

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tehran,
Kabul sign
five MoUs

IRNA - Iran and Afghanistan on Thursday signed five memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on various joint economic cooperation attended by Iranian Agriculture Minister Mohammad-Ali Nikbakht, Iranian President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi, and Taliban's Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

Economic Adviser of the Iranian President's Special Envoy in Afghanistan Affairs Mohammad-Mehdi Javanmard-Qassab, said that according to the announcement of Taliban's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, trade between the two countries will reach \$10 billion, IRNA reported. The official made the remarks on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of the five MoUs.

Taliban's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced, in a period of three to five years, trade between Iran and Afghanistan will reach from \$1.6 billion to about \$10 billion.

"There are many variables in this field, including the need to increase production in Afghanistan," Javanmard-Qassab emphasized.

On November 4, Iran's capital Tehran hosted an Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting for the first time since the Taliban came to power.

Iran produces
13m tires in
seven months

Economy Desk

IRNA - Iranian tire-manufacturing companies produced 13.478 million tires with a total weight of 146,363 tons during the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March 21-October 22).

The number of sedan tires is 11,931 with a weight of 91,439 tons. Also, during the period, 802,890 van tire rings weighing 13,700 tons were produced. In addition, 446,000 truck tires and 298,534 tires for agricultural, road construction and industrial vehicles were registered, according to IRNA.

The total number of car tire products including bicycle, motorcycle and tube tires is 25.643 million with a total weight of 163,363 tons, the same as compared to the similar period last year.

The number of road construction and industrial tires increased by 41 percent, and the total number of sedan tire production decreased by five percent during the same period.

ECO members stress ease
of goods transit via Iran: **Raisi**

Iran to chair ECO next year



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi speaks at the 16th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on November 9, 2023.
● president.ir

Economy Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that at the meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the transit of goods through the Islamic Republic of Iran was emphasized, adding that half of the ECO members emphasized that Iran is a cheap way to transport goods and save time. After a two-day trip to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, President Raisi returned to Tehran on Thursday night with the welcome of the First Vice President and the Deputy for International Affairs of the Office of the Leader, IRNA reported.

Regarding the results and achievements of the trip to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, he said that ECO is an important organization for communication between ECO members, and in this summit, at first, they presented a report on what has been done in the past and plans for future actions were proposed.

He went on to point out

that transit and trade facilitation, especially for intra-regional trade, was one of the important issues raised in this summit, and noted that the issue of customs facilitation was one of the other issues raised in this summit.

"Environment and attention to science and new technologies and tourism were also among other topics and all the member countries expressed their views on economic issues," he added.

The Iranian president stated that in this meeting, the cooperation of the members was emphasized more than in the past, and the transit of goods through the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"Half of the members mentioned in their speeches that Iran is a cheap route and saves time," he added.

Meetings with
counterparts

The president went on to say that the visit to Tajikistan was a strategic document and 18 cooperation

agreements were signed." He said that the people and the government of Tajikistan, due to their common civilization and culture, have the will to cooperate with Iran in various fields.

Referring to his meetings with the participating presidents on the sidelines of this summit, Raisi said: "We had meetings with the presidents of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. Although bilateral relations were discussed in the working meeting with Mr. Erdogan, the issue of Palestine overshadowed other issues."

He continued, "Mr. Erdogan's positions on Palestine in the ECO summit were good and I emphasized that these positions are not enough and should be implemented and should have preventive measures. For deterrence, I mentioned the Leader's solution, which is aimed at cutting ties with the Zionist regime." In a meeting in Tashkent on Thursday, the Iranian and Turkish presidents

discussed relations between their countries, with Raisi describing them as developing.

The Iranian president pointed the oil and gas sector as one of the two countries' preferred areas of cooperation, adding that Iran enjoys very good capabilities in the energy sector, so the two countries could take more effective steps in this area.

In another meeting with his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the Iranian president said that Iran-Azerbaijan relations are beyond political and neighborly ties, and are based on a deep and inseparable bond.

Officials of the two countries are also determined to further expand those relations in different fields, he added.

Raisi also emphasized Iran's support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity including the Nagorno-Karabakh region, noting that the two countries are expanding their ties despite plots by

enemies and ill-wishers, which have failed.

Aliyev said that it is of key importance that officials of the two countries are determined to deepen bilateral ties, adding that attempts by certain states to create problems in Tehran-Baku relations have failed.

He also expressed gratitude towards Iran for its support of Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Iran's 2024
chairmanship

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Secretary General of ECO Khusrav Noziri announced that Iran will head the organization in 2024.

The next meeting of the heads of member states of the organization will be held in Azerbaijan in 2025, Noziri added.

The ECO secretary general prioritized new initiatives that directly contribute to the regional connectivity.

"These are, namely, Tajikistan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey (TUTIT) multimodal corridor, and the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey (KUTIT) corridor that will hopefully contribute to the development of transport relations in the region," he explained.

ECO is a successful and promising regional organization, and Iran, as one of the founding countries of the organization, has a serious interest in strengthening intra-regional cooperation and promoting the position of ECO as an effective regional mechanism for economic connectivity.

The international position of the organization, established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, with the aim of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the member countries, is growing.

18m traveled by air during H1

Economy Desk

Reza Nakhjavani, the CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company (IAC) stated that more than 18.6 million air passengers have been dispatched and received from the country's airports during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21).

During the period, 165,747 landings and take-offs were conducted at the country's airports and also more than 17.16 million domestic passengers were dispatched and received from the

country's airports through approximately 151,000 domestic flights, according to IRNA.

Mehrabad International Airport, with the dispatch and reception of nearly 6 million passengers and 53,000 flights, Mashhad International Airport, with over 3.8 million passengers and 29,255 flights, and Shiraz International Airport, with approximately 1.33 million passengers and over 12,000 flights, have secured the first to third positions among the country's airports in terms of passenger numbers and flights. Among the airports in the coun-

try that operate weekly flights, Zanzan Airport, Parsabad Airport, Bam Airport, and Tabas Airport have recorded the highest growth in the number of passengers and flights in the first six months of the year. Among the international airports, Zahedan Airport (31%), Kerman Airport (30%), and Tabriz Airport (9%) have experienced the highest growth in flight arrivals and departures.

