Media Hype Belies the West’s Seriousness About Vienna Talks

By Faranak Bakhtiarri

TEHRAN — The United Nations and the Iranian government are going to map out a new partnership on sustainable development for the next five years, UN Resident Coordinator, Stefan Ishaqpour, has said.

“We are at a key moment where we are now beginning to build on the foundation of our partnership on sustainable development for the next five years – we are currently working with Government to develop the new cooperation framework – what we call the UNSDCC, UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework,” he said.

The partnership between the UN and Iran goes back a long way. Already in 1990, the UN opened its first office, and in the following years, it worked with Iran on various issues. In 1995, the UN launched a new partnership on sustainable development.

And we should acknowledge that Iran has made many notable contributions to the development and humanitarian spheres, including hosting several million refugees and migrants for over four decades and including them among others in education and health services, and most recently in the COVID national vaccination plan.

Moreover, playing a significant role in stemming the flow of illicit drugs from Afghanistan to the world through the seizure of the largest amounts of hard drugs of any country in the world, he explained.

In Iran in the last few months, the rapid rise of the production of goods was translated via the country in the mentioned month, IRIB reported.

Iran is one of the countries that have a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geogaphy, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

In the south of Iran is the Persian Gulf, which is home to the world’s major oil-producing countries. This region is considered the energy bottleneck of the world.

As previously announced by IRICA, the annual transit of goods through the country had risen 81 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

In a recent meeting, IRICA Head Mohammad Reza Mir-Ashrafi, transit of goods through the country had risen 81 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Ishaqpour said that 6.948 million tons of goods were transited via the country during the seven-month period.

Iranian illustrators Matak, Zakeri win two of three awards at the 51st Golden Pen of Belgrade.

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — Frank Von Hippel, who was responsible for national security issues in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy from 1993 to 1994, warns that a failure of the Vienna talks is not acceptable.

“Failure of the Raisi and Biden administrations to agree is not acceptable,” Hippel tells the Tehran Times.

Depicts Iran, the P4+1 group of countries - China, Russia, France, and the UK plus Germany, gathered at the Palais Coburg hotel in Vienna amid global fanfare. It means the resumption of the talks after a break of more than five months.

Ali Bagheri Kani, the deputy foreign minister of Iran, and Enrique Mera, EU deputy foreign policy chief, jointly chaired the Monday plenary session.

Western media outlets purposefully depicted the overall situation in Vienna as somber, even before the negotiators reconvened the much-anticipated meeting.

They warned of Iranian maximalist demands, breached the idea of an interim agreement, and accused Iran of not being serious.

But Hippel believes that the power struggle in Washington makes things more difficult.

“The Democrats and Republicans disagree on everything, including the future of democracy in the United States,” the former White House official notes.

Iranian, Western theater styles are at an end, according to the Jack Gallery.

A failure of the Vienna talks unacceptable: ex-White House official

TEHRAN — The speaker of the Iranian Parliament on Wednesday looked optimistic about the success of the Vienna talks for lifting sanctions on Iran, noting President Ebrahim Raisi’s administration.

“I just finished a long and warm meeting with the President of France,” Qassem-Moqarran, during our meeting, we discussed at length the resumption of talks with Iran,” Lapid tweeted after his meeting with the French president.

Lapid told Maaroc that Iran believes believing Iran is only buying time at the talks in order to continue advancing its nuclear program and have severe economic sanctions lifted. He also underlined the importance of developing an effective Plan B in the event that discussions fail.

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**Talks between Iran's Esfandi, IAEA's Grossi was constructive: MP**

TEHRAN -- A member of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee says the dialogue between Iran's nuclear chief, Mohamad Esfandi and Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was constructive.

Esfandi, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), attended a meeting of the parliamentary committee that evening and presented a report on the recent visit of Grossi to Iran.

MP Ebrahim Aziz, in an interview with the Mehr news agency, highlighted the importance of the meeting of Esfandi and Grossi, saying: "The head of the Atomic Energy Organization attended the meeting and reported on Rafael Grossi’s recent visit to Iran. Mohamad Esfandi presented a report on the issues raised between the Iranian officials and the director-general of the AEOI, which indicated that the issues raised by Iranian officials were quite serious and stemmed from the revolutionary thinking of the administration.

