

## Energy cooperation with Moscow to continue: Owji



Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji held a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak and emphasized that the process of developing relations between Iran and Russia will continue in various fields.

Owji noted that during the late president Ebrahim Raisi's tenure, a good foundation was made in bilateral relations between Iran and Russia, Mehr News Agency reported.

He pointed to several phone calls between President of Russia Vladimir Putin and Acting President of Iran Mohammad Mokhbar, stressing that there is no doubt that the relations between Tehran and Moscow will strongly move forward.

Congratulating Russia Day, Owji expressed his satisfaction with the process of development of bilateral relations through the implementation of the agreements reached in the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the launch of a direct flight between Tehran and Grozny, the center of Russia's Chechnya Republic, he expressed hope that the cooperation will continue to strengthen the relations between the two countries along with the improvement of the level of relations.

Novak, for his part, emphasized Moscow's resolve to continue cooperation with Iran and to speed up the implementation of the agreements between the two countries.

He said that Russia is determined to continue the same path that was laid at the will of the Russian president and his late counterpart.

Novak added that Moscow and Tehran have close relations in all fields and this cooperation will be strengthened day by day.

Accelerating the process of completing the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), including the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway, for which the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding in 2023, was one of the topics discussed in the meeting.

Owji also held talks with Igor Levitin, a senior aide to Putin, and Sergei Tsiviliev, Russia's Minister of Energy, during his visit to Moscow on Friday.

# Iran-Russia ties strategic, based on solid principles: Mokhber

Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber described the country's relations with Russia as strategic and founded upon unchanging principles.

Mokhber made the remarks on Thursday as he was speaking on the phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Press TV wrote.

"Complete implementation of all the agreements that have been clinched [between the two sides], including in the areas of trade, transit, and energy, forms the principal agenda of the bilateral ties," the Iranian official said.

The Islamic Republic was determined to implement those agreements, he reasserted.

Mokhber went on to review the process of the Islamic Republic's bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Russia, especially concerning the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the BRICS group of emerging economies, and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

In this context, he laid emphasis on reinforcement of the legal bases of the Russo-Iranian cooperation.

Putin, for his part, considered the level of cooperation and the pace of expansion of economic relations between the two sides to be very favorable and satisfactory.

The Russian leader described the pending comprehensive cooperation agreement — a major deal that is expected to elevate relations between the two allied countries to a new level — as a proper legal basis for the expansion of mutual ties.

Putin likewise stressed that the full implementation of standing bilateral agreements, especially in the areas of transport and energy, would form the principal agenda of the bilateral ties.

The Russian president described the 2023 conclusion of a free trade agreement between Tehran and the EAEU as a proper basis for further development, enhancement, and dynamism of the Russo-Iranian trade.



Putin concluded his remarks by wishing the Iranian nation suc-

cess in the Islamic Republic's upcoming snap presidential

elections, which are slated to be held on June 28.

## Japan welcomes Iran's participation at Expo 2025



Japanese Ambassador to Iran Tamaki Tsukada said on Thursday that the Expo 2025 which will be held in the port city of Osaka, Japan, is an opportunity for Iranian-made products to be showcased as the event could help the promotion of Tehran-Tokyo ties.

In a meeting with business persons of the western Iranian province of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, the envoy was briefed on the potential of the province in various sectors and the local merchants voiced their demands.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Foreign Trade Organization (JETRO) have their offices in Iran, the ambassador said, adding, "I will talk to these two organizations on the requests of traders of the province." The Japanese envoy underlined that consultations and negotiations with Iran's Foreign Ministry and Iran International Exhibition Company on the participation of Iran in Osaka are underway and will be concluded by the end of June.

Expo 2025 will take place for six months during 2025, opening 13 April 2025 and closing 13 October 2025.

A total of 150 countries and 25 international organizations are expected to participate in the event.

## Russia halts dollar, euro trade on stock market after US sanctions

The Moscow Exchange (MOEX) has stopped trading in dollars and euros, a move prompted by a new round of US sanctions targeting Russia's financial institutions.

According to the Russian media citing the MOEX on Thursday, the suspension has affected foreign and precious metals trade but "derivatives market remains unaffected, with trade going on as usual."

Russia's Central Bank elaborated on the matter in a separate statement, explaining that the official exchange rates for the two currencies will now rely on "bank records and information from digital over-the-counter trading."

Despite the suspension, companies and individuals have reportedly urged to continue buying and selling dollars and euros through Russian banks. Earlier on Wednesday, the US Treasury Department rolled out a new package of restric-

tions against Russia over the Ukraine war, targeting Moscow Exchange Group and its clearing agents, the National Clearing Centre (NCC) and the National Settlement Depository (NSD). US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen claimed that Russia has

fully transitioned into a "war economy" and is now "deeply isolated" from the international financial system.

Russian central bank, however, says the US move is aimed at disrupting the country's financial mechanisms.



## Israel faces increasing isolation over Gaza war crimes



By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

Over 140 countries have recognized Palestine as a state. The International Court of Justice has ordered Israel to cease its military actions, which Israel has ignored. Spain has filed a request with the court to join South Africa in a case against Israel for mass killings of Palestinians. According to global media reports, the United Nations, in its annual report, will release a list of countries and groups that have committed war crimes against chil-

dren during conflicts. Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, has expressed anger over the inclusion of Israel in this list. The list, expected to be published at the end of June, will also include the resistance movements of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad to maintain a balance. The report focuses on violations of children's rights in war-torn areas.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad are designated as "terrorist organizations" by the US and some EU countries. The war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has now entered its ninth month. According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, one in every 20 Palestin-

ians has been killed or injured by Israeli military actions, and most of Gaza's 2.4 million population have been displaced, searching for shelter and food. In Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war cabinet is facing severe disagreements. Extremist Zionists in the cabinet are determined to eliminate every point of Palestinian resistance and oppose any ceasefire in the war. Benny Gantz, representing extremist Jews in the war cabinet, opposes a permanent ceasefire with Hamas and supports taking all necessary steps for the release of Israeli captives held by Hamas. These extremists have also made highly irresponsible

statements regarding the use of nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, China and Russia have expressed reservations about the US draft for a ceasefire in Gaza, and both have the power to veto any resolution in the UN Security Council. Algeria, the only Arab member of the Security Council, has also stated it is not ready to advance the draft immediately. Russia's suggestions include maintaining the ceasefire from the first phase while continuing negotiations for the second phase.

The US is seeking international support for its plan to end the eight-month-long war in Gaza through a resolution in the fifteen-member council, requiring

at least nine votes in favor and avoiding a veto from the US, France, the UK, China, or Russia. However, Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas' Political Bureau, has stated that Israel's increasing use of force against Gaza's people will not force them to accept a ceasefire agreement that does not consider Palestinian interests. In a statement on last Saturday, Haniyeh said Israel's belief that it could impose its terms through force is foolish. Israel's internal politics are complicating peace efforts and hindering resolutions that could lead to lasting peace, causing Tel Aviv to reject terms that could facilitate a sustainable peace.