Displaying Failure of Sanctions at

Iran Oil Show 2024





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Vol. 7555 Sunday, May 12, 2024 Ordibehesht 23, 1403 Dhu al-Oadah 3, 1445 100,000 rials 8 pages

Serious human rights concerns ahead of Paris 2024 Olympics



By Abed Akbari International affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

With less than a hundred days until the start of the Paris 2024 Olympics, serious concerns have been raised by human rights activists regarding widespread police violence and illegal actions against immigrants, especially French Muslims,

The Paris Olympics are scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11. In preparation for the event, an embellished facade has been constructed for Paris to cover up the harsh reality that many marginalized families from immigrant communities, mainly from French-speaking African countries such as Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Senegal, have been grappling with day in and day out.

Although Amnesty International condemned the continued erosion of human rights in France in 2023 in a recent report released a few weeks ago, the report has had no impact on the French government's behavior, despite nearing the commencement of a major international

The organization expressed concerns about the future of human rights in France, stating that the use of hateful rhetoric has increased significantly in France over the past year. Jean-Claude Samouil, the head of Amnesty International France, recently pointed out the dire human rights situation in France as well, stating that human rights violations in the country are on the rise.

Many civil activists in France believe that the law that authorizes the use of artificial intelligence for the purposes of surveillance, which was presented by French officials as experimental and a guarantee of security during the organization of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, poses a risk of the excessive expansion of police powers. What raised some alarms in France is the increased use of surveillance equipment and the possibility that these tools may be there to stay long after the games have ended.

In its report, Amnesty International also highlighted sporadic violence and indiscriminate beatings against demonstrators who gathered legally to show support for Palestinians or protest against policies such as pension law reforms. The report emphasized that the French authorities have abused law enforcement in suppressing these protests.

In October, the French interior minister ordered local authorities to prohibit any pro-Palestinian demonstrations. What is equally a cause for serious concern is that the French police seemingly refrain from restricting racist and inflammatory speeches against Muslims in France. These confirm that Paris is systematically discriminating against certain groups.

Raisi: TIBF Focuses on 'Book Access for Everyone'

President urges authors to portray confrontation of dignity, viciousness in Gaza 8>







Iran's youngest author inspires with over 1,200 books read in a year



reach out to them by calling +982188941810.

The affection and devotion to the Prophet of Islam and his family manifest beautifully in works by non-Muslim thinkers, writers, and poets. Iran's publishing house seeks to publish these creations brought together by Dr. Abbas Khamedar and his team 'Secret of Lovers.' Lebanese Christian writer Michel Kaadi, captivated by the Prophet's household after studying Imam Ali's words for his thesis, put together an eight-volume collection. Four volumes have been translated in to Persian, with two more on the way.

 $He\ hails\ Fatima\ Zahra\ (PBUH), Prophet\ Muhmmad's\ daughter, as\ the\ first\ lady\ of\ literature$ and oratory in the East, unmatched in eloquence to this day.

His works explore the lives and virtues of the Prophet's family, lauding Imam Hassan as Islam's foundation and Imam Hussein for teaching the world about freedom, dignity, valor, and faith and how love for God and Islam must be upheld, even at great personal cost. The book 'Zayn al-Abidin and the idea of Christianity' explores the Christianity, from a respected Christian author's viewpoint.









Conservatives win big in Iran's parl. runoff



National Desk

Conservatives managed to secure more seats in the second round of Iran's parliamentary elections, official

results showed Saturday, tightening their hold on the chamber.

Voters had been called to cast ballots again on Friday in regions where candidates

failed to gain enough votes

Conservative won the ma-

jority of the 45 remaining

seats up for grabs in the

vote held in 15 of Iran's 31

in the March 1 election.

Candidates needed at least 20 percent of all valid votes in their constituency to be elected in the initial round. The first round of the parliamentary election was held along with the Assembly of Experts vote on March 1, saw a turnout of 41 percent.

For the first time in the country, voting on Friday was a completely electronic process at eight of the 22

constituencies in Tehran

and the cities of Tabriz in the northwest and Shiraz in

"Contrary to some predic-

tions, all the candidates had

a relatively acceptable and good number of votes," Inte-

rior Minister Ahmad Vahidi

told reporters in Tehran.

the south, state TV said.

Twenty-five million Iranians out of 61 million eligible voters took part in the elections.

Back then, 245 candidates managed to pass the 20-percent threshold to win the ticket to the parliament.

Second Announcement N.I.S.U.C NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140001 National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material letter via fax to the following number along with their procurement management tab ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO participation in the tender will be disregarded. NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL The applicants should have relevant background in FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT supplying the required goods and capability to provide and Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management submit a bid bond of 131,340/04 EURO or 57,492,000,000 Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran RIAL, in favor of NISOC Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3589 Tender documents including the materials thorough Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37



UNGA backs Palestinian bid for membership

Iran denounces US for choosing to blind eyes to reality

International Desk

The UN general assembly voted overwhelmingly to back the Palestinian bid for full UN membership, a move that reflects growing global solidarity with Palestinians and a rebuke to Israel and the United States amid alarm over the war in Gaza and the extent of the humanitarian crisis in the territory.

The assembly voted by 143 to nine, with 25 abstentions, for a resolution that called on the UN Security Council to bestow full membership to the state of Palestine, while enhancing its current mission with a range of new rights and privileges, in addition to what it is allowed in its current observer status.

The highly charged gesture drew an immediate rebuke from Israel. Its envoy to the UN, Gilad Erdan, delivered a fiery denunciation of the resolution and its backers before the vote

"Today, I will hold up a mirror for you," Erdan said, taking out a small paper shredder in which he shredded a copy of the cover of the UN charter. He told the assembly: "You are shredding the UN charter with your own hands. Yes, yes, that's what you're doing. Shredding the UN charter. Shame on you."



