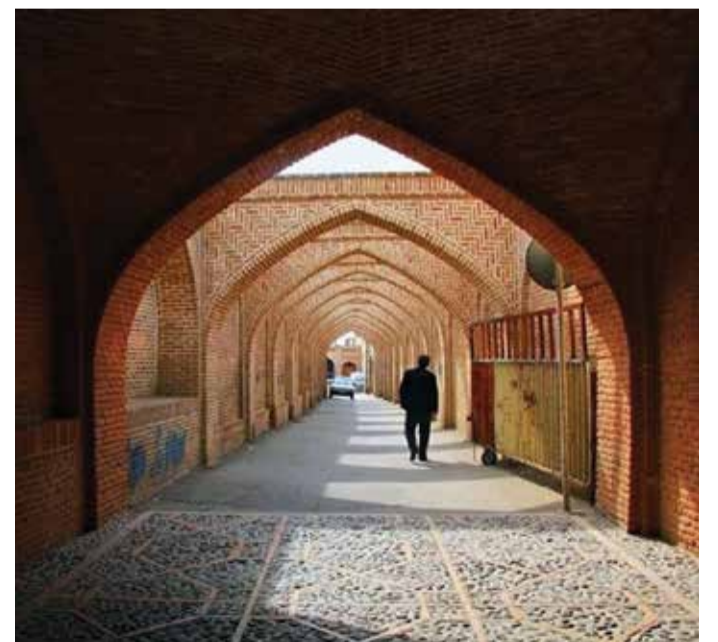
Balancing progress, preservation in Shiraz's cultural landscape



● IRNA



● IRNA



● gashtogazarnews.ir

Iranica Desk

The 57-hectare map for the historical-cultural fabric of Shiraz, the capital of Fars Province, has been approved by the Supreme Council of Architecture and Urban Development, despite the map and specifics of the resolution remaining unclear. Reports indicate that this plan, which has been a subject of

dispute for years, has been approved in agreement with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. It includes amendments such as "refraining from further demolitions" and "revitalizing life in the historical fabric of Shiraz."

Shahrokh Kalantari, a researcher and graduate in the preservation and revitalization of historical monuments and fabrics,

told ISNA: "According to discussions I had with experts from the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, this plan will have minimal intervention in the fabric of Shiraz, with no intention of carrying out new demolitions. The 57-hectare map will remain the same as the previous one, but modifications will be made, including the removal of the proposed

boundary by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and the cancellation of the squares planned for the development of the Shah Cheragh (the holy shrine of Ahmed bin Musa (PBUH) brother of Imam Reza (PBUH) the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims).

Only in areas already demolished in the past will the extension of the Shah Cheragh shrine be permitted.

He added: "In the previous 57-hectare map, a boundary proposed by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage would have led to the demolition of 95 parcels, 35 of which were either registered on the national heritage list or considered valuable. According to experts from the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, this boundary and the associat-

ed demolitions have been removed in the new resolution, which emphasizes the preservation of the historical fabric of Shiraz.

He stated, "However, we must wait for more details about the new map to become clear. Until the text of the resolution is made public, everything remains uncertain, and it is not possible to provide a precise expert opinion on the matter. The

concern with the previous plan was that the proposed boundary by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage would have resulted in widespread demolition within the historical fabric. Experts from the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development have confirmed that this proposed boundary has been removed and amended in the new plan and resolution."

Military service, armed society, and terrorism in US

By Gholamreza Mansouri
Political science researcher

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

American society has experienced two terrorist attacks in the past days. Experts have tried to find a connection between these two different incidents, but to no avail so far. However, in this article, I will try to examine another illuminating relationship, specifically the one between military service in the United States and the tendency to commit terrorist acts. A former army commander has even gone on record saying that the US military service breeds terrorism. So, to better understand the two recent attacks, let's look at them and their roots.



Members of the US military walk towards Bourbon Street in New Orleans where the deadly New Year's Day attack took place earlier.
● JAMES LEYVA/ZUMA PRESS WIRE

1. The suspect of the New Orleans attack, identified by the FBI as 42-year-old US-born citizen Shamsud-Din Jabbar, was a real estate agent from Texas who served for years in the military and experienced financial difficulties and divorce. Yet, in a video posted on YouTube four years ago, Jabbar — speaking with a southern US accent — boasted of his skills as a “fierce negotiator” as he advertised his property management services to potential clients.

