

Iran, Turkey Studying Free Trade Regime



TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran says it is working on a plan to establish a free trade regime with Turkey.

The announcement was made by Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology after a meeting with the visiting Turkish Minister of Economy Nihat Zeybekci.

Vaezi told reporters that the plan to establish free trade between Iran and Turkey would be based

on an agreement to remove preferential tariffs signed by the two countries in 2015.

The official emphasized that Tehran and Ankara needed to enhance their banking cooperation to facilitate the expansion of their mutual trade.

He said Iran and Turkey had agreed to study the mechanisms needed for using their own currencies in trade transactions between

the two countries.

These, the Iranian minister said, would be the topics that would be dealt with in more precise details during an upcoming visit to Tehran by the governor of the central bank of Turkey.

Vaezi added that Tehran had a positive attitude toward the expansion of trade relations with Turkey.

He said Tehran and Ankara had already taken measures to materialize the mutual trade objectives that they had agreed on during the earlier meetings between the presidents of both countries.

Vaezi, who co-chairs the joint Iran-Turkey economic commission with Zeybekci, said the level of trade between the two countries should rise to as high as \$30 billion per year.

He told reporters that he had explored the avenues for the materialization of that objective in his meeting with the Turkish economy minister.

Qatar to Fly 4,000 Cows to Address Milk Demand

DOHA (Dispatches) - A Qatari businessman is planning to airlift 4,000 dairy cows from Germany, the U.S. and Australia to address its domestic milk demand in face of a Saudi-led blockade which is expected to remain in place for an unspecified time.

Moutaz Al Khayyat, chairman of Power International Holding, will fly the bovine in 60 flights, in what is thought to be the biggest airlift of cattle ever attempted.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates cut diplomatic, economic and transport ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing Doha of supporting extremist groups.

Most of the fresh milk and dairy products for Doha's more than one million population came from Saudi Arabia up until weeks ago.

But the isolation that started on June 5 has forced Qatar to look at new friends to import food and other materials.

But four weeks later, the shelves of Doha's gleaming supermarkets



Customers shop at the Al Meera market in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday. Qatar faces possible food and dairy shortages after its Persian Gulf Arab neighbors cut ties with the wealthy nation.

are still full thanks to imports from Iran and Turkey.

On Sunday, Iran had sent five planes of vegetables to Qatar.

"So far five planes carrying... vegetables have been sent to Qatar, each carrying around 90 tons of cargo, while another plane will be sent on Sunday," Iran Air spokesman Shahrokh Noushabadi said.

Three ships loaded with 350 tons of fruit and vegetables were also set to leave an Iranian port for Qatar. Dairy products have also been flown in from Turkey and there is a campaign to urge people to use homegrown products.

Morocco said it would send plane-loads of food to Qatar to boost supplies there.

Azerbaijan to Invest in Iran's Astara Railway Terminal

TEHRAN (Fars) - An investment agreement has been inked with the Republic of Azerbaijan on the construction and operation of a railway terminal in Iran's Astara, Iran's Railway announced.

The investment deal has been signed between Azerbaijan Railways Transport Company and Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) over Astara railway station which is under construction, it said.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Azerbaijani government has agreed to invest 60 million dollars in the Iranian project.

Furthermore, once the contract between the two sides expires, all facilities available at Astara terminal will be fully handed over to Iran.



According to RAI officials, the Azerbaijani side has agreed to transit at least two million tons of cargo through Iran, which would result in significant revenue for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tehran, EU Opt for Broadening of Trade Cooperation

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Senior Iranian and European Union officials in a meeting in Brussels on Sunday underlined the need for expanding bilateral relations between Iran and the EU.

During the meeting in the Belgian capital, Head of Iran's Customs Administration Massoud Karbasian and EU's Director General for Taxation and Customs Union Stephen Quest explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating mutual cooperation, specially in the field of customs.

The meeting followed previous talks on exchange of an agreement on mutual administrative cooperation in customs matters between Iran and the European Union in view of deployment of a delegation from the European Union to Iran last year. Both sides stated that de-

termination existed to bolster customs relations and that the atmosphere governing these partnerships was very positive.