The Palestinian envoy, Riyad Mansour, pointed out the vote was being held at a time when Rafah, the southernmost city that is the last haven for many Palestinians in Gaza, faced attack from Israeli forces.

"As we speak, 1.4 million

Palestinians in Rafah wonder if they will survive the day and wonder where to go next. There is nowhere left to go," Mansour said. "I have stood hundreds of times before at this podium, often in tragic circumstances, but none comparable to the ones my people endured today ... never for a more significant vote than the one about to take place,

a historic one." The US mission to the UN, which voted against the resolution, said it would use its veto again if the question of Palestinian membership returned to the security council for another vote.

The resolution does not mean a Palestinian state will be recognized and admitted to the United Nations as a full member anytime soon. The Assembly can only grant full membership with the approval of the Security Council, and, if history is a guide, the United States would almost inevitably wield its veto power to kill such a measure, as it did in April.

Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeid Iravani lashed out at the US, as a staunch supporter of the Israeli regime, for choosing once more to blind its eyes to this reality and make cynical efforts to hinder the realization of the noble aspiration of the Palestinian people for full membership.

"However, today's vote shows how the United States is isolated in its unconditional support of the Israeli regime," Iravani said.

More than 300 dead in Afghanistan flash floods

More than 300 people were killed in flash floods that ripped through multiple Afghan provinces, the World Food Programme said on Saturday, as authorities declared a state of emergency and rushed to rescue the injured.

Heavy rains on Friday sent roaring rivers of water and mud crashing through villages and across agricultural land in several provinces, according to AFP.

Northern Baghlan Province was one of the hardest hit. with more than 300 people killed there alone, and thousands of houses destroyed or damaged, according to



"On current information: in Baghlan Province there are 311 fatalities, 2,011 houses destroyed and 2,800 houses damaged," Rana Deraz, a communications officer for stan, told AFP.

Another 20 people were reported dead in northern Takhar province and two in neighboring Badakhshan, he added.

Iran strongly condemns 'unwise' **Canadian motion against IRGC**

Iran hit out at an "unwise" motion at the Canadian House which calls on the Ottawa government to designate Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Saturday highlighted the role which the IRGC plays in countering threats against the country and terrorism in the region, Press TV reported.

"Along with other elements of the armed forces, the IRGC is responsible for guarding the national security and borders of the country, as well as contributing to lasting security and stability in the region by confronting the sinister phenomenon of terrorism," he said.

His remarks came after the Canadian House of Commons on Wednesday adopted a non-binding resolution calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to blacklist the IRGC and expel an estimated 700 Iranians.

Kanaani strongly condemned the move, calling it "unwise, hostile and contrary to the accepted standards and principles of the international law, including the equality of sovereignties and non-interference in the internal affairs of states".





Eye-catching presence of domestic, foreign firms in Iran Oil Show 2024



The 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024), as the largest industrial and commercial event in Iran, hosted a large number of capable domestic and foreign companies in this field.

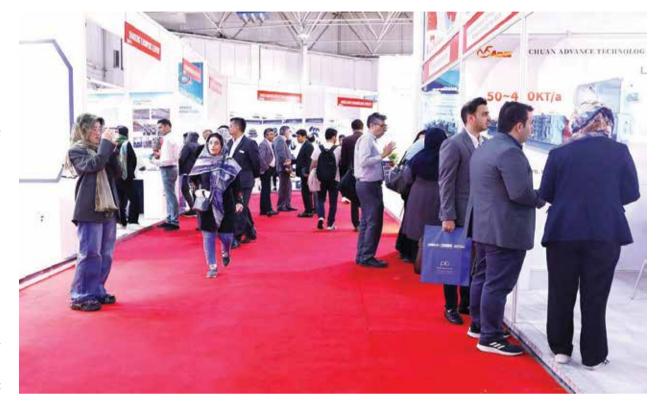
The inauguration ceremony was attended by Oil Minister Javad Owji, Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Mohamed Hamel, a number of the Iranian Parliament's members as well as other Iranian officials and senior oil industry directors on Wednesday.

Among the Iranian participants were the officials of NIOC, National Petrochemical Company (NPC), National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union (OPEX), Iranian Petroleum Industries Equipment Manufacturers Association and Iran Industrial Equipment Manufacturers Association, as well as representatives of new technology-based firms (NTBFs), technological parks and startups.

In addition to 1,500 Iranian firms, a sum of 250 companies from 12 countries including Russia, China, Turkey and Belarus took part in this year's exhibition with the motto "Petroleum industry, production leap and technological optimization".

Participants from the upstream, intermediate and downstream sectors of the oil industry, along with associations and unions of oil industry equipment manufacturers, first-time producers NTBFs were showcasing their achievements in the Iran Oil Show 2024.

Self-sufficiency in building marine structures for oil, gas industry A an NTBF, the Darya Fan Qeshm Indus-



tries Company was among the participant companies in the Iran Oil Show 2024. Zafar Hafezi, a member of the board of directors of the firm told Iran Daily that launched in 2011, the company is active in the field of marine and offshore oil and gas projects.

"The NTBF participated in the implementation of the huge projects of Phases 4, 5 of South Pars in cooperation with the Italian oil company ENI as it worked with Norwegian STATOIL company in the implementation of the Phase 6-8 of South Pars, but after the foreigners left our projects indigenized installations and implementation of oil projects," he added.

Hafezi went on to say that we have reached self-sufficiency in the field of offshore oil and gas projects. In this regard, the company has completed the implementation and installation of Phase 11 marine facilities in South Pars.

Saving millions of petrodollars with domestic production

Wide steel sheets play an important role in the oil and gas industry as are used in the production of long and wide pipes for oil and gas transmission and the building of storage reservoirs for these products.

Behrang Ehdaei, the deputy head of planning and development of the Khouzestan Oxin Steel Company, one of the major companies producing steel sheets for Iran's oil and gas industry, explained about his company, saying "We are the first and only producer of wide steel sheets in the Middle East. Our

products are used in the production of large pipes as well as pressurized tanks of oil and gas.

