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In the Name of the Most High
Viewpoint

Caspian States Discuss How to Expand Cooperation



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, right, and Iranian Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri at the First Caspian Economic Forum in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, August 12, 2019.

ASHGABAT (Dispatches) – Five countries bordering the energy-rich Caspian Sea met Monday at an economic forum hosted by Turkmenistan in a bid to agree on how to divide the region's oil wealth.

Last year, the presidents of Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan signed a convention aimed at ending decades-long uncertainty over exploitation of its resources.

The agreement establishes rules for declaring each country's territorial waters and fishing zones, but the issue of dividing seabed that contains rich oil and gas fields is subject to further negotiations.

Russia and Iran are yet to ratify last year's agreement. Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who attended Monday's forum in Turkmenistan, said that the ratification is expected "in the near fu-

ture."

Iranian Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri said that non-Caspian nations shouldn't meddle in the region's affairs and charged that the United States' unilateralist policies and its emphasis on sanctions threaten stability of the region.

Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov told the forum that the Caspian energy riches should provide a powerful incentive for the region's development.

Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan have yet to agree on how to share the reserves under the seabed. That has impeded progress of the Trans-Caspian natural gas pipeline that would carry Turkmen gas across the sea to Azerbaijan and further on to Western markets.

"It's a very sensitive issue," said Bahram Huseynov, a vice president

of Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR. "No concrete steps have been made yet and it's too early to discuss specifics."

Huseynov added that demilitarization of the sea border between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan could facilitate the talks on dividing the energy riches.

The West has long encouraged prospective trans-Caspian pipelines as part of its efforts to diversify sources of energy, while Russia has watched the plans with unease.

Iran has called for energy shipments from the Caspian to cross its territory, arguing that trans-Caspian routes are too costly and unsafe. "Iran is against any trans-Caspian pipelines," said Behruz Namdari of Iran's National Gas Company. "The construction of a trans-Caspian pipeline could inflict a serious damage to the environment."

Rouhani Tells PM Khan: Kashmir Has No Military Solution

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says the dispute in Kashmir has no military solution and should be resolved diplomatically between Pakistan and India.

President Rouhani made the remark during a phone conversation with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday.

The Iranian president said the Islamic Republic had always tried to prevent tensions in the region and that it believed Muslims in the disputed Kashmir region had to be able to enjoy their legal rights to live peacefully.

He also called on India and Pakistan to exercise restraint to avert insecurity and the killing of innocent people.

"The issue of Kashmir has never had a military solution, and we should pursue the resolution of issues diplomatically," President Rouhani said.

Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since partition in 1947. Both countries claim all of Kashmir and have fought three wars over the territory.

Last week, a fresh wave of tensions erupted between

New Delhi and Islamabad over the disputed region after the Indian government scrapped the autonomy of Kashmir.

During the Sunday phone conversation, Prime Minister Khan expressed regret that Kashmir was witnessing "saddening incidents" and moves that violated international law.

He emphasized that Iran, as an important country in the region and the Muslim world, could play a positive role in resolving the Kashmir crisis.

He further hailed the Tehran-Islamabad ties as friendly and brotherly, underlining the need for expanding bilateral relations in all fields.

Indian security forces kept disputed Kashmir's biggest city of Srinagar largely locked down on Monday, the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha, to prevent any major protests against a decision that scrapped the Himalayan region's special rights.

Frustration is growing in Muslim-majority Kashmir, which is also claimed by Pakistan, over India's move last week to curtail autonomy for the state of Jammu

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Spokesman: U.S. Waiting in Vain for Iranian Call

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Sunday Washington is waiting in vain for a phone call from Iranian officials.

"It has been a long time they are waiting for Iran to do such a thing which is in vain, because Iran will not initiate a negotiation in which international law is not respected," Mousavi said.

Pointing to the U.S. economic pressure against Iran, he said, "No wise man negotiates when he is under pressure and a gun is pointed at him."

"As long as America has not stopped its economic terrorism

and exerting pressure, the Islamic Republic will enter into no talks," the Iranian diplomat said.

Mousavi said, "The Islamic Republic has a powerful government and nation and will try to give powerful voice to its positions, while Americans have proved time and again that they lack honesty."

The spokesman said confusion in the U.S. foreign policy is indicative of the fact that they are not honest when declaring their positions and this is why the Islamic Republic does not care much about what they say.

In a report back in May, the CNN said the White House had

contacted Swiss authorities to share a telephone number with Iran in hopes that Tehran would contact Trump.

Citing an unknown source, the broadcaster said, however, that Iran was "highly unlikely" to demand the number from Swiss authorities.

The development came a year after Trump pulled the US out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), claiming that it was a bad deal.

Mousavi also said a push to block Zarif's social media accounts under U.S. sanctions

The Holy Qur'an

And as for those in whose hearts is a disease, it adds uncleanness to their uncleanness and they die while they are unbelievers.

