

Rome fully endorses unclear deal: Italian deputy FM **2**

Syria de-escalation zones deal takes effect **3**

Iran's longest serving football player Sadeghi hangs up his boots **15**

Italian officials visit Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art **16**

Publishers can work by contracts till Iran joins copyright pacts: Expert

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN - Association of Italian Publishers (AIE) director Alfieri Lorenzon has proposed that Iranian and Italian publishing companies collaborate based on mutual agreements until Iran is admitted as a member of the international conventions on copyrights.

Speaking to the Tehran Times at the 30th Tehran International Book Fair on Friday, he said that restrictions prevent international publishers from collaboration with Iran since the country Iran does not hold a membership in any international copyright conventions.

He added that the Tehran book fair can provide a good opportunity for publishers to work out the necessary agreements for collaboration.

"Obviously we prefer a normal way to have relations. For example, if we go to the book fairs in Frankfurt, London or Bologna, we have normal relations and we can manage the rights, but I think if two different publishers find an agreement here at this fair, that is positive," he added. **→16**

Presidential debates proceeding well

See page 2



© IRNA/Marziah Soleimani

Iran Oil Show 2017 kicks off in Tehran

ECONOMY TEHRAN - The 22nd Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2017) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Saturday.

A handful of high-ranking officials including Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani, some parliament members as well as foreign ambassadors attended the opening ceremony, Shana reported.

During the four-day event some 2500 domestic companies and 1500 foreign participants from 37 countries including China, Germany, South Korea, Austria, Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Britain, the U.S. and Canada are showcasing their latest products and achievements in oil, gas, refining and petrochemical sectors.

In the opening ceremony, Kasra Nouri, the Oil Ministry's public relations director, said the number of companies which applied to participate in the this year's exhibition was four times the figure which could be accommodated.

Iran Oil Show is among the most significant oil and gas events in the world in terms of the number of participants and its diversity. The presence of famous foreign companies as well as domestic producers and industrialists provides a good chance for mutual cooperation in view of signature of contracts.

Iran's Zarif heads to Afghanistan for senior talks

POLITICS TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif left Tehran for Kabul on Sunday morning for high-level talks with top Afghan officials.

Zarif is slated to sit down with his counterpart Salahuddin Rabban, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, and a number of other senior officials, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said on Saturday.

The two capitals have ongoing negotiations on a number of issues, including water shortage, refugees, terrorism, border control, and drug smuggling.

Located in an arid and semi-arid region coupled with low precipitation over the past years, the two countries have disagreements over the Hirmand River, a main basin for Sistan-Baluchestan province, southeastern Iran.

Earlier this year, Abdullah called for expansion of cooperation with Iran, saying the future of ties is "bright".

He also hailed Iran for hosting hundreds of thousands of Afghan immigrants.

In March, the United Nations praised Iran for generously hosting millions of asylum seekers and refugees, particularly those from Afghanistan.

Iran "has been exemplary in hosting refugees and keeping borders open," said Sivanka Dhanapala, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office in Tehran, on Thursday.

The UN official further hailed a 2015 decree by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, which called on education administrators to allow all Afghan children, documented or not, to attend Iranian schools.

The directive prompted Iranian officials to build 15,000 new classrooms across the country to accommodate refugee children in the country, which, according to UN estimates, has the world's fourth largest refugee population.

Iran's Qeshm Island becomes UNESCO Global Geopark

HERITAGE TEHRAN - The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization has registered Iran's southern Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf on its Global Geoparks list.

"The Qeshm Island has been granted the designation of UNESCO Global Geopark for a four-year period from May 5, 2017 to May 4, 2021. And the first revalidation will take place in 2020," the UNESCO official website

announced on Friday.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council made an initial decision for the inscription last September. The verdict was finalized by an executive board of the UN agency during its 201st session in Paris on May 5.

During the session seven other sites received the label as well, amongst the entrees that demonstrate great diversity of geology are Arxan in China, Causses du Quercy

in France, and Las Loras in Spain. With the eight new additions that celebrate, the world network adds up to 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 35 countries.

Qeshm Island embraces wide range of ecotourism attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island has an abundance of wildlife, including birds, reptiles, dolphins and turtles as well.

Trump mulling over major weapons deals, THAAD sale in Saudi visit

U.S. President Donald Trump is planning to sign multi-billion dollar weapons deals with Saudi Arabia during his upcoming visit to the country, including the possible sale of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system.

Trump has decided to visit Saudi Arabia before heading to Israel on his maiden international trip, a move that underscores the kingdom's significance in his foreign policy.

The new Republican president is planning to enhance relations with the key Middle Eastern ally, which distanced itself from Washington after former President Barack Obama's push for the historic nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers.

He also plans to deliver on his promises to boost manufacturing jobs in the U.S. by offering the Riyadh regime a wide range of weapons deals, Reuters reported, citing unnamed sources within the administration.

Apparently, Trump will offer the Saudis an agreement with weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin for a \$1 billion THAAD missile system, similar to the one that the U.S. has already sent to South Korea.

Lockheed's package would also include a Command, Control, Battle Management and Communication (C2BMC) software system as well as a series of satellite capabilities.

The American head of state would also offer the Saudis an \$11.5 billion deal for four multi-mission warships and technical support. The U.S. State Department approved the deal in 2015, however, it never went through because of disagreements on both sides.

The warships belong to the U.S. Navy's Littoral Combat Ship class, which has been regarded by Pentagon officials as some of the most problematic and least equipped units operated by the force.

This would be the first time in decades that Washington sells new small surface warships to a foreign nation. The deal was suspended under Obama over human rights concerns.

(Source: agencies)

'Traffic light' labels to guide Iranians toward healthier food

SOCIETY TEHRAN - Iranian manufacturers are required to include 'traffic light' labels on food packaging to signify the fat, saturated fat, sugar, and salt content of the food stuff by the end of summer.

So far some 80 percent of food items have been tagged with the traffic light labels to help consumers to make healthier choices considering the amounts of unhealthy substances

in food items, IRNA news agency quoted Behruz Jannat, an official with Iran's Food and Drug Administration, as saying.

The rest of the products will be labeled with traffic light within the next four and a half months, Jannat added.

"After finishing up with labeling the food products we will widely publicize the measure taken to improve public health status," he pointed.

Jannat further said that some manufacturers who are already using the labels needs to modify them and make some changes to them regarding the size of the current labels.

The new color-coded food labels are intended to help shoppers know at a glance whether a product contains a low, medium or high amount of fat, saturated fat, salt, sugar and calories and make choices for a more healthier and balanced diet, he explained.

Mine blast tragedy Day 4: 13 bodies still missing

SOCIETY TEHRAN - Searches continued into the fourth day to find the remaining 13 bodies trapped after a blast hit a coal mine in the north-eastern province of Golestan on Wednesday.

Following a blast in Zemestanyurt mine, 35 workers who were inside the mine at the time of explosion are believed to be dead while so far 22 bodies have been found.

According to Esmail Najjar, the crisis management organization's director, the rest of the missing workers do not seem

to have survived and rescue and relief forces are still searching to find their bodies.

"In addition, some 80 got injured and only one of them is still at the hospital," Najjar added.

The head of mine rescue and relief forces Keramat Qanbari also explained that currently some 6 teams each comprising of 10 experts and miners from provinces of Kerman, Mazandaran, Yazd, Semnan, South Khorasan, and Golestan are clearing through the debris from two separate tunnels to find the bodies

as soon as possible.

Moreover, Golestan province's presiding judge announced that the mine contractor has been summoned to appear before the court and answered to some questions.

"The contractor is not under arrest but whoever is at fault would certainly face punishment," Hadi Hashemian noted, saying, so far some of the late miners' families and some of those who sustained injuries by the blast have filed complaints.

Special issue
22nd Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical exhibition
See page 5-12

22nd INTERNATIONAL OIL, GAS & REFINING & PETROCHEMICAL EXHIBITION

۱۶ الی ۱۹ اردیبهشت ۱۳۹۶
 محل دائم نمایشگاه‌های بین‌المللی تهران
6-9 MAY 2017
TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT FAIRGROUND
 www.iran-oilshow.ir
 info@iran-oilshow.ir

KSC
INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER
No. :367879
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
50 PCS CaSi Coil Wire
See page 15

ELECTION COUNTDOWN



Raisi meets Qom clerics, religious scholars

POLITICS TEHRAN — Presidential hopeful **d e s k** Ebrahim Raisi traveled to the religious city of Qom on Saturday to meet with clerics of the Qom Seminary and members of the Qom Seminary Teachers Society.

Elsewhere, Raisi said that he has "no special rival in election". Speaking to Sunni representatives in Tehran earlier the day, he said he is going to "eradicate utter poverty, corruption, unemployment and pursue concerns of Sunni and Shia scholars."



'Seditionists to be kept out of councils'

POLITICS TEHRAN — "We will not allow **d e s k** seditious activists to enter the stage of councils," spokesman for the council election monitoring headquarters said on Saturday.

"We are making attempt to tackle a current that is comprised of people who try to engineer the election," Farhad Tajari added, the Iranian Students News Agency reported.

"We may also use the judgments of security organizations and the Ministry of Intelligence because they count for us as criteria."



Raisi well aware of shortcomings: Sunni cleric

POLITICS TEHRAN — Presidential candidate **d e s k** Ebrahim Raisi is well aware of shortcomings and concerns and he will be the fittest person to assume the presidential post, Sistan-Baluchestan's representative at the Assembly of Experts said on Saturday.

Speaking at a congregation of Sunni clerics held in Tehran in support of Raisi, Molavi Nazir Ahmad Salami also emphasized that it is necessary for all Iranians to vote, Mehr reported.

Speaking at the same event, Abdolsalam Mohammadi, the Friday prayer leader of Bijar in Kurdistan, said the incumbent government has been ignorant of the demands of the Sunni community.



Mirsalim to speak at two top universities

POLITICS TEHRAN — Presidential candidate **d e s k** Mostafa Mirsalim is going to speak at two prestigious universities as part of his campaign Sunday and Monday.

On Sunday, he will address students at Sharif University of Technology and on Monday he will visit Iran University of Science and Technology.

On Saturday, Mirsalim met a response from the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran for having said the nuclear deal grounded Iran's nuclear program. The AEOI said despite enemies' expectation, thousands of centrifuges are running at the moment.



Nateq Nouri on trip advocating Rouhani

POLITICS TEHRAN — Former Majlis speaker **d e s k** and veteran principlist politician Akbar Nateq Nouri on Friday traveled to the religious city of Qom to meet with a number of clerics to announce his support for incumbent Hassan Rouhani who is seeking the presidential post for a second term.

Speaking there, he said dichotomizing society into the privileged and underprivileged is an act of contribution to the enemy, Tabnak reported.

"I supported Rouhani according to my national and religious duty and based on my understanding," noted Nateq Nouri who competed with President Mohammad Khatami in the 1997 presidential election.

"This government has had an undeniable role in reducing tension and giving society peace of mind."



Iran should rely on youth talents not oil: Jahangiri

POLITICS TEHRAN — Presidential candidate **d e s k** Es'hag Jahangiri has said that Iran should rely more on the talents of the young generation rather than on oil.

One of the areas that the country can use the talents of the youth is to develop the science-based sector, he said in a radio program on Saturday.

"The circle of managers should evolve toward the young ones," he stressed, adding that the young population is a strong point for Iran.

Changes to nuclear deal will cause new problems, Iran warns

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian **d e s k** Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani warned the Donald Trump administration on Saturday that making changes to the nuclear agreement will cause new problems.

In April, the Trump administration claimed that it is reviewing the nuclear agreement.

Larijani said Iran is committed to its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - the official name for the nuclear deal.

The chief parliamentarian made the remarks while opening the oil, gas and petrochemical industry exhibition in Tehran.

Iran and the six major powers (the U.S., Britain, France, China, Russia and



Germany) reached the nuclear deal in July 2015. The agreement went into effect in January 2016.

Elsewhere, Larijani said that the Middle East is an "important oil and gas region" and the regional situation influences other countries' behavior.

He also said Iran is a safe country in the volatile Middle East region due to "strategic decision" being made by its officials.

He said terrorism has been spread in the region and Iran has adopted policies to counter it, a move which he said has been acknowledged by the international community.

Larijani added it is difficult to predict future of the region, because of some regional actors' behavior.

Rome fully endorses unclear deal: Italian deputy FM

By Ali Kushki

TEHRAN — Italy fully endorses the continuous implementation of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal, its deputy foreign minister said in Tehran on Saturday.

"Italy endorses Iran's nuclear deal with the P5+1 countries and will contribute to its full implementation," Vincenzo Amendola said during an appearance with his opposite number, Majid Takhravanchi.

The historic deal between Iran and six major powers restricts Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of international economic and financial

sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Italy, which presides over the G7 group of rich nations, was one of the first countries to resume trade ties with Iran after the deal.

In November 2016, its industry minister pledged to support business deals with Iran potentially worth billions of dollars, undeterred by fears U.S. President-elect Donald Trump could put slowly thawing international relations back on ice.

Italy was one of Iran's leading economic and trade partners before the sanctions time when annual exchanges amounted to 7 billion euros compared with 1.6 billion euros now, Eurostat said.

On his first overseas trip since the nuclear deal came into force in January 2016, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani landed in Italy, clearing the way for Iran to rebuild its relationship with Europe.

Ever since, there has been a 50 percent hike in trade exchanges between the two countries, what Takhravanchi hailed as "successful" and "in the interest of both countries".

In a separate meeting with Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Bahram Ghasemi, Amendola noted that Rome is awaiting Tehran's thumbs-up to a memorandum of understanding on credit lines to finance finalized deals between the two sides.

Interior minister says presidential debates proceeding well

POLITICS TEHRAN — Interior **d e s k** Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli on Saturday expressed satisfaction over the process of the presidential debates, saying they have been held in a good way with an observance of justice and equality.

All the related affairs are being monitored lawfully, the minister said told a press conference.

However, he said, some candidates have filed complaints and they will be investigated.

The second session of the presidential debates was held on Friday. The first round was held on April 28.

Incumbent Hassan Rouhani, First Vice President Es'hag Jahangiri, Tehran Mayor Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, member of Expediency Council Mostafa

Aqa-Mirsalim, Ebrahim Raisi, the current custodian of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) in Mashhad and former vice president Mostafa Hashemi-Taba are the candidates vying for the post of president. Elections which will be held on May 19.

Rouhani filed a complaint with Election Campaign Monitoring Committee against Qalibaf on April 30. Rouhani complained

to the committee that he was not given enough time to respond to Qalibaf's accusations.

Qalibaf has also filed a complaint with the committee about the extra time given to Rouhani.

Raisi also filed a written complaint with the election monitoring committee about the procedure the first live debates were held.

Velayati says Iran-Germany ties are growing

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Velayati, **d e s k** the senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, said on Saturday that ties between Iran and Germany are growing well and meetings between the two countries' officials prove it.

"Relations between Iran and Germany have a long history and we attach great importance to ties between the two countries," he said during a meeting with Markus Ederer, state secretary at the German Federal Foreign Office.

Velayati also described the status of Germany in the European Union as unique.

Elsewhere, he said that some countries seek to further complicate crises in the Middle East region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran can play an important role in line with international peace and stability" and prevent a "weakening and disintegration of regional countries," the former foreign minister stated in an open reference to the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Iran has taken steps in countering terrorism with a view of guarding international peace and security, added Velayati who was Iran's foreign minister for 16 years in the 1980s and 1990s.

For his part, Ederer said "constructive" talks between the two countries will help expand relations and settle regional crises.

'Astana talks is most positive political development surrounding Syria'

On the sidelines of the meeting, Velayati told reporters that the Astana talks are one of the "most positive" political meetings on the on the six-year-old conflict in Syria.

"The three countries [Iran, Turkey and Russia] have the objective of ending terrorism and preventing disintegration of this country [Syria]," he said.

