

## Saudi Arabia oil exports hit 21-month low



REUTERS - Saudi Arabia's crude oil exports fell for a third straight month in June to their lowest since September 2021, data from the Joint Organizations Data Initiative (JODI) showed on Wednesday. The kingdom's crude exports totalled 6.8 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, down about 1.8% from May's 6.93 million bpd. Monthly export figures are provided by Riyadh and other members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to the JODI, which publishes them on its website.

## Kenya's debt rises to historic high



CNBC - Kenya's debt level has reached record highs despite President William Ruto's vow to tame the country's appetite for loans, treasury figures show. Total public debt rose by a record 1.56 trillion shillings (\$10.8 billion) in the financial year ended June 30 to 10.1 trillion shillings (\$70.75 billion), breaching a debt ceiling of 10 trillion shillings. "The increase in the public debt is attributed to external loan disbursements, exchange rate fluctuations and the uptake of domestic and external debt," the treasury said.

## Total says gas exploration rig arrives off Lebanon



AFP - French firm TotalEnergies said Wednesday that a drilling rig had reached Lebanese waters ahead of exploration for offshore gas reserves. "TotalEnergies, the operator of Block 9, announces the arrival of the drilling rig, Transocean Barents, on the block, at around 120 kilometres (75 miles) off the coast of Beirut," a statement said, adding that a transport helicopter had also reached Beirut airport.

● License Holder:  
● Managing Director  
● Editor-in-chief  
● Int'l & National Desk  
● Economy Desk  
● Sports Desk  
● Iranica Desk  
● Arts & Culture Desk  
● Social Desk  
● Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)  
Ali Kakadezfuli  
Mostafa Shirmohammadi  
Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,  
Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollae Mozaffari  
Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan  
Amirhadi Arsalanpour  
Leila Imeni  
Hamideh Hosseini  
Ali Amiri  
Ali Mehran

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of  
Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran  
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453  
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684  
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5  
● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617  
irandaily@iranagahiha.com  
www.irandaily.ir  
newspaper.irandaily.ir  
irandaily@icpi.ir  
Iran Cultural & Press Institute

# Raeisi visits homegrown EVs



● president.ir

### Economy Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visited a number of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) and full electric vehicles (FEVs) produced by domestic automobile companies on Wednesday. On the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, the president visited a number of FEVs and HEVs produced and assembled by domestic automakers as he was briefed about the production and commercialization process of the EVs, IRNA reported. Considering the environmental problems and



● MEHR

pollution of combustion vehicles, as well as the country's capacity in the field of electrical infrastructure, a change in the automobile production and increasing the EV production is on the govern-

ment's agenda. Based on the agreements made between the Ministry of Industry and the relevant bodies, including the Tehran Municipality, the installation of charging stations for EVs has start-

ed in Tehran, where at least 70 stations will be inaugurated by next month. By the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024), in addition to expanding the infrastructure for the use of EVs in Tehran,

charging stations will be installed on highways between Tehran and neighboring provinces as well as some other high-traffic provinces such as the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi.



● IRNA

## Iran, Turkey to hold fresh round of joint economic commission

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said that the 29th intergovernmental committee of Iran and Turkey will be held soon. According to a report by

IRNA, Safari made the remarks in a meeting with Turkish Minister of Youth and Sports Osman Aşkın Bak. He reviewed the economic issues on the agenda of the

two countries, including energy, border markets, and cooperation between border provinces, transit, and intergovernmental committees. Meanwhile, Aşkın Bak re-

ferred to the commonalities of the two neighboring countries. The Turkish side hoped for expanding economic relations between Iran and Turkey.

## Over 60 energy projects to come on stream by March: Iran's VP

Iran's first vice president announced that 67 oil and gas projects will be put into operation by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024). Out of 83 oil and gas projects worth \$36

billion, 67 valued at more than \$15 billion will come on stream by March, Mohammad Mokhber noted, according to SHANA. On Monday, Oil Minister Javad Owji said, "Last

year, we completed unfinished projects worth over \$12 billion, and more partly-finished projects worth \$15 billion will become operational by mid-March 2024."



● SHANA

## Sustainable development plan needed for female-led businesses

### Economy Desk

Cooperatives have helped attain synergy, unity, and cohesion of businesses within women's societies, announced the head of the women's commission of the Iran Cooperative Chamber, adding that this would boost women's share in the economy. Khatereh Ostad-Rezaei

told IRNA on Wednesday that expert panels will be held by the end of the current [Iranian] year under the National Congress of Iranian Women to draft a sustainable development document of women's cooperatives. Women should gain their appropriate position in sustainable development and economic participa-

tion. Meanwhile, the formation of cooperatives helps families provide economic livelihood along with a reduction in social damages, she added. Ostad-Rezaei noted that a lot of women are working in different fields across the country as we are looking for establishing a network for more communication between businesses.

## Export of medicinal plants requires proper processing for development: Official

### Economy Desk

The development and improvement of medicinal plant exports in the central Iranian province of Isfahan requires proper processing as well as increasing active units in the area since the province is one of the most promising areas in the cultivation and production of herbal medicine plants, said Ahmadreza Raieszadeh, the

horticultural affairs deputy of Isfahan Agriculture Organization. The official stated that 60 out of 80 species of medicinal plants cultivated across the country can be produced in the province, noting that Isfahan stands at fifth place in developing these types of plants, IRNA reported. He added that about 2,000 traditional units along with about 30 industrial units are

active in processing, packaging and exporting medicinal plants, with a total production of 65,000 tons. Raieszadeh concluded that the export of medicinal plants of the province during the year to March 20 included flowers and buds of the rose, licorice, rose water, herbal extracts, shallots, and saffron, with a total weight of 1,196 tons, worth \$2 million.