

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran H1
pistachio
exports
at \$137m

IRNA – The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that Iran has exported \$137 million worth of pistachios during the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22). According to IRICA, Iran exported around 20,000 tons of high-quality pistachio nuts that represents a seven percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Tehran to host
2nd Eurasia
EXPO

IRNA – The 2nd Eurasia EXPO 2023 will be held in Tehran on December 4-7, announced the head of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization. This event is to be held with the presence of the officials of the Eurasian Union states and some members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Mehdi Zeighami said on Tuesday.

EU exports to
Iran exceed
€2.2b in seven
months

TASNIM – The European Union's statistics office Eurostat said in its latest report that EU countries exported more than €2.2 billion worth of products to Iran from January to July 2023, showing a six percent decline compared to the same period last year.

Eurostat put the total value of trade between Iran and the 27 European countries at €2.678 billion in the first seven months of the current year, registering a 10 percent slump compared to last year's corresponding period. The EU countries imported €475 million worth of products from Iran from January to July 2023, recording a 25 percent decline compared to the corresponding period last year.

Belarus-Iran trade triples in 2022

Lukashenko to Iran: Let's counter the West's attacks together

Economy Desk

Trade between Belarus and Iran increased three-fold in 2022 year-on-year, the Belarusian prime minister said, adding that Minsk highly values friendly ties with Tehran. Roman Golovchenko made the remarks during his meeting with the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Mokhber in Minsk, Belarus, on October 17, BelTA reported. "This year, we have added another 25 percent to the high figures of the previous year," the prime minister said.

Golovchenko stated that the Belarus president's visit to Iran in March 2023 made an important mark in building the Belarus-Iran strategic partnership.

The prime minister stressed that the country is precisely fulfilling "the provisions of the roadmap of comprehensive cooperation between the two countries in 2023-2026," which was signed during the visit of the Belarusian president to Iran in March 2023. "This is a systematic document to let us work through a list of specific practical measures. Many



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (l) holds talks with Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber in Minsk, Belarus on October 17. ● BelTA

measures of this roadmap are being successfully implemented," Golovchenko said.

The Belarusian prime minister said that Minsk expects Mokhber's visit "to add even greater dynamics to interaction on projects in trade and economy, manufacturing and investment cooperation, petrochemical industry, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and transport." Mohammad Mokhber,

for his part, highlighted, "Iran's strategy is aimed at advancing economic and political relations with Belarus."

On Tuesday, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko also met with the Iranian first vice president, stating the two countries should work "closely" together to counter attacks from the West.

The Belarusian president accused "unfriendly countries" — such as the US

and other Western nations — of using never-ending Middle East tensions to poke Iran.

"The situation in the world is heating up," Lukashenko underscored.

"The pressure exerted on our states is unprecedented," Lukashenko told Mokhber. "But you have already learned to resist it to some extent, and your experience is valuable for us."

"The most important

thing for us is time, not sanctions and pressure. We should not lose time because of red tape," the Belarusian leader said.

During Mokhber's visit to Minsk, the Iranian official is set to meet several Belarusians for "high-level bilateral talks," according to IRNA.

The one-day visit is expected to result in a new cooperation document to strengthen "ties between the two nations".

Astana-Tehran cooperation
developing comprehensively: *Envoy*

"Kazakhstan's cooperation with Iran is developing comprehensively," said the Kazakh ambassador to Tehran on Monday, "examples of which are the official

visit of the president of Kazakhstan to Iran last year."

Speaking at a ceremony held in Tehran to celebrate the National Day of Kazakhstan on Monday evening, Askhat Orazbay added that the Kazakh prime minister visited Iran this spring, and the official visit of Iran's Pres-

ident Ebrahim Raisi to his country is expected in the near future.

The ceremony was attended by ambassadors of other countries and international organizations to Iran as well as guests from Iran.

These will certainly give a new impetus to the further development of bilateral cooperation, the ambassador noted.

"During a short period by historical standards, our country has passed a long and hard way of establishing its statehood. At the beginning of independence, Kazakhstan started implementing reforms aimed at transforming from a Soviet type planned economy to a modern free market economy," Orazbay said.

The envoy went on to say that modernization and economic growth were the main priorities.

"Facts convincingly speak about our success in state-building and conducting economic reforms.

As a result, Kazakhstan has become a leading country in the Central Asian region," said the ambassador.

Kazakhstan is a country with a rich historical and cultural heritage. It is located in the heart of Eurasia, at the crossroads of the world's oldest civilizations, connecting the East with the West, where traditional Islamic values harmoniously coexist with Western values.

Despite being the world's ninth largest country by territory and having the longest land borders, Kazakhstan at the outset of its independence has managed to fully complete the legal process of delimitation and demarcation of its borders with all neighboring countries including Russia and China, he stated.

"We do not have territorial disputes with any of our neighboring countries."

Thanks to its multi-directional foreign policy, Kazakhstan does not have a

single enemy country in the world, Orazbay said, adding that a significant achievement of Kazakhstan has been shutting down one of the largest nuclear test sites, known as Semipalatinsk. At that time, Kazakhstan possessed the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

Construction in a short time of a totally new and modern capital in the middle of the country, the city of Astana became a symbol of independence and sovereignty and a milestone in the country's modern history.

Also speaking at the event, Houshang Mohammadi, a deputy agriculture minister of Iran said the two countries enjoy friendly relations.

Pointing to the current ascending trend of trade between Kazakhstan and Iran, Mohammadi said that considering the potentials of both sides, the level of bilateral trade could rise much further.

Iran's six-month car production up 23%

Economy Desk

Iran's production of all types of cars increased by 23% in the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22) compared to the same period last year.

According to a report released by Iran's Ministry of

Industry, Mine, and Trade on Tuesday, the country manufactured 642,930 automobiles during the six months to September 22, IRNA reported. Iranian automakers produced 524,256 cars during the first six months of the previous Iranian year, the report indicated. Private and state-run au-

tomakers of Iran manufactured a total of 89,054 cars during the months to September 22, three percent more than the related figure of last year which was 86,451 sets. A sum of 545,180 sedans were produced in the country during H1 of the current Iranian year, indicating a

19 percent growth compared to the corresponding figure of last year (456,617 cars).

The report also revealed that a 46 percent rise was registered in pickup production in Iran as 76,032 pickup cars were produced during the six months to September 22.