He also said that Iran and Russia defend the Syrian government and people and help them protect their independence and territorial integrity.

On Thursday Iran along with Russia and Turkey signed a document on creating safe zones in Syria. The document was signed at the end of the fourth round of the Syria peace talks in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Kazakh Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Friday according to which "the four security zones, include Idlib province and part of the provinces of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo, the area to the north of Homs, Eastern Ghouta, as well as Deraa and Quneitra provinces in southern Syria".

According to TASS, Russian President's Special Envoy on Syria Alexander Lavrentyev said that the de-escalation zones in Syria will be also closed to the U.S.-led coalition's aviation.



Vacancy Announcement

The Mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in IRAN is seeking to fill the following vacant position in Tehran:

Receptionist

Main responsibilities

- Performs general secretarial duties independently
- Drafts and types routine correspondence
- Agenda keeping and various office work
- Translates simple documents
- Handles the reception of visitors by welcoming and orienting them to the appropriate department
- Handles switchboard operations

Minimum required knowledge & experience:

- University degree or professional diploma
- 3 - 5 years work experience in a similar field
- Very good computer skills
- Fluent in spoken and written English and Farsi
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to multi-task and work under pressure
- Ability to anticipate and plan, organized, autonomous, meets deadlines, team player, shows initiative, flexible
- Knowledge of humanitarian affairs, and working experience with an international organization is an asset

It should be noted that the position might require travelling (on mission) outside and inside the country.

All interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and a résumé in English to the following email address:

teh_hr_services@icrc.org

ALL submissions MUST be received by the closing date of 19 May 2017

Please be informed that only shortlisted candidates will be notified for further process.

Syria de-escalation zones deal takes effect

An agreement to create four "de-escalation zones" aimed at ending the conflict in war-torn Syria has come into force in the Arab country, the Russian Defense Ministry says.

The agreement on creating four de-escalation zones in four areas in northern, central and southern Syria, where the most intense fighting is underway between the Syrian government and different militant groups, took effect at the stroke of midnight local time on Saturday (2100 GMT on Friday).

The enforcement of the deal came a day after Iran, Russia and Turkey signed the agreement during the fourth round of the Syria peace talks in the Kazakh capital Astana, and two days after Moscow put forward the proposal.

The four safe regions are situated across eight of Syria's 14 provinces. The first zone includes the northwestern province of Idlib, the western province of Latakia, the western-central province of Hama, and the northern province of Aleppo.

The second zone covers the northern parts of the central Homs province. The third zone encompasses the Eastern Ghouta district near the capital Damascus, while the fourth zone includes southern Syria, particularly Dara'a and Quneitra provinces.

The four zones are only safe for the so-called armed opposition factions and exclude the Jabhri terrorist groups of Daesh and the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, formerly known as al-Nusra Front.

'Safe zones to end Syria war'

Meanwhile, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Alexander Fomin expressed optimism that the de-escalation zones in Syria would end the years-long war in the Arab country.

"The implementation of the memorandum will allow for stopping the combat activities by warring sides and practically put an end to the civil war in Syria, which is why the document is of great importance



for the political settlement in the country," Fomin said on Friday.

He added that all "main players concerned," namely "the United Nations, the US administration, the Saudi Arabian leadership and other authorities," supported the de-escalation agreement, a move that could be a "certain guarantee" for the implementation of the deal.

Meanwhile, Colonel General Sergei Rudskoi, the head of the Russian General Staff's Main Operations Department, said Moscow had already stopped using its air force in the four zones since May 1.

According to the deal, the three guarantor states -- Iran, Russia and Turkey -- have a month to define the exact borders of the de-escalation zones.

Rudskoi also said at a press conference

on Friday that the zones would improve the position of Syrian army troops, adding, "The Russian Air Force will continue supporting them in their operations aimed at eliminating."

Syria has been grappling with militancy since March 2011. UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimated last August that more than 400,000 people had been killed in the conflict until then.

Lavrov, Tillerson discuss Syria on the phone

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov talked with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on the phone on Friday to discuss Syria.

The two discussed how to stabilize a ceasefire that has been in place in Syria since late last year. That ceasefire was also

facilitated by Russia, Iran, and Turkey.

The US State Department also said in a press release after the phone conversation that the US would like to see United Nations-brokered talks in Geneva to move forward. Those talks had been stalled for almost a year when the negotiations in Astana began.

"The Secretary looks forward to further meetings with the Foreign Minister [Lavrov] to discuss the respective roles of the United States and Russia in de-escalating the conflict and supporting the talks in Geneva to move the political solution forward," read the press release by the US State Department.

The Astana talks have been organized by Russia, Iran, and Turkey.

(Source: agencies)

Pentagon to lease privately owned Trump Tower apartment for nuclear 'football': letter

The U.S. Defense Department is finalizing a lease on a privately owned apartment in New York's Trump Tower for the White House Military Office to use for supporting President Donald Trump without providing any benefit to Trump or his organization, according to a Pentagon letter seen by Reuters.

The Military Office carries and safeguards the "football," the device that contains the top secret launch codes the president needs to order a nuclear attack, as well as providing him secure communications wherever he is.

The White House, Secret Service, and Defense Department had no comment on whether similar arrangements have been made at other properties Trump frequents - Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida and the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey, where Trump is spending this weekend.

In a letter to Representative Jackie Speier, a Democrat on the House Armed Services and intelligence committees, Defense Department official James MacStravic, said the apartment is "privately owned and ... lease negotiations have been with the owner's representatives only."

MacStravic, who wrote that he was "temporarily performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics," said any acquisition of leased space with "an annual rental in excess of \$1 million must first be approved by my office."



He "approved this action" after consulting with the White House Military Office and other officials, he said.

Officials declined to reveal the cost of the lease or identify the owners of the apartment.

MacStravic's letter, dated March 3, added: "We are not aware of any means through which the President would personally benefit from a Government lease of this space."

The letter explained that the White House Military Office, a Pentagon unit, "requested approval to lease space in the Trump Tower for personnel assigned to support the President when at his private residence."

The letter said such arrangements are "typical of support provided" by the Military Office to previous U.S. presidents and vice presidents at their private residences. It is not clear, however, whether the office has ever paid to rent space to house the classified equipment presidents need when they are staying at homes they own outside Washington.

A White House spokeswoman said the White House had no information on the leasing issue. The Defense Department and U.S. Secret Service declined to comment.

The Trump Organization did not reply to an email requesting comment.

When the Pentagon in February first acknowledged that it was seeking to lease space in Trump Tower, some Democrats questioned whether such a move would produce a financial windfall for Trump.

"I am concerned by the appearance that the President of the United States will financially benefit from this deal at the expense of the Department of Defense - and ultimately, taxpayers," Speier wrote to Defense Secretary James Mattis shortly after the Trump Tower issue became public in February.

By negotiating only with representatives of the owners of a private apartment, the Pentagon said it was seeking to avoid such concerns.

(Source: Reuters)

North Korea accuses CIA of 'bio-chemical' plot against leadership

North Korea accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and South Korea's intelligence service of a plot to attack its "supreme leadership" with a bio-chemical weapon and said such a "pipe-dream" could never succeed.

Tension on the Korean peninsula has been high for weeks, driven by concern that North Korea might conduct its sixth nuclear test or test-launch another ballistic missile in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

Reclusive North Korea warned this week that U.S. hostility had brought the region to the brink of nuclear war.

The North's Ministry of State Security released a statement saying "the last-ditch effort" of U.S. "imperialists" and the South had gone "beyond the limits."

"The Central Intelligence Agency of the U.S. and the Intelligence Service (IS) of south Korea, hotbed of evils in the world, hatched a vicious plot to hurt the supreme

leadership of the DPRK and those acts have been put into the extremely serious phase of implementation after crossing the threshold of the DPRK," the North's KCNA news agency quoted the statement as saying, referring to the North by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"A hideous terrorists' group, which the CIA and the IS infiltrated into the DPRK on the basis of covert and meticulous preparations to commit state-sponsored terrorism against the supreme leadership of the DPRK by use of bio-chemical substance, has been recently detected."

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul and South Korea's National Intelligence Service were not immediately available for comment. The U.S. military has said CIA director Mike Pompeo visited South Korea this week and met the NIS chief for discussions.

KCNA said the two intelligence services "ideologically corrupted" and bribed a

North Korean surnamed Kim and turned him into "a terrorist full of repugnance and revenge against the supreme leadership of the DPRK."

"They hatched a plot of letting human scum Kim commit bomb terrorism targeting the supreme leadership during events at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and at military parade and public procession after his return home," KCNA said.

"They told him that assassination by use of biochemical substances including radioactive substance and nano poisonous substance is the best method that does not require access to the target, their lethal results will appear after six or twelve months..."

"Then they handed him over \$20,000 on two occasions and a satellite transmitter-receiver and let him get versed in it."

North Korea conducted an annual military parade, featuring a display of missiles and overseen by top leader Kim Jong Un

and his right-hand men on April 15 and then a large, live-fire artillery drill 10 days later.

KCNA, which often carries shrill, bellicose threats against the United States, gave lengthy details about the alleged plot but said it could never be accomplished.

"Criminals going hell-bent to realize such a pipe dream cannot survive on this land even a moment," it said.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Wednesday that Washington was working on more sanctions against North Korea if it takes steps that merit a new response. He also warned other countries their firms could face so-called secondary sanctions for doing illicit business with Pyongyang.

Tillerson said the Trump administration had been "leaning hard into China ... to test their willingness to use their influence, their engagement with the regime."

(Source: AP)

Ex-Gaza chief Haniya elected leader of Hamas

Hamas's former chief in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, has been elected overall head of the Palestinian resistance group, succeeding Khaled Meshaal, its official media announced Saturday.

Haniya, seen as a pragmatist within the movement, is expected to remain in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian enclave run by Hamas since 2007, unlike Meshaal who lives in exile in Doha and has completed the maximum two

terms in office.

"The Hamas Shura Council Saturday elected Ismail Haniya as head of the movement's political bureau," the Hamas media said.

Haniya seeks to ease its international isolation while not marginalizing hardliners within the movement.

On Monday, it unveiled a new policy document. The document notably accepts the idea of a Palestinian

state in territories occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967.

It also says its struggle is not against Jews because of their religion but against Israel as an occupier.

However, Hamas officials said the document in no way amounts to recognition of Israel as demanded by the international community.

(Source: AFP)

French candidate Macron claims massive hack as emails leaked

Leading French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's campaign said it had been the target of a "massive" computer hack that dumped its campaign emails online 1-1/2 days before voters choose between the centrist and his far-right rival, Marine Le Pen.

Macron, who is seen as the frontrunner in an election billed as the most important in France in decades, extended his lead over Le Pen in polls on Friday.

As much as 9 gigabytes of data were posted on a profile called EMLEAKS to Pastebin, a site that allows anonymous document sharing. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for posting the data or if any of it was genuine.

In a statement, Macron's political movement En Marche! (Onwards!) confirmed that it had been hacked.

"The En Marche! Movement has been the victim of a massive and coordinated hack this evening which has given rise to the diffusion on social media of various internal information," the statement said.

An interior ministry official declined to comment, citing French rules that forbid any commentary liable to influence an election, which took effect at midnight on Friday (2200 GMT).

The presidential election commission said in statement that it would hold a meeting later on Saturday after Macron's campaign informed it about the hack and publishing of the data.

It urged the media to be cautious about publishing details of the emails given that campaigning had ended, and publication could lead to criminal charges.

Comments about the email dump began to appear on Friday evening just hours before the official ban on campaigning began. The ban is due to stay in place until the last polling stations close Sunday at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT).

Opinion polls show independent centrist Macron is set to beat National Front candidate Le Pen in Sunday's second round of voting, in what is seen to be France's most important election in decades. The latest surveys show him winning with about 62 percent of the vote.

Russian hand seen

Former economy minister Macron's campaign has previously complained about attempts to hack its emails, blaming Russian interests in part for the cyber attacks.

On April 26, the team said it had been the target of a attempts to steal email credentials dating back to January, but that the perpetrators had failed to compromise any campaign data.

The Kremlin has denied it was behind any such attacks, even though Macron's camp renewed complaints against Russian media and a hackers' group operating in Ukraine.

Vitali Kremez, director of research with New York-based cyber intelligence firm Flashpoint, told Reuters his review indicates that APT 28, a group tied to the GRU, the Russian military intelligence directorate, was behind the leak. He cited similarities with U.S. election hacks that have been previously attributed to that group.

APT28 last month registered decoy internet addresses to mimic the name of En Marche, which it likely used send tainted emails to hack into the campaign's computers, Kremez said. Those domains include onedrive-en-marche.fr and mail-en-marche.fr.

"If indeed driven by Moscow, this leak appears to be a significant escalation over the previous Russian operations aimed at the U.S. presidential election, expanding the approach and scope of effort from simple espionage efforts towards more direct attempts to sway the outcome," Kremez said.

France is the latest nation to see a major election overshadowed by accusations of manipulation through cyber hacking.

U.S. intelligence agencies said in January that Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered hacking of parties tied to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to influence the election on behalf of Republican rival Donald Trump.

On Friday night as the #MacronLeaks hashtag buzzed around social media, Florian Philippot, deputy leader of the National Front, tweeted "Will Macronleaks teach us something that investigative journalism has deliberately killed?"

Macron spokesman Sylvain Fort, in a response on Twitter, called Philippot's tweet "vile."

En Marche! said the documents only showed the normal functioning of a presidential campaign, but that authentic documents had been mixed on social media with fake ones to sow "doubt and misinformation".

Ben Nimmo, a UK-based security researcher with the Digital Forensic Research Lab of the Atlantic Council think tank, said initial analysis indicated that a group of U.S. far-right online activists were behind early efforts to spread the documents via social media. They were later picked up and promoted by core social media supporters of Le Pen in France, Nimmo said.

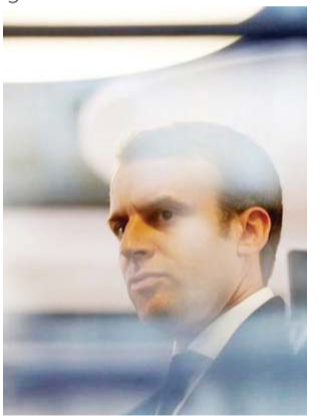
The leaks emerged on 4chan, a discussion forum popular with far right activists in the United States. An anonymous poster provided links to the documents on Pastebin, saying, "This was passed on to me today so now I am giving it to you, the people."

The hashtag #MacronLeaks was then spread by Jack Posobiec, a pro-Trump activist whose Twitter profile identifies him as Washington D.C. bureau chief of the far-right activist site Rebel TV, according to Nimmo and other analysts tracking the election. Contacted by Reuters, Posobiec said he had simply reposted what he saw on 4chan.

"You have a hashtag drive that started with the alt-right in the United States that has been picked up by some of Le Pen's most dedicated and aggressive followers online," Nimmo told Reuters.

Alt-right refers to a loose-knit group of far-right activists known for their advocacy of extremist ideas, rejection of mainstream conservatism and disruptive social media tactics.

(Source: Reuters)



OMEGA



#moonwatch

Available at:


TEHRAN WATCH
SINCE 1901


OMEGA
Speedmaster

National Iranian Oil Company at a Glance



Undoubtedly, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has tolerated many ups and downs over the past century in the course of excellence and development.

With due observance to the said issue, giant steps have been taken in the 11th government dubbed "Hope and Prudence" in the past three years.

Increase of more than 1.5 fold of the average oil and gas production level coupled with the significant increase of gas condensate since the outset of the 11th government (assumed office in August 2013), correction of structure of contracts and materialization of a major part of development objectives of the National Iranian Oil Company, signing and sealing new agreements, inaugurating 11 phases at South Pars Gas Field, etc. are of salient achievements taken in 11th government.

