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Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 3311120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue,

Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iran-China Railway Link Presents an Economic Bonanza

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran and Tajikistan, which agreed last Friday to boost cooperation in the railroad transit sector in view of the growing importance of this vital means of transportation, especially for goods flowing in from China's far eastern coasts, use the same Persian word for the railways, however with pronouncements that differ, thus with different Latin spellings when transliterate.

In Iran we write "rah-e ahan" (literally 'iron road' in English for the tracks), while our Farsi-speaking Tajik brothers, perhaps due to long estrangement from us (first Czarist Russia's seizure and the then the Soviet occupation), write rohi ohoni – meaning the same.

Whatever the phonological intricacies or linguistic in the case of the Chinese word "tiedao" for railways, the train that commences from the shores of the China Sea and reaches Iran through the Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, the 15-day train journey is safe, secure and short compared to the 40-day sea route to the Persian Gulf.

As a result, Tajikistan, which is not on the Chinese train route, will also greatly benefit – thanks to Dushanbe's strong relations with Tehran and its multi-dimensional railway network excellently connected to Iraq and Turkey in the west, Russia in the northwest (through the Azerbaijan Republic) and Pakistan and Afghanistan in the east.

Iran sits on the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and, from there, to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The strategic partnership between the two countries enables freedom of navigation and enables China to diversify its energy sources.

By relying on overland routes, secure from any maritime pressures on the high seas by a malign US and its extra territorial sanctions, the Islamic Republic can better navigate the dangers, thereby enhancing its economic sovereignty and diversifying its import and export channels.

Iran's trade with China will significantly increase. Its oil will have a top buyer ready, whereas it will have access to high-end products that are not available due to the illegal western sanctions.

The Islamic Republic is the only country in West Asia that will not stop selling oil to Beijing despite US pressures and threats in contrast to countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Jordan, and Kuwait, which are within the US sphere of influence.

This is not the lone freight train from China to arrive in Iran, as two more are already loaded with solar panels for the journey to the Islamic Republic.

Once the train timetable is fixed and finalised, China could extend the railroad to Europe.

Iran's pivotal position presents China with the opportunity to connect the Chabahar port to Gwadar in Pakistan, which is a critical hub in Beijing's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative).

In such a case a 'golden ring' will emerge to the exasperation of the US and encompassing China, Pakistan, Iran, Russia, and Turkey, while the Iranian railway network will be connected to the Central Asia, the Caspian Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea routes.

FM Araghchi: Enrichment Right is Based on Principle of Rejecting Domination



Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, right, visits Imam Khomeini's mausoleum in southern Tehran along with the employees of the Foreign Ministry on Saturday.

TEHRAN -- Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said here Saturday Iran's inalienable right to enrich uranium is based on the principle of "renouncing foreign domination."

Araghchi was speaking during a visit alongside the employees of the Foreign Ministry to Imam Khomeini's mausoleum in southern Tehran to renew their allegiance to the ideals of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution.

"The main foundation of [Iran's] foreign policy is based on the mentality and principle of renouncing foreign domination," Araghchi said.

"In the very first article of the Constitution, it is stipulated that the establishment of the Islamic Republic is based on the rejection of oppression and being oppressed, and domination and being dominated," he added. "This has been and continues to be the foundation

of our movement."

The top Iranian diplomat underlined that the same policy is pursued in Tehran's ongoing talks with Washington over the Islamic Republic's nuclear energy file.

"There is much to say about the nuclear issue and enrichment as one of the country's necessities, but in nuclear negotiations, another focus of our work relates to the issue of rejecting domination; this has always been our guiding principle in the current negotiations," Araghchi said.

"The statement that you should not carry out enrichment is itself domination. Why shouldn't we have enrichment? This is absolutely unacceptable to the Iranian nation."

Stressing that the Islamic Republic has been pioneering in the denunciation of nuclear weapons, Araghchi added, "They are by no

means entitled to deprive the Iranian nation of its rights. Nuclear energy is the inalienable right of the Iranian people."

In an interview with Oman's state television on Wednesday, President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran is prepared for relevant cooperation aimed at proving the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities, but will not relinquish its nuclear rights under any circumstances.

Pezeshkian also noted that a fatwa (religious decree) that had been issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei had clearly prohibited the Islamic Republic from seeking nuclear weapons.

Iran and the United States have been engaged in indirect negotiations, mediated by Oman, since April to find a replacement for the 2015 nuclear agreement – formally

(Continued on Page 7)

Official Rejects 'Delusional Zionist Narratives' About Zero Enrichment

TEHRAN -- The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on Saturday announced progress in ongoing indirect negotiations with the U.S., while firmly rejecting any discussions of "zero uranium enrichment," calling such proposals "delusional narratives aimed at the Zionist audience."

