

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asian
stocks rise,
dollar drops

AFP – Major stock markets rose and the dollar dropped Tuesday as data showed China's economy grew far more than expected in the first quarter, when activity resumed following three years of painful zero-Covid measures. The blockbuster 4.5-percent expansion, helped by above-forecast retail sales last month, revived optimism for an economic recovery in the world's second biggest economy after its worst performance in decades seen in 2022. The figures are the first snapshot since 2019 of a Chinese economy unencumbered by public health restrictions that included city-wide lockdowns last month.

Deals on
emissions
trading,
carbon tax

AP – European Union lawmakers on Tuesday adopted key pieces of a package designed to achieve the EU's climate goals of cutting emissions of the gases that cause global warming by 55% over this decade. European Parliament members approved deals to reform the 27-nation bloc's emissions trading system, introduce a so-called carbon border adjustment mechanism and to create a new hardship fund for vulnerable households and small businesses affected by higher fuel costs arising from the new measures.

Oil slips on
economy
worries

CNBC – Oil fell for a second day on Tuesday as upbeat Chinese economic data failed to deflect the focus from a possible increase to U.S. interest rates and wider concern about the growth outlook. Crude prices were also pressured by the Iraq federal government and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) taking a step towards a resumption in northern oil exports from the Turkish port of Ceyhan after they were halted last month.

Non-oil exports hit
record high of \$53b

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Economy Desk

Iran's non-oil exports have reached a record-breaking \$53 billion in the previous year, according to the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). This marks a significant 10% increase in the value of non-oil exports compared to the previous year. The data also reveals that

Iran's total trade, including both imports and exports, surged to an impressive \$113 billion during the same period.

Upward trend
in non-oil trade

Over the past 11 years, Iran's commercial performance has seen consistent growth, with an upward trend in the value of imported and exported com-

modities. This culminated in the highest recorded level of non-oil exports last year. During this period, the import of goods amounted to \$59.66 billion, while non-oil exports totaled \$53.17 billion, signifying a notable 12% expansion in imports and 10% in exports. The data also reveals an oscillating trajectory in Iran's exports over the past 11 years, with a steady upward climb observed between 2012-2017. However, amidst stringent sanctions in 2018, the export figures plummeted and persisted until 2020. This was due to the tightening of sanctions that emerged as a major impediment to export expansion. Despite this, the value of non-oil exports experienced a remarkable 10% growth in comparison to the preceding year, reaching unprecedented heights with two consecutive leaps during the previous two years.

Comparing import &
export in terms of weight

The importation of non-oil commodities to Iran has experienced numerous fluctuations over the past 11 years, characterized by peaks and troughs. After reaching its apex in 2017, the import of non-oil goods

took a downward turn due to the escalation of sanctions, which led to the surge in the value of the dollar. This made imports exorbitantly expensive, rendering the acquisition of foreign goods uneconomical for purchasers. However, recent IRICA data reveals a substantial increase in the value of imported goods, culminating in the highest level of non-oil imports in the last 12 years, registering an impressive 12% growth in comparison to the previous year. Examining the traded goods, excluding oil, in relation to their weight, the data shows that the importation of goods has displayed a steady pattern over the past 12 years. The aggregate weight of imported goods in 1401 surpassed 37 million tons, signifying a 9.7% reduction in comparison to the preceding year. On the other hand, the exportation of goods has exhibited greater fluctuations in terms of tonnage, especially from 2013 until the beginning of 2023. Notwithstanding, in 2019, the weight of exported goods amounted to an estimated 134 million tons, representing the highest volume of exported goods over the last 12 years. However, this

trajectory has been on a decline ever since.

Overcoming sanctions

During the last Iranian year, the exportation of non-oil goods was estimated at approximately 122 million tons, marking little variation in comparison to the previous year. This is a clear indication that despite the challenges posed by the imposition of sanctions, Iran has been able to maintain its strong performance in the global market. Experts posit that the recent surge in the foreign exchange rate was anticipated to stimulate a boost in exportation, which has indeed come to fruition, with the depreciation of Iran's currency (rial) rendering domestic products more affordable to foreign buyers, increasing their propensity to purchase from Iran. Iran's non-oil exports reaching a record-breaking \$53 billion is a remarkable achievement and testament to the resilience of the country's economy despite the challenges posed by sanctions. It also highlights Iran's continued ability to remain competitive in the global market, showcasing the country's potential for sustained growth and prosperity in the future.

