

Industry minister says gov’t aims to boost blue economy

Economy Desk

The minister of industry, mines, and trade stated that the government is determined to boost blue economy, with effective steps and plans already in place to achieve the goal. Mohammad Atabak, who attended a government event in the port city of Genaveh on Thursday, told reporters that given the current administration’s focus on transitioning to blue economy, Bushehr Province is expected to undergo significant transformation by the end of the administration’s term (2028). Emphasizing the need for special attention to the issues in the southwestern province, he expressed hope that the conditions in this resource-rich region would improve significantly. The minister noted the closure of numerous shipbuilding units in Bushehr, highlighting shipbuilding as one of the province’s key advantages. He added that necessary plans are being developed to leverage this potential. Atabak also pointed to cage fish farming as another advantage of Bushehr Province, stressing efforts to utilize existing opportunities to achieve a maritime-based economy. He mentioned that dredging the port and addressing other needs of coastal cities in Bushehr Province are being reviewed and will be presented at the provincial planning and development council meeting attended by the president. Atabak arrived in Bushehr Province on Wednesday as a government representative to visit Genaveh and Deylam counties. During his trip, he toured production units and met with economic activists, producers, traders, and businesspeople to discuss their concerns and demands. He also attended administrative council meetings in Genaveh and Deylam, as well as provincial planning and development sessions, to make necessary decisions to address local issues.

President visits Sadra shipbuilding site

Meanwhile, President Masoud Pezeshkian visited various sections of the southern yard of Iran Marine Industrial Company (Sadra) in Bushehr on Thursday as part of his provincial trip. During the visit, the president was briefed on Sadra’s latest activities in shipbuilding, oil and gas platform construction, and the development of docks and other marine facilities. Established in 1968 in Bushehr, Sadra began its operations by repairing and building various marine vessels. After the Islamic Revolution, the company expanded its offshore industry activities to meet growing demands in the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea markets. Today, Sadra is equipped with comprehensive facilities for designing, engineering, constructing, transporting, and installing various marine structures and vessels. The company operates factories and marine equipment facilities in Bushehr and the Caspian Sea (Behshahr), providing extensive services in the Persian Gulf and Caspian



Sea regions. In 1997, Sadra obtained ISO 9001 certification for designing, constructing, and installing offshore oil and gas facilities, shipbuilding, oil terminals, ports, coastal protection, and bridges. The company’s current divisions include the Offshore Factory, Sadra Industrial Island, Sadra Industrial Island Shipbuilding Factory, Bushehr Offshore Platform Factory, Bushehr Shipbuilding Factory, and Caspian Factory.

Since the 1990s, Sadra has entered the offshore phase, meeting national demands and constructing various gas and oil platforms. In recent years, the company has simultaneously built 10 South Pars platforms with the highest quality, delivering \$2.5 billion worth of projects to clients. Sadra is active in engineering services, shipbuilding, construction and installation of oil terminals, offshore oil and gas facilities, ports, coastal protection,

and dock construction. It is one of Iran’s largest contractors for offshore oil and gas projects. Some of the company’s most significant ongoing projects include the South Pars Phase 13, Phases 17-18, and Phases 22-24, as well as the development and modernization of the Reshadat Oil Field. In shipbuilding, Sadra is designing and constructing four 113,000-ton oil tankers and installing Forouzan platforms.

Iran’s oil output up nearly 13% in 2024: *OPEC data*



Latest data from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) indicates that Iran’s oil production rose significantly in 2024 despite US efforts to ramp pressure on the country’s energy sector through imposing back-to-back sanctions on its oil exports, Press TV wrote. OPEC data, cited in a report by the Fars news agency, showed that Iran’s oil production had reached an average of 3.257 million barrels per day (bpd) last year, an increase of 12.93% from 2023. The figures showed that Iran had ended 2024 with an average monthly production of 3.293 million bpd in December and continued to pump 3.28 million bpd in January 2025. That comes as total oil production by OPEC, a bloc that is made up of 12 countries, fell by 1.52% from 27.804 million bpd in 2023 to 26.672 million bpd last year.

A similar decline was reported for OPEC+, a broader alliance of oil-producing nations that include Russia. Iran was OPEC’s third largest oil producer in 2024 after Saudi Arabia and Iraq which both reported drops in production in 2024, the data showed. The increase in Iran’s oil production comes despite the fact that the United States toughened its sanctions on Iran’s oil industry last year by issuing penalties on individuals, entities and the tankers involved in the country’s oil exports. They are also the latest sign that US sanctions on Iran, which were enacted in 2018 with the aim of choking off the country’s oil revenues, have failed bitterly. Iranian authorities have said that the oil production in the country is expected to reach nearly 4 million bpd in the near future.

Veep pledges to resolve water crisis via coordination, collaboration

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The vice president of Iran warned about the country’s excessive water consumption, warning that if we continue with the current consumption trends and fail to manage it properly, we will face serious crises. Mohammadreza Aref, speaking at the first meeting of the “Supreme Water Council” under the current administration, addressed the critical state of water resources after reviewing expert reports on climate conditions, the latest status of the country’s dam reserves, and discussions on land subsidence, drying lakes, and wetlands. “Over the past six months, various meetings have been held to address different challenges, but what sets this meeting apart is that while other challenges had potential solutions, the water issue is a crisis – one that is far more complex than any other. Yet, we must find a solution for this crisis as well,” he said. The meeting was attended by the heads of the Plan and Budget Organization, the Department of the Environment, the ministers of industry, mining, trade, agriculture, energy, as well as water experts. Aref said, “Our water resources are limited, and the damage caused to these resources due to poor management has led to the situation we see today.” He pointed out that Iran is among the top 10 countries facing critical water shortages globally, adding, “Climatic conditions and low rainfall have exacerbated this problem, leading to crises in water reserves and groundwater levels.” Aref stressed, “In this situation, we must find a solution to this crisis and



resolve it. We know this imbalance is different from others, such as electricity, and our only hope lies in water management. However, we have not been successful in this area in recent decades.” The VP noted that over 80% of water is consumed in the agricultural sector, yet there has been little success in controlling consumption. “We still rely on flood irrigation and water-intensive crops, and for some products, despite their high water usage, we must continue due to their strategic importance and the employment they generate in the agricultural sector.” Aref identified illegal wells as another major issue contributing to water waste, stating, “No success has been achieved in this area either. For example, while 20,000 wells may have been filled in the Lake Urmia basin or another region, 30,000 new illegal wells have been dug afterward.” He emphasized, “We are currently in

a water crisis and must manage and resolve it. We are confident we will overcome this challenge, but we need a plan and must be determined in its execution. We must set aside formalities and ensure that any decision we make is implemented. At the same time, the public must be educated on water consumption management.” Aref expressed confidence that the shortages and challenges in this sector would be resolved through coordination and collaboration among relevant agencies. “By addressing these issues, many potential disputes between provinces over water can be resolved. Our comprehensive plan is to move forward within the framework of the government’s overall goals and policies.” During the meeting, the veep also called for careful consideration of the environmental water rights, particularly for wetlands, emphasizing that this is the right of nature and future generations.