

NIGC: Iran sets record in sweet gas production, transmission



The deputy oil minister for gas affairs announced that daily sweet gas production in Iran's refineries has reached a record high of 865 million cubic meters (mcm).

Saeid Tavakoli stated that with an optimized network arrangement, the daily gas transmission volume has also hit 865 mcm, Shana reported.

The official highlighted that since the start of the current administration (August 2024), gas production in the country's refineries has seen a significant increase, saying, "During this period, numerous records have been achieved, the latest being the daily production of over 865 mcm of sweet gas in the country's gas refineries."

He added that in the gas transmission sector, utilizing the maximum capacity of pipelines and compression facilities, coupled with an optimized network configuration, has enabled the daily transmission of 865 mcm of gas.

Tavakoli, who is also the CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), pointed to the nationwide initiative to reduce gas consumption by 2%. He emphasized that this campaign will help stabilize the gas network and ensure efficient use of this natural resource, particularly benefiting people in underprivileged and remote areas.

The official stressed the importance of saving energy amid falling temperatures and rising gas consumption across the country.

"Energy conservation is a fundamental and critical issue that must be taken seriously. It will help address the energy shortages and preserve national resources," he noted.

Tavakoli further explained that maintaining a comfortable indoor temperature is the key to ensuring a stable supply of natural gas throughout the winter.

"Saving energy does not mean consuming less but consuming in a wise manner. An indoor temperature of 18 to 21 degrees Celsius is ideal, and if people adhere to this guideline, it will significantly alleviate energy deficit issues," he concluded.

Iran, Russia to ink comprehensive cooperation agreement

Ambassador: Pezeshkian to visit Moscow in mid-January

Economy Desk

Iran's ambassador to Russia announced that Tehran and Moscow are prepared to sign a comprehensive cooperation agreement during President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Moscow on January 17, 2025.

Kazem Jalali stated that the agreement would be signed by Pezeshkian and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during the visit.

Jalali made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian students and officials from St. Petersburg's North-Western State Medical University as he was in the Russian port city to attend the Supreme Council meeting of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Addressing the issues concerning Iranian students at Russian universities, Jalali also highlighted the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) as a key economic initiative between the two nations.

He noted that two Russian deputy prime ministers visited Tehran last Monday to discuss the corridor project with Iran's president and other officials.

The ambassador also referred to the planned gas transfer project from Russia to Iran, expressing optimism about its successful implementation in the near future.

Jalali emphasized Iran's growing involvement in the EAEU, particularly following the recent par-

ticipation of Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade in the union's meeting in St. Petersburg.

He described Iran's observer membership status as a step toward boosting trade relations with member countries.

The ambassador further highlighted lesser-known cultural ties between Iran and regions of Russia, including North Ossetia, Dagestan, Astrakhan, and others, noting the expanding cultural and economic relations between the two nations.

Iranian students, he said, act as cultural bridges and ambassadors of this growing relationship.

Jalali concluded by underlining the importance of people-to-people connections as the most enduring aspect of bilateral relations and urged increased involvement of Iranian businesspeople and private sector players in Russia to enhance economic ties.

On Monday, Pezeshkian said that his government is determined to complete the INSTC.

He made the announcement in a meeting with Vitaly Gennadyevich Savelyev, the Russian deputy prime minister for transport, as both sides discussed the expansion of bilateral relations and strategies for accelerating the completion of the strategic INSTC project.

Pezeshkian highlighted the priority of implementation of the Rasht-Astara railway project



as a part of INSTC under the Iran-Russia agreement.

He stated that Iran is committed to the terms of the agreement and called on the Russian side to begin mapping the route and preparing for project implementation as soon as possible.

"The Iranian government emphasizes the execution of this agreement, and our Minister of Roads and Urban Development [Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajeri] is responsible for overseeing its implementation," Pezeshkian said.

For his part, Savelyev, extended warm regards from the Russian

president and prime minister to Pezeshkian and invited him to visit Russia in early 2025, saying that the Russian government is preparing for this visit and the associated negotiations.

Highlighting the Rasht-Astara railway project, Savelyev reaffirmed his government's commitment to its execution.

He noted that Russia has secured the necessary line of credit and is collaborating with Azerbaijan on the INSTC.

Savelyev also expressed the Russian government's desire to

expedite the implementation of the project, stating that Russia and Azerbaijan have agreed to modernize the portion of the railway located in their territories and called on Tehran to pave the ground for upgrading its section of the railway.

He described the increase in cargo transport between Russia and Iran as growing and expressed optimism that the implementation of the Astara-Rasht railway agreement could initially facilitate the transfer of 15 million tons of goods between the two countries.

President, ministers open major development projects in North Khorasan



Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian, along with senior cabinet members, inaugurated key infrastructure, energy, and housing projects during a two-day visit to Iran's North Khorasan Province, with the aim of advancing regional development.

A sum of 14 power projects were unveiled to strengthen the province's electricity infrastructure. These plans focus on modernizing power grids and expanding access to electricity in both urban and rural areas, providing reliable energy to support industries and communities, according to IRNA. Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeq-Malva-

jerd opened 42 road and transportation projects, including highway development, rural road upgrades, and infrastructure improvements to ensure safer and more efficient transit.

The projects align with national efforts to modernize Iran's transportation network and bolster regional trade.

In the housing sector, 2,000 residential units were completed as part of Iran's National Housing Movement, addressing local housing shortages and improving living standards, ISNA reported.

The said projects highlight the government's commitment to affordable housing across provinces. Pezeshkian also emphasized the importance of

regional development during his visit, which included meetings with local officials to discuss strategies for economic growth and enhanced public services.

The trip concluded Thursday evening with a session of the Provincial Planning and Development Council, where long-term development plans were reviewed.

The high-profile delegation accompanying Pezeshkian included Energy Minister Abbas Alibadi, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh, and Roads and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq-Malvajeri, who underscored the government's focus on addressing North Khorasan's needs.

Iran, Saudi Arabia to expand ties in communications, IT sectors



Economy Desk

The head of Information Technology Organization of Iran and the chairman of Saudi Arabia's Communications, Space, and Technology Commission (CST) emphasized strengthening cooperation and sharing experiences in various fields of communications and information technology during a bilateral meeting in Riyadh.

Mohammad Mohsen Sadr, on the sidelines of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Riyadh, met with Mohammed Saud al-Tamimi, head of Saudi Arabia's CST, IRNA reported on Friday.

In their meeting, the two sides expressed a mutual desire to enhance collaboration in the communications and ICT sectors.

They discussed opportunities for cooperation, including the use of shared infrastructure, exchange of experiences in local IT platforms and messaging services, expansion of postal and fiber-optic collaborations, joint projects in artificial intelligence

(AI), and initiatives in tech-driven startups and tech-based businesses. The discussion also highlighted leveraging the expertise and capabilities of Iranian private sector companies in Saudi Arabia's large-scale ICT projects.

Both parties agreed to pursue these initiatives through a joint memorandum of understanding.

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is an annual United Nations-organized event that brings together representatives from governments, the private sector, and academia to discuss internet governance issues. Information Technology Organization of Iran (ITO) as subsidiary of Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Iran has been providing smart government services across the nation.

The main mission of ITO is to prepare and update the government's IT strategy, develop and maintain Government Service Bus (GSB), and help people use their mostly needed e-services through the national SSO (Single Sign On).