



Iranian president's visit to Russia in the offing: Kremlin

IRAN DAILY



Iran can increase rock sugar, candy exports: Union head

Number 6937 • Thursday January 13, 2022 • Dey 23, 1400 • Jamadi al-Thani 10, 1443 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages • www.irandaily.ir • newspaper.irandaily.ir



Peace, stability return to Kazakhstan: Ambassador



The artist is alive in his or her work



Iranian competing films at the French Vesoul festival announced

North Korea's leader calls for more 'military muscle' after watching hypersonic missile test



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un called for boosting the country's strategic military forces as he observed the test of a hypersonic missile, state media said on Wednesday, officially attending a missile launch for the first time in nearly two years.

On Tuesday, authorities in South Korea and Japan detected the suspected launch, Reuters reported.

The second test of a "hypersonic missile" in less than a week underscored Kim's New Year's vow to bolster the military with cutting-edge technology at a time when talks with South Korea and the United States have stalled.

After watching the test, Kim urged military scientists to "further accelerate the efforts to steadily build up the country's strategic military muscle both in quality and quantity and further modernize the army," KCNA news agency reported.

It was the first time since March 2020 that Kim had officially attended a missile test.

Despite their name, analysts say the main feature of hypersonic weapons is not speed – which can sometimes be matched or exceeded by traditional ballistic missile warheads – but their manoeuvrability, which makes them an acute threat to missile defence systems.

Photos released by state media appeared to show the same type of missile and warhead that was first tested last week, analysts said.

"The test-fire was aimed at the final verification of overall technical specifications of the developed hypersonic weapon system," KCNA reported.

After its release from the rocket booster, a hypersonic glide vehicle made a 600km (375 mile) "glide jump flight" and then 240km of "corkscrew maneuvering" before hitting a target in the sea 1,000 km away, the report said.

Iran, Syria call for cooperation to safeguard joint interests



SANA

International Desk

The minister of roads and urban development said on Wednesday that Iran seeks to bolster cooperation with Syria in all areas that serve the interests of the two nations.

Rostam Qassemi made the comments as he met Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus.

Qassemi expressed Iran's unwavering support for "the steadfastness of the Syrian people" in their fight against terrorism, Syria's Sana news agency reported.

Assad highlighted the importance of launching new joint projects that would serve the strategic interests of Syria and Iran and link business sectors in both countries.

The meeting also dealt with ways to expand bilateral work in the public and private sectors and encourage joint investments with the aim of giving new impetus to trade and economic ties.

Qassemi arrived in the Syrian

capital Damascus on Wednesday at the head of a high-ranking economic and trade delegation and was welcomed by Syria's Economy and Trade Minister Mohammad Samer al-Khalil.

Upon arrival, he said Tehran and Damascus are determined to reach real trade agreements and expand their economic relations.

"The end of the war in Syria is the beginning of a new era of economic relations between the two countries, especially given that Iran and Syria have been beside one another throughout the era of fighting international terrorism," Qassemi said, Press TV reported.

During his three-day visit, Syrian industry, construction, and infrastructure will be the main focus of bilateral talks.

Khalil hailed the inseparable ties between the two nations and expressed gratitude for the sacrifices made by the zealous Iranian youth on his country's soil.

"In Syria, we want extensive co-

operation with Iran," the Syrian minister stated.

"We hope that the meetings of Mr. Qassemi and his accompanying delegation with the Syrian officials will lead to agreements aimed at reaching economic and trade partnerships between the two sides," he added.

Last month, Syria's Minister of Industry Ziyad Sabbagh invited Iranian companies and advanced industries to invest in the Arab country's process of reconstruction and recovery from the Western-sponsored war on Syria, which began in 2011.

The Syrian minister called on Iranian companies to "have partnership and cooperation with the public and private sectors in the Syrian Arab Republic and use the benefits provided by the law, which gives a great opportunity for investment in Syria" to further promote bilateral ties.

Days later, Mohammad Hosseini, Iran's vice president for parliamentary affairs, said Tehran was ready to implement reconstruction projects in Syria.

General: Israel's hue and cry due to its inability to confront Iran



Deputy Chief of the Iranian Army Brigadier General Mohammad Hossein Dadras addresses a ceremony in Tehran on Jan. 12, 2022.

Political Desk

All the moaning and clamor by Israel is due to the regime's failure to compete with Iran militarily and the fact that it knows that if it receives a furious blow from the Islamic Republic, it would not be able to rise again.

Deputy Chief of the Iranian Army Brigadier General Mohammad Hossein Dadras made the remarks in an address in a Wednesday ceremony, saying, "Today, we are in a situation in which we can respond to any threat," IRNA reported.

He added, "We do not purchase any weapons from outside the country as we build the best ones domestically."

The brigadier general noted that, at present, if the world's major powers want to talk to Iran, they do it at the negotiating table, "which is due to the honor given to us thanks to our resistance, national unity, solidarity and sage Leader [of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei]."

The army deputy chief said everybody has witnessed that despite all the unrest and turmoil in neighboring

states, Iran is in utter security.

