

DoE opposes Miankaleh Petchem on principle: *Official*

Social Desk

The head of Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE) stated that the DoE serves the people and is responsible for protecting nature and public property. Due to these duties, the license for establishing Miankaleh Petrochemical was not granted. Ali Salajegheh, the head of DoE, appeared on a national TV broadcast and explained that rules and regulations exist worldwide for land management in order to establish industries or facilities, according to Tasnim news agency. "Any project seeking implementation must

submit an establishment request to a specialized group under the country's DoE, which acts as a trustee for land management. Expert teams review these requests based on existing laws and regulations." Salajegheh further mentioned that after examining these plans, they are either accepted or rejected, with recommendations made in some cases to take precautions.

Miankaleh Petrochemical does not have a license

Regarding Miankaleh Petrochemical, specifically, Salajegheh clarified that their application had been reviewed but no es-

establishment permit had been granted.

"While there may be disagreements about how this industry is perceived by certain organizations, it is important to note that DoE manages land impartially, according to laws and regulations. The same applies to Miankaleh Petrochemical," he said. He added, "A complex called Amirabad Park applied for an environmental license for the production of propylene, and the issue was investigated. From DoE's point of view, this entity does not have any environmental license, and there is nothing personal about it. We are only ser-

vants of the people and take care of nature and people's property." He pointed out the indifference of some industries to the objections of the DoE, while acknowledging challenges in terms of environmental culture awareness. The official expressed a need to better explain the importance of environmental issues as top priorities for both officials and citizens alike.

No project without environmental license

The vice president went on to note that during the current administration's term so far, no projects have commenced with-

out permission from the DoE – an indication of prioritizing environmental concerns within current policies.

Addressing pressures related to approving projects against organizational requirements, Salajegheh stated his commitment to maintaining independence. As a university lecturer in environmental literature at the University of Tehran, he emphasized, "Personally, I'm not someone who could be coerced into doing something," and voiced his readiness to return to teaching and learning if faced with managerial pressures. Salajegheh then clarified

that the process for environmental issues is thorough, involving expert review and participation from representatives across various sectors. The technical assessment follows laws and regulations and is signed off by the relevant deputy. He further emphasized that he lacks knowledge or involvement in this process to be susceptible to pressure when issuing permits. The head of DoE stressed that sometimes large investments are made and individuals consider specific locations suitable for their projects, yet experts and relevant officials must adhere to established rules.

A man whose mission is to save the world's street dogs



Social Desk

Niall Harbison having battled addiction and saved himself, has become a saviour of Thailand's street dogs.

Niall Harbison, 43 is a man who dreams big. He has pledged to be able to sterilise 10,000 dogs a month. In his first year, he managed 1,200 dogs, according to The Guardian.

Niall was in a "dark place" when he went to live in Thailand in December 2018. For a man with undiagnosed ADHD who'd been a prize prankster at school and expelled at 17 with no qualifications, he'd already done exceptionally well. He had several successful online food businesses under his belt, money in the bank and a devoted rescue dog, Snoop.

He raises funds on social media, his 579,000 followers checking in on the dogs he has treated or saved, including his own three rescue dogs, Snoop, Jumbo and Tina. Harbison weaves in updates on his own mental health, which encourages others to share their own mental health struggles.

Most people hide it. There's still a big stigma about mental health, Niall Harbison said.

There are thousands of street dogs on Koh Samui, an island off Thailand.

Harbison had encountered his fill of sick or maimed stray puppies by 2021.

Rescuing puppies "without changing hearts and minds is like sticking a plaster on a heart attack. But it's not my culture, I'm a foreigner, so I have to be cautious", Harbison said.

"I wanted to get to the root of the problem."

Working with local vets who taught him the neutering procedure, he began sterilising the dogs to curtail the stray population, saving them from hardship and suffering, and paying for their vaccinations. The attitude to dogs on the island varies from hatred to love, with the vast majority being indifferent.

