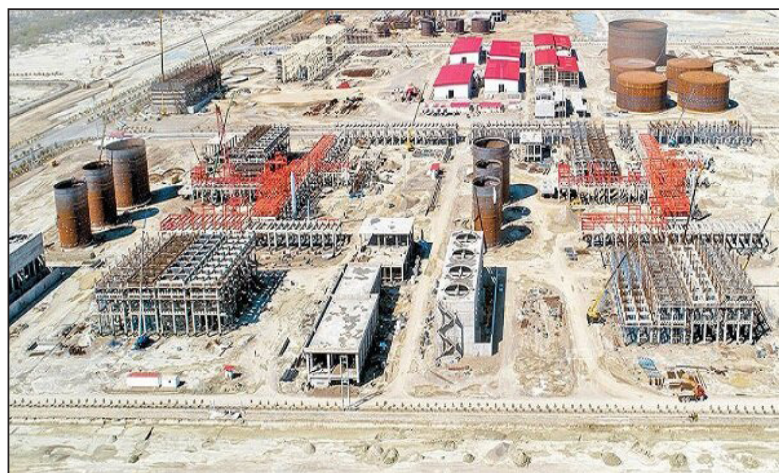


Official: Gov't Set to Finalize Major Development Plan for Makran Region



ZAHEDAN – The administration of President Masoud Pezeshkian is set to finalize a comprehensive development plan for the Makran region, says the president's chief of staff.

Speaking about President Pezeshkian's visit to Sistan and Baluchestan province, Mohsen Haji-Mirzaei emphasized the untapped potential of Iran's coastal and maritime resources for economic growth.

He highlighted Makran's strate-

gic connection to the ocean, which he said offers significant opportunities for maritime-focused industries.

The remarks came a day after Pezeshkian arrived in Sistan and Baluchestan on his second visit to the province since he assumed office on July 28, 2024.

In remarks after his arrival, President Pezeshkian reiterated Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's call for special attention to the Makran re-

gion.

He also described the region as "gold" and "vital" for the country, lamenting that the region's potential has remained untapped over the years.

Meanwhile, the minister of roads and urban development on Friday echoed President Pezeshkian's promise to utilize Makran's potential, noting that several meetings have already been held regarding this initiative.

Farzaneh Sadegh highlighted the key objectives of the president's trip to Sistan and Baluchestan province, noting the focus on enhancing trade along the southern Makran shores and the development of maritime plans based on sea-centered economic documents.

Sadegh also mentioned the inauguration of part of the strategically important North-South rail corridor, which passes through Sistan and Baluchestan, as a significant development in the region.

Dey Gas Field Development Project Launched

TEHRAN – The development project for Dey gas field, capable of producing 3 million cubic meters of sweet gas per day, was officially launched on Thursday.

Peyman Imani, the company's CEO, said the project includes

drilling four wells, constructing flow pipelines, wellhead facilities, a manifold gathering system, and a flare system.

Located in Farashband, Fars province, Dey gas field marks another step toward ensuring a stable

supply of natural gas for the country.

The gas produced from this field will be transported via pipelines to the Dalgan Gas Refinery. After processing, it will be fed into the national gas network.

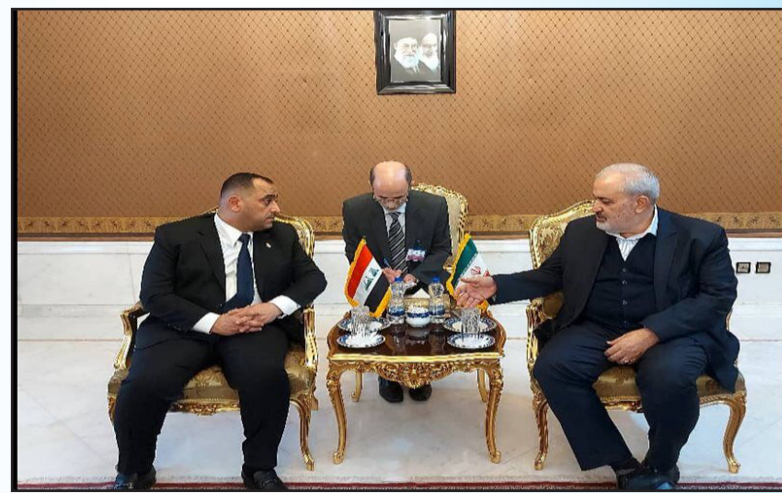
Iraq, Iran Call for Enhanced Cooperation in Electricity Industry

