

**Drills to Begin in Gulf of Oman, Indian Ocean**

TEHRAN -- Iran's military will conduct naval drills on Saturday in the Gulf of Oman and northern Indian Ocean, a commander told national television.

"The joint military exercise Zolfaghar 1403 will begin tomorrow (Saturday) on the Makran coast, the Sea of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean," Habibollah Sayyari, the Iranian army's deputy coordinator, said on Friday. The drills have the "objective of strengthening defense and deterrence capabilities against any land, air and sea threat," Sayyari added.

# Kayhan International

**Interest Section in NY Moves to Support Deported Iranians**

NEW YORK (IRNA) -- Iran's Interest Section in Washington, D.C. says it has implemented necessary measures to support Iranian expatriates recently expelled from the United States and transferred to Panama.

In a statement, the section expressed its commitment to assist the stranded Iranians in collaboration with the Iranian embassy in Colombia, which is also accredited in Panama. It also hit out at the U.S. government for the deportations without prior notification to Iran and providing consular assistance.

**VOL NO: LV 12474 TEHRAN / Est.1959**      **Saturday, February 22, 2025, Esfand 4, 1403, Sha'ban 23, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials**

**Nakhala: Palestine, Lebanon Victories Owed to Iran**



**Guests Pay Tribute to Fajr Music Festival**



**Amir Sarkhosh Wins Silver at 2025 Asian Snooker Championship**



**Hezbollah Readies Massive Funeral for Martyred Leader Nasrallah**



## Official: Iran Major Player in Building Nuclear Plants

TEHRAN -- The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the U.S. has failed to prevent the construction of Karun power plant in the southwestern city of Darkhovin, reaffirming that the Islamic Republic continues to pursue its peaceful nuclear activities despite the enemies' plots.

"The whole world knows that Iran is gaining the knowledge to construct a nuclear power plant," Muhammad Eslami said at the construction site of Karun power plant in Darkhovin in Khuzestan province.

"In order to achieve our goals, we don't care about the enemies' sanctions and pressure," he said, adding "We will continue the path that we have drawn for ourselves to reach our goals."

Noting that Iran has become "a major player" in the knowledge of building nuclear power plants in the world, Eslami said, "the enemies can't stand seeing this great achievement."

Eslami pointed to the importance of this knowledge in various fields, including medicine and agriculture. He said the enemies can't prevent the Islamic Republic from achieving its goals by assassinating its scientists or imposing sanctions and exerting economic pressure on the country.

Referring to the construction of the 300-megawatt Karun power plant, the AEOI chief said the operation is "progressing".

Noting that Iran continues to pursue its peaceful nuclear activities despite the exerted pressure, Eslami said "Twelve years ago, the U.S. tried to stop the construction process of Darkhovin nuclear power plant, where we are currently present, but it failed."

"With the help of our youth and scientists, its construction continued. The construction of the 300-megawatt Karun power plant is one of the manifestations of the country's progress," he added.

He noted that the agency decided to resume the project, amid its plans to expand the country's power plants.

According to reports, the power plant is of a pressurized water reactor (PWR) type and with the capacity of producing 300 megawatts of electricity is to be built on a land of approximately 50 hectares in the vicinity of the Karun River.

## President Pezeshkian: No Talks Under Coercion



President Pezeshkian addresses officials during a tour of the western cities of Tehran province on Thursday.

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian said Thursday Iran has repeatedly announced that it seeks dialogue but will not hold negotiations "at any cost".

"It is not acceptable to impose sanctions and say that you should have no missiles or weapons, and then talk about negotiations again," he said in a meeting with the intellectuals of Tehran province.

Negotiations must be conducted with dignity, Pezeshkian said, reiterating that Iran will never accept bullying and will make concessions for the sake of talks.

"If they come with dignity, we will negotiate, but we will not yield to coercion ... from the beginning, we have declared that we seek dialogue and negotiation, but not at any cost," he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who walked out of a multiparty and UN-endorsed nuclear agreement between Iran and others in 2018, restored his "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran earlier this month, while saying he was open to a deal with Iran.

Pezeshkian said Trump

"thinks that if he comes and threatens us, we will back down tomorrow and say, 'Alright, we accept whatever you say.'

"We are human beings with dignity. If they come with dignity, we will have a dialogue, but we are not going to yield to coercion," Pezeshkian said.

