

# Minister nixes Iran’s slumping oil sales claims, cites countermeasures

Economy Desk

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad dismissed on Wednesday western reports of declining oil sales by the country, stressing, "This claim is unfounded."

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday in response to a question about whether sanctions would affect Iran's oil sales, Paknejad said, "Naturally, sanctions have been imposed to restrict oil sales, but we've devised specific strategies to counter them accordingly. This is why these sanctions haven't significantly impacted Iran's crude oil sales in recent years." The minister did not disclose specific quantitative metrics and fiscal valuation details of crude oil exports.

The fuel sector has been a main target of foreign sanctions on Iran's oil industry. The country has steadily increased its refining capacity in recent years to prevent the sanctions from affecting its transportation and

electricity generation sectors. Bloomberg claimed in a report on June 4 that Iran's crude oil shipments to China fell sharply in May as tighter US sanctions and seasonal refinery maintenance weighed on flows, citing preliminary ship-tracking data and market analysts.

As data from Vortexa Ltd. purported, Iran exported just over 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude and condensate to China last month, marking a drop of roughly 20% compared to the same period a year earlier.

In response to a question about differences in the approach of Donald Trump's second presidential term compared to his first one, Paknejad stated, "Both in the period prior to this and now, slogans about restricting Iran's oil sales have always been raised. However, we believe we can overcome these restrictions. Experience has also shown that these pressures have not had a decisive impact on the continuation of Iran's oil exports." He also said that the Oil Minis-

try will spare no effort to convert crude oil into higher value-added products in refineries. "In the construction of refineries, petro-refineries, and mini-refineries, or assisting in their establishment, the ministry utilizes all available legal capacities. Undoubtedly, if we can convert crude oil into higher value-added products in refineries, we will have more favorable conditions for exports."

Regarding whether Iran still views oil as a revenue source or has moved towards development, he noted, "We regard oil as a national asset, but at the same time, we are striving to properly define the concept of 'resource preservation'."

"Some believe resource preservation means leaving oil underground for future generations. However, the reality is that according to international estimates, the world may gradually move towards reducing the role of fossil fuels in energy supply," the oil minister added.

He continued, "Of course, this



● RAHEB HOMAVANDI/REUTERS

view also has opponents, and many believe that as long as fossil fuels exist, they will continue to play the primary role in ener-

gy supply. Therefore, the more we can extract crude oil under favorable economic conditions, observing efficiency and eco-

nomical scales, and convert it into productive assets above ground, the more we will have invested in the country's future."

## Atabak: Iran reaches preferential tariff agreement with Oman, Pakistan



Economy Desk

Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak announced on Wednesday that Iran reached agreements with Oman and Pakistan for the export of goods with preferential tariffs. Referring to exports with preferential tariffs to Eurasian Economic Union member states, Atabak said, "The ultimate goal of the government is to facilitate exports and imports freely and without direct government intervention, provided that the Central Bank [of Iran (CBI)] exercises full supervision over the process to ensure the accuracy and integrity of transactions," as reported by IRNA.

Preferential tariffs refer to mutually agreed-upon reduced import duty rates

applied to specific goods traded between Iran and partner countries under formal trade agreements.

At the unveiling ceremony for the foreign currency pre-sale tools and export privilege exchange halls, the minister underscored the importance of supervising and controlling foreign currency and preventing its illegal outflow, adding, "The Central Bank's expertise lies in simplifying processes and preventing illegal and alternative channels."

He pointed to the launch of the export privilege exchange, describing it as an important and operational step, and added that in Wednesday's cabinet meeting, "export incentives were also approved, which will be implemented soon."

Highlighting the reduction of financing costs and currency pre-sales, he noted, "These measures can play an effective role in supplying foreign currency and strengthening domestic production."

Emphasizing the importance of facilitating and accelerating processes, the minister said, "The Central Bank must effectively facilitate the supply of foreign currency for exporters and importers, and the simplification of foreign currency supply must be placed on the Central Bank's agenda."

