

CARACAS (Dispatches) -- President Nicolas Maduro says Venezuela has received an "advanced" oil tanker from Iran as part of a bilateral contract amid increasing cooperation between Tehran and Caracas in various fields. "We have just received a ship with the most advanced engineering and technology in the world," Maduro said according to Venezuelan state TV. He said that the ship was manufactured by Iran upon Venezuela's order.

The oil tanker "now comes to serve as a cargo ship for our revolutionary PDVSA," he added.

This is the third Iran-made oil tanker delivered to Venezuela. (Continued on Page 7)

Kayhan International

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuela on Friday welcomed home a dozen flight crew members, including an Iranian, detained in Argentina since June after their plane was held on the U.S. order.

"We are celebrating (their) arrival," Venezuelan Transportation Minister Ramon Velasquez told Telesur from Maiquetia Airport, near the capital of Caracas, praising the crew as "an example of revolutionary struggle." An Argentine judicial chamber on Tuesday authorized the departure of 12 of 19 crew members.

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Sunday, September 18, 2022, Shahrivar 27, 1401, Safar 21, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

US-Israeli Terrorism Threatening Regional & World Peace

President Raisi Calls for Closer Ties With SCO Countries



Iranian Wrestlers Win Colorful Medals at 2022 World Championships



Yemeni Armed Forces Stage Massive Military Parade to Mark Revolution



**Putin: 80 Russian Firms Due in Tehran
Iran Inks Docs for Permanent SCO Membership**

SAMARKAND (Dispatches) -- Iran has signed the document to become a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a central Asian security body, the Iranian foreign minister said.

"By signing the document for full membership of the SCO, now Iran has entered a new stage of various economic, commercial, transit and energy cooperation," Hussein Amir-Abdollahian wrote on social media.

The statement came as leaders from China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan met here for a summit of the eight-member SCO, a security group formed by Beijing and Moscow as a counterweight to U.S. influence.

Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia are observer countries, while the organization has six "dialogue partners": Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

Last year, the rapidly expanding SCO approved Iran's application for accession, while the government in Tehran called on members to help it form a mechanism to avert sanctions imposed by the West on world countries.

"The relationship between countries that are sanctioned by the U.S., such as Iran, Russia or other countries, can overcome many problems and issues and make them stronger," Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi told his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, during a meeting in Samarkand.

"The Americans think whichever country they impose sanctions on, it will be stopped, their perception is a wrong one."

For his part, Putin said relations were "developing positively" between Russia and Iran and gave his full support to the latter's application to become an SCO member.

"We are doing everything to make Iran a full member of the SCO," Putin added.

Iran's full membership is expected to become effective in April 2023.

The SCO, the world's largest regional organization consisting of 40 percent of the world's population and 30 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP), wants to further expand.

Addressing the summit, Raisi said thwarting "draconian" U.S. sanctions required new solutions, asserting that the SCO could help defy Washington's unilateralism.

Raisi also called for an expansion of free trade among the SCO's member countries, alongside financial and banking cooperation.

"The SCO needs to adopt new solutions and take specific measures to counter draconian U.S. sanctions and its unilateralism, such as sustainable trade among its member states," Raisi said.

Belarus also signed the documents for its membership will be initiated while Qatar and Saudi Arabia sought to become new dialogue partners.

Iran applied for full membership in 2008 but its bid was slowed by UN and U.S. sanctions. Several SCO members did not want a country under sanctions in their ranks — a situation that now applies to Russia as well.

Putin said work on a major new Russia-Iran treaty on strategic ties was nearly completed and that Moscow would be sending a Russian business delegation of 80 large companies to Iran next week to develop commercial ties.

"On the bilateral level, cooperation is developing positively," the Russian leader said.

Separately, the Chinese president praised Iran's independent position toward international developments and called the relations between Beijing and Tehran "strategic".

"The relations of Iran and China is strategic and will develop irrespective of any international event," Xi Jinping said in a meeting with President Raisi.

Xi also pointed to Iran's important position in the region and the larger world and said, "China supports the membership of Iran in BRICS."

BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Xi invited Raisi to visit China. The two presidents also held talks on promoting economic cooperation and made decisions in this regard.

President Raisi lauded China's constructive approach in the process of Iran's membership in the SCO and thanked Beijing for backing Iran to join BRICS.

In his meeting with the Chinese leader, Raisi said despite all hostilities by certain countries Iran's move toward progress "has never" and "will never" been stopped, adding the Islamic Republic will continue its path toward economic development.

Raisi said the comprehensive strategic partnership between Iran and China shows that the two countries are firm to develop ties in all areas.

Existing potentials in the fields of oil and energy, transit, agriculture, commerce, and investment have created a very good situation for deepening economic ties between Iran and China, Raisi stated.

The president also criticized the U.S. and the European troika (Britain, France and Germany) for failing to honor their commitments in efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Raisi added, "Iran will never back down in the face of U.S. blackmailing."

'A Miracle': 21 Million Pilgrims Mark Arba'een



Huge crowds of mourners throng streets between the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS) and Hazrat Abbas in Karbala on Saturday.

