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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Iran's Role in Meeting Europe's Gas Needs Through Proxy

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran holds the world's 17 percent proven natural gas reserves estimated at 1,203 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), placing it second after Russia, until now the chief supplier of this vital source of energy to Western Europe.

Russia's gas flow to Europe has been greatly slashed because of the NATO war in Ukraine and Washington's pressures on its European allies to politicize trade and industry through by playing the terroristic card of sanctions in a bid to undermine Moscow's economy.

Energy-starved Europe with no direct pipeline connection to Iran, with which it dare not directly deal in fear of the US, has turned to the Caucasus Republic of Azerbaijan to procure supplies via the Caspian Sea from Turkmenistan which possesses the world's 4th largest natural gas reserves basin.

Azerbaijan which sorely lacks the financial, technical, and political means for laying a pipeline to Turkmenistan on the other side of the Caspian and whose own meagre natural gas production barely meets its growing domestic needs, has nevertheless given commitment to neighbouring Georgia and through it to Europe to procure natural gas supplies.

As a result, there is no other solution but to turn to the Islamic Republic of Iran for resolving this grave problem.

Tehran has welcomed the proposal and by signing a tri-lateral agreement has undertaken the responsibility to swap Turkmen gas for supplies to Azerbaijan.

The volume of gas being transited between Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan is now expected to grow by 70 percent this year.

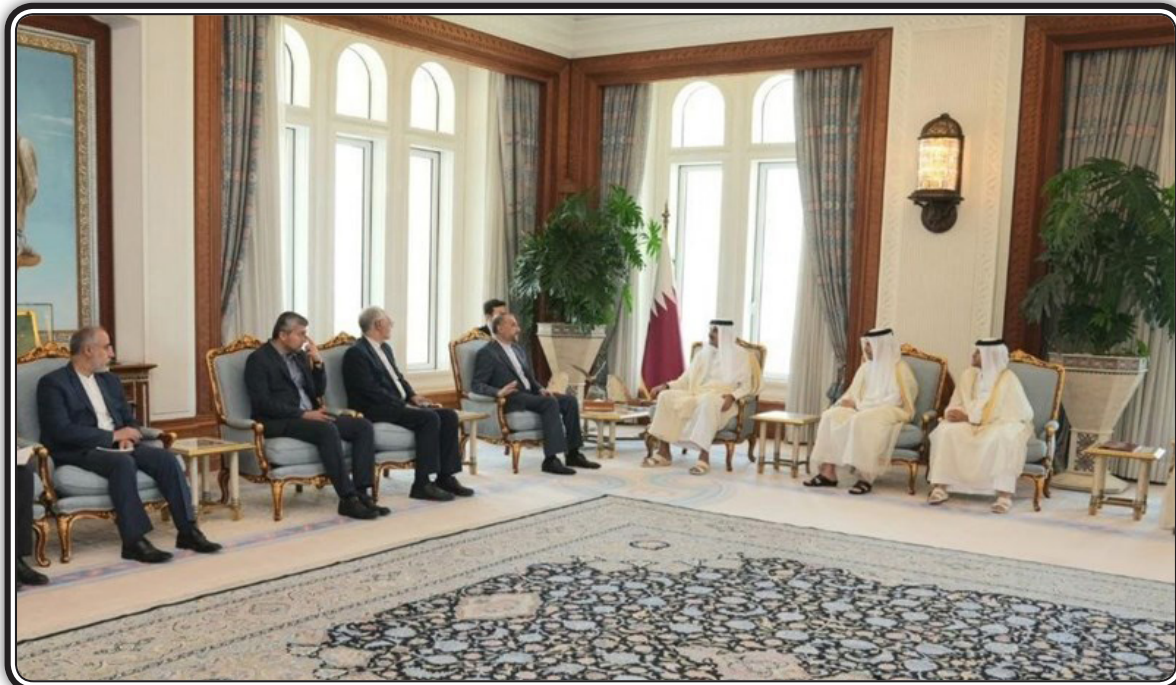
Iran has seized this opportunity to push ahead with its own plans to expand its gas transit infrastructure with the apparent aim of boosting its capacity to transit gas between its neighbours.

With the Rasht-Chelavand gas pipeline expected to be completed soon, the volume of Iranian gas supplies to Azerbaijan will be 5.5 billion cubic meters annually, while plans are underway for signing a new gas import agreement with Turkmenistan for up to 10 billion cubic meters a year.

Thus, the first stage of the agreement will see Azerbaijani gas exports to Europe reach 11.5 billion cubic meters this year or half the 20 billion cubic meters volume of gas Europe requires through the Southern Gas Corridor to help partly compensate for the loss of Russian gas.

In short, Europe despite its hostile policy of following the US sanctions against Iran has no other choice but look to the Islamic Republic to resolve its energy problems.

Iran, Qatar FMs Meet to Review International, Regional Issues



Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian met with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha on June 20, 2023.

DOHA – Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian has held talks with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jasim Al-Thani in Doha.

The talks which were held on Tuesday focused on important international, regional and bilateral issues, as well as on negotiations about the revival of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers and removal of U.S. sanctions from the country.

After Doha, Amir-Abdollahian is to visit the Omani capital Muscat to consult with the officials in the Arab country.

