

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani Says Tehran Will Only Engage in "Genuine" Negotiations With the United States and Will Reject Any Pressure for "Unconditional Concessions"

IRAN NEWS

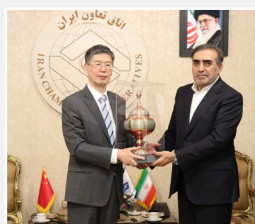
The First meeting of the Special Committee on Caspian Sea Affairs Was Held With the Presence of Senior Representatives of the Relevant Executive Agencies and Under the Responsibility of Kazem Gharibabadi, Iranian Deputy Minister

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2 DOMESTIC

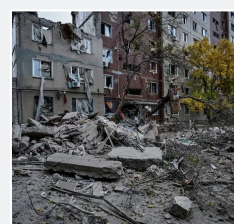


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Iran to Launch Two Satellites Simultaneously



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) has announced that Iran will conduct a simultaneous launch of three satellites — Zafar-2, Paya, and the second prototype of Kosar — using a foreign launch vehicle within the next few months.

According to ILNA, Hassan Salarieh, the ISA chief, stated: "We are making every effort to carry out the simultaneous launch of these three satellites by late autumn or early winter, though the schedule may be subject to change."

He emphasized the importance of this event for Iran, noting that it marks a significant collaboration among three different entities — universities, the private sector, and government institutions. Each will place its own remote sensing satellite into orbit. Salarieh described the mission as a major milestone that enhances Iran's satellite technology capabilities and increases its presence in orbit with multiple satellites capable of providing remote sensing services.

The ISA chief added that Iran continues to focus on in-orbit testing and technology stabilization, with encouraging progress already achieved.

Salarieh also provided updates on other satellite projects, noting that Nahid-2, a communications satellite, has successfully completed most subsystem tests and performed well during operations. A second version of this satellite is ready for launch using a domestic launcher.

Security Prevails at Iran's Maritime Borders, Enemies Deterred



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - A top Iranian general has declared that the nation's maritime borders are secure, emphasizing that adversaries "do not dare to look at Islamic Iran."

During an inspection visit to the second naval district of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy in Bandar Abbas, Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, highlighted the robust security along the country's water borders.

"If security has now been established in the country's water borders, it is due to your sacrifices and day-to-day efforts in the IRGC Navy," he told the naval forces.

Vahidi added that the enemies "upon seeing you on the water borders, do not even dare to look at these waters and lands."

Addressing the sailors, he emphasized that their "power of faith and courage," a quality learned from naval martyrs, enables them to "stand like a mountain in front of the enemies who covet these waters and lands, and the enemy is also afraid of this divine power."

In recent years, Iran's Navy has achieved self-sufficiency in the manufacture of surface and sub-surface vessels. It has also increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei stated that Iran will not give up its legitimate rights in any negotiations, emphasizing that the country's national interests must be fully respected.

"The situation is clear: the rights and interests of the Iranian people must be acknowledged and respected," Baqaei said in a press briefing. "In no negotiation will we relinquish our undeniable and legitimate rights unilaterally."

Addressing recent regional developments, Baqaei said the Middle East continues to face instability caused by "occupation and ongoing genocide." He condemned Israel's continued attacks on Gaza despite ceasefire efforts, noting that over 200 Palestinians have been killed since the supposed truce began.

He criticized the UN Security Council's inaction, saying it has allowed Israel to continue its actions with impunity. Baqaei also drew attention to the targeting of journalists, revealing that 270 reporters and cameramen have been killed during the conflict — "an unprecedented figure in modern warfare," he said.

"What is happening in Gaza is not a war but a full-scale genocide in which truth and those who report it are deliberately targeted," he added.

The spokesman announced that Iran's Foreign Ministry will soon publish a new report on human rights violations in the United States and the United Kingdom, part of an ongoing initiative to expose Western double standards.

Commenting on recently leaked emails attributed to Jeffrey Epstein allegedly discussing military action against Iran, Baqaei said such rhetoric reflects "a long-standing mindset within the U.S. decision-making system."

"It is meaningful that individuals with criminal records in corruption and human trafficking would advocate hostility toward the Iranian nation," he said. "Unfortunately, American politicians have not learned from the tragic consequences of their past interventions, which brought death and destruction to other nations."

Regarding recent speculation about new talks between Tehran and Washington, Baqaei confirmed that no direct or indirect negotiations are currently underway. He did, however, acknowledge that intermediaries "occasionally attempt to bridge views," which he described as "a normal diplomatic practice, not the start of formal negotiations."

Baqaei reiterated that any future dialogue must be based on mutual respect and acknowledgment of Iran's rights, adding that "the time is not yet right for new negotiations."

Baqaei condemned U.S. threats against Venezuela, calling them "a violation of international law and the UN Charter." He asserted that no country has the right to interfere in another's sovereignty under the pretext of combating transnational crimes, labeling Washington's behavior as "destabilizing."

He also said that the main security threat in the region comes from Israel, not neighboring Arab states. "We are in a real war with the Zionist regime," he said, referring to Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories and its attacks in Yemen and Qatar.

Responding to reports of possible nuclear tests by France and the United States, Baqaei called



their behavior "hypocritical."

"On one hand, they express concern over nuclear proliferation and pressure countries with peaceful nuclear programs. On the other, they violate their own disarmament commitments," he said. "The main proliferators of weapons of mass destruction are precisely those who possess them — foremost among them, the United States and France."

