

# Pezeshkian calls for proactive steps to attract oil, energy investment

Iran’s victory against Israel ascribed to defense power, national unity

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian underlined the importance of increasing investment in the oil industry, stating that the country must act more proactively to attract and utilize the potential investment interest expressed by numerous entities in the field of energy production. In an unannounced visit to Iran’s Oil Ministry on Sunday, he appreciated the diligent efforts of the ministry’s managers and staffers to prevent shortages and challenges in the energy supply during the 12-day Israeli-imposed war (launched on June 13), as reported by IRNA reported. The president emphasized the importance of increasing investment in the oil industry, stating, “Numerous individuals and entities have expressed readiness and interest in investing in the field of energy production and consumption management. We must act more proactively to attract and utilize this potential.” He also described the development of clean energy infrastructure, particularly accelerating the construction of solar power plants, as a complementary measure in energy production and consumption management.

Furthermore, he noted it creates cost-efficiency for attracting investors to the sector. Pezeshkian had granted all administrative departments a deadline - effective June 21 - to supply part of their required electricity from solar energy. “Expanding solar power plants will reduce the need to supply subsidized gas and diesel for electricity production, which will free up the Oil Ministry’s capacity for investment and increase the attractiveness for private sector investors,” Pezeshkian said. He instructed the officials at the ministry to formulate and present solutions for optimal management of energy production and particularly consumption. The president directed them to conduct precise studies, utilize all existing experience, and incorporate expert opinions. Expressing hope that the country will not face energy shortages this winter, adding, “In this process, consider all opportunities, threats, and possibilities, and make the necessary forecasts.”

Defense power, national unity

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian credited Iran’s triumph



President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) meets with Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (2nd L) in an unannounced visit to Iran’s Oil Ministry on July 13, 2025. ● SHANA

umph in the 12-day war against Israel to the nation’s robust defense capabilities and unwavering cohesion, emphasizing their significance in overcoming the Israeli regime’s aggression. “It was you, along with people from various walks of life, who, with the right understanding

and timely wisdom, thwarted the enemy’s plots to destabilize the country,” the Iranian president said. “If it weren’t for the people’s unity and active engagement on the ground, alongside our Armed Forces’ capabilities and missiles that dismantled Israel’s repu-

tation, our triumph and victory would have been unattainable.” Pezeshkian also emphasized the administration’s commitment to promoting diplomacy as a means to prevent future wars and conflicts. “War benefits no one and never has a winner,” he asserted.

“We are dedicated to fostering peace, tranquility, and stability, driven by our motto and strategy of national unity, internal solidarity, and fostering amicable relationships with our neighbors and global community. “We do not engage in aggression and have no intention to do so; however, we will steadfastly resist any attempts at intimidation or coercion,” he concluded. On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked aggression against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians. More than a week later, the United States also jumped on the bandwagon and bombed three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In response, Iranian armed forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia. On June 24, the regime declared a unilateral ceasefire without any preconditions, a sign of its defeat in the face of powerful and unwavering Iranian retaliation.

## Record 600 mines revived in Iran last year: IMIDRO

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A senior official from the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation announced that in the last Iranian calendar year 1403 (began on March 20, 2024) nearly 600 mines were revived, activated, or developed, which “represents the highest figure in mine revitalization.” The head of IMIDRO’s Board of Directors, Mohammad Aqajanlu, made the announcement on Sunday, adding that based on the performance of the small-scale mine revitalization, activation, and development plan, from its inception (2018) until the end of last Iranian year, 2,373 small-scale mines were revived, and developed, IRNA reported. The deputy minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade added that of the number, 594 mines pertained to the year 1403.