He stressed that Iran has domestically developed its military equipment, noting that even if the Islamic Republic possesses something capable of impacting regional equations and giving strong responses to the threats in the region, it must not be presented overtly, as a country's real might is its hidden power.

Brigadier General Dadras added, "Our capabilities are secure and can be used in proportion to threats."

Commenting on homegrown military equipment, he said Iranian scientists monitor needs, and design and develop gears and weaponry accordingly.

Those who are weak, moan and shout and compromise global security are more aware of the level of Iran's capabilities, Brigadier General Dadras remarked.

He expressed hope that peace would be maintained in the region so that Iran would not be compelled to demonstrate its capabilities on the battleground, saying, "However, our abilities are great enough to enable us to give a strong response to ill-wishers."

Ex-Iranian envoy: China a reliable power for Iran

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian is set to meet his Chinese counterpart during a visit to that country on Friday. China is among important countries in the Iranian government's "Look to the East" approach. A long-term strategic agreement between the two nations, Iran's talks with the P4+1 in Vienna and pursuing a multipolar world strategy against a unipolar outlook are expected to top the agenda of the two ministers' negotiations.

Iran Daily has conducted an exclusive interview with Hossein Malaek, Tehran's former ambassador to China on the forthcoming visit.

How do you see the foreign minister's upcoming trip to China and how important is it for Iran?

This is the second such visit by a senior Iranian official to China since the inauguration of Iran's new government [in August]. Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri [Kani] also visited Beijing. Given the significance of Iran-China relations, the foreign minister's visit to China appears to be taking place rather late and it could be even appropriate for President Raisi to travel to China before his visit to Russia.



Relations with China are important in various ways. Currently, as the country is under sanctions, most of Iran's oil products are exported to China. In addition, China has bought an average of 600,000 to 700,000 barrels of Iranian crude oil per day over the past ten years, when the country has been subject to a US policy of "maximum pressure". As a matter of fact, Beijing has been the hub from which Iran procured foreign currencies as it faced tough sanctions.

With regard to the pursuit of a "multipolar world" strategy instead of a "unipolar" approach, China is one of the most important countries upon which Iran can rely. The Chinese themselves are among those who initially raised and pursued such a strategy in the world. Moreover, with respect to international alliances, Beijing should be on Tehran's radar. Given the fact that the West, spearheaded by the United States, has formed a front against Iran, it is quite natural for Tehran to have its own coalitions. China is one of the world's major countries that can make a big difference for Iran in this area.

The visit comes as talks between Iran and the P4+1 countries are underway in Vienna. Do you think that the meeting of the foreign ministers of China and Iran could positively impact the Vienna talks and contribute to the removal of sanctions on the Islamic Republic?

The talks in Vienna revolve around whether or not Iran will acquire a nuclear weapon, though Iran insists it is seeking peaceful nuclear energy. Therefore, the agenda of the Vienna talks are different from Tehran-Beijing bilateral ties. On the nuclear issue, countries speak of a global commitment that no more governments should obtain a nuclear bomb. China is of the same opinion. Russia could apparently be more useful than China for Iran in Vienna. Because Moscow is more determined in forging a coalition against the West than Beijing. However, the Chinese can help Iran over the issue of removing or easing sanctions. Because trade and economic relations between Tehran and Beijing can be further expanded as sanctions are lifted or eased.

You seem to believe that a deal in Vienna that lifts sanctions on Iran could provide China with greater leeway in implementing the long-term cooperation agreement and further develop its relations with Iran.

Definitely, the removal of sanctions or any other major breakthroughs in Vienna will have far-reaching effects on the development of Iran's relations with other nations. China has complied with liberalist norms, particularly in the economic field, and Iran has been sanctioned with the very same liberalist norms. Consequently, China naturally welcomes the lifting of sanctions on Iran. So, the Chinese are striving in the Vienna talks to get those sanctions removed.

Considering all these different and important aspects of relations between the two countries, and the Iranian foreign minister's visit to Beijing, in what areas can Iran rely on China to press ahead with its development plans?

The answer to this question, and even the way the 25-year cooperation agreement between the two countries is implemented, depend on our outlook on China and its potentials. One approach could be viewing China as a large supermarket that stocks everything, from which we can import whatever we like. This approach might be handy at times in order to alleviate the pressure of sanctions and overcome some shortages in the short term, but in the long term, it is not politically appropriate.

Another approach could be development-oriented, meaning that the Chinese help us improve the quality and quantity of our infrastructure and advance our planned development projects in certain sectors. For instance, Iran has drawn up a macro development plan for its Makran shore on the Persian Gulf. A development view dictates us to look into the potentials the Chinese have for developing Makran. China is interested in investing in this project as it has taken part in the development of Saudi Arabia's planned city of Neom through investment.

Could China be a reliable power for Iran in terms of technological and financial capabilities?

Yes. China is a significant power in the world, both in terms of technology and investment potential, and the expansion of Iran-China ties would definitely benefit both nations. I hope the foreign minister's visit to China will be successful. This trip underscores Iran's willpower to give China a more important position in its foreign policy. This willpower certainly arises from China's potentials and capabilities.