The Pentagon said Jabbar had served in the army as a human resource specialist and an IT specialist from 2007 to 2015,

and then in the army reserve until 2020. Five videos have been posted by him on Facebook, one of which emphasizes that he served in the military and another that he lost \$28,000 in trading.

The most important thing to note is that the Pentagon specifically stressed that the terrorist driver, Jabbar, acted alone in the Daesh-inspired attack that killed 14 people. This suggests that there is no official connection between the attacker and Daesh (ISIS).

2. Two days later, news came out that an explosion was heard near the Trump Hotel. Apparently, a

Tesla truck was detonated by a veteran who had also served in Afghanistan. Matthew Livelsberger, a 37-year-old Green Beret from Colorado Springs, Colorado, also wrote in notes he left on his cellphone that he needed to “cleanse” his mind “of the brothers I’ve lost and relieve myself of the burden of the lives I took”. Livelsberger served in the Army from 2006 and deployed twice to Afghanistan.

The explosion caused minor injuries to seven people but virtually no damage to the Trump International Hotel. Authorities again said that Livelsberger acted alone.

Livelsberger’s letters covered a range of topics including political grievances, societal problems, and both domestic and international issues, including the war in Ukraine. He said in one letter that the US was “terminally ill and headed toward collapse”.

Now, we can ask the main question: What is the connection between serving in the US military and terrorism? As you’ve seen so far, both of the terrorists mentioned here had considerable experience of military service in the US military community.

I believe that the American soldiers, especially those who have served outside the US, understand the facts and realities much better than the masses. They have come to the conclusion that American society has huge problems that are frustrating the people.

Effects of military services

According to the results of a scientific study, problematic anger, characterized by excessive frequency, intensity, and duration of anger, poses a marked challenge in military populations as it causes substantial emotional distress and functional interference.

(Given the associations between problematic anger and mental health disorders, chronic pain, and transition challenges, interventions designed to mitigate problematic anger need to be multi-faceted and acknowledge the possibility of maintaining an ongoing connection to military service.)

Other researches also show a significant correlation between military service and the likelihood of committing extremist acts. A study highlighted that military personnel represent about 28% of mass shooters, suggesting that while most

veterans lead peaceful lives, a concerning subset may turn to violence.

Of course, the Pentagon’s statement on this matter should not be ignored. The Pentagon has acknowledged that military service is a strong predictor of becoming involved in extremist activities, particularly among those who have been deployed.

Armed society, terrorism

Despite some claims that an armed society is a polite society, it is obvious that one of the strong roots of a terrorist attack is the presence of a large number of weapons in the country. In the two recent cases, both terrorists were born in America. It can be argued that the upbringing of America’s armed society leads to the emergence of terrorists, although due to the government’s strict system of control, they are unable to form a large and coherent terrorist group.

American society is facing various problems, from economic to military and geopolitical. In the meantime, the veterans have experienced that the root of the problems of Americans is not at home but abroad.

Although there is a certain distinction between the two aforementioned American terrorists, either in terms of their way of life or their method of revenge, it seems that they have found the same solution to express anger against the American government and society. They have already seen in Afghanistan how the American government controls and manages terrorist groups. Now that American taxpayers are afraid of the same terrorist groups, both of them chose the path of terror to hit back at American society.



I believe that the American soldiers, especially those who have served outside the US, understand the facts and realities much better than the masses. They have come to the conclusion that American society has huge problems that are frustrating the people.



This undated photo, provided by the Las Vegas Police Department shows an ID belonging to Matthew Livelsberger, found inside a Tesla Cybertruck involved in an explosion outside the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas.
● LAS VEGAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

US pretexts for supporting terrorism



By Adnan Alkanani
Iraqi analyst

OPINION

The protection of the Israeli regime is the main objective of the US presence in West Asia and various countries such as Iraq and Syria. The US strategies and tactics in the field of foreign and regional policy are based on this principle. Any other claims that have been provided, including providing regional security, fighting terrorism, etc., are all false and misleading keywords to justify this occupying presence. If we take this rule as a basis, we will get to some notable points in analyzing the current situation in the region.

