

Tehran, Yerevan discuss cross-border transport, economic cooperation

Economy Desk

The head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) met Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Yerevan on Friday to discuss cross-border infrastructure projects, transport links and broader economic cooperation.

Hamid Pourmohammadi, who also serves as a vice president, stressed the importance of strengthening peace and stability in the region, saying it would support the sustainable development of regional relations and cooperation, as reported by IRNA.

The two sides reviewed progress on joint border infrastructure projects, including construction of a second bridge linking the two countries, modernization of the Norduz-Meghri border crossings, efforts to remove transport bottlenecks, and customs cooperation through the integration of electronic data exchange systems. They emphasized the need to implement previously agreed measures.

Pourmohammadi and Pashinyan also discussed expanding cooperation in the energy, agriculture, infrastructure and mining sectors. The PBO chief thanked Armenia for what he described as the country's humanitarian support for Iran during difficult times, while Pashinyan asked him to convey his greetings to the Iranian president and the Iranian people.



Hamid Pourmohammadi (L), the head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization (PBO), shakes hands with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Yerevan on June 26, 2026.

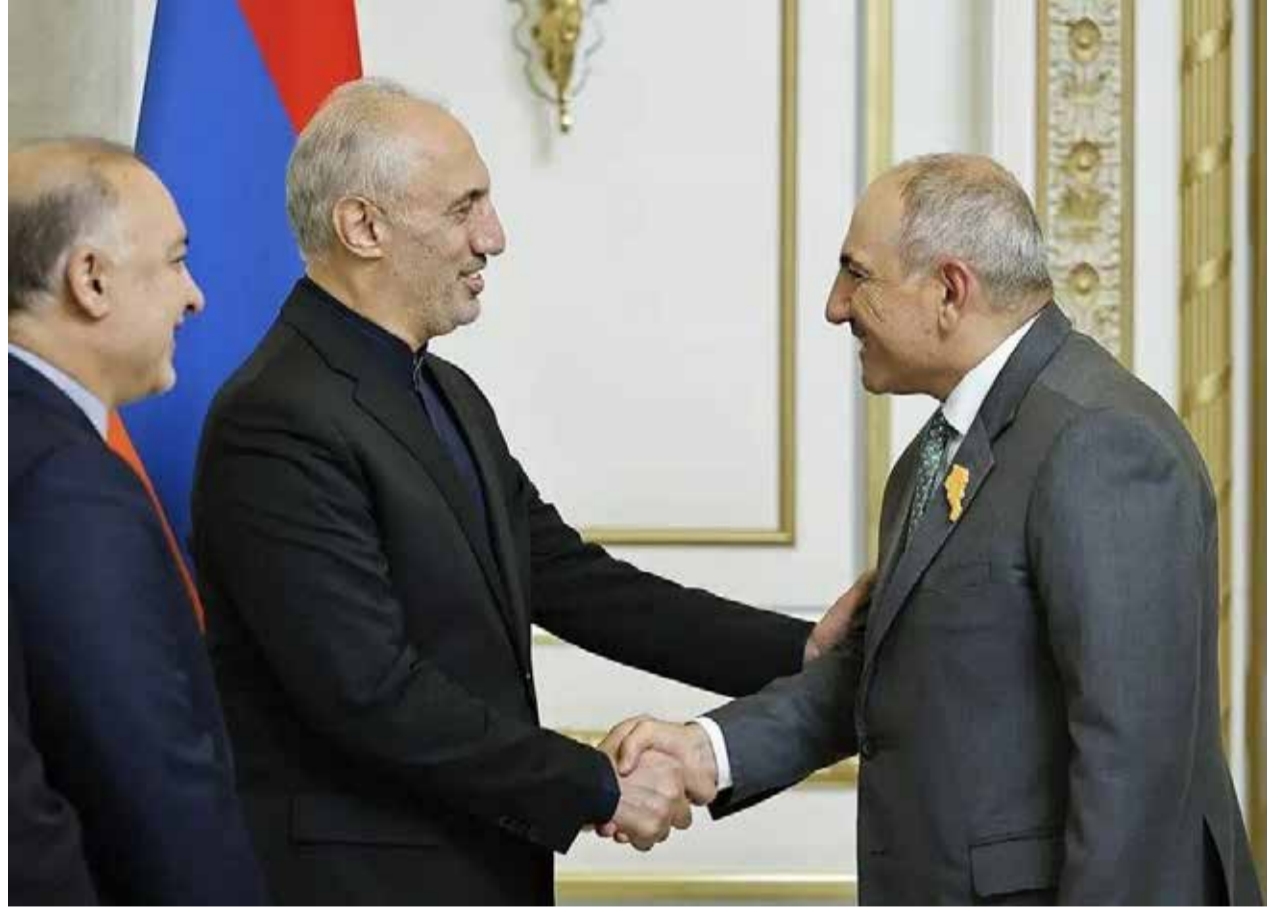
● IRNA

Pourmohammadi also conveyed the "warm greetings" of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Pashinyan during the meeting, as reported by IRNA.

