

Plan Devised for Hike in Iran's Oil Output

TEHRAN – Iran has drawn up a plan to increase oil production by 250,000 barrels per day.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian attended a joint meeting of the National Development Fund's Board of Trustees and Minister of Oil Mohsen Paknejad, focusing on the timeline for a plan to increase oil production by 250,000 barrels per day.

The initiative aims to finance unfinished projects in more than 40 oil fields across Iran. The plan is expected to lead to a significant boost in crude production.

Chairman of the National Development Fund Mahdi Ghazanfari expressed gratitude to the president for his commitment to facilitating the legal processes for the NDF's investment in the oil sector.

He also announced the Fund's readiness for comprehensive cooperation with the Ministry of Oil to finance the projects aimed at enhancing production levels.

During the meeting, President Pezeshkian emphasized the im-



portance of increasing investment in production, particularly in the oil sector, and called for expedited timelines to ensure that the projects are operational as soon as possible.

The president further addressed concerns raised by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei regarding the collection of flare gas and the environmental issues associated with it, calling for an acceleration in the

completion of projects in this area.

The oil minister reported that his ministry is set to launch projects aimed at collecting 200 million cubic feet of flare gas, with major efforts concentrated in the Northern Dezful region and the Rag Sefid Oil Field. He noted that they are striving to have these projects operational by the government week, the president's website reported.

Stock Markets Report Major Rise in Foreign Investment



TEHRAN – Figures by Iran's stock market authority show foreign investment in the market nearly doubled in the year to late July.

The figures released by the Securities and Exchange Organization of Iran showed that the value of investment by foreign shareholders in the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) and its subsidiary market

Fara Bourse had reached 181.83 trillion rials (nearly \$200 million) in the year to July 22.

The figures, cited in a report by the ISNA news agency, showed that foreign investment in Iran's stock market had increased by 91% over the period compared to the year to late July 2024.

The data showed that foreign corporate

entities had invested just over 167 trillion rials in buying shares in the TSE and Fara Bourse in the year to late July, while investment by individuals had amounted to more than 14.8 trillion rials over the same period.

The number of foreign shareholders registered in the two markets had increased by 5.3% to 5,100, of which some 3,339 were corporate shareholders and the remaining 1,709 investors were individuals.

The figures come as the Iranian government is struggling to inject more capital into the local stock markets to prevent an escape of investors more than a month after markets reacted nervously to a 12-day war between Iran and the Israeli regime.

Reports published in the local media on Monday showed that the TSE's main index had fallen by 21,851 points to just over 2.54 million points.

That comes as the index was hovering around 2.8 million points in mid-June before the start of the Israeli war of aggression against Iran.

Minister: Iran, Kenya Set \$1bn Annual Trade Target

TEHRAN – Iranian Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh said that Tehran and Nairobi have set for the annual \$1 billion trade target.

Nouri Ghezleh made the remarks at the 7th Session of the Kenya-Iran Joint Commission for Cooperation, held in Nairobi, emphasizing the strategic geographical situation of the Republic of Kenya in eastern Africa.

The economic capacities of this African country have prepared a suitable ground for the development of trade-economic relations between the two countries, Ghezleh stated.

Iran's agriculture minister has described Kenya as the country's gateway to East Africa, stressing that the two nations should boost their currently "unsatisfactory" level of trade.

He expressed hope that, by tapping into both countries' industrial, agricultural, and logistical capacities, bilateral trade could rise to several billion dollars.

The minister underlined Iran's readiness to swiftly remove trade barriers, and encouraged Kenyan partners to address banking and barter trade issues to facilitate

business.

Iranian delegation includes major companies in pharmaceuticals, industry, agriculture, and technology, reflecting Kenya's importance in Iran's Africa strategy, the agriculture minister added.

The current value of trade between the two countries stands at over \$300 million, but it is expected to exceed \$1 billion in the near future if obstacles are resolved.

The minister and his accompanying delegation are in Nairobi to attend the two-day Joint Economic Cooperation Commission meeting that kicked off.

Tehran Oil Refinery Projects Accelerate

TEHRAN – The engineering manager of Tehran Oil Refining Company's projects Babak Forouzesh-Asl announced that the implementation of the refinery's initiatives has been expedited under the 14th administration.

Several projects, including urban wastewater treatment, industrial hexane production and connection to the national power grid, are set to launch in the coming months.

