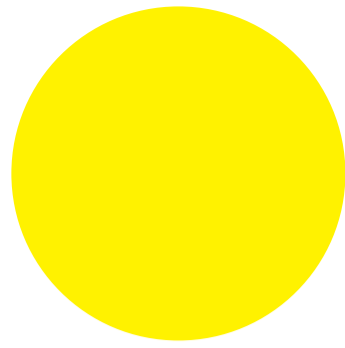


Putin lauds  
'strategic'  
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with Iran

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IranDailyWeb

## Iraq; packed, productive itinerary



By Sasan  
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### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq can be assessed from multiple angles. Firstly, the selection of Iraq as the president's first foreign destination was a noteworthy choice. Iraq is a neighboring country that enjoys a strong strategic partnership with Iran, and the two countries have a significant level of trade exchanges, with bilateral commerce flourishing between them. Furthermore, being an Arab country, Iraq's perspective on regional issues is of considerable significance to other Arab nations, making it essential for them to be cognizant of the agreements or memoranda signed during the visit, as well as the stances of the officials towards each other and the region. In addition, there are many cultural, political, and economic commonalities between the two countries, and it was expected that with the trip of Pezeshkian and his accompanying delegation to Iraq, the level of trade and economic, political, and security cooperation would increase.

Another point is that Iraq has always been a common ground between Iran and the United States, and in this regard, the choice of this country for the first foreign trip of the president is noteworthy. The hospitality extended to the Iranian president and his delegation by Iraqi officials was impressive, especially during President Pezeshkian's trip to the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region — a strategic move that serves Iran's national interests both from a political and security perspective.

In general, it can be stated that this trip had a dual focus and pursued two distinct objectives. One aspect of the trip was the strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation, which, with the signing of new agreements and the emphasis by both sides on the implementation of previous agreements, can serve as a significant catalyst for increasing the level of cooperation in various fields. Iraq relies on Iran to meet part of its basic needs, such as electricity and gas, and in return, Iraq is a major destination for Iran's trade exchanges. Building on such extensive cooperation and the existence of numerous opportunities for further development, Pezeshkian, in addition to visiting Baghdad, also traveled to Iraq's Kurdistan Region, Basra, Najaf, and Karbala, where he met and engaged in negotiations with local officials.

In this regard, as noted before, the trip to the Kurdistan Region is particularly noteworthy. The Iranian president's meeting with the officials and the leaders of political parties in the Kurdistan Region, as well as the satisfaction expressed by its officials with the trip and the discussions, can lead to the consolidation of relations between Tehran and Erbil and the resolution of some misunderstandings between the two sides. Furthermore, it can also facilitate the implementation of previous security and political agreements, thereby contributing to the establishment of stability and security in the border regions.

The other objective of this trip appears to be related to the government's public diplomacy efforts. The trip to Iraq, which was a packed and productive itinerary, demonstrated that the new Iranian government, at the very least, places significant importance on public diplomacy in its relations with neighboring countries. After all, from the perspective of public diplomacy, numerous neighboring countries, the region, and even the international community were eagerly awaiting the opportunity to gauge the spirit of this new government in the field of diplomacy. In this regard, the Iranian delegation made a notable impression in Iraq.

Therefore, I believe that the president was successful in achieving both objectives, strengthening bilateral relations with Iraq and prioritizing public diplomacy. The first foreign trip, by all accounts, appears to have been a busy and fruitful move.

# Western Neighbor; Launch Pad of Pezeshkian's Diplomacy

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) walks alongside his Iraqi counterpart, Abdul Latif Rashid, after arrival in Baghdad, Iraq, on September 11, 2024.  
ISNA

## Iran's oil output keeps rising despite sanctions: OPEC data



Iran continued to raise its oil production in August despite the continued pressure of US sanctions that curb the country's ability to sell oil in international markets, according to latest data by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

OPEC data cited in a report by IRNA showed that Iran's oil production had averaged 3.277 million barrels per day (bpd) in August, up just 4,000 bpd from July.

The increase came despite a fall in total OPEC output in August as the bloc produced 26.588 million bpd of oil, down 0.197 million bpd from July.

Iran remained the third largest OPEC producer in August after Saudi Arabia and Iraq which pumped 8.983 million bpd and 4.228 million bpd, respectively, showed the OPEC data.

Nigeria had the largest increase in oil production among OPEC members in August as the African country raised its output by 57,000 bpd compared to July.

Iran, Venezuela and Libya are exempt from a series of output cuts agreed between members of the OPEC and allied countries like Russia, a grouping which is known as the OPEC+.

Iran has significantly increased its oil exports and production in the past three years despite US sanctions that restrict its oil sales.

Exports have reached over 1.5 million bpd from lows of around 0.3 million bpd seen in 2019. The Iranian government has offered discounts to private buyers in China while relying on the expertise and investment provided by domestic companies to develop its oilfields.

Latest OPEC data, which is based on information from secondary sources, showed that the average price of Iran's heavy oil grade had declined by \$6.94 to \$77.63 in August. That came against a \$6.2 rise in OPEC basket prices which reached \$83.3 last month.

OPEC's forecast about global oil demand in 2024 was flat on figures announced in July when the organization said that the world's oil demand will increase by 2.3 million bpd to 104.024 million bpd this year.

# Iran's goods transit up 70% in five months

Some 8.6 million tons of goods were transited from Iran in rail and road sectors in the first five months of current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2024), showing a 70.3 percent rise compared to same period last year.

According to the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, 8.6 million tons of goods were transited from Iran between March 21 to August 22, 2024, reported Mehr News Agency.

The volume of transit in the road and rail sectors hit 14.3 million tons and 1.6 million tons, respectively in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20, 2024), showing a growth compared to the previous year's corresponding period.