Hereunder are salient achievements taken by NIOC in 11th Government

Increasing oil, gas and gas condensate production volume as much as more than 1.5 fold,
Correcting structure of contracts, materializing major part of developmental objectives of NIOC,

Signing and sealing new agreements,
Inaugurating 11 phases in South Pars Gas Field,

Considerable twofold increase of crude oil exports,
Significant threefold increase of oil production in joint fields in West Karun,
Supporting domestically-manufactured products within the framework of resistance economy,

Empowering Iranian contractors,
Collecting approx. 8 million cubic meters of associated gas per day in Khuzestan oilfields, etc.

Correction of Contracts and Opening Doors of Oil Industry towards Foreign Investors

At the outset of the 11th government and concurrent with the achievements of this government in the field of implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which is considered as a turning point for the political development in Iran, mechanisms of oil industry were subject to the many changes.

However, implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal, golden opportunity was created for economic status of the country, based on which, Iran opened its door towards the foreign investors. Accordingly, oil production was accelerated in post-JCPOA era.

The policy of the Oil Ministry in correction of contracts and definition of a model of contracts accelerated attraction of foreign investors significantly. Moreover transferring technical knowhow and technology by world's prestigious company in the field of oil industry into the country, suitable ways were provided for progressing and promoting development objectives of oil industry especially production growth from joint oilfields.

In this way, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) managed to conclude several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and agreements with world's most prestigious companies working in the field of oil industry in the past year. However, the company succeeded in passing from breathtaking periods of sanctions.

The significance of conclusion of these contracts and agreements is so high that the Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said: "Under such



circumstances, the 11th government is able to generate employment for 100,000 job-seeking people in the country."

With due observance to the said issue, the Oil Ministry burdens the great responsibility of creating employment in oil industry of the country.

Tripartite MOU Inked between NIOC, German SIEMENS and OTC

Ordibehesht 1395 (May 2016): According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) inked between National Iranian Oil Company, German SIEMENS Company and Oil Turbo Compressor Company (OTC), the NIOC selected German SIEMENS Company and OTC to repair and maintenance of rotating machinery and equipment existing in operational regions, refineries and affiliated centers coupled with manufacturing high-quality turbines with the new capacity.

It should be noted that SIEMENS Company and Oil Turbo Compressor Company (OTC) are busy active in the oil industry.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Russia's ZAROBINEFT Company in July 2016:

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), it was decided that this prestigious Russian Company should submit its proposals with regard to the increase of coefficient of oil recovery in oilfields after conducting feasibility studies on two oilfields named "GHARB and ABAN Oilfields".

MOU Inked between NIOC and Indonesian PORTAMINA Oil Co. in August 2016:

Under the agreement, it was decided that Iran's ABTIMOR and MANSOURI oilfields should be put under feasibility studies of this prestigious Indonesian company.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Russia's TATNEFT Company in Oct. 2016:

The Memorandum of Understanding was inked with Russia's TATNEFT Company in the field of carrying out feasibility studies on DEHLORAN Oilfield.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Russia's LUKOIL Company in Oct. 2016:

Under the agreement, Russia's LUKOIL Company was tasked with carrying out feasibility studies on two Iranian oilfields i.e. ABTIMOR and MANSOURI

MOU Inked between NIOC and a Consortium Consist of French TOTAL, Chinese CNPC and PETROPARS Company in Nov. 2016:

This Memorandum of Understanding was inked between National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), French TOTAL Oil Giant and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and PETROPARS Company in line with the development of Phase 11 of South Pars Gas Field. Under the agreement, it was decided that 1.8 billion cubic meter of gas should be put into operation per day from this field in 2020.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Poland Governmental Oil and Gas Company (PGNIG) in Nov. 2016:

Under the agreement inked, feasibility study of SOMAR Oilfield was delegated to this Polish company working in the field of oil and gas.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Norwegian DNO Co. in Nov. 2016:

The feasibility studies of CHANGOOLEH Oilfield were delegated to this Norwegian Company.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Russia's GAZPROM Company in Dec. 2016:

Under the agreement, feasibility study of two oilfields named Chesh-

meh Khosh and Changooleh was delegated to this Russian Company.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Thailand National Petroleum Corporation (PTTEP) in Dec. 2016:

With signing and sealing this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), feasibility studies of three fields including "Changooleh", "Dalperi" and "Belal" were delegated to this Thai Petroleum Corporation.

MOU Inked between NIOC and Royal Dutch Shell Company in Dec. 2016:

Under the agreement, the feasibility studies of two oilfields i.e. "Azadegan" and "Yadavaran" and also Kish Gas Field were put atop agenda of this European company.

MOU Inked between NIOC and PASARGAD Energy Development Company in Feb. 2017:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed and sealed with the aim of conducting feasibility studies on oilfields including "JOFAYR", "SOUSANGERD" and SEPEHR.

MOU Inked between NIOC and GHADIR Investment Company in April 2017:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed and sealed with the aim of conducting feasibility on oilfields including "JOFAYR", "SEPEHR", and 3rd development phase of DARKHOVEYN as well as Kish Gas Field.

MOU Inked between NISOC and PERGESS Consortium Composed of 11 European, Canadian, Asian Companies and Sharif University of Technology in Dec. 2016:

The first Memorandum of Understanding and confidentiality agreement was inked according to a new model of contract posed by the National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) with regard to conduct feasibility studies on two oilfields of KERANJ (ASMARI, PABDEH and KHAMI Tanks) and Shadegan (ASMARI and BANGESTAN Tanks).

MOU Inked between NISOC and Schlumberger Company in Dec. 2016:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and confidentiality agreement was inked by the two companies with the aim of conducting feasibility studies on three tanks of ASMARI, BANGESTAN and KHAMI, RAGSE-FID Oilfield, ASMARI Tank in PARSII Oilfield and two tanks of ASMARI and BANGESTAN om Shadegan Oilfield.

MOU Inked between NISOC and Russia's TATNEFT Company:

A Memorandum of Understanding was inked with the aim of conducting feasibility studies on the development of ASMARI and BANGESTAN tanks in Shadegan Oilfield.

South Pars Gas Field, Trump Card of the 11th Government

South Pars Joint Field is the manifestation of national will and determi-



Comprehensive Report on Performance of Iran's Gas Industry in 11th Government



Oil and gas are of the most important energy carriers existing in world energy basket. With owning 34 trillion cubic meters of natural gas, Iran makes up more than 18 percent of world's total gas reserve. In general, Islamic Republic of Iran is known as the greatest holder of rich gas reserves in the world. Existence of such giant reserves in Iran has prompted policymakers of the country working in energy sector to focus on developing production capacity, transferring, storing and distributing natural gas across the country and substituting it with other oil products in order to increase share of natural gas in country's energy basket. Moreover taking advantage of this clean fuel, effective steps have been taken to prevent immethodical consumption of oil products, based on which, significant reduction in imports of these oil products can yield income and boom economic status of the country.

Highlights of Measures Taken by NIGC in 11th Government

Creating Energy Security and Public Welfare:

The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) in the 11th government has provided all necessary infrastructures for the development of gas-supply projects inside the country especially supplying gas to the underprivileged and disadvantaged areas of the country in line with the implementation of policies of resistance economy. Moreover creating welfare

at villages and rural areas of the country, this issue has led to boosting life expectancy, generation of employment, etc.

Gas-Supply Development: Until before the 11th government dubbed "Hope and Prudence", a number of 975 cities and 14,419 villages of the country enjoyed natural gas but during 11th government (since August 2012 up to the present time), more urban and rural areas of the country were supplied with the natural gas, based on which, 1,158 and 23,000 urban and rural areas of the country took advantage of gas-supply project respectively. Presently, 97 percent of residential units in urban areas and 70% of residential units in rural areas of the country were supplied with the natural gas.

Supplying Gas to Urban and Rural Areas in 11th Government

In the 11th government dubbed "Hope and Prudence", supplying gas to the urban and rural areas of the country was taken into serious consideration with the aim of taking advantage of maximum capacity of society from this clean and cheap fuel. In this regard, new urban and rural gas networks, as long as approx. 636,000 km, were constructed. With due observance to the said issue, more than 1,320,000 new connections and outlets were installed. In general, approx. 4,000,000 new urban and rural subscribers enjoyed the God-given blessing of natural gas. Statistics and figures in this sector shows the considerable 19 percent growth in this sector.

Supplying Gas to Rural Areas in 11th Government

Supplying gas in the form of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to the faraway and hard-to-reach areas was put atop agenda at the approval of Council of Economy within the framework of materialization of objectives of resistance economy, safeguarding and protecting environment, boosting public welfare, etc.

Given the above issue, giant steps were taken by NIGC in order to materialize objectives of resistance economy as reiterated by the supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

In this field, gas-supply project to the four districts of the country has also been put atop agenda of the company. Currently, the first gas-supply project to Bidroubeh city, Andimeshk, in Khuzestan Province, started in the form of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

In addition, gas-supply project to the city of Zahedan, as the provincial center of Sistan-Baluchestan, is considered as one of the other prioritized projects of the National Iranian Gas Company.

In the same direction, gas supply project top the city of Zahedan is regarded as one of the most important strategies for the materialization of social equity and justice, the issue of which is one of the sublime objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It should be noted that construction operation of this gas-supply project started in 2016 and is underway with considerable physical progress.

With the coordination made in this regard, dear fellow countrymen in Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Province will take advantage of natural gas.

It is hoped that necessary backgrounds will be provided for the all-out development of southeastern part of the country.

Preventing from migration to the cities, safeguarding and protecting environment and preventing from destruction of forests and ranges, using cheap and clean energy, helping economic situation of families, saving in use of distilled products as well attaining the sustainable development are of the other salient achievements taken in the 11th government.

With regard to the supplying gas to the power plants, the country has witnessed a considerable 13 percent growth (13%).

Currently, the number of power plants, which took advantage of natural gas, hit from 68 to 79 before termination of the Iranian month of Khordad in the current year (to end August 20).

According to the available statistics, share of natural gas from the fuel required for power plants at 54%, the rate of which increased to 70% and 80% in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

It should be noted that more than 96% of fuel required by the power plants in the coun-

try was provided from natural gas. In other words, fuel demand of most power plants in the country was met with the natural gas.

Supplying Gas to Power Plants in 11th Government

Increasing Gas Refining Capacity:

During the tenure of the 11th government, more than 700 billion cubic meters of natural gas were produced and refined, showing a considerable 31 percent (31%) growth as compared to the performance of the previous government. In this regard, new gas transfer pipeline, as long as approx. 2,000 km, was constructed for transferring this amount of gas extracted from resources, achieving sustainability and stabilizing gas supply, etc.

In the same direction, five gas pressure-boosting stations were put into operation with 15 turbo compressors in the current administration. Presently, total length of gas transmission pipelines constructed stood at over 37,000 km in the country. In general, the number of gas pressure-boosting stations



and turbo compressors increased up to 76 and 257 respectively.

Increased Gas Injected into Storage Tanks:

Increasing gas injected into the storage tanks is the other salient measure taken by the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) in the 11th government dubbed "Hope and Prudence".

It should be noted that the company stored 1,034 million cubic meters of gas for domestic consumption in the previous government i.e. 9th and 10th governments but the 11th government managed to inject more than 5,813 million cubic meters in the storage tanks.

Development of International Relations:

Development of economic ties with neighboring countries in the field of exporting natural gas is the other main approach of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) which was followed up strictly in the 11th government especially after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal.

Given the above issue, implementation of JCPOA opened a bright horizon for the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international arena, based on which, NIGC managed to boost its export volume to the five neighboring countries including Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkmenistan.

Concurrently, talks are underway between Iran and other trade partners, based on which, Iran's quality gas will be supplied to the other regional countries in the very near future.

It should be noted that mid- and long-term strategy of Iran's gas industry, eyeing Europe's gas market, paving suitable ways for exporting natural gas to Europe in order to get lion's share of gas, alleviating vulnerability of national economy in the course of political fluctuation and volatility, increasing resilience of national economy, etc. have been taken into serious consideration in order to strengthen all-out relations with the outside world.

The management of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has made its utmost efforts in the current year named after "Resistance Economy, Employment and Job Creation" in order to materialize most of its objectives.

Prospective Thinking and Strategy of Converting Threat into Opportunity in IOTC



In the tough times of oil industry especially in sanctions periods when country's crude oil exports volume declined, almost all export docks in Kharg Island did not felt any traffic congestion of oil tankers. The wise and logical management of the company caused Iran's export volume of oil to experience a considerable hike. In the same direction, operational capacity and capability of this company promoted with renovating and modernizing the important installation of storing, sending and receiving, etc. Given the above issue, Iran's oil industry is current able to export eight million of oil barrels per day (BPD) from Kharg Oil Terminal.

As Iran's economic lifeline, IOTC links production value chain and crude oil export and also gate of country's energy diplomacy. The Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) as one of the companies under umbrella of National Iranian Oil Company is an operational, specialized and professional organization that has the duty of all reservation affairs, crude oil, oil products, liquefied gas and marine services export and import operations along with providing measurement and lab services. This important task is under implemented by aiming at support and sustained continuation of oil and gas production in the country in four operational zones of Kharg Oil Terminals, North Oil Terminals (Neka), Assaluyeh Oil Terminals and Mahshahr Oil Terminals through performing receipt, reserving, mixing, measuring, the quality and quantity measurement, loading and discharging (export and import) of crude oils and oil products (SWAP), the berthing and oil vessels operations, which has led to the completion and promotion of oil and gas value chain as well as playing a worthy role in the sustainment and flexibility of the national, regional and international energy chain supply. This company believes in creating superior value and promoting the level of customers and key beneficiaries' satisfaction its most comprehensive policy-making cores through systemic approach, establishment of a vision-based, learning entity, healthy and excellent organization and for this purpose in an approach towards development, sustained excellence, knowledge-core and the realization of mission, it has put the observation of requirements in standards ISO14001:2004, OHSAS18001:2007, ISO/IEC17025:2005, ISO9001:2008 and has bound itself in observing the followings: Prevention of environment pollutions, preventing job accidents and risks, reducing and omitting risks, promoting public health and commitment in the responsibility to achieve a sustained future, employing and developing worthy, capable, professional, creative, innovative, responsive and motivated personnel, committed to the ideas and values of the company, and creating an excellent and dynamic organization, observing the national and international regulations that govern the activities and services of the company, understanding, perceiving and supplying demands, needs and anticipations of customers for the purpose of innovations and creating values for them, constant improvement in the quantity and quality of the balanced results for the company through management of processes.

■ Strategic Management, Attempt to Ensure National Interests

According to the planning compiled, Iranian oil industry in 2025 Outlook Plan will be turned into an industrialized and advanced country and can be termed as a role model of economy for other regional countries in the Middle East region and West Asia. For this reason, slowness of progressing trend of Iran's oil and gas sector will be earmarked in its upstream sector, the issue of which can cause negative fluctuations and swing in all economic sectors of Iran. It seems necessary that responsible officials in the oil and gas sector of the country should take accurate decision in this field.

With due observance to the said issue, Iranian Oil Terminals Company is consid-

ered as the export hub of country's oil and oil products. But a comprehensive look to the function of this industrial and production unit shows that existence of capability and capacity of export operations in this sector is meant guaranteeing continuation of production in the beginning of functional chain of the oil industry.

What is certain is this that existence of high capability and loading capacity as well as export of crude oil in Iranian Oil Terminals Company is a fundamental component in architecture of energy security of the country which can safeguard Iran's interests in the long run.

■ A Company for All Seasons!

As the frontal face of Iranian oil industry in international markets, Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) is busy active in the field of storing, loading, transferring, exporting and importing crude oil, natural gas, gas condensates, and oil products. As the last chain of crude oil production, IOTC also presents offshore, logistics and marine transport services. In other words, IOTC is responsible for exporting Iranian black gold on the Persian Gulf wa-



ters. The main mission of IOTC is as follows: offering logistics services, helping sustainable continuity in the production of oil and gas in the country through operation processes of receiving, storing, merging, measuring qualitatively and quantitatively, loading and unloading operation as well as importing and exporting crude oil and oil products, exchanging oil through SWAP deal, berthing and separating tanker vessels and also com-



pleting and promoting oil and gas value chain of the country, etc.

