

# India, Iran Trade Exchange to Hit \$30bn: Official

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Consul General in India's Hyderabad Mohammad Haqbin Qomi said on Wednesday that Tehran and New Delhi are determined to increase the volume of annual bilateral trade to at least 30 billion dollars by activating capacities in their respective economies.

Haqbin Qomi said that Tehran and New Delhi have targeted 30-billion-dollar worth of trade exchange in light of the great capacities of the two countries for economic cooperation.

The envoy added that reports show that trade exchange between Iran and India has been 18 billion dollars in 2018, the figure that can increase regarding the existing capacities.

Everything has been prepared for boosting economic cooperation with India, while the sanctions have made it difficult, the official said.

Asked about relations between Iran and India, Haqbin Qomi said the two countries experience good and growing cooperation.

He further referred to agri-



cultural products of Southern Iranian province of Bushehr as good grounds for fostering trade cooperation with India.

## Wheat Production Hits 14.5mn Tons



KHOMEIN, Markazi Prov. (Dispatches) - Deputy of Iran's Minister of Agricultural Jihad Abbas Keshavarz said on Wednesday that the country has produced some 14.5 million tons of wheat in the current agricultural year which is more than its domestic needs.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony in the central city of Khomein, Keshavarz said, "With this amount of production, there will be no more need for imports as the country has become self-sufficient in the

production of this strategic product."

Beans, wheat, cotton, barley and oil seeds were the products Iran imported over the past few years, Keshavarz said, adding that Iran has become self-sufficient in producing some of these products.

He said that in addition to wheat, the country is expected to also become self-sufficient in producing sugar with launching some sugar producing factories in Khuzestan.

## Iran Producing 100 Million lpd of Gasoline

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The secretary general of the Association of Iranian Refineries Iranian refineries Nasser Ashouri has said that Iran currently producing 100 million liters of gasoline per day, and the country has not been importing the fuel since December 2018.

"Private sector refineries have been very successful in meeting their objectives, as much so that the country has not imported even a liter of gasoline since December 2018," Ashouri said.

He added that the Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) is currently

producing 45 million lpd of gasoline which, put together with the output from other refineries of the country, means that Iran is producing more than 100 million liters of gasoline per day, 10 to 20 million lpd more than its daily consumption.

Ashouri added that thanks to the domestic capacity in this sector, the U.S. has been discouraged at its old plans for invoking global sanctions on gasoline exports to Iran.

Earlier this month, Iran officially started exporting its home-made gasoline.

## Several Mining Industry Projects in Iran to Be Launched by March 2020



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Khodadad Gharibpour has said that Iran is expected to launch a number of mining sector projects that will cost \$3.5 billion by next March.

Gharibpour said at a press conference that, so far, Iran's mining industry had attracted \$14 billion of private sector investment.

According to IMIDRO, Gharibpour said in July that 30 mining sector projects costing \$3.5 billion would be opened.

## Jam Petrochemical Plant Output Up 15%

TEHRAN (Shana) - Jam Petrochemical Plant has developed its 106 Olefin Furnace which has added 15 percent to the facility's output.

According to the company, implementation of performance testing began in early April, after the dual furnaces of the plant were developed.

Hassan Moeni, deputy managing director of the company, said: "Given the importance of ethylene production from gas and propylene, pyrolysis petrol and butadiene from liquid feedstock, this project was implemented with the aim of increas-

ing the gas and liquid feedstock by 15 percent."

The project brought the feedstock supply capacity of the company from 40 to 46 tons for gas and 50 to 57 tons for liquid feedstock, he said.

According to the official, the project would also generate 8 to 10 million Euros in annual revenues for the company.

Jam Petrochemical Complex, with olefin, heavy and light polyethylene, butadiene and butene 1 production units, is one of the largest producers of olefins in the world and a major producer of polymer products in Iran.

## Five World's Biggest Economies at Risk of Recession

LONDON (CNN Business) - Five big economies are at risk of recession. It won't take much to push them over the edge.

The British economy shrunk in the second quarter, and growth flat lined in Italy. Data published Wednesday show Germany's economy, the world's fourth largest, contracted in the three months to June.

"The bottom line is that the German economy is teetering on the edge of recession," said Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics.

Mexico just dodged a recession— usually defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction — and its economy is expected to remain weak this year. And data suggest that Brazil slipped into recession in the second quarter.

Germany, Britain, Italy, Brazil and Mexico each rank among the world's largest 20 economies. Singapore and Hong Kong, which are smaller but still serve as vital hubs for finance and trade, are also suffering.

While growth has been dragged lower in each country by a specific cocktail of factors, a global manufacturing slump and a sharp drop in business confidence have made matters worse.

