

Nearly 100 petchem complexes operating across Iran:

NPC



More than 97 petrochemical facilities are operating across Iran, said Morteza Shahmirzaei, the head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

The official referred to the growth in Iran's petrochemical industry, adding that there were only six petrochemical complexes in the country when the 1979 Islamic Revolution toppled former Shah and the Islamic Republic was founded 45 years ago.

Noting that the country produces some 550 different types of petrochemical products, he said that each one of these products helps the development of a part of the Iranian industry.

He expected that Iran's petrochemical output will reach 100 million metric tons (mt) by the end of the current calendar year to March 2025.

Shahmirzaei had earlier said NPC is planning to complete 13 new petrochemical projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

"One of the strategies of the petrochemical industry in the year "production leap with people's participation" is to put 12 new petrochemical projects into operation by the end of [the current Iranian calendar] 1403 and use all available capacities," the official said.

He stated that the completion of 12 petrochemical projects by the end of this year will have a significant impact on the growth of production and economic development of the country.

The NPC head had previously put the country's petrochemical production capacity at over 92 million tons, and said: "Today we are almost self-sufficient in the main petrochemical sectors including products and equipment."

Iran's petrochemical industry accounts for 28 percent of the region's petrochemical capacity and 2.7 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity, he announced.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to Shahmirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years.

# Iran, Azerbaijan open joint dam on border river



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev inaugurated a dam constructed jointly by the two neighboring states on the Aras River at their common border.

The Qiz Qalasi dam, which represents the largest joint water project between Iran and Azerbaijan, was put into operation at a ceremony attended by the two heads of state on Sunday.

The embankment dam is located in the Khoda Afarin region in Iran's northwestern province of East Azarbaijan.

The project, with a ca-

capacity of 62 million cubic meters, will reportedly supply water to the irrigation and drainage networks of Khoda Afarin County.

Known as the biggest water project in Iran's northwestern border areas, the Qiz Qalasi dam is estimated to regulate 2 billion cubic meters of water every year.

A hydroelectric power station coupled with the dam is projected to generate 270 megawatt hours of electricity per annum.

Iranian Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian has described the Qiz Qalasi dam as a symbol of friendship between

the people of Iran and Azerbaijan.

The dam has been constructed according to the latest and most modern engineering standards, he added.

## Stronger relations

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Raisi said relations with Azerbaijan are stronger than just two neighbors.

"As Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei] said our relationship with the friendly, brotherly and neighboring country of Azerbaijan goes beyond neighborliness. Our relationship is a strong kinship bond

that has roots in the beliefs of the two nations ... and connects our history and civilization," he said.

"This heartfelt relationship between the two nations is unbreakable." The Iranian chief executive also noted that Tehran-Baku ties should expand to regional and international cooperation.

He further warned that enemies do not want to see progress in Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic.

"Some may not be happy with the bond between Iran and Azerbaijan, but what is important to us

is the interests of the two nations and the two countries.

"Iran believes that any progress in Azerbaijan is its own progress and that any insecurity along the common border will damage both states."

Aliyev, for his part, said that the meeting between the Iranian and Azeri presidents has a message for the region and the world.

No one can create misunderstanding and division between two countries, he emphasized, describing developing bilateral relations as positive.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony Minister

of Energy of Azerbaijan Parviz Shahbazov said that the project shows strengthening economic and political relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, which can solve many problems and remove economic obstacles.

Qiz Qalasi Dam brings about equalizing the resources of two countries on both sides of the Aras River and is considered a transnational project for both countries, he added.

The ecological importance of the project for the people of the two countries and regions cannot be ignored either, he noted.

## Tech-based products unveiled in medical equipment field

Sixteen technology-based and technological products in the health sector including medical equipment and machinery were unveiled at a ceremony attended by Iran's Vice-President for Science and Technology Rouhollah Dehqani and the head of Iranian Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The products were unveiled Saturday on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of the 25th International Exhibition of Medical, Dental, Laboratory and Pharmaceutical Equipment dubbed "Iran Health Expo 2024", Tasnim News Agency reported.

Digital radiology device, quantitative luminance kit, disposable elastomeric injection pump, ventilator, cardiac femoral, non-reinforced aor-

ta cannula, anesthesia machine, pulsed suction, hard medical contact lens, smart cuff device, infant humidifier chamber, household electrocardiograph (ECG) and addition diagnostic kits are the knowledge-based products unveiled in this exhibition.

More than 700 companies including 200 foreign guests are taking part in the exhibition within the framework of the business, technological, scientific and academic delegations.

Holding more than 60 specialized meetings in the field of interaction between businesses and showcasing the latest technological and innovative achievements of companies in the health sector are among the main programs in this exhibition.

The Iran Health Expo 2024 will run until May 21.

Gas supply to Iran's power plants increased by 11 percent in the previous Iranian year (ended on March 19) compared to corresponding figure for its preceding year, announced Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Dispatching Department Saeed Aqili.

According to Aqili, the NIGC supplied 79 billion cubic meters of natural gas to the power plants across the country in the previous year, IRNA reported.

He put the country's total gas consumption in the previous year at 249 billion cubic meters, which was also seven billion cubic meters more than the figure for a year earlier.

Based on the data released by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), the company has also supplied more than \$3.8 billion worth of

## Annual gas supply to power stations up 11%

liquid fuel for the power plants over the past 2.5 years. During the mentioned period, 3.6 million liters of gas oil and 2.5 million liters of fuel oil were supplied to 110 power plants across the country. In September 2023, NIGC Head Majid Chegeni said the cumulative gas supply to the country's power plants in the first six months of the previous

Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22, 2023) increased by 16 percent compared to last year's same period, registering a new record high.

According to Chegeni, due to the increase in gas supply in the mentioned period, the consumption of liquid fuel in the power plants significantly decreased which resulted in less air pollution.

Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22, 2023) increased by 16 percent compared to last year's same period, registering a new record high.

According to Chegeni, due to the increase in gas supply in the mentioned period, the consumption of liquid fuel in the power plants significantly decreased which resulted in less air pollution.