Later on Friday, Pourmohammadi met Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, who co-chairs the two countries' joint economic commission, with the talks focusing on facilitating the movement of Iranian trucks, expanding transit routes and boosting exports of Iranian goods to Armenia and along the North-South transport corridor.

The two sides proposed that an Armenian expert delegation visit Iran to explore additional opportunities for cooperation and address obstacles to expanding bilateral economic ties.

The Iranian vice president also said Armenian officials expressed satisfaction with the performance of Iranian contractors working on infrastructure projects in the country and indicated an interest in awarding Iranian companies additional transport and road construction projects.



As part of his visit, Pourmohammadi is scheduled to attend the inauguration of the Kajaran Tunnel and inspect the completed Norduz-Kajaran road section, both built by Iranian contractors, according to IRNA.

SATBA: Iraq seeks Iran's assistance in developing green energy projects



Economy Desk

A senior Iranian energy official announced on Saturday that Iraq has approached Iran for cooperation and the transfer of expertise in renewable energy, although discussions have yet to become substantive.

Mohsen Tarzatab, Iran's deputy energy minister and head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), said Iran was prepared to share its experience in developing solar power plants and could also undertake renew-

able energy projects in Iraq.

"Iraq has requested cooperation and the transfer of experience in the renewable energy sector, but it is not yet very serious," Tarzatab told the ILNA news agency. He said Iran could also provide renewable energy expertise to other interested countries and transfer technical know-how developed by its power industry.

Tarzatab said Iran sees potential to develop wind power projects in the eastern regions of Khaf and Sistan and Baluchestan, with the possibility of exporting electricity to neighboring Afghanistan.

He added that renewable electricity exports are possible and that investors in the sector would receive the necessary permits from the government.

Currently, private-sector investors are permitted to export up to 10% of their electricity generation, Tarzatab said, adding that the government would consider raising that limit for new investments based on feasibility studies.

Under Iran's current framework, private companies are responsible for securing overseas buyers and marketing the electricity they produce, he said.

Iran, UAE restart trade via Jebel Ali Port after wartime disruptions

Tehran-Dubai flights to resume; Lufthansa plans return

Economy Desk

Trade between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has resumed through Dubai's Jebel Ali Port after disruptions caused by the recent US-Israeli war on the Islamic Republic, a senior Iranian trade official said on Saturday.

Mohammad-Sadeq Qanadzadeh, deputy for commercial services at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said Jebel Ali, one of the Persian Gulf's largest transshipment hubs, had traditionally handled a significant share of trade between the UAE and Iran.

He said cargo shipments and transit through the port were suspended during the Ramadan War, leaving many Iranian containers stranded because importers were unable to clear their goods.

"Following the return of relative calm to the region, we

are now seeing the clearance of goods and containers from Jebel Ali to Iran," Qanadzadeh told the official IRNA news agency.

Trade routes between the two countries have reopened and commerce is gradually recovering, he said, adding that volumes remain below pre-conflict levels but are expected to return to normal.

"There is a gradual resumption of trade, and we hope conditions will return to what they were before the war," he said.

Meanwhile, the CEO of Imam Khomeini Airport City (IKAC) said Iran and the UAE are set to resume direct flights by the end of this week, while negotiations continue with foreign airlines over the gradual restoration of international air services to Iran.

Ramin Kashefazar said Iranian airlines have begun



Jebel Ali Port, UAE
● AP

preparations to restart flights on the Dubai route, with direct services between Iran and the UAE expected to resume later this week.

He noted that no foreign airlines have resumed flights to Iran yet, but talks are underway with several international carriers. According to the IKAC chief, flights operated by foreign airlines—particularly those from

neighboring countries—are expected to restart in the near future.

Kashefazar also said that Lufthansa is currently assessing the conditions for resuming its operations to Iran. Based on current expectations, the German carrier is likely to restart its Iran flights this winter, beginning with airlines within the Lufthansa Group, including Austrian Airlines.

SCI reports annual inflation at 62% in June

Economy Desk

Iran's annual consumer inflation rate rose to 62.0% in the month ending June 21, up from the previous month, while year-on-year inflation accelerated to 88.6%, according to data released on Saturday by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

The consumer price index (CPI) for Iranian households reached 656.4 in the third month of the Iranian calendar year, the agency said.

Annual inflation, measured as the average increase in consumer prices over the previous 12 months compared with the corresponding period a year earlier, rose by 4.3 percentage points from the previous month to 62.0%.

On a year-on-year basis, consumer prices increased 88.6% com-



pared with the same month last year, up 4.7 percentage points from the previous month's reading.

Monthly inflation stood at 5.9%, with prices for food, beverages and tobacco rising 6.8% from the previous month, while non-food goods and services increased 5.3%, according to the data.

The statistics agency said annual inflation varied across income groups, ranging from 60.1% for the high-

est-income decile to 68.5% for the second-lowest income decile. The gap between the highest and lowest reported inflation rates across spending deciles widened to 8.4 percentage points from 7.3 percentage points a month earlier.

The data comes after two periods of US-Israeli war against Iran, which disrupted trade and transport and prompted temporary closures of businesses and border crossings.