

Leader extols private sector as vital for Iran's progress

Economy Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei emphasized that the only way to advance the country is by leveraging the capabilities of the private sector. He made the remarks on Tuesday during a visit to the "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition, a national event showcasing the achievements and capabilities of the private sector, according to Khamenei.ir. The exhibition featured the private sector's accomplishments in various fields, including information and communication technology, satellite equipment manufacturing, artificial intelligence, aircraft repair tools and equipment, mining and geology, oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, steel and aluminum production, home appliances, maritime industries, carpet manufacturing, water and electricity industries, textiles, medical and hospital equipment, drug production, the Royan Research Institute, agricultural and livestock production, handicrafts, and tourism. During the visit, representatives from various private sector companies raised concerns and complaints about the

challenges and obstacles they face. Addressing the ministers present at the exhibition, the Leader stressed that the government and state officials must work to resolve these issues, as the country's progress depends on empowering the private sector. He reiterated that utilizing the private sector's capacities and capabilities is the only way to move the country forward. In the water and electricity industry, after Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi explained efforts to address shortages in the electricity sector, the Leader acknowledged that the remarks were positive and accurate but emphasized that they must be put into practice. He noted that while the issue of imbalances and their solutions have been discussed in recent years, there is still a significant gap from achieving the desired outcome. Regarding private sector complaints about the lengthy and complex process of obtaining permits, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that this is a critical issue. He urged the government and responsible agencies to devise fundamental solutions to streamline and expedite the process of permit issuance.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) is being briefed by Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (R) during a visit to the "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition, a national event showcasing the achievements and capabilities of the private sector in Tehran on January 21, 2025. leader.ir

Pezeshkian urges consortium formation to purchase solar panels

Economy Desk

A meeting chaired by President Masoud Pezeshkian was held Tuesday to accelerate the implementation of renewable energy projects with a focus on solar power plants, during which the president called for the formation of a consortium to purchase solar panels. The session, attended by the heads of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), the Tourism Financial Group, the National Development Fund, the Plan and Budget Organization, reviewed progress on the government's plan to establish at least 30,000 megawatts of electricity

generation capacity from renewable sources, reported president.ir. After hearing reports on the matter, the president emphasized that the primary goal is to achieve sufficient electricity production capacity to effectively manage peak consumption during next summer. Pezeshkian stated that the best approach to advancing this initiative is to form a consortium led by the SATBA, with the participation of financial institutions, banks, and all entities interested in developing large and small solar power plants. The consortium would collectively purchase solar panels in bulk. The president stressed

that the consortium should procure the most advanced and suitable solar panels and power plant equipment at the lowest cost and highest quality, distributing them among domestic contractors. "This would ensure the projects are completed as quickly as possible, with minimal costs and optimal quality," Pezeshkian added. It was decided that the executive framework for the initiative would be drafted in a meeting hosted by the Plan and Budget Organization as the final version will be presented for approval in a subsequent meeting chaired by the president and attended by the participants at the said meeting.

Iran calls on UNSC to defend Gaza's territorial integrity

International Desk

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations called on the Security Council to take a strong stance in "defending Gaza's territorial integrity" after a cease-fire agreement between Hamas and Israel came into effect in Gaza on Sunday. "While a welcome step, the cease-fire must be transformed into a permanent and sustainable solution. This demands the full withdrawal of Israeli forces, the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, and a robust, comprehensive reconstruction plan for Gaza," Amir Saeid Irvani said on Monday, as he addressed the Security Council during a session to discuss the Israeli regime's war crimes against Palestinians. "Israel's unwillingness to fully withdraw and its insistence on maintaining control over Gaza's security

undermines these efforts and perpetuates instability," he added. The Iranian diplomat also urged the international community to prioritize safeguarding the mandate of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), and ensure predictable, sustained funding to support displaced Palestinians. The Iranian diplomat noted that Gaza remains the center of a deep humanitarian crisis, noting that the tragedy has exposed double standards, moral failures, and inaction from the international community and the Security Council. He said that the atrocities committed by the Israeli regime in Gaza are shocking. "Families have been wiped out, hospitals and schools destroyed, and critical infrastructure demolished. The blockade on Gaza has turned life for over two million people into a daily struggle, depriving them of

food, water, medicine, and electricity. These actions are collective punishment on an unimaginable scale," Irvani said. The Israeli regime has killed more than 47,000 people, mostly women and children, and wounded over 111,000 Palestinians. The Palestinian Civil Defense agency says it estimated there are 10,000 bodies under destroyed structures across the strip. Since the beginning of cease-fire on Sunday, Palestinians have been searching for their loved ones killed in the Israeli strikes and have recovered dozens of bodies buried under rubble. The United Nations estimated last month that 69% of the structures in Gaza have been damaged or completely destroyed. The Israel's war on Gaza have also displaced 90 percent of the Gaza population.

Iran ready to start talks on lifting 'illegal' sanctions: Deputy FM

IAEA chief says Iran needs to strike nuclear understanding with Trump

International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said Tehran is ready to start negotiations to lift "illegal and unilateral" sanctions imposed on Iran. "We have always been ready for this, and if there is (readiness) on the other sides, we believe that the negotiations will take shape and will reach a conclusion," Gharibabadi told reporters on the sidelines of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. "We believe that there are appropriate opportunities for dialogue and understanding, this is an issue that has already been discussed and everyone knows. Iran's nuclear program is peaceful, and unilateral and illegal sanctions have not achieved their goals," he said.

"We do not deny that sanctions in any case affect the lives of people, not only in Iran but in every country that is subject to bans, but the goal of the sanctions is to cause other changes in the countries under sanctions and so far, they have not achieved their goals." He underlined that the best way is to start talks to lift the sanctions and return to the right and proper path. Regarding the continuation of negotiations with three European countries involved in the 2015 nuclear agreement, Gharibabadi said, "We agreed to continue the talks and we will set the next date through consultations." Iran and France, Germany and the UK have held two rounds of negotiations on Iran's nuclear program in the recent months. Tensions between Iran and European countries have escalated over the past

two years due to European accusations of Iran's uranium enrichment as well as delivery of missiles and drones to Russia. Since taking office in July, the Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has repeatedly announced his government's readiness to hold talks with the Western countries to resolve their disputes over Iran's nuclear program.

Direct negotiations with US

Ahmad Bakhshayesh, an Iranian lawmaker, said Pezeshkian favors direct negotiations with the United States to put an end to long-standing differences, including Iran's nuclear issue. Bakhshayesh said on Sunday that Oman has traditionally mediated between the two nations, but direct talks would be more effective. International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Mariano Gros-

si also said Tuesday in Davos that Iran needs to reach an understanding over its nuclear activities with the new administration of US President Donald Trump. "There was an agreement that existed before President Trump decided that was not the path he wanted to follow," Grossi said. "Now we need to come to terms with how we deal with this, excluding of course, a war. We don't want more wars." "We are engaging with Russia, with China, with the European countries, but it's clear for everybody that the US is indispensable," Grossi said. "What we need is to find an understanding. This is going to be our mission in the next few weeks." In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive



Plan of Action (JCPOA), with six world powers. However, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo. In 2019, Iran started to roll back the limits it had accepted under the JCPOA after the other parties, especially the European countries, failed to live up to their commitments.