Key projects nearing completion include urban wastewater treatment, industrial hexane production and connecting the refinery to the national power grid.

Babak Forouzesh-Asl highlighted that since the start of the new administration, project execution has been streamlined. He credited the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company for facilitating foreign currency allocations and increased quotas, along with support from the Central Bank and the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade.

Key projects nearing completion include urban wastewater treatment, industrial hexane production and connecting the refinery to the national power grid.

Regarding fuel quality and infrastructure upgrades, Forouzesh-Asl noted that several key projects aligned with Iran's Clean Air Law and the Seventh Development Plan (Article 45) are underway. These initiatives aim to improve fuel standards and sustainable infrastructure.

The gasoline quality upgrade

project (CCR) is progressing, targeting Euro 5 standards and an increased daily production capacity of 1.5 million liters. Full operation is expected by 2026. Meanwhile, a fuel oil quality improvement project is in the study phase, focusing on meeting international standards. Pending land permits, it will soon enter the bidding stage.

Additionally, the industrial hexane production project, aimed at diversifying refinery output, is expected to become operational this year.

Forouzesh-Asl described the refinery's power grid connection as a critical infrastructure project, enhancing energy stability and addressing national power shortages. The first phase, including software implementation and pre-launch preparations, will be operational next month.

Due to the refinery's heavy reliance on sustainable water supply, a wastewater treatment project was initiated to minimize municipal water usage. Once fully operational, around 52,000 cubic meters of treated urban wastewater will be transported daily via a 4-kilometer, 32-inch pipeline to the refinery.

Currently, the refinery consumes about 32,000 cubic meters of water per day. The first phase of the treatment project will process 15,000–20,000 cubic meters daily for industrial use, with full capacity expected to match current consumption, drastically reducing reliance on municipal water.

The treatment process uses re-

verse osmosis (RO) technology, including sand filtration, ozone injection, carbon filtration, self-cleaning systems, ultrafiltration and RO. Treated water is used in steam production, cooling towers, green spaces and firefighting. Daily lab tests ensure compliance with quality standards.

The project, with an estimated budget of €25 million plus 1.2 trillion rials, is 90% complete.

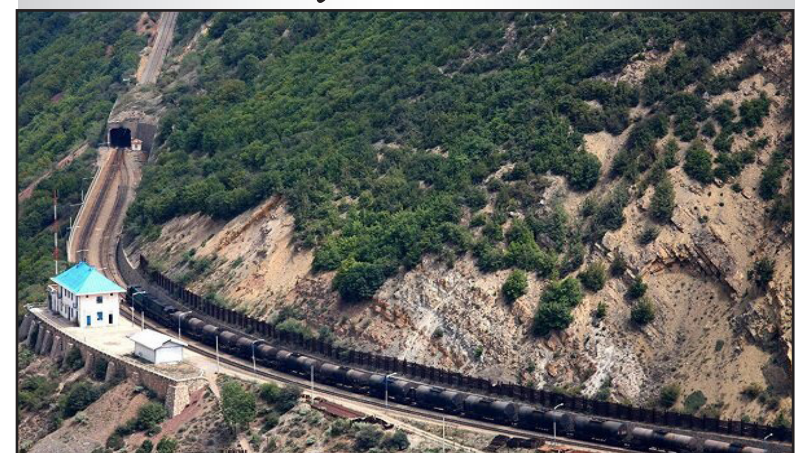
Forouzesh-Asl emphasized the refinery's commitment to supporting domestic and knowledge-based companies. Contracts prioritize local capacity, even when some equipment is imported, with Iranian firms handling assembly, development and operation.

In the wastewater project, domestic knowledge-based companies contributed ozone production technology—a complex process mastered by few countries—demonstrating successful localization.

Despite sanctions complicating equipment imports, the refinery relies on local expertise and innovative solutions to minimize delays. Challenges in foreign currency allocation and customs have impacted some projects, but efforts continue to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.

Forouzesh-Asl acknowledged bureaucratic hurdles in obtaining permits for new projects but noted that AI and smart tools are being introduced to optimize processes, in collaboration with specialized refinery units.

Russia, Iran Discuss Rasht-Astara Railway Construction



TEHRAN – Russia is carrying out survey work for the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway section on land plots already purchased by the Iranian government, Russian Deputy Prime Minister said.

The purchase of the remaining land was the subject of negotiations during the meeting between Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Iranian First Vice President Muhammad Reza Aref in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan.

