



Leader visits "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition

'Using Private Sector Capacities, Only Way for Progress of Country'

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Exclusive: Top Iranian security source denies alleged drone deal with PKK, says Turkish report fabricated

TEHRAN – An Iranian security source has denied claims circulating in Turkish media regarding a supposed secret meeting between Iranian officials and members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant group, labeling the report as entirely fabricated.

The source, speaking to the Tehran Times, dismissed the allegations as baseless and a deliberate attempt to sow discord and propagate false narratives.

Several Turkish media outlets, including Yeni Safak, alleged Iranian officials met with PKK representatives in an Iraqi market, where the latter requested 2,000 kamikaze drones. Some outlets further claimed IRGC Quds Force Commander Esmail Qaani was present. These same reports asserted that Iran agreed to supply 1,500 drones for delivery to northern Iraq, but the shipment was canceled due to Turkish surveillance. Turkish media also claimed that Iran is now seeking alternative methods for delivery. ► Page 2

Iran set to join Pakistan's AMAN-25 naval drills

TEHRAN – Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Major General Mohammad Bagheri, has confirmed the nation's participation in the upcoming AMAN-25 naval exercises, scheduled for February 7-11 in Karachi.

Bagheri made the announcement during his visit to Islamabad, where he held discussions with high-ranking Pakistani officials, including the army chief, air force commander, defense minister, prime minister, and president.

The biennial AMAN exercises, organized by the Pakistan Navy, aim to strengthen maritime security through international collaboration.

Key focuses include countering terrorism, preventing piracy, and executing search and rescue missions.

The drills will feature various naval operations, such as live-fire exercises, communication drills, and humanitarian assistance efforts, designed to enhance the capabilities of the attending forces.

These exercises offer a venue for naval forces to share tactics and strategies, boosting interoperability among participants. ► Page 2

JCPOA talks depend on changes in other parties' behavior, says Iran deputy FM

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, has reaffirmed the country's willingness to resume negotiations aimed at lifting sanctions, provided other parties demonstrate readiness for constructive dialogue.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday morning, Gharibabadi emphasized Iran's consistent openness to negotiations. "We have always been prepared for this, and if the other parties are ready as well, we believe talks can proceed and lead to a conclusion," he stated.

He further noted that Iran's approach would remain flexible and responsive to the policies of the other negotiating parties. "If we observe a different policy or approach from the other side, Iran will adjust its own policies accordingly," he added.

Gharibabadi expressed optimism about the potential for meaningful dialogue, highlighting the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program and criticizing the ineffectiveness of unilateral sanctions. ► Page 2

Hezbollah-Amal duo agree to participate in the Salam government

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Before the end of the 60-day Lebanon-Israel ceasefire agreement, and a week after Judge Nawaf Salam was assigned to form a new cabinet, meetings with parliamentary blocs are intensifying to dispel any obstacles, one of which is the Lebanese Forces' insistence on monopolizing the ministries of foreign affairs and energy.

Reportedly, Samir Geagea, head of the Lebanese Forces (4 ministries), has also sent MP Melhem Riachi to meet Prime Minister-designate Nawaz Salam and know the details of the cabinet lineup.

Salam informed Riachi that he was determined to strengthen his relationship with Nabih Berri, Speaker of the Parliament, based on a promising future and putting national interests above anything else.

For his part, President Joseph Aoun, despite announcing that he is not seeking any ministry for his team, insists on granting him the power to place a "veto" on the names nominated for the sovereign ministries of foreign affairs, defense and interior.

Hamas scenes highlight Israeli failure

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The sight of Hamas fighters on the streets of Gaza after the ceasefire will go down as a major blow to the Israeli regime.

Just hours after the ceasefire took effect on Sunday, Hamas fighters in military fatigues emerged unexpectedly.

Since then, additional footage has surfaced showing larger gatherings with an increased presence of Hamas fighters clad in military uniforms.

The images have not escaped the attention of Western news media.

"Hamas's armed Qassam Brigades emerged in their distinctive black balaclavas and green headbands," the Financial Times wrote on Tuesday with the headlines: "Is Hamas back?"

The paper notes that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had vowed to "destroy" the militant group in the wake of its October 7, 2023 attack.

