

Iran's small power plants set new record in electricity output



Economy Desk

The head of Iran's state electricity company Tavanir announced that small-scale power plants set a record in electricity generation this summer. Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said on Sunday during a meeting on the fourth day of the 24th International Electricity Exhibition, "The statistics indicate that small-scale power plants have produced over 1,300 megawatts of electricity this summer, registering a new record," IRNA reported.

Rajabi Mashhadi emphasized the importance of creating new opportunities for small-scale power plants, saying, "We request that the capacity of these power plants be increased for next summer."

"Our goal for next year is to supply more electricity to the country's productive sector," he added. Rajabi Mashhadi noted that the average efficiency of small-scale power plants is 2-3% higher than that of thermal power plants, stating, "Since these power plants are located near consumption centers, they experience lower transmission losses."

He stressed the need to activate the heat recovery systems of small-scale power plants to address the issue of heat waste, saying, "Activating this system can increase the efficiency of small-scale power plants to over 75%, while also reducing fuel consumption significantly. This is a national issue that will benefit the country."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Non-oil trade with neighbors hits \$41b in seven months: **IRICA**

Trade with OIC countries sees significant growth

Economy Desk

In the first seven months of the current Iranian year, the country's non-oil trade with neighboring countries reached 64.5 million tons, valued at \$41 billion, marking a 16% growth, as announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). Mohammad Rezvanifar, the deputy minister of Economy, also stated that, according to Iran's customs data, the country's exports to member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) exceeded \$20 billion in the same period, which began on March 20, ISNA reported.

He noted that the highest value of trade exchanges with neighboring countries was with the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, and the Russian Federation. Specifically, in the first seven months of the current year, the value of trade exchanges with these countries was as follows: \$16.2 billion with the UAE, \$9.9 billion with Turkey, \$7.6 billion with Iraq, \$1.6 billion with Pakistan, and \$1.5 billion with Russia.

\$20b in exports, \$13b in imports

Regarding the volume and

value of exports and imports with neighboring countries, Rezvanifar said that, out of the total non-oil trade with neighboring countries in the first seven months of the current year, 51.1 million tons, valued at \$20.2 billion, accounted for exports to these countries, while 13.4 million tons, valued at \$20.9 billion, constituted imports from these countries.

The head of Iran's Customs Administration pointed out that Iraq, the UAE, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Pakistan were the top five destinations for Iran's exports to neighboring countries.

He pointed to the top five countries of origin for imports to Iran during the first seven months of the current year, which were the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman, and Pakistan.

Trade with OIC

According to the Iranian Customs Administration, in the first seven months of the current year, Iran's exports to member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also reached 50.6 million tons, valued at \$20.364 billion, marking a 15% increase in terms of weight and a 22% increase in terms of value compared to the same period last year.



Meanwhile, Iran's imports from OIC member states in the first seven months of the current year stood at 12.4 million tons, valued at \$20.356 billion, showing a 14% increase in terms of weight and a 21% increase in terms of value compared to the same period last year. As a result, the total trade exchanges between Iran and these countries in the first seven months of the current year reached 63 million tons and \$40.7 billion.

lion. The OIC is an international organization with 57 member states, founded in September 1969 in Morocco.

10% growth in exports to West Asia

Meanwhile, the Director General of the West Asia Office at the Iran Trade Development Organization announced a 10% increase in exports to West Asian countries in the first half of the current year.

According to a report by

IRNA, Abdulmir Rabiavi said on Sunday that Iran's exports to West Asian countries in the first six months of the current year reached \$12 billion, adding that the country's exports in this period experienced a 10% growth in terms of value compared to the same period last year.

He noted that among West Asian countries, Jordan saw the highest growth, with exports increasing from \$2 million to over \$13 million. Rabiavi further explained

that following Jordan, the countries with the highest growth in Iranian exports were Lebanon (from \$9 million to \$18 million), Bahrain (from \$4 million to \$6 million), Kuwait (from \$87 million to \$114 million), Oman (from \$638 million to \$782 million), Iraq (from \$4.554 billion to \$5.196 billion), the UAE (from \$3.028 billion to \$3.399 billion), and Qatar (from \$58 million to \$64 million), with these countries experiencing 89%, 46%, 31%, 23%, 14%, 12%, and 12% growth in exports, respectively.

Unlocking new markets:

MP calls for greater efforts to boost Iran pistachio exports



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

Iran has economic advisors in over 30 countries worldwide whose potential should be utilized to develop new export markets for various products, including pistachios, an Iranian parliamentarian said. In an interview with Iran Daily, Shahbaz Hassanpour, the representative of Kerman in

the Iranian Parliament, emphasized the necessity for Iran's economic advisors in foreign embassies to identify and cultivate new export markets for pistachios. He added, "it's high time we leveraged their expertise to explore new export markets for a range of products, with pistachios being a prime example." Hassanpour noted, "Although our economic advisors abroad are already taking steps to boost exports, they need to be more pro-

active and facilitate interactions between foreign traders and domestic merchants and manufacturers, while introducing Iranian products to foreign customers."

Referring to the foreign policy approaches of President Masoud Pezeshkian's government, Hassanpour stated, "Given that Mr. Pezeshkian's administration has made national unity and engagement with the world its top priority, we should seize this opportunity to maximize cooperation with other countries in economic and trade relations." Hassanpour highlighted the situation of the pistachio market in Iran, stating, "Although it is a high-quality product with a robust global reputation and a dedicated customer base worldwide, the pistachio market in Iran is far from ideal, primarily due to some imprudent decisions made by government bodies and relevant ministries." He criticized the decision to require merchants to surrender their foreign exchange commitments to the Central Bank of Iran, calling it a misguided

policy that has backfired on Iran's pistachio export market. "This ill-conceived move has, in effect, imposed a self-imposed restriction on pistachio exports and other agricultural products, dealing a significant blow to our export market," he lamented.

The MP also said, "Many farmers and gardeners in Kerman and other regions of the country depend on pistachio production for their livelihood. However, according to the Central Bank, the foreign exchange earned from pistachio exports must be calculated at the lower official exchange rate, while pistachio producers are forced to pay for essential items like pesticides, fertilizers, and other living expenses at the higher free market rate." He added, "The Parliament is working to reduce such self-imposed restrictions by collaborating with the Ministry of Economy and the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI). The government and authorities should strive to not only preserve the export markets that have taken years to es-



establish but also explore new target markets." Referring to the pistachio production status in the country, he explained, "Pistachio harvesting begins in mid-August and concludes by the end of September." According to him, the majority of pistachio harvesting takes place in Kerman Province, while the rest is carried out in other provinces such as Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Yazd, Sistan and Baluchestan, Fars, Markazi, Qom, Qazvin, and Tehran." Hassanpour noted

that in recent years, pistachio production in the country has typically hovered around 200,000 tons, saying, "Droughts and frost have taken a toll on pistachio production in the country over the past few years, resulting in a decrease in the yield from orchards." "Iran has vast potential for developing pistachio orchards and increasing production, but the main problem our farmers face is water scarcity," the parliamentarian said, adding that, "Given that water scarcity is on the rise in Iran, during some months of the year, farmers are forced to deal with water and power shortages due

to the heat, and are left with no choice but to shut down their water pumps, which in turn affects the trees and ultimately leads to a decrease in production." Hassanpour stated, "As pistachios are among the country's most vital non-oil export products and significantly contribute to Iran's foreign trade, the government and authorities must support pistachio farmers and producers, acknowledging the product's importance in exports. The government's agricultural and economic team, consisting of relevant ministers, should implement measures to facilitate the export of pistachios."

