

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's deputy FM holds talks with E3 counterparts



FARS

IRNA – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani has met and held talks with his EU triumvirate (E3) counterparts in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

"Continuing with diplomatic consultations with regional and extra-regional parties, we met our German, French, and British counterparts and discussed a range of issues and mutual concerns," Bagheri Kani tweeted in Farsi on Tuesday.

The diplomat, who is also Iran's top negotiator in talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, had said in another tweet earlier on Tuesday that his trip to the UAE will be focused on bilateral ties and regional issues.

Russia threatens tit-for-tat over Iran nuclear talks



IFP – Russia's ambassador to the international organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said that Moscow's position on the multilateral negotiations to revive the Iran nuclear deal will depend on the West's policy, but Moscow will respond in kind if it deems it necessary.

Ulyanov said in a tweet on Tuesday that the Western parties politicized the talks to the maximum possible extent, but their approach has failed to meet their interests.

Iran recorded 159 nuclear achievements last year: AEOI chief

PRESS TV – The Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said Monday the agency recorded 159 achievements in the previous Persian calendar year (ending March 20).

Venezuela can be a hub for redistribution of Iranian goods: MP

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

Noting that Venezuela has become Iran's top commercial partner in Latin America, an Iranian lawmaker envisioned Venezuela as a potential hub for the redistribution of Iranian goods to other countries of the continent.

Ahad Azadikhah made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily shortly after Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi landed in Caracas on Monday, on the first stop of his Latin American tour.

Referring to the frequent reciprocal visits of the top officials of the countries, Azadikhah welcomed the expansion of political bilateral ties as it has provided the opportunity to develop economic cooperation.

"Tehran and Caracas have always had amicable relations," he said, adding that the past one or two years have seen a further strengthening of ties.

Describing the current state of Iran-Venezuela ties as "the best it has ever been," he stressed that Caracas is Tehran's most attractive option for economic partnership among Latin American countries.

Venezuela and Iran, major oil producers hit by illegal U.S. sanctions, signed a 20-year cooperation agreement in Tehran a year ago



Megasis, the first Iranian supermarket in Venezuela, has supplied Iranian products to the people of Caracas since July 31, 2020.

TASNIM



"Caracas is Tehran's most attractive option for economic partnership among Latin American countries."

on June 11, 2022. However, the Iranian Member of Parliament gives little weight to the impact of sanctions on bilateral ties in light of Caracas and Tehran's current level of cooperation.

"Considering that Iran and Venezuela share the same DNA when it comes to oil, areas where the two can cooperate abound," he stated, citing the sale of crude oil and the overhaul of refineries as examples.

As a member of the Iran-Venezuela Parliamentary Friendship Group, Azadikhah vowed that the Iranian Parliament would do everything in its power to utilize these potentials and cement ties between the two countries.

He also pointed out that the Iranian Oil Ministry has similarly expressed its interest in making new deals with Caracas.

"Fortunately, the Bolivarian Gov-

ernment of Venezuela was eager to increase its economic transactions with Iran, giving us the incentive to continue working there ever harder."

Bringing attention to the fact that Megasis, the first Iranian supermarket in Venezuela, has been operating for years, Azadikhah claimed that the supermarket can be a stepping stone for redistributing Iranian goods to Latin American countries.

A deal, best option for Iran, U.S.

By Abdolreza Faraji-Rad
International affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE



The exchange of messages and, possibly, negotiations between Iran and the United States has been ongoing for the past few months, taking place in various locations such as New York and Oman. Several noteworthy events have unfolded during this period, indicating a positive inclination from both parties to reach an agreement. These events include the exchange of prisoners, agreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the absence of a resolution against Iran during the recent meeting of the agency's Board of Governors, and the partial release of Iran's blocked assets abroad. These developments can be regarded as promising.

The U.S. is eager to swiftly resolve the Iran issue for two significant reasons. Firstly, the approaching presidential election demands a

response from the Democrats currently in power at the White House regarding their achievements in dealing with Iran. Failing to reach an agreement would leave them with limited accomplishments to present. Secondly, the West has concerns about Iran's uranium enrichment levels. Conversely, Iran is in need of an agreement and the lifting of sanctions to address its economic challenges and facilitate the advancement of its development plans.

The recent pronouncements made by Iran's Leader Ayatollah Khomeini, indicating his green light for a deal while emphasizing the preservation of Iran's nuclear industry, clearly demonstrate the Islamic Republic's strong determination to break the standoff.

In light of this circumstance, the absence of Political Deputy Foreign

Minister Ali Baqeri from President Raeisi's delegation during his visit to South America, and his decision to travel to Abu Dhabi for meetings with officials from the United Arab Emirates, as well as their British, German, and French counterparts, signifies the ongoing talks and exchange of messages. This is a positive indication that the diplomatic process is still underway and holds promise.

Over the past few months, European nations had assumed a more assertive stance toward Iran compared to the United States. However, they now appear to have realized that engaging in dialogue with Tehran is a more favorable approach. As a result, they have dispatched their representatives to the UAE. It is plausible to consider that the UAE authorities may have relayed a message from the U.S. to

Iran, as the release of Iran's funds needs U.S. approval. Recently, Iran's minister of economy announced that additional assets will be liberated in the forthcoming days.

Consequently, while there remains a considerable distance between Iran and the United States, it appears that both sides have comprehended that agreement and diplomacy represent their most viable options. Neither America nor Europe seeks a military option, as it holds no advantages for either party. The perpetuation of sanctions fails to yield tangible results for the U.S., and although it does impose pressure on the Iranian people, it does not significantly impact the government's policies. Therefore, an agreement emerges as the most cost-effective and beneficial option for both parties involved.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran, Venezuela cement ...

He added that the Iranian youths have succeeded in turning sanctions into opportunities by making use of the capabilities of knowledge-based companies and maintaining peace and stability in the country against upheavals.

He noted that Tehran and Caracas have enormous capacities to increase economic exchanges, which have not been used yet. The two sides agreed to remove customs, banking and tariff barriers in order to facilitate and accelerate economic exchanges, he noted.

Raeisi said Iranian ambassadors, commercial offices, the house of science and technology and all active sectors in the fields of industry, mines and banking affairs must work to facilitate mutual trade ties. Iran and Venezuela, which have been targeted by illegal U.S. sanctions, have

increased their economic and political relations in recent years, in a bid to counter the restrictions that have mainly targeted their oil exports.

Venezuela, which has the world's largest crude reserves, has struggled in recent years to produce enough gasoline and diesel fuel due to refinery outages as a result of the sanctions.

Tehran has tried to help the country by providing crude and condensate as well as parts and feedstock for its refining network. Last June, Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year partnership agreement aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields during Venezuelan President Maduro's visit to Tehran.

The partnership agreement includes cooperation in the fields of science, technology, agriculture, oil and gas, petrochemicals, tourism and culture.