

Minister says key terms of Russian gas trade deal agreed, finalization planned

Roadmap reviewed for power cooperation

Economy Desk

Negotiations on a gas trade agreement between Iran and Russia have advanced, with the two sides reaching agreement "on the main provisions of the final contract," Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Monday after meeting Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev in Tehran.

The two sides, he said, "are working to finalize the deal as soon as possible," IRNA reported.

"The ministers also reviewed progress on agreements reached at the 19th Iran-Russia Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, held in February, and assessed implementation of 146 items agreed by the two countries," Paknejad added.

The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and Russia's energy giant Gazprom signed a 30-year-long deal last June to transfer Russian gas to Iran.

Under this "strategic" agreement, Iran will receive up to 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year from Russia through a new pipeline that Moscow plans to build in the Caspian Sea.

Iranian officials have said that the Russian supply will help address domestic gas shortages, sustainably bolster the country's gas export capacity and turn Iran into a regional gas hub.

Iran holds the world's second-largest natural gas reserves after Russia, which amount to



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (R) shakes hands with Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev after a meeting in Tehran on July 13, 2026.
● MOJTABA MOHAMMADQOLI/SHANA

around 34 trillion cubic meters. Paknejad said expanding energy cooperation was one of the main topics of the talks.

The two sides discussed investment by Russian companies in Iran's oil and gas fields and developed solutions to address existing obstacles, with implementation of those measures now on the agenda.

On the sidelines of the meeting, NIGC chief Saeid Tavakkoli said the main terms and framework of the Iran-Russia gas trade contract had been finalized.

He said only two issues remained before the agreement could be signed by the two countries and expressed hope they would be resolved soon.

Tavakkoli said gas trade extended beyond the purchase and sale of gas to include swaps, transit, imports and exports, adding that all those options had been considered within the framework of cooperation between Iran and Russia.

For his part, Tsivilev said Tehran and Moscow had agreed to speed up efforts to remove obstacles facing cooperation between companies from the two countries.

"Despite the special circumstances and recent develop-



ments, the results of our joint cooperation in the energy sector have been satisfactory," Tsivilev said.

"We agreed that all issues and questions raised by Iranian and Russian companies will be followed up and resolved as quickly as possible," the Russia minister added.

He hoped that Paknejad would visit Moscow soon so that cooperation could continue at a faster pace.

Power cooperation

In a separate meeting on Monday, Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi and the Russian minister reviewed progress on

a roadmap for bilateral cooperation in the electricity sector, according to the Iranian Energy Ministry's news service.

The ministers discussed expanding cooperation on power grid interconnection, technology transfer, exports and imports of electricity equipment, construction of the Sirik power plant and the establishment of joint working groups to accelerate strategic projects.

They also reviewed the economic and political conditions for a proposed electricity grid connection linking Iran and Russia via Azerbaijan, based on economic studies conducted in 2019, and discussed forming a

trilateral working group involving the energy ministers of the three countries.

If conditions permit, the project could enable the transfer of limited amounts of electricity from southern Russia to Iran, particularly during the summer, the report said.

The ministers also discussed cooperation on gas turbine technology transfer, localization of parts manufacturing, construction of 765-kilovolt transmission lines, power grid modernization, high-voltage equipment supply, joint hydropower projects and the establishment of a carbon market to help address climate change.

Tehran opens beauty & clean expo with 160 firms in attendance

Economy Desk

The 33rd International Beauty & Clean exhibition opened in Tehran on Monday as industry officials said detergent supplies remained stable despite recent challenges facing manufacturers.

The four-day international fair on detergents, cosmetics, hygiene, cellulose products and related industries has brought together more than 160 Iranian and foreign companies to display the latest products, technologies and services, IRNA reported.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Alireza Kiani, head of the Iranian Detergent, Hygienic and Cosmetic Industries Association, said there was currently no shortage of detergent products in the country and that the market had stabilized.

Kiani said part of the industry's raw materials was supplied by Iran's petrochemical sector.

"What is fundamentally important for the detergent industry is continued access to raw materials, stability in foreign currency allocation and easier procurement processes so producers can plan their operations more effectively," he said.

"Despite the challenges and restrictions in recent months, particularly in foreign currency allocation and the supply of some raw materials, conditions have been managed over the past three months in a way that allowed producers to maintain production without any significant shortages. As a result, there is currently no shortage of detergent products in the country," Kiani added.

Iran's petrochemical sector was damaged during the 40-day US-Israeli war that began in late February. Air strikes over several days hit facilities in Mahshahr, in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, and in Assaluyeh, in the southern province of Bushehr, damaging installations at multiple companies in April. The Tabriz and Marvdasht petrochemical plants were also hit.

