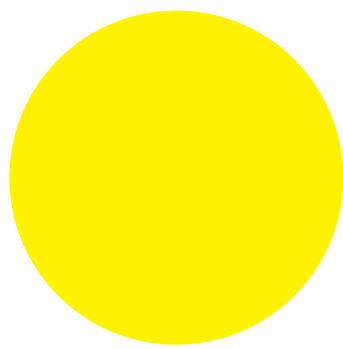


Oil minister: Crude exports not to cease despite intrigues

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The photo shows an aerial view of a thoroughfare packed with people rallying to mark the anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution in Tehran, Iran, on February 10, 2025. **ALI HASSANPOUR / IRAN DAILY**

Joining FATF key to attracting foreign investment

By Reza Sepahvand
Iranian MP

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global banking treaty, aims to combat money laundering by ensuring the transparent flow of funds. It requires that the origin and destination of funds be clearly identified to prevent dirty money from infiltrating monetary systems. Countries embracing FATF internationally commit to its recommendations and FATF, in turn, should also be open to their suggestions. Joining FATF cannot be seen inherently detrimental. When a global power like Russia and its President

Vladimir Putin urges BRICS nations to combat money laundering and avoid being blacklisted, it sends a powerful message to Iran. It implies that major powers like Russia does not wish to be on the blacklist. Russia's stance is understandable, especially since it faces sanctions, some of which may even be harsher than those imposed on Iran. Yet, Russia values its banking ties with economic partners and friendly nations and recognizes its people's need for global banking access, hence its desire to avoid being blacklisted. In fact, non-membership in FATF does not penalize governments but puts the interests of their people at stake. [Page 2 >](#)



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Why US cannot be trusted: **Experts**

EXCLUSIVE Iran's Leader has firmly rejected negotiations with the Trump administration as "unwise, unintelligent and dishonorable." Citing past experiences, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei emphasizes that the US has consistently failed to build trust, making talks with dignity impossible. His strategy focuses on boosting internal strength while dismissing talks with US. However, some radical factions are attempting to exploit this mistrust for domestic political gain, which could play into Trump's "maximum pressure" policy. The situation ahead will reveal who will support the government of Masoud Pezeshkian and who will exacerbate polarization around Trump. [See page 4-5 >](#)



Pezeshkian: Iran will not kneel to Trump's pressure

Nation celebrates 46th anniversary of Islamic Revolution

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that the United States will not be able to bring the Islamic establishment and the nation to their knees with its adversarial plots. Pezeshkian made the remarks while addressing a crowd of people marking the 46th anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Tehran on Monday.

"I firmly believe that if we join hands and stand together, we will be able to solve all of the country's problems with the help and support of the people, and America could dream of being able to bring this nation and establishment to their knees with its conspiracies."

Referring to a recent move by the US President Donald Trump to restore his maximum pressure policy against Iran earlier this month, Pezeshkian said, "He says, 'we want to talk,' and... (then) he signs in a memorandum all the conspiracies to bring our revolution to its knees," Pezeshkian told the crowd which had gathered in the capital's Azadi Square to celebrate the victory of

the Islamic Revolution which toppled the Western-backed Pahlavi dynasty. There have been hopes of revival of negotiations between Iran and the US over Iran's nuclear program but Trump's reimposition of maximum pressure on Iran and recent remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei about talks with the US have dashed any hopes for such negotiations.

As he signed the order instructing US departments to design new sanctions against Iran on February 4, Trump voiced optimism for a "deal with Iran and everybody can live together." During his first term, which ended in 2021, Trump had pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran, an approach he has restored since returning to office.

Trump pulled Washington out of the 2015 nuclear deal, torpedoing an agreement that had given Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its atomic program.

On Friday, Ayatollah Khamenei said that talks with the US were "not smart, wise, or honorable."

"Negotiating with America is neither smart, wise, or honorable. It will not solve any of our problems. The reason? Experience!" Ayatollah Khamenei said. Meanwhile, Pezeshkian warned on Monday that the enemies and ill-wishers seek to sow discord in Iran and instill the belief of Iran's weakness in the minds of the people and pretend that today is "the best time to harm the country."

"However, they are unaware that, under the leadership of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and with the constant presence and sacrifices of the [Iranian] people, they will take all these dreams and wishes to grave," he emphasized. He said Iran has powerfully resisted bullying and will stand up to conspiracies aimed at sowing discord and division.

Pezeshkian said Iran has never sought to wage a war against any country and would never bow to the enemies. He added that the enemies are afraid of Iran's unity and coherence, noting that Iranians would be able to solve all of the problems if they forge national

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian delivers a speech in Tehran's iconic Azadi Square on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution, on February 10, 2025.
● president.ir



unity. On Monday, millions of Iranians from all walks of life took to the streets across the country to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. From the sprawling metropolis of Teh-

ran to the remotest villages, citizens participated in mass marches, carrying banners, waving the national flag, and chanting slogans echoing the indelible legacy of the Revolution that overthrew the United States-backed tyrannical Pahlavi monarchy.

Iranian, Turkish intel chiefs discuss Syria, Palestine, fight against terrorism



International Desk

During a rare visit to Tehran, Head of the Turkish Intelligence Organization Ibrahim Kalin held talks with his Iranian counterpart to discuss the fight against "terror" groups and the situation in Syria. Kalin met with Iran's Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib and the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian.

They discussed the fight against terror organizations, especially the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant group and Daesh terrorist group, common threats, the situation in Syria, the Gaza cease-fire and developments in the Palestinian issue," Anadolu News Agency said. Few details of the meetings have been released. In another development, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan spoke by phone with his Iranian counterpart Ab-

bas Araghchi, discussing bilateral issues and "the situation in Palestine."

Araghchi said several countries strongly oppose the forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza, adding that the plot would be a continuation of the Israeli regime's genocide in Palestine.

