

Tehran, Dushanbe sign 13 MoUs to further cement ties

In a meeting of Iranian and Tajik economic actors held in Dushanbe, attended by Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri and Tajik officials, 13 bilateral cooperation memorandums were signed.

According to IRNA, Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), expressed gratitude for the hospitality and attention of Tajik officials and its people during a joint meeting with Sultan Rahimzade, head of Tajikistan's State Investment Committee, on Wednesday in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

Hassanzadeh emphasized that strengthening ties between Iranian and Tajik trade delegations and economic actors could significantly impact bilateral relations and the development of cultural and tourism activities.

Hassanzadeh noted that expanding economic relations between the two countries requires addressing certain ambiguities and shortcomings to enable investors to operate with greater confidence and ease.

He highlighted Tajikistan's five free trade zones as advantageous for Iranian businesses and called for preferential tariffs in specific industrial sectors, such as cotton and clothing, to enhance trade.

He also pointed to Iran's leading position in handmade carpet production, stating that Iranian investors could help develop Tajikistan's handicraft market.

Hassanzadeh assured that Iranian products in food industries, copper, petrochemicals, and construction materials meet the highest international standards, ensuring Tajik consumers can trust their quality.

The head of the ICCIMA stressed the need to develop banking relations between Tajikistan and Iran to facilitate trade. He also called for improved transportation infrastructure, including customs and logistics, to streamline cross-border movement.

Hassanzadeh highlighted the capabilities of Iranian engineering and technical service companies, which are

equipped with advanced global engineering standards, to excel in road construction, bridge and tunnel projects, and other large-scale ventures.

He emphasized the importance of transparent investment laws, noting that Iran provides guarantees for foreign investors to protect their capital. The ICCIMA head also mentioned that while investors from various countries are interested in Iran's energy and petrochemical megaprojects, the Islamic Republic prioritizes partnerships with neighboring countries, especially those with cultural commonalities.

Hassanzadeh invited Tajik economic actors to participate in Iran's international exhibitions and recommended that both countries dispatch trade and tourism delegations.

He highlighted opportunities in food industries, construction materials, steel, glass, tiles, ceramics, and other sectors, offering Tajik businesses six-month credit facilities with bank guarantees for exports.

Sultan Jafarzade, acknowledged Iran's capabilities and expressed optimism about the growth of businesses in Tajikistan, particularly in construction materials, handicrafts, and textiles.