KARBALA/TEHRAN -- Dressed in black, 21 million pilgrims from around the world massed in the Iraqi city of Karbala on Saturday for the Arba'een commemoration.

Arbaeen marks the end of the 40-day mourning period for the 7th-century martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) by the forces of the Caliph Yazid.

The annual event sees men and women from across Iraq and beyond travel to Karbala, where the

shrines of Imam Hussein (AS) and his brother Abbas are, for one of the world's largest religious gatherings.

After two years marked by the Covid pandemic and border restrictions, 21.2 million pilgrims have flocked to the city in central Iraq this week, said the organization that manages Abbas' mausoleum.

Among them are five million foreigners, including a record of more than three million from neighbor-

ing Iran, according to authorities in the two countries.

On the esplanade linking the mausoleums of Imam Hussein and Hazrat Abbas, worshippers recited prayers on Saturday.

Groups of men beat their chests to the rhythm of religious chants and the din of loudspeakers, some of them slowly making their way around the two mausoleums.

Since the overthrow of dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003, partici-

pation in Arba'een has been steadily increasing.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the Arba'een march is a "miraculous event" that signifies God Almighty's will to keep the flag of Islam flying, adding it is not driven by any man-made policy or strategy.

"It is the divine power that, through this large-scale manifestation, opens a bright road ahead of all Muslims across the world," the Leader said.

He said ill-wishers and those distorting realities are making relentless efforts to launch campaigns against key Islamic events such as the Arba'een march, calling on all Muslims to fulfill their responsibilities in this regard.

Ayatollah Khamenei recommended that all Muslims remain patient and steadfast in treading the path of righteousness as among fundamental instructions given by the Holy Qur'an.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi also said the annual Arba'een rituals are among divine miracles, a manifestation of Islamic resistance and coherence among Muslims.

Arba'een, he said, is also a manifestation of the fact that Ashura, which commemorates the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), is "still alive and will always be alive".

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SCO Expansion Heralds New International Order

SAMARKAND (Dispatches) -- Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping looked to rally Asian leaders behind a new "international order" as they met Friday for a summit aimed at challenging Western influence.

The meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Uzbekistan brought Putin and Xi together with the leaders of SCO members India, Pakistan, and four Central Asian nations, as well as the presidents of Iran and Turkey.

Putin and Xi met on Thursday for their first face-to-face talks since Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February, and on the Chinese leader's first trip abroad since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic.

The summit was put forward by the Kremlin as an alternative to "Western-centric organizations", at a time of increasing military aid by the U.S. and Europe for Ukraine and growing anger in Beijing over American support for Taiwan.

Xi told the gathered leaders it

was time to reshape the international system and "abandon zero-sum games and bloc politics".

They should "work together to promote the development of the international order in a more just and rational direction," Xi told a joint session.

Putin hailed the increasing influence of countries outside the West, slamming "instruments of protectionism, illegal sanctions and economic selfishness".

"The growing role of new centers of power who cooperate with each other... is becoming more and more clear," Putin said.

The summit has been Putin's first major international outing since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February.

"We will do our best to end this as soon as possible," Putin said, while accusing Kyiv of rejecting negotiations.

The SCO -- which also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan -- was set up in 2001 as a political, economic and security organization to rival Western institutions.

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Chile Rejects Credentials of Zionist Ambassador

SANTIAGO (Dispatches) -- Chilean President Gabriel Boric has refused to accept the credentials of the new Israeli ambassador, Gil Artzyeli, due to the occupying regime's killing of Palestinians.

Artzyeli had been scheduled to present his credentials to Boric as a formality, but the Chilean government informed him that the ceremony had been cancelled, before he was instructed to leave.

According to Ynet News, the decision was made "because of Israel killing children" in the recent escalation in the West Bank and increased military activity of the Zionist regime against the Palestinians.

On Thursday, occupation forces martyred yet another Palestinian boy in a dawn raid. Seventeen-year-old Uday Trad Salah was martyred when Israeli troops stormed the town of Kafr Dan in the Jenin district, and shot him in the head.

Salah was one of three Palestinians to be shot. He was declared dead at the scene. The Palestinian ministry of health said Salah's kill-

ing raised the number of Palestinians martyred this year by the occupying regime of Israel to 149, 34 of whom were in Jenin.

Overnight raids by the Zionist military are a near-daily practice in the occupied West Bank. The occupying regime of Israel claims that they are essential for intelligence purposes, but rights groups have slammed the practice, insisting that the goal is to oppress and intimidate the Palestinian population and increase regime control.

Like military checkpoints and the illegal Separation Wall, insist critics, the raids are part of the DNA of the apartheid regime.

The ceremony in which the new Israeli ambassador is expected to present his credentials has reportedly been pushed back to next month.

Chile is home to some half a million Palestinian immigrants, most of whom are Christian.

Boric, who became President last year, is a known supporter of BDS, after he campaigned for a boycott of goods, services and products from illegal Israeli settlements.