The volume of loading and unloading operations at the ports of the country reached 158.6 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year, showing a 5.5 percent growth compared to a year earlier, the report added.



## Iran Air flights to Europe underway as scheduled



The spokesman of Iran's National Flag Carrier, Iran Air, on Thursday announced that all flights of the Iran Air to the European destinations are underway as scheduled. Hesham Qorbanali said that Iran Air is pursuing to lift the flight ban to Germany's Cologne, adding that no official sanctions have been declared

to Iran Air, wrote Mehr News Agency. Unfortunately, some foreign media outlets foment false news to disturb the opinion of air passengers, he said, noting that no documents have been announced by the European countries including France and the UK regarding the imposition of sanctions on Iran Air's flights to the Eurozone. On Tuesday, the US and

its main European allies - France, Germany, and Britain - said they were targeting Iran's flagship airline as part of the West's latest round of sanctions on the Islamic Republic in response to what was claimed to be Tehran's transfer of ballistic missiles to Russia for the war in Ukraine, an allegation that Tehran has categorically rejected.

## Homemade catalyst unveiled in petchem industry

Iran unveiled a homemade catalyst in the petrochemical industry on the sidelines of the 18th edition of the Iran International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment, entitled "IRAN PLAST 2024". The C2 catalyst for acetylene hydrogenation, which is known as an accelerator of chemical reactions in the petrochemical industry, was unveiled on the sidelines of the exhibition, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The catalyst was produced for the first time in Iran and Asia and the monopoly of several European countries and the US in its production was broken.

The acetylene hydrogenation catalyst (Front-end), which was introduced as ACF-11 catalyst, is used in the acetylene saturation in the olefin unit reactor which plays an important role in completing the petrochemical process. According to CEO of the Amirkabir Petrochemical Company Saeed Sadeghi this catalyst was designed and made in cooperation with a knowledge-based company.



## Tehran ready to launch Iran-Tunisia direct flight

Iran's ambassador to Tunisia said the country has expressed its readiness to launch a direct flight between the two countries.

Expressing satisfaction with the level of existing cooperation between Iran and Tunisia, Mir-Masoud Hosseini emphasized that Iran is ready to further enhance bilateral cooperation with Tunisia, as reported by Mehr News Agency. Speaking in a meeting with the Speaker of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People of Tunisia Ibrahim Bouderbala, the Iranian envoy stressed the need to enhance bilateral relations between Iran and Tunisia in all fields.

During the meeting, the two sides emphasized the distinct level of relations between the two countries and the serious determination of high-ranking officials of Iran and Tunisia to develop relations, especially in the economic, trade, cultural, and academic fields. Iranian and Tunisian officials also emphasized strengthening relations and materializing objectives to secure the interests of the two nations.



## Iran exports aquatics to 45 countries in five-month period: Official

Iran exported aquatic products to 45 countries in the world in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2024), an official said. It is predicted that Iran will export 300,000 tons of aquatic prod-

ucts overseas by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (to end March 20, 2025), Deputy Minister of Agriculture Hossein Hosseini stated, reported Tasnim News Agency. Hosseini noted that a variety of marine fish spe-

cies, ready-to-eat feed for aquatics, and shrimp are at the top of Iran's marine exports. The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has announced that the export of fishery products in the aforementioned pe-

riod increased by 32% in weight and 24% in value, respectively, he said. The exports of fishery products in this period stood at 68,000 tons, showing a 32 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding pe-

riod, the head of the Iran Fisheries Organization added, IRNA reported. Last year, Iran exported 210,000 tons of fishery products to more than 50 countries, hitting a record of \$650 million of aquatic products, which shows the country's

success in adhering to international standards, he added. Hosseini further noted that Iran plans to reach the export of 300,000 tons of aquatic products worth about \$700 million by the end of the current Iranian year.

# Lahijan; from tea gardens to timeless landscapes

Gracefully set against the stunning backdrop of Sheytan Kuh, Lahijan is one of Gilan Province's most cherished cities, affectionately known as the bride of Gilan. Renowned for its lush tea gardens and picturesque rice fields, this city effortlessly captivates visitors with its natural beauty and serene atmosphere.

The charm of Lahijan is enhanced by the sight of red clay roofs dotting the verdant landscape, creating a serene tableau. Adding to its allure is the picturesque Lahijan Lake, a mesmerizing turquoise gem nestled in the heart of the city. This lake serves as a focal point of beauty and tranquility, enchanting all who gaze upon its splendor, [toirantour.com](#) wrote.

Lahijan's rich history dates back to ancient times, beginning in the Parthian era when it was home to a formidable fortress that signified its importance. However, the Mongol invasion in the 13th century led to the destruction of this fortress, irrevocably altering the city's landscape.

In the wake of this devastation, Lahijan found a new path through silk production. It gained fame for cultivating silkworms and producing high-quality silk cloth. The city's valleys became renowned for their silk production, creating exquisite fabrics that distinguished Lahijan. This silk legacy speaks volumes about the city's resilience and creativity throughout the ages.

Situated at an elevation of 2.06 meters above sea level, Lahijan enjoys a humid subtropical climate, characterized by the absence of a distinct dry season. This weather creates a refreshing contrast to the dry, arid climate often found in other regions, inviting visitors to experience the city's unique charm.

Lahijan's climate is more than mere statistics; it is a vibrant part of the landscape. With its moderate elevation and year-round greenery, the city thrives in lush vegetation. Each season paints a captivating picture, making Lahijan a destination where travelers can truly connect with the rhythm and beauty of nature.

