

Turkey's BOTAS in talks with Iran's NIGC for gas supply

Turkish state energy company BOTAS said that it had held talks with National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), discussing issues of cooperation between the two companies, particularly the long-term supply of natural gas from Iran to Turkey.

Managing Director and Chairperson of the Board of Turkish Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAS) Abdolvahit Fidan paid a visit to Tehran with an accompanying delegation on September 25, the company said in a written statement, according to Reuters.

"In this context, talks were held with Iran's national natural gas company NIGC. In the meeting with NIGC representatives chaired by Iranian Deputy Minister of Petroleum and NIGC CEO Saeid Tavakoli, issues of cooperation between the two companies, particularly the long-term supply of natural gas from Iran to Turkey and the transportation of Turkmen gas to Turkey via Iran, were discussed," it added.

The two companies also discussed the transportation of Turkmenistan gas to Turkey via Iran, BOTAS also said, in its first public statement on talks for a potential extension of the deal with Iran.

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar previously said that his country can buy up to 2 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas per year from Turkmenistan via Iran's natural gas network.

"Fidan and Tavakoli affirmed their agreement to continue the cooperation between BOTAS and NIGC in the coming period within the framework of the deep-rooted relations between the two countries," the statement further said. Turkey consumes over 50 billion cubic meters of gas per year. It currently relies on a mix of pipeline gas from Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran, along with liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from various suppliers.

Long-term contracts for the supply of Iranian gas to Turkey, which is some 10 billion cubic meters of gas per year, expire in 2026.

BOTAS signed a 10-year supply agreement with France's TotalEnergies last week, in addition to LNG deals with Oman, ExxonMobil and Shell, inked earlier this year.

Boosting its supply and diversifying resources, Turkey looks to position itself as a major regional re-exporter, bolstering its hub aspirations and serving as a potential supplier to European markets in need of gas.

Tehran floats linkage of Russian, Emirati, Saudi grids via Iran



Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi proposed the con-

nection of Russia's power grid to that of Saudi Arabia and the

UAE via Iran, as he attended a summit of energy ministers of

BRICS member states. Aliabadi on Thursday addressed the summit that Iran has an important geo-economic position as it shares sea and land borders with 15 countries, while it connects a key part of international transit corridors leading to the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf as well as Caucasus and Central Asian regions, with high security and at low economic costs, IRNA reported. Iran also intends to start electricity trade

and transit by connecting its electricity network to "all countries with a common land border," he added.

Aliabadi went on to say that, "Today, the energy ministers of BRICS countries are aiming to benefit from energy diplomacy as an efficient tool to achieve their goals and maintain and increase their national interests in the field of foreign policy with a humane approach." Referring to the accession of new mem-

bers to the BRICS group from the beginning of 2024, the minister said, "The joining of the five countries of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Ethiopia to this group is of strategic importance."

On the sidelines of the BRICS meeting in Moscow on Thursday, Aliabadi held talks with Deputy Head of China's National Energy Organization. The two sides explored avenues for

the development of bilateral relations in the energy sector, modern technologies and smarting the energy production chain.

Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali also attended the meeting, IRNA reported.

The energy ministers and officials of BRICS member countries, including Russia, Iran, China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt and the UAE attended the meeting.

Iran's economy minister meets Uzbek, Qatari counterparts

Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Abdolnaser Hemmati held talks with his counterparts from Qatar and Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

In the meeting, Qatar's Economy Minister Ali Ahmed al-Kuwari told Hemmati that Iran having valuable experiences in various fields, especially the financial sector, is important for Doha, IRNA reported.

Kuwari said his country is pleased

to host the Iranian president shortly and aims to activate the joint financial exchange committee of the two countries.

Hemmati, for his part, called the Persian Gulf Arab country a strategic partner and expressed hope that Tehran and Doha would ink agreements to facilitate the use of mutual capacities in the upcoming meetings of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Also, on the sidelines of the AIIB meeting, the Iranian minister met and discussed bilateral relations



with Djamshid Anvarovich, the deputy prime minister and economy minister of Uzbekistan. Both sides followed up on agreements signed by the previous government and discussed ways to solve banking and monetary problems between the two countries, boosting transit, and increasing bilateral trade by up to one billion dol-

lars. The Uzbek minister stated the purpose of hosting the AIIB meeting was to introduce the culture of his country to the world community.

The approach of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to deepen relations and one of the goals of cooperation with Iran is the development of economic corridors, he added.

Iran voices readiness to cooperate in Tajik energy projects



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (L) and Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma walk into a conference room for talks in Tehran, Iran, on September 26, 2024. **SHANA**

Iran's oil minister said that Iranian oil exploration and production companies are ready to cooperate in upstream and downstream sectors of Tajikistan's oil and gas industry.

Mohsen Paknejad made the remarks on Thursday as he hosted Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma in Tehran, IRNA reported.

The Iranian minister noted that the devel-

opment of economic relations, especially in the field of energy, with the friendly and brotherly country of Tajikistan is of great importance to his country.

He also emphasized that effective steps have already been taken to develop relations between the two countries on economy, and Iran hopes that this process will be strengthened under the Pezeshkian administration.

For his part, Tajikistan's minister emphasized that his country pays special attention to the development of economic cooperation, especially in the field of oil and gas purchases.

Juma added that the ceiling of trade between Iran and Tajikistan reached \$300 million in 2023, and according to forecasts, it seems that this amount will grow by 60% this year.

Customs revenues up 39% in H1: IRICA



The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said its revenues rose significantly in the first half of the calendar year that started in late March.

IRICA chief Mohammad Rezvanifar said Iran's customs revenues increased by 39% year on year in the six months to September 21 to reach a total of 1,120 trillion rials (\$1.9 billion), Press TV wrote. Import tariffs, including taxes imposed on commodities, cars, expensive mobile phones,

machinery and equipment, accounted for 648.71 trillion rials of Iran's customs revenues in April-September, said Rezvanifar, adding that the figure marked an increase of 74% compared to the same period last year. He added that the Iranian government had also earned 467.62 trillion rials from the value added tax imposed on commodities and products processed in the customs in the six months to late September, up 8% from the same period in 2023.

Iran has sought to rely more on tax and customs revenues in recent years amid sanctions that have restricted its oil exports. The country earned more than \$6.88 billion in tax revenues in the five months to August 21, up 44% compared to the same period last year.

That comes as Iran earmarks tens of billions each year to subsidize imports of basic goods and commodities, including grains, medicine and animal feed, to ensure food security and to stabilize prices in the local market. Figures released by the Central Bank of Iran in mid-August showed that the lender had subsidized more than \$27 billion worth of imports into the country in the five months before that.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

