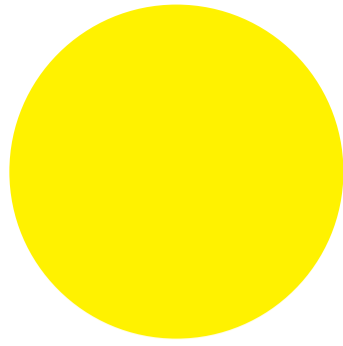


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Iranian President Masoud Pezeschkian poses for a photo at a ceremony honoring young Iranian medalists from international science Olympiads in Tehran on December 21, 2024. president.ir

Resistance Front remains self-reliant despite challenges



By Mohammad Esmail Kowsari
Iranian lawmaker

OPINION

Over the past 42 years, since Hafez al-Assad, the then-president of Syria, dispatched an envoy to the Iranian

Embassy to formally declare Syria's support for Iran during the Iran-Iraq War, the relationship between Tehran and Damascus has remained remarkably stable, even amidst shifting regional dynamics. Throughout this period, Syria stood as Iran's only staunch ally among Arab nations. [Page 7 >](#)



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VP says gov't bent on battling fuel smuggling

Iran's vice president said the current administration is seriously committed to preventing fuel smuggling and tackling the fuel mafia while considering these issues vital to the country.

Mohammadreza Aref made the remarks during a meeting with members of the country's Reformist Front, according to Shana. He emphasized that for the country to be saved, there is no alternative to embracing a reformist discourse, adding that officials must adhere to the principles of national unity.

Aref also addressed national shortages, including the electricity crisis, stating that one effective strategy to address these deficits is to move towards renewable energy, particularly solar power.

He highlighted that the current administration has planned and taken necessary actions to generate electricity from these sources.

The vice president also urged specialists, managers, and academic experts to contribute solutions and support the government in this effort.

Hike in diesel output

Meanwhile on Saturday, a senior official from the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) announced an increase of 15 million liters in the country's daily diesel production over the four months of the new government's term.

Mohammadali Dadvar, a deputy head of NIORDC reported that the average daily production of diesel in the first five months of the current Iranian year (started March 20) was approximately 111 million liters, which has now risen to over 125 million liters.

He also expressed hope that the new units at the Abadan Refinery, which are set to come online within the next two months, will add more than three million liters of Euro 5 diesel to the country's fuel supply, raising daily production to approximately 128 to 130 million liters.

Dadvar underlined that the increase in production is a hopeful sign that the country can endure the winter with less concern. Since President Masoud Pezeshkian assumed office in late August, one of the major priorities for the new management at the company has been ensuring winter fuel supplies, he said, adding that the goal was achieved by addressing bottlenecks, increasing feedstock to the country's refineries by over 100,000 barrels per day, improving operational conditions, utilizing the idle capacity of catalytic cracking units, and bringing the hydrocracker at the Abadan Refinery online.

Iran plans to slice off four zeros from national currency

Economy Desk

The Iranian government submitted a bill to the Parliament on Saturday, proposing the removal of four zeros from the national currency and the conversion of its unit from rial to toman. The administration of President Massoud Pezeshkian stated that the goal of the legislation is to reduce the setbacks caused by long-lasting inflation and the decline in the purchasing power of the national currency. On Saturday, Tasnim News Agency reported that the bill was approved by the cabinet on July 31, 2019 under

then-president Hassan Rouhani and has now been submitted as a bill under the current government.

The bill specifies that the new unit of currency will be "toman," with one toman being equivalent to 10,000 current rials and 100 "parsehs." To facilitate the transition to the new system, a two-year "transition period" will be established for the simultaneous use of tomans and rials.

During this period, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) will be required to make the necessary arrangements for the collection and replacement of rial banknotes and coins with tomans.



Persian Gulf water transfer spurs industrial growth in central Iran: *MP*



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

A member of the Industries and Mines Committee of the Iranian Parliament said the completion of water transfer project from the Persian Gulf to central Iran will transform the region and establish a chain of industries in Yazd Province. Mustafa Pourdehqan told Iran Daily that the first phase of the water transfer project from the Persian Gulf to Yazd, Kerman, and Isfahan has been completed, adding

that currently, desalinated water from the Persian Gulf is being pumped to Ardakan in Yazd Province and made available for industrial use. He stated that since the main investor in the water supply project is the Ardakan Industrial and Mineral Company, it is expected for the water to be allocated to this company. The lawmaker noted that if the government decides to use this project's water for drinking purposes, it should purchase it from the company. "Currently, the amount of

desalinated water from the first phase of the Persian Gulf water transfer project stands at about 700 liters per second, with the potential to increase to 1,200 liters per second," the MP stated, adding that he is making efforts to allocate 400 liters per second of the figure for Ardakan to meet the drinking needs of its residents.

Pourdehqan added that various phases of the first line of the project are currently underway, as the second line of the project is expected to be initiated soon.

He went on to say that since existing water resources in Yazd do not meet its demands, a branch of water from the second phase of the Persian Gulf transfer project is expected to be allocated to Yazd, which will contribute to social and economic development in the region.

According to Pourdehqan, all necessary devel-

opment infrastructure, including water, electricity, gas, and transportation lines, is established in central Iran's desert regions, particularly in Yazd.

He pointed out that the main challenge is securing the required water supply, saying, "If industrial water needs are met, Yazd and the surrounding arid provinces, which have rich mineral resources, could support a chain of mineral industries, thus creating suitable opportunities for employment and income generation."

Pourdehqan highlighted the role of water in migration, noting that as a result of industrial development in Ardakan, which heavily relies on water, the city has experienced significant population influx in recent years, as the city has attracted migrants from 200 cities across the country, culminating in the doubling of the city's population.

Mineral sector exports near \$8.8b in eight months: *IMIDRO*



Economy Desk

The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced on Saturday that the mineral sector exported approximately \$8.8 billion worth of products in the first eight months of the current Iranian year. Between March 20 and November 20, Iran exported 41.791 million tons of mineral and mining products, valued at \$8.799 billion, as reported by IRNA.

In the same period last year, exports totaled 41.144 million tons worth \$8.552 billion which indicates a 2% increase in weight terms and a 3% increase in value terms.

The majority of exports during the eight months to November 20, stemmed from three product categories: steel, aluminum, and copper, totaling 21.519 million tons valued at \$6.767 billion.

Imports for the mineral sector in the first eight months of the year also reached 2.893 million tons, valued at \$7.496 billion.

In the corresponding period last year, imports were 3.558 million tons valued at \$4.205 billion, indicating a reduction of about 19% in tonnage but a 78% increase in the value of imports.