TEHRAN – Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi and Iraq's Minister of Electricity Ziad Ali Fadel have underscored the importance of expanding cooperation in the electricity sector.

Aliabadi met with Fadel in Tehran on Thursday to discuss electricity exchanges and the export of technical and engineering services related to the industry.

During the meeting, the Iraqi minister invited capable Iranian companies to contribute to Iraq's electricity sector, including in transmission, distribution, and equipment supply.

It was also agreed that Aliabadi would follow up on the discussed topics during his upcoming visit to Iraq, involv-



Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (right) meets with Iraq's Minister of Electricity Ziad Ali Fadel in Tehran on January 9, 2025.

ing the private sector.

Key issues addressed in the meeting included the repair of 5,000 transformers in Iraq, Iranian companies' participation in equipment supply,

power plant construction and repair, and the significance of training and knowledge exchange. A working group will be established to focus on these initiatives.

Trudeau: Canada to Hit Back If Trump Follows Through on Tariff Threat

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said that his government would hit back if incoming U.S. President Donald Trump follows through on his tariff threat.

"We would definitely respond, as we did years ago when President Trump put tariffs on steel and aluminum. We responded by putting tariffs on Heinz ketchup, on playing cards, on bourbon, on Harley Davidsons, on things that would hurt American workers," Trudeau said in an interview on CNN.

The prime minister said Trump, a very skillful negotiator, is using talk of Canada becoming the 51st state

to detract from tariff impact.

"Everything the American consumers buy from Canada is suddenly going to get a lot more expensive and that's something we need to be focusing on a little bit more," Trudeau said.

Local media reported that Canadian officials are preparing a list of American-made products to target with counter-tariffs in the event the Canadian government must respond to U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods.

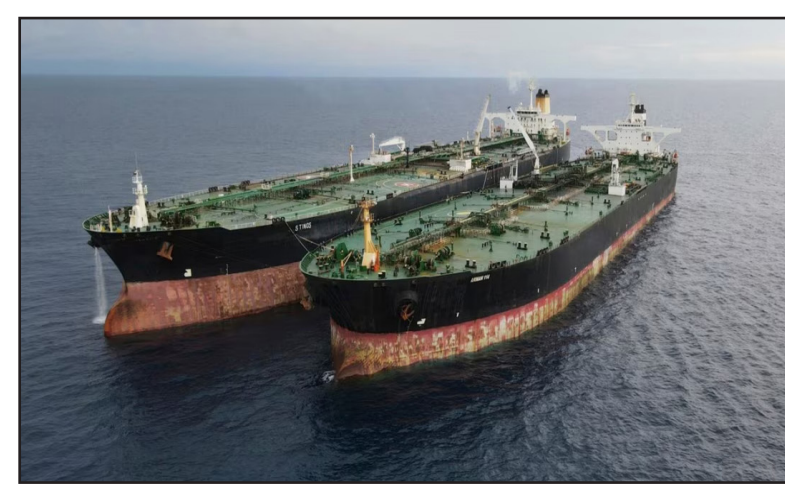
Trump has threatened to impose a 25-percent tariff on all Canadian goods imported into the United States.

Iran's Oil Exports Continue Despite Sanctions

TEHRAN – Iran's oil exports continue in spite of the ongoing and intensifying U.S. sanctions targeting the country's oil industry and speculation about a decline in Iran's oil exports is entirely unfounded and baseless.

