

TEHRAN – The administration of President Masoud Pezeshkian will announce good news related to the oil industry in the coming days, Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said here Tuesday.

The announcement will be made by the petroleum minister, Mohajerani said in her weekly briefing. It will be related to job opportunities, investment development, and economic prosperity, she said.

Kayhan International



New Head of Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base Named
TEHRAN – Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard on Tuesday was appointed as the new commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base, the central headquarters of Iran's air defense.
The base operates under the General Staff of the Armed Forces and is tasked with coordinating operations of Iran's air defense forces. In a decree on Tuesday, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Brigadier General Muhammad Bagheri appointed Sabahi-Fard as the head of the base after endorsement by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.
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Viewpoint
Only Islamic Courage Defeats the 'Great Satan'

Audience Rated Top Movies at Fajr Festival Named

Children's Corner

U-20 Footballers to Take on Indonesia in Asian Cup China 2025

U.S. Study Debunks Western Misinformation After Iran Quake

BALTIMORE (Johns Hopkins University) -- A new study debunks claims that a magnitude 4.5 earthquake in Iran was a covert nuclear weapons test, as alleged on social media and some mainstream news outlets in October 2024, a period of heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Led by Johns Hopkins University scientists, the study warns about the potential consequences of mishandling and misinterpreting scientific information, particularly during periods of international conflict. The findings appear in the journal Seismica.

"There was a concerted misinformation and disinformation campaign around this event that promoted the idea this was a nuclear test, which is not something you often see happen with an earthquake," said Benjamin Fernando, a Johns Hopkins seismologist who led the study. "This shows how geophysical data played an important role in a geopolitical crisis."

The earthquake occurred on Oct. 5, 2024, approximately 50 kilometers (31 miles) southwest of Semnan, a city in northern Iran, and about 216 kilometers (134 miles) east of Tehran. Iran is prone to earthquakes, as it sits within a seismically active region at the convergence of the Arabian and Eurasian tectonic plates.

Fernando's team analyzed seismic signals from the event, identifying natural seismic activity caused by the earthquake.

Using publicly available data from seismic monitoring stations, the researchers concluded that the earthquake originated along a gently sloping fault where Earth's crust was being deformed by the collision between Arabia and Eurasia. The process aligns with the geophysical forces that characterize the region's tectonically active interior and rules out any connection to a particularly unusual source or nuclear test, the study concludes.

"Seismic waves carry information about the earthquake that produced them as they propagate around the planet. By recording the waves at different points on the Earth's surface, we can work out what the properties of the source that produced them were," Fernando said.

"In this case, the source was what we call a reverse fault—a motion associated with the Earth's crust being crushed as the Arabian and Eurasian plates collide. Nuclear tests have very different signatures, which are explosive."

Historical seismic data further supports this conclusion, Fernando said. The Comprehensive

Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), which monitors nuclear tests worldwide, reported that earthquakes with similar characteristics and magnitudes occurred in the same region in 2015 and 2018—both unrelated to nuclear activity.

Despite the clear scientific evidence of natural seismic activity, claims that the earthquake was a nuclear test began spreading rapidly on social media just 17 minutes after the event. Initial tweets misinterpreted seismic data, which soon gave way to misinformation and likely active disinformation, Fernando said.

The first suggestion that this was a nuclear test appeared on Twitter/X 27 minutes after the earthquake. Over the following hours, misinformation escalated, with some posts citing seismic data from an entirely different earthquake in Armenia earlier that day to substantiate the nuclear test narrative.

The misinformation gained traction as conspiracy theories linked the Iranian earthquake to a supposed seismic event in Israeli occupied territories the same evening. While the study noted that it is difficult to confirm deliberate disinformation, the sustained engagement and specialized use of seismology data on social media suggest potential human authors with expertise.

One of the most widely shared posts promoting the nuclear test theory came from an account tied to Russian-supported disinformation campaigns, the researchers found.

