

Iran, Tanzania ready to expand bilateral relations: Agriculture minister



Economy Desk

Iran and Tanzania have a lot in common, said Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh, adding that the cultural interests of both sides pave the ground for the development of relations. Speaking in a meeting with Tanzanian Deputy Foreign Minister Dennis Lazaro Londo in Dar Essalam on Friday, the minister stated that the Iranian government has attached high priority to the joint economic commission of the two countries, which shows the will of Tehran in developing relations with Tanzania, IRNA reported.

According to the historical background, cooperation between Iran and Tanzania could be developed in the fields of agriculture, petrochemicals and tourism, he noted.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian president have emphasized the expansion of relations with the African continent including Tanzania, he said, expressing hope that the signing of cooperation documents to bring the developing relations into a new phase. A sum of 11 documents have been drafted in different areas for the public and private sectors of both sides, which will be signed on Saturday in the Joint Commission of Iran-Tanzania, the minister announced.

Speaking for his part, Lazaro Londo said the visit by the Iranian minister is expected to pave the ground for the further development of Tehran-Dodoma relations.

Referring to the presence of traders accompanying Nouri-Qezelgeh to Tanzania, the deputy minister expressed hope that the result of the visit as well as the signing of memoranda of understanding will bring fruitful results for both nations.

"It is important for us to use Iran's capacity in various fields including petrochemical, industry and agriculture," Lazaro Londo said.

Iran, Pakistan agree to remove trade barriers

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak said on Friday that Tehran and Islamabad have agreed to promote ties for removing trade barriers. The trade organizations of the two countries are fully ready to implement this decision - removal of trade barriers - and Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan is scheduled to visit Tehran in the next two months to discuss an agreement on the finalization of the free trade list, Atabak was quoted as saying by IRNA.

Once free and preferential trade is established between two countries, some tariffs would be reduced, he said. "We should agree on the tariffs before that. We have reached an agreement on some of them, and the rest have not yet been agreed upon," the minister added, expressing hopes the two neighboring countries reach an agreement on the rest of the tariffs.

Atabak and Kamal Khan discussed trade ties between their countries on Wednesday, agreeing that

those relations should be further promoted. The two ministers met in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

According to Pakistani media, they held a productive meeting committed to facilitating smoother business interactions between the two countries. During the meeting, the Iranian minister invited his Pakistani counterpart to visit Iran, an official announcement said

on Wednesday.

They emphasized the need to boost economic ties through increased bilateral trade and investment. They also explored avenues for collaboration in sectors of mutual interest.

It was pointed out that there is enormous potential for bilateral trade, which is yet to be realized. They discussed the potential for Pakistan and Iran to cooperate more closely in the regional market and beyond, leveraging the SCO platform to facilitate trade growth and regional stability.



Raising gasoline production 'on agenda': Deputy minister



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The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company said according to the Seventh Development Plan (2024-28), increasing gasoline production to 129 million liters per day

is on the agenda.

Mohammad-Sadeq Azimifar who is also a deputy oil minister explained that focusing on increasing the production of high-quality goods by utilizing the capacity of existing refineries along with completing prioritized projects

of higher progress is on the agenda of his company, Shana reported.

He stated that a 38-percent growth was registered in liquid fuel delivery to the country's power plants during March 20 to October 13, adding that by in-

creasing the feed of refineries and operational measures, the NIORDC helped increase the production of gasoline, diesel, and furnace oil in recent Iranian months. During the first seven months of the current Iranian year (started March 20), gas-

oline consumption has increased by 7% (1.6 billion liters) compared to the same period last year, the official said, noting that the increased figure for consumption was met by using NIORDC's transmission and distribution capacities.

Russia warns Israel against attack on Iran's nuclear facilities

Russia warned Israel against even a hypothetical possibility of an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities as it would be "catastrophic," said Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov.

"We have repeatedly warned and continue to warn and caution [Israel] against even hypothetically considering the possibility of an attack on [Iran's] nuclear facilities and nuclear infrastruc-

ture. This would be a catastrophic development and a complete rejection of the existing postulates in the sphere of nuclear security," the senior diplomat said, reported TASS. On the evening of October

1, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the elite unit of Iran's armed forces, launched a massive ballistic and hypersonic missile attack against Israel in retaliation for the deaths of top leaders of

Hamas, Hezbollah and the IRGC.

