



Tehran ready to resume exports to Riyadh

Director General of Business Development Services at Trade Promotion Organization says Iran is ready to resume exports to Saudi Arabia if the tension between two countries is reduced and their political ties are restored. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.ilna.news/Section-economy-4/1143970-tehran-ready-to-resume-exports-to-riyadh>

Iran, Croatia expand cooperation on Halal industry

Belgrade, IRNA – Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Zagreb Parviz Esmaeli and President of Meshihat of Islamic Community in Croatia Aziz Hasanović highlighted expanding cooperation on Halal industry. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84504988/Iran-Croatia-expand-cooperation-on-Halal-industry>

Exports from Markazi province rises 70% in H1

TEHRAN- The value of export from Markazi province in the center of Iran rose 70 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-Septembr 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466010/Exports-from-Markazi-province-rises-70-in-H1>

Iranian heavy crude oil price rises 5.3% in September: OPEC

TEHRAN - Iranian heavy oil price increased \$3.74 in September to register a 5.3-percent rise compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report published on Wednesday. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466013/Iranian-heavy-crude-oil-price-rises-5-3-in-September-OPEC>



Turkmenistan's interest in exporting to European countries sounds a warning to Iran; official

Chairman of Iran–Turkmenistan Joint Chamber of Commerce Majid Mohammadnejad says Turkmenistan is interested in cooperation with Europeans and it can sound a warning to Iran and Turkmenistan's neighboring provinces. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.ilna.news/Section-economy-4/1144193-turkmenistan-interest-in-exporting-to-european-countries-sounds-warning-to-iran-official>

Iran's pistachio export rises

Tehran, IRNA – Iran's pistachio export saw an 8,000-ton rise in the first six months of this Persian year (March 21 - September 22), compared to the same period last year. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84506349/Iran-s-pistachio-export-rises>

Iran to launch 6 shipping lines in Caspian Sea to Russia, Kazakhstan

TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) for cooperation in launching shipping lines from the country's northern ports on the Caspian Sea coasts to Russia and Kazakhstan. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466019/Iran-to-launch-6-shipping-lines-in-Caspian-Sea-to-Russia-Kazakhstan>

Iran, Nigeria in new diplomatic era – Amb Alibak

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Nigeria, Mohammed Alibak, has said that Iran and Nigeria are in a new diplomatic era. Alibak who spoke with in Abuja, said relations between Iran and Nigeria have existed for 47 years and are ongoing in various political, economic, cultural and scientific fields. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/iran-nigeria-in-new-diplomatic-era-amb-alibak/>



Iran's steel sector still booming despite sanctions

After the withdrawal of the United States from Iran's nuclear deal, the Islamic Republic has faced sanctions in various industries, including steel sector. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466056/Iran-s-steel-sector-still-booming-despite-sanctions>

Exports from Gilan province rises 20%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Gilan province in the north of Iran rose 20 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466066/Exports-from-Gilan-province-rises-20>

NIOC planning to use private sector capacities to boost oil sales

TEHRAN – Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has said his company is going to benefit from the potentials of the country's private sector to maximize oil and gas condensate sales in the future, Shana reported. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466065/NIOC-planning-to-use-private-sector-capacities-to-boost-oil-sales>

Handicraft Exports From Qazvin Earn \$2.2m in 6 Months

Qazvin Province exported \$2.25 million worth of handicrafts in the first half of the current Iranian year (started March 21), says the managing director of Qazvin Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Office. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110739/handicraft-exports-from-qazvin-earn-22m-in-6-months>

Iran's exports to Europe are done through the intermediaries; Expert

A member of board of directors of Iran-Spain Chamber of Commerce says Iran's trade with Spain has declined due to the U.S. sanctions and most of Iran's exports to Europe are done through the third party countries or intermediaries. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.ilna.news/Section-economy-4/1144753-iran-exports-to-europe-are-done-through-the-intermediaries-expert>

Commodities worth over \$460m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 1.817 million tons of commodities worth \$464 million was traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), showing 13 percent growth. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466100/Commodities-worth-over-460m-traded-at-IME-in-a-week>

Iran's H1 trade with neighbors rises 52% yr/yr

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil trade with its 15 neighbors reached \$22.588 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) to register a 52 percent rise year on year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466106/Iran-s-H1-trade-with-neighbors-rises-52-yr-yr>

