

# NIOC Awards Nearly \$1bn Worth of Gas Contracts to Domestic Companies



TEHRAN — A contract to develop the Gouran and Pazan gas fields was signed between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and three domestic companies on the final day of

the 29th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining, and Petrochemical Exhibition.

The 20-year contract, worth \$948 million, was signed Sunday between NIOC and a con-

sortium comprising Bakhtar Group, Petro Farhang Holding, and Energy Gostar Hana. The agreement aims to maximize gas extraction, create jobs in underdeveloped regions, and ensure a stable supply of feedstock for southern refineries.

Estimates indicate the project will produce 179.5 billion cubic meters of gas and 58.19 million barrels of gas condensates over its duration.

The 29th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining, and Petrochemical Exhibition began May 8 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds and concluded Sunday.

## Ministry Reports Over 10% Rise in Domestic Wheat Purchases

TEHRAN — Iran's wheat purchases from domestic farmers have increased by more than 10% in the current harvesting season, according to figures by the country's agriculture ministry (MAJ).

MAJ's wheat contractor Sohrab Sohrabi said on Saturday that some 1.514 million metric tons (mt) of wheat had been purchased from farmers since April, when the crop was ready for harvest in several provinces in southern Iran.

Sohrabi said the figure was an increase of 10.5% from the same period last year, adding that the wheat crop has been collected from 0.511 million hectares of land across Iran, including from 28,000 hectares of dryland farms.

He said that the value of the wheat crop purchased from Iranian farmers has topped 310 trillion rials (\$387 million), adding that more than 1.1 million mt of this year's wheat purchases have come from the



province of Khuzestan, a major grain production center in the southwest of the country.

Iran buys wheat from farmers under a guaranteed purchase program, which has set a fixed price of 205,000 rials (\$0.25) per kilogram this harvesting season.

The country reported a bumper wheat crop last year as total output surpassed 16 million mt, with the government paying the equivalent of more than \$3 billion for some 12 million mt of purchases.

However, authorities expect the harvest to drop this year amid lower planting and poorer weather conditions.

Sohrabi said that the MAJ expects this year's wheat production to fall to 12 million mt, adding that government purchases could amount to 9 million mt by the end of the harvesting season in September.

Experts say Iran would need to import up to 6 million mt of wheat in the calendar year to late March to respond to the rising demand for the grain.

## IRGC Commander Puts Iran's Share in Arash Field at 40%

TEHRAN — A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says that Iran's share of a gas field in the Persian Gulf, which straddles the undemarcated borders with Kuwait, is around 40%.

Brigadier General Abdorreza Abed, who leads the IRGC's construction arm, said on Saturday that Iran is waiting for the conclusion of diplomatic efforts with neighboring Kuwait to start development works at Arash gas field, which is known in Kuwait as Durra.

"Iran's share in the Arash field, which is more or less than 40%, should be secured ... so that production can start in the field," Abed said, according to remarks carried by the state TV.

The remarks come nearly three years after Iran reacted to reports that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had agreed to develop the Arash gas field without considering a share for Iran.



Tehran moved one of its production platforms to waters hosting the field in early 2022 and said it would start drilling if Kuwait does not respect its rights to the reservoir.

Some expert reports suggest that more than 70% of the resources of the disputed gas field, which is believed to contain up to 60 trillion cubic feet (1.7 trillion cubic meters) of gas, lie in waters claimed by Iran under the maritime border

dispute with Kuwait.

Abed rejected Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's claims that they have exclusive rights in the field, saying the reservoir is a joint one and Iran does have a share in it.

He said the IRGC's construction arm, as a major contractor working in petroleum projects in Iran, would continue to pursue the case as he insisted that Kuwait has not yet launched a full-scale project to develop the field.

## Iran, Russia to Finalize Maritime Transport Consortium at Makhachkala Summit

TEHRAN — Iran and Russia will hold a joint meeting at the Port of Makhachkala within two months to finalize plans for a bilateral maritime transport consortium aimed at boosting trade across the Caspian Sea.

Iran and Russia have agreed to convene a high-level meeting at the Russian port of Makhachkala in the next two months to operationalize a joint maritime transport consortium, according to PMO News.

The decision was made following a phone conversation between Saeed Rasouli, Iran's Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development and Head of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), and Dmitry Azarov, Russia's Deputy Minister of Transport.

The upcoming session will include senior officials from both countries' maritime authorities, private sector

stakeholders, and representatives from Russia's Federal Sea and River Transport Agency.

The initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen shipping routes across the Caspian Sea.

It follows the Joint Action Plan for Transport Cooperation signed on 18 February 2025 in Tehran and builds on commitments made at the recent Iran-Russia Joint Commission meeting in Moscow.

Rasouli underscored the need to expand multimodal transport along the Caspian, with a focus on container shipping via northern Iranian and Russian ports.

He stated that both countries aim to activate all available routes along the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

He called for immediate implementation of the maritime consortium and emphasized the need for private sector

participation.