The main mission of the company is to produce sheets needed by the country's oil and gas industry, and more than 80 percent of our products are used in this sector, Ehdaei noted.

"Before we started mass production in the field of wide steel sheets in 2011, these sheets were imported, but we no longer need to import the product and save millions of dollars annually."

Last Iranian year, we were honored as the country's top exporter and currently we export our products meeting international standards to Persian Gulf littoral countries as well as European states including Spain and Germany.

Chinese companies outstanding in Iran Oil Show

Foreign companies active in the oil and gas and petrochemical industry participated in the exhibition, among which China had a strong presence.

Var Song is the marketing manager of one of the Chinese companies participants in the Iran Oil Show 2024. The company operates in the field of manufacturing products needed in the oil and gas industry from titanium and tantalum alloys.

According to him, with the support of the China government, more than 50 Chinese companies participated in this exhibition, as most of these companies are private.

"I participated in the expo for the first time and I think that Iran Oil Show 2024 vitrined great achievements in the field of oil and gas industry to visitors," Song stated.

According to him, the presence of Chinese companies in the exhibition helps to expand the cooperation between the two countries in the field of oil, gas and petrochemical industry.

Chinese companies are very interested in cooperation with the Iranian side, he said noting Iran's oil and gas industry has a clear perspective, so the cooperation of the two countries can bring good achievements for both sides.

Guo Zili, the deputy of another Chinese company participated at the exhibition said his company is affiliated with the Chinese government, but it has been operating independently for several years in the field of producing crystal diamond-coated drills used in drilling oil and gas wells.

He said in Iran, oil and gas reserves can be reached by drilling wells in a depth of 1,500 meters to 4,000 meters.

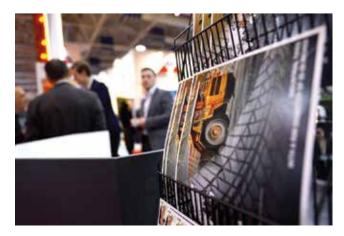
In this exhibition, in meetings with the Iranian parties, the barriers to cooperation were discussed as the way to enter the markets of the two countries is opened, Zili concluded.

Exports of techno-engineering services neutralize sanctions: *MP*

Malek Shariati, who is a member of the Parliament's Energy Committee, said on Thursday that the efforts by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) have neutralized the illegal sanctions and have earned a reputation for Iran in the world. During his visit to the NIORDC booth at the Iran Oil Show 2024, the MP hailed the nonstop efforts of the experts and staff of the NIORDC.

Shariati went on to say that the works taken by the company to boost production and meet the needs of the country in the oil industry are very valuable as were carried out under the conditions of sanctions, by the domestic experts.

During his visit, the lawmaker was briefed about the other activities and achievements of the company and expressed his satisfaction with the activities carried out by the NIORDC.



Spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee Mostafa Nakhaei noted on Wednesday that the increase in the number of foreign companies participating in the Iran Oil Show 2024 is an indicative of the failure of the sanctions project.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the event in Tehran, the lawmaker told Shana that the more than twofold increase of foreign companies in this year's exhibition also shows the growth and dynamism of the industry in Iran.

During the 13th government (since August 2021), the Ministry of Oil has taken many measures to raise oil production and export; the MP stated noting that "However, in the current government, the oil industry faced many sanctions as the enemies tried to create more barriers against the sale of Iranian oil, but they failed."

He expressed his hope to witness the signing of many contracts at the exhibition, saying that these contracts can lead to the further development of the country's oil and gas industry.

In addition to 1,500 Iranian firms, a sum of 250 companies from 12 countries have taken part in this year's exhibition, whose motto is "Petroleum industry, production leap and technological optimization"

More foreign companies at Iran Oil Show indicates failure of sanctions: *MP*







Oil minister: Iran's crude production up 60% in 2.5 years



Iranian Minister of Oil Javad Owji said the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024) is a good opportunity to showcase the great achievements of his ministry in recent 2.5 years in the 13th government which took office in August 2021.

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony of the expo in Tehran on Wednesday, the minister noted that over 1,700 domestic and foreign companies are participating in this year's event, as the increase in the number of participants makes every Iranian proud, Shana reported.

From the very beginning, the current government (13th government) has never waited for negotiations to remove international sanctions, Owji stated, adding that in recent 2.5 years, relying on domestic new technology-based firms (NTBFs), Iran's oil industry has gained great achievements.

Stating that at the beginning of the current administration, the amount of oil production and export was not favorable, the minister said: "Today, we have achieved such figures in this field that are hard for many to believe."

"By the end of last Iranian year (March 19, 2024), we have completed about 132 unfinished projects worth \$28.5 billion, and at the same time, we have started the implementation of 50 projects worth \$47.5 billion," he announced.

Pointing to the 54-million-cubic-meter increase in the gas production, as well as a rise of 220,000 barrels in processing capacity and 10 million tons of petrochemicals in the last 2.5 years, Owji said a large part of the achievements obtained thanks to the completion and exploitation of unfinished projects, some of which were delayed for more than 10 years.

No dependency on foreigners

Owji said the development of Phase 11 of South Pars Gas Field, which was passed around by foreign companies for 20 years, is one of the main achievements of the Ministry of Petroleum during the tenure of the 13th administration.

"This achievement was gained by the efforts of the managers and employees of the oil industry and by relying on domestic contractors, which currently produces 12 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas, and according to plans, will increase to 30 mcm by the end of the 13th administration, and in the coming years will hit 50 mcm"

Pointing out that the previous administration had announced that it was ready to hand over the Abadan Refinery which is the country's oldest refinery for free, Owji stated: "Today, we see that the refinery contributes greatly to the production of oil products in Iran as last year it made a profit of 12 trillion tomans (\$200 million)." The executive works of the second part

The executive works of the second part of Phase 2 of the refinery's development project will also start soon, he added.

