

Pezeshkian talks with visiting world figures on int'l affairs

National Desk

Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkian engaged in diplomatic discussions on regional and international developments as well as comprehensive relations with various foreign delegations on the sidelines of his swearing-in ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday.

More than 70 foreign representatives, including senior officials and secretary generals of regional and international bodies, traveled to Tehran to attend the ceremony. Presidents, vice-presidents, deputy ministers, parliament speakers and ambassadors partook in the ceremony where Pezeshkian was sworn in as Iran's chief executive in Parliament.

Commonality with Tajikistan

In the meeting with his Tajik counterpart, Emomali Rahmon, Pezeshkian stated that, "We must strive to diminish political borders while enhancing cooperation and relations," adding that language is a significant commonality shared by Iran and Tajikistan and "I hope that by relying on this commonality, we can enhance mutual cooperation in various fields."

During a meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, the Iranian president said Iran considers connecting routes, including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), as an opportunity for the development and progress of all countries in the region, adding that the completion of projects in this sector will be one of the new administration's priorities.

In a meeting with visiting Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, Pezeshkian emphasized that the new Iranian government prioritizes the consolidation of ties with neighboring countries, adding that Iran like Georgia is determined to employ the potential to expand bilateral ties in line with the well-be-



Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon on the sidelines of his swearing-in ceremony in Tehran, on July 30, 2024. [president.ir](#)

ing and development of the two nations.

Regional union

Pezeshkian also met with Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ashimbayev Maulen Sagathanuly. He said bilateral relations are based on historical interactions and cultural commonalities. "Even today, political borders have not limited the cultural and historical connections of the two countries, stressing that establishing a regional union will lead to a point that cooperation between countries be more prominent," he added. Ashimbayev, for his part, stressed that Kazakhstan considers the Islamic Republic as a "strategic partner."

Unity among Muslims

Meanwhile, in a meeting with the visiting Malaysian Parliament speaker Johari Abdul, Pezeshkian vowed to strengthen the friendly relations with Kuala Lumpur. He also stressed the need for further unity among Muslim coun-

tries in order to prevent the crimes of the Israeli regime, while appreciating Malaysia's positions on Palestine.

In a meeting with Chairman of Uzbekistan's Legislative Chamber Nuriddinjon Ismailov, Pezeshkian said the numerous agreements between Iran and Uzbekistan signify the deepening and growing of bilateral relations.

He emphasized that strengthening parliamentary relations between the two sides serves as a solid foundation for accelerating government efforts to enhance bilateral ties. He called for greater involvement of the legislative bodies of both countries in this regard. Ismailov highlighted the various sectors for collaboration, particularly in trade, transportation, transit, and logistics as suitable areas for developing cooperation between the two nations. He noted that currently more than 300 joint companies are active in the commercial and economic sectors of both countries, and Uzbekistan is interested in increasing the volume of trade with Iran to twice its current amount in the new era.

Economic ties with Turkmenistan

During a meeting with Rashid Mardov, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Turkmenistan, Pezeshkian emphasized that the relations between the two countries have a long history and are based on shared cultural and civilizational ties. He also urged greater efforts to enhance economic and trade interactions between the two nations.

Pezeshkian, in his meeting with Bakyt Torobayev, the deputy prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, stated that strengthening relations with Kyrgyzstan through a commercial cooperation agreement would yield positive outcomes for both nations. Kyrgyzstan's deputy prime minister, for his part, said that relations with Iran provide a solid backing for his country in international interactions.

Stronger bonds among independent countries

In a meeting with Cuba's Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz on Monday Pezeshkian said the expansion of relations among in-



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dependent and freedom-seeking countries such as Iran and Cuba can play an effective role in the fight against unilateralism.

He denounced Israel's crimes against the defenseless people of Palestine in Gaza and inaction of the so-called human rights defenders on the regime's criminal acts. In a meeting with Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous in Tehran, Pezeshkian said his administration will take necessary measures to speed up the implementation of the agreements with the Arab country.

