Economy Domestic & Int'l

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Iran's three-month exports to Armenia up

IRNA – The value of Iran's exports to Armenia increased 38.4 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21-June 21) compared to the same period last year, announced the spokesman of the Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mine, and Trade.

Rouhollah Latifi said that Iran exported 335,000 tons of commodities worth \$101.747 million to Armenia in the three-month period.

Tehran, Baku agree to complete Astarachay Bridge soon



IRNA – Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash and Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Shahin Mustafayev agreed, in a telephone conversation, to complete the construction of Astarachay Bridge on the border river of Aras, and launch it within the next four months.

As the heads of the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee, the officials stressed the need for the development of economic relations between the two countries.

Iran's inflation rate drops under 40%: *Gov't spokesman*

Downward trend for inflation continues: CBI governor

Economy Desk per

The inflation rate in Iran has reached below 40 percent, said Iranian government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi on Tuesday. "The government's plans are

aimed at controlling inflation and realizing economic growth, as the Iranian government's economic spokesman Ehsan Khandouzi has explained many times about the economic package of the government," Bahadori Jahromi told IRNA.

The latest report by the Statistical Center of Iran on the inflation rate shows the continuation of the downward trend of point-topoint inflation in the country, so that in the month to July 22, inflation decreased by nearly 2.5 percent compared to the related figure for the preceding month, which reached below 40

percent. Talking on liquidity growth during the two years of the current administration, the official said that with a decrease of about 13.8 percent, liquidity of the country has reached about 29 percent.

Meanwhile, Mohammadreza Farzin, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), said on Tuesday, "With the decrease in the inflation rate and the stability of the currency market, we witness a decrease in property prices in Tehran."

Speaking at a meeting with Iranian economists, the CBI governor noted that since May 22, the inflation rate has started to decline, and the estimates indicate a reduction in the inflation rate for the current month (started July 23) as well. Emphasizing that the con-

Emphasizing that the control of exchange rate fluctua-



tions by the CBI has brought stability in various markets, he said: "With the extension of the current monetary and currency policies, we hope that the inflation rate and currency will drop to lower figures." By following the present

IRAN DAILY policies, we will see a decrease in the inflation rate in the next year, Farzin added.

How can Pakistan improve its economy?

The nation should increase its exports to \$90b



All the groups related to the economy, including exporters, are suffering due to the declining economy of Pakistan; the people suffering from inflation are demanding immediate relief, while the current government of Pakistan has lost the right to give any kind of relief to its people after signing an agreement with the IMF.

110 million people living below the poverty fa line have been affected th by the increase in electricity prices in Pakistan st after the IMF agreement, w while people who are fed up with the economic co conditions are looking to end their lives. However, sl Pakistan's private sector is still not disappointed and is advising the government to come out of the current crisis.

Former president of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and current exporters Mian Naeem Javed said that a few years ago, Pakistan was far ahead of India in the export of textiles, leather and surgical instruments, but today we cannot even think of competing with India. To compete with India, Pakistan's annual exports should be around \$90 billion.

He further said that if we want to do something, make it possible to trade in local currencies with the Central Asian countries, Iran and China, for India has the market of America and Europe, it has become almost impossible to compete there. Zafar Paracha, General Secretary of Currency Exchange Association of Pakistan, said that to compete with India, Pakistan will have to increase its foreign exchange reserves from \$8 billion to about \$95 billion, which is currently a dream.

Pakistan Software Warehouse Association Chairman Zohaib Khan says that Pakistan can grow faster than India in the IT sector. From 2019 to 2022, Pakistan has grown 177% in the

IT sector. Despite the economic crisis of the past year, IT exports are more than \$2.5 billion. If Pakistan's policymakers determine the right direction, Pakistan's IT exports can be around \$33 billion.

According to Zohaib Khan, Pakistan has a population of around 120 million youths, if they are given quality and world class training in the IT sector, Pakistan has the potential to overtake India in the IT sector, allowing freelancers and software exporters to easily bring and take their earned dollars to Pakistan.

He further said that according to the State Bank, about \$2.6 billion is earned from IT exports; according to me, the actual IT exports are \$5 billion, more than half of which is kept by software houses and freelancers abroad because they have to make international payments. If those dollars are brought to Pakistan, sending foreign remittances out becomes very difficult.

world's seventh steelmaker



Iranian steelmakers cast 3.2 million tons of crude steel in June, according to statistics released by the World Steel Association (WSA) on Tuesday, indicating that the country has remained at seventh place among steel producing countries. According to WSA data, Iran was the seventh crude steel producer of the world in May.

The country's steel ingot production for June 2023 registered a 17.4 percent rise compared to the figure for June 2022.

World crude steel production for the 63 countries reporting to the association was 158.8 million tons in June 2023, a 0.1 percent reduction compared to June 2022. WSA figures showed that Iran was the world's eighth crude steel producer during the first six months of 2023, with 16.1 million tons of output, 4.8 percent more than the related figure

for 2022.essChina produced 91.1inmillion tons in Juneth2023, up 0.4 percentbeover June 2022, whilestIndia produced 11.2trmillion tons of steel in-stgots last month, up 12.9alpercent compared toduthe figure for last year,stas Japan produced 7.3Mmillion tons, down 1.7arpercent compared to theglobal

The United States produced 6.8 million tons of crude steel in June, up 0.5 percent. Russia is estimated to have produced 5.8 million tons, up 3.8 percent. South Korea produced 5.5 million tons, down 0.9 percent. The World Steel Association is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing country. The WSA represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Members represent around 85 percent of global steel production.

same month last year.