He urged Muslim countries to adopt a "firm and unified" stance to counter the plan and called for an immediate meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to address the issue.

Fidan also stressed the need for continued support by all Muslim countries for the rights of the Palestinian people and welcomed the proposal by the Iranian foreign minister to hold an OIC emergency meeting.

The two neighboring countries maintain great economic, political and security relations.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran warns about US-Israel 'dangerous plot' to relocate Gazans

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned about "a dangerous plot" hatched by the United States and the Israeli regime to relocate Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. In a phone conversation with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday, Araghchi condemned the plan as a threat to international peace and security.

Araghchi urged the United Nations, particularly its Security Council, to adopt a "firm and clear" position against the US-Israeli plan.

"The proposal to forcibly relocate Palestinians violates all principles and standards of international law and the United Nations Charter, and, in fact, complements the Israeli regime's plan for genocide and the eradication of Palestine," he said.

Referring to his consultations with the foreign ministers of Arab and



Muslim countries about Israel's plan, the Iranian foreign minister said that the firm condemnation of the plan by Islamic countries reflects the widespread concern regarding the continued gross violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and the continuation of their genocide in another way.

On February 6, the US President Donald Trump in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced his plan to seize Gaza and relocate its residents to other countries such as Egypt and Jordan.

Trump on Monday said he is "committed to buying and owning" the Gaza Strip and relocating the two million Palestinians living there, despite global condemnation of the plan. He told reporters that he might allow Middle East countries to be involved in rebuilding parts of the territory and that he would make sure the Palestinian refugees would "live beautifully."

Both the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas resistance group reiterated that Palestinian land was "not for sale."

Tehran-Riyadh relations will not relapse: *Iran's envoy*

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia said relations between the two countries are growing on a daily basis, stressing that Tehran-Riyadh relations will not relapse.

Alireza Enayati in an interview with Saudi newspaper Okaz said that relations between the two countries have returned to the level they previously had. Over the past two years, Iran and Saudi Arabia have been able to make many

achievements in the political, economic, commercial and cultural fields. Back in 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement in the Chinese capital to restore their diplomatic ties seven years after their relations broke off over several issues.

Joining FATF key ...

Thus, considering FATF membership is vital and its rejection in Iran could have consequences. Iran's restrictions hinder revenue repatriation from exports, even from friendly neighbors. Investors face challenges due to money transfer limitations and Iranian students abroad struggle with fund exchanges and managing their finances. These issues stem from misconceptions and a misguided perspective among some in Iran about FATF, leading to self-imposed sanctions.

Iran's support for the Resistance Front and the oppressed against injustice is unwavering. However, joining FATF does not contradict this stance, as Iran's backing is mostly advisory in nature. Secondary sanctions, designed to pressure countries, companies, or individuals that engage economically with sanctioned nations, aim to restrict their global market access and disrupt their international cooperation. These sanctions have deterred many companies from investing in Iran.

Nevertheless, some firms from China, Russia and Persian Gulf Arab countries as well as Iranian expatriates are ready to brave US sanctions to invest in Iran, lured by potential returns. But they are deterred due to Iran's non-membership in FATF which disables them from conducting banking transactions. They require a conducive environment for their investments, including seamless financial transactions. Thus, Iran's decision-making must carefully weigh national interests and well-being when it comes to FATF membership.

Iran supports expanding cooperation among Caspian Sea nations



Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

Masoud Pezeshkian

Economy Desk

In a phone conversation with the national leader of Turkmenistan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the country's support for enhancing cooperation among Caspian Sea littoral states to secure mutual interests and preserve the region's environment.

Pezeshkian highlighted the existing collaboration between Iran and Turkmenistan in electricity and energy, describing

the two nations as neighbors and brothers capable of expanding cooperation in areas such as gas swaps, transportation, and electricity exchange. He noted that the regular convening of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission could significantly boost bilateral ties.

Pezeshkian also praised Turkmenistan's initiative to propose naming 2025 as the "Year of Peace and Trust," expressing hope for peace, friendship, and

stability in the region and the world.

The president reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to fostering peace and friendship globally and welcomed cooperation with Turkmenistan and other nations in this regard.

Thanking the Turkmen leader for the invitation to attend the "Peace and Trust" conference in Turkmenistan, Pezeshkian underscored the deep historical and cultural ties between the two countries. He ex-

pressed Iran's desire to further develop cultural cooperation with Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan national leader, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, congratulated Iran on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution and wished success for the Iranian government and people. He invited Pezeshkian to the "Peace and Trust" conference and called for enhanced bilateral efforts to promote peace and friendship in the region and beyond.

Berdimuhamedov also advo-

cated for expanded cooperation in transportation, energy, and gas swaps, stressing the importance of regular meetings of the joint economic commission to strengthen economic ties.

He expressed Turkmenistan's interest in deepening economic collaboration with Iran.

Highlighting the shared cultural heritage of the two nations, Berdimuhamedov called for broader cultural and artistic cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Oil minister: Crude exports not to cease despite intrigues



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad emphasized that the turnout of people in public demonstrations strengthens the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stating that while the US president speaks of reducing Iran's oil exports to zero, this goal will never be achieved.

Speaking on Monday during a rally marking the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Paknejad said the glorious Islamic Revolution began under the leadership of Imam Khomeini and continues under the guidance of Ayatollah Khamenei.

The minister also criticized Trump's failed policy of maximum pressure, which he said is being attempted again.

Regarding the US president's goal of reducing Iran's oil exports to zero, Paknejad said this is an unattainable wish.

The minister also pointed out that over the past 46 years, Iran's oil industry has achieved greater self-sufficiency and independence.

He recalled that at the beginning of the revolution, foreigners did not believe Iranians could manage the oil industry after they left. However, Iran has not only managed it but has also achieved self-sufficiency in equipment manufacturing, development operations, production, and all upstream and downstream sectors of the industry.

In remarks on Sunday, Paknejad said the US once experienced the futility of its maximum pressure policy on Iran during Trump's first term in office in 2016-20.

