

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oil sales fetch \$15.7b in four months: **IRICA**

Economic Desk

Iran has exported \$15.7 billion worth of crude oil by the end of July, as stated by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that considering the oil exports of \$15.7 billion, the total foreign trade of the country amounts to \$51 billion, Tasnim news agency reported.

Figures by a major energy data agency last month indicated that Iran witnessed the second major growth in its oil production in 2023 despite continued pressure as a result of US sanctions on the country's oil exports.

Figures by the Energy Institute (EI), cited in a June-29 report by ILNA, showed that Iran's oil and condensates production had reached an average of 3.94 million barrels per day (bpd) last year, up 19% from figures reported in 2022.

The growth was more than 13 times higher than a global average oil production increase of 1.4% as the world's average output reached 82.636 million bpd last year, the data showed.

Only Guyana's output growth of 40.8% was higher than Iran's although the small South American nation's production hovered at around a tiny figure of 0.391 million bpd.

Petchem output tops 20m tons in Q1 calendar year

Economic Desk

Iran has produced nearly 20 million and 410 thousand tons of various petrochemical products, of which three million tons was sold domestically in the first quarter of the Iranian year (March 21 - June 22, 2024), according to the country's Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporations (APIC).

APIC's Secretary-General Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari said that seven million and 740 thousand tons was exported, while nine million tons was allocated to feeding petrochemical complexes, Mehr News Agency reported.

According to APIC's secretary-general, the country exported over seven million tons of petrochemicals valued at \$3.390 billion between March 21 and June 22, 2024.

Mahdavi Abhari said that if the current trend in exports continues, the value of our exports will increase compared to last year.

Judiciary chief offers to help gov't tackle economic issues

Economic Desk

Head of Iran's Judiciary emphasized the judicial system's support for the new government in economic and livelihood matters, stating that one of the key manifestations of this support for the country's 14th administration in the economic sphere is the assurance of a secure environment for safe economic investments.

On Monday, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, during a meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council, referred to the endorsement ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday, noting that that as the Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said, economic matters are currently the priority, and all branches and pillars of the system must assist the government in this regard; thus, the judiciary must also contribute, IRNA reported.

Elaborating on how the judicial system can assist the government, the head of the Judiciary stated that, "This support cannot be limited to mere words.



We must actively support the government in overcoming economic and livelihood challenges."

The Judiciary chief underlined that one of the significant manifestations of the body's support

for the government in economic matters is ensuring the security of investments.

"In this regard, we should not impose unnecessary and unjustified restrictions on law-abiding businesspeople," he said, noting that, "There are sometimes complaints about unnecessary limitations imposed by the judiciary or its agents on merchandisers."

Ejei stated that one of the requirements for economic growth and prosperity is attention to the issue of "competitiveness."

"If government and semi-governmental organization tighten the space for the private sector, then economic revitalization will not progress," he said, adding that, "All members of society should play a role in the economy, and the economy must, in the truest sense, become people-oriented."

"The judiciary has valuable capacities to assist the government in various fields, and we view supporting the government as a form of supporting ourselves, as the government's success in addressing people's livelihood issues will also reduce the volume of judicial cases," he concluded.

Exports up by 8.3% in four months to late July, official data show



Iran's non-oil exports rose by \$1.35 billion in the four months to July 21 compared to the same period last year, according to the latest figures released by Iran's House of Industry, Mine and Trade.

The figures published on Sunday showed that Iran had exported a total of \$17.5 billion worth of goods, commodities and manufactured products from late March to late July, up by 8.3% from the same period in 2023, Press TV reported.

Exports from Iran saw a major increase in the calendar month to late June 20 when shipments were worth \$5.496 billion, up 14% compared to the same month last year, showed the data, which cited official figures from Iran's customs office (IRICA).

The figures indicated that Iranian exports had risen 11.5% year on year in the month to late July to reach some \$4 billion.

Iran has seen a steady rise in its non-oil exports in recent years

thanks to increased government support for domestic manufacturing and agriculture sectors, a policy which has been aimed at diversifying away from oil revenues and making the economy more resilient against foreign sanctions.

China and Iraq have been the largest buyer of Iranian goods and products in recent years, with petrochemicals generating the bulk of revenues derived from non-oil exports.

Quarterly trade figures released by IRICA earlier this month showed that Iran's non-oil exports had increased by 7.6% in the quarter to late June compared to the same period last year. Iran's total trade in the June quarter, including its oil exports of more than \$12 billion, reached nearly \$40 billion, according to IRICA figures which indicated that the country had a trade deficit of \$0.8 billion over the same period without considering the oil exports.

Nearly \$23b earmarked for import of essential, pharmaceutical, commercial goods: **CBI**

Economic Desk

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced that it had allocated \$22.927 billion to the import of basic commodities, medicines, commercial goods, imports versus exports, and services from March 21 to August 7 of this year.

The CBI said that from the start of this Iranian calendar year (began on March 21) until July, 28, \$5.153 billion was allocated for essential goods and medicines, \$12.271 billion for commercial goods, \$418 million for services, and \$5.085 billion for imports versus exports, IRNA reported.

The bank's report suggests that the allocation of NIMA currency for the transport and automotive industries amounted to \$1.658 billion, for the electrical and electronic equipment industries was \$1.647 billion, for machinery and production equipment totaled \$1.041 billion, for mining industries reached \$946 million, and for textiles and apparel was \$624 million. These industrial groups also received



\$1.140 billion, \$187 million, \$892 million, and \$38 million in agreed-upon currency or imports versus exports by the end of July 28.

In addition to these groups, \$6.355 billion in NIMA currency and \$1.991 billion in imports versus exports were allocated to other industries. Currently, Iran has three foreign exchange rates, including the open market rate, the official rate and the NIMA rate.

NIMA is the Persian acronym for an online currency system

launched by the CBI in April 2018. It is a market where Iranian exporters can sell their foreign currency earnings for Iranian rials. The report provided by the CBI on Monday stated that the balanced average exchange rate for the month leading up to July 28 was calculated at 39,335 toman for the dollar. Additionally, on July 28, the dollar was priced at 48,159 toman in the currency exchange hall of Iran's central exchange market.

Netanyahu's murky strategy ...

Nonetheless, it seems improbable that Israel intends to orchestrate a ground operation and enter Lebanese territory. Such a move would render them susceptible to adverse consequences. For now, Netanyahu is pursuing his objectives through airstrikes on military sites while striving for a political goal against Hezbollah. Lebanon has been grappling with a political and economic crisis for years. An

incursion by the Israeli army into Lebanese territory may strengthen domestic support for Hezbollah, and the Lebanese may unite with Hezbollah to defend their country.

However, through these continuous air raids, Netanyahu is trying to portray Hezbollah as the instigator of hostilities and pit the movement against the Lebanese people. It seems that Hezbollah, taking into account the political and economic crisis, is also refraining

from a heavy response to Israel and wants to contain the war to prevent further internal challenges in Lebanon.

Therefore, an Israeli ground invasion of Lebanon does not appear plausible at this juncture as it would be costly for the Israeli military and could further erode the international standing of the Israeli regime. Furthermore, it may provoke more intense reactions from the global community, particularly the Muslim world.