

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inflation rate will decrease: Minister

● IRNA

ISNA – Iran's minister of finance and economic affairs announced on Sunday that the government and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) plan to reduce the country's inflation rate in the next Iranian calendar year.

Ehsan Khandouzi added that considering the remarkable authorities given to the CBI by the government to make decisions in the field of currency, the ministry hopes to suppress the volatility in the price of foreign currencies.

Oil deals, MoUs under incumbent gov't worth \$100b: Minister

IRNA – Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji announced that \$100 billion worth of contracts and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) have been signed for the completion of the projects in the oil industry under the incumbent Iranian government. He added that Iran has signed \$40 billion worth of MoUs and \$4.5 billion worth of contracts with Russian companies, expressing hopes that the recent negotiation will turn the MoUs into contracts soon.

Rail freight loading hit 33.5m tons in nine months

MEHR – Iran's rail freight fleet saw the loading of 33.5 million tons of goods during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022), according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways. Totally 339,122 tons of goods were exported, and 321,753 tons were imported via the Iranian railroad during the period.

Iran's South Pars Phase 14 to generate \$5b annually



He further stated that the launch of the project will help Iran surpass Qatar in gas extraction from the shared field, consolidating the country's place as one of the leading global producers of natural gas.

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Bazargan noted that Phase 14 will effectively close the case for the development of the onshore part of the South Pars Gas Field.

"This is expected to mitigate the challenges caused by gas imbalances

during colder seasons." The project, undertaken by a consortium of eight Iranian companies, received support from the ministries of oil and industries to empower local firms in the oil and gas sector. Phase 14 of

South Pars is, therefore, the most significant infrastructure project completed by local experts in Iran in the last five years, he added.

Iran's investment in its oil and gas industry continues to bear fruit, despite

the economic sanctions. The successful completion of Phase 14 of South Pars will further bolster the country's efforts to increase its production capacity and enhance its standing in the global natural gas market.

Iran, Belarus to sign deal on permit-free transportation



Iran and Belarus will soon sign an agreement that will enable international freight transportation by road without permits.

The two countries are advancing cooperation in transportation, and a document on easing permit-free international freight transportation by road is nearly ready for signing, Mehr News Agency reported.

The agreement will allow logistic companies to boost transportation between Belarus and Iran using the potential of automobiles more widely.

BelTA quoted Belarusian Transport and Communications Minister Aleksei Avramenko as saying, "We have plans concerning permit-free transportation to four countries," referring to the negotiations held with Iran. "I think the agreement will be signed within the next two weeks."

The agreement is currently going through the authorization procedure in Belarus. Avramenko added that the Iranian side is also "about to complete the relevant authorization granting procedure".

Iran-Africa 11-month trade up by 8%

Iran's trade with the African Continent rose by eight percent in the last 11 months, said the vice president of the Iran and Africa Business Club.

Rouhollah Latifi added that despite the growth, the country's trade with the 15 members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has decreased, according to IRNA.

He expressed hope that following the upcoming ECOWAS summit, which is to be held in February in Iran and attended by the heads and ministers of these 15 countries, Iran-West Africa trade will surge again.

Latifi noted that in the past 11 months (starting March 20, 2022), 2,465 thousand tons of goods worth \$1.2 billion were exchanged between Iran and Africa, 602,654 tons of which worth \$336 million were traded with members of ECOWAS.

Iran's imports from African countries, he added, increased by 61% in the past 11 months when compared with the same period of its preceding year, while imports from ECOWAS countries rose by 28%.



Largest dry port in region to open in Iran

Aprin, the largest dry port in the Middle East, opens today in the Es-lamshahr in the Iranian province of Tehran in the presence of Roads and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpush. Aprin will also be the country's first dry port and a modern rail logistics terminal, Tasnim News Agency wrote. The first phase of the dry rail port with an area of almost 55 hectares is located in the intersection of the international East-

West and North-South Transport Corridors, 20 kilometers away from the capital city of Tehran in the adjacency of Es-lamshahr city. The launch of the port is expected to create 5,000 job opportunities directly and indirectly and store more than 60% of the goods entering Iran. As such, Aprin will play a significant role in increasing the attractiveness of rail exports and imports. Reducing road transpor-

tation and fuel consumption, and also promoting production are some of the advantages of exploiting the Aprin Dry Port. To develop the country's rail transport and create logistics centers, the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways expedited the project of constructing Aprin in the recent month. Nearly \$20 billion were reportedly invested to complete the first phase of the project.



[Aprin Dry Port](#)
● TASNIM