Baqaei condemned recent U.S. threats toward Iraq, calling them "a blatant interference in Iraqi sovereignty." He said such actions reveal the "interventionist and aggressive nature of U.S. policy."

On Lebanon, he said the country has the right to defend itself against Israeli aggression, citing over 5,000 ceasefire violations by Israel.

Turning to Sudan, Baqaei expressed concern over the ongoing violence, warning that "foreign interference under the guise of democracy has only led to division and the killing of civilians."

Baqaei said Iran's cooperation with Russia and China continues under bilateral agreements following the expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 restrictions. He added that Tehran and Beijing remain committed to expanding their strategic partnership, regardless of external developments.

He also reaffirmed Iran's continued economic and technical cooperation with Venezuela, calling it a "mutually beneficial partnership between two independent nations."

Addressing the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) inspections in Iran, Baqaei said Tehran remains a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the IAEA Safeguards Agreement, but any additional requests from the Agency must be approved by Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

He confirmed that inspections at the Bushehr nuclear power plant and the Tehran Research Reactor — both crucial for fuel and medical isotope production — are ongoing.

Baqaei reaffirmed that Iran's nuclear program is entirely peaceful, rejecting claims to the contrary.

On Afghanistan's water rights: Iran remains dissatisfied with Kabul's performance on the Helmand River water-sharing agreement but continues to engage diplomatically to resolve the issue.

On human rights reports against Iran: He dismissed them as "politically motivated," saying that the appointment of special rapporteurs "lacks legal legitimacy."

On Trump's remarks about nuclear power: Baqaei criticized the former U.S. president's boast about being able to "destroy the planet 150 times," calling it "a reflection of arrogance, not strength."

On sports diplomacy: He urged upcoming World Cup hosts to "keep sports apolitical" after reports of potential visa obstacles for Iranian teams.

In closing, Baqaei stressed that Iran has not ruled out diplomacy but will not engage in talks under pressure or threats.

"The U.S. has shown it does not adhere to the fundamentals of rational negotiation," he said. "Iranians have not forgotten that while talks were ongoing, America carried out hostile actions against our people. Dialogue can only happen when all sides recognize each other's legitimate interests."

Maiden Flight of Homebuilt Simorgh Marks New Chapter in Iran's Aviation Industry

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Last week, Iran's domestically produced transport aircraft Simorgh completed its first official test flight under the supervision of the Civil Aviation Organization, marking the start of its final evaluation phase for airworthiness certification.

The event, held at the Shahin Shahr Special Aviation Zone, was attended by senior government and military officials and represented a milestone in a 15-year national effort to achieve self-sufficiency in aircraft design and production.

Developed by the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA) under the Ministry of Defense's Aerospace Industries Organization, the twin-engine aircraft has a maximum take-off weight of 21,500 kilograms and can carry up to 6,000 kilograms of cargo over a range of roughly 3,900 kilometers.

Equipped with two 2,500-horsepower engines and a rear loading ramp for quick cargo access, the Simorgh has been designed for logistical, humanitarian and regional transport missions.

The aircraft's flight signals not just a technological achievement but an expansion of Iran's industrial capacity.

Building a functional aircraft requires expertise in aerodynamics, materials science, avionics, control systems and production engineering. The successful integration of these disciplines shows that Iran's manufacturing base has reached a new level of sophistication.

Officials say the Simorgh's production cost is roughly half that of comparable foreign aircraft, giving it potential cost advantages for domestic operations and regional exports.

The Simorgh project stems from earlier work on the Iran-140, itself adapted from Ukraine's Antonov-140. Over years of redesign, Iranian engineers have altered key systems, including the fuselage structure, flight controls and avionics.

The addition of a rear cargo ramp marks a shift from passenger transport to multi-role airlift capability, requiring deeper domestic design competence and local sourcing of parts.

Each of these steps has forced the development of new manufacturing techniques and supply chains across Iran's industrial landscape.

For a country long affected by trade restrictions, the economic logic behind such a program is



clear.

Sanctions have limited Iran's access to imported aircraft, engines and spare parts. Building its own aircraft provides flexibility and ensures that basic transport needs, whether civilian, humanitarian or military, can be met without reliance on external suppliers.

This, in turn, helps protect domestic logistics against future disruptions in international trade.

The production of an indigenous aircraft has also drawn together a wide network of local industries. Metal fabricators, composite material producers, electronics firms and software developers have all contributed components and subsystems.

The process generates skilled employment and reinforces a national ecosystem of small and medium-sized enterprises.

HESA's operations in Isfahan have become a regional industrial hub, providing hundreds of engineering and technical jobs and creating a base for further technological spin-offs.

The demands of aircraft manufacturing push suppliers to upgrade their production standards. Components must meet precise tolerances, and safety requirements are strict. These standards, once established, tend to influence other sectors.

Composite and alloy research, for example, can improve automotive production and renewable energy infrastructure. The Simorgh program, therefore, serves as a driver of technological diffusion throughout the Iranian economy.

Domestic use could provide a stable foundation for production. Iran's vast geography, mountainous terrain and frequent need for emergency logistics make air transport valuable.

A fleet of home-built cargo aircraft can deliver relief supplies, evacuate patients, or transport goods between remote provinces at a lower operational cost than imported aircraft.

By adapting the same platform for multiple roles — from disaster response to military resupply — HESA can sustain production volumes while improving design efficiency.

The transition from prototype to serial manufacturing will test the country's industrial management. Scaling up output requires reliable parts supply, trained technicians, and financial discipline.

regress.

