



IRAN PANORAMA

EMBASSY OF I.R IRAN - KUALA LUMPUR

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Ambassador Message

In conjunction with the 42nd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, I am delighted that the ties between the two friendly and brotherly countries, Iran and Malaysia are firmly and steadily progressing in various fields despite the challenges that the world is facing.

The Covid-19 crisis has not only endangered people's health globally but has been a great test for nations to maintain their bilateral and multilateral ties.

Evidently, the pandemic and its underlying ramifications, including health and food security issues, lack of technological infrastructure, border closures as well as restrictions on international transactions have brought grave challenges to all nations in the world.

It has once again become clear that – regardless of a nation's wealth and capabilities – it requires comprehensive international cooperation in areas of communications, disease preventions and vaccination to combat a major global health crisis.

The unprecedented times the world is facing today has put a great responsibility on the shoulder of the "science and technology" in various fields to alleviate the severity of the situation and also introduce new innovative international protocols to prevent similar challenges in the future.

The reality of human life and the progressive track record of the international community proves that great strides have been made in the times of crisis and devastation.

Despite the pessimistic sentiments and views of the Post-Covid era, we must remain optimistic and hope for better international relationships that are governed by humane principles.

With this hopeful approach, the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains high confidence and willingness to further strengthen its ties with countries in the Asia-Pacific region as well as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its member states.

In this spirit, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia together with a group of passionate parties here have kicked off a regularly bulletin to provide useful information and analytical reports.

I hope this endeavour to serve as a stepping stone and be the beginning of many successful chapters between Iran and Malaysia.

We look forward to hearing your comments and views.

'Ali.Asghar.Mohammadi'

MESSAGE BY IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER DR. ZARIF ON THE 42nd ANNIVERSARY OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION



Dear Friends;

42 years ago, our people triumphed in a great popular revolution. Unlike similar uprisings in world history, our Islamic revolution succeeded without reliance on any external power or the leadership of any armed group. Iranians' 100-year-long quest to determine their own destiny and establish accountable rule came to fruition in spite of all odds – including outside plotting – and through a sole reliance on people power. We have come a long way since, and we do not relent in striving towards achieving our ideals.

Among our key achievements is the harnessing of the talents and capabilities of our own people. This has allowed us to develop the most extensive local industrial base and homegrown scientific and technological prowess. We have achieved this and much more in the face of the longest and most extensive campaign of economic terrorism in human history. Not even the covid-19 pandemic compelled the prior U.S. regime to cease its lawless assault on ordinary Iranians.

Donald Trump betted on the myth that Iran is a nation that can be forced to choose between collapse and submission. We have all seen the outcome of that bet. But Trump was not the first, nor second but, in fact, the seventh consecutive U.S. president who has made – and lost – that exact same wager. With a new administration in Washington, there is an opportunity to try a new approach. But the current window of opportunity is fleeting.

Soon, my government will be compelled to take further remedial action in response to the American and European dismal failure to live up to their commitments under the JCPOA. This remedial action—as directed by our Parliament, and in accordance with our rights—entails an enhancement of our nuclear program and a reduction in our cooperation with IAEA inspectors.

It can be averted only if the United States decides to learn from Trump's maximum failure rather than lean on it.

Iran has time and again proven its readiness for engagement and cooperation toward shared goals with our neighbors. Our consistent aim in all our endeavors has been to build a more stable, peaceful, and prosperous region, and we have proposed initiatives in this regard. I hope that our neighbors will have learned that they cannot bank on outsiders to provide them with security. We need to rely on each other, as geography promises that we will remain neighbors forever.

We Iranians do what we say. And most importantly, we always keep our word.

On the anniversary of our revolution, I reiterate Iran's invitation to make use of the current window of opportunity to embrace dialogue, and do away with the futile hostility towards the Iranian people.

Iran the country of four seasons



Weather diversity is undoubtedly one of the top factors of every traveler's agenda when they go on vacations. Many travel to other parts of the world to escape the cold weather in winter or simply experience a climate condition they have never felt in their own motherland. Iran, on the other hand, is one of the only countries in the world with the complete four seasons.

