

Minister:

Major Projects to Create 41,000 Manufacturing Jobs by Year-End



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's caretaker minister of industries Hussein Modarres Khiabani has said that tens of thousands of new jobs are planned to be created in the country's manufacturing sector by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2021). Modarres Khiabani said that a total of 200 new manufacturing projects worth 170 trillion rials (nearly \$7.4 billion) will be fully launched.

Modarres said those "propelling manufacturing projects"

will create more than 41,000 new jobs across Iran.

The caretaker minister added that the government and the private sector are working on a total of 4,000 unfinished projects in the manufacturing sector with an eye to make them ready for use by August 2021 when the current administrative government leaves office.

Despite facing the mounting pressure of economic sanctions imposed by the U.S., Iran has managed to boost infrastructure

investment through various financing measures.

A main focus of the investment plans has been on developing Iran's energy and manufacturing sectors as the government believes they can help the economy diversify away from oil and prepare it to recover more quickly once the American sanctions are eased.

Increased manufacturing output has helped the economy better cope with the sanctions over the past two years mainly through exports of various products to neighboring countries.

Modarres said Iran has a visionary plan to localize production of manufacturing machinery and equipment for which Iran spends over \$3.2 billion each year in imports.

He said the country had managed to save around \$300 million between March and July through local production for a series of equipment and machinery that used to be supplied by foreign companies.

Ankara Shuns IMF Help Even as Turkish Lira Crashes



ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Despite the Turkish lira hitting a record low against the dollar and euro, Ankara has so far resisted asking for help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Instead, it hopes to survive a looming balance of payments crunch without any foreign support beyond

an extended swap deal with its regional ally Qatar.

In late May, Turkey tripled its existing local currency swap deal with Qatar to \$15 billion as a remedy to its depleted foreign reserves.

Any request for help from the IMF would be a last resort, though the

factual prerequisites for a deal are already in place.

On Thursday, the lira hit an unwelcome milestone, having lost nearly 20 percent of its value against the dollar since the start of the year.

But as the lira has long been hostage to domestic politics, experts note that the political costs of knocking on the IMF's door would be higher for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan amid speculation over snap elections.

Nikolay Markov, senior economist at Pictet Asset Management in London, believes this will be an option of last resort given previous reluctance from Ankara to accept IMF loans.

This year, Turkey's economy is expected to contract for the first time in more than a decade, with 5 percent of that due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Saudi Aramco's Profit Plunges 73.4% on Low Oil Prices

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Saudi state oil group Aramco on Sunday reported a 73.4 percent fall in second-quarter net profit, a steeper drop than analysts had forecast, and said it expected capital expenditure for 2020 to be at the lower end of a \$25 billion to \$30 billion range.

The world's biggest oil exporter said the rapid spread of COVID-19 globally had significantly reduced demand for crude oil, natural gas and petroleum products.

"We are seeing a partial recovery in the energy market as countries around the world take steps to ease restrictions and reboot their economies," CEO Amin Nasser said in a statement.

Net profit fell to 24.6 billion riyals (\$6.57 billion) for the quarter to June 30 from 92.6 billion riyals a year earlier.

Analysts had expected a net profit of 31.3 billion riyals in the second quarter, according to the mean estimate from three ana-



lysts, provided by Refinitiv.

All major oil companies have taken a hit in the second quarter as lockdowns to contain the coronavirus limited travel, which hurt oil demand and sent oil prices tumbling to levels not seen in nearly two decades.

Brent crude prices at the end of the second quarter were down 38% from a year earlier, despite an agreement by OPEC+ producers to cut oil supply by a record

9.7 million barrel per day from May to help to shore up prices and curb oversupply.

Crude Oil Output at North Yaran Field to Rise

TEHRAN (Shana) -- Head of the North Yaran oil field development project at Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) Mohammad Ali Ajdari said on Sunday that the third generation of sucker-rod pump (SRP) was installed for the first time in West Karoun oil fields cluster at well No. 14 of North Yaran field and increased the oil production capacity of this joint field by 500 b/d.

Ajdari added: "After about a year of successful installation of the first downhole pump (ESP) in this joint field, this July, for the first time in the West Karoun oil fields cluster, the third generation of sucker-rod pumps called SRP was installed in North Yaran Field."

He continued by stating that this pump was installed as a pilot and was launched on July 4, adding the performance of the pump was evaluated based on the manufacturer's instruction and the produc-



tion conditions of the well.

According to Ajdari, simplicity of installation and removal, long life of the pump and high energy efficiency equipment for low depths and production flow, low maintenance costs and lower capital costs compared to other methods of overflow are the most

important advantages of these pumps.

He added that this domestically manufactured pump would increase productivity of the field by at least 500 barrels per day.

