

# Minister: Iran's Oil Production to Reach 4mn bpd by Yearend



TEHRAN – Iran's Petroleum Minister Javad Owji has said that the country's crude production volume will hit 4 million barrels per day (bpd) by the end of the current Iranian cal-

endar year (to end March 20, 2025). Owji said that the gas production volume has also increased by 53 million cubic meters/day in the administration of the late President

Ebrahim Raisi. The capacity of storing gas has increased by one billion cubic meters and \$23 billion worth of capital was invested for the development of the joint oilfields, Owji stated, IRNA reported.

He also said 153 projects in the up- and downstream sectors, valued at \$34 billion, were launched during the administration of the late president.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Owji pointed to Iran's extraction of gas from the South Pars Gas Field shared with the neighboring Qatar and added that Iran's gas extraction from the joint field is 100 million cubic meters more than Qatar's.

He went on to say that Phase 11 of South Pars Gas Field was put into operation after 20 years.

# WSA: Iran Seventh Largest Raw Steel Producer of World

TEHRAN – The World Steel Association announced in its latest report that Iran's monthly production of raw steel in May 2024 increased by 2.1 percent compared to the same month in 2023, reaching 3.3 million metric tons.

The report on the global production of raw steel in May 2024 that was released a few hours ago indicates that Iran ranked seventh in terms of monthly production among the top steel producers in the world for the first time in 2024.

The Islamic Republic produced 3.3 million metric tons of steel, with a point-to-point growth of 2.1 percent and a 9.1 percent increase in production of the commodity in the first five months of 2024 compared to the same period last year.

It is noteworthy that in terms of the volume of Iran's raw steel produc-



tion in the first five months of the current year, the country produced 14 million metric tons of raw steel and ranked ninth among world's top producers after Germany and Turkey with a production of 16.2 million metric tons and 15.5 million metric tons in the same period respectively. According to the report, raw steel

production in the first five months of the current year increased in states such as Turkey, Iran, India, Germany, and Brazil compared to the same period last year, but the production level experienced a decline in China, Japan, the United States, Russia, and South Korea in that period.

# German Economy Minister Says EU Open for Talks on China Tariffs

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - Germany's Economy Minister Robert Habeck said during his visit to China on Saturday that the European Union's door is open for discussions regarding EU tariffs on Chinese exports.

"What I suggested to my Chinese partners today is that the doors are open for discussions and I hope that this message was heard," he said in his first statement in Shanghai, after meetings with Chinese officials in Beijing.

Habeck's visit is the first by a senior European official since Brussels proposed hefty duties on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles (EVs) to combat what the EU considers excessive subsidies.

Habeck said there is time for a dialogue between the EU and China on tariff issues before the duties come into full effect in November and that he believes in open markets but that markets require a level playing field.

Proven subsidies that are intended to increase the export advantages of companies can't be accepted, the minister said.

Habeck said he had told Chinese officials that this was taking a toll on their economic relationship. "Circumventions of the sanctions imposed on Russia are not acceptable," he said, adding that technical goods produced in Europe should not end up on the battlefield via other countries.

The EU's provisional duties of up to 38.1% on imported Chinese EVs are set to apply by July 4, with the investigation set to continue until Nov. 2, when definitive duties, typically for five years, could be imposed.

"This opens a phase where negotiations are possible, discussions are important and dialogue is needed," Habeck said.



German Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Robert Habeck poses for pictures alongside National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Chairman Zheng Shanjie following the opening session of the German-Chinese Climate and Transformation Dialogue in Beijing, China June 22, 2024.

Proposed EU tariffs on Chinese goods are not a "punishment", Habeck told Chinese officials earlier in Beijing. "It is important to understand that these are not punitive tariffs," he said in the first plenary session of a climate and transformation dialogue.

Countries such as the U.S., Brazil and Turkey had used punitive tariffs, but not the EU, he said. "Europe does things differently."

Habeck said the European Commission had for nine months examined in detail whether Chinese companies had benefited unfairly from subsidies.

Any countervailing duty measure that results from the EU review "is not a punishment", he said, adding that such measures were meant to compensate for the advantages granted to Chinese companies by Beijing.

Zheng Shanjie, chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission, responded: "We will do everything to protect Chinese companies."