There are around 300 dogs in shelters on the island already.

He owns dog sanctuary, comprising two containers on an acre of land gifted to him for a nominal rent by a dog-loving islander which is a sterilisation centre.

For now, the building site puppies are with Harbison, himself a survivor against the odds, and now a rescuer.

Reading camp held for nomadic children of southeastern Iran

Social Desk

A lively one-day reading camp was held in Abadeh County for nomadic children of Fars Province, southeastern Iran. The first round of the project, 'Reading Camp for Nomadic Tribes of Fars,' was held in Kamingah district of Khosro Shirin village in Abadeh County, so that nomadic children could spend a lively day with books, IBNA reported. The one-day event, which provided a cultural service, was aimed at developing cultural justice and facilitating the nomadic community's access to books and information resources. It was held with the presence of Mohammad-Hossein Firouzi, Director General of Fars Public Libraries. Speaking during the camp, Firouzi highlighted that the development of reading and library services

is a key program of the General Directorate of Public Libraries in Fars Province. Through collaboration with cultural institutions and organizations responsible for nomadic affairs, they aim to promote book culture among the nomads in Fars Province. The design of this new plan involved expert input and was facilitated by signed agreements. Emphasizing that this program will extend to other nomadic areas in Fars, Firouzi announced the commencement of a book-reading camp titled 'Reading Camp for Nomadic Tribes of Fars' in Abadeh city. They hope to expand their presence throughout the province by implementing book-oriented services to foster a culture of reading among nomads. Looking ahead,

Firouzi mentioned plans for diverse programs targeting nomadic students in Fars Province starting from the new academic year. With support from partner organizations and devices, they anticipate positive reception despite existing cultural and civilizational challenges within Fars Province. The goal is to conduct book-reading camps periodically wherever there are nomadic communities present. During this one-day book-reading camp held at Abadeh city's summer camp area, with assistance from cultural experts, various activities including book-reading competitions, meetings, performances, storytelling sessions, public readings, painting sessions, and poetry recitals were organized.

Iran inaugurates first-ever insulin production line

Social Desk

On August 27 a momentous event took place in Tehran as the first-ever insulin production line in Iran was officially inaugurated.

Attended by Ruhollah Dehqani, vice president of science and technology and knowledge-based economy, as well as Mostafa Qanei, secretary of the headquarters for the development of the health knowledge-based economy, and some other health officials, the ceremony marked a significant milestone in the country's pursuit of self-sufficiency in medical supplies.

The achievement is not only a technological breakthrough but also a national triumph. Through collaboration with a multinational knowledge-based company and local young specialists, Iran has successfully realized domestic insulin production for the first time. This accomplishment holds immense importance considering past challenges faced due to insulin shortages within the country.

Dehqani highlighted that apart from meeting domestic demands, this large-scale factory also paves the way for potential exports. With such

capabilities in producing this strategic material domestically, Iran now joins an elite group of countries capable of supplying insulin on an international level. This achievement will undoubtedly bring great benefits and elevate Iran's status globally.

Acknowledging Iran's strong presence and technological advancements in pharmaceuticals worldwide, Dehqani emphasized that there are excellent opportunities available for foreign investments in the health care sector.

He also stated that Iran possesses one of the most advanced pharmaceutical technologies globally, while welcoming capital investment and international involvement in this field. The Iranian government stands ready to support investors looking to expand their activities within Iranian territory.

The newly-established production line has been made possible through collaboration with Vitane Pharmed, a knowledge-based company specializing in pharmaceuticals. The infrastructure boasts unparalleled capacity with an annual production capability of 700kg of insulin from cells to a market-ready product. This state-of-the-art facility is poised to bring substantial economic benefits to the country, potentially saving over 100 million euros through cost reductions once clinical approvals are obtained and the product is introduced into the health market.

The inauguration of this groundbreaking insulin production line signifies a moment of pride for Iran as it demonstrates its ability to achieve self-sufficiency in essential medical supplies.

