

Iranians, Senegalese keen on working in aquaculture, veterinary medicine

An aquaculture and animal husbandry delegation from Senegal has traveled to Iran to participate in training courses and learn about experiences and achievements of Iran in the fields of fisheries and veterinary medicine. Iran's Veterinary Organization (IVO) hosted the 15-member Senegalese delegation in line with collaborations to developing the management skills of African countries. Head of Iran Veterinary Organization Mojtaba Norouzi said his organization is ready to share its experiences with the visiting Senegalese delegation in the fields of aquaculture and veterinary medicine. The deputy minister of agriculture hoped that the training courses would be fruitful for the Senegalese officials.

Iran ranks first in AI among Islamic states: *Official*



The head of Islamic World Science & Technology Monitoring and Citation Institute (ISC) said the Islamic Republic of Iran stood in first place among Islamic countries in terms of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

Ahmad Fazelzadeh explained on the outstanding scientific status of Iran in the fourth generation (4-G) technologies of the industry and also the rate of science production in these areas, reported Tasnim News Agency.

The fourth media industrial revolution can be regarded as one of the salient achievements in recent decades that can have many benefits for businesses, industries and people in society, he emphasized.

This industrial revolution is based on intelligence, the official said, adding that smart equipment and technologies such as the AI, Internet of Things (IoT), 3-D printing, communication technologies of the new generation (5-G, robotics, block-chains and drone technology) take the lead in the industrial revolution.

The fourth media industrial revolution is an emerging reality that would be the source of many changes and developments in the fields of economic, social and educational structures, he added.

Owji: Daily gasoline distribution surpasses 132m liters during cold spell

Gasoline distribution across Iran exceeded 132 million liters per day as temperatures dropped sharply in recent days, said Oil Minister Javad Owji on Monday.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to the Monitoring Center of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), he added the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) has supplied fuel to all 4,200 gas stations and power plants incessantly during the cold weather, Shana reported.

The minister said the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil industry are fully prepared and no pressure drop has been reported in any part of the country.

According to Owji, the country is producing 30 million cubic meters (mcm)

more gas this year, as Phase 11 and Phase 14 of the South Pars Gas Field account for the highest offshore and onshore production, respectively.

More than 1.07 billion cubic meters (bcm) of raw gas are currently produced per day, out of which over 850 mcm of sweet gas are injected into the national gas grid per day.

Shifting to Israel's recent terrorist attacks on Iran's gas transmission pipelines, the oil minister said the damaged parts were fixed in the shortest possible time.

On February 14, two explosions struck the gas transmission pipelines at around 1 a.m. local time (2130 GMT), hitting the lines in Borujen, western province of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, and Safa-Shahr, southern province of Fars.



IMF upgrades Iran's 2023 growth rate to 5.4%, citing oil output surge

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised up its previous economic growth projection for Iran in 2023, attributing it to a higher-than-expected increase in the country's oil production.

Releasing its latest quarterly report, known as World Economic Outlook, the IMF said Iran's economy grew 5.4 percent in 2023, showing a remarkable boost compared to the preceding year. The international agency had previously predicted a three-percent growth for the country's economy in that year, Press TV wrote.

The IMF also forecast a 3.7 percent economic growth for Iran in 2024, while its previous projection in October 2023 had put the figure at 2.5 percent.

The world body attributed the hike in Iran's growth rate to a surge in the country's oil output, which it said has surpassed 2.7 million barrels per day so far in 2024. IMF's figures confirm reports by the Iranian government agencies suggesting that the country is on a path to control inflation and restore economic growth to levels seen before 2018, when the United States withdrew from an international deal on Iran's nuclear program and re-imposed sanctions on the country.

The sanctions initially affected Iran's oil revenues and led to periods of negative economic growth in the country. However, Iran started to recoup the losses in the second half of 2022, after it implemented a series of economic reform programs to offset the impact of sanctions. Experts believe the US sanctions on Iran gave the country an opportunity to diversify its economy away from oil revenues and rely more on domestic resources.



Iran's non-oil exports to Russia top \$2b in 2023: *Envoy*

Iran's ambassador to Russia said the country's exports of non-oil products to the Russian Federation topped \$2 billion in 2023.

Russia's exports of non-oil products to Iran, meanwhile, decreased last year, Kazem Jalali added, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Turning to the banking and monetary exchanges between Tehran and Moscow, he noted that banking transactions between the two countries will be carried out in a more facilitated way in the next Iranian year (to start March 20, 2024).

The officials of the two countries are determined to boost cooperation in the monetary and banking fields, he noted. Jalali pointed to the signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and five member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) late in 2023, and termed it a great achievement for the two sides.

After signing this agreement, the governments of Iran and the five EAEU member states (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) will submit it to their respective parliaments for final approval.

Once the agreement is put into effect, the customs tariff of over 90 percent of the goods will be minimized to zero, he said, expressing hope that this agreement will be approved by the parliaments of the countries as soon as possible because launching the FTA would play a leading role in boosting bilateral trade.

Once the FTA is put into operation, Iran's exports of products to the member states of the union will significantly increase, he added.

The free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran was signed during the EAEU summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, on De-



Iran manufactures over 1.2m cars in 11 months

The head of the Auto Industries Department of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade said about 1.23 million cars were manufactured in the country in the 11 months of the current Iranian year (started March 21, 2023). Mehrdad Khosravi put the number of passenger cars produced in the country from March 21, 2022, to February 22, 2023, at 980,000, reported Tasnim News Agency. He pointed out that 152,000 pickup trucks were manufactured during the period, reg-

istering a 34 percent growth compared to the same period last year. About 34,000 different types of heavy vehicles (trucks, mini-trucks and tractor-trailers) were manufactured in the first 11 months of the current Iranian year, showing a 10 percent hike compared to last year's corresponding period, Khosravi added. The official noted that about 280,000 vehicles were manufactured by the private sector. The International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (known

as OICA) has ranked Iran sixth in the world in terms of car manufacturing growth in 2022. According to the OICA data, car manufacturing in Iran increased by 19 percent in 2022, as the country manufactured 1.064 million vehicles in the mentioned year, while the figure was 894,000 in 2021. The international organization in its annual report released in mid-March, had ranked Iran as the world's 16th largest automaker in 2022. According to the OICA report, Iran's position

among the world's top automakers has improved by three places in 2022 compared to the previous year making the country stand above industrial countries like the UK, Russia, and the Czech Republic. The Islamic Republic was ranked 19th in the OICA list of the world's top automakers in 2021. Based on the report, Iranian automakers managed to manufacture 1,064,298 vehicles in 2022 to register a 19-percent growth compared to the previous year.

According to the OICA data, in 2022, more than 85 million cars were produced worldwide, indicating a six percent growth compared to 2021. Also, European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), in its annual report released in late February, ranked Iran as the world's 11th largest automaker in 2022. According to the ACEA report, Iran's position among the world's top automakers has improved by eight places in 2022 compared to the previous year. The Islamic Repub-

lic was ranked 19th in the ACEA list of the world's top automakers in 2021. Based on the mentioned report, Iranian automakers managed to manufacture 1,085,859 vehicles in 2022 to register a 10.8-percent growth compared to 979,969 cars in 2021. According to the ACEA data, in 2022, more than 68 million cars were produced worldwide, indicating a 7.9 percent growth compared to 2021. About 63,200,000 cars were produced in the world in 2021.