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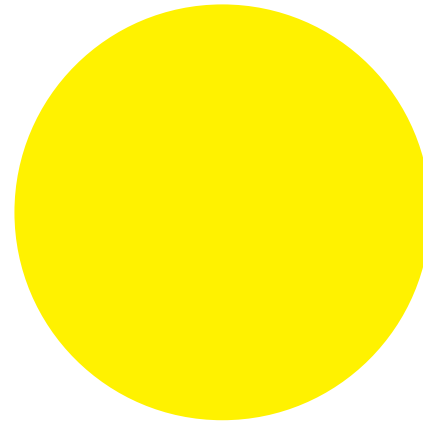
EXCLUSIVE

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Iran's 'The Miracle of Bonasan' highly welcomed by Japanese viewers



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Iranian president begins three-nation trip to Latin America

Raeisi: Great potential in Iran, LatAm can help expand ties



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (2nd R) inspects a guard of honor during a ceremony in Mehrabad Airport before leaving Tehran for Latin American countries of Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba on June 12, 2023.

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said there are great potentialities in Iran and Latin American nations that can play a major role in further expansion of strategic relations between the countries. President Raeisi made the remarks on Monday before leaving Tehran for a three-nation trip to Latin America, which will take him to Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba. Raeisi said Iran's relations with those countries have been consistently cordial during the past years, as they have common views with Tehran on major international issues.

"Our common position with these three countries is opposition to the [world's] hegemonic system and unilateralism," the president said, adding that Iran cooperates with those countries in numerous areas. "Export of technical and engineering manpower is among our important cooperation areas," Raeisi said, adding, "We also cooperate with Latin American countries in the fields of politics, energy, science and technology, medicine and economy."

He said his trip comes at the invitation of the presidents of the three countries, adding that it would be a turning point in developing Tehran's ties with Caracas, Managua

and Havana. This is Raeisi's 13th foreign trip during the nearly two years since he was elected president. A high-ranking delegation comprised of ministers of foreign affairs, oil, defense, and health are accompanying Raeisi in his tour of Latin America. During his five-day trip to the three countries, various cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding will be signed between Iranian officials and their counterparts. Raeisi is also scheduled to meet with Iranian businesspeople and economists in those countries. Iran has close ties with many Latin

American states in different domains and seeks to further deepen its relations with those nations. Back in February, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made an official visit to two Latin American countries, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Last June, Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year partnership agreement aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields during Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's visit to Tehran. The partnership agreement includes cooperation in the fields of science, technology, agriculture, oil and gas, petrochemicals, tourism and culture.

Messages of Iran's presence in U.S. 'backyard'

By Mahmoud Abbaszadeh
Iranian lawmaker



EXCLUSIVE
OPINION

Iran's President Ebrahim Raeisi embarked on a journey to South America on Monday, to visit Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua. The trip holds great significance for Iran on both political and economic fronts, as well as carrying symbolic weight. The governments and nations of South America are primarily known for their pursuit of independence and their opposition to the policies of the United States and Western nations which are characterized by excessive demands. Due to these shared perspectives, they find common ground with

the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, from a political standpoint, this visit to the region carries a vital message. Developing political relations with these countries will enhance Iran's reputation and elevate its status beyond the confines of the West Asian region, positioning it on the international stage. South America is often referred to as the "backyard" of the United States. Consequently, Iran's presence in these South American countries conveys a symbolic message.

The Western world, led by the United States, has made concerted efforts to isolate Iran in recent years. However, contrary to these efforts, Tehran has emerged as a key player in diplomatic affairs within the Middle East.

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Iran rejects reports of interim nuclear deal with U.S.

National Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed media speculations about an interim agreement between Tehran and Washington over its nuclear program. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Nasser Kanaani said such speculations about an interim agreement and a similar deal to replace the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), cannot be confirmed, adding that the JCPOA is the basis of negotiations on the lifting of sanctions. However, he confirmed the exchange of messages between Iran and the U.S. through the mediation of Oman. On Friday, the U.S.-based news website Axios reported that American and Iranian officials had held indirect talks in Oman last month, with Omani officials shuttling between their separate rooms to deliver messages. The report came one day after the Middle East Eye news portal claimed that Iran and the United States "are nearing a temporary deal that would swap some sanctions relief for reducing Iranian uranium enrichment activities." "Iran's government has never left the negotiation table and has shown its readiness to conduct serious and substantive negotiations in order to reach a conclusion," Kanaani added. The remarks came a day after Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said there is nothing wrong with reaching a deal if Iran's nuclear infrastructure remains untouched.

Multilateral diplomatic efforts to revive the JCPOA have been stalled since last August, with Iran blaming the United States for failing to guarantee that it will not leave the deal again.

Prisoner swap

Kanaani also said that Iran and the U.S. could exchange prisoners soon if Washington shows goodwill. "Regarding the issue of exchanging prisoners with the U.S., negotiations are ongoing through mediators... If the other party shows the same seriousness and goodwill, this can happen in the near future," Kanaani said.

Tensions with Azerbaijan

Kanaani also referred to recent tensions between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, saying that both countries are pushing to de-escalate tensions and pave the way for the reopening of Azerbaijan's Embassy in Tehran. He said the foreign ministers of Iran and Azerbaijan have held four rounds of talks in recent weeks to mend relations severed after a January fatal attack on the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Tehran, which killed a staff member and injured two others. Baku shut down its embassy in Tehran afterwards.

Cheshmeh Ali Complex, a unique tourism site in Damghan



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Iranian Greco-Roman team crowned Asian U17 wrestling champion



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Iran remains world's 10th largest steelmaker: WSA



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China slams new Iran-related U.S. sanctions on its entities

China's Commerce Ministry opposes new U.S. Iran-related sanctions on Chinese entities and nationals, saying that Washington should stop its unreasonable suppression of Chinese enterprises and individuals. "The U.S. action lacks factual basis and due process, harming the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and individuals. China will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and individuals," the ministry's spokesperson said when answering a reporter's question on the move, according to Reuters. The spokesperson also vowed that "China will take necessary measures to resolutely

safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and individuals." Last week, Washington slapped a new round of sanctions on more than a dozen individuals and entities in Iran, China, and Hong Kong over what it claimed to be aiding the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile program. "This network conducted transactions and facilitated the procurement of sensitive and critical parts and technology for key actors in Iran's ballistic missile development, including Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics," the US Treasury Department claimed in the statement on Tuesday.