

IAEA confident of Iran's cooperation



"Achieving this will be very important because it would allow the agency to begin to establish a new baseline necessary in the event of a resumption of Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA," he then asserted.

Grossi noted that he looks forward to the follow-up technical discussions and to the prompt and full implementation of Iran's assurances and the joint statement between Eslami and himself.

"Following discussions between Iran and agency officials, Iran has since confirmed that it will facilitate the further increase in the frequency and intensity of agency verification activities at Fordo Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP), as notified by the agency," the IAEA director general said.

The agency and Iran have initiated technical discussions to fully clarify the issue of found particles of high enriched uranium with enrichment level of 83.7%, according to Grossi.

Concluding his speech, he welcomed Iran's high-level assurances that it is willing to implement further appropriate verification and monitoring activities, and to cooperate with the agency to resolve the outstanding safeguards issues, including those pertaining to the "three undeclared locations in which the agency found traces of uranium particles of anthropogenic origin".

Later, Grossi took part in a press conference to explain to the reporters the achievements of his Tehran visit.

During the presser, the IAEA director general said that the IAEA and AEOI discussed in Tehran the issue of moving the dialogue to the stage reaching tangible results.

Explaining the agreement reached with Tehran on the expansion of inspections, Grossi said the agency doesn't have a detailed list of places it plans to visit in Iran nor specific dates yet for doing so.

He then noted that a high-ranking delegation from the IAEA will visit Tehran in the coming days to explore the technical modalities of the agreements reached with Iran.

"Technical and diplomatic solutions are possible and practical, and this is what we will always strive for," the IAEA chief said.

Leader: Students' poisoning 'unforgivable' crime

Ayatollah Khamenei urges intelligence and law enforcement bodies to find the origin of the crime as well as the agents and the masterminds.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called the poisoning of students in Iran's schools an "unforgivable and big crime", calling on authorities to seriously pursue the issue.

"If it is proven that the students were poisoned, the perpetrators of this crime must be severely punished. There will be no amnesty for them," the Leader stressed, Press TV reported.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks on Monday as he planted saplings to mark the National Tree Planting Day.

"Officials should seriously pursue the issue of students' poisoning. This is a big and unforgivable crime," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that responsible bodies, including intelligence and law enforcement agencies, should find the origin of the crime as well as the agents and the masterminds.

"This is a crime, as it is perpetrated against the most

innocent members of the society, the children. It also causes fear and psychological insecurity in the society and worries families. These issues should be followed seriously, and if the perpetrators are convicted, there will be no amnesty for them. And they must be punished and their punishment should serve as a lesson," the Leader added. Since November 2022, some Iranian students have reported symptoms of poisoning while in school. The outbreak started in the central city of Qom before expanding to other cities. In most cases, students suffered respiratory problems, nausea, fatigue and dizziness, while some were hospitalized.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raeisi has also ordered the ministers of intelligence and interior to follow up on the poisoning cases.

"The enemy's new conspiracy of creating fear in the hearts of students... and their parents is a crime and an inhumane act," he said during a cabinet meeting



on Sunday.

Ayatollah Khamenei also referred to economic issues, saying, the country's current problems regarding the value of the national currency, inflation and the high cost of living are the results of a single-product economy.

"Officials should use all possible economic ways

to find the right solution to people's problems," the Leader said.

In related remarks on the same day, Iranian Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei said the students' poisoning is an instance of corruption on earth and those behind it must receive the harshest punishment, Mizan Online

News Agency reported.

Also on Monday, the spokesman of the Iranian police Saeed Montazerolmahdi said to better protect the country's students against moves by the disruptors of the public security, the number of the special police patrols has increased near girls' schools and dormitories.

No need for Russian S-400 batteries: Iran

The minister hailed Iran-Russia defense cooperation, saying: "Our relations with Moscow are at a high level."

Iran has been under strict sanctions for years, forcing the country to produce its own military hardware, including drones, missiles, and other weapons.

Su-35 fighter jets

Speaking about Iran's potential purchase of the Russian Su-35 fighter jets, Ashtiani said that Tehran collaborates with other countries to strengthen its defense capabilities and will proceed with a purchase if necessary. "Negotiations about buying equipment like the Su-35 belongs to the past and is still being pursued. We have not received any fighter jets yet," he added.

Iran's military has been exploring options to upgrade its aging fighter jet fleet, which includes a mix of U.S.- and Russian-made aircraft.

The Su-35, a fourth-generation fighter jet, is known for its maneuverability and advanced avionics, making it a desirable option for countries seeking to modernize their air force.