Contracts worth over \$5 billion were signed for the collection of associated petroleum gas (APG) in the 13th administration for field gas collection of the West Karoun and East Karoun fields of Karun as well as fields in the west of Iran, the minister stated.

the quality of petroleum products in the country's refineries stating that the production of Euro 5 products was achieved in the Isfahan Refinery last year, and according to plannings, the boosting of quality for petroleum products in all refineries is carried out by relying on domestic capacity.

He referred to the implementation of more than 1,000 kilometers of gas pipelines in the country, and continued: "In the current administration, five gas pressure boosting stations were put into operation and gas was supplied to more than 6,000 villages."

Five petrochemical projects are ready for the official opening in the presence of President Ebrahim Raisi, the minister anAccording to statistics released by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the Ministry of Petroleum had a magnificent performance last Iranian year, Owji said adding the economic growth of the oil and gas sector was over 20 percent last year, which had a significant impact on the overall economic growth of the country.

\$35-billion revenues

Referring to the export of \$35 billion worth of crude oil in 1402 despite all the restrictions, Owji stated that the enemies made efforts to stop Iran's oil tankers, but they failed.

He went on to say that during winter, we witnessed an explosion in the gas pipe-

the South Pars joint field and \$13 billion worth of contracts for the development of seven oilfields has been signed by the NIOC.

He pointed to the call of the Ministry of Petroleum to supply gas feed to petrochemical units and stated: "During last weeks, important documents were signed with 13 petrochemical companies to supply their gas feed from 20 gas fields."

Oil Ministry supports private sector

All the capacities of the country in the technical, financial, contractors and advisory sectors are used for the prosperity of the oil industry, the minister stated, noting that "There is no better place than investing in oil industry, as the return on capital in the oil industry occurs in the shortesttime.

He expressed his hope that with the unveiling of the new form of oil contracts, the economic growth of the oil and gas sector will be realized this year as well.

The Ministry of Petroleum has not neglected optimizing energy consumption, Owji said, adding that projects valued at about \$40 billion have been approved in the Economic Council in the fields of transportation, increasing power plant efficiency, and optimizing consumption in industries, construction sector, and railways.

"This year, with the initiative of the Parliament, an account of optimization has been opened supplied from sources that can be provided for at least 30 trillion tomans (\$500 million) in order to optimize energy consumption."

Owji pointed to the development of energy diplomacy by the 13th administration and added: "Today, despite all the restrictions, compared to [the Iranianyear of] 1397, the highest level of exports is carried out." The ground is paved for cooperation on oil sector with foreign countries which was done by President Raisi's visits to other countries, the minister stated noting that oil cooperation with foreigners in the field of exporting oil, oil products, petrochemical products and exporting techno-engineering services is increasing day by day.

Concluding his speech, Owji thanked all the industrialists and companies active in the field of oil industry and said his ministry welcomes investors from the private sector to participate in the oil industry.



"Currently, 11.5 mcm of APG are collected, which will reach 30 mcm by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025). Methane from the processing of these flare gases is injected into the national gas network as heavy compounds are fed to petrochemical complexes in order to create more added value."

He mentioned the completion of South Pars Phase 14 Refinery after a decade and said: With the full launch of the complex, more than 50 mcm per day was added to Iran's gas refining capacity.

Self-sufficient oil industry

Referring to the implementation of very important projects in the field of gas storage, the petroleum minister said in the last [Iranian] year of 1402, more than one billion cubic meters (bcm) of additional gas storage was done compared to its preceding year of 1401.

Owji explained about the increase in

nounced, explaining that with the launch of new petrochemical projects by the end of the current [Iranian] year, the annual production capacity of the petrochemical industry will increase by 10 million tons. Iran's oil industry has attained self-sufficiency in all sectors, including the development of offshore and onshore fields, marine structures, the construction of petro-refineries, the collection of APG, and the drilling of horizontal and vertical wells, relying on the domestic manufacturers of the industry.

Planning has been done to increase the production of oil and gas, oil and petrochemical products in the Seventh Development Plan which relies on the potentials of domestic companies.

There is no limit to investment in the oil industry, the minister said inviting all investors to invest in the industry, as the Ministry of Petroleum will also provide full support.

line, which was repaired in less than 24 hours, as there was no halt in supplying gas to people.

Talking about the Ministry of Petroleum's plan for the current Iranian year, Owji said a sum of 79 projects valued at \$25 billion will be put into operation in the upstream and downstream sectors, as 50 new projects have also been kicked off.

"With the implementation of new oil industry projects, 300,000 to 400,000 bpd will be added to oil production, 35 mcm to crude gas production, 50,000 barrels to refining capacity and three million to five million tons to the annual production capacity of petrochemical complexes of the country."

Referring to the signing of contracts for the development of oil and gas fields by the NIOC with domestic contractors, the minister said adding four contracts were inked with domestic firms valued at \$20 billionforthe pressure boosting project in



GECF invites NIGC to hold workshop on indigenous production

Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Mohamed Hamel invited the experts of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) to hold a specialized training workshop on the indigenous production as the company is experienced in the field.

In a meeting with NIGC CEO Majid Chegeni which was held on the sidelines of the Iran Oil Show 2024 on Wednesday, he announced the holding of a specialized training workshop on indigenous production and added the workshop will be held with the cooperation of 20 GECF member-states and some companies.

Hamel mentioned the experiences of the NIGC to provide and produce equipment through cooperation with new technology-based firms (NTBFs) as a very valuable achievement, and called for sharing the management experiences in the framework of a training course to the GECF Secretariat.