## CBI seeking new methods to secure foreign exchange resources

Economy Desk

The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced on Wednesday that the bank is pursuing new methods to secure the country's foreign currency resources.

At the unveiling ceremony for the foreign currency pre-sale tools and export privilege exchange halls in Tehran, Mohammadreza Farzin said the country's foreign exchange revenues have declined over the past two to three months due to falling oil prices, stressing, "We are seeking new methods to secure the country's foreign currency resources," as reported by IRNA.

"The Central Bank is pursuing risk reduction and creating stability in the country's exchange rate," Farzin added.

Referring to encountering two current issues requiring new instruments, he continued, "The first issue relates to currency pre-sale, which is almost similar to a forward market – a contractual agreement to buy or sell an asset like currency at a predetermined future price – but has some limitations; this plan has been designed to meet the currency needs of en-

terprises."

"This new instrument has been developed to reduce the problems of managing the country's foreign currency and create exchange rate stability," Farzin added.

According to the CBI head, "Several measures have been taken this year in the field of foreign currency financing. One of these measures is the launch of a new instrument through which \$2 billion worth of securities have been issued, \$460 million of which have been sold so far. The goal is for the entire amount to be realized by year-end (March 20, 2026)."

Regarding the currency pre-sale market, he said, "This instrument allows enterprises to pre-sell their future foreign currency needs, which can lead to reduced industry risks, decreased exchange rate fluctuations, and increased market confidence."

Farzin identified the second instrument as relating to the secondary market, operating under the title of "export privilege," explaining, "In this market, various industries receive privileges based on economic policies and can compete." According to the official, the stated market helps exporters of ag-



▲ The CBI Governor Mohammadreza Farzin addresses the unveiling ceremony for the foreign currency pre-sale tools and export privilege exchange halls in Tehran on June 11, 2025. ● ISNA

ricultural and industrial products facilitate the repatriation of their export proceeds and creates an incentive to strengthen foreign currency financing and market stability.

"This year, with reduced oil revenues due to falling oil prices, the need for alternative methods to secure foreign currency has been felt. Fortunately, the newly developed instruments have been responsive, and it can be expected that more foreign currency will be provided for the country's development and investment in the future."

## Tehran ready for long-term agri cooperation with Kazakhstan, China



Economy Desk

Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri-Ghezleji expressed

Iran's readiness to develop long-term cooperation with Kazakhstan and China in the agricultural sector.

◀ Iranian Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri-Ghezleji (c) attends the Astana International Forum (AIF), in Astana, Kazakhstan, on June 11, 2025. ● maj.ir

Speaking at the Astana International Forum (AIF), Nouri-Ghezleji emphasized Iran's geopolitical position, its neighborhood with countries like Kazakhstan, as well as China's economic capacity, describing the points as foundations for mutually beneficial long-term cooperation, Mehr reported.

"Iran shares this privileged position with its friends and neigh-

bors, facilitating east-west and north-south transit routes for agricultural products from these countries to other parts of the world," the agriculture minister added.

Noting that Iran and Kazakhstan possess special agricultural advantages, he stated that his country "with its fertile lands across various regions, particularly in northern and central areas featuring a four-season climate and unparalleled agricultural diversity produces over 130 million tons of agricultural products annually."

"Agricultural processing and complementary industries in

Iran have also reached advanced development levels, with over 10 million tons of diverse agricultural products exported worldwide each year," he said.

Highlighting deep economic, cultural, and religious ties between Iran and Kazakhstan, Nouri-Ghezleji announced joint efforts with Kazakhstan's Minister of Trade and Integration, Arman Shakaliyev, toward comprehensive development of bilateral economic relations.

Regarding relations with China, the Iranian minister remarked, "Economic stakeholders alongside research, scientific, and

technical organizations in the agricultural sectors of both the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China have established extensive relations."

According to the minister, under the current administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, "new horizons have opened in this regard, with current bilateral agricultural trade volume with China standing at approximately \$1.5 billion."

He also referenced Iran's strong agricultural trade ties with Pakistan, noting annual bilateral trade with that country hit about \$2 billion.