## City of Tea

Nestled in the green hills of northern Iran, Lahijan is famously titled the City of Tea. This nickname reflects its pivotal role in igniting Iran's love affair with tea. Long before it became a national staple, tea found its home in Lahijan's fertile soil, thanks to Haj Mohammad Mirza Kashef al-Saltaneh, who was the first to plant tea here. His historic residence, now the Tea Museum, overlooks the expansive tea gardens from a scenic hill.

Walking through the city feels like stepping into a world where tea is more than just a beverage; it embodies the essence of everyday life. Strolling through the lush tea fields, visitors can almost hear the stories woven into the landscape — tales dating back to Haj Mohammad Mirza Kashef al-Saltaneh's pioneering efforts. Today, the Tea Museum invites visitors to



● [IRNA](#)

partake in this journey through history. Each exhibit and narrative within the museum serve as a testament to Lahijan's commitment to preserving its rich tea heritage for future generations.

## Lahijan Lake

Set like a precious jewel in the heart of the city, the stunning Lahijan Lake adds yet another layer of charm to the picturesque cityscape. Local lore suggests that this enchanting lake was constructed by Shah Abbas Safavid himself. Originally intended to store water from the mountains for agricultural use, the Shah Abbasi Lake has transformed into a sparkling centerpiece of Lahijan.

Glistening in the sunlight, the lake reflects the lush beauty of Sheytan Kuh mountain, creating a mesmerizing vista. Along its shores, verdant Buxus plants flourish, and nearby streets burst



● [pinorest.com](#)

with colorful flowers. Above, graceful seagulls and wild ducks soar, enhancing the natural beauty of the tranquil waters below.

## Sheytan Kuh



● [eneshat.com](#)

In the eastern part of Lahijan lies the stunning Sheytan Kuh, one of the most beautiful mountains in northern Iran. At its heart flows an artificial waterfall, fed by the waters of the Lahijan artificial lake. This waterfall creates a breathtaking scene, enhancing the charm of the area. Alongside the water-

fall runs a staircase with 70 steps, leading from its base to the mountain's peak. The climb up these stairs is delightful, surrounded by trees and offering picturesque views at every turn.

Sheytan Kuh's appeal extends beyond its physical beauty; it provides a haven of tranquility and fascination for all who visit. As climbers ascend the staircase, they are treated to a symphony of natural sights and sounds, with each step revealing more of nature's wonders. The journey becomes an opportunity for quiet reflection, allowing travelers to immerse themselves fully in the mountain's timeless allure. Sheytan Kuh serves as a reminder of the harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world, beckoning adventurers to discover its hidden treasures along the pathway to serenity.

## Cable car



● [mihmansho.com](#)

The Lahijan cable car offers a scenic journey high above the ground, treating visitors to stunning views of Sheytan Tappeh and the tranquil pool below. Stretching across approximately 1.5 kilometers, this aerial route unveils the natural wonders of the area, creating a memorable adventure.

At the first station, travelers find everything they need for a comfortable trip, including ample parking, a fun amusement park, and cozy eateries serving local dishes. Before boarding the cable car, guests can pose for a photo, capturing the excitement of the upcoming journey. As the cabin glides towards the second station, which takes around 20 minutes, passengers can enjoy the sights and even purchase a printed copy of their photo upon arrival. Visitors can linger at the second station as long as they please, allowing them to soak in the beauty before heading back on the cable car for another round of exploration.

## Traditional bazaar

Situated in Chahar Padeshah Square along the lively West Kashif Street, the Lahijan traditional bazaar bursts with a riot of colors, scents, and flavors, reminiscent of other traditional Iranian bazaars. Beloved by both locals and tourists, it is hailed as the go-to spot for everyday essentials. During your visit, you can stock up on an array of fresh foods, including vibrant vegetables, local eggs, fish, and olives—all sourced from this bustling marketplace. Wandering into the Lahijan traditional bazaar feels like stepping into a culinary wonderland. Stalls brim with an enticing variety of goodies, each tempting your taste buds in its own unique way. From the colorful produce to the savory local treats, every corner of the market tells a delicious story. Amidst the lively chatter and friendly banter, you're not just shopping; you're diving



● [lastsecond.ir](#)

headfirst into the heart of rich culture, where every purchase comes with a side of tradition and a dash of hospitality.

## Akbarieh Mosque

At the heart of the Gabeneh neighborhood in Lahijan lies the Akbarieh Mosque, a place steeped in Iran's rich history, believed to date back to the 11th century AH. Over time, it underwent changes during the Safavid and Qajar periods.

Walking through its halls is like stepping into the past. In 1876, a new mosque, the Akbarieh, was constructed in place of the old one. Today, the mosque stands as a blend of old and new. From its ancient ablution spot to the spacious chambers, each part tells a story of faith and transformation. Visitors can explore centuries of history within its walls.



● [wikidata.org](#)

## Soostan Lagoon



● [alibaba.ir](#)

In Lahijan, there's a special spot known as Talab-e Soostan, or Soostan Lagoon. It's a slice of heaven on earth, boasting breathtaking beauty. This tranquil oasis is surrounded by majestic trees, creating

a peaceful atmosphere. When winter and fall arrive, the lagoon fills with fresh water, enhancing its allure. Additionally, an abundance of swamp plants and reeds encircle the lagoon.

What truly makes Soostan Lagoon remarkable is the diverse array of birds and animals that call it home. The favorable weather, lush vegetation, and clean water create a cozy habitat for wildlife. The journey

to the lagoon is part of the adventure; the scenic road leading there offers stunning views that make the trip even more exciting. It's no wonder that Soostan Lagoon is a popular spot for nature lovers!