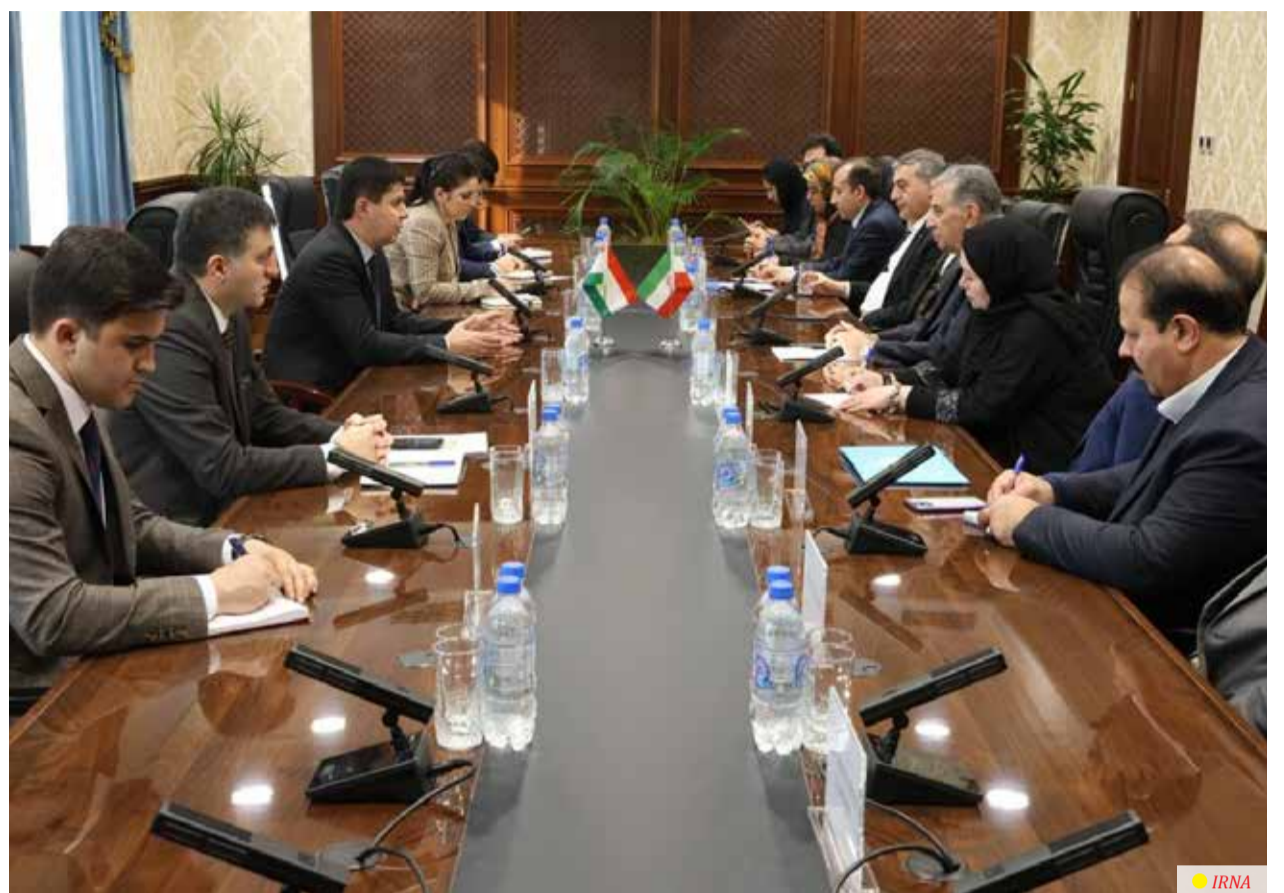
He emphasized the potential in transportation and called for organizing the Iran Chamber of Commerce to encourage Iranian companies to enter the Tajik market.

Jafarzade noted that the signing of 13 MoUs during the Iranian trade delegation's visit to Dushanbe would inject new energy into bilateral relations and boost economic, cultural, and political exchanges between the two countries.

Facilitating Tajik rail freight through Iran

During the visit, Iranian economic actors met with Tajikistan's Director General of International Transport to discuss the facilitation of Tajik rail wagons for transporting Iranian cargo to Tajikistan.

The meeting, chaired by Rozi Nurullah, Tajikistan's director general of international transport, and attended by Hamed Asgari, deputy international director of the ICCIMA, highlighted



Iran's economic capabilities and called for enabling Tajik wagons to transport export goods to Tajikistan, given the challenges of Iranian wagons operating in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region.

'Iran should become Tajikistan's top trade partner'

In a meeting with Zavqi-Amin Zavqizoda, Tajikistan's minister of economic development and trade, the Tajik official emphasized the importance of strengthening economic ties, citing the deep cultural connections between the two countries.

He noted that numerous agreements had been signed between Tajikistan and Iran during the administration of Iran's late president Ebrahim Raeisi. Zavqizoda stressed the need to implement these agreements, revealing

that trade between Iran and Tajikistan reached \$387 million in 2024, a sixfold increase but still below potential.

He called for a long-term action plan to enhance bilateral relations, noting that joint investments totaled \$500,000 last year, which does not align with existing capacities.

The minister announced plans to send a trade delegation to Iran to sign joint agreements and explore investment opportunities.

He highlighted Iran's capabilities in producing pharmaceuticals, decorative stones, and rebar, expressing Tajikistan's interest in diversifying imports and engaging in joint ventures.

Zavqizoda expressed hope that Iran would rise from its current position as Tajikistan's seventh-largest trade partner to the top spot, a goal he believes can be achieved through ongoing talks

and agreements, including those involving Iran's president.

