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Iran

Digest

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Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani visits Iran

President Ebrahim Raisi had an [extended session of talks](#) with Al Sudani focussing on security coordination, trade exchange, and cooperation in the field of energy and investments, tourism and mutual religious visits, as well as the challenges of climate change. In a joint press conference with Al Sudani, Raisi noted that Iraqi government is the result of the agreement between political groups in the country. Observing that Iran's relations with Iraq are not ordinary relations but rooted in the two nations' beliefs, Raisi hailed [bilateral cooperation](#) in cultural, political, social and security fields, especially in fighting terrorist groups, organized crime, drugs. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei in his meeting with Al Sudani noted that "Iraq's security amounts to security of Iran just as security of Iran impacts Iraq's security." Making an indirect reference to turmoil in Iran's Kurdistan province which borders the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Khamenei noted that Iran has faced [insecurity coming from Iraqi soil](#), adding that the only solution to this problem is that the central government of Iraq extend its authority over those regions of Iraq. On economic cooperation, the Leader said the two countries need to implement the various agreements on economic cooperation, trade, and rail connectivity."

Iran's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Issues Ali Bagheri Kani visits India

During his visit, Kani held [delegation level talks](#) with Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, where the two sides exchanged views on ways to expand political relations, including high-ranking delegations, holding joint commission on

economic cooperation and the trade council with the aim of promoting the level of trade, as well as Indian investment in Chabahar. Their discussions also focussed on key regional and international issues, including Afghanistan, especially countering terrorism and opium production in the country, International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) as well as the ways for fostering multilateral ties in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Kani, who is also Iran's chief negotiator on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) met with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and discussed bilateral cooperation, regional issues and the JCPOA. In a media interview, Kani stated that Iran is willing to start exporting oil to India, and emphasised the [usage of national currencies](#), the Rupee-Rial, for trade between the two countries.

Iran and Russia reach a transit agreement on the INSTC

On 27 November, Miad Salehi, Managing-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways on the sidelines of the International Coordinating Council on Trans-Eurasian Transportation (CCTT) in Moscow reached an [agreement on transit](#) of 12 million tons of Russian commodities throughout Iran via the INSTC. Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) began its first pilot transfer of goods from Russia to India through the International North-South Transit Corridor in June. Earlier on 15 November, a 120-member [Russian trade delegation](#), headed by the President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation Sergey Katyrin, participated in Iran-Russia business forum in Tehran. President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam Hossein, while noting that the 2019 preferential trade agreement between Iran

and the Eurasian Economic Union opened a new chapter in Iran's trade relations with the bloc, urged the need for further activating a green corridor with Russia which will facilitate customs procedures. Besides Tehran, the Russian 120-member delegation also visited Rasht, Anzali near Caspian Sea and Isfahan. On 29 November, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced formation of [Iran-Russia trade council](#) together with Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP). The joint body will work towards removing obstacles to industrial and commercial cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.

First section of the Chabahar-Zahedan railroad inaugurated

On 11 November, [first 154 km section](#) of the Chabahar-Zahedan railroad in the Sistan-Baluchestan province was inaugurated by senior officials including Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) Miad Salehi, and the governor of Sistan-Baluchestan Province. The Chabahar-Zahedan railroad is part of eastern branch of the INSTC from Sarakhs on border with Turkmenistan to Chabahar port, linking Iran and South Asia to the Central Asian and northern countries. Earlier in March, Head of Iran Railway's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC) Kheirollah Khademi said the Zahedan-Chabahar railway project is going to be completed by the end of the Iranian calendar year 1402 (March 20, 2024).

Iran participates in the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan

Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's special representative for Afghanistan participated in the Moscow format for consultations on Afghanistan held on 16 November. Kazemi

noted that the stability of Afghanistan is directly dependent on the formation of an [inclusive and popular government](#), which will facilitate the international recognition of the country. Noting that Terrorism is not confined to national boundaries so instability and lack of security in Afghanistan will affect its neighbours and the entire region, he called on neighbouring countries of Afghanistan who participate in the format, to [cooperate with Kabul](#) by training its security forces, exchanging information and providing equipment. He also noted that it is necessary for Iran and Afghanistan to establish a [joint security and information exchange committee](#) to counter terrorist threats. Kazemi also announced that Iran is planning a meeting on Afghanistan at the [level of foreign ministers](#) in the near future in order to contribute to the improvement and stability of Afghanistan.

Iran announces developing cutting-edge hypersonic ballistic missiles

On 10 November, the head of the Aerospace Division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh announced that Iran has succeeded in developing cutting-edge hypersonic ballistic missiles. He noted the missile can penetrate enemy's anti-missile systems and is a [great generational leap](#) in the missile field. On 24 November, Aerospace Force announced the successful test launch of [Gha'em 100](#), a three-stage solid fuel carrier into suborbital space. The carrier is capable of placing satellites weighing 80 kg into orbit 500 kilometres above the earth's surface. In recent years, Iran has had a litany of failed space launches. Hajizadeh noted that the rocket would be used to launch Iran's Nahid satellite for the telecommunications ministry.