

Veep says gov't backs capacity enhancement of renewable power plants

3 >



> irandaily.ir

| newspaper.irandaily.ir

| IranDailyWeb

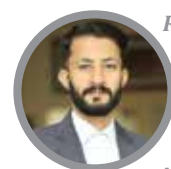
Araghchi: Upon US to return to diplomacy by gaining Iran's trust

Japan calls for resumption of Iran-US nuclear talks

2 >

Iran-Pakistan security dialogues deepened after 12-day war

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE



Recent developments and the frequent visits of senior Iranian and Pakistani officials, particularly after Israel's 12-day war against Iran, have paved the way for more security dialogues between Tehran and Islamabad. Syed Ali Abbas, a research officer at the Center for International Strategic Studies in Islamabad, has told Iran Daily that such dialogues not only improve security stability but could also lay the groundwork for greater cooperation under the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the formation of a collective security architecture in Southwest Asia.

IRAN DAILY: How significantly can the renewed political will in ECO strengthen economic and security cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in the coming years?

ABBAS: The renewed political attention to ECO, including Iranian FM [Abbas] Araghchi's emphasis on its potential, comes at a time when both Pakistan and Iran are looking for regional economic cooperation framework. For Pakistan, ECO has always been a natural platform to advance its vision of regional connectivity and geo-economics. If this political will is translated into implementation, it can strengthen Pakistan-Iran cooperation in three practical ways. First, by putting into operation already agreed measures such as border markets, facilitated customs procedures and improved transport links, ECO can help increase bilateral trade and embed it in wider regional supply chains. Second, ECO offers a useful umbrella for energy, transit and even digital connectivity projects that link Pakistan's ports to Iran, Central Asia and Turkey, which is consistent with Pakistan's own policy directions. Third, as economic interdependence grows, it can create a more favourable environment for cooperation on shared security concerns along the Pakistan-Iran border, including terrorism, smuggling and narcotics.

For Pakistan, ECO's primary vocation lies in economic cooperation and connectivity. Within that broad framework, there is also space for some calibrated security-related collaboration, for instance, technical working groups on border management, disaster response and counter-terrorism, anti-narcotics cooperation developed in a manner that fully respects the priorities of all member states.

Pakistan openly supported Iran during the 12-day war with Israel. What does this alignment mean for possible defence and security collaboration within the ECO framework?

Pakistan's position during the 12-day crisis was guided by long-standing principles of the UN Charter. Islamabad expressed solidarity with the Iranian people, voiced concern over the use of force and violations of international law, and reiterated its consistent stance on the need to protect civilians and uphold the rights of the Palestinian people, a continuity with Pakistan's broader approach to conflicts in the Middle East.

That episode has nonetheless contributed to a higher level of political trust and dialogue between Pakistan and Iran. It has reinforced the space for more structured discussions on border security, counter-terrorism, smuggling and the protection of critical infrastructure, where both sides face similar threats and share an interest in stability.

Within ECO, Pakistan's emphasis naturally falls on economic cooperation and connectivity. In that context, it sees value in "soft" and functional forms of security collaboration, such as information-sharing on terrorism and organised crime, coordinated disaster management, maritime safety and the protection of trade corridors.

Frequent high-level visits especially the recent one by Iran's security chief Ali Larijani have deepened Tehran-Islamabad bilateral security dialogue. Can these bilateral gains be scaled up into a genuine multilateral security mechanism inside ECO?

Recent high-level engagements, including the visit of Dr Ali Larijani, have certainly given greater depth and structure to the Pakistan-Iran security dialogue. Discussions have focused on counter-terrorism, border stability, developments in Gaza, and the need to remove impediments to economic cooperation while working towards an ambitious trade target. This reflects a maturing bilateral relationship in which political, economic and security tracks are increasingly interlinked.

Page 3 >

Pezeshkian urges stronger collaborative ethos in Iranian society

8 >



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) unveils a commemorative stamp during an international conference on the role of the family in society in Tehran on December 1, 2025.

president.ir



World Karate Championships: Golshadnejad makes history as Iran collects three medals

6 >



Historic Golabar village offering adventure, culture, relaxation

7 >



Women power 30% of Iran's microbusiness jobs, lead 7,000 cooperatives

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE

8 >

Iran-Saudi cooperation essential to halt Israel's expansionism

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE



On Sunday, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister Saud bin Mohammed al-Satti visited Iran and held talks with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. The visit was described as part of the ongoing diplomatic consultations between the two states and aimed at discussing bilateral ties as well as exchanging views on regional developments, including the situations in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. The trip comes at a moment of heightened tensions between Israel and Lebanon following the assassination of Haitham Ali Tabatabai, a prominent Hezbollah commander, and several other resistance members, an incident

Hezbollah considers a breach of the cease-fire and has vowed to retaliate for. Iran and Saudi Arabia, as major regional players, are seen as capable of playing a meaningful role in defusing these tensions.

The visit also follows Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's recent trip to the United States and his meeting with President Donald Trump, during which Iran was reportedly discussed. Iran's direct contacts with Washington have been entirely severed since the 12-day war in June, but various countries are seeking to step in to prevent regional escalation. Speaking to Iran Daily, Middle East affairs expert Sabah Zanganeh said the Saudi delegation probably briefed Iranian officials partly on the Trump-MBS discussions.

IRAN DAILY: How should the tim-

ing of the Saudi deputy foreign minister's visit and his meeting with Abbas Araghchi be assessed, and what were the main points potentially addressed during the talks?

ZANGENEH: Visits and diplomatic exchanges constitute a fundamental pillar in improving and expanding relations between states. Following several recent trips, during which various Iranian ministers participated in events held in Riyadh and engaged in discussions with their Saudi counterparts, the pattern indicates Iran's commitment to advancing these ties. Political relations already in place need to be built up so that different dimensions of engagement can progress with goodwill and full mutual understanding, allowing both sides to lay down a solid foundation for future cooperation while safeguarding the interests of each country. The deputy foreign minister came

to follow up on earlier rounds of dialogue. And now, after Mohammed bin Salman's visit to the United States, it appeared that Saudi Arabia intended to brief Iranian officials on the crown prince's meeting with President Trump. Since Iran's name had been raised multiple times in those conversations, both by MBS and in Trump's replies, it was likely deemed necessary for a senior Saudi official to travel to Tehran and inform Iran of what had been discussed.

Nevertheless, the issue did not necessarily involve the delivery of a formal message, but what mattered was clarifying what exactly had been said and how each side had positioned itself. Whatever the outcome, once the Foreign Ministry judged it expedient, the relevant information would either be released publicly or factored into its strategic assessments.

Page 2 >