

# Over \$1.5bn in Bonds to be Issued for Development of Joint Oil, Gas Fields



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Iranian parliament approved a legislation that grants the oil ministry permission to sell more than 1.5 billion dollars in bonds for the development projects of oil and gas fields shared with neighboring countries.

In an open session of the parliament on Saturday, the Iranian lawmakers approved an article of the budget bill

of the next Iranian year (which will begin on March 21).

By approving the article, the MPs gave permission to the oil ministry to issue \$1.543 billion in bonds for investment in the development projects of joint oil and gas fields.

Iran shares a number of oil and gas fields with its Arab neighbors in west and southwest.

The South Pars gas field located in the Persian Gulf straddling the maritime border between Iran and Qatar is one of the shared fields. Its development has been divided into 28 phases.

It is estimated that the Iranian section of the field contains 14 trillion cubic meters of gas and 18 billion barrels of condensates in place.

## BASF in Talks With Iran Over Oil Investment

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Germany's BASF, the country's largest producer of chemicals, says it is in talks with Iran over possible investments in the Iranian oil industry.

Kurt Bock, BASF's chief executive officer, told reporters in a news conference that his company was examining business opportunities in the Islamic Republic after being courted by Iran's oil officials.

"We are trying to assess whether it's possible for our oil and gas business to gain a foothold in Iran. We have been invited by the national authorities. The evaluation process is ongoing," Reuters quoted the official as saying.

Wintershall, a wholly owned subsidiary of BASF and the largest crude oil and natural gas producer in Germany, announced last year that it had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to study four onshore oil fields in western Iran.

On Monday, the NIOC chief Ali Kardor acknowledged that discussions were underway with Wintershall over four Iranian projects, stressing that a deal with the company could be reached in the near future.

There had also been reports that BASF was considering an

investment of \$12 billion in the Iranian petrochemical sector.

Bock, however, told reporters in Ludwigshafen that the giant chemical group was not planning to extend its Iran investment plans to downstream petrochemical processing plants.

The officials also emphasized that a final decision by BASF to proceed with an Iran investment plan would depend on the final status of economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

"We can't see that the lifting of sanctions is being implemented at the speed that was initially expected," Bock told reporters after the release of BASF's 2016 earnings.

## Iran Joins French Automakers' Spare Parts Supply Chain

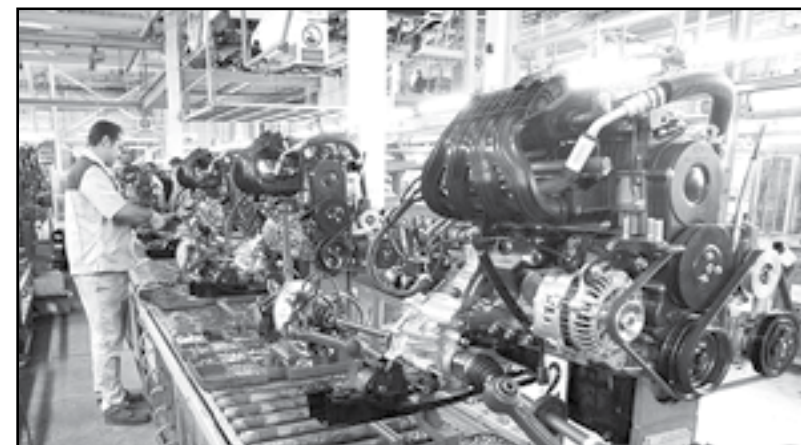
TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran's RISECO and MECAPLAST of France have signed a joint venture that enables Iran to export 30 percent of auto spare parts to be exported under a joint venture contract.

Chairman of RISECO Board of Directors Hamidreza Samadi said that MECAPLAST is one the biggest spare parts suppliers of France.

Speaking at a ceremony, Samadi pointed to thirty-percent exports of products, and said, "This condition has been set by Iran's request since our activities are not supposed to be restricted to Iran's borders but beyond the borders."

Iranian Ambassador to France Ali Ahani also referred to producing highly standardized car parts in Iran as one of the advantages of the recent contract.

The Chief Executive Officer



(CEO) of MECAPLAST Pierre Boulet, meantime, pointed to the suitable and considerable infrastructures of Iran spare parts industry, and said, "During previous years MECAPLAST products were exported to Iran through establishing cooperation with Renault and

Peugeot. "After lifting sanctions and the implementation of Iran nuclear deal also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), we are trying to make Iran as one of MECAPLAST's exports hub," he said.