Students Should Learn About U.S. Crimes in Iran



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - A press conference marking National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance was held this morning by student associations. Representatives from various Tehran schools spoke during the event, sharing their views and messages.

Pariya Zivouri, a 12th-grade student representative, said: "Our message to teenagers is that November 4 (13 Aban on the Iranian calendar) represents the path of awakening. This generation must stand against oppression and falsehood. With awareness and unity, we must be the voice of truth. Every student can contribute — not only on the battlefield, but also through science and knowledge — to help build our country."

Another student representative, Ali Emami, stated: "Imam Khomeini opposed the Capitulation Law in 1964, calling it a national disgrace. Fifteen years later, on November 4, 1979, students following Imam Khomeini's line stormed and seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran."

He added that the younger generation must be familiar with such historical events to better shape their present and future: "Our students should know what happened in the past so that we can move forward on the right path today."



Fourth Infill Well of South Pars Gas Field Comes Online

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The fourth infill drilling well of Iran’s South Pars Gas Field has been successfully completed and brought into production, increasing the output of the giant shared field by 1.8 million cubic meters of gas per day, the Pars Oil and Gas Company announced.

According to Shabir Nabavi, project manager for the South Pars infill drilling program, the new well — drilled to a depth of nearly 4,000 meters in the border phase 19 of the field — has officially entered production. The well, designated as the sixth production well of the SPD19B offshore platform, was drilled by North Drilling Company as part of the project’s third work package.

Iran and Brunei Urge Joint Investments



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The President of Iran’s Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture has emphasized the need to expand joint investments between Iran and Brunei, underlining the importance of closer cooperation between the chambers of commerce of both nations.

During an online meeting with Abdulsaman Ahmad, President of the Brunei Chamber of Commerce, Sammad Hassanzadeh, President of Iran’s Chamber of Commerce, stated that Iran welcomes stronger cooperation with Brunei’s chamber aimed at enhancing private-sector trade relations.

“We are keen to develop joint economic activities with Brunei in areas such as education, tourism, artificial intelligence, agricultural and industrial technology transfer, engineering and construction services, food industries, and large-scale oil and petrochemical projects,” Hassanzadeh said.

He also stressed the importance of establishing a direct flight between Iran and Brunei, noting that “a direct Tehran-Bandar Seri Begawan route would boost tourism programs and elevate the level of economic interaction between the two countries.”

Inviting the Brunei Chamber president and Bruneian business representatives to participate in Iran’s upcoming specialized trade exhibitions, Hassanzadeh added, “We are also planning to send trade delegations to Brunei, as these exchanges can help establish lasting commercial relations between business communities in both countries.”

Expressing regret over the current low level of trade between Iran and Brunei, he said, “Joint investments can significantly expand our economic cooperation. The Iran Chamber of Commerce is ready to introduce such projects to Bruneian investors.”

For his part, Abdulsaman Ahmad, head of Brunei’s Chamber of Commerce, referred to the memorandum of understanding signed between the two chambers last year and said, “We wish to strengthen our cooperation through mutual visits and meetings that can pave the way for effective planning to expand trade and investment relations.”

Iran Dairy Industries Increases Capacity to 80%



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Iran Dairy Industries Company (IDIC) announced that the company’s production capacity has risen from 52% to over 80% in the past two years and expressed hope that it will reach 95% in the near future.

Speaking at the official inauguration ceremony of Pegah Fars Agro-Industrial and Livestock Company’s stock market listing, Abdolamir Baroutkoob, CEO of Iran Dairy Industries, highlighted the company’s 71-year history, noting that its first factory was established in 1954 with the cooperation of UNICEF and the Ministry of Health.

He explained that Iran Dairy Industries currently operates 17 factories in 14 provinces, controlling 27% of the country’s dairy market. Sixteen of these factories produce dairy products, and one facility in Shahrekord specializes in powdered milk production, ranking among the most modern plants in the country.

Baroutkoob added that the company also operates five active agro-industrial complexes, with plans to establish a sixth. “We have already acquired land for two new agro-industrial and livestock projects in the provinces of Golestan and East Azerbaijan, and construction will begin before the end of the year,” he said.

The company also runs six trading subsidiaries, manages 960 product codes, and distributes products through 63 branches and 1,650 vehicles, delivering 2,100 tons of dairy products daily across Iran.

Baroutkoob highlighted the company’s efforts to reduce foreign currency outflow, saying that a knowledge-based subsidiary was established by young experts and university collaborators to design and manufacture specialized machinery domestically. “By producing four types of machines locally, we have prevented foreign currency from leaving the country. Around 2,500 parts that were previously imported are now produced by domestic firms,” he said.

Iran, China to Form Joint Cooperative Committee to Boost Economic Collaboration

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – In a high-level meeting between senior Iranian and Chinese officials, both nations reaffirmed their long-standing strategic and friendly relations and underscored the importance of establishing a Joint Cooperative Committee to enhance bilateral cooperation in key sectors including agriculture, mining, petrochemicals, and joint investments.

The meeting, held between Bahman Abdollahi, President of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, and Zhong Peiwu, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Iran, focused on assessing the current state of economic and cooperative relations between the two countries and exploring new mechanisms to deepen collaboration.

During the talks, Abdollahi highlighted the significant potential of both nations in advancing people-centered and social economies. He noted that despite international sanctions, Iran’s cooperative sector has never been targeted and therefore remains one of the most secure and dependable channels for economic partnership with friendly countries such as China.

“We propose the establishment of a Joint Cooperative Cooperation Committee between Iran and China,” Abdollahi stated. “This committee will provide a platform for planning and executing joint projects, exchanging trade delegations, and organizing specialized exhibitions in both Tehran and Beijing.”

