

Iran's natural gas grid expanded by 53,000 km in three years



CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said the gas grid in the country has expanded by 53,000 kilometers in the past three years.

Majid Chegeni added that Iran had built more than 1,800 kilometers of new high pressure gas transmission pipelines since August 2021 when the outgoing government took office, Press TV wrote.

Chegeni said the number of gas grid customers in Iran had increased by nearly a million over the past three years, adding that some 50 new cities and 6,800 villages had also been connected to the country's nationwide gas pipeline network over the same period.

Natural gas became available to 24 new power plants and 21,000 industrial units across Iran over the past three years, he said, adding that the NIGC had also built seven new pumping stations with 24 compressors to power long-distance gas pipelines in the country.

Iran is one of the four largest producers and consumers of natural gas in the world. The country injects more than 850 million cubic meters per day of natural gas to its nationwide grid during cold winter months.

Total gas output in Iran has exceeded 1 billion cubic meters per day, a bulk of which comes from South Pars, the world's largest gas field which is located on the maritime border between Iran and Qatar in the Persian Gulf. Chegeni's comments on Sunday came during a ceremony to inaugurate a 176-kilometer gas pipeline in eastern Iran where the NIGC has been carrying out projects to boost gas supplies to households and industries in the region.

A report on the Iranian Oil Ministry's news website said that the government had spent 72 trillion rials (\$124.1 million) on the pipeline connecting Dashtak in Sistan region to Nehbandan in the South Khorasan Province.

The proposed nominee for the Oil Ministry Mohsen Paknejad has plans to minimize energy deficit for running the ministry. According to a blueprint of his plan submitted to the Parliament, there are two short-term (one-year) and long-term (four-year) measures in order to reduce the mismatch between gas production and consumption in the country.



Ministerial pick: Iran's progress hinges on development of transportation

Parliamentary panels endorse nominated economic ministers

The proposed nominee for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development underlined that Iran's progress relies on the development of transportation industry as she expounded on her blueprints at Parliament on the third day of the legislative body's reviewing of the qualification of President Masoud Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup.

"The all-round growth and development of the country is dependent on the development of the transportation industry," Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd said in her address to Parliament. She went on to say that the necessity of leading, policy-making, and integrated management of the transportation sector is to

"enhance coordination with other institutions, and this interaction is of paramount importance." In an open session on Monday, Speaker of the Civil Commission Jalal Iri announced his commission's approval on plans by the roads and urban development minister designate. Development of logistics parks,



Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajerd, the final pick to lead Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, addresses Parliament in the capital Tehran, on August 19, 2024, ahead of a vote of confidence later this week.

● IRNA

multimodal transportation and dry ports, implementation national economic projects, making the country as the hub of air transportation, development of techno-engineering services exports were among the priorities of Sadeq-Malvajerd, the MP noted.

In support of the qualifications of the proposed minister of roads and urban development, Farshad Ebrahimpour stated that Sadeq-Malvajerd has served as the secretary of the Supreme Council of Architecture and Urban Planning for three years.

"She is not only an executive director but also a strategist who knows well how sustainable and balanced urban development should take place in synergy with the environment," the lawmaker added.

In opposition to the roads and urban development nominee, Hossein Raeisi said according to the statistics, the main problem of housing sector is rooted in the wrong policies of land management by Sadeq-Malvajerd.

"As a person who has spent more than 15 years in issues related to the housing and urban development, I announce my serious concern about policies that she has submitted," the parliamentarian noted.

Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh, who is Pezeshkian's pick for the Agriculture Ministry, was also discussed by the MPs on Monday.

Mohammad Sabzi, a member of Agriculture Commission said the lawmakers consider Nouri-Qezelgeh to have experience and education related to agriculture field, who supports anti-corruption, and enjoys economic health, while believing in the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Also, compliance with the 7th Development Plan in the field of agriculture, focusing the plans of the proposed minister on food security, paying attention to rural and nomadic development, reforming the organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, and pre-

sending the plans on macro policies were among the other points that were mentioned by the supporters of Nouri-Qezelgeh.