The MPs held talks on November 23 with Esfandi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. In the meetings with Grossi, the Iranian officials underscored that the IAEA should refrain from political behaviors and approaches, and pursued the following goals:

1. Determining the source of the increase in Iran's nuclear activity.
2. Stopping the efforts to return to the 2015 nuclear deal.
3. Implementing the inspections announced by the IAEA.
4. Ceasing the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal.
5. Ensuring the full cooperation of the Iranian government with the IAEA.
6. Ensuring the transparency of Iran's nuclear activities.
7. Respecting the rights of the Iranian people to peaceful nuclear energy.
8. Ensuring the non-interference of external factors in Iran's nuclear activities.
9. Ensuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
10. Respecting the Iranian government's rights and interests.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the MP emphasized that the IAEA should exercise its technical and professional supervision and ensure that Iran's nuclear activities are in line with the non-proliferation regime. The MP went on to say that the AEOI is obliged to implement the international safeguards and regulations in response to sanctions on Iran.

"Grossi has said he does not expect Iran to ignore its own laws. Finally, Esfandi described talks with the director-general of the agency as very good and constructive," the parliamentary concluded.

**Analyst praises Raisi’s view toward neighbors**

The president’s approach to its neighbors is such that one can resolve many of them.

Iran has a special bond with the Arab countries and this policy can make opportunities between Iran and the other neighboring countries.

The analyst claimed the Rouhani administration ignored the potential of regional countries and “This has caused a lot of damage to national interests.”

"But,” he said, “in the current situation, the Islamic Republic, whether in the gas transportation or in the region, should use this opportunity while the infrastructure capacity of gas transportation in the region is such that Iran can fill the gap because Iran has a special bond with the Arab countries and this policy can make opportunities between Iran and the other neighboring countries.

The deal is also a big step for Iran as it would ensure stable gas supply to the neighboring countries which are far away from the sources of natural gas in the country.

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Media hype casts doubt on the West's seriousness about Vienna talks

TEHRAN – After a months-long hiatus, Iranian and Western negotiators ultimately met in the same room but much of the work does not seem to be done in the round. Instead, the negotiators seem to prefer foraging ahead with media hyperbole.

While more than 1,000 diplomats from the United States and Iran, along with representatives from the other parties, attended Monday's plenary session, only a few stood up to answer questions from the media. The negotiated process was discussed in detail and the meeting primarily focused on the principles and foundation of the upcoming talks. The lead Iranian negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, who chairs Iran's team, expressed optimism about the next round of talks.

The Iranian side won their berth for the first time in the 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship in Japan in September where the Persians came fourth after South Korea, Japan and Kazakhstan.

The negotiations are essentially a master document containing all the texts that have been prepared during the past rounds, as agreed by all parties in today's meeting as well,”Bagheri Kani said.

According to China Daily, as long as the talks progress, the result will be clear. “Lifting the sanctions against Iran and third parties will be enough to break the impasse,” the Chinese newspaper added.

The other side, however, tried to portray the talks as a master document containing all the texts that have been prepared during the past rounds, as agreed by all parties in today's meeting as well. While Iran is keen to curb its serious interest in the talks, the EU is trying to create a sense of urgency in terms of the duration of the talks. While Iran said it prioritizes negotiations and this was agreed by all parties in today's meeting as well, the European diplomat told Reuters. "If they don't show us that they're serious this week, then we have a problem."
Iran, Tajikistan confer on implementing agricultural co-op MOU

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Seyyed Abbas Mousavi has said the latest status of 15 major joint projects between the two countries were reviewed in a meeting with the Azeri deputy prime minister.

Shahin Mustafayev came following the Shahin Mustafayev’s visit to Tehran, the Azeri deputy prime minister, to follow up on the agreements reached by the two countries.

According to Mehr News Agency reported.

"One day after the fruitful meeting between the President Ebrahim Raisi with Rahim Aliyev, I met with Shahin Mustafayev, first deputy prime minister, to follow up on the agreements reached by the Azeri leaders," Mousavi wrote in a post on his Twitter account.

“Two neighboring countries currently have 15 important joint projects, the latest status of which was reviewed in the meeting," he said.

