

Paknejad: Oil exports unaffected by revoked US waiver

Economy Desk

Iran's oil exports will continue "uninterrupted" despite Washington's move to revoke a temporary sanctions waiver, Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Tuesday, one week after the United States took away the license issued under an interim peace memorandum with the Islamic Republic.

"Despite the revocation of the 4-day waiver, Iran's oil exports are continuing as before," Paknejad said, according to Shana News Agency.

The administration of US President Donald Trump granted the waiver on June 66 as part of a 58-point peace deal, allowing Iranian crude and petroleum products to be sold for 4 days without exposing buyers to sanctions.

The United States revoked the license on July 7 after attacks on three tankers near the Strait of Hormuz that it blamed on Iran.

Iran insists that navigation through the strategic waterway take place only under rules set by its Armed Forces.

Paknejad criticized the decision, saying it violated Article 54 of the memorandum covering Iranian oil and petroleum exports.

"As usual, the Americans failed to honor their commitments," he said.

He added that the Oil Ministry had spent years building mechanisms to offset "cruel sanctions" and had maintained those structures even while the waiver was in force.

Trump called the peace deal "over" after the maritime incidents and resumed attacks. The memorandum was signed in mid-June to halt the war launched by the

United States and Israel on February 68. The United States also restored its naval blockade on Iranian ports and vessels linked to the country on July 58.

The blockade, first imposed in mid-April to pressure Iran into a peace deal to end the war, covers the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean.

During more than 4 days of the naval blockade, the US army said it had intercepted, returned, seized and attacked dozens of vessels coming from or sailing to Iranian ports.

Iran has warned that no vessel will be permitted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz unless it follows the route designated by Tehran through northern waters near Larak Island. Iranian officials have rejected navigation through the southern channel in Omani waters.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on July 58 that it struck two supertankers that were attempting to sail through an "illegal, mined route" in the strait with their navigation systems switched off.

The UAE Defense Ministry said two Emirati tankers were hit by cruise missiles in Omani waters, leaving one person dead and eight injured.

An IRGC spokesman said on Monday that Iran would "under no circumstances allow the United States to interfere in the management of the Strait of Hormuz" and warned that vessels transiting the conduit without authorization from Iran's Armed Forces would face a firm response.

The warning came after Trump said the United States intended to charge ships a 64% transit fee for using the waterway.

Oil prices climbed sharply as tensions



ISNA

intensified, with Brent crude futures rising to \$83.3 a barrel and US West Texas Intermediate reaching \$78.5, both their highest levels in a month after gaining about 9%.

Oil sales during waiver period

Meanwhile, shipping monitor Tanker-Trackers.com said on Monday that Iran exported more than 84 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products in the

60 days after the waiver was granted.

"It has only been twenty-six days since the United States and Iran electronically signed the sixty-day Islamabad Memorandum," the monitoring service said in a post on X, referring to the peace memo brokered by regional mediators including Pakistan and Qatar.

"During that time, and even in the days leading up to it, more than 84 million barrels of Iranian crude oil and refined

products, currently worth more than \$0 billion, have been shipped out of the region."

It added that about 34 million barrels of Iranian crude remained awaiting export as the US maritime siege was due to be reinstated at 64:44 UTC on July 58. According to the tracking firm, Iran still has more than 4 million barrels of floating storage capacity available within the blockade area.

Iran raises daily desalination capacity above 658,000 cubic meters



IRNA

Economy Desk

Iran's desalination capacity has surpassed 58,444 cubic meters per day after the country expanded the use of non-conventional water resources to strengthen drinking water supplies, the head of the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company said on Tuesday.

Hashem Amini said 549 desalination projects were at various stages of operation, construction and planning in 58 provinces, playing an important role in ensuring a stable supply of drinking water, particularly in coastal areas and regions facing water shortages.

He said expanding desalination facilities was one of the Energy Ministry's key strategies for making greater use of non-conventional water resources.

"With drought conditions continuing

and water demand increasing, the use of seawater and brackish water desalination technologies plays an effective role in improving water security and reducing pressure on the country's conventional water resources," Amini was quoted as saying by ISNA. Iran is facing a severe drought. The government is taking measures to secure water supplies.

Although this year's nationwide rainfall has been close to the long-term average, years of accumulated drought, groundwater overextraction and the mismatch between available water resources and consumption mean that normal rainfall does not necessarily indicate an improvement in the country's overall water situation.

A water resources and hydrology researcher told ISNA last week that total rainfall across Iran reached 633.0 mil-

limeters this year, compared with the 57-year average of 633.8 millimeters, a difference of just 4.6 millimeters.

However, the country's central belt, home to the largest share of Iran's population and much of its industrial base, continues to face rainfall deficits.

The researcher said rainfall was 35% below normal in Qom, 38% in Tehran, 66% in Yazd, 64% in Semnan, 59% in Isfahan and 58% in Alborz.

Amini said that of the country's 549 desalination projects, 95 had already been operational with a combined capacity of 585,876 cubic meters per day.

Another 55 projects with a total capacity of 55,934 cubic meters per day are under construction, four projects with a combined capacity of 38,544 cubic meters per day are in the construction-and-commissioning phase, and three projects with a capacity of 6,544 cubic meters per day are in the study stage.

He said the country's total desalination capacity had reached 58,846 cubic meters per day and that the completion of the 58 projects currently under construction, in the construction-and-commissioning phase, or under study would add more than 55,934 cubic meters per day to Iran's freshwater production capacity. Amini said the desalination projects were spread across 58 provinces, with Hormozgan accounting for the largest share. He said Bushehr is another major hub for desalination development, while projects are also operating or under development in Khuzestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, and Golestan.

Tehran, Moscow advance plan for 1,000-MW power grid link via Azerbaijan

Economy Desk

A proposed electricity grid connection between Iran and Russia via Azerbaijan has entered a new phase following talks between the two countries' energy ministers, with the project aimed at enabling power exchanges of up to 5,444 megawatts, a senior Iranian energy official said on Tuesday.

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, Iran's deputy energy minister for electricity and energy, said the plan was technically and economically "viable" and was designed to facilitate the exchange of 5,444 MW of electricity, IRNA reported.

"The project, by taking advantage of the difference between peak electricity demand in the two countries during the summer and winter seasons, is economically viable and helps ensure the stability of the power grid," he said.

In a meeting on Monday, Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi and Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilov in Tehran reviewed progress on a roadmap for bilateral cooperation in the electricity sector.

They reviewed the economic and political conditions for a proposed electricity grid connection linking Iran and Russia via Azerbaijan, based on economic studies conducted in 6459, and discussed establishing a trilateral working group involving the energy ministers of the three countries.

Rajabi Mashhadi said the technical infrastructure required for the interconnection had already been successfully tested.

"We now plan to begin with the transfer of 344 MW in the first phase and



IRNA

expand the project to up to 5,444 MW of electricity between the two countries," he said.

The official noted that one of the key aspects of the agreement was making use of the seasonal difference between Iran's summer peak demand and Russia's winter peak demand.

"Given the seasonal difference in peak demand between the two countries, the exchange can be carried out either as an energy swap or through purchases and sales in local currencies, making it economically attractive and viable for both sides," he said.

Rajabi Mashhadi said the Russian energy minister had taken a positive view of the project during the talks.

"In the past, there may have been differing views on the project's economic viability, but today the Russian side has explicitly stated that, given developments in the energy sector, the project is not only fully feasible but also economically viable and strategic," he said.

"At present, priority is being given to addressing Azerbaijan's technical concerns so that, with full confidence in grid stability and technical coordination, this trilateral connection can be realized," he added.