"They want to test it one more time and they will fail again," said the minister.

The comments came several days after Trump announced he would use Washington's unilateral regime of sanctions to disrupt Iran's oil flows to markets in Asia and elsewhere.

Trump enacted a first round of sanctions on Iran's oil exports in 2018, causing the country's oil exports to drop for a brief period in late 2019 and in early 2020.

However, Iranian oil exports have gradually returned to pre-sanctions levels in recent years with estimates suggesting that the country is shipping more than 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, mostly to customers in China.

Extraction of radioactive materials begins in Yazd



Iran started the extraction and utilization of radioactive materials and associated elements at the Saghand mining and industrial complex's Anomaly-10 zone in the central province of Yazd.

The development occurred during a Sunday visit by Mohammad Eslami, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), to Yazd Province, IRNA wrote.

Accompanied by senior nuclear industry officials and the governor general of Yazd, Eslami visited various sections of Martyr Soleimani Mining and Industrial Complex.

During the visit, operations for the extraction and utilization of radioactive materials and associated elements at Anomaly-10 of the complex were officially launched.

Exploration and extraction activities in the Anomaly-10 zone have been underway since September 2023, following assessments that identified reserves of radioactive materials and associated elements in the Saghand region.

Eslami's visit to Yazd followed his trip to Isfahan Province a day earlier, where he inaugurated several projects at the Shahid Raisi nuclear site (UCF), including the IR-46 iridium hexafluoride production line, a comprehensive technical safety test facility, a semi-industrial-scale sintering furnace for nuclear fuel pellets, and a resistance welding device (RW).

Roads minister, IRU chief meet on transit development in Geneva

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd met with the secretary general of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on Monday to discuss enhancing transit development, strengthening transportation cooperation, and expanding regional collaboration.

The meeting took place during the 87th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Inland Transport Committee in the Swiss city of Geneva, IRNA reported.

Sadeq-Malvajerd highlighted Iran's close cooperation with the IRU, describing the organization as a key international body in the road transport sector.

She emphasized that Iran's role in the transit of goods along the North-South and East-West corridors will be further enhanced through the use of advanced IRU tools, particularly digital solutions.

The minister also noted that Iran's record of 20 million tons of transit goods in the current Iranian year (started March 20, 2024) reflects the country's high capacity in international transport.

She stressed the importance of strengthening ties with the IRU and increasing regional interactions to further boost transit activities.

Sadeq-Malvajerd underscored the significance of exchanging commercial information and transport regulations among member states of the TIR Convention. She called for accelerating the finalization of road transport safety measures and enhancing cooperation with the IRU's Road Safety Fund.

During the meeting, Sadeq-Malvajerd announced Iran's upcoming presidency of the Intergovernmental Commis-

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd meets with IRU Secretary-General Umberto de Pretto in the Swiss city of Geneva on February 10, 2025.



sion of the Transport International Routiers (TIR) in two weeks and expressed hope that the ministerial meeting would provide unique opportunities for expanding regional cooperation and strengthening the TIR system.

IRU Secretary-General Umberto de Pretto praised Iran's role in regional road transport and described the appointment of a female minister in the Islamic Republic of Iran as an inspiring move for the global community.

He noted that the presence of women in the transport industry remains limited and expressed hope that this appointment would encourage more women to join the sector.

De Pretto echoed Sadeq-Malvajerd's views on the role of transport in achieving regional peace, emphasizing

that road transport trade is a key tool for global stability.

He acknowledged Iran's leadership in implementing the TIR Convention in the region and highlighted the decades of expertise held by Iranian road transport companies and professionals.

The IRU head added that Iran's cooperation in regional transit development through the implementation of the TIR Convention across all regional countries could be highly effective.

The TIR Convention is an international agreement aimed at facilitating international road transport and reducing trade barriers. It enables door-to-door, uninterrupted transport of goods from origin to destination. Iran, as a leading country in implementing this system, plays a significant role in the development of international transit.

Why US cannot be trusted: *Experts*

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

The Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution has set the tone for everyone regarding the country's foreign policy, especially on the approach towards the Donald Trump administration in the US. Drawing on historical experience, the Leader clearly and explicitly stated that negotiating with such a government (the US and the Trump administration) is "unwise, unintelligent, and dishonorable" and that we should not negotiate with them. We have put the negotiation to the test both shortly after the Islamic Revolution and later as part of reaching the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). In all these tests, the US government, regardless of who was the president from which party, has failed to build trust or create goodwill. It is only natural that we cannot engage in dignified negotiations with a government that has not taken a single step, spoken a single word, or taken a single action to build trust. The strategy outlined by the Leader, which relies on mustering internal strength and simultaneously dismissing negotiations with the US, is something that reason, history, and experience confirm so far. However, what is not confirmed by reason is turning this foreign policy issue into a domestic policy issue. Some radical political movements, perhaps from both sides of the spectrum, are trying to turn this mistrust and the unnegotiable nature of the US government into a tool to pressure the government of Masoud Pezeshkian. Such an approach can complete the puzzle of Donald Trump's maximum pressure. The coming days will show who inside Iran will do so and who will move toward strengthening the government and avoiding polarization around Trump.



A young man walks past an anti-US graffiti outside the building that formerly hosted the US Embassy in Tehran.
● ATTA KENARE/AFP

Why negotiating with US not honorable



By Abbas Salimi Namin
Political expert

The Leader's statement that negotiating with the US is not honorable under current circumstances is completely correct because the way Americans behave is that they want to impose their desired state on Iran. In other words, the Americans want to achieve their own desires and excessive demands through negotiations. Therefore, when they cannot or do not want to achieve their desired outcome through military means, they threaten other countries, including Iran, and raise the issue of negotiations in a threatening atmosphere. It is clear that the Americans are not genuinely seeking constructive negotiations, but rather want to pursue their goals in a negotia-

tion-based atmosphere of threats. For this reason, I believe it is not honorable to start negotiations in an atmosphere of threats, especially since they were the ones who initially halted the negotiations and backed out. The Americans were the ones who violated the JCPOA, while the Europeans, along with China and Russia, were more or less honoring the agreement. This is while the Americans, in the Obama administration, had already accepted and signed the JCPOA. In my opinion, Iran's taking the lead in negotiations without the US changing its behavior is not desirable. Therefore, it is the Americans who must try to change their behavior, and only then can Iran move towards negotiations. However, under any circumstances other than a change in US behavior, negotiations are not honorable for Iran.