Given the target program (150 mines), the move resulted in a 296% increase in the performance of the small-scale mine revitalization, and development plan. This is while during the year 1402, the number of revived, and developed mines was 493. Reporting a 20% growth in last year’s performance compared to the year 1402, the head of IMIDRO’s Board of

Directors stated that the performance of the year 1403 shows that 96 investment packages were introduced under the small-scale mine revitalization, activation, and development plan. Furthermore, in the winter of that year, five tender winners were identified with the aim of preparing feasibility studies to complete the value chain. Iran Mineral Processing and

Production Company (IMPASCO), a subsidiary company of IMIDRO, acts as the executor and coordinator of the small-scale mine revitalization and activation plan. Iran’s diverse mineral reserves are considered a national treasure. According to Alireza Shahidi, chairman of the Board of Directors of Iran Mineral Production and Supply Company, announcing at a mining exhibition in May,

“Iran boasts diverse mineral resources, with 81 types of minerals.” The country is the 15th-largest mineral-rich country globally, and Iranian officials call mining the backbone of industrial development and say it should replace oil as the primary revenue generator. However, at the exhibition in May, Abbas Taqdisinejad, CEO of Shahr-e Aftab Exhibition Center, criticized the failure in achieving the goal, stating, “While 26% of Iran’s exports come from minerals, the sector has grown only 1–2% annually in recent years.” Citing outdated equipment and underutilized domestic and foreign investment potential, he stated, “The 7th Development Plan forecasts 13% growth for mining. Achieving this requires greater coordination among stakeholders to attract investment.”

## Potential changes in...

Impact on Russian policy in Syria and Iran

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One of Bogdanov’s main achievements was his role in supporting the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad and strengthening ties with Iran. These two directions will likely remain priorities for Russia, but in his absence, the methods of pursuing policies in these countries may be reassessed. On a practical level, this could mean a shift in cooperation formats, the development of new diplomatic channels, or a reevaluation of military or economic engagement strategies.

Succession issues

A key factor will be how Russia chooses to fill the vacuum left by Bogdanov. He occupied a unique position within the Russian diplomatic apparatus, and his departure is likely to lead to internal changes. His successor will probably be tasked with maintaining the course but may introduce new approaches and priorities in Russia’s strategy for the Middle East. This could impact both Russia’s external image in the region and the efficiency of its diplomatic decision-making processes.

Future of Russian diplomacy in Middle East

The future of Russian diplomacy in the Middle East will depend on how Russia adapts its strategy to new realities. Russia will continue to seek to strengthen its role against growing competition from the United States, China, and regional powers such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia. It will be important for the new direction to not only preserve the successes already achieved but also remain flexible in responding to changes in the political situations of countries in the region, such as Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and, of course, Syria. It is possible that in the coming years, Russia will become more actively involved in diplomatic efforts to resolve regional conflicts, as the void left by Bogdanov may require new approaches and fresh leadership in Russian diplomacy.

## Smart projects outlined at Iran's cotton research institute

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Head of the Cotton Research Institute of Iran announced the implementation of smart projects in the cotton sector, stating, “Two smart projects in the cotton field have been formulated.” Qorban Qorbani Nasrabad said that two smart projects have been formulated for cotton, one of which focuses on “stress memory and related mechanisms in transferring drought tolerance and stress in cotton plants,” IRNA reported.

The head of the research institute said the project pertains to the screening of drought-tolerant varieties. He also mentioned the project on “machine learning algorithms to identify physiological and biochemical mechanisms of drought resistance in commercial cotton varieties,” noting it represents “a novel step for targeted breeding and smart management of cotton plants under environmental stress conditions.” “The machine learning algorithms project

for identifying physiological and biochemical mechanisms of drought resistance in commercial cotton varieties will ultimately enable us to develop a model for predicting cotton lint yield under drought conditions,” Nasrabad continued. He also announced joint projects with the Animal Science Research Institute and the Fisheries Science Research Institute regarding “the use of cottonseed for livestock feed and cold-water fish nutrition,” adding, “We have prioritized

a feasibility project to estimate cotton cultivation area and yield.” “The aforementioned project, using satellite imagery to estimate cultivation area, yield, and zoning of cotton lint in the country’s farms, is currently underway,” he said. Nasrabad concluded that the institute has “joint projects with the Animal Science Research Institute and Fisheries Science Research Institute concerning the use of cottonseed for livestock feed and cold-water fish nutrition.”