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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Positive Developments at Home and Abroad

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

If positive is the word to describe developments that occur to the benefit of the seekers of progress, press, and prosperity in various spheres, including economic, industrial, cultural, educational, health, financial, sports, social, political, and etc., then the week that ended last night in Iran, was indeed positive.

The Iranian rial gained strength against foreign currencies in the local and international markets.

Iranian scientists continued to master new vistas. While, neurologists devised new methods to cure the elderly of brain malfunctions without the need of dissecting the skull, defence experts designed sophisticated armaments capable of penetrating the most advanced defences of the enemy – displayed during the military parades throughout the country on National Army Day.

Athletes continued their winning sprees in different sports arenas, as trade ties with various countries brought new dividends.

On the regional arena, for the first time in 19 years a senior-most Saudi Arabian official visited the Islamic Republic to hold fruitful talks with the top officials.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, granted an audience to Defence Minister Khaled bin Salman Aal Saud, as a sign of growing cordiality between Tehran and Riyadh.

Experts of the atomic energy sector continued to invent and innovate vital components of Iran's peaceful nuclear project, which on the international scene saw a sort of confidence building during the second round of indirect talks with the US through Oman's foreign minister.

The 4-hour talks in Rome between Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and Steve Witkoff, the US president's special envoy for West Asia affairs, on Saturday, saw Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi facilitating exchange of messages between the two sides sitting in different halls at his official residence in the Italian capital.

Araqchi said the Iranian and US delegations agreed to continue the talks and open expert-level technical discussions on April 23, before a third round of high-level indirect negotiations between him and Witkoff in Muscat, the capital of Oman April 26.

Although it is too early to say the indirect talks will yield fruits, the fact that the two sides have decided to hold a third round is proof of the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear project, which is gaining momentum on the international scene to the chagrin of the illegal Zionist entity.

In the words of the Omani foreign minister, the two sides are seeking a deal that confirms the fact that Iran does not seek nuclear weapons and has the right to develop peaceful nuclear energy, is indeed a positive development.

Pezeshkian: Nation's Affairs Not Tied to Talks



President Pezeshkian makes an address during a military parade in southern Tehran on Friday.

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian affirms his administration's commitment to resolving disputes and fostering peace, while maintaining that its efforts will remain independent of the results of indirect talks with the United States.

"The administration has never tied its moves and efforts to the talks and negotiations, but at the same time, we believe that if we achieve peace and tranquility, we will have many accomplishments," Pezeshkian said.

He made the remark as Iran and the U.S. are scheduled to hold a second round of indirect talks over the Islamic Repub-

lic's peaceful nuclear program in Rome, Italy, on Saturday.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian said Iran is pursuing a dynamic diplomacy to solve regional and international issues.

"We do not seek to wage a war, but we are striving to resolve regional and international differences," the president said.

He noted that Iran is a victim of terrorism and some 25,000 Iranian people, intellectuals and scientists have been assassinated.

He said the Israeli regime is the root cause of terrorism in the world as it is carrying out acts of terror worldwide with-

out any hesitation.

The Iranian president lashed out at certain countries for supporting Israel while at the same time claiming to advocate human rights, saying the regime's acts are genocide.

He said, "It is inconceivable for a regime to easily carry out acts of assassination whenever it pleases while the so-called advocates of human rights not only remain silent but also support them."

"If Muslim countries demonstrated their power, they would undoubtedly not dare to commit such audacity and crimes," Pezeshkian pointed out.

Iran: Collaboration With Russia at Apex

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says the collaboration between Iran and Russia has reached its "apex," following his visit to Moscow.

In a post on X, Araghchi wrote, "We are at the apex of collaboration with Russia in the history of our 500-year-old relationship."

Araghchi also referred to Tehran and Moscow as "strategic partners" committed to pursuing mutual interests.

"In this critical juncture, Iran and Russia are strategic partners and will continue to be so in pursuit of shared interests & for the good of the two nations and the world," he added.

He described his Thursday meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin as "fruit-

ful," during which he delivered a written message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to the Russian president.

Earlier on Friday, during a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov in Moscow, Araghchi called his discussions with Putin "useful," emphasizing that relations between Tehran and Moscow are advancing.

He also confirmed that Putin had been formally invited to visit Tehran, adding that the visit is expected to take place later this year.

Araghchi highlighted the plans between Iran and Russia to strengthen economic cooperation, despite the sanctions both countries face.

"Of course, this does not mean that the two countries recognize the legitimacy of the sanctions, but they have designed their economic cooperation in such a way that even in the presence of sanctions, they can achieve desirable results," Araghchi explained.

Lavrov, in turn, noted that Putin was "very pleased" with the meeting. "Yesterday's meeting emphasized the unprecedented dynamics of our political dialogue," Lavrov said.

Araghchi arrived in Moscow on Thursday at the invitation of his Russian counterpart.

He returned to Tehran on Friday evening, a day before the second round of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington in Rome.

Ground Force Chief: Army at Peak of Readiness

TEHRAN -- Commander of the Iranian Army Ground Forces Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari says his force is operating at peak of its defensive readiness and combat capability to respond to any threat at any level in the shortest time.

The Army and the IRGC have different but complementary missions, said

Gen. Heidari.

According to Article 143 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for safeguarding the independence and territorial integrity of the country and the State of the Islamic Republic, he added.

The 29th of the Iranian

month of Farvardin (April 18) has been named the National Army Day by the late founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini.

National Army Day was included in the Iranian calendar after a historic letter from the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, in April 1979.

The Holy Qur'an



Say: Who gives you sustenance from the heaven and the earth? Or Who controls the hearing and the sight? And Who brings forth the living from the dead, and brings forth the dead from the living? And Who regulates the affairs? Then they will say: Allah. Say then: Will you not then guard (against evil)?

The Holy Qur'an (10.31)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:03
Evening (Maghreb)	19:01
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:25
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:56

FM Araghchi: Israel Fomenting Iranophobia

TEHRAN -- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Saturday Israel is the only obstacle to the realization of a nuclear weapons-free West Asia, warning that the occupying regime is fomenting Iranophobia while committing genocide in the region.

Araghchi made the remarks in Rome in a meeting with his Italian counterpart, Antonio Tajani. The two met ahead of the second round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States, mediated by Oman at its embassy in the Italian capital.

Reaffirming Iran's commitment to diplomacy, Araghchi urged all parties to seize the opportunity for a "logical and reasonable understanding" that would recognize Iran's legitimate rights and lift "unjust and illegal sanctions."

He emphasized Iran's peaceful nuclear intentions, reiterating the country's rejection of weapons of mass destruction based on its religious and national values and defensive doctrine.

The Iranian minister also thanked Tajani for Italy's coordination in facilitating the talks and conveyed Easter greetings to the Italian people.

Tajani welcomed Araghchi and expressed Italy's strong interest in deepening ties with Iran. He said hosting the talks was of great value to Rome and stressed Italy's readiness to assist the negotiations in any possible way.

Araghchi arrived in Rome earlier in the day for talks on Tehran's civilian nuclear program and termination of Washington's unlawful sanctions against the country.

Iran had ruled out direct negotiations with the U.S. under pressure or threats of war but stated that it remains open to indirect talks.