Thought-provoking facts about dealing with US



By Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi
Iranian lawmaker

To reduce tensions with the West, specifically the US, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken important steps regarding its nuclear program and in the negotiations that led to the JCPOA. After the negotiations, it was, again, Iran that fulfilled a significant part of its commitments, including reducing the volume and percentage of uranium enrichment, the number and type of centrifuges, and its commitments to the Additional Protocol. However, the US government, after tense, prolonged negotiations, not only failed to meet its commitments but also began a process of confrontation, tension, and bad faith. The assassination of Martyr Soleimani, the sabotage of the nuclear facilities by the Zionist regime with US

support, and extensive sanctions all occurred after that. Therefore, it is natural for Iran to consider the bitter memory of the past whenever it thinks about negotiating with the US. On the other hand, considering the bitter events of the past year in the region, the West and the Americans think that Iran is in a weak position. With this notion in mind, they are not seeking to negotiate with Iran on an equal footing and may even want to expand Iran's commitments to other issues. Considering such facts, the current situation is not suitable for negotiating with the US and signaling an atmosphere conducive to negotiation to Western parties. This is because they will evaluate such an approach, considering all the bad faith and pressure, as Iran being in a weak position. The Leader's statement that negotiating with the US under current

circumstances is not wise or honorable is based on the US's history of bad faith and actions taken against Iran. It is a reminder of the fact that if we enter into negotiations with the US government now, there is no guarantee that they will fulfill their commitments. This is while fulfilling commitments is one of the essential rules and foundations of all commitments in the framework of international law. It is worth noting how other international developments that included the US turned out. Historical experience shows that accepting US conditions has had undesirable consequences for countries. These historical facts confirm the views of the Leader. Any country that has dealt with Westerners from a position of weakness has seen its security and territorial integrity threatened and has been harmed. These are facts that make an emphasis on resistance logical.



US President Donald Trump poses for a photograph with an executive order "reimposing maximum pressure on Iran" in the Oval Office of the White House, Washington, D.C., on February 4, 2025.
● SHAWN THEW/UPI

Negotiating under threats not an honor



By Hamidreza Taraghi
Member of Islamic Coalition Party

In my opinion, there are several reasons why negotiating with the US is not honorable at present. One of them is the creation of a threatening atmosphere by the US against Iran. The Americans first threaten, then impose sanctions, and finally come to the negotiating table. Naturally, if a country is seeking negotiations and resolving issues, its approach and language towards negotiations should be peaceful, not threatening. However, the US has not only imposed sanctions on Iran but also on countries that buy Iranian oil. Therefore, if we choose to move towards negotiations in these circumstances, it means we want to force the other

side to talk, which is more humiliating than honorable. The second reason for not accepting negotiations is Iran's position in the international arena, which is a dignified one. If a country with a dignified position like Iran is spoken to in a threatening and intimidating tone, it will not receive a response other than the recent statements of the Leader. The third reason for negotiations with the US government not being honorable or wise is the experience of the past behavior of this country. The US has shown that it is not committed to its international contracts and agreements and will withdraw from them if they are not in its interest. Therefore, we are not in a position to negotiate with the US on an equal footing, and this makes negotiations with the US null and void.

Polarization over negotiations condemnable



By Gholam-Ali Dehghan
Member of Moderation and Development Party

Finally, after days of debate and conflict over negotiations with the US among supporters and opponents, the Leader clarified the establishment's position. Over the past few months, it was expected that Donald Trump would reconsider his approach

and show signs of goodwill after the unsuccessful experience of maximum pressure during his first term in office, which did not lead to Iran's surrender. Although he did so in words, in practice, by returning to the strategy of maximum pressure, he and the US ruling apparatus evidently have not changed their strategies towards Iran, especially since Trump made this decision public after meeting with Netanyahu.

In any case, Trump ignored the proverb "actions speak louder than words" and did what he wanted. He could have acted otherwise and canceled part of his executive order to show a green light, but he did not. As the saying goes, "He came out swinging," although it was just for sanctions, not necessarily for military measures. In any case, the Americans, disregarding the historical mistrust of Iranians

towards them, still did not show goodwill in practice to perhaps crack open the door for resolving the problems between the two countries. Therefore, as Seyed Mohammad Khatami said, "The wall of mistrust between the two countries remains high," and it was the US that removed the item of negotiations and resolving issues from the agenda, not Iran. Therefore, the fact that the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

has been set on this path is the result of US policy. The government of Masoud Pezeshkian will certainly follow the honorable path and will not take an unwise approach. Internal polarization over the issue of the US and negotiations, non-negotiations, and possibly challenging the government of Pezeshkian is an American-style polarization that is condemnable for anyone from any faction to engage in.

Looking inward way out of economic problems

INTERVIEW The Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution emphasized Friday, in a meeting with a group of commanders of the Air Force and Air Defense of the Army, that what resolves problems is the internal factor, namely the effort of committed officials and the cooperation of a united nation, referring to the futile experience of nearly two years of negotiations with the US that resulted in the JCPOA.

Economic issues are currently one of the country's top priorities, and the Leader also emphasized this issue in the inauguration ceremony of President Pezeshkian in July this year. However, experts consider one of the main economic problems of the country, which has harmed people's livelihoods, to be internal issues. They stress that these issues must be resolved to solve the problems. Experts further say that the economy must be handed over to the private sector and the people, and the key to solving it must be sought internally, not in negotiations.

