

National communication projects unveiled

Minister: Major space industry projects to be completed by yearend

Economy Desk

Three national projects in the fields of smart communications, technological innovation, and digital equity were unveiled during a ceremony commemorating World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian. The projects, which focused on communication infrastructure, innovation support and expanding connectivity equity, were inaugurated and put into operation, as reported by IRNA.

The event, held at the Space Research Institute of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology on Saturday morning, also marked the beginning of Artificial Intelligence Week and was attended by Minister of Information and Communications Technology Sattar Hashemi.

Addressing the ceremony, the communication minister announced significant progress in Iran's space industry this year, stating, "Major projects such as the Chabahar Spaceport, and Salmas and Chenaran infrastructures will reach completion this year."

He emphasized that the rapid growth of the space sector has not slowed but "gained even greater momentum."

Highlighting advancements in satellite development and project upgrades, Hashemi cited Chabahar, Salmas, and Chenaran as key initiatives set to achieve

milestones this year.

Expanding national network capacity

The three projects unveiled on Saturday — ranging from infrastructure development to fostering tech ecosystems and enhancing rural connectivity — outline a roadmap for the country's digital future. The first project significantly boosted Iran's core network capacity to 28 terabits per second across 285 locations in 31 provinces, leveraging domestic expertise. This marks a 62% increase in national transmission capacity, from 45,000 to 73,000 gigabits per second, enabling faster, higher-quality connectivity. The upgrade also lays the groundwork for IT, AI, and 5G technologies. Since the current administration took office in July, international internet traffic has risen by 28%, while data transit and international collaborations surged by 50%, reflecting strides in data diplomacy.

Fava Galaxy a platform for tech innovation

The second project, the integrated Fava Galaxy platform, aims to drive technological leaps by offering financial support, specialized resources, investment partnerships, and market stimulation to startups, tech teams, and knowledge-based companies. Designed to align with the Seventh De-



velopment Plan, the platform delivers such services through a transparent, agile, and intelligent framework.

Bridging rural connectivity gap

The third initiative targets underserved rural areas, providing communication

access to 1,478 villages as the development of communication equity, with a focus on deprived and rural areas, was prioritized. Since July, access to communication services has been provided in 1,478 villages, and in the last few months alone,

155,088 households and over 525,000 people in rural areas have gained access to high-speed mobile internet. Over the past eight months, internet coverage in rural areas has increased by 4%, narrowing the digital divide and advancing communication equity nationwide.

Kharg's renovated tanks raise crude storage capacity by 2m barrels



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The official commissioning of renovated Tanks No. 25 and 26 at Iran's southern Kharg Island oil terminal increased the country's crude oil storage capacity by two million barrels.

The two one-million-barrel tanks, after completing reconstruction and modernization of safety and environmental systems, were returned to service on Saturday in the presence of the heads of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC), IRNA reported.

During the visit of Hamid Bovard, the NIOC head, to Kharg Island, the completion of renovation and overhaul operations for Tanks No. 25 and 26 was announced, marking their formal inauguration. Each tank has a capacity of one million barrels of crude oil, and their return to service adds a total of two million barrels to the country's oil storage capacity.

At the commissioning ceremony, Abbas Asadrouz, CEO of IOTC, described the project as "a symbol of the expertise of domestic specialists and a strategic step in developing oil industry infrastructure," emphasizing its full compliance with safety and environmental standards.

Officials stated that commissioning these two tanks "not only strengthens export stability but also enables flexible production management and enhances Iran's position in the global energy market."

Asadrouz also highlighted the strategic role of Kharg Island in Iran's oil export chain, affirming the company's readiness to support maximum oil exports.

"Iranian oil terminals, with their specialized, infrastructural, and logistical capabilities, play a central role in achieving the oil industry's key objectives," he said.

"Kharg Terminal, as Iran's largest and most advanced oil export hub, is the beating heart of the country's oil exports, with over 90% of exported oil shipped to global markets through this terminal," he added.

