

Mashhad Coffee Factory Inaugurated

Iran is expected to become an exporter of coffee products following the inauguration of a processing factory in the country's northeast, reported PressTV.

Managing director of Multi Coffee Factory, Mohammad-Javad Dashti, said at the inauguration ceremony in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi on Sunday that coffee is a widely consumed beverage worldwide and it is the second product with the highest demand in global trade after oil.

He cited international research which says more than 400 billion cups of coffee are consumed worldwide each year.

Dashti expressed optimism that the factory, equipped with cutting-edge technology, would help check smuggling of coffee products into the country.

The official however made no reference to the supplier of the unprocessed coffee beans for the factory.

"Multi Coffee Factory is set to produce and pack an annual 6,500 tons of ground coffee and 2,500 tons of instant coffee, meeting the



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entire domestic needs in addition to supplying part of the regional markets' requirements," he stated.

Germany has made an advance purchase of 300 tons of the factory's products, which include ground coffee, cappuccino and a variety of flavored instant coffee

products. Dashti listed the US, Germany, Japan, France, Spain and Italy as major coffee importers.

Some 25 million people are engaged in coffee production mainly in Brazil, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Vietnam, Mexico and India.

Kharq NGL Operations Normal

Implementation of the natural gas liquid (NGL) project on Kharq Island, Bushehr province, resumed after a 45-day suspension, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Iran Engineering International Company (IRITEC), project's contractor, has already begun gathering the associate gases being flared from Kharq and Bahregan oilfields.

The Offshore Oil Company--project owner--conducted negotiations with local officials including provincial governor general, Kharq governor, Friday prayer leader and the Department of Environment during the Iranian New Year holidays (March 21-April 2) to convince them on resuming the project.

The stoppage of the national project has

inflicted two million dollars of loss per day to the state treasury.

Given that the project was halted for one and half a month, the loss amounted to \$90 million. The IRITEC was projected to collect a daily 600 million cubic foot of associate gas from the oilfields.

It seemed that the obstacles facing the project were removed following talks between local officials and executors of the scheme.

Local officials of the island suspended the project in early March following repeated obstacles to the implementation of the project by certain governmental organizations.

The Kharq DoE had objected the implementation of the project since the executors had to cut down trees planted by National

Iranian Oil Company on its own premises.

Caretaker of Bushehr Environment Department Amir Mahdavian earlier explained that the NGL project, itself, was an environmental-friendly scheme which made use of associate gases harmful for the environment.

The NGL project prevents the flaring of gases released from burning of oil and results in the dissolution of 95 percent of the pollutants.

However, the area (in the north of Kharq) made available to contractor was considered for establishing a tourism hub, he said. "Local officials opposed the implementation of the project for the above-mentioned reasons."

Rls980b Invested In Port Development

Managing director of Ports and Shipping Organization said Monday that a total 980 billion rials was invested in Iranian ports during the year to March 2007.

Ali Taheri Motlaq was quoted by ISNA as saying that thanks to efforts by the organization, last year's total investments posted a significant growth compared to the amount for the year earlier.

The official stated that transit of non-oil commodities via Iranian ports grew by 40 percent in fiscal year 2006-7, reaching 7.7 tons from the 5.5 tons in the year to March 2006.

He elaborated that the jump was due to a 75-percent discount offered to those who transferred their non-oil products via Iranian ports.

The ships which transited oil commodities in the Caspian Sea under Iranian flags were also entitled to 50 percent discount, he noted.

Swap operation also rose by 70 percent during the last year.

Turning to upgrading ports' safety standards, Taheri Motlaq stated that shipping accidents fell by 42 percent during the year to March 2007 compared to figures for the year earlier.

On the privatization process, the official said that shares of the organization will be floated in the stock exchange in the year to March 2008.

According to him, the organization has already transferred ownership of its terminals to the private sector.

"The Ports and Shipping Organization is the only state entity involved in transportation which is ahead of the target set in the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (2005-2010)," Taheri Moqaddam asserted.

Iran's commercial fleet with 182 ships ranks 19th in the world and ninth in Asia, the official noted, explaining that they have the capacity to transit 9.8 million tons of goods.

He recalled that construction of 79 ships is currently underway of which 28 are oil tankers.

Country's oil tanker fleet occupies the fourth place in the world.

IDRO Focus on Higher Industrial Export

Ministry of Industries and Mines is seriously pursuing policies to globalize the industrial sector, said a senior ministry official.

The core policy of the ministry is to develop domestic industries in a way that they can survive in the modern globalized market, deputy minister, Mehdi Mofidi told ISNA Monday.

He called on industrial units to secure a foothold in global markets by achieving capability and competing with foreign industrialists at the international level.

He stressed that the onus of materializing this objective rests mainly with the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization

(IDRO), an affiliate of the ministry. Mofidi also heads the organization.