Abdolnaser Hemmati, Iran's Economy Minister, has also maintained that in the current situation, "there is no alternative but to empower the private sector and change the economic governance scene to involve all members of society in the economy and make the most use of national capital and internal capacities."



THE MEDIA LINE



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (c) tours an exhibition showcasing the country's industrial capabilities in February 2023.
khamenei.ir

Solving problems requires prudence



Jafar Ghaderi, the vice chairman of the Economic Committee of the Iranian Parliament, believes that the reason for the economic problems and currency fluctuations in the country is that "we have not been able to direct liquidity towards the production sector and the productive economy." Ghaderi added: "If people are confident that their liquidity is going towards a direction that can lead to the prosperity of production and provide the ground for maintaining their purchasing power, they will not go after purchasing foreign currencies and gold." "If people are not doing this now and are going in a direction that pursues their own interests, separate from the interests of society, it is because we have not paved the way for

them," the MP said. Ghaderi emphasizes that people must be allowed to play a role in the economy. "We must activate large industrial units with people's participation," he said, adding that it will remove the need to wait for others outside the country to play nice in order to toy with our economy. "The fact that we do not use non-inflationary methods to finance and solve the liquidity problem of production units has nothing to do with sanctions." He concluded: "Unfortunately, some government officials cannot solve problems and attribute them to sanctions, while most problems are not due to sanctions, but rather to the lack of prudence of managers who have not been able to use the country's capacities."

Root of many problems internal



Javad Hosseini, the vice chairman of the Industries and Mines Committee of the Iranian Parliament, drew attention to the recent announcement of the minister of petroleum that Iran's oil exports have reached their highest level in the past 10 years. "This shows that sanctions have not been able to prevent the sale of Iranian oil," said Hosseini. The MP also contends that the country's economic problems are related to internal issues and confirms Ghaderi's statement that the inability to direct the society's liquidity towards productive activities and job creation is behind these problems. "We have not been able to increase

the value of the national currency and create transparency internally," he notes, adding that these are internal weaknesses and have nothing to do with external issues. "Today, our production enterprises are operating at 40 to 50 percent of their capacity. Shortages must be eliminated so that the full capacity of these enterprises can be realized and export capacities can be developed. Hosseini maintained, "Today, self-sanctions have caused the country's problems, not international sanctions. Internal sanctions have hindered economic and development activities and increased our problems."

In need of structural reforms



Vahid Shaghghi Shahri, an economics professor, reaffirmed that a part of the country's key problems are internal issues, adding that without structural reforms in the Iranian economy, they will not be solved. He said: "Even if sanctions are lifted, no solution will be found. Of course, it is possible that inflationary expectations may subside in the short term, but this is not a solution to the country's problems." "We have an economy that is still

based on oil, but the problem is that due to shortages, there is no more oil to sell," he pointed out. "To solve problems, economic reforms must be implemented, and the Leader has also emphasized that the private sector must be given space and must come to the forefront. However, the state-run economy has closed the doors to the private sector, and a suitable business environment for the involvement of the private sector is not provided. Instead, monopolies

and quasi-state entities are present. In such an environment, competition does not emerge in the Iranian economy, and therefore, the possibility of becoming resistant to sanctions is greatly reduced." Stressing that there is no alternative to structural reforms within the Iranian economy, the economic expert said: "The Iranian economy must change, and the environment must become ready for the involvement of the people in the economy, which is only possible with the improvement of the macroeconomic environment."

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



A worker operates a machine at a factory in Iran.
ALI HAMED HAGHDUST/IRNA

UWW Ranking Series:

Yousefi wins Zagreb Open gold,
enters the fray for Iran's world spot

Sports Desk

Superheavyweight wrestler Ali-Akbar Yousefi made his return to international scene in style by cruising to the Greco-Roman 130kg crown at the Zagreb Open on Sunday.

A world champion in 2021, Yousefi began his emphatic run with a 10-1 rout of Russian Sergey Semenov, who stunned Turkish great Riza Kayaalp for the European title last year, and then claimed comfortable victories over Hungary's Koppany Laszlo (6-1) and Sarkhan Mammadov (9-1) of Azerbaijan for a place in the final showpiece against Finland's Konsta Mäenpää. Yousefi, whose last international appearance had come in the 2023 Budapest Ranking Series, rounded off his campaign with a 9-1 triumph over the Finnish wrestler, throwing down the gauntlet to reigning world champion and Olympic bronze medalist Amin Mirzazadeh and world U23 gold medalist Fardin Hedayati for the Iranian spot in September's World Championships in the Croatian capital. Gholamreza Farrokhi was also among the Iranian gold medalists at the first Ranking Series of the sea-



Iran's Ali-Akbar Yousefi (L), who went on to win the gold medal, is seen in action against Sarkhan Mammadov of Azerbaijan in the Greco-Roman 130kg semifinals at the Zagreb Open on February 9, 2025.

● UWW

son, thanks to a 6-2 win against Hungarian world silver winner Erik Szilvassy in the 82kg showdown. There were, however, disappointing finishes for the Iranian duo Mohammadreza Geraei and Danial Sohrabi in the 72kg contests.