Trade winds blowing strong

# Iran, Indonesia to harvest fruits of cooperation: Officials



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

**INTERVIEW  
EXCLUSIVE**

*Iran and Indonesia are two Muslim nations with unique strategic positions and immense political, economic, and cultural significance within their respective regions. As such, according to experts, fostering cooperation*

*between the two offers a multitude of benefits that should not be overlooked simply because they are not in each other's immediate vicinity.*

*Tehran and Jakarta already have similar, shared perspectives. The alignment of the two capitals in international affairs and within the Islamic world can further facilitate their respective development. This synergy is particularly salient as the governments of both countries have just changed hands and actively seek to broaden their relations with nations near and far.*

*Iran's strategic policies under the leadership of President Masoud Pezeshkian reflect a clear emphasis on expanding relations with the entire world, with a specific focus on East Asia, as articulated by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. A review of Indonesian officials' approaches in recent years also reveals this great Islamic country's eagerness to enhance cooperation with friendly and like-minded nations in their western regions.*

*Iran Daily conducted separate exclusive interviews with top figures that have their fingers on the pulse of the expanding cooperation between the two Muslim nations, including Indonesian Ambassador to Tehran Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro, former Iranian ambassador to Indonesia Mohammad Khosh-Heikal Azad, and Head of the Indonesia Department at Iran's Foreign Ministry Mohammad Reza Shabani.*



Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi (L) and Indonesian President Joko Widodo water a plant that the two transplanted during the former's visit to Jakarta on May 23, 2023.

IRNA

## Best opportunity for bilateral cooperation

Mohammad Khosh-Heikal Azad is the former Iranian ambassador to Indonesia and a senior expert on East Asian studies at the Institute for Political and International Studies (affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). He has served three terms at the Iranian Embassy in Indonesia as an embassy expert, deputy ambassador, and ambassador, and has written several books on the subject. During his years of service at the Iranian Embassy in Indonesia, the embassy made numer-

ous efforts to develop bilateral relations under three different Indonesian presidents.

The former envoy has detailed the capacities of Indonesia in detail in his book 'Indonesia and International Politics,' which covers various cultural and economic issues in the Southeast Asian country up to the Yudhoyono era. "The main point made in this book is that Indonesia is a very important country in many respects. Given that Indonesia is the largest Muslim-popu-

lated country, understanding political Islam in this country is of great importance. I found that Indonesian political Islam is a moderate form that opposes extremism, separatism, and radicalism."

Economically, Indonesia has great potential as well, and in Southeast Asia, it is considered a significant economic power. Assessments suggest that by 2045, it will be the fourth- or third-largest economy in the world. "Therefore, considering their long his-

tory of bilateral relations, Iran and Indonesia have the best opportunity to develop cooperation with each other," he added.

Khosh-Heikal Azad's other book, 'Indonesia, the Land of Pancasila, Smiling Islam, Consultation, and Agreement,' explores the developments over the ten-year term of outgoing Indonesian President Joko Widodo, in addition to his former predecessors, and provides a deeper understanding of Indonesia for those interested.



Mohammad  
Khosh-Heikal Azad



The former Iranian ambassador to Jakarta Mohammad Khosh-Heikal Azad (L) poses for a picture inside Iran's booth at the 41st Indonesia International Book Fair (IIBF) on November 9, 2022.

mfa.gov.ir

## Iranian traders unlock East Asian markets

According to Khosh-Heikal Azad, during the three periods that he served at the Iranian Embassy, the level of relations between the two countries was raised each year. "I remember that during president Suharto's era (1968-1998), the trade volume between the two countries was around \$100 million, but now, despite some trade restrictions,

assessments indicate that their bilateral trade has reached up to \$1.2 billion," he maintained. The official exchange rate, however, is stated to be lower than this amount. "In any case, our traders have found their way despite the existing restrictions and sanctions and are doing business with the Southeast and East Asian powers."

The former ambassador noted that in a meeting between President Widodo and the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in Tehran in late 2017, the two countries targeted \$20 billion worth of trade, but a series of challenges, including sanctions, have impeded the full realization of this goal.

## Mulling cooperation with emerging powers

The former Iranian ambassador stated: "Indonesians, as yet another actor on the international stage, have to take into account certain considerations, but overall, Indonesia, as an independent country and a proponent of the development of Asia-Africa cooperation at the Bandung Conference, seeks to develop cooperation with various countries, including Iran."

The Bandung Conference was a significant event held in 1955 in Bandung, Indonesia, with the participation of 29 countries from

around the world. The conference aimed to promote economic and cultural cooperation between Asia and Africa and oppose colonialism and neo-colonialism by the United States and the Soviet Union.

The 1955 Asian-African Conference in Bandung also gave birth to the Non-Aligned Movement, a significant platform for consultation and cooperation between the countries of the Global South. Indonesia just recently hosted another Asia-Africa conference and aims to further expand cooperation with

African countries. Coincidentally, developing relations with the Global South, which refers to the emerging powers in Africa, Latin America, and especially East Asia, is also part of the Iranian president's agenda.

According to Khosh-Heikal Azad, "President Pezeshkian's programs explicitly mention developing cooperation with neighboring countries and emerging powers. Foreign Minister Araghchi also explicitly referred to Indonesia as an emerging power that should be given attention."



## Preferential trade deal a giant step

Implementing the preferential trade agreement (PTA) is a giant step toward increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. During late president Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Indonesia last June, 11 documents and memoranda of understanding were signed between high-ranking Iranian and Indonesian officials. These memoranda covered a range of areas, including preferential trade, visa waivers, cultural exchanges, cooperation

in pharmaceutical production supervision, and collaboration in scientific, technological, and innovative fields, as well as bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sector.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Communications and Information Technology, Oil, and the Vice President for Science and Technology, along with the Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, signed these agreements with their Indonesian counterparts,

highlighting the comprehensive nature of the cooperation.