North Yaran oil field is located 130 km southwest of Ahvaz along the Iran-Iraq border.

Official: Iran Seeks to Boost Exports to Turkey



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Chairman of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce Mehrdad Sa'adat said that the country is trying to fill the four-month export gap with neighboring Turkey which happened as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

Sa'adat pointed to the latest situation of admitting Iranian trucks along the Turkish border and impact of the coronavirus outbreak on trade volume exchanges between the two countries of Iran and Turkey, and said, "We try to compen-

sate a four-month export gap with Turkey."

"We are presently facing the long queue of trucks at borders," he emphasized.

Turkey refrains from accepting more Iranian trucks due to the outbreak of COVID-19, he said, adding, "Talks are underway with Turkish officials to increase the number of Iranian export and transit trucks for entering Turkey."

"This is while Turkey has been named as Iran's fifth export target market in the first four months of current year (from March 20-July 21) as Iran exported 43,000 tons of products, valued at \$405 million, to neighboring Turkey," he stressed.

According to IRICA, five percent of Iran's total non-oil commodities were exported to Turkey in this period.

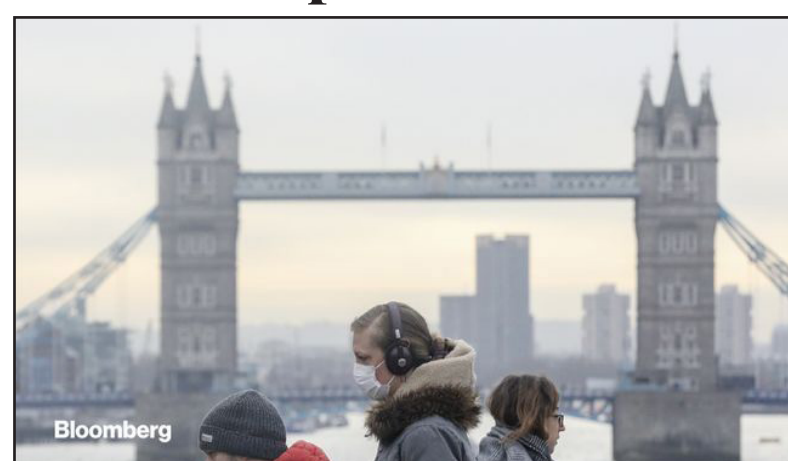
UK to Plunge Into Deepest Slump on Record: Report

LONDON (The Guardian) - Britain's economy will be officially declared in recession this week for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis, as the coronavirus outbreak plunges the country into the deepest slump on record.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics on Wednesday are expected to show gross domestic product (GDP), the broadest measure of economic prosperity, fell in the three months to June by 21%.

After a decline of 2.2% in the first quarter, the latest snapshot will confirm the UK economy slid into recession after the outbreak spread in March and the government imposed a nationwide lockdown to contain the pandemic. Economists consider two consecutive quarters of shrinking GDP as the technical definition of a recession.

Confirmation of the Covid-19 recession this week will come as the government tries to strike a balance between relaxing lockdown restrictions to kickstart growth, while also needing to prevent a severe second wave in infections. After four month of harsh controls,



growing numbers of companies are coming under severe financial stress, with job losses steadily beginning to mount. Some localized restrictions are also being launched as infections rise.

The U.S. and the eurozone have already been confirmed in recession as the global economy grapples with the sharpest downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. However, China, at the heart of the original outbreak, avoided recession after the world's second-largest economy returned to growth in the second quarter.

The slump in Britain is expected to outpace the decline in other major countries, in the biggest quarterly drop of any G7 economy due to a later launch of lockdown controls and slower removal of harsh restrictions than elsewhere.

The Bank of England said last week the economic fallout from the pandemic could be less severe than initially feared, despite sounding the alarm that the bounce-back would take longer. It also warned lasting damage will be caused amid a sharp rise in unemployment.

CEO: Petrochemical Exports to Europe on Track

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The CEO of Nirouchlor Company Vahid Namnik on Sunday announced the company's exports to Europe reached about 5,000 tons, despite the restrictions caused by the coronavirus in the world.

According to Tamin Petroleum & Petrochemical Investment Co. (TAPPICO), Namnik said: "Although the world is affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, we have managed

to export a new 1,000-ton shipment of chlorine to Europe." Since March, the company has exported 4,800 tons of petrochemical, he said.

Emphasizing the existence of strong rivals in Europe and West Asia, he said: "The competitive quality of Nirouchlor products due to the use of high-tech production lines along with the new approach of the business unit in the devel-

opment of overseas markets, are the two main factors to achieve this success."

Referring to the plan to increase production capacity in Nirouchlor, Namnik said: "Despite all the pressures due to sanctions, we were able to complete the project to increase product capacity in 2018 and use it to more than double the production capacity of items."