

Iran supports expanding cooperation among Caspian Sea nations



Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov

Masoud Pezeshkian

Economy Desk

In a phone conversation with the national leader of Turkmenistan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the country's support for enhancing cooperation among Caspian Sea littoral states to secure mutual interests and preserve the region's environment.

Pezeshkian highlighted the existing collaboration between Iran and Turkmenistan in electricity and energy, describing

the two nations as neighbors and brothers capable of expanding cooperation in areas such as gas swaps, transportation, and electricity exchange. He noted that the regular convening of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission could significantly boost bilateral ties.

Pezeshkian also praised Turkmenistan's initiative to propose naming 2025 as the "Year of Peace and Trust," expressing hope for peace, friendship, and

stability in the region and the world.

The president reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to fostering peace and friendship globally and welcomed cooperation with Turkmenistan and other nations in this regard.

Thanking the Turkmen leader for the invitation to attend the "Peace and Trust" conference in Turkmenistan, Pezeshkian underscored the deep historical and cultural ties between the two countries. He ex-

pressed Iran's desire to further develop cultural cooperation with Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan national leader, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, congratulated Iran on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution and wished success for the Iranian government and people. He invited Pezeshkian to the "Peace and Trust" conference and called for enhanced bilateral efforts to promote peace and friendship in the region and beyond. Berdimuhamedov also advo-

cated for expanded cooperation in transportation, energy, and gas swaps, stressing the importance of regular meetings of the joint economic commission to strengthen economic ties.

He expressed Turkmenistan's interest in deepening economic collaboration with Iran.

Highlighting the shared cultural heritage of the two nations, Berdimuhamedov called for broader cultural and artistic cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Oil minister: Crude exports not to cease despite intrigues



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad emphasized that the turnout of people in public demonstrations strengthens the authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stating that while the US president speaks of reducing Iran's oil exports to zero, this goal will never be achieved.

Speaking on Monday during a rally marking the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Paknejad said the glorious Islamic Revolution began under the leadership of Imam Khomeini and continues under the guidance of Ayatollah Khamenei.

The minister also criticized Trump's failed policy of maximum pressure, which he said is being attempted again.

Regarding the US president's goal of reducing Iran's oil exports to zero, Paknejad said this is an unattainable wish.

The minister also pointed out that over the past 46 years, Iran's oil industry has achieved greater self-sufficiency and independence.

He recalled that at the beginning of the revolution, foreigners did not believe Iranians could manage the oil industry after they left. However, Iran has not only managed it but has also achieved self-sufficiency in equipment manufacturing, development operations, production, and all upstream and downstream sectors of the industry.

In remarks on Sunday, Paknejad said the US once experienced the futility of its maximum pressure policy on Iran during Trump's first term in office in 2016-20.

"They want to test it one more time and they will fail again," said the minister.

The comments came several days after Trump announced he would use Washington's unilateral regime of sanctions to disrupt Iran's oil flows to markets in Asia and elsewhere.

Trump enacted a first round of sanctions on Iran's oil exports in 2018, causing the country's oil exports to drop for a brief period in late 2019 and in early 2020.

However, Iranian oil exports have gradually returned to pre-sanctions levels in recent years with estimates suggesting that the country is shipping more than 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, mostly to customers in China.

Extraction of radioactive materials begins in Yazd



Iran started the extraction and utilization of radioactive materials and associated elements at the Saghand mining and industrial complex's Anomaly-10 zone in the central province of Yazd.

The development occurred during a Sunday visit by Mohammad Eslami, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), to Yazd Province, IRNA wrote.

Accompanied by senior nuclear industry officials and the governor general of Yazd, Eslami visited various sections of Martyr Soleimani Mining and Industrial Complex.

During the visit, operations for the extraction and utilization of radioactive materials and associated elements at Anomaly-10 of the complex were officially launched.

Exploration and extraction activities in the Anomaly-10 zone have been underway since September 2023, following assessments that identified reserves of radioactive materials and associated elements in the Saghand region.

Eslami's visit to Yazd followed his trip to Isfahan Province a day earlier, where he inaugurated several projects at the Shahid Raisi nuclear site (UCF), including the IR-46 iridium hexafluoride production line, a comprehensive technical safety test facility, a semi-industrial-scale sintering furnace for nuclear fuel pellets, and a resistance welding device (RW).

Roads minister, IRU chief meet on transit development in Geneva

Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd met with the secretary general of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on Monday to discuss enhancing transit development, strengthening transportation cooperation, and expanding regional collaboration.

The meeting took place during the 87th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Inland Transport Committee in the Swiss city of Geneva, IRNA reported.

Sadeq-Malvajerd highlighted Iran's close cooperation with the IRU, describing the organization as a key international body in the road transport sector.

She emphasized that Iran's role in the transit of goods along the North-South and East-West corridors will be further enhanced through the use of advanced IRU tools, particularly digital solutions.

The minister also noted that Iran's record of 20 million tons of transit goods in the current Iranian year (started March 20, 2024) reflects the country's high capacity in international transport.

She stressed the importance of strengthening ties with the IRU and increasing regional interactions to further boost transit activities.

Sadeq-Malvajerd underscored the significance of exchanging commercial information and transport regulations among member states of the TIR Convention. She called for accelerating the finalization of road transport safety measures and enhancing cooperation with the IRU's Road Safety Fund.

During the meeting, Sadeq-Malvajerd announced Iran's upcoming presidency of the Intergovernmental Commis-

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd meets with IRU Secretary-General Umberto de Pretto in the Swiss city of Geneva on February 10, 2025.
● IRNA



sion of the Transport International Routiers (TIR) in two weeks and expressed hope that the ministerial meeting would provide unique opportunities for expanding regional cooperation and strengthening the TIR system.

IRU Secretary-General Umberto de Pretto praised Iran's role in regional road transport and described the appointment of a female minister in the Islamic Republic of Iran as an inspiring move for the global community.

He noted that the presence of women in the transport industry remains limited and expressed hope that this appointment would encourage more women to join the sector.

De Pretto echoed Sadeq-Malvajerd's views on the role of transport in achieving regional peace, emphasizing

that road transport trade is a key tool for global stability.

He acknowledged Iran's leadership in implementing the TIR Convention in the region and highlighted the decades of expertise held by Iranian road transport companies and professionals.

The IRU head added that Iran's cooperation in regional transit development through the implementation of the TIR Convention across all regional countries could be highly effective.

The TIR Convention is an international agreement aimed at facilitating international road transport and reducing trade barriers. It enables door-to-door, uninterrupted transport of goods from origin to destination. Iran, as a leading country in implementing this system, plays a significant role in the development of international transit.