

# Pezeshkian:

# Tehran not opposed to US investment

## 'Iran open to dialogue based on dignity'

### International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said Wednesday Tehran has no objection to American investors doing business in Iran as the two countries are set to hold nuclear negotiations in Oman in the coming days.

"The Leader has no objection to the presence of American investors in the country," Pezeshkian said during a commemoration ceremony of National Nuclear Technology Day.

"We oppose their flawed policies, such as conspiracies and attempts at regime change."

In an article published by the Washington Post on Tuesday, the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also said Iran is not opposed to Americans' investment in Iran.

"There is a serious misconception that needs to be cleared up. Many in Washington portray Iran as a closed country from an economic point of view. The truth is that we are open to welcoming businesses from around the world. It is the US administrations and congressional impediments, not Iran, that have

kept American enterprises away from the trillion-dollar opportunity that access to our economy represents," Araghchi said.

"Indeed, when the United States agreed to license the sale of passenger aircraft as a part of the JCPOA (2015 nuclear agreement), Iran immediately negotiated a contract with Boeing to buy 80 planes. To say that the scope for trade and investment in Iran is unparalleled is an understatement," Iran's top diplomat added.

### Iran seeking peace

Iran's president also said the Islamic Republic seeks peace and is open to dialogue.

"We seek peace and security, and we are open to dialogue, but based on dignity and pride. We will not back down from our achievements, nor will we compromise on them, and we will never allow anyone to prevent us from thinking or to prevent us from being innovative and creative," he said.

Pezeshkian also reiterated that Tehran does not seek nuclear bombs. The president said the West claims that

Iran wants to produce nuclear bombs. They have verified it a hundred times, and they can verify it a thousand times more.

### Tehran needs nuclear energy

But he underlined that they should know that, "We need nuclear science and nuclear energy in all fields."

The president said Iran does not seek war but remains strong against any possible aggression.

High-ranking delegations from Iran and the US are scheduled to meet in the Omani capital of Muscat on Saturday to commence indirect negotiations on Iran's nuclear program and removal of anti-Iran sanctions.

It comes after Tehran and Washington expressed their interest to begin new negotiations on Iran's nuclear program after President Donald Trump took office in the US in January.

The talks follow a letter sent by Trump on March 7, calling for Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to resume nuclear negotiations and warning of possible military action if Iran refuses.



Masoud Pezeshkian  
president.ir

Tehran responded weeks later, saying it was open to indirect negotiations and dismissed the possibility of direct talks as long as the United States maintains its "maximum pressure" policy reinstated after Trump returned to White House for his second term in January. During his first term, Trump unilaterally

withdrew from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and reimposed sweeping economic sanctions.

Tehran adhered to the 2015 deal for a year after Washington withdrew from it, but later began rolling back its own commitments.

## Iran unveils new nuclear achievements on Nuclear Technology Day

### National Desk

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on Wednesday unveiled new nuclear achievements as the country marked its National Nuclear Technology Day.

President Masoud Pezeshkian accompanied by Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami and a group of senior officials visited the nuclear exhibition in which eight products were showcased.

On display was Iran's achievements

in fuel cycle, energy and electricity generation, production of heavy water and its derivatives, radiopharmaceuticals, plasma technology, application of radiation, and other relevant cutting-edge technologies.

The event includes pavilions showcasing homegrown breakthroughs in the fields of airborne geophysics, exploration and operational projects of uranium mines, yellow cake production, uranium processing, production of pellets and fuel

complexes, the enrichment process, the production of heavy water and radiopharmaceuticals and the development of plasma technology, the use of radiation in medicine and agriculture, blood irradiation.

In recent years, Iranian scientists have made remarkable progress in the field of peaceful nuclear technology despite the sanctions imposed by the West. It is the 18th year Iran is celebrating a national day to mark its achievements in the nuclear industry.

## Iran won't cave in ...

It appears there is a degree of national consensus in Iran on the need

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to negotiate with the United States, but this

current alignment cannot be directly compared to the consensus that once formed around the JCPOA. Even that earlier consensus, despite being broadly supported, did not pan out in the end, largely because the agreement was thrown out the window when the US administration changed hands.

Still, the new talks are being welcomed as an auspicious development. Representatives from both sides are being sent to Oman, and negotiations are about to get underway. From the looks of it, the Americans seem eager to push for quick results, while Iran appears in no rush to seal a deal hastily.