Hassanzadeh, in turn, emphasized mutual needs, cooperation, and joint cultural and social activities between Iran and Tajikistan, calling for increased collaboration in exports, imports, and investments.

He noted the presence of numerous economic actors from across Iran in the delegation and highlighted Iran's technological advancements in pharmaceuticals, engineering services, and tourism, as well as its capacity to modernize Tajikistan's elevator industry.

Hassanzadeh also discussed the importance of facilitating currency transfers, improving transportation, and providing investment insurance, reaffirming the Iran Chamber's readiness to cooperate with Tajik businesses and investors.

Iranian buildings mandated to use solar panels



Buildings with more than four floors or a total floor area exceeding 1,000 square meters must now install solar panels to obtain construction permits, according to Mohsen Zabihi, a

deputy head of Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Management Company (Tavanir).

In a Wednesday report by IRNA, Zabihi outlined mea-

sures to encourage landlords to adopt solar energy, noting that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in mid-August between Tavanir and the Iran Construction Engineering Organization mandates the use of solar panels in new buildings. Under the agreement, construction permits for buildings over four stories or with a total floor area exceeding 1,000 square meters will be conditional on the installation of solar panels.

Zabihi emphasized that the MoU aims to promote renewable energy use, environmental protection, and non-operational defense measures.

The Iran Construction Engineering Organization has been tasked with drafting guide-

lines for implementing the solar panel requirements, which have already been distributed to provincial engineering organizations.

Zabihi explained that the capacity of solar systems in each building will depend on available rooftop space.

Solar panels can also be installed in building courtyards and parking areas, he said, warning that failure to comply with the new regulations will result in the denial of construction permits and electricity connections by distribution companies.

Additionally, distribution companies, acting on behalf of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA), will sign 20-year guar-

anteed power purchase agreements with building owners after the solar power plants are operational.

Rooftop solar power plants will be connected to the national grid, allowing building residents to receive electricity separately. However, for safety reasons, these plants will disconnect from the grid during power outages.

Hybrid inverters now enable the use of solar energy for emergency power needs, such as elevators and public lighting.

Plans to build 200 solar power plants

Zabihi also announced a target to build 3-megawatt solar plants before the peak demand period in 2025.

These projects aim to reduce the gap between electricity production and consumption.

He added that the implementation process is underway, with the plants expected to become operational soon.

Representatives from SATBA provided details on the contracts and project specifics during the meeting.

He also outlined the construction process and steps involved. Distribution companies were instructed to expedite land acquisition for the 200 solar plants and make it available to contractors promptly.

Iran's renewable energy capacity has reached approximately 1,520 megawatts, with plans to increase it to 1,800 megawatts by the end of the year.

Tehran-Moscow treaty ...

For Iran, this is a step towards expanding strategic autonomy in relations with the West, and for Russia, it is a way to strengthen its position in the Asian region and establish cooperation with Middle Eastern countries. Joint initiatives, such as the use of national currencies and the creation of new transport corridors, could reduce the influence of the US dollar and strengthen the positions of both coun-

tries in the global economy.

The agreement will impact future relations between Russia and Iran, becoming a platform for joint projects that stimulate economic growth, diversification of trade, and infrastructure development. A key element may be the International North-South Transport Corridor, creating new logistics opportunities and strengthening the connectivity of Eurasia. The document will also open up pros-

pects in the military-technical sphere. Joint exercises, the exchange of experience, and the transfer of technology will help both countries adapt to new security challenges.

Iran and Russia have the potential for developing a strategic partnership. Their interests converge in ensuring stability in the Middle East, combating international terrorism, and the sustainable development of the Eurasian region.

Overcoming sanctions and international pressure is possible through close coordination of actions and the effective use of resources.

The meeting of the leaders of Russia and Iran will be an important step towards creating a new format of interaction based on mutual respect and shared responsibility for global challenges. The signing of the strategic agreement will strengthen the positions of both coun-

tries on the international stage and will be an example of successful resistance to unilateral pressure aimed at containing their development.

Thus, the upcoming signing of the Treaty on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Russia and Iran reflects the desire of both countries to deepen cooperation and jointly counter external challenges, opening new horizons for bilateral relations.