PSEEZ accounts for nearly half of Iran's petchem output capacity

The CEO of the Pars Special Economic Zone (PSEEZ) announced that approximately \$150 billion has been invested in the region, which accounts for nearly 50% of the country's petrochemical capacity with a production of about 45 million tons. Sakhavat Asadi made the remarks on Saturday noting that, "Thanks to the efforts, our teams on the platforms have achieved a daily production record of 712 million cubic meters of gas," Shana reported.

He emphasized that the South Pars gas field is the largest gas field in the world, stating that this production level is the highest recorded in recent years and is sent to 13 refineries.

Asadi pointed out that there are eight refineries in the Asaluyeh

zone and five in Kangan and the gas delivered to shore at these refineries is processed and injected into the main network.

He stated that a total of 860 million cubic meters of gas is processed or sweetened and injected into the national network daily, noting that this amount exceeds the total gas consumption of Europe.

No restrictions in household sector

Asadi explained that 90% of the country's electricity generation relies on gas, warning that if gas supply cannot be secured in the coming days, liquid fuels will need to be used instead.

The CEO reported that around 111 million cubic meters of gas is supplied to power plants a day. Cur-

rently, fuel consumption in these plants is around 64 million liters of diesel and 42 million liters of mazut, totaling 106 million liters of liquid fuel.

Asadi emphasized the importance of public participation in energy consumption management campaigns, stating, "Joining the campaign to set thermostats two degrees lower will not cause any issues for our fellow citizens in the northeast and other parts of the country."

Daily condensate output at 700,000 barrels

The CEO announced that the PSEEZ currently produces 700,000 barrels of gas condensate daily, with about 480,000 barrels sent to the Persian Gulf Star Oil Company in Hormuzgan for gasoline produc-



tion, which constitutes about 45% of the country's gasoline production capacity.

Asadi stated that South Pars is considered the most strategic area in Iran, generating 70% of the country's gas and home to 50% of the national petrochem-

ical industry.

He noted that roughly 50% of the feedstock for petroleum products also comes from the PSEEZ, adding that all officials, from governors to other officials, are working to keep this vital industry, a crucial part of Iran's economy, operational.



Efforts underway to protect 6,000-year-old site in Behbahan

By Zahra Keshvari
Staff writer

The Director General of the Registration Office of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has called for ceding the residential lands to the ministry to facilitate the relocation of human settlements positioned on historical hills.

Alireza Izadi announced the decision to relocate a village situated on the 6,000-year-old site of Chega Sofla in Behbahan, Khuzestan Province, adding efforts to secure global recognition for this valuable city are a priority for the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ministry.

Historical significance

The ancient city of Chega Sofla serves as a critical piece of evidence for the historical connection of the Persian Gulf to Iranians. Archaeologists have uncovered findings during these excavations that indicate that Occupied Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Mesopotamia were influenced by Iranian civilization in subsequent millennia. They consider the discoveries at Chega Sofla to be significant clues to understanding history.

Challenges in relocation

The relocation of the village, situated on Chega Sofla site dating back to the 4th millennium BCE, was previously considered during former President Hassan Rouhani's administration. Is'haq Jahangiri, his vice president,

urgently wrote a letter to the then governor of Khuzestan Province, the Housing and Urban Development Foundation, and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, requesting the relocation of the village located on the ancient site of Chega Sofla.

Prior to this, hundreds of archaeologists had also called for the protection of Chega Sofla. However, this initiative did not come to fruition during Rouhani's presidency. Ezzatollah Zarghami, the cultural heritage minister in the subsequent government, noted that while such agreements are not uncommon, the reality on the ground is quite different. He referred to his trip to Ilam Province, where there has been an archaeological site for which replacement land has been designated for the relocation of a nearby village for the past 30 years. Although the locals are open to relocating, they have one condition: they want homes built for them before they move. Zarghami asked, "With what money?"

The deputy head of Khuzestan Province's Cultural Heritage Organization also stated that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has no funds to purchase the residential properties of Chega Sofla village.

However, Izadi stated that the ministry intends to relocate the village situated on Chega Sofla ancient city. He considers cooperation from other agencies to be essential for achieving this goal.

According to him, the ministry is particularly focused on the Seventh Economic Development Plan and the property rights clause included within it.

"I hope this issue will be addressed in the plan, allowing the ministry to have access to land designated for residential use. This way, when the ministry requests a property owner to relocate their home, it can provide them with alternative land."

Importance of preserving Chega Sofla

Why is it necessary for the village to be relocated in the wake of the use of a faked name for the Persian Gulf by certain neighboring countries? Why should the 6,000-year-old city of Chega Sofla be transformed into a museum site?

Archaeologists have discovered the world's first brick cemetery at Chega Sofla, a ceremonial site that has the potential to reshape the narrative of urbanization along the shores of the Persian Gulf. What lies between its cemetery and temple is even more significant than its remarkable brick architecture.

Abbas Moqadam, the head of the archaeological team carried out excavations at Chega Sofla, considers this site to be a key to the history of the region. He noted that archaeologists have found stelae (rock carvings) depicting two goats facing each other. These images were later represented as two Arabian gazelles in the Al Ain Cemetery, three thousand

years later.

"The UAE claimed at UNESCO that the cultural roots of the Al Ain Cemetery are rich and registered it as a World Heritage Site. However, the rock carvings of Chega Sofla are over 3,000 years older than those found at the Al Ain Cemetery. On the graves of Al Ain Cemetery, two Arabian gazelles (*oryxes*) stand facing each other, while at Chega Sofla, there are two goats."

Archaeologists have discovered figurines in the eastern and western regions of the Arabian Peninsula that reveal the influence of Chega Sofla. The rock carvings at Chega Sofla also have ancient connections to findings in Hazor, located in occupied Palestine. The stelae uncovered in Hazor date back to the Bronze Age, around 1200 BCE, while the stelae from Chega Sofla are 3,800 years older.

The discovery of historical roots of civilization at Chega Sofla does not stop here. Moqadam noted that in the Uruk culture of Mesopotamia, there is a ceremonial cup known as the Warka vase, which features ritualistic motifs such as offerings to the temple. We found a cup that is identical in form and made of pottery. Those familiar with Mesopotamian art recognize the significant influence Chega Sofla had on the Warka vase. In fact, the Chega Sofla Cup is 700 years older than the Warka vase.

Moqadam compared the findings from Chega Sofla with contemporary sites in Mesopotamia, such as Ubaid and

Ur; among others, adding this comparison demonstrates the extreme richness of the burial sites in Chega Sofla.

