

Iran's Iron Ore Concentrate Output Grows 4% in Year to March



TEHRAN - Iranian Mines, Mining Industries Development, and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has reported that the country recorded a slight increase in production of iron ore concentrate in the year to late March.

The figures showed that total production of iron ore concentrate in Iran had reached over 51.5 million metric tons (mt) over the past calendar year, an increase of around 4% from the

year to March 2021.

Iron ore concentrate output rose by 16% year on year in the month to March 20 to stand at 4.98 million mt, showed the figures.

The figures showed that total supply of iron ore concentrate to domestic steelmakers reached more than 16.94 million mt over the same period, a decline of 10% compared to the previous calendar year.

The Golgozar Mining & In-

dustrial Company, which runs mines in southeastern province of Kerman, was responsible for nearly a third of total iron ore concentrate output in Iran over the year to March with a production that amounted to over 16.45 million mt, said IMIDRO.

It said that the Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, the largest producer of iron ore concentrate by direct reduction in the Middle East, was the second largest producer in Iran over the past calendar year with nearly 12.187 million mt of output.

Iron ore fine production at Iranian mines more than doubled over the year to late March to reach over 1.947 million mt, showed IMIDRO figures.

They showed that Iron ore fine supply to domestic customers rose 26% year on year to reach more than 2.25 million tons, showed the figures.

Steel Production Exceeds 53mn Tons in Iran

TEHRAN - Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade has reported that major mining, mineral and industrial companies of the country managed to produce more than 53,245,200 tons of crude steel and steel products last Iranian year. (from March 21, 2021 to March 20, 2022).

According to the statistics of the ministry, major steel production companies produced 28,040,100 tons of crude steel and 25,205,100 tons of steel products, showing a 2.1 and five percent decline in weight and value respectively as compared to the same period of last year.

In this period, 299,000 tons of copper cathode were produced in



the country, registering a 2.8 percent hike as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

According to the report, Iran produced 571,100 tons of aluminum ingot last year, showing a 25.1 per-

cent growth.

In addition, 1,474,400 tons of coal concentrate were produced in the country, registering a 12.8 percent decline as compared to the same period of last year.

VP: Kazakhstan, Iran Could Become Regional Hub for Food Security

TEHRAN - The Iranian first Vice President Muhammad Mokhber in a meeting with Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan Bakhyt Sultanov said that the two countries of Iran and Kazakhstan have the potential to become the region's hub for food security and transportation.

Emphasizing the need for removing the existing obstacles and barriers to deepening cooperation between the two countries of Iran and Kazakhstan, Mokhber stated, "Mutual cooperation and cooperation between the private sector and businesspersons of Iran and Kazakhstan can play a key role in increasing the volume of trade and economic relations."

Iran's Vice President stressed the need for developing Iran-Kazakhstan's relations in the fields of banking, transportation, and overseas cultivation, saying that the two countries have the potential to become regional hubs in

terms of food security and transportation.

"The expansion of customs cooperation and the increase in exports and imports between the two countries can be a good starting point to achieve this goal and long-term relations," he added.

He also called on opening trade fairs and introducing Iranian and Kazakh achievements and products with the aim of expanding cooperation between the private sector and businesspersons of the two countries.

Bakhyt Sultanov, for his part, stated, "The expansion of political and economic relations, as well as the significant increase in trade volume in the first quarter of this year between the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan, show that the goals and strategies of the two countries overlap."

"We hope that during the official visit of the President of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the good decisions made

in the past few months will be implemented in the form of joint cooperation agreements," he added.

The Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister also expressed his country's readiness to hold exhibitions as well as trade and economic meetings between economic activists of the two countries.

Referring to the importance of expanding Iran-Kazakhstan transportation cooperation, he stated that good negotiations have taken place on the development of rail, road and air cooperation, adding that achieving these goals could make Iran and Kazakhstan two important regional actors.

Bakhyt Sultanov, heading a delegation, arrived in Tehran on Saturday.

He is set to hold several meetings with high-ranking Iranian officials to discuss a variety of issues of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Iran.

Oman, Iran Agree to Revive Gas Supply Deal

TEHRAN - Iranian Petroleum Minister Javad Owji and his Omani counterpart Mohammed Al Rumhi had agreed in a meeting to start the construction of a gas pipeline that will allow exports of Iranian natural gas to the Arab Sultanate.

Iranian Oil Ministry's news service Shana said that Owji and Rumhi had discussed energy cooperation as well as joint projects between Iran and Oman during the meeting held earlier in the day in the Omani capital Muscat.

The idea for a subsea gas pipeline between Iran and Oman was first raised in 2005 when Iran committed as part of contract to start supplying 30 million cubic meters (mcm) per day of natural gas to Oman by 2008 and then increase the exports to 70 mcm per day by 2012.

Another agreement in 2013 stipulated that Iran should provide Oman with 28 mcm per day of gas over 15 years. IRNA described the revival of the



gas supply contract with Oman as a major diplomatic victory for President Ebrahim Raisi's administration since it took office in August last year.

Raisi is due to Oman on Monday for an official visit to the Sultanate. The trip comes a week after a senior Iranian trade delegation traveled to Oman

to discuss increased economic ties between the two countries.

Owji and Rumhi had also reached agreements on a joint development project for Hengam, a major oil and gas field that is located within the maritime boundaries of Iran and Oman in the Strait of Hormuz.

Official: Iranian Ports Have Great Capacity for Goods Transit

TEHRAN - Deputy Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Jalil Eslami said on Sunday that transit of goods through Iran will lead to a significant reduction in costs for the country which transits, that is why Iranian ports have a great capacity for transit of goods.