The preferential trade agreement aims to enhance commercial exchanges and joint ventures between Iran and Indonesia. Additionally, it seeks to reduce or eliminate tariffs on goods, remove non-tariff and quasi-tariff barriers, create a safer and more predictable environment for sustainable trade growth, diversify trade exchanges, and promote and

facilitate trade to enhance bilateral commerce.

With the world's largest Muslim population, Indonesia offers a promising market for Iranian products. Indonesia's imports from other countries total approximately \$270 billion, while Iran's share stands at less than \$1 billion. However, the Indonesian market is highly receptive to Iranian goods, presenting a significant opportunity for growth.

The preferential trade agreement will include a range of products such as pharmaceuticals, rubber, paper, textiles, wood, shoes, cotton, electrical machinery, motor vehicles, manufactured goods, chemicals, and aluminum. On the other hand, Indonesian products such as vegetable oil, cocoa, coffee, tea, spices, fruits, vegetables, and fish are already highly popular in the Iranian market.



Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro

## Indonesian envoy points out areas of cooperation

In an interview with Iran Daily, Indonesian Ambassador to Iran, Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro, underscored the potential for increased economic cooperation between Jakarta and Tehran, with the agreement serving as a pivotal stepping stone. The ambassador added that the agreement has been signed by both parties and is currently undergoing finalization and revisions, awaiting official confirmation. Once confirmed, the implementation process will begin promptly, Yuliantoro assured. Looking to the future, Yuliantoro highlighted the increasing role of IT and new technologies in the global economy. Given Iran's strong technological advancements and IT infrastructure, he foresees signifi-

cant collaboration between the two countries in these areas.

Furthermore, the ambassador drew attention to Iran's abundant mineral resources, particularly iron and other metals. He emphasized that investing in minerals could be a mutually beneficial area of cooperation and investment for both countries. Regarding the current trade volume between Iran and Indonesia, estimated at around \$200 million, Yuliantoro expressed dissatisfaction. He attributed the low trade volume partly to the sanctions imposed on Iran and emphasized the potential for this figure to reach much higher levels with the full realization of the preferential trade agreement.



Indonesian Ambassador to Tehran Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro (front) inspects the trade capacities of the Maku Free Zone Organization in northwestern Iran on December 2, 2023.

## Adverse effects of sanctions, distance

Mohammad Reza Shabani, head of the Indonesia Department at Iran's Foreign Ministry, also shared his insights on cooperation with Indonesia with Iran Daily. Stressing that Indonesia is one of the largest countries in Southeast Asia and the most populous Muslim nation in the region, Shabani noted that the country boasts a high degree of religious freedom, with followers of various sects co-existing peacefully and harmoniously. "Indonesians embrace a pluralistic and broad-minded approach to religion and faith, which aligns with our perspective," the Iranian official added.

He continued, "Our countries share a 74-year-old diplomatic relationship. Iran was among the first nations to recognize Indonesia. So, it's safe to say that close ties bind our nations." Last year's visit by the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi to Jakarta resulted in the signing of 11 cooperation agreements, "a truly unprecedented feat". However, both Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have just witnessed changes in their respective governments, with presidential elections taking place within the last six months. On October 20, Indonesia will inaugurate its newly

elected president, Prabowo Subianto. On the other hand, Tehran was compelled to hold an early election following the unfortunate helicopter crash involving president Raisi in May, leading to the formation of a new government under President Pezeshkian.

Therefore, despite exchanging messages after the untimely death of president Raisi and subsequently, after the inauguration of Pezeshkian and Indonesia's Indonesia 79th Independence Day, the two new presidents have not yet had the chance to discuss more complicated matters.

On economic matters, Shabani remarked, "The distance between our countries, the lack of direct flights, and insufficient shipping lines have impeded us from fully tapping into the potential of our relations. The current trade volume falls short of what could be achieved, with distance and sanctions playing a detrimental role. Despite Indonesia's open and non-aligned stance, certain sanctions-related obstacles, such as difficulties in opening Letters of Credit (LCs) and establishing banking relationships, have negatively impacted bilateral trade."



Mohammad Reza Shabani

The preferential trade agreement can significantly enhance our exchanges by giving preferences and slashing tariffs to a group of goods that one country possesses and the other country needs. This will naturally increase the volume of trade between the two countries. For example, we can receive palm oil, which we need, from Indonesia and provide them with our crude oil through our own mechanisms.

## Iran FM to focus on SE Asia

Shabani shed light on the Pezeshkian administration's approach to international relations, explaining, "President Pezeshkian has a particular interest in enhancing cooperation with Indonesia and East Asia. Given Foreign Minister Araghchi's previous experience as Iran's ambassador to Japan, he is also to give special attention to the Southeast Asian region. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to address the bilateral challenges currently faced by Iran and Southeast Asian countries including Indonesia."

The Iranian official said that his department has drafted reports detailing the issues between Tehran and Jakarta and proposing solutions. In due time, he promises, the Foreign Ministry will work towards resolving these challenges.



Then-Iranian deputy foreign minister Abbas Araghchi (L) holds a meeting with the then-Indonesian chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Foreign Policy, Security, and Defense Abdul Kharis Almsyhari (R) on August 15, 2019.

## Finalization of PTA should be expedited

Regarding the preferential trade agreement between the two countries, Shabani stated that the agreement is a positive sign that we can use to enhance our trade relations. The agreement is currently being reviewed in the Iranian Parliament. The official drew a contrast between the fact that the Indonesians approved the PTA within two months and are ready for its implementation on their end and the fact that on our end, the agreement is "still entangled in the administrative bureaucracy of the Parliament and the Guardian Council". Four sessions have

been held so far to discuss the implementation process. "There is some ambiguity about our next steps, but we hope to finalize the matter within the first few months of the new Iranian government."