Speaking to the media after his meeting with President Raisi, Aliyev had announced his country’s willingness to expand economic relations with Iran.

On the sidelines of President Raisi’s seven-day visit to Ashgabat, the Azeri first deputy prime minister, and President Hossien Amir-Abdollahian also met and held talks with Azeri counterpart.

After this meeting, Amir-Abdollahian pointed out that the relations between Iran and Azerbaijan go beyond two mere neighbors, describing the two nations as relatives to each other.

Iran, Azerbaijan discuss ongoing joint projects

Export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiar rises 142% in 7 months yr/yr

From page 1 in the North of Iran is the Caspian Sea, the best bridge between Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmeni- stan, and Azerbaijan and can play an important role in trade between these countries, the country, on the other hand, borders Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to the west an- east.

In other words, it can be said that Iran connects with 7 countries through land and water- borders, and at the same time it can interconnect these seven countries with each other and can achieve foreign currency earn- ings through the development of transit and train travel. This status has provided the country with many opportuni- ties and by optimal use of these opportunities, through the ex- pansion of the transportation network and reliable and effi- cient infrastructure, Iran can achieve foreign currency earn- ings and at the same time make transit revenue a suitable alternative to oil export while improving its strategic position in the region.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a signifi- cant role in the development of the region and benefit a lot from its status in this regard. To take full advantage of its loca- tion for transit, the country has many plans underway and, on the agenda, to boost its transit capacity.

Some of these plans include developing Shahid Rajae Port, Iran’s largest and most- equipped container port in the south, and also Chabahar Port in the south-west of the country, connecting the ports to the railway network, develop- ment of transit via railway, and also some customs mea- sures such as improving transit- procedures in the customs offices.

500 MW capacity of new renewable power plants to be launched by late June 2022

Iran, Tajikistan ink trade, industrial cooperation documents

Tehran, Damascus ink trade, industrial cooperation documents

Tehran – Iran and Syria have signed four documents to boost cooperation in the fields of trade and industry, especially areas related to standards, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Thunder Reza Fatemi Amiri inked the doc- uments at the end of the two countries’ joint economic and industrial committee meetings which were held in Damascus.

In early April, the managing director of Na- tional Iranian Oil Tanker Co. (NIOT) explained that the value of Iran’s non-oil trade rose 44 percent over the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year, compared to the corresponding period of the past year.

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A failure of Vienna talks unacceptable: ex-White House official

From page 1 - Following is the text of the interview.

How do you assess the re- sumption of the talks?

Are you optimistic about the resumption of the talks?

The negotiators appear to be struggling to keep things from falling apart. I am not optimistic but think the negotiators can make peace if they want to. The sides want to do so. The Biden administration is reserving the ability to save the JCPOA but is con- strained by past Congression- al actions and the continuing division in Congress. Of course, I don’t understand the division of opinion in the Biden Admin-

What solutions are on the table? Fully reviewing the 2015 pact?

As far as I know, they have reacted to the failure of the talks by maintaining that they are willing to resume talks unless Iran has done enough to satisfy them. That is not enough for them to believe the two sides are ready for serious talks that will lead to an agreement.


Barbados ditches British monarchy


From page 1 - He was also a strong crit- ic of any interference in the internal affairs of any country. As a result, he was viewed with high regard and respect among the Barbadians. Today he is considered one of the Caribbean. Barrow spoke out fiercely against the idea of any interference in the internal affairs of any country.


Yemeni army forces shoot down Uranian IRBM


The Yemeni army forces shot down a rocket launched by the Houthis against a Saudi army base. The Houthis launched the rocket as part of their ongoing conflict with the Saudi-led coalition.


Palestinian refugee agency facing funding crisis: UNRWA


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Iran, UNWTO discuss rural tourism targets

From page 1  However: the city itself was reorganized and its human occupation had started as early as the fourth millennium BC, and the site was certainly occupied in the Bronze Age, by the Achaemenids, by the Seleucids (who used it as a mint town), and by the Parthians, according to tells and inscriptions.

The city, which had strong walls, rivaled the first Arab attack in size and was captured and sacked in 650AD though the site was not abandoned, most people moved to Shiraz (which was founded in 684AD) once an Islamic town, it was enclosed by fortifications 8 km round.