"We are dealing with a prosperous city that had extensive connections with various regions of the world at that time. In the village in question, there are 15 to 20 families residing, but nearly 40 houses exist, most of which are abandoned," he noted.

Future considerations

The archaeological team, led by Moqadam, presented a relocation plan for the village in 2018. He explained, "based on the plan, an entire village, including houses and rural land, will be constructed outside the boundaries of Chega Sofla".

Moqadam, who recently visited Chega Sofla site with a delegation from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, questioned why the Ministry agreed to create drainage systems along the edges of its roadways if it is pursuing global registration and the relocation of the village.

According to him, the improvement of the village's drainage systems was a plan initiated during Zarghami's tenure as minister; however, the establishment of new infrastructure indicates the village's commitment to its current location. We must wait and see what the new minister's plan is for preserving the extraordinary history of Chega Sofla, located 25 kilometers from the Persian Gulf.



Rethinking Iran's economic policies

Exploring challenges, Norway's experience



By Amin Shojaei
Guest
contributor

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

As one of the world's leading oil producers, Iran's economy has consistently faced challenges such as reliance on oil revenues, exchange rate volatility, and high inflation. This vulnerable structure, particularly when confronted with economic sanctions and global oil market fluctuations, has revealed its incapacity to manage crises effectively. While many oil-dependent countries have adopted intelligent policies to move beyond reliance on oil and diversify their economies sustainably, Iran's economy remains heavily dependent on oil revenues. Previous attempts to reform this structure have failed to yield desired outcomes, largely due to a lack of transparency and systemic corruption.

Meanwhile, as an oil-rich nation, Norway has successfully presented a model of intelligent oil revenue management. The country has established a transparent sovereign wealth fund and sustainable resource allocation system, leveraging oil price volatility to foster long-term development. Examining Norway's experience and adapting its lessons to Iran's economic context could pave the way for essential structural reforms.



Iran must prioritize the establishment of a transparent and sustainable development fund that channels oil revenues into productive and long-term investments. To ensure the success of this initiative, three fundamental principles must be upheld: transparency, managerial independence, and sustainable resource allocation.

Over the past decade, Iran's economy has encountered several key challenges, stemming either directly or indirectly from its oil-dependent structure and international sanctions. Inflation, which stood at approximately 15% in 2010, has soared to over 40% in 2023. This rise is attributed to the excessive printing of money to cover budget deficits, inefficient liquidity management, and the depreciation of the rial against foreign currencies. High inflation has diminished people's purchasing power and exacerbated economic inequality. Economic growth in Iran has been highly volatile over the past decade. While there have been years of positive growth, the country's average economic growth during this period has hovered close to zero. A significant factor contributing to this stagnation is the reduction in oil exports due to sanctions and the lack of diversification in the economic structure. In contrast,

neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have achieved more sustainable economic growth by investing in non-oil industries and attracting foreign investment.

Another major challenge is the high unemployment rate. Although the official unemployment rate in Iran is reported to be around 9%, this figure exceeds 20% among young people and university graduates. The lack of job opportunities aligned with the skills and expertise of the workforce has been a primary driver of brain drain from the country.

Norway's success story

Despite its abundant oil reserves, Norway has managed to establish a model of a sustainable and diversified economy through intelligent resource management. In the 1990s, the country established the Government Pension Fund, which is now recognized as the largest sovereign wealth fund in the world. Valued at over \$1.3 trillion, this fund plays a cru-

cial role in stabilizing Norway's economy.

One of the key principles governing this fund is transparency and independence from governmental structures. Only 3% of the annual returns from the fund are allocated to the national budget, with the remainder invested in international projects. This policy has insulated Norway from oil price volatility and fostered economic diversification.

The table provides a comprehensive comparison of economic indicators between Iran and Norway. This table highlights the performance differences of the two countries in resource management and sustainable development.

Reform strategies for Iran's economy

Iran must prioritize the establishment of a transparent and sustainable development fund that channels oil revenues into productive and long-term investments. To ensure the success of this initiative, three fundamental principles must be upheld: transparency, managerial independence, and sustainable resource allocation.

This fund should be governed by clear and enforceable regulations to guarantee the fair and efficient use of its resources. Moreover, only a specified percentage of the fund's profits should be used to cover the government's current expenditures, similar to Norway's model. This approach will help control inflation, reduce economic volatility, and promote stability.

Diversifying the economy is another essential priority. Iran must reduce its dependency on oil by investing in non-oil industries such as technology, tourism, and renewable energy. This requires adopting policies that facilitate foreign investment. Providing tax incentives for startups and knowledge-based companies, supporting innovative projects, and reforming regulatory frameworks are among the measures that can drive growth in these sectors.

Financial transparency is another critical pillar of reform. Iran must digitalize its tax system and reduce bureaucratic hurdles to prevent tax evasion and improve resource allocation. Establishing independent oversight bodies to manage resources and combat corruption is also essential. These bodies should have the legal authority to monitor and evaluate the

performance of the sovereign wealth fund and other public resources.

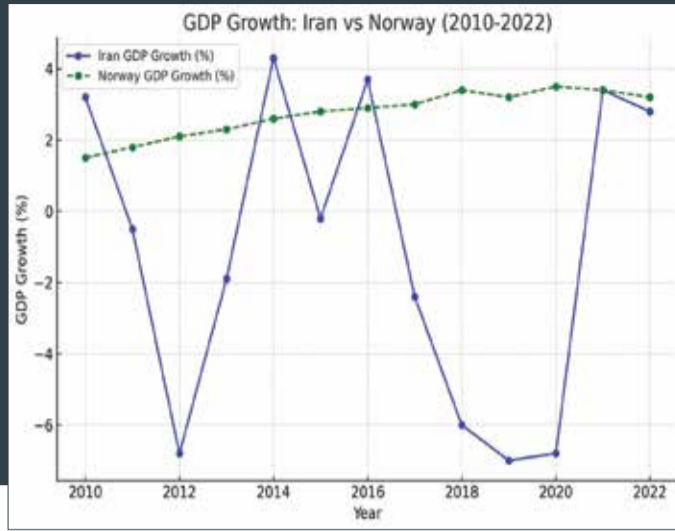
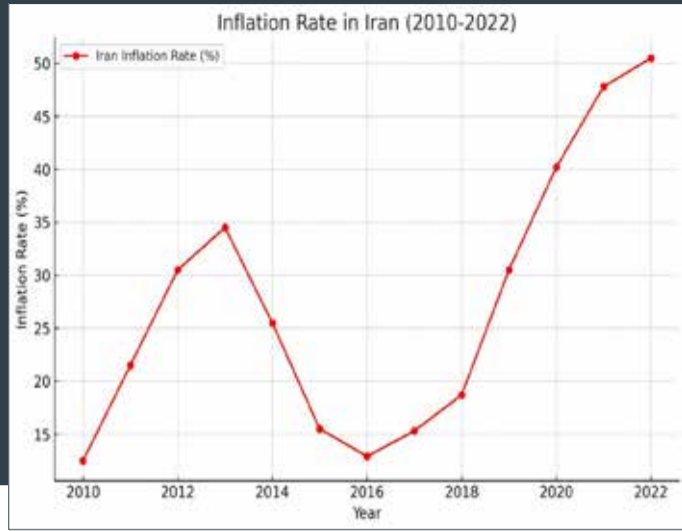
Strengthening economic diplomacy is a key priority. Iran should work toward lifting sanctions and providing security guarantees to attract foreign investors and create new economic opportunities. Leveraging regional cooperation, especially with neighboring countries, can significantly boost trade and attract investment.

