



# Petchem industry nearing 100-m-ton production capacity: *NPC*

Economy Desk

The CEO of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) announced that the petrochemical industry is on the verge of reaching an annual production capacity of 100 million tons. Hassan Abbaszadeh stated that required feedstock has been delivered to several petrochemical units, which are expected to become operational within the next few months, Shana reported. The NPC head emphasized that developing the complex petrochemical industry is highly challenging without the use of modern management sys-

tems. He noted that the petrochemical industry is a leader in adopting advanced systems. Abbaszadeh also emphasized the importance of management in the petrochemical industry's evaluations, noting that the sector is significantly influenced by political and international issues alongside domestic challenges. The NPC head stressed that flexibility and preparedness of managers to adapt to environmental changes are crucial for navigating organizational challenges. He called for greater attention to artificial intelligence in the petrochemical industry, urg-

ing companies to focus on the transformative potential of AI. Abbaszadeh also highlighted the importance of managers having a comprehensive understanding of the business landscape and ongoing developments. He described human resources as the most valuable asset and urged company leaders to treat employees with respect and warmth, as their satisfaction is key to driving progress and further developing the petrochemical industry.

Need for sustainable development

Meanwhile, Afshar Bazayr, the

new CEO of Shastan Commercial Investment Company, said on Saturday that the petrochemical industry is currently one of the pillars of the country's economy, with sustainable development playing a critical role. He defined sustainable development as designing a value chain to optimize production, reduce environmental impacts, increase profitability, and fulfill social responsibilities. Bazayr emphasized the necessity of completing the value chain, diversifying the feedstock portfolio, updating technologies, and developing target markets in the petrochemical industry. He added that increasing invest-

ments in the sector is essential to achieving planned goals. He pointed out Iran's opportunities and advantages for investment in the petrochemical industry, including rich hydrocarbon resources, skilled workforce, and access to open waters for exports. Bazayr concluded by recommending greater focus on energy management, recycling, and circular economy practices in the petrochemical industry. He suggested that the NPC implement an integrated system across all industry processes to further enhance the improvement and excellence of the sector.

## Ending waiver to buy Iranian electricity causing temporary challenges: *Iraq*

The end of the waiver to import electricity from neighboring Iran "presents temporary operational challenges," said Farhad Alaaeldin, foreign affairs adviser to Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani.

The administration of US President Donald Trump rescinded a waiver on Saturday that had allowed Iraq to pay Iran for electricity, as part of the businessman-turned-politician's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran, according to a State Department spokesperson.

The decision to let Iraq's waiver lapse upon its expiration "ensures we do not allow Iran any degree of economic or financial relief," the spokesperson said.

"The government is actively working on alternatives to sustain electricity supply and mitigate any potential disruptions," Alaaeldin told Reuters. "Strengthening energy security remains a national priority, and efforts to enhance domestic production, improve grid efficiency and invest in new technologies will continue at full pace."

Trump initially granted waivers to several buyers to meet consumer energy needs when he reimposed sanctions on Iran's energy exports in 2018, citing its nuclear program and what the US calls its meddling in the Middle East.

His administration and that of Joe Biden repeatedly renewed Iraq's waiver while urging Baghdad to reduce its dependence on Iranian electricity. The State Department spokesperson reiterated that call on Saturday.

"We urge the Iraqi government to eliminate its dependence on Iranian sources of energy as soon as possible," the spokesperson said.

The US has used the waiver review in part to increase pressure on Baghdad to allow Kurdish crude oil exports via Turkey, sources have told Reuters. The aim is to boost supply to the global market and keep prices in check, giving the US more room to pursue efforts to choke off Iranian oil exports. Iraq's negotiations with the semi-autonomous Kurdish region over the oil export resumption have been fraught so far.

In an interview on Friday, the US president claimed that he had sent a letter to Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and proposed to negotiate with Iran on a new deal.

Iran denied receiving the letter, reiterating its position of not negotiating with Washington due to its untrustworthy and bullying nature.

"Some foreign governments and domineering figures insist on negotiations, while their goal is not to resolve issues but to exert control and impose their own agendas," Ayatollah Khamenei said on Saturday, dismissing the idea of negotiation with the US.

## First air taxi takes flight in Iran to diversify transportation

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On Sunday, an air taxi service was launched on the Karaj-Qazvin route, marking a significant step in the development of fast and smart air transportation in the country. The event was attended by aviation industry executives and representatives from the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran, ILNA reported. The flight was conducted using a Piper aircraft owned by Atlas Air, supported by Hossein Pourfarzaneh, the deputy minister of roads and urban development who also heads the Civil Aviation Organization. Air taxis are an air transportation system that uses small aircraft and commercial jets to transport passengers on short and medium routes. The service aims to reduce travel time, increase flexibility, and alleviate issues caused by road congestion and flight delays. In many metropolitan areas, high-traffic regions, and locations with limited road infrastructure, air taxis can serve as a quick and efficient



alternative to traditional transportation methods. Atlas Air with a fleet of 10 aircraft, capable of carrying between 2 and 35 passengers, is introducing an innovative approach to the country's aviation industry. The revival of air taxi services in recent years, with a focus on developing air transportation infrastructure, has had a notable impact in the world. With growing demand for rapid travel, air taxi services enable both personal and business trips with maxi-

mum speed and minimal formalities. Passengers can choose their desired routes without relying on fixed airline schedules, reaching their destinations in the shortest possible time. Key advantages of the system include significantly reduced travel time compared to ground and rail methods, flexibility in flight planning, reduced stress from delays and airport congestion, access to small and local airports, and improved connectivity to underserved areas.

## Dehloran daily crude extraction up by 15,000 barrels

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The CEO of West Oil and Gas Production Company (WOGPC) announced a 15,000-barrel-per-day increase in oil production from the fields and wells in Dehloran, Ilam Province. Mahmoud Nasiri stated that oil production in western Iran, which stood at 165,000 barrels per day six months ago, has now reached 180,000 barrels per day, IRNA reported. The official, speaking to reporters on Sunday in Dehloran's Cheshmeh Khosh, described the increase as significant and noted that the oil and gas industry was once entirely dependent on foreign equipment and expertise but has now achieved self-sufficiency. Nasiri added that out of 30 oil

fields in western Iran, 12 are developed, one is a gas field, and four are shared fields. Dehloran, he said, is one of the oil-rich counties in the province and the country, accounting for 98% of oil and gas production in western Iran. Nasiri stated that the WOGPC covers the provinces of Ilam, Kermanshah, and Lorestan, employing 3,000 permanent, contractual, and temporary workers, with about 90% working in operational and production areas. WOGPC is one of three subsidiaries of the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) under the new structure of the National Iranian Oil Company. It officially began operations in 1999, producing, processing, and delivering oil and gas to consumption centers.