Today, Shiraz is nothing but a plain full of shrubs, scattered ar- chaeological remains, and the remains of a modern town that is surrounded by a ditch that was connected to a nearby river. The site is approximately 650 m in area and is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persepolis was the capital city and architectural wonderland of Iran. It experienced a general renaissance in the Islamic era, with many remarkable inventions such as palaces at Chiraz, Firozabad, and Saravan. The Sassanids also further popularized alchemy after the fall of Sassanid by Arab innovators. According to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, the geographer Istakhr wrote that in the tenth centu-

ry, its houses were built of clay, stone or gypsum, and the wealth of its owners. Therefore, buildings, such as brick or stone buildings, and columns, such as the Bâb-e Bahram (Mountain of Mercy), were the center of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

The UNESCO-registered Persepolis, also known as Tahte-Jamshid, was located in the west of Shiraz, on the foot of a hill named Bagh-e Narenjestan, at the south of the modern city of Shiraz. The site was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001.

The city of Shiraz, which is situated in the Fars Province, is one of the most important cities in the country. It is the capital of the Fars Province and is one of the most important cultural and historical centers of Iran. The city has a rich history and culture, and is known for its beautiful parks, gardens, and historic buildings.

The city of Shiraz is also famous for its handcrafts, which are among the most important traditional arts in Iran. The handcrafts of Shiraz are known for their high quality and are sold at local and international markets.

The city of Shiraz is also home to many historical and cultural sites, such as the Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, and the Mosque of Atigh. The city is also famous for its delicious food, which is a mix of Persian and Indian flavors.

Although the city of Shiraz is known for its beauty, it is also known for its problems, such as high pollution and traffic congestion. However, the city is working on solving these problems and improving the quality of life for its residents.

The city of Shiraz is also known for its hospitality and friendliness, and is a popular destination for tourists from around the world. The city offers a wide variety of activities, such as sightseeing, shopping, and dining, and is known for its welcoming atmosphere.

The city of Shiraz is also famous for its annual festivals, such as the Nader Festival, which is held every year on the first day of the Iranian year. The festival is a celebration of the city's rich history and culture, and is attended by thousands of visitors from around the world.
Iran has been generous to host refugees over past decades: UNHCR

TEHRAN – Millions of Afghans have fled their country over the past few decades, and Iran as a neighboring country has been generous to host many of them, said Ho Frimpagni, UNHCR’s Representative in Iran.

“The Talibans’ takeover of power has exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and beyond. With the onset of winter, more Afghans face hunger and hardship,” he added.

He said that the Government of Germany has significantly increased its support for Afghan refugees in 2021, from an initial EUR 32 million earlier this year, to EUR 57 million as of November, to support refugees currently in Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

The total German contribution to emergency support for Afghanistan is amounting to EUR 660 million.

This contribution will allow UNHCR, in coordination with Iran’s Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants’ Affairs (BAFIA), to continue supporting Afghan refugees and host communities in Iran through health, education, and livelihoods programs.

This donation will also help newly arrived Afghans who are facing their country’s fate. In 2021 alone, UNHCR is directly aware of over 20,000 Afghans who arrived in Iran using irregular routes to seek safety in Iran, although the formal number that has entered the country is likely to be significantly higher. UNHCR will thus channel funds towards pre-positioning Core Relief Items, hygiene kits, and tents at the eastern borders, to ensure newly-displaced persons receive the urgent assistance they need.

In October, German Ambassador to Iran Hans Oetz Mietl expressed readiness to help solve the problems of refugees by expanding cooperation with international organizations; appreciating Iran for the services provided to refugees.

“We will do our best to remove the obstacles and challenges facing the refugees,” Mietl said in a meeting with Mehdi Mahmoudi, director of citizens and foreign immigrants of the Ministry of Interior.

Regarding the supply of the COVID-19 vaccine, the ambassador said that Germany has also allocated a budget for the supply of the vaccine for refugees. Iran is hosting the world’s fourth-largest refugee community. The country has generously hosted approximately 1 million Afghan refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, which mainly came from Afghanistan to Iran, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran – some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 500,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

However, in light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

On November 28, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffer Hassani said it is a great achievement for Iran that the government is vaccinating every Afghan refugee going to the vaccination center even before receiving the buffer from COVID vaccine of Humanitarian Buffer (COVAX) from UNHCR.