Import Ban on 37 Types of Veterinary Medicines

Imports of 37 types of veterinary medicines have been banned with the aim of supporting domestic production, according to the deputy head of Iran Veterinary Organization, Khaled Khodaverdi. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110757/import-ban-on-37-types-of-veterinary-medicines>

SCI on 2nd Quarter Youth Unemployment

The youth unemployment rate of those between 15 and 24 years stood at 25.7% in the second quarter of the current Iranian year (June 22-Sept. 22), posting a 2.6% increase year-on-year, latest data released by the Statistical Center of Iran about the country's job market show. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110755/sci-on-2nd-quarter-youth-unemployment>

Iran-Kazakhstan ties to be revived: Envoy

Tehran, IRNA - The ambassador of Kazakhstan in Iran Askhat Orazbay expressed the hope for the lifting of oppressive sanctions on Tehran and strengthening of economic ties with Iran. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84507894/Iran-Kazakhstan-ties-to-be-revived-Envoy>



Iran says China enforcing US sanctions on shipping and ports

An Iranian lawmaker and an industry official say that Chinese vessels have been avoiding Iranian ports and Iranian ships are not allowed into Chinese ports. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.ilna.news/Section-economy-4/1145139-iran-says-china-enforcing-us-sanctions-on-shipping-and-ports>

\$3.6m Worth of Unhygienic Goods Destroyed in Six Months

The Organization for Collection and Sale of State-Owned Properties of Iran destroyed more than 1,000 billion rials (\$3.6 million) worth of unhygienic, non-consumable goods during the first half of the current fiscal year (started March 21), which indicate an 86% increase year-on-year. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110753/36m-worth-of-unhygienic-goods-destroyed-in-six-months>

Iranian company constructing Yerevan-Tbilisi transit bridge

Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hervik Yarianian says an Iranian company is constructing the Yerevan-Tbilisi transit bridge, reiterating that it can improve the pace of transit of goods from Armenia to other countries. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.ilna.news/Section-economy-4/1145237-iranian-company-constructing-yerevan-tbilisi-transit-bridge>

Copper cathode output stands at over 143,000 tons in H1

TEHRAN- Iran produced 143,328 tons of copper cathode in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), IRNA reported. As reported, the figure shows two percent growth as compared to the copper cathode output in the first six months of the previous year. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466137/Copper-cathode-output-stands-at-over-143-000-tons-in-H1>



Transportation Inflation Surpasses 57 Percent

The average goods and services Consumer Price Index of "transportation" in the 12-month period ending Sept. 22, which marks the end of the sixth Iranian month of the fiscal 2021-22, increased by 57.6% compared with the similar period of the year before. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110756/transportation-inflation-surpasses-57-percent>

Iran welcomes investment in renewable energies

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian has said his ministry welcomes foreign investment in the country's renewable energy industry, IRIB reported on Monday. Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466147/Iran-welcomes-investment-in-renewable-energie>

'Ground ready for Finland's investment in Iran's SMEs, startups'

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie has said the necessary infrastructure is provided in Iran for Finland's investment in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466148/Ground-ready-for-Finland-s-investment-in-Iran-s-SMEs-startups>

Q2 Employment Rate at 37.2%: SCI

Iran's total employment rate was at 37.2% (23.4 million) in the second quarter of the current Iranian year (June 22-Sept. 22), down 0.6% compared with the same quarter of last Iranian year. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110772/q2-employment-rate-at-372-sci>

Industries Ministry Gearing Up to Combat Contraband in Apparel Market

Foreign-made apparel brands that have not been registered in Iran are considered contraband, according to the director general of the Ministry of Industries, Mining and Trade's Textile, Clothing and Cellulose Products Department. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110773/industries-ministry-gearing-up-to-combat-contraband-in-apparel>

Iran, Oman Foreign Ministers discuss ties, region in phone call on Tuesday

The foreign ministers of Iran and Oman held a phone conversation on Tuesday to discuss bilateral relations in economic and political fields as well as regional and international developments. Please visit the following link for more information: https://en.abna24.com/news/iran-oman-foreign-ministers-discuss-ties-region-in-phone-call-on-tuesday_1190157.html

Armenia trying to build North-South highway to Iran

TEHRAN, Oct. 20 (MNA) – The Minister of Territorial Development and Infrastructure of Armenia announced efforts to build a strategic highway with Iran with the participation of Russian and possibly Iranian companies. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/179884/Armenia-trying-to-build-North-South-highway-to-Iran>

