

CBI chief downplays US economic collapse remarks as psy-war

Economy Desk

Iran has enough foreign currency and will not face an economic collapse, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Abdolnasser Hemmati said on Tuesday, dismissing fresh US economic pressure on the country as psychological warfare.

"I am telling the President of the United States: Iran has (foreign) currency and it has enough," Hemmati said at the 36th Islamic Banking Conference in Tehran.

His remarks came after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent claimed "Tehran is lashing out with military actions because it is losing ground economically."

The comments come as part of the broader US administration effort to enforce secondary sanctions

and a naval blockade to cut Iran off from global finance and oil markets.

"Enemies impose new sanctions on Iran every week, but the country's economic system continues to operate," Hemmati said. He also rejected claims that Iran had entered an economic collapse.

"I firmly say that the claim that Iran has entered an economic collapse is not true, and there will be no breakdown," he said.

"The CBI is also prepared to supply up to \$2 billion in foreign currency to the market," Hemmati said, adding that the recent rise in exchange rates was driven more by psychological factors than underlying economic conditions.

He said the current turbulence in the foreign exchange market would



Abdolnasser Hemmati
ISNA

subside and that the recent rise in the exchange rate was driven more by psychological factors than by underlying economic conditions.

Iran's national currency has dropped to record lows the US dollar trading at around 2,140,000 rials on the open market on Tuesday.

The depreciation has underscored growing strain on an economy already grappling with high inflation. The country has also remained on a war footing

since a US-Israeli coalition launched attacks in late February, particularly targeting civilians and infrastructure during a 40-day conflict.

Hemmati said the CBI was continuing to collect foreign currency receivables and had domestic reserves as well as other resources, though details could not be disclosed.

"I tell the people with complete honesty that economic conditions and livelihood management have become difficult, but collapse has never happened and will never happen. These claims are just psychological warfare and the dust will settle soon," Hemmati said.

Bessent said on Monday that Iran was taking US sanctions seriously.

Washington has been increasingly relying on eco-

nomie pressure to try to force Tehran to meet its demands, and Bessent has warned that those doing business with Iran could face US sanctions.

Hemmati pushed back against that assessment, saying even more optimistic experts had expected Iran's economy to move toward hyperinflation as the war and economic pressure intensified. But despite the heavy burden of inflation on people's daily lives, he said, Iran had not entered hyperinflation and he considered the likelihood of that happening low.

The governor said monetary and prudential measures had helped control the pace of inflation. He said the bank's main task under current conditions was to control inflation and prevent the

NIGC restores 95m cubic meters of gas capacity lost in attacks

Economy Desk

Iran has brought back 95 million cubic meters of daily natural gas production capacity damaged during the US-Israeli war, the head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said on Tuesday.

Saeed Tavakoli said "sabotage attacks" on March 18 knocked out about 230 million cubic meters of the country's gas refining capacity, equivalent to one-third of total capacity, according to Tasnim News Agency.

"But with integrated management at the Oil Ministry and measures that began from the very first moments, 95 million cubic meters has so far returned to production, and efforts to fully restore the capacity will continue until before the start of the cold season," Tavakoli said.

According to the NIGC, Iran's gas industry was already facing a daily shortfall of about 300 million cubic meters before the war. The remaining 130 million cubic meters of lost capacity has been added to the existing deficit, making efforts to curb consumption more important



South Pars Platform 128
SHANA

than ever.

The NIGC head said the damage to gas industry facilities had been extensive, with a total of nearly 7,924 cases of damage recorded.

He said reconstruction and efforts to restore capacity were progressing rapidly through follow-up, planning and measures taken by the company.

Tavakoli said gas deliveries to some industries and small businesses were about 1 billion cubic meters higher than a year earlier.

He added that there were no restrictions on gas supplies to

major industrial consumers, particularly steel and petrochemical producers, although some of those facilities were also damaged during the war.

Iran has about 34 trillion cubic meters of proven natural gas reserves, making it the world's second-largest holder of gas reserves after Russia. The country accounts for about 17% of global proven gas reserves.

Despite its vast reserves, a significant portion of Iran's gas potential remains undeveloped because of sanctions-related constraints and insufficient investment.

Tajikistan envoy says Iran trade to rise despite US sanctions

Economy Desk

Trade between Tajikistan and Iran is expected to increase this year despite the impact of US sanctions and recent regional developments, Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda said on Tuesday, citing a sharp rise in bilateral commerce during the first half of the year.

