

Eurasia Expo 2025 Kicks Off in Tehran



President Pezeshkian visits the third Eurasia Expo 2025 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Friday.

TEHRAN – The 3rd Exhibition of Eurasia Expo 2025 inaugurated at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Friday.

In addition to Iranian companies, companies from five countries, Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Belarus, are also participating in this prestigious exhibition.

Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) Muhammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi pointed to the significance of organizing the international exhibition of Eurasia, saying that Eur-

asian member states, especially Russia, have highly welcomed the exhibition.

President Masoud Pezeshkian visited the third Eurasia Expo 2025, currently being held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

The event, which aims to bolster trade and economic cooperation among Eurasian countries and beyond, features participation from over 100 Iranian companies and business delegations from Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Belarus.

Accompanied by a high-level delegation, President Pezeshkian visited various booths and talked with industry managers and experts during his visit on Friday. He emphasized the critical role of expanding trade interactions with Eurasian countries, highlighting the exhibition as a significant platform to enhance Iran's economic ties with the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Eurasia Expo 2025 is a key trade and economic event that fosters collaboration and partnerships among participating countries.

Iran to Connect All 20-Household Villages to Broadband by 2028

TEHRAN - An advisor to Iran's telecoms minister says all villages in the country with a population of more than 20 households will be connected to broadband internet in the next three years.

Nik MUhammad Baluchzahi, said that some 10,000 villages, from a total of 39,645 villages with more than 20 households in Iran, are still without access to broadband internet.

Baluchzahi said all those remaining villages will be connected to Iran's broadband network by the end of a five-year vision plan that ends in 2028.

He said that the target is part of a government program to create justice in communication across Iran.

Telecoms ministry authorities under a previous administration said in April 2023 that more than 91% of Iranian villages with a population of over 20 households had been connected to high-speed internet via the country's National Information Network.

Many of the villages that have been connected to high-speed internet are located in Iran's hard-to-reach areas, making it more difficult and more expensive for the government to supply the infra-

structure needed for the network.

Iran has one of the highest broadband internet penetration rates in the West Asia region with figures provided by the country's telecoms regulator showing that the rate has reached nearly 140%.

However, despite a rapid expansion of mobile internet services in Iran, the country has been struggling to improve its fixed broadband infrastructure in recent years.

The Iranian telecoms ministry is working on a plan to provide optic fiber broadband to some 20 million customers across the country in the coming years.

South Pars Injects Over 180 bcm of Gas to National Grid

TEHRAN – The deputy of Site 2 at the South Pars Gas Complex Hasan As'adi has announced that from the beginning of this year (March 20, 2024) until the end of Bahman (February 18, 2025), over 182 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas has been sent from the South Pars Gas Complex to the national grid for domestic consumption.

As'adi, during a visit by members of the Parliamentary Special Committee for Supporting Production and Implementing Article 44 of the Constitution to various units of the fifth refinery, stated that projects to reduce flare gas emissions and sulfur dioxide, based on a cabinet resolution, have been assigned to the South Pars Gas Complex in the form of three projects.

As'adi emphasized that a one-year short-term project for procurement and implementation is underway, and refineries one through ten have held tenders for flare gas reduction, with domestic contractors already selected.

The deputy of Site 2 at the South Pars Gas Complex added that in 1401 (2022), flare gas reduction at 12 South Pars refineries was recorded at 8.7 million cubic meters per day.

He noted that the National Iranian Gas Company's share of flare gas reduction accounts for 19% of the total flare gas reduction in the country. He expressed hope that through significant measures and precise implementation of plans, flare gas reduction would reach 5.3 million cubic meters by the end of this year and further decrease to 3 million cubic meters per day by 2025 across the 12 refineries in the complex.

As'adi highlighted that through the efforts of specialists and staff across the South Pars refineries in 2023, production increased by 2 billion cubic meters compared to the same period last year. This increase is equivalent



to three days of the country's total gas consumption during winter.

The deputy of Site 2 at the South Pars Gas Complex stated that over the past three years, the complex has led the way in supporting first-time builders and knowledge-based companies, representing the National Iranian Gas Company, by awarding the highest share of projects to domestic builders, first-time contractors, and knowledge-based firms, as well as utilizing domestic products. The complex has been a pioneer in this area within the Ministry of Oil.

As'adi pointed out seven key strategic products of the South Pars Gas Complex, including the daily production of over 595 million cubic meters of sweet gas. Since the beginning of this year, more than 182 billion cubic meters of sweet gas have been sent from South Pars refineries to the national grid, providing warmth to households during the cold season.

He also mentioned that ethane, another product of the complex, supplies about 45% of the feedstock for petrochemical plants in the South Pars region. Other products include propane and butane, which have high added value for the country and are

exported daily.