Tehran said that 90% of the missiles successfully hit their designated targets.

On October 11, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

Lavrov said at a press conference in Laos that carrying out threats to strike Tehran's peaceful nuclear facilities in response to an Iranian missile attack on Israel would be a very serious provocation.

Dialogue best option...

The second reason is related to the developments in West

Asia and the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts. Europeans view Iran as the primary supporter of the Resistance Front and believe that by applying political pressure, they can influence Tehran's level of support for resistance groups. Moreover, Europeans think that Iran is geopolitically weak for the time being.

The third reason, which is more significant, is the EU's claim of Iran's military cooperation with Russia against Ukraine. Although Tehran has denied these allegations, Europeans assert that Iran's assistance and supply of ballistic missiles to Russia is a certainty, which has led to their dissatisfaction with Iran. From the EU's perspective, Russia currently poses a security threat to Europe, and Iran's military cooperation with Russia has made Tehran a security threat as well. Consequently, the EU has entered a security phase in its relations with Iran. Therefore, the joint statement by the EU and the

GCC is a high-level pressure tactic aimed at forcing Iran to make concessions on its relations with Russia, West Asian developments, the nuclear file, and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, it seems that the EU's stance and pressure on Iran are a mistake. The new Iranian government has repeatedly expressed its willingness to cooperate and engage in dialogue. The EU's approach, however, closes the door to dialogue and cooperation. Moreover, the claim that the triple islands belong to the UAE will have no international impact and will only increase public resentment in Iran toward Europe. Iranians are extremely sensitive about their territorial integrity, as seen in the widespread public criticism of China and Russia. It appears that a better approach between Iran and Europe would be interaction and dialogue. It would be fitting for the EU to pursue a diplomatic path, especially since the new Iranian government has made interaction and balancing its foreign policy a priority.

Martyrdom of Sinwar ...

Furthermore, American officers say that after this assassination, Hamas still has thousands of armed fighters in the field and will focus on strengthening its weakened capabilities.

In addition, the Hebrew newspaper Haaretz emphasized that previous assassinations of Hamas leaders have shown that the movement has neither changed its policies and ideology nor collapsed. After each assassination, new leaders emerged, and Hamas continued to recover and grow stronger than before.

Field developments in both Lebanon and Hamas since the start of the Al-Aqsa Storm have shown that Israel's assassination strategy has not been able to undermine the structural integrity of the resistance. In fact, both Hezbollah and Hamas have escalated their struggle and launched more intense attacks against Israel after the assassination of their leaders.

Will the war End?

After the discovery of the body of the architect of the Al-Aqsa

Storm, some speculation in political circles suggested a ceasefire could be attainable under the claim of Hamas' weakening. According to US sources, former officials of the country stated yesterday that now a ceasefire, the return of hostages, and even the withdrawal of Israeli military forces from Gaza could be possible.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also mentioned, following the martyrdom of Sinwar, that the Biden administration intends to renew its efforts with allies and partners to end the war in Gaza and carve out a new way forward. Bruce Riedel, a former CIA officer and national security official in the Middle East, stated, "This is an opportunity for Israel to declare victory and accept a ceasefire. A ceasefire in Gaza could lead to a reduction in regional tensions." However, Netanyahu, after the martyrdom of Sinwar on Thursday, without referring to a potential ceasefire or prisoner exchange negotiations, said in a recorded video, "Our duty is not yet finished." He further emphasized that "we will continue

with full force until all captives are home." The subtext here is that Israel will continue its atrocities, as any halt in the war would mean defeat. Another important issue in drawing up the ceasefire is its terms, which the United States deliberately manipulated in recent negotiations (following Haniyeh's martyrdom) to maximize the regime's benefit, an effort that Hamas rejected. In this regard, Hamas reiterated yesterday its conditions for a ceasefire while emphasizing the continuation of its struggle. Al-Hayya, deputy head of the Hamas movement in Gaza, addressed the Zionists, saying that Zionist prisoners will never be freed unless the aggression stops, the occupiers fully withdraw from Gaza, and Palestinian prisoners are released. The Qassam Brigades also, in a statement detailing Sinwar's bravery, declared, "If the criminal enemy thinks that by assassinating great resistance leaders like Sinwar, Haniyeh, Nasrallah, al-Arouri, and others, it can extinguish the flame of resistance or force it into retreat, it is deluded."