Israel's West Bank crackdown: A desperate attempt to whitewash Gaza failure

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The Israeli army and settlers have escalated brutal violence in the occupied West Bank since the ceasefire in Gaza went into effect at the weekend.

Israeli strikes on the city of Jenin on Tuesday killed several Palestinians and injured dozens of others.

According to the Wafa news agency, Israeli forces also arrested 18 Palestinians in towns near Hebron and Tulkarem.

Reports also said the Israeli army has set up checkpoints and closed roads, preventing people from entering or leaving cities, towns and villages across the West Bank.

On Monday, Israeli settlers set vehicles and properties of Palestinians in the West Bank on fire under the protection of the regime's troops, wounding more than 20 Palestinians.

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Press TV launches Turkish language channel

TEHRAN – The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) has announced the commencement of Press TV Turkey's operations on Sunday, generating significant enthusiasm within Turkish-speaking communities.

Starting from Sunday, Press TV Turkey began its broadcasts, and its success is expected to elevate its position in the Turkish-speaking domain, Peyman Jebelli said, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

The IRIB director emphasized that one should not overlook the significant developments in overseas television networks.

Jebelli addressed the strategic measures taken by the IRIB's Overseas Broadcasting Division, highlighting the launch of Hispan TV in Brazil, aimed at Portuguese-speaking audiences. ► Page 8



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Islamic Jihad envoy talks Gaza ceasefire, future of enclave during Tehran Times visit

TEHRAN – The Palestinian Islamic Jihad Resistance movement's envoy to Tehran, Nasser Abu-Sharif, stated that the terms of the Gaza ceasefire agreement were consistent with the group's initial demands since the start of the conflict.

He emphasized that the group's core condition for the ceasefire was the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the release of a long list of Palestinian civilians jailed by Israel.

Speaking during a visit to the Tehran Times building, where he met with the CEO, Abu-Sharif stated, ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

Claim that Israel was about to attack Iran

In a commentary, Hamshahri discussed the claim by Saudi Al-Arabiya TV that Israel had decided to attack Iran following developments in the West Asia region. It wrote: The Saudi Al-Arabiya network quoted a European diplomat as saying that Israel had decided to attack after the recent developments in the Middle East. The difficult situation and military threats of the United States and European countries have increased simultaneously with the beginning of the presidency of Donald Trump in the United States. Several European countries are in talks with the new Trump administration to see if there is still an opportunity to use diplomacy or other means to prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons. The activity of European diplomats on this matter has increased due to their concerns that the Trump administration will be much more aggressive with the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, most of the positions by Israeli officials are based on the idea that Iran's nuclear sites are now defenseless. The Trump administration is considering whether to get directly involved or give Israel the green light.

Shargh: Political circumstances changed Araghchi's trip to New York

Shargh talked with Ali Bigdeli, an expert on political issues, about the absence of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi at the UN Security Council. He said: The implementation of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas has been the main reason for the cancellation of Araghchi's trip to New York. The official inauguration of Trump as president which coincided with the meeting of the Security Council was also important in the cancellation of the trip by the foreign minister. One of the most important foreign policy issues is related to the Tehran-Washington ties in Trump's second administration, therefore this issue probably led to the cancellation of the trip by the foreign minister. After the Gaza ceasefire, the agenda of the regional and extra-regional countries in the Security Council is to examine the future of the Gaza Strip and how to manage the region. They seek to weaken the position of Hamas and other allied groups in managing Gaza. Therefore, it probably created a condition that led to the cancellation of Araghchi's trip.

Iran: Biden's wrong Iran policy

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed Joe Biden's mistakes regarding Iran and said: At the end of the four years of Biden's government, we were facing a government that made several mistakes regarding Iran. He ignored that the presence of multiple powers gives actors more options to increase their bargaining power or resist U.S. pressure. As Iran has shown and made it clear, it can count on what its Eurasian and Eastern allies, including Russia and China, provide in this difficult path. Perhaps no one has raised this failure better than American political scientist Stephen Walt about Biden and Iran. According to him, one of the disasters of Biden's foreign policy is the Middle East, where the dreams of every president are eroded. Biden's fundamental mistake was to abandon his campaign promises and go on with the wrong policies he inherited from Trump. As he said, he did not rejoin the Iran nuclear deal.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Legitimizing terror

