

NEWS IN BRIEF

Delegation to visit Afghanistan over water dispute



ISNA - A parliamentary delegation will soon visit Afghanistan to pursue Iran's water rights from the Hirmand [Helmand] River, an Iranian MP said on Sunday.

The representative of Sistan and Baluchistan Province and the Iran-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group will visit Afghanistan to discuss the water dispute between the two neighboring countries, Mohammad Sargazi added.

Terrorist group dismantled



IRNA - A terrorist group has been dismantled in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, the province border police commander, Brigadier General Reza Shojaei, said. During the operation, one terrorist member was killed and several others wounded, the commander said, adding that one Iranian border guard was injured during the clash.

Burkina Faso to open embassy in Tehran



Press TV - The Burkina Faso Foreign Ministry's secretary general, Issa Boro, announced his country's decision to set up an embassy in Tehran. In a meeting with Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs on Sunday, Boro said his country has the political will to foster political, economic and cultural relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is rich in historic civilization and culture.

Raeisi highlights effects of nuclear technology on people's lives

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi highlighted the effects of nuclear technology on people's lives, especially in the areas of health and medicine, agriculture and industry, as well as oil and gas.

During a visit to an exhibition of Iranian nuclear capabilities in Tehran on Sunday, Raeisi hailed the technology as "one of the country's great honors". He added that millions of people have been saved from disease due to the will of Iranian scientists in converting their knowledge into a capability in the nuclear field. The nuclear industry has generated power for the country, Raeisi said, rejecting the idea that the creation of power lies in the production of nuclear arms. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that it will never seek the production of nuclear weapons, given its religious beliefs and the fatwa of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, despite the fact that such a capability exists in the country," the Iranian chief executive asserted. Raeisi said the success



President Ebrahim Raeisi visits an exhibition displaying Iranian nuclear capabilities in Tehran on June 18, 2023. president.ir

achieved in Iran's nuclear industry under sanctions and threats should serve as a model for other industries.

"The nuclear industry's achievements manifest how the country's beloved youths and scientists turned threats and

sanctions into opportunities," he said during a visit to the exhibition of Iranian nuclear capabilities in Tehran on Sunday. "We need to spread the capabilities and technologies acquired in the nuclear industry to other industries, especially

the automotive sector, so that they could reach this stage of success."

Iran showed the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

(JCPOA), with six world powers.

Tehran has invariably asserted that its nuclear program is aimed at purely peaceful purposes and that the Islamic Republic had no intention of developing nuclear weapons.

FM: No boundaries in bolstering relations with Pakistan

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said his country faces no limits in developing its ties with Pakistan, noting that Islamabad enjoys a special place in Tehran's foreign policy affairs.

The top diplomat made the remarks on Saturday, meeting in Tehran with the visiting Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Asad Majeed Khan, Press TV reported. Amir-Abdollahian appraised the current status of the bilateral relations as favorable and oriented towards further development. He also commended

the standing level of Iran's bilateral and international cooperation with Pakistan. The Iranian foreign minister pointed to the history of the countries' ties, saying the relations boasted many instances of commonality, and urging both countries to exploit all available capacities towards further enrichment of the relations. Amir-Abdollahian referred to a recent meeting that took place between Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during which the officials inaugurated two

important border projects, saying Pakistan functioned as an important link in Iran's political dealings with its neighbors.

During the meeting, the Pakistani official conveyed Sharif's regards to Amir-Abdollahian, providing the latter with a report on the contents of the latest round of political consultations between the countries.

Majeed Khan considered the consultations to be of strategic importance to the further development of the countries' relations, laying emphasis on the impor-

tantance of additional expansion of ties.

The official, meanwhile, presented Amir-Abdollahian with an invitation extended by Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto for the Iranian foreign minister to visit Pakistan.

Pakistan was Iran's fifth largest export market in the previous Iranian calendar year (which ended on March 20), importing non-oil products worth \$1.488bn from Iran.

Iran imported non-oil goods worth \$842m from Pakistan last year, up 170% from the previous year.

Leader welcomes...

He noted that Iran's presence at the International Industrial Exhibition in Tashkent is a sign of Tehran's determination to develop economic and trade relations with the Central Asian country.

President Raeisi said that Iran has turned threats and sanctions into opportunities, emphasizing that Tehran is ready to transfer its experiences in various scientific and economic fields to Uzbekistan.

Raeisi stressed that there is no obstacle in the way of expansion of relations with neighboring countries. Uzbekistan's president said his country is interested in the expansion of cooperation with Iran and in various fields, including science, technology, transportation, energy infrastructure, medicine and agriculture. He also invited Iranian companies and the private sector to participate in Uzbekistan's economic projects.

Iran and Uzbekistan signed 17 memoranda of understanding and cooperation documents during a visit by Raeisi to Uzbekistan's Samarkand last year, when he had traveled to the country to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran, access point ...

Now that the vital missing link, represented by cultural connections, has been unearthed,

it becomes convenient to establish economic and political relations upon it. In this context, it is worth mentioning that these countries possess complementary economic traits, each with its distinct capacities that can also be mutually advantageous. For instance, Turkmenistan can export its natural gas to global destinations by utilizing Iran as a transit route. Uzbekistan can import a portion of its required goods or transport its products to other nations through crucial transit corridors that traverse Iran. Likewise, these transit routes can facilitate Iran's exports to Russia and China.

Furthermore, all Central Asian countries can be viewed as a substantial market for Iranian manufactured goods. This arrangement not only caters to the demands of the involved parties but also generates substantial reve-

due for Iran. Particularly, landlocked Central Asian nations lacking direct access to the high seas find optimal connectivity to international waters through Iran.

Now a suitable opportunity is to grasp in order to set aside past negligence and foster the further development of existing capacities between Iran and the Central Asian nations. By embracing economic and political cooperation, the aim is to bring about greater benefits to the people of the region. The visit of the Uzbek president, along with the visits of officials from other Central Asian countries to Iran, holds the potential to revive relations between these nations and elevate cultural, economic, and political exchanges to the desired level.

The membership of these countries in regional organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Union has amplified the potential for cooperation between them and Iran. However, it is the bilateral relations that hold greater significance in this context.