

## Tehran to have 7,000 EV charging stations: Mayor



● IRNA

A sum 7,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations will be launched in Tehran within the next couple of years, announced Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani on Wednesday. Zakani said that contracts related to the construction of the new charging stations have been concluded, adding that Tehran will have no problems in terms of the infrastructure and the supply of electricity needed for the stations, IRNA reported. Tehran launched a first batch of 15 EV charging stations in a ceremony on Aug 28, 2023 which was attended by authorities from Iran's Ministry of Industry, Tehran Municipality and the Ministry of Industry have agreed to finish the installation of some 5,000 EV charging stations in the city by the end of the next Iranian year (March 2025), said Zakani. He added that some 170 EV charging stations have become operational in Tehran.

# Some \$1.4b attracted in investment for ports development: PMO

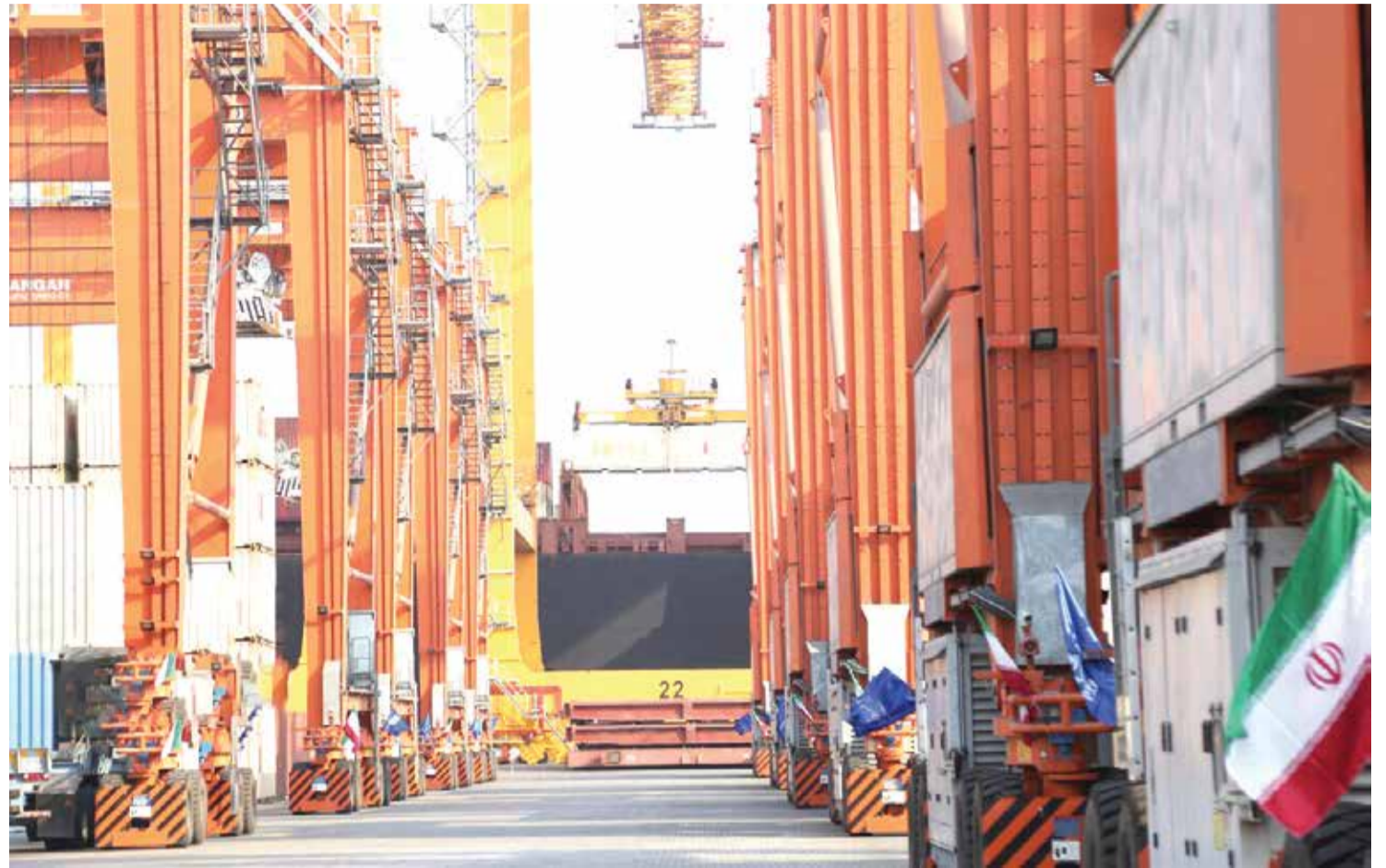
Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) attracted 700 trillion rials (about \$1.4 billion) of foreign and domestic investment for development of Iranian ports, announced Jalil Eslami, the deputy head of the organization.

According to the official, 200 trillion rials (about \$400 million) of the figure will be invested by the country's private sector as the remaining is supplied by foreign investors, IRNA reported.

Underlining the government's serious determination for the development of the country's maritime economy, he noted: "In this regard, a conference dubbed maritime-oriented development will be held by the PMO on the occasion of National Transportation Day on December 19."