China's massive economy is growing at the slowest pace in nearly three decades as the country wages a prolonged trade war with the United States, which will impose new taxes on Chinese exports in September and December.

"The common feature is the weak global backdrop," said Neil Shearing, group chief economist at Capital Economics.

The International Monetary Fund last month cut its forecast for global growth this year to 3.2%, the weakest rate of expansion since 2009. It also downgraded its expectations for 2020 to 3.5%.

Investors are increasingly worried. The bond market is flashing warning signs and more than a third of asset managers surveyed by Bank of America expect a global recession in the next 12 months.

Germany relies heavily on exporters that sell a disproportionate amount of goods to China and the United States. Lackluster global auto sales have also hit its carmakers.

"Today's GDP report definitely marks the end of a golden decade for the German economy," said Carsten Brzeski, chief economist in Germany at the Dutch bank ING.

While fears of a chaotic Brexit are helping to drag down the German economy, that issue is causing the most pain in the United Kingdom, where the economy is shrinking for the first time since 2012.

The British economy should rebound in the third quarter and avoid an immediate recession. But if Prime Minister Boris Johnson pulls the country out of the European Union without a deal to protect trade on October 31, a recession would likely be unavoidable.

In Italy, weak productivity, high youth unemployment, huge debt and political turmoil are to blame for its continued malaise.

Investment has dropped in Mexico and the country's services sector is under pressure. Brazil, the largest economy in Latin America, is suffering from weak industrial production and high unemployment. Data due in the coming weeks will confirm whether it has fallen into recession.

Shearing argues that some of the gloom and doom is unjustified. At a global level, he says, spending by companies on assets such as equipment have stabilized. The labor market is resilient.

"While there are pockets of extreme weakness in the world economy — particularly in manufacturing — other parts are holding up relatively well," he said. "All of this is consistent with our view that global growth is slowing rather than collapsing."

Yet he also points to three big risks.

The first is the trade war. If Beijing and Washington continue to ratchet tensions higher, business confidence could plummet. The International Monetary Fund has warned that growth in 2020 would be slashed by half a percentage point if the dispute escalates further.

Another big risk is that central banks fail to act, causing a negative reaction in financial markets that feeds through to the real economy. The U.S. Federal Reserve cut rates last month for the first time in 11 years, and the European Central Bank has hinted that it will unleash more stimulus in September. Pressure is building on China to cut its main interest rate for the first time in four years.

Other central banks from India to Thailand have slashed rates, and more cuts are expected.

The final risk is that the global services sector, which has supported growth, begins to mirror the downturn seen in manufacturing.

## Official: Iran Potential Player in World Propylene Production

TEHRAN (Shana) - A senior adviser to the Social Security Investment Company (SSIC) said Iran could play an influential role in the global propylene production by investing heavily in the methanol industry.

Addressing a monthly oil and energy club meeting in assessment of the challenges facing the petrochemical industry in the world, the Middle East and Iran on Tuesday, Mohammad Hassan Peyvandi said: "The petrochemical industry and GDP have an impact on each other in oil producing and exporting countries."

He cited some of the challenges in the petrochemical industry including the North American shale gas boom, and plans to increase liquefied natural gas (LNG) and ethane production, export to Europe and Asia, and its impact on polyethylene prices, synthetic gas production from coal, and the availability and development of methanol-to-olefin conversion technologies in China.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), hydrocarbons, especially natural gas, continue to play a key role in supplying the world's most needed energy by 2040, he said, adding Iran, would play a major part in this field given its vast hydrocarbon reserves.

Peyvandi said the United States had no share in the world's LNG production capacity in 2013, but it was projected to overtake 10 percent of the Middle East's share in the market by 2020. This would mean that the ME's current 34% in the LGN market would shrink to 24% by 2020.

## U.S. Stocks Crash After Bond Market Flashes Strong Recession Warning



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. markets opened in the red on Wednesday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average losing more than 400 points, after the U.S. bond market sparked new fears about a looming recession.

After Tuesday's gains on the decision to postpone tariffs on Chinese imports, U.S. stocks saw another huge selloff.

The Dow was down around 1.5 percent, while S&P 500 fell 1.4 percent to 2,885.42 points. The Nasdaq Composite dropped 1.55 percent to 1,892.23 points after the opening bell.

Bank stocks, including Wall Street titans JP Morgan Chase and Bank of America, led Wednesday's selloff. Shares of Bank of America were trading down 2.75 percent, while JP Morgan also dropped nearly 2.5 percent.

The sharp decline occurred after the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note dipped below the 2-year rate on Wednesday. Such a situation is called a yield curve inversion, which is a strong indicator for economic recessions. A similar picture preceded every recession over the past 50 years.