

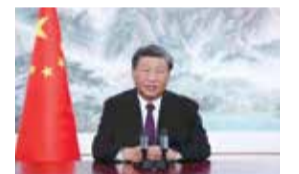


NEWS IN BRIEF

Conference held on dryland agriculture productivity

IRNA - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held the first national conference on enhancing productivity in dryland projects in Tehran to discuss achievements within the project titled "boosting productivity and unlocking the potential of dryland agriculture." The two-day conference which ended on Sunday was held in cooperation with Iranian Ministry of Agriculture.

China to widen market access for service industry: Xi



REUTERS - Chinese President Xi Jinping said that China would widen market access in the service industry and promote cross-border services trade. Speaking via video at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing, Xi said China would focus on expanding the domestic market, increasing imports of high-quality services and reforming the country's basic data system. Xi said China will promote the integrated development of high-end manufacturing and modern service industries.

Five-month exports of agro-products rise 19%

The head of the Department of Monitoring and Foreign Trade of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives (CORC) announced a 19% growth in the export of livestock,

fisheries, agricultural and food products in the first five months of the current Iranian year. Iran's export of agricultural and food products from March 21 to August

22 registered a 3% rise in weight, and 19% rise in value, compared to the same period of last year, said Rouhollah Latifi, according to IRNA. Of the total volume of

products exported in this period, 2.86 million tons, valued at \$1.68 billion, were exported to 15 neighboring states, he said. The neighboring countries' share of Iran's exports

of agricultural and food products stood at 90% in weight, and 80% in value, in the first five months of the previous Iranian year (March 21 to August 22, 2022), Latifi highlighted.

Iran exported 1.319 million tons of agricultural and food products to neighboring Iraq, valued at \$729.6 million, meaning that Iraq was Iran's first export market in the period.

Shalamcheh-Basra railroad to connect Iran to Mediterranean: Minister

Iran and Iraq are determined to complete the construction of the Shalamcheh-Basra railroad, said Iran's minister of roads and urban development adding that this giant project is 'important' for the two countries. Once the Shalamcheh-Basra Railroad project is completed, Iran will be connected to West Asia and the Mediterranean, which is promising news, Mehrdad Bazrpash emphasized, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday. Iran had previously decided to complete the construction operation of the Shalamcheh-Basra railroad with its own investment, but since this giant project was very important and strategic for Iraq, the Iraqi government approved about \$200 million for launching this railroad project

as a joint venture. Accordingly, it was agreed that the construction of the railroad will be carried out by Iraqi investors, while Iran will carry out demining 16 kilometers of the rail line, Iran's minister of roads noted. Bazrpash pointed to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and said that Iran has taken serious steps to contribute to the launch of this strategic corridor.

After an agreement reached with Russia on the construction of the Rasht-Astara Road, Iran agreed to complete the construction operation of the North-South Corridor with neighboring Iraq, the minister added.

Khaf-Herat railroad Meanwhile, the head of Afghanistan's railroad

department visited the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad to coordinate efforts to complete the final section of the Khaf-Herat railroad project.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Bakht-ur-Rahman Sharafat said the railroad project is pivotal for both Afghanistan and Iran as it provides a vital connection to Europe and the Indian Ocean.

Iran and Afghanistan inaugurated their first joint railroad network in December 2020 to link Khaf in northeastern Iran with the Afghan town of Rozanak. However, plans for extending the project to reach Herat, Afghanistan's third-largest city, were stalled following the collapse of the former US-backed government in Kabul.

Sharafat said the prima-

ry goal of his visit to Iran was to form a consortium aimed at completing the final section of the crucial railroad line. The Herat-Khaf railroad, spanning 226 kilometers, connects Afghanistan to Iran's extensive railroad network.

The railroad line from Khaf to Rozanak in Herat Province has been successfully completed, with the remaining segment from Rozanak to Herat city currently being under construction.

The Khaf-Herat railroad is also a key part of a 2,000-kilometer-long rail network that spans from China, passing through Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, and ultimately connecting with Europe.

MP: Crude sales not tied to JCPOA revival, sanctions removal



Iran's incumbent administration has never tied oil sales to revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and removal of sanctions imposed on the country, said a member of Parliament on Saturday.

Talking to Shana, Hossein Hosseinzadeh added, "Although sanctions have their own impacts, the current government has managed to carry out acceptable measures through great efforts and determination." The country's oil sales stood at less than 0.5 million barrels per day (bpd) when the current administration took over," recalled the lawmaker, "but now we have witnessed an increase in oil and condensate exports thanks to the Oil Ministry's positive approach and firm decision on promoting energy diplomacy."

A member of Parliament's Energy Committee, Hosseinzadeh continued, "As the oil minister announced, the country's oil exports doubled through strong diplomacy under the harshest conditions possible during the 13th administration." The parliamentarian pointed to expansion of relations and commercial cooperation with regional and Latin American countries as other factors behind the hike in oil production and exports under the incumbent administration.

The legislator also referred to exports of technical and engineering services in the energy sector and concluded, "We should not be ignorant of domestic capacities for developing, supplying, maintaining, renovating, and rebuilding the oil, gas, and petrochemical fleet."

Barriers to export of Iranian agricultural goods to India lifted

Economy Desk

Obstacles for exporting Iranian agricultural products to India have been eliminated, announced the deputy agriculture minister on Sunday.

Alireza Peymanpak added that thorough the agreements made with the minister of agriculture of India, the ground has been paved for the imports of a larger amount of the basic goods for Iran from the country, according to ISNA. India is one of the main food and agriculture export destinations for Iran since it is the fifth destination for Iranian agro-products.

India has bought \$33.7 million of agricultural and livestock products from Iran during March 2022 to July 2022.