As'adi highlighted the production of gas condensate at the refineries of the complex, noting that over 710,000 barrels of gas condensate are produced daily across 13 refineries. This production fully supplies the feedstock for the Persian Gulf Star Refinery and the Nouri (Borzuyeh) Petrochemical Plant.

As'adi added that another strategic product of the complex is odorant, which is produced and operated at the first refinery by skilled domestic specialists. The natural gas odorant production unit is the only one of its kind in the Middle East and one of the few globally. The produced odorant, used in gas pipelines and considered a strategic industrial material, has been localized by capable domestic experts, breaking the monopoly of other countries.

The official emphasized that, thanks to the round-the-clock efforts of specialists at the first refinery and the support of the National Iranian Gas Company's coordination and production supervision management, current production has reached approximately 550 tons per year after numerous technical measures.

CEO: Development of Arvand Field a Step Toward Boosting Oil Production

TEHRAN – The CEO of Arvand Oil and Gas Company Abdollah Azari-Ahvazi has announced the signing of a \$50 million contract with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology to address extraction challenges and indigenize hydraulic fracturing technologies, marking the beginning of operational efforts to extract oil from the Arvand field.

Abdollah Azari-Ahvazi said that practical steps have begun to extract oil from the Arvand oil field, which has an estimated 1 billion barrels of in-place reserves. He noted that extracting even 10% of these reserves would be significant.

Ahvazi mentioned that three wells have been completed in the field, and a fourth is underway. However, he acknowledged that there are challenges in extracting oil from the field, which is why the company signed a contract with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology a few months ago to indigenize and develop hydraulic fracturing technologies.

The CEO of Arvand Oil and Gas Com-



pany said preparations are underway to install a drilling rig in the field, which has not seen any development work until now. This will be the first time such work is done in the field.

Azari-Ahvazi highlighted the importance of the Arvand field, which is shared with Iraq and contains light crude oil. He also mentioned that an exploratory well is being drilled in the field, which could help meet some of the needs of the

nearby Abadan refinery if it becomes operational.

The meeting, attended by members of the parliamentary energy committee, Hamid Bovard, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company, Muhammad-Sadeq Azimifar, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, and other local officials, aimed to discuss issues related to the oil and energy sector in the region.

French Business Activity Unexpectedly Sinks to Lowest Since 2023

PARIS (Bloomberg) - Private-sector business activity in France unexpectedly slumped to its lowest level since 2023 as a prolonged political crisis weighs on the euro zone's No. 2 economy. S&P Global's Composite Purchasing Managers' Index plunged to 44.5, from 47.6, remaining lodged well below the 50 threshold separating growth from contraction, data Friday showed. Analysts had anticipated an improvement to 48 and none of the 15 polled fore-saw such a low reading.

A PMI figure of below 50 indicates a contraction in the sector in question, whereas a number over 50 points towards growth. As such, the French manufacturing sector was still in contraction in February, mainly because of ongoing



slow demand and new orders lagging compared to January. However, this was also the mildest fall in the sector since May 2024.

Increasing input costs weighed on the sector as well, further dampening the overall

outlook, with widespread layoffs continuing too.

The flash estimate for France's HCOB Services PMI came in at 44.5 in February, down from 48.2 in January, while also being significantly below market estimates of 48.9.

Energy Ministry Opens Modern Monitoring Center for Power Plants

TEHRAN - The Iranian Energy Ministry has opened the first intelligent center for monitoring the performance of its power plants.

The Intelligent Power Plant Condition Monitoring Center was opened at Shariati Combined Cycle Power Plant in Iran's second-largest city of Mashhad.

The semi-official ILNA news agency said in a report that the launch of the center would be a major step toward efficiency in the Iranian electricity generation sector.

It said technicians and scientists from the Sharif University of Technology had been involved in the design and launch of the new facility.

The center will mainly focus on the online monitoring of turbines in power plants, helping technicians and managers to speed up their decision-making process, especially before potential malfunctions, the report said.

It added that the new system will also improve cyber security at Iranian power plants while helping boost efficiency through the use of artificial intelligence in analyzing big data.

Iran hopes modernizing its electricity sector could lead to more reliability in its power grid.

Experts say aging equipment in Iran's thermal power plants has contributed to power cuts in the country

in recent months. They say that the lack of modern technologies has also inflicted major operational costs on the state electricity company Tavanir.

Deputy president for science and technology Hossein Afshin hailed the launch of the first intelligent monitoring center in power plants in Iran as a sign that domestic companies are becoming increasingly involved in the country's massive energy sector.

He said that the Pasargad Energy Development Company, which has been responsible for the project, has also contributed to similar schemes in Iran's petroleum sector.