

# Tehran eyes steady power trade with Moscow via Baku



## Economy Desk

The head of Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Company (Tavanir) said

the Islamic Republic could establish a steady electricity exchange with Russia if commercial issues between Moscow and Baku were resolved.

"Since Iran and Russia do not share a common border, any energy or electricity exchange has to be done through Azerbaijan," Mostafa Rajabi-Mash-

hadi was quoted as saying by ILNA.

The head of the state-run power utility said feasibility studies had been completed and the plan was technically viable. "If the commercial discussions between Russia and Azerbaijan are settled, there will be a possibility for us to have a steady electricity exchange with Russia," Rajabi-Mashhadi said. "Russia is technologically advanced, and Iran also has its own capabilities in different areas," he added. "We now have good relations, and exchanges of views and negotiations between the two countries in energy and electricity continue."

He also expressed optimism that a power link between Tehran and Moscow would be established soon.

## New power line with Armenia

Elsewhere in his talks, Rajabi-Mashhadi said a new power transmission line between Iran and Armenia would be

launched within five to six months, which would boost bilateral electricity trade.

On November 21, 2024, the Armenian government approved a project to build a new 400 kV power line to Iran, which will raise electricity exchange capacity between the two countries from 350 megawatts to 1,200 megawatts.

On regional connectivity, the Tavanir chief noted that the Zangezur corridor would not limit Iran's electricity links with Armenia. "We are already connected to Armenia and import electricity from there, so Zangezur will not create restrictions," he said.

On August 8, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a US-brokered peace deal that included plans for a transport corridor through Armenia to connect Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhchivan — a longstanding demand of Baku. Iran had opposed the project, warning it could alter the South Caucasus' geopolitical balance and limit its regional transit access.

## VP highlights gov't prioritization of electronics industry for regional leadership



## Economy Desk

First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said at a meeting with Iranian university professors on Saturday that the government is advancing a comprehensive plan to strengthen the country's electronics and microelectronics industry. "In advanced technologies, we must achieve the goal of holding the top position in the region as outlined in our vision document," he added, referring to Iran's Twenty-Year Vision Document.

"Our advantage lies in human resources and educated youth, not underground resources, because today's global power dynamics are determined by soft power. The position of our electronics and microelectronics industry in this arena must be clear," Aref said.

The first vice president highlighted the industry's importance for meeting strategic needs and achieving national development goals.

He called on professors to provide proposals, strategies, and mechanisms to advance the sector alongside their research programs. Drawing on Iran's experience with nanotechnology, he said the same approach should be applied to artificial intelligence.

"We concluded that a strategic headquarters should be established without involvement in executive affairs, serving solely as a supportive body with national coordination and the participation of all academics and experts, allowing universities to take the lead in AI while the government provides support."

The vice president noted that two high-tech councils have already been established by the government, with secretaries appointed by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and leadership assigned to either the president or vice president, reflecting the administration's focus on advanced technologies.

During the meeting, a report on the global electronics industry was presented, emphasizing the need to concentrate on research and applied projects and to provide necessary resources and infrastructure for scientific work. Professors also discussed preparing a coherent plan with clear objectives and unified management to achieve a fundamental transformation across the electronics sector.

## ISA bracing for maiden launch at new Chabahar solid-fuel spaceport

## Economy Desk

Iran is preparing for an inaugural launch at its new Chabahar spaceport for solid-fuel launchers, the head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) said, while planning a second phase for liquid-fuel rockets capable of carrying heavier satellites. "The first phase of the Chabahar base, dedicated to solid-fuel launchers, is nearing completion, and we are currently preparing for the first launch," Hassan Salarieh said, highlighting the project as a key initiative within the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and the space agency, Tasnim reported. He expressed hope that the second phase of the base, designed for liquid-fuel launchers, would soon be opened. "Liquid-fuel launchers can carry larger payloads and will be used for heavier satellites and multiple launches," he said.

Salarieh emphasized the base's strategic location in southeast, saying it "can easily access orbits with inclinations from about 40 to 100 degrees, essential for building satellite constellations and placing satellites in sun-synchronous orbits." Speaking Saturday at the opening of World Space Week under the theme "Life in Space," Salarieh outlined the agency's main programs, focusing on research centers and universities. Among the initiatives, he cited the development of biological capsules and recoverable research platforms with precise guidance and control. These serve as space laboratories for conducting suborbital and orbital experiments on radiation effects, temperature and pressure variations, and other impacts on various life forms.