The climate is so unique that Iran has been dubbed "a world inside a country". Thanks to the country's unique geographical positioning, visitors may experience all four seasons in every corner of Iran all year long. At the time the summer starts in the southern and northern parts of the countries close to the Persian Gulf in south and Caspian Sea in north – you will be able to head to the west to ski in snowy mountainous regions. Iran is a large country bordering seven countries via land. Weather condition during the spring season in Iran is typically cool and most of the rainfall seen in Iran occurs during spring and winter. For

those who love to experience snow, winter weather in the northwest of Iran is typically cold with heavy snowfall and subfreezing temperatures. During the same period, the weather is fairly mild in the southern regions of Iran. The climate within the Caspian mountainous coastal region of Iran offers a different experience from the rest of Iran, often with rain fall throughout the year. Due to its wet weather condition, the region is far more fertile to the rest of Iran which is typically arid. Summer in Iran is typically hot and dry with certain southern regions experiencing temperature of over 37 degrees centigrade during mid-season. However, cool breezes can be felt towards end of summer, signalling the arrival of autumn. Like the spring, autumn is a pleasurable season in Iran perfect for those who can't stand hot weather. The autumn in Iran is typically a beautiful season as the green leaves of trees turn yellow and orange.

Kerman Province: An agriculture powerhouse for Malaysian traders

The Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying economic crisis has led to mounting concerns over food security across the world.

Generally, a food shortage or any disruption in the international food supply chain not only affects governments throughout the world but also traders, major corporations and, more importantly, the small businesses. In times where most countries have reduced food exports to meet their domestic demands, Iran's largest province, Kerman Province, is steadfast to continue feeding the world with its diverse range of agricultural products.

With this spirit, Iran is committed to give utmost importance to further strengthen trade interactions with Malaysian corporations, importers and SMEs in the field of food security, public health, information technology, while focusing also on all other sectors as each of them bear importance.

Offering from cereal, legumes and industrial products to vegetables, fruits, medicinal herbs and kitchen garden products, Kerman Province is one of Iran's strategic regions with abundant agricultural potentials.

The exceptional intersection between high-low altitude, mountains-deserts and tropical-cold areas has created a unique natural environment which can rarely be seen in Iran plateau.

As a result, almost 70 kinds of agricultural products and 54 types of horticultural products are being cultivated with an annual

production capacity of four million and 1.7 million tons respectively.

Thanks to its unique geographical positioning, you can find semi-tropical fruits, citrus plantations and cold-climate Persian walnut groves within a mere distance of 30km in the province.

Among the agro products that grow in the province are semi-tropical fruits such as dates, mango, papaya, citrus, apple, pear, variety of cherries and walnuts.

The province - which produces various horticultural, cultivated and organic products - leads the country's pistachio and date production capacities with approximately 22,000 tons and 380,000 tons annually.

As a powerhouse for food, the province offers large quantities of daily essential foods such as wheat, barley, sesame, vegetables, fruits, nuts, livestock, poultries and aquatic animals.

Strategically located in the southeast of Iran, Kerman Province seamlessly offers its natural resources and food products to 15 regional countries, which Iran has land and sea borders.

Kerman's food products potentially feed over 600 million customers in the region, which account for eight per cent of the world's population and 12 per cent of the world's economy.

Iran offers many opportunities for Malaysian importers and investors with the country's wide range of industrial and agricultural production and quality products.

IRAN STARTS CLINICAL TEST OF THIRD HOME-MADE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE



Spokeperson of Iran's Food and Drug Organization (IFDA) Kianoush Jahanpour said that the clinical trial of the third domestically-developed COVID-19 vaccine has been launched at Razi Serum and Vaccine Institute. "The the first and second phases clinical trials of the third Iran-made coronavirus vaccine, affiliated to Razi Serum and Vaccine Institute, have kicked off with the approval of the Medical Ethics Committee," Jahanpour wrote on his Twitter account.