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to moves by hostile media to present the assassination of two Iranian judges in Tehran as something normal. It wrote: From the very beginning that news of the assassination of two Iranian judges was published, Western countries and hostile media outlets started exaggerating the economic problems in Iran and claimed that there is no individual and political freedoms in Iran. In this way, they tried to legitimize terror and introduce it as a kind of civil disobedience. Through this approach, the media seek to present terror not as a criminal matter, but as a normal and legitimate thing in Islamic and West Asian countries, including Iran. The goal of these movements is to make society indifferent to such crimes to prepare the ground for wider movements of terrorists. The important thing is that these media outlets have narrated their reports and analyses from the mouths of experts to avoid responsibility for accusations and the spread of lies. It should be kept in mind that today's media terrorism is one of the main pillars of the domination system. Dealing with terrorism is an important principle in ensuring national security and stability and maintaining the mental peace of the society.

Exclusive: Top Iranian security source denies alleged drone deal with PKK, says Turkish report fabricated

Bin 500 kamikaze dron için anlaşılır: İran'ın PKK aşkı bitmiyor

Burak Doğan • 04:30 12/01/2025, Pazartesi • G: 12/01/2025, Pazartesi
Yeni Safak



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The source, speaking to the Tehran Times, dismissed the allegations as baseless and a deliberate attempt to sow discord and propagate false narratives.

Several Turkish media outlets, including Yeni Safak, alleged Iranian officials met with PKK representatives in an Iraqi market, where the latter requested 2,000 kamikaze drones. Some outlets further claimed IRGC Quds Force Commander Esmail Qaani was present.

These same reports asserted that Iran agreed to supply 1,500 drones for delivery to northern Iraq, but the shipment was canceled due to Turkish surveillance. Turkish media also claimed that Iran is now seeking alternative methods for delivery.

"These claims are pure fantasy," the security source stated. "There was no such meeting, no such agreement, and no such attempt to deliver any drones." The source further suggested the media report may be part of a deliberate misinformation campaign by Israel aimed at undermining Iran's relationship with its neighbors and creating tensions in the region.

"We urge media outlets to exercise greater caution and to verify the information before disseminating it. Sensationalist and unfounded reporting only serves to harm regional stability and fuel unnecessary tensions," the source added.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan seemed to have bought into the misinformation during a meeting earlier this month.

When questioned about the report, Fidan told domestic and international media representatives, "Iran should refrain from supporting armed groups that are hostile to other nations, just as Turkey abstains from supporting armed groups that act against other countries."

JCPOA talks depend on changes in other parties' behavior, says Iran deputy FM

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Speaking to reporters on Tuesday morning, Gharibabadi emphasized Iran's consistent openness to negotiations.

"We have always been prepared for this, and if the other parties are ready as well, we believe talks can proceed and lead to a conclusion," he stated.

He further noted that Iran's approach would remain flexible and responsive to the policies of the other negotiating parties.

"If we observe a different policy or approach from the other side, Iran will adjust its own policies accordingly," he added.

Gharibabadi expressed optimism about the potential for meaningful dialogue, highlighting the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program and criticizing the ineffectiveness



of unilateral sanctions. "There are proper opportunities for dialogue and understanding," he remarked.

"The most logical path forward is to initiate talks on lifting sanctions, which is the reasonable and correct approach."

Gharibabadi also responded to remarks made earlier by former U.S. President Donald Trump, who claimed that Iranian oil sales were being halted due to its support for Resistance groups fighting Israeli occupation.

In his statement to reporters, Gharibabadi reaffirmed Iran's willingness to engage in diplomacy.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as always, is ready to initiate and resume negotiations aimed at lifting sanctions," he said. "We have consistently been prepared, and if the other parties demonstrate the same readiness, we are confident that talks can proceed and yield positive results."

He added that Iran's stance remains flexible and responsive to the behavior of other parties in-

cluded. "If we observe a different policy or approach from the other side, Iran will adjust its own approach accordingly," Gharibabadi concluded.

He also revealed that consultations are ongoing to determine the date and time for future discussions, underlining Iran's commitment to advancing the negotiations.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the landmark nuclear deal signed in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 group of nations—comprising the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany—has faced significant challenges since its inception. U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018, reinstating sanctions against Iran.

