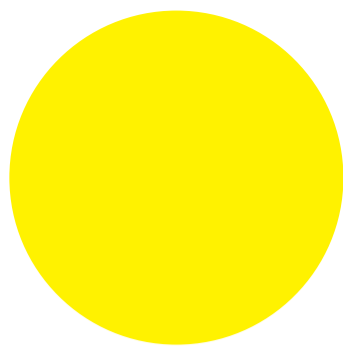


Iran's top security official in Russia for BRICS meeting



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Iran ready to develop Arash gas field amid Kuwait's repeated claims

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Setting sights on \$50b trade target with Iraq

By Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh
Mideast affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's choice of Iraq as his first foreign visit destination is defensible from political, cultural, and economic perspectives. However, among the various fields for potential bilateral cooperation, I want to zero in on economic collaboration as the real standout in this piece. Although security strategies still hold sway along the Iran-Iraq border, the frontier is still Iran's most lucrative border, thanks to the political and cultural affinities between the two neighbors.

Based on my 12-year experience in Iraqi affairs, I believe that if security considerations step aside and make way for developmental ones at the border, Tehran-Baghdad trade capacities can reach \$50 billion annually. However, unfortunately, security considerations have sometimes stopped or postponed some important economic projects or even removed them from the agenda.

If the authorities of Iran and Iraq do not get a move on and put these economic agreements into action pronto, border trade will fall into the hands of middlemen and mafias.

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Water diplomacy in full force during Pezeshkian's Iraq visit

River That Connects Not Separates Us

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EXCLUSIVE



Trump's new court in Tehran has implied message

It matters for Iran who is POTUS

Although on the eve of every presidential election period in the United States, the official line out of Tehran, sometimes delivered by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is that it makes no difference who wins from their perspective, this time one of the other two candidates is facing charges in Tehran for the murder of an Iranian general. No matter how symbolic the trial is considered to be, it means we cannot say in all honesty anymore that the two candidates are indistinguishable.

SPECIAL ISSUE

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