Iran, as one of the world's major oil-producing countries, faces serious economic challenges. Dependency on oil, a lack of financial transparency, and weaknesses in economic infrastructure are among the factors hindering the country's path to sustainable development. Norway's experience demonstrates that intelligent management of oil revenues and investment in non-oil sectors can lead to sustainable growth and reduced economic volatility.

To succeed on this path, the government must focus on three key pillars: establishing a transparent and sustainable development fund, diversifying the economy, and strengthening economic diplomacy. These reforms, in addition to reducing dependence on oil, will pave the way for sustainable economic growth, lower inflation, and increased employment opportunities.

The photo shows an Iranian oil tanker, named "Iran Hamoon," belonging to the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC).
● HANNES VAN RIJN/SHIP SPOTTING





Indicator	Iran	Norway
Economic Growth (Average of the Last Decade)	0.5%	3.2%
Inflation Rate (Average of the Last Decade)	25%	2.1%
Non-Oil Exports (2023)	\$50 billion	\$450 billion
Per Capita Income (2023)	\$6,000	\$89,000
Sovereign Wealth Fund Value (2023)	Less than \$100 billion	\$1.3 trillion
Share of Oil in GDP (2023)	More than 30%	Less than 20%
Transparency Index Rank (2023)	150	4
Ease of Doing Business Index Rank (2023)	127	9
Population (2023)	86 million	5.4 million
Unemployment Rate (Average of the Last Decade)	12%	4%

Iran braces for Trump reset amid threats of renewed 'maximum pressure'

By Golnar Motevalli and Grant Smith
Journalists

OPINION

When Donald Trump first entered the White House in 2017, Cyrus Razzaghi was running an Iranian business consultancy, advising US, Japanese, and European companies about how to grab opportunities in a market emerging from years of economic isolation. That all changed the following year when the then-US President abandoned Iran's landmark nuclear deal with world powers and imposed severe economic sanctions instead. "We had to diversify away from Iran and somehow hedge ourselves for further animosity," Razzaghi, chairman of Ara Enterprise Consultancy Group, said by phone from Tehran. "At one point we thought there was going to be a war." As Trump prepares for a second term as US president, all eyes are on whether he will revive his so-called maximum pressure policy against Iran that came to mark his first spell. But with Iranians struggling with economic hardship after years of sanctions, its leaders are signaling they're keen to establish a different relationship this time around.

On November 19, the United Nations nuclear watchdog said Iran had agreed to stop producing uranium enriched to levels near those required for making bombs — an unprecedented move seen by some as an olive branch to Trump. New Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, a straight-talking reformist, has prioritized sanctions relief, rapprochement with the West, and economic "normality" for Iranians since his surprise election win in July.

"We are very worried and concerned about Trump's return, though I wouldn't rule out a deal with Trump either," Razzaghi said.

Oil trade

A hardline approach by Trump could significantly impact Iran's oil trade, with the president-elect having squeezed flows from the Islamic Republic during his first term that ended in 2021.

"On top of the sanction list will be Iranian crude oil exports," said John Evans, an analyst at brokers PVM Oil Associates Ltd. in London. "The playbook will be similar to the one experienced during the first Trump presidency."

Like other producers, Tehran is contending with a 15% slide in crude prices since late June and the prospect that an impending global glut will trigger a further slump next year. Iranian oil output has recovered considerably in recent years, as refiners in China — Tehran's biggest customer — snap up cut-price barrels and the Biden administration eases enforcement of sanctions to rein in gasoline costs.

It's unclear if the recovery could prove resilient against another Trump term, even with the formidable logistical network the Islamic Republic has built up to circumvent sanctions.

Economic hardship

In Iran, Pezeshkian faces myriad economic challenges, including inflation of more than 30%, fuel shortages, high capital outflows, and the loss of skilled and educated workers through migration to Europe and the US. The rial has tanked to successive record lows against the dollar and has so far lost more than 90% of its value since May 2018.



Republican presidential candidate and former US president Donald Trump (R) talks to Sen. Marco Rubio, an anti-Iran hawk who would later be nominated by Trump to be his Secretary of State, during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on July 17, 2024.
● CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP



People walk past anti-US graffiti outside the building that formerly hosted the US Embassy in Tehran, Iran.
● FATEMEH HASHEMI/MIZAN

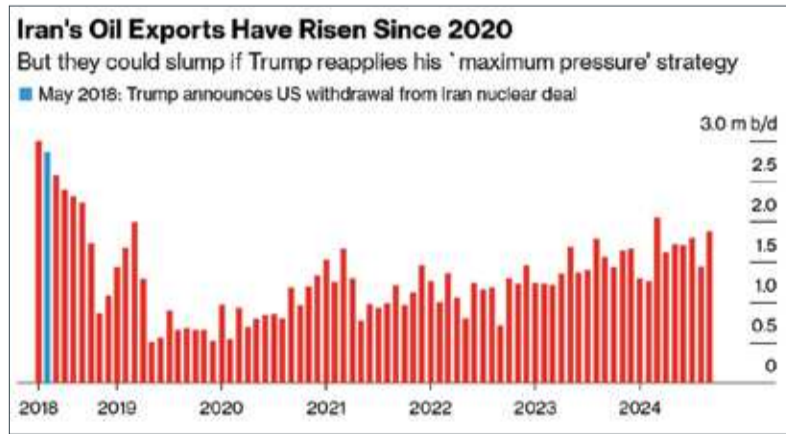
"Reducing tension with the US is essential for Iran's economic stability," said Maciej Wojtal, chief investment officer at Amtelon Capital. "The new government has sent clear messages, indicating a willingness to negotiate — a shift from its usual strategy of escalating uranium enrichment as leverage," Wojtal said.