President Trump's personality suggests he is someone who thrives on making big moves and wants to make headlines as the first US president in decades to clinch a major deal with Iran, especially because such an achievement could play well for him in America's domestic political arena. In this short time during his second term, Trump has already set himself apart from previous presidents by adopting different methods, not just in handling Iran but in dealing with Europe and other global players as well. He has laid out a list of international priorities, and Iran certainly figures

prominently among them. Naturally, he would want to start with the easier items. But US-Iran relations are no walk in the park. Beyond the nuclear dossier, which has been on the table for years, there are deeper layers involving Israel and other sensitive issues that make any negotiations incredibly thorny.

President Trump, in this brief second-term stint, has already dabbled in multiple international crises. Take Ukraine, for instance—things have not moved along at the speed he expected. He waded into the Gaza conflict with heavy-handed threats, yet he has not managed to resolve it swiftly. He has also taken aim at China, primarily driven by economic interests, but tackling that challenge is anything but straightforward. At the same time, he is also juggling issues involving Denmark, Greenland, Mexico, Canada, and others—each of which will inevitably spill over into the rest of his foreign policy agenda. So, at this stage, it is anyone's guess whether he will hit the mark on any of these fronts.

Regarding Iran-US talks, both sides are coming to the table with their own expectations and red lines. But to strike a win-win deal, both parties must have their demands taken into account, and the eventual outcome should leave them both satisfied.

If the US, emboldened by its power or bullying tactics, attempts to strong-arm Iran into accepting unreasonable

terms while ignoring Iran's legitimate concerns, then naturally Iran will not bow to pressure. Such a deal would be unacceptable not just to Iran but to any sovereign state. Even a small country like Denmark refused to give in to US demands regarding Greenland.

A model agreement like the JCPOA could still serve as a viable blueprint for the upcoming talks, as it was built on a give-and-take framework—a true win-win arrangement. President Trump, however, did not see it that way. He believed Iran had pulled a fast one on Obama through the JCPOA, which is why he tore it up unilaterally. Now, with new negotiations on the horizon, it remains to be seen what kind of calculations each side will bring to the table and what specific demands they will put forward. The US currently has nuclear-related concerns. In addition, issues surrounding Israel and Iran's support for regional resistance movements may also crop up in these discussions.

That said, Trump is hardly in a position to make demands on Iran's defense capabilities—this is a matter of national security. No country would ever willingly disarm itself in the face of potential threats or hostilities. Such expectations are not only unrealistic for a major power like Iran but would also be rejected outright by international organizations and sovereign states around the world.

## Trade war escalates as China hits US with huge tariff

### National Desk

China announced Wednesday massive retaliatory tariffs on US goods, sharply escalating a trade war started by President Donald Trump and fueling fresh panic in global markets.

Trump's latest salvo of tariffs came into effect on dozens of trading partners earlier Wednesday, including punishing duties of 104 percent on imports of Chinese products, AFP reported.

Beijing originally planned to respond with a 34 percent tariff on imports of US products from 1601 GMT Wednesday, but the finance ministry said it would now raise the toll to 84 percent after Trump dramatically hiked his own duties on imports from China.

"The tariff escalation against China by the United States simply piles mistakes on top of mistakes (and) severely infringes on China's legitimate rights and interests," the ministry said.

Washington's moves "severely damage the multilateral rules-based trade system," it added.

In a separate statement, Beijing's commerce ministry said it would blacklist six American artificial intelligence firms, including Shield AI and Sierra Nevada Corp.

Trump did not immediately react to the Chinese counterattack but he called on companies to start relocating to the United States

to avoid tariffs.

Trump believes his policy will revive America's lost manufacturing base by forcing companies to relocate to the United States.

The escalating trade war has wiped off trillions of dollars in market value since last week as investors fear that the trade war will spark a recession.

After some respite on Tuesday, stock markets were in panic mode again, with Tokyo's Nikkei index closing almost four percent lower on Wednesday.

Paris and Frankfurt sank four percent in afternoon trading while London was down 3.5 percent. US equities were expected to open with more losses.

The Bank of England warned of risks to "UK financial stability" from increased geopolitical tensions, including the fallout from the US tariffs.

Italy is preparing to cut its 2025 growth forecast in half, to 0.6 percent from 1.2, a government source said, while Spain is also set to downgrade its outlook.

Central banks in India and New Zealand cut interest rates to boost their economies in the face of tariffs.

Oil prices fell below \$60 a barrel, their lowest level in four years.

Government bond yields – essentially the interest countries pay to borrow money – rose in the United States, Japan and Britain, among other countries.



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