Referring to the current government's measures to increase the loading and unloading capacity of Iranian ports, Eslami stated: "The realization of the general policies of maritime-oriented development requires the synergy of all executive, government and maritime bodies."

While Iran is combating the US sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in



● IRNA

countering the sanctions. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take

some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of

goods, especially basic commodities. The PMO has defined a high number of projects to devel-

op and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

## 'Time to reap fruits' of Iran-Syria economic cooperation

### PERSPECTIVE

Syria's emergence from years of conflict and the expansion of stability and peace in most parts of the country have provided Iran with a chance to re-establish economic and commercial cooperation between Tehran and Damascus.

After the destruction caused by years of war, Syria needs reconstruction. According to statistics, almost 40% of government and private buildings in Syria have been destroyed, or seriously damaged, according to Press TV.

The agricultural sector, which accounts for 20% of the country's gross domestic product, and 30% of the employment of workers, is in a bad shape. Sectors of the Syrian industry such as textiles, food and chemical products, which were once famous in West Asia, North Africa, and even Europe, are mostly in tatters. Almost all the industrial and infrastructure towns of the country have been damaged or destroyed, so much so that 80% of the Sheikh Najjar industrial town, one of the most famous production areas in Syria, has been destroyed.

Another area of crisis in Syria is the country's electricity and energy sectors. Of the 39 electricity generating stations in the country, 15 stations have been

completely destroyed, 10 stations partially destroyed, and only one of the eight gas refineries is operating.

Considering the potentials, capacities and experience that Iran has in areas such as building construction, agricultural chains of irrigation, planting, harvesting and conversion industries, construction of power plants and establishment of refineries and petrochemicals, it is best placed to provide the basis for exporting and sending technical and engineering services to Syria with the support of the private and public sectors and raise bilateral economic exchange to more than \$3 billion.

"Iranian companies have priority in participating in the reconstruction of Syria," Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous said in Tehran on Saturday, stating that the Syrian people will not forget Iran for standing by them during years of a terrorist war and unilateral economic sanctions on their country.

According to Damascus-based Al-Watan newspaper, Syria's commercial department emphasized in its meetings in Tehran that the time has come to reap the fruits of cooperation between Syria and Iran.

"Therefore, the agreements in the important areas of economic cooperation and

investment in all sectors are in the implementation stage and are progressing well," it said.

"The most important thing is that what is being worked on today will lead to raising the level of economic rela-

high speed.

Khalil was in the Islamic Republic on Saturday as part of a large delegation headed by Prime Minister Arnous for the 15th meeting of the two allies' joint economic commission after a long

and its implementation will begin in the coming days. Also, the joint insurance agreed upon during President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Syria in May has been finalized, and the issuance of insurance policies will be



This photo shows a joint economic committee meeting of Iranian and Syrian ministers in Tehran on December 9, 2023.

● dolat.ir

tions to the point that the two countries aspire to." Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade of Syria Mohammad Samer al-Khalil said that 15-year negotiations between the two countries have reached the implementation stage in the last one year and agreements signed between them are being carried out at a

hiatus. The visit resulted in the signing of a deal on free trade and several memoranda of understanding for tourism, media, sports, museums and libraries cooperation.

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehرداد Bazrpash said the establishment of a joint bank in Syria has been finalized

activated soon.

He touched on preferential tariffs and many trade tariffs having been cut to zero for 88 items between the two countries, saying the agreement has been finalized and will be implemented in the coming days.

They have also set a target for 50,000 Iranian pilgrims to visit Syria next year. Ba-

zrpash listed energy and electricity another key area of collaboration, saying Iranian companies are about to help Syria repair its national power grid and build new power plants in the country, with the agreement being in the final stages.

The Syrian media described the visit as strategic and unique, while Arab media said it marked Iran's long-term economic presence in Syria and part of its plan to establish an East-West Corridor.

"This trip strengthens the economic and trade relations between the two countries in a way that the interests of the two brotherly nations are secured," said the head of the Syrian-Iranian joint Chamber of Commerce, Fahd Mahmoud Darwish.

"Their participation in the meetings of the joint economic committee of ministers is aimed at promoting joint cooperation and finding solutions to all problems that hinder the exchange of goods and joint investment," he said.

According to London-based New Arab outlet, all indications point to the fact that the agreements between Iran and Syria have been finalized and reached the implementation stage.

"The presence of an Iranian bank in Syria sends a message to the Arabs trying to normalize with the Syrian

government that Iran has established a long-term economic presence in Syria and therefore efforts to reduce its presence in Syria have failed," it cited Yunus al-Karim, an economic researcher, as saying.

By establishing a bank in Syria and strengthening their cooperation, the Iranians will become strong allies of Syria and increase their influence in the country, he added.

Karim also said the presence of an Iranian bank in Syria and dealing with local currencies is expected to help manage religious shrines in Syria and send pilgrims with the aim of developing tourism.

London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper said Iran is pushing to activate the Iraq-Syria land transit line through Iraq, as well as a shipping line between Iranian and Syrian ports.

"This project aims to revive a trade line to bypass international economic sanctions and establish what is called the East-West Corridor in Iran," it said.

The newspaper quoted economic sources in Damascus as saying that five major agreements have been concluded for the repayment of Syria's debts to Iran, which include investments in the agricultural sector, phosphate mines, oil wells and a telecommunications project in Syria.