Iran is working on multiple projects to develop indigenous vaccines for the novel Coronavirus, known as COVID-19. Tehran reported earlier that the first three Iranian volunteers have received their second dose of the first domestically produced COVID-19 vaccine the same day. The second dose of the home-grown COVID-19 vaccine (COVIRAN Barekat) was injected to the first three volunteers who had received their first dose on December 29, 2020. As the Iranian vaccine COVIRAN Barekat has had no side effects after 14 days, the committee for supervising the vaccine has issued the permit

for the second phase of injection.

The Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini (EIKO) is the organization that has developed the vaccine. In a relevant development on Sunday, January 10, it was announced that Iran started coronavirus vaccination on the second 7-member group of volunteers. "After getting the license from the relevant authorities, the vaccination to the third group begins on Tuesday morning," Dr. Hosseini from Tehran Medical Sciences University said and added, "Today, three people have been vaccinated and tomorrow 4 volunteers will get the jabs and the first phase will continue till vaccination of 56 people." Hosseini expressed hope that the approval for the second phase of vaccination will be issued by the end of January. He went on to say, "I make it clear that this vaccine has been fully safe till this moment and none of the 7 volunteers of the previous two groups has seen any side effects, and that's why the vaccination of the third group has been licensed."

IRAN 1ST COUNTRY TO APPLY PLASMA THERAPY FOR EYE DISEASES

plasma Assistance Non-Invasive Surgery (PANIS) inventor Farhad Nejat said that Iran is the first country that applies the method in the world to treat eye diseases, and noted that 14-15 eye diseases that needed operating room and anesthesia are now treated by the PANIS method. "The International Eye Surgery Academy has approved the PANIS method," he said.

The inventor made it clear that the method's animal trial had taken around one and half years and its human trial began two years ago.

Nejat went on to say that many European countries like Italy, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, and some of the regional countries like Turkey are exchanging their experiences with Iran.

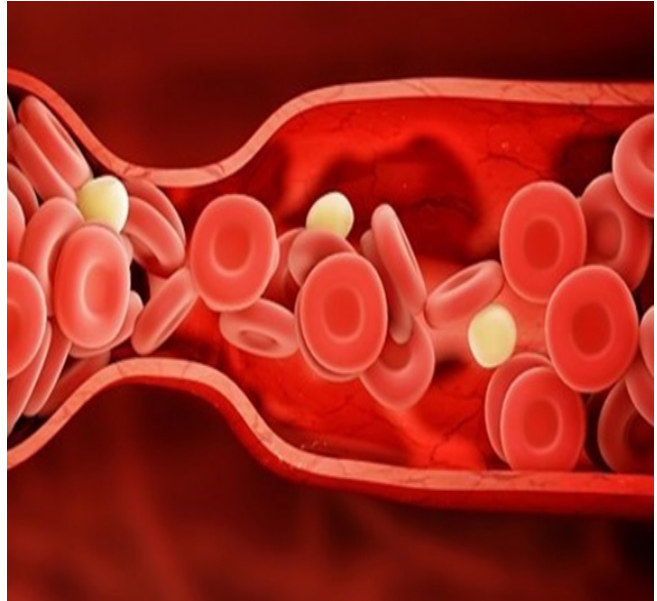
"Over the past 20 years, plasma therapy has been applied for treating cancer, dentistry, dermatology, scar, and in the past four years has successfully been applied on ocular surface disorders, which compromise the integrity of the cornea surface and conjunctiva," he stated.

"PANIS generator is made in Italy, but the method is absolutely indigenized," Nejat highlighted.

"Safety, easy use, low price, the fast-paced wound healing process, and promoting ocular surface regeneration in different pathological conditions are the most noteworthy features of the method," the ophthalmologist stressed.

The ceremony of the PANIS method introduction was held in Tehran on 8th January 2021. Specialists of an Iranian knowledge-based company introduced the discovery of a new method to treat eye diseases without the need for operating-room, pain, and anesthesia.

In a relevant event in late December, Iran's Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that the country has a century of experience and know-how in the production of vaccines, and announced that the human trial of the COVID-19 vaccine has started with the first injection of the domestic vaccine.