Iran plans to resume tourist visas on Oct. 23: Minister

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism said night that Iran will resume issuing tourist visas as of the beginning of the next month of the Iranian calendar (October 23). Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.ilna.news/Section-economy-4/1146402-iran-plans-to-resume-tourist-visas-on-oct-minister>

Tehran, Caracas to launch their own SWIFT system

Iran's former ambassador to Venezuela says Iran has no limitation in legal cooperation with Venezuela and both countries benefit it and Iran is determined to expand its co-operations with this Latin American state. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.ilna.news/Section-economy-4/1146412-tehran-caracas-to-launch-their-own-swift-system>

Over 178,000 tons of copper anode produced in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran produced 178,784 tons of copper anode in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), IRNA reported. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466216/Over-178-000-tons-of-copper-anode-produced-in-6-months>

Bolivia welcomes Iran's investment in various sectors

TEHRAN - Bolivian Ambassador to Tehran Romina Guadalupe, in a meeting with the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie on Wednesday, invited the Iranian private sector to invest in her country's major industries. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466223/Bolivia-welcomes-Iran-s-investment-in-various-sectors>

Iran opens trade center in Istanbul to boost its businesses

TEHRAN, Oct. 20 (MNA) – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak reported on Wednesday the opening of the trade center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul, Turkey. Please visit the following link for more information: <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/179900/Iran-opens-trade-center-in-Istanbul-to-boost-its-businesses>

Chabahar Port and Iran's Strategic Balancing With China and India

The construction of a port project in the Iranian city of Chabahar has been gaining increased attention as a potential global trading hub – and an arena for geopolitical competition. India has served as the primary investor in Chabahar port, as New Delhi sees the port as a way to access Afghan and Central Asian markets without relying on Pakistan's land routes. Furthermore, the port could strengthen Indo-Iranian ties, which could balance out growing Sino-Pakistani cooperation. At the same time, China has been growing increasingly influential in Iran, seeking to gain access to critical natural resources and shipping routes. As for Iran, the port could foster new diplomatic and economic partnerships – and given Iran's reputation as a pariah state in the West, it desperately needs to find alternative options.

With India and China competing to invest in this harbor, Iran is trying to play the two rivals off each other to boost its own international standing while not becoming dominated by either one of these powers. Chabahar port is thus a key case study in both international collaboration and competition: It could offer a trade revolution in the area, but it could also exacerbate regional rivalries.

Chabahar Port: Background

Chabahar port is located in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province. The port has a number of distinguishing features that make it attractive from both a domestic and international perspective. Located on the edge of the Indian Ocean, it is the only deep-sea port in Iran with direct ocean access. Its geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor, gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region. Chabahar is also one of the few places in Iran that is exempt from U.S. sanctions, which significantly simplifies trade procedures with other countries. Chabahar port has the capacity to transform trade in South and Central Asia. The proposed land-based trade routes linked to the port would facilitate greater access to the Afghan and Central Asian markets. The impact of this increased connectivity has enormous implications for Afghanistan in particular, although the fallout from the Taliban's rapid takeover of the country could jeopardize these plans moving forward. Currently, Afghanistan conducts most of its trade via routes through Pakistan; Chabahar port could provide an alternative trade outlet for the country. In turn, Chabahar has the potential to generate massive economic growth in Afghanistan, as it would allow goods from other countries to more easily enter the country and bolster its export potential. As for the Central Asian countries, Chabahar would offer these landlocked countries access to sea-based trading routes and serve as a bulwark against Chinese and Russian attempts to dominate trade in the region. Therefore, expanded trade with Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries has the potential to bolster Iran's own status on the international stage. Many international affairs analysts categorize Iran as a regional power with global superpower potential based on such criteria as its natural resource wealth, military strength, and robust population. However, Iran's status as a global superpower is primarily constrained by its antagonistic relations with other countries, most notably the United States and Saudi Arabia, as well as economic sanctions that cripple its international trade capacities. To circumvent these limitations, Iran has looked to forge stronger ties with Asian countries that have less adversarial relations with it. In that context, Chabahar port represents a means of connecting not only with Afghanistan and Central Asia, but also with the global economic juggernauts of India and China. Given that Iran's development budget for the port's home province has skyrocketed by 2,200 percent since 2018, it's clear that Chabahar will be an integral part of Iran's eastern engagement strategy.

