



Hugo Chavez

Chavez Urges Transfer Of Expertise

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Wednesday said cooperation between Iran and Venezuela would help develop Iran's ties with the entire Latin America.

In a meeting with Iranian Minister of Industries and Mines Ali Akbar Mehrabian in Caracas, Chavez lauded Tehran-Caracas political, economic, trade and industrial cooperation, IRNA reported.

Terming the prospect of the two countries' cooperation as "very bright", he said, "Bilateral friendly relations have forged solidarity among the Iranian and Venezuelan nations."

Praising Iran's scientific and industrial capabilities, President Chavez called for "the transfer of such valuable experiences to his country".

As to the US opposition to cooperation between independent and free countries, he said, "Washington is against unity and solidarity between the two great Iranian and Venezuelan nations." Chavez pointed out that despite exerting all kinds of pressures on the two countries, the US has failed to obstruct promotion of Tehran-Caracas relations.

For his part, the Iranian minister conveyed the warm greetings of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to his Venezuelan counterpart, the government and nation.

As to the implementation of industrial projects in Venezuela by Iranian companies, Mehrabian said, "Three industrial projects have so far been launched in Venezuela by the Iranian experts."

The Iranian minister announced that five agreements on the transfer of technology for establishing a pharmaceutical factory, production of tractor parts, machinery to produce dairy products, agricultural machinery and petrochemical industries have been finalized by the two sides.

Mehrabian also voiced the readiness of Iran's Housing Ministry to build residential units for the Venezuelan people.

Call for US Sincerity on Iraq

A deputy foreign minister said the United States is not willing to involve Iraq's neighbors in resolving its security problems.

In an interview with Presstv, Alireza Sheikh-Attar also pointed to the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's surprise visit to Baghdad prior to the expanded meeting of foreign ministers of Iraq's neighboring states in Kuwait on Tuesday, saying the trip was aimed at making the Iraqi officials recognize Iran as the main hurdle to Iraq security.

"Contrary to US expectations, the Iraqi officials' reaction proved her mission had failed," he said.

Asked about the upcoming Iran-US meeting on Iraq, the official referred to the official request by the Americans submitted to Iran via the Swiss Embassy, saying Iran's main concern is to obtain tangible results from the talks.

The deputy foreign minister noted that Iran expects the US to take its opinions and proposals into consideration instead of expecting Tehran to follow its orders.

"Iran-US meetings on Iraq would be productive if the original problems of the war-torn country were diagnosed, including the root cause of terrorism," he said.

Sheikh-Attar went on to say that both Iran and the US can hope to solve problems not only in Iraq, but in other countries as well, provided the Americans show sincerity and change their policies.

The official described Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter, which authorizes foreign forces to stay in Iraq, as "dangerous" for the country.

Sheikh-Attar underscored the necessity of US and foreign troops withdrawing from Iraq so that the Iraqi government and armed forces can take over the full responsibility of restoring security to their own country.

Iran, IAEA to Discuss Ambiguities

Compiled by Davoud Baqeri



IAEA Spokeswoman Melissa Fleming says Iran has agreed to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency's investigation of ambiguities about Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran has denied the reports and says its nuclear program is a peaceful drive to produce electricity so that the world's fourth-largest crude exporter can sell more of its oil and gas abroad.

Fleming said the agency hopes Iran will provide the necessary clarifications about the allegations in May, AP reported.

She said on Wednesday that an agreement on the issue had been reached during talks in Tehran earlier this week between Iranian officials and IAEA Deputy Director General Olli Heinonen.

Also on Wednesday, IAEA Chief Mohamed ElBaradei said Iran's decision to have more cooperation with the IAEA is a milestone.

ElBaradei said he hopes his agency will make progress in its investigation into Tehran's alleged nuclear weapons programs.

The top IAEA official made the comment in Sarajevo shortly after his agency announced that Iran had agreed to cooperate with IAEA in its investigation.

It, however, expressed optimism that Iran will prepare the ground for access to a proper response to the issue.

On Tuesday, Iran gave an upbeat assessment of two days of talks with the top investigator of the UN atomic energy watch-

dog. "The talks with (Olli) Heinonen were positive," a senior Iranian nuclear official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. He did not say what was discussed.