In opposition to the agriculture nominee, Rahmatollah Norouzi said inadequate investment, climate changes, supply chain failure, and lack of appropriate technology are other challenges that were not covered by the plans of the nominee.

"Land integration was not included in the plans proposed by the minister of agriculture, while it is a necessary measure," the MP noted. The Industries and Mines Commission of the Parliament agreed with the qualifications and programs proposed by Mohammad Atabak, who was introduced by the Iranian president to Parliament as minister of industry, mines and trade. Zahra Saeidi-Mobarakeh, the speaker of the commission said that issues including industrial and mining fields, the necessity of economic diplomacy with the aim of entering the global value chain, focusing on supplying the energy needed by the production sector were mentioned well by the proposed minister, all of which are in accordance with the law of the 7th Development Plan.

In opposition to the industry, mine and trade ministry nominee, Rouhollah Izadkhah said, "Atabek is not an expert in the field of industrial policies. He has no experience of working in the Ministry of Industry for a single day. He has no experience in the field of trade, which is one of the serious challenges of our industry and mining."

On the third day, the plans submitted by proposed nominees for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade were approved by related committees of Parliament. The Iranian Parliament's specialized committees started deliberations on Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup as of August 11 afternoon in two work shifts during four days. The proposed ministers are being discussed in the Parliament's open sessions since Saturday.

Pezeshkian was elected as the new Iranian president in a runoff election on July 5 after late president Ebrahim Raisi lost his life in a tragic helicopter crash in May.

Some 120 foreign firms attend 30th IRANTEX

The International Exhibition of Textile Machinery, Raw Materials, Home Textiles, Embroidery Machines & Textile Products, better known as the IRANTEX, has kicked off in Tehran. The 30th IRANTEX is being held at Tehran International Permanent Fairground from August 19-22, IRNA reported.

Some 120 foreign companies from 13 countries have participated in the international event. The expo provides business activists in related sectors worldwide with a chance to put their products and services on display and expand their networks of customers and clients overseas.

Germany, Italy, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, South Korea, Turkey, Pakistan, Austria, Switzerland, India, Japan and China are the participants at the exhibition.

The event is considered to be a great chance for the attendees to get familiar with the best market players in the region.



Empowering women to ...

Some may question whether a woman can lead the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development effectively. However, I believe that gender should not be a determining factor in ministerial appointments. As someone who has held this position before, I appointed two highly qualified women as deputy ministers. What matters most is an individual's personality, talent, merit, and competence for responsibility. It is high time that we recognize and exploit the untapped potential of Iranian

women, as their capabilities have often remained unseen and underutilized within the country's macro-management structure. Whether the minister is a man or a woman is immaterial; what truly counts are their abilities and how they lead. It is natural for any minister, regardless of gender, to have varying levels of expertise across the different management sections of their ministry. What is crucial, however, is the nominee's ability to recruit, organize, and surround themselves with a competent and capable team.

The minister should foster harmonious, integrated, and interactive relationships with various organizations in the country to effectively address the challenges within their field of work. The Ministry of Roads and Urban Development encompasses a diverse range of missions and activities. It is unrealistic to expect any individual to possess expertise in every specialty within this field. A competent minister will have a solid grasp of one or two specialties and be able to align the remaining components un-

der their management with their strategic vision.

Intelligence and talent are the key attributes that underpin successful leadership. When combined with sincerity and trust in God, there is no doubt that an individual will excel in their responsibilities.

I am confident that members of Parliament will recognize the groundbreaking nature of Sadeq-Malvajerd's nomination as the first lady to be put forward lead this ministry. With their vote of confidence, they will empower

this worthy lady to showcase her managerial skills and contribute to the sustainable development of roads and urban infrastructure. Sadeq-Malvajerd's exceptional coordination skills, knowledge, courage, and managerial talents make her an outstanding choice.

With an overwhelming vote of confidence by lawmakers, we can witness the beginning of a new era in macroeconomic management, one that embraces the inclusion and leadership of Iranian women.