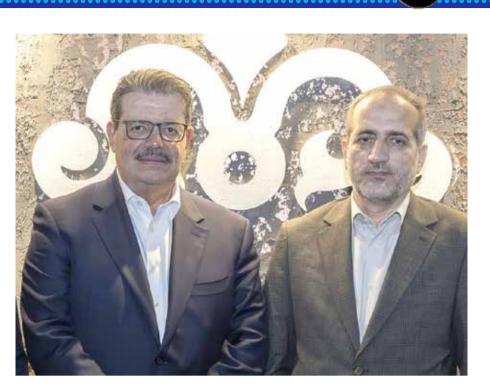
According to their domestic rules, some GECF member-countries do not have the opportunity to cooperate with foreign companies to meet some of their needs of goods for the gas industry, he noted adding that 'If Iran's management experience is shared by you to other GECF states, they can also have good achievements in their gas industry, and the cooperation will benefit both sides." The GECF secretary general also stated that Iran rivals Algeria in the field

of gas export as the African state is also a gas exporter.

Chegeni, for his part, said the NIGC has several projects in the field of refineries, among which is the construction of the Ilam Refinery, the second phase of which will be completed by September 21.

In the last two years, 1,300 kilometers of gas transmission pipelines have been built and five gas pressure boosting stations have been set up,

Chegeni stated that his company has had significant activities in the field of supporting academic centers and NTBFs. as NIGC met some of its needs of gas industry equipment through the cooperation with the said firms.



Fourfold rise registered in number of contracts on oil investment: NIOC



A fourfold rise was set in the number of contracts signed on oil investment in Iran within about 2.5 years of the 13th government which took office in August 2021, announced Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on Thursday in a press conference on the sidelines of the Iran Oil Show 2024.

Emphasizing that the upstream sector of the oil industry has the task of generating income, the deputy petroleum minister added that Iran earned a sum of \$35 billion of petrodollars from the exports of oilandgas condensates last [Iranian] year.

Investment for boostingpressure

The pressure boosting project, which started last Iranian year, requires an investment of \$20 billion as its implementation will fetch \$900 billion in income and 90 trillion cubic feet of gas for the country, Khojasteh-Mehr said. Eligible companies that we have chosen for the project should work in the field of geophysical and geotechnical studies, turbo-compressor manufacturing, and pressure boosting platforms.

The official noted that a few days ago, his company signed a contract with petrochemical companies for 20 gas tanks worth \$7 billion, explaining that the NIOC cooperates with petrochemical complexes and refineries, and supports them in providing feed and export issues.

Inauguration of 30 projects This year, 30 projects worth \$8 billion will be operational, and the operation of 19 projects worth \$11.5 billion will also begin by March 20, 2025, the official announced.

Last year, the NIOC signed a \$13-billion contract for the development of oilfields, of which\$ 12.5 billion pertained to two joint fields, Khojasteh-Mehr stated, adding that Iran has 400 oil and gas reservoirs, as the country's total oil and gas reserves are equivalent to 340 billion barrels of crude oil.

A total of 700 low-yielding wells have been handed over to new technology-based firms (NTBFs) and technological companies because the private sector can help the entire upstream chain of the oil indus-

Iran's annual petchem production tops 74m tons

The production control manager of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) announced that the country's petrochemical complexes with 79 percent of their installed capacity produced 74.3 million tons of petrochemicals during the last Iranian year of 1402

Speaking in the meeting to review the realization of the production leap strategy in the petrochemical industry, Bijan Chegeninoted that the production leap should be realized in the petrochemical industry in order to increase production of downstream industries, exports and forex of Iran.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Iran Oil Show 2024 on Friday.

Referring to the 74.3-million tons of petchem output that were produced with 79 percent of installed capacity in the country during 1402, he added the corresponding figures for installed capacity during 1401 and 1400 were 76 and 70 percent, respectively.

"The NPC Industries has a basic plan to eliminate as much as possible the three important factors of feed shortage, overhauling problems as well as process problems of the petchem industry, while it has not neglected other factors ei-

Following the drop in the global prices of petrochemical products, it is not a good solution to halt production, he stated, noting that the targets should be defined in such a way to move towards completing the value chain through pro-A sum of 20 petrochemical companies received 208 megawatts of electricity from the national power grid, as most of these companies have moved towards investing in the purchase of gas-fired power plants to become independent in power supply, Chegeni



Investment opportunities of \$19b up for grabs in Iranian refining industries

The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) managing director announced on Friday that investment opportunities valued at \$19 billion are ready for investors in Iranian refining industries.

Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of Iran Oil Show 2024, Jalil Salari said the largest Izomax unit in the Middle East with a capacity of 42,000 barrels will be operational in the Abadan refinery in the coming two months.

He went on to say that with the launch of the Izomax unit and the completion of the development and stabilization plan, about 3 million liters per day will be added to the dieselout put capacity as daily gasoline production of the refinery will rise by 1.5 million liters.

He also announced the inauguration of the desulfurization and gasoline production units of the Shiraz Refinery until September 19, and said "With the launch of these units, 4 million liters of oil and gas and 1.5 million liters of gasoline will be added to the production of the country."

"The quality improvement plan



of Tehran Oil Refinery is also being implemented. By the end of the current [Iranian] year (March 20, 2025), the amount of gasoline produced in the refinery will increase from six million liters to 7.5 million liters per day, and furthermore, the quality of gasoline will be up to Euro 5 which currently is Euro 4."

Salari also announced the launch of more than 1,100 kilometers of pipelines during this year and noted that with the inauguration of these lines, the daily consumption of 67 million liters of diesel

will be saved in the country. "In addition, 70,000 barrels will be added to the refining capacity of the refining complexes, which will increase the daily production of gasoline and oil by 1.6 and 2.5 million liters, respectively."

He announced the connection of power plants to the national trunkline stating that a 10-percent increase will be registered in rail infrastructure for the development of transportation and improvement of transit condi-

Diversification of the fuel basket is on the agenda, as by converting methanol to gasoline, 7.5 million liters will be added to the country's gasoline, he said.