On February 7, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said experience has shown that negotiations with the U.S. have no effect on solving Iran's problems.

"Some people pretend that if we sit at the negotiating table, some problem will be solved, but the fact that we must understand correctly is that negotiating with the U.S. has no effect on solving the country's problems," the Leader stated.

Pezeshkian called on the Iranian nation to stay put in the face of the enemies' economic sanctions and threats of military aggression.

"We should not be afraid of sanctions and threats. Let's assume Iran is the only country

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## Tel Aviv Thrown Into Panic After Bus Explosions

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- The occupying regime of Israel has intensified its military crackdown in the occupied West Bank after three parked buses exploded in Bat Yam, near Tel Aviv.

War minister Israel Katz ordered the escalation, targeting refugee camps, particularly in Tulkarm, as Israeli forces continue their military raids in the area.

The explosions, which took place on Thursday night, saw three empty buses detonated, with additional explosive devices discovered on other vehicles.

Israeli authorities suspended public transportation nationwide as they conducted military sweeps. While no group has claimed responsibility, the Izz el-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, praised the attack, stating that "the revenge of the martyrs will not be forgotten as long as the occupier is present on our lands".

Israel's crackdown has led to the widespread destruction of infrastructure in Tulkarm camp, with the Popular Committee for Tulkarm Camp Services reporting that 50 homes have been demolished and 90 percent of residents displaced due to forced evacuations.

A teacher, Ahmed Riyad Awad, was killed after an Israeli military vehicle collided with his car. His wife, a school principal, was also injured in the attack.

In the same city, Zionist soldiers burned multiple homes, further worsening the humanitarian crisis.

Reports from local organizations indicate that water, electricity, sewage, and telecommunications infrastructure have been severely damaged due to repeated military raids.

Similar attacks have occurred in Jenin, where Israeli onslaughts have been ongoing for over a month. On the same day as the explosions, Israeli forces stormed several Palestinian towns, including Bal'a, Birzeit, Silwad, and Jalazone camp, leading to armed clashes.

Israeli forces said they continue to conduct ongoing situational

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## Iran Warns IAEA After Grossi's 'Political' Statements

TEHRAN -- Iran has warned that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) may risk losing credibility by straying from the path of "neutrality," after its head made controversial remarks about its nuclear program.

In politically biased remarks on the sidelines of a press conference in the Japanese capital of Tokyo, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi alleged that Iran is now enriching uranium up to 60 percent, which is nearly "weapons-grade."

He further claimed that Tehran was "not cooperating with the agency as we wish" and that the Islamic Republic must prove that it was not "pursuing nuclear weapons development."

His controversial and provocative remarks prompted the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) to issue a statement, warning IAEA that with such unprofessional and politically biased comments the agency risks losing its credibility.

"As the head of a major international organization, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to always speak and act impartially, professionally, and free from political bias.

"Unfortunately, some of Mr. Grossi's statements and positions, particularly his recent ones, lack these qualities, raising concerns that this important international organization, by straying from the path of neutrality and professionalism, may undermine its own credibility," the statement warned.

Grossi's remarks come as Iran has time and again stressed that its nuclear program is purely peaceful, highly cooperating with IAEA in its inspections.

"At a time when the United States and certain Western countries seek to exploit this organization to exert unjust pressure on Iran, such political and unprofessional remarks could serve as a pretext for their illegitimate ambitions," the AEOI emphasized.

"Mr. Grossi's recent remarks during his press conference in Japan are an example of unprofessional conduct and statements. He has called on Iran to prove that it is not pursuing nuclear weapons.

"Any rational mind understands that the most fundamental legal principle is the presumption of innocence—in other words, 'the burden of proof is on the accuser.'

"Grossi knows better than anyone that nearly a quarter of all IAEA inspections are conducted on Iran's nuclear facilities, which make up less than three percent of the world's total nuclear facilities," the statement further noted.

The AEOI also stressed that Tehran has repeatedly emphasized that "its nuclear program is entirely peaceful", warning that Grossi's "repeated political rhetoric is beneath his dignity and position and must come to an end."

Separately on Thursday, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi also responded to Grossi's remarks in a statement posted on X, slamming his comments as "unprofessional and highly political."

Under the NPT, there is no restriction on the level of uranium

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