

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fiber-optic line proposed to link Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed that a fiber-optic communication line be laid between Russia, Kazakhstan and Iran.

"I propose that a fiber-optic communication line along the Russia-Kazakhstan-Iran route be considered in order to connect to existing international lines running along the coast of the Indian Ocean," Tokayev said at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in St. Petersburg, Interfax reported on Tuesday.

"This will not only create an alternative route for transit traffic in the Eurasian space, but also significantly strengthen the position of our Union in data logistics at the global level," he said.

Iran to open key SE rail link in year to March 2025

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehرداد Bazrpash said that the important Chabahar-Zahedan railway will be inaugurated in the year to March 2025.

Speaking to IRNA on Tuesday, Bazrpash said that Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters, Ministry of Road and Urban Development, and Sistan and Baluchestan governorate will do their best to make the project operational by the end of the next Iranian year.

The project is about 830 kilometers from the North-South Corridor in Sistan and Baluchistan, he said. The Chabahar to Zahedan section is about 630km, and the Zahedan to Khash section has been put into operation, while the entire capacity of Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters has been used to complete the Khash to Chabahar section, the minister noted.

After the end of the lining operation of some tunnels, the rail laying operation of 200km length will begin, he stated.

Iran's nine-month trade up 7%: Minister

Iran's foreign trade registered a seven percent growth in the first nine months of the current Iranian year (started March 21, 2023), announced the minister of economic affairs and finance.

The country's foreign trade value, from March 21 to December 22, 2023, hit \$112 billion, showing a seven percent increase compared to the corresponding period last year, Ehsan Khandouzi said, according to IRNA.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) calculated the monthly foreign trade report with the inclusion of the exports of oil, electricity,

technical and engineering services for the first time, ecc.news reported. The report indicates that Iran's exports value exceeded that of imports by as much as \$15 billion, Khandouzi said, adding, "This means that more than \$63 billion worth of oil- and non-oil products were exported from the country while more than \$48 billion worth of products were imported into the country in this period."

Accordingly, the total value of Iran's foreign trade hit \$112 billion from March 21 to December 22, 2023, indicating a seven percent hike compared to the same period last year, the economy minister added.

**FTA with EAEU to open new horizon for SCO, ECO, BRICS: Iran's official**

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said that the free trade agreement (FTA) between the Islamic Republic and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) will open a new horizon for expanding ties with Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and BRICS. Safari stated in an interview with IRNA in Moscow that the signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

is significant. This is because it will result in new trade connections with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, ECO and BRICS. This is due to three of the five Eurasian Union member countries being part of SCO, two being members of ECO, and

one of them also being a member of BRICS.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran emphasized that the agreement signing will lead to increased exports and imports between Iran and the EAEU members.

He noted the significant potential for Iranian exports in joint automobile production, transit, reactors, construction materials, medical equipment, and medicine. Iran and the EAEU signed an important agreement to initiate free trade, six years after Iran joined the bloc to expand its trade partners in response to Western sanctions.

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Abbas Ali-Abadi and Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Mikhail Myasnikov signed the agreement.

Iran's gas exports more than double in seven months: TPO

Iran's exports of gas more than doubled in the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March 21-October 22).

The country exported more than \$2 billion worth of gas from March 21 to October 22, 2023, according to the statistics of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), IRNA reported.

This is while Iran had exported more than \$1 billion worth of gas overseas from March 21 to October 22, 2022, the TPO added.

The TPO noted that Iran exported 7.55 million tons of gas in the first seven months of the current Iranian year, registering a 115-percent hike in weight compared to the same period last year.

The value of each ton of Iranian gas, which stood at \$304 in 2022, increased to \$336 in 2023, showing an 11 percent growth.

**Middle East's geothermal power plant to be launched in Iran**

The first geothermal power plant in the Middle East, with the generation capacity of five megawatts, will be put into operation in Meshginshahr, Iran's northwestern province of Ardebil, in the near future, the project commissioner of the Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) said.

This power plant is under construction as a pilot project installed

on a reservoir of geothermal energy with a generation capacity of about 250 megawatts of electricity, Behnam Khaefinejad stated, according to Tasnim news agency.

The construction operation of the geothermal power plant is ongoing, with 93 percent physical progress, he said, adding that several wells, as deep as about 3,000 meters, have been drilled



with the generation capacity of 30 megawatts of electricity. Five megawatts of that will be put into operation in the first phase, Khaefinejad added. He said the implementation of this project has enabled the country to acquire the technical know-how of exploration, design, implementation and operation of geothermal resources. Located 25km south of

Meshginshahr, the first geothermal power plant of the country is under construction by the Thermal Power Plants Holding Company. Geothermal power refers to the use of underground hot steam to drive turbines, which in turn generate electricity. It is cheaper and more reliable than other renewable energy sources, such as thermal or hydropower.



Notice of tender for
export sale
No. Z/1402/14 (renewed)

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company
Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 8. Jan.2024 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 9. Jan.2024 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.