Ex-Olympic champion and three-time world medalist Geraei fell to a loss on criteria to Hungarian teenager Levente Levai in the semifinals and then finished his campaign empty-handed after an injury ruled him out of the third-place bout

against Ruslan Nurullayev of Azerbaijan. Sohrabi, meanwhile, suffered a 4-3 defeat against 19-year-old Levai and settled for the silver. Mahdi Ahadi also left the Croatian capital with a silver medal following a 7-0 defeat

against Azerbaijan's Elmira Aliyev in the 55kg final. Pouya Naserpour added a bronze medal to Iran's Greco-Roman haul on the final day of the competitions, bouncing back from a last-four setback against Serbia's Georgij Tibilov to

beat Azerbaijan's Huseyn Garibov by superiority (9-1) in the 60kg event. Mohammad-Mahdi Keshkhar had won a first Greco-Roman medal for Iran in Zagreb, taking a silver in the 63kg class. A total tally of double

golds, three silvers, and one bronze saw the Iranian squad finish atop the team table with 147 points – 13 clear of second-placed Azerbaijan – with Hungary in third on 119 points. The Greco-Roman triumph came after the Iranian 16-man team had collected four golds and silvers apiece to finish runner-up to the United States in the freestyle competitions earlier in the Arena Zagreb. Abbas Ebrahimzadeh (65kg), Amirhossein Firouzpour (92kg), and Amirreza Ma'soumi (125kg) walked away with the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes, while Ahmad Mohammadnejad-Javan came out on top against Ebrahim Khari in an all-Iranian 61kg final. Abolfazl Babalou was beaten by American great Kyle Snyder in the 97kg final, with young prodigies Sina Khalili (70kg) and Mahdi Yousefi (79kg) adding a couple of silvers to Iran's haul.

CAFA Women's Futsal Championship:

Iranian girls rout Uzbekistan in opener

Sports Desk

Iran got off to a dominant start in the 2025 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship in Tajikistan by thrashing Uzbekistan 9-0 on Sunday.

Zahra Kianimanesh put Iran in front with five minutes into the game at the Dushanbe Indoor Hall and her goal was the difference between the two sides at halftime. Roqayyeh Some'eh doubled Iran's lead 15 seconds after the restart before Maral Torkaman and Fatemeh

Hosseini bagged a brace apiece, with Mahtab Banaei, Nasimeh Gholami, and Fereshteh Karimi also on the scoresheet.

Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw earlier in the day.

Iran's next game in the tournament, featuring five Central Asian countries in a round-robin format, will come against the Kyrgyz Republic on Wednesday.

The event is part of the Iranian girls' preparation for May's AFC Women's Futsal

Asian Cup, which will resume after a seven-year hiatus in China.

Chasing a third successive title in as many editions, Forouzan Soleimani's side will begin its campaign with a game against the Philippines on May 7, before squaring off against Vietnam and Hong Kong in Group B. The top three of the 12-team tournament will punch their tickets for the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup – starting November 21 in the Philippines.

In other groups, the host

country is pitted against Uzbekistan, the Chinese Taipei, and Australia in Group A, with Japan – beaten by Iran in the previous two finals – and two-time bronze winner Thailand joined by Indonesia and Bahrain in Group C.



Iranian girls celebrate a goal during a 9-0 victory over Uzbekistan in the CAFA Women's Futsal Championship in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on February 9, 2025.

● FFIRI

Slot defends Liverpool lineup
after shock FA Cup exit

THE GUARDIAN – Arne Slot defended his team selection after a weakened Liverpool lineup was turfed out of the FA Cup by Plymouth Argyle. Despite a shock 1-0 defeat against the Championship's bottom club, Slot argued that his decision to give senior players a rest would pay dividends later in the season. Slot made 10 changes from the win against Tottenham



Liverpool boss Arne Slot (L) reacts on the touchline during a defeat against Plymouth Argyle in the FA Cup in Plymouth, Britain, on February 9, 2025.

● ADAM DAVY/PA

on Thursday night, with a relatively inexperienced bench and players such as Mohamed Salah, Cody Gakpo and Virgil van Dijk left out of the squad entirely. "Most of the things we do, we do for a reason," Slot insisted. "We have many games to play. The ones who played today need game rhythm, for them to be ready in the upcoming months." The defeat "hurt", Slot admitted, but he was careful too to give appropriate praise to Plymouth. "They worked incredibly hard," Slot said. "There were one or two big chances, but I think if a team is working so hard and

throws themselves into any ball, maybe you deserve to be a bit lucky as well. The goalkeeper made one or two good saves in the end, but we hardly created anything at all." Slot also revealed that Curtis Jones, named on the bench, had declared himself unfit on the morning of the game. And he also offered sympathy for Isaac Mabaya, the substitute who was himself substituted on his Liverpool debut. "I had to take him off," Slot said. "He was already on a yellow. To be taken off after an hour is very disappointing for him, of course." Plymouth are still four points adrift of safety but if

they show this kind of defensive resolve they still have every chance. And for Miron Muslic, the Plymouth manager, "the biggest moment in my coaching career" came with a caveat. "So far," he said. "The biggest moment is yet to come, at the end of the season, when we stay up. This is what I feel, in my mind, in my soul. "We wanted to represent ourselves. To be organised, to be brave, to be full of intensity, to use this huge stage as an opportunity. We had to enjoy defending. And we did. To keep them away from the goal is a huge, huge task."

Unique geomorphology of Rig-e Yalan Desert

Iranica Desk Rig-e Yalan, situated in the eastern expanse of the Lut Desert, is one of Iran's most remarkable natural wonders. Its immense scale, towering sand formations, and distinctive ecological importance have drawn the interest of both scientists and travelers alike. Spanning approximately 10,000 square kilometers, Rig-e Yalan marks the convergence of three provinces: Sistan and Baluchestan, Kerman, and South Khorasan. It stands out as one of Iran's largest reserves of sand dunes.



● IRNA

Geomorphological features

The region is characterized by a vast array of sand hills and towering pyramids sculpted by relentless winds and soil erosion, with heights surpassing 400 meters. It makes Rig-e Yalan not only the tallest sand formation in Iran but also one of the highest globally, chtn.ir wrote.

Mohammad Reza Ahmadi, a professor of natural geography at the University of Tehran, remarked that this area possesses unique geomorphological features, making it one of the rarest desert ecosystems. The prevailing winds have significantly influenced the formation of these tall and regular sand hills, showcasing the intricate relationship between land and atmosphere. Ahmadi said that investigating climate change impacts and managing water resources in such environments can yield crucial insights into the sustainability of desert ecosystems. Rig-e Yalan exemplifies how wind shapes sand structures; seasonal winds, particularly the notorious 120-day winds from Sistan, have transported fine grains of sand over time, resulting in the creation of these impressive pyramids.

