

West under pressure to lift Iran sanctions: Austrian analyst

TEHRAN - Chairman of Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OIIP) Heinz Gartner says he believes that Western politicians are under mounting pressure by trade companies to lift sanctions against Iran.

Speaking to IRNA, Gartner said many Western companies are waiting for the lifting of sanctions so that they can benefit from economic cooperation with Iran.

Professor Gartner, who is also a security affairs analyst, was recently in Tehran to attend an international conference on extremism and terrorism.

OIIP, which is run by professor Gartner, is an independent, non-profit think-tank that focuses on globalization, European integration, comprehensive security, and comparative study of international affairs.

He said Iran has the potential to emerge as a new economic power at regional and international levels.

Gartner said Iran can join the BRIC



countries comprise more than 2.8 billion people or 40 percent of the world's population, cover more than a quarter of the world's land area over three continents, and account for more than 25 percent of global GDP.

On the prospect of a comprehensive nuclear agreement between Iran and the 5+1 group, the Austrian analyst said the Republican-led U.S. Congress may be the main obstacle on the way of making any deal with Iran.

The U.S. congressmen are trying to block a nuclear agreement with Iran but this would not be possible if all negotiating parties show political will for a final deal before the June deadline, he added.

He also referred to President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as two experienced and internationally-known politicians who have changed Iran's image at the global scene. Such a move, in turn, has led to a remarkable change in relations between the international community and Iran, he noted.

other promising emerging markets by their demographic and economic potential to rank among the world's largest and most influential economies in the 21st century.

Together, the four original BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China), provided that all economic capacities of the country are fully activated. The BRIC countries are a select group of the four large, developing countries that are distinguished from a host of

ISIL on the verge of demise: Velayati

Ammar al-Hakim says we are against religious partition of Iraq

TEHRAN - Ali Akbar Velayati, the director of the Strategic Research Center at the Expediency Council, has said that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is on the verge of demise and defeat.

"Terrorist groups including Daesh in Iraq are on the verge of demise and defeat, following efforts made by the Iraqi people and government," he told reporters after a meeting with the

Tehran on Sunday.

He went on to say that the help provided by the Iranian people in the campaign against terrorism should not be ignored.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Velayati stated that all religious and ethnic groups including Shias, Sunnis and Kurds seek strengthening national solidarity and preserving the country's territorial integrity.

nal affairs.

■ **'We are against religious partition'**

For his part, the president of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq stated, "We are against partition of Iraq based on religion, because this issue can damage unity of the integrated Iraq."

Although "federalization" is included in the Iraqi constitution, but the issue should not undermine the