IRAN SELF-SUFFICIENT, ABLE TO EXPORT NANO-BASED ANTI-CORONAVIRUS PRODUCTS



Head of Iran's Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) Saeed Sarkar announced the country's self-sufficiency and ability to export nanotechnology products for campaign against the coronavirus outbreak. "On the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, we developed the ability to produce 20,000 N95 mask on a daily basis with a 95% virus filtration capability. Within two weeks, Iran's production reached 200,000 masks, and we provided our hospitals staff with 200,000 masks a day," Sarkar told FNA. "We now have the ability to export nano masks," he added.

Meanwhile, Saeed Sarkar had underlined the country's huge progress in manufacturing and exporting nanotechnology products. "Fortunately, we are witnessing that nanotechnology products are being exported to over 45 countries of the world and we are witnessing the growing flourishing of this arena," Sarkar told FNA on the sidelines of the 12th International Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition in Tehran.

Malaysia remains a potential trade partner to Iran

Iran and Malaysia have maintained strong diplomatic, cultural and economic ties over the past decades.

Bolstered by similar interpretations of Islam that both countries have in common, Iran and Malaysia remain a friendly and brotherly country in many aspects.

For over two decades, cooperation in scientific, cultural, tourism and economic fields have been the prominent aspects in the bilateral relations between both countries.

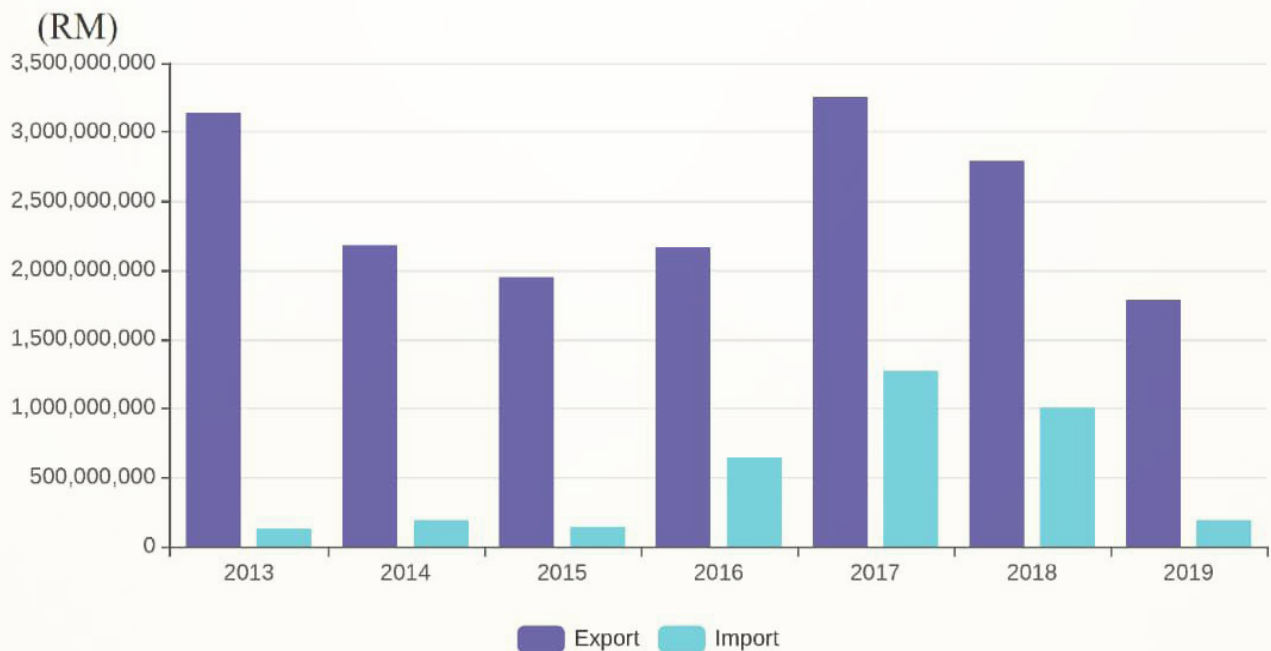
Such was evident in trade volumes as each country has its unique resources that would be mutually beneficial to both nations.

Looking back at the trade value exchange between Iran and Malaysia over the past seven years, Malaysia had recorded an average trade value of RM2.5 billion annually with record high of RM3.25 billion export value to Iran in 2017.

