

Contracts signed to launch largest flare gas recovery project in south

Not even a single day should be lost in preserving national assets: *Pezeshkian*

Economy Desk

Iran signed 12 contracts on Saturday for its largest-ever associated petroleum gas (APG) recovery project, aiming to capture about 295 million cubic feet per day (mcf/d) of flare gas from multiple oilfields in the country's southern provinces. The agreements, signed between the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) and private sector investors during a video conference attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian and Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad, cover 32 flare sites in the provinces of Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, and Bushehr, IRNA reported. Addressing the ceremony, Pezeshkian said, "By capturing and utilizing flare gas, we have taken a major step not only toward significant economic gains but also toward improving environmental indicators and safeguarding the health of the people." Emphasizing the need to remove barriers facing the private sector, the president added, "Therefore, there must not be even a single day's delay in advancing this effort." Pezeshkian underlined that, "Not even a single day should be lost in preserving national assets. If possible—which I believe it is—these projects should be completed ahead of schedule. We must not allow flares to burn national assets daily before our eyes. Complementary plans for this goal must be quickly submitted to and approved by the government." Meanwhile, the oil minister said, "These 12 contracts will gradually increase flare gas recovery by about 295 mcf/d by the end of the Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2026)."

"With the continuation of this process and implementation of the planned projects, flare gas recovery will reach 44 million cubic meters per day by the end of the Seventh Development Plan (2029). This is exactly the quantitative target mandated in the plan," Paknejad said. He added that in the years leading up to the Pezeshkian administration, which took office in August 2024, Iran had created a total capacity of 330 mcf/d for flare gas collection. Officials described the new contracts as a model of successful cooperation between the government, private investors, and foreign partners involved in technology transfer. The projects are expected to attract about \$800 million in investment over two years and eliminate around 30 flare stacks, preventing the daily loss of 295 mcf of gas. The initiative is projected to generate some \$550 million in annual revenue, produce about 800,000 tons of gas condensates per year to feed petrochemical plants, and inject about 200 mcf/d of light gas into the national network — a move expected to bolster winter energy supplies. National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) CEO Hamid Bovard said the move marks "a new phase in the implementation of Iran's comprehensive flare gas recovery plan." "With this new set of contracts between NISOC and the private sector, the pace of flare elimination and associated gas recovery will accelerate," he said. Bovard said that under the Seventh Development Plan, the oil industry is pursuing three strategic goals: raising crude production to 4.5 million barrels



President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) and Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (l) attend a signing ceremony of 12 contracts for APG recovery project in the country's southern provinces through a video conference on November 1, 2025. [president.ir](#)

per day, gas production to 1.3 billion cubic meters per day, and collecting associated gas across the country. "To protect the environment, preserve hydrocarbon resources, and balance the national gas network, Iran is implementing its comprehensive flare gas collection plan," he said. "Within the next two years, 1.9 billion cubic feet of flare gas — about 90 percent of recoverable volumes — will be captured."

He noted that the plan will prevent the emission of about 5,700 tons of carbon per day and includes the launch of Iran's first mini- Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) plant with foreign investment, as well as a modular refinery with a capacity of 45 mcf/d in the Masjed Soleyman oil region in Khuzestan Province. Bovard also announced a new tender for 18 additional investment packages aimed at capturing gas from 42 more

flare sites. "These packages will be offered at a base rate of zero to capable private investors as part of our drive toward full flare elimination," he said. "Flare gas recovery is not only a major step toward sustainable development and environmental protection, but also a clear example of safeguarding national wealth and achieving balance in the country's energy equation," the deputy oil minister added.

Tehran-Vienna flights to resume Monday; Lufthansa likely in December



REUTERS

Economy Desk

Direct flights between Tehran and Vienna will resume on Mon-

day as Austrian Airlines restarts its service, according to acting director of Imam Khomeini International Airport. Ramin Kashf-Azar told ISNA that the first direct Vienna-to-Tehran flight will arrive early Monday morning, marking the relaunch of regular service between the two capitals. He added that negotiations have also been held with Lufthansa, and the German carrier is expect-

ed to resume Tehran-Frankfurt flights in early December. "Lufthansa has conducted the necessary evaluations, and these flights are likely to start from early December, operating six days a week on the Tehran-Frankfurt route," he said. Kashf-Azar noted that expanding the airport's flight network is a key strategic priority and remains at the center of its development plans.

Iran, China set up joint agricultural research center under 25-year pact

Economy Desk

Iran and China have established a joint rice research center as part of their landmark 25-year strategic cooperation agreement, aiming to develop high-yield, drought-resistant hybrid varieties capable of producing more than six metric tons per hectare, Iranian deputy agriculture minister said. Speaking to Tasnim news agency, Gholamreza Golmohammadi, head of Iran's Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), said that the initiative marks a significant expansion of agricultural collaboration between the two countries, which also includes the importation of new Chinese sugarcane varieties that could double domestic yields for the first time since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. He emphasized Tehran's determination to advance scientific cooperation despite the Western sanctions. "Since the reimposition of sanctions in 2018 (by the US President Donald Trump), many international institutions in the agricultural research sector—except FAO—have withdrawn



from Iran, severely limiting access to germplasm and advanced plant varieties," Golmohammadi said. "But these conditions have not stopped us. Scientific collaboration, particularly with China, continues under the framework of the 25-year agreement." Under the pact, China has issued permits for Iranian researchers to travel for advanced training, fully funded by Beijing, he said. According to the official, six young Iranian scientists will soon attend specialized courses in seed improvement across key crops including horticulture, oilseeds, wheat, rice, potatoes, canola, and ornamental plants, with all expenses covered by the Chinese government. Private-sector experts will

also be sent to China for training in sericulture (silk production) and sugarcane cultivation, Golmohammadi added. Negotiations are underway to establish joint research centers for tea and silk, leveraging China's advanced tea research capabilities to modernize Iran's production and processing technologies. Germplasm exchanges are already in progress to strengthen Iran's national gene banks, with a focus on developing climate-resilient and drought-tolerant crop varieties. Iran, in turn, has submitted a list of its own plant varieties eligible for exchange, and both sides are finalizing protocols for safe, regulated germplasm transfer in line with international standards.

Alborz industry chief says AI use can boost productivity by 20%, cut costs

Economy Desk

An Iranian provincial industry chief said that integrating artificial intelligence and advanced technologies into industry could increase productivity by 20% while reducing production costs. Speaking at a Saturday press conference in northern Alborz Province marking the National Day of Production and Export, Reza Rezaei, head of the province's Chamber of Industry, Mine and Trade, warned that the world is rapidly shifting toward a knowledge-based and skill-driven economy, and

Iran must not fall behind in this transformation or risk losing its industrial value-added and competitive edge, IRNA reported. He announced the establishment of a joint secretariat among industrial and economic institutions to promote synergy between the private and public sectors. "We are ready to take a leading role in developing new technologies, including artificial intelligence, as well as in expanding exports and international investment," he said. Rezaei also revealed that for the first time, a memorandum of understanding has been signed



IRNA

between Alborz Province and Russia, focusing on export development, technology transfer, and cooperation in production and industry. According to Parham Rezaei, head of the Alborz Chamber of Commerce,

despite its small size, the province hosts nearly 4,000 industrial and manufacturing units and is a national leader in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food production, and auto parts.