

Iran Port Visits Surge Despite U.S. Sanctions



Iran says load and unload activity at major ports have increased despite American sanctions.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian authorities say ports north and south of the country have seen increased processing activity over the past six months despite American sanctions that have sought to negatively impact trade with the country.

A Tuesday report by Iran's ministry of transportation said load and unload was up 1.9 percent in 19 major ports between late March and early September 2019 compared to the similar period last

year.

It said the weight of cargoes processed at the ports had increased by over 300,000 tons to exceed 68 million tons in the nearly-six-month period which covers half of the current Persian calendar year.

The report covered in the IRNA agency said the biggest increase in imports and exports, over 30 percent, had been recorded for dry bulk cargoes which reached 27.2 million tons in volume in the pe-

riod.

Load and unload for liquid bulk had also increased by three percent to stand at 2.6 million tons, said the report, adding that processing was higher for other freight groups including 20-foot equivalent units (TEU), containers, general cargoes and oil-related shipments.

The report, which covered major Iranian ports like Imam Khomeini in the south and Anzali in the north, said increased processing activity at trade terminals was a sign of boom in Iran's trade at a time of increased US economic pressure.

Iran has been subject to some tough and unprecedented waves of American sanctions since last year when Washington withdrew from a major international agreement on Tehran's nuclear program.

Sanctions were imposed in November, with the aim they could hamper Iran's crude exports and lead to reduced activity in trade. The White House then toughened the bans in May when it lifted waivers granted to certain countries to continue business with Iran.

U.S. Allies Begin to Feel Bite of Sanctions on Iran Oil



TEHRAN (Press TV) - An Indian refiner says it is scouring the world for ultra-heavy crude oil which is becoming short in supply because of intensified U.S. sanctions on Iran and Venezuela.

The United States is aggressively pushing its oil on customers around the world after sanctioning Iran and Venezuela in what is seen

by many observers as an energy war in the wider context of its trade war.

However, many traditional oil buyers are used to certain grades and their refineries are configured to process a large percentage of heavy, high sulfur crude in order to produce large quantities of gasoline, and low amounts of heavy

fuel oil.

Such consumers have often invested in more complex refinery configurations which allow them to use cheaper feedstock and have a higher processing capability.

Vice-president of India's Nayara Energy Ltd Ashutosh S Deshpande says complex refineries are having a hard time as supplies of heavy and sour crude are tightening because of the US sanctions.

"Iran and Venezuela have taken 3.5 million barrels per day out of the market," he said during a panel session at the Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (APPEC) in Singapore, referring to the impact of the restrictions.

"The market for sour grades and heavies has become more tight," Reuters quoted him as saying.

Nayara Energy, formerly Essar Oil and now part-owned by a consortium led by Russian oil major Rosneft, operates a 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) refinery at Vadinar in India's west coast.

Knowledge-Based Company Exports Bioreactor to Germany

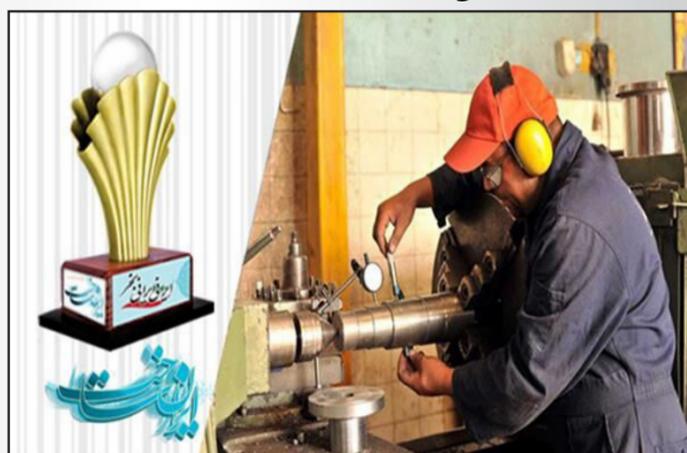
TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The CEO of Talayeh Daran Sanat Frayan Amir Abbas Ekhterayi has said that his company exported a bioreactor to Germany.

Bioreactor, system which supports a biologically active environment, is used in the biotechnological production of substances such as pharmaceuticals, antibodies, or vaccines, or for the bioconversion of organic waste.

Ekhterayi said that his company is leading a group of knowledge-based firms in Iran active in process industries including oil and gas, mining industries and medicine.

"We have established six production lines in medicine sector," he informed.

In one case, a bioreactor is a vessel in which a chemical process is carried out which in-



volves organisms or biochemically active substances derived from such organisms. This process can either be aerobic or anaerobic. These bioreactors are commonly cylindrical, ranging in size from liters to cubic meters, and are often made of stain-

less steel.

It may also refer to a device or system designed to grow cells or tissues in the context of cell culture. These devices are being developed for use in tissue engineering or biochemical engineering.

Russia-Iran Private Sectors Seek Cooperation in Oil Industry

TEHRAN (Shana) - The head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIM) Reza Padidar on Wednesday said that a Russian delegation of private business people active in oil and gas industry met with the head of the Energy Committee and the deputy head of the chamber in Tehran.

TCCIM hosted a business delegation of private sector businessmen from Russia's Tomsk Province, led the deputy chairman of the prov-

ince's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Members of the panel included private sector businessmen active in the fields of drilling services, environmental technologies to purify oil deposits from aquatic zones, optical filter technology to search for oil and gas fields, and research and development in the industry.