Negotiations to revive the JCPOA resumed in Vienna in April 2021, aiming to assess Washington's commitment to rejoining the agreement and lifting the sanctions imposed by the previous administration.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

FM Araghchi meets with Iranian diplomats to discuss regional, international developments



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) met with Mojtaba Amani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Lebanon, on Jan. 21, 2025.

TEHRAN – Iranian diplomats recently held separate meetings with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to discuss Iran's foreign policy priorities, bilateral relations with Lebanon and Afghanistan, and ongoing agendas within the United Nations and other international organizations.

The officials included Mojtaba Amani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Lebanon; Alireza Bikhdeli, representative to Afghanistan; Ali Bahreyni, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva; and Saadat Aghajani, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. During these meetings, each diplomat presented detailed reports on their areas of responsibility. Topics

included updates on Iran's diplomatic and cooperative efforts with Lebanon and Afghanistan, as well as broader discussions on current initiatives and plans at the United Nations. Foreign Minister Araghchi provided strategic guidance to the diplomats, underscoring the importance of pursuing Iran's foreign policy goals at both bilateral and multilateral levels. He emphasized the need for Iranian representatives to intensify their efforts to strengthen ties and expand collaborations with Lebanon and Afghanistan. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of deepening Iran's engagement with the United Nations and other international organizations to advance national interests and foster regional and global cooperation.

Islamic Jihad envoy talks Gaza ceasefire, future of enclave during Tehran Times visit

TEHRAN – The Palestinian Islamic Jihad Resistance movement's envoy to Tehran, Nasser Abu-Sharif, stated that the terms of the Gaza ceasefire agreement were consistent with the group's initial demands since the start of the conflict.

He emphasized that the group's core condition for the ceasefire was the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the release of a long list of Palestinian civilians jailed by Israel.

Speaking during a visit to the Tehran Times building, where he met with the CEO, Abu-Sharif stated, "The Resistance never changed its stance. It was Israel that needed to concede." He highlighted that despite Israel's extensive military campaign in Gaza, which included "carpet-bombing, the killing of tens of thousands of civilians, and violations of every international law," Israel had failed to achieve its primary objective of eliminating Hamas and other Resistance factions.

Abu-Sharif further stressed that the future of Gaza must be determined solely by the will of the Palestinian people, rejecting any external interference. "This is an internal issue that the people of Gaza should decide. Different Palestinian groups, including Hamas, have always prioritized the demands of the people and will continue to do that."

Takfiri terrorist network dismantled in western Iran



TEHRAN – Authorities in Sarpol-e Zahab, a border town in western Iran's Kermanshah Province, have successfully identified and apprehended members of a Takfiri terrorist network operating in the area.

Amir Feyzi, the Prosecutor of Sarpol-e Zahab, revealed that the discovery of the extremist network was the result of extensive surveillance conducted by Kermanshah's security agencies.

"An extremist terrorist network was identified and tracked in Sarpol-e Zahab," Feyzi stated, adding that all members of the group were arrested in a coordinated effort involving judicial oversight.

Feyzi explained that such extremist networks rely heavily on propaganda to exploit sectarian differences and target vulnerable

segments of the population, particularly young people and teenagers. He urged families to remain vigilant and actively monitor their children's social interactions to prevent them from falling victim to these groups.

"These radical networks use deceptive tactics to recruit members and undermine societal harmony," he warned. "It is crucial for parents to be aware of their children's movements and associations to safeguard them from such dangers."

The prosecutor also stressed the judiciary's uncompromising stance on dealing with extremist groups. "The judicial system in Sarpol-e Zahab is committed to confronting Takfiri terrorist networks with utmost severity. Legal action against their members will be taken without any leniency," he affirmed.

Iran set to join Pakistan's AMAN-25 naval drills



Ships and aircraft from participating nations sail and fly in formation during the AMAN-23 multinational maritime exercise fleet review in the northern Arabian Sea, February 14, 2023.

TEHRAN – Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Major General Mohammad Bagheri, has confirmed the nation's participation in the upcoming AMAN-25 naval exercises, scheduled for February 7-11 in Karachi.

Bagheri made the announcement during his visit to Islamabad, where he held discussions with high-ranking Pakistani officials, including the army chief, air force commander, defense minister, prime minister, and president.