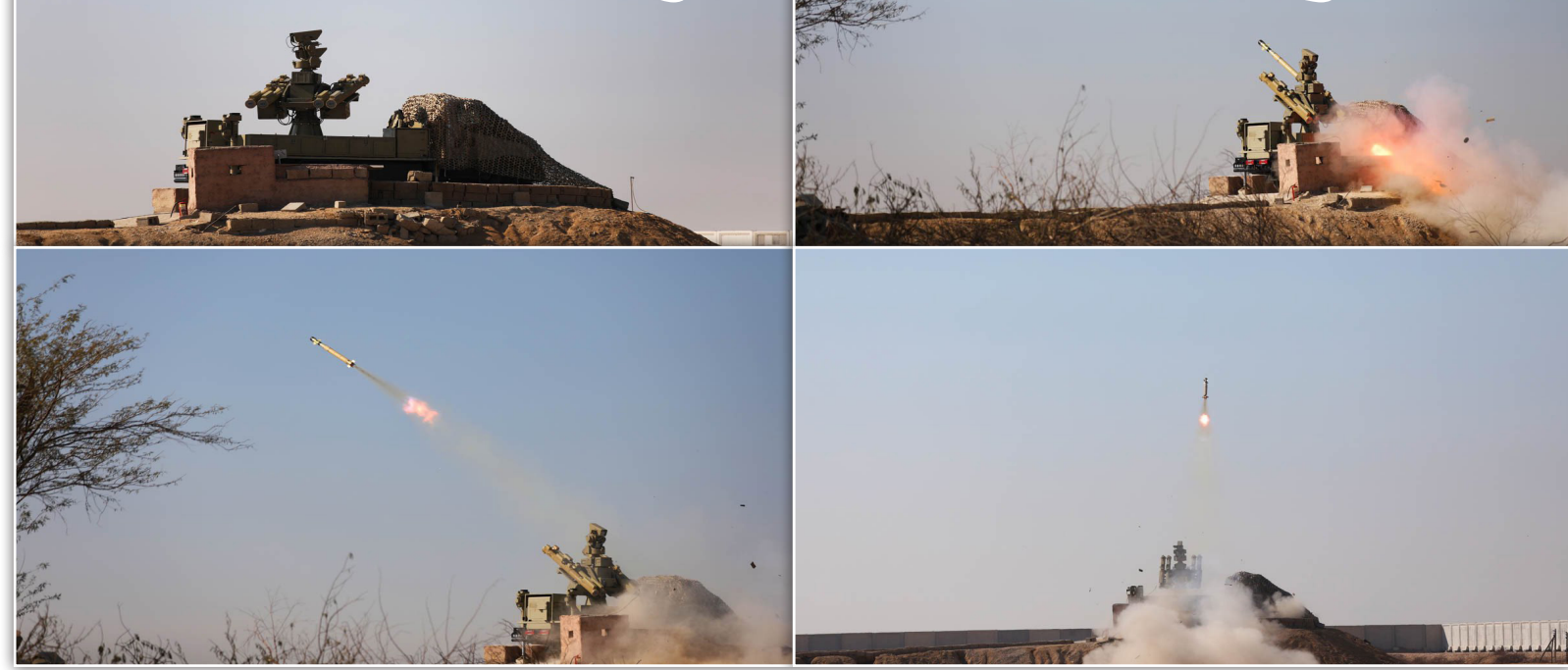
Within hours of the event, the false narrative moved from social media to news reports worldwide. Indian English-language media were the most active in reporting the nuclear test claims, often referencing each other's stories, and citing the incorrect seismic data. The researchers also identified media reports from the United States, Israel, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, France, and the United Kingdom.

In contrast, Persian-language media generally described the event accurately as a natural earthquake. These reports drew on local expert commentary and official seismic data more often than English-language media, offering a more precise understanding of the event.

The researchers recommended greater rapid-response collaborations among seismologists to quickly fact-check and correct misinterpretations of data, and to more actively counter misinformation.

"Scientific agencies could issue

Second Stage of Iqtedar Drills Launched Iran Unveils Majid Air Missile System



This combo shows the Majid air defense system being tested during the second stage of Iqtedar drills on Tuesday.

TEHRAN -- The second stage of large-scale Iqtedar (might) drills involving the Iranian air defense units started on Tuesday, focusing on the protection of the southwestern airspace.

The air defense bases participating in the exercise practiced tactics to detect, track, intercept and shoot down hostile targets over areas in southwest and central Iran.

Iran's homegrown 'Majid' air defense missile system took the lead during the new stage of the

drill by bringing down various types of pilotless aircraft.

