

NEWS IN BRIEF

**INTA says
eight-month
tax collection
exceeds
\$12.6b**

Economy Desk

The total amount of taxes and duties collected by the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) during the first eight months of the current Iranian year topped \$12.6 billion (631 trillion rials). Announcing the above on Sunday, INTA head Mohammad-Hadi Sobhanian said that the Supreme Audit Court of Iran is very effective in helping to explain the destinations of the collected taxes, IRNA reported. Tax exemptions have been doubled for salary earners with the aim of reducing the economic pressure, the INTA head added. He pointed to basing the tax credit rating for granting facilities as well as eliminating injustice in provincial taxes as the main steps taken by his organization, and said a reform has been prioritized by INTA on tax collection system of the country.

**Iran
exporting
aquatics to
55 countries:
Official**

The secretary general of Iran's fisheries Production and Trading Union said the country is exporting aquatic animals to more than 50 countries. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 7th International Congress of Fisheries and Aquatic Research held in Karaj, Alborz Province on Sunday, Ali Akbar Khodaei said \$500-\$600 million worth of aquatics are exported from the country overseas annually, reported Tasnim news agency. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has placed special emphasis on the subject of sea-based development, as steps have been taken in the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi in the fisheries industry, he stated. Khodaei called on the private sector to make its utmost effort to realize the objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture, especially in the field of fisheries. Increasing the efficiency of technical know-how in this industry has been cited as one of the main goals of organizing the congress, he said, adding that under an agreement inked by the Vice Presidency for the Science and Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture, projects in the field of fisheries will be supported. Moving towards the optimization of the production infrastructures based on technology is the sole way to overcome the existing challenges, Khodaei concluded.

Relations with Europe reviving: *MP*

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writers

A member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said Iran and the European countries are reviving their relations, which had been damaged following last year's unrest in Iran. In an interview with Iran Daily, Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi said that the Europeans' miscalculation of Iran's social conditions and last year's unrest in the country led to taking hardline and aggressive stances against Iran, followed by poor relations between Tehran and some European countries. Jahanabadi said that the biased approach adopted by the Western media which spread lies about Iran had greatly affected Europeans' analysis of the situation in Iran. The death of 22-year-old Iranian girl Mahsa Amini in police custody on September 16, 2022, led to protests across the country

which turned violent in some regions. Jahanabadi, who is also the head of the Iran-Portugal Parliamentary Friendship Group, said that the Western media had also affected relations between Iran and Portugal. However, he said that ties between the two sides are improving after the return of calm to the streets of Iranian cities.

He said that we will arrange a trip to Iran by a group of representatives of Portugal's different sectors to witness the real situation in Iran.

Jahanabadi described the NATO-member state as an important country in the European Union, saying that Portugal is of great importance for Iran due to its strategic geographical position in the continents' southwest.

The Iranian lawmaker said that Portugal has turned to a hub for computer programming and technology in Europe and Iran is interested in expanding cooperation with the European country in the fields of information technology and computer programming. Currently, many powerful com-

panies active in the field of European computer programming are operating in Portugal, and Iranian companies can cooperate in these fields with the Portuguese companies in the form of joint projects, the Iranian lawmaker said. Jahanabadi said Iran sent a group of the members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group of Iran and Portugal and representatives of different departments and sectors of Iran to Portugal almost two years ago. During the trip, both sides discussed cooperation in various economic, cultural and scientific fields.

Referring to capacities of Portugal in the field of meat production, Jahanabadi said importing meat from

Portugal is economically more efficient than other countries, including those of Latin America.

On the other hand, Iran is a four-season country with a suitable platform for producing all kinds of agricultural products that can be sold in Portugal, which has seen a 13 percent growth in exports in 2023. In addition, the two countries can cooperate in cultural and sports fields and holding joint cultural festivals.

The Iranian official said that according to statistics, food and agricultural products, metals, minerals, ores, machinery and other equipment were the main exports from Portugal to Iran in 2020.

In the same year, minerals and ores, agricultural and chemical products were Iran's main exports to Portugal.

**Tehran, Dushanbe seek €500m in trade**

The head of the international affairs department of Iran's Ministry of Energy said that Iran and Tajikistan have targeted to boost annual trade to €500 million. The two countries have witnessed considerable growth in bilateral trade during the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, while more than \$91 million worth of non-oil products were exported from Iran to Tajikistan over the past two years, Mojtaba Akbari told IRNA. The two countries have managed to strengthen political and economic relations in various fields due to their cultural, historical and lingual commonalities, he

emphasized.

Pointing to the development of trade-economic relations between the two countries, Akbari noted that Iran and Tajikistan inked seven cooperation agreements in September 2021 during Raisi's first visit to Dushanbe.

Nineteen cooperation documents were signed between the two countries in November 2023 during Raisi's second visit to Tajikistan, he said, adding, "In addition, 17 cooperation documents had been inked between the two countries after the visit of the Tajik president to Iran in 2021." He pointed to the export of con-

struction materials, food products, detergents, petrochemical products and agricultural equipment and machinery from Iran to Tajikistan and added that an exhibition will be held in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe on December 26 with the participation of 36 large Iranian companies.

In this exhibition, Iranian companies will showcase their latest achievements and products, he continued.

Boosting the annual bilateral trade to €500 million has been cited as one of the main objectives of an upcoming visit by Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian to Tajikistan, he said.

**Some 1,100 Iranian firms producing medical equipment: *Deputy minister***

Iran's deputy minister of industry, mine and trade for industrial affairs put the number of companies manufacturing medical equipment and machinery at 1,100.

Most of the medical equipment and machinery produced by these companies meet European standards, noted Mohammad Mousavi.

Speaking to IRNA, he pointed out that the competent domestic companies have attained a high capability of manufacturing medical-related equipment, while observing international standards.

Following a visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to

Indonesia, Iranian companies exported a surgery robot to the Southeast Asian country, he said, adding that Iranian companies can export advanced medical equipment and machinery to other countries as well.

The time of delivery and quality of the product are the main two principles that should be taken into consideration in this field, the deputy industry minister emphasized.

Mousavi pointed to the production of face masks and other medical supplies during the global coronavirus pandemic and noted that domestic companies managed to meet the

demands during this critical condition.

While Western countries had imposed tough sanctions against the country, especially in the field of medicine and medical equipment, domestic companies managed to manufacture hi-tech medical equipment and machinery, he said. Presently, two Iranian companies are producing advanced ventilators (breathing machines), the deputy industry minister stated.

Efforts are underway to get a considerable share of the global market in the field of manufacturing advanced medical equipment, he added.