
Iran : Economic News

-IRAN NEEDS TO GENERATE 20,000 MW ELECTRICITY

/JULY 17/IRNA/

Iran-Electricity-Nuclear Power

Iran's Ambassador to Russia said on Wednesday that Iran has planned to generate 20,000 MW electricity from 20 nuclear power plants in next 20 years. Gholamreza Ansari said that Iranian experts are working on the plan to meet the national need to electricity.

Addressing the Caspian Energy Forum on July 15-16 in Russia, he added that Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purpose in the context of Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Caspian Energy Forum opened in Moscow on Wednesday.

Experts and representatives from the five Caspian Sea states had taken part in the forum.

Secretary General of International Energy Forum (IEF) along with a number of European officials participated in the forum.

The participants discussed the issues about providing further facilities to produce gas and oil in the region and export of such products as well as investment in energy.

- IRAN STILL WANTS TO JOIN SHANGHAI GROUP

/JULY 28/RIA Novosti/

Iran's plans to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) remain unchanged, the country's ambassador to Moscow said on Monday.

The SCO is a regional security group comprising Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Iran, as well as Pakistan, observer states at the SCO since 2005, have been seeking full membership of the organization.

"We hope Iran will become a permanent and active member of this organization," Gholamreza Ansari said on the Ekho Moskvy radio station.

He said delays in Iran's admission had not affected bilateral relations with SCO member states. "We consider these countries our friends in the region, and they must take account of their national interests while resolving the issue," the diplomat said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday that the issue of Iran joining the organization had not been discussed at a meeting of the member states' foreign ministers in Dushanbe.

The meeting had been expected to decide on whether to admit new members or set up mechanisms for a partnership dialogue for other countries to join.

Western powers have been watching closely Iran's attempts to join the regional bloc, widely seen as a counterweight to NATO's influence in Eurasia. Although Russia and China have major commercial interests in Iran, both nations 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.

- PVEP TO DEVELOP IRAN'S DANAN OIL FIELD

/JULY 30/press tv/

The Petrovietnam Exploration and Production Company is to commence exploration and development of Iran's Danan oilfield August 1.

PVEP signed a four-year contract with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) in February to develop the southwestern oilfield.

The deal includes the drilling of three exploratory wells. Under the buyback contract, the Vietnamese energy firm will receive remuneration for its investment in the form of an allocated production share over a 25-year period.

Danan is one of 17 oil and gas blocks in the Persian Gulf that the Iranian government recently put on offer for exploration and development.

NIOC signed similar contracts with Italian Edison International and Croatia's INA Company in March and April respectively.

According to the Middle East Economic Digest, Iran, the second largest OPEC oil producer, will also cede the exploration and development of the Laleh oilfield to an international energy firm in mid-August.

- IRAN READY TO DEVELOP AZAR OILFIELD

/AUGUST 2/press tv/

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam-Hosseini Nozari

Iran says the offshore oil and gas company, StatoilHydro has not confirmed if it will hold back on development of the nation's Azar oilfield.

"In case StatoilHydro decided to refuse developing the Azar oilfield in the Anaran block, Iran will use domestic contractors to develop the field as it did in the Azadegan oilfield," Iranian Oil Minister Gholam-Hosseini Nozari told reporters.

North Hydro, before being merged with Statoil, discovered the Azar oilfield and has stressed the development of the field, he added.

Under heavy US pressures StatoilHydro chief executive Helge Lund announced on Friday that the Norwegian company will not invest in new projects in Iran.

"We have been evaluating our investment decisions and, having informed the authorities in Norway and the European Union and discussed the issue with the US, our view is that this position is in the best interests of shareholders and the company," Lund said.

Iran and Statoil had finalized their negotiations on the development of the Anaran block's Azar oilfield, in which Russian Lukoil Oil Company holds a 25 percent stake.

Nozari said many foreign oil companies are interested in investing in Iran's energy sector and that, if StatoilHydro were serious about withdrawing from the Azar oilfield, Iranian contractors were capable of developing the field.