He further noted, "Kharg's geopolitical position in the Persian Gulf, proximity to major oilfields, sufficient water depth for ultra-large crude carriers (ULCCs), and advanced storage, loading, and export infrastructure make this terminal unrivaled in the region."

Asadrouz emphasized the terminal's operational readiness, "Despite challenges, Kharg Terminal — with its storage tanks, export jetties, precision measurement systems, and smart control systems — can support simultaneous loading of multiple tankers, ensuring export stability under all conditions."

Iran's largest rooftop solar farm launched in Alborz Province

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A one-megawatt rooftop solar power plant, one of the largest of its kind in Iran, was inaugurated in the industrial town of Nazarabad, Alborz Province, during a ceremony attended by the vice president.

Amid ongoing energy shortages, the expansion of industrial-scale solar power plants has become vital for sustainable industrial production. In line with the objective, Alborz Province's largest rooftop solar facility — with a one-megawatt capacity — has been installed by private investors on the roof of a food processing factory in Nazarabad industrial town and connected to the national power grid, Tasnim reported.

The plant was officially commissioned at a ceremony presided over by Shina Ansari, the vice president and head of Department of the Environment, alongside provincial officials and industry executives.

During the event, Ansari underscored the government's commitment to reducing fossil fuel consumption, stating, "Expanding renewable energy, particularly solar power, is a top government priority. Over the past year, Iran's solar power capacity has grown from 1,300 to over 1,700 megawatts."


She also highlighted the significant importation of solar equipment into the country and announced streamlined environmental permitting processes for such projects.

Government offices have been required to source at least 20% of their electricity from renewable energy, with President Masoud Pezeshkian having issued a two-month compliance period for government agencies to install solar panels, effective June 21.

According to Babak Amiri, the deputy head of the company specializing in large-scale solar installations, "The procurement, installation, and grid connection of this rooftop facility were completed within two months, adhering to the highest quality standards."

He discussed the project's execution, adding, "The goal was to balance aesthetic considerations with optimal use of the rooftop space. This project leverages technical expertise imported from Germany and refined domestically over the past decade. The plant employs 700-watt solar panels and the most advanced inverters available in the market."

Collaboration in books, publishing to cement Iran, Oman ties



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

**INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE**

A representative of Oman's Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth announced expanded cooperation between Iran and Oman in the printing and publishing sector, stating, "Collaboration in the field of books can strengthen relations between the two countries."

Fahd Al-Rahbi told Iran Daily that, "Oman has been among the active participants in the international section of the Tehran Book Fair in recent years. We believe attend-

ing this exhibition can enhance cultural exchanges between Iran and Oman."

"This year, Oman has brought over 55 titles in literary, cultural, and historical subjects to the Tehran Book Fair. A significant portion of our books focus on children's literature and introducing Omani customs and culture," he added.

Rahbi described Iran and Oman as "culturally close due to their profound similarities," emphasizing, "Our goal in participating in this exhibition is to further introduce Oman to the Iranian people and familiarize them with our culture."

Referring to Oman's efforts to promote peace and friendship in

the region, he said, "The message of peace and friendship lies at the heart of Omani culture. We desire all people worldwide to live in harmony, prosperity, and with strong mutual relations."

"Significant developments are planned in book publishing and bilateral cooperation. Many books will be translated from Arabic to Persian and vice versa. As a first step, a collection of Omani poetry and literature has been translated from Arabic to Persian, followed by translation of Persian-language poets' works into Arabic," he noted.

Regarding Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's recent visit to Oman, he said, "During this visit, Araghchi unveiled the Arabic translation of his book The Power of Negotiation (Qowat al-Tafawudh in Arabic) at the Muscat International Book Fair."

The 36th Tehran International Book Fair opened May 7 and ran through May 17. This edition featured 2,363 domestic publishers showcasing their works across 75,000 square meters of covered space. The fair included sections for general publishers, children/young/adult books, educational and academic publications, digital publishers, and an international section. Countries participating in the international segment included Iraq, Turkey, Qatar, the UAE, Yemen, Tajikistan, Venezuela, Kazakhstan, and others.



Fahd Al-Rahbi
● IRAN DAILY