
Tehran, Yerevan Sign MoU With 71 Articles

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TEHRAN, Dec. 15 (ISNA)-Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki announced Iran and Armenia have inked a Memorandum of Understanding with 71 articles.

Energy, oil, gas, petrochemistry, environment, commerce, banking, transportation, industry, agriculture, tourism, culture, health, science and training are the fields they have agreed to cooperate on.

According to Mottaki in his joint press conference with Armenian Energy and Natural Resources Minister Armen Movsisyan on Monday energy, electricity generation, gas pipeline and transportation are the domains in which the two countries have took big steps.

Presidents of both countries during the last 3 years have emphasized they must expand bilateral ties and there have been good steps in this regard, he noted as expressing satisfaction over mounting and flourishing relations.

He also added they rebuild of Iran's railway to run to Caucasus, north and east of Europe and Iran-Armenia railway on the agenda.

Mottaki then said officials are seeking for holding new round of meeting between Iran and Armenia's presidents in Tehran.

Mottaki meanwhile explained the reason he has not attended Paris talks on Afghanistan's security and development was the lack of polite hosting manners by French officials.

Over Gaza Strip crisis he stressed the international community and the United Nations are responsible for the inhuman condition in the troubled region.

The Zionist regime must not feel that governments and international organizations do not pay enough attention to condemn the criminal measures and do not take a step to prevent these moves, he added.

Over the recent years Iran has contacted with foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Malaysia, Senegal, some member states of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and has proposed suggestions which are being studied, he added.

Iran tries to set up an emergency meeting of OIC foreign ministers and Senegal as the current chief of the organization will start pursuing the request, he said.

Also Iran seeks to arrange a meeting at the UN General Assembly to resolve Gaza issue and Tehran's mission at the UN is working on the case, he continued.

Getting humanitarian aids to Gaza must be done through its neighbors and Egypt is expected to cooperate in this regard, he said.

Foreign Minister announced Iran intends to dispatch 2000 tonnes of essentials to Gaza by ship and Tehran hopes UN and Egypt help the shipment reach 1.5 million Gazans.

Armen Movsisyan on his part regarding the new inaugurated gas pipeline said "soon the pragmatic formula of gas in return for electricity will be implemented."

Early December a pipeline beginning in Iran and ending in Armenia was inaugurated to carry Iran's gas to the country, in return Yerevan will supply part of north Iran's electricity. The pipeline is significant since it may be a substitute for Russia's gas which reaches Armenia through Georgia and mostly in case it decides to cut the gas export.

The two officials have held their 8th joint economic commission Monday morning where they discussed global economic meltdown and the ways to make short work of its negative effects on the region.