Speaking at a news conference marking the 35th anniversary of Tajikistan's independence, Shamsiddinzoda said the recent developments would not have a serious impact on economic ties between the two countries, IRNA reported.

"During the first half of the year, which was the period of the war, we expected trade volume to decline, but according to our statistics, trade volume increased 14-fold compared with last year," he said.

"Trade between our countries will definitely increase this year," he added. Shamsiddinzoda criticized the use of sanctions as a political tool, saying they did not benefit any country.

"Sanctions are in no country's interest, and many sanctions



Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda speaks at a news conference marking the 35th anniversary of Tajikistan's independence in Tehran on September 1, 2026.
IRNA

violate international law. Unfortunately, in today's world, sanctions are used as a tool and leverage to resolve political issues," he said.

Last week, the US imposed a wave of new sanctions on Iran, hitting five sectors of the nation's economy — aviation, digital assets, gold, technology, and shipping — as it also imposed sanctions on 60 specific individuals and vessels.

The ambassador said bilateral trade had stood at about \$55 million in 2020, having declined from higher levels earlier due to some misunderstandings

between the two countries. By 2025, however, trade had reached \$450 million — a more than eight-fold surge over five years, he added.

Iran and Tajikistan have set a target of increasing bilateral trade to \$1 billion, he said, adding that the necessary conditions to achieve the goal were in place.

The two countries have also held 18 meetings of their Joint Commission for Cooperation in Tehran and Dushanbe, with the latest meeting held last month in Dushanbe, he said.

"The Joint Commission for Cooperation between the two countries makes serious and important decisions to promote and develop relations between Tehran and Dushanbe," Shamsiddinzoda said.

He said Iran had invested about \$300 million in Tajikistan during the 35 years since the country's independence.

One of the projects was the construction of Tajikistan's Independence Tunnel by Iran, he said, adding that the project had helped Tajikistan overcome a transportation bottleneck.

Tajik companies are also investing in Iran, he said.

Mahan Air launches flights to Vietnam in post-conflict push to revive routes

Economy Desk

Mahan air, Iran's first private airline, has launched new direct flights to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, as the country continues to rebuild and expand its international air connectivity following the 40-day US-Israeli war that began in late February, the head of Imam Khomeini International Airport said on Tuesday.

Ramin Kashef-Azar said on Tuesday that the two new routes would mark the Mahan Air's 18th and 19th new destinations.

Kashef-Azar pointed to the tourism potential of the Vietnamese cities and noted that the launch was significant as it came alongside the restoration of previously suspended routes.

"The importance of launching these

routes is that in the post-war period, in addition to reviving previous routes, we have been able to include entirely new routes in our network," he told IRNA.

Reviewing the broader recovery of international flights, he said, "Since the ceasefire took effect on April 8, more than 50 international air routes have been launched so far, with around 40 now operating on a permanent basis."

"In the first days after the ceasefire, only five destinations were available, served by 12 flights," he added.

"The expansion of the flight network is continuing, and we are looking to identify and reopen new routes in East Asia and Western Europe," he said.

The Ho Chi Minh City service began on Sunday, while flights to Hanoi have been scheduled regularly on a seasonal basis, according to Fars News Agency.

Following the April 8 ceasefire reached between Tehran and Washington, Iran Air resumed domestic flights on April 25 after a 55-day suspension, with its first service between Tehran and Mashhad. International operations restarted later that month, beginning with a Hajj flight to Medina, and flights to three destinations were available on the first day.

Meanwhile, Morteza Dehqan, head of Iran's Airports and Air Navigation Company, announced an increase in transit flights through Iranian airspace and said steps were being taken to expand its capacity.

Dehqan, who is also deputy minister of roads and urban development, noted that some navigation equipment damaged during the war had been repaired, and that alternative flight plans had been developed and implemented

at airports where equipment had sustained more serious damage.

Seven Iranian airports were targeted during the US-Israeli war, with attacks focusing more on tourism, passenger and cargo infrastructure than on military facilities.

Dehqan said improving safety and increasing airspace capacity remained priorities for the company. "New equipment that is being delivered and installed will help increase Iran's airspace capacity," he said, adding that the country's entire airspace was currently under control.

He also said foreign airlines had grown more confident in Iran's air traffic control services, adding that some carriers had been assured that air traffic control in the Islamic Republic's airspace was safe.



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