One of the important points is that to truly eliminate terrorism, the military, intelligence, and security capabilities should be developed in favor of the national sovereignty of countries. However, is the US military and security approach in Syria and Iraq on the same basis? The answer to this question is certainly negative. The US field and strategic

actions in West Asia are based on weakening national governance and the territorial nature of countries.

Another point is that the relationship between the terrorism of Daesh (ISIS) and other groups affiliated with the US and Tel Aviv is based on making the region and its countries perpetually insecure and weakening the armies of regional countries and governments. In this equation, terrorists are considered the blood-soaked game pieces of the enemies.

The terrorism that has emerged today in the form of Daesh and other extremist groups is not the result of a sudden decision by the US. Rather, their nature and performance are based on Washington's grand strategies in the region. Unfortunately, some regional countries also support these criminal actions because there is a direct connection between them and the US. In the face of terrorism, there is an urgent need for an awareness of these facts among governments, nations, and security and military institutions in the region.

The article first appeared in the Farsi-language newspaper Jam-e Jam.



THE CRADLE

Trump, Musk, and new territories



By Mohsen
Zahedi Movahed
Former diplomat

ANALYSIS

Regardless of the psychological warfare and public opinion manipulation tactics typically employed by Donald Trump, his recent statements and tweets regarding territorial matters warrant attention and analysis from more significant angles.

First and foremost, since the beginning of his first presidential term, Trump has pressed Europe to take on a greater role in Western security. He expects Europeans to step up and serve as the primary defensive barrier for the West. From Trump's perspective, the US bears the brunt of the costs for Western security and power globally, while Europe, despite benefiting from this situation, has long since failed to fulfill its role, which he believes is unsustainable.

This viewpoint seems to be gradually becoming the dominant perspective in the US and has played a crucial role in Trump's re-election campaign. As a result, it now has strong backing and is being pursued with greater vigor than during his first term. The alignment of Elon Musk and a segment of the new elite (or the new aristocracy) with Trump may partly stem from this perspective. Musk's recent tweets regarding Europe and even the UK, which have provoked reactions from high-ranking officials in France, Germany, and the UK, serve as strong evidence of this and raise

the possibility of a coordinated policy aimed at enacting broad-reaching changes.

Thus, recent tweets and statements should not be viewed merely as humorous or trivial actions designed to distract public attention; rather, they represent a fundamental step towards shifting the balance. It appears that, from the American viewpoint, the era of Europe playing both sides and exploiting both ends of the conflict is over. It is essential for Europe to fully embrace its responsibilities on the Western front, which necessitates a thorough house-cleaning across all sectors. This is where the issue of migrants takes on special significance.

Moreover, it is crucial to recognize that the apparent discord between the US and Europe is not a disagreement over Western goals but rather a dispute over the extent of each party's role and how they will share the burden in upcoming crises. From Trump's perspective, the first step toward reviving Western civilization is the cleansing of Europe. He views Europe as

having long been overrun by migrants, tainting it both intellectually and ethnically, and believes that significant changes in Europe's domestic and foreign policies are indispensable for a complete return to the Western camp. The rise of the right wing in Europe, which Musk has publicly supported in his tweets, aligns with this agenda.

On a broader scale, one could argue that the creation of the Ukraine crisis and the intensification of Europe's confrontation with Russia were significant moves in this direction, delivering a profound shock to Europe. One of the tangible outcomes has been Europe's shift to the right, marked by the gradual departure of influential and independent leaders like Angela Merkel. Consequently, the strengthening of racism and anti-migrant sentiment in Europe is also foreseeable.

Additionally, another critical factor driving these developments is the changing global landscape, characterized by the emergence of new powers and intense competition over world division, which has made Amer-

ican leadership unassailable. This reality has rendered Europe's stronger involvement in global affairs unavoidable.

