

End of 12-year Syrian crisis



● IRNA

As a result, Syria is gradually emerging from this long period of instability and entering a phase of peace and stability.

The Iranian president's visit holds great significance, as it sends a strong message that Tehran will stand by Damascus in times of both war and peace. Moreover, several Arab countries have recently visited Syria, with Syrian officials engaging in diplomatic meetings and trips with Arab officials, indicating Syria's gradual reintegration into regional and international affairs. Additionally, discussions surrounding Syria's return to the Arab League have been brought to the forefront. Thus, after 12 years of strife, Syria appears to be on a path toward recovery and rebirth.

Drawing on its vast experience in post-war reconstruction, Iran is preparing to offer aid to Syria in its reconstruction efforts. The forthcoming visit of the Iranian president is expected to yield crucial agreements between the two countries, spanning a range of fields.

However, beyond the immediate benefits of this reconstruction, a more significant development is in the making. With Syria's gradual reintegration into regional and international affairs, and the failure of terrorist groups and their supporters to topple the government of Bashar al-Assad, a broad coalition of Iran's allies is taking shape in the region. This coalition comprises Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine, poised to counter the influence of Israel.

Notably, Israel has been the primary aggressor against Syria over the last 12 years, but its efforts to achieve its objectives have fallen short. As Syria begins to reassert its regional role with greater confidence, it is reasonable to anticipate that these developments will strengthen the Islamic Republic of Iran's influence in regional relations. Indeed, Tehran has been the most steadfast supporter of Damascus throughout the Syrian crisis, and the benefits of their partnership are now coming to the fore.



● NEW YORK TIMES

Already robust, Iran-Brazil trade likely to burgeon under Lula

Trade between Iran and Brazil is robust despite U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic, but prospects for better economic relations are rising as President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is seeking to reset the South American country's relationships with allies.

Last year, trade between the two countries stood at \$6.5 billion, Iranian Ambassador to Brasilia Hossein Qaribi said on Monday, reported Press TV. Brazil is a major importer of Iranian urea, a petrochemical product used as fertilizer.

Speaking at the 14th Iran Petrochemical Forum (IPF), Qaribi said: "Urea fertilizer was the biggest export item of Iran to Brazil last year, while Iran's imports from the South American country were corn, soybeans, and meat."

Brazil is an oil-producing country, whose daily output is put at 2.9 million barrels.

The country, however, is faced with many problems in its downstream refining and products sector.

Brazil imported \$6 billion worth of gas last year.

It is also dependent on imports in its petrochemical sector.

"Brazil needs to import up to 80 percent of its

need for chemical fertilizers, where consumption stands at about 8-10 million tons a year," Qaribi maintained.

There is also a good market for Iranian polymers in Brazil. According to the ambassador, the country imported \$6 billion of plastic polymers last year, but there is a market for up to \$11 billion for the materials.

Iranian traders, however, are faced with challenges in the Brazilian urea market.

"While we are a large urea producer and have a large consumer market in Brazil, we do not have traders who can supply the product from origin to destination," Qaribi said.

"Petrochemical products in Iran are usually offered to buyers through tenders and at the best price, while Brazilian buyers are used to buying their products at ports. So, it is a big challenge for us to find traders who can buy the product from the Iranian manufacturer and deliver it to the Brazilian consumer."

"Our businessmen should have enough capital to be able to deposit their money in an account for at least two months and not have to worry about the two-month it takes to transport products from



Iran to Brazil," he added. Qaribi said the extreme fluctuation of prices has caused the business of importing urea products to Brazil to be associated with a high risk for traders.

"Hence, to solve this problem, it is necessary to think of a solution that would be implemented within the country such as calculating the price at the time of delivery or finding mechanisms through which the possible loss of the trader can be avoided to a large extent."

Last month, reports said the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line (IRISL) is planning to launch a direct container route to Brazil.

Hamed Ghaderi, a member of the Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce (IBJCC), said the launch of a direct shipping route between Iran and Brazil will be a major positive development in trade ties between the two countries. Qaderi stated that the IRISL's decision to set up offices in Brazil could help Iranian exporters and businesses expand their

presence in the Brazilian market.

"Given the correspondences and efforts carried out, we hope this could happen in July," Qaderi added.

In February 2022, Iran signed an agreement with Brazil to barter its fertilizer for livestock feed from the South American country.

The agreement allowed Iran to export up to 400,000 tons of urea fertilizer to Brazil per year in return for receiving shipments of animal feed from the country.

Homegrown syngas reactor installed in Iranian petchem plant



The first homegrown ultra-heavy reactor for synthesis gas (syngas) has been installed at an Iranian petrochemical plant in Asaluyeh, in southern Iran.

Hossein Hashemi, CEO of Iran's Dena Petrochemical Industries Company, said on Tuesday that the company had ordered the construction of the reactor with a domestic company, after it faced difficulties in importing the equipment due to sanctions on Iran, IRNA reported.

Synthesis gas production is the cornerstone of operations in many industries including pet-

rochemicals.

Syngas is produced by steam reforming, partial oxidation of natural gas, liquid hydrocarbons, or coal gasification.

Hashemi said five syngas reactors have been installed at the Dena petrochemical plant and another seven will be supplied by domestic manufacturers by the end of the Iranian calendar year in March 2024. He said construction work on the Dena petrochemical plant, which will focus on methanol production, with a capacity of 1.65 million metric tons per year, is 80% complete.

Iran posts trade surplus of \$558m in month to late April

Main exports from Iran over the calendar month to late April

included liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) with \$523 million worth of sales, followed by liquefied propane at \$302 million and liquefied butane at \$169 million, said IRICA, adding that Iran had exported \$169 million worth of steel and iron products and some \$167 million of methanol over the same period.

According to the report, the five main imports of Iran during the period were animal corn at \$223 million, soybeans at \$152 million, wholly milled Rice at \$89 million, smart mo-



● MOHAMMAD BABAIE/IRNA

bile phones at \$71 million, and automobile parts at \$62 million.

China was the largest buyer of Iranian export shipments in April with some \$1.14 billion worth of purchases, followed by Iraq at \$609 million, Türkiye at \$550 million, United Arab Emirates at \$320 million, and India at \$120 million, showed IRICA figures.

Riyadh seeking flights between Saudi, Iranian Shia cities

Saudi Arabia is seeking direct flights between its Shia-majority city of Dammam and Iran's Mashhad as part of efforts to improve relations between the two countries, according to an aviation industry official in Iran.

Maqsd As'adi, who leads the Association of Iranian Airlines, said on Monday

that launching flights to Iran's second-largest city of Mashhad, located in the northeast of the country and home to a major Shia shrine, is a priority for Saudi Arabia, Press TV wrote. As'adi said the flight route could serve Saudi Arabia's Shia community, which is based in the eastern city of Dammam.

He said the route could also lead to increased tourism visits by Saudis to other Iranian cities, especially to natural resorts in northern Iran.

The remarks come weeks after Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development said it had received an official request from Saudi Arabian authorities

for three regular flights between the two countries. The ministry said last month that the flights will be launched regardless of arrangements existing between Tehran and Riyadh about flights carrying Iranian pilgrims to the hajj ceremony in Saudi Arabia. The announcement came amid a joint plan by Iran

and Saudi Arabia to restore their diplomatic relations some seven years after the two countries cut their official ties.

The plan is based on an agreement brokered by China in early March which stipulated that the two Muslim countries should reopen their embassies by May 9.