

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iran's Vital Role in the Global Gas Market

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran, which possess the world's second largest natural gas reserves, recently hosted the 26th ministerial meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) as part of its drive to promote clean energy worldwide.

Global demand for natural gas has risen by 70 percent since the setting of the GECF in 2001 as more countries turn to clean energy sources free of carbon emissions polluting the Earth's atmosphere, water resources, and crops, resulting in the spread of hitherto new diseases.

The Tehran meeting, attended by all 12 members countries and the 8 observer states, discussed various issues of cooperation, noting that the GECF members together control over 71 percent of the world's natural proven gas reserves, 44 percent of its marketed production, 53 percent of the pipelines, and 57 percent of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports across the globe.

Headquartered in the Qatari capital Doha, GECF has a bright future. Experts addressing the meeting predicted that global natural gas consumption would see a further 34-percent increase by the year 2050, with Russia, Iran, Qatar, and Turkmenistan playing the leading roles.

The Islamic Republic of Iran with its strategic geopolitical location and accounting for 34 trillion cubic meters, or about 17.8 percent of the world's total natural gas reserves, plays a vital role.

Despite years of sanctions, Iran has made significant progress in expanding its gas sector. It currently produces 275 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually. Gas accounts for more than 70 percent of its energy consumption.

The Islamic Republic in addition to its extensive nationwide network of gas pipelines serving almost all cities, towns, and even villages, has pipeline connections to Turkiye, Turkmenistan, Iraq, and Armenia, while the long mooted 'peace pipeline' to the Sub-continent lies dormant.

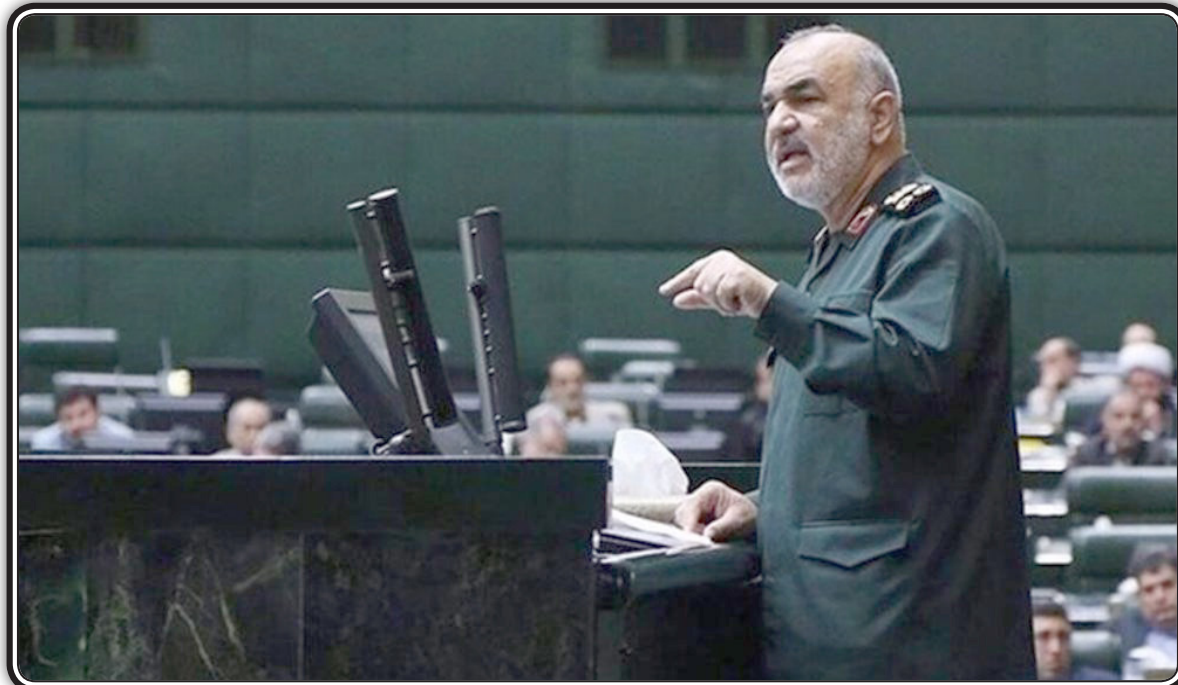
Initially it were the political differences between Pakistan and India that stalled Iran's gas exports to the east, and now Islamabad's hesitancy to import because of undue US pressures, despite Tehran's goodwill in laying the pipeline right up to its borders with its eastern neighbor.

Anyway, Iran continues to export liquefied natural gas in bulk quantity via ships to other countries, indicating its important role in gas diplomacy in order to guarantee its national interests and the interests of the importing countries.

Presently, China is the largest consumer of natural gas in the region with around 405 billion cubic meters, followed by Japan with a consumption of around 92.4 billion cubic meters. The Asia-Pacific region's gas consumption may total 1.6 trillion cubic meters by 2050.

Participants also reviewed the fallout from political developments adversely affecting natural gas exports because of the NATO war against Russia in Ukraine, as well as Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza, the fragile truce in the Zionist war on Lebanon, and the instability in Syria following collapse of the 54-year rule of the al-Assad family.

IRGC Chief: Enemies' Interests in Our Crosshairs



IRGC chief Major General Hussein Salami addresses parliament in Tehran on Tuesday.

TEHRAN - The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hussein Salami says Iran is vigorously pursuing the downfall of the occupying Zionist regime, stressing that Iranian Armed Forces have the enemies' strategic and vital interests in West Asia in the crosshairs.

General Salami made the remarks on Tuesday as he attended a closed-door briefing session at the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) on Tuesday over the situation in Syria, after militants, led by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), seized the capital Damascus and declared the end of President Bashar al-Assad's 24-year rule.