The biennial AMAN exercises, organized by the Pakistan Navy, aim to strengthen maritime security through international collaboration.

Key focuses include countering terrorism,

preventing piracy, and executing search and rescue missions.

The drills will feature various naval operations, such as live-fire exercises, communication drills, and humanitarian assistance efforts, designed to enhance the capabilities of the attending forces.

These exercises offer a venue for naval forces to share tactics and strategies, boosting interoperability among participants.

So far, confirmed participants in AMAN-25 include Iran, the U.S., China, Russia, the U.K., Turkey, and Saudi Arabia, showcasing a blend of regional and global naval powers. Iran's engagement in AMAN-25 follows a series of diplomatic and military interactions with Pakistan.

General Bagheri's recent visit to Islamabad was his third to the South Asian nation, following previous trips in 2018 and 2021.

The expanding framework of military cooperation between the two countries is to a large extent fueled by mutual security concerns along the Iran-Pakistan border.

In 2023, the two nations conducted a joint border security exercise to combat terrorism and drug trafficking.

This partnership was further cemented with a security cooperation agreement in April 2024, which included the deployment of high-ranking officers in border regions to enhance counterterrorism efforts.

Leader visits "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition

'Using private sector capacities, only way for progress of country'



TEHRAN— Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visited the "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition, showcasing the latest achievements and capabilities of the private sector, held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at the Imam Khomeini Hosseiniyeh.

This event, organized under the theme of "Production Leap with Public Participation", highlights private-sector innovations and accomplishments, IRNA reported.

As part of the program, on Wednesday, January 22, private-sector producers and entrepreneurs will meet with the Leader at the same venue. During the gathering, several economic contributors are expected to present their insights and perspectives.

Since the 2010s, annual meetings and events focused on the private sector's role in Iran's economy have been held with Ayatollah Khamenei's participation. Last year, the Leader praised the private sector's advancements and emphasized the importance of informing the public about these achievements.

Drilling of 10 wells at South Azadegan oil field nears 90% completion

TEHRAN – The cumulative progress in the drilling of 10 wells at the shared South Azadegan oil field has surpassed 90 percent, according to Mohammad Khavarinejad, the project manager for drilling operations at the West Karun oil fields under the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC).

Speaking to SHANA, Khavarinejad stated that drilling and completion operations for nine wells have been finalized. The wells have been flow-tested and handed over to the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), which oversees the development of the West Karun oil fields.

He noted that two drilling rigs, Fath 43 and Fath 74, are currently deployed at the site, with Rig 74 completing drilling operations for the project's final well.

Khavarinejad highlighted that a total of 36,317 meters have been drilled across the project. He added that with efficient collaboration between NIDC specialists and PEDEC, the drilling of the tenth well is on track to be completed and delivered to the client by the end of the year.

The South Azadegan oil field, one of Iran's largest shared oil fields, lies along the country's border with Iraq and is part of the greater Azadegan field. The development of this field is a strategic priority for Iran as it seeks to maximize production from its shared reservoirs. South Azadegan is estimated to hold billions of barrels of crude oil, making it a key asset for boosting Iran's oil output



and exports.

In recent years, the development of the South Azadegan field has seen increased focus on employing advanced drilling technologies and modern project management practices. This approach aims to enhance operational efficiency and reduce the environmental footprint of oil production in the sensitive region.

Efforts to develop South Azadegan are part of a broader strategy to expand production in the West Karun oil fields, which are collectively projected to account for a significant portion of Iran's future crude production. The project is also expected to contribute to local job creation and technology transfer, further supporting the country's oil and gas sector.

With ongoing investments and collaboration between national and international entities, the South Azadegan field is poised to play a crucial role in ensuring Iran's energy security and meeting its export goals.

Tehran to host 20th intl. water industry exhibition

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for Iran's water industry announced that the 20th International Water Industry and Wastewater Facilities Exhibition, featuring 150 domestic companies and five international participants, aims to promote smart technologies, showcase water innovation achievements, and foster domestic and international collaboration toward environmental sustainability.

According to the Iranian Water Resources Management Company, spokesperson Isa Bozorgzadeh described the event as the nation's largest water industry gathering, providing a platform for interaction between government and private sector operators, as well as showcasing national capabilities in water

management.