In fact, beyond pressuring Europeans to correct their path and tactics, there is another crucial aspect behind Trump and Musk's recent behaviors and statements: the inevitable need for a shift in world division and power balance in line with a new order that will undoubtedly reveal itself soon. The re-emergence of American 19th-century colonial ambitions is clearly evident, as it seems increasingly impossible to establish a singular dominant power to manage global affairs. Apparently, the Americans are eager to secure more spoils before the new conditions solidify.

It is now abundantly clear that reverting to the old order or previous equations is not feasible for establishing or creating a new system. It seems the race among major and minor powers to find their place in this new order has begun, and given the significance of resources like minerals and water, as well as the strategic importance of ter-

ritories to access these, hiding political objectives is no longer viable. Clearly articulating goals to achieve them has become imperative.

Furthermore, environmental crises and global warming have made previously inhospitable northern regions, such as northern Canada, Greenland, and Siberia, highly attractive to powers. Particularly in light of their abundant water resources, these areas can be viewed as "new territories" rich in untouched mineral wealth and soon suitable for agriculture.

In this context, if the US fails to secure Russian territories in its competition with China, the untouched lands of Greenland and northern Canada will emerge as the best options. These areas are sparsely populated and hold the potential to transform into a new world, making them significant in the current climate of demographic and environmental crises.

Indeed, these developments are merely the beginning of a trend and a glimpse into the new era that we are stepping into.



Furthermore, environmental crises and global warming have made previously inhospitable northern regions, such as northern Canada, Greenland, and Siberia, highly attractive to powers. Particularly in light of their abundant water resources, these areas can be viewed as "new territories" rich in untouched mineral wealth and soon suitable for agriculture.



Elon Musk speaks (front) with US President-elect Donald Trump (c) and guests at a viewing of the launch of the sixth test flight of the SpaceX Starship in Brownsville, Texas, US, on November 19, 2024.

REUTERS



A plane carrying Donald Trump Jr., the son of President-elect Donald Trump, arrives in Nuuk, Greenland, on January 7, 2025.

EMIL STACH/AFP

Provisional candidates unveiled for Iranian Football Federation presidency

Sports Desk

Reigning president Mahdi Taj is joined by four ex-chiefs of the Iranian Football Federation in the provisional list of candidates for the elections of the national governing body of the sport.

The five-man shortlist may be reduced through a vetting process before the election day on March 1.

A vice-president to AFC president Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Taj first took the helm at the federation in 2016 but stepped down from his role three years later, for what he claimed to be a health issue.

He was reelected to the role in August 2022 and went on to replace then-Iran head coach Dragan Skocic by his Portuguese predecessor Carlos Queiroz for the World Cup finals in Qatar.

The most controversial name on the list is Shahabeddin Azizi Khadem, who first took the role in February 2021 but his reign came to a premature end as he was dismissed from his duties less than a year later due to lack of financial transparency, among other ethical misconducts, within the federation during his 11-month stint.

Ali Kaffashian, an ex-secretary general of Iran's National Olympic Committee, will be aiming at a third term at the federation, having been at the helm from March 2008 to May 2016.

A former vice-president to Taj, Kaffashian was in charge of the federation when embarked on his



eight-year spell on Iran bench in 2011, before steering Team Melli to back-to-back qualifications for the World Cup finals.

Former Persepolis CEO Amir Abedini, 76, is the oldest mem-

ber of the pack.

An ex-governor-general of Khorasan, Lorestan, and East Azarbaijan provinces in the 80s, Abedini will be looking to be back in the federation after three

decades, having served at the job on a six-month period in 1994.

Heidar Baharvand, who was the caretaker of the federation for a year after Taj walked out in 2019, is currently the head of the

Iranian League Organization but remains a long-shot candidate for the election day.

Skocic was first appointed to the job on Iran bench during Baharvand's interim stint.



L-R: Shahabeddin Azizi Khadem, Heidar Baharvand, Amir Abedini, Ali Kaffashian, and Mahdi Taj are the provisional candidates for the presidency of the Iranian Football Federation.
● football360.ir

2025 Karate 1-Series A:

Iranians continue impressive run with five more medals



Sports Desk

Iranians kept up the momentum on the second day of the opening Karate 1-Series A event by grabbing five more medals – including a couple of golds – in Tbilisi, Georgia.

