

BRICS to completely ditch US dollar in three years



The BRICS bank, commonly called the New Development Bank (NDB), officially announced a three-year plan to completely end reliance on the US dollar for the whole world.

The three-year de-dollarization initiative will lead to BRICS members settling trade in their local currencies and not the US dollar, according to a report by watcher.guru.

The NDB is seeking alternative ways to dethrone the US dollar from dominating the global financial sector. NDB will later provide details of BRICS leaders' promise of diminishing transactions made in the US dollar.

The NDB has already outlined its first plan where it lends loans to other developing countries in local currencies. The bank suggested to stop lending loans in the US dollar and limit the number of settlements in the USD. The move adds pressure on the dollar, reducing the demands for it by a small margin.

However, the initiative could land further blows on the prospects of the US dollar. The NDB will later provide guidelines for its plans for boosting the usage of local currencies and strengthening the national economy of BRICS members. Businesses in developing countries could thrive if local currencies are given more prominence as they would no longer lose out on forex charges.

Therefore, the global financial sector could change rapidly by 2026, leading the way to a new world order. The financial power could tilt from the West to the East, and developing countries could take the driver's seat.

BRICS already controls 30% of the global economy, and the numbers could shoot up if they completely end reliance on the US dollar.

The report added that if BRICS play their cards well, the US dollar will lose its power in the international markets by 2026. Local currencies will dominate the financial sector, and one among them could potentially become the next global reserve currency.



OPEC+ alliance helps stability of global oil market: *Owji*

Economy Desk

With the OPEC member states and the OPEC+ alliance united, there is now a favorable consensus among producers, said the Iranian oil minister, adding that their policies regarding the supply volume are determined in such a way that contributes to the stability of the global oil market.

In response to a question on the sidelines of the 6th Russian Energy Week International Forum about the impact of recent regional developments on oil prices, Javad Owji said: "It is expected that with the well-formed harmony between OPEC and other OPEC+ members, the global oil market will be immune to politics," Shana reported.

He also added that during the last two years, investment plans worth \$12 billion were implemented in Iran to increase the country's oil and gas production and refining capacity. "Considering the increase in energy demands in the post-coronavirus era, we have made a promising investment by increasing our oil and gas production with the aim of ensuring the energy security of the Iranian people as well as

partly meeting the world's energy needs," the minister said.

Saying that Iran's oil production capacity has increased by 40% in the past two years, Owji added that the country will put 67 energy projects worth \$15 billion into operation by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024). Oil and gas officials of Iran and Russia have held talks at the highest levels, which resulted in the signing of a number of contracts, he noted. "Iran and Russia can make the sanctions ineffective by using their joint capacities and be very influential in the world energy market," Owji stated.

Upon his arrival in the Russian capital to attend the forum, the Iranian minister said negotiations are aimed at turning the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) the two sides have already signed to cooperate in upstream and downstream sectors into contracts.

"I participate in the forum at the invitation of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who is the head of the Russian party at the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission," said Owji, adding all oil and gas industrialists and



leading companies of the world have attended the event.

"Since I am heading the Iranian side of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission, a meeting will be also held to follow up the previous talks between other ministries and economic organizations of the two countries,"

continued the minister, saying the next meeting of the commission is slated for November.

Under its incumbent government, Iran has signed favorable energy contracts with neighboring states, stated Owji, reiterating that bilateral talks will be held in Moscow to expand cooperation.

The Iranian minister will deliver a speech in a specialized meeting, dubbed "Global Oil and Gas Market: Surveying a Turbulent Period," on Thursday.

According to the forum organizers, more than 4,000 guests, including prime ministers, ministers, ambassadors of the Commonwealth of Independent

States, lawmakers, and heads of international and regional organizations from over 60 countries are participating in the international event.

Having the motto of "New Reality of Global Energy: Building the Future", the Russian Energy Week International Forum kicks off in Moscow on Wednesday.

China saves billions by record import of sanctioned oil

China has reaped savings of nearly \$10 billion this year through record purchases of oil from countries under Western sanctions, according to Reuters' calculations based on data from traders and ship trackers.

An unintended consequence of sanctions imposed by the United States and others on Russia, Iran, and Venezuela has been the reduction in oil import costs for refiners in top economic rival China, which often criticizes such "unilateral" penalties. Reuters' analysis of China's savings on oil pur-

chases from the three sanctioned countries compares the released figures to what Chinese importers would have paid by purchasing similar grades from non-sanctioned producers.

The lower-priced imports have been a boon as it bolsters throughput and margins for the world's second-largest oil consumer and refiner, especially its small independent operators known as "teapots", and facilitates lucrative exports by state-owned refiners of diesel and gasoline. China shipped in a record



2.765 million barrels per day of crude by sea from Iran, Russia, and Venezuela in the first nine months of 2023, according to an

average of data provided by tanker trackers Vortexa and Kpler. The three countries accounted for a quarter of

China's imports between January and September, up from about 21% in 2022 and double the 12% share in 2020.

Iran producing microalgae in Qeshm



Economy Desk

Cultivation of various species of microalgae and production of their related products is being implemented in Qeshm Island with cooperation of an Iranian new technology-based firm (NTBF), said Moeen Rastin, the CEO of the firm. The firm is a member of the Persian Gulf Biotechnology Park which developed some extensive surveys on producing some microalgae included Spirulina, Chlorella vulgaris, Nanochloropsis and Dunaliella salina during 2016-18 and finally in 2020 the pilot phase of the Qeshm site produced dry spirulina biomass, accord-

ing to ISNA.

The NTBF has the most completed bank of available microalgae species in the Persian Gulf as well as the country. It also started the industrial phase by production of 2.5 tons per month in Qeshm Site as the largest producer of the country in 2021 as well as obtaining all the valid licenses from Iran Food and Drug Administration (IFDA). Also, having one of the largest photo-bioreactor lines in the country and having a production line with international standards, has enabled the firm to produce all types of microalgae from the initial stages of pre-cultivation to reaching microalgae pow-

der with maximum automation of production.

Currently the company is focused on the production of Haematococcus microalgae and the most valuable substance called Astaxanthin, which is considered as one of the most important scientific achievements in the field of biotechnology, Rastin noted.

Qeshm Island is one of the most effective areas of the country for cultivation of all kinds of microalgae species, and the company is determined to turn Qeshm Island into a pole of microalgae production at the level of the country and the region with the highest amount of investment and creating infrastructure.