# Tehran, Baghdad Stress Resolving Gas Export, Payment Issues

*Iran's Petroleum Minister Mohsen Paknejad*

TEHRAN – **Iran's Petroleum Minister Mohsen Paknejad has emphasized resolving gas export and payment issues during a meeting with Iraq's electricity minister, expressing optimism that both matters will soon be settled.**

Speaking on Saturday on the sidelines of a meeting with Iraqi Electricity Minister Ziad Fadhil and his accompanying delegation, Paknejad said the two countries had made progress on their gas export agreement, which involves supplying power plants in Iraq via the Shalamcheh and Naftshahr border crossings.

"There were discussions about the volume of exported gas, and fortunately, we reached a consensus," Paknejad told Shana news agency. "We also achieved positive outcomes regarding the payments owed to us for previous gas exports, and we expect both the volume and financial issues to be resolved soon."

He described the meeting atmosphere as positive and thanked the Iraqi minister, his team, and the Iraqi people for their hospitality toward Iranian pilgrims traveling to Iraq for religious visits and the annual Arbaeen pilgrimage.

Paknejad added that Iraq's electricity minister pledged to make every effort to ensure favorable conditions for Iranian pilgrims.

Paknejad also rejected claims by foreign media that more than 40 million barrels of Iranian oil are stranded at sea, calling the reports baseless.

"We fundamentally have no oil that we are unable to sell," Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said, responding to recent reports from outlets including Bloomberg and S&P Global's Platts suggesting a significant stockpile of unsold Iranian crude.

"These reports are inaccurate," he said. "In oil sales, we may delay or relocate shipments based on market dynamics, but that is a strategic decision—not because we lack buyers."

Addressing concerns about the impact of the recent 12-day conflict on domestic fuel supply, Paknejad said Iran successfully managed a surge in gasoline distribution, reaching up to 200 million liters per day. "It was handled through proper planning, thanks to divine support and the efforts of our colleagues in the sector," he said.

According to ILNA, recent international reports claimed Iran is struggling to sell oil to China due to a sharp buildup of crude inventories both onshore and offshore. The reports linked the situation to falling prices and heavy discounts on Iranian oil—claims the oil minister firmly denied.

# *Energy Ministry Launches Three Solar Power Plants in South Khorasan Province*

TEHRAN – **An official of Iran energy ministry on Saturday announced that the three new solar power plants inaugurated in South Khorasan Province.**

Deputy Director of Investment of the Renewable Energy and Electricity Efficiency Organization Jafar Muhammad-Nejad Sigaroudi said two 3-megawatt power plants in Khusf city and a 10-megawatt solar project in Sarbisheh region launched by Minister of Energy.

Referring to the contracts currently in effect in South Khorasan province, Muhammad-Nejad added, 495 megawatts of solar power plant capacity are under construction through 75 private investment contracts.

He continued, Currently, about 38 megawatts of solar power plants have been put into operation in the province.

Regarding small 5 kW power plants, he stated that 720 5- kW solar backup power plants are currently in operation in province.

Emphasizing the high capacity of the province and suitable solar radiation, Muhammad-Nejad stated: The vast area and favorable climatic conditions of South Khorasan have led to many applicants for investment in the field of solar power plants.

He added, SATBA, in cooperation with the regional electricity and companies in the province, has tried to receive and manage all applications, and considering the network capacity, contracts of 495 MW have been concluded.

# IMIDRO: Aluminum Output Tops 205,000 Tonnes in Four Months

TEHRAN - **The state-owned Iranian Mines and Mining, Industries, Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said on Saturday that aluminum ingot output in four major smelters in Iran reached about 205,000 tonnes in four months to June.**

IMIDRO figures showed that Iran's four major aluminum companies, South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO), IRALCO, Al-Mahdi, and Iran Alumina, produced 204,596 tonnes of aluminum ingots, down from 221,409 tonnes reported in the same period last year.

The South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) produced 85,971 tonnes.

Iran's second largest smelter IRALCO, located in the central city of Arak, churned out nearly 58,227 tonnesd of aluminum ingots, while production at the Al-Mahdi Aluminum, located in the southern province of Hormozgan, reached 49,452 tonnes.

It added that Iran Alumina, a relatively small smelter located in northeast Iran, produced just about10,946 tonnes of the aluminum ingots in the March-June period.

Also, in the first four months of this year, 74,425 tonnes of "alumina powder", 123,701 tonnes of "aluminum hydrate" and 262,390 tonnes of "bauxite" were produced at the Iranian Alumina Company.

Aluminum is a key metal used in transportation, packaging, construction, electrical industry, consumer durables and machinery. It is a vital component in manufacturing cars and airplanes.

# *South Pars Second Refinery Plays Key Role in Downstream Value Chain*

TEHRAN – **The manager of the Second Refinery of the South Pars Gas Complex highlighted its strategic importance in the downstream value chain, noting that roughly 10% of the refinery's gas output is converted into high-value products at Pars Petrochemical, helping supply critical feedstock to the country's petrochemical industry.**

According to the South Pars Gas Complex, Mohsen Attarzadeh, the refinery's manager, said that more than 8 billion cubic meters of sweet gas have been produced and delivered to customers since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (starting March 21), averaging 58.5 million cubic meters per day.

He emphasized that about 10% of the gas processed at the Second Refinery is converted by Pars Petrochemical into valuable products such as ethane, propane, and butane, which play a vital role in supporting Iran's petrochemical sector.

Attarzadeh also underscored the importance of maintaining reliable output, especially during the cold season, noting that major maintenance on one of the refinery's gas condensate storage tanks is scheduled to begin on Sept. 28 and will continue for 22 days. This overhaul is aimed at ensuring safe and stable production through the winter months.

