

Iran, Afghanistan's trade grow by 13%

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

A senior businessman from the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce stated that the trade between the two neighboring states had reached two billion dollars in the last Iranian year (ending in March 2024), showing a 13% increase from the previous year.

In an interview with Iran Daily, the secretary of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce Amin Seyghalzanan said, "With the ongoing expansion of commercial ties between the two countries, we anticipate a minimum 15-percent rise in the trade volume between Iran and Afghanistan by the end of this year (which began on March 20, 2024)."

He predicted that the trade volume between the two nations would reach around 2.3 billion dollars by the end of this year. Referring to the advantages of developing economic relations with neighboring countries, the official said that if the economic interests of the two sides "are intertwined, the prospects for trade and a shared economy between the two nations are promising due to the significant potential for enhancing future collaboration."

He highlighted the present political and security conditions in



Afghanistan, noting that after enduring years of instability, the country is now enjoying a relatively improved security situation across the country. Furthermore, Afghan officials have adopted effective economic strategies and prudent decisions across various sectors, such as promoting lo-

cal manufacturing, indicating a strong commitment to this issue.

"Today, Afghans prefer Iran and Iranians as their primary choice for engaging in different sectors of their economy and trade. The rest depends on our dedication, foresight, and effective policymaking to capitalize

on these opportunities and advantages," he said.

Seyghalzanan referred to the joint chambers of commerce as influential entities in boosting trade relations between countries, noting that these chambers are "the sole official private sector organizations where members, advocates, and business operators from countries

are present and truly represent the private sector."

He pointed to the interest of the two countries' traders in bilateral collaboration, saying, "The cultural and language similarities between the two countries have been effective in this regard. Moreover, due to Iran's use of advanced technology in manufacturing its products and industries, Afghans are interested in Iranian products and seek to transfer these technologies to their country, especially considering the proximity of the two countries, which facilitates the transfer of technical knowledge and products."

According to the joint chamber of commerce secretary, Afghans welcome joint investments with Iran in the fields of industry, mining, and agriculture. Seyghalzanan added that, "Currently, Iranians, both in the public and private sectors, are actively involved in the extraction, exploitation, and production of minerals in Afghanistan."

The Afghan authorities also welcome cooperation with Iran in the agriculture sector," Seyghalzanan said, affirming that this sector benefits both countries.

"Afghans welcome Iran's involvement in Afghan agriculture for overseas farming," he said, proposing that Iran could invest in the neighboring country to grow water-intensive

crops, thereby prioritizing the import of these products from Afghanistan.

Seyghalzanan concluded that, "The stronger and more fundamental the economic ties between Iran and Afghanistan become, the easier it will be to manage future relations and potential tensions between the two countries."

He also noted that a significant portion of Afghan traders reside in Iran, stating, "Part of Iran's exports to Afghanistan consists of our regular direct exports, but another part is conducted by Afghans to Afghanistan and other countries. This means Afghan traders residing in Iran or traveling to Iran with visas contribute to the export of Iranian goods to Afghanistan and other countries."

The commercial attaché of Iran in Afghanistan said Iran's non-oil export to the neighboring country registered a 41-percent growth in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024) compared to the same period last year, increasing by \$102 million.

Hossein Roustaei has recently said that Afghanistan is Iran's sixth export target market and that the neighboring country is one of the export target countries with the highest positive balance of trade with Iran.

Home appliance exports earned \$400m in year to March



Iran's exports of home appliances generated some \$400 million in the previous Iranian calendar year from March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024, industry figures show, Press TV

reported. Secretary general of Iran's Home Appliances Manufacturers Association said on Monday that rising exports of household appliances from the

country is a sign the industry has progressed several years after it started almost from scratch.

"Exports over the last year were some \$400 million which is a sign of better quality of products and parts in various types of home appliances that have been able to compete in international markets," said Omid Fazelinia.