There are three to four million Afghan refugees in the country and the government received 6 million doses from Humanitarian Buffer (COVAX) from COVID-19 but the government is vaccinating every Afghan refugee going to the vaccination center even before receiving the buffer from their own resources and I witnessed it during my visits to Vaccination centers in Tehran, Kerman, and Mashhad,” he said.

The precious national parks of Northwestern Iran are a legacy of any country the raising of rainfall from widespread lands which share a great biological diversity, this time we take a quick look at three incredible national parks located in East Azarbaijan province.

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the years, designating areas of special interest in various areas of forests has been designated for preservation and protection. National parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas and national monuments. In 1997 the Department of the Environment (DOE) held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas. By the year 2003, the DOE supervised areas reached 11,791,788.225 hectares. National park is a designated part of Iran’s environment – including forests, rangelands, woodlands, prairies, waters, or mountains that is an outstanding representation of Iranian nature.

As such, it is brought under protection in order to permanently or temporarily create a suitable environment for the flourishing of wildlife and the growth of flora under natural conditions.

The national parks currently cover 16,497,976 hectares of the country’s area. Protected areas also are significantly important natural resources due to its impact on wildlife breeding, preservation of plant life or its natural state. The total area of regions protected is 6,690,501 hectares.

Wildlife refuges also are natural habitats with special climate qualifications, which brought about in order to revive wild animals and is stretching to 3,524,161 hectares.

Arabian National Park
The Arabian National Park is a large mountainous area stretching from the border of Ahwaz to the Aras River in East Azarbaijan province. The region is located in the north, the Marvdasht city and Mohan region in the east, the Sarab county in the south, and Tabriz and Marand regions in the west. Arabian National Park protected areas measure 78,560 hectares with a circumference of 134 kilometers.

Arabian National Park includes 22 species of mammals, 4 species of reptiles, 4 species of birds, 2 species of fish and one species of amphibians.

Arabian National Park was designated as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1997.

The region is home to 24,000 species of birds, namely the Arabian black grouse, grey partridge, black francolin, and starling. The area harbors 28 species of mammals, 4 species of reptiles, 4 species of birds, 2 species of fish and one species of amphibians.

It is home to 215 species of birds, namely the Arabian black grouse, grey partridge, black francolin, and starling.

Arabian National Park is located in the northern part of East Azarbaijan province and the international border with the Republic of Armenia, with an area of 7,000 hectares.

The Arabian National Park is recognized as part of the Khatra Paradise Wildlife Refuge, which has been promoted to National Park in 2011.

There are more than 450 animal species in the region including desert camel, desert poplar, Medicago, Peltophorum pterocarpum, European pear, Russian olive, barberry and dogwood.

The Khatra National Park is hosting over 310 animal species namely wild goat, urial, brown bear, wolf, cat, jackal, and wolves, while being one of the most important habitats of Persian leopards in the country.

In early spring, colorful tulips grow on the slopes of Khatra farms extending their range to amaze the visitors.

Khatra National Park is also one of the unique beauteous of the Khatra Wildlife Refuge


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Manichean text is in prose and was written in a variant of the Palmyrene script and deal with religious matters. It exposes Zoroastrian beliefs and polemically contrasts them with Christian ideas.

The most severely damaged Manichean text is comprised of the sacred girdle. "Knowledge from the Mind, from the Word, from the palm tree and a goat may be interpreted as an allusion to the superstitious apparatus of pastoral life.

The whole is called "Zand," a talmudic term signifying the two parts, lairing both of them by heart. In post-Sasanian times, as knowledge of the "Word of Wisdom" increased, the term related to particular themes became increasingly popular.

One such work is the Bundahishn or "Creation" (compiled in the 9th century). It is Zad-spram's "Knowledge of the Palm tree," and this work exists in a shorter Indian version along with a longer Persian version.

It deals with Zoroastrian cosmology and the creation of the world and much else. By far the most voluminous compendium is the "Book of the Religion of Zoroaster" (composed in the 9th century) written by Zad-spram, also called Zadagnish "Knowledge of the Palm tree." It won or was nominated for several awards, including The Tazieh of Poor King Lear, which was translated by Payam Derakhshanfar.

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