Rasouli highlighted the importance of harmonizing port tariffs, streamlining customs procedures, and facilitating cargo movement across the Caspian through closer operational alignment.

He said the PMO is ready to help draft a comprehensive maritime roadmap and execute the Joint Action Plan, stressing the strategic value of non-state actors in maximizing the corridor's logistics capacity.

Azarov welcomed Iran's proposals and affirmed Russia's support in addressing key operational challenges such as vessel scheduling and the management of sensitive and perishable goods.

He reiterated the Russian Transport Ministry's commitment to establishing a wide-ranging maritime and port cooperation framework with Iran.

## Tajikistan to Invest in Logistics Terminal at Chabahar Port

TEHRAN — Tajikistan plans to establish a logistics terminal at Iran's Chabahar Port to boost regional transit and maritime cooperation, following high-level discussions in Tehran.

Tajik Deputy Transport Minister Shaista Saidmurodzoda met with Iran's Deputy Roads and Urban Development Minister and Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) chief Saeed Rasouli during a recent visit to Tehran, according to website.

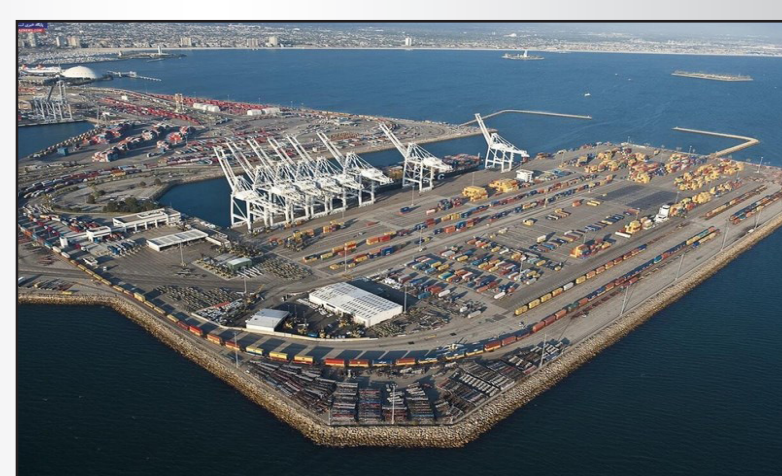
Saidmurodzoda confirmed Dushanbe's interest in deepening economic ties with Iran and outlined plans for investment in Chabahar Port's logistics infrastructure.

She said trade volumes between the two countries were growing and described Chabahar as a potential maritime gateway for Tajikistan's international cargo movement.

A Tajik investor delegation visited the Shahid Beheshti terminal to assess facilities and discuss potential cooperation in maritime transport, transit corridors, and port development.

Rasouli welcomed Tajikistan's interest and reiterated Iran's strategy to enhance regional connectivity through investment in transport infrastructure.

He said the scale and timeline of Tajikistan's involvement would be



based on the commercial proposal submitted.

"The Iranian government supports creating a regional logistics value chain, and Chabahar's location is central to that vision," Rasouli stated.

He added that Iran's legal framework enables both foreign and domestic investment and pledged full facilitation through PMO for the project's implementation.

Ghasem Asgari-Nasab, Director General of Ports and Maritime Affairs of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, also met with the Tajik delegation.

He emphasized Iran's readiness to host foreign investors and noted Chabahar's infrastructure was designed to support large-scale logistics initiatives.

"Chabahar is undergoing major development to become a regional logistics hub," Asgari-Nasab said.

The Tajik delegation was led by Seydou Mavin, Director of the State Institute of Transport and Logistics.

Mavin praised the port's infrastructure and said Chabahar held strategic value for regional trade connectivity.

Talks between both sides focused on maritime cooperation, logistics infrastructure, and facilitating trade routes for landlocked Central Asian nations.

Asgari-Nasab reiterated Iran's commitment to economic integration across the region and highlighted Chabahar's role in providing secure access to international waters.

## Kerman Produces 8,000 MW of Solar Energy



said.

"After that we received many requests that were sent to Kerman province through various investors. Some of these requests were related to large economic enterprises in the province and had some requirements for the production of renewable energy," he added.

"Kerman is one of the provinces that has favorable conditions in terms of solar radiation," Talebi underlined.

In relevant remarks in April, Iranian Vice-President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy Hussein Afshin had underlined efforts to produce 30,000 MW of solar energy relying on domestic capability and indigenization and development of silicon chain technology.

in Kerman province, we initially targeted the production of 2,000 MW of solar energy and, through the formation of a headquarters and an operational committee under that headquarters, we considered the development of solar power plants," Muhammad Ali Talebi, the governor of Kerman

TEHRAN — Iran's southern province of Kerman produces more electricity than it consumes in electricity production and combined cycle power plants and also contributes to national dispatching.

"In the field of solar energy, given the good conditions and capacities that existed