

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue, Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

SCO, a Golden Opportunity for Iran

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The Iranian President's speech at the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in China's port city of Qingdao on Sunday, though it mainly focused on the US violation of the 7-nation accord on Iran's right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purpose and warned of the dangers posed by US unilateralism to international trade as well as economic and political convergence, it implicitly highlighted the importance of regional cooperation among nations of the large Eurasian landmass as a counterbalance to the West's policy of world hegemony.

Hojjat al-Islam Dr. Hassan Rouhani didn't mention it in his address, but the fact of the matter is that the key economic forums being held across Eurasia, if properly organized and activated, as is the goal of the two regional giants, China and Russia, may hopefully end Western dominance.

Iran, which has observer status at the SCO, and had applied for formal membership in 2008 – an application that was deferred because of the unjust UN sanctions upon it – should step up efforts to become full member.

It is now three years since the UN repealed its politicized sanctions on the Islamic Republic, which means Tehran ought not to waste any more time for full integration into regional organizations in view of the trade, economy, banking, political, and other benefits they hold, rather than wishful thinking of goodwill from the European Union which would somehow allow it to circumvent the new sanctions being imposed upon it by the US.

Chinese President Xi Jinping had announced his country's support for Iran's full membership in SCO during his state visit to Iran in January 2016, and now in Qingdao, Russian President Vladimir Putin during his meeting with Rouhani, also expressed support for Iran's membership.

SCO, which with the admission of India and Pakistan as full members last year, is the largest regional organization in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population, in addition to being one of the world's most powerful and influential bodies that accounts for approximately half of the world's population, a quarter of the world's GDP, and about 80% of Eurasia's landmass.

The SCO has interestingly called on Western countries to leave Central Asia, and this is indeed the most noticeable signal given by the Summit to the world.

This is the reason, the SCO, rejected outright the US application for observer status in 2005, since it does not want Washington to meddle in regional affairs.

Iran, for its part has signed a provisional free-trade-zone agreement with the EAEU (Eurasia Economic Union), lowering or abolishing customs duties, and opening the way for a final deal in 2021. For Iran, that will be a golden opportunity to do business way beyond Southwest Asia, integrating it further with Russia and also Kazakhstan, which happens to be a key member of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

It should be noted that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a good venue for designing a new banking system which is independent from Western controlled so-called international banking systems.

For example, China's CIPS (Cross-Border Interbank Payment System) undermined the ability of SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) to be used for economic coercion, while CIPS and SWIFT still cooperate. Similarly, the EAEU gets its strength from the ability to integrate with other regions as opposed to isolating itself."

Also, unlike the EU, the EAEU provides great benefit to non-members (by creating an effective transportation corridor with harmonized tariffs, standards, etc.

The recent St Petersburg meeting has also been a good forum for key SCO discussions. New members India and Pakistan are now very much active in the SCO Business Council. The discussion of the business, industrial and technological agenda for observer states was also important; that's where Iran, a future full SCO member, fits in.

Majlis Postpones Debate on FATF, Passes Palermo Bill



A general view of Iran's parliament in session

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's parliament voted on Sunday to suspend discussions about joining the UN Terrorism Financing Convention for two months, while it waits to see whether its nuclear deal with world powers will survive.

There has been an often furious debate among Iranian politicians over whether to join the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which requires members to pass numerous laws against the financing of terrorism and money laundering.

Iran and North Korea are currently the only countries on the FATF blacklist, adding to their difficulties in accessing global banking.

But many politicians argue the new laws, in the works since last

year, will cut off Iranian moral support to Lebanese Hezbollah and Palestinian Hamas.

They say the legislation will also condemn members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps listed as terrorists by the U.S., including the head of its external operations, Qassem Soleimani.

But Abbas Araqchi, deputy foreign minister, defended the efforts to join the FATF, saying it was firmly in Iran's interests.

"This very parliament was the victim of Daesh terrorism this time last year," Araqchi said.

"Without international cooperation and joining international conventions, it is impossible to confront it.

"Inside the country there are some

holes and weaknesses in banking networks, which unfortunately facilitates terrorist groups and drug smuggling," he said.

Last June, Daesh carried out twin attacks on Iran's parliament and the mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini, killing 17.