In the year to March 2008, the official said, the organization will not only endeavor to complete ongoing projects but will also try to expand industrial exports.

The official stated that development of exports will not only help industrial units thrive but will also keep them updated on modern technology, augment motivation in industrialists, encourage them to participate in global markets and change their business approaches towards domestic consumers.

Mofidi said that increase in productivity and efficiency of factories and extensive activities in oil and gas indus-

tries also top IDRO's agenda.

Majority of domestic industrial units are working in low capacity due to imbalance demand and supply, he noted. "Investments made in the sector outstrip domestic demand."

To continue to thrive, the Iranian-made industrial products should find their way into the world market, Mofidi emphasized. In other words, the products have to be exported.

The IDRO chief recalled that the organization has already ventured into giant oil projects in Iran's hydrocarbon-rich Asalouyeh port in Bushehr province thanks to assistance offered by the Oil Ministry.

Petropars to Offer Venezuela Drilling Services

Petropars Company managing director announced Monday that Iran-Venezuela Oil Field Services would be set up to export logistical drilling services to Venezuela.

Gholam-Reza Manouchehri told PIN, "During the recent visit of a Venezuelan delegation to Iran, the two sides agreed to establish the company (Iran-Venezuela Oil Field Services) with the aim of receiving logistical drilling services including air and sea trans-

portation, repair, and fuel supply from Petropars Company."

Venezuela is grappling with logistical drilling services, said the official, expressing hope the establishment of the company would pave the way for major strides toward achieving desirable objectives in this respect.

According to Manouchehri, Petropars Company holds 49 percent stakes in Iran-Venezuela Oil Field Services while Oil Pension Fund owns one

percent of its stocks and the remaining 50 percent is possessed by Venezuela.

He said Petropars and Venezuela would also establish the Operation and Management Co.

Venezuela, added the official, faced lack of manpower in refining, exploitation, and management sectors and the establishment of Operation and Management Company would pave the way for dispatching Iranian oil industry specialists to the Latin American country.

5 Railway Projects at Hand

Five key railway projects will begin as soon as a 3,500-billion-rial fund is made available.

Speaking to Moj on Monday, deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (IR) for technical and infrastructural affairs stated the fund for railways project was approved in a recent meeting of the Economic Council chaired by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Ahmad Khodaei predicted that executive operations of the important projects will start in the near future.

The first project is to be implemented in Tehran-Khorramshahr-Bandar Imam Khomeini route to install signs in 67 stations, the official elaborated.

According to him, over 84 million euros plus 109 million euros in finance are required to complete the project in the 930-km route within three years.

The 170-km southern line will also be renovated

at a cost of 46.6 million euros in addition to 600 million euros in finance, he noted.

Khodaei added that an

in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province will take two years.

The project, once com-

Sari section of the northern railway line is estimated to last two years and cost 36.3 million euros.

The council also gave



The rail link between the capital and the holy city of Mashhad in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, once completed, will shorten the travel time by 40 minutes to one hour.

affiliate of the IR--the Lines and Technical Service Company--has won tenders for the project.

The official added that improvement of 200 kilometers of the rail link between the capital and the holy city of Mashhad

pleted, will shorten the travel time by 40 minutes to one hour, he said.

Basran Company will execute the project at a cost of 56.2 million euros and 73 million euros in finance.

Khodaei stated that renovation of Firouzkouh-

the go-ahead for upgrading Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) equipment of Tehran-Tabriz and Tabriz-Jolfa lines, the official noted.

A Japanese company, Marubeni Corporation, has undertaken the project, he concluded.



Atomic Energy Organization of Iran

Invitation for Bid Construction of Two Large-Scale Nuclear Power Plants in Iran

Nuclear Power Production and Development Company of Iran (NPPD), an affiliated company of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, as the owner, invites sealed bids from contractors/companies for the design, supply of equipment, construction and commissioning of two large-scale (1,000-1,600 MW) third-generation nuclear power plants with pressurized light-water reactor in the Bushehr province of Iran.

Qualified bidders, who have sufficient experiences in the construction and commissioning of such plants, are requested to obtain the respective documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 15,000 euros (fifteen thousand euros) to the following account:

Account No.: 01754283800
Name of Bank: Austria Bank-Creditanstalt
Code of Bank: 12000
IBAN: AT88 1100 0017 5428 3800
BIC: BKAUATWW
Branch: Jacquingasse 1/Rennweg 20, A1030 Austria

within 15 days from 25 April 2007 thru AEOL's representative office at Heinestr. 19/1/1, A-1020 Vienna, Austria or company's head office at No. 7, Tandis St., Africa Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond of twenty million euros and must be delivered to AEOL's representative office in Vienna by 02.08.2007 or to the company's head office before 08.08.2007. The bids will be opened at the company's head office in Tehran on 08.08.2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of the bidder's representatives who wish to attend.

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