

President Masoud Pezeshkian :

Iran to provide Kazakhstan with transit access to open waters

President Masoud Pezeshkian has emphasized that Iran will provide Kazakhstan with transit access to open waters, including the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, by expanding sea, rail, and air transport routes and creating joint infrastructure. In an exclusive interview with the Kazinform International News Agency, Pezeshkian highlighted Kazakhstan's growing role in regional dynamics, adding, "Astana is increasingly playing a role in ensuring regional stability and strengthening international security." He said, "Tehran is ready to provide Kazakhstan with access routes to open waters through the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Indian Ocean," adding that this initiative could enhance Iran's role in connecting Central Asia to international transit networks. Pezeshkian, noting the increase in trade exchanges between the two countries, called for the strengthening of bilateral relations and the deepening of political contacts. Regarding Tehran's accession as an observer to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), he noted, "Iran's presence in

this framework has bolstered the country's position in the Eurasian economic space and created new opportunities for mutual trade development." He stressed that the Iranian market holds significant potential for Kazakhstan's exports and industrial cooperation. Furthermore, he stated, "Entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, and cultural activists from both countries can establish connections more effectively and easily through deepened cooperation." Pezeshkian noted, "Iran, Kazakhstan, and other regional countries possess capacities and capabilities comparable to those of developed countries and can achieve higher levels of development through mutual cooperation." Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian described the establishment of a Kazakh logistics center in southern Iran as an important step in strengthening the North-South Corridor. He added, "Developing shared sea, rail, and air transport routes between Iran, Kazakhstan, and other Eurasian countries will facilitate the achievement of economic and cultural objectives for both sides." Pezeshkian also

emphasized the necessity of cooperation between Tehran and Astana to protect the Caspian Sea, adding, "The Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea is a key framework for cooperation among littoral states, ensuring security, environmental balance, and the sustainability of economic activities." He noted that adhering to transparent and predictable mechanisms of interaction will allow the countries to effectively conserve natural resources and protect water sustainability.

President Pezeshkian urges global unity, says world needs trust, peace

President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) meets with Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, in Ashgabat, December 12, 2025. Tehran, IRNA – President Masoud Pezeshkian has emphasized the importance of expanding understanding among countries and nations, adding that the world today requires trust, peace, and unity more than ever. Pezeshkian, who traveled to Turkmenistan to attend

the International Peace and Trust Summit, met and held talks with Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, in Ashgabat on Friday. The Iranian president expressed his gratitude to Berdimuhamedov for the official invitation to the summit, describing the initiative as a response to one of the fundamental needs of today's world, highlighting it as a demonstration of a deep understanding of current global realities. Pezeshkian noted, "We are pleased that, under your leadership, this constructive approach is extending from Turkmenistan to the region and beyond, allowing us all to take steps toward strengthening trust, peace, and regional security." For his part, Berdimuhamedov expressed his pleasure at Pezeshkian's visit to Ashgabat, adding, "The current global conditions are complex, and it is necessary that we meet each other more than before and have mutual consultations." He described the level of bilateral relations between Iran and Turkmenistan as favorable, noting, "The relations between our two countries



in various areas, including trade, commerce, culture, and humanitarian efforts, are strong and constructive. We hope that this cooperation will continue to expand in the future." President Pezeshkian arrived in Ashgabat on Thursday evening, where he was welcomed by the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan in charge of economic and financial issues.

Pezeshkian calls for enhanced Iran-Myanmar cooperation

President Masoud Pezeshkian says a clear path exists for enhanced cooperation between Iran and Myanmar, calling on experts from both countries to work together to strengthen bilateral relations. Pezeshkian met and held talks with Myanmar's Prime Minister Nyo Saw on the sidelines of the International Peace and Trust Summit in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on Friday. Referring to the historical background

of Iran-Myanmar relations, Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation, particularly in cultural and commercial sectors, as both essential and beneficial. The president also highlighted Iran's interest in the expansion of relations with the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), adding, "Iran's acceptance as a dialogue partner in this important regional institution can significantly enhance our cooperation with East Asian countries, including Myanmar." For his part, Saw said, "Myanmar is eager to cooperate with Iran in several areas, including oil imports and the use of Iranian oil extraction technologies. Additionally, we aim to export products such as leather and rubber. It is also crucial to facilitate banking relations and establish cooperation between the central banks of both countries to enhance trade."