On Saturday, former world bronze medalist Sara Bahmanyar came out on top against Turkish girl Rabia Çaliş for the top prize in the women's kumite -50kg contests.

Joining Bahmanyar on the podium was fellow-Iranian Yalda Naqi-Beiranvand, who bounced back from a last-four setback against the Turkish opponent to beat Tiphaine Bonnarde of France for a joint-bronze alongside Ukrainian Daria Pylypiuk.

Iranians won a fourth gold medal

in the Georgian capital through Morteza Karimi, who defeated Zholaman Bigabyl of Kazakhstan in the final showpiece of the men's -60kg contests.

There was further glory for the country in the team kata events, as the Iranian male tiro of Abolfazl Shahrjerdi, Milad Farazmehr, and Ali Zand was joined by the Iranian girls' team – comprising Sepideh Amini, Melika Ezzati, and Zeinab Hosseini – in taking the bronze medals of their respective categories.

Saturday's triumphs came after Iranians had bagged double gold medals and a silver on the preceding night in Tbilisi.

Four-time Asian bronze medalist Fatemeh Sadeqi defeated Lo Sum Man of Hong Kong (41.4-40) to walk

away with the ultimate prize in the women's kata event, while an all-Iranian final saw Mahmoud Ne'mati overcome Mohsen Safarnejad for the gold medal in the men's kumite +84kg weight class. More than 1100 karatekas from 87 countries took part in the three-day opening event of the international karate season.

The Karate 1-Series A will be back in Larnaca, Cyprus, on February 14, with Salzburg and Kuala Lumpur also hosting the series throughout the season.



Iran's Sara Bahmanyar won the women's kumite -50kg gold medal at the Karate 1-Series A event in Tbilisi, Georgia.
● IRNA

Iran's Safdarian wins speed gold in Ice Climbing World Cup

Sports Desk

Iranian ice climber Mohammadreza Safdarian won the men's speed gold in the first UIAA World Cup event of the year in Cheongsong, South Korea.

The Iranian clocked 13.27 seconds to beat Mongolian Kherlen Nyamdoo, who finished the final race in 20.93 seconds, to the top spot.

Safdarian's fellow-Iranian Mohsen Beheshti-Rad settled for the bronze, thanks

to a victory over the host's Kim Min Cheol, despite his time of 12.76 seconds in the third-place race being the fastest across all rounds of the competition.

A second medal for Safdarian came in the lead contest,

where the Iranian scored 30.00 points to finish runner-up to South Korean gold medalist Lee Younggeon (31.10), with Swiss climber Benjamin Bosshard taking the bronze on 28.00 points.



Expediency Council begins revisiting FATF case

International Desk

Iran's Expediency Council began on Sunday re-examining the anti-money laundering and terrorism financing conventions adopted by the global financial crime watchdog FATF, with a lawmaker saying that "positive signals" have been received from the council's meeting.

The spokesman of Iran's Expediency Council Seyyed Mohsen Dehnavi said that various clauses of the Palermo and the Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) conventions will be reviewed during the meetings.

Abbas Golrou, a member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said on Sunday that, "We have heard positive signals from the Expediency Council" meeting.

He expressed hope that cooperation

among the country's political institutions would lead to a right decision to overcome the country's complicated situation.

The Sunday meeting of the Expediency Council came after Iran's Finance Minister Abdolnasser Hemmati said in December that the country's top leadership had allowed renewed discussions on FATF conventions in the Expediency Council several years after the body stopped such debates fearing that the conventions may undermine Iran's financial independence.

FATF restrictions imposed on Iran's banking system will be removed once the country enacts the Palermo and the Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) conventions.

The Iranian parliament has approved the Palermo and the CFT, but Iran's Guardian Council, which is responsi-

ble for vetting parliament legislation, has refused to ratify them, citing the need for some amendments.

Iran has ratified other conventions and regulations adopted by the FATF. The renewed push to examine Iran's full accession to the FATF comes amid efforts by President Masoud Pezeshkian and his administration to open up to the world and to improve an economy affected by global inflation and foreign sanctions.

In his presidential election campaign in mid-summer, Pezeshkian criticized the lack of action on FATF issues.