"We discussed the details of the railway's construction on the Rasht-Astara section, about how the land acquisition is proceeding there. In fact, we have already started work there, technical surveys are underway on the land plots purchased by the Iranian government,"

Overchuk said.

The talks also covered the implementation of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Overchuk recalled that the agreement entered into force in May.

"This is a very important document, as it essentially opens up opportunities to trade at zero rates on more than 90% of items. Accordingly, both the Eurasian Economic Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran are mutually interested in ensuring that this agreement delivers returns. We discussed how to set up the implementation of this agreement; it is clear that this will take time. But in principle, we already see growth in mutual trade with Iran today," he said.

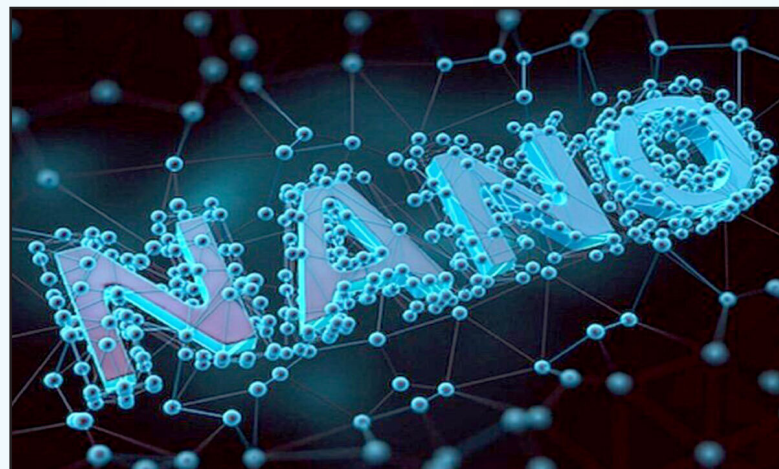
100 Companies Own 80% of Iran's Nanotechnology Market

TEHRAN - Figures of 2023 indicate that over 80% of Iran's nanotechnology market is controlled by 100 top companies, and the civil and construction, automotive and transportation, and chemical industries have accounted for the largest share of domestic sales and exports.

Also products like sanitary valves, industrial catalysts, black grade polyethylene, and industrial carbon black have been at the top of the country's best-selling nano products.

The market for nanotechnology-based products, equipment, and services in Iran during 2023, with the presence of hundreds of active companies, displayed a broad perspective of the capabilities and capacities of this field. Studies show that the majority of this market is controlled by a limited number of leading companies, and the civil and construction, automotive and transportation, chemicals, and oil and petrochemical industries have accounted for a significant share of domestic sales and exports.

Official figures show that key products like sanitary valves, building tiles, reflex glasses,



automotive and oil and gas catalysts, black grade polyethylene, and industrial carbon black are at the top of the list of best-selling nano-based products in Iran.

At the end of 2023, a total of 438 companies, including estimated areas, were active in the production of nanotechnology products, equipment, and services, and over 80% of the total volume of the Iranian nanotechnology market in 2023 was in the hands of 100 companies.

Iran has made nanotechnology a priority in recent years, achieving remarkable success. The nanotechnology research web-

site StatNano has ranked Iran as fourth in the world in nanotechnology publications.

Earlier reports in August said that Iran's nanotechnology market has experienced significant and sustained growth over the past decade, and according to official figures, its average annual growth rate from 2013 to 2023 reached nearly 97%.

The average annual growth rate of 97% in the nano market means that the sales volume of nano-based products in Iran has doubled almost every year. This significant growth occurred while the largest jump was re-

corded in 2020 with a growth of 160%, and the growth in 2023 with 102%, exceeding the set targets (40%).

Despite the impact of factors like the increase in the exchange rate and inflation on the country's economic indicators since 2017, Iran's nanotechnology market has continued to enjoy sustained growth, and even the share of exports in this field reached 57,100 billion rials in 2023 (equivalent to 9.2% of the total market).

In addition to the product market, the nanotechnology equipment market has also grown significantly in recent years, especially in 2020, 2021, and 2023. As in 2023, after a period of decline, it experienced a growth of nearly 60%, and devices like 'freeze dryers' and 'sputtering coating' have been at the top of the best-selling equipment.

These statistics provide a clear picture of the dynamism, exports capacity, and upward trend of nanotechnology in Iran, which can be the basis for larger policymaking in the field of science, technology, and knowledge-based economy.