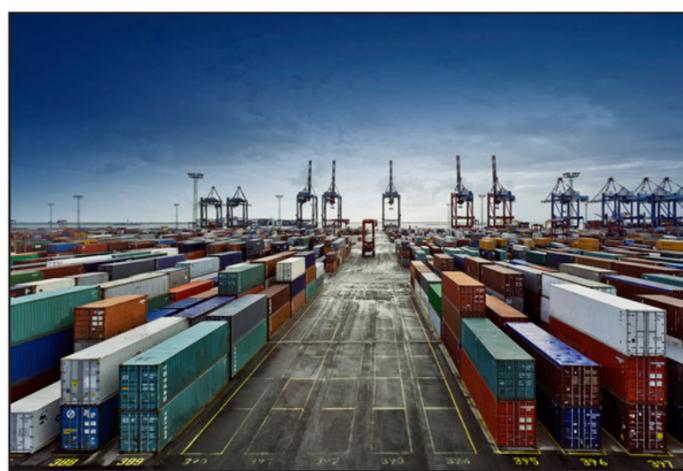
Padidar declared the readiness of Iranian oil and gas industrialists to partner with Russian companies in the fields of strategic items in the

oil and gas industry.

He said a list of the items would be provided for the Russian companies to consider if they were interested in cooperating with Iranian private sector partners.

Padidar added: "Iran is interested in accessing the latest technologies in the world and is ready to cooperate in the field of well equipment production of ESS and ESP pumps, alloy pumps as well as gathering gas flares and transferring them to the production line."

Small Industries Register Over €1bn Exports in 5 Months



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Small industries in Iran have exported products valued at over one billion euros in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar (21 Mar. - 22 Aug.).

An official at Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization, Asghar Masaheb, said that from 21st March to 22nd August 2019, as many as 1,000 industrial units situated in various industrial parks and zones across the country have exported products valued at

€1.03 billion.

According to him, the industrial units in Iran are receiving serious support from the Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization for the export of their products.

He noted that the country's policies in the past few years have increased competitiveness among small- and medium-sized units, adding that the export of industrial products is one of the main objectives of the Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization.

Tehran to Hold Int'l Conference on Coasts, Ports and Marine Structures in 2020

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian Deputy Minister of Road and Urban Development Mohammad Rastad said that his country will hold the International Conference on Coasts, Ports and Marine Structures (ICOPMAS) in November 2020, in a bid to further increase scientific aspects of marine constructions.

"The ICOPMAS conference is a biannual event, which focuses on scientific topics and marine structures," Rastad said this week.

Noting that the conference awaits the government's permit, the deputy minister said, "The possible effect of the conference on scientific development and installation of marine structures has been discussed recently by the government's culture committee."

According to him, the private

sector, domestic and foreign sponsors will provide major part of conference costs to minimize the cost for the event organizers.

"The conference will focus on problems in ports, coasts, marine structures, engineering and oceanography," he indicated.

"Representatives from about 30 countries including 70 academicians and 1,100 experts attended the previous conference in 2018," he added.

Iran has a sprawling shipbuilding industry, chiefly devoted to constructing oil tankers and container ships as well as offshore structures.

The country owns the world's largest fleet of oil supertankers consisting of 42 VLCCs, each able to carry 2 million barrels of oil.

GM Recalls 3.5mn U.S. Vehicles Due to Braking Issue

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - General Motors Co said Wednesday it was recalling 3.46 million U.S. pickup trucks and SUVs to address a vacuum pump issue that could make braking more difficult and that has been linked to 113 accidents and 13 injuries.

The recall covers 2014-2018 model year vehicles, including some Cadillac Escalade, Chevrolet Silverado, Chevrolet Tahoe, GMC Sierra, Chevrolet Suburban and GMC Yukon vehicles.

It was triggered because the amount of vacuum created by the vacuum pump may decrease over time, GM told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in documents posted Wednesday.

Iranian Envoy, Turkish Trade Minister Discuss Closer Ties

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran's Ambassador to Ankara Mohammad Farzmand and Turkish Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan have held talks on a range of issues, including ways to boost bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries.

Farzmand and Pekcan exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, including ways to boost bilateral trade between Iran and Turkey.

They met a few days before the 27th meeting of the two countries' joint economic commission, which is scheduled to be held on September 17-18 in Ankara with the participation of public and private sectors' representatives.

Tehran and Ankara have ramped up efforts in recent years to boost bilateral trade, setting a \$30-billion annual trade target and signing several agreements to enhance cooperation in various areas.

Turkey is one of Iran's major trading partners in the region which has come under pressure from Washington to stop working with Tehran under a fresh wave of U.S. anti-Iran sanctions.

Turkey has emphasized that the U.S. demands to stop purchasing oil and gas from Iran would go unheeded by Ankara.

OPEC Cuts 2020 Oil Demand Forecast

LONDON (Reuters) - OPEC on Wednesday cut its forecast for growth in world oil demand in 2020 due to an economic slowdown, an outlook the producer group said highlighted the need for ongoing efforts to prevent a new glut of crude.

In a monthly report, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said oil demand worldwide would expand by 1.08 million barrels per day, 60,000 bpd less than previously estimated, and indicated the market would be in surplus.

The weaker outlook amid a U.S.-China trade war and Brexit could press the case for OPEC and its allies to maintain or adjust their policy of cutting output. Iraq said ministers would on Thursday discuss whether deeper cuts were needed.