Discussing this year's maintenance program, he said over 1,300 repair tasks have been scheduled, with continuous efforts underway to procure needed materials and oversee implementation. These initiatives are considered essential for ensuring the long-term reliability and safety of operations.

The main focus of the upcoming maintenance includes refurbishing the main flare network and replacing pipeline segments in the slug catcher unit to improve performance and ensure the integrity and safety of the equipment.

Attarzadeh also highlighted several key projects under way at the refinery, including addressing deferred maintenance, upgrading control systems, and investing in necessary infrastructure — particularly in human resources, which he said remains a top priority.

He added that the refinery has achieved a 10% reduction in its specific energy consumption (SEC) index through process optimization and equipment performance improvements. These efforts have not only cut operational costs but also significantly contributed to environmental protection.

# *1.5 bcm of Gas Storage Capacity Added at Sarajeh Field*

TEHRAN — **The gas storage capacity at the Sarajeh field will increase to 1.5 billion cubic meters (bcm) per year, with daily extraction rising to 15 million cubic meters, upon completion of its second development phase. This expansion will strengthen Iran's gas network resilience during peak winter demand.**

The Sarajeh gas field, Iran's first underground natural gas storage facility, began operations in 2015 to support the national gas grid during high-consumption periods. Located in Iran's central desert with unique geological features, it currently stores 1 billion cubic meters of gas annually and extracts 10 million cubic meters per day, using optimized infrastructure and domestic technology.

The second-phase development project, launched in 2022 and 2023 in upstream and downstream sections, aims to enhance gas network stability and winter peak-shaving. Once completed by year-end 2024, storage capacity will reach 1.5 billion cubic meters, with daily extraction peaking at 15 million cubic meters. Due to its proximity to other storage projects like Nasrabad and Shourab, Sarajeh is poised to become a regional gas storage hub. Economically, it remains one of the most cost-effective storage methods globally.

Saeid Rajabzadeh, head of gas storage projects at the Iran Gas Engineering and Development Company (IGEDC), noted that the Sarajeh field was discovered in 1959, located 130 kilometers south of Tehran. Six-teen wells have been drilled so far, with the first development phase converting it into a storage facility starting in 2005. Full operation began in 2015, allowing 1 billion cubic meters of gas injection during warm months and up to 10 million cubic meters of daily extraction in winter, depending on climate conditions.

He explained the injection-extraction cycle: Gas is injected from the national grid into Sarajeh during eight warm months, then extracted and redistributed during four cold months.

# Iranian Researchers Design Model for Solar Electric Vehicle System

TEHRAN - **Researchers at the University of Tehran presented a model for forecasting demand and optimal design of a solar electric vehicle system.**

Hussein Yousefi, a professor at the Faculty of Energy Engineering and Sustainable Resources of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Sciences and Technologies at the University of Tehran, elaborated on an innovative framework for designing and modeling an energy system with an approach to develop electric vehicles and solar panels with a focus on Qeshm Island as a case study and an important geopolitical and ecological region.

"We tried to model a hybrid energy system based on solar panels (PV) and electric vehicles (EV) in interaction with the existing energy grid in a way that is both technically, economically and environmentally sustainable," Yousefi said.

"For the first time, in a case study, we were able to model energy and fuel consumption on a strategic island like Qeshm. These projections allow us to model the capacities required for the future development of the island's energy system, with an emphasis on PV and electric vehicle infrastructure," he added.

"The results of this study, based on official input data (including reports from the Ministry of Energy and the country's energy balance), showed that by choosing an optimal mix of energy system components (such as the capacity of panels, fossil power plants, and electric vehicles), carbon emissions can be greatly reduced while controlling the final cost of energy. These findings can be helpful for energy policymakers and companies active in the field of new energies," Yousefi said.

Relevant reports also said in July that domestic development of over 900,000 power plants' parts, an 80 percent reduction in water consumption in some units, and the use of wastewater instead of raw water are among the important measures to deal with the power imbalance and resource crisis in Iran.

Simultaneously with the intensification of the electricity imbalance and the shortage of water resources in the country, the thermal power industry has taken effective steps to improve the sustainability of power plants by focusing on indigenization of equipment and developing technologies that reduce water consumption and pollution.

In the past eight years, over 922,000 power plant units worth 45 trillion rials have been indigenized in the country which plays an important role in increasing the sustainability of electricity production, reducing foreign exchange dependence, and supporting the Iranian companies.

Simultaneously with these measures, the installation of online pollutant monitoring equipment, modeling the distribution of pollution in fuel oil-fired power plants, managing industrial waste contaminated with PCBs, and implementing MRV projects to monitor greenhouse gas emissions are among other steps taken towards this goal.

# Transit Via Road Reaches 5mn Tonnes

TEHRAN – **An official at Iran's Roads and Maintenance Services Organization says the country's volume of goods transit via road has reached five million tonnes in the first four months of current Iranian calendar year (started Mar. 21).**

Director General of the International Transport and Transit Office of the Roads and Maintenance Services Organization Javad Hedayati said that 4.884 million tonnes of various types of goods were transported through the country's land borders between March 21 and July 21, 2025.

In that period, 775,391 tonnes of goods have been imported into the country via road, he said, adding that over 4.109 million tonnes of goods have been exported from the country through land borders.

Hedayati pointed to the infrastructural capacity of the private sector in the international transport sector, stating that about 2,490 competent domestic companies are busy active in the international goods transport sector.

Presently, 26 border terminals are operating in 12 provinces of the country which play a leading role in transporting goods and passengers between Iran and neighboring states, he added.