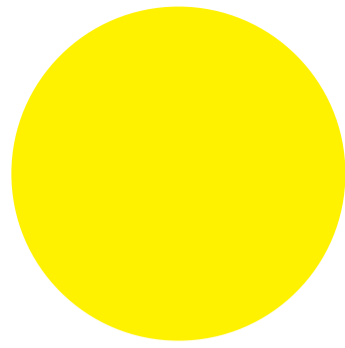


Pezeshkian highlights 'smart' tackling of energy shortages

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## IRGC: Iran's defense capabilities, national security 'non-negotiable'

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### Iran-US nuclear talks 'well implemented' in first step: **Leader**

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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses senior officials from the Islamic Republic's executive, judicial, and legislative branches in Tehran on April 15, 2025. [khamenei.ir](#)

### Media buzz vs. real talks

#### OPINIONS

US special envoy Steve Witkoff has said talks with Iran would center around verifying its nuclear program, holding off on demands for full dismantlement and including checks on Iran's missiles. "The conversation with the Iranians will be much about two critical points," Witkoff told Fox News on Monday. The first is verification of uranium enrichment, "and ultimately verification on weaponization, that includes missiles, type of missiles that they have stockpiled there." According to two Iranian analysts, the Islamic Republic will not give in to adding missile-related issues to the agenda.

#### Iran draws line on missiles

By Hassan Beheshtipour  
International affairs expert

Witkoff's remarks as part of the US media playbook—a tactic aimed at shaping public opinion back home. Just like Donald Trump before him, Witkoff is playing to the gallery, saying whatever suits his purpose, regardless of what is on the table. In diplomacy, there is a branch called "media diplomacy," which works to set the stage through public messaging. The talks are still in early stages. Only one meeting has taken place, and the upcoming session in Oman on Saturday will decide the actual agenda. If missiles make it onto the agenda, then analysts can begin to evaluate Iran's stance. Until then, any talk about missiles is just noise. The real yardstick for negotiation is the written agenda, not what is floated in the media. [Page 2 >](#)



Armenia demands boost to \$3b in bilateral trade with Iran

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Middle East or China: Which is more important for US?

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All to play for as Iranian top flight enters final stretch

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Discover architectural wonders of Fakhre-Davud Caravanserai

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Ancient human life unearthed in western Iran

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Big war and future of free trade

#### ANALYSIS EXCLUSIVE

The ongoing trade war between the United States and China is shaping up to be the biggest trade conflict in history, with potential fallout for the global economy. As tariffs have ratcheted up, moving from 104% to 125% on Chinese imports, both nations are caught in a cycle of retaliation that is disrupting their economic relationship and causing ripples worldwide. Historically, free trade has been the backbone of global markets, but this conflict threatens to upend that principle, highlighting China's rise through self-reliance and an open-door policy. President Xi Jinping has said that China is not afraid of US pressure and experts suggest that Beijing may seek new markets or shift its focus from exports to domestic consumption. The world could witness a shift toward either a more liberalized trade model or a retreat into protectionism, where countries put up barriers to safeguard their interests. How China will respond remains the key question. [See page 5 >](#)