

Top security chief calls for \$10b trade with Pakistan in visit to Islamabad

Palestine hailed as one of central pillars of Muslim unity



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani (2nd L) is welcomed by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar (2nd R) upon arrival in Islamabad, Pakistan, November 25, 2025.
● IRNA

Economy Desk
Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani called for an increase of up to 10 billion dollars in trade

exchanges with Pakistan as he travelled to the capital Islamabad on Tuesday to hold talks on various issues with the neighboring country's senior officials. In a meeting with Mohammad

Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Larijani also called for removing existing obstacles and facilitating the path for economic interactions

between Tehran and Islamabad. Pointing to the long-standing ties between the two countries, the SNSC chief described the elevation of Iran-Pakistan relations to a strategic level as a necessity and stated, "The economic capacities of the two countries can operate at a level far beyond the current situation and the target of increasing exchanges to 10 billion dollars is deemed achievable." The two sides also exchanged their views on the latest important regional developments and the necessity of collective action by Islamic countries to face common challenges, underlining that the Muslim world needs to design practical measures, broad coordination, and coherent cooperation to manage regional crises; especially to

remove Israel's threats against Islamic countries. Larijani and Ishaq Dar referred to Palestine as one of the central pillars of cooperation in the Islamic world and emphasized the unity, convergence, and focus of Tehran and Islamabad in supporting the Palestinian nation. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Larijani said, "We discussed bilateral relations, the progress achieved in the economic field, and ways to strengthen this cooperation, alongside regional issues." "We paid attention to regional matters, and during consultations with our Pakistani brothers, they shared their explanations regarding international developments," he added. During his two-day visit, Larijani is also scheduled to hold meetings with Pakistan's Parliament Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and President Asif Ali Zardari. The meetings are aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation and advancing joint agreements — with a strong focus on regional security, border management,

counter-terrorism, trade, and broader issues affecting the Islamic world. Upon his arrival in Islamabad early Tuesday morning, Larijani told reporters, "Pakistan is an important country in the region and has a privileged position in terms of influencing the security situation in the region." Hailing "deep and historical" relations between the countries, he added, "Today, in the changing conditions of the region, cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in various fields can contribute to regional peace and stability." Before departing for Islamabad, Larijani described Pakistan on his X account as "a friendly and brotherly country" and that the Islamic Republic has not forgotten how the Pakistani nation stood by the Iranian nation during the 12-day imposed war of Israeli regime and the United States against Iran in mid-June. Iran and Pakistan, two significant and influential countries, consistently prioritize peace and security in the region, he noted.

Veep launches comprehensive tax laws system to combat evasions, boost transparency

Economy Desk
Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref unveiled on Tuesday Comprehensive Tax Laws and Regulations System as part of a concerted effort by the incumbent administration to digitalize taxing system and combat tax evasions. In a meeting attended by Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh and senior officials of Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA), Aref hailed the newly launched system as a significant step towards realizing the country's economic health and sustainability as well as a serious response to the long-standing need of economic actors for transparent and codified access to tax laws. Pointing to the history of law re-

vision across the country over the past two decades and emphasizing the importance of the issue, the VP said, "One of the most important reasons for inflation and contradiction in laws and regulations has been the approval of a new law without amending previous laws." Commending the valuable work done to clarify tax laws in the country, Aref said, "One of the ministries that most people are in contact with is the Ministry of Economy and the INTA." Touching on tax evasion and large-scale tax dodgers as a serious scourge for the Iranian economy, he underlined that funding the country's current expenses through tax revenues must become a sustainable strategy, and the objective will only

be achieved through tax justice and confronting major evasions. Aref, criticizing some strict approaches in tax legislation, said laws in the country should not be drafted to catch people out, but rather should facilitate economic activities. He also praised INTA's new approach in designing a comprehensive system of tax laws and regulations, stating, "This system is an important step towards transparency and combating corruption, and can help reduce administrative bureaucracy, accelerate tax payment processes, and enhance trust between taxpayers and the country's tax authority." According to Aref, the strategy of the incumbent government is based on establishing a fair tax system, ensuring managerial stability, eliminating



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (6th L) attends a meeting of senior officials of Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) and Economy Ministry in the capital Tehran on November 25, 2025.
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legal conflicts, and designing mechanisms that, while reassuring the public, sustain tax revenues for the country's economic development.

