

NIPC: 18 petchem projects set to go online this year

Economy Desk

The National Iranian Petrochemical Company (NIPC) announced plans to commission 18 new projects valued at \$5 billion this year, expanding production capacity by approximately 9 million tons and introducing several domestically produced petrochemical products for the first time in the country, according to the company's CEO.

"This year, approximately 18 projects with a total value of \$5 billion will become operational, adding around 9 million tons of production capacity. Some products from these facilities will be manufactured in the country for the first time," Hassan Abbaszadeh said.

Expanding the value chain, boosting exports, completing semi-finished projects, and diversifying product offerings are among the key priorities driving the petrochemical industry, SHANA wrote.

Deputy Oil Minister for Petrochemical Affairs discussed the industry's achievements, challenges, and plans for the past and upcoming years in an interview with SHANA. He described these proj-

ects as a "record-breaking leap" for the sector.

When asked whether new 18 products would be added to the industry's portfolio alongside value chain expansion, he confirmed that some products would indeed be first-time offerings. For example, the isopropyl alcohol unit at Arman Sepahan Petrochemical in Isfahan — a product partly used in skin-friendly disinfectant alcohols, among other industrial applications — is scheduled for commissioning in the first half of the current Iranian year, 1404 (began on March 20, 2025).

Abbaszadeh emphasized that the petrochemical industry plays a pivotal role in strengthening the oil sector's value chain and generating foreign currency. The key objectives include meeting domestic demand for finished products and maximizing hydrocarbon resources to produce higher-value goods.

\$13.5b petrochemical exports

According to the official, approximately 70% of petrochemical output is exported to secure foreign currency, as domes-



tic markets absorb only 30%. In 1403 (began on March 20, 2024), \$13.5 billion worth of petrochemical products were exported, with equivalent revenue transferred to the Central Bank and reintegrated into the national economy. Around \$2 billion was allocated to importing essential goods, equipment, catalysts, and chemicals for the industry.

Despite energy shortages in 1403 — including feedstock supply constraints due to unprecedented cold weather and rising household and commercial gas demand — the industry's foreign currency earnings remained stable compared to 1402 (began on March 20, 2023), Abbaszadeh added.

Total petrochemical production in 1403 reached

75 million tons against an installed capacity of 97 million tons. Exports from this output increased year-on-year, generating \$13.5 billion in revenue. Meanwhile, roughly \$10 billion worth of products were supplied domestically, a figure consistent with the previous year, he said.

The most pressing challenge under the Seventh

Development Plan remains feedstock supply, the official said, stressing, "Currently, 20% of the industry faces shortages, and without intervention, this gap will widen. However, a dedicated committee was established in recent months to ensure sustainable feedstock provision, with ongoing meetings to explore solutions."

Minister warns of 20,000 MW deficit amid power sector challenges



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Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi outlined on Monday the challenges and initiatives undertaken by his ministry in the electricity sector over the year.

"Rising temperatures across the country, which will peak during summer, have created a significant imbalance between power generation capacity and consumption. This year's peak demand is projected to reach 85,000 megawatts, while maximum generation capacity under optimal conditions will be 65,000 megawatts, resulting in a power shortfall exceeding 20,000 megawatts," Abbas Aliabadi said.

Speaking at a training workshop on electricity consumption management to address the current year's peak load on Monday, Aliabadi emphasized the critical need for optimizing

electricity use to navigate this year's demand surge.

He explained that a substantial portion of the supply-demand gap can be managed through efficiency programs, noting, "During summer, 35,000 megawatts of electricity demand is added by air conditioners and cooling systems alone — a figure exceeding the total consumption of several neighboring countries."

Referring to challenges faced during the cold season due to fuel constraints, he added, "The power industry encountered significant difficulties in winter due to fuel supply limitations, including reduced time frames for major and routine maintenance of power plants."

Causes of recent electricity blackouts

Meanwhile, the CEO of Iran's Power Generation and Distri-

bution Company (TAVANIR) on Monday apologized for the lack of communication regarding recent electricity supply limitations, stating, "These restrictions will be managed in the coming days."

"Due to drought this year, we cannot maximize the use of hydropower plant capacity. Compared to last year, we can only utilize one-third of hydro-power plants' capacity," Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said.