Iran is considered a primary enemy by Takfiri extremist groups such as Al Qaeda and Daesh, and has directly fought these groups in Syria and Iraq.

But with the U.S. pulling out of the 2015 nuclear deal last month and ordering full sanctions to be reimposed on Iran, many say it is pointless to join the FATF.

The other parties to the nuclear

(Continued on Page 7)

Larijani: Time Running Out for EU to Save JCPOA

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Sunday time is running out for European countries who want to save the nuclear deal, adding Tehran is not going to wait for Europe's promises, which have no timeframe.

"If Europe believes it has what it takes to preserve the nuclear agreement, it should announce its decision more explicitly and more quickly," he told the parliament.

He touched on Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's remarks regarding the nuclear deal, saying his warnings about the nuclear issue was not only significant for talks with Europe, but laid the groundwork for parts of the nuclear industry to become active.

"The Leader's orders were very timely and appropriate at this sensitive juncture," he said.

Larijani said head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi should act on the Leader's orders decisively, and parliament's National Security Commission should constantly follow up the issue to

make sure the orders are carried out.

The speaker further touched upon the occupying regime of Israel's efforts to rally support for the U.S., saying Tel Aviv seeks to get Europe on board with Washington's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"With the terrorists having suffered a blow in Iraq and Syria, this adventurous regime seems to be going to create another crisis in the region to cover up some of the domestic and foreign problems Israel is facing," Larijani said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Larijani lashed out at recent comments by U.S. President Donald Trump in which he pledged tough sanctions against Tehran and at the same time dangled the idea of talks with the Islamic Republic.

"The point is that they speak of imposing tough sanctions against Iran, and at the same time claim there is a need for a kind of new dialogue to settle issues," Larijani said, dismissing the remarks as amateurish.

Senior Official:

Iran to Organize Operations in Syria If Needed

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Senior Iranian politician Hussein Amir-Abdollahian has said Iran will "organize" military operations against terrorists in Syria anytime and anywhere which the Syrian government may demand.

Amir-Abdollahian, a senior advisor to Iranian parliament speaker, also said Iran will remain in Syria as long as the Syrian government needs the Islamic Republic's advisory assistance.

"In the years that passed, the Americans were practically

on the side of Daesh and supported terrorism to fulfill their goals, but the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah and the resistance axis seriously fought against terrorism," he said.

Amir-Abdollahian said President Donald Trump explicitly lied in a declaration about the U.S. strategy for 2018, claiming that they had eliminated Daesh.

Iran and its allies have fought against terrorism in Syria and Iraq, he said, adding the world should be grateful to Iran and the resistance movement.

The Holy Qur'an



Let not then their property and their children excite your admiration; Allah only wishes to chastise them with these in this world's life and (that) their souls may depart while they are unbelievers.

The Holy Qur'an (9.55)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:04
Evening (Maghreb)	20:41
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:02
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:48

Terrorists Killed in Three Clashes in Northwest Iran

TEHRAN (Dispatches)

-- Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Sunday there had been three clashes with "terrorists" along the border with Iraq in recent days, leaving several dead.

"In recent days we have been witnessing some movements and efforts by anti-revolutionary bandits and terrorists in west and northwest border areas with the aim of deep infiltration," said Brig.-Gen. Muhammad Pakpour, ground forces commander of the IRGC.

He said the first attack was on Friday in the Oshnaviyeh area near the border with the Iraqi Kurdistan, that left seven militants "killed or wounded".

Two further attacks were reported between Saturday and Sunday - another in Oshnaviyeh and one further south in Sarvabad.

Pakpour said surveillance had identified these militants before they were able "to infiltrate our country's soil".

The clashes on Saturday and Sunday left six attackers dead and three wounded, he added, and that a considerable amount of weaponry had been recovered.

Ramadhan Day-to-Day Supplications

26th day

“اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ سَعْيِي فِيهِ مَشْكُورًا، وَذَنْبِي فِيهِ مَغْفُورًا، وَعَمَلِي فِيهِ مَقْبُولًا، وَعَيْبِي فِيهِ مَسْتُورًا، يَا أَسْمَعَ السَّمَاعِينَ.”

“O Allah, let my good efforts in this month be fruitful and my sins pardoned and my actions accepted and my defects concealed. O the Most Hearing.”