They also discussed plans to increase the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Qatar, facilitate the economic and mercantile activities of the private sectors, promote cooperation in the transportation industry, specifically maritime transportation,

and give a boost to the activities of the two countries' ports for the transport of goods and passengers.

The foreign ministers also reviewed the process of holding the Economic Cooperation Joint Commission meetings and had discussions about the consular affairs, particularly the status of the Iranian citizens imprisoned in Qatar.

In a post on his Twitter account, the Iranian foreign minister said his visits to Qatar and Oman are aimed at further promoting relations with the two Arab countries and following up on the agreements reached by the three countries' high-ranking officials.

He noted that Iran's neighboring countries enjoy huge economic, trade and political potentialities.

Amir-Abdollahian added that continued development of all-out relations with neighbors is among the

basic principles of the Iranian administration's foreign policy doctrine.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani on Tuesday said that the region is undergoing a positive phase of political developments as regional countries engage in more dialogue to resolve their disputes.

"The region is witnessing positive dynamism from the path of more communication and dialogue between the countries," Kan'ani wrote in a tweet.

He added that the resumption of the activities of the Emirati and Qatari embassies and an ongoing regional tour of the Iranian foreign minister promises a bright future for the region based on the constructive cooperation between regional nations.

The top diplomat is also scheduled to visit Muscat to hold talks with Omani officials.

Navy Chief in Pakistan to Boost Military Cooperation

TEHRAN – Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani arrived in Pakistan to discuss ways on improving bilateral cooperation in various military fields.

Heading a senior military delegation, Irani arrived in Islamabad on an official three-day visit at the invitation of chief of Pakistan's Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

According to a Pakistan Navy news release, Irani visited Naval Headquarters in Islamabad and was welcomed by his Pakistani

counterpart and reviewed a guard of honor.

During the meeting between the Iranian and Pakistani navy commanders, issues of mutual interest including bilateral maritime, defensive, and educational cooperation and the exchange of naval delegations were discussed.

Irani and Niazi also exchanged views about regional collaborations and maritime security in the region.

Niazi briefed Irani and his accompanying delegation on the

professional activities of Pakistani naval forces to maintain maritime security and bolster bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

According to Pakistan's Navy, Irani's current visit to Islamabad would be an important step to strengthen cooperation between the two countries' naval forces.

Meanwhile, in a meeting between Irani and Pakistani Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, the two military commanders stressed the importance of improving

(Continued on Page 7)

Agriculture Ministry Gets New Chief

TEHRAN – Muhammad Ali Nikbakht was voted in as the new agriculture minister of Iran on Tuesday.

Iran's lawmakers debated the qualifications of Nikbakht as the proposed nominee to lead the Ministry of Agriculture.

The president's pick could take office with 198 votes in favor, 40 against, and 10 abstentions.

The former minister, Javad Sadatinejad, was dismissed on April 11 after President Ebrahim Raisi conducted a partial reshuffle of his cabinet.

A ministerial nominee needs 50 percent plus one vote to win the vote of confidence from the Parliament.

Iran Envoy, UNAMA Official Discuss Cooperation on Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Kabul Hassan Kazemi on Tuesday met with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Markus Potzel, discussing joint cooperation regarding Afghanistan.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation between Iran and the United Nations regarding providing aid to the Afghan people.

Earlier this week, the Tal-

iban's acting Prime Minister Mawlawi Abdul Kabir met and held talks with Markus Potzel and called for the resumption of the activities of the international organizations in Afghanistan.

The Taliban official also referred to Iran's water rights from the Helmand River and said that Afghanistan does not claim more than its legitimate right, and if Iran has concerns in this regard, the Taliban can resolve the concerns through dialogue and understanding.

The Holy Qur'an

Say: If your fathers and your sons and your brethren and your mates and your kinsfolk and property which you have acquired, and the slackness of trade which you fear and dwellings which you like, are dearer to you than Allah and His Apostle and striving in His way, then wait till Allah brings about His command.

The Holy Qur'an (9:24)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:06
Evening (Maghreb)	19:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:49
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:02

Ministry: West Cannot Be So Irresponsible Toward Refugee Crisis

TEHRAN – Iran has rebuked the West for evading responsibility for the current refugee crisis, saying the U.S. and Europe are to blame as their "wrong policies" triggered a migration wave.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani made the remarks via Twitter on Tuesday, after an overcrowded fishing trawler carrying as many as 750 migrants, including around 100 children, sank in the Mediterranean Sea.

The boat was traveling from Libya to Italy when it capsized off the coast of Greece on Wednesday. So far, only 104 survivors have been found and 81 bodies recovered, while more than 500 people are still missing.

It is said to be one of the deadliest refugee shipwrecks recorded on the central Mediterranean migration route since 2015.

"The sinking of a vessel carrying hundreds of refugees, including dozens of women and children from different Asian and African countries, in the Mediterranean waters off the coast of Greece is tragic and painful," Kan'ani said.

"The West cannot remain irresponsible towards the refugee crisis, because many of the illegal migrations from Asia and Africa to the West stem from the wrong policies of the U.S. and Europe in these regions."

He also offered Iran's condolences to the bereaved families and wished divine mercy for the victims of the disaster.

For almost a decade, Europe has been grappling with a refugee crisis, with Middle Eastern and African asylum seekers looking for safe harbor.

The migration wave was sparked by the emergence of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, which was founded and supported by the U.S.