

Kazakh envoy lauds Iran's rail corridor as safest route to high seas



Economy Desk

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Tehran Ontalap Onalbayev said that Iran's rail corridor is the safest and shortest route for cargo transfer to the high seas. He made the comment in a meeting with CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways Jabbar-Ali Zakeri, according to a press release by the Iranian railways company on Sunday. The Kazakh envoy called for holding meetings between officials of the two countries in order to achieve desired goals set by the two sides. Zakeri, for his part, said that Iran has the capacity to transfer five million tons of cargo a year through its rail corridor, adding that the two sides will make efforts to achieve that goal within the next five years.

Iran's trade attaché stresses need to identify new markets in India

Economy Desk

The commercial attaché of Iran in India emphasized the importance of identifying new markets in India, citing the trade advantages of the two countries. Hossein Bamiri, speaking on Sunday, outlined efforts to expand trade relations with India, stating that during meetings with Indian economic officials, they prioritized facilitating trade to strengthen bilateral commercial ties, IRNA reported. "Our goal is to create opportunities in untapped trade sectors between the two nations," he said. Highlighting the importance of exploring new markets in India, Bamiri said efforts have begun to engage with chambers of commerce in southern Indian states, particularly Gujarat. For the first time, a delegation from Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province visited Gujarat, resulting in approximately 30 B2B meetings between Iranian and Indian businesses. He also pointed to the start of trade collaborations in medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, noting that while Iran's medical equipment exports to India are currently limited, Iran has significant potential to supply hospital beds, operating room equipment, and other medical devices at competitive prices.

Water industry spox:

Afghan dam construction impacts eastern Iran's water resources

Economy Desk

The spokesperson of Iran's water industry stated that the country would not allow unilateral water usage by neighboring Afghanistan to harm downstream regions and citizens, calling such actions unacceptable.

In an interview with ILNA, Issa Bozorgzadeh addressed Afghanistan's dam construction on shared rivers and emphasized that Iran has clearly conveyed its stance to Afghan officials through diplomatic channels.

Bozorgzadeh underlined that any actions by Afghanistan on shared rivers must observe customary rights and international law.

The official said the construction and filling of the Pashdan Dam on the shared Hari River (Harirud) have reduced its natural flow, causing social and environmental damage downstream, particularly affecting the drinking water supply to Mashhad.

He warned that imposing restrictions or pressure on one part of the river basin inevitably impacts all residents of the basin.

Bozorgzadeh noted that Afghanistan's unilateral actions not only jeopardize drinking water and sanitation for millions but also cause significant environmental harm downstream. The spokesperson reiterated that unilateral and non-cooperative exploitation of the Hari River's water resources benefits neither upstream nor downstream countries.

He stated that Iran's Ministry of Energy had raised



● IRNA

these concerns in meetings with Afghan counterparts and through diplomatic channels, emphasizing that Iran would not tolerate harm to its citizens and regions due to unilateral actions by its neighbor.

In a related report, Abbas Aliabadi, Iran's energy minister, commented on Iran's response to Afghanistan's recent dam construction on shared rivers.

He underscored the importance of border waters, saying Iran both receives and delivers water in various areas and strives to act

in accordance with international regulations.

Aliabadi added that Iran aims to treat neighboring countries receiving water from Iran fairly while ensuring it receives its rightful share from others.

The minister noted that Iran is pursuing necessary political measures through relevant channels to secure water rights, including leveraging local capacities, which have proven effective.

During a recent visit to Kabul, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi discussed

the country's water rights from the Helmand River with Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi of the Taliban-ruled government in Afghanistan.

Araghchi described the talks as constructive, with Taliban officials reaffirming their commitment to honoring Iran's water rights under the Helmand River Treaty.

He added that Afghan officials expressed a moral and humanitarian obligation to provide water to Iran, even in the absence of a treaty. Technical issues and the

impact of drought, which affects the entire region, were also discussed, with both sides agreeing to collaborate on solutions.

Araghchi expressed hope that the agreements reached would be implemented, ensuring that Iran's water rights are secured.

A Taliban official also emphasized the importance of water for both countries, stating that the people of Sistan and Baluchestan are considered brothers.

He explained that water scarcity is primarily due to

drought, with limited rainfall and snowfall reducing water flow.

The official noted that water travels 600-700 kilometers from central Afghanistan to Sistan and Baluchestan, passing through sandy and evaporative terrain, which further diminishes the supply. The Taliban official reiterated that, regardless of agreements, Afghanistan feels a religious and humanitarian responsibility to ensure water reaches the people of Sistan and Baluchestan.

Minister: Bilateral pacts with neighbors poised to boost Iran's economy

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Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade stated that bilateral agreements with neighboring countries, alongside joining the Eurasian Union and the BRICS treaty, have positioned Iran's resilient economy on the verge of a significant leap. In a message issued Saturday, Mohammad Atabak congratulated the nation on the anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution as he emphasized that despite obstacles imposed by enemies, Iran has achieved remarkable growth and prosperity in industry, mining, and key industrial sectors.

He highlighted the country's increasing self-reliance in critical industrial and mining areas, reliance on domestic engineering expertise,

the rise of new technology-based firms, rapid advancements in nanotechnology, and the training of young, skilled managers and human resources as factors that have elevated Iran's role as a key player in the region and the world.

Atabak noted that observer status in the Eurasian Union and joining the BRICS, combined with bilateral agreements with neighboring countries, have set the stage for a transformative phase in Iran's economy. He reiterated that this progress reflects the nation's belief in its capabilities.

The minister expressed hope that with the collective efforts of all citizens, the path toward a more advanced and prosperous Iran will become smoother than ever before.



Iran's postal service climbs 14 spots in global ranking

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The Universal Postal Union (UPU) announced that Iran's postal service has climbed 14 spots in the 2024 Integrated Index for Postal Development (2IPD), securing the 37th position out of 174 countries. This advancement reflects a 28% growth in Iran's postal development.

According to the report, Iran's postal service scored 73.2 points, placing it ahead of several regional postal operators, including those of India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

The UPU's 2024 2IPD report evaluates member countries' postal development based on four key indicators of reliability, reach,



relevance and resilience. The report analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of selected postal operators in delivering quality services, focusing on speed, predictability, international connectivity, business model success, and the ability to overcome economic, social, technological and environmental challenges.

In the 2024 rankings, the Switzerland and Germa-

ny's postal services topped the list with 108.6 points, followed by Japan with 105.9 points, and the United States with 102 points, securing the top three positions.

This achievement highlights Iran's continuous efforts and strategic planning to improve service quality, expand access to postal services, and enhance customer satisfaction.