

Iran, Russia mulling establishment of joint shipping company: Ambassador



● IRNA

Iran's ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said Tehran and Moscow are discussing the possibility of establishing a joint shipping company, as the two sides work to further bolster strategic cooperation.

Jalali said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 TV Channel that the creation of a joint shipping company was discussed between Iranian and Russian officials as part of efforts to "strengthen" Tehran-Moscow's shipping fleet.

"There is a need to reinforce our ports; there is a need to strengthen the shipping fleet. Even to create a joint shipping company. I just had a conversation with First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Andrey Belousov. Iran's Minister of Transport also discussed this topic with him. Our Russian counterparts welcomed the creation of a joint shipping company," the diplomat said.

Countries need to develop ports and link them "like railroads," he said. "The potential for freight shipping is huge there."

Moscow and Tehran are working together on multiple fronts, facilitating bilateral trade and business, expediting the completion of transit routes including the North-South Transit Corridor and its Caspian Sea component, and linking their banking systems to facilitate financial transactions.

The development comes as Iran and Russia plan to open multiple new areas of cooperation by finalizing a long-term strategic cooperation agreement.

According to official reports, trade between the two countries doubled in 2022. Russia invested \$2.76 billion during the Iranian calendar year that ended in March, becoming Iran's largest foreign investor.

The two sides also aim to reduce the use of the dollar in regional and international transactions, joined by several countries, in order to minimize the West's dominance over the global economy.

The bilateral cooperation comes despite draconian Western sanctions, spearheaded by the US, on both Tehran and Moscow.

Iran has been hit by unilateral US sanctions, imposed by Washington after former president Donald Trump declared an unprovoked withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and targeted the Iranian economy with what he called a "maximum pressure" campaign.

Iran targets \$3b in annual trade with Africa: Official

The Iranian government aims to reach a minimum of \$3 billion in annual trade with Africa by 2025, said an Iranian official. Alireza Peyman-Pak, the deputy minister of Agriculture, made the remarks in an interview with the Iran Economy newspaper, which was published on Saturday.

He pointed to the recent visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi to Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe and said the visit to Africa will have a positive impact on bilateral relations, especially in economic fields.

Peyman-Pak, who is the former head of the Trade Promotion Organization,

noted that under previous governments, Iran's annual trade with Africa was less than \$500 million, but the current administration has successfully increased it to \$1.2 billion. President Raeisi's recent visit to Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe marks the beginning of a new phase of economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Africa, the official said.

The potential for collaboration in various sectors — particularly in petrochemicals, construction, healthcare, tourism, raw materials, and agricultural products — provides opportunities for the Iranian private sector to



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benefit from Africa's resources and contribute to Iran's economic growth, he noted.

Peyman-Pak noted that agriculture was a main topic

during the president's visit to Uganda due to the African country's abundant water resources.

By utilizing Uganda's capacity for extra-territorial

cultivation, Iran can import agricultural products more efficiently and at better prices, thereby ensuring food security, he said.

Iran's grain production expected to exceed 20m tons: FAO

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its latest report entitled "Prospects of Crops and Food Situation" predicted the total production volume of Iran's grains in the current Crop Year to reach 20.6 million tons. Iran produced 20.6 million tons of grains in 2022 and according to FAO prediction, will produce the same amount in 2023,

the report added, Tasnim news agency reported. Iran's production of wheat will increase by 500,000 tons in 2023 compared to a year earlier, reaching 13.5 million tons in the current year.

FAO had put Iran's grain reserves at the end of 2022 at 12.5 million tons while the country had produced 11.8 million tons of grains in 2021.



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Accordingly, Iran accounted for about 1.5 percent of the world's total grain reserves at the end of 2022.

India envoy: Chabahar a golden opportunity for New Delhi

India's Ambassador to Tehran Rudra Gaurav Shresth said Iran's southeastern Chabahar port is a golden opportunity for India to expand its economic ties. "Chabahar's position in the expansion of trade exchanges in the Middle East, Eurasia, and even Europe is unique," Shresth said during his visit to the port on Friday, IRNA reported. "We planned this trip to

visit the port's infrastructure and implement our investment commitments," the ambassador maintained. The official called on the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to take the necessary measures for using the capacities of the Chabahar port. "The International North-South Transport Corridor



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can serve as a safe and efficient route for landlocked countries in Central Asia to access the Indian Ocean, and we all must strive to realize the corridor's full potential," the official added.

Expert recommends producing electric busses first

Economy Desk

As the global automotive industry is increasingly transitioning to electric vehicles, an Iranian expert advised the country to prioritize the production of electric vehicles on the whole but specifically, direct investment toward electric buses rather than electric cars or motorcycles.

Amir-Hassan Kakaei, a university professor, told IRNA on Saturday that by doing so, "Iran can capitalize on new technologies and gradually gain expertise

in maintaining this type of vehicle".

The expert however warned that there must be a "well-thought-out strategy, supporting infrastructure, and economic validation" for the successful development and utilization of electric vehicles in Iran.

He expressed regret that the mass production of electric vehicles and its associated prerequisites have not received adequate attention considering the current state of the automotive industry and societal expectations.

According to statistics,

there is substantial potential demand for at least 200,000 city and inter-city buses in the country, Kakaei said. However, he also warned that widespread utilization of electric buses without having the necessary infrastructure and prerequisites would only lead to dissatisfaction if issues arise.

The expert suggested that while specifically-designed engines and gearboxes may need to be imported for electric buses, their chassis and bodies can be domestically produced. He emphasized that Iran's ex-

pertise in bus manufacturing can help address any challenges encountered in the process.

Kakaei also highlighted China as a role model, citing the country's successful implementation of incentives to promote the production and use of electric vehicles. He noted that despite Iran's existing capability in manufacturing "battery packs" and the collaboration between two major Iranian car companies — Iran Khodro and SAIPA — in making the first electric passenger car five years ago, tangible outcomes have yet to materialize.



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"To realize the significance of this endeavor within the country, a strategic plan that aligns with overarching policies must be devised. Moreover, it requires a phased implementation approach accompanied

by appropriate incentives. Furthermore, foundational infrastructure improvements such as increasing electricity production capacity and establishing multiple charging stations need to be prioritized," the expert said.



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Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.gog.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 18. Jul.2023 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 19.Jul.2023 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
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Max	1.0	FeO
Max	0.05	P
Max	0.01	S
Max	3.5	SiO2
Max	0.7	Al2O3
Max	0.9	CaO
Max	2.5	MgO
Ave 255		CCS(kg/p)
Min	90	8-16 mm%
Ave5		-6 mm%
Max	3.8	A.I%
Min	95	T.I%
19-24		Prosity%
Min	90	Reducibility%

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