Given the outset of exporting trend of oil to the international markets after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal, the country's highest role creation was delegated to the company in line with materializing objectives on exporting oil and gas.

With due observance to the said issue, honorable staff and personnel of the company faced with the maximum export volume in all-time history of the company in the past Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended March 20, 2017).

The activities conducted in the field of exporting crude oil in the last few years is the outset of a new era in activity of the company and oil industry of the country. Although sanctions created some restrictions in the field of exporting oil, it was led to the considerable slump in loading and exporting crude oil.

The attitude of the management of the company caused it to be named as "A Company for All Seasons", based on which, we witnessed that promoting and increasing export volume of country's crude oil was the first positive impact of JCPOA. This achievement was happened under the auspices of unflinch-

ing and unsparing efforts of industrious personnel and workers of country's oil industry.

In the meantime, the company owes its success to the unflinching efforts of industrious personnel and workers of the company.

■ Effective Arm of Resistance Economy in Oil Industry

Such a prestigious company with this level of significance and effectiveness should certainly enjoy the excellent intellectual approaches for materializing most objectives. Strategic management of the company in years of sanctions imposed on Iran caused the company to show excellent performance. The company owes its success to the wise and logical management of the company. Giant steps have been taken by the management of the company in the current year named after the "resistance economy, production and job generation".

Exports of Iranian crude oil experienced a considerable decline following the intensification of sanctions imposed on Iran. Export of crude oil in the eleventh government experienced a considerable growth and reached to approx. three million barrels per day (BPD).

Many domestic and foreign experts were of the opinion that Iran's crude oil export volume would hit one million barrels per day (BPD) but after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal, Iran's oil export volume wondered international oil circles. The impact of strategic decision of Iranian Oil Terminals Company in the renovation, improvement and modernization of its operational process in sanctions period revealed its impact on the flowchart of Iran's national revenues as well. With the production growth and oil exports after sanctions relief, Iran's oil revenues exceeded \$40 billion in the past Iranian calendar year in 1395 (ended March 20, 2017). In the same period, the highest record in export of crude oil, oil products and gas condensates as many as seven million barrels of oil per day (BPD) was registered as a glory and honor for the country's oil industry.

The aforementioned cases are the achievement of strategic management model in Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) and also commitment and prejudice of all industrious staff and personnel of this industrial unit to the implementation of idea of resistance economy in the oil industry of the country.

Nowadays, production structures and development of oil industry have managed to

overcome tough and stern period of sanctions successfully. In the same direction, implementation of resistance economy model is similar to an antipode against probable future threats and in some cases; imposition of sanctions on Iran has even accelerated the development of this industry considerably.

Benefitted from the most valuable experience since sanctions period up to the present time, Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) will certainly be turned into an influential pattern of strategic management in the oil industry of the country.

Undoubtedly, the past Iranian calendar year 1395 (from March 20, 2016 to March 20, 2017) was unique of its kind and unprecedented for the activity of Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC). With due observance to the said issue, the highest level of role modeling in the path of materialization of objective of the country was delegated to the IOTC due to the inception of trend for revival of crude oil exports in post-sanctions period. In general, the company burdened the great responsibility for boosting export level of crude oil.

As a matter of fact, sanctions imposed on Iran created restrictions in the country practically, based on which, the loading volume of crude oil and also exporting this strategic



product decreased to a great extent. Hereunder are considered as the other salient measures taken by the company in the past Iranian calendar year in 1395 (ended March 20, 2017): discharging, unloading, isolating, exchanging slip tank of docks at Kharg Oil Terminal, inspecting, repairing and maintaining storage tanks in Kharg and Neka Oil Terminals, conducting descaling operation in two 1,000,000-barrel tanks using the operational experiences of domestic experts, etc.

Of the other salient achievements of the company in the past year, it should be referred to: managing for mixing crude oil in Forouzan Oilfield with heavy crude oil and also in some cases, mixing light crude oil in Forouzan Oilfield with safeguarding export crude oil, planning and implementing activities related to the separation of tanks with the aim of controlling and reducing water associated with oil in export consignments, etc.

Studying the three important projects of IOTC can describe a part of record of this prestigious company.

■ Feasibility Study for Construction of 10m Barrels of Crude Oil Underground Tank

Conducting feasibility study on the project for the construction of 10 million barrels of crude oil underground tank is of the salient project of the company. Not only tis project is one of the strategies projects in oil industry of the country, but also it is important project in national level. In general, this project enjoys high capability in order to compete with other crude oil underground tank in the region and world. In the meantime, Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) is known as the responsible body for constructing and developing this important project. The feasibility study of the said project includes as follows: fulfilling geological and engineering studies as long as 2,000 km with 100-km width located in the northern Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman.

Given the construction of this project for the first time in the country, existing international situation, nature of project, technical complexities of the project, management of research and development (R&D), management of international affairs, necessity of coordinating with other organizations such as Passive Defense Organization and Department of Environment (DoE), it is a matter of happiness to say that very positive and favorable results have been produced in a way that construction operation of this project is underway with more than 90% physical progress.

■ Salient Achievements of IOTC in Past Year

Export of 780m Barrels of Crude Oil from Kharg Oil Terminals

More than 230 million barrels of light crude oil were exported from Kharg Oil Terminals in the past year 1395 (ended March 20, 2017). In addition, more than 480 million barrels of heavy crude oil and approx. 70 million barrels in Forouzan Oilfield were exported from Kharg Oil Terminal in the same period.



This volume of oil exported from Kharg Oil Terminal in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016) stood at 432 million barrels of oil but after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), export of oil witnessed a considerable growth in the past Iranian calendar year in 1395 (ended March 20, 2017).

■ Renovating & Modernizing Marine Fleet in Iranian Oil Terminals Company

With compiling a strategic program, IOTC intends to renovate and modernize aging sea fleet through taking measures such as renting four tug vessels (trailers), the issue of which has been put atop agenda. In general, the company intends to increase operational capability of oil industry in the field of exporting crude oil.

■ Recording Significant Record in Export of Oil in Kharg Oil Terminal

Moreover exporting the highest volume of oil, oil products and gas condensates, as many as approx. seven million barrels per day, giant steps were also taken in saving currency in the company in the field of recycling and converting sludge existing in crude oil storage tanks in Kharg Oil Terminal. This issue caused the company to save foreign currency as much as 1,218 billion rials coupled with obtaining more money in this respect. As main base for supplying feedstock in Persian Gulf Star Refinery, salient achievement was taken in Assaluyeh Gas Condensate Export Terminal in the current year.

■ Designing and Manufacturing of Metering Cards No. 1 in Assaluyeh

Flow computer is an intelligent smart processing system that can calculate the rate of crude oil or standard export products with receiving inputs such as temperature, pressure, and pulse. For this reason, flow computer is widely used in oil export terminals. A number of 10 flow computers have been installed in Assaluyeh Gas Condensate Terminal. Since the mentioned cards cannot be provided from foreign resources, manufacturing these cards were put atop agenda in R&D Department of the company.

Construction of prototype of these cards has been put into serious consideration and presently, manufacturing 90 of these cards is underway. With the studies made in this regard, it is estimated that construction of these cards inside the country will prevent from capital flight as much as 4 billion rials.

■ Designing and Manufacturing BIO OSD (Oil Spill Detection)

Construction operation of this project, which has been conducted for the first time in the country, is underway. Construction of this project in the country will cause Iran to attain world's latest technical knowhow in the field of production of microbial product for the removal of oil pollutions. Attaining self-sufficiency in production of this product and cutting dependency to the similar foreign products is of the salient achievements of the company in this regard.

An Interview with Managing Director of NISOC: NISOC Prides Its Human and Social Capitals Extremely



On the occasion of 22nd Iran Intl. Oil, Gas Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition dubbed (IRAN OIL SHOW 2017), our correspondent has conducted an interview with the managing director of National Iranian Oilfields Company (NISOC) which comes as follows:

■ As the first question, despite all strategies bottlenecks of production operation, which part of your daily activity at the company satisfies you?

A: As a matter of fact, we owe our success at the company to the unflinching efforts and endeavors of industrial workers at oil industry. For this purpose, expert-level sessions are held everyday at the company in order to improve productivity of the company. In general, the company owns its success to the efforts of all staff, workers and laborers across the country. The management of the company has created a peace ambience for its staff and workers in order to materialize most objectives.

■ Khuzestan Province is duly called as the oil capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran. How is the oil relationship of this province with the other oil-rich provinces in particular?

A: In response to your question, I should say that oilfields are located in an area that has not been developed suitably in terms of urban infrastructures. In such as environment, the role of oil will be signified. Since I was appointed as the managing director of this company, I managed to establish very close and direct relationship with the provincial governor-generalship as the representative of the government and main center of policymaking in the province. In this regard, governor general of the province has participated in almost all get-together meetings. Generally speaking, we, in National Iranian South Oilfields Company, have taken a giant stride to materialize objectives of the government in the current year named after resistance economy, production and job creation.

■ How is the outcome of achievements taken in this regard by your company?

A: Well, you know that oil has not been fallen into oblivion for the development of oil-rich provinces but defining and implementing development projects depend on the situation of liquidity and oil budget. As a matter of fact, the budget of the National Iranian Oil Company is the share of this company from selling oil i.e. 14%. However, this rate fluctu-

ates severely with the reduction and change of oil price and also reduced oil exports (such as what was happened in sanctions period). It should be noted that all projects minus prioritized projects can overshadow the production and in some cases, it may lead the company to the bankruptcy. Nevertheless, suitable ways have been provided for broadening cooperation between oil industry and public and private sector organizations especially in the past three years since the 11th government assumed office in August 2013.

■ Would you mind explaining a bit more on the production volume of oil in your company?

A: At the unflinching and unsparing efforts of industrial personnel and engineers, production volume of the company is satisfactory as compared to the time when the country had been hit with cruel sanctions. It should be noted that the oil production volume at the company stands at three million barrels of oil per day (BPD). Although the company hit hard by sanctions imposed by the western countries on Iran, our company took advantage of this situation and managed to grab the chance for renovating, rebuilding and immunizing its pipelines and installations.

■ What effective measures have been taken in your company for production growth in addition to the current volume of oil production?

A: Increasing oil more than three million barrels of oil per day (BPD) depends on the program notified by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). But south oilfields are ready to increase its production volume in case of notification of production growth. For this purpose, projects for increasing the processing capacity such as construction of desalination units and drilling of repair and development wells are underway which will be put into operation gradually.

■ What measures have been taken at your company after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with regard to domestic and foreign investment?



A: In response to your question, I should say that we have submitted proposals in the field of investment for developing oilfields. In general, our proposal was highly welcomed

both by domestic and foreign companies. For this purpose, more than 70 expert-level sessions were held with approx. 40 domestic and foreign companies, so that we explained the model of contract as approved at the National Iranian Oil Company. Eventually, talks led to the conclusion of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with some domestic and foreign companies such as PERGAS Consortium, Schlumberger Company, Khatam ol-Anbeya Construction Quarters, Russia's TATOIL Company and PERSIA Development Company.

■ Sometimes, bitter news is observed in oil industry. To what extent does your company manage to provide a secure and safe environment for its personnel and workers?

A: HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) is strictly observed at the company. However, mental and physical health of all staff and engineers is of paramount importance to us. Safety should be observed strictly in oil industry particularly.

Since years ago, safety has long been the basis of training, education and acculturation. For this purpose, the company has set up necessary training courses in order to enhance safety criteria among workers in the best form possible. Our company is equipped



with the most experienced and skilled manpower who are able to prevent any probable accidents and incidents logically.

■ As you know, the current year was named after the year of resistance economy, production and job generation. Which part of performance of the company is consistent with the concept of resistance economy?

A: In response to your question, I should say that the company has taken giant strides in order to materialize objectives of resistance economy as reiterated in the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year 1396 (started March 21, 2017).

Given the above issue, it means that whole activities related to the pivotal activities of this company i.e. creation of capacity during sanctions and increase of maximal production volume in sanctions periods have been in line with the resistance economy.

Benefitted from the expert domestic engineers and capable manufacturers and suppliers of oil accessories, the company managed to increase its production volume considerably especially in recent years. In this line, we are witnessing the manufacturing first gas turbine in the oil industry which has been fully produced by the domestic engineers. The domestically-produced gas turbine was installed at one of the processing units affiliated to MA-ROUN Oil and Gas Company.

Manufacturing oil equipment and parts inside the country has been emphasized. On the other hand, with the progresses observed in the field of production of related software required for feasibility studies of tanks, it can be said that the company has taken giant strides for materialization of economic objectives of the country as reiterated by the supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution in his initial address to the noble nation of Islamic Iran in the current year.

Generally speaking, the company has not lost the indigenization of relevant equipment needed.

■ Would you mind explaining about the situation of projects which have been inaugurated or are on the verge of inauguration?

A: One of the priorities of NISOC, which plays a basic and fundamental role in the



materialization of production programs, is the implementation and commissioning of projects for maintaining and increasing production volume. In other words, maintaining

prox. 35 desalination projects are underway in South Oilfields in the country, costing approx. 14,000 billion rials.

The first phase of expansion project of Mansouri Oilfield was put into operation in 2015 at the unsparing efforts of Oil Engineering and Development Company (OEDC).

The offsite installation facilities of this project include a unit equipped with operation and desalination with the production capacity of 75,000 barrels of oil per day (BPD), expandable to 100,000 barrels per day (BPD).

Of the other desalination project commissioned in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016), it should be referred to Haft Shahidan 55,000-barrels of desalination and operation unit, Labsefid 30,000-barrel Desalination Unit which are located in the operational unit of Masjed Soleyman Oil and Gas Company.

It should be noted that construction operation of second phase of plan to collect associated gas (AMAC) is underway. Once this unit is put into operation, 15 million ft. cubic meter of gas will be forwarded to Razi Petrochemical Company per day and also can prevent the daily incineration of 800 tons of sulfur.

In line with the desalination projects, gas injection projects are of paramount importance in the stabilization of production. Of the most important projects in this sector, it should be referred to: construction of new gas injection station in Gachsaran, construction of new gas injection station in Bibihakimeh, construction of new gas pressure boosting station in Bibihakimeh 1 and 2, construction of second phase of gas injection station in Nargesi and construction of second phase of gas injection tank in ASMAR.

Also, given the planning made for increasing oil production volume, renovating and updating pumping houses have been taken into consideration in National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC).

■ Any concluding remarks.

A: I deem it necessary to express my special thanks to those industrious manpower and expert engineers who took giant strides in line with materializing most objectives of the company. However, effective steps have been taken in the current Iranian calendar year in 1396, named after the "resistance economy, production and job creation".





An Interview with Mehdi Yousefi, Managing Director of
Pars Energy Special Economic Zone:

Each Phase of South Pars Gas Field Accounts for 1% of GDP



Each phase at South Pars Gas Field will add one percent to the gross domestic product (GDP). Mehdi Yousefi Managing Director of Pars Energy Special Economic Zone announced the above statement and said that each phase of South Pars Gas Field will add one percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP)."

South Pars Gas Field is able to produce \$100 billion annually for the country (If each U.S. dollar is calculated \$50 for each barrel of oil). This region is of the greatest energy hub in Iran and world.

More than \$18 billion investment has been made only in two phases of South Pars Gas Field i.e. phases 17 and 21, the rate of which is equal to one fifth of total investment made in South Pars Joint Field.

With the launch of these four petrochemical projects, two million tons of petrochemicals will be added to the existing capacity. In addition, \$2 billion will be added to the value of production of products in petrochemical sector of the country.

Six phases in South Pars Gas Field and four petrochemical projects of the zone were inaugurated in late of Iranian month of Farvardin 1396 in the presence of President Rouhani and Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

He put the total investment made for launching these petrochemical projects at \$20 billion, the rate of which is equal to one fifth of total investment made in South Pars Gas Field.