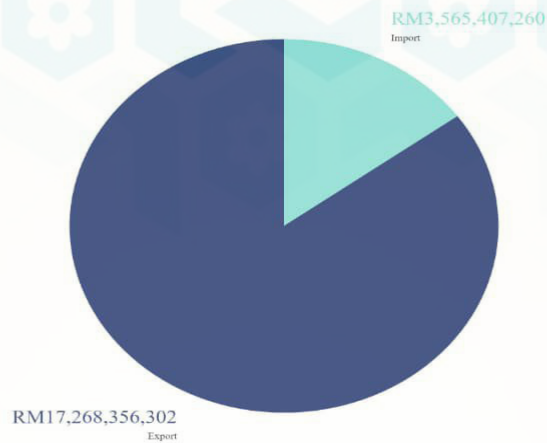
According to figures released by the Malaysian government, the total trade volume between Malaysia and Iran in the first seven months of 2020 reached close to RM700 million, of which Malaysia's share of exports to Iran was about RM571 million, while Iran's share was about RM128 million.

This, however was achieved when the Covid-19 pandemic was ragging globally, forcing many countries into prolonged lockdowns and strict movement restrictions.

In comparison to the first seven months of 2019, Malaysian exports to Iran recorded over RM1 billion, and Iran's exports to Malaysia were about RM85 million.



Malaysia - Iran : Import & Export (2013 - 2019)



The most important Malaysian exports to Iran include palm oil, rubber, cocoa, organic chemicals, handmade fibres, iron and steel, machinery, electronic and electrical items. In contrast, Iran's prominent exports to Malaysia include nuts, fruits, variety of fish and marine products, all kinds of sweets, ore and ash, mineral fuels, bitumen and minerals as well as construction materials such as stones, gypsum and cement. As both countries continue to strengthen cultural, political and economic ties, Iran and Malaysia have the potential to further cooperate for better mutual developments of both nations.

IMPORT & EXPORT IN 2020

	IMPORT FROM IRAN (RM)	EXPORT TO IRAN (RM)
JAN	30,334,714	49,647,392
FEB	25,844,301	35,730,796
MAR	24,675,850	38,801,831
APR	22,422,709	118,970,846
MAY	10,536,351	44,479,759
JUN	6,170,868	59,734,704
JUL	7,843,218	224,144,566
AUG	8,141,259	196,004,246
SEP	15,840,634	124,937,434
Total	151,809,904	892,451,574

Iran to further expand its share of global halal market

حلال
HALAL

Halal products were once a niche market, accessible mostly in Muslim-majority countries. But today, the sector is enormously booming and it's no longer limited to Muslim countries or members of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation, known as OIC. In fact, what used to be mostly about food and Islamic financing a decade ago is now seen as a major industry, sending ripple effects across supply chains and businesses. With a global consumer base of about 1.8 billion, the halal market is estimated to be worth trillions of US Dollar over the next few years. Therefore, it's not surprising to see even non-Muslim countries changing gears to reap the potential returns of this worthwhile sector by offering halal products and services.

The reason for this vast thriving market is tantamount with halal products being widely recognised for their safety and quality. According to the recent Global Islamic Economy Report by Thomson Reuters in collaboration with research firm DinarStandard, Muslim consumers from all over the world spent RM4.8 trillion on food and beverage in 2016. By next year, this figure is expected to reach RM7.6 trillion. Iran as an officially Muslim country with Islamic rules produces wide variety of consumer goods, which are all halal. The country has also remained committed to align its halal certification with other countries to better facilitate traders who wish to benefit from Iran's abundance of products – from agriculture and livestock to other consumer goods perfect for exports to other countries.

Iran also recently launched an integrated halal system linking the activities of related organisations to create a cohesive unit that can work together to capitalise on the opportunities in the global halal industry.

Earlier this month, the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim) approved one of Iran's halal certification logo by the Islamic Chamber Research & Information Centre (ICRIC). The move is expected to further boost imports of consumer goods and food products from Iran to Malaysia.

