

Raisi hails workers for bringing hope to society



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Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said high-quality and diverse production of Iranian labor force which done under the sanctions, pressures and some shortcomings, is a source of hope for the society.

Speaking in a ceremony for marking May Day in Thran on Tuesday, the president added that as you defeated the enemy in various fields, you Iranian workers with your precious mentality, will defeat them in the economic field as well, according to president.ir.

The president emphasized the necessity of implementing all legal, financial and social supports for workers in order to improve the quality and quantity of production.

The nation of Iran as well as our workers have shown that they can have products whose quality is higher than all the necessary and global standards, as during our recent trip to Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan engineers and experts emphasized that the work of Iranian experts in the construction of dams and power plants have been completely up-to-date and even unique.

Pointing out that the enemies thought they could stop the Iranian nation with sanctions and threats, Raisi said: "Today, the enemy observes that despite all the pressures, Iran has economic growth, production, innovation and technological creativity, as in the field of exporting knowledge-based products, an annual record of over \$2 billion dollars has been set".

The president also referred to his government's special attention to production and employment, to the restoring of more than 8,000 closed production units, urging all managers and officials of the executive bodies that under no circumstances should any factory be closed and stop production.

Raisi also emphasized the banks' special attention to the payment of employment, housing and marriage facilities for young people and announced the readiness of the Bank Refah to provide facilities of housing for workers.

NIOC allocates \$6.4b for development of 16 gas fields

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) inked signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) worth \$6.4 billion with Iranian companies to raise the country's natural gas output by 127 million cubic meters.

Under the MoUs, signed in a ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday, domestic petrochemical holdings and exploration and production companies will conduct development studies on 16 gas reserves across the country, Shana reported.

The signing ceremony of the mentioned MOUs was attended by senior officials, including Oil Minister Javad Oji, NIOC Head Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, and the Head of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaei.

With the implementation of the mentioned development projects, in total, about 127 million cubic meters will be added to Iran's gas production capacity, which can play an important role in compensating for gas imbalance in the cold season, providing stable feed for petrochemical complexes, and increasing Iran's gas exports.

The completion of the said projects



● SHANA

is also expected to create 25,000 direct and indirect job opportunities, especially in the provinces and cities where the projects are implemented.

As reported, part of the gas output of the projects is going to be used by the petrochemical

complexes conducting them as feedstock. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Oil Minister Javad Owji said 79 major semi-finished oil industry projects with a total investment of \$16 billion are going to be completed in the current Iranian calendar year (to end

March 20, 2025).

According to Owji, 50 new projects with a total investment of \$25 billion will also be started in the current year.

Announcing that Iran's oil production will increase significantly this year, the official said: "We

will also face an increase in gas production."

"Six million tons will be added to the country's annual petrochemical production capacity and 50,000 barrels will be added to the oil refining capacity of the country," he added.

IsDB approves Tehran's proposal for preferential financing

Iran's finance minister said the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has accepted a proposal from the country to launch a preferential financing program.

Ehsan Khandouzi said after an IsDB annual meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, that the bank had agreed to create a new mechanism under which member countries can receive finances from the lender under a preferential arrangement, Press TV reported.

In preferential financing, a bank agrees to offer a lower rate of financing to clients so long as they adhere to a certain set of commitments. The minister had said earlier on

Monday that Iran will negotiate with the IsDB to receive new loans for key development projects in the country, including projects focused on health and knowledge-based enterprises.

He had said last week before departing for Saudi Arabia that Iran had paid back all its debts to the IsDB in order to be able to receive new loans from the lender.

In his address to the IsDB's meeting in Jeddah, Khandouzi described the bank as a "credible international financial institution" which has played a "pivotal role in the progress and solidarity" of nations in the Muslim world and in the West Asia region.



Iran-UAE joint economic commission convenes for first time in 10 years

A rare Iran-United Arab Emirates joint economic commission convenes in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday to Wednesday, the Iranian Labour News Agency reported, as Tehran seeks to bolster economic ties with Persian Gulf states.

This is the first meeting in 10 years for the bilateral joint economic cooperation commission, with Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash and Emirati Minister of Economy Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri in attendance, Reuters reported.

The development of relations between the two countries in the field of international transit corridors especially the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to transit Emirati goods to the Central Asian states, the Caucasus, Russia and Europe through the Iranian land and territory has been put on the agenda of the meeting. Business-to-business (B2B) meetings will also be held among the economic activists and entrepreneurs of the private sectors of the two countries.



Iran seeking win-win ties with African countries: IDRO

The chief executive of Iran Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) said Iran is ready to cooperate with African countries in the industrial and production sector.

Iran has adopted an equality approach to cooperation with African countries and is pursuing win-win ties and using the capacities of each other complementarily, Babak Ahmadi stated, reported Tasnim News Agency. Speaking in a specialized meeting of the 2nd International Iran-Africa Summit, he emphasized that the development of cooperation with African countries has been given special attention in Iran's international cooperation.

Studies show that African countries have taken effective measures in the field of industrial development in recent years especially in importing industrial equipment and machinery, he said.

The deputy industry minister pointed to the capacities and the natural resources available in Africa in the three sectors of mines, oil, gas and fertile agricultural lands, and stated that Iran can be active in Africa in the fields of minerals, oil, gas sectors and also processing industries, according to Mehr news agency.

Iran and African countries enjoy high capacities and potential to spur economic activities mutually, Ahmadi underlined.

Exporting technical and engineering services to African countries is the other area of cooperation, he said, and expressed hope that Iran and African states will continue industrial cooperation and interaction in the international arena.

US gripped by ...

The intrusion into the university space and the heavy-handed treatment of students are deemed as infringements on people's and students' fundamental rights. Moreover, in addition to condemning the US policies toward

Israel and Palestine, a substantial faction of protesters essentially protests the societal disparities within the United States. They argue that the US policies, both domestically and internationally, have trampled on people's rights. Consequently, these protests em-

body a collective rage directed at the prevailing situation in the United States.

While these protests challenge the US administration's policies, they do not appear to jeopardize the strategic relations between the United States and Israel. Instead, they intensify pressure on the US government to engage in negotiations or exert more force

on Israel to rein in Netanyahu's extremist and aggressive cabinet. Netanyahu's longstanding vow to strike Rafah has raised global apprehensions about the recurrence of Israeli atrocities in Rafah. The delay in Netanyahu's assault on Rafah can be attributed to the mounting international and US administration pressures. Before students rallied in sol-

idarity with the Palestinians, other parts of American society, such as anti-war activists, anti-Zionists, Arabs, Muslims, and critics of the capitalist system, had organized various protest gatherings. It is anticipated that with the surge of student protests and the harsh crackdown by law enforcement, other dissenting groups opposed to US

administration policies will re-emerge onto the streets, especially given that this year marks an election year in the United States. Besides election campaigns, protest rallies are likely to take place. Much remains to be seen. As anticipated, anti-war advocates will leverage the Paris Olympics in France as a platform to voice their discontent.