The main issues of talks included examination of methods for electronic exchange of information, issue of allowed economic activities, educational and research cooperation, joint cooperation to combat drug trafficking and fight against customs offenses. The parties emphasized the need to pursue legal procedures and obtain necessary permits for signing and exchanging customs agreements as soon as possible.

Karbasian's meetings with chief customs officers of the European Union were held in Belgium and the session was attended by directors of various sectors of the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union.

Bulgaria's Trade Delegation Due in Iran

TEHRAN (FNA) - Head of Khorrabad Chamber of Commerce Hossein Salahvarzi said a high-ranking Bulgarian delegation is slated to pay a visit to Iran on Monday.

"Businessmen and economic activists of Iran and Bulgaria will conduct a face-to-face meeting in Lorestan province tomorrow," Salahvarzi said.

A Bulgarian trade delegation will travel to Lorestan province on Monday morning in order for both sides to become familiar with economic capacities of each other and also conduct direct negotiations over issues of common interest.

"During the three-day visit, the visiting delegation will be accompanied by the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria Christo Stefanov-polen-dakov as well as Tsvetan Aleksov, First Secretary and Head of the Trade and Economic Affairs Service at the Embassy.

The official noted that the upcoming visit comes as a follow-up to the visit of a trade and economic delegation of Lorestan who visited Bulgaria in recent years.

"Bulgarian businessmen are slated to visit a number of production units in the Iranian province," Salahvarzi underlined, adding, "A conference will be also held on the development of economic cooperation between Lorestan province and Bulgaria."

Iranian First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri underlined that his country considers broadening of relations with Bulgaria as highly important.

Europe Should Make U.S. Companies Pay Fair Share of Taxes: France

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France (Reuters) - It is time the European Union makes multinationals, such as U.S. giants Amazon Facebook and Google, pay their fair share of taxes, the French finance minister said on Sunday.

Bruno Le Maire was speaking at a conference in the southern French city of Aix-en-Provence where many French and international executives gather every year.

May Says Several G20 Members Want Ambitious Trade Deals With UK

HAMBURG (Reuters) - Leaders from several members of the Group of 20 economic powers expressed a "strong desire" to forge "ambitious new bilateral trading relationships" with Britain after it leaves the European Union, British Prime Minister Theresa May has said.

Speaking at the end of a G20 summit in Hamburg, May said: "Some of the countries I've been talking to here have shown great interest in working with us on trade arrangements in the future - the United States, Japan, China, India."

Turning to the Paris accord aimed at combating climate change, she added: "Like other world leaders here, I am dismayed at the U.S. decision to pull out of the Paris agreement and I've urged President Trump to rejoin the Paris agreement."

Meanwhile, a post-Brexit trade deal with the United States would not be enough on its own to make up for leaving the European Union, British justice minister David Lidington said on Sunday.



U.S. President Donald Trump met with British Prime Minister Theresa May and said he hoped the United States can quickly seal a bilateral trade deal.

"It wouldn't be enough on its own, no," Lidington told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show. "But it would be a very good thing to have - as would trade deals with the emerging economies of Asia and Latin America."

Portugal Eyeing Direct Tehran-Lisbon Flights

TEHRAN (Fars) - Portugal's Secretary of State for Internationalization Jorge Costa Oliveira has expressed keenness on launching direct flights from Lisbon to Tehran.

"Direct flights aim to promote tourism and trade ties between the two countries," Oliveira said in a meeting with Head of Iran-Portugal Parliamentary Friendship Group Mustafa Kavakebian in Lisbon.

During the meeting, the Portuguese official noted Iran's commitment to recommendations by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and expressed hope for facilitation of banking transactions between the two countries.

Kavakebian, for his part, highlighted the need for facilitation of banking relations and finalization of political and service visa waiver



program between the two countries.

Back in April, the two sides signed a document on abolition of visas for those holding political or service passports in a meeting between Oliveira and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Par-

liamentary and Iranian Affairs Hassan Qashghavi.

Kavakebian underlined FATF's extension of freeze of restrictions on Iran, and called for further Tehran-Lisbon cooperation in the fields of agriculture, tourism, transport, renewable and fossil energies.