Pointing out that the Parliament cannot independently finalize this matter, he advised the government and relevant ministries to expedite their own processes to facilitate the swift implementation of the agreement. He also proposed that a commission comprising representatives of the Ministry of Trade, the Islamic Republic

of Iran Customs Administration, and the Central Bank should be formed to determine what kinds of facilities the Iranian customs can provide for Indonesian imported goods. The Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, he suggested, should also decide which goods will be subject to the preferences mentioned in the agreement.

"The agreement can significantly enhance our exchanges by giving preferences and slashing tariffs to a group of goods that one country possesses and the other country needs. This will naturally increase the volume of trade

between the two countries. For example, we can receive palm oil, which we need, from Indonesia and provide them with our crude oil through our own mechanisms. We also have production advantages in the fields of health, defense, and military. During president Raisi's visit to Indonesia, two tele-surgical robots were donated, and Indonesia expressed interest in purchasing more."

The Foreign Ministry official maintained that Iran truly leads the region in the field of medical equipment. "It's not just talk because, in reality,

while everyone else is importing, we are manufacturing." Shabani noted that Tehran is also working on establishing a direct line between Iran and Indonesia for tourism and passenger travel.

Culturally, he added, the two countries can cooperate as well, especially in religious tourism. "Given the significant number of Shafi'i followers in Indonesia, we can facilitate their visit to the relevant sites of this sect and Sunni Islam in Mashhad, which has already been agreed upon and is being pursued," he concluded.



## Asian Wushu Championships:

# Iran's Kiani wins historic talou gold

### Sports Desk

Iranian Zahra Kiani made history on Friday by bagging a first individual talou gold for the country at the Asian Wushu Championships in Macao, China.

A two-time silver medalist at the Asian Games, Kiani scored 9.686 points to beat opponents from Hong Kong and Vietnam to the

ultimate prize in the women's jianshu form. This was a second medal for the Iranian girls on Day 2 of the 10th edition of the Asian Championships.

Helia Asadian had to settle for a bronze after a 9.676-point performance in the women's nandao event. Malaysia's Tan Cheong Min won the gold with Uzbekistan's Darya Latisheva taking the silver.

## AFC Champions League Elite preview:

# Persepolis to visit Al Ahli; Esteghlal hosting Al Gharafa

### Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League champion Persepolis will kick off its AFC Champions League Elite campaign with an eagerly-awaited clash against Saudi club Al Ahli in Jeddah's Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium on Monday.

In Tehran, Reds' archrival Esteghlal will welcome Qatar Stars League outfit Al Gharafa to the Shahr-e Qods Stadium as the Asian club football is set for a new chapter through the revamped tournament.

Finalists in 2012, Al Ahli last qualified in 2021 and the three-time Saudi league winners is back for a 13th time to meet Persepolis on a fifth occasion.

Persepolis, which won a seventh Iranian top-flight title in eight seasons back in May, reached the final showpiece of the competition twice in recent years (2018 and 2020) and are appearing for a 12th time, holding the upper hand in their head-to-head record with two wins and one draw.

Monday's opponent, however, will provide a stern test for the Reds, who are unbeaten in three matches in the domestic league and won a first game under new Spanish head coach Juan Carlos Garrido – a 2-0 home triumph against Foolad Khuzestan – last time out.

Former Manchester City winger Riyad Mahrez will headline a star-studded Al Ahli squad, with Senegalese keeper Édouard Mendy, ex-Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino, Turkish in-

ternational center-back Merih Demiral, and Ivorian midfielder Franck Kessié all expected to start the game for German coach Matthias Jaissle.

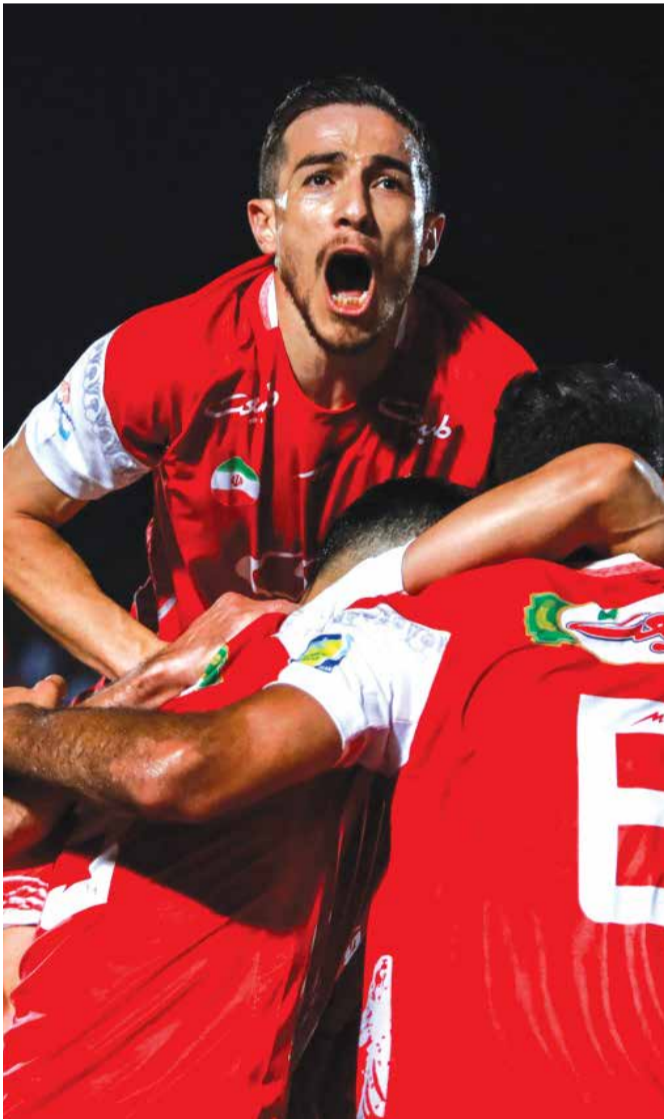
The match could also see Portuguese striker Lucas João make a first appearance in the Reds shirt after joining the club on a one-year deal from Qatari side Umm Salal this week.