Speaking at a conference in Sari, northern Iran, Muhammad Eslami highlighted Iran's nuclear energy achievements, noting that the Bushehr nuclear power plant generated 7.3 billion kilowatt-hours of electric-

ity last year.

He stated that Iran aims to increase its nuclear power capacity to 3,000 megawatts by the end of the country's Seventh Development Plan, with land secured for two new power plants in the north and south.

Eslami also revealed a 20-year strategic plan targeting 20,000 megawatts of nuclear-generated electricity.

He cited major advances in plasma therapy, laser, and quantum technologies, and emphasized the global

competitiveness of Iran's domestically produced radiopharmaceuticals.

Addressing nuclear diplomacy, Eslami confirmed that five rounds of indirect talks between Iran and the U.S. have taken place, most recently on May 23 in Rome.

He noted that U.S. President Donald Trump indicated that Washington is "close to reaching agreements on both Gaza and Iran," though he reiterated that Iran must not obtain a nuclear bomb.

South Korea, Iran Hold 7th Political Dialogue in Seoul

TEHRAN -- The seventh round of political consultations between Iran and South Korea has been held in Seoul at the director general level of the two countries' foreign ministries.

The Iranian delegation was led by Ali-Asghar Mohammadi, the assistant to the foreign minister and director general for Asia and Oceania, while the South Korean side was headed by Chung Kwang-Yong, the director general for African and West Asian affairs.

The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, including economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, scientific, and

educational collaboration, as well as cooperation in international organizations and regional developments.

They also underscored the need to continue political consultations at higher levels and to follow up on previous agreements to help boost bilateral relations.

In addition to his talks with his South Korean counterpart, Mohammadi also held separate meetings with Chung Byung-won, South Korea's deputy foreign minister, as well as a group of South Korean scholars and political experts to exchange views on regional developments and bilateral ties.

Senior Lawmaker Apologizes Over Son's Traffic Accident

TEHRAN -- Deputy Parliament speaker Ali Nikzad on Saturday issued a public apology following a recent traffic accident involving his son and a police officer in Tehran's Vanak Square.

In a statement released to clarify the incident, Nikzad emphasized his respect for the rule of law and apologized "humbly" to the Iranian people. He confirmed that his son unintentionally struck a traffic police officer on May 25. Nikzad, however, denied any misconduct, stating that his son neither fled the scene nor acted aggressively.

Immediate medical assistance was provided to the injured officer, and legal procedures were fully observed, including enforcement actions against both the driver and the vehicle.

Nikzad said he personally followed up on the officer's medical treatment and praised the injured officer's "professionalism and grace."

Rejecting claims of preferential treatment, Nikzad stressed that "no one is above the law," regardless of status. He also warned against the misuse of the incident by foreign media, reiterating his commitment to the values of the Islamic Revolution.

"The honor of our police force and the supremacy of law are sacred," he said, asserting that any attempt to undermine them must be condemned.

The Holy Qur'an

Say: If Allah had desired (otherwise) I would not have recited it to you, nor would He have taught it to you; indeed I have lived a lifetime among you before it; do you not then understand?

The Holy Qur'an (10.16)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:02
Evening (Maghreb)	19:36
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:50
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	02:56

Reuters Report of Saudi Message of Warning for Iran 'Fabricated'

TEHRAN -- Iran has dismissed "fabricated" and "politically motivated" report that Saudi Arabia's defense minister delivered a blunt message to Iranian officials in Tehran last month, asking Tehran to take U.S. President Donald Trump's offer to negotiate a nuclear agreement seriously in order to avoid the risk of war with Israel.

Reuters, in its typical fictitious stories citing what the news agency often claims as sources close to government circles with naming them, had claimed that Saudi Arabia's 89-year-old King Salman dispatched his son Prince Khalid bin Salman with the warning to Iran.

Reuters has continued this approach, recently publishing inaccurate content based on "fabricated sources" allegedly linked to the country.

In the latest case, on the night of Wednesday, the agency claimed that Iran might suspend uranium enrichment—an assertion that was clearly denied by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Its spokesman Esmaili Baghaei reaffirmed that enrichment remains a "non-negotiable principle."

On Friday, Reuters published another report, this time focusing on the alleged contents of a message reportedly delivered to Iran by the Saudi defense minister on behalf of the Saudi king. This claim, too, was promptly rejected, with Baghaei categorically denying its validity.

Earlier this month, Baghaei criticized Reuters for a report on a U.S. plan to halt Iranian oil tankers, rebuking the news agency of repeatedly disregarding journalistic standards. He described Reuters as part of an orchestrated campaign to spread misinformation about Iran and the region.