Wrangling over Iran's atomic activities remains a factor however, with Tehran saying on November 22 it will increase the number of centrifuges in its nuclear program in response to a censure by the United Nations' watchdog — even as it commits to stop producing weapon-ready uranium.

Blackouts

The lack of critical investment needed for Iranian infrastructure has forced Tehran to increase imports of high-quality gasoline as its own refineries struggle to keep up, while briefly introducing rolling electricity blackouts as power stations struggle to supply homes and industry. All of this points to even higher inflation, which Pezeshkian can ill afford at a time of regional conflict and instability — abroad and at home.

"Pezeshkian's job is to bring about national reconciliation, and he's been somewhat successful," said Vali Nasr, a former senior advisor to the US



● TANKER TRACKERS

State Department and a professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Pragmatic team

Pezeshkian has appointed a foreign policy team led by Abbas Araghchi that not only negotiated the original nuclear agreement in 2015 but had to deal with the chaos unleashed after Trump walked away. Their presence "shows the Iranians are definitely interested in a deal with the US," Nasr said. "They are pragmatic enough to know that if they find a way forward, it's much better to deal with someone who can get a deal done."

It's unclear how Trump's new government will respond to Iranian pragmatism. His cabinet nominations so far include staunch allies of Israel — which the Islamic Republic has exchanged direct fire twice this year — and people who have advocated bombing Iran.

Iran's challenge is that it "needs a direct channel to Trump to overcome the resistance of the anti-Iranian regime ecosystem that Trump is wrapped into," said Ali Vaez, director of the Iran Project at the Washington-based International Crisis Group. One factor that could work in Iran's

favor is the changed geopolitical landscape facing Trump in the Middle East. During his first term, he was able to rely on support from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who both fully embraced his maximum-pressure strategy and tighter sanctions on Iran.

But the relationship between Riyadh and Tehran has improved significantly since then, with their mutual opposition to the civilian death toll of Israel's wars against Iranian-backed groups in Gaza and Lebanon drawing them closer together. Both countries refreshed a bilateral agreement brokered by China at a meeting in the Saudi capital on November 20.

For businessman Cyrus Razzaghi, there's nothing new about the uncertainty. He's advising clients that a fresh round of maximum pressure is likelier than a deal, but they should always keep an open mind.

"Back in 2016, there was a lot of wishful thinking in Tehran that this guy is a businessman, he could give us a really good deal. Soon the reality hit everybody," Razzaghi said. "But one must be hopeful there's still a chance for some kind of a deal because Iran has also learned from the past."

The full article first appeared on Bloomberg.

Persian Gulf Pro League:

Iralco, Esteghlal share the spoils;
Rahmati steps down after Havadar loss

Sports Desk

Iralco came from behind to salvage a point at home against Esteghlal in a 1-1 draw in the Persian Gulf Pro League.

Seyyed Mahdi Rahmati, meanwhile, stepped down from his role as Havadar head coach after his team fell to a 1-0 home defeat against Nassaji Mazandaran. Desperate to get back on the winning ways following last Monday's goalless game against Golgozar, Esteghlal went in front in Arak thanks to a VAR-given spot kick deep into first-half added time.

Iralco defender Aref Haji-Eidi was deemed to have elbowed Esteghlal midfielder Zobeir Niknafs when heading the ball clear in the box, and Uzbek talisman Jaloliddin Masharipov held his nerve to dink the ball past goalkeeper Mohammad Khalifeh.

Amin Kazemian bagged a well-deserved equalizer



for the home side with a 63rd-minute low drive from inside the box to join Trac-

tor trio Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, Mahdi Hashemnejad, and Tomislav Strkalj

on top of the league's leading marksmen chart with five strikes.

There was little to separate the two sides afterwards as the frustrating draw left



Esteghlal fullback Abolfazl Jalali (33) is seen in an aerial battle with Iralco's Amin Kazemian in a 1-1 draw in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Arak, Iran, on Dec. 20, 2024.

● FFIRI

Esteghlal in the eighth place of the table with 16 points before Saturday's fixtures, with Iralco in ninth on 15 points.

Next for Esteghlal is a visit to Chadormalou on Thursday before a highly-anticipated encounter against Sepahan at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on January 2.

Iralco will play away to Malavan on Friday, followed by a home game against struggling Shams Azar.

In Tehran, a seventh league defeat of the season saw Rahmati part ways with Havadar, which has only managed one victory in 13 outings to sit bottom of the table with eight points.

Former Persepolis striker Hamed Pakdel's tame effort

from the edge of the box found the bottom corner with 12 minutes left on the clock as Nassaji celebrated a second win of the campaign, moving up to 12th in the 16-team table with 13 points.

Friday's games came after Foolad Khuzestan had defeated Chadormalou 2-1 in Ahvaz on the preceding night.

Sasan Ansari's second-minute strike for Foolad was canceled out by Seyyed Ali Yahyazadeh in the 38th minute, but Malian center-back Moussa Coulibaly scored from the spot with four minutes remaining to secure maximum points for the home side, which went down to 10 men in the 90th minute after a second booking for substitute Abolfazl Attar.

Meanwhile, Mohammad-Taha Tabatabaei's composed finish in the 79th minute led Khaybar to a 1-0 win over Esteghlal Khuzestan in Khorramabad.

Legendary weightlifter Rezazadeh backs
Iranians to restore superheavyweight dominance

Sports Desk

Weightlifting great Hossein Rezazadeh tipped his fellow-Iranians Alireza Yousefi and Ali Davoudi to dominate the superheavyweight class for the coming years after the two bagged five medals between them at the IWF World Championships last week.

Former world junior champion Yousefi, 21, grabbed the clean & jerk gold before settling for the total silver in the men's +109kg event in Manama, while Davoudi claimed the snatch and total bronzes.

Armenian Varazdat Lalayan, meanwhile, finished on a 215-252-467 record to bag the snatch and total golds, coupled with a C&J bronze – a first world superheavyweight champion other than Georgian Lasha Talakhadze since Russian Ruslan Alibegov made a clean sweep of triple golds in 2014.

Talakhadze, who won a third consecutive Olympic gold in August, has been the dominant

force in the weight division for a decade, but he fueled his retirement rumors when he decided to skip the event in the Bahraini capital.

"Talakhadze is 30 now, and the physical toll of training and competing is hard to manage for someone his age. I don't think we will see him in competitive action ever again," Rezazadeh said of the Georgian great.