Proposed EU duties on Chinese-

made EVs would hurt both sides, Zheng added. He told Habeck he hoped Germany would demonstrate leadership within the EU and "do the correct thing".

He also denied accusations of unfair subsidies, saying the development of China's new energy industry was the result of comprehensive advantages in technology, market and industry supply chains, fostered in fierce competition.

The industry's growth "is the result of competition, rather than subsidies, let alone unfair competition," Zheng said during the meeting.

After his meeting with Zheng, Habeck spoke with Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, who said he would discuss the tariffs with EU Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis on Saturday evening in a video conference.

"There's room for manoeuvre, there's room for discussion and I hope that this room for manoeuvre will be taken," Habeck said.

# Energy Minister Meets Tajik, Kyrgyz, Belarusian Counterparts

TEHRAN – Iranian Minister of Energy Ali-Akbar Mehrabian has met and held talks with Energy ministers of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus and explored ways to enhance energy cooperation on the sidelines of the 4th meeting of the energy ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s member states.

Mehrabian in the meeting with Tajik minister Daler Jumasaid that the trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan have increased fivefold since August 2021 when the administration of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi assumed office.

Iranian minister said that the volume of trade between Iran and the regional countries, including Tajikistan increased in the administration of the late president.

He said the trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan have increased fivefold.

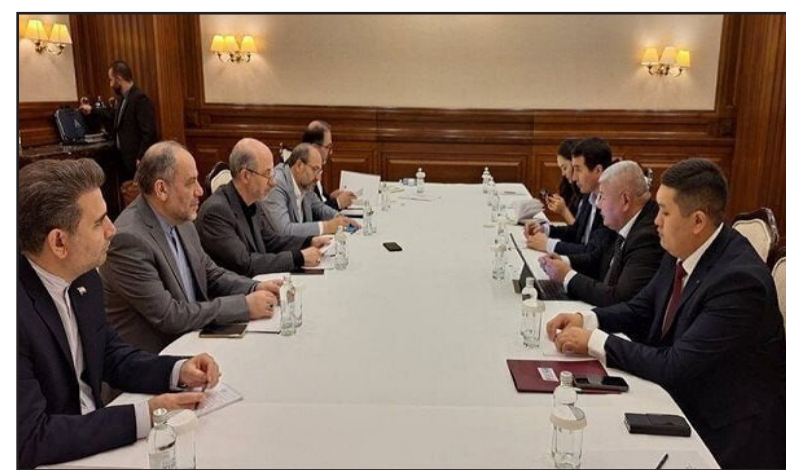
Elsewhere in his remarks, Mehrabian pointed to the activation of Iranian companies in the advancement of the construction operation of the Rogun Dam in Tajikistan and said Iranian technical and engineering companies, benefiting from high technical know-how and experiences and also equipped with the most competent manpower, can play a leading role in advancing various hydroelectricity projects in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan's minister of energy, for his part, emphasized the need for developing relations between the two countries in all areas.

Tajikistan is ready to support Iranian companies in the development projects in the country, Daler Juma highlighted.

Mehrabian and his Kyrgyz counterpart Taalalibek Ibrayev have voiced readiness to cooperate in the field of energy and implementation of hydroelectric projects.

Speaking during the meeting, the Iranian minister said that the future of relations between Iran and Kyrgyzstan is bright, noting that Tehran



Iranian Minister of Energy Ali-Akbar Mehrabian, left, met and held talks on the sidelines of the 4th meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization energy ministers' was convened SCO in Astana, Kazakhstan.

is ready for any cooperation with Bishkek.

Mehrabian referred to Iran's huge energy potential and said that the country generates some 360 terawatt/h of electricity annually.

The Kyrgyz minister, for his part, appreciated Iran's capacities in the production and supply of oil and oil products, while adding that his country has favorable experience in constructing hydroelectric and small-scale power plants.

## Iran, Belarus to Expand Ties in Producing Gas Turbines

Iranian and Belarusian energy ministers have emphasized expanding cooperation in designing and manufacturing gas turbines.

