

VP says gov't bent on battling fuel smuggling

Iran's vice president said the current administration is seriously committed to preventing fuel smuggling and tackling the fuel mafia while considering these issues vital to the country.

Mohammadreza Aref made the remarks during a meeting with members of the country's Reformist Front, according to Shana. He emphasized that for the country to be saved, there is no alternative to embracing a reformist discourse, adding that officials must adhere to the principles of national unity.

Aref also addressed national shortages, including the electricity crisis, stating that one effective strategy to address these deficits is to move towards renewable energy, particularly solar power.

He highlighted that the current administration has planned and taken necessary actions to generate electricity from these sources.

The vice president also urged specialists, managers, and academic experts to contribute solutions and support the government in this effort.

Hike in diesel output

Meanwhile on Saturday, a senior official from the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) announced an increase of 15 million liters in the country's daily diesel production over the four months of the new government's term.

Mohammadali Dadvar, a deputy head of NIORDC reported that the average daily production of diesel in the first five months of the current Iranian year (started March 20) was approximately 111 million liters, which has now risen to over 125 million liters.

He also expressed hope that the new units at the Abadan Refinery, which are set to come online within the next two months, will add more than three million liters of Euro 5 diesel to the country's fuel supply, raising daily production to approximately 128 to 130 million liters.

Dadvar underlined that the increase in production is a hopeful sign that the country can endure the winter with less concern. Since President Masoud Pezeshkian assumed office in late August, one of the major priorities for the new management at the company has been ensuring winter fuel supplies, he said, adding that the goal was achieved by addressing bottlenecks, increasing feedstock to the country's refineries by over 100,000 barrels per day, improving operational conditions, utilizing the idle capacity of catalytic cracking units, and bringing the hydrocracker at the Abadan Refinery online.

Iran plans to slice off four zeros from national currency

Economy Desk

The Iranian government submitted a bill to the Parliament on Saturday, proposing the removal of four zeros from the national currency and the conversion of its unit from rial to toman. The administration of President Massoud Pezeshkian stated that the goal of the legislation is to reduce the setbacks caused by long-lasting inflation and the decline in the purchasing power of the national currency. On Saturday, Tasnim News Agency reported that the bill was approved by the cabinet on July 31, 2019 under

then-president Hassan Rouhani and has now been submitted as a bill under the current government.

The bill specifies that the new unit of currency will be "toman," with one toman being equivalent to 10,000 current rials and 100 "parsehs." To facilitate the transition to the new system, a two-year "transition period" will be established for the simultaneous use of tomans and rials.

During this period, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) will be required to make the necessary arrangements for the collection and replacement of rial banknotes and coins with tomans.



Persian Gulf water transfer spurs industrial growth in central Iran: *MP*



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

A member of the Industries and Mines Committee of the Iranian Parliament said the completion of water transfer project from the Persian Gulf to central Iran will transform the region and establish a chain of industries in Yazd Province. Mustafa Pourdehqan told Iran Daily that the first phase of the water transfer project from the Persian Gulf to Yazd, Kerman, and Isfahan has been completed, adding

that currently, desalinated water from the Persian Gulf is being pumped to Ardakan in Yazd Province and made available for industrial use. He stated that since the main investor in the water supply project is the Ardakan Industrial and Mineral Company, it is expected for the water to be allocated to this company. The lawmaker noted that if the government decides to use this project's water for drinking purposes, it should purchase it from the company. "Currently, the amount of

desalinated water from the first phase of the Persian Gulf water transfer project stands at about 700 liters per second, with the potential to increase to 1,200 liters per second," the MP stated, adding that he is making efforts to allocate 400 liters per second of the figure for Ardakan to meet the drinking needs of its residents.

Pourdehqan added that various phases of the first line of the project are currently underway, as the second line of the project is expected to be initiated soon.

He went on to say that since existing water resources in Yazd do not meet its demands, a branch of water from the second phase of the Persian Gulf transfer project is expected to be allocated to Yazd, which will contribute to social and economic development in the region.

According to Pourdehqan, all necessary devel-

opment infrastructure, including water, electricity, gas, and transportation lines, is established in central Iran's desert regions, particularly in Yazd.

He pointed out that the main challenge is securing the required water supply, saying, "If industrial water needs are met, Yazd and the surrounding arid provinces, which have rich mineral resources, could support a chain of mineral industries, thus creating suitable opportunities for employment and income generation."

Pourdehqan highlighted the role of water in migration, noting that as a result of industrial development in Ardakan, which heavily relies on water, the city has experienced significant population influx in recent years, as the city has attracted migrants from 200 cities across the country, culminating in the doubling of the city's population.

Mineral sector exports near \$8.8b in eight months: *IMIDRO*



Economy Desk

The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced on Saturday that the mineral sector exported approximately \$8.8 billion worth of products in the first eight months of the current Iranian year. Between March 20 and November 20, Iran exported 41.791 million tons of mineral and mining products, valued at \$8.799 billion, as reported by IRNA.

In the same period last year, exports totaled 41.144 million tons worth \$8.552 billion which indicates a 2% increase in weight terms and a 3% increase in value terms.

The majority of exports during the eight months to November 20, stemmed from three product categories: steel, aluminum, and copper, totaling 21.519 million tons valued at \$6.767 billion.

Imports for the mineral sector in the first eight months of the year also reached 2.893 million tons, valued at \$7.496 billion.

In the corresponding period last year, imports were 3.558 million tons valued at \$4.205 billion, indicating a reduction of about 19% in tonnage but a 78% increase in the value of imports.

PSEEZ accounts for nearly half of Iran's petchem output capacity

The CEO of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) announced that approximately \$150 billion has been invested in the region, which accounts for nearly 50% of the country's petrochemical capacity with a production of about 45 million tons. Sakhavat Asadi made the remarks on Saturday noting that, "Thanks to the efforts, our teams on the platforms have achieved a daily production record of 712 million cubic meters of gas," Shana reported.

He emphasized that the South Pars gas field is the largest gas field in the world, stating that this production level is the highest recorded in recent years and is sent to 13 refineries.

Asadi pointed out that there are eight refineries in the Asaluyeh

zone and five in Kangan and the gas delivered to shore at these refineries is processed and injected into the main network.

He stated that a total of 860 million cubic meters of gas is processed or sweetened and injected into the national network daily, noting that this amount exceeds the total gas consumption of Europe.

No restrictions in household sector

Asadi explained that 90% of the country's electricity generation relies on gas, warning that if gas supply cannot be secured in the coming days, liquid fuels will need to be used instead.

The CEO reported that around 111 million cubic meters of gas is supplied to power plants a day. Cur-

rently, fuel consumption in these plants is around 64 million liters of diesel and 42 million liters of mazut, totaling 106 million liters of liquid fuel.

Asadi emphasized the importance of public participation in energy consumption management campaigns, stating, "Joining the campaign to set thermostats two degrees lower will not cause any issues for our fellow citizens in the northeast and other parts of the country."

Daily condensate output at 700,000 barrels

The CEO announced that the PSEEZ currently produces 700,000 barrels of gas condensate daily, with about 480,000 barrels sent to the Persian Gulf Star Oil Company in Hormuzgan for gasoline produc-



tion, which constitutes about 45% of the country's gasoline production capacity.

Asadi stated that South Pars is considered the most strategic area in Iran, generating 70% of the country's gas and home to 50% of the national petrochem-

ical industry.

He noted that roughly 50% of the feedstock for petroleum products also comes from the PSEEZ, adding that all officials, from governors to other officials, are working to keep this vital industry, a crucial part of Iran's economy, operational.