

Crude output to rise by 10K bpd with development of three oilfields:

NIOC



Economy Desk

The development plan for three oilfields namely Soumar, Saman, and Delavaran in western Iran officially began on Saturday in the attendance of the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The project, which aims to boost the country's oil production capacity by 10,000 barrels per day (bpd), is being implemented with a \$240 million investment from the private sector as the contractor, Shana reported.

During the groundbreaking ceremony for the development of the oilfields in the operational area of Naft-Shahr in the western province of Kermanshah, NIOC chief Hamid Bovard announced the increase in oil production capacity, stating that the \$240-million project aims to develop and revitalize the border region.

Bovard highlighted the underdevelopment of the Naft-Shahr area in recent years, noting that the project seeks to develop small oilfields in the region and restore prosperity to border areas.

He emphasized that the development of these areas will not only enhance security but also bring progress and welfare to local communities.

The NIOC CEO explained that Naft-Shahr is host to one of the country's oldest oilfields, with several smaller fields in the region currently undergoing development.

"The project is expected to increase Iran's daily oil production capacity by 10,000 barrels and provide feedstock for the Kermanshah refinery," noted the official.

Bovard added that the \$240 million investment by the private sector is projected to become profitable within less than 20 months. He also noted that the incumbent administration's key policy is to utilize local workforce in projects, emphasizing efforts to leverage the capabilities of the region's residents and present the project as a small gift from the government to the diligent people of the area.

The Soumar field is located in Kermanshah Province, 30 kilometers southwest of Gilan-e-Gharb, while the Saman field is nestled 17 kilometers southeast of Naft-Shahr in Kermanshah Province. Also, the Delavaran field is located in Ilam Province, 85 kilometers from the city of Ilam.

Pezeshekian visits 'Pioneers of Progress' exhibition

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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshekian toured the "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition on Saturday, a national event showcasing the achievements and capabilities of the country's private sector; and during the visit, he engaged in discussions with private sector representatives.

The tour was attended by Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh, Mohsen Hajimirzaei, the president's chief of staff, Satar Hashemi, the minister of communications and information technology; Mohammad Atabak, the minister of industry, mine, and trade; and Mohammad Javad Zarif, the vice president for strategic affairs, president.ir wrote. Pezeshekian used the opportunity to learn about the capacities and advancements of the country's private sector.

The exhibition opened on Tuesday with the presence of the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

During his visit to the "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition, the Leader emphasized that the only way to advance the country is by leveraging the capabilities of the private sector.

The exhibition featured the private sector's accomplishments in various fields, including information and communication technology, satellite equipment manufacturing, artificial intelligence, aircraft repair tools and equipment, mining and geology, oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, steel and aluminum production, home appliances, maritime industries, carpet manufacturing, water and electricity industries, textiles, medical and hospital equipment, drug production, the Royan Research Institute, agricultural and livestock produc-

tion, handicrafts, and tourism.

During the visit, representatives from various private sector companies raised concerns and complaints about the challenges and obstacles they face.

Addressing the ministers present at the exhibition, Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that the government and state officials must work to resolve these issues, as the country's progress depends on empowering the private sector.

He reiterated that utilizing the private sector's capacities and capabilities is the only way to move the country forward.

In the water and electricity industry, after Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi explained efforts to address shortages in the electricity sector, the Leader acknowledged that the remarks were positive and accurate but emphasized that they must be put into practice.



He noted that while the issue of imbalances and their solutions have been discussed in recent years, there is still a significant gap from achieving the desired outcome.

Regarding private sector complaints about the lengthy and complex process of obtaining permits, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that this is a critical issue.

He urged the government and responsible agencies to devise fundamental solutions to streamline and expedite the process of permit issuance.

Union head: Iran ranks 3rd in global honey production



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The head of the National Union of Iranian Beekeepers stated that the country, with an annual production of 122,000 tons of honey from over 92,000 beekeeping units, is the world's third-largest honey producer.

Mir-Mohsen Mousavian, speaking on Saturday about the state of the apiculture industry, added that according to the latest statistics from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), global honey production stands at 2.15 million tons annually, produced by over 91 million bee colonies, noting that Iran ranks third in honey production after China and Turkey and fourth in the number of bee colonies.

Mousavian noted that according to the latest statistics, results in 2024, the country's honey output reached approximately 127,700 tons, marking a 5.63% increase compared to 2023 (121,000 tons).

