Domestic & Int'l

Tehran. **Ankara sign** MoU to hold renewable energy events

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SAT-BA) and the Turkish EFOR Company, aimed at holding specialized exhibitions and events in the field of renewable energies.

The MoU was inked by Director General of the International Affairs Office of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran Masoud Rezaei and CEO of the Turkish EFOR Company for Strategic Affairs Gary Gross to expand international cooperation, IRNA reported.

During a meeting earlier, the two sides emphasized the interaction and cooperation of officials of the two countries on holding exhibitions jointly and seizing the opportunity of investing as a joint venture.

EFOR Company is one of the organizers of an exhibition on clean energy technologies in Turkey's Izmir city, entitled "WEN-ERGY Clean Energy Expo," which will be held in Ankara in late May 2024, with the participation of leading international companies working in the fields of renewable energy, electricity efficiency, electric transportation, storage and smart electricity grids.

The company has invited Iranian firms to take part in the exhibition

Leader hails Iranian businesspeople for offsetting sanctions

olution Avatollah Sevved Ali Khamenei praised the Iranian people engaged in the economy for turning the foreign sanctions into opportunities in some sectors.

A large group of Iranian producers and those active in the economy met with Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran on Tuesday, reported Tasnim News

During the meeting, the Leader referred to the fully effective capacity and capability of the private sector to achieve macro-economic goals. He emphasized the importance of government support in terms of tackling obstacles in the business environment, and highlighted the responsibility of the private sector as crucial factors for improving the overall situation and driving substantial progress in the country.

After hearing the words of 12 individuals who were active in the manufacturing field, the Leader called for the government's serious follow-up to fulfill the demands raised by manufacturers.

Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to the Domestic Production Capabilities exhibition that he visited a day earlier, describing it as captivating and exceptional.

"We can introduce this ex-



A group of Iranian industry owners meet with Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyved Ali Khamenei in Tehran on January

khamenei.ir

hibition as an illustration of the country's scientific and technological prowess," the Leader said.

While referring to limiting issues such as sanctions, Ayatollah Khamenei noted, "The effort and progress of the private sector, despite such obstacles, makes one hopeful that this sector is able to propel Iran towards the desired growth outlined in the seventh five-year plan, with an eight percent (economic) growth." The Leader also considered "innovation" to be a clear reality seen in yesterday's exhibition and today's meeting. "Innovation is an indication of an elite workforce, and having such a valuable workforce will serve as a reliable backing in solving major issues, traversing difficult paths, and propelling Iran to achieve excellence.'

The Leader considered the sense of responsibility of both the government and those active in the economic sector as necessary in order to effectively utilize the potential of the nation's capital.



"The responsibility of the government is generally aimed at removing obstacles and improving the business environment," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the government's supervision of the private sector is essential and should not be disregarded, emphasizing, "What we negate is government interference; otherwise, we believe that government monitoring is necessary." The Leader also acknowledged that the support

provided by governments worldwide plays a pivotal role in the success of prominent corporations and businesses, Khamenei.ir reported.

"A crucial way for governments to assist the private sector is by facilitating the growth of exports and foreign markets. In light of this, there is a need to strengthen economic diplomacy through collaborative efforts between the government and the private sector," he said. Speaking about the pres-

ence of foreign problems such as sanctions and hostilities of ill-wishers, the Leader said, "While these situations are undoubtedly detrimental and pose problems for the country, they can also be used as opportunities, in the same way that our youth took advantage of these circumstances. leading to the acquisition of military weapons and remarkable scientific accomplishments such as advancements in the field of space and the successful launch of satellites like the Soraya satellite. If it were not for the sanctions, we would not have had these achievements today."

The Leader concluded, "If the private sector is effectively managed and adequately supported, Iran's significant progress would become a tangible reality due to its great potential, abundant natural wealth, elite workforce and the good relationship that exists between the government and the people."

Iranian firms dredging Russia's Volga River: PMO

The chief executive of the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (MPO) said Iranian companies are implementing the dredging operations in Russia's Volga River. Ali Akbar Safaei also described the construction operation of gantry crane as one of the strategic port equipment in the country, and noted that the revenues of the organization will witness a significant hike in the current Iranian year (started March 21, 2023) compared to a year earlier, reported IRNA. Regarding the latest situation of talks with India on a

long-term investment contract at Chabahar port, the deputy minister of roads said India's ports and shipping minister will soon visit Iran to clinch a contract for the development of the port. India's high-ranking officials are determined to play a key role in the development of Chabahar port, Safaei un-

The official pointed to the port equipment and machinery needed to be imported to Chabahar port by India, and added, "Under the contract, the gantry crane will be imported by the Indian



side into Chabahar port." the strategic port equipment by Iranian manufacturers is under the finalization stage, he said, adding that giant investment has been made

in President Ebrahim Raiadministration in the field of supplying relevant port equipment, as the capacity of ports has thus far increased from 270 tons to

Saudi Arabia halts plan to raise production capacity

Saudi Arabia has ordered energy giant Aramco to maintain its oil production capacity at 12 million barrels per day, abandoning a planned increase, the firm said on Tuesday.

"Aramco announces that it has received a directive from the ministry of energy to maintain its maximum sustainable capacity (MSC) at 12 million barrels per day" instead of ramping it up to 13 million bpd, the firm said in a statement, AFP reported.

"The company will update its capital spending guidance when its full-year 2023 results are announced in March."

Riyadh announced the planned production capacity increase in October 2021, the same month it pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2060 - drawing intense scepticism from environmental activists. Aramco said it planned to achieve production capacity

of 13 million bpd by 2027. The decision to drop the target "suggests Riyadh is not very confident that the world will need so much additional capacity and that the investment required to get to and maintain 13 million bpd is better spent elsewhere," said Jamie Ingram, senior editor at the Middle

East Economic Survey. Aramco has pledged to achieve "operational net-zero" carbon emissions by 2050.