Iran describes US move to seize Venezuelan oil tanker as 'state maritime piracy'

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has condemned the US Navy's military action against a commercial vessel carrying Venezuelan oil near the South American country's shores, calling its capture a clear example of "state maritime piracy." In a statement late on Thursday, Baqaei emphasized that the US' move to seize and confiscate commercial vessels belonging to other countries represents an explicit disregard for international law and a blatant violation of principles governing the security and safety of international navigation. He underlined that invoking US domestic laws and Washington's unlawful sanctions to justify such conduct can in no way alter the illegal and criminal nature of this "armed robbery at sea." Warning against the consequences and repercussions of continuing such coercive behavior for international peace, security, and trade, the spokesperson noted that all governments and competent international bodies bear responsibility for opposing such unlawful actions and holding the US accountable. The US forces seized an oil tanker near the Venezuelan coastline on Wednesday. In reaction to the measure, the Venezuelan government has called the tanker's seizure "a blatant robbery and an act of international piracy."

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi :

Iran seeks new chapter in ties with Lebanon

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that he is "bemused" by his Lebanese counterpart's decision not to accept Tehran's invitation for an official visit, while welcoming an offer to meet in Beirut instead. In a post published on X Thursday night, Araghchi said that while he was grateful for Youssef Rajji's "kind invitation," there was no need for "a 'neutral' venue" for talks between countries with "brotherly and full diplomatic relations." Araghchi further said that he understood why Rajji was not prepared to travel to Tehran, citing Israel's occupation and violations of a ceasefire. "Hence I will gladly accept his invitation to come to Beirut," he said, adding that Iran also sought "a new chapter" in bilateral ties based on the principles Rajji had outlined. Lebanon's foreign minister, in an official message cited by local media, had apologized for declining the Tehran visit, saying the refusal "does not mean rejecting dialogue," but that "suitable conditions" for such a meeting were not currently available. Rajji then eerily proposed a bilateral meeting in a "neutral third country" agreeable to both sides, and that Lebanon was in "full readiness to establish a new era of constructive relations with Iran based on mutual respect." The Lebanese foreign minister also echoed demands – mainly pushed by Israel, the US and their allies – that Hezbollah give up its arms despite almost daily aggression on Lebanon by the Zionist regime. Rajji said that "building a strong state is only possible when the monopoly on arms is in the hands of

the government and the national army, and decisions regarding war and peace are entrusted to the official sovereignty of the state." In a post published on X Thursday night, Araghchi said that while he was grateful for Youssef Rajji's "kind invitation," there was no need for "a 'neutral' venue" for talks between countries with "brotherly and full diplomatic relations." Araghchi further said that he understood why Rajji was not prepared to travel to Tehran, citing Israel's occupation and violations of a ceasefire. "Hence I will gladly accept his invitation to come to Beirut," he said, adding that Iran also sought "a new chapter" in bilateral ties based on the principles Rajji had outlined. Lebanon's foreign minister, in an official message cited by local media, had apologized for declining the Tehran visit, saying the refusal "does not mean rejecting dialogue," but that "suitable conditions" for such a meeting were not currently available. Rajji then eerily proposed a bilateral meeting in a "neutral third country" agreeable to both sides, and that Lebanon was in "full readiness to establish a new era of constructive relations with Iran based on mutual respect." The Lebanese foreign minister also echoed demands – mainly pushed by Israel, the US and their allies – that Hezbollah give up its arms despite almost daily aggression on Lebanon by the Zionist regime. Rajji said that "building a strong state is only possible when the monopoly on arms is in the hands of the government and the national army, and decisions regarding war and peace

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Iran police seize over 230 million liters of smuggled fuel in 8 months

Iran's Chief of Police Brigadier General Ahmadrza Radan says that the police and border guard forces in Hormozgan Province have seized over 230 million liters of smuggled fuel during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2025). During a meeting with police commanders and officials in the southern province of Hormozgan on Wednesday, Brigadier General Radan said, "The significant discoveries we've made are the result of targeted planning, intelligence oversight, operational cohesion, and decisive action by police and border guard units." He added, "In our fight against organized smuggling gangs, successful operations have been carried out that have dealt a severe blow to these networks." Radan noted, "Today, thanks to enhanced equipment capabilities, the development of new technologies, and the operational readiness of our forces, we are witnessing a new phase of intelligent combat against smuggling in Hormozgan." Fuel, especially diesel, is being smuggled out of the country through cities bordering Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey, according to officials. Hossein Rahimi, the head of Iran's Economic Security Police, said that around 21 million liters of petrol and diesel are smuggled out daily.