

Iran launches airline despite aviation sanctions



● ISNA

Iran launched a new private airline despite American sanctions targeting the country's civil aviation sector.

Senior government officials from Iran's Ministry of Tourism attended a ceremony to celebrate the launch of Yazd Air, a private airline which will be based in Yazd, a historic city in central Iran, Press TV reported.

The ceremony came after a first flight by Yazd Air from the capital Tehran landed at Yazd Sadooghi International Airport.

The airline will use two Airbus A310s for flights to international destinations, which will include Najaf in Iraq, Dubai, Istanbul and Mumbai. Its fleet will also include two short haul British Aerospace 146 planes for flights on domestic routes.

IRNA said that private investors had provided some 10 trillion rials (nearly \$22 million) for the launch of Yazd Air.

It said the company will rely on Iran's second largest airline Mahan Air for services in its first two months of operation and then will set up its own offices after recruiting some 70 staff members.

Head of Iranian parliament's tourism committee Mohammad Reza Dashti said Yazd Air has major expansion plans to become one of the most reliable airlines in Iran.

The launch of Yazd Air comes despite a series of unprecedented sanctions imposed by the US on the Iranian aviation industry. The sanctions have barred Iranian airlines from buying new planes or parts needed for aircraft repair.

Iran's electricity generation from renewables tops 9b kWh

Iranian renewable power plants generated 9.189 billion kilowatt-hours (Kwh) of electricity during the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023), which accounted for five percent of the country's total electricity generation.

Electricity generation from renewables in the said 10 months led to economizing on the consumption of natural gas by 24 million cubic meters while saving 20 million liters of water, IRNA reported.

It also prevented the emission of 50,000 tons of Green House Gases (GHG). Earlier this month, Head of Iran's Renewable En-

ergy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) Mahmoud Kamani announced that the capacity of Iran's renewable power plants reached 1,020 megawatts (MW) with the 10-MW Pasargad Solar Farm of Damghan coming into operation.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of inaugurating the mentioned solar farms in Damghan County, in central Semnan province, Kamani said: "This power plant has a special feature as it can generate electricity from the reflection of sunlight. This feature makes its generation efficiency higher, which means it will have a 40-percent increase in efficiency".

"It is hoped that by setting up other renewable power plants, we will soon be able to implement the 10,000-MW renewable power plant program", the head of SATBA stated.

Iranian Energy Ministry has put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government's administration (August 2025).

Considering the fact that the country's renewable power generation capacity stood at about 800 MW when the current government took office in August 2021, the mentioned increase in renewable energy capacity would mean a 13-fold rise.



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Opportunities for cementing Iran-China ties



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Iran's views on many political and security issues, international law, and fight against terrorism are similar to China's. In this regard, Tehran expects Beijing to respect political and security issues, particularly Iran's territorial integrity, and avoid ambiguity such as that in the recent Riyadh Declaration of the First China-Arab States Summit. Iran is well aware of China's policies toward other regional players in the Middle East. Like Beijing, Tehran is also keen to expand political and economic ties with other countries on the basis of mutual respect. To this end, the 13th government has adopted the "good neighborliness policy" aimed at boosting

amicable relations with all neighbors.

In spite of the political will of Iran and China, there is a real possibility that the West plays out different scenarios for the relations between Tehran and Beijing.

In the meantime, the global political, economic, cultural and security developments have entered a new and sensitive stage. The world is moving on a new track, witnessing the emergence of several new power centers, but the West is trying to stop it and prevent the Asian convergence. So, Iran and China are expected to continue their constructive and pragmatic cooperation against such destructive factors.

Economic ties

The main factor in the relations between the two countries is overlapping and complementary economies. Iran is one of the world's suppliers of strategic energy, and China, as a country with technology and industry, can meet a large part of its energy needs from Iran.

China follows the program of sustainable and safe economic corridors, and Iran enjoying a special geopolitical and geo-economic status between Asia and Europe, can be one of the hosts of these corridors.

As a world power, China is eager to develop Asian institutions and regional organizations. Iran is also interested in active participation in these institutions. Some of these bodies are BRICS, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Silk Road Fund, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

China is one of the largest producers in the world, and Iran also has a large capacity to host large multinational companies of China.

Just as China has a high potential to invest and complete the production chain

in Iran, Iran is able to provide workspace, manpower, and technology to produce commercial goods.

At the same time, China can take advantage of Iran's geo-economic capacity for the markets of West Asia, Europe and Africa. By developing transit infrastructure, the geo-economic position of Iran in terms of access and reduction of customs and transportation costs is unique and cannot be ignored.

Before the 25-year cooperation plan between Iran and China, the main cooperation between Tehran and Beijing was limited to some low investments, trade exchanges, and arms and oil deals.

The development of economic relations in large-scale projects can be the engine of the transformation of cooperation between Tehran and Beijing. Using all platforms and potentials of economic diplomacy between the two countries can guarantee sustainable growth for the two countries. The industrial and commercial policies of Iran and China can greatly help achieve the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative.

China can play an important role in regional and

global processes against the Western-American sanctions. The expansion of economic relations between Iran and China requires financial and banking guarantees.

Cultural collaboration

The development of cultural relations between Iran and China can also be an important ground for understanding the public opinions of the two countries in support of the policies of Tehran and Beijing. The roles of media, academics, students, artists, and other social strata are important. Constructive, sustainable and long-term strategic cooperation with East Asian countries requires social support and a positive public view toward the relations with these countries.

To sum up, Iran's relations with China are increasingly important and have great potential in political, economic, and cultural fields. Iran considers China as a long-term strategic partner, as China can play an important role in implementing of the 25-year strategic cooperation document.

* The opinion originally appeared on Sputnik in Persian.

Shahrekord Cement Industries Company

Call-out Notice of Identification For Exporting Cement Clinker Buyer

Shahrekord Cement Industries Company (Private Joint Stock) intends to sell 300,000/ tons of export cement clinker in 2023. Therefore, all competent companies having the ability to purchase and export the said amount, are hereby invited to send their resume and work experiences together with the required permits from the organizations concerned.

The applicants are requested to send the documents to the company's address, located at No.4/6, Azadegan Lane, beside Tehran Iran Clinic Hospital, Ghaemmagham Farahani Ave., Tehran, Postal Code: 1586735914.

If you need more information, please contact us with Phone No. +98 21 88704400-2, Ext.104

Fax No: +98 21 88715415

E-Mail: info@shahrekordcement.com, E-Mail: nazari@shahrekordcement.com

Shahrekord Cement Industries Company

IME weekly trade nears \$800m

The Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) announced that over 2.01 million tons of commodities, worth about \$800 million, were traded in its domestic trading and export halls in the week closing on February 17.

A total of 1.57 million tons of various products, worth about \$537 million, were traded at IME's domestic and export metal and mineral trading hall.

Among the traded products were 186,807 tons of steel, 320,000 tons of

iron ore, 29,400 tons of sponge iron, 1,900 tons of zinc, 10,375 tons of aluminum ingots, 7,052 tons of copper, 190 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 1.02 million tons of cement and 8,106 vehicles, ime.co.ir reported.

In addition, 439,689 tons of various commodities, valued at about \$258 million, were traded at IME's domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading halls.

Other traded items were 108,592 tons of polymeric



● IRNA

products, 97,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 56,000 tons of lube cut, 38,145 tons of chemical products, 13,800 tons of sulfur, 6,272 tons of base oil, 200 tons of insulation, 500 tons of petroleum products and 120,875 tons of bitumen.