

Minister: Iran, Turkmenistan Discuss Expanding Ties in Transport, Energy, Infrastructure



Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh (L) meets with Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Raşit Meredov in Ashgabat.

TEHRAN — Minister of Roads and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh has discussed ways to operationalize joint agreements with Turkmenistan in the fields of transport, energy, gas, electricity, and infrastructure development, as well as the formation of a joint committee to implement bilateral agreements.

Sadegh said on Tuesday that during her visit to Turkmenistan, she held meetings with the President of Turkmenistan, her Turkmen counterpart, the foreign minister, and the head of the country's Economic

Commission.

She noted that she had discussed improving the quality and quantity of the transport fleet, infrastructure development across all transport sectors, as well as issues related to energy, gas, and electricity.

The two sides also agreed to establish a committee under the Joint Economic Commission to pave the way for the implementation of the agreements.

Also on Tuesday, a meeting between Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and Farzaneh

Sadegh, co-chairs of the Turkmenistan-Iran Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, was held at the Turkmen Foreign Ministry in Ashgabat.

The two sides reviewed the current state and prospects for developing bilateral cooperation, as well as cooperation within major international organizations, particularly the United Nations. They also stressed the importance of good-neighborly relations and mutual respect as key features of ties between the two countries.

Iran Speeds Up Kharg Oil Terminal Projects

TEHRAN - Iran is pressing ahead with the completion of development and infrastructure projects at its Kharg Island oil terminal, a senior Oil Ministry official said.

Abbas Assadrour, head of the Iranian Oil Terminals Co. (IOTC), made the remarks during a visit to the strategic island in the Persian Gulf, through which about 90% of Iran's crude oil exports are shipped.

"These projects aim to enhance safety, increase equipment reliability, boost operational readiness and ensure the sustainable continuity of the country's oil exports," Assadrour said.

Among the projects he inspected was a fire detection and firefighting system for crude oil storage tanks.

Assadrour described the scheme as one of the country's most important safety upgrade projects at oil terminals, saying it was being installed to safeguard national assets, improve facility safety, reduce



operational risks and increase preparedness for emergency response.

Iran's accelerated work on the fire protection system comes after Kharg Island was bombed twice by the United States following the outbreak of the joint U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran in late February.

Kharg lies about 25 kilometers off Iran's coast. The 20-square-kilometre coral island's proximity to the mainland would make any occupation highly risky, as Iranian

forces could shower occupying forces with volleys of missiles and drones from the mainland, potentially inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Kharg's location close to southern oilfields, favorable maritime position and deep-water access for very large crude carriers have made it the hub of Iran's crude loading operations. The island hosts the country's largest oil storage facilities and is connected to its biggest producing fields.

CEO: Operator Projects Set to Save Nearly 1bcm of Gas Annually

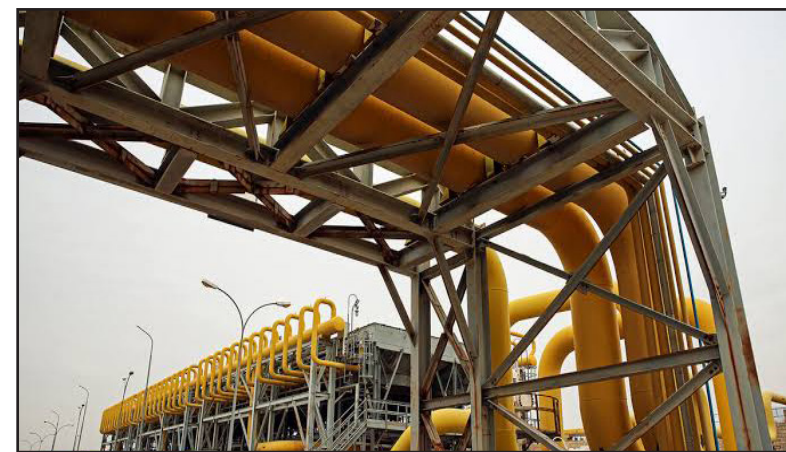
TEHRAN — The CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Saeid Tavakoli, announced that projects implemented by Operator companies are expected to save approximately 980 million cubic meters of natural gas annually.

Speaking during a video conference on the implementation challenges of Type 2 Operator contractors, Tavakoli emphasized that expanding collaboration with the private sector and leveraging the expertise of Operator companies provides a valuable opportunity to improve energy efficiency and accelerate gas consumption reduction projects across the country.

He noted that Operator companies have developed significant capabilities in energy management, optimization, and consumption control, and these strengths should be fully utilized to achieve Iran's natural gas efficiency goals.

Tavakoli, who also serves as Deputy Oil Minister for Gas Affairs, highlighted recent progress in expanding the program. To date, 85 companies have received provisional accreditation to operate as gas Operator companies, marking a major step toward advancing natural gas efficiency initiatives and speeding up consumption reduction projects across multiple sectors.

According to Tavakoli, 88 con-



tracts have already been signed between provincial gas companies and Operator firms across 29 provinces, with private sector participation continuing to grow.

He reiterated that strengthening partnerships with Operator companies and the private sector remains a key pillar of NIGC's energy efficiency strategy. These collaborations are expected to support targeted demand management programs and maximize the efficient use of existing resources.

Tavakoli also underscored the scale of the projects currently underway, stating that if all planned Operator initiatives are completed by the end of the year, they are projected to save around 980 million cubic meters of natural gas—a

significant contribution to managing national gas demand and maintaining the stability of Iran's gas network.

