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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iran, Uzbekistan Explore New Areas of Cooperation

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

President Seyyed Ibrahim Raisi has a busy schedule, meeting his counterparts from various parts of the globe, discussing bilateral, regional, and international issues with them, and inking important accords of cooperation, thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran's flourishing ties with the community of world nations.

Back in Tehran from a 5-day trip to the three Latin American states of Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba – following his hosting of the Sultan of Oman and his own visits to Indonesia and before that to Syria – his guest on Sunday in Tehran was President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan.

The two held cordial talks on mutual issues of significance and signed ten agreements of cooperation in various fields, including industry, agriculture, culture, technology, pharmacology, trade, and the transit sector.

Later in the day Mirziyoyev was granted an audience by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, for exchange of views on a wide variety of topics pertaining to the interests of the two countries.

Iran and Uzbekistan, along with the four other landlocked Central Asian Muslim republics of Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kirgystan, and Kazakhstan, are members of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) – which includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Caucasus republic of Azerbaijan, and Türkiye – and share many commonalities rooted in history, such as religion, culture, language, arts and architecture.

The first recorded settlers in what is now Uzbekistan were Eastern Iranian nomads, known as Scythians, who founded kingdoms in Khwarezm, Bactria, and Sogdia in the 8th-6th centuries BC, as well as Ferghana and Margiana in the 3rd century BC-6th century AD. The area was part of the Persian Achaemenid Empire and, after a brief period of Macedonian rule, was ruled by the Iranian Parthian Empire followed by the Sasanian Empire, until the Muslim conquest of Persia in the seventh century and Islamization of the whole region.

As a matter of fact, modern Persian in the Arabic script was born over a thousand years ago in the cities of Samarkand and Bukhara, the capital of the Persian Samanid Muslim Dynasty which ruled Uzbekistan and the rest of Central Asia, along with Khorasan and Afghanistan, raising Persian prose and poetry to new heights which continues till this day.

The Turkic Timurids during their rule in the 14th-15th century promoted Persian literature and built monuments that still stand to this day, attracting tourists from around the world to Uzbekistan which boasts some of the finest specimens of Islamic-Iranian art and architecture.

The Uzbek people who took over the area in the 16th century continued this trend, using Persian as the court language, patronizing Persian poets and scholars, and contributing to the flowering of arts and miniature paintings.

In the early 19th century Czarist Russia gradually occupied Central Asia and the seven decades of Soviet communist rule that followed, although it forcibly changed the Perso-Arabic script of the Uzbeki and other local Turkic languages, it failed to deprive the people of their religion and rich culture.

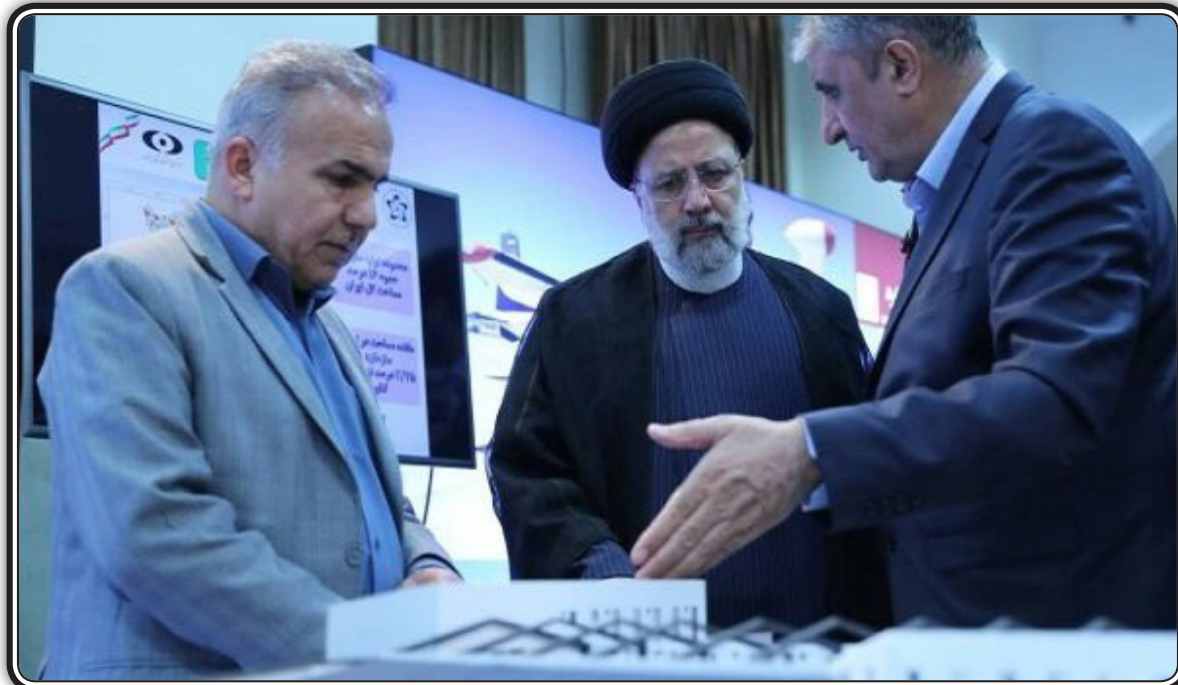
Following independence in 1991, the Central Asia peoples revived their identities and have since established flourishing trade and cultural ties with Iran.

Last week, Iran and Uzbekistan, along with Turkmenistan and Russia reached an agreement at the 26th annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), to facilitate the transit of goods and fuel, and to improve maritime cooperation.

The agreement presided over by Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash, also discussed maritime cooperation, especially via the Iranian ports on the Caspian Sea and thence to the international waters through the ports of Bandar Abbas (Persian Gulf) and Chabahar (Gulf of Oman).