The superheavyweight class was the Iranians' territory for the best part of 15 years before Talakhadze made his breakthrough in 2015, as Rezazadeh collected double Olympic golds in 2000 and 2004, with Behdad Salimi winning the ultimate prize in London 2012.

Rezazadeh believes Yousefi and Davoudi will bring back the glory years of the category to Iranian weightlifting again.

"They did a great job in winning five medals in Manama and I am positive they will restore the superheavyweight reign for the country in the near future," said Rezazadeh, who also has 10

world golds under his belt.

"Yousefi's 262kg lift in the C&J discipline was truly exceptional and worthy of winning the gold medal. I even told him he is capable of shattering the world record [which belongs to Talakhadze with 267kg]. That's what Talakhadze and I had done in the past and I'm sure he has what it takes to emulate that feat. He'll just need to do better with his snatch efforts to boost his chances for the total gold.

"Davoudi was also in a decent form, though he will have to raise his records in both snatch and C&J categories," Rezazadeh said of Tokyo Olympic silver medalist.

Asked about the two Iranians' main rivals in future competitions, Rezazadeh named Lalayan and Iraqi prodigy Ali Ammar Rubaiawi, who bettered the snatch world junior record in the Paris Olympics and finished fifth in the total standing in Manama.

A total of 10 medals saw a rejuvenated, new-look Iranian squad



collect 560 points to finish runner-up to China in the men's competitions.

"Weightlifting has been among the most prolific sports for Iran

over the years, and I'm confident this group of young talents will win several medals in the 2026 Asian Games and the 2028 Olympics," Rezazadeh said.



Iranian weightlifters Alireza Yousefi (R) and Ali Davoudi (L) pose alongside Bahrain's Gor Minasyan and Armenian Varazdat Lalayan at the IWF World Championships in Manama, Bahrain, on Dec. 15, 2024.

● IWFFIR



NBA Cup champion Bucks no match for Cavs

REUTERS – Donovan Mitchell scored 27 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 124-101 home win over the Bucks on Friday, swiftly bringing Milwaukee down from its NBA Cup-championship high. Five other Cavs scored in double-figures, with Darius Garland putting up 16 and Evan Mobley and Dean Wade adding 15 each. Ty Jerome had 13 points, and Jarrett Allen posted 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 33 points along with 14 rebounds. Fellow star Damian Lillard did not travel with the team due to a right calf strain. Khris Middleton scored 14 off the bench, and Brook Lopez contributed 10 points.

The Cavaliers have won three in a row and seven of their past eight. The Bucks had a three-game winning streak end, though the count doesn't in-

clude their 97-81 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA Cup final on Tuesday, as that game isn't included in the regular-season standings. Elsewhere, Jalen Williams scored a season-high 33 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 25 as visiting Oklahoma City Thunder withstood a fourth-quarter rally to beat Miami Heat 104-97.

Joel Embiid scored 12 of his game-high 34 points in the

fourth quarter to propel Philadelphia 76ers to a 108-98 home win over Charlotte Hornets.



Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell (45) goes to the rim for two against Milwaukee Bucks in Cleveland, OH, US, on Dec. 20, 2024.

● JOSHUA GUNTER/CLEVELAND.COM

Yemen's hypersonic missile strikes southern Tel Aviv

Ansarullah: Heart of Israel 'no longer secure'

International Desk

Yemen's military said in a statement on Saturday that it had targeted Tel Aviv with a hypersonic ballistic missile, in a fresh operation against the Israeli regime and in support of the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip. Yemeni armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said the strike was carried out by a "Palestine 2" hypersonic ballistic missile, with the Israeli regime failing to intercept the advanced projectile. "The missile force of the Yemeni Armed Forces targeted a military position of the Israeli enemy in the occupied area of Jaffa (Tel Aviv) with a hypersonic ballistic missile, type Palestine 2, and the missile struck its target accurately and the defenses and interception systems failed to intercept it," Saree said. The anti-Israel strike was conducted "for the oppression of the Palestinian peo-

ple and in response to the massacres against our people in Gaza, and within the fifth scope of the supportive stages... in retaliation for the Israeli aggression against our country," the statement added. Earlier in the day, the emergency service in the occupied territories said 16 settlers were injured as the Yemeni missile landed in southern Tel Aviv, with the Israeli military acknowledging the regime's failure to intercept the projectile. Since the onset of the Israeli regime's war on Gaza on October 7, 2023—after Palestinian resistance movements launched Operation al-Aqsa Storm—Yemen has declared unwavering support for Palestine's struggle against the occupation. The Yemeni Armed Forces have launched regular strikes against Israel as part of a phased escalation campaign. The campaign has included a strict maritime blockade of Israeli shipping, effectively preventing vessels from



An Israeli soldier inspects the site where a Yemeni missile landed in southern Tel Aviv on December 21, 2024. **TOMER APPELBAUM/AP**

reaching Israeli ports. Hezam al-Asad, a member of the political bureau of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement, said in a Hebrew-language post on X, "The failure of all Israeli defense systems means that the heart of the Zionist enemy is no longer secure." In another, he said, "There is no longer any use for in-

terception systems that cost billions of dollars." In an Arabic post, he also wrote, "The enemy is trying to minimize its losses in the media to maintain its military standing and the morale of its settlers. It portrays the areas where the interceptor missiles fell as targets hit by [our] missiles." Israeli analysts also ac-

knowledged that the Israeli regime is incapable of confronting Yemen and lacks intelligence-based readiness to go to war with the country's armed forces. They said the Yemeni army had since the start of the war in Gaza fired more than 200 missiles and launched more than 170 drones at the Israeli-occupied territories.

Iran's Embassy staffer killed by 'terrorists' in Damascus

The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned the targeted killing of its local embassy staffer in the Syrian capital of Damascus, where terrorists opened fire on his vehicle. Seyyed Davoud Bitaraf, a local staff member of the Iranian Embassy in Damascus, was assassinated by "terrorist elements" in Damascus on December 15. Esmaeil Baghaei on Saturday extended his condolences to the Iranian nation and the bereaved family of Bitaraf over his assassination by "terrorists." The diplomat vehemently denounced the act of terror, stating that the body of Bitaraf had been found, identified and transferred to Iran in recent days. Baghaei also reminded Syria's new transitional government of its responsibility to identify and punish the perpetrators of the crime. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is seriously pursuing the matter through



various diplomatic and international channels in an appropriate manner," he said. Speaking at a weekly press briefing in Tehran on Monday, Baghaei said the reopening of the Iranian Embassy in Syria is "high on the agenda," adding that the diplomatic mission will resume its activities once the "necessary conditions" are met. He did not provide a specific timeline, but added that Iran will work toward the objective "as soon as the necessary conditions are provided." Militants, led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), stormed and ransacked Iran's diplomatic mission in Damascus following the fall of President Bashar al-Assad's government on December 8.

