

NEWS IN BRIEF

8m Iranian households enjoy access to fiber optic network



A total of eight million Iranian households have access to fiber optic communication lines, as announced by the deputy of strategy and market development of the Organization of Regulatory and Radio Communications on Monday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the national plan to bring a fiber optic network to homes, businesses, and schools in northwestern province of Ardebil, Mehdi Rouhaninejad also put the progress of the National Project of Fiber Optics at 40 percent, IRNA reported.

"The implementation of fiber optic project in the country started two years ago and according to the plans, the whole country will be covered next [Iranian] year," he noted.

The national fiber optic project is a significant step to promote internet-based businesses across Iran.

"By having access to fiber optic network, businesses can receive internet up to a speed of 1000 megabits per second, as low delay is one of the advantages, and it is also used for online games that will be provided to people at the lowest cost," Rouhaninejad added.

CBI allocates \$28b for imports of basic goods



The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has allocated over \$28 billion of subsidized foreign currency to importers of basic goods during March 20-August 25.

CBI figures showed that some \$28.971 billion has been dedicated to imports of basic goods, medicine, commercial goods and products and imports that have taken place in return for exports of goods or services from Iran, Tasnim News Agency reported.

A sum of \$6.307 billion was supplied for importing medicines and essential goods, and the rest was for trade-commercial products, according to the report. Basic goods and medicine are imported into Iran at a rate of 285,000 rials per US dollar.

Iran's export of pistachios up 213% in five months: **IRICA**

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said the country's export of pistachios in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2024) registered a major growth compared to the same period last year.

IRICA said that \$352 million of pistachios were exported from the country between March 21 and August 22, 2024, showing a 213-percent rise compared to last year's corresponding period, Tasnim News Agency reported. In the five-month period, 36,000 tons of fresh pistachios were exported from the country, indicating a 122 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period in terms of weight, the report added. According to the report, Iran exported \$245 million of pistachios with fresh or dry shells and \$103 million of pistachio kernels.



Iran registers 138% rise in exports to EAEU

The head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said that the country's exports of non-oil products to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)'s member states registered a 138 percent growth. Talking about the participation of 300 Iranian companies in Iran-EAEU Business Forum, Mehdi Zeyghami stated that Iran's exports to the EAEU member states indicated a 138-percent growth, Mehr News Agency reported. The deputy industry minister referred to organizing Iran-EAEU Business Forum in the Republic of Armenia on September 30-31 and said

over 300 Iranian companies and also companies from five EAEU member states including Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will take part in this forum. Zeyghami termed the dialogue between Eurasia and Iran as a business event within the framework of 2024 Eurasia Annual Business Conference and added that this prestigious event is organized by the Eurasian Economic Commission in cooperation with the Trade Council of the Eurasian Economic Union and relevant institutions and in collaboration with the Trade Promotion Organization

of Iran. Strengthening and further developing trade-economic cooperation between Iran and member states of the union has been cited as the main aim of organizing the business forum, Zeyghami stressed. Elsewhere in his remarks, the deputy minister of industry said that the implementation of the temporary agreement to set up Free Trade Zone between Iran and UAEU in 2019 doubled the bilateral trade volume in a way that Iran's exports to the member states of the union registered more than 138 percent of growth.

Complex well at Kish Gas Field comes online

Iran's Oil Ministry said local engineers and technicians have finally put into operation a complex gas well in the country's largest independent gas field.

The ministry announced in a report that gas production had started from the seventh well at Phase 1 of Kish Gas Field following a difficult and complicated operation which relied on the technological innovations and expertise of Iranian companies, Press TV wrote. The Kish Gas field is located near the island of Kish in the Iranian territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. Production from Phase 1 of the field is expected to reach some 28.3 million cubic meters per day once all 14 wells in the phase become operational. A contractor said that the seventh well in Kish Gas field was the most com-

plicated of all wells in the field because of its unique geological structure and the pressure in the reservoir.

Abdollah Mehrabi, from the National Iranian Drilling Company, said that launching the well will enable Iran to finally tap its largest independent gas reserve after years of delay in development operations.

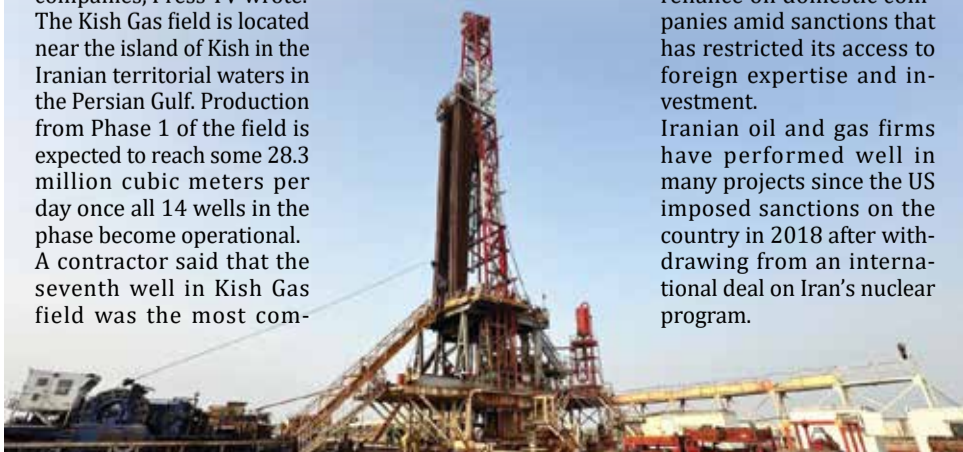
Mehrabi said development works at Kish Gas Field has been awarded to Pars Oil

and Gas Company, a domestic firm which is in charge of some key petroleum projects in the country.

He said other seven wells in the field will become operational soon as contractors build pipelines and installations needed to supply gas from the field to refineries in Asaluyeh on the Persian Gulf coast.

The successful launch of the gas well in Kish is yet another sign of Iran's growing reliance on domestic companies amid sanctions that has restricted its access to foreign expertise and investment.

Iranian oil and gas firms have performed well in many projects since the US imposed sanctions on the country in 2018 after withdrawing from an international deal on Iran's nuclear program.



Cargo handling at Iranian ports hits nearly 95m tons



The Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said 94,284,476 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded in the country's ports affiliated to PMO in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

More than 10 million tons of oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports between March 21 to August 22, 2024, the PMO added, Tasnim News Agency reported. In addition, more than 21 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the first five months of the current Iranian

calendar year. The PMO added that 32,255,346 tons of oil and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in this period. In addition, more than 32 million tons of oil goods were loaded at the Iranian ports between March 20 to August 22, 2024. The loading and unloading of goods in the containerized operation sector in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year reached more than 1 million TEU, showing a four-percent growth compared to the same period last year, the PMO noted.