

# Petropars: Farzad B joint gas field enters operational phase after long hiatus

## Economy Desk

Iran's Petropars Group announced on Sunday that after years of delay in the development of one of Iran's most important joint gas fields, Farzad B entered the operational phase with the preparation and loading of the first jacket for the wellhead platform.

The Farzad B gas field is one of Iran's most important yet challenging joint fields in the Persian Gulf and due to its proximity to Saudi Arabia and long delays in decision-making and implementation, the field has always been cited as an example of lost opportunities in the development of joint fields.

Hamidreza Saqafi, CEO of Petropars Group, said the construction of the offshore structure began in November 2024 at the Khorramshahr yard of the Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company, and was completed and ready for loading within 15 months. Saqafi attributed the progress to round-the-clock efforts, continuous planning, close cooperation, and synergy with the Oil and Gas Company, and hailed such efforts as a step towards national interests. The CEO of Petropars Group stressed that the Farzad B gas field, after long delays, has entered the implementation phase with an operational approach based on domestic capabilities.

"The importance of Farzad B is not limited to a single construction or marine



project; rather, the development of this field can play a direct role in increasing the country's gas production capacity, reducing energy imbalance, and pre-

venting uneven extraction from a shared field," he said.

"Accordingly, the successful implementation of this phase is considered a deci-

sive step towards paving the way for the full development of the field."

Mehdi Saeedi Boroujeni, the project manager for the development of the

Farzad B field, also underlined that, given the completion of construction, the start of loading the offshore structure requires a full ebb tide and the beginning of a flood tide.

"It is essential that the time of the full ebb on the day of operations be in the early hours of the day, and the rate of increase in water level should be gentle, so that in case of any disruption, there is sufficient time for corrective actions," Saeedi Boroujeni said.

"It is expected that the loading operation will be carried out at the beginning of next week, followed by mooring and movement towards the installation site." Farzad B, which is known as Arabiyah in Saudi Arabia, lies 85 kilometers to the east of the Iranian port city of Bushehr and holds 23 trillion cubic feet (over 650 billion cubic meters) of natural gas.

Saudi Arabia has been pumping gas from its side of the field since 2016, when a Canadian-led consortium brought output to 1.2 billion cubic feet (nearly 34 million cubic meters) per day.

However, development on the Iranian side of the field had been stalled since 2014, when a consortium of three Indian state-owned companies abandoned the project because of foreign sanctions on Iran.

Iran then decided to use the services of domestic companies for a project that could play a major role in meeting the country's rising energy demand.

## Chabahar-Zahedan railway to see transport of 8m tons of cargo, 2m passengers



## Economy Desk

The deputy of the construction and development of railways, ports, and airports of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructure Company reported on Sunday that with the completion of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line by the year 2041, Iran is predicted to witness the annual transportation of 2 million passengers and 8 million tons of cargo through the strategic

railway line.

Abbas Khatibi said the completion of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line is 635 kilometers long and has 89% physical progress, and all efforts are focused on the completion of track laying operations on the route by the end of the calendar year (March 20). "More than 34 trillion rials have been invested and spent on this project to date, which, of course, its current value is more than 100 trillion rials," he said.

Khatibi added that the 158-kilometer Zahedan-Khash route was inaugurated in 2022, and currently, the completion of the remaining 477 kilometers is on the agenda.

"The major achievement is the laying of 353 kilometers of track on this route over the past year, of which 200 kilometers have been completed in the last 4 months, despite all issues and problems," he said.

"With the good support of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development and the Planning and Budget Organization, we succeeded in achieving unprecedented records in railway construction on this route."

Khatibi underlined that the main goal of the project is to connect the oceanic port of Shahid Beheshti in Chabahar to an annual capacity of 8 million tons, as well as its very good hinterland, to the railway network. "This project is not merely a provincial or national project, but in addition to transforming the east of the country in terms of traffic and the movement of goods and passengers, as well as tourist aspects, it is also considered by eastern neighboring countries, Indians, and CIS countries so that they can also utilize this capacity."

## Iran pistachio exports hit \$730m by late December



## Economy Desk

The director general of the office of cold-climate fruits and dried fruits of the horticulture affairs department of the Agriculture Ministry said 100,000 tons of pistachios, valued at 730 million dollars, were exported to 67 countries worldwide, including 18 European Union countries, by the end of December.

Dariush Salempour stressed that according to official statistics provided by Iran Customs, in the first nine months of the calendar year (started March 21, 2025), nearly 100,000 tons of pistachios (in-shell pistachios, pistachio kernels, green pistachio kernels, and other related products) were

exported to target countries, with the largest volume of exports going to Turkey, India, the United Arab Emirates, the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and China. "Last year, an unprecedented performance in pistachio production, processing, and export was recorded in the country, with over 175,000 tons of pistachios valued at 1.7 billion dollars being exported," he added.

Salempour estimated the production of fresh and dried pistachios in the country in 2025-2026 to be close to 300,000 tons, saying, "Iran ranks first in the world in terms of cultivated area, with over 600,000 hectares of pistachio orchards."

## Private sector enters gas demand management with goal of 35% savings

A new data-driven model for managing natural gas consumption, centered on so-called energy service companies, has entered the implementation phase following the signing of 22 operational contracts between the National Iranian Gas Company and private-sector firms. The initiative aims to optimize consumption, reduce energy waste and cut end-use gas consumption by 25% to 35%, SHANA reported.

Official figures show that about 22% of the country's produced energy is lost at the final consumption stage. As a result, energy policy has shifted

from expanding production to managing demand. Under targets set in the country's Seventh Development Plan, the equivalent of 200 million cubic meters of gas per day must be recovered through efficiency measures by the end of the program. Against this backdrop, leveraging private-sector capacity for gas demand management has become a key priority of the 14th administration.

According to SHANA, two types of contracts have been defined for the program. Under the first model, an energy service company acts as a gas retailer,

taking responsibility for distribution and consumption management within a defined area. Under the second, companies focus solely on consumption optimization and generate revenue from energy savings certificates. Estimates indicate that full implementation of the contracts could reduce end-use gas consumption by 25% to 35%. Beyond easing the country's energy imbalance, the measure is expected to channel gas resources more effectively to productive and energy-intensive industries, lower household utility bills, improve network efficiency, enhance equipment quality and reduce environmental pollution.

Experts say the model could open new investment opportunities for the private sector and offer a replicable framework for sustainable energy management. Continuous monitoring, data collection and trend analysis are expected to help identify high-consumption points, optimize equipment scheduling and design economic incentives for consumers to change behavior.

Officials argue that the initiative is not merely a technical solution but a



comprehensive tool for advancing the country's economic, environmental and social objectives in energy management.