



EXCLUSIVE

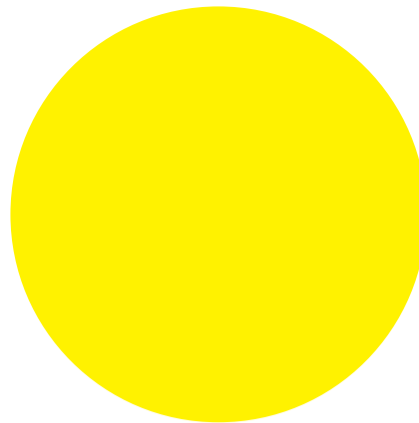
No one leaves a safe home

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Iranian researcher Malayeri wins Jordanian literary prize

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SCO, BRICS put Iran's membership on top of agenda

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Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) talks with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev (C) at a meeting also attended by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran on June 18, 2023. [khamenei.ir](#)

Iran, Uzbekistan sign 11 cooperation deals

Leader welcomes reinvigoration of Tehran-Tashkent ties

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei welcomed reinvigoration of relations between Iran and Uzbekistan after a long break. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tehran. He expressed

hope that the visit by the Uzbek president and talks between the two countries' officials would be the beginning of a better future in relations between Tehran and Tashkent. Ayatollah Khamenei said that Iran can easily connect Uzbekistan to the high seas through Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. However, he said that cooperation is not

limited to trade or transportation, that both countries can further cooperate in other fields, including science and technology. Earlier in the day, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Tehran and held a separate meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi. Afterwards, officials from both sides signed 11 cooper-

ation agreements in various fields in a ceremony held in the Saadabad Complex. According to the documents, Iran and Uzbekistan will enhance cooperation in trade, transportation and transit, pharmacology, standards and insurance, the establishment of joint free zones, technology and innovation, as well as agriculture. Both presidents attended

a meeting of high-ranking delegations of the two countries, where they discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation. During the meeting, the Iranian president emphasized the need to prepare a road map to expand cooperation and implement the agreements signed between the two countries. [Page 2 >](#)

Promising prospects for Iran-Uzbekistan relations



By Abed Akbari
International affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

It has been over three decades since Iran and Uzbekistan established diplomatic ties. Despite the rich historical and cultural bonds shared with Iran, Uzbekistan like the other Central Asian nations, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan,

remains relatively unknown in Iranian society. Regrettably, the level of bilateral relations has remained largely low and restricted in the past decades.

Central Asia, a landlocked region bordering Russia, China, the Caspian Sea, Afghanistan, and Iran, finds itself amidst the concepts of "new regionalism," "common home," "breakthrough," "economic reforms," and "competition." Meanwhile, Iran has undergone significant economic revisions due to the harsh sanctions imposed by the West. Under the current Iranian government, the nation attaches greater importance to its neighbors in its foreign policy than ever before. The United States' attempt to isolate Iran has forced the emerging economies of Central Asia to give up some of their economic opportunities, affecting the development trends in the region negatively.

Iran has prioritized a policy of "mutual cooperation through good-neighborliness," emphasizing the need to strengthen comprehensive ties with neighboring nations. This priority has been consistently highlighted by Iran's Leader, president, and foreign minister on various occasions. [Page 6 >](#)

Iran, access point for Central Asia to high seas



By Nozar Shafiei
International relations professor

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited Tehran yesterday, following the footsteps of high-ranking officials from other Central Asian nations who have previously visited Iran over the past two years. In reciprocity, Iranian officials have also paid visits to these countries.

Mirziyoyev's latest trip to Iran is expected to mark an end to the past disregard for cultural commonalities between Iran and Central Asia. Nations strive to lay a solid groundwork for their foreign relations, and while the nature of these foundations may vary, cultural ties stand out as one of the most significant aspects. When it comes to culture, Iran and the Central Asian countries, namely Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, share numerous elements. Considering these cultural commonalities as the most prominent bond between them should come as no surprise. Regrettably, in past years, these cultural bonds have not received adequate attention, partly due to political reasons. Nevertheless, if these cultural ties are prioritized as the foundation for relations between Iran and Central Asia, it is certain that strong partnerships will be forged between Tehran and these countries, including Uzbekistan. [Page 2 >](#)



Israel to approve thousands of settlement units in West Bank

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Iran, Uzbekistan share significant cultural commonalities

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Iran's Pakdaman grabs Asian saber gold; Rahbari bags bronze

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Blinken, Qin hold 'candid' talks, agree to meet again

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stressed the importance of keeping open lines of communication to reduce the risk of miscalculation in talks with the Chinese foreign minister on Sunday, and the two agreed to meet again in Washington.

As the first U.S. secretary of state to visit China in five years, Blinken held "candid, substantive, and constructive talks" with People's Republic of China (PRC) State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang, a State Department spokesman said. Before the talks, U.S. officials saw little chance of any breakthrough on the long list of disputes be-



tween the world's two largest economies, Reuters reported. "The secretary emphasized the importance of diplomacy and maintaining open channels of communication across the full range of issues to reduce the risk

of misperception and miscalculation," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

"The secretary raised a number of issues of concern, as well as opportunities to explore cooperation on shared transnational issues with the PRC where our interests align," Miller added in a statement.

He said Blinken invited Qin to visit Washington "to continue the discussions, and they agreed to schedule a reciprocal visit at a mutually suitable time." Blinken, who postponed a February China trip after a suspected Chinese spy balloon flew over U.S. airspace, is the highest-ranking

U.S. government official to visit since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021.

Qin greeted Blinken and his group at the door to a villa in the grounds of Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guest House, rather than inside the building as is customary. The two made small talk as they walked in, Qin asking Blinken in English about his long trip from Washington. They then shook hands in front of a Chinese and an American flag.

After heading into a meeting room, neither Blinken nor Qin made comments in front of reporters who were briefly allowed in.