

## Iran FM, Sudan finance minister discuss shared interests, boost in ties

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Sudan's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Gibril Ibrahim Mohamed held talks in Tehran, the capital of Iran.

In the meeting on Saturday, Araghchi and Ibrahim Mohamed engaged in discussions about shared interests as well as the economic and trade relations between the two countries, IRNA reported.

The Sudanese minister was on a visit to Iran at the head of an economic delegation. Earlier on Wednesday evening, he held talks with his Iranian counterpart Abdolnaser Hemmati.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the re-establishment of political relations between the two countries and hoped that this new phase of relations would lead to the development and flourishing of economic and trade ties.

## EU bans directly impact Iran's medicine imports: IFDA

The deputy head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) said the European Union's sanctions have directly affected the country's pharmaceutical imports, pointing out that the country is seeking alternative paths to meet its needs.

Last month, the EU imposed sanctions on three Iranian airlines, citing allegations of Iran's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war. The bloc claimed that the sanctions targeted specific policies, without intending to disrupt overall air traffic or people-to-people exchanges between the EU and Iran, Press TV wrote.

However, the restrictions have hindered the transport of essential medications, particularly for patients with critical needs, confirmed Health Minister Mohammadreza Zafarhandi in early October. During a visit to a nursing equipment exhibition in Tehran, IFDA deputy head Fereshteh Mirzazadeh detailed efforts to mitigate the impact of sanctions. She said new air channels and agreements with foreign airlines are being pursued to facilitate the import of critical medical supplies. "We are implementing strategies such as utilizing special air corridors, partnering with international firms, and bolstering domestic production to overcome these challenges," she stated.

# Pezeshkian urges removal of barriers for energy investors

### Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday urged the removal of barriers to the advancement of investors in producing clean energy and using new technologies in the realm of power generation.

In a meeting, titled 'Reviewing Solutions to Address Power Shortages and Developing Renewable Power Plants', he noted that all necessary permits should be issued and made available to the active private sector in energy field before upcoming peak days for electricity, IRNA reported.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Pezeshkian, with the presence of Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Abdolnaser Hemmati, Head of the Plan and Budget Organization Hamid Pourmohammadi, and a number of active managers in the private sector and investors in the field of construction of power plants.

The president, appreciating the efforts of the minister of energy, added that it is necessary to first

address the problems of private companies that need loans and supports to complete their projects in the field.

Pezeshkian also emphasized that for the permits issued, an appropriate time limit should be set and if no activity takes place within the specified time, the issued permits should be revoked. "It has been observed that some investors obtain permits in certain economic sectors, but after a few years, they do not do any work," he added.

The president called on the private sector to present their proposals for the implementation of energy production projects, especially clean energy projects, as soon as possible. "Due to the importance of resolving shortages in the energy sector, in the coming days we will hold another session to follow up on these issues, and the proposals presented in that session will be reviewed," Pezeshkian stated.

In the meeting, Aliabadi presented a report on the current level of electricity production in Iran compared to the years after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. He

Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi (R) briefs President Masoud Pezeshkian on the current level of electricity production in Iran on November 9, 2024. [president.ir](http://president.ir)



added, "In 1979, our electricity production was 7,000 MW, and now it has reached 93,000 MW. The length of electricity transmission lines has also increased from 81,000 kilometers at the time to 980,000 kilometers at present." Several private sector execu-

tives and active investors in the manufacturing of solar and wind power plants were also present at the session and discussed the problems and the solutions for the electricity production and construction of solar and wind power plants.

The key issues they raised were "problems occurred due to the determination of electricity fee by the Ministry of Energy, barriers to the issuance of electricity export permits during off-peak hours," and "the acceleration of granting credits."

## VP highlights Iran's keenness to implement undersea project with Qatar

### Economy Desk

First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref highlighted the importance of building the longest undersea tunnel in the world between Iran and Qatar and said both countries are pursuing this giant project, as Iran has tasked a specialized group for preliminary studies that will be deployed in the coming weeks to Doha for negotiations.

During a meeting on Saturday with Saad bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud Al-Sharif, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Qatar to Tehran, Aref emphasized that the views of the two sides are very close on regional and international issues, especially political ones, ISNA reported.

"There is no ceiling for the development of the appropriate level of relations and interactions in all areas, and it is necessary to emphasize the joint commissions for cooperation between the two countries to

go beyond the current level of relations," he said.

Aref went on to say that the strengthening of relations between Tehran and Doha is not only beneficial for the two nations, but also for all Islamic countries, the region and the world, adding that, "The long-term cultural, historical, and political relations between the two countries create the opportunity to elevate economic relations to the high political level."

The vice president expressed gratitude to the Emir of Qatar for appointing one of the experienced diplomats as the new envoy to Iran, emphasizing that this decision sends a strong message of Doha's commitment to expanding political and economic relations with Tehran.