Pakistan's peace, friendship flotilla docks in Bandar Abbas

International Desk

A Pakistani convoy of warships representing peace and friendship docked at the First Naval Region of the Iranian Army in the country's southern waters. The Pakistani Naval Peace and Friendship Group, consisting of the missile-bearing fast attack craft "Azamat", a logistics vessel the PNS "Rasadgar", and the combat ship "Dasht," docked in Bandar Abbas as part of a planned visit aimed at enhancing operational, combat, and diplomatic relations between the navies. The arrival was marked by an official ceremony attended by the commanders of the First Naval Command of the Iranian Armed Forces as well as Pakistan's consul general and defense attaché in Iran. During the welcoming ceremony for the Pakistani naval group, an Iranian naval commander, Captain Omid Moghani, regarded these relations as a guarantee for the deep ties between the naval forces of Pakistan and Iran,



stating that such friendly exchanges among the naval forces of allied countries are customary. The presence of three combat ships from the Pakistan Navy will enhance educational, operational, and maritime experience exchanges, he said. Among the programs planned for the four-day stay of the Pakistan Navy task force in Bandar Abbas are friendly sports competitions, meetings with political officials of Hormuzgan Province, a warm reception to strengthen the friendly relations between the naval forces on the decks of Iranian and Pakistani destroyers and joint military exercises in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran used own aircraft for 'responsible' pullout from Syria: FM spox

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said Iran's decision to withdraw advisory forces from Syria was "a responsible move" based on the prevailing conditions in the Arab country and across the region. Baghaei said that the advisory presence of Iran in Syria "was initially aimed at supporting the Syrian army, combating terrorism, and preventing insecurity from spreading to neighboring areas and the broader region. The decision to withdraw advisory forces was also a responsible move, considering the prevailing conditions in Syria and the region," Press TV reported.

Providing insights into the battlefield dynamics leading to President Bashar al-Assad's fall, as well as the coordination between Iran and Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin has shared his account of the military developments in Syria, saying, "When opposition groups approached Aleppo, approximately 30,000 troops were defending the city. Around 350 militants entered the city. Syrian government forces, alongside Iranian-aligned units, retreated without resistance, detaching their positions as they withdrew. Except for isolated armed clashes, this was the general pattern across Syrian

territory." He noted, "Previously, our Iranian allies would request assistance to deploy their forces into Syria. Now, they are asking for help to withdraw them. We evacuated 4,000 Iranian fighters from the Hmeimim base to Tehran. Some Iranian-aligned units, avoiding direct engagement, relocated to Lebanon, while others moved to Iraq." Since the onset of a new phase of developments in Syria, multiple Iranian officials have discussed the events leading up to the collapse of Assad's government in the weeks and days preceding his departure. However, Putin's

remarks during his annual press conference introduced new details that had not been previously disclosed. Reflecting on the long-standing cooperation between Iran and Russia in their joint fight against terrorism in Syria, Baghaei noted, "It is not unusual for parties involved in Syria's developments to present their own narratives about the causes and actors behind these events." "However, it seems that some of the comments made regarding Iran's advisory role in Syria during the final days leading to Damascus's fall may not have been based on precise information," he added.

Resistance Front remains ...

While Iran maintained relatively favorable relations with some other Arab countries, such as Algeria and the post-invasion government in Iraq, none of these partnerships ever achieved the strategic depth of the Iran-Syria alliance. However, the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad and the ascension of his opponents—who have fought against the Assad government, which is backed by Iran, for the past 13 years—casts significant uncertainty over the future of Iran-Syria relations. This dramatic shift poses a profound challenge, as Syria has historically played a critical role in supporting resistance groups, such as Hezbollah, particularly during key conflicts like the 33-day war with Israel in 2006 and throughout Syria's internal conflict from 2011 to 2017. The fall of Assad undeniably represents a setback for Iran's regional interests, raising serious concerns about the constraints it might face in continuing its influence within Syria. Despite these challenges, the geographic and ideological bonds that have long united various resistance factions in the region remain integral to Iran's strategic calculus. The Resistance Front—which includes Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine—has historically depended on Syr-

ia for support and logistical facilitation. Iran's active presence in Syria significantly streamlined and bolstered these groups' operations. Hezbollah, founded in 1982 after the liberation of Khorramshahr, has independently achieved remarkable milestones over the past four decades, progressing towards substantial self-sufficiency. The group's enhanced capabilities, particularly after the martyrdom of prominent resistance leaders such as Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, have enabled it to launch more assertive operations and extend its missile reach deep into Israel. Despite the complexities introduced by recent developments in Syria, the foundational relationships built upon shared visions of resistance and advocacy for marginalized groups across the Middle East remain intact. Syria has functioned not only as a key ally but also as a pivotal operational hub for advancing Iran's broader regional strategies. Looking ahead, even in the absence of direct geographic connectivity, ideological ties with groups in other areas, such as Yemen, are expected to persist, underpinned by shared Islamic principles. The possibility that segments of the Syrian population previously aligned

with the resistance could face setbacks due to these changes is a significant and troubling concern. Nevertheless, there remains cautious optimism that Syria's new governing authorities may adopt policies that align with the long-term objectives of the Resistance Front. As consistently emphasized in Iran's foreign policy, guided by the teachings of Imam Khomeini — the founder of the Islamic Revolution — and the current Leader, engagement with Israel remains a categorical impossibility. The legacy of Martyr Qassem Soleimani, who played an instrumental role in supporting the Syrian army and organizing local Syrian factions, continues to resonate profoundly. It is conceivable that some forces trained under his command may remain dormant within Syria, poised to reemerge depending on how future circumstances unfold. In conclusion, while the immediate landscape presents formidable challenges, the strategic foundations and alliances forged through decades of collaboration and shared objectives between Iran and Syria—and the broader Resistance Front—will undoubtedly remain central in shaping the evolving geopolitical dynamics of the region. The article first appeared on Persian-language Ham-Mihan daily newspaper.