Research indicates that wind speeds in the area can occasionally reach up to 70 kilometers per hour, leading to specific patterns in sand accumulation. Ahmadi noted that due to its vastness and strategic location, Rig-e Yalan has the potential to foster positive interactions among neighboring provinces. However, challenges such as soil erosion and a scarcity of shared water resources necessitate collaborative efforts across provincial lines.

Tourism potential

Despite the harsh conditions typical of desert environments, Rig-e Yalan holds promise as a premier tourist destination. The breathtaking vistas formed by its sand dunes, coupled with stunning sunrises and sunsets, and the profound silence of the desert, create an alluring experience for nature lovers and photographers alike.

Tourism expert Reza Hosseini believes that Rig-e Yalan has significant potential for sustainable tourism development. He emphasized that attracting both domestic and international visitors is feasible through adequate infrastructure provision — such as accommodation camps, professional guides, and safe pathways.

Hosseini also underscored the importance of educating local communities on how to host tourists while preserving the environment. Nevertheless, Rig-e Yalan faces various environmental challenges. Climate change effects, diminished rainfall, and rising temperatures pose serious threats to this delicate ecosystem.

Ahmadi acknowledged these vulnerabilities and stressed that managing water resources effectively and curtailing irrespon-

sible human activities are critical issues requiring attention.

He pointed out that increased use of off-road vehicles and unsustainable mineral extraction practices could severely damage sand structures and disrupt local biodiversity. Beyond its appeal to tourists, Rig-e Yalan captivates researchers; it serves as a natural laboratory for studying wind dynamics, soil erosion processes, and climate change phenomena. Ahmadi advocated for collaboration among universities and research institutions to conduct joint projects in this region to gather more precise data on Iran's desert ecosystems.

Conservation efforts

Hossein Eslami, director of the Lut Desert World Heritage Site, said that approximately 20% of Rig-e Yalan lies within Sistan and Baluchestan Province. The area is celebrated as one of Iran's most beautiful desert landscapes, attracting nature enthusiasts and professional tourists alike. The Lut Desert was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016, highlighting the significance of protecting this natural treasure.

In response to queries about conservation strategies for Rig-e Yalan, Eslami outlined key actions aimed at establishing boundaries to prevent encroachments into the Lut Desert. These efforts are supervised by the Lut World Heritage Site alongside Iran's Cultural Heritage Ministry and UNESCO. Training programs are also underway to raise awareness about responsible tourist interactions while preventing environmental degradation.

Eslami noted that several initiatives have been developed to attract both domestic and international tourists. These include comprehensive tourism plans and infrastructure improvements aimed at fostering sustainable development while enhancing economic benefits for local communities. Regarding mitigating negative impacts from human activities, he reassured that no significant damage has been reported in Rig-e Yalan thus far. Access is restricted primarily to professional tourists, with mining activities occurring outside desert boundaries under continuous monitoring. He also highlighted ongoing scientific research in Rig-e Yalan which remains in its early stages; it focuses on geographical, anthropological, and archaeological studies aimed at formulating more effective sustainable tourism strategies by gaining a deeper understanding of the region's history and culture. Local communities play an essential role in protecting this area; they have historically utilized and preserved its natural resources.

Community engagement and future planning

Training sessions for village leaders and

community members have been organized to facilitate better tourist interactions while capitalizing on economic opportunities presented by tourism. Eslami emphasized that any planning or actions regarding water resource management must be coordinated with approval from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. Fortunately, no destructive activities threatening Rig-e Yalan's ecosystem have been reported thus far.

Training programs for tour operators are integral to initiatives at the Lut Desert World Heritage Site; these aim to ensure guides engage professionally while respecting environmental considerations during tours. In response to inquiries about fostering international collaboration, Eslami stated that strengthening scientific cooperation is a priority for conducting more comprehensive research in the Lut Desert. Such partnerships can enhance protection efforts while optimizing resource utilization.

Rig-e Yalan symbolized Iran's desert beauty with its stunning landscapes and unique natural features. This area holds immense potential for tourism development, research opportunities, and regional collaboration; however, safeguarding this sensitive ecosystem requires meticulous planning and inter-sectoral cooperation to preserve this invaluable natural asset for future generations.

Overview of Lut Desert

The Lut Desert, known as Dasht-e Lut in Persian, is a vast and hyper-arid region located in southeastern Iran, spanning approximately 51,800 square kilometers. It is recognized as one of the hottest places on Earth, with surface temperatures recorded at an astonishing 70.7°C (159°F). The extreme heat is a result of its geographical position within an interior basin surrounded by mountains, creating a rain shadow effect that contributes to its hyper-arid climate. The desert is characterized by a diverse array of geological formations, including towering sand dunes, unique yardangs — bedrock features shaped by wind erosion — and expansive salt flats. Divided into three distinct geographical sections — northern Lut, central Lut, and southern Lut — the desert showcases a variety of landforms and ecosystems.

Northern Lut Desert features gravel and sand elements, while Central Lut is renowned for its dramatic kaluts (natural ridges formed through erosion), massive sandy dunes, and other stunning geological phenomena. Southern Lut supports the richest vegetation in the region, demonstrating the resilience of life in such an extreme environment.

The Lut Desert's remarkable landscapes not only attract tourists but also serve as a natural laboratory for scientific research focused on wind dynamics, climate change, and desert ecology.