On February 2, the Defense Ministry unveiled an upgraded version of Bavar 373 air defense missile system, whose launcher stations have been equipped with separate radar sets that provide detection and tracking of targets as well as fire control, allowing each launcher to act independently without reliance on a central radar.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian

Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Bagheri said both the offensive and defensive capabilities of the armed forces are key to ensuring sustainable and effective deterrence.

"Despite facing an imposed eight-year war, sanctions, counter-revolutionary conflicts, terrorist groups, and other conspiracies from our enemies, the country's armed forces and military capabilities have attained a level of authority across various fields," he

said.

"This growth has resulted in a strong deterrent power for the country."

Iran's armed forces, he said, have been equipped with modern and advanced systems and equipment to address current threats, noting that they have achieved the highest level of readiness.

Gen. Bagheri stressed the importance of developing an integrated command and control network for air defense to address outside threats.

Satellite Images Show Israel Building Bases Inside Syria

DOHA (Dispatches) -- Al Jazeera has published satellite images that show Israel is building out seven military bases within the demilitarized buffer zone with Syria following the ouster of Bashar al-Assad in December.

One of the bases is being built outside the buffer zone, inside Syrian territory. Israel's incursions into Syria violate a 1974 truce that designated the area of the Golan Heights as a buffer zone.

The images were taken between December 19, 2024, just 11 days after Assad left the country, and February 1, 2025. They show six sites constructed in that time inside the buffer zone. Another is being constructed outside the buffer zone and inside Syrian territory, the network said.

The seven sites are located west of Hadar village, west of Jabata al-Khashab, north of Hamidyah, Quneitra village, south of Lake Aziz (two sites), and above Tal al-Ahmar.

Israel and Syria struck a ceasefire agreement in 1974 that determined the area, in the Golan Heights, would be a demilita-

rized buffer zone. But shortly after news emerged that the Syrian government had fallen, the Zionist military began moving within the buffer zone and entered Syrian territory that lies outside it.

That was despite Syria's new ruler Abu Muhammad al-Julani making clear that his regime would recognize the 1974 agreement with Israel.

"Syria's war-weary condition, after years of conflict and war, does not allow for new confrontations," he said on December 14, 2024. "The priority at this stage is reconstruction and stability, not being drawn into disputes that could lead to further destruction."

However, Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the 1974 agreement was struck with a deposed government and was therefore invalid.

The new Syrian administration is largely made up of members of the now-dissolved Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a group that had links to Al-Qaeda.

Syrian citizens in and near the demilitarized zone have complained of Israeli encroachment

Iran's Minister of Economy: Trump's Tariff Threats Signal Failure of Sanctions

TEHRAN -- The U.S. government's focus on trade tariffs is another sign of the failure of the country's sanctions policy and the futility of repeating maximum pressure against Iran, Minister of Economy Abdolnaser Hemmati said Tuesday.

Hemmati touched on Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly's threat to stop shipping oil to the U.S. at a discount if President Donald Trump makes good on his pledge to impose levies of 25 per cent on her country's imports.

"With Canada threatening not to sell oil to the U.S. due to a 25% tariff imposed on Canadian goods as of yesterday, the lifting of Iran oil sanctions is now more economically important than ever," he said.

Trump's threat of tariffs against numerous countries has set off a global market freakout, but missing from his aggressive rhetoric is his trademark mention of sanctions.

In May 2018, Trump's banner year for sanctions, he withdrew the US from the Iran nuclear

deal and unilaterally reimposed all sanctions on Tehran under the tagline of "maximum pressure". While Iran's economy tottered, the sanctions failed to achieve their goals.

During his campaign trail for a second term, Trump told an event in New York in September that if elected, he would use sanctions as little as possible because using sanctions ultimately "kills your dollar and it kills everything the dollar represents".

"Look, you're losing Iran. You're losing Russia. China is out there trying to get their currency to be the dominant currency, as you know better than anybody," he said.

Last year, the Wall Street Journal reported that sanctions against Iran had cost the U.S. as much as \$175.3 billion in lost export opportunities over 18 years.

Sanctions are a tool of economic and diplomatic coercion, much in the same way as Trump is wielding tariffs, but they have