"After the 500-kilogram recoverable capsule launch in 2023, research and development of new capsules began, and we have made significant

progress in designing and constructing a new family of these important research platforms. Various subsystem tests will begin soon," he said.

Collaboration with China Salarieh also highlighted Iran's participation in interplanetary research programs, including a collaboration with China on the "Chang 8" lunar project. "Design is complete, and construction of the engineering model will begin soon. These collaborations will play an important role in the economy and utilization of valuable natural resources in the outer space," he said, noting that advanced countries are increasingly focusing on extracting energy and mineral resources from other celestial bodies. He added that negotiations are underway with leading countries on participating in space station design and construction programs, providing Iranian scientists with opportunities for biological space research.

## Germany's Anuga 2025 hosts Iran pavilion showcasing food exports

## Economy Desk

The Islamic Republic of Iran is showcasing its food products at the Anuga 2025 international trade fair in the German city of Cologne, with a national pavilion featuring 12 companies active in food production and exports, IRNA reported.

This marks the 13th consecutive year that Iran has participated at the international exhibition. Under the theme "Sustainable Growth", over 8,000 exhibitors from 110 countries will present the innovative strength and diversity of the global food industry in ten trade shows.

The biennial five-day fair brings together producers, exporters, importers and wholesalers in 10 product groups, ranging from dried fruit, beverages, ready meals and meat to frozen foods, dairy, baked goods and organic products.

Iran's pavilion, organized with the support of the Iran International Exhibitions Company, is putting on display dried fruit, saffron, dates, organic produce, agricultural goods and processed foods. More than 140,000 visitors from 185 countries are expected to attend Anuga 2025, offering a key opportunity for Iranian brands to expand their global presence, identify new export markets and



strengthen trade relations, the report added.

The spotlight at the expo will be on the "Food of Tomorrow," which encompasses environmental sustainability, alternative proteins, health and wellness.

This year also marks the debut of "Anuga Alternatives," a new platform dedicated to the thriving alternative protein sector, such as plant, insect, algae, fungal proteins, and cell-cultivated meat.

"Anuga 2025 makes it clear how much innovative spirit, responsibility, and global collaboration drive the industry," says Anuga's organizer Bastian Mingers, VP of Trade Fair Management Food & Food Technology of Koelnmesse. "This is where the trends become visible, future themes tangible, and solutions for the challenges of our time are discussed."

## Egypt steers clear ...

Yet, history suggests otherwise. No such clash has taken place in the past, even when provocations were more severe — such as the assassinations carried out in the Sinai even during the Hosni Mubarak era, in which Israel was believed to have backed various groups. Israel frequently carries out such provocations depending on its political goals, behaving as though everything is permitted, regardless of the United Nations, the international community, public opinion, or bilateral relations. Israel routinely tramples over UN resolutions. Only

recently, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel would press ahead with its operations in Gaza, despite widespread international opposition. He has consistently turned a deaf ear to pressure to reconsider his approach. The United States, for its part, continues to support Israel so long as Washington's interests are not harmed. Even during verbal clashes between US President Donald Trump and Netanyahu, the vital air bridge for transferring weapons and equipment to Israel was never cut. In this environment, Egypt relies above all on diplo-

macy to defend its interests. Diplomacy is a crucial instrument for Cairo because it is aware of its own vulnerabilities. Any small misstep could be exploited by Israel to its advantage. A telling example came when Trump declared that if Egypt agreed to relocate Gaza residents to the Sinai, Washington would reward Cairo by blocking Ethiopia's use of the dam on the Nile. This clearly showed that Israel and the US knew Egypt's Achilles' heel: without the Nile, the country would face famine and a host of other crises. Egypt, however, rejected the proposal and navigated the situation diplomatically, without making

a fuss.

As for Tel Aviv's expansionist ambitions — such as talk of a Greater Israel — these pose a threat not only to Egypt's national security but also to that of the entire region. Yet, because of its commitment to the peace treaty, Cairo maintains a relatively strong position and has never given Israel an excuse to break that accord. While the treaty may not enjoy full approval among Egyptians, who remain strongly anti-Israel and anti-American, Egypt continues to conduct its policy through diplomatic means. War has never been its preferred option, nor is it today.