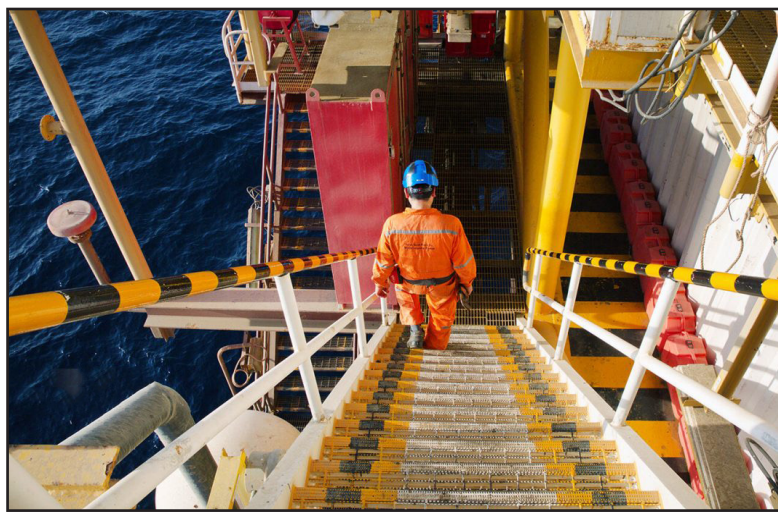


Report: Iran Raised Oil Output by Nearly 0.4mn bpd

TEHRAN - Iran has managed to significantly increase its oil production in a short period of time under an emergency plan introduced by the government and despite the pressures of the U.S. sanctions, according to a report published in the local media.

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) had raised its crude oil output by 0.247 million barrels per day (bpd) in the six months to late March. The report said the increase in output had come after the Central Bank of Iran provided the NIOC with some \$3 billion worth of new funds in August last year.

It said the NIOC then increased oil production by another 0.15 million bpd in the three months to late June, adding that the increase came



mainly from oil fields shared with Iraq in the southwestern province of Khuzestan.

The report said the major increase

in oil production has enabled Iran to boost its supply of feedstock to domestic refineries while raising its oil exports and beefing up its hard cur-

rency reserves.

A report published in early July by Bloomberg showed that Iran reached a record in oil production last year that had not been seen in the country since the late 1970s.

The report, which cited figures published last month by the UK Energy Institute and its Statistical Review of World Energy, said Iran had produced about 4.3 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil plus another 725,000 bpd of other liquids in 2024.

Latest data from international tanker tracking firms show oil exports from Iran have increased from historic lows of below 0.3 million bpd reported in 2019, when Washington toughened its sanctions on the country, to records of more than 1.8 million bpd in recent months.

Belarus, Iran Vow to Broaden Cooperation in Agricultural Field

TEHRAN - The agriculture ministers of Iran and Belarus met and discussed on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Ministerial Meeting.

During a meeting between Gholamreza Nouri Ghezjeljeh, Minister of Agricultural Jihad of Iran, and Yuri Gorulov, Minister of Agriculture of Belarus, on the sidelines of the 10th Summit of Ministers of Agriculture of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries

phasized readiness by Iran to deepen bilateral cooperation in the fields of mechanization, animal husbandry, dairy industries, as well as the implementation of joint projects in the production of chemical fertilizers.

He said that Iran is ready to increase the export of agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, and dried fruits, to Belarus.

Belarusian Minister of Agriculture Yuri Gorlov also re-



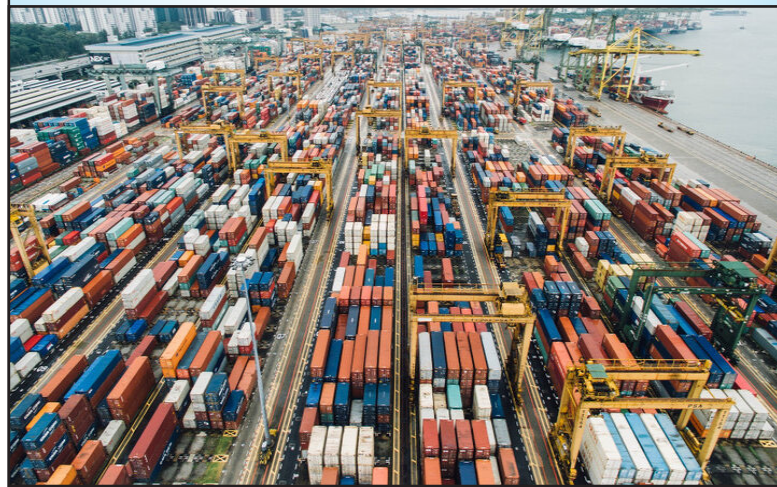
Iranian agriculture minister (right) meets his Belarus counterpart in China on Friday.

in Kunming, China, the two sides emphasized the expansion of agricultural cooperation.

Nouri Ghezjeljeh, while appreciating the positions of