Deputy Finance Minister Hadi Khani said on Sunday that FATF is not allowed to collect economic information from member states or pressure them in this regard, but it evaluates documents it has obtained from "certain entities" in their relevant countries to determine whether they have



properly implemented the standards defined by the international organization about fighting money laundering and terrorism financing.

Iran launches new drills in protection of nuclear sites



The Iranian military launched new exercises in the country's western and northern air defense zones including Fordow and Khondab which host uranium enrichment and heavy water facilities.

The drills - dubbed Eqtedar or "might" in Farsi - began on Sunday in completely real battlefield environments, with the air defense force of the Army playing a central role under the command of the country's integrated air defense network, IRNA reported.

It features offensive and defensive missions by missile, radar, electronic warfare, electronic intelligence and reconnaissance units, as well as deception systems of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force, along with the Air Force's manned and unmanned aircraft.

During the drills, the Air Defense Force will defend critical sites against simulated aerial and missile attacks. It will also conduct reconnaissance, identification, interception, and engagement operations against mocked enemy and repel offensive assaults.

In the first phase of the exercises, the Air Defense Force destroyed invading unmanned aircraft using Khordad 15 and Talash systems.

It also practiced passive defense scenarios and tactical movement of defense systems, in addition to testing the mobility and fire tactics of missile systems.

Meanwhile, an aerial interception operation took place using the manned aircraft belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force.

The exercises aim to evaluate the operational effectiveness and combat readiness of the air defense systems against potential enemy assaults. They also seek to assess both tactical and technical performance in battlefield conditions, as well as the practice of passive defense for air defense systems.

The drills are part of nationwide

exercises, the first phase of which began last week in the air defense zone of the Natanz nuclear facility under the orders of the air defense headquarters commander, national broadcaster IRIB said.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) air forces, the report said, were undertaking "an all-out point defense" of the site "against a multitude of air threats in tough electronic warfare conditions".

IRGC spokesman Ali Mohammad Naini said the drills, which will also cover other parts of Iran until mid-March, are being conducted in response to "new security threats".

Several branches of the IRGC, including the navy and the Basij forces, will also take part in the exercises, he added.

Last month, US news website Axios reported that White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan had presented President Joe Biden with options for a potential US strike on Iran's nuclear facilities before January 20, when Donald Trump takes office.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei lambasted the reports, saying threats against the country's nuclear facilities are "a gross violation of international law".

Members of Trump's incoming administration have vowed to resume the former president's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Foreign cadets in Iran visit southern island of Bu Musa



Cadets from eight countries, who are taking a defense course at the National Defense University based in Tehran, visited Bu Musa Island and the Strait of Hormuz in southern Iran.

The delegation was accompanied by Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, a senior advisor to Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, IRNA reported.

Elaborating on the objectives of the three-day visit, Safavi said on Sunday that it aims to introduce Iran's defense and security advances in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

The visit is also aimed at introducing Iran's advances in transit, energy, and industry sectors, as well as strengthening Iran's relations with countries like India, China, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Iraq, Oman, and Yemen, he added.

Safavi also referred to exchange of cadets between armies across the world, describing it as a way to enhance defense diplomacy.

He said that a large number of cadets are now taking courses at the National Defense University of Iran. The mutual understanding of countries about threats and common interests requires active defense diplomacy, he noted, adding that Iran has always tried to establish defense, security, intelligence, economic, cultural and political relations with its 15 neighboring countries and major Asian powers such as India, China and Russia.

As a regional power, he further said, the Islamic Republic aims to play its role in maintaining sustainable security and stability, especially within the frameworks of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



West has no ...

These events are a wake-up call for regional countries. They should know that the US, the UK and the West, in general, have never had a genuine peace plan for the Middle East. They are solely focused on their interests, and if their true intentions were laid bare, their conspiracies would crumble, and the region might find some respite from devastation.

The West's economic agenda is fundamentally built on a bourgeois foundation. The global capitalist system demands that nations toe the line and serve the economic interests of the so-called First World nations. Consequently, the United States and the West, who

claim superiority and First World status, argue that the resources of the Third World should be at their disposal. When digging deeper into their foreign policies, it becomes clear as day that their endgame is to get their hands on oil reserves and safeguard their economic interests.