Iran's private sector poised to restore Cuba's inactive industries

Economy Desk
Samad Hassanzadeh, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, expressed on Tuesday the readiness of the country's private sector to help rebuild Cuba's inactive industries. Stressing that the resolution of supply chain issues in Cuba's agricultural sector is one of Iran's areas of activity in the Latin American country, Hassanzadeh said good connections can be formed in the reconstruction of Cuban industries that have been stagnant for several years. "Iran, given its significant capacities in the fields of technical and engineering services, oil and petrochemical industries, and



petrochemical industries, can establish good economic relations with Cuba," he said. "I believe that many Iranian products can find their place in Cuba's markets, given Cuba's needs. With the use of new technologies in Iranian products and the great expertise available in all fields in Iran, there is potential for significant connections, especially in the reconstruction of Cuban industries that have been stagnant for several years, allowing Cuba to properly utilize Iran's capacities

and capabilities." Underlining that sugarcane cultivation is one of the opportunities that the two countries can include in their joint agricultural programs, Hassanzadeh said, "The Iranian private sector is ready to participate in solving Cuba's supply chain problems, given the country's capabilities in the agricultural sector." He also praised Cuba's remarkable progress in the biomedical field and vaccine production as a basis for joint cooperation between the two countries, saying, "Given that Iran also has significant achievements in the health sector, health diplomacy is one of the areas that can help develop relations between the two countries."

Three key refinery projects underway to raise petrol output: Deputy minister

Economy Desk
The Oil Ministry is advancing three major projects to boost daily gasoline output by 20 million liters, Deputy Oil Minister Mohammad-Sadegh Azimifar told ILNA on Tuesday. "For increasing gasoline production, three main priority plans are on the table, including the Mehr Persian Gulf refinery, Phase 2 of the Abadan refinery and the Isfahan RFCC refinery project," said Azimifar, who also heads the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Co. He added that completing the three projects by 2029 could help meet the targets set in Iran's Seventh Development Plan (SDP) for expanding production. Iran's ten main refineries, with a total processing capacity of 2.4 million liters of crude per day, currently churn out 107 million liters of gasoline daily, 27 million liters short of demand. The growing shortfall has forced the government to spend billions of dollars annually on gasoline imports



since 2021, a bill that has reached \$6bn so far this year, according to budget chief Hamid Pourmohammadi. Azimifar said higher output alone could not bridge the supply gap or bring imports down to zero. "Halting imports depends on controlling consumption. If effective measures are taken to manage gasoline usage, imports might be cut to zero," he pointed out. The Mehr Persian Gulf refinery in the port city of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran is scheduled to come onstream in March 2027 with a daily output of 13 million liters of gasoline. At the Phase 2 expansion of the

Abadan refinery in southwestern Khuzestan Province, output is expected to surge from 10 million liters to 14 million liters per day. The RFCC (Residue Fluid Catalytic Cracking) project at the Isfahan refinery in central Iran, aims to convert heavy residues such as fuel oil into higher-value products like gasoline. The project is expected to produce 8 million liters per day of Euro-5 gasoline and push up the refinery's total output to 22 million liters. Together, the three projects will add 25 million liters per day to Iran's gasoline production capacity, bringing total output to 132 million liters per day while the Oil Ministry is required under the SDP to lift output to 129 million liters per day. But the planned increase is unlikely to keep pace with consumption, even if achieved by 2029. Officials estimate gasoline use grows at least 5% annually, which would push daily demand to 163 million liters in four years, 31 million liters above the expected capacity of domestic refineries in 2029.