

IRGC Navy unveils one of its complex mines

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy published the first footage of one of its complex mines during a drill in southern Iran. This mine has capabilities that are different from those of other sea mines. Also, part of its capabilities has remained a secret so far. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Navy kicked off a naval drill in the waters of the Persian Gulf in the provinces of Bushehr and Khuzestan in south Iran on Friday. The drill is part of the annual "Eghtedar" in Farsi language or "Power" of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the land version of which was held jointly by the IRGC and the army forces across the country recently, especially in the provinces of Kermanshah in the west and Isfahan in central Iran.

Israel releases 200 Palestinian prisoners in major victory for resistance

tures as he is greeted by people in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, on January 25, 2025. (By Reuters) Tehran, IRNA - The Israeli regime has released a total of 200 Palestinian prisoners, including senior members of Hamas, as part of a ceasefire deal with the Palestinian resistance movement in Gaza.

The release on Saturday came hours after Hamas released four female Israeli soldiers held in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

As the bus convoys carrying the released prisoners arrived in Ramallah, jubilant crowds gathered to greet them and celebrate their freedom. Footage circulating on social media showed many waving Palestinian flags and making victory signs as bystanders captured the moment on their cell phones.

Sixteen of the freed Palestinians made their way into the Gaza Strip through the Karem Abu Salem crossing. Seventy prisoners arrived aboard buses in Egypt, Egyptian media reported.

Among those released is Mohammed al-Tous, 69, recognized by the Palestinian Prisoners Club



advocacy group as having spent the longest continuous period in Israeli detention. He is one of the 23 remaining Palestinian prisoners detained by Israel since before the Oslo Accord of 1993.

Earlier, Hamas released a statement, saying the Israeli regime was forced to "open the doors of its cells" to dozens of Palestinian prisoners.

"Today, we force the criminal occupier to open the doors of its cells to our heroic prisoners, and this is our pledge to them for freedom, as well as to our people to continue walking together on the path of independence and self-determination," it said.

Among those released today are senior members of the Palestinian resistance who have spent years behind bars, including 81 from Hamas serving life sentences and 23 from Islamic Jihad.

Iran, Russia will not accept excessive demands of enemies



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian in an interview with Russia's Channel 1 TVTehran, IRNA – Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has said that the comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between Iran and Russia shows that neither country intends to accept excessive demands of enemies, emphasizing that both countries are capable of collaborating to foster policies that promote tranquility, security, development, and economic growth in the region.

During his visit to Russia, President Pezeshkian made remarks during an interview with Russia's Channel 1 TV on Friday.

He emphasized the importance of signing a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between the two countries, as well as Iran and Russia's plans to deepen and expand their cooperation.

He mentioned that the signed comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between Iran and Russia addresses security, political, and economic dialogues, along with the enhancement of cooperation in the areas of railways, roads, trade, energy, and electricity.

In response to a question about the potential for military action by the United States or Israel against Iran, as well as the possibility of cooperation and joint defense between Iran and Russia, President Pezeshkian stated, "Under the terms of our agreement, if either Iran or Russia is attacked by another country, we are committed not to cooperate with the aggressor in any way, and we will not permit such an attack to occur."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian referred to the crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza and Lebanon, supported by the United States and Europe.

He stated, "No international framework or law permits any country to bomb and massacre innocent people, even during times of war, yet the Zionists do so with ease."He also stated, "The Zionist regime and its allies are trying to convince the world that Iran is pursuing a nuclear bomb and fostering Iranophobia. However, both the views of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution (Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei) and our policies are firmly grounded in the belief that we are not seeking nuclear weapons — we have not done so in the past, and we will not do so in the future."

Furthermore, he stated that the adversaries present a different image than Russia because they control the media and manage monetary, banking, and international power, they can exert pressure and shift mentalities to some extent.

President Pezeshkian emphasized, "If we unite and all countries that value freedom and independence come together, the totalitarianism and unilateralism of our enemies will be eliminated."

