

MAPNA Makes Jet Engine Blades, Revives Dozens of Airliners



TEHRAN – CEO of the knowledge-based company, a subsidiary of the Iran Power Plant Projects Management Company (MAPNA) Group Mani Rezvani has said that local scientists have succeeded in manufacturing high-tech jet engine blades, a main component that makes up the turbine section of an aircraft engine.

The Iranian knowledge-based

company has acquired the technical know-how to manufacture jet engine turbine blades, allowing for 28 McDonnell Douglas passenger planes to return to service after being grounded because of the sanctions, he said.

Rezvani said the foreign sanctions have impeded domestic airlines' access to jet engine blades, which are sold at exorbitant prices,

resulting in 28 out of the 40 McDonnell Douglas passenger planes in Iran being grounded.

He noted that the Iranian experts manufactured a prototype of the JT8D engine blades via reverse engineering two months ago, saying the homegrown product is expected to get approval from the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran.

The first JT8D engine of a Boeing MD passenger plane equipped with Iranian engine blades will be switched on by June 20, Rezvani said, adding that the product will be mass produced afterwards and used in other engines after permission from the authorized organizations.

The homegrown jet engine blades cost the manufacturer around \$8,000, while the foreign products have a price tag of \$22,000, he said.

He also unveiled long-term plans for the export of the Iranian jet engine blades to Russia and the Caucasus nations.

EGFI Chief: €1 Billion Credit Line to Boost Iran-Russia Trade

TEHRAN – Chief executive of the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) Amir Borhani said on Saturday that a €1 billion credit line for Iran was launched in 2022 and activated last year (ended March 19,

2024).

Borhani said that using the services of the fund in the Russian market reached more than €30 million.

Of €1 billion credit line, €13

million has been used in the past month, he stated.

He further pointed out that the volume of trade with Russia will be expanded in the current year (started March 20, 2024).

Official: Annual Exports to Iraq Stand at \$12bn

TEHRAN – Head of the department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization Jafar Husseini said that Iran exports 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Husseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign exchange reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

He went on to say that Iran's exports to Iraq have increased 15-fold over the past 20 years, rising from about \$600 million in 2003 to more than \$10 bil-



lion last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade

between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

Tajikistan, Iran Emphasize Expanding Ties in Water, Soil Fields

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Water and Soil Safdar Niyazi Shahraki and his accompanying delegation have held talks with members of the Tajikistan Water and Soil Authority to discuss

mutual ties in the relevant field.

The two countries' officials stressed the need to expand bilateral cooperation in the water and soil fields.

The high potentials and capa-

bilities of Iranian companies in the field of manufacturing irrigation parts and equipment as well as export of technical and engineering services were introduced to the Tajik officials during the meeting.

Tehran, Baku to Install Online Stations Along Aras River

TEHRAN – The 53rd meeting of the Permanent Joint Commission on the use of water and energy resources of the Aras River was held on May 27-30 in Tabriz, Iran's East Azarbaijan province.

During the meeting, the two countries agreed on installing online stations along the shared border river.

The meeting was held to discuss the equal use of water and energy resources of the Aras River and at the Aras and Mil Moghan dams and the storing and release of the water from the Aras and Mil Moghan dams.

In this meeting, monitoring the river consumption and verification of water consumption



planning along the route and in Mil Moghan dam were highlighted.

In addition, the proposed online stations were agreed upon

between Iranian and Azeri officials in order to control, monitor and measure the flow of water along the common border between the two countries.

Inflation Ticks Up in Eurozone

FRANKFURT (Reuters) – Euro zone inflation rose in May, data showed, in a sign the European Central Bank still faces a slow and uncertain journey to reach its goal of fully reining in prices.

The bigger-than-expected increase in inflation was unlikely to stop the ECB from lowering borrowing costs from a record high next week, but may cement the case for a pause in July and a slower pace of interest rate reductions in the coming months.

"These numbers strengthen the hands of those who say we need to be cautious," Dirk Schumacher, an economist at Natixis, said.

Consumer prices in the 20 countries that share the euro rose by 2.6% year on year in May, inching away from the ECB's 2% target after increases of 2.4% in the previous two

months, according to Eurostat's flash estimate.

Economists polled by Reuters had anticipated inflation would rise to 2.5%, fuelled in part by an unfavorable comparison to last year when Germany had subsidized rail travel, among other one-off factors.

ECB policymaker Fabio Panetta, the governor of the Bank of Italy, said the latest reading was neither good nor bad as he reaffirmed his view that the central bank could cut rates several times and still keep the brakes on the economy.

More significantly, a closely watched measure of underlying inflation that excludes food, energy, alcohol and tobacco came in at 2.9% from 2.7% in April.

Prices in the services sector, which some policymakers have singled out as especially relevant because they reflect domestic demand, rebounded to

4.1% from 3.7%.

This was likely to mirror larger-than-expected increases in wages in the first quarter of the year, which have boosted consumers' battered disposable income after years of below-inflation pay hikes.

The ECB's biggest ever streak of rate hikes has helped bring down inflation, which reached 10% in late 2022 due to the surge in energy prices in the wake of Russia-Ukraine war. The hikes have stabilized consumer inflation expectations but also choked off credit.

This meant that policymakers meeting next week were likely to stick to well-telegraphed plans to cut rates despite growing market doubts about a global narrative of falling inflation.

"We think that the latest inflation and wage figures decrease the likelihood of back-to-back interest rate cuts in July, but we see the ECB cutting rates twice more before the end of the year if the downward trend in inflation resumes during the third quarter as expected," said Diego Iscarro, head of European economics at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

German government bond yields - the benchmark for euro zone borrowing costs - reached their highest in over six months after inflation data was released.

Markets are currently pricing around 57 basis points of ECB rate cuts in 2024, and are indicating a 25 basis point cut in June, and one more by year end. In recent weeks, however, they have been gradually paring back expectations of a third cut this year.

U.S. Sues Hyundai, Others Over Child Labor at Alabama Parts Plant

NEW YORK (Reuters) – The U.S. Department of Labor has sued South Korean auto giant Hyundai Motor Co, an auto parts plant and a labor recruiter over illegal use of child labor in Alabama.

The complaint, filed in U.S. District Court in Montgomery, Alabama, also sought an order requiring the companies to relinquish any profits related to the use of child labor. media reported in 2022 that children, some as young as 12, worked for a Hyundai subsidiary and in other parts suppliers for the company in the Southern state.

The Labor Department filing named three companies as defendants for employing a 13-year-old child: Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama LLC; SMART Alabama LLC, an auto parts company; and Best Practice Service LLC, a staffing firm.

The Department's Wage and Hour Division found the child had worked up to 60 hours per week on a SMART assembly line operating machines that formed sheet metal into auto body parts.

The SMART plant supplies parts to Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama which assembles popular cars such

as the Hyundai Santa Fe, Tucson, and Santa Cruz.

According to the Labor Department complaint, SMART informed the staffing firm that "two additional employees were not welcome back at the facility due to their appearance and other physical characteristics, which suggested they were also underage."

"Companies cannot escape liability by blaming suppliers or staffing companies for child labor violations when they are in fact also employers themselves," Solicitor of Labor Seema Nanda said in a press release.



An investigation revealed the widespread and illegal employment of migrant children in Alabama factories supplying parts to both Hyundai and sister brand Kia.

The 13-year-old girl and her two brothers, aged 12 and 15 at the time, all worked at the plant in 2022 and were not going to school, according to people familiar with their employment.