## IME Weekly Trade Exceeds \$200mn



TEHRAN (Fars) - The Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) on Saturday announced that around \$207mn of various commodities weighting over 372,058 tons were traded in its domestic trading and exports halls in the past working

week (February 18-23).

The IME said that over 285,013 tons of various oil and petrochemical products, including 102,395 tons of bitumen, 51,585 tons of polymer products, 59,000 tons of VB feed stock, 26,500 tons of lube cut-oil,

23,833 tons of chemical products, 19,100 tons of sulfur and 600 tons of insulation, 2,000 tons of slap waxes with the total value of \$139.7mln were traded in its domestic and exports halls during the last week.

Moreover, 25,011 tons of various commodities, 9,750 tons of wheat, 1,450 tons of sugar, 6,905 tons of maize, 700 tons of frozen chicken and 6,200 tons of crude vegetable oil, 6 tons of feed barley and 4 kg of saffron with total worth of \$13.3mln were traded by the customers in the agricultural trading hall of IME in last week.

Also, 60,673 tons of metal and mineral products, including, 46,707 tons of steel products, 13,160 tons of copper, 680 tons of aluminum and 120 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 6 tons of precious metal concentrates as well as 10 kg of gold with the total value of 53.8mln were traded in the IME domestic and exports halls in the last week.

## 24mn Barrels of Gas Condensates Exported To Europe, Asia

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran exported 24 million barrels of gas condensates to the European and Asian countries in January.

"Following removal of the international sanctions, the exports volume of Iran's crude oil and gas condensate has climbed from 1.2 to over 2.8 million barrels per day," Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Ali Kardor announced on Saturday.

Kardor said that the Asian states presently remain as largest customers of Iran's gas condensate though delivery of a one-million-barrel cargo to the British Petroleum (BP) has added the name of European firms to the list of the eager purchasers.



Iran announced in December that it was already expanding the market for its condensate – which can be used to make both fuel and plastic.

Managing Director of South Pars Gas Complex Masoud Hassani said at the time that the country had sent its first cargo of one million barrels of condensate to Europe.

## NIOC Chief: Iran to Overtake Qatar in South Pars

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Ali Kardor announced on Saturday that Iran is doing its best to overtake Qatar in extraction of gas from the shared South Pars gas field.

"Iran will launch several major

phases of the huge South Pars gas field project in the Persian Gulf by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (ends March 20, 2017) so that the country's gas production will surpass that of Qatar," Kardor said.

Kardor said that Iran's current gas

output from South Pars gas field stands at 430 million cubic meters per day, adding, "To develop the gas field \$55 billion has been spent and the company needs an extra \$11 billion of investment for the completion of remaining phases of the field."

## Canadian Market Suffers Worst Loss in Five Months

TORONTO (Xinhua) -- Canada's main stock market in Toronto closed the week with its largest single-day decline in five months, as losses in Energy and Financial sectors contributed.

The Toronto Stock Exchange's benchmark Standard & Poor's/TSX Composite plunged 247.73 points, or 1.57 percent, to close the week at 15,533.47 points. All ten sub-groups lost ground.

After reaching an all-time high on Tuesday, the TSX has fallen three straight sessions. Friday's loss was the steepest single-day decline since Sept. 13, 2016 when the index fell 248.04 points.

The energy and financial groups, which accounts for a combined

55 percent of the index, had the biggest influence on the day's result, dipping 3.20 percent and 1.41 percent, respectively.

The TSX energy group was hit hard as all of the top-10 group members saw declines. Suncor Energy Inc., the largest constituent in the group, dipped 3.76 percent to close the day at 41.24 Canadian dollars (31.46 U.S. dollars). Meanwhile, Calgary-based Husky Energy Inc. shares slumped 5.49 percent to 15.50 Canadian dollars (11.82 U.S. dollars) after reporting an 8.4 percent decline in oil production compared to 2015.

Top-10 members Crescent Point Energy Corp. and ARC Resources Ltd. also lost ground on the day,

slipping 4.70 percent and 4.62 percent, respectively.

The story was the same for the financials group, as all of the top-ten members finished the day lower. Shares of Royal Bank of Canada, the country's largest bank by market capitalization, retreated 1.68 percent to 96.61 Canadian dollars (73.69 U.S. dollars) despite the firm reporting a 24 percent increase in net income compared to the same period last year.

Also contributing to the group's demise were Toronto-Dominion Bank (1.33 percent decline), Bank of Montreal (1.69 percent decline), and Manulife Financial Corporation (2.01 percent decline).