Ramadan and its lucrative avenue for traders

The holy month of Ramadan is soon upon us, and Muslims from all around the world start the preparation as early as a month in advance.

But for traders, the preparation is always in the pipeline to meet the demand of over 1.8 billion Muslims who will fast from dawn (sahur) until dusk (maghrib).

For one month, people stay up late at night to perform prayers after they break their fast and rise early in the morning for sahur before the sunrise.

Apart from being a month of fasting, prayer and reflection, Ramadan brings about an abundance of unique delicacies as people from different walks of life come together to celebrate togetherness.

One of the oldest and perhaps “obligatory” Ramadan delights is dates, which in Islam is valued and described as “fruit of paradise”.

Dates are significant for Muslims during Ramadan as they break their fast with the fruit throughout the month.

The practice of breaking fast with dates is in tandem with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, who initiated it and advocated Muslims to do the same.

The ancient tradition has continued in the modern world and made dates one of the

main items on the dining table in Ramadan.

Ever since, the length and breadth of this popular fruit in the market have diversified greatly and become a profitable avenue for farmers and small-to-large traders across the world.





Dates is generally available in three categories of soft, semi-dry and dry, which simply refers to ripening stages of the fruit and their moisture levels.

Two of the common Iranian dates available in Malaysia include Mazafati and Piarom (Maryami) dates.

Originating from Bam city in Kerman Province, Mazafati dates comes in about 20 variations. However, the most common type in Malaysia is the black colour, oval shape variant. Mazafati dates are considered moist with the surface skin easily separable. Another distinct characteristics of the fruit is its uniquely sweet flavour which makes it popular among most Malaysians.

Alternatively, those who prefer a more diet-friendly date that's not moist and overly sweet can opt for Piarom, or fondly known as Maryami.

Cultivated in Southern province of Hormozgan, the fruit is dry and comes with inseparable surface skin. The sugar content of the date is fructose, making it the perfect option for diabetics who monitor their sugar intakes.

Both types are highly nutritional with high protein content which make them a great snack during Ramadan.

IRAN-AFGHANISTAN RAILWAY PROJECT GOES BEYOND ECONOMIC INTERESTS

The first railway between Iran and Afghanistan was launched in December 2020, linking the Iranian northeastern city of Khaf to Afghanistan's western city of Ghoryan over a 140 km track. The project represents a major step toward increasing Afghan-Iran trade and opening landlocked Afghanistan to the rest of the world through the Iranian port of Chabahar. The new railway is the latest in a series of projects Iran has implemented, mostly in Afghanistan's Western regions, as part of a \$560 million pledge for rebuilding Afghanistan. Tehran was one of the largest donors at a 2002 Tokyo conference, pledging more than India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, and Pakistan combined. Schools, power plants, new border crossings and roads are some of the other projects Iran has undertaken. In 2005, Iran opened the 122 km Dogharun-Herat highway that has been serving as one of the main import-export gateways to Afghanistan. That \$60 million project was built by Khatam-al Anbiya.

While Iran's major investments in Afghanistan's western regions reflect strong historic and cultural ties between