To sum up, Iran and Uzbekistan, as members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), along with the other Central Asia states, as well as Russia, China, and India, have bright prospects of cooperation for smooth flow of trade and techno-scientific development, safe and secure from the hegemonic policies of the US.

President: Nuclear Industry Has Empowered Iran



President Ebrahim Raisi (C) visits the exhibition of Iran's nuclear capabilities in Tehran on June 18, 2023.

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi said here Sunday that success 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 youth and scientists turned threats and sanctions into opportunities," he said during a visit to the exhibition of the Iranian nuclear capabilities.

"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."

The president touched on 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 sectors.

Raisi hailed as "one of the country's great honors" the fact 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, President Raisi 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 go after the production of nuclear weapons given its religious beliefs and the emphasis of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah

Seyyed Ali Khamenei, despite the fact that such a capability exists in the country," he said.

Iran showed to 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.

Ayatollah Khamenei has even issued a fatwa (religious decree) declaring that the acquisition, development, and use of nuclear weapons violated Islamic principles and were therefore forbidden.

Minister: We Need Advanced Marine Industry

TEHRAN -- Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Ashtiani says Iran regards the high seas as the frontline of the nation's encounter against the enemies, pointing to the need for the advanced marine industry to maintain a formidable presence in international waterways.

"The seas are the frontline of our confrontation and encounter with the enemies, and some of the threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran are rooted in the seas," he said during a ceremony at the Marine Industries Organization (MIO), a subsidiary of Iran's defense ministry.

"Therefore, we need an advanced, formidable and multi-purpose marine industry with international capabilities in order to maintain a powerful presence in waterways

and water land," he noted.

Ashtiani described maritime science and technology in the defense field as "the driving force" for the country's naval industry, pointing out the we owe the new naval outlook to the thinking of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in terms of the strategic status of the high seas and his demands in the naval sphere.

The scientific chain of the marine industry will be completed through the support of various defense ministry departments such as missile, radar, air defense and electronics, he added.

The minister stressed the importance of creative and innovative use of defense developments as well as the building of new products using current capacities.

A powerful maritime presence, he said, is vital for the country's economy, trade, industry and defense.

Iran's navy has in recent years achieved self-sufficiency in manufacturing surface and sub-surface vessels.

It has also increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers. The navy has foiled several attacks on both Iranian and foreign tankers during its missions in international waters.

Recently, the Iranian navy's 86th flotilla of warships, comprising indigenous Dena destroyer and Makran forward base ship, successfully completed a round-the-world voyage after sailing 63,000 kilometers of sea routes over a period of eight months.

Russia: Iran to Fully Join SCO at Next Summit

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- A senior Russian official says Iran's full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will be at the top of the agenda of the upcoming summit of the bloc.

"Iran's accession as a full member will be one of the key decisions of the July 4 summit that will take place in New Delhi via video conference. Iran has completed the mandatory procedures and will join the family of SCO member states at the New Delhi summit," Bakhtiyar Khakimov, Russia's presidential representative for SCO affairs, said on the sidelines of the 26th annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The SCO is a transcontinental political, economic, and secu-

rity alliance, which has a total of eight members. Iran is the observer SCO country that is set to become a full-time member of the charter.

Khakimov said that at the upcoming SCO summit, a memorandum will also be signed on Belarus' obligations aimed at obtaining the status of a member state in the organization.

Earlier, the Indian foreign ministry announced that a meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State would take place online on July 4. In addition to the SCO's eight member states, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia have been invited to the event as observer states.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian had said that the country's full member-

ship in the SCO would be finalized in July during the upcoming summit of the association.

The SCO was founded by China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan at a summit held in Shanghai in 2001.

China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, India, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan are its current full members. Iran, Afghanistan, Belarus, and Mongolia are observer states.

Iran first applied for membership in the alliance 15 years ago. The approval of Iran's candidacy came at a summit in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe in September 2021.

The organization accounts for 40 percent of the world's population and 28 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP).

The
Holy
Qur'an



Their Lord gives them good news of mercy from Himself and (His) good pleasure and gardens, wherein lasting blessings shall be theirs; Abiding therein for ever; surely Allah has a Mighty reward with Him.

The Holy Qur'an (9.22)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:06
Evening (Maghreb)	19:44
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:48
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:02

Burkina Faso to Open Embassy in Tehran

TEHRAN -- Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs said here Sunday that Tehran seeks to develop relations with Burkina Faso, as the West African country announces plans to open its embassy in Tehran.

"Iran has put on its agenda the program of expanding ties with Burkina Faso," Ali Bagheri Kani made the remarks in a meeting with Issa Boro, the Burkinabe foreign ministry's secretary general here.

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.

He also announced his country's decision to set up an embassy in Tehran.

Bagheri Kani welcomed the embassy plan, saying the Joint Commission for Comprehensive Cooperation is a suitable mechanism for pursuing issues of mutual interest.

Heading a delegation, Boro has traveled to Tehran in order to exchange views with Iranian officials on ways to enhance Iran-Burkina Faso cooperation.

FM: No Limit to Developing Ties With Pakistan

TEHRAN -- Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian says Iran faces no limits in developing its ties with Pakistan, noting that Islamabad enjoys a special place in Tehran's foreign policy affairs.

Amir-Abdollahian and Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Asad Majeed Khan reviewed bilateral relations. The Iranian foreign minister urged both countries to exploit all available capacities towards further enrichment of the relations.

He referred to a recent meeting that took place between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during which the officials inaugurated two important border projects, saying Pakistan served as an important link in Iran's political dealings with its neighbors.

For his part, the Pakistani official said consultations between the two

(Continued on Page 7)