

Iran, Malaysia sign MoU to boost agro cooperation

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## Iran among major exporters of grapes, raisins in world

By Sadeq Dehqan Staff writer

Iran is one of the largest producers and exporters of grapes and raisins in the world, an Iranian lawmaker says.



In an interview with Iran Daily, Rajab Rahmani, the representative of the city of Takestan in Iran's Parliament, said that the country is the third largest exporter of raisins in the world, after the United States and Turkey. According to the Agriculture Organization of Qazvin

Province, the UK, Germany and Russia are the main destinations of Iran's raisin exports, he said.

Rahmani noted that grape orchards account for most of the orchards in Qazvin Province, which ranks second in the country in terms of grape production and cultivation area, and first in terms of raisin production and exports. The Iranian lawmaker said a major part of the grapes produced in the country is turned to raisins and exported to other countries. He noted that most of the province's grapes is produced in Takestan. The city has 25,626 hectares of vine-

yards, which accounts for 75% of the province's vineyards, and 11.2% of the country's vineyards.

## Air Force begins military drills in central Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) launched large-scale drills in the country's central province of Isfahan on Sunday, with the participation of a whole range of military aircraft.



– IRN.

The drills, codenamed Fadaeeyan-e Harim-e Velayat 11 (Devotees of Velayat Airspace 11), are to send the message of "friendship, peace, calm and security" to the region, Air Force Commander Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi said on Sunday, according to Tasnim news agency.

The commander said the forces will employ 92 aircraft in the military exercise, including various fighter jets, interceptor aircraft, bombers, and unmanned aerial vehicles. The Air Force units will carry out a broad range of operations, such as reconnaissance and aerial imaging, detonation of air and ground targets, electronic warfare, civil defense tactics, and testing of new systems, he said.

The commander noted that the Air Force units will also exercise diverse combat tactics and standoff attack operations with drones to destroy targets with pinpoint accuracy. Iran's Armed Forces hold routine military exercises

throughout the year. Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.









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EXCLUSIVE