Pezeshkian urges young Olympiad medalists to lead future Iran

Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on young Iranian medalists from international science Olympiads to fully commit their skills and knowledge to solving the country's challenges, emphasizing the importance of their role in national development. At a ceremony held on Saturday in Tehran to honor these achievers, Pezeshkian expressed appreciation for the medalists, their families, and the officials who supported them, president.ir reported. He stated, "You must make every effort to elevate your capabilities to address the issues facing our country." He reflected on his own expe-

riences as a student during the early years of the Islamic Revolution, noting that he prioritized acquiring knowledge over accepting political roles. "I always rejected offers for executive positions because I believed that entering politics without sufficient knowledge would hinder my growth," he explained. "I wanted to achieve a level of expertise before entering the political arena." Pezeshkian reiterated the urgency of addressing healthcare disparities in Iran, recalling a time when patients would wait one to two years for appointments. He stressed the need for equitable access to quality health services, stating, "It is our duty to provide all people in Iran with adequate health services."

He urged the young scholars to internalize the responsibility of addressing public concerns and to contribute actively to the nation's progress. "This country is ours to build, and it must be much better than it is today," he declared. He firmly rejected the idea of leaving Iran for opportunities elsewhere, asserting, "We need individuals who care about our problems and are willing to dedicate their lives to resolving them." In discussing the changing global educational landscape, Pezeshkian highlighted the necessity of teamwork among young scholars. "In today's world, collaborative efforts yield success; individual endeavors in producing knowledge are no longer sufficient," he noted. He also mentioned the govern-

ment's readiness to appoint young talents as assistants to officials but expressed concern that such roles could distract them from their academic pursuits. "While we want you to be involved, I fear that participation in executive meetings may waste your valuable time," he cautioned. Iran's Education Minister, Alireza Kazemi, also addressed the attendees, stating that the government is committed to resolving issues faced by talented students and enhancing Iran's presence in international competitions. He emphasized, "One of our major policies is to ensure educational equity, allowing no student's talent to remain untapped due to a lack of resources." Pezeshkian implored the young



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at a ceremony honoring young Iranian medalists from international science Olympiads in Tehran on December 21, 2024. president.ir

medalists to utilize their knowledge to address national issues, assuring them that their efforts could lead to lasting recognition.

"Iran is counting on your endeavors; with determination and effort, we can solve the problems facing our country," he affirmed.

Iran seeks to halt NY auction of stolen ancient coins, repatriate artifacts

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is actively working to prevent a New York auction featuring ancient coins that were stolen from archaeological sites in Beyza, Fars Province. Last year, unauthorized diggers excavated 600 ancient coins from various historical periods, and part of these artifacts surfaced in a private auction by Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) in the US. The auction is scheduled for January 14, 2025, and includes two Sasanian coins from the Beyza archaeological site. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts confirmed the authenticity of these coins and is taking steps to stop the auction in order to ensure their return to Iran, ILNA reported. Mohammad Reza Zahedi, director of the Department of the Cultural Prop-

erty of Museums Headquarters, stated, "We are actively pursuing this issue, and the documents for the swift restitution of these Sasanian and Achaemenid coins are ready." The excavated coins include 380 Seleucid coins, 97 coins from the time of Alexander the Great, and others from various Persian dynasties, all of which were removed during illegal excavations. The CNG auction house has listed one of the coins, known as "Azarmidokht," which weighs 3.75 grams and features an image of Khosrow Parviz, Azarmidokht's father. This coin has a starting price of \$6,000, with projected sales reaching \$10,000. The second coin, attributed to the Persepolis mint and dating back to around 300 BC, is priced starting at \$45,000, with an estimated final sale price of approximately \$5.7 million. It depicts a Persian king and a battle scene, showcasing a Persian warrior



overpowering a Greek soldier. Despite the clear evidence of the coins' origins, CNG has misidentified the Azarmidokht coin as being from Central Asia and has not disclosed its illicit background. Zahedi noted that the ministry has been alerted to the situation and is determined to secure the return of these historical artifacts. The illegal excavation in Beyza, which involved two 17-year-old diggers, led to a burgeoning underground market for these valuable historical items.

Iranian film 'In the Arms of the Tree' triumphs at Chennai festival



The Iranian drama film 'In the Arms of the Tree,' directed by Babak Khajepasha, was awarded the title of Best Feature Film at the World Cinema Competition of the 22nd Chennai International Film Festival. The festival, which ran from December 12 to 19, provided a platform for over 123 films from 50 countries to vie for recognition and accolades, ILNA reported. 'In the Arms of the Tree' is a 2023 Iranian drama that made its premiere at the 41st Fajr International Film

Festival in February. The film, which is both written and directed by Khajepasha, was produced by Mohammad Reza Mesbah and Sajjad Nasrollahi Nasab. Its win at the Chennai festival marks a significant milestone in its international journey, following its recent receipt of the Special Jury Prize at the Asian World Film Festival. Khajepasha's film has not only garnered critical acclaim but has also been selected as Iran's representative for the 2025 Academy Awards.

Iran's '21 Weeks Later' awarded at Spain's La Mirada Tabú Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian short film '21 Weeks Later,' directed by Nasrin Mohammadpour, was awarded the Special Jury Prize at the 11th edition of the La Mirada Tabú Film Festival in Spain. The festival, held from December 5 to 14 in Zaragoza, aims to highlight artists' perspectives on the concept of "taboo." '21 Weeks Later' competed against 55 other short films and emerged as a standout, winning the Special Jury Prize. The award was presented to Mohammadpour by a panel of three judges, who praised the film for its nuanced storytelling and powerful performances. Nasrin Mohammadpour, known for her insightful and thought-provoking work, has previously won the Best Asian Short Film award at the 28th South International Film Festival in Busan Korea. Her film has also been screened at the 32nd Raindance International Film Festival in the UK and recently won the Special Jury Prize at the 31st International Ad-



ana Golden Boll Film Festival. The film stars Benafsheh Rezaei, Leila Hosseinzadeh, Soudabeh Behraminejad, and Parisa Asgari, whose performances have been widely acclaimed. '21 Weeks Later' explores complex themes and offers a deep dive into the human condition, resonating with audiences and critics alike. The international distribution of '21 Weeks Later' is managed by Cinarama, led by Neshat Bagheri. The film's continued success on the international stage highlights its universal appeal and the growing recognition of Iranian cinema on the global platform.

Second Announcement


N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0140010

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
3	HYDRAULIC VALVE 4-3/4 IN. OD., 2-1/4 IN. ID., 3-1/2 IN. , 29 FOOT-10 IN. OVERALL LENGTH	30NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 10,559/61 EURO or 5,604,309,103 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir/material-procurement-management-tab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

NOTE: Based on enactment issued by Nisoc's Tender committee, foreign companies must submit a Bid Bond Guarantee amounting to aforementioned (paragraph 1)Euro amount. Otherwise, their quotations will not be considered.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
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