He explained that Iran currently has over 104,000 active cooperatives engaged in agriculture, industry, services, housing, and manufacturing, while China operates more than two million cooperatives. These extensive networks, he said, can serve as a strong foundation for expanding people-oriented economic cooperation.

Abdollahi emphasized that Iran and China already share a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation Agreement and hold joint membership on the Board of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) — an institutional framework that supports deeper bilateral collaboration.

The current trade volume between the two countries stands at approximately \$14 billion, he said, but given their vast economic capacities, this figure could increase significantly through structured cooperation.

The discussions centered on expanding partnerships in agriculture, mining, petrochemicals, and transportation, with an emphasis on technology transfer, innovation, and sustainable development.

Addressing Iran’s agricultural challenges, Abdollahi noted the country’s vulnerability to climate change and limited water resources. He called for increased collaboration with China in areas such as modern irrigation systems, seed production, livestock vaccines, and feed additives.

“China has made remarkable progress in agricultural science and food production technologies,” he said. “We are eager to benefit from these experiences to enhance domestic production and ensure food security.”

On industrial cooperation, Abdollahi invited Chinese companies to participate in mineral processing, petrochemical projects, and value-added production to reduce the export of raw materials. Such cooperation, he added, could meet both domestic Iranian demand and part of the Chinese market’s requirements.

The Iranian cooperative leader also expressed appreciation for Beijing’s principled stance against unilateral sanctions on Iran.

“China’s official decision to reject the so-called ‘snapback’ sanctions and maintain



commercial ties with Iran reflects the depth of our strategic relationship,” Abdollahi said. “We value this firm and consistent approach, which supports sustainable growth in both countries.”

Ambassador Zhong Peiwu welcomed the growing momentum in Iran-China relations, stressing the need to reinforce mutual trust and fully implement the agreements reached by the presidents of both nations.

“Economic and cooperative relations are a vital component of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between China and Iran,” Zhong remarked. “These collaborations strengthen the historic friendship between our two peoples.”

He noted that the areas of potential

cooperation are broad — spanning agriculture, marine industries, and fisheries — and reiterated China’s readiness to work with the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives to advance knowledge-sharing, technological exchange, and innovation.

Zhong also supported the formation of the proposed Joint Cooperative Committee, describing it as an effective mechanism for monitoring and implementing bilateral agreements.

Another key topic discussed was the facilitation of visa issuance for business and cooperative representatives. Abdollahi urged the Chinese Embassy to expedite the visa process to help Iranian cooperatives participate in exhibitions and trade fairs in China.

In response, Ambassador Zhong announced improvements in consular procedures, noting that once documentation is complete, visas can be issued within four to five working days.

Both sides also agreed to prepare an updated version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the China Cooperative Organization and the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, which is expected to be finalized and signed during the Asia-Pacific Cooperative Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Abdollahi and Zhong concluded the meeting by emphasizing the importance of forming a Permanent Joint Cooperative Committee to ensure continuity in bilateral engagement and oversee the implementation of cooperative agreements.

The committee will coordinate joint projects, organize exhibitions, facilitate business delegations, and identify new areas of investment.

The meeting was attended by several senior Iranian cooperative officials, including Hossein Dar, Chairman of the Industrial, Mining, Petrochemical, and Energy Commission; Mr. Masoudi, Chairman of the Agriculture and Food Industries Commission; and Mr. Ghaedi, Head of the Trade Development and Non-Oil Export Commission.

Participants discussed a range of technical and economic topics, such as importing equipment and plastic injection molds for downstream petrochemical industries, establishing credit lines for cooperative enterprises, and importing agricultural inputs like corn and soybeans. They also explored collaboration opportunities in veterinary vaccine production, irrigation technology, and knowledge exchange between economic stakeholders in both countries.

With both nations pledging to deepen institutional cooperation and sustain high-level dialogue, the formation of a Permanent Joint Cooperative Committee marks a significant step forward in realizing the full potential of the Iran-China strategic economic partnership.

19th Int’l Mining and Mining Industries Exhibition Opens in Tehran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN — The 19th International Exhibition of Mining, Mineral Industries, Mining Machinery, Road Construction, and Related Industries (Iran ConMine 2025) officially opened at Tehran’s Permanent International Fairground, bringing together senior managers, policymakers, and domestic and foreign investors in the mining and mineral industries sector.

The event, regarded as the largest and most prominent specialized exhibition in Iran and the region’s mining industry, began with an inauguration ceremony attended by key officials, including Vajihollah Jafari, Deputy Minister for Mining and Mineral Industries at the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade (MIMT); Masoud Samieinejad, President of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO); Mohammadreza Bahraman, Head of the Iran Mine House; and representatives from several participating countries.

This year’s exhibition is held under the strategic theme “The Future of Mining with Artificial Intelligence”, highlighting the transformative impact of digital and smart technologies on the mining sector. The event runs from November 3 to November 5, 2025 (12–14 Aban), showcasing the newest trends, innovations, and technologies driving the future of mining.

According to organizers, 185 domestic companies and 29 international firms from countries including Spain, Belarus, Turkey, China, Japan, and South Korea are participating in this year’s exhibition. When subsidiaries of major holding companies are included, the total number of participating entities exceeds 400 companies.

The exhibition occupies several major halls providing ample space for technology demonstrations, product displays, and interactive presentations. Visitors and industry experts are expected to engage directly with the latest machinery, mining solutions, and digital tools designed to improve productivity and sustainability.

