

Iran should improve diplomacy to organize own affairs: *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said "in order to organize the country's affairs, we should improve our international relations, ease tensions and pave the way for further integration with countries in the region and other parts of the world." Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with former Iranian foreign ministers on Tuesday. He said that his government has tried to solve some problems in the country's foreign policy, noting that relations with the neighboring countries are currently good. Regarding relations with the United States, the Iranian president said, "Whether we like it or not, we will eventually come face to face with this country in the regional and international arenas, and it is better to man-

age this issue ourselves." He also pointed to negotiations and consultations with China and Russia in line with implementation of agreements reached between Iran and the two countries, saying that the exchange of delegations between Iran, China and Russia is underway and the government is trying to remove the obstacles facing the implementation of the agreements. On India, Pezeshkian said New Delhi has expressed its desire to speed up the implementation of the Chabahar port development plan. He added that the Persian Gulf Arab states are also seeking to expand relations with Iran. The president also pointed to the relations with the European countries, saying that negotiations with the European countries are underway. Also on Tuesday, Iran's government spokesperson Fatemeh

Mohajerani pointed to possible direct talks with the US administration under president-elect Donald Trump, saying that Iran will pursue whatever secures its interest. "Whatever secures the country's interest and values of the [1979] Revolution will be pursued by the government," Mohajerani said on Tuesday. Trump unilaterally pulled the US out of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers during his last term of office in 2018 and reinstated sanctions which severely impacted the Iranian economy. "The maximum pressure campaign of Trump has failed, even if people have been burdened by it. What is important will be actions and not words, but we recommend that Trump take into account the failure of his past policies," Mohajerani added.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks in a meeting with former Iranian foreign ministers in Tehran, Iran, on November 12, 2024. president.ir

VP calls expansion of Tehran-Riyadh ties 'irreversible path'

International Desk

Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref praised the expansion of relations between Tehran and Riyadh in recent months, calling it an "irreversible path." Aref made the remarks in a meeting with the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League on Gaza and Lebanon, which was held in the Saudi capital on Monday. "In recent months, a new path has been opened for the development of relations and interaction between the two countries, which is an irreversible path," Aref told the Saudi crown prince. Considering the importance of the two countries in the region, regional and Islamic countries will also benefit from the expansion of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Aref said. During the meeting, they also discussed bilateral relations and several topics of mutual interest. Aref said the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia is on the right



track, expressing hope that a good political relationship will be followed by expansions in the fields of economy, culture, science, and technology. The Iranian official also appreciated Saudi Arabia's positions on the Israeli attack on Iran and the issue of Gaza. During the Monday summit of Arab and Islamic leaders in Riyadh, the Saudi crown prince called on the



Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (L) shakes hands with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 11, 2024. IRNA

Israeli regime to respect Iran's sovereignty and refrain from attacking Iranian soil.

Interior minister: Iran lacks capacity to host more migrants



International Desk

Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni placed a premium on the necessity of organizing foreign nationals in the country, saying that Iran has no capacity to host more foreign nationals. Addressing a ceremony in the southeastern province of Kerman on Tuesday, Momeni said, "We have said multiple times that we are not anti-immigrant, but we do not have the capacity to take in more foreign nationals." He underlined that organizing foreign nationals is one of the country's crucial issues. Under the international laws, the country which hosts migrants from other countries should receive international aid while the international aid given to Iran with several million immigrants is close to zero. The minister noted that closing borders is necessary to prevent recurring influx of migrants from neighboring countries. Shahbaz Hosseinpour, a member of Iran's Parliament, said that the presence of migrants in Kerman Province has reached a

critical level. He added, "At one school I visited, nearly 100% of the students were foreign nationals." He stressed that the public is demanding urgent decisions to organize the immigrants. Approximately 38,000 illegal Afghan nationals have been deported from Iran's southeastern Kerman Province to their home country in recent months. The recent expulsions are part of the ongoing efforts to meet the target set by the government to repatriate two million illegal migrants by the end of the Iranian calendar year on March 20. Kerman Province is facing significant challenges with illegal immigration from neighboring Afghanistan, which has led to population imbalances and increased unemployment. The number of illegal immigrants in Iran is unofficially estimated to be around 10 million, with many seeking better economic opportunities or fleeing conflict in their home country, especially since the 2021 takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban.

Iran to import high-octane gasoline at unsubsidized rates

National Desk

The Iranian government has given the green light for the import of high-octane (premium) gasoline at unsubsidized prices. The government said the companies which have the license from the country's Oil Ministry are authorized to import the high-octane gasoline. The premium gasoline price is estimated at 600,000-800,000 rials (\$0.9-\$1.2) while heavily subsidized regular gasoline is sold at 15,000 rials

(\$0.022) under rationing system. The Iranian government offers one of the cheapest gasoline fuels in the world, at less than 10 US cents per gallon, according to a policy of subsidizing essential commodities for the public. The new directive comes as Iran is facing a daily shortage of around 15 million liters in gasoline supplies. Since 2021, the government has been forced to import vehicle fuel to make up for the deficit. So far this year, Iran has re-



portedly spent \$3 billion to bring in gasoline. Iran's government has re-

peatedly said that it has no plans to increase the fuel prices next year.

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Cartoonist