Kiani said the detergent industry, like many other manufacturing sectors in Iran, continued to face challenges, but said cooperation among manufacturers, the Industry Ministry, the Central Bank and other government bodies could help manage those issues with minimal cost. "The most important priority for companies in this industry is maintaining uninterrupted production, preventing shortages in the market and ensuring a stable supply for consumers," he said. "We hope this trend will continue strongly in the coming months."

Hormuz will shape ...

However, Washington appears to believe that maintaining a naval blockade while simultaneously carrying out military strikes against Iran would produce better results than launching another full-scale war. In that case, there would be no immediate need for a new military campaign. However, it remains to be seen in practice whether Trump's claim that the Strait of Hormuz remains open proves accurate.

If the Strait is indeed open and commercial vessels are able to move freely, that would represent a major achievement for Trump, and he would likely carry out further military operations to protect that outcome.

If not, Trump is likely to pursue different attacks and new military operations to achieve that objective, potentially extending even to attempts to carry out a limited occupation of Iranian islands.

Another possibility is that Iran and the United States continue with their current dual-track approach—keeping negotiations and military strikes running in parallel. However, this scenario is unlikely to last. Trump is not known for his patience, and if he fails to achieve results, he is likely to shift to another option. Experience has also shown that Iran does not yield under this type of military pressure or offer concessions.

Ultimately, the fate of the Strait of Hormuz will determine the future course of tensions and conflict between Iran and the US. Washington is likely to continue pursuing the parallel tracks of military action and negotiations initially. If that strategy fails to deliver the desired results, it may then turn to a third Israeli war against Iran alongside expanded US military operations targeting southern Iran and the Strait of Hormuz.

Aliabadi raps Khuzestan water attack as humanitarian violation



● FARS

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Iran condemned a US attack on a water pumping station in the southwestern province of Khuzestan early on Monday, with Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi calling the targeting of critical water and electricity infrastructure a violation of international humanitarian law. Aliabadi condemned the US strike on the RMD drainage pumping station in Hendijan, saying attacks on water and electricity facilities directly threatened public health, safety and people's lives. "Attacking water and electricity infra-

structure is a direct attack on people's health, security and lives," he said, as stated by the Energy Ministry's news service.

He said the facilities were vital civilian infrastructure that provided essential public services and urged the international community to respond firmly and responsibly to such actions.

Offering condolences over the death of an employee of the Khuzestan Water and Power Authority who was killed in the attack, Aliabadi said the incident showed that targeting critical infrastructure also endangered the lives of

public service workers and constituted "a clear violation of international humanitarian law."

He also referred to attacks on Iran's water and electricity infrastructure during the 40-day US-Israeli war that began in late February, saying water facilities, desalination plants in southern Iran, power plants and parts of the electricity grid were targeted. Despite the attacks, employees in the water and electricity sectors had maintained uninterrupted services, he said.

"The Energy Ministry and employees of the water and electricity sectors will continue providing services with full capacity and will not allow these actions to disrupt the stable supply of water and electricity to the public," Aliabadi said.

Separately, Iran's water industry spokesman Issa Bozorgzadeh said the attack on the RMD drainage pumping station in Hendijan had been intended to disrupt the operation of the vital facility.

Bozorgzadeh said employees of the water sector began working immediately after the incident to manage the situation, reduce the impact of the damage and ensure continued services.

Iran's dairy exports seen topping \$1.15b last calendar year

Economy Desk

Iran's dairy exports reached about \$960.3 million in the first 10 months of the last Iranian year (starting March 21, 2025), with full-year exports estimated to exceed \$1.15 billion if the pace remained unchanged in the final two months, the secretary of the Iranian Dairy Industries As-

sociation said on Monday. Reza Bakari said industrial milk powder accounted for the largest share of dairy exports while infant formula recorded the lowest export volume.

According to the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), dairy exports totaled 597,892 metric

tons worth \$960,305,860 during the first 10 months of the year, IRNA reported. Assuming exports continued at the same pace during the final two months of the year, total dairy exports are estimated at about 717,470 metric tons valued at more than \$1.152 billion, Bakari said. He said Iran's dairy industry received about 10.875 mil-

lion metric tons of raw milk from dairy farms during the year.

According to Bakari, about 2.927 million metric tons, or 27% of the raw milk received, was allocated to the production of dairy products destined for export, while the remaining 73% was used to produce dairy products for domestic consumption.

