

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Kyrgyzstan asks Iran to supply oil products, modernize refinery



Kyrgyzstan on Thursday requested Iran to supply oil products, particularly gasoline, gas oil, jet fuel, kerosene, and bitumen, and overhaul and modernize one of the Central Asian country's refineries. It made the request in a meeting attended by Kyrgyzstan's energy and transport ministers and Iran's oil and roads ministers on the sidelines of the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Kyrgyz capital city of Bishkek, Shana reported.

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji asked the Kyrgyz side to submit a list of products with quantity and quality details to help Tehran outline a plan for cooperation with Bishkek.

## Tehran, Moscow invest \$38b on INSTC project

Iran and Russia have so far invested \$38 billion to boost shipping lines for the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which links Asia to Europe.

Addressing a gathering in the opening ceremony of an international conference, dubbed "The INSTC; a New Concept," in the Russian city of Astrakhan on Friday, Daryush Jamali, the director of the Iranian-operated port of Salianka in Russia, named the corridor as "a key element of the Eurasian transport network," IRNA reported.

He added Tehran and Moscow have almost equal shares of the investment, elaborating that 330 wagons as well as 54,000 containers have so far been purchased and negotiations are underway for the construction of 21 ships for the corridor.

Iran's ambassador to Russia, the director of Afghanistan's railway, the director of the Iraqi railway, and the head of the North-South Integration Club were among the participants of the event.

The 7,200-km ship, rail, and road corridor is planned for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and onwards to Europe to increase trade connectivity between major cities en route.

## Iran, China stress accelerating execution of 25-year strategic agreement

## Economy Desk

First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber and Chinese Premier Li Qiang emphasized on accelerating the implementation of the 25-year strategic agreement between the two countries while the two officials held a meeting on the sidelines of the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. There are many areas of cooperation between Tehran and Beijing, Mokhber said, adding: "If we focus on these areas and pave the ground for the private sectors of the two countries, we will reach a favorable point in realizing the goals of the 25-year agreement."

He underlined that China is a strategic partner of Iran, and the two countries enjoy a long history of friendship.

Tehran appreciates Beijing's assistance for its economic and social development and is firmly committed to deepening Iran-China relations, Mokhber noted.

Iran is also willing to work with China in the Belt and Road Initiative, strengthen connectivity and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, and deepen mutual coordination within multilateral frameworks, he said.

For his part, Li said China stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Iran within the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, and other multilateral mechanisms, practice true multilateralism, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.



Since the establishment of China-Iran diplomatic ties more than 50 years ago, bilateral relations have withstood the test of the fluctuating international situation and made steady progress, said the official, noting that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met twice this year and reached a series of important consensus. Li added that China is ready to work with Iran to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, enrich the connotation of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership, and bring more benefits to the two peoples.

China will continue to firmly support Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national dignity and will strongly oppose any external forces interfering in Iran's internal affairs, he stressed.

The two sides should implement the comprehensive cooperation plan between the two countries, promote the Belt and Road cooperation, strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and people-to-people exchanges in such areas as education, culture, tourism, and think-tanks, as well as promoting new achievements in China-Iran cooperation, Li said.

## Boosting gas transit

Also on Thursday, Mokhber voiced Iran's readiness to develop the exploitation of the gas transit potential of the country in line with its president's initiative, dubbed "Gas for Global Economic Recovery in Post-COVID Era".

Addressing the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Mem-

ber States in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, he called for setting up a joint fund to finance upstream and downstream petrochemical projects, Shana reported.

The vice president also proposed the launch of a regional hub, dubbed "Shanghai Energy", with the aim of trading, swapping, and guaranteeing the security of energy resources, including fossil fuels, electricity, and renewable energies.

In addition, Mokhber expressed Iran's readiness to export techno-engineering services and manufacture oil, gas, and petrochemical equipment.

## Opening new air routes to Tajikistan

In another meeting in Bishkek on Thursday, Mokhber and Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda discussed the possibility of opening new air routes and expanding the num-

ber of flights between the countries.

It was noted that Tajikistan and Iran are keen on enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including boosting mutual trade, activating the private sector, and collaborating in banking, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare.

Rasulzoda and Mokhber also discussed further strengthening the work of the intergovernmental commission.

Meanwhile, during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September of this year, presidents Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan and Raisi of Iran expressed their support for simplifying visa procedures and increasing the number of flights between the countries.

Currently, regular air traffic between Tajikistan and Iran is being operated by Iranian Vares Airlines and Tajik Somon Air.



First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber speaks at the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on October 26, 2023.

● [fvpresident.ir](http://fvpresident.ir)

## Iran, India to finalize contract on development of Chabahar port

## International Desk

A contract will be finalized with India on the development of Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar within the next two weeks, an Iranian deputy minister of roads said. Ali Akbar Safaei — who is also the CEO of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran — announced that the previously agreed details of the contract between Iran

and India on the development of Chabahar have changed, Tasnim news agency reported.

The problems in the contract were all settled after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took office in August 2021, he said, adding that the only outstanding provision of the contract will be drafted in less than a month.

India has undertaken an investment of \$85 million in the development of the

first phase of Chabahar Port on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, Safaei added, noting that the second phase of the project will be carried out with the investment of foreign companies.

The deputy roads minister put the total investment made so far by India in the development of the Beheshti Port of Chabahar at \$25 million, which, he said, mainly includes gantry and coastal cranes.

The Indians are committed to supplying a set of equipment such as coastal, gantry, and yard cranes, as well as the equipment needed to load and unload cargo at the port, he continued.

The long-term contract, which will be finalized soon, is expected to serve the interests of the country, Safaei concluded.