He added, "We are not seeking war, bloodshed, or unrest; however, our adversaries aim to convince people around the world that we desire to develop an atomic bomb and we are the source of insecurity in the region."

US renames Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America, Denali to Mount McKinley

The Donald Trump administration has officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, the US Interior Department has announced, saying North America's highest peak, Alaska's Denali, has also been reverted to its former name, Mount McKinley.

US media reported that both moves were part of President Trump's flurry of executive orders shortly after he took office. In a news release on Friday, the Interior Department said the name changes "reaffirm the Nation's commitment to preserving the extraordinary heritage of the United States and ensuring that future generations of Americans celebrate the legacy of its heroes and historic assets."

During the presidential transition, Trump disclosed his plans to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico. In response, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum stood before a 17th-century world map during a press conference and jokingly suggested that North America should be renamed "Mexican America." In 2015, Mount McKinley was renamed Denali by then-President Barack Obama, honoring the traditional Native Alaskan name. The mountain had long been informally known as Denali in Alaska, despite the official federal designation being Mount McKinley.

The executive orders by Trump, touted by administration officials as part of his "America First" agenda, have drawn criticism, including from some Republicans.

Iran to launch first high-speed train

Ali Kazemimanesh, director for planning and monitoring rail services of Iran Railways Qom, IRNA – An official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) has announced that the Tehran-Mashhad high-speed train is scheduled to be launched by next week.

Ali Kazemi-Manesh, the director for planning and monitoring rail services of RAI, said during a ceremony to introduce the new director general for the Railways Department in Qom Province on Saturday that the high-speed train would cover the distance between the capital city Tehran and the holy city of Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan, in 8 hours and 20 minutes.

Speaking about the significance of the railway system's progress in achieving sustainable development, Kazemi-Manesh noted that connecting the railway network to major industrial centers is among the key policies of the Islamic Republic.

News analysis :

Trump may be sending tentative signals to Iran of openness to diplomacy

U.S. President Donald Trump holds a farewell letter from former President Joe Biden during an exchange with reporters at the Oval Office, in Washington, the U.S., January 21, 2025.

U.S. President Donald Trump may be taking a different approach to Iran in his second term. And he may be signaling to Iran that he is.

Tehran, IRNA (news analysis) — Via a series of remarks both spoken and tweeted, an appointment, removals, and an outward refusal to take radical anti-Iran figures on board, U.S. President Donald Trump could be sending signals to Iran that he may be willing to engage with Tehran diplomatically.

That would be despite his first-term record of fierce antagonism toward the Islamic Republic, which came in the form of a campaign of "maximum pressure," the assassination of a top Iranian military commander, and unquestioning support for Iran's self-avowed adversary, the Israeli regime.

It is also unclear whether the moves signal a shift in tactics, strategy, or attitude. Tentative as they are, and taken together, they do represent a marked shift from Trump's last term.

The U.S. president has reportedly put his Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff in charge of the Iran portfolio as well, which U.S. media say suggests Trump is willing to test diplomacy with Tehran.

Witkoff is, like Trump, a real estate investor and a close confidante of the U.S. president who reportedly had a major role in securing a ceasefire agreement between the Palestinian resistance group of Hamas and the Israeli regime. A Friday report by The Financial Times cited some officials associated with Trump as having told foreign diplomats that Witkoff would "lead efforts to see whether a diplomatic accommodation is possible."

In an interview with Fox News earlier, Witkoff had said that Trump wanted to solve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program "diplomatically."

At an Oval Office event, though, when Trump was asked whether Witkoff would talk to Iran directly, he said "no." In response to another question about a potential Israeli strike on Iranian sites, Trump said he hoped a deal could be reached to avoid such a scenario.

"Hopefully, that could be worked out without having to worry about it. It'd be nice... it would really be nice if that could be worked out without having to go that further step," he said, referring to a military strike.

Axios reported later that Trump was yet to make a final decision about Witkiff "but was heading toward picking" him.