Until before 2013, totally 10 phases in South Pars Gas Field had been put into operation, so that 11 standard phases of the field have become operational during 11th government dubbed "Hope and Prudence".

He put the daily extraction of gas from South Pars Joint Field at 575 million cubic meters as shared between Iran and Qatar.

To learn more about the details, our correspondent has conducted an interview with him which comes as follows:

Let's review the interview in questions and answers:

■ Would you mind explaining the commissioning of six phases that were recently inaugurated by President Rouhani and Oil Minister?

A: Simultaneous inauguration of six phases in South Pars Gas Field and four petrochemical projects in the zone and also South Pars Oil Layer in unique and kind and unprecedented in all-time history of development of South Pars Joint Field. More than \$18 billion investment was made only in phases 17 to 21 of this field, the rate of which is equal to one fifth of

total investment made in South Pars Joint Field.

It should be emphasized that commissioning eight mega projects in South Pars cannot be accidental, rather, launching all these phases requires a long-term planning prudently.

At the outset of the 11th government, total gas volume produced in South Pars Joint Field stood at approx. 250 million cubic meter, the rate of which increased twofold, equal to that of Qatari side.

With the calculation made, commissioning each phase of South Pars Gas Field can add almost one percent to the gross domestic product (GDP).

Until before 2013, totally 10 phases of South Pars Gas Field were put into operation but 11 phases have been put into operation in the 11th government, showing a considerable hike in this regard.

With due observance to the said issue, the country's extraction volume of gas from South Pars Joint Field has hit 575 million cubic meter daily. With the efforts made in this regard, people's demand on the equality of Iran extrac-

tion volume with Qatar has been met fully.

Totally, 28 phases and also establishment of 30 petrochemical complexes have been considered in South Pars Gas Field. With the development of suitable training courses, it is tried to generate more sustainable employment in the region.

■ Apart from phases in South Pars Gas Field, four other petrochemical complexes were put into operation in South Pars Gas Field. How much income is produced for the country if four petrochemical complexes are put into operation?

A: Petrochemical projects including "Takht-e Jamshid, phase two of KAVIRAN Petrochemical Complex, MORVARID Petrochemical Complex and Polystyrene Petrochemical have been totally funded by the private sector entity. Upon commissioning the four petrochemical projects, more employment opportunities will be generated for job-seeking people. According to statistics, two billion dollar will be added to the value of petrochemicals in this sector. Gas condensates and derivatives have high economic value and should not be exported as crude. With converting these materials to the petrochemicals and also other downstream products, capital flight will be prevented. Last year, 10 petrochemical projects, costing more than 10,000 billion tomans, were finalized in the petrochemical downstream for using products of six phases of South Pars (ranging from 17 to 21) in Pars Energy Special Eco-

nomical Zone.

■ Concurrent with other petrochemical projects, did extraction start in South Pars Joint Oilfield?

A: In response to your question, I should say "Yes". Extraction from South Pars Joint Oilfield started concurrent with the inauguration of South Pars phases. The plan for the development of this field has been conducted by the domestic companies and it is expected that oil layer in the first phase of extraction will hit 35,000 barrels per day (BPD). Of course, development plan in this field is yet underway and it is expected that these oilfields will be developed in cooperation with the international companies.

■ Widespread activities are underway in South Pars Energy Special Economic Zone. How many people will be employed in this zone?

A: Actually, South Pars is the largest economic hub in the country. If the development projects are completed, \$100 billion will be produced annually for the country (if each U.S. dollar is calculated \$50)

Given the above issue, South Pars is the

largest energy hub both in Iran and world.

■ Sanctions created serious problem in the field of implementation of South Pars project. How did companies overcome obstacles as a result of sanctions?

A: Sanctions created critical problems in the field of construction operation of projects in South Pars. In general, I should say that sanctions brought about benefit for us. Despite all ups and downs, most equipment and machinery in the related field were manufactured by domestic engineers.

■ Considering the development of South Pars, how much non-oil products exported from this field in the past year?

A: In the past 12-month period, non-oil products, worth more than \$14 billion, were exported from South Pars.

In general, 34,195,000 tons of goods, valued at \$14.917 billion, were exported from Customs of South Pars Special Economic Zone, showing a considerable 41 and 22 percent growth in terms of volume and value respectively.

Likewise, 17,515,000 tons of gas condensates, valued at \$7.11 billion, were exported from the country, showing a considerable 59 and 43 percent increase in terms of volume and value respectively.

The most important non-oil products exported from South Pars Special Economic Zone are as follows: ethylene glycol, urea compost, butane, propane, paraxylene, mono- and tri-ethyl glycol, light and heavy polyethylene, gas condensates, cement, and methanol.



A Glance at Activities of KARUN Oil and Gas Operation Company



As the largest producer of oil among companies affiliated to the National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC), KARUN Oil and Gas Operation Company is tasked with the responsibility of guiding and producing oil, gas and gas condensates from the following oilfields including "Ramin", "Abteimour", "Mansouri" and "Ahvaz".

Given the above issue, the oilfields of "Ramin", "Abteimour", "Mansouri" and "Ahvaz" are of the largest oilfields in Iran.

The report put the average crude oil produced in the company per day at more than one million, of which, approx. 500,000 barrels of oil are sent to the refineries of Abadan and Tehran per day while the rest are exported to the Kharg Export Terminal. In addition, production of dry gas and liquefied gas (LNG, Liquefied Natural Gas) will turn Karun into one of the main supplier of feedstock in Mahshahr Petrochemical Company and Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex.

This company is forerunner in all fields in line with materializing macro and specialized topics determined by the Ministry of Oil and also in line with the policies notified at the resistance economy.

Eng. Mohsen Dahanzadeh Managing Director of Karun Oil and Gas Operation Company announced the above statements and elaborated on some of salient specifications and achievements of this company in the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (ended March 20, 2017):

■ Significance and Unique Position of Karun Oil and Gas Operation Co.

With owning 1st rank in the field of production of oil, Karun Oil and Gas Operation Company, as one of the companies affiliated to the National Iranian South Oilfields Company, enjoys of strategic position in the field of country's oil industry:

- Winning first rank in the field of production of oil in South Oilfields Company (approx. 35%) with approx. 1,030,000 barrels of oil per day (approx. 27 percent of oil production volume in country),

- Winning 1st rank in the production of 25% of associated gas in NISOC i.e. approx. 620 million feet cubic meter per day

- Winning 1st rank in production of 50% of gas liquids of the National Iranian South Oilfields Company i.e. approx. 62,000 barrels of oil per day,

- Providing feedstock of refineries especially Tehran and Abadan Refinery and also Marun and Bandar Imam Petrochemical companies and also National Iranian Gas Company,

- Neighboring with more than 60 percent of wells and installations with metropolises of Ahvaz, Karun River, lagoons and seasonal streams, freeways, and

main roads of the country coupled with the necessity of protecting and safeguarding environment,

- Pivotal role in transit of oil of other companies such as National Iranian Central Oilfield Company (NICOC), Arvandan Oil and Gas Operation Company, and Masjed Soleyman and Marun Oil and Gas Operation companies.

- Application of most modern technologies in the field of increasing the extraction from tanks such as various wellhead pumps,

- Helping develop southern city of Ahvaz with the implementation of public utility projects such as construction of green space, construction of sports saloon, helping renovate and upgrade mosques and schools and health houses at surrounding villages,

■ Gas Production Area

- Materializing objectives of approx. 98.2 percent of commitments for producing oil with considering outstanding reductions and reducing well waiting mast,

- Increasing production volume as much

as 38 percent in the field of producing crude oil in the past year 1395 with the actual production volume of approx. 1,030,000 barrels in comparison with the year 1394, so that this figure will hit approx. 730,000 barrels.

- Increasing 220 percent of developmental, repair and restorative wells.

In general, with the production growth, 206,000 barrels of oil were produced in 1394.

- Increasing 32 percent in the field of production of dry gas in the past year as compared to a year earlier.

- Increasing 52 percent average for production of gas and liquefied gas in the past year 1395 as many as more than 60,000 barrels of oil,

■ Extracting and Promoting Infrastructure with the Sustainable Development Approach

- 477 cases have been conducted by Karun Oil and Gas Operation Company in the field of repair and maintenance of relevant equipment and machinery in the past year, showing a considerable 42 percent hike as compared to a year earlier.

- Fulfilling more than 30,000 repair and maintenance works by the repair

and maintenance unit on the parts and equipment with the aim of maintaining processing systems and promoting and maintaining the processing machinery

- Cooperating with South Turbine Company in basic repairs of nine gas installations including "A" and "B" units and jointly with Gas Desalination Refinery, improving pressure of gases in Bangestan 1, 2 and 3, Mansouri and Abteimour,

- Row 3 of gas and liquefied gas unit (700) with the least gas-burning rate and also cooperating with the mentioned company in fulfilling basic repair and parts and equipment above 4000 HP in 2016 as many as 59 cases, showing a considerable 20 percent as compared to a year earlier.

- Constructing parts in order to support domestic production and in line with producing and generating employment as many as 176 items, valued at 20,085,911,080 rials,

- Conducting 17,624 cases of technical inspection and monitoring corrosion of metals, showing 21 percent hike as compared to a year earlier i.e. 1394

- Cooperating in washing insulators and power transformers at Ahvaz Regional Power Organization in Feb. 2016 as many as 18 cases,

- Offering 1,574 cases of repair and maintenance services to the other companies (such as headquarters, transport, drilling and turbine departments, hospital and welfare services) by repair and maintenance unit, costing more than 6,600,000 rials,



Collection *maestro*

RAYMOND WEIL
GENEVE

SARMAN Co.

No. 1832, Dr. Shariati St., Next to Pol-E-Roomi, Tehran - Iran

Tel: +98 21 22 6137 52

National Petrochemical Company International (NPCI)

NPC International Company initially named NPC Europe was established in 1991 in order to perform the activities such as: supplying long-term and medium-term finance (foreign currency) for petrochemical projects, supervision of facilities payments, attracting foreign investments for domestic projects as well as overseas investments. All subsidiaries and affiliated management of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Co. are obliged to coordinate their related activities in this area with NPCI.

Ownership: Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Co. (100%)

NPC INTERNATIONAL

PROVIDE A FULL SUITE OF SERVICES TO PORTFOLIO OF CLIENTS, INVESTING IN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES FULL SERVICE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & INVESTMENT OFFERING, WITH EXPERTISE IN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

STRONG CAPABILITIES IN FINANCE AND JOINT VENTURE, LED BY THE TEAM IN TEHRAN AND SUPPORTED BY EXPERIENCED LAWYERS AND EXPERTS IN UK

WELL-COORDINATED OFFICES IN LONDON AND TEHRAN, AND STRONG INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY ALLOWING THE FIRM TO ARRANGE THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN STRUCTURED FINANCE, COMMERCIAL FACILITY, FINANCE FOR SUPPLY CONTRACTS, ... AND JOINT VENTURE

NPC INTERNATIONAL

ACTED FOR NATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY ON THE ARRANGEMENT OF ITS \$6.7 BILLION U.S. DOLLARS FINANCE FROM FIRST CLASS INTERNATIONAL BANKS SUCH AS:

- JBIC
- ING BANK
- HSBC BANK
- FORTIS BANK
- DEUTSCHE BANK
- CALYON CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT BANK

ESTABLISHED SUCCESSFUL JOINT VENTURES SUCH AS:

- MEHR PETROCH. CO.
 - LALEH PETROCH. CO.
 - KARON PETROCH. CO.
 - VENIRAN PETROCH. CO.
 - NPC ALLIANCE PETROCH. CO.
- WITH PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COMPANIES



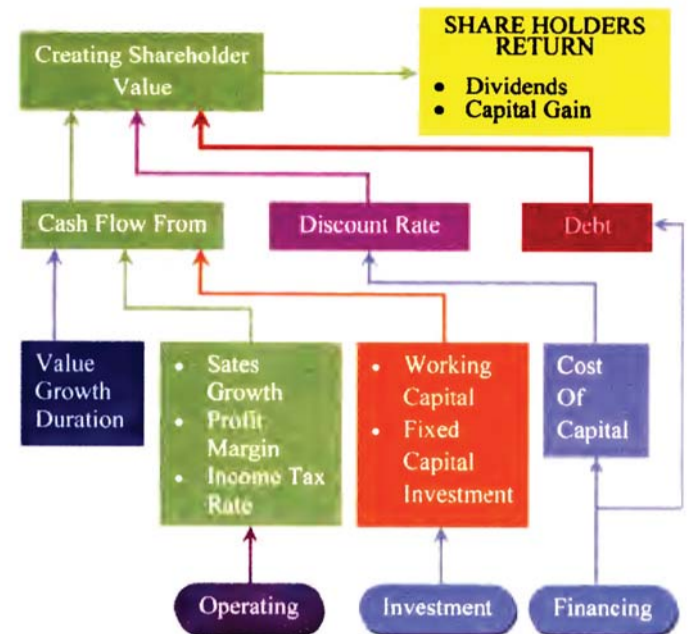
NPC International Ltd.

6th Floor, N.I.O.C. House, 4 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NE, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7222 0899 Fax: +44 20 7222 0897
Registered in England & Wales No. 2696754 VAT Registration No. 563217549

تهران - خیابان احمد قصاب (بخارست) - خیابان پنجم، پلاک 22، طبقه 5، کدپستی 1513643911
تلفن: 88726987 فکس: 88713346 88554782

Main area of activities:	فعالیت‌های اصلی:
Financing of Petrochemical Projects	تامین منابع مالی از بازارهای بین المللی (فاینانس) برای اجرای پروژه های پتروشیمی
Joint Venture Development	انجام مشارکت های توسعه ای
Acquiring Foreign Investment in Iran	جذب سرمایه گذاری خارجی در ایران
Investment in Foreign Countries	سرمایه گذاری در کشورهای خارجی

NPC INTERNATIONAL



Sustainable Shareholder Value



22nd International Oil, Gas Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (IRAN OIL SHOW 2017)

May 6-9, 2017 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds
Hall No. 14, Exposition Booth 416,
Visiting Hour: from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

IRANOL Oil Company welcomes dear visitors to visit 22nd International Oil, Gas Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (IRAN OIL SHOW 2017).



ایرانول

بیست و دومین نمایشگاه بین المللی
نفت، گاز، پالایش و پتروشیمی

۱۶ تا ۱۹ اردیبهشت ماه ۱۳۹۶ - محل دائمی نمایشگاه‌های بین المللی تهران
سالن ۱۴ غرفه ۴۱۶ - ساعت بازدید ۱۰ صبح تا ۶ بعد از ظهر



ایرانول

انتخاب اول، کیفیت برتر

شرکت نفت ایرانول با بکارگیری انواع روغن پایه های معدنی و سنتتیک، تولید بالاترین سطوح کیفیت در علم روانکاری را سرلوحه کار خویش قرار داده و بر همین اساس مرغوب ترین روغن های موتور، دنده و صنعتی مطابق با استانداردهای روز دنیا را تولید می نماید.



تلفن واحد فروش: ۸۸۲۱۲۹۹۹

www.iranol.ir



Golden Era of Refining and Distributing Oil Products

With the inauguration of new refineries and implementation of projects to boost quality and capacity of relevant products, National Iranian Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) has been put on the right track of development. With due observance to the said issue, this prestigious company is moving forwards in line with materializing most objectives of the Oil Ministry.

Increasing the refining capacity of oil is considered one of the most important achievements of refining sector of the country. With the implementation of operation of the following projects, the refining capacity in the country will increase from 1,830,000 to 3,200,000 barrels per day (BPD) in the next four years:

360,000 barrels of oil in gas condensate refinery of Persian Gulf Star Refinery,
480,000 barrels of oil in the Siraf comprehensive refining plant,

150,000 barrels of oil in Anahita Refinery,
300,000 barrels of oil in Geno Bahman Refinery in Jask Port,

120,000 barrels of oil in PARS Refinery, funded by the private sector, etc.

