

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Transit of gas to Europe through Turkey possible: Official

Turkey is interested in buying more gas from Iran, said the director general of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe department of the Foreign Ministry, adding that transit of Iranian gas to Eastern Europe through Turkey is possible.

Mahmoud Heydari noted that in addition to providing important services for the country to ensure energy security, the oil and gas industry also plays a special role in Iran's foreign relations in economic terms.

He pointed out that sanctions have created restrictions and noted that oil and gas can potentially play an important role in Iran's relations with Turkey.

Stating that the countries of Eastern Europe are gas consumers, the official added: "Iran is one of the main countries with oil and gas reserves which can supply the gas needed by these countries. First, the issues related to sanctions should be resolved with the political will of these countries."

The most important advantage of Iran in the economy is its huge oil and gas capacities, which also plays a special role in the country's foreign relations, Heydari concluded.

## Capacity of power stations up by 183MW

The deputy head of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) for projects development said the country's nominal power generation capacity has increased by 183 megawatts.

This was achieved after the 2nd gas unit of the Rashed combined cycle power plant in Torbat Heydarieh, east of Iran, was connected to the nationwide power grid and entered the electric energy production cycle with a total investment of €70 million, Mohammad Ramzani stated.

# Iran becomes second producer of liquid fuel in OPEC

Overtaking Iraq, Iran has become the second producer of the liquid fuel in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The US Department of Energy revealed that Iran's production of liquid fuel increased by 110,000 barrels in the first quarter of the current year (January to March), reported Tasnim News Agency. It introduced Iran as the largest producer of this

product in OPEC after Saudi Arabia. The Energy Information Administration, affiliated to the US Department of Energy, in its latest report entitled World Short-Term Energy Outlook, said Iran produced 3.230 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) in the first quarter of 2024. Iran's production of crude oil in this period increased by 50,000 barrels per day compared to last year's cor-

responding period.

The report added that Iran produced over 2.870 million barrels of oil per day in 2023 on average and it is expected that the average production of crude oil in Iran will exceed three million barrels per day in 2024.

The department has put the total production volume of Iran's liquid fuel, including crude oil and condensates, at 4.42 million barrels per day in the first quarter of 2024.



## Annual exports of saffron tops 220 tons

The director general of the market development affairs of the Iran Rural Cooperatives Organization said the country's saffron export grew last year (ended March 19, 2024), adding that Iran exported saffron to 55 countries in this period. Rouhollah Latifi said 221 tons of saffron, valued at more than \$207

million, were exported from the country between March 21, 2023 and March 19, 2024, reported Tasnim News Agency. The saffron was exported overseas in different 10- and 30-gram packages, Latifi noted, adding that the United Arab Emirates, China, Spain, Afghanistan, Qatar, Italy, Kuwait, Oman,

Bahrain and France were Iran's first to 10 export target markets. The United Arab Emirates imported more than 67,000 kilograms of saffron from Iran last year, he maintained. The official also stated that exports of saffron from Iran to Afghanistan registered about 198 percent growth last year.

## Measures taken to set up east-to-west corridor

### Creating a specialized container terminal and international barter trade center in Sarakhs Special Economic Zone

The chief financial officer of Sarakhs Special Economic Zone stated that to simplify and speed up the initiation of the east-to-west corridor, the construction of an international logistics center has been added to their agenda, with which a container terminal with a capacity of 10 million tons per year, an international barter trade center, and an industrial park would be launched.

On the sidelines of the visit of reporters and members of the media to the "Future's Heritage" exhibition - an exhibition introducing Sarakhs Special Economic Zone's history, achievements, capacity, and outlook, which is currently being held at the Astan Quds Razavi exhibition and conference center - Ehsan Jalayer said regarding the capacities, outlooks, and formation of Sarakhs SEZ that the idea for the Sarakhs Special Economic Zone began in 1993, and was launched in April 1996 at the same time as the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway, and in the presence of high ranking government positions and representatives of over 70 different countries.

### Variety in railroad and road logistics services

As he pointed out some of the advantages of this zone, Jalayer stated that its variety of services offered in the field of railroad and road logistics, its connection to the Astan Quds Razavi organization and dedicated employees, a capacity to offer 24/7 logistics and production services, road and railroad connectivity to point zero border lines,

as well as proximity to CIS countries, are all mentionable advantages of the zone. Sarakhs Special Economic Zone's CFO said that one of the important achievements of the zone is the utilization of the first phase of its sulfur park while adding that the park was built on a 9-acre block of land, with an investment of 910 billion rials, and a foreign currency investment exceeding 60 million euros.

### Developing capacities in the field of railroad transportation

He also added that signing an agreement with MFA - a large transportation company in Turkey - was another important step taken by Sarakhs SEZ, and stated that this company was one of 4 in possession of a transit permit allowing passage through Iran.

Jalayer continued by stating that MFA has performed various joint collaborations from the year 2021 onward in the field of transit goods transportation from central Asia and Russia to Turkey and Europe, supplying the necessary wagons and creating the competitive advantage of transport via Sarakhs in the east to west and north to south corridor. He also mentioned that in the year 2021 another agreement was signed with the Iranian Trade Center in Russia to benefit from Sarakhs SEZ's capacities in transportation and the transit of goods, as well as supplying Russia's needs for the province's goods, and developing transportation relations based on a priority of transit with this zone. **Constructing a liquid gas transshipment site** In regards to Sarakhs SEZ's liquid gas transshipment site, Jalayer added that this site is under construction



with an investment of 1000 billion rials and with an annual transit of 600 thousand tons, which, once performance begins, will result in a direct income of 60 million dollars and an indirect income of 175 thousand dollars, as well as an annual income of 1.5 million dollars for the Sarakhs SEZ. He continued by saying that another feature of the specialized transshipment site is the capability of creating an oil derivatives transit value chain from Turkmenistan to Mirjaveh and Bandar Abbas.

### Creating a Sarakhs border logistics village

On the subject of the logistics village in the zone, Sarakhs SEZ's chief financial officer mentioned that the construction of the village had been initiated to attract foreign investment in the field of transportation from the countries China, Russia, Afghanistan, Emirates, and Turkmenistan. Sarakhs Zone's international Logistics center was built upon 35 acres of land with the capacity of unloading, docking, and loading 500 containers daily, and 660 thousand TEU per year. Jalayer stated that the development of a container terminal with an annual capacity of 10 million tons, the international barter trade center, industrial parks, and the speeding up and simplifying of the initialization of an east-to-west corridor, were some of the features of the international logistics center of Sarakhs Special Economic Zone.

## International Tender

No.: 03.T/858



Security Printing and Minting Organization (SPMO) of Central Bank of I.R. of IRAN, intends to purchase one unit of Five-color Offset Printing Press with Coating System and its respective spare parts adequate for five years of use and consumables for three years, as well as installation and training at the site through a public tender from eligible companies, according to the specifications and conditions stated in the tender documents.

### Required documents:

1- Bid Bond Guarantee will be issued by participants, according to the received documents in favor of SPMO, marked as Tender Guarantee.

2- The bidders are requested to submit their company profile,

articles of association, turn over including list of supplied goods, client list, etc. for the last 3 years.

3- It should be noted that the priority for bidders is given to the domestic participants in equal conditions.

The tender documents consisting of technical specifications, requirements, price and packing conditions, required guarantees, terms of payment, shipment, delivery, installation and training are available on demand. For receiving them, please contact us via the following address, fax or E-mail until 2024/05/26:

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