Iran is a major oil producing country despite sanctions:

Mexican envoy

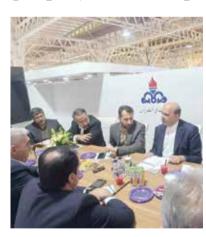


The United Mexican States' Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Guillermo Alejandro Puente Ordorica said on Wednesday that despite the sanctions, Iran is one of the important oil producing countries in the region. Speaking on the sidelines of the Iran Oil Show 2024, the envoy noted that "We all know that Iran's oil industry is facing sanctions, but sanctions have not limited the development of the country's oil industry."

"We participate in the Iran Oil Show 2024 to follow up the opportunities for further cooperation," the ambassador stated.

Mexico is one of the largest non-OPEC crude oil producers, he said, noting that his country is currently developing its oil industry. "Mexico is now a member of the OPEC+ alliance, so within the framework we can find ways for effective cooperation."

Iranian firms invited to join hands in oil, gas projects of Iraq



A specialized meeting of the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) with a number of senior managers of Iraqi oil companies was held on Thursday in Tehran.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024).

NIOC Managing Director Mohsen Khojsteh-Mehr discussed the areas of cooperation between the two countries with the Iraqi side, which was comprised of Director General of the Oil Pipelines Company Ali Abdul Kareem Al-Moussawi, Director General of Basra Oil Company Bassem Abdul Karim and heads of some other major companies.

The Iraqi delegation said that the proximity of the two countries is a great opportunity for the Iraqi oil industry.

Emphasizing the respectable neighborliness of the two countries, Khojsteh-Mehr considered it necessary to use the potentials of the private sector in Iraqi oil projects.

Africans keen on collaboration with Iranians on energy projects

The ambassadors of Uganda, Kenya, Senegal and Burkina Faso in Tehran discussed the updates about their countries in the energy field, expressing their readiness to collaborate with Iran in the "Perspective of Oil and Gas Industry in Africa" meeting.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Iran Oil Show 2024 in Tehran on Thursday.

New gas reservoir for Kenya

Speaking at the meeting, Kenyan Envoy in Tehran Mohammed Joshua Gatimo Aguta said the only gas reservoir in Kenya which has a 3,000-ton capacity is made by an Iranian company. "We need a reservoir of 60,000 tons."

"Kenya has favorable opportunities for investment. We have allocated an area of 60,000 hectares for establishing a free trade zone as we hope to be completed by 2050," the ambassador noted. This Kenyan diplomat expressed his hope that in the near future, the African country will not only use gas for domestic and industrial purposes, but also use it to extract other resources. Kenya can establish favorable cooperation with Iran under the framework.

Senegal interested in Iranian engineering

Salion Niang Deing, the Senegalese ambassador in Tehran said in the meeting his country is interested in technical and engineering services from Iran as Iranian engineers enjoy good experiences in downstream and upstream industries. "In addition to being ready to cooperate

"In addition to being ready to cooperate with state-run sectors, Senegal invites Iran's private sector for cooperation in the field of oil and gas," the envoy added.

Ugandan priority: Cooperation on export of crude

Speaking at the meeting, Muhammad Tezikuba Kisambira, Ugandan

ambassador in Tehran, stated that more than 6.5 billion barrels of oil are the country's crude reserves, of which 1.4 billion barrels can be extracted now.

We are now developing a production line for oil export, and we are also building a refinery. Our priority is to work more in the field of refining, but due to the financial limits we have, we have to work with other countries and companies in these fields," the envoy added.

Cooperation in crude oil export is Kam-

pala's priority, the diplomat stated adding that "Considering that Uganda has a developing economy, it is normal that the country's need for energy is noteworthy."

Pointing to Iran's capacity in the field of oil and gas, he said that his country is keen on cooperating with Iranian companies both in the public and private sectors.

Iran ready to ink MoU

Deputy Petroleum Minister for International Affairs and Trade Ahmad

Asadzadeh said in the meeting that Tehran proposes multimodal and mutual ways to cooperate with Africa.

Collaboration with Africa is very important for the Ministry of Petroleum; hence a special headquarters was formed for this field of cooperation, the official noted.

He expressed Iran's readiness to sign agreements with the African Energy Commission (AFREC) to form a close, coherent and powerful relationship.



Cuban companies willing to sign energy contracts with Iran: *Envoy*

The ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Islamic republic of Iran said on Wednesday that "We are trying to pave the ground for the investment of Iranian companies in the field of oil and gas in Cuba."

Alberto Gonzalez Casals told Shana on the sidelines of Iran Oil Show 2024 in Tehran that his country does not have significant energy resources, so they are keen on the import of Iranian oil products.

Talking about the effects of the Iran oil sanctions on Tehran-Havana cooperation, the ambassador stated that Cuba and Iran are facing sanctions, but under the current conditions of sanctions, Tehran is developing at a favorable pace.

He went on to say that Iran has

He went on to say that Iran has succeeded in preparing the required equipment for the development of its industries from domestic companies and keeps moving forward. "Iran and Cuba can have constructive cooperation and this is useful not only for Tehran and Havana, but also for the whole world."

Next month, a working group of experts from Iran and Cuba will be formed, with energy as its main focus, the Cuban ambassador concluded.





Yemen interested in boosting energy ties with Iran

Yemen's Ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim Mohammed al-Dailami called for expansion of energy cooperation between his country and Iran along with the exchange of scientific and technical oil data.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Ahmad Asadzadeh, the Iranian deputy petroleum minister for international affairs and trade on the sidelines of the Iran Oil Show 2024 on Friday.

Despite the cruel sanctions, Iran has succeeded to have commercial exchanges in the international arena in the field of oil, the envoy said. The diplomat went on to say that private companies in Iran have noteworthy experiences on exploration works, so we can benefit from the capability in Yemen.

Speaking for his part in the meeting, Asadzadeh said, "In recent years, talks have been held between the two countries in the field of oil industry, and we will share all our experiences with the country."

