

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rail-transported goods up 89% in last three years: Bazrpash

Iran's minister of roads and urban development announced an 89 percent growth in the transit of goods via rail during the government of the late president Ebrahim Raisi compared to the previous government. Mehرداد Bazrpash referred to the statistics in the field of transit during the government of the late chief executive and said good agreements were inked with the regional countries in this field and the road transit volume rose from 9.3 tons to 14.7 tons last year, Tasnim News Agency reported. It is hoped that the volume of the road transit will exceed 20 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (to end March 20, 2025), he added. Elsewhere in his remarks, Bazrpash pointed to the two macro projects namely "Iran Rah" and "Housing of People" and expounded on the positive measures taken in the two fields. The "Iran Rah" Project is a main issue in defining Iran's logistics and transit opportunities and has been put atop agenda of the ministry, he said.

Electricity output grew 13.5% under Raisi's government

Statistics indicate that Iran's generation of electricity during the government of the late president Ebrahim Raisi registered a 13.5 percent growth, with Iran generating more electricity than industrialized countries like the UK and Italy. The latest statistics released in a report on "Statistical Review of the Global Energy" show that Iran generated 382.9 terawatts/hour of electricity in 2023, registering a 4.3 percent hike compared to a year earlier. Iran had generated more than 367.1 terawatts/hour of electricity in 2022. The growth of Iran's generation of electricity in 2023 was nearly twice that of the average growth of the generation of electricity in the world. The report put the total generation of electricity worldwide in 2023 at more than 29,924 terawatts/hours, which was 2.5 percent higher than a year earlier. Iran's generation of electricity in 2023 exceeded that of industrialized countries like the UK, Italy, and Spain as well as Turkey, Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand, the report added.

Acting president opens 17 petroleum projects worth \$3b

Iran launched 17 major petroleum industry projects with an investment worth \$3 billion as the country moves ahead with plans to expand its oil sector despite sanctions affecting its access to foreign investment and technology.

Acting President Mohammad Mokhber attended a ceremony in the Iranian Oil Ministry headquarters on Monday to remotely inaugurate the projects that were scattered in seven provinces across Iran, Press TV wrote.

One of the important measures taken by the 13th government was to focus on strengthening the oil industry by relying on domestic capabilities, Mokhber said speaking in the inaugural ceremony.

He went on to say that by attracting domestic and foreign investments and taking advantage of the country's engineers and experts, the Ministry of Oil organized the oilfields that had been abandoned by the Europeans.

Meanwhile, Oil Minister Javad Owji said in the ceremony that by launching the projects, in addition to creating jobs for 15,000 people, it will fetch about \$2 billion annually.

The minister went on to say that in the last three years, the Ministry of Oil has signed more than \$23 billion worth of contracts for the development of joint and independent oil and gas fields, while in the field of energy consumption optimization, the min-



istry has received approval from the government to sign new projects worth \$36 billion.

The projects covered oilfield development, refineries and petrochemical plants, fuel pipelines and flared gas recovery systems. The official IRNA news agency said in a report that the projects will increase Iran's flare gas recovery capacity by 4 million cu-

bic meters per day while boosting the country's capacity for production of Euro 5 gasoil by 5.7 million liters per day.

Petrochemicals production capacity will increase by 3 million metric tons per year as a result of the new plants launched on Monday, said the report, adding that some 222 kilometers of pipelines had also been inaugu-

rated to increase the ability of refiners to transfer products to various parts of the country.

Most of the projects were in southern oil-rich provinces of Khuzestan, Bushehr, Hormuzgan and Fars, it said.

Iran has relied on domestic expertise and investment to develop its petroleum sector in recent years despite the fact that

the country has been struggling with a series of unprecedented sanctions imposed by the United States.

Oil exports and production have increased as a result of the policy, with Owji saying earlier this week that total oil output in Iran will reach around 4 million barrels per day by the end of the calendar year to late March.

Iran's annual honey production hits 85,000 tons: Senior businessman



By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writers

Iran produced 85,000 tons of honey during last Iranian year

(ended March 19) despite drought and shortage of rainfall in the country, said Abdolreza Bigonah, a member of Ardebil Chamber of Commerce, adding that production of honey is expected to witness at least 10 percent of

growth during the current year. Bigonah, who is also the head of the National Association of Beekeepers and Honey Producers of Iran, told Iran Daily that the great variety of weather in Iran has caused a wide range of vegetation across the country, based on which, depending on the type of flower and plant that the bee collects its nectar, different types of honey with flavors and various properties are produced. He noted that Ardebil Province is one of the important centers of honey production in the country, explaining that the mountainous areas of Ardebil and the slopes of Sabalan mountains are considered to be the main centers of honey production in the north-western province.

Thanks to the plant diversity of these areas which includes astragalus, thyme and echium amoenum, the honey produced in these areas enjoy high quality, as the honey produced in Sabalan of Ardebil has been registered globally.

According to him, the Iranian provinces of East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Ardebil, Kurdistan, Mazandaran and Fars account for the largest amount of honey production in the country per year.

Despite the high volume of honey production in Iran compared to many countries, the figure for honey exports is not very significant, the official criticized.

An important problem faced by honey exporters is the re-

turn of foreign exchange, which is due to the US and Western sanctions against Iran, Bigonah stated.

"Every year, we have 15,000 to 20,000 tons of honey production surplus in Iran, and therefore, if the export problems are solved and we perform better in the field of marketing, the country will earn a good income from honey exports."

During spring, we have seen an increase in honey production due to the very good weather that happened in different parts of the country, but considering that the honey production season in the country has not yet ended, it is still not possible to give an exact figure on total production, he noted.

Yearly inflation down by 0.9% to 36.1% in June: SCI

Latest figures released by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) show that the annual inflation rate in the country dropped again in the calendar month to June 20.

SCI data showed that the consumer price index (CPI) had reached 249.7 in the month to late June, an increase of 36.1% compared to the same figure reported in late June 2023, reported Press TV.

However, the rate had declined by 0.9% compared to the same rate reported in the month to late May, a sign the country is

emerging from a crisis of high inflation rates that had peaked at 49.1% in May last year.

SCI figures showed that consumer prices had risen by 2.8% on a month-on-month basis in the calendar month to late June with prices of food, beverages and smoking products rising 4.2% while prices of non-food goods and services rising 2.1% over the same period.

The point-to-point inflation measure, which compares prices in two similar months of back-to-back years, topped 31.9% in the month to late June, according to

the same figures.

Iran has seen high but controlled levels of inflation in recent years, both because of a relatively short period of decline in its oil exports which began in 2020, a year after the US toughened its unilateral sanctions against the country, and because of changes in the global supply and demand system that has been blamed on the coronavirus pandemic.

Annual inflation rates of below 40% are a respite for many Iranians who have been struggling with sky-rocketing prices in recent years.

