

# Putin to Pezeshkian: Russia ready to sign comprehensive deal with Iran



Vladimir Putin

## International Desk

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday congratulated Masoud

Pezeshkian on his election as the president of Iran, expressing hope that relations between the two countries, which

are at their highest level, would continue during his presidency. Putin made the remarks during a phone conversation with Iran's new chief executive.

Referring to increasing cooperation between Iran and Russia, especially in the fields of energy and transportation, the Russian president expressed his country's readiness to sign a new comprehensive cooperation agreement on the sidelines of the next meeting of the BRICS group of emerging economies in Russia. Putin invited Pezeshkian to participate in the meeting which is set to be held in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan. Pezeshkian, for his part, said Iran's attaches great

importance to the relations with the friendly and neighboring country of Russia and will undoubtedly strengthen these relations.

The president-elect emphasized his government's determination on implementation of the agreements signed between the two countries under the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Also on Monday, Pezeshkian held a separate phone call with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

During the talks, both sides discussed bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries as well as regional and international issues. Pezeshkian was elect-



Masoud Pezeshkian

ed as the country's new president in the runoff election on Friday. Pezeshkian garnered more than 16 million

votes out of over 30 million ballots cast in the presidential runoff election, which was held on July 5.

## Israel's deterrence eroded to zero due to resistance attacks:

### Ex-minister



Munich Security Conference (MSC)

## International Desk

Avigdor Liberman, Israel's former minister of military affairs, said the regime's "deterrence has been eroded to zero" due to attacks by resistance movements. Liberman made the remarks during a recent interview with Israeli newspaper Arutz Sheva.

"We have won many tactical gains, but we accumulated a greater strategic loss. We have eroded our deterrence down to zero," Liberman said. He added that Iranians are telling Israel that there will be no peace in the north until there is a ceasefire in the south.

Referring to attacks by resistance movements in Yemen, Iraq and Syria on Israel, he said, "They are firing at us from every direction. That means that our deterrence has been eroded to zero."

Since the beginning of Israel's brutal war on the Gaza Strip in October last year, resistance groups across the region have launched various operations against the regime and its Western backers to support Palestinians in Gaza.

The resistance groups say they will continue their retaliatory attacks until the regime ends its bloodshed in the Palestinian territory. Attacks by the Islamic Resistance in Iraq have targeted Israeli positions and major American military bases in Syria and Iraq over the US support for Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah resistance movement in Lebanon has been exchanging fire with the Israeli occupation army on a daily basis since the start of the regime's war on Gaza. Yemen's Ansarallah resistance movement has also been launching attacks on Israeli-bound ships in the Red Sea to support Palestinians. Israel started its genocidal war on Gaza on October 7, 2023 after the territory's resistance fighters carried out Operation al-Aqsa Storm against the regime in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

The regime has also imposed a complete siege on the territory, cutting off fuel, medicine, electricity, food, and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there. More than 38,000 Palestinians – mostly women and children – have been killed in Israel's attacks so far.

## Iran to respond positively to positive steps in int'l relations: FM spox

### National Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that Tehran would give a positive response to any positive step, stressing that some European countries' unconstructive behavior has hindered progress of relations with these countries.

Kanaani made the remarks in response to a question about the EU and the US announcement of their readiness for expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic following Iran's presidential election. He said that Iran is ready to expand relations with different countries, including the European ones,

based on constructive interaction.

Kanaani also said diplomatic channels between Iran and the US are open and negotiations between the two countries are underway.

"We use all diplomatic capacities to realize the rights of the nation," he told reporters at his

weekly press conference on Monday.

He said Iran is pursuing a rational foreign policy based on interaction with different countries while observing the dignity of the country and the nation, focusing on its good neighborliness policy, and using multilateral capacities.

Regarding relations with China, Kanaani said that Iran will continue its relations with the Asian country as one of the important countries in the world. The foreign ministry's spokesman underlined that Iran's relations with different countries and friendly governments follow the general policies

of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranians elected Masoud Pezeshkian as the country's new president in the runoff election on Friday. Pezeshkian will supplant late president Ebrahim Raisi, who lost his life in a tragic chopper crash in northwestern Iran on May 19.

## France in limbo after Macron gamble deepens political deadlock

France was faced with an unsettling political vacuum Monday after snap elections called by President Emmanuel Macron to reshape the political landscape failed to clear a path to a new government. The left-wing New Popular Front (NPF) won most seats in Sunday's second-round parliamentary vote, beating both Macron's centrists and Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN). But no group wields an outright majority and

no obvious candidate for prime minister has emerged.

Many in France were overjoyed by the outcome, and cheering crowds gathered in eastern Paris to celebrate Le Pen's defeat, but potentially divisive talks on forming a new government were just beginning, three weeks before Paris hosts the Olympics.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal visited the Elysee Palace to submit his resignation to Macron, but was

asked to remain in power in a caretaker capacity to see out the Games – and reassure the international community and the markets that France still has a government.

International reaction was muted and mixed.

France's EU partners are relieved that Le Pen's eurosceptic outfit will not come to power, where they could endanger future European integration and western support for Ukraine.



AFP

German chancellor Olaf Scholz's administration was "somewhat relieved over what didn't happen", spokesman Steffen He-

bestreit told reporters in Berlin.

Moscow, meanwhile, tried to mask its disappointment.

## French elections and ...

Outside the EU, the gains of the Labour Party in the UK's parliamentary vote contribute to this balance, despite Britain no longer being an EU member. As a prominent NATO member with strong traditional ties to European countries, the UK still influences the equation.

It remains to be seen whom Macron will tap as prime minister from the coalition ranks, although the left-wing coalition seems to have the upper hand. The composition

and weight of the political forces in the recent French elections indicate that no single party can hold a majority in parliament. Therefore, if Macron fails to create a political balance within France, the country could be headed for social and political upheaval.

The French government sees itself as the guardian of the legacy of the French Revolution, committed to values such as pluralism, justice, equality, freedom, and human rights. Meanwhile, French society has become a diverse tapestry

of cultural, economic, and identity-based demands, making governance a challenging task, as evidenced by the various protest movements in recent years.

So, while France is ripe for destabilizing changes, the recent election results and the left's victory do not signal a deepening of social divides. A far-right victory would have pushed France closer to instability, but the left does not pose a dangerous prospect for either Macron or French society at large.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