In a meeting with South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Ozy Lamola, Iran's new president also called for strengthening cooperation with South Africa in bilateral and international circles, including the BRICS group of emerging economies. Lamola said his coun-

try will continue to cooperate with Iran with the purpose of restoring the Palestinian people's rights, establishing lasting ceasefire and delivering humanitarian aid to the war-inflicted civilians.

Resistance reassured of consistent support

Meeting separately with Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, Ziad Nakhala, the secretary general of the Gaza Strip-based Islamic Jihad movement, and Sheikh Naim Qassem, deputy secretary general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, Pezeshkian reassured senior resistance leaders of the Islamic Republic's policy of providing the Axis of Resistance in the region with consistent support. At a meeting with spokesman for Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement, Mohamed Abdel-Salam, Pezeshkian has hailed the anti-Israel operations carried out by the Yemeni forces in support of Palestinians in the war-torn Gaza, calling for cooperation among Islamic nations to put an end to the oppression of Muslims.

UN chief: Iran can resolve regional crises

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres congratulated Pezeshkian on his victory in Iran's presidential election, expressing the world body's readiness to promote cooperation with the new Iranian administration.

In a message addressed to Pezeshkian, Guterres acknowledged that he is counting on him to help promote the values and ideals enshrined in the UN Charter. He called for Iran's important and influential role in Middle East to be used in order to help resolve regional crises and prevent the outbreak of new conflicts that could threaten the region and beyond.

Kerman-Dubai direct flight to be launched next month

Kerman Province will have direct flights to Dubai, allowing for connection of Iran's southeastern province to 150 destinations, according to a provincial official.

Ali Beigzadeh, the deputy head of Kerman's Management and Resources Development, said the Kerman-Dubai flight will for the first time be launched as of September 9, Mehr News Agency reported. There will be a twice-weekly service on Mondays and Thursdays from Dubai to Kerman Province, Beigzadeh said.

With the launch of this flight, Kerman will be connected to 150 destinations across the world. The official stressed that the southeastern Iranian city will find the opportunity to participate in international exhibitions and economic activities, and tourism will be promoted in the province.



Iran issues permits for setting up trade centers in Shanghai, Minsk



Iran has authorized the launch of trade centers in China's Shanghai and in the Belarusian capital of Minsk.

The Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran said on Monday that it had issued a permit for opening the Islamic Republic of Iran's Trade Center in Shanghai, a major trade and economic hub on the East China Sea coast, Press TV reported.

It said the center will be authorized to carry out trade activities on behalf of the Iranian government and businesses until the end of the current calendar year in late March.

Iran has already launched a trade center in the Chinese capital Beijing as part of its plans to expand economic relations with China and to increase its exports to the East Asian country. China is currently Iran's largest trade partner as the country accounts for nearly a fourth of all purchases of Iranian non-oil exports. The TPO on Monday also issued a permit for launching the Iranian trade center in Minsk, saying the permit will be valid until next May.

Iran and Belarus have sought better ties in recent years as part of plans to fight off sanctions im-

posed on their economies by the West.

Iran relies on Belarus for imports of heavy mining and manufacturing equipment and agricultural machinery while it exports sizable volumes of agri-food and manufactured products to Belarus. Iran has signed a free trade arrangement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), of which Belarus is a key member.

Trade ties between the two countries can further expand once parliaments of Iran and all EAEU countries finalize the free trade agreement signed in December last year.

Iran's steel output up 5.9% to 16.6m mts in H1 2024

The latest monthly report by the World Steel Association (WSA) indicated that Iran has produced as much as 16.6 million metric tons (mts) of unprocessed steel in the first half of 2024, an increase of 5.9% year-on-year.

According to the report, Iran remained on the ninth place of the world steel producers in the six-month period, IRNA reported. In May, the WSA published its report which put Iran on the seventh ranking of world steel producers in May while the country's five-month ranking was ninth, which was largely due to restrictions on gas supply during the first months of 2024.

The global steel output hit 161.4 million mts in June which is 0.5% more than figures reported in last year's corresponding month, according to the latest report by the association. It also said that Turkey, India, and Iran saw 16.9, 7.4 and 5.9 percent increases, respectively to register the biggest rises among the top producing countries in June.