Geopolitical Competition Over Chabahar Port

Meanwhile, both India and China have their own plans for Chabahar and bilateral relations with Iran. India has an extensive history of engagement with the Chabahar port, as New Delhi views the port as an opportunity to strengthen India's position as a regional and global power. India, having the second largest population in the world, the sixth largest economy in the world, and a long-standing bid for permanent U.N. Security Council membership, is a major contender for future global superpower status. It has sought to expand its market reach in Western and Central Asia to further consolidate this potential. However, India has been severely hindered in establishing land-based trading with countries to its west, as virtually all of those routes would have to go through Pakistan, India's archrival. Establishing a sea-based trade route to Western and Central Asia via Chabahar port would allow India to bypass Pakistan and establish trade networks with the countries in these regions. Indo-Iranian collaboration on Chabahar port dates back to 2003. However, their joint effort only started to gain traction around 2016, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and President Hassan Rouhani of Iran announced that India would invest \$500 million into the development of Chabahar port. A major catalyst for their renewed cooperation stemmed from Chinese President Xi Jinping's 2013 announcement that China would commence its massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) infrastructure project. From India's vantage point, China, with the world's largest population, second largest economy, and prominent positions within the U.N., WTO, and other international organizations, was already its chief rival for superpower status.

Furthermore, Chinese collaboration with Pakistan via the development of Gwadar port and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor raised concerns over how the partnership of India's two main adversaries could impact the country. India's involvement with Chabahar port, then, serves as a key strategy to buttress its superpower status by widening its regional market presence and using an Indo-Iranian alliance to buffer China and particularly Sino-Pakistani cooperation. India is not the only superpower that has a stake in Chabahar port, as China has also sought to strengthen ties with Iran to secure energy and mineral resource reserves and gain access to advantageous Eurasian trade routes. Chinese access to Chabahar port would immensely benefit these objectives, as China could connect the port to its own extensive maritime-based trade network. Considering China's investment in Pakistan's Gwadar port, another key driver of China's interest in Chabahar port would be to block India from accessing routes to Afghanistan and Central Asia. While China has yet to directly insert itself into the Chabahar port project, many analysts perceive the recently signed China-Iran 25-year cooperation program, in which China agreed to invest \$400 billion into the Iranian economy in exchange for discounted and guaranteed energy prices and BRI project cooperation, as a way to gradually assert its presence in the port. While the scope of Sino-Iranian interaction in Chabahar port remains limited at this point, evidence of intensified Chinese activity with Iran suggests that it is attempting to compete with India for greater influence in the region.

Iran's Balancing Act

Heightened Indian and Chinese involvement in Chabahar port has stirred debates among Iranian political circles on how to take maximum advantage of their competition while minimizing the risks to Iran itself. The economic and diplomatic opportunities presented by India and China could help Iran bolster its own great power ambitions, but asymmetrical power sharing and trade deals could render Iran as a junior partner or glorified resource appendage. Therefore, Tehran is trying to find ways to strategically balance India and China. For example, Iran's recent induction into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) – an organization that also includes China and India – reflects its desire to form a coalition against Western hegemony while seeking to affirm a more active role in Central Asian and Middle Eastern affairs. Iran could use its membership in the SCO and other multilateral initiatives as a means to play India and China against each other: Iran could threaten to side more closely with one country if it doesn't gain greater concessions from the other. Iran, therefore, could utilize Sino-Indian rivalry to its benefit to boost its own superpower status while maintaining its longstanding independent streak of not aligning itself too closely to "either the East or the West." However, a number of variables could disrupt the current trajectory of Chabahar port's development. The Taliban seizure of Afghanistan has seriously reconfigured plans for establishing enhanced trade networks with the country and Central Asia – a major headache for India in particular. Meanwhile, the instability of the Iranian regime perpetually threatens to disrupt Iran's long-term ability to pursue its regional and international interests. Nevertheless, Chabahar Port is shaping up to serve as a key battleground for China and India's aspirations for leadership in South and Central Asia, and may play an instrumental role in Iran's own desires to advance its own standing on the international stage.

Source : <https://thediplomat.com/2021/10/chabahar-port-and-irans-strategic-balancing-with-china-and-india/>