Esteghlal, meanwhile, will be looking to bounce back from a 1-0 away loss to Esteghlal Khuzestan last time out in the league on its return to the continental event.

The defeat was followed by days of uncertainty swirling around the Blues' bench as numerous reports in the Iranian media suggested that head coach Javad Nekounam could be shown the exit door before the Al Gharafa game, though the club hierarchy eventually decided to stick with the current manager, who will be eager to prove he remains the right man for the job by an opening-day victory over Al Gharafa.

Seven-time Qatari league champion Al Gharafa came through the preliminary stage to take its place in the inaugural event – thanks to a home win against the UAE's Shabab Al Ahli – as the 2010 quarterfinalist will begin its 10th tournament involvement.

The most-decorated Iranian team in the competition with two titles, Esteghlal – back in the competition for the first time since 2021 – will eye a second win against Al Gharafa, having won once and drawn the other when the two sides squared off in the group stage in 2010.



IRNA



IRNA

## Wrestling U23 World Championships:

# Iran's world junior champions given a shot at glory in Tirana

### Sports Desk

Iranian gold medalists at the recently-finished Wrestling U20 World Championships will be rewarded with a place in October's U23 Worlds in Tirana, Albania, Ebrahim Mehrban, the secretary of the national governing body of the sport, confirmed.

A total of four gold medals across 10 weight classes helped the Iranian Greco-Roman team win a fifth world junior title in a row in Pontevedra, Spain, in early Sep-

tember, while the freestyle squad won three golds but missed out on the team crown for the first time since 2019, finishing second to Team USA.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa outmuscled American Isaiah Cortez for the Greco-Roman 55kg gold, with Mohammad Gholampour triumphant in the 60kg class thanks to a final win against Turkey's Servet Angi.

Ahmadreza Mohsennejad (67kg) and Alireza Abdevali (77kg) will also be given a shot at a second



UWW

age-group glory after walking away with the ultimate prize of their respective events in Spain, as Iran will eye a third Greco-Roman under-23 title on its return to the competition, having missed out on last year's edition – also hosted by Tirana – due to visa issues.

In the freestyle contests, Amirreza Ma'soumi was again in a league of his own in the junior superheavyweight class, bagging a fifth world age-group gold in three years, and will be the clear favorite to win a second world under-23 gold when

headlining the Iranian squad in the Albanian capital.

Ali Rezaei's gold-winning campaign also punched his Tirana ticket, but Ali Khorramdel – champion in the 65kg contests – will still have to take on fellow-Iranian Abbas Ebrahimzadeh in a domestic trial for a place in the team.

The Iranian freestyle team will be looking to improve on the runner-up finishes in the previous three involvements in the world under-23 event.

# Western neighbor; launch pad of Pezeshkian's diplomacy



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) speaks during a joint press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani in Baghdad, Iraq, on September 11, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

## International Desk

Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran's new president, concluded a three-day visit to the neighboring Iraq, during which he and Iraqi officials discussed further security and

economic cooperation between the two neighboring countries. On Wednesday in Baghdad, the first leg of his three-day visit, in a joint press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, Pezeshkian announced

the signing of 14 agreements to strengthen ties between Iran and Iraq. Pezeshkian also called for the full implementation of the security deal between Iran and Iraq to confront terrorists and enemies who have targeted the region's

stability and security. The Iranian president also noted that they discussed the geopolitical conditions of the two countries.

"The two countries are the connecting point between Europe and Asia. The two sides discussed forming a committee of experts and strategic long-term plans to enhance cooperation."

Sudani, for his part, described relations between Tehran and Baghdad as deep and longstanding, stating that the proximity of Iran and Iraq can enhance their relations.

## Elimination of borders

During a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Latif Rashid, Pezeshkian urged investment of endeavor towards elimination of borders among Muslim countries in a move comparable to the one that led to formation of the European Union.

Pezeshkian's first trip abroad since taking office in July came days after Iraq and US agreed on

a plan to withdraw American soldiers from Iraq. Iran has repeatedly described the presence of the US troops in Iraq as a source of tension and insecurity in the region.

## 'Historic' visit to Kurdistan

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Pezeshkian arrived in the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on Thursday on the second day of his visit and was welcomed by the region's President Nechirvan Barzani. During his meeting with Pezeshkian Barzani, the Iranian president stressed the need for steps to be taken to reach further agreements aimed at consolidating relations and achieving progress and development.

"It is essential to improve cooperation (in order to) prepare the necessary security ground for enhanced economic and commercial relations and interactions, especially in the border areas," the Iranian president emphasized.

Barzani, for his part, said Kurdistan imported more than 50 per-

cent of its required commodities from Iran, expressing hope that the two sides will accelerate the expansion of their interaction. He hailed the "historical and important" visit by the Iranian president to the Kurdistan Region and said Erbil is keen to expand relations with Tehran.

## Security pact

He emphasized that the Kurdistan Region is committed to a security pact between Iran and Iraq and will never allow any sides to use it as a threat against the Islamic Republic.

Pezeshkian also had a meeting with Masoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the former KRG president. It was the first official visit to Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region by an Iranian president since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Pezeshkian later visited the city of Sulaimaniyah in the region as well as Iraq's holy cities of Najaf and Karbala.

## Iran calls in four EU envoys over Russia-related sanctions

Iran summoned four European ambassadors Thursday after they imposed new sanctions over its alleged supply of ballistic missiles to Russia for use in Ukraine, which Tehran denies.