Iran was world's third largest
honey producer in 2022: FAO

Latest data by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) show that Iran was the third largest producer of honey in the world in 2022.

FAO figures covered in a report by the IRIB News showed that Iranian bee farmers had produced some 77,000 metric tons (mt) of honey last year, down by 3.75% from 2021. The output put Iran just behind China and Türkiye in the global ranking of largest honey producers in 2022, according to the figures.

The FAO described the honey produced in Iran as the best in the world in terms of quality which it said was due to the coun-

try's natural resources and its plant diversity, according to the IRIB News report.

Figures by Iran Chamber of Commerce show Iran supplied some \$5.6 million worth of honey to 22 countries around the world last year.

Honey exports from Iran are expected to at least double this year amid plans to supply 2,000 mt of the product to China under a contract signed between the two countries last year.

Authorities said in February that honey exports to China will give Iranian producers an opportunity to market their products in other East Asian countries. FAO data on honey pro-



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duction in Iran come as figures by Iran's agriculture ministry released in April last year showed that annual output of honey in the country had reached 111,000 mt. The figures showed that Iran had the fifth largest honey bee population in the world last year with some 11 million colonies in nearly 100,000 farms. An official has said Iran will soon send a shipment of honey to China, which itself is the world's top honey producer.

Iran's SAIPA unveils its first
home-made 16-valve engine

Iran's second largest carmaker SAIPA has unveiled its first 16-valve engine which it plans to mount on a replacement to a discontinued joint model with RENAULT some five years after the French company left the Iranian market because of US sanctions.

The ME16 engine was unveiled in a ceremony attended by Iran's industry minister Reza Fatemi Amin, Press TV reported. The minister said the engine will enable SAIPA to resume production of model that will replace Sandero, a popular joint model with Renault which was discontinued in 2018 after Renault's withdrawal from Iran.

He said initial agreements had been reached with



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a Russian carmaker to manufacture the new P90 model in the country under a different brand.

The ME16 is based on PSA Peugeot's EC5 engine which has been upgraded several times in Iran over the past decades.

The new 4-cylinder engine is capable of delivering 113-115 hp of power and 145-150 pf of torque, according to technicians

in SAIPA.

It will mostly rely on domestic companies for its parts as reports said some 69 Iranian parts makers will contribute to the manufacturing process of ME16. SAIPA's CEO said that automated robots will account for more than 60% of ME15's production line, making it the most modern engine production line in Iran.

Global dominance of dollar is on decline



Along with various military, political, and cultural tools, the Americans also use the dominance of the dollar to weaken the economy of other countries. For example, they have turned the dollar into a commodity in Iran in order to weaken its currency. Therefore, many countries including Iran have decided to re-

move the dominance of the dollar from their commercial and economic exchanges or minimize its influence on their economy.

But the process of de-dollarization requires adopting a number of different measures. In Iran, many policies including trading through barter systems have been considered by the country's authorities. Meanwhile, Iran

reached agreements with countries like Russia and China to remove the dollar from their exchanges and trade in their national currencies.

Tehran has also considered using the currencies of other countries like the UAE with which Iran has great economic relations. The UAE is the most important corridor for exporting goods to Iran.

Since the trade balance of Iran's non-oil exports was positive last year, Iran can use domestic production and export to meet its needs in goods via barter trade and without using the dollar. There are other ways such as using cryptocurrencies. Some analysts believe that specialists can create Iranian cryptocurrencies. In any case, Iran has definite-

ly used every opportunity to minimize its reliance on dollars. Many other countries have also been mulling over reducing their reliance on the US dollar.

Therefore, the US Treasury Secretary's warning and her concern about the weakening dominance of the dollar are based on some facts about the United States that have just been revealed.

EXCLUSIVE

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