Iran drones on demand

Highlighting Iran's drone capabilities, Ashtiani emphasized that many countries have requested to purchase Iranian pilotless aircraft, citing the current global security imbalance as a reason for their interest in strengthening their own defense infrastructure.

"One of the most frequent

requests we receive from various countries is related to our drone capabilities," the minister said.

"Our drones are among the most advanced in the world, and in some cases, there are no comparable models," he added. "Other countries have recognized the power of our drones, which have been tested in various trials."

While noting Iran's commitment to continuously improving its defense capabilities, Ashtiani stated that the country is not content with what it currently has and plans to introduce even more advanced weaponry in the near future.

The focus on drone technology has been a key area of development for Iran, with the country unveiling several advanced models in recent years.

Iran committed to resolve disputes with IAEA

The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Tehran is committed to diplomacy and will continue to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to resolve the remaining issues over Tehran's civilian nuclear activities.

Iran remains committed to negotiations and diplomacy, as it strongly believes that it can achieve tangible and practical results under such a framework, Nasser Kanaani said at a weekly press briefing in the capital Tehran on Monday, according to Press TV.

He emphasized that Iran holds a deep-seated belief in multilateral diplomacy and has been engaged in the Vienna talks to revive the 2015

nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), on that basis.

The top Iranian diplomat noted that IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's latest trip to Tehran was in line with Iran's active diplomacy with the UN nuclear agency and yielded encouraging results.

He expressed hope that the trend of cooperation between Iran and the IAEA would result in the resolution of issues pertaining to the safeguards agreement in a technical manner and would eliminate any chance for those who consider the matter as an obstacle on the path of returning to diplomacy.

In response to a question about the Israeli regime's threat to carry out act of sabotage in the Iranian

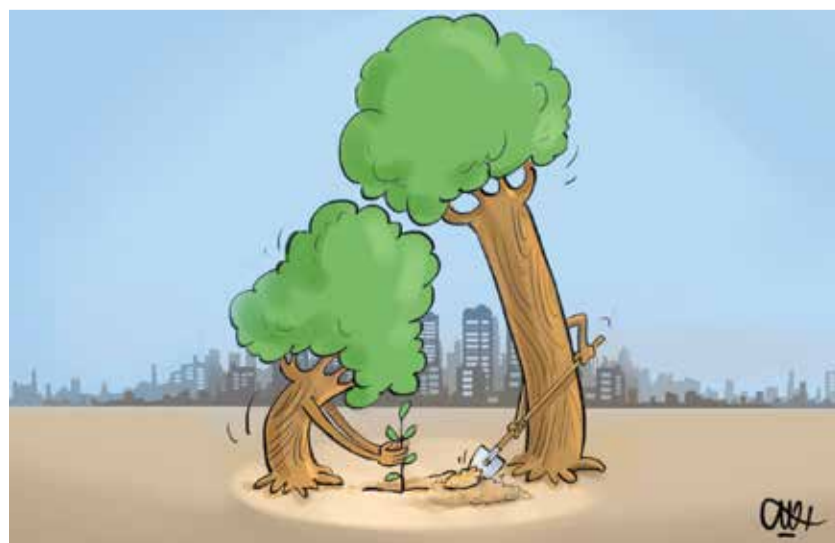
nuclear facilities, Kanaani said, "You should ask this question from the IAEA officials."

"Iran has utilized all recognized rights and has explored available political and legal channels, as well as international regulations. Protection of Iran's nuclear capabilities and capacities has been carried out in light of such measures," he said. Kanaani further explained that Iran has time and again emphasized its rights in line with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) when it comes to cooperation with the UN nuclear agency.

Iran and the IAEA have agreed to take steps aimed at facilitating enhanced cooperation and expediting the resolution of outstanding safeguards issues.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



SCO a body for cooperation among independent states: Deputy FM

International Desk

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a body for cooperation among independent and powerful countries, said the Iranian deputy foreign minister.

Ali Bagheri Kani, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, made the remarks in a meeting with SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming in Tehran on Monday, adding the mul-

tilateralism's voice is at present heard more than ever in international assemblies, mfa.ir reported. Bagheri Kani added the SCO's multilateral-oriented approach indicates that the organization is not a ceremonial one, but one that seeks to respond to an essential security and political need. He said the difference between the SCO and many other Western organizations is that it has been established on the basis of

independent states' decisions and has adopted an approach based on respect for other countries' independence and sovereignty. Since the organization's approach is a justice-based one, the SCO can work out sustainable solutions for international issues.

Ming, for his part, said Iran is one of the most influential countries in the region and the world, which has always had an active presence in the SCO meetings.