

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iran's exports to Africa up 100%



MEHR

**TASNIM** – The vice president of the Iran and Africa Business Club said that trade exchanges between Iran and African countries have registered a 100% growth since the current administration assumed office in August 2021. Rouhollah Latifi made the remarks on Monday ahead of a visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to the three African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The vice president reported that Iran exported more than 128 tons of goods, valued at \$73,781,000, to these three African countries in 2022.

## Baghdad: Tehran halted gas exports



**MEHR** – Speaking on television, the spokesman of Iraq's Ministry of Electricity Ahmed Musa announced that Iran has cut gas exports to this country due to overdue debts. Musa added that the move has caused the gas distribution stations in Al-Mansouriyeh, Baghdad, Sadr, and some other regions to be limited or completely stopped. According to a report from the UK-based Energy Institute, Iran exported 9.4 billion cubic meters of gas to Iraq in 2022.

## Oil refinery fire injures eight in southern Iran



ISNA

**AP** – Fire erupted at an oil refinery in southern Iran and injured eight firefighters Monday. The cause of the fire has not been announced, but evidently, the firefighters were hurt while trying to put out the blaze burning in two of the five tanks at an oil depot near Iran's port of Banda Abbas.

## Gachsaran petchem project to sell \$300m by March

## Economy Desk

An official with the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) in southwestern Iran said the Gachsaran Petrochemical Complex was tasked with using up to half its current capacity, from October 23, 2023, to March 20, 2024, to produce Ethylene and C3+, the sale of which would net the company approximately \$300 million. Hassan Neshanzadeh Moghaddam, the PGPIC deputy CEO for planning and business development, noted that the complex can produce a million tons of Ethylene and 83,000 tons of C3+ annually. The output is achieved by getting the required water from the Kosar Dam in Gachsaran County and receiving 1.25 billion tons of feedstock from the Persian Gulf Bidboland Gas Refinery through a 90-kilometer-long pipe. Making the remarks at a press conference on Monday, he announced that the Olefin project of the Gachsaran Petrochemical Company is set to go on stream and expressed readiness to hold the launch ceremony after 19 years. Gachsaran Petrochemi-

cal Complex was one of the half-finished projects whose implementation has accelerated over the past two years. The project's implementation started in 2013, and its completion has always been one of the concerns of PGPIC. Neshanzadeh Moghaddam cited frequent changes in the compositions of shareholders and board members, occasional shortages of funds, and sanctions as challenges that haunted the project in the last five years and delayed its launch. The official said the Gachsaran Petrochemical Project was developed to complete the value chain from associated petroleum gases in the petrochemical industry, prevent the sale of raw natural resources, and feed its downstream complexes such as those in Mamasani, Dehdasht, Borujen, Kazerun, and Gachsaran polymer plant. Dubbing the project the supplier of the "Most Iranian Olefin," he highlighted that 83 percent of the project's needs in various areas of mechanics, power, catalyst supply, chemical materials, and equipment were met domestically. "This is also the first olefin unit, the furnace burner of



which has been constructed in Iran," he added. Furthermore, Neshanzadeh Moghaddam pointed out, the project will employ approximately a thousand people directly, and up to three thousand people indirectly after it goes online. He announced that a deal has also been signed to ex-

port the ethylene produced by the Gachsaran Petrochemical Complex. The PGPIC deputy CEO reported a one-million-ton increase year-on-year in the output of the company in the previous Iranian calendar year (to March 20, 2023), reaching \$920 million. He mentioned the Persian

Gulf Hoveyze Gas Refinery as another half-finished project of the PGPIC that was finally inaugurated earlier this Iranian year and, now, supplies the C5+ of Ilam Petrochemical Company as well as 25-30 tons of feedstock to Bandar Imam Petrochemical Company.



Gachsaran Petrochemical Complex on July 10, 2023  
● MOJTABA MOHAMMADGHOLI/SHANA

## Iran commercializes hybrid seeds of cantaloupe, melon

## Economy Desk

Iran on Monday introduced a new hybrid variety of cantaloupe and melon seeds developed by the Faculties of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Tehran University that have now been made available for commercial use. During the unveiling ceremony, Forouzandeh Soltani, a key member of the project, highlighted the various benefits of the product derived from these hybrid seeds which include superior flesh quality, resistance to certain diseases, being high-yield,

extended shelf life, and tolerance of low temperatures, ISNA reported. Soltani further explained that the project was initiated after consulting with farmers and addressing their concerns. "Experts recognized the need to genetically modify and enhance certain valuable resources. Consequently, the Horticulture Department at Tehran University embarked on this endeavor and successfully executed the project." She added that in order to accomplish the goal, the research team drew upon the expertise of two renowned

research institutes in Spain and Germany. The new hybrid seeds have progressed to the commercialization phase and they will be mass produced in the near future.

## Ensuring food security

During the same event, President of Tehran University Mohammad Moqimi emphasized the significance of producing hybrid seeds tailored to the country's climatic conditions. He asserted that such production not only ensures food security but also enhances agricultural

productivity, according to IRNA. Moqimi added that research projects of this nature require substantial time and comprehensive support and called for permanent programs and mechanisms to be established to facilitate the success of such projects. He acknowledged that in comparison to global advances in agriculture, there is still much work to be done in Iran. "The role of agriculture in contributing to the GDP, promoting business development, and achieving self-sufficiency in terms of



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agricultural products has not met expectations," Moqimi said. Furthermore, he highlighted the country's favorable conditions, such as its four-season climate, and the presence of academ-

ic experts specializing in agricultural productivity. Despite these advantages, agricultural productivity remains at an unsatisfactory level, and food security has not been adequately ensured.

## Iran a major dairy ...



ISNA

The latest report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reveals that last year, the to-

tal milk and dairy product exports from Asian countries reached nine million tons, with Iran holding a substantial share. Specifically, Iran accounted for 17 percent of Asia's dairy exports, firmly establishing its position as the largest dairy product exporter in the continent. In 2022, Iran imported 86,000 tons of milk and dairy products, while simultaneously exporting a substantial 1.58 million tons, making up 13 percent of its total dairy production. The FAO report predicts that Iran's milk and dairy production will reach 7.82 million tons this year, with exports ex-

pected to increase to 1.59 million tons. Teimouri pointed to the sustained growth in production and exports, urging the government and policymakers to implement structural and supportive measures to stabilize and expand export markets. "Key areas of focus include developing the necessary logistical infrastructure to facilitate dairy product exports, supporting efforts to enhance the quality of raw milk to meet export standards, setting consistent export policies, and implementing health protocols for target countries. Additionally, stricter monitoring of export product standards is crucial to safeguard Iran's reputation

and the integrity of Iranian brands," he pointed out. Teimouri emphasized that the development of the dairy industry hinges on the growth of both domestic and foreign markets and neglecting either aspect would lead to adverse consequences. "Solely focusing on exports would result in a disregard for the domestic food supply, while overlooking exports would mean missing out on the benefits and revenue generated from international trade, ultimately slowing down the growth of the dairy industry within the country," the businessman said. Teimouri explained that one crucial factor influencing dairy product exports is the perception among

policymakers that exports primarily serve as a means to regulate the domestic market by addressing excess production. Consequently, whenever there is a shortage of domestic dairy products, or an increase in their prices, exports are immediately halted. He also criticized the frequent interruption and discontinuation of exports as a detrimental practice that aims to prevent price spikes in the domestic market. Teimouri described it as a "deadly poison" for exports, explaining that the continuous start-stop approach erodes foreign customers' trust in Iranian producers as stable and reliable suppliers.