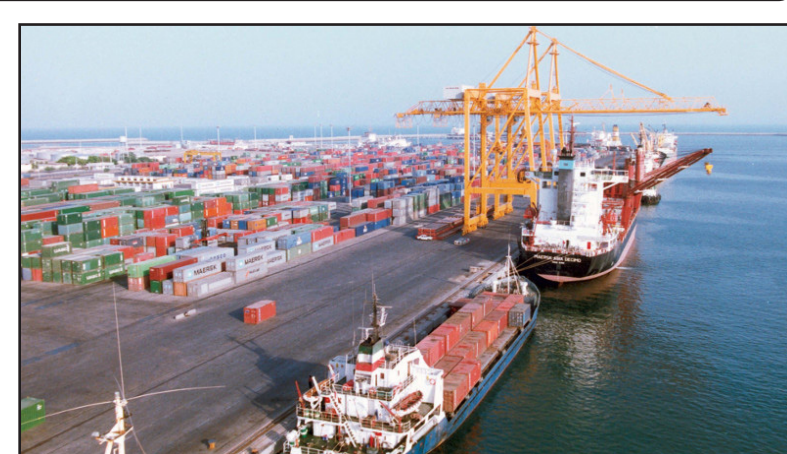
Eslami in a meeting with transit and port officials of Kazakhstan said that five Iranian ports near the Caspian Sea have the capacity of 30 million tons of goods transit and in the southern part of Iran, Shahid Rajaei port itself has a capacity of 120 million tons of goods transit.

Referring to the point that in the southern ports of Iran, except Shahid Rajaei port, Deputy Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said, "We have the capacity of 250 million tons of goods transit."

"Imam Khomeini port has a capacity of 60 million tons of goods transit and 30 million tons of grain have been unloaded and loaded in this port last year.

Eslami said that Kazakhstan, and in particular the port of Aktau, can play the role of a transit hub for the region through Iran, and pave the way for long-term cooperation between the two countries.

Emphasizing that transit from Iran greatly reduces the cost to Kazakhstan, Deputy Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said, "Amirabad Port, as the largest port in northern Iran, has excellent facilities



for rail and road transportations."

Oman to Join Chabahar Agreement

Iranian Ministry of Transport and Urban Development has said that Oman is expected to join the trilateral Chabahar Agreement.

Iran Minister of Transport and Urban Development, Rostam Ghasemi, headed to Oman at the head of a delegation in order to meet and negotiate on transportation relations with his Omani counterparts.

The negotiation agendas include strengthening maritime transport between Bandar Abbas Port in Iran and the Port of Al Suwaiq in Oman and establishing a passenger ship between Chabahar and Muscat.

The ministry's statement further quotes informed sources as reporting the signing a MoU for multimodal

sea and road transport and Oman's joining to the trilateral Chabahar Agreement previously inked between Iran, India, and Afghanistan.

Easing traffic of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines in the Ports of Salalah and Sohar in Oman is among other topics on the agendas of the talks between Iranian and Omani officials.

In the air field, the two sides are expected to agree on the scheduled flights (rather than charter flights), diversification of Iran's aircraft fleets along Oman route, and launching Ramsar-Muscat flights.

Previously in February, Iran and Oman signed MoU during 19th meeting of Joint Economic Committee in order to promote economic ties and maritime trade through Chabahar Port, the ministry's statement also said, which is appeared on its official website.

Slovakia, Iran Weigh Plans to Boost Trade Ties

TEHRAN - Slovakia's Deputy Minister of Economy Jan Oravec and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari have discussed plans for the enhancement of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Describing the economic potential of the two countries as huge, the Slovak deputy minister noted that there are good capacities for cooperation between Iran and Slovakia in various areas such as industries, agriculture, machinery and new technologies which will be taken into account while drawing up the final document of the joint commission.

He also highlighted the capacity of small and medium enterprises for bilateral cooperation and expressed hope

that the trade ties between Iran and Slovakia would expand more than ever before, the Foreign Ministry's website reported.

For his part, Safari referred to the history of cooperation between Iran and Slovakia in the field of industry, describing the holding of the joint economic commission between the two countries as a key step toward strengthening bilateral trade cooperation.

He further pointed to the high economic potential of Iran and outlined the country's achievements in the field of new technologies.

Safari also underlined the need for increased attention to such advantages in bilateral cooperation.

Russia Hopes for Trade Boom With South Asian States

MOSCOW (RT) - Ukraine-related Western sanctions are expected to strengthen ties between Russia and Thailand, boosting trade turnover between the nations to as much as \$10 billion, according to Russian Economy Minister Maxim Reshetnikov.

"The level of \$10 billion that we had previously set is still a goal, and an achievable one," he told journalists after the first day of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which kicked off on Saturday in the Thai capital of Bangkok.

Reshetnikov said that trade between

Russia and the South Asian state reached \$2.8 billion in 2021, stressing that the two partners expect that figure to multiply.

According to the minister, the countries had discussed the issue of boosting mutual trade earlier in the day

"New opportunities have appeared... one of them is the automotive industry," Reshetnikov said, explaining that anti-Russian sanctions are creating favorable circumstances for a large number of countries, including Thailand.

"Thailand has a very strong automotive

and automotive components industry," he added.

Russia and Thailand may boost cooperation in the spheres of energy resources, oil, oil products, gas and fertilizers, as well as food and engineering products, according to the minister.

Reshetnikov noted that the two nations had established diplomatic relations 125 years ago.

"They have not only a wonderful history, they have great opportunities for development, and, I am sure, they have a bright future," he said.