In line with Western interests, Israel has been working to carve out a safe haven for itself in the region over the past year. The regime, emboldened by the developments in Syria, aims to weaken the Axis of Resistance. By taking out resistance leaders, they mistakenly believe they can dismantle the Resistance movement, failing to grasp that Resistance is an ideology, a

school of thought that cannot be snuffed out by killing individuals. By the grace of God, the ideology of resistance is gaining momentum, fostering anti-Israel sentiment and challenging Western-backed oppressive forces in the region.

Israel harbors expansionist ambitions, rooted in its doctrine of "From the Nile to the Euphrates." It has its greedy eyes on Muslim lands. Therefore, countries that support or turn a blind eye to Israeli aggression should be aware that their time will come. If they do not take action now to counter the Israeli regime's crimes now, the regime and its backers might come for them once they achieve their current goals.

Iranian arts, culture window to the world: *Minister*

Gov't commits to cultural equity

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Abbas Salehi, emphasized the significance of arts and culture as Iran's primary window to the outside world. He made the remarks during a press conference held on Sunday, January 12 in Tehran, dolat.ir reported.

He expressed his long-standing desire for dialogue with the media, admitting the media's role in fostering constructive criticism and suggestions that could pave the way for justice and development.

He noted "If the media operates correctly, a better path for justice and development emerges."

Addressing the issue of Iranophobia, Salehi pointed out that cultural initiatives serve as a relative advantage for the country. "In the present context of Iranophobia, the window to the world is Iran's arts and culture," he remarked.

He mentioned that various projects have been prioritized to accurately represent Iran both internationally and domesti-

cally. Among these initiatives is the "Talk about Iran" project, which invites influential figures from cyberspace to the country, yielding positive outcomes. In addition, the 'Damavand' platform provides content about Iran in seven languages, reflecting the ministry's commitment to addressing cultural concerns effectively.

Salehi also highlighted the ministry's commitment to cultural equity, stating, "We regard cultural, religious, and gender justice as vital," with a focus on ensuring fair representation across different walks of life.

When queried about the establishment of a cultural complex in the capital, Salehi acknowledged that while a proposal has been made, securing substantial funding remains a challenge.

He noted that discussions within the ministry have raised concerns about financing, particularly regarding unfinished projects, stating, "For every plan, funding must be considered in a reasonable timeframe."

Salehi also addressed the critical issue of social capital and trust,



Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Abbas Salehi addresses a press conference at the ministry headquarters in Tehran on January 12, 2025.

● dolat.ir

noting a widespread decline in confidence in governance across the board. "We are experiencing a social reality characterized by estrangement, protests, and hatred," he explained, underscoring the urgency of rebuilding trust among cultural and artistic stakeholders.

He stated, "If we do not have the trust of people, no work can be done properly," highlighting that distrust can undermine efforts in the cultural sector.

On the topic of cultural cooperation with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Salehi expressed optimism about the potential for improved relations following the recent thaw.

He noted that connections have been established through the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization in Saudi Arabia, indicating that cultural collaboration could emerge as a third pillar in future



engagements. Similarly, he reported positive, albeit currently political, communications with Egypt.

Regarding the Iranian film industry, Salehi addressed the exclusion of certain films from the Fajr Film Festival. He clarified

that films without a screening permit and those with international releases are automatically disqualified based on festival regulations, rather than content censorship.

He emphasized the need for diversity in Iranian cinema, urg-

ing that high box office returns should not come at the expense of losing various genres. "This year, we have seen a significant number of social and family-oriented films," he noted, emphasizing the importance of showcasing a range of cinematic styles.

Legacy of Fereydoun Shabbazian lives on



By Simin Ghanem
Iranian singer

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

I want to express my deep sorrow and condolences on the passing of the great artist and master, Fereydoun Shabbazian. I extend my sympathies to his family, art connoisseurs, and fellow art enthusiasts in Iran, wishing eternal peace for this renowned artist whose legacy will endure.

My acquaintance with Shabbazian dates back to my high school festival days, when he was already an active and dedicated artist. His success, I believe, was a result of his unwavering commitment and the value he placed on his craft, which propelled him to greatness.