Industry figures showed that total output of home appliances in Iran had reached 19.5 million units in the year to late March, up by 18.2% from the previous year.

Fazelinia said targets introduced by the Iranian administration require the country's home appliances industry to further expand by 15% in the year to March 2025 to reach

an output of 22.5 million units. Iranian households relied on foreign brands, especially the South Korea-based Samsung and LG, for a bulk of domestic appliances they needed before 2019 when Iran came under US sanctions.

The country introduced a ban on imports of foreign brands of home appliances to help develop the budding domestic industry and to cut back on hard currency spending.

The ban also came amid Iran's row with South Korea over more than \$7 billion of funds that had been blocked in two banks in the East Asian country due to US sanctions.

The funds were released to Iranian bank accounts in Qatar last year under an agreement mediated by the Arab country.

Minister: 1.5m cars to be rolled out by yearend



Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade said 1.5 million cars will be produced in the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2025).

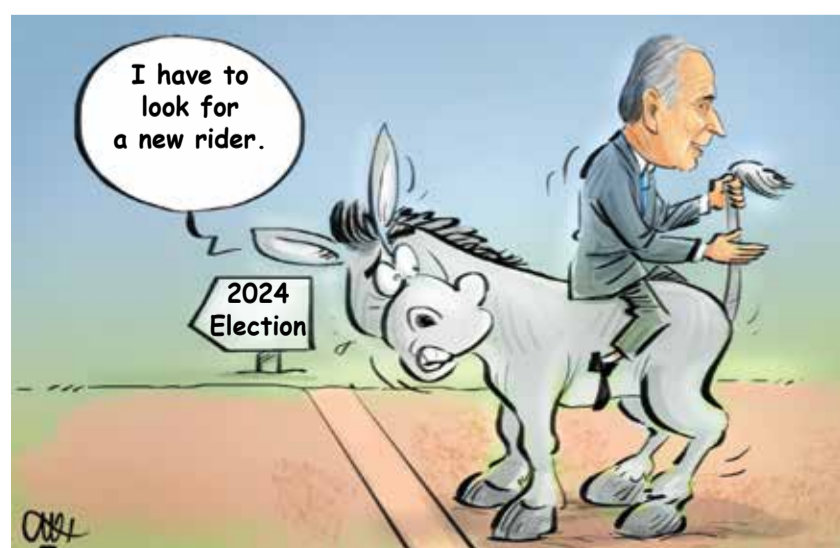
More than 1.5 million cars will be manufactured in the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year, Abbas Aliabadi said, speaking at the 19th International Auto Parts Exhibition 2024 dubbed "IAPEX". The Industry minister criticized the poor quality of

cars produced in the country and called for boosting the quality of the cars to be competitive in the international arena, Mehr news agency reported.

Aliabadi said Iran should be industrialized and that the country has a high potential for industrialization.

The 19th International Exhibition of Automotive Parts, Accessories and Sets kicked off on June 18 and will run through June 21, 2024.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran sells medicinal, pharmaceutical products to 50 countries

The Iran Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) said the country exports raw materials and pharmaceutical products to approximately 50 countries around the world.

"Iranian raw materials and pharmaceutical products are exported by nearly 100 companies to about 50 destinations," Asef Mahdavi, secretary of the IFDA's export policymaking council, announced, Press TV reported.

Iranian companies have the capacity of producing medicines several times more



than meeting domestic needs, he added.

The medicines developed in Iran are competitive with the European ones in terms

of their price and with the Indian ones in terms of their quality.

Mahdavi also noted that the export of medical equip-

ment grew by 300 percent in the first four months of this year.

Earlier, IFDA Head Heidar Mohammadi said that Iran's pharmaceutical market is worth over \$2 billion, adding that 99 percent of drugs used in the country are produced domestically.

Over the past years, Iran has made great strides in the medical sector despite illegal Western sanctions.

It has become self-reliant in producing medicines and health equipment and increased sales to many countries.