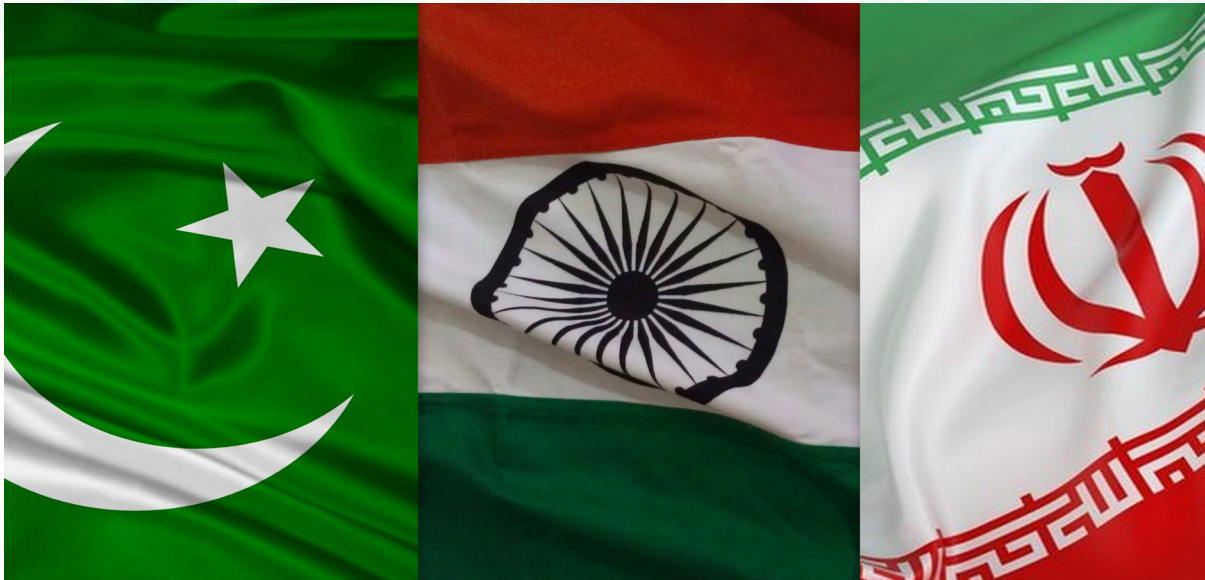
the two nations, the economic benefits are also significant, especially at a time when Iran is under US sanctions



reimposed by the Trump administration. Iran is currently Afghanistan's largest trade partner followed by China and Pakistan. Beyond economic and cultural aims, Iran wants to improve the security of its borders, create more jobs, and reduce poverty in the hopes of decreasing illegal immigration from Afghanistan.

Iran also seeks to improve access to important raw materials, such as iron ore mines in western Afghanistan.

950,000 TONS OF IRANIAN GOODS EXPORTED TO AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN



Director of border markets of the Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan Mobin Ali-Mir said that more than 950 thousand tons of goods had been exported from the border markets of the area to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the last 10 months.

He pointed out that in the first half of this year in Persian calendar (Starts on March 20), 10 percent of Iran's trade was done through Sistan and Baluchestan border markets, adding: “these markets are leading in exports of non-oil goods and seven of the eight markets in the region are active.” In this course of time (H1), Ali-Mir said that more than 650,000 tons of goods had been exported through the border markets of Iran’s Sistan and Baluchestan province, highlighting: “most exports had been done through the markets of Mirjaveh and Kahak.” Iran’s Sistan and Baluchestan Province has the highest number of active markets: two markets near the border with Afghanistan, and five others near the border between Iran and Pakistan.

IRAN REGISTERS NEARLY \$1.5BLN FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN 9 MONTHS



The Ministry announced that during the first nine months of the current Iranian year (March 20-December 20), some 129 foreign investments were approved in the country at a value of \$ 4.384 billion.

The four countries with the highest amount of investment in the mentioned period were Germany, China, Turkey and the UK, respectively.

In relevant remarks in late August last year, Director General of the Organization for Investment Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran Abolfazl Koodehi said that unlike most countries, direct foreign investments (DFI) have tripled in Iran despite the coronavirus epidemic and illegal US sanctions.

Koodehi said on Friday August 28 that the continuous presence of foreign investors in Iran and their investment volume have tripled in the current year (2020) compared to the previous year despite the hardest sanctions that hit country.

"The approach of foreign investors to Iran has been positive," he noted, adding that the growing volume of investment proves that hard work will be effective even in the harshest conditions.

Moreover, an official at Iran's Interior Ministry said last month that foreign investors can apply for five-year residence in the country, adding that this residence will enable them to receive special services.

Mehdi Mahmoudi said on Tuesday December 15 that every foreign investor will get five-year Iranian residency, and added that Iran's neighbors, especially traders of Afghanistan and Iraq, can invest and benefit from their industrial and economic activities.

"Application forms would be available in line with a platform envisaged by the Foreign Ministry, the Interior Ministry, Iran's department on foreign investment, and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI)," Mahmoudi noted.

He stressed that foreign nationals and immigrants residing in Iran would get free of charge medical treatment for coronavirus pandemic.