This year’s focus reflects the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, big data analytics, and the Internet of Things (IoT) in reshaping the mining industry. Organizers say these advanced technologies are creating the foundation for a new era of



intelligent mining — one that emphasizes efficiency, safety, and environmental sustainability.

Smart automation systems and AI-driven monitoring tools are increasingly being used to optimize resource extraction, improve operational safety, and reduce environmental risks. The exhibition serves as a vital platform for Iranian and international companies to share experiences, introduce innovations, and explore opportunities for technological partnerships in this field.

The 19th Iran ConMine plays a significant role in advancing Iran’s seventh development plan goals, particularly in enhancing the scientific, industrial, and managerial capabilities of the country’s mining and mineral industries. Officials highlighted that the mining sector is expected to play a leading role in achieving Iran’s targeted 13 percent economic growth rate in the coming years.

The exhibition also aims to contribute to the government’s efforts to attract \$50 billion in foreign and domestic investment into Iran’s mining and mineral processing industries. By providing a networking hub for entrepreneurs, investors, and researchers, the event seeks to bridge the gap between innovation and implementation, ultimately positioning Iran as a regional hub for mining technology and sustainable resource management.

As the exhibition continues, experts anticipate that Iran ConMine 2025 will strengthen international cooperation in mining technology, supply chain development, and investment. The participation of leading global companies reflects international interest in Iran’s vast mineral resources — estimated to be among the top ten in the world in terms of variety and volume.

The event also provides an opportunity for Iran to showcase its new industrial strategies for digital transformation, energy efficiency, and sustainable mining. Through the integration of AI and emerging technologies, the country aims to modernize its mining infrastructure and improve competitiveness in global markets.

The 19th International Exhibition of Mining and Mining Industries (Iran ConMine 2025) will continue to welcome industry professionals, investors, and researchers through Thursday, November 5.

Iran Confirms Gas Export Contract With Turkey Will Be Renewed



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has confirmed that Iran’s gas export contract with Turkey will definitely be renewed, adding that the country is also prepared to begin gas exports to Pakistan.

Speaking in an interview with ILNA, Saeed Tavakoli, the head of NIGC, stated: “The gas export contract with Turkey will certainly be extended.”

Tavakoli explained that the regional gas market has become increasingly volatile, short-term, and time-sensitive. “On one hand, U.S. LNG production has risen, while on the other, certain restrictions have been placed on the gas exports of some countries. Meanwhile, the volume of available gas in the region has already been largely allocated,” he said.

He emphasized that Iran continues to pursue long-term agreements, noting that the renewal of the Turkish contract remains one of the company’s top priorities.

“Turkey is definitely interested in continuing to import gas from Iran,” Tavakoli noted. “Based on the Turkish side’s demand and the negotiations that have taken place, we are actively following up on the contract renewal. The volume, method, and mechanism will be determined during the course of discussions.”

Tavakoli expressed hope that the gas export contract with Turkey would be renewed for several years beyond 2026.

Regarding potential gas exports to Pakistan, he said, “We are ready to supply gas to Pakistan. It depends on their readiness and the completion of their necessary infrastructure.”

Iran Ranks Fourth in Global Cryptocurrency Mining



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN — IRNA News Agency: Iran has become the fourth-largest cryptocurrency mining country in the world, with an estimated 13 million Iranians active in the crypto market, according to Akbar Hasan Baklou, CEO of the Tehran Province Electricity Distribution Company.

Speaking to IRNA, Baklou said that cheap electricity prices have turned Iran into a “haven for illegal miners,” causing a surge in unlicensed cryptocurrency mining operations across the country and increasing pressure on the national power grid.

The dramatic rise in global cryptocurrency prices, coupled with Iran’s heavily subsidized electricity, has led to a sharp increase in illegal mining activity. The Ministry of Energy says this has contributed to power imbalances and supply instability during peak consumption periods.

Earlier this year, Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi warned that each mining device consumes as much electricity as an air conditioner. He called on citizens to help combat the problem, emphasizing that while Iran is not opposed to the technology of digital currencies, unauthorized mining is both illegal and harmful.

“Unauthorized mining is theft — it’s an ugly and unacceptable act,” Aliabadi said, noting that thousands of illegal mining devices are discovered and confiscated daily.

He added that abnormal consumption patterns are detected through the national power dispatching system, allowing authorities to identify and shut down illegal mining farms.

According to official estimates, there are currently around 427,000 active mining machines in Iran, consuming over 1,400 megawatts of electricity around the clock — an amount equivalent to the consumption of several major industrial towns combined.

U.S. Not Planning Nuclear Explosions at This Time

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The nuclear weapons testing ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump will not involve nuclear explosions at this time, Energy Secretary Chris Wright said.

"I think the tests we're talking about right now are system tests," Wright said in an interview with Fox News. "These are not nuclear explosions. These are what we call non-critical explosions."

The testing involves all the other parts of a nuclear weapon to make sure they are functioning and can set up a nuclear blast, said Wright, whose agency is responsible for testing U.S. nuclear weapons.

The tests will be carried out on new systems to help ensure replacement nuclear weapons are better than previous ones, Wright said on Fox News' "The Sunday Briefing."



Israel Receives Remains of Three Deceased Gaza Hostages



GAZA CITY (Dispatches) - The prime minister's office in Israel on Sunday confirmed they had received the remains of three deceased Gaza hostages. The remains, which were found in a tunnel in southern Gaza according to a Hamas statement, will be transferred to a forensic medical center for identification.