He expressed his hope that we can witness a strong oil industry in Yemen with cooperation and congulation

A 'fit' Yazdani deserves a shot at Olympic title, Dabir says



Sports Desk

Wrestling sensation Hassan Yazdani deserves the opportunity to win a third Olympic medal, should he be fit and ready when the Paris Games kick off in July, Alirez Dabir, the chairman of the Iranian Wrestling Federation said.

Dabir still insisted that Yazdani will have to convince the Iranian coaching staff of his fitness when he takes part in the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial tournament – starting June 6 in Budanest

Having won the Olympic 86kg quota for the country thanks to a silver medal in the previous World Championships, Yazdani had to undergo a surgery on his injured shoulder right after a gold-winning campaign in last September's Asian Games and only made his long-awaited return to training two weeks ago.

"Hassan is surely one of the four special figures in the history of the Iranian wrestling alongside Gholamreza Takhti, Abdollah Movahed, and Hamid Sourian," Dabir told Mehr News Agency of the winner of a national-high nine world and Olympic medals.

"He truly deserves to go Paris according to the selection process of the national team," added Dabir.

A gold medal in April's Asian Championships would have handed Hadi Vafaeipour a shot at the Olympic berth with a head-to-head against Yazdani but his failure in Bishkek left him out of contention for the Games.

"Let's not forget that Hassan has been out of action for nine to 10 months, so he will be tested in Budapest to have his fitness level assessed," Dabir said, adding: "I'm confident that he will be a favorite for the Olympic gold if his body bears the pressure in the Hungarian tournament." However, Dabir said Kamran Qassempour re-

mains "a plan B" for the Iranian 86kg spot in Paris if Yazdani still struggles with a shoulder problem.

"We don't really care who goes to Paris. The important thing will be to win the gold there," said the Iranian, who enjoyed the taste of the Olympic glory in Sydney 2000.

A two-time world 92kg champion Qassempour, who had to deal with his own injury woes over the past 12 months – which ruled him out of the world title defense in Belgrade last year – moved up to the Olympic 97kg weight class for the start of the new year.

His below-par results in January's Zagreb Open, including a comprehensive defeat against American great Kyle Snyder, saw Iranian prodigy Amir-Ali Azarpira – gold medalist in the Croatian capital – emerge as the frontrunner for the Iranian 97kg slot in the French capital.

Yazdani, a gold winner in Rio 2016, will be eager to seek a third successive Olympic medal after his familiar foe David Taylor, who has a 5-1 head-to-head record against the Iranian, was stunned by fellow-American and reigning world under-23 champion Aaron Brooks in the U.S. Olympic trails in April and called time on his illustrious career on Friday.

"Taylor's defeat had nothing to do with the decision on Yazdani, though I won't deny that he might be even more motivated by his major opponent's absence," Dabir said, while he went on to praise American young gun Brooks.

"When someone beats the Olympic champion, you will have to count on him as a top contender," said the Iranian wrestling chief.

A second Olympic gold will see Yazdani overtake Iranian taekwondo legend Hadi Saei as the country's most-decorated athlete in the history of the Games.

Jahanbakhsh fancies Bundesliga future once Feyenoord contract expires

Sports Desk

Feyenoord midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh hinted at a future away from the Dutch Eredivisie as he is to embark on a new chapter in his career.

The 30-year-old Iranian, whose contract with the Dutch club runs out at the end of season, said the German Bundesliga could be a fascinating destination for the start of next campaign.

"Bundesliga has always been one of my favorite leagues in Europe. We had many Iranian players in the German league, who played at the highest level and I grew up watching them play for their clubs and the national team," the Iranian said in an interview with Ziggo Sport in the Netherlands. Iranian football legends Ali Daei, Karim Baqeri, Khodadad Azizi, and Mahdi Mahdavikia joined the German top

flight in the mid-90s, before Ali Karimi and Vahid Hashemian won the league with Bayern Munich in the early years of the new century.

The Iranian skipper, meanwhile, added a move to the Italian Serie A could also be on the cards.

"I like Serie A a lot. We already have Iranian players in that league, so that would be interesting to play in Italy. Let's see what happens in the future," added Jahanbakhsh, who has 17 goals in 83 international caps under his belt.

International teammate Sardar Azmoun is spending a loan season in AS Roma from Leverkusen, while Porto striker Mahdi Taremi is set to join Inter as a free agent in the summer.

First introduced to the European football with NEC Nijmegen over a decade ago, Jahanbakhsh signed for fellow-Eredivisie club AZ Alkmaar in 2015.

A remarkable three seasons with AZ – during which the Iranian bagged 37 goals and 31 assists in 111 appearances, winning the league's top scorer prize – saw Brighton & Hove Albion come knocking in 2018 and Jahanbakhsh joined the Premier League side for a then-club record of €22.5 million.

His three-season spell in England, however, was one to forget as he only managed to score four goals in 61 appearances across all competitions – making 21 league starts under Chris Hughton and Graham Potter – though his wonder overhead strike against Chelsea in January 2020 was a contender for the goal of the season.

Jahanbakhsh returned to the Netherlands with Feyenoord in the summer of 2021 and won the league last season before lifting the KNVB Cup trophy in April.

A runner-up with Feyenoord in the inaugural UEFA Europa Conference League in 2022, the Iranian has netted 17 goals, while providing his teammates with 15 assists, in 104 matches for the club in all competitions.



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and export 70.000 metric tons of Iron Ore pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Shahid Rajaee Jetty Bandar-Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. on 18. May.2024 to Golgohar office in Tehran (Fatemi Ave. opposite of Laleh hotel building No. 273).

Bidders are invited to the mentioned address of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 18 May 2024 at the office of the Seller.