Bozorgzadeh emphasized the exhibition's role in facilitating direct discussions among officials, consultants, contractors, and suppliers, enabling the expansion of professional networks and better recognition of active contributors in the field.

He highlighted the focus on smart

technologies, artificial intelligence, and green tools to enhance resilience and sustainability in Iran's water management landscape.

The exhibition will feature 150 Iranian companies and five foreign participants from India, Italy, Austria, Germany, and China.

It provides an opportunity to pres-

ent cutting-edge products and innovations, align industry advancements with market demands, and chart future initiatives.

The official added that the exhibition underscores Iran's historical significance in water management, as evidenced by the invention of qanats and the construction of ancient dams over the past 2,000 years.

He stressed the importance of adopting modern, eco-friendly technologies to manage water resources effectively.

With the slogan "A Sustainable Iran with Collaborative and Technological Water Management," the exhibition will take place from January 23 to January 26 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

TEHRAN- The value of non-oil export from Markazi province, in the center of Iran, rose 39 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 - December 21, 2024), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the director-general of the province's customs department announced.

Ruhollah Gholami said that 1.734 million tons of commodities worth \$1.187 billion were exported from the province in the nine-month period, indicating 25 percent growth in terms of weight as well.

He named Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Russia, and the Netherlands as the main destinations of the goods exported from the province in the mentioned time span.

The official also announced that 294,000 tons of goods valued at \$826 million were imported to the province in the first nine months of the present year, with 18 percent rise in value, and 22 percent growth in terms of weight, as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

He named the UAE, China, Turkey, Hong Kong, Qatar, Italy, Germany, Iraq, India and Switzerland as the main sources of products imported into the country in the nine-month period.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran's non-oil exports rose 18 percent in the first nine months of the Iranian calendar year to \$43.14 billion.

Foroud Asgari said imports during the mentioned period, including gold bullion, amounted to \$50.89 billion. The weight of imports declined by 3.16 percent to 27.94 million tons, he added.

Non-oil export volume reached 116.35 million tons in the nine-month period, a 13.77 percent increase from the previous year, Asgari noted. The average customs value per ton of exported goods rose 3.74 percent to \$371.

Petrochemical exports accounted for 50.7 million tons, valued at \$19.7 billion, representing a 33.25 percent increase in volume and a 32 percent rise in value year-on-year.

China remained Iran's top export destination, purchasing \$11 billion worth of goods. Iraq fol-

lowed with \$9.4 billion, the UAE with \$5.3 billion, Turkey with \$5.2 billion, Afghanistan and Pakistan with \$1.7 billion each, and India with \$1.4 billion. Together, these seven countries accounted for 82.4 percent of the total export volume and 82.85 percent of export value.

The UAE topped the list of Iran's import partners, exporting \$15.3 billion worth of goods to Iran. China followed with \$13 billion, Turkey with \$8.9 billion, Germany with \$1.8 billion, India and Russia with \$1.1 billion each, and Hong Kong with \$1 billion. These seven countries supplied 75 percent of the import volume and 83 percent of import value during the period.

The average customs value per ton of imported goods rose 8.4 percent to \$1,821.

Natural gas in liquid form led the export list at \$6 billion, followed by liquefied propane at \$2.5 billion and methanol at \$1.9 billion. Key imports included raw gold at \$5.6 billion, livestock corn at \$2.1 billion, and smartphones at \$1.7 billion.

Asgari, who also serves as deputy economy minister, emphasized the role of trade in bolstering the national economy amid ongoing

Iran's exports to EU members rise 5% in 11 months

TEHRAN – While trade between Iran and the European Union fell by three percent during the first 11 months of 2024 compared to the same period last year, Iran's exports to Europe grew by five percent over the same timeframe, according to Eurostat data.

Iran-EU trade volume reached €4.15 billion from January to November 2024, down from the previous year.

Of this, €3.37 billion accounted for European exports to Iran, reflecting a four percent decline, while Iranian exports to Europe increased by five percent to €773 million.

In November 2024, Iran-EU



trade stood at €377 million, marking a 19 percent drop compared to €467 million in November 2023.

European exports to Iran de-

creased by 22 percent, falling from €383 million to €299 million.

Meanwhile, Iranian exports to

Europe rose from €84 million to €78 million, registering a seven percent year-on-year growth for the month.