The Holy Qur'an (9.125)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:09
Evening (Maghreb)	20:16
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:48
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:21

Erdogan Stresses Enhancement of Ties With Iran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan have called for further enhancement of bilateral relations in a phone conversation.

During their Sunday talks, Rouhani said Iran is fully prepared for development of relations with Turkey as a friendly and brotherly country.

He also underlined the necessity for accelerated implementation of earlier agreements between the two states.

The Iranian president offered congratulations to the Turkish nation and government and all Muslim people around the world on the Eid al-Adha.

Erdogan, in turn, said Ankara is ready for further promotion of its relations with Tehran in all spheres.

He also congratulated the Iranian president, government, and nation on the Eid al-Adha, and expressed hope that the day would awaken and unite the Muslim world and boost unity and brotherhood among Islamic states.

Iran and Turkey, as major trade partners, plan to increase their annual trade to 30 billion dollar in defiance of the U.S. pressure, which is aimed at isolating Iran's economy.

In the three-month period beginning in late March 2019, Turkey imported around \$2.2 billion worth of goods and services from Iran, a five-fold jump compared to the similar quarterly period in 2018, according to data released by Tehran chamber of commerce on Monday.

would not silence him.

Mark Dubowitz, the CEO of the hawkish think-tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies whose ideas are believed to underlie many of Trump's policies, took to his Twitter page on August 8, claiming that "Zarif should be immediately expelled for legal reasons ... for using a platform like Twitter".

"It will not surprise us if they take such a measure. However, Zarif's voice in his capacity as the head of the Iranian diplomatic apparatus will definitely be heard by the entire world," Mousavi said.

Indian Muslims Eagerly Await Arrival of Venerable Nigerian Islamic Leader

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

It wasn't a sudden change of heart on the occasion of Eid al-Adha for President Muhammadu Buhari to allow the popular leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) to leave illegal imprisonment in Kaduna, arrive in the capital Abuja, and prepare for the flight to New Delhi for medical treatment in India.

The head of the Nigerian regime, a former military general and coup leader of the past, not just aligned to the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia, but taking orders from these countries for suppression of the liberties of his own citizens, doesn't value human considerations, let alone having any soft corner for Islamic values.

If Buhari was really a Muslim at heart, he would have held a peaceful religious leader of the stature of Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky in high esteem and would never have ordered the army to carry out frequent massacres of Nigeria's Shi'a Muslims whose growing numbers total over twelve million at present.

The Chief Executive of Nigeria, who recently got himself elected for a second 5-year term, has no qualms in violating the constitution of the country he rules, as is clear by his refusal to implement the verdict of the Supreme Federal Court of Nigeria issued over three years ago for immediate release of the IMN Chief, who has been held in unconstitutional detention since 15th December 2015 – the tragic day the Nigerian army attacked the Hussainiya Baqiatollah in Zaria to massacre over the thousand men, women, children, because of their adherence to the School of Jurisprudence of the Blessed Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

The venerable Sheikh, whose six sons have so far been murdered by the Nigerian army (leaving a son and daughter as sole survivors), is suffering from acute health problems including injury to his eyes, and was finally allowed to travel, along with his illegally detained wife, Zeenat, following the letter written to him by at least 186 physicians from several countries, including Iran, India, Britain, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, the US, France, and Germany, for immediate medical treatment abroad.

As we go to the press, the chartered plane carrying Sheikh Zakzaky hasn't left for New Delhi, and hopefully will takeoff as per the Nigerian government's promise without any further delay, since thousands of people are eagerly awaiting his arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport of the Indian capital, where he will undergo medical treatment at the well-equipped Medanta Hospital.

Meanwhile, a kangaroo court of the Nigerian regime, in violation of the long pending verdict of the Supreme Federal Court of Nigeria, has issued absurd instructions that Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife should immediately return after the medical treatment is completed and face trial, demanding guarantee from the Indian government that it would not entertain any application by the defendants/applicants or any third party seeking asylum.

This is nothing but a mockery of human rights by the Nigerian regime, which first of all has no right to force the Sheikh to stand trial for the crimes of the Nigerian army.

It is clear that Buhari is dead scared of the divulging of the atrocities and human rights violations of his regime, if Sheikh Zakzaky freely speaks to the press, or appeals to the 190 million Nigerians – Muslims, Christian, and Animists – to forge unity against the crimes against humanity of the Nigerian regime, which freely allows the Boko Haram terrorists to operate in the country.

It is hoped that Sheikh Zakzaky, who is in his mid-sixties, will, by the Grace of God, cured of his ailment, and return home as a free citizen and not a framed up culprit, to carry on his missionary activities for the enlightening of the souls and minds of the Nigerian people, undeterred by the regime.