

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tehran, Ashgabat to foster energy cooperation

Iran and Turkmenistan will expand their cooperation in the fields of electricity and energy. A high-ranking delegation from Turkmenistan has arrived in Tehran to pursue the development of cooperation in the electricity and energy industries, the director general of the foreign trade office of Iran's Power Generation and Distribution Company (TAVANIR) said. Mehrdad Eqlimi added that an expert-level meeting was held at the venue of the company with the aim of expanding relations between the two countries in the relevant fields. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged their views regarding the expansion of the common capacities and the process of facilitation of financing the joint venture project for the construction operation of 3rd electricity transmission line between the two states, he said. Once the said electricity transmission line is launched, the electricity connection capacity between the two neighbors will increase threefold, Eqlimi emphasized.

Annual imports of coffee hit \$148m: IRICA

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that 49,000 tons of coffee beans, valued at \$148 million, were imported into the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 2023-March 2024), showing a 48.55 percent hike compared to a year earlier. In this period, Iran imported coffee beans from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Vietnam, India, Indonesia and Uganda, among others, the report said, reported Tasnim News Agency. About 95 percent of the coffee beans were imported into the country from these five countries, it added. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) exported \$78 million of coffee to Iran, accounting for 52.89 percent of Iran's coffee imports share in value, IRICA added. About 82 percent of coffee was imported into the country via Shahid Rajaei Customs Office, followed by Mashhad, Bushehr, Bandar Lengeh and Tehran customs, Mehr news agency reported.

Raisi hails growing ties with Africa

Iran ready to share capabilities with African states

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says the Islamic Republic and the African nations are keen to strengthen ties between the two sides, noting that enhanced ties can form a complementary economy.

Raisi made the remarks during the 2nd Iran & Africa International Economic Conference on Friday at Tehran's International Conference Center.

"This meeting is a symbol of the will of African nations and Iran to expand economic ties," he told the gathering that hosted representatives from 30 African countries.

Raisi hailed the conference, which opened on Thursday, as an opportunity for both Iran and the African nations to get familiar with their mutual capacities. "Despite threats and sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made good progress. The Islamic Republic can be called an advanced and technological country," he said, stressing that getting familiar with the achievements of Iran in the field of emerging technologies is of "great importance."

The president said Iran seeks to maintain ties with Africa based on mutual interest, unlike many Western countries that have "plundered" Africa's resources. "Westerners want Africa for themselves but we want Africa for Africa."

Tehran believes that Africa has skilled labor forces and can achieve progress in many fields, including emerging technologies, he stressed. Raisi stressed the importance of formulating roadmaps for cooperation between Iran and the African continent and for cooperation between Iran and each African nation, with defined timelines.

He also emphasized the necessity of removing obstacles that hinder the two sides from expanding ties, including the problem of transfer of funds.

If Iran's and Africa's capacities are combined, "a complementary economy will be formed," he stressed.

Pointing to the necessity of knowing the capacities in African countries, the existence of extensive mines and resources in these countries along with the technology to exploit the mines in Iran, Raisi added extraterritorial cultivation and supplying resources for production and



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi speaks during the 2nd Iran & Africa International Economic Conference in Tehran on April 26, 2024.

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industrial centers at reasonable prices are another area of cooperation with Africa.

Senior officials, including economy ministers, are taking part in this edition of the conference that will wrap up its activities on Monday.

Mutual interests with Burkina Faso

Iran seeks mutual interests of the Iranian and the African nations, Raisi said in a meeting with Prime Minister of Burkina Faso Apollinaire Joachim Kyélem on the sidelines of the conference on Friday.

He emphasized the need to speed up the establishment of mechanisms to strengthen relations between Iran and Burkina Faso, including the activation of the joint commission of the two countries.



The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate, interact and exchange its capabilities with African countries, including Burkina Faso, he said, adding that the development of these relations will benefit the nations of the two countries.

The prime minister of Burkina Faso, for his part, referred to the Western media's attempt to present a false and distorted image of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Contrary to Western propaganda, Iran is an independent, developing and advanced country, which relies on the attractiveness of this country to develop and strengthen relations with it in all fields, he said.

The PM also emphasized his country's interest in expanding cooperation and interaction with the Islamic Republic of Iran

in communications, mining, agriculture, animal husbandry, transportation, scientific and cultural, knowledge-based, and energy fields.

Implementation of Tehran-Harare pacts

In another meeting with Zimbabwean Vice President Constantino Chiwenga on the same day, Raisi said Iran's view of Africa is a strategic one based on collective interests noting that Tehran and Harare enjoy very good relations as the high officials of the two countries to improve the level of cooperation.

Speaking for his part, Chiwenga noted that his country and Iran are seeking to expedite the implementation of the economic cooperation signed last year amid rising interest from the

Middle East economic powerhouse to invest in Africa.

VP Chiwenga told journalists after the meeting that Zimbabwe is following up on the operationalization of the 12 agreements signed when President Raisi visited the southern African country last year.

"Firstly, we were congratulating President Raisi for hosting the Iran-Africa International Economic Conference which will mutually benefit the parties involved," said Chiwenga.

"Iran has advanced economically and its cooperation with Africa will bring growth impetus to the economies involved.

"We are the builders of our own economies and we really want to see development. From our end, we are following up on the implementation of the agreements signed last year," said the VP.

Exports of techno-engineering services bring in \$1.8b in two years



The chairman of Board of Directors of the Iran Water Industry Federation said the country exported \$1.8 billion worth of technical and engineering services over the past two years. Stressing the importance of exporting technical and

engineering services, Reza Haj Karim said giant steps have been taken in the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi in the field as compared to the previous years, wrote Tasnim News Agency. Domestic knowledge-based

companies have high potential to export technical and engineering services and can do even better with due support from the government, he underscored.

Haj Karim further noted that Sri Lanka, Indonesia and East Asian countries are among those whose their economic growth is higher than the world average, so this Asian market can be a lucrative market for Iranian domestic companies.

As a leading country in the water and electricity industry, Iran stands in the first rank in the region in the export of technical and engineering services in this industry, and this shows the high technical and engineering knowledge and ability of Iranian specialists and companies.

Thanks to the efforts of the country's specialists in the years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran is now among the top five power plant turbine manufacturing countries in the world.



Iran to launch direct shipping line to West Africa: TPO

Iran will launch direct a shipping line to West Africa, announced the head of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) on Friday adding that his organization has plans to increase the number of commercial attachés in the African continent from three to 14 during the current Iranian year (to end March 20, 2025). Speaking at the Second International Economic Conference of Iran and Africa in Tehran, Mehdi Zeyghami noted that Iran hosts representatives from over 30 African states, ISNA reported. "The economy of Iran and many African countries complement each other, so it is possible to

make a leap in trade relations through free bilateral trade," the TPO head said.

The two sides lack information on trade potentials of trade markets of Iran and Africa, he criticized expressing his hope to eliminate the barriers through the Tehran meeting and the Iran Expo 2024 exhibition as well as other planned meetings.

Iran has launched a regular shipping line to East and North Africa, Zeyghami said noting that according to a directive by President Ebrahim Raisi during his visit to Algeria, the establishment of a shipping line to West Africa has also been put on the agenda.