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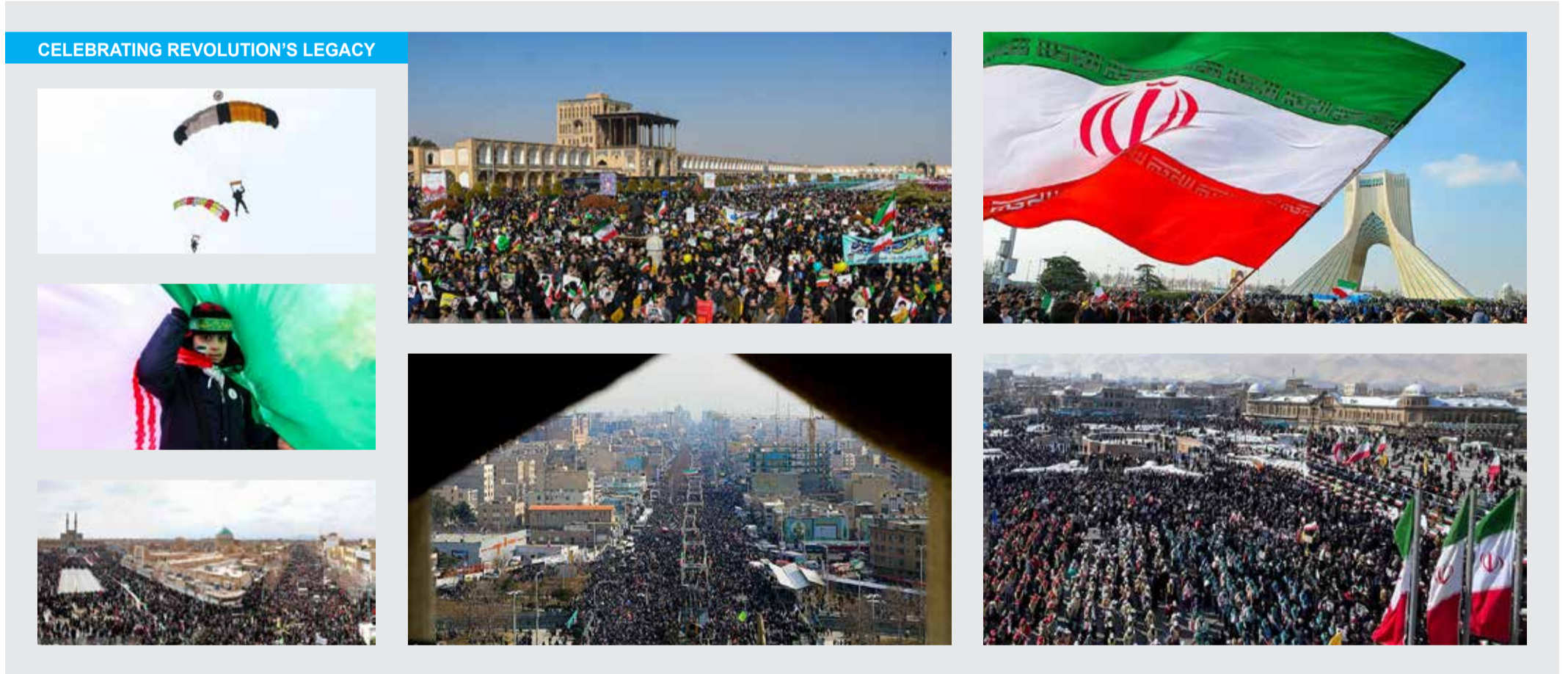
Tehran to host 31 programs for 'Cultural Week of Tabriz'

Arts & Culture Desk

Featuring 31 programs, 'Cultural Week of Tabriz' starts in the Iranian capital of Tehran today, with the House of Artists of Iran hosting four events. The four events include a photography exhibition, a music night, a calligraphy seminar, and a film titled, "A Review of Cinematic Works." The photography exhibition for the Cultural Week of Tabriz in Tehran will be inaugurated at the House of Artists of Iran on February 11. Additionally, the music night dedicated to Tabriz will take place on the same day as well as

on Friday at the Shahnaz Hall of the artists' house. The Tabriz calligraphy seminar is another cultural event that will be held on Tuesday in the Naseri Hall of the House of Artists of Iran. Furthermore, the film "A Review of Cinematic Works" will be also screened on Friday in the Naseri Hall of the house. 'Cultural Week of Tabriz' will conclude with a ceremony titled "Tabriz Night" on Sunday, February 16, at Milad Tower. The highlight programs of the national event in Tehran include the introduction of Tabriz's handicrafts, cultural and artistic exhibitions,

music nights, short film screenings, thematic discussions, specialized seminars, an exhibition featuring turquoise artworks, illustration, calligraphy, painting, and a special session for women. The event is held under the slogan "Tabriz: An Everlasting Paradise." It encompasses 31 programs aimed at eight major objectives across various cultural, social, tourism, and investment domains, taking place in the conference halls of Milad Tower, Azadi Tower, Art Hall, Shams Hall, Laleh Park, Dialogue Park, and the House of Artists of Iran.



Notice of tender for export sale No Z/1403/30
GoIgohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 140,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 18. Feb.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 18.Feb.2025 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Analysis %		
Fe	65.00	Min
FeO	1.0	Ave
P	0.05	Max
S	0.01	Max
SiO2	3.5	Max
Al2O3	0.7	Max
CaO	0.9	Max
MgO	2.5	Max
CCS (kg/p)	Ave 250	
8-16 mm%	Min 90	
-6 mm%	Ave 5	
A.I%	Max 3.8	
T.I%	Min 95	
Prosity%	19-24	
Reducibility%	Min 90	

AUCTION SJSCO. D140304 Rescheduling Notice

Sirjan Jahan Steel Company is pleased to announce the sale and export of a total of 200,000 MT of DIRECT REDUCED IRON (DRI) in 25,000 MT batches over an 8-month period, under FCA delivery terms at the Sirjan Jahan Steel Company warehouse. We invite interested bidders to obtain tender documents by sending an email sales@sjSCO.ir. All documentation will be provided electronically. Please note that the Auction date and bid submission deadline have been rescheduled to **Monday, February 17, 2025 (2025-02-17)**.

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