With due observance to the said issue, the country will witness the refining capacity of 70 percent.

Hereunder are the most important salient achievements taken by the National Iranian Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company in recent four years:

Launching plans in the field of increasing production capacity and improving quality of refining capacity of the refinery in the country for responding the consumption pattern change from distillation to gasoline products, promoting quality of produced products according to the international standards, reduction of fuel oil production, removal of operational bottlenecks, reduction of energy consumption and environmental pollutants, collection of worn-out tanks and facilities, attaining self-sufficiency in production of gasoline in the country, promoting quality of oil gas and gasoline products to Euro 4 & 5, etc.

With due observance to the said issue, it is hoped that the company will move towards development and growth in the country.

Refinery Projects, Increasing and Improving Quality of Gasoline

Recent achievements in the refinery sector show that Iran can regulate the refining capacity management based on the market requirements. Moreover, the company can take giant stride in the field of preventing from crude retailing. With the increase in quality of oil products, observing requirements of international standards, the company can prevent the country from importing gasoline.

Optimization of Isfahan Refinery
The project of "development of process and optimization of Isfahan Refinery" was put atop agenda in order to increase gasoline production from 70,000 barrels of oil per day (BPD) to approx. 120,000 barrels of oil per day and also promote qualitative level of produced products according to the European international standards.

This comprehensive plan has been divided into the following projects:

Construction of 3rd distilled unit,
Construction of gas oil treatment unit, utility unit, treatment of amino, sour water, recycling sulfur, production hydrogen,

Construction of fuel oil hydrogen treatment (RHU) and molecular fracture of fuel oil catalyst (RFCC) and production of propylene (PRU)

In the first and second projects, restart date has been announced in 2014 and 2015 and the termination date of operation has been announced in 2018.

The termination date at the 3rd project has been announced in 2023.
Development and Stabilization of Capacity of Abadan Refinery

Collection of worn-out units and construction of a 210,000-barrel distillation unit and merging it with the operational units, maximizing the production of light and valued products, promoting quality of products according to Euro 4 standard, selection and stabilization of refining capacity, increasing the operational flexibility, reduction or omission of environmental pollutants, reduction of fuel oil from 38 percent to less than 25 percent, etc. are the salient achievements of this comprehensive plan. It should be noted that this project had not witnessed any progress until before 2014. With the coordination made in the recent two years, construction operation of this project started in Feb. 2017.

Gasoline Production and Improvement of Quality of Products in Bandar Abbas Refinery

The project for increasing production of approx. three million liters of gasoline per day and also promotion of quality of manufac-

tured gasoline (approx. 70%) as well as improving quality of gas oil according to Euro 4 standard will be materialized with the implementation of this project. Construction operation of this project started in 2006, so that three million liters of gasoline was produced in this refinery in April 2017.

Increasing Capacity and Optimizing LAVAN Refinery

The Distilled Unit of this plan was put into operation in spring 2011 the units for hydrogen treatment of naphtha and conversion of catalyst and offsite facilities of this project became operation in June 2013. If this unit is put into operation, isomer of this project will be out into operation in the spring

of the current year. Moreover increasing gasoline production from 2,100,000 to 2,800,000 liters per day, quality of products of this refinery will be promoted to Euro 4 Standard.

Import of Oil Products Breaks Record for 1st Time in All-Time History

Import of oil products into the country broke the record for the first time in all-time history i.e. for more than 110 years. With due observance to the said issue, Islamic Republic of Iran was turned into the major exporter of sustainable oil products.

Turning Iran from merely importing country into the sustainable exporting country is the salient success, so that Iran would be converted into gasoline exporting country before termination of the current year. In general, Iran will attain self-sufficiency in the field of importing gasoline and other oil products.

Completion of Gasoline Distribution Chain (Euro 4) in Metropolises

The distribution chain of gasoline and gas oil (EUR 4) was completed in the 11th government in eight macro cities in the country including Tehran, Mashhad, Karaj, Ahvaz, Isfahan, Tabriz, Arak and Shiraz.

It should be noted that 20 to 22 million liters of gasoline (EUR 4) have been distributed in metropolises [including Tehran, Karaj, Ahvaz, Shiraz, Arak, Isfahan] on average since the last Iranian year up to the present time.

With the implementation of three new refining plans including Persian Gulf Star Refinery, Gasoline Production Plans in LAVAN and Bandar Abbas Oil Refineries, more gasoline will be produced in the country i.e. covering more than 70 percent of gasoline of the country in EUR 4.

Therefore, it is predicted that if the three mentioned plans are put into operations, EUR-4 gasoline will be distributed in metropolises such as Bandar Abbas, Rafsanjan, Qom, Chababhar, Yazd, Kerman and Bushehr.

In general, more than 15 macro cities in the country will be put under the coverage of gasoline supply according to EUR-4 standard.

Domestic Manufacturing of Oil Refining Equipment, Symbol of Resistance Economy

It is for some years that the slogan of "resistance economy" has resonated in the country overwhelmingly. Given the above issue, many companies and organizations have rolled up their sleeves in order to materialize objectives of this slogan as recommended by the supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

In the meantime, Oil Ministry is the staunch supporter and leader in the field of realizing objectives of resistance economy in the country.

Persian Gulf Star Refinery, Obvious Example of Resistance Economy

Giant steps were taken in the 11th government for moving the country into the self-sufficiency in importing gasoline into the country. For this purpose, ground was broken for the construction of Persian Gulf Star Refinery in 2006. Finally, this giant project was put into operation a couple of days ago in the presence of Iranian President Rouhani.

Construction of Persian Gulf Star Refinery



is a clear-cut example of resistance economy in the country, so that most equipment and parts needed for the construction of this giant refinery were manufactured by the domestic engineers.

As the first refinery designed based on feedstock of gas condensate with the production capacity of 360,000 barrels of oil per day (BPD), Persian Gulf Star Gas Condensate Refinery includes distillation unit, liquefied gas treatment unit, catalyst unit, naphtha treatment unit, isomerizing unit, kerosene and oil gas treatment unit with the aim of producing gasoline, gas oil, liquefied gas and hot fuel.

It should be noted that Persian Gulf Star Gas Condensate Refinery was constructed in the proximity of Bandar Abbas Refinery.

Salient Achievement at the Ministry of Oil

Nowadays, the smell of hope can be heard at the workbook of the 11th government dubbed "Hope and Prudence".

However, effective steps have been taken in the Ministry of Oil. One construction operation of 1st phase of this giant refinery is put into operation, the country will witness daily production of 12 million liters of gasoline with EUR 4, 4.5 million liters of gas oil with EUR 4, daily production of one million liters of kerosene (EUR 4).

In general, the country will witness self-sufficiency in import of gasoline into the country with the implementation of this giant project.

According to experts, if all phases of the refinery are put into operation, it will produce huge income for the country which can be considered as "unique of its kind and unprecedented" in all-time history of Islamic Iran.

Of the other salient examples of resistance economy at the National Iranian Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company, it can be referred to the activities done in IOPTC (Iranian Oil Pipelines and Telecommunication Company), so that 80 percent of oil parts and equipment has been manufactured by the domestic engineers of the company.

Manufacturing oil-related parts and equipment by IOPTC saved currency as much as \$250 million for the country. As far as manufacturing gas turbines is concerned, 80 percent of solar gas turbines has been manufactured domestically.

With due observance to the said issue, more than 10 strategic catalysts have been indigenous in the country, the most important of which are as follows: gasoline production catalyst, kerosene and gas oil hydrogenized treatment unit, naphtha treatment unit, hydrogen production unit, sulfur making unit, isomerizing unit, etc.

Also, more than six large catalyst plants were put into operation in the country, employing talented engineers of the country.

Introduction of Qualified Companies, Giant Step towards Fueling in Country

With over 80 years of fruitful experience and brilliant history, National Iranian Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company (NIOPDC) has made its utmost effort to gain satisfaction of customers.

Taking advantage of world's most modern technology in the field of safe presentation of oil products is one of the salient programs of the company, the most important of which is the implementation of KAHAB Plan that is used for recycling and recovering gasoline vapor, commissioning Smart Fuel Card for managing accurate consumption pattern, renovating and beautifying gas stations, supplying gasoline with EUR-4 in metropolises, etc. in order to reduce air pollution.

Moreover, giant steps have been taken by the company for the reduction of monopoly and delegation affairs to the private sector in

line with enforcement of Article 44 of the Constitution.

For this purpose, the company embarked on publishing advertisements and notices in order to take advantage of high capability of qualified contracting companies tasked with bunkering and fueling services.

Survey Plan, a Constructive Plan to Optimal Consumption of Gas Oil

Implementation of Plan on "Allocation of Gas Oil Quota for Survey" was put into operation in Oct. 2015 using high capacities of smart fuel system. According to statistics, approx. seven million liters has been saved in consumption of gas oil

in the country in the transport sector per day.

By virtue of the official statistics, the average gas oil consumption in two transport and non-transport sectors has hit 72.5 million liters per day, showing a considerable nine percent (9%) slump as compared to the same period of last year.

The most interesting point is this that gas oil consumption in the transport sector has hit from 50 million liters to 42-43 million liters per day.

In other words, with the implementation of a plan dubbed "Allocation of Gas Oil Quota per Survey", considerable seven million liters of gasoline has been saved in the country per day.

"KAHAB" Plan, Giant Step towards Improvement of Environment

Although the issue of evaporation of engine gasoline has been raised since years ago due to its unfavorable economic, environmental and physiological effects, obtaining and recovering this product is a new discussion in industrial dimensions across the world's advanced countries.

As the Persian acronym originated from the "reduction, guidance, transmission and recovery of gasoline vapor", KAHAB Plan was introduced as a nationwide plan as approved at the Cabinet of Ministers.

Under the Plan, KAHAB Plan obliges the Oil Ministry to take effective steps on equipping relevant installations in due date latest by the end of 2020.

Reducing and controlling gasoline vapor, obtaining liquid of gasoline from the vapor produced (within the framework of activity of NIOPTC) and attaining the climax of self-sufficiency in import of gasoline in the country have been cited as the salient objectives of this national plan named "KAHAB".

Adverse Economic Effects

Calculations put the total consumption volume of gasoline in the country in the last Iranian calendar year 1395 (from March 20, 2016 to March 20, 2017) at 27 billion liters. Of total gasoline consumed in the last year, approx. 120 million liters gasoline was vaporized. Of total volume of gasoline vaporized, 80 million liters of which was prevented and finally, 40 million liters of gasoline was obtained.

Adverse Physiological Effects

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) caused by emission of gasoline vapor has jeopardized health condition of human being tremendously.

These effects can be classified into two groups as follows:

Transient Effects: Transient effects include irritation of eye, nose and throat, dizziness, loss of short-term memory, etc.

Chronic effects: Chronic effects include

carcinogenesis, genetic mutation, malformed births, impact on the respiratory tract system and so on

Adverse Environmental Effects:

Creation of phenomenon of smog (smoke and fog), photochemical smoke along with loss of vision, production of tiny smoke particles, creation of acid rain and flood, erosion of soil and ancient monuments, destruction of ecosystem of water and forests, change in world climatic condition, destruction of ozone layer, global warming, destructive effects in herbal and animal cells, evaporation of seawaters, melting of arctic ices, etc. are of the adverse environmental effects caused by the evaporation of engine gasoline.

National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company (NIOECC), Responsible for Implementing Infrastructural Projects in Oil Industry of Country

National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company has been tasked with implementing infrastructural projects of oil industry in the country in the fields of refining oil, pipelines and crude oil storage tanks and oil products, quay, jetty and ports, projects for strengthening oil facilities and also conducting feasibility studies in joint projects outside the country.

Benefitted from expert and the most experienced manpower, the company has thus far observed requirements of international standards.

Currently, the company is constructing downstream projects and plans in oil industry of the country.

Underway Projects (Projects at Hand)

Plan for development and stabilization of capacity of Abadan Refinery,

Plan for increasing gasoline production and improving quality of oil products at Bandar Abbas Refinery,

Plan to improve and optimize Isfahan Refinery,
Plan to construct pumping stations and new terminals in Abadan and Mahshahr,

Plan for the construction of pipeline in Abadan, Ahvaz, Arak and Tehran

Plan to construct sour crude oil pipeline in Sabzab, Shazand and Rey

Plan to construct new oil quays in Bandar Abbas,

Plan to provide raw water for Abadan Refinery from Bahmanshir River,

Plan to construct 20-inch oil products pipeline en route Naeeen, Kashan and Rey and relevant facilities,

Plan to construct oil products installation and transfer pipeline in northern part of country

Plan to construct access and bypass pipeline in Tehran (under feasibility study and fundamental and detailed design.)

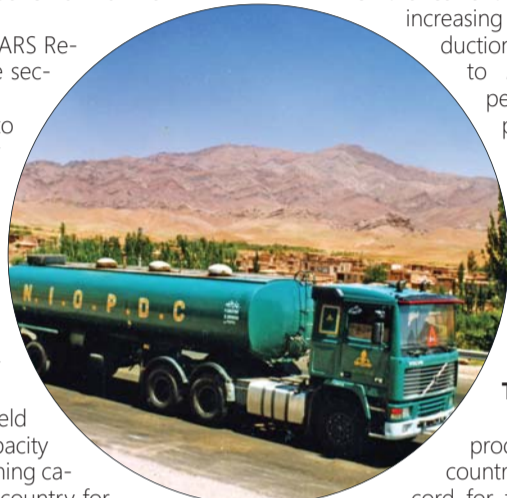
Plan to construct Bandar Abbas Storage Tank
Plan to construct crude oil pipeline in Goureh and Jask

Plan to construct oil installations in Bandar Jask

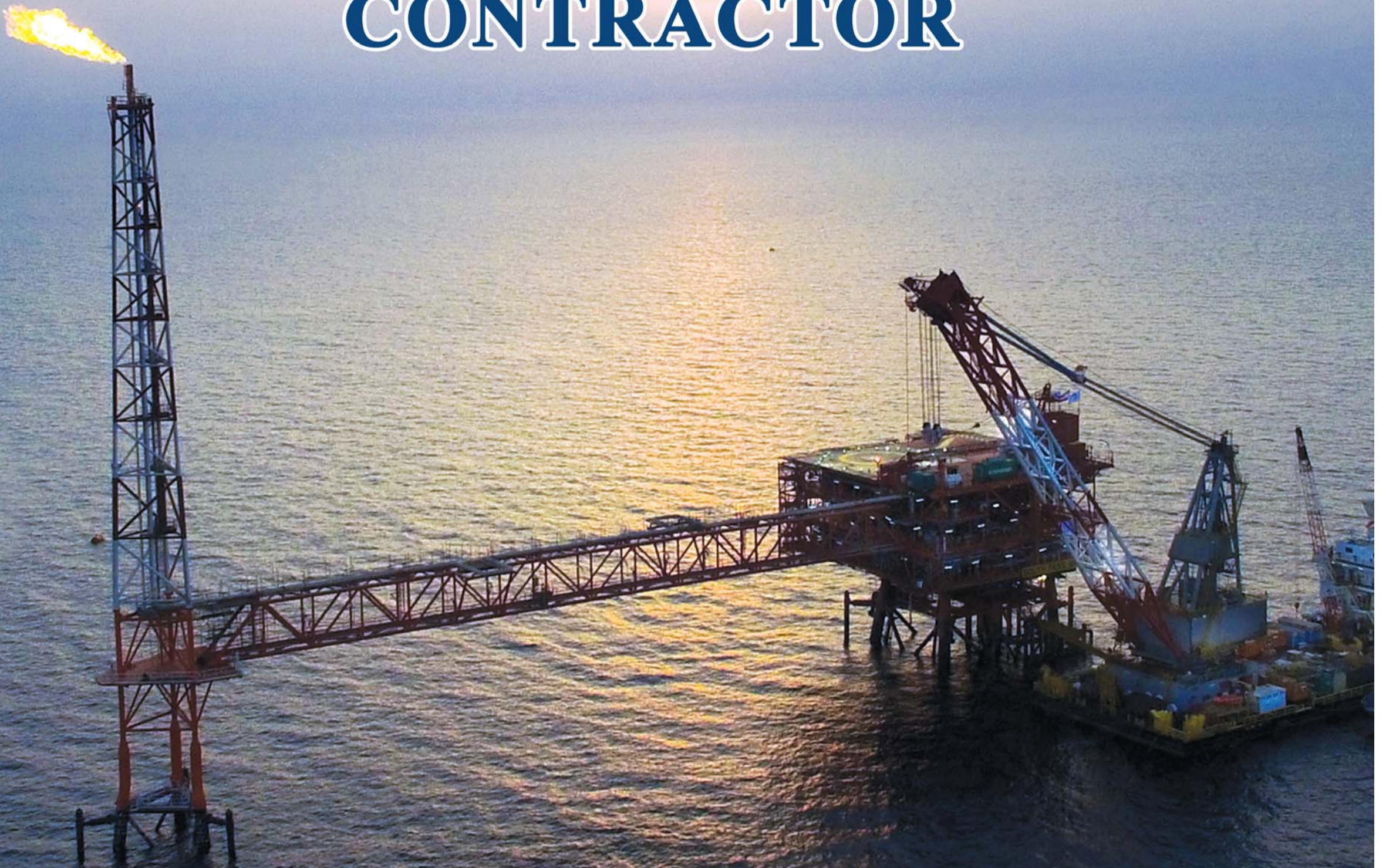
Plan to organize Mahshahr Export Port

Benefitted from the most experienced and expert manpower in the field of conceptual design, fundamental and detailed design, construction and installation, procurement of goods, implementation of EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) projects, National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company is able to design, construct and commission oil and gas refinery projects.