He further highlighted that, in addition to honey, Iran produces around 11 tons of royal jelly, 862 tons of bee pollen, 211 tons of propolis, over 2,600 tons of beeswax, and 9.6 kilograms of bee venom. Mousavian emphasized that the recent census counted 92,122 beekeeping units in the country, housing 10.8 million bee colonies, of which 10.5 million are in modern hives and 300,000 in traditional hives. He also mentioned that honey production in 2024 exceeded the projected 122,000 tons by about 4.7%. The highest honey production in the country is concentrated in the provinces of West Azerbaijan, East Azerbaijan, Fars, Kurdistan, Isfahan, and Mazandaran.

Mousavian stated that over the past four years, some beekeeping units in the country had experienced bee and larva mortality, which is attributed by some to infected queen bees and a lack of effective medications to combat such diseases. Mousavian criticized that Iran Veterinary Organization had discontinued monitoring and surveillance of bees in recent years due to a lack of manpower and budget, which has seriously impacted the beekeeping industry. The issue of

larva mortality persists, and its cause remains unidentified.

He also mentioned that in the Iranian calendar year of 1400 (2021), the Parliament approved a 10% value-added tax (VAT) on honey, royal jelly, and other bee products, which has led to a decline in honey sales due to reduced purchasing power.

Mousavian argued that, according to the law, raw agricultural products are exempt from VAT, as seen with meat and raw milk, but honey is subject to VAT.

He expressed hope that the current administration would repeal this decision to support beekeepers and include honey in the VAT exemption for agricultural products.

Sugar consumption inevitable

Mousavian stressed that sugar consumption for beekeeping during winter is essential for colony survival, stimulating the queen to begin laying eggs, and enhancing bees' ability to store honey. He clarified that this practice is unrelated to producing honey with sugar.

The union head added that sugar, as a key input in beekeeping, should be made available to beekeepers at reasonable prices.

Beekeepers in need of credits

Mousavian stated that no financial credits had been provided to beekeepers in the past decade, despite the industry requiring support. He noted that neighboring countries like Turkey, Afghanistan and Iraq provide subsidies and support to their beekeepers. He described bee pollination as vital for agriculture and highlighted that many countries with apiculture industries subsidize beekeepers for pollination services.

Mousavian also called for the implementation of beekeeper insurance, which has been stalled for the past three years due to budget deficits, causing concerns among apiarists.

Lags in honey exports

Mousavian acknowledged that despite Iran's honey production capacity and potential for increased forex earnings, the country has made little progress in honey exports.

He emphasized that Iran has the potential to boost production and expand exports of honey, royal jelly, bee pollen, propolis, beeswax, and bee venom to increase hard currency revenues. However, last year (ended March 19, 2024), only about 4,600 tons of honey were exported to target countries, which a negligible figure.

Energy Ministry to back private sector by cutting investment risks



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The Energy Ministry is seeking to support the private sector to attract investment by creating an appealing environment and reducing investment risks, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said, adding that his ministry is implementing policies to achieve the intended goal.

Speaking on the sidelines of the International Water Industry Exhibition, Aliabadi emphasized the need to provide manageable risks for investors while eliminating unmanageable ones, as reported by ISNA.

He stated that the government will play a role in areas related to the Energy Ministry by creating suitable markets to enable the private sector to fully benefit from its investments.

Aliabadi highlighted that the private sector has already entered the water and electricity industries, with over 35,000 megawatts of proposed investments in the electricity sector.

Regarding water, Aliabadi said the ministry has serious policies to support the private sector in desalination and water recycling. He also mentioned plans to improve drinking water services and expand investment opportunities through new mechanisms.

Addressing Iran's water resources, Aliabadi acknowledged that the country is located in an arid region with limited water supplies. He stressed that Iran cannot fol-

low water-intensive models and must adapt to its geographical conditions.

On the issue of transboundary water rights, Aliabadi said Iran's policy is to adhere to international commitments and fairness.

He called on neighboring countries to reciprocate in respecting Iran's water rights, particularly in discussions with Afghanistan over shared water resources.

Regarding agricultural water management, Aliabadi emphasized the importance of shifting to crops that require less water, environmentally compatible farming, and greenhouse cultivation.

While the Energy Ministry is responsible for water supply and promoting efficient water use, the primary responsibility lies with the Ministry of Agriculture, which has detailed plans in this area.

During the exhibition, Aliabadi, accompanied by water industry officials and Parliament members, reviewed the latest achievements of domestic companies in the water and wastewater sectors as industry representatives highlighted their challenges and called for government support.

The 20th International Water and Wastewater Industry Exhibition, themed "Sustainable Iran with Interactive and Technological Management," was held in Tehran from Wednesday to Saturday. It featured 150 domestic and five foreign companies showcasing the latest technologies in the water and wastewater sectors.