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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iran-China Strategic Partnership Deal Awaits Finalization



File Photo. Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) holds talks with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, June 10, 2018.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran and China have agreed to develop a 25-year roadmap for strategic partnership, with the idea first conceived in the 1990s, but the two sides have yet to finalize it for implementation.

Relations between Iran and China go as far back as the ancient Silk Road, but they are gaining strategic significance because the West's refusal to work with Iran under the U.S. pressure and its efforts to clip China's wings and stop its economic and political rise is automatically pushing Tehran and Beijing into an alliance of sorts.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, American businesses have been prevented from trade with Iran, while their European counterparts have withdrawn amid U.S. threat of sanctions. That has helped Chinese companies move in and fill the void.

As a result, Iran and China have forged a unique partnership which is almost impossible or not easily viable with any other country.

China is still Iran's biggest oil

client despite Washington's bid to bring Tehran's exports down to zero. The oil money is deposited in Chinese banks, and the assets are used to fund development projects carried out in the Islamic Republic.

No U.S. or European bank currently processes Iran-related transactions, making Beijing an ideal trade partner for Tehran.

For China, it cannot get any better. As the rising Asian giant is pushing a trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, Iran is regaining its glorious significance of the ancient days when it connected Asia to Europe and Africa through land routes.

Iran's rail sector had become a magnet for rail engineering and rolling stock firms from all over the world before U.S. sanctions in 2018 forced them to withdraw. The pullout left the Chinese with a less contested business terrain.

Beijing's biggest transportation project in Iran is worth \$1.5 billion to electrify the rail line from Tehran to Mashhad for a length of 926

kilometers.

There are also plans to establish a Tehran-Qom-Isfahan high-speed train line and to extend this upgraded network up to the northwest through Tabriz.

The railway is part of the 2,300-kilometer New Silk Road that will link Urumqi in China's resource-rich Xinjiang province to Tehran, connecting Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan along the way and extending to Europe via Turkey.

Tabriz, home to a number of key oil, gas and petrochemical and other industrial sites, and the starting point for the Tabriz-Ankara gas pipeline, will be a pivot point in the route.

Transportation is a key area in the two countries' dream to forge new frameworks for global trade and developing their markets in Asia, but they have yet to put pen to paper and sign the strategic partnership agreement first.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said on
(Continued on Page 7)

Admin of Anti-Iran Website Gets Death Penalty

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's Judiciary spokesman Gholam Hussein Esmaeili announced on Tuesday that Judiciary has sentenced Rouhollah Zam, the administrator of Amad News, a counterrevolutionary website, to death after he was convicted of corruption on earth.

Esmaeili said that the investigations into Zam's case had been finalized, and that he had been found guilty of corruption on earth, among other crimes.

"The court has considered 13 counts of charges together as instances of corruption on earth, and therefore passed the death sentence," he said.

"Regarding several other charges, he has been sentenced to life in prison, but the ruling is not final and can be appealed at the Supreme Court," the official

added.

Amad News was notorious for disseminating incriminating content against the Islamic establishment, insulting the sanctity of Iranian Muslims and publishing fake news in order to drive a wedge between the Iranian people and government.

Zam faced charges of having "committed offenses against the country's internal and external security" and "espionage for the French intelligence service," alongside "corruption on earth" as well as insult to "the sanctity of Islam" according to an indictment released in February.

He was arrested in October 2019 by the Intelligence Organization of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC).

Oil Ministry Denies Fine Over Turkmengaz Deal

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Iranian Petroleum Ministry in a statement has rejected media reports it has been fined by the International Court of Arbitration (ICC) over a gas import deal with Turkmenistan.

The statement said that Turkmenistan's state-run gas company Turkmengaz has never sought any indemnity from the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) over delayed payments related to a gas deal that was suspended three years ago over disagreements on price and other issues.

"It is reiterated that despite some media reports, the NIGC has not been ordered to pay any fine

and basically, the complaint by the Turkmengaz has not been about ordering a fine," said the statement.

Turkmengaz stopped supplying gas to Iran in 2017 after the NIGC resisted a demand for price hike while arguing that the quality and quantity of the gas supplied to areas in northeastern Iran was not consistent with the agreement between the two sides.

Media reports earlier on Monday suggested that based on ICC's verdict, Iran should pay nearly \$500 million in interest and fines on delayed payments over the Turkmengaz deal.

The
Holy
Qur'an



And (as for) those who have earned evil, the punishment of an evil is the like of it, and abasement shall come upon them-- they shall have none to protect them from Allah-- as if their faces had been covered with slices of the dense darkness of night; these are the inmates of the fire; in it they shall abide.

The Holy Qur'an (10:27)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:08
Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:06
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:52

IRGC: Iran Can Inflict More Defeats on Enemy

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hussein Salami on Tuesday highlighted Iran's victories over the global arrogance and said the country can inflict more defeats on enemies.