Given the above issue, the company also enjoys high capability in construction of quay, jetty and oil ports, pipeline and crude oil transfer facilities and oil products, tanks, crude oil terminals, power plant and offsite facilities coupled with strengthening oil installation.



MOBIN SAZEH GOSTAR KHALIJE FARS E.P.C.I OFFSHORE CONTRACTOR



www.mobin.isoico.co

Britain, Germany brace for pre-election cyber attacks

Britain and Germany were already beefing up cyber security ahead of key elections even before the hacking attack on France's Emmanuel Macron, months after Hillary Clinton was caught in the online crosshairs.

Clinton recently reiterated her view that Russian hacking of her campaign's emails was partly to blame for her defeat in last year's U.S. presidential election to Donald Trump.

"If the election had been on October 27, I'd be your president," the defeated Democratic candidate told a charity luncheon last Tuesday.

In France, going to the polls Sunday in a presidential run-off election between Macron and far-right Marine Le Pen, hacking reared its ugly head at the 11th hour.

Shortly before midnight Friday frontrunner Macron was the victim of a "massive and coordinated hacking attack".

His staff described the release of internal documents, including thousands of emails and accounting documents, as an attempt at "democratic destabilization".

The files were reportedly stolen weeks ago during one of "an intense and repeated" series of cyber attacks against Macron since the launch of his campaign.

Taking note of the events in the US and in France, intel-

ligence authorities in Britain and Germany are taking steps to prevent cyber attacks ahead of their own hotly-contested elections.

■ 'International challenge' -

For cyber security expert Ewan Lawson, political parties are easy targets because they "quite often don't have particularly robust cyber security".

"They are not-for-profit and don't have a lot of money to throw at the problem," he told the Press Association news agency.

"So I think we could reasonably expect to see data theft, data breaches".

Britain's National Cyber Security Centre (NSCS) said it was on "high alert" the day after Prime Minister Theresa May surprised the country last month by calling for a general election to be held on June 8.

British spies are aware of the problem having already thwarted an attempt by Russian hackers to interfere in the 2015 general election, according to NSCS chief Ciaran Martin.

Recognizing the problem, the NSCS convened the UK's main political parties to a "technical seminar" in March to provide them with practical steps to reduce the risk as well

as advise on incident management.

German authorities have taken similar steps ahead of September's general election.

Arne Schoenbohm, president of Germany's Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) said back in March that government networks were being attacked "on a daily basis".

As a precaution, she explained, the BSI had approached election officials and political parties to discuss how they could protect themselves.

■ 'Increasingly aggressive' -

Germany is facing "increasingly aggressive cyber espionage" as well as "further attacks," Hans-Georg Maassen, the domestic intelligence chief, said on Thursday.

He also highlighted how Martin Schulz, the Social Democrats leader, had recently been the victim of a vicious disinformation campaign claiming his father had been a Nazi supervisor in a concentration camp.

In late March, Germany's armed forces launched a new cyber command tasked with protecting the military's own IT infrastructure and computer-assisted weapons systems, as well as surveillance of online threats.

According to the defense ministry, the IT systems of the

Bundeswehr -- which includes the armed forces and their civil administration -- had been targeted more than 280,000 times in this year's first nine weeks alone.

Similarly to the US, Russia has been singled out by both countries as the country from which a lot of the attacks originate.

"Over the last two years there has been a step change in Russian aggression in cyber space," the NSCS's Martin told the Sunday Times in February.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel travelled to Russia last week for talks with President Vladimir Putin. Afterwards both sides were circumspect about the issue.

"We know cyber criminality is an international challenge, and also that Russian military doctrine touches on the topic of hybrid military strategy," she said.

Russia has steadfastly denied all accusations of state-sponsored cyber-attacks. "We never interfere in the political life and the political processes of other countries," Putin said.

"And we don't want anybody interfering in our political life and foreign policy processes," he warned.

(Source: AFP)

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Luxury Apt in Zafaranih
2th floor, 330 sq.m, 5 master room,
completely new, Parking, Spj, nice
view, nice balcony, lobby, semi furn
**\$7000 Suitable for Foreigners &
Diplomats**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Several Apts in Garden
Tower in Elahieh
New, from 150 sq.m to 250 sq.m
Apts, 3 Bdrs., garden, Spj,
equipped kitchen, could be fully
furn and new brand, Lobby,
opposite to French school, good
access to Sadr highway
Reasonable Price
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Beautiful Apt in Zafaranih
5th floor, 350 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., nice
furn, unbelievable view, Balcony
with flower boxes, Spj, diplomatic
\$7000
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Super luxury Apt in Elahieh
New Building, several Apts With 2
Bdrs. To 4 Bdrs., furn & unfurn,
balcony, nice lobby, Gym saloon,
Spj, parking, Unbelievable view,
good Access to highway, diplomat
ic Building
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Palace in Tajrish/ Elahieh
Duplex, 7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m
Built up, 8 Bdrs., renovated, green
& unbelievable Garden, water fall,
Spj, Parking, completely
renovated, big saloon **\$30000**
Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Shahrak Qarb
800 sq.m Built up, 5 Bdrs., Duplex,
renovated, semi furn, Nice & cozy,
garden, pool, Parking
Suitable for Residency or Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Dibaji
800 sq.m land, 700 sq.m built up,
duplex, luxury furn, Completely
renovated, yard, Small garden,
parking, Spj
\$14000 Suitable for Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Aqdasieh
Duplex, 800 sq.m, built up, 7 Bdrs.,
big salon, nice garden, Outdoor
pool, Parking, completely
renovated, Servant Quarter
Suitable for Residency or Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 10004:2012
ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal
**Best Consultation,
Best Services, Best Result**

Section Manager "Tina 09128440154"
Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

World's finest serviced and virtual
office in Iran
154 locations worldwide, Fully
furn, dedicated Receptionist, IT
support Located in Jordan
Business Area
Packages start from \$120
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Whole Building in Zafaranih
850 sq.m built up, visa section,
elevator, 2 levels, Conference
room, parking, 2 sides entrances
**\$16000 negotiable, Suitable for
Embassy**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

New Whole Building in Elahieh
32 Apts, each Apt is 140 sq.m, One
duplex Apt 250 sq.m, 670 sq.m
built up, 250 sq.m land, So shiny,
quit & cozy, parking
Good for Embassy
Price reasonable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Building in Fereshteh
Ready to rent separately or whole
building, 3 Apt, 3 & 5 Bdrs. furn &
unfurn., SPJ & Pkg, good access,
Only **\$2900**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Whole Building in Zafaranih
850 sq.m built up, 2th floor,
completely renovated, 2 sides
doors, Parking, entrances
Suitable for Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Luxury Apt. in Jordan
70 sq.m, 1 Bdr., good access,
Top floors, **\$1500**
Suitable for foreign Companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Zafaranih
220 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn, lobby,
Spj, diplomatic tower **\$2800**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Gheytharieh
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., view of Park,
parking, full furn, diplomatic
Building, **\$1200**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Luxury Apt in Zafaranih
250 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., luxury furn,
Nice & cozy, Pkg **\$3300**
Suitable for Diplomat
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Amazing spring offer in Jordan,
available from 21th
April, 100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., full furn,
peaceful Residency, **\$1000**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Nice Apt in Zafaranih
4th floor, 130 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.,
completely renovated, luxury furn,
cozy & diplomatic, near to
Paladium **\$2300**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران
نیازمندیم.

FIRST
CHOICE
REAL
ESTATE



Mr. Ghanizadeh
Nobody does
it better

آژانس املاک انتخاب اول در خدمت شماست
TEL: 22041212 - 09121081212
APARTMENT - VILLA - OFFICE
PROPERTY@FIRSTCHOICECO.COM
WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

KHORASSAN
TURQUOISE
STORE 绿松石
Gold, Jewels - Hassani Brothers



No. 416, Taleghani Ave.,
Opposite Enghelab Hotel,
Tehran - IRAN
Tel: (+98 21) 66405074
Mobile: 0912 1490745

Properties For Rent

From simple to luxury
From 50 sq.m To 500 sq.m
From 1000\$ to 10000\$

Just call Dorna

09122241430

nedasamane@hotmail.com

IraniaHOME
Real Estate



SH. LAVASANI

09123103526

Tel: 88888007 Fax: 88675936

www.iraniahome.com

Email: info@iraniahome.com

مالکین محترم: ویلا و آپارتمان مبله شما
را جهت اجاره به دیپلماتها نیازمندیم
North Tehran to rent

4300 SQM. garden with 7 apartments
constructed next to each other.
Each unit is 2 floors of 250 SQM.
Totally 3500 SQM .built up all.
facilities affordable price.
Please call 09123103526 Lavasani.

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept

Tel: 021 - 430 51 450



times1979@gmail.com

FOR RENT

Two Units of Four Apartments
205 square meter, three bedrooms,
parking lot, elevator, storage
Darrouss, Ehteshamieh Sq.

0912-3723623 22543886

LINGO
SIMULTANEOUS
INTERPRETERS

Your partner in Int'l
communications
with more than 3
decades experience
For more +989380691300
info pls. call: +2188719289



INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS™



WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

SARMAN Co.

No. 1832, Dr. Shariati St., Next to Pol-E-Roomi, Tehran - Iran



Proudly introduces the First class luxurious hotel apartment located in the heart of the city Tehran. The newly constructed section has an enormous segments of rooms with all the amenities, Experience the TAJ MAHAL advantage & Hospitality 24/7

TAJ MAHAL HOTEL



TAJ MAHAL INDIAN RESTAURANT



Enjoy the original taste of India !! The professional chef prepares the amazing varieties of kebabs , Tandoori nans, Biryani, veg or non-veg curries and the famous Indian desserts.

Enjoy the authentic North Iranian unique culinary, Experience the home made country style recipes!!



TAJ MAHAL ANNOUNCES ITS SECOND RESTAURANT MAHI - MAHI

Adress: No.29 South Sheikhabahaei Ave. Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Sq. Tehran - Iran
Http: //www.tajmahalhotel.ir E-mail: info@tajmahalhotel.ir
Tel: (+9821) 88035444(20) Fax: (+9821) 88057399 Cellphone: (+98910) 789 52 83

Iran's longest serving football player Sadeghi hangs up his boots

S P O R T S Saipa midfielder Ebrahim Sadeghi **d e s k** announced his retirement from football after 17 years.

The 38-year-old player hung his boots after the match against Machine Sazi on Thursday.

Saipa had to defeat already relegated Machine Sai to avoid Iran Professional League relegation and eventually won the match in the injury time.

Sadeghi joined Keshavarz Karaj at the age of thirteen and played at the club until 1995, where he was spotted by Persepolis and joined their academy.

After three years at Persepolis he joined Moghavemat Tehran before settling at Saipa a year later.

Sadeghi graduated from the Saipa youth ranks and was signed to the club in 2000. He has played for Saipa for his entire. His good performances since 2006-07 season made big clubs to show some interest on him.

In 2008 Sadeghi was nominated for Asian Footballer of the Year, but failed to win the award. He played in AFC Champions League for Saipa and continued to play for the club in 2008-09 season.

Sadeghi, nicknamed 'Loyal Orange', played for Saipa 434 matches during 15 seasons at the Iran Professional League and scored 37 goals.

He made his first cap for Iran national football team in January 2007 in a friendly match against the UAE and scored in his debut.

Sadeghi was selected among Iran's final squad participating in the 2007 Asian Cup and was also called up for 2010 FIFA World Cup Qualifying.

Sadeghi played in West Asian Football Federation Championship 2008 and won the cup.



Shoja Khalilzadeh joins Persepolis football team



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Free **d e s k** agent Shoja Khalilzadeh signed a two-year contract with Persepolis football team.

Persepolis, who have won Iran Professional League, started to strengthen their team for the upcoming season by signing the 27-year-old defender as their first summer signing.

Khalilzadeh will wear No. 3 jersey in

the Iranian popular football team.

He started his playing career at Mes Rafsanjan in 2008 and has also played as Mes Kerman, Sepahan and Tractor Sazi.

Khalilzadeh has made five caps for Iran national football team.

Persepolis football team have reportedly reached an agreement with Nigerian striker Godwin Mensha.

Iran's Kazemzadeh wins bronze at ASBC Asian Boxing Championships



Sajjad Kazemzadeh from Iran claimed a bronze medal in the ASBC Asian Boxing Championships on Friday.

The Iranian boxer lost to Uzbekistan's Rio 2016 Olympic Games silver medallist Shakhram Giyasov in the semi-final and won the bronze medal.

Kazemzadeh qualified for the World Boxing Championships in Hamburg, Germany later this year.

The Iranian team will be headed by Cuban coach Barbaro Fernandez Jimenez.

Iran has participated in the competition with eight boxers.

The 2017 ASBC Asian Confederation Boxing Championships kicked off in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on April 28 and will finish May 8.

(Source: Tasnim)

Lewis Hamilton remains UK's wealthiest sportsperson

Three-time Formula 1 world champion Lewis Hamilton remains Britain's richest sportsman, according to the annual Rich List published by The Sunday Times.

Hamilton secured a lucrative contract upon joining Mercedes in 2013, with whom he has claimed two world titles, and remains one of the most high-profile drivers in F1.

Hamilton has been Britain's richest sportsman every year since 2014, and will once again be listed first when the full rich list is published on Sunday.

Hamilton's wealth has reportedly increased by £25 million in the past 12 months, giving him an overall total of £131m.

The Mercedes driver is £21m clear of footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic in second, who is a new entry to the list after joining Manchester United last summer. His team-mate Wayne Rooney sits third.

Recent F1 driver Jenson Button sits fourth on the list on £86m, having added £9m to his fortune in the past 12 months. Button semi-retired from F1 at the end of last year, but will make a one-off appearance in Monaco later this month.