Israel said on Sunday it had received the remains of three additional captives from Hamas as part of the ongoing hostage-prisoner exchange under a US-brokered ceasefire agreement for Gaza.

Despite occasional flare-ups, a fragile truce has held in Gaza since October 10 under a deal focused on the return of all Israeli hostages, both living and dead.

"Israel has received, through the Red Cross, the coffins of three fallen hostages that were handed over to IDF and Shin Bet forces inside the Gaza Strip," the prime minister's office said.

An Israeli health ministry spokesperson said later that their bodies had arrived at a national forensic centre "for identification and investigation into the circumstances and cause of death".

Experts from the centre would then meet with the families of the deceased "to discuss and elaborate on the findings", the spokesperson said.

Hamas's armed wing said it had found the remains earlier on Sunday "along the route of one of the tunnels in the southern Gaza Strip".

OPEC+ Pauses Oil Output Hikes Beyond December Amid Glut Fears



LONDON (Dispatches) - OPEC+ on Sunday agreed a small oil output increase for December and a pause in increases in the first quarter of next year as the producers' group moderates plans to regain market share due to rising fears of a supply glut.

OPEC+ has raised output targets by around 2.9 million barrels per day - or around 2.7% of global supply - since April, but slowed the pace from October amid predictions of a looming oversupply.

New Western sanctions on OPEC+ member Russia are adding to challenges in the strategy, as Moscow may struggle to further raise output after the U.S. and Britain imposed new measures on top producers Rosneft and Lukoil.

On Sunday, the eight OPEC+ members taking part in the group's monthly meeting - Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Kazakhstan and Algeria - agreed to increase December output targets by 137,000 barrels per day, the same as for October and November.

"Beyond December, due to seasonality, the eight countries also decided to pause the production increments in January, February, and March 2026," the group said in a statement.

Oil prices fell to a five-month low of about \$60 a barrel on October 20 on concerns that a glut was building, but have since recovered to about \$65 a barrel on Russian sanctions and optimism over U.S. talks with trade partners.

Ukrainian Drone Strike Hits Key Russian Oil Port



KYIV (Dispatches) - A Ukrainian drone attack struck one of Russia's main Black Sea oil ports on Sunday, causing a fire and damaging at least one ship, as Kyiv tries to undermine Russia's war effort by targeting its energy infrastructure.

Ukraine has for several months been striking Russian oil refineries, depots and pipelines in a bid to undermine the Russian economy.

Footage on Russian and Ukrainian Telegram news channels appeared to show a terminal and one tanker ablaze at night. Reuters was not immediately able to verify the timing or location of the images.

Russian authorities said two foreign vessels had been damaged in the attack on Tuapse, one of the biggest oil terminals on the Black Sea, sparking a fire.

"As a result of the drone attack on the port of Tuapse on the night of November 2, two foreign civilian ships were damaged," the emergency operational headquarters of the Krasnodar region said in a statement.

The operational headquarters said that there were no casualties among the crews of the ships and that all fires had been extinguished but that "the buildings and infrastructure of the terminal" had sustained damage.

Kyiv's General Staff said in a statement that its forces had struck infrastructure of the Tuapse oil refinery. An official from Ukraine's SBU domestic security service said five recorded drone strikes on an oil terminal had damaged an oil tanker, loading infrastructure and nearby port buildings.

The port is home to the Tuapse Black Sea oil terminal and an oil refinery controlled by Russia's biggest oil company

Rosneft. Ukraine has targeted the refinery with several drone strikes this year.

Reuters was not immediately able to determine whether the terminal was operating after the attack.

The export-oriented Tuapse plant, which has a processing capacity of 240,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd), produces naphtha, fuel oil, vacuum gasoil and high-sulphur diesel. It mainly supplies China, Malaysia, Singapore and Turkey.

The Russian Defence Ministry said on Sunday air defence units destroyed a total of 283 Ukrainian drones.

Kyiv says its drone strikes against Russian energy infrastructure are retaliation for Russian attacks on its power grid. Russia has been pounding the power and heat systems of Ukraine, arguing that such civil infrastructure is a legitimate target because it aids Ukraine's war effort.

Nearly 60,000 people were deprived of power supply after Russia's overnight air attack on Ukraine's frontline region of Zaporizhzhia, while two people were killed in the southern region of Odesa, Ukrainian authorities said on Sunday.

In Russia, drone debris was found in five settlements in the Tuapse municipal district, damaging windows in some flats and houses. No injuries were reported, though the Tuapse railway station suffered some minor damage, the regional administration said.

The overnight attack forced the temporary closure of scores of Russian airports, chiefly in the country's south and west, for safety reasons, Russia's aviation watchdog Rosaviatsiya said on Telegram.

At Least Seven Killed as Magnitude-6.3 Earthquake Strikes Afghanistan

KABUL (Dispatches) - A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck northern Afghanistan overnight Sunday into Monday, killing at least seven people and injuring about 150, provincial officials said. The quake, at a depth of 28 km (17 miles) near Mazar-i-Sharif, hit two months after a tremor in the east killed more than 2,200.

The overnight quake, which happened two months after a tremor in the impoverished nation's east killed over 2,200 people, hit at a depth of 28 kilometers (17 miles) in Kholm, near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, according to the USGS.

In Mazar-i-Sharif, many people ran into the street in the middle of the night, fearing their homes might collapse, an AFP correspondent observed.

The Taliban authorities have had to deal with several major quakes since returning to power in 2021, including one in 2023 in the western Herat region on the border with Iran that killed more than 1,500



people and destroyed more than 63,000 homes.

