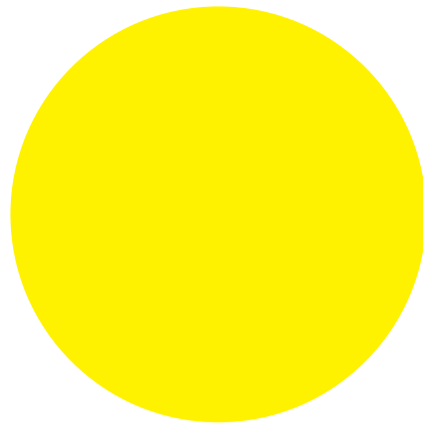




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Iran Daily

Cultural bonds opportunities for Iran-Turkmenistan cooperation: *Leader*

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday hailed strong cultural ties between Iran and Turkmenistan, underscoring their significance in strengthening relations, specifically in energy and transportation. He made the remarks during a meeting with Chairman of Turkmenistan's People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in Tehran. During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei acknowledged the potential for collaboration in various commercial sectors, with a particular focus on road infrastructure, water, electricity, and gas. Earlier, Berdimuhamedow had requested the involvement of Iranian specialists in the construction of a highway from the Iran-Turkmenistan border to the Caspian Sea. In response, Ayatollah Khamenei affirmed that Iran's Ministry of Roads possessed the necessary capabilities to undertake such a project.



Furthermore, the Leader reiterated Iran's commitment to completing the North-South Transit Corridor, which aims to connect Turkmenistan and

neighboring countries to the Sea of Oman. He noted that cooperation between the two nations would enhance their standing in a changing world.

Berdimuhamedow pointed to the agreements reached during negotiations with Iranian officials, which focused on road construction, water,

electricity, and gas sectors. The talks showcased both sides' commitment to deepening ties and exploring avenues for further collaboration, he said.

leader.ir

Tehran, Ashgabat sign five multi-field cooperation documents

Economy Desk

Five cooperation documents between Iran and Turkmenistan were signed in Tehran on Tuesday during a meeting attended by Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow.

The documents would enhance cooperation between the two neighbors in the exchange of electricity, comprehensive interaction in the fields of diplomacy and customs, and academic cooperation. Addressing a joint press conference with Berdimuhamedow, Raeisi said the

two sides had very good negotiations in the field of energy. "In the field of water and electricity, good cooperation has been forged between the two countries. In the field of transportation and transit, both sides have made new decisions," the Iranian president said.

"Supplying of technical and engineering services by Iran for Turkmenistan will also increase," he added. The Turkmen top official described the energy cooperation as constructive, emphasizing the role of economic committees. "We discussed the issue of energy, especially gas and electricity; and Turkmen-

istan's policy is based on the expansion of gas exports," he added. "We also talked about electricity and its export from Turkmenistan to Iran," the official added. "We agreed on the operationalization of land and sea routes for the implementation of large projects and exports," he said.

Azerbaijan stoking Israeli war machine



By Mohsen Pakaein
Caucasus affairs expert

During a diplomatic visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Israeli President Isaac Herzog reaffirmed his anti-Iran stance and asserted that he and Baku shared a common

perspective on the Iranian threat. In reciprocal visits between Azerbaijani and Israeli officials, the Israeli authorities consistently seek to amplify the alleged danger posed by Iran, as well as to showcase their own power.

Iran has consistently responded to the threats it faces, exemplifying this commitment through its actions. A recent incident serves as a striking illustration: When an Israeli drone violated Iranian airspace, the Islamic Republic promptly intercepted and shot down the intruding aircraft. In reality, the portrayal of Iran as a threat acts as a smokescreen for hidden motives, such as Israeli actions against Palestine. Notably, the Republic of Azerbaijan currently supplies over 40% of Israel's oil, effectively serving as the catalyst to ignite Israel's war machine against the Palestinians.

Conversely, Tel Aviv supplies advanced weaponry to Azerbaijan, thereby establishing Baku as a significant financier for Israel. Second only to the United States, Azerbaijan maintains a robust level of support and collaboration with Israel. Consequently, Israeli authorities endeavor to conceal the Republic of Azerbaijan's complicity in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people through their anti-Iran stance.

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US failure to isolate Iran evident as ties with neighbors expand: *VP*

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Iran's Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Hosseini



on Wednesday said that the United States' objective of isolating Iran through sanctions had failed, as Iran's relationships with neighboring countries continued to expand.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Hosseini underscored the government's approach of fostering relations with neighboring nations, which has effectively thwarted America's strategy of maximum pressure.

Hosseini highlighted the potential benefits of effectively utilizing regional resources and collaborating with neighboring countries, saying close cooperation with them could provide Iran with access to vast markets with a substantial population of over 600 million people.

The vice president further noted that the current Iranian government had prioritized developing relations with neighbors since taking office in August 2021.

Notably, Hosseini mentioned President Ebrahim Raeisi's initial foreign visit to Tajikistan, where he participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit weeks into his presidency.

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Five Palestinian fighters killed in blast blamed on Israel

Five members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command resistance group were killed in a blast overnight near Lebanon's border with Syria, sources told Reuters on Wednesday, with the group blaming Israel. An Israeli source told Reuters the Israeli military was not involved in the Syria-Lebanon border blast and Lebanon's army declined to comment. A PFLP-GC statement on Wednesday said five of its members were killed in an Israeli air strike on a site controlled by the group near the border. The group's spokesman in Damascus Anwar Raja told Reuters an Israeli strike on the Leba-

nese town of Qusaya had killed five members, including fighters, and wounded 10. A representative for the PFLP-GC in Lebanon Abu Kifah Ghazi said airplanes had been heard over the group's position all night. But one Palestinian security source and a Lebanese security source told Reuters the deaths were the result of explosives and ammunition detonating as the PFLP-GC members were moving them. A second Lebanese security source said he could not confirm the blast was the result of an Israeli strike. The Israeli military told Reuters it does not comment on reports in foreign media.

Biden aide visited Oman to seek mediation with Iran: *Report*

Brett McGurk, U.S. President Joe Biden's senior Middle East adviser, took a low-profile trip to Oman earlier this month for talks with Omani officials on a possible diplomatic outreach to Iran regarding its nuclear program, according to five U.S., Israeli and European officials. Axios reported in April that the Biden administration discussed with its European and Israeli partners a possible proposal for an interim agreement with Iran that would include some sanctions relief in exchange for Tehran freezing parts of its nuclear program. McGurk traveled to Muscat on May 8 after a trip to Saudi Arabia with national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, and a visit to Israel to brief Prime Minister Ne-



Brett McGurk (l), White House coordinator for the Middle East, talks with U.S. President Joe Biden.
TWITTER

tanyahu about the U.S. talks in Riyadh, four Israeli and U.S. officials said, IFP wrote. The Muscat visit wasn't made public by either the U.S. or Oman.

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