

# Iran : Economic News

## - ENVOY: IRAN-TURKEY TRANSACTIONS TO HIT \$20B

/AUGUST 5/IRNA/

The value of Iran-Turkey bilateral transactions will hit dlr 20 billion in near future, the new Iranian ambassador to Ankara said on Tuesday.

Bahman Hossein-Pour put the two countries' transactions at dlr 10 billion to dlr 13 billion, adding the current level should rise in near future.

"My mission to Turkey aims to develop the two countries' ties," he said.

He also voiced his country's willingness for expansion of bilateral ties in all fields.

Hossein-Pour served as Iran's former Consul General in Istanbul and former ambassador to Ethiopia.

## - IRAN'S LEADER TO ATTEND SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION SUMMIT

/AUGUST 7/RIA Novosti/

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) scheduled for August 28 in Tajikistan, The Tehran Times reported on Thursday.

The paper said during the trip the Iranian president is also due to hold meetings with his Tajik and Afghan counterparts. Afghanistan is part of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group.

Iran and Pakistan, who have held observer status in the SCO since 2005, previously announced their desire to become permanent members of the organization, but their request was not considered at a SCO foreign ministers meeting in Tajikistan on July 25.

The SCO, which imposed a moratorium on new admissions two years ago, has said it has no plans to bring in new states, but is open to cooperation with non-members and will introduce the status of "SCO dialogue partner" at the SCO heads of state meeting in Dushanbe in August.

The post-Soviet regional bloc, that is widely seen as a counterweight to NATO's influence in Eurasia, comprises Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The group primarily addresses security issues, but has recently moved to embrace economic and energy projects.

Russia and China have been cautious over admitting Iran, embroiled in a long-running dispute with the West and Israel over its nuclear program and alleged support for radical groups in Lebanon and other countries.

Both China and Russia have major commercial interests in Iran. China wants Iranian oil and gas, and to sell weapons and other goods to the country, while Moscow hopes to sell more weapons and nuclear energy technology to Tehran.

The Kremlin also needs Iran's endorsement for a multinational arrangement to exploit the Caspian Sea's energy resources.

The other observers in the group are India and Mongolia

## - - IRAN TOPS MIDEAST IN WIND ENERGY

/AUGUST 8/press tv/

Managing director of Iran's Renewable Energies Organization has said that Iran is the only producer of wind turbines in the Middle East.

Youssef Armodeli told IRIB that Iran's wind power plants in Manjil (in Gilan province) and Binaloud (in Khorasan Razavi province) produce 128 megawatts of electricity per year.

"Wind turbines produced by Iran are exported to other countries. The turbines made in Iran are generally 30 percent cheaper than the ones produced abroad," he added.

"Since the fossil energies are not renewable, the renewable energies are becoming more common day by day," Armodeli said.

The renewable energies are wind, geothermal, hydro power plants, biomass, and hydrogen.

**- TURKEY TO IMPORT MORE IRANIAN GAS**

/AUGUST 13/press tv/

Turkey is reportedly increasing its gas imports from Iran as the Russian-Georgian conflict has disrupted supplies from Azerbaijan.

British Petroleum announced on Tuesday that it had closed a natural gas pipeline running from the Azerbaijani field of Shakh-Deniz to Georgia and Turkey over concerns of a military conflict between Moscow and Tbilisi.

Reuters quoted a senior source from the Turkish pipeline company, Botas, as saying on Tuesday that the company would increase gas imports from Iran in order to compensate for a reduction in Azerbaijani supplies.

The source, however, added that despite the BP decision, gas flow from the South Caucasus (Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum) Pipeline would continue for at least another week.

Iran possesses the world's second-largest gas reserves after Russia. Turkey has been a consumer of Iranian gas since 2001.

Head of economic affairs at the Iranian embassy in Turkey, Ahmad Noorani, said last week that Tehran and Ankara had agreed on the details of a deal to export Iran's natural gas to Turkey.

He added that the deal might be finalized during Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit to Turkey in late August.

**- ISRAEL SABOTAGING IRAN-TURKEY TIES: MP**

/AUGUST 12/IRNA/

A member of parliament said on Tuesday that Israel has targeted cooperation among the Muslim nations and it is trying to sabotage the upcoming visit to Turkey of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Hossein Sobhani-nia, vice-chairman of Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, told IRNA that the US and Israel do not like the Islamic nations to get closer and develop cooperation.

He added that President Ahmadinejad's upcoming visit to Turkey would benefit both states and will contribute to the two countries' regional and international cooperation.

Sobhani-nia said that paying such visits would help further promote bilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic and other world states. The Islamic Republic would make use of all opportunities in order to boost ties with its friendly countries, he said.

Expansion of ties with neighboring states is a priority of Iran's foreign policy, Sobhani-nia added.

**- Iran to launch its first satellite by next weekend - president**

/AUGUST 16/RIA Novosti/

Iran will launch its first satellite in the nearest few days, the country's president said on Saturday.

"The first satellite created by Iranian specialists will be orbited by an Iranian carrier rocket before the end of the next week," Iranian media quoted Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as saying.

He added that economic sanctions imposed by the United States against the Islamic Republic had a "favorable effect on the country's scientific progress."

According to Ahmadinejad, over 7,000 scientific inventions have been registered in Iran over the last few years.

In February Tehran successfully launched the Explorer-1 research rocket, which is reportedly capable of carrying a satellite into orbit, and unveiled the country's first domestically built satellite, named Omid, or Hope.

**- Iran to export natural gas via Oman**

/AUGUST 16/press tv/

Iran and Oman have signed an agreement based on which Iran will export natural gas to Oman for export beyond the neighboring Arab state.

The agreement will open a new gas export route for the Islamic Republic. Under the agreement, Iran will export one billion cubic feet of natural gas to Oman's export terminal to produce liquefied natural gas (LNG), Business Intelligence Middle East reported Friday. Iran's natural gas will be processed in Oman's Qalhat LNG plant. The plant can produce just under 10 million tons of LNG per year. `Potentially you could have Iranian gas actually being piped to Oman and then liquefied and sold on international markets,' said Stuart Lewis, Middle East director at IHS, an energy consultant. The project was in its early stages but there were signs it would move ahead quickly; both sides were looking at finalizing the deal in September, Lewis said. `If you contrast that to all the projects under consideration and haven't come to fruition, this project could be quite significant,' Lewis added. Iran and Oman have been discussing gas cooperation, including development of the Hengam-Bukha field project, for years. Hengam is a joint field west of Bukha in Oman reportedly containing two trillion cubic feet of gas. `Before signing the agreement, the two sides agreed on exporting Iran's gas, developing the Kish gas field, Oman's investment in Iran oil and gas fields, including Hengam fields and developing these fields by the Iranian team and establishing a joint investment company,' Shana reported.