A shallow 6.0-magnitude quake struck this year on August 31 in the country's east, killing more than 2,200 people -- the deadliest tremor in recent Afghan history.

Earthquakes are common in Afghanistan, particularly along the Hindu Kush mountain range, near where the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates meet.

Afghanistan is contending with multiple crises after decades of war: endemic poverty, severe drought and the influx of millions of Afghans forced back home by neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

Many modest Afghan homes are shoddily built and poor infrastructure hampers rescue efforts after natural disasters like quakes.

Since 1900, northeastern Afghanistan has been hit by 12 quakes with a magnitude above 7, according to Brian Baptie, a seismologist with the British Geological Survey.

Pentagon Chief Urges Closer Ties With Vietnam

HANOI (Dispatches) - The United States wants deeper military ties with Vietnam, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Sunday at the start of a visit to Hanoi, amid prolonged talks for the potential supply of military equipment to Washington's former foe.

The Southeast Asian nation, which relies heavily on Russian weapons, has been looking to diversify its arsenal for years. Talks with the United States, which lifted an arms embargo in 2016, gained momentum during the Biden administration but have not yet yielded any formal announcement on major items.

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"Deeper (military) cooperation will benefit both of our countries," Hegseth, who arrived in the Vietnamese capital after meetings in Malaysia with Asian counterparts, said prior to meeting Defence Minister Phan Van Giang.

The United States had already delivered three cutters to the Vietnamese coastguard and three T-6 trainer aircraft, from an



order of 12, and intended to do more, he added.

In a statement, Vietnam's defence ministry said both governments agreed to continue promoting security cooperation, including in areas such as defence.

It also praised the signing of an agreement on Friday to deepen cooperation on war legacy remediation, including for dioxin decontamination.

Talks on U.S. arms supplies are expected to dominate the agenda, according to two Vietnamese sources briefed on the matter.

C-130 Hercules military transport planes among the items to be discussed. A U.S. official also confirmed C-130s would come up in the talks.

One of the Vietnamese sources said the supply of U.S. helicopters could also be discussed, specifically Lockheed Martin S-92s and Boeing Chinooks.

It was not clear if any deal or announcement would be made on Sunday, said the sources, who declined to be identified as the information was not public. Boeing deferred questions on the matter to the two governments.

Vietnam's government, the Pentagon and Lockheed Martin did not respond to requests for comment outside business hours.

Reuters reported last year on discussions for the sale of C-130 planes to Vietnam's defence ministry, and in July on a preliminary deal on two S-92 helicopters after years of talks on the matter with its public security forces.



Sinner Seizes Paris Masters Crown to Reclaim World Number One Ranking

PARIS (Dispatches) - Italy's Jannik Sinner powered past Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-6(4) to capture his maiden Paris Masters title — a triumph that catapulted the Italian back to the summit of the men's rankings ahead of the ATP Finals.

The second seed knew only victory would suffice to leapfrog rival Carlos Alcaraz atop the standings, and he delivered in style to become just the fourth player in tournament history to lift the trophy without dropping a set.

For Auger-Aliassime, the stakes were equally high but the outcome crushingly different. The Canadian ninth seed needed the title to secure his spot at the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, but instead saw his hopes dashed in a high-quality final.

Sinner's Paris conquest marked his first Masters crown of the year and fifth title of 2025, extending his remarkable indoor hardcourt winning streak to 26 matches.

"It's huge, honestly. It was such an intense final here and we both knew what's on the line. Also him, he's in a very tough and difficult spot, but from my side I'm extremely happy," Sinner said in an on-court interview.

"The past couple of months have been amazing. We've tried to work on things, trying to improve as a player. Seeing these kind of results makes me incredibly happy.

"Another title this year, it has been an amazing year, no matter what comes now in Turin. I'm extremely happy."

Sinner made his intentions clear from the opening game, breaking Auger-Aliassime's serve before

consolidating the break as he controlled rallies while the Canadian leaked unforced errors.

Despite the majority of the crowd rallying behind the underdog, Auger-Aliassime struggled to match Sinner's relentless power and precision.

Sinner proved untouchable on serve, mixing deep groundstrokes with drop shots and half-volleys to bamboozle his opponent.

The Italian's dominance was complete in the opening set when Auger-Aliassime failed to earn a single break point while Sinner dropped just three points on serve, sealing the set with a flourish by firing a cross-court forehand winner.

The second set offered more resistance, however, as Auger-Aliassime showed his mettle, saving five break points.

But even his resolute defence could not crack Sinner's serving stranglehold as the set headed to a tiebreak.

Auger-Aliassime held his own in the tiebreak until a crucial error handed Sinner the advantage, and the Italian needed no second invitation to surge into the lead.

Sinner then delivered the knockout blow on match point, forcing Auger-Aliassime wide during the rally before unleashing a searing backhand winner down the line to claim his fifth Masters crown.

Auger-Aliassime is set to play this week in Metz, where he had a first-round bye, in a last attempt to secure the final spot at the ATP Finals the following week.

Haaland Shines With Double as Man City Beat Bournemouth

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Erling Haaland delivered another masterclass in ruthless finishing with two goals on Sunday as Manchester City beat high-flying Bournemouth 3-1 and climbed into second place in the Premier League.

The big Norwegian struck twice on the break in the first half at Etihad Stadium, moving Pep Guardiola's side six points behind leaders Arsenal with 19 points, while Bournemouth, who suffered their first loss in nine league games, fell to fourth in the table on 18 points.