What made Shabbazian truly unique was his distinctive style. His melodies had an otherworldly charm, and his innovative approach to mu-



sic captivated audiences. One of his memorable creations, the song 'Gol-e Goldoon,' (Home Flower) with lyrics by Farhad Sheybani, was performed by me in 1976. This beloved song, I feel, resonates with excitement and joy, transcending generations. Its timeless appeal, I believe, has an eternal quality, enchanting young and old alike, always fresh and beautiful like a blooming flower.

I also want to highlight Shabbazian's prolific career and his significant con-

tributions to Iranian music. Another unforgettable song by him is 'Fill the Cup,' masterfully performed by the legendary singer Mohammad-Reza Shajarian in the Mahoor mode, with lyrics by Fereydoun Moshiri. This is undoubtedly one of Shabbazian's most beautiful and enduring works. I reiterate that Shabbazian was a hardworking and passionate artist, deeply focused on his craft, and his satisfaction was evident in his smile upon completing each masterpiece.

Necessity of rejuvenating ...

This propaganda campaign is an attempt to create an "artificial reality" aimed at diminishing our country's position and generating new chaos and tension in the West Asian region.

In the complex and highly variable sphere of international relations, the logic of power continues to act as the main driving force behind state actions. This logic, based not on ideological ideals and absolute moral values but on realistic calculations and material capabilities, dictates that international actors must efficiently, intelligently, and appropriately utilize power tools to maintain survival, promote national interests, and exert influence in the global arena. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a pivotal player in the sensitive geopolitical region of the Middle East, must inevitably engage in this challenging and competitive arena by deeply understanding this logic and reviewing and reconfiguring its geostrategy. In this regard, adopting a comprehensive, multifaceted approach based on the synergy of various dimensions of national power is vital and unavoidable.

The logic of power in the modern era is no longer limited to military capability and hardware. Rather, in this era, three fundamental pillars of power - military capability, economic power, and media power - synergistically

and proportionally, determine a country's position, influence and credibility on the international stage. Military power, as the cornerstone of national security, remains of strategic and vital importance. The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with their significant deterrent capability, valuable experience in confronting various threats, and possession of indigenous military doctrine appropriate to the region's special conditions, play an unparalleled role in maintaining territorial integrity, protecting borders, and safeguarding national security.

However, in the age of hybrid warfare, asymmetric threats, cyber-attacks, and cognitive warfare, relying solely on military power cannot address all challenges facing the country. Rather, strengthening other dimensions of national power, particularly in economic and media domains, is necessary, inevitable, and complementary to military power. A dynamic, flourishing, knowledge-based, and diverse economy, as the driver of development, welfare, and progress, is considered the main backbone of military power and international influence. A country with a strong, competitive, and flexible economy can not only meet its domestic needs but can also play an active, effective, and decisive role in the international arena.

In conclusion, in today's world, countries' regional

and global prestige, status, credibility, and influence are largely functions of their wealth, international economy, media power, innovation and technology capabilities, and soft and cultural power. Ancient history and civilization are considered advantages only when current reality reflects them. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, understanding this reality and adopting a comprehensive, multifaceted, synergistic, and forward-looking approach, must seek to build a powerful, prosperous, influential, and inspiring future for itself. This requires doubled effort and determination, innovation and creativity, utilization of all potential and actual capacities of the country, and adoption of intelligent and efficient policies. On this path, the armed forces, as one of the main pillars of national power, will continue to play an important and decisive role. However, to confront new threats and challenges, it is necessary that the country's power in other areas also be strengthened equally, proportionately, and synergistically. This approach will not only increase the country's security and stability but will also help elevate our country's position and influence in the international arena. These efforts will all be in line with realizing the ideals of the Islamic Revolution and creating a new Islamic civilization.



Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1403/29

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.5) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.gog.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 21. Jan.2025 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 21.Jan.2025 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
Fe%	66.50	Ave.
FeO%	Min 24 Max 28	Min Max
P%	0.05	Max
S%	1	Max
SiO2%	3.0	Max
Al2O3%	0.7	Max
CaO%	0.9	Max
MgO%	2.50	Max
Moisture%	7.00	Max
Size ave	80%<0.15 mm	

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.