

Egypt could help...

Araghchi's statements had several key points including support for the Resistance Front and readiness to strike back to any new Israeli aggression against Iran as well as efforts to reduce tensions to stop attacks on Lebanon and Gaza and establish a cease-fire.

It is not far-fetched to assume that Araghchi, during his visits to Arab countries, also issued warnings to regional US allies that assisting Israel or the United States in any operation against Iran would come at a great cost. According to reports, the foreign minister is also set to travel to Baghdad today to pursue these objectives.

However, the most significant news is that Araghchi is reportedly planning to visit Egypt soon, where he will meet with the president, foreign minister, and intelligence minister. If realized, this would be the first visit by an Iranian foreign minister to Egypt in years, following a period of strained relations between the two countries. In fact, Araghchi's visit to Egypt is remarkable not only in terms of bilateral relations but also as a starting point for normalizing ties between the two major Muslim countries in the region. It also marks an important destination in Iran's diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and stop the war. Egypt, along with Qatar and the US, has made efforts to mediate between Hamas and Israel and bring about a cease-fire over the past year. Although these efforts have not yielded the expected results, Cairo maintains relationships with both Hamas and other Muslim and Arab countries, as well as with Israel and the US.

In this regard, Egypt can be seen as the piece that could complete the puzzle of Iran's diplomatic efforts aimed at containing or reducing tensions in the region.

Islamabad eyes more trade with Iran

IRNA - Pakistan's acting president Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that his country is looking for further expansion of trade ties with Tehran. In a meeting in Islamabad with Iran's ambassador to Pakistan on Friday, Gilani appreciated the Iranians' hospitality for Pakistani pilgrims who come to Iran each year to visit the religious sites of the country and called for further expansion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in different trade, security, cultural, and educational areas.

Iran, Russia can meet regional gas needs: *NIGC chief*

Study shows Iran can define itself as bridge between INSTC, TITR



Economy Desk

The CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Saeed Tavakoli said that connecting the Iranian and Russian gas networks is very important in supplying energy to the region, describing Iran's position at the center of the International North-South Corridor (INSTC) as unique. Participating via video-conference in the 13th St. Petersburg International Gas Forum, Tavakoli highlighted Iran's significant role due to its capacity to produce over one billion cubic meters of gas daily, its extensive distribution and export network, and its ability to supply energy to regional countries, Shana reported. He pointed out that Iran is the sole supplier of natural gas to Iraq and a major supplier to Turkey, with plans to expand gas exports and trade with both countries. The deputy minister of Petroleum also emphasized that Russia and Iran, as

the first and second largest holders of gas reserves globally, could play a major role in supplying clean energy through cooperation. According to him, a successful example of such collaboration was the formation of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), which was established through joint efforts of Iran and Russia along with other gas-exporting countries. He also expressed hope that this forum would play a major role in the gas market and maximize the benefits for exporting countries. Tavakoli expressed hope that a previously signed gas agreement between Iran and Russia would yield positive results for both countries and their neighbors, marking the beginning of an effective regional cooperation. Tavakoli stressed Iran's unique position at the center of the North-South energy corridor, noting that this position provides a suitable opportunity to fa-

cilitate gas supply through multilateral agreements, swaps, and transit to other countries, in cooperation with other nations including Russia. The CEO of the NIGC identified the target countries in this corridor as Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, India, and the southern Persian Gulf countries.