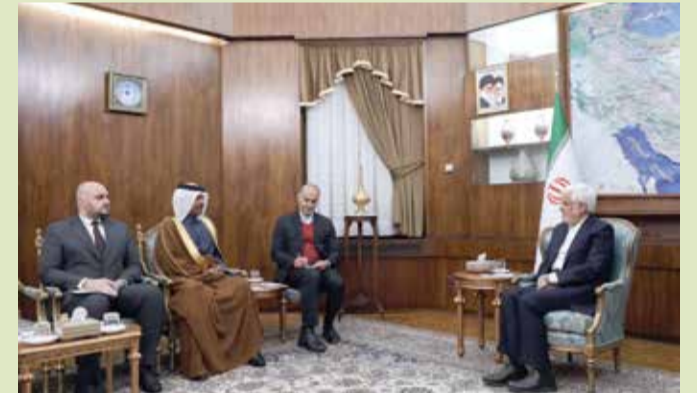
I am sure that during your tenure in Iran and with a greater understanding of the potentials of Iran, you will be able to pave the way for cooperation in all areas, he said.

Aref also condemned recent

acts of aggression by the Zionist regime in Gaza and Lebanon, reaffirming a shared stance with Qatar in the face of the "child killings and aggression" of the Zionist regime in the region.

"Iran values Qatar's prominent role as a mediator in regional issues," he noted. The vice president further announced that the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization would soon visit Doha to finalize Qatar's participation in the development of the Dayyer port in southern Iran, signaling Iran's commitment to deepening trade and maritime cooperation.

The Qatari ambassador for his part pointed to the most important areas of cooperation between the two countries, including Qatar's participation in the development of the Dayyer Port, energy sector collaboration, particularly in electricity, the establishment of the undersea tunnel between Iran



and Qatar, and the reopening of Qatar's consular office in Shiraz and said, "We need to enhance the activity of the joint commission for cooperation between the two countries more than before."

Emphasizing that the people of Iran and Qatar have lived together for hundreds of years and the two countries share abundant historical, social, and cultural ties, the diplomat stated, "The Emir of Qatar and the

president of Iran have agreed to elevate economic cooperation between the two countries to the highest level."

"During my recent meeting with the minister of energy of Iran who is the Iranian head of the joint commission for cooperation between the two countries, we emphasized that all cooperation agreements between our countries should be implemented as soon as possible," the ambassador noted.

## Implications of Trump's ...

This is evident in the UK, France, South Korea, Senegal, India, Turkey, the Netherlands, and many more. The reality was the starkest in Japan and Botswana, where the ruling parties suffered defeats despite having ruled their respective countries in almost all elections (in case of Japan) or the entirety of their history (in case of Botswana). Germany and Canada haven't had their elections yet but it seems that in both countries the ruling party is expected to lose as well. The only democracy bucking this anti-incumbent trend was Mexico. So, in a way, the Democrats' failure to keep the White House and the Senate should be understood as a part of this global trend.

In this regard, it's obvious that the two trends which explain this phenomenon are (1) the backlash to rising inflation and (2) the further normalization of far-right ideologies and political parties and groups. Now in the US, inflation was under control by the end of Joe Biden's presidency, without recession or a rise in unemployment (what economists call a soft landing). While the economic recovery under Biden was successful by objective measures, it's clear that the voters could not believe this good news and punished the Democrats accordingly. Also, it's evident while the American public do not approve of many aspects of Trump's ideology, they do not consider them deal-breakers.

### What does this mean for Iran?

Benjamin Netanyahu was apparently happiest person when he heard the news of Trump's victory. We must accept the situation in Palestine to become much worse. Netanyahu is going to see Trump as an opportunity to not only completely demolish and possibly reoccupy the Gaza Strip, but to annex the West Bank. Miriam Adelson, Trump's second largest donor, had, according to credible reports, conditioned her support for Trump on him greenlighting the annexation of the West Bank by Israel, and Trump had accepted the condition. Netanyahu will probably also attempt to wipe out Hezbollah to the north.

There is also no doubt that the American foreign policy is going to be much worse regarding Iran. Brian Hook, one of the biggest enemies of Iran in the US, will take over as acting Secretary of State, and he will have a pivotal role in the next administration. All rumored and reported officials for relevant positions are people who are staunchly anti-Iran (including Mike Pompeo for Secretary of Defense). There is little doubt that the policies of maximum pressure and toughened sanctions implementation will return. More importantly, Iran must be very wary of war. While it is true that Trump himself has no desire for war with Iran, one must keep in mind that he is

prone to very rash and reckless acts (who can forget the assassination of General Soleimani?). Netanyahu will also aim to drag the US and Iran into war with each other despite both actors being unwilling, knowing that Israel cannot defeat Iran without US support. Netanyahu can bank on the US acting irrationally and without regards to consequences, while Iran's pride making it unable to ease tensions and de-escalate at the critical moment, thus dragging both into an unwanted war. This is why Iran must really prioritize prudence and carefulness at this critical moment and try to engage Trump diplomatically as much, though we might find it an unsavory prospect.