He stressed the importance of cooperation across the entire gas industry, calling on all stakeholders to work together, fulfill their responsibilities, and support the responsible authorities in carrying out their duties effectively.

Concluding his remarks, Tavakoli described energy as today's primary strategic battleground, stating that in an era of growing energy competition, closer coordination, stronger collaboration, and a shared sense of responsibility are essential to overcoming challenges and ensuring a reliable and resilient gas supply network.

All Arbaeen Flights Operated by Iranian Airlines

TEHRAN - The head of Arbaeen operations at Imam Khomeini International Airport announced that all Arbaeen pilgrimage flights are being operated by Iranian airlines, with no foreign carriers participating this year.

In an exclusive interview with ISNA, Javad Salehi Arimani detailed the arrangements for serving Arbaeen pilgrims. He said that free parking has been provided for pilgrims, and various service tents have been set up at the airport to offer a range of services to travelers.

These tents not only serve tea, coffee, and meals at certain hours, but also provide pilgrims with essential items including car sunshades, hats, T-shirts, scarves, bags, and other travel necessities.

One of the service tents is dedicated to Mahdaviyeh activities, featuring specialized programs for both children and adults with trained instructors. This tent also operates along the Najaf-to-Karbala route, offering services to pilgrims there as well.

Salehi noted that various organizations are involved in serving the pilgrims, including the IRGC, police, passport authorities, the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organiza-



tion, airlines, and other entities that have announced their readiness to participate.

Regarding flight operations, despite flight restrictions in the Tehran area due to damage to some equipment during the war, all responsible authorities—including the Civil Aviation Organization, Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, and Imam Khomeini International Airport—have mobilized their full capacity to provide proper services to pilgrims.

Since the beginning of the lunar month of Safar, 384 flights to Najaf have been operated, carrying approximately 50,000 pilgrims. This process will continue until the end of Safar, although

the official end of the Arbaeen operation has been announced as the 16th of Safar.

Salehi emphasized that all Arbaeen pilgrimage flights are operating from Terminal Salam, which is open 24 hours a day to receive and dispatch pilgrims.

Regarding active airlines, he confirmed that all Arbaeen flights are being operated by Iranian airlines, with no foreign carriers participating this year. Some airlines, depending on their fleet size and technical conditions, and with permission from the Civil Aviation Organization, are operating some Najaf flights from Mehrabad Airport.

Knowledge-Based Company Develops Advanced Phytotron for Precise Plant Growth Control

TEHRAN - An Iranian knowledge-based company has developed a phytotron capable of precisely controlling temperature, humidity, light and CO levels for plant growth, tissue culture and agricultural research.

An Iranian knowledge-based company has successfully designed and manufactured a specialized tissue-culture growth chamber, known as a phytotron, providing controlled environmental conditions for plant growth and tissue-culture experiments in research centers, universities, and biotechnology and agricultural industries.

The growth chamber precisely controls temperature, relative humidity and light intensity to create a stable environment for plant

samples. Its design also allows the distance between the light source and the plants to be adjusted as the plants grow taller, ensuring consistent lighting conditions throughout the growth cycle.

The system can also monitor and control the concentration of various gases inside the chamber. Among its most widely used capabilities is carbon dioxide (CO) control, with concentrations adjustable from 1,000 to 5,000 parts per million (ppm).

The performance of a growth chamber depends on two key indicators. The first is the resolution and accuracy of temperature and humidity display and control. The device's display typically provides a resolution of between 0.3 and 0.5

degrees, reflecting the control precision at the location of the sensor.

The second indicator is the uniformity of temperature and humidity throughout the chamber and across the sample-storage shelves. The smaller the difference between measurements recorded at different points inside the chamber, the higher the system's performance. In this system, the maximum deviation in measured temperature at different points inside the chamber is approximately one degree Celsius.

An appropriately designed air-circulation system, along with precise control over the speed and flow rate of circulating air, also contributes to maintaining uniform environmental conditions and improving the system's accuracy.

After being designed and manufactured at the company's factory, the tissue-culture growth chamber is transported to the installation site in separate, disassembled sections. Installation and commissioning take approximately three days.

The installation site must have a level, ceramic floor. The use of large-format ceramic tiles is preferred to minimize the number of floor joints. A drainage route in the floor, in accordance with the installation drawings, is also recommended. The system requires a three-phase power supply with neutral and standard grounding connections.

The chamber's body is made of polyurethane-foam sandwich panels and has a useful volume of

approximately 19,000 liters. It features shelving on both sides, with each shelf consisting of three levels. Each level is equipped with an independent airflow system beneath the samples.

The system's light intensity can be adjusted from 5,000 to 10,000 lux, while light intensity can also be reduced by switching off part of the lamps.

The system is controlled through a color touchscreen and can be programmed with up to 10 programs, each containing up to 10 stages. Other features include data recording and storage, computer connectivity, USB data storage, event logging, multi-user access and photoperiod-cycle control.

The growth chamber can control

temperature from 4 to 45 degrees Celsius, with a resolution of 0.3 degrees and an accuracy of approximately one degree Celsius throughout the chamber. Relative humidity can be controlled from 40% to 95%, with an accuracy of approximately 3%.

The system uses a PT100 temperature sensor and a transmitter-type humidity sensor. It is also equipped with an audible alarm for temperature deviations, a high-limit mechanical thermostat and a telephone alert system that notifies operators when faults occur.

The chamber's refrigeration system uses direct expansion (DX) technology, while an integrated humidification system helps maintain stable environmental conditions.