Greater synergy

A study by the Iran Chamber of Commerce Research Center has shown that in the long term, not only the North-South Corridor would not conflict with the Middle Corridor, also known as the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR), but also the two will have increasing synergy. Iranian research and policy centers often portray the Middle Corridor as a competing corridor to transit routes through Iran, such as the South Corridor and the North-South Corridor. Iran has also not yet provided a clear definition of its tran-

sition and advantages in proximity to the combined routes of the Middle Corridor. However, this recent study emphasized that Iran's active participation in the Middle Corridor will strengthen the country's international transit advantages, particularly in the east-west route, according to ISNA. This combined corridor connects China and Kazakhstan via rail and sea routes, crosses the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan and Georgia, and then continues via rail or sea (Black Sea) routes through Turkey to Europe. In its report on "Free and Special Economic Zones of Iran's Northern Strip," the research center highlighted that the Middle Corridor is increasingly influenced by geopolitical dynamics in Central Eurasia and is at the heart of east-west transit-logistics equations. Iran is also a potential partner in the development of the Middle Cor-

ridor. Three geographical areas have been defined as central to the development of the Middle Corridor by bringing in new stakeholders: Free and special economic zones adjacent to the combined routes of the Middle Corridor, adjacent rail networks that intersect at points along the Middle Corridor, and major ports adjacent to the Middle Corridor with port services and sea transit capacity. According to the study, the missing link in connecting the North-South Corridor to the Middle Corridor and creating transit synergy between these routes is Iran. Iran's position along both routes provides a unique opportunity to define Iran as a central part of the connections of both corridors. "Therefore, we need to rethink our position in the Middle Corridor and fundamentally revise the traditional definition of the North-South route as a competing route to the Middle Corridor," the study stated. "Iran can define it-

self as the connecting link and bridge between the two main routes." The report states that the nominal transit capacity of the Middle Corridor is six million tons, while its operational capacity is approximately two million tons per year. Estimates indicate that cargo transport through the Middle Corridor from the Caspian Sea route will exceed 11 million tons by 2030. Despite technical and infrastructural limitations, the war in Ukraine has created a new outlook for the Middle Corridor as an alternative route to diversify transport routes between Asia and Europe, aiming to create geo-economic flexibility and reduce dependence on corridors passing through Russia. Assessments suggest that the Middle Corridor will gradually become the primary transit route between Asia and Europe, replacing the Northern Corridor (which goes through Russia) and the Southern Corridor (which goes through Iran).

Pezeshkian: Tehran finalizing gas, power deals with neighbors



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) talks with his First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (2nd-R) upon returning from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in Tehran on October 11, 2024. [president.ir](https://www.president.ir)

group that will be held in Tehran within the next month." Referring to his meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, the Iranian president said they discussed the agreements signed by the two countries as well as the acceleration of the implementation of projects relating to energy, the railway, desalination systems, and petrochemicals. "It was agreed that our

neighboring countries should form working groups with Iranian officials to increase regional communications," he said. Noting that he also met with the presidents of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Pezeshkian said, "The working groups of all these countries are scheduled to come to Iran and hold a meeting with [Iranian] officials." He hoped the meetings would yield actions that would "increase our connection with the region". The president said the expansion of cooperation with neighboring countries can resolve many problems and decrease the impact of sanctions imposed on Iran.

Iran's private sector satellites set for Russian launch

Economy Desk

Two Iranian satellites, developed by a private sector company, have been sent to Russia on Friday for launch into orbit. The launch of these satellites, named Kowsar and Hodhod, is considered a major milestone in the history of Iran's space industry as it signifies the first substantial effort by the country's private space sector, Tasnim news agency wrote. The Kowsar satellite is designed for precision agriculture and mapping, while Hodhod is an Internet of Things (IoT) communications satellite, providing services in remote areas with limited access to terrestrial networks. The development of Kowsar, a high-resolution remote sensing satellite, began in 2019. Hodhod, which applies advanced

technologies from Kowsar, was designed and built within a year. Kowsar is a high-resolution imaging satellite aimed at applications such as agriculture, natural resource management, environmental monitoring, and disaster management. The head of the Iranian Space Organization says Tolou-3 and Zafar-2 satellites will be put into space via a foreign launcher by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (ends March 20, 2025). Earlier in September, the head of the Iranian Space Agency Hassan Salarieh announced that at least five satellites would be sent into space by the end of the current Iranian year, Mehr news agency reported. The homegrown Kowsar satellite would blast off this year, Salarieh added, underlining that this satellite was built by the private sector.