

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran-Turkey Economic Commission to be held soon

The director general of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe Department of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation Commission will be held in the coming days to bolster bilateral ties in the fields of trade and economy.

The 4th session of the Coordinating Headquarters of Foreign Economic Relations was held with the participation of Director General of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe Department of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Reza Nazeri, some of the senior managers of the ministry, deputies and representatives of the executive organization on "Reviewing Latest Situation of Foreign Economic Relations with Turkey and Cuba", IRNA reported.

Mahmoud Heidari submitted a comprehensive report on the situation of relations between Iran and Turkey and stated that the two countries have high potential to enhance their ties in trade and economic fields. He pointed to the amicable relations between Iran and Turkey and called the organizing the 4th Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Cooperation as an opportunity for promoting the level of cooperation in all fields.

Agro sector to apply metaverse to increase productivity



The head of Iran Agricultural Information Sciences and Technology (IAIST) said the agricultural sector of the country will enter the world of metaverse to improve productivity.

Hossein Farazmand made the comments on the sidelines of the Iran Efficiency Exhibition, adding that the use of communications and information technology is one of the issues raised to increase efficiency and productivity in the agricultural sector.

In this regard, giant steps have been taken in the country to make the agricultural sector smarter, he said, adding that projects like smart irrigation and the use of the Internet of Things (IoT) are underway. Farazmand pointed out that the first 'metaverse' platform in Iran's agricultural sector was launched in cooperation with a technology-based firm so that the agricultural and horticultural products of Iran's Ministry of Agriculture can be presented on this virtual space.

Iran's foreign trade keeps upward trend during Raisi's term: IRICA

Iran's foreign trade registered a considerable jump during the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration (32 months in service) and reached more than \$301 billion, according to a report by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

About 347 million tons of goods, valued at over \$137.8 billion, were exported from the country

between August 2021 and April 22, 2024, showing a 17.19 and 1.5 percent hike in terms of value and weight respectively compared to the same period in the previous administration, it said, wrote Tasnim News Agency.

The report added that \$48 billion of products were exported from the country in 2021, showing a 40 percent hike compared to a year

earlier. More than \$53 billion of products were imported into the country in 2021, showing a 36 percent hike compared to a year before, it noted.

IRICA put the export of non-oil goods in 2022 at \$53 billion, showing about 10 percent increase compared to a year earlier. The country imported \$59 billion of products in 2022, registering

a 13 percent hike compared to a year before.

Iran exported about \$87 billion worth of products including oil, electricity, technical and engineering services last year (ended March 19, 2024), showing a 58% hike compared to a year earlier, the report said.

A helicopter carrying President Raisi and his entourage crashed

in northwestern mountainous forests on May 19.

The crash killed President Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Friday prayers leader of Tabriz Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Al-e-Hashem, Governor of East Azarbaijan Malek Rahmati, the commander of the president's security team, two pilots and a flight crew.



Pakistan opens borders with Iran 24/7 to boost trade: Envoy

Envoy



Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu Friday said Pakistan has decided to open two border crossing points with Iran 24 hours a day and seven days a week in a bid to push bilateral trade.

The envoy hoped that this will improve the flow of goods between the two countries and provide more economic opportunities, SAMAA reported.

"A big step forward to promote business between Pakistan and Iran. Pakistan has decided to open Taftan & Gabd borders 24/7. Flow of goods between two countries will hopefully witness sharp rise & widen economic opportunities," he tweeted. Pakistan and Iran on April 24 reiterated the importance of energy cooperation and electricity trade, despite the warning of potential sanctions hinted at by the United States following the then Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Pakistan.

Border of prosperity

Agreeing to turn the common border between the two states from

a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries had reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

During Raisi's visit to Pakistan, both sides had underscored the imperative of a long-term durable economic partnership and collaborative regional economic and connectivity model, particularly for socio-economic development in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan and Pakistan's Balochistan provinces.

This was stated by the Foreign Office in a 28-point joint statement, hours after the Iranian head of state had departed for Tehran from Karachi.

The two sides had reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, and signed multiple accords. The two countries, as per the statement, had agreed to expeditiously finalise the free trade agreement (FTA) and boost their bilateral trade to \$10 billion over the next

five years through joint economic projects, setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and new border openings.

Barter trade

There was consensus to fully operationalise barter trade mechanisms between the two sides to facilitate economic and commercial activity, particularly under ongoing collaborative endeavours, such as border sustenance markets.

Regarding connectivity, the two sides had expressed satisfaction over the regular shipment of goods under the TIR Convention and agreed to fully operationalise the Convention for further efficient, speedy and barrier-free trade.

As members of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), the two countries had expressed firm resolve to enhance cooperation in connectivity, infrastructure development and energy sectors and agreed to expand linkages between Gwadar and Chahbahar ports.

A prominent figure ...

Amidst the Gaza war, Tehran's unwavering support for Hamas and the Palestinian people was evident. Nevertheless, under Amir-Abdollahian's adept leadership, Iran's diplomatic apparatus tirelessly worked towards ending the conflict. Simultaneously, the Foreign Ministry remained vigilant against the schemes of Israeli and American extremists aiming to drag Iran into a direct war. Tehran's strategic decision not to engage in direct confrontation was implemented with utmost prudence.

With a keen understanding of the power of diplomacy and the importance of coordinating military

and diplomatic efforts, Amir-Abdollahian skillfully navigated the complex geopolitical landscape. This approach culminated in the most severe direct confrontation between Iran and Israel on April 14, which occurred with the full backing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In alignment with the government's overarching policy of fostering relations with neighboring countries, Amir-Abdollahian achieved considerable success in the realm of foreign policy. The substantial attendance of high-ranking delegations from neighboring and regional countries at the funeral ceremony to pay their respects to the late

president and foreign minister in Tehran serves as compelling evidence of these accomplishments. Notable among these achievements was the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia following a prolonged period of estrangement. This landmark development exemplified Tehran's policy of de-escalation and regional cooperation during Amir-Abdollahian's tenure as foreign minister. Approximately seven years after diplomatic relations between the two key players in the region and the Islamic world were severed, Amir-Abdollahian held a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah in August 2022. This historic rapprochement brought numerous benefits

not only to Tehran and Riyadh but to other regional countries as well. The resumption of political relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the cessation of hostilities between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the normalization of Arab countries' relations with Syria, and Damascus' return to the Arab League after a multi-year absence are all testaments to the far-reaching impact of this diplomatic breakthrough. Amir-Abdollahian's tenure as foreign minister was characterized by significant progress towards restoring diplomatic relations between Iran and Egypt. Although he didn't live to see the fruits of his efforts, the presence of Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri at the funeral ceremony for the late president and foreign

minister hints at promising developments in Tehran-Cairo relations in the near future.

The attendance of the Bahraini delegation, led by their foreign minister, at the ceremony should also not be overlooked. Bahrain followed Saudi Arabia in severing political ties with Tehran in 2016. Under Amir-Abdollahian's diplomatic leadership, Iran also secured membership in key international agreements, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's 30-year career in foreign policy solidifies his place among Iran's distinguished luminaries in the field of diplomacy. His commitment to fostering regional cooperation and strategic alliances leaves a lasting legacy for Iran's foreign policy.