Haaland, who tops the Premier League scoring chart with 13 goals in 10 games, broke the deadlock in the 17th minute, heading the ball forward from just past the halfway line and then barrelling down on goal before coolly slotting home past Djordje Petrovic.

Bournemouth hit back through Tyler Adams in the 25th minute. City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma could not get a clean punch on the ball and it dropped to Adams, who stabbed it in from close range. City screamed for a foul on



Donnarumma, but after a VAR check the goal stood.

The visitors were not level for long as Haaland restored City's lead eight minutes later, beating the Bournemouth defence before going around Petrovic to slot home with a left-footed shot from a tight angle.

Nico O'Reilly struck from just inside the box to add a third for City in the 60th minute when he latched onto a pass from Phil Foden and threaded the ball through Marcos Senesi's legs and into the net.

"We played really good," Guardiola said. "We had to be so co-ordinated with the pressing and with our defending. They played really good and of course again Erling was decisive."

Haaland has 26 goals in just 16 appearances for club and country this season and on Sunday became the third player in Premier League history to score two or more goals in four successive home games after Luis Suarez and Robbie Fowler.

India Win Maiden Women's World Cup Title

NAVI MUMBAI (Dispatches) - India's agonising wait for a maiden Women's World Cup title finally came to an end as Harmanpreet Kaur and her teary-eyed teammates clinched the trophy by beating South Africa in a dramatic final at the DY Patil Stadium.

Their 52-run victory before a full house was the perfect culmination of a campaign, which was nearly derailed after three defeats in a row, including one against South Africa, in the league phase.

Kaur's team pulled off a record chase in their semi-final against defending champions Australia to reach the final against a South Africa side also gunning for their maiden 50-over World Cup title.

India found an unlikely hero in opener Shafali Verma, whose



whirlwind 87 was key to their total of 298-7 even though 350 looked within their reach at one stage.

Verma also had a golden arm, claiming two quick wickets that turned the match on its head after South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt (101) led their robust reply with her second successive hundred of the tournament.

Verma walked away with the player-of-the-match award in the final of a tournament where she was drafted in only before the knockout stage as a late injury replacement.

Deepthi Sharma was equally impressive, smashing a run-a-ball 58 and following it with figures of 5-39.

The 28-year-old finished the World Cup with 22 wickets and 215 runs, which earned her the player-of-the-tournament award.

Sabalenka Eases Past Paolini, Pegula Beats Gauff in WTA Finals



RIYADH (Dispatches) - Top seed Aryna Sabalenka kicked off her WTA Finals campaign with a dominant 6-3 6-1 win over Jasmine Paolini, while defending champion Coco Gauff struggled with double faults as Jessica Pegula beat her 6-3 6-7(4) 6-2 in Riyadh.

Sabalenka, who won the U.S. Open this year, landed 11 aces and frustrated Paolini with powerful returns near the sidelines, with the Italian growing tired as the match progressed.

World number one Sabalenka has now won 60 matches on the tour this year.

"Doesn't matter the score, I always know I have to stay focused. If you give (Paolini) an opportunity she will take control of the game," Sabalenka said after the 500th match of her career.

"I was focused, I was calm and it feels like everything was in control."

Four-time Grand Slam champion Sabalenka got her first break with a backhand across the court to go 2-0 up.

Paolini troubled the world number one with low shots down the middle as Sabalenka's awkward forehand returns hit the net twice, with the Italian getting a crucial break to reduce the Belarusian's lead to 4-3.

But Sabalenka, who was the runner-up in the 2022 edition of the WTA Finals, broke again to go 5-3 up, before landing four aces in the next game to hold her serve and secure the set 6-3.

Sabalenka won the next four games to build up a 4-0 lead in the second set, which proved to be unassailable for two-time Grand Slam finalist Paolini, who suffered a fifth straight loss to the Belarusian.

Two-time Grand Slam winner Gauff committed 17 double faults and 45 forehand unforced errors as she lost to Pegula in the second game of Group Steffi Graf.

The match began with five straight breaks, until Pegula managed to hold her serve to go 4-2 up. Gauff saved two set points, but her struggles with double faults in the final game sealed the first set in Pegula's favour.

Kenya Sweep Men's and Women's Podiums at NYC Marathon



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Kenya swept the men's and women's podiums at the New York City Marathon, as Benson Kipruto survived a thrilling sprint finish in two hours eight minutes and nine seconds and Hellen Obiri won the women's race in a course-record 2:19:51.

Kipruto ran flat out through the final 50 metres to hold off a late fight from Alexander Mutiso, breaking the tape by less than two-tenths of a second in a photo finish, with 2021 winner Albert Korir finishing third (2:08:57).

"It was amazing. The last part was so hard," Kipruto said in a televised interview. "I was pushing so hard to make sure I win."

It was the fourth major title for Kipruto, who was in a two-man race with Mutiso at the 25-mile mark and appeared to be completely in control with 200 metres left.

He was forced to accelerate through the final straight, however, as Mutiso launched a gutsy late attack to wild cheers in Central Park.

Paris bronze medalist Obiri, who won in 2023, was running shoulder-to-shoulder with runner-up Sharon Lokedi (2:20:07) and enjoyed a comfortable finish after pulling away ahead of the final turn to claim her fourth major title.

Last year's winner, Sheila Chepkirui (2:20:24), was third. "We had a very strong field," said Obiri, who pocketed an extra \$50,000 for breaking Margaret Okayo's 22-year-old course record of 2:22:31. "(I told myself) let me try to do my best, let me push."