"Under the sanctions and problems the enemies have created for U.S., we have managed to defeat the global arrogance led by the U.S.," Major General Salami said during a visit to Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences in Tehran.

"Today, when they are facing fundamental problems, we can inflict more serial defeats on them."

He also referred to Iran's great successes and progress despite enemies' psychological warfare against the country, and said, "We have no other option but growing strong."

He further hailed the self-sacrifices and efforts made by Iran's medical staff and health professionals in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, saying they disappointed the enemies who were expecting to see the country to be brought to its knees in the face of the disease.

The senior commander highlighted the failure and incompetence of health systems in many Western countries in dealing with COVID-19 and said the warriors of the Iranian health system, however, achieved great successes in the fight against the pandemic.

Tehran Condemns Terrorist Attack in Pakistan

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has censured an attack that recently targeted Pakistan's largest stock exchange, calling for closer regional and international cooperation to uproot terrorism.

Iranian Foreign Ministry SPOKESMAN Abbas Mousavi was reacting on Tuesday to the deadly attack a day earlier by heavily armed gunmen on the Pakistani Stock Exchange building located in a high security zone in Karachi.

"The only way to fundamentally fight the big challenge of terrorism is cooperation and convergence among all world countries, particularly those in the region," the Iranian spokesperson said.

The attack saw four gunmen dressed in police uniforms attempt to storm the stock exchange building. They initially threw a grenade before opening fire on a security post outside the building, killing two private security guards and a police officer. Seven others sustained injuries. Pakistani security forces quickly intervened and thwarted the raid, killing all the assailants. The separatist Baloch Liberation Army from Balochistan claimed responsibility in a Twitter post.

CENTCOM Terrorists' Presence Destabilizing Iraq

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

On June 25 when the US occupation troops, along with a group of Iraqi mercenaries posing as soldiers, attacked a base in Baghdad of Hashd ash-Sha'bi or the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) and kidnapped a dozen anti-terrorist fighters, little did the CENTCOM terrorists thought that they were digging their own graves.

Immediately the various organizations of the Iraqi people notified the elected authorities of this fresh act of lawlessness by the Americans – who should not be present on the soil of Iraq at all – and the flurry of talks that took place made the Iraqi government to pressure the CENTCOM terrorists to release the abductees.

This was indeed a victory for the PMU and the celebrations that took place on the streets of Baghdad included the burning of the US flag – the most hated symbol of racism and hegemony which is being torched daily on the streets of the various towns and cities of the US itself for the past month following the criminal killing of Afro-American citizen George Floyd in Minneapolis by a group of cowardly white racist police officers.

Of course, the jubilant Iraqi demonstrators also made a bonfire of the Zionist flag and trampled upon the pictures of child-killer Benjamin Netanyahu and his boss in Washington, Donald Trump, the international terrorist.

The PMU, along with leaders of various political factions, ethnic groups and religious figures, has sternly warned the CENTCOM terrorists of devastating attacks on their illegal bases in Iraq, if they repeat such provocative acts and continue to linger on Iraqi soil.

The US pretext for attacking the headquarters of Kataib Hezbollah was the allegation that members of this famous anti-terrorism unit had lobbed the latest round of rockets on an American base north of Baghdad.

This was a lame excuse and further exposed the illegitimacy of the US military presence in Iraq.

It should be noted that on January 5 the Iraqi parliament had unanimously passed a bill for closure of all US military bases on Iraqi soil, two days after the cowardly US assassination at Baghdad international airport of the iconic Iranian anti-terrorist figure, Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy head of Iraq's PMU, along with some of their companions.

The only reason that the law was not implemented was the absence of a government in Iraq, following the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi in November 2019.

Now with the formation of a cabinet of national accord under Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi, approved by the parliament last month, there is no valid reason for any delay in showing the exit door to the CENTCOM terrorists.

Moreover, there is no necessity for any negotiations in this regard between Iraq and the US, and any notion of talks is a time-wasting tactics by Washington in complicity with some dubious elements in political circles in Baghdad.

It seems, there is a contest of wills between the US and the Iraqi people, who reserve the right to target American military bases on their soil if these detested elements do not leave.

This, however, does not mean Kataib Hezbollah or any other PMU faction was involved in the latest rocket attack, which could have been the work of Washington's favourite mercenaries, the tafkiri terrorists.

These developments warrant the Iraq government to be extra cautious when dealing with the US, and as the PMU, which includes people from all strata of the Iraqi society, has warned, Iraqi authorities should not play into the hands of the US military forces.

The Iraqi people are now waiting to see concrete action in this regard by the Iraqi government, since any delay will only undermine the peace, stability, and economic progress of the country.