Briefing reporters after the session, the spokesperson for the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, Ebrahim Rezaei, said the IRGC

chief provided an in-depth analysis of the status quo in West Asia, stating, "Our sphere of power and influence has not shrunk, and our military might has not suffered a setback at all."

Salami also stressed that attempts aimed at the downfall of the Zionist regime remain high on the Islamic Republic's agenda, praising the influential role of the late top Iranian anti-terror commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, in the elimination of the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group, Rezaei added.

The IRGC chief also underscored that forces within the Axis of Resistance have gained self-sufficiency in developing various types of munitions and military hardware, the Iranian legislator pointed out.

Moreover, Ahmad Naderi, a member of the presiding board of Iran's parliament, said the closed-

door briefing session mainly touched upon Iran's military strategies in the region, Zionist offensives and how to confront them, as well as the security, intelligence and military status of West Asia.

The session also dealt with the collapse of Assad's government, possible regional developments in the future. It was underscored that Iranian military advisors were present in Syria until the last moments of the former government, but none is current deployed to the Arab nation now, Naderi said.

Militants waged a surprise two-pronged attack on Syria's Aleppo and the countryside around Idlib on November 27.

Soon afterward, they seized control of several major Syrian cities, including Hama, Homs, Dara'a, and Suwayda, before entering the capital Damascus on December 8.

FM Araghchi: Iran Open to Cooperation With IAEA

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has voiced Tehran's readiness for constructive cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency within the framework of the defined technical framework.

In a telephone conversation on Monday, Araghchi and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi discussed the course of cooperation between Tehran and the UN nuclear agency under the safeguard's agreement.

Araghchi strongly criticized the unconstructive moves by certain members of the IAEA's Board of Governors, which he said have hindered the director general's efforts to make progress in resolving the safeguard issues, the Foreign Ministry's website reported.

The foreign minister stated that

Iran remains committed to constructive technical cooperation with the IAEA.

Grossi, for his part, reaffirmed the IAEA's resolve to engage seriously with Iran and noted that he had been consulting with the other parties to create an environment conducive to resolving the issues that exist in the talks.

In a letter sent to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and President of the UN Security Council Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Amir Saeed Iravani has warned that any threats to invoke the so-called "snapback" of sanctions against Iran, as part of a 2015 nuclear deal signed between the country and world powers, are counterproductive and will pro-

voke a firm response from Iran.

Iravani said Iran remains unwavering in its commitment to its obligations under the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), which unequivocally guarantees the inalienable right of all States Parties to develop, research, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in full conformity with Articles I and II.

"Iran will never compromise its legitimate and inalienable rights under the Treaty," he said, adding, "Consequently, any threats to invoke the so-called 'snapback' are counterproductive and will provoke a firm response from Iran. This position was explicitly conveyed by the then Iran's President in a letter addressed to the leaders of the E3 on 8 May 2019."

Air Pollution Closes Schools, Universities, Offices in Tehran

TEHRAN - Due to persistent air pollution, schools, universities, and government offices in Tehran Province, except for Damavand and Firouzkouh counties, will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday.

This closure includes public and private institutions, except for banks and essential health and service centers, according to the Deputy for Urban Affairs of Tehran Province governor.

This comes as the Meteorological Organization issued an

orange-level warning for worsening air pollution, predicting unhealthy air quality in eight cities, including the capital Tehran.

The agency cautioned that without controlling pollution sources, air quality may reach hazardous levels.

The stagnant atmospheric conditions forecast for Wednesday and Thursday will lead to increased pollution in major cities such as Tehran, Isfahan, Arak, Tabriz, Urmia, Qazvin, Karaj, and Qom.

This situation is expected to result in unhealthy air for all population groups.

In high-traffic areas, pollution indices could escalate to dangerous levels if emissions from stationary and mobile sources are not mitigated.

Authorities urge residents to minimize outdoor activities and take necessary precautions to safeguard their health during this period of deteriorating air quality.

The Holy Qur'an



If one amongst the Pagans ask thee for asylum, grant it to him, so that he may hear the word of Allah. And then escort him to where he can be secure. That is because they are men without knowledge.

The Holy Qur'an (9:6)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:58
Evening (Maghreb)	17:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	07:04
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:34

Iran Reiterates Support for Syria's Territorial Integrity

TEHRAN - The Iranian Government spokeswoman has affirmed Tehran's respect for Syria's unity and territorial integrity.

Fatemeh Mohajerani made the remarks while speaking to reporters at her weekly press briefing on Tuesday.

The regime change occurred in Syria as the country's army was weak in countering the armed groups, adding that Iran wishes the best for the Syrian people, Mohajerani noted.

Tehran and Damascus enjoy many cultural commonalities, the spokeswoman said, expressing hope that whatever happens in Syria would be of benefit to its nation.

Asked about the Iranian government's stance on developments in Syria, Mohajerani said Tehran observes the events in the country and added that Iran's national interests are of paramount importance.

Defending the holy sites, preserving diplomatic places, and respecting individuals are among Iran's considerations, she stressed.

'12th Int'l Aviation, Aerospace Exhibition' Opens on Kish Island

TEHRAN - The 12th International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition of Iran has commenced on Kish Island, southern Iran, inaugurated by Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, alongside other military and industrial officials.

The event opened on Tuesday with the presence of Air Force Commander Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi, the head of the Defense Ministry's Aviation Industry Organization Brigadier General Afshin Khajeh-Fard, and head of the Civil Aviation Organization Siavash Pourfarzaneh.

Running from December 10 to 13, 2024, the exhibition is the largest gathering in Iran's aviation and aerospace sector.

It brings together domestic and international companies, research centers, aerospace faculties, and knowledge-based companies.