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Jokic-inspired Nuggets win to peg back Timberwolves

BBC – Nikola Jokic starred as the Denver Nuggets, defending NBA champions, beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 117-90 to reduce the deficit to 2-1 in the Western Conference semi-finals of the play-offs. Serbian Jokic, who joined some of the NBA's all-time greats by winning the league's Most Valuable Player award for the third time on Thursday, scored 24 points while recording 14 rebounds and nine assists.

Game four of the best-of-seven series takes place on Monday, again in Minneapolis.

In Friday's other game, Indiana Pacers



RON CHENOY/USA TODAY SPORTS

beat the New York Knicks 111-106 to avoid going 3-0 down in their Eastern Conference semi-final.

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 - Leila Imeni Hamideh Hosseini
- Editorial Dept. Tel
 - Address
 - O ICPI Publisher Advertising Dept. Tel/Email
 - Website Email
 - Printing House
- +98 21 84711171
- 208. Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran
- +98 21 88548892-5 +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir
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Vol. 7555 Sunday, May 12, 2024 100,000 rials 8 pages

Raisi: TIBF focuses on 'book access for everyone'

President urges authors to portray confrontation of dignity, viciousness in Gaza

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi emphasized the importance of portraying the struggle for dignity amid adversity in Gaza during the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), urging authors and artists to depict the contrasting narratives of dignity and viciousness in the Palestinian territory.

Addressing attendees at the 35th TIBF on Saturday, Raisi stressed the significance of cultural justice and broader access to literature, particularly emphasizing the efforts to provide access to books for those unable to attend the fair in person, president.ir reported.

He highlighted the government's commitment to advancing cultural policies, including the distribution of books across various provinces.

"The Tehran International Book Fair serves as a dynamic platform for promoting dialogue among authors, publishers, and readers, facilitating the exchange of ideas," Raisi remarked during his visit to several exhibition booths.

The president also outlined initiatives to strengthen book publishing and distribution, citing significant progress in domestic paper supply capacity, which now meets a substantial portion of the country's

Raisi's presence at the joint pavilion of Palestinian students prompted a call for heightened attention to transnational issues, particularly Palestine and

He urged writers and artists to utilize cultural and artistic mediums, including literature and film, to document and portray the realities of the conflict, condemning the actions of the Zionist regime and its supporters. "Gaza represents both the resilience of its people in the face of adversity and the atrocities committed by the occupying forces," Raisi stated. "It is imperative to capture and preserve these contrasting narratives for future generations."



Iran's youngest author inspires with over 1,200 books read in a year



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's youngest author, Maneli Mahmoudan. shares her experiences into her high-volume reading habits, attribsion for writing. At just penned multiple titles

ten years old and in the fourth grade, Maneli has already authored her second book, a comic strip publication.

Maneli's literary life is remarkable; despite

and garnered various national and international accolades, including awards for storytelling and illustration in China and Japan, Persian-language Iran Newspaper reported.

Her dedication to reading is evident, having devoured over 1,210 books in the past year alone, 'Perhaps the reason I have become an author is the high volume of reading and my interest in

book." She said. Her latest book, a bilingual comic strip, was initially intended for a comic festival but gained traction after winning first place in a literary festival. A comic strip is a form of sequential art that tells a story, typically produced by two people, one writing and the other illustrating. However, Maneli does both tasks alone.

Maneli's mother proudly mentions that her academic performance hasn't suffered due to her extracurricular reading; in fact, she emphasizes the benefits of reading beyond

textbooks. Maneli's teacher, Ms. Vafaei, encouraged her writing aspirations, leading her to pursue publication opportunities.

On her publishing experiences, Maneli expresses gratitude for the support she received from her teacher and the Pishouk

Publishing House. Maneli's story highlights the importance of nurturing a love for reading at a young age, challenging misconceptions about its impact on academic per-

Archeologists discover Iron Age burial site during road construction



Arts & Culture Desk

A historical burial site dating back to the Iron Age was discovered during road construction operation in Ardebil province.

The excavation work was halted and emergency archaeological excavations began after the discovery the Ultan Qalasi area along the Parsabad-Sarband

highway, ILNA wrote. The project aims to explore ancient burial sites at risk of destruction due to construction projects. Mehdi Jahed, the head of the Ultan Qalasi Cemetery Archaeology Team, stated that one Iron Age burial site was uncovered, containing pottery vessels, a bone needle, and small agate, shell, glass paste, and obsidian beads. Further

exploration is ongoing to uncover more ancient remains in the area.

The archaeological team has identified only one burial site from the Iron Age so far, suggesting it may have belonged to nomadic communities or travelers passing through the area. The importance of preserving such ancient heritage remains a priority as excavation continues.





Iran's Rahbari to stage 'A Night with Tchaikovsky' in Russia

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian artist Ali Rahbari will stage a special concert 'A Night with Tchaikovsky' in Russia's St. Petersburg on May 24.

Rahbari's previous concerts in St. Petersburg were well-received by Russian audiences. He has included works by famous Russian composers like Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, and Korsakov in his repertoire. Tchaikovsky, a world-renowned composer, spent his childhood and youth in St. Petersburg, where he also



studied and performed his works before passing away, IRNA wrote.

Tchaikovsky's compositions are known for their melodic appeal, influential harmonies, and vibrant orchestrations that deeply evoke emotions. Pieces such as 'Serenade for Strings,' 'Slavonic March, Symphony No. 6 (Pathetique)', and 'Polonaise' will be performed at the concert.

The 'Serenade for Strings' is a tranquil and melancholic piece that Rahbari conducted in Tehran at the age of 24. The 'Slavonic March' is meticulously organized and structured for a high-level performance. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, also known as the Pathetique, is one of his most famous works, characterized by intense emotions and a deep personal connection. The symphony is renowned for stirring a wide range of emotions in listeners due to its intensely emotional and personal nature. The 'Polonaise' is a Polish dance in a fixed 4/3-time signature that was popular in 18th-century Europe. Frederic Chopin evolved the Polonaise into a significant piano form.