

Manifestation of traditional Iranian architecture in House of Amir Nezam

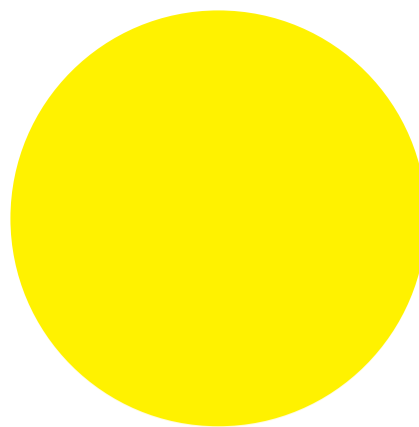
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EXCLUSIVE



Legend warrior of Iran Air Force

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A warm welcome for president in Indonesia



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (R) and his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo inspect a guard of honor at Bogor Palace, Jakarta, Indonesia, on May 23, 2023.

president.ir

Indonesia, gateway to East Asia

By Hassan Hanizadeh
International affairs expert
EXCLUSIVE

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's state visit to Indonesia signifies the Iranian government's strategic outlook toward the East. The decision to adopt an "Eastward-looking" approach stems from Iran's disillusionment with Europe and America's failure to meet expectations outlined in the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. Following its withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018, the United States has unleashed a barrage of over

1,700 sanctions on Iran, while Europe has proven inept or unwilling to safeguard Iran's interests in the wake of the US pullout. Consequently, Iran has re-directed its focus toward the East, forging meaningful alliances within the West Asian region and fostering robust collaborations with nations like China and Russia. Iran's novel approach has yielded a series of notable achievements, including enduring partnerships with China, the Tehran-Riyadh rapprochement deal, Syria's reinstatement into the Arab League, and the resolution of the Yemeni conflict.

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MP: Taliban must recognize Iran's water rights

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff Writer

EXCLUSIVE

A senior Iranian lawmaker has accused the ruling Taliban government in Afghanistan of blatantly violating the water rights of Iranian people over their shared Hirmand (Helmand) River. "The Taliban have blatantly and deliberately stopped the water of Hirmand River from flowing towards Iran. They claim the river has no water but facts on the ground indicate that it has sufficient water," Shahrir Heidari, the deputy head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, told Iran Daily. He urged the Taliban to



Shahrir Heidari

supply Iran with its share of water from the river. Iran and the Taliban are engaged in a dispute over water share from the Hirmand River, which is known as Helmand in Afghanistan. Hirmand is the longest watercourse in Afghanistan which originates in the Afghan Hindu Kush mountain range west of Kabul. It flows in an arc southwest until it empties out into the Hamoun wetlands in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

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Tourism Ministry prioritizes restoration of cultural heritage sites



During a ceremony held on Tuesday, the sixth day of Cultural Heritage Week, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ezattollah Zarghami expressed the organization's commitment to the restoration of historical monuments, including Christian churches, despite facing limited

financial resources. Zarghami emphasized that while the government already allocates considerable attention to cultural heritage sites, the lack of budget poses a significant threat to the preservation of the country's rich cultural heritage.

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11 cooperation deals, including preferential trade agreement, signed

Iran, Indonesia aim to increase bilateral trade to \$20b

Raisi: Both nations agree to stand against US unilateralism

International Desk

Iran and Indonesia took "huge steps" on Tuesday to cement their ties as President Ebrahim Raisi paid a two-day state visit to the East Asian nation. Raisi was welcomed by his host President Joko Widodo with a 21-gun salute at the Bogor Palace, just outside the capital, Jakarta, where the pair planted two saplings as a sign of peace and friendship. Following bilateral talks behind closed doors, Raisi and Widodo oversaw the relevant ministers signing 11 documents and cooperation agreements

in various fields, including preferential trade, lifting visa requirements, cultural exchanges, science and technology, oil and gas, as well as supervision over pharmaceutical products. The commercial deal aims to boost international trade ties to try and offset the economic impact of Western sanctions. "We believe that sanctions and threats cannot stop us in any way," Raisi told a joint press conference after the signing ceremony that was streamed online. "Cooperation and relations with neighboring countries, Muslim countries, and countries that are aligned with us in various

fields is our priority," he added. Under the pact, Iran will provide easier access for Indonesian exports including vegetable oil, cocoa, coffee, tea, processed foods, pharmaceuticals, textiles, palm oil, and tobacco, according to the Indonesian Trade Ministry. In return, Jakarta would lower tariffs on Iranian exports to Indonesia, including oil and its derivative products, minerals, chemicals, metals and some dairy products. Indonesian Trade Ministry official, Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono, said the two countries had agreed on a "countertrade" scheme, in

which goods and services can be exchanged "without being constrained by scarcity or currency difficulties". Two-way trade between the nations currently amounts to around \$250 million, with the Southeast Asian country recording about a \$200 million surplus, according to the Indonesian Trade Ministry. "I hope [the agreement] will expand trade between Indonesia and Iran," Widodo said. Raisi said the goal was to raise the value of two-way trade between Indonesia and Iran to \$20 billion. "The two countries have

decided to do trade with local currencies," he added. Raisi further took a swipe at the United States' unilateral approach, saying both Iran and Indonesia were in agreement on "fiercely fighting unilateralism". Later, addressing a group of Indonesians at an Islamic center in Jakarta, Raisi said U.S. hegemony was nearing its end with the emergence of new powers. He also called for unity in the Islamic world in order to combat enemies who seek to sow discord and foment division among Muslim nations.