IAEA officials said it would have no comment before Heinonen returned to Vienna on Wednesday.

Dialogue Underlined

Meanwhile, Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani in a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin urged dialogue rather than punitive measures over Iran's nuclear drive, Reuters reported.

"Sanctions are counterproductive," he said. "To us in the region, it is very important that the problem is solved peacefully and not with violence."

Merkel also said, "We would welcome it a lot if we could make progress here. Unfortunately, we're not really moving ahead on this."

The five permanent UN Security Council members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—plus Germany have been looking to revive nuclear negotiations with Iran.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he wanted the next round of six-nation talks to be held in London, at the same time as a meeting of the quartet of Middle East peace mediators on May 1-2, which include the UN, the EU, the US and Russia.

Iranians Invent Tissular Glue

Researchers from Shahid Beheshti University have invented a new generation of super-strong tissular glue for the first time in the world by using nanotechnology.

Alireza Zali, president of Shahid Beheshti University's Medical School, told reporters on Wednesday that the team began its activities last year, Mehr News Agency said.

"The glue has unique characteristics and can be used in surgeries," he said.

Commenting on its clinical applications, he said, "Our researchers have managed to use the glue for regeneration of dogs' trachea and intestine as well as microscopic surgeries on a man's brachial nerves and a woman's uterus."

Zali emphasized that the scientific breakthrough has been registered at the national level. "Since there has been no report about this type of glue at the international level, we have been trying to register this important scientific accomplishment internationally," he said.



India Rejects American Advice

India on Wednesday rejected the advice from the United States to talk tough during Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit scheduled for next week and said it was for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and not the US to decide whether Iran was making nuclear fuel for uranium enrichment.

Earlier this week, Washington encouraged India to ask Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment activities during Ahmadinejad's visit, DPA reported.

"We would hope that the Indian government... would call on him (Ahmadinejad) to meet the requirements that the Security Council and the international community has placed on him in terms of suspending their uranium enrichment activities and complying with the other requirements regarding their nuclear program," said US state department spokesman, Tom Casey, on Monday.

"We are suggesting that the US does not take upon itself the task of determining whether Iran is manufacturing nuclear fuel or not. Let the IAEA decide," Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in parliament.

His remarks followed comments by members of India's left parties describing Casey's remarks as "audacious and arrogant" and amounting to an "infringement on India's sovereign position," Times Now television channel reported.

"India and Iran did not need guidance on how to conduct their bilateral relations," Navtej Samra, official spokesman for India's Foreign Ministry said in a strongly-worded statement issued on Tuesday that began by referring to Casey's remarks.

"India and Iran are ancient civilizations whose relations span centuries. Both nations are capable of managing all aspects of their relationship with the appropriate degree of care and attention," Samra said.

He added that neither India nor Iran needed any guidance on bilateral relations, "as both countries believe that management and dialogue alone lead to peace."

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From Page 1

Ayatollah Khamenei said Iranians are exercising vigilance and maintaining their solidarity, noting that the nation has attained political independence following the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

"This independence can be preserved by consolidating the economic pillars of the Islamic country through hard-working, production, innovation and prosperity in various sectors," he said.

"The enemies have been frustrated at confronting the great nation of Iran, therefore they have resorted to vain accusations and rhetoric against Iran."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the current government is making efforts to implement valuable projects and the Cabinet members are working for the country's prosperity.

US Ex-Marine...

From Page 1

"In or about November 1985, Jonathan Jay Pollard was charged with espionage-related offenses in relation to his having provided classified information to CC-1, among other people," the complaint said, referring to the same unnamed Israeli "co-conspirator" who was Kadish's contact.

Pollard is serving a life term after being convicted on a charge of spying for Israel while working as a US naval officer.

The Israeli regime publicly admitted in 1998 that Pollard had been their agent, and awarded him Israeli citizenship the same year.

Tuesday's complaint alleges that Israeli consular official CC-1 gave Kadish lists of defense documents to obtain from the US Army's Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center at the Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, New Jersey, where Kadish worked.