Based on the SITC classification, food and livestock were the top Iranian items exported to the EU, with a 20 percent increase in exports and a total value of €270 million.

Conversely, the primary European export category to Iran was vehicles and industrial machinery which fell by seven percent to €1.18 billion.

Germany remained Iran's top European trading partner, followed by Italy, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

Iran, China aim to bolster maritime economy, agricultural co-op

TEHRAN – Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji emphasized the potential for Iran and China to activate a maritime-based economy and foster collaboration in agriculture and food security, creating a vast market for domestic and international customers.

In an exclusive interview with China's CCTV, Nouri extended New Year greetings to the Chinese government and people, highlighting the cultural ties between the two nations, such as the similarities between China's Spring Festival and Iran's Nowruz.

Nouri noted the historical and civilizational connections between Iran and China, alongside their mutual political support in contemporary relations, rooted in shared economic and trade interests.

He underscored Iran's prominent role in the region, describing the country as a significant and influential player in West Asia.

Nouri Ghezleji also highlighted Iran's geopolitical advantages, including access to open waters, its position on the Silk Road, and its role as a key junction in the International North-South Corridor. These attributes, he said, make Iran a strategic hub for international transportation and a bridge connecting the East and the West.

The minister further stressed the potential for Iran and China to enhance their maritime economies and jointly work in agriculture and food security, thereby establishing a substantial market for consumers both domestically and internationally.

In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Cong Peiwu on October 15, 2024 Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati emphasized the importance of implementing the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) signed between Iran

and China.

In the meeting, held at the place of the ministry, the Iranian minister followed up on the negotiations that took place during the BRICS Economic Ministers' Meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, stressing the importance of implementing the MOUs between the two countries.

He also considered the two countries' Joint Economic Committee as a suitable platform for negotiations on economic, trade, and investment cooperation, and welcomed the holding of the 19th Joint Economic Committee in Tehran.

Cong Peiwu, for his part, stated that Beijing aims to expedite the implementation of the MOUs and enhance practical cooperation to deepen relations between the two countries.

Both sides also highlighted the commitment of their statesmen to comprehensive development, expressing hope that consultations between senior officials of Iran and China will continue to expand bilateral relations.

In late September 2024, Hemmati had also met and held talks with Chinese Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an, during which the two sides emphasized the implementation of the two countries' long-term strategic partnership plan.

Hemmati met with Fo'an on the sidelines of the 9th ministerial meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) members in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

In addition to the issues related to the cooperation of the two countries in AIIB, the two sides discussed the most important issues related to bilateral relations, especially the follow-up of the results of previous agreements.

Holding the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting in the new future was another topic discussed by the two officials.



In the meeting, the ministers of the two countries emphasized that Iran and China have put a more serious and deeper implementation of the comprehensive long-term strategic plan of the two countries on their agenda and will continue this path in the official interactions of the two countries until concrete practical achievements are reached.

Also, in a meeting with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Head Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi on October 28, 2024, Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Cong Peiwu emphasized that his country is willing to strengthen trade ties with Iran in all fields.

The ambassador emphasized the importance of enhancing trade cooperation between Iran and China.

He highlighted the necessity of developing trade relations across all economic sectors and expressed China's willingness to strengthen trade exchanges with Iran in every field.

Dehghan Dehnavi, for his part, emphasized that trade cooperation between Iran and China is at its highest level, adding that the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran is keen to enhance and grow constructive trade relations between the two countries.

Non-oil export from Markazi province up 39% in 9 months on year

issues. The meeting focused on three main areas:

The council reviewed the statistical performance of the country's non-oil exports. Dehnavi acknowledged that Iran's non-oil trade balance has been negative in recent years, with a \$17 million deficit recorded last year despite a positive overall trade balance. The Vice President tasked the TPOI with reversing this trend by boosting non-oil exports.

The council identified several obstacles hindering foreign trade, including excessive regulations, insufficient infrastructure for exports (such as transportation and customs facilities), and challenges in export-related policies.

Dehnavi emphasized the need to align monetary and trade policies, as the former has often overshadowed the latter. The council resolved to reform trade policies to address these issues.

Several proposals were approved, including holding regular council sessions and establishing provincial export development task forces led by governors. These initiatives aim to make export promotion a nationwide campaign.

