

Pakistan to start laying part of IP pipeline to get Iran gas



Islamabad is considering initiating construction on an 80-kilometer segment of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, stretching from the Iranian border to Gwadar, in order to avoid a potential penalty of \$18 billion. The penalty could be imposed if Tehran decides to pursue arbitration at the International Court of Arbitration in Paris due to the project's non-execution. A source from the Ministry of Energy disclosed that Pakistan also plans to seek a waiver of US sanctions for the IP project, wrote economy.pk.

Initially, it has been decided to commence work on the 80-kilometer segment from the Pak-Iran border to Gwadar in the first phase of the IP project. The estimated cost for this portion of the project is \$158 million, and funding will be facilitated through the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC). According to the official, the agreement for the project, signed in May 2009, entails the supply of gas for 25 years from Iran's South Pars Gas Field to the Pak-Iran border.

The project involves laying a 1,931-km pipeline to transport Iranian gas to Pakistan, with 1,150 kilometers in Iran, and 781 kilometers in Pakistan. Both countries are responsible for implementing the project within their territories. As per the agreement, gas supply was scheduled to commence by January 2015. While Iran has completed over 900 kilometers of construction within its territory, the remaining 250 kilometers are yet to be built.

On December 21, 2023, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) issued a Material Breach Notice to Pakistan's Inter-State Gas Limited (ISGS), on the breach of buyer's warranties. ISGS was given 180 days to remedy the breach, failing which the matter would be referred to the Coordination Committee for resolution. Failure to implement the project may lead Tehran to pursue arbitration, potentially resulting in a contractual liability of approximately \$18 billion for Pakistan.

However, Iran also proposed that it can provide Pakistan with its legal and technical expertise in order to jointly develop a win-win strategy before the end of the deadline.

Tehran, Colombo eye enhanced ties given shared values

President Raisi invited for official visit to Sri Lanka

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ali Sabry in the country's capital Colombo on Tuesday hailed the "good relations" with Sri Lanka and called for the expansion of cooperation in various fields. The Iranian foreign minister said the two countries should work for the expansion of diplomatic ties as well as the enhancement of relations in economy, tourism, science and technology, wrote Press TV. Amir-Abdollahian under-

scored the need for establishing direct flights between the two countries.

The Iranian minister appreciated Sri Lanka's position in supporting the people of Palestine in international forums, not least the United Nations. "I held comprehensive and useful meetings with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and President Ranil Wickremesinghe," he also said.

Amir-Abdollahian added that he had received the invitation for President Ebrahim Raisi's

visit to the capital Colombo.

"This visit will be a priority for Iran despite Ayatollah Raisi's busy schedule," said the minister.

Ali Sabry, for his part, said he hoped – given the values Sri Lanka and Iran share – the two countries expand relations of cooperation further in the new era.

He said Sri Lanka was ready to implement economic projects undertaken by Iranian experts in the country in light of the Islamic Republic's industrial and economic capabilities.



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) shakes hands with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ali Sabry in Colombo, Sri Lanka on February 20, 2024.
● IRNA

Iran overtakes Qatar in extracting gas from SP joint field: *CEO*

The chief executive of Iran's Pars Special Economic Zone Organization said Iran has outpaced Qatar in the extraction of gas from joint field.

Sakhavat Assadi put the value of investment made by Iran for the development of its projects in the South Pars Gas Field at \$150 billion, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Currently, 26 development projects, costing \$1 billion, are underway in the South Pars

field, he emphasized.

Turning to the conspiracies waged by enemies against the Islamic Republic, he said that the enemy has left no stone unturned to wage a full-fledged war against Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, but all their plots have been foiled.

The South Pars Gas Field is shared between Iran and Qatar, he noted, adding that many countries continue cooperation with Qatar on the field incessantly but Iran has been faced with tough sanctions imposed

against the country.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Asadi pointed to the construction of a refinery at Phase 14 of the South Pars Gas Field and added that 73 percent of the refinery has been constructed by domestic engineers.

Iran's gas extraction from the South Pars Gas Field exceeds that of Qatar, the official said, putting Iran's daily extraction of gas from South Pars at about 710 million cubic meters, while gas extraction by the Qatari side stands at about 650 million cubic meters/day.

Between 70 and 75 percent of the country's gas is produced in the South Pars Gas Field, Asadi added.



Tehran to host SCO's industry ministerial meeting: *Deputy minister*

A meeting of the industry ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states will be held in Tehran later this year, announced the head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI).

Speaking at the 8th Working Group of Investment of SCO member states, Ali Fekri noted that organizing the first prestigious

economic event of the organization indicates the political will of Iran for the advancement of the programs of the organization, according to Tasnim News Agency.

The deputy minister of economy expressed hope that the country would use the high capacities and potential of the organization.

The OIETAI is ready, in addition to introducing

investment opportunities, to cooperate with the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, in line with materializing mutual economic objectives, Fekri emphasized.

Accordingly, an expert-level meeting will be held at Pardis Science and Technology Park, he added.

The more social and economic bonds are strengthened among member states of the organization, the more the concept of unilateralism will be mitigated, the official continued.

Earlier, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's enormous potential in various areas has enabled it to deal effectively with unilateralism and contribute to regional and international convergence.

Over \$3b worth of commodities traded at IME

The Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed the trade of 14.158 million tons of commodities and 337 vehicles with a total value of more than \$3 billion on its physical market during the month to February 19, registering growths of 1.2% in volume and 14.6% in value terms compared to the month ending January 20.

According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor, trade of 11.508 million tons of commodities and 337 vehicles valued at more than \$2 billion, reported ime.co.ir.

On this floor the IME sold 5,964,981 tons of cement, 2.694 million tons of iron ore, 2.036 million tons of steel, 712,500 tons of sponge iron, 96,850 tons of zinc, 42,959 tons of copper, 40,800 tons of

aluminum, 35,000 tons of cast iron, 1,150 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 57 tons of precious metals concentrate and 337 vehicles.

Moreover, the exchange saw trade of 2.442 million tons of commodities worth more than \$1 billion on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 883,906 tons of

bitumen, 677,500 tons of vacuum bottom, 474,154 tons of polymeric products, 151,100 tons of lube cut, 152,866 tons of chemicals, 49,025 tons of sulfur, 24,998 tons of oil, 3,640 tons of petroleum products, 1,705 tons of feedstocks and 1,395 tons of waterproofing materials. Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 116,215 tons of goods.