Mehrabian held talks with the energy minister of Belarus Viktor Karankevich on the sidelines of the 4th meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization energy ministers' was convened SCO in Astana, Kazakhstan, Iran's Minister of Energy, referred to the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's emphasis on expanding ties with the countries of the region, especially Belarus, Mehrabian said in the meeting that the

relations between Tehran and Minsk are at a high level, especially in the political field.

Mehrabian said Belarus is an advanced country in terms of industry and technology and enjoys good levels of technological progress in electronics, mining and mineral machinery, and different industrial equipment.

He said that Iran has also made significant progress in the field of industry since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, adding that Iran-Belarus relations in the economic field need to be expanded.

The energy minister of the Republic of Belarus, for his part, in the meeting referring to the exchange of experiences between Iran and Belarus in the field of manufacturing and repairing gas turbines, emphasized the need for launching all-out cooperation with Iran for the design and manufacturing of power plants.

Karankevich announced his country's readiness to expand cooperation with Iran in all fields, especially in trade and economy.

The members of the SCO stressed the need to enhance cooperation in the areas of production, transmission, and consumption of energy.

# U.S. Big Banks Face Growing Spillover Risks From Non-Banks

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Non-bank financial institutions pose an increasing risk to America's big banks, economists said in a post on the New York Fed's Liberty Street Economics blog.

During times of heightened market-wide stress, demands for liquidity mount on banks as non-banks seek term loans and lines of credit. This escalating reliance on big banks could result in "vectors of shock transmission and amplification, forcing authorities to intervene and do so en masse," the researchers said in the post, adding that the extent of these market disruptions "could be rather severe."

Unlike large banks, non-banks operate under less restrictive regulatory

regimes and monitoring standards. The growing bank and non-bank interconnectedness means that risks that used to lie solely with banks are now being repackaged between banks and non-banks.

The blog authors estimate that the correlation of bank and non-bank risk has risen steadily from about 65% prior to the 2008 financial crash to upwards of 80% now.

Commercial real estate is a place where this interplay could become increasingly, and potentially painfully, apparent, analysts say. One fifth, or \$929 billion, of the \$4.7 trillion of outstanding commercial mortgages will come due in 2024, according to

the Mortgage Bankers Association. This looming maturity wall comes against a backdrop of rising vacancies, declining valuations and the higher-for-longer interest rate environment.

Unlike residential mortgages, CRE loans typically have shorter maturities as well as bigger balloon payments.

The economists noted that their findings underscore the need for financial regulation and systemic risk surveillance that recognizes banks and non-banks as "intimately interconnected." (This story has been corrected to change the attribution throughout to 'economists' or 'researchers')

# EU State Warns Against Seizing Russian Money

BRUSSELS (RT) - Belgium does not support the seizure of Russian assets that have been frozen by the EU as part of Ukraine-related sanctions, the country's Finance Minister Vincent Van Peteghem has said, highlighting the mounting risks related to the move.

The West froze nearly \$300 billion in assets belonging to the Central Bank of Russia following the launch of Moscow's military campaign against Ukraine in February 2022, a move denounced by Moscow as "theft." Around \$280 billion of this sum is held in the EU, primarily in the Belgium-based depository and clearing house Euroclear.

"First of all, for our country there are two elements that are important: we did not touch the assets themselves, as

the ownership title change would yield consequences both on the legal side and financial side that are unknown," Van Peteghem said during a press conference after the bloc's ECOFIN meeting in Luxembourg.

"And second, of course, risk sharing, that I think is important in the rollout of the instruments and is a crucial element of all discussion," the minister added.

Earlier this month, the G7 nations announced that they had reached an agreement on using interest from frozen Russian assets to finance a \$50 billion loan to help Kiev buy weapons and rebuild damaged infrastructure. At the time, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said that the confiscation of the assets was not on the table.

In April, Van Peteghem stated that the bloc was close to reaching a political agreement on seizing the profits generated by Russia's central bank reserves, stressing that the first tax collection could take place as early as July 1.

The idea of seizing the frozen Russian assets has been debated by EU lawmakers and the bloc's allies for about two years. While the U.S. and UK have called for the outright confiscation of the funds, multiple reports suggest that EU member states remain cautious regarding the move, citing the lack of a legal basis for such a measure as well as fears that Russia will take retaliatory steps. Some top officials have reportedly warned that the drastic move could undermine investors' confidence in the EU's financial system.