Over the past decades, Iran's oil industry has faced numerous sanctions. However, these sanctions have failed to halt the sector's progress and development, as oil production and exports have continued uninterrupted throughout these years.

It is important to note that U.S. hostility toward Iran still



remains in place.

As Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has previously stated, the country's oil industry has

developed strategies to decrease potential future restrictions and are fully prepared to address any scenario.

Report: Sungun's Copper Reserves Rise



TEHRAN - Iran's second-largest copper mine has reported a three-fold increase in its ore deposits as the country moves ahead with plans to develop its untapped mineral resources.

National Iranian Copper Industry Company (NICICO) reported that huge copper deposits had been discovered in the Sungun mine in northwest Iran after a series of "shining exploration activities" in the area.

It said a certificate had been issued on December 28 by

Iran's Ministry of Mine, Industry and Trade (MIMT) stating that Sungun's copper reserves reached 2.49 billion metric tons (mt), including 1.15 billion mt of proven reserves, with an average purity of 0.53% and a molybdenum content of 125 grams per tonnes.

A previous MIMT certificate had put Sungun's proven and probable reserves at 0.79 billion mt with an average purity of 0.63% and without men-

tioning the molybdenum content.

Based on previous estimates, Iran's largest copper mine in Sarcheshmeh, located in the southeast of the country, had a deposit of 1.2 billion mt of copper ore with a purity of 0.7%, making it one of the largest mines in the world.

NICICO and MIMT's local branch in East Azerbaijan province, where Sungun is located, have yet to announce plans to develop and extract the mine's new resources.

Since coming under U.S. sanctions in 2018, Iran has increased its investment in mining and metals projects amid efforts to diversify the economy away from crude oil revenues and to create more jobs for the country's youth.

That comes as government figures published in recent years have pointed to a steady rise in the exports of metals and minerals from Iran.

AI to Displace Millions of Jobs by 2030 – Study

PARIS (AFP) -The deployment of artificial intelligence could deal a heavy blow to the worldwide labor market and result in massive layoffs in global companies, the World Economic Forum (WEF) Future of Jobs report published on Wednesday, warns.

The study, which surveyed hundreds of large businesses worldwide, found that 41% of companies plan to slash their workforce by 2030 in response to the increasing capabilities of AI. Further, 77% of companies are preparing to reskill and upskill their existing staff from 2025 to 2030 for better human-machine collaboration.

The report predicted that 170 million new jobs will be created by the end of the decade, while 92 million jobs will be displaced. The WEF noted that skills in AI, big data, and cybersecurity are expected to be in high demand.

"Trends such as generative AI and rapid technological shifts are upending industries and labor markets, creating both un-

precedented opportunities and profound risks," Till Leopold, the head of Work, Wages and Job Creation at the WEF, said.

The WEF said that advances in AI, robotics, and energy systems, particularly in renewable energy and environmental engineering, are expected to boost demand for specialist roles in these fields.

The report also identified job categories that will face the largest decline in numbers due to AI and other technological trends. They include service clerks, executive secretaries, payroll clerks, and graphic designers.

"The presence of both graphic designers and legal secretaries just outside the top 10 fastest-declining job roles, a first-time prediction not seen in previous editions of the Future of Jobs Report, may illustrate GenAI's increasing capacity to perform knowledge work," the report said.

The report stressed that the impact of AI extends beyond

job displacement, highlighting the potential of the technology to augment human output, rather than replace it outright.

The WEF concluded that "human-centered skills" such as creative thinking, resilience, flexibility, and agility will continue to be critical.

Meanwhile, high-profile figures and scientists have raised concerns in recent years over the potential dangers posed by AI. Last year, computer scientist and author Paul Graham warned that the use of AI for writing will result in the majority of people losing the skill in a few decades.

The labor market will change significantly because of the adoption of advanced technology, according to Danil Gavrilov, the head of the Artificial Intelligence Research Laboratory at T-Bank AI Research. Everything a human is capable of doing can be done by AI, and machines can do it well, he said in an interview with RIA Novosti last year.