The Sunday Times Sporting Rich List

1. Lewis Hamilton F1 £131m (+ £25m)
2. Zlatan Ibrahimovic Football £110m (new entry)

3. Wayne Rooney Football £93m (+ £11m)
4. Jenson Button F1 £86m (+ £9m)
5. Rory McIlroy Golf £82m (+ £26m)
6. Sir Andy Murray Tennis £77m (+ £20m)
7. Jose Mourinho Football £61m (+ £11m)
8. Gareth Bale Football £54m Up (+ £20m)
9. Luol Deng Basketball £50m (+ £7m)
9. Pep Guardiola Football £50m (new entry)

(Source: Sunday Times)

IPC President Craven praises Iran's progress within the Paralympic Movement

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Sir Philip Craven says Iran boasts some of the biggest global stars in Paralympic sport.

The Iranian National Paralympic Committee arranged for Sir Philip to meet with the Iranian Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Masoud Soltanifar in Tehran on Wednesday.



Later that day he attended a meeting of the National Paralympic Committee's Governing Board and delivered a 30-minute address to officials and athletes on the progress the Paralympic Movement has made during his time as IPC President.

"I first visited this country in 1995 when I was President of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation. I was impressed with what I experienced back then and have been equally impressed on each of my return visits," said Craven.

"Today, the National Paralympic Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the leading Para sport nations in Asia and is a National Paralympic Committee that is greatly respected around the world.

"Iran now boasts some of the biggest global stars in Paralympic sport; the performances of powerlifter Siamand Rahman, archer Zarah Nemati, shooter Sareh Javanmardi and sitting volleyball player Morteza Mehrzad amongst others at Rio 2016 made global headlines."

"Such is Iran's progress in recent years that I would not be surprised if the country broke into the top 10 of the medals table at Tokyo 2020 or in 2024," added Sir Philip who met a number of Iran's Paralympians from last September's Games.

Sir Philip, who will step down as IPC President on 8 September, also praised the work of NPC Iran in increasing female participation.

"In addition to the progress Iran has made in producing medal winning athletes, I also think the National Paralympic Committee should be congratulated for what it has done to increase female participation," he said.

"At the Seoul 1988 Paralympics the Iranian team featured 36 men and no women. Compare this with Rio 2016 where the team featured 23 women, the sum of the last five Games from 1996 to 2012 combined."

On Thursday morning, the IPC President officially opened the third National Para Athletics Championships which this year has attracted more than 700 Para athletes from Iran's 29 provinces.

In Shiraz on Friday, Sir Philip met the family of Para cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad before paying his respects at the athlete's tomb. Golbarnezhad died in a tragic accident during the Para cycling road race on the penultimate day of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, Paralympic.org reported.

Sir Philip's visit to Iran will conclude on Monday and over the weekend he will visit a new Paralympic sport complex and meet a number of Paralympians.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

Juan Cichello: we think about Asian U-23 Volleyball Championship semis

Iran coach Juan Cichello says that they think about booking a place at the 2nd Asian Men's U-23 Volleyball Championship semi-final.

Iran defeated China in straight sets (25-18, 25-15, 25-18) at the 6,000-seater Rezaezadeh Indoor Stadium in Ardabil on Friday and will play Kazakhstan on Sunday in the competition's quarter-final.

Iran opened the competition with a 3-0 victory over Pakistan and then defeated Malaysia 3-1.

"China had 50 kill blocks in their last three matches but in this match against Iran, they performed only two kill blocks against us. This is why we won this match," Cichello said in the post-match news conference.

"We continue to learn in every match we are playing because our goal is to prepare these young players for the senior level competitions in the future," the Argentine added.

"Now, we just think about a match against Kazakhstan. As I've already said, Iran is going to qualify for the final match and win the title," Cichello concluded.

Only top two teams from this top-flight tournament will join host Egypt, South American champion Brazil, European winner and runner-up Poland and Turkey, Argentina, Cuba and Mexico, African winner Algeria, Italy and Russia in the 12-team World Championship in Cairo, Egypt.

The competition has kicked off on May 1 in Ardabil, Iran and will run until May 9.

(Source: AsianVolleyball)

IN THE NAME OF GOD

KSC

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER

No. :367879

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE 50 PCS CaSi Coil Wire

INTERESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN SET OF DOCUMENTS, CONTAINING THE RELEVANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF: EUR 50 "FIFTY EURO" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

1) ACCOUNT No.0100013543943 AT "EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ CENTRAL BRANCH"

2) ACCOUNT No.1902-750-4019644-1 AT "EGHTESAD NOVIN BANK- OF IRAN AHVAZ SHARIATI BRANCH" OR Rials 2,000,000,"TWO MILLION RIALS" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

1) ACCOUNT No.0102513186002 AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

2) ACCOUNT No.0100304453001 AT "SADERAT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH" AND PRESENT THE PAYMENT RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

RAW MATERIAL & ENERGY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)
KM 10 AHWAZ – BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD
PO.BOX: 1378
POST CODE: 61397-31398
AHWAZ- IRAN

Note1: BIDDER SHALL SUBMIT WITH TENDER A BID BOND ISSUED BY AN IRANIAN BANK OR BY A EUROPEAN FIRST CLASS BANK, IN THE AMOUNT OF 100,000,000 Rial OR 3,000 EUR FOR 50 PCS CaSi Coli Wire AND MAY REDUCED IN PROPORTION WITH THE QUANTITY OF BIDDERS OFFER.

Note2: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO 13thMay, 2017. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFORESAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE 22thMay,2017.THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10:30 AM ON THE 23thMay,2017 IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHWAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

Note 3: FOR MORE INFORMTION PLEASE CONTACT WITH FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Tel No. : +98 61 32908114 / 32136119
Fax No. : +98 61 32908115
Ms.F.FADAMI EMAIL : f.fadami@ksc.ir OR VISIT: http://WWW.KSC.IR

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

Chemical Specification%	CaSi
Ca	30-40
Si	60-70
Fe	—

Packing

- Coil should be in Metallic Pallets
- Protective guard of coil should be angle or profile(square)type
- Coil should be covered by 2 plastic layers and kept in the roofed place.

Delivery Date 2017 July & August (In 2 Parts)

Wire Specification		Physical Specification	
Wire Diameter	13 mm	Vertical Coil	Dimension (mm)
Type of Coil	Vertical which open inside	A	1200*100
Coil Weight	About 1250 kg	B	1200*100
Type of Coil's Front Ring	OVAL	C	800*100
		D	900*100
		E	600

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: Ali Asgari
Editor-in-Chief: Hassan Lasjerdi

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98(21) 88808214 editor@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
www.eshtarak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co. Tel: 88911433
Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
Printed at: Kayhan - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.o. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



Italian officials visit Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art

A R T TEHRAN — The undersecretary of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism, Antimo Cesaro, and the undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Vincenzo Amendola, visited the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on Friday.

Italian Ambassador Mauro Conciatori also accompanied the officials during the visit, the museum announced in a press release.

Cesaro said that he visited the treasure trove of the museum during his trip to Iran last year, but displaying a selection of the works on the walls of the museum has added more to the beauty of the works.

He also said that publishing books, discovering young talents, as well as holding exhibitions of works by Iranian and Italian artists are among the programs that will come on stream after agreements.

Ali-Mohammad Zare', the director of the museum, welcomed the idea put forth by Cesaro and said that the museum and its several centers are quite ready for more cooperation and workshops.

Works by many august artists of the West, including Claude Monet, Francis Bacon, Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst, Georges Braque, Alberto Giacometti, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Donald Judd, Andy Warhol, René Magritte, Duane Hanson and Chuck Close, are on display at the museum.

Italy is the guest country of the 30th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) and a number of Italian officials have been invited to the country.

The visit to the museum is part of their programs on the sidelines of the book fair.



Italian Ambassador Mauro Conciatori (1st L) and the undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Vincenzo Amendola (4th L), and some unidentified persons visit the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on May 5, 2017. (Photo by TMCA)

Torrential rain causes damage at Tehran book fair

CULTURE TEHRAN — A torrential rain that struck Tehran Friday afternoon caused damages at the 30th Tehran International Book Fair in the Shahr-e Aftab Fairgrounds.



As a result, a large number of publishers were forced to gather up their books at the main halls as their stands were inundated by water that had leaked inside through the ceilings.

In addition, a number of the temporary pavilions set up in the courtyard of the fairgrounds suffered heavy losses.

Insurance experts estimated extent of the publishers' losses. However, they did not disclose the monetary amount.

The Tehran International Book Fair resumed its activities on Saturday.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

Paintings by Shahrul Kheradmand are on display in an exhibition at A Gallery.

The exhibit named "Between Two Curtains" runs until May 16 at the gallery located at 7 Ardeshir Arshad Alley, Azodi St., Karim Khan Ave.



Mah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Zahra Shafi.

The exhibition entitled "Inversion" will run until May 23 at the gallery located at 26 Golestan Blvd., off Africa Ave.



An exhibition of paintings by Navid Fard is currently underway at Elaheh Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until May 15 at the gallery, which can be found at 47 Golfam St., off Africa Ave.



A Collection of paintings by Nilufar Qaderinejad is on display in an exhibition at Sareban Gallery.

The exhibition entitled "The Shadow Inside" runs until May 15 at the gallery located at No. 130, West Hoveyeh St., North Sohrvardi St.



Shock, thrill, excitement: Broadway stars react to their Tony nods

NEW YORK (Reuters) — From shock to excitement, nominees for this year's Tony awards described their range of emotions when they found out they were recognized for their work on Broadway.

Richard Thomas, 65, best known for playing John-Boy Walton in CBS TV series "The Waltons," told Reuters on Wednesday that he was shocked to hear his name on the list for best actor in a featured role in a play, for "The Little Foxes."

"This is my first nomination and I've been working on the street for a very long time, my whole life, so it's really gratifying and means a lot to me," he said.

Lucas Steele, who landed a nomination for best actor in a featured role in a musical for "Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812," said all he wants to do is speak to his family but bad weather in his small home town of Wyalusing, Pennsylvania, has prevented phone communication.

"I come from a very, very small town and they live out in the rural country and they had a storm ... and it knocked out all the power, all the phone lines. I still have not talked to my mom," Steele said.

The annual Tony Awards, which celebrate achievements in New York theater, will announce winners at a ceremony hosted by Kevin Spacey on June 11.

"Good, Bad, Garish" to go on screen in Canada

A R T TEHRAN — Director/writer Peyman Qasemkhani's comedy film "Good, Bad, Garish" is scheduled to go on screen in Canada.

The film will first be shown at Vancouver's Kay Meek Centre on May 14 and it then will go to Toronto's Innis Town Hall on May 20.

Members of the film's crew are scheduled to attend review sessions, which will be held after the screenings organized by Iranian Canada-based Aria Persys Film Production and Distribution Company.



GOOD, BAD, GARISH

"Good, Bad, Garish" is about a film director who has to use two superstars for his new film contrary to his desires.

"Parting" named best at Tripoli filmfest

A R T TEHRAN — "Parting", a joint production of Iran and Afghanistan by Navid Mahmudi, won the award for best film at the Tripoli Film Festival, which was held in the Lebanese city from April 27 to May 4.

"Parting" is about teenage lovers Nabi and Fereshteh who are separated by her family's flight from Afghanistan. After years apart, Nabi decides to find Fereshteh and risk the hardship of flight and resettlement in Europe with a hope of a better life.

"A Time to Rest", a joint production of Lebanon and France by Myriam El



Haji, was picked as best documentary while "Dead Horses", co-directed by Marc Riba and Anna Solanas from Spain, won the best animation award at the festival.

Publishers can work by contracts till Iran joins copyright pacts: Expert

I → "However, the Iranian market could be managed with some new programs, that is, we invite the Italian publishers and they will have meetings with Iranian publishers. We have a lot of publishers specializing in children's, scientific and educational books. The agreements would be a positive result of the fair," he said.

Lorenzon explained that AIE has managed the presence of the Italian authors and publishers at the fair. "We have several publishers who have held meetings with different Iranian publishers or institutions at the fair," he said. "However we organize the general presence but not the business agenda of the publishers, and we actually try to discover a new world here in this fair."

He also said, "We do not have much knowledge about the book market in Iran and we are here to find out more about the publication industry of Iran and its potentials."

Protection of copyrights, enhancement of Italian publishing at home and abroad, development of digital publishing, and promotion of reading, are among the priorities of the AIE.

Also visiting the fair, Paola Seghi, the manager of

AIE Exhibitions, Events and Training Courses, gave some details about the programs of her country as the guest of honor.

"We brought here some 13 authors to the fair, as well as different kinds of books. We have organized meetings with the authors each day during the fair. We have an Italian and an Iranian counterpart in each meeting, it is a kind of dialogue between Iranian and Italian speakers about special issues such as art, history and poetry," she added.

Lorenzon said that the AIE tried to connect Iranian and Italian literati and writers together in order to work in close collaboration on translation.

"The program is very profound. We discussed a lot of things from sports to poetry, from history to children and novels. And every meeting is a link to start cooperation, it is a new way to present our books and our culture," he asserted.

Lorenzon also said called the Tehran book fair a large event and added, "They have increased the space and the publishers are staying in different spaces. More space and more people. It is far from the town but has brought many people to the fair."

For her part, Seghi also said that she has been



Association of Italian Publishers director Alfieri Lorenzon in an undated photo

impressed by the number of visitors.

27 Italian publishing firms have been invited to attend the fair. They include Alma Edizioni, Armando Publishing House, Bompiani, Francesco Brioschi Editore and Dami International.

The fair will be running until May 13 at the Shahr-e Aftab Fairground.

Country singer Loretta Lynn hospitalized after suffering stroke

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Country music singer Loretta Lynn was hospitalized after a suffering a stroke at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, her official website said Friday.

Lynn, 85, was admitted to a Nashville hospital on Thursday where she is "under medical care and is responsive and expected to make a full recovery," a statement on LorettaLynn.com said.

The singer's upcoming shows have been postponed on advice of her doctors while she recovers, the statement added.

Lynn was scheduled to perform at the Carolina Theatre in Durham, North Carolina on Friday, and had performances lined up across the United States through November.

Born in Kentucky, Lynn carved a



Musician Loretta Lynn performs during the 48th Country Music Association Awards in Nashville, Tennessee November 5, 2014.

(Reuters/Harrison McClary)

career in the country music scene with her down-home twangy voice, singing hits such as 1960's "I'm a Honky Tonk Girl" and "Coal Miner's Daughter," released in 1970.

Singer Tony Bennett's career, paintings on show in New York

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Legendary singer Tony Bennett may have left his heart in San Francisco, but the native New Yorker was in his hometown on Wednesday celebrating his long, prolific career as a singer and a painter.

Bennett, known for his traditional pop standards, big band, show tunes and jazz music, was thrilled with a collection of 40 of his paintings and screenings of his performances in a new exhibit titled "Tony Bennett: Celebrating 90 Years of Artistry."

"I've always done the two things that I love to do, which is sing and paint, and it's wonderful being honored about it," Bennett, who turned 90 in August, said in an interview at The Paley Center for Media.

"I can't believe that they put them up so well and put nice frames on them all, very happy about it," said the crooner whose signature 1962 song, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," has become an anthem for the California city.

Paintings by Bennett, mainly in oils and watercolors, at the exhibit include a self-portrait, taxi cabs in the rain, Central Park, jazz trumpeter Miles Davis and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Bennett, who has racked up multiple Grammy awards in his musical career of more than 60 years, autographs his all of his paintings with "BENEDETTO," his official last name.

The free exhibition is open from May 4 to June 18.

Diane Keaton to receive AFI Life Achievement Award

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Diane Keaton will receive the American Film Institute's highest honor next month.

AFI announced Friday that Keaton will accept its 45th Life Achievement Award during a gala

tribute in Los Angeles on June 8.

The starry dinner ceremony will air as a special on TNT later in June.

The 71-year-old Keaton won an Academy Award for playing the title character in "Annie

Hall" and has three other lead actress Oscar nominations.

Previous recipients of the AFI Life Achievement Award include George Lucas, Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Mel Brooks and Jane Fonda