"Some power plant maintenance, postponed to this year due to fuel shortages, must now undergo major repairs," he added.

The spokesperson for the power industry noted, "Approximately 30% of the country's power plants are aging, and these repairs are essential."

He further clarified, "To ensure the nuclear power plant operates fully during summer, we temporarily took it offline for fuel replacement operations."

He continued, "These factors have resulted in our production capacity failing to meet demand. Electricity consumption has grown by over 6% since the start of the year — a significant figure. We urge our compatriots to manage their electricity usage."

"Air conditioner use has begun in parts of the country, and maintaining a temperature of 25°C is critical. We call on major industries with operational power plants to activate them," Rajabi Mashhadi emphasized.

GSI targets mining industry growth with maps, aerial survey



Economy Desk

The Geological Survey of Iran (GSI), as the world's fifth-largest holder of mineral reserves, unveiled its annual plans, which include preparing 120 geological maps and launching a 2-million-kilometer aerial geophysical survey to identify and develop valuable mining industries. Hossein Shariatmadar Tehrani, a senior advisor to the head of the geological survey and mineral explorations organization, said that preparing 120 geological maps and launching a 2-million-kilometer aerial geophysics survey to obtain subsurface mineral reserve data are among the organization's priorities for the current year.

According to Shariatmadari, Iran — with \$27.3 trillion in mineral capital

— is the world's fifth-largest holder of mineral reserves.

The official emphasized that the geological maps serve as foundational data, providing a suitable platform for geoscientists and investors to extract and develop valuable mining industries.

As reported by the GSI, Shariatmadari also highlighted the implementation of the aerial geophysics program in the north strip of Iran's southern province of Fars as a priority for the department of geology and mineral exploration in Shiraz under a three-year framework.

He urged investors to consult the Shiraz bureau or access the Geological Survey's geoscience database (NGDIR.ir) to utilize available information for resource exploitation.

Markets sink as Trump's tariffs roil global trading system

President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff plans battered global markets again on Monday after he said foreign governments would have to pay "a lot of money" to get the levies removed, while US stocks got a brief lift on hints of a pause, only to slide again.

Asian and European shares plunged and oil prices plummeted as investors feared the duties Trump likened to "medicine to fix something" at the weekend could lead to higher prices, weaker demand and potentially a global recession, Reuters reported.

US stocks initially tumbled as well, then rebounded after White House adviser Kevin Hassett said according to CNBC that Trump was considering a 90-day pause in tariffs for all countries except China. Stocks then slid again after the broadcaster cited the White House as saying the pause comment was "fake news."

The European Union, which has been divided on how strongly to punch back against Washington without risking more pain for its own companies and consumers, said it wanted to negotiate but was also ready to retaliate. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU had offered Trump "zero-for-zero" tariffs on industrial goods.

Goldman Sachs raised the odds of a US recession to 45% in the next 12 months, joining other investment banks in revising their forecast. JPMorgan economists now estimate the tariffs pushing the US economy into a 0.3% contraction, down from an earlier estimate of 1.3% growth of gross domestic product.

Trump had shown no sign of relaxing his tariff policy earlier on Monday, blasting China for hitting back with retaliatory tariffs and repeating a call for the US Federal Reserve to cut interest rates. As Trump's circle hit back at critics, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said talk of a recession was "silly."

Hassett, director of the National Economic Council, said separately that Trump had talked to world leaders all weekend and would listen to proposals for great deals.

The tariff announcement has met with bewildered condemnation from other leaders and triggered retaliatory levies from China, the world's No.2 economy, which called Trump's behavior "economic bullying."

After stocks in mainland China and Hong Kong cratered on Monday, China's sovereign fund stepped in to try to stabilize the market. Shares in Taiwan plummeted almost 10% — the biggest one-day percentage fall on record.

TSE slumps Nearly 1%

Tehran Stock Exchange also slumped nearly 1%. During Monday's trading session in the capital market, over 20.336 billion shares were traded across 448,000 transactions. The stock index declined by 26,961 units, settling at 2,746,859 units.

According to the report, in Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) markets, 9.069 billion securities were exchanged in 311,000 transactions. The OTC benchmark index (IFX) dropped 93 units, closing at 24,747 units.