The British, Dutch, French and German envoys "were summoned by the ministry of foreign affairs following sanctions and unconstructive remarks by European parties," the official IRNA reported.

Britain, France and Germany announced new sanctions Tuesday targeting Iranian air transport in response to what they claimed was Tehran's delivery of ballistic missiles to Russia for use in the Ukraine war.

"We will be taking immediate steps to cancel bilateral air services agreements with Iran," the three European countries said in a joint state-

ment, adding that they would also "work towards imposing sanctions on Iran Air."

The Netherlands summoned Iran's ambassador on Wednesday over the alleged missile transfer, Iranian media reported, prompting a reciprocal action by Tehran. Iran's Foreign Ministry "strongly condemned... recent destructive actions and statements" by European officials, IRNA said.

"The insistence on adopting such positions and actions is considered a continuation of the West's hostile policy against the Iranian people," it added. Director General of the Western Europe Department at the Iranian Ministry of Affairs Majid Nili Ahmadabadi reiterated Iran's clear stance officially declared regarding the Ukraine war, saying, "As previously emphasized, any claim that the



Islamic Republic of Iran has sold ballistic missiles to Russia is completely baseless and false."

"America and a number of European allies mention security and peace while they themselves are the source of tension and escalation of crisis in the world by selling deadly weapons, including to the Zionist regime," he said. "It is natural that they should answer the consequences of their wrong policies."

## 'Faulty intelligence and flawed logic'

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also said "faulty intelligence and flawed logic" have once again led the United States and the European troika to impose sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

In a post on X on Wednesday, Araghchi said that "once again, US and E3 act on faulty

intelligence and flawed logic."

"Iran has NOT delivered ballistic missiles to Russia. Period."

Iran's mission to the United Nations has also declared that the country views any military aid to parties involved in the Ukraine conflict, which would exacerbate harm to lives and infrastructure in Ukraine, as inhumane. Iran has repeatedly denied it delivered any weapons to Russia for use in the Ukraine war, and vowed to respond to the fresh sanctions.

The United States has also imposed sanctions on 10 individuals and nine entities based in Iran and Russia. Included in the sanctions were ships that regularly bring cargo across the Caspian Sea between Iran and Russia and Iran's flag carrier Iran Air "for operating or having operated in the transportation sector of the Russian Federation economy."

## Putin lauds 'strategic' relations with Iran

Russian President Vladimir Putin praised "strategic" relations between his country and Iran, stating that friendly ties between the two neighboring states have dynamically improved in recent years. Putin made the remarks in a Thursday meeting with Secretary General of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian on the sidelines of a meeting of BRICS security officials in Russia's port city of St. Petersburg, Press TV reported.

The Russian president noted that his country is determined to cooperate with Iran in all fields,

stating that the volume of trade exchanges between Moscow and Tehran has increased by almost 10 percent in the first six months of the current year.

Addressing the BRICS meeting, Ahmadian called for the establishment of an anti-sanctions alliance to promote trade and financial security among the BRICS group of emerging economies. The SNSC chief said it is necessary for BRICS and the Global South countries to join hands to ensure security in various fields on the basis of multilateralism and new world order.

## Sinwar to Nasrallah: Hamas 'steadfast' in defeating Israel



Yahya Sinwar

## International Desk

Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar thanked Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for its support for the Palestinian resistance group in the conflict with Israel, pledging that the group will "remain steadfast" on the path of defeating Israel.

In a letter to the leader of the Hezbollah's group Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Sinwar said, "Your blessed actions have expressed your solidarity on the fronts of the 'axis of resistance', supporting and engaging in the battle."

"We also affirm that the movement will remain,

as it has always been, steadfast on the path of loyalty to the blood of the martyrs, and that the lofty principles that the martyred leader Abu al-Abd [Haniyeh] called for will remain steadfast and present," he wrote.

Sinwar letter on Friday was in response to Nasrallah's message of condolences following the assassination of former Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Hezbollah has been exchanging fire with the Israeli army since the outbreak of the Gaza war in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

## INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Since ESFAHAN MOBARAHEH STEEL COMPANY intend to purchase 600 tons of Tin Ingot with tender no. 48584407, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to ESFAHAN MOBARAHEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP) until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time) Monday 16. Sep.2024 (Monday 26.06.1403).

### Contact Details:

Contact Person: Mr. Aghaebrahimian

Email: m.aghaebrahimian@msc.ir

Cell Phone/WhatsApp: 0098913188882

### Note:

ESFAHAN MOBARAHEH STEEL COMPANY reserves the right of return or rejection of those tender documents in which haven't observed at least one of items of covering letter.

ESFAHAN MOBARAHEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS(1403-26)

Public Relations Dept.MOBARAHEH Steel Co.

# Pezeshkian tours Iraq in first foreign trip



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) was received by Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani at Erbil International Airport on September 12, 2024.



Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani (L) welcomes Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) with an official ceremony at Baghdad International Airport, September 11, 2024.

Leaders of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, a major Kurdish political party in Iraq, meet with the Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (5th L) at the presidential palace in Baghdad on September 12, 2024.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visits the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (ؑ), third Shia Imam, in the Iraqi city of Karbala as part of his trip to Iraq on September 13, 2024.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) and Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid (R) meet in Baghdad, Iraq, on September 11, 2024.



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at the podium during a meeting with a group of elites in Basra, Iraq, on September 13, 2024.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd R) and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani (2nd L) attend a signing ceremony for 14 memoranda of understanding in Baghdad, Iraq, September 11, 2024.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian waves as he boards a plane at Basra International Airport, Iraq, September 13, 2024.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) sits with leaders of Iraq's Shia groups in Iraq's Baghdad on September 11, 2024.

