

16th cold plasma clinic opened as AEOI eyes medical tech expansion

Economy Desk

Iran's 16th cold plasma-based wound treatment clinic opened Sunday in Firuzabad, Fars Province, in the presence of the vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

According to IRNA, wound treatment at Hazrat-e Qaem Hospital uses modern scientific methods and international equipment based on cold plasma technology. Devices used at the clinic feature the latest global technologies and were supplied and installed in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

Mohammad Eslami, the AEOI chief, said 1.5 million people across the country benefit from radiopharmaceutical services.

Eslami also inaugurated a cold plasma wound treatment clinic at Shohaday-e Khalij-e Fars Hospital in Bushehr on Saturday

morning, and another cold plasma clinic became operational in Bandar Ganaveh.

Speaking to reporters at the ceremony, he said, "Today the 14th and 15th cold plasma wound treatment centers in Bushehr Province are being inaugurated, which is an important step in developing novel medical services in the country," Mehr news agency reported.

Referring to the development of new technologies in chronic wound treatment, the vice president said the AEOI is active in the medical field across several areas using advanced technologies, and one area pursued with greater momentum over the past two years has been the use of plasma technology in treatment.

"In this framework, two areas have been activated in particular. First, cancer treatment, which with successful results is undergoing clinical stages and



Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami cites the Qur'an ahead of inaugurating the 16th cold plasma-based wound treatment clinic in Firuzabad, Fars Province, on February 15, 2026.

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will soon expand nationwide with cooperation of the Ministry of Health, and Medical Education," he said.

"The second area is chronic wound treatment. Many families face the problem of chronic wounds, especially diabetic foot ulcers, and fortunately with development of this technology, effective and promising results have been achieved."

With the expansion of facilities and capacity, authorities are seeking to turn the clinics into regional specialized hubs providing services to other areas as well, he added.

Referring to capacities in radia-



tion therapy and radiopharmaceuticals, Eslami said, "This field

is among novel treatment methods in the world and advanced

countries have also made extensive investment in it."

Agricultural exports hit \$8b, minister says



Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah said Sunday that agricultural exports reached \$8 billion as he reported a significant growth in the export of the country's agricultural products.

"Exports in this sector were \$5 billion last year, (which began on March 21, 2024). The \$3 billion growth in ex-

ports indicates new momentum in target markets and strengthening of trade diplomacy in the agricultural sector," Nouri-Qezeljah was quoted by Mehr news agency as saying on the sidelines of a meeting with provincial governors and agricultural officials from northern provinces in Sari.

The minister also stressed that a major portion of the country's food security has been secured via the

imports of essential goods and agricultural items.

"So far, \$16 billion worth of goods have been imported to meet the country's essential needs, which has played an important role in market regulation and supplying public necessities," Nouri-Qezeljah said.

"Currently, 85 percent of the country's food security by weight is supplied through domestic production and only 15 percent depends on imports. In terms of economic value as well, 80 percent of the country's food needs rely on domestic production and 20 percent is supplied through imports," he added.

Referring to earlier methods of securing agricultural inputs, the minister said, "In certain periods, the import of inputs was carried out through channels such as sailors, personal currency transfers and barter, but now a legal framework for broader use of the barter method has been provided."

"Despite this capacity being available to individuals, full utilization has not occurred and it is necessary to identify and remove its executive obstacles," he added.

Petchem chief urges refineries shift away from fuel focus



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Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Hassan Abbaszadeh on Sunday called on refineries to shift away from a focus on gasoline and diesel production.

"Globally about 70% of output is allocated to fuel products, while petrochemicals account for almost 45%, but in Iran refineries have remained primarily focused on fuel products," Abbaszadeh said at a ceremony to sign agreements related to energy conservation projects in Tehran, according to ISNA.

The official, who also serves as the head of the National Iranian Petrochemical Co., said a government policy to cut natural gas to petrochemical plants during the cold season to ensure gas flow to households had inflicted "economic losses" to the sector.

He called for measures to be taken including "cooperation and synergy among different sectors" to provide "better feedstock access" for the petrochemical industry.

Abbaszadeh described feedstock shortfall as "one of the biggest challenges" the petrochemical sector was facing. "Optimizing energy consumption is the simplest and most cost-effective solution for providing a stable supply of gas and feedstock for the industry," he said.

The official warned that petrochemical targets set in the country's Seventh Development Plan (SDP) running until 2029 would be unattainable unless consumption patterns were reformed. As an example, Abbaszadeh pointed to gas-fired power plants that waste such a "valuable resource" to generate electricity with "productivity below 30%." Under the SDP, the annual production capacity, which reached the milestone of 100 million tons earlier this month,



Head of the National Iranian Petrochemical Co. Hassan Abbaszadeh speaks at a ceremony to sign agreements related to energy conservation projects in Tehran on February 15, 2026.

● SHANA

must climb to 131 million tons in the next three years.

"Although the country possesses vast energy resources, full use of production capacity is not possible," Abbaszadeh said.

He cited inefficient consumption of resources and methods of using and distributing energy resources, including natural gas, as key reasons.

More than 20% of Iran's installed petrochemical capacity remain idle due to feedstock scarcity.

Abbaszadeh also told reporters separately that gas restrictions had been lifted since Friday, allowing petrochemical companies to use gas within defined capacity limits.

"About 98% of petrochemical production and supply capacity has returned to operation or is close to returning," he said.

He further said that exports of petrochemicals rose around 2% year-on-year, without giving a figure.

Meanwhile, Ali Rabani, NIPC energy consumption optimization manager, said at the same ceremony that the National Energy Optimization Campaign was continuing strongly, with about 300,000 families having joined so far. "In the field of energy consumption optimization, effective measures are being implemented. Registered energy consumption amounted to 1.7 billion cubic meters, and through coordination of headquarters and operational teams a target has been set to achieve 200 million cubic meters of energy savings this year," Rabani said.

Two major ports set to be built on Makoran Coast

Economy Desk

The head of Hormozgan's Ports and Maritime Department said plans are underway to build two new major ports along the Makoran coast and in the western part of the southern province.

"After completion of design and site-selection phases, two international ports in the Makoran region and Bandar Lengeh will be added to Iran's 15 major ports," Tasnim news agency quoted Hossein Abbasnejad as saying.

"The new Lengeh port has been designed in its first phase with an area of 300 hectares, expandable to 1,500 hectares, and will be capable of receiving 50,000-

ton vessels," Abbasnejad said.

"The Makoran port has been designed with 1,100 hectares of backland so that it will be able to receive mega-size vessels," he added. "Although port construction is a time-consuming and long-term process, after completion of the siting phases we hope to soon see the start of executive operations for these national projects."

Outlining the latest status of port infrastructure development in southern Iran and the country's largest coastal province, Abbasnejad said the project to connect 2,700 hectares of new land to the Shahid Rajaei Port area, which is underway via a strategic bridge, will



become operational in the first half of next year (starting March 21).

"With this achieved, the land area of this port will rise to 5,100 hectares and the logistics and backland capacities of the country's largest commercial port will double," he said.

"Shahid Rajaei Port cur-

rently handles the highest level of maritime traffic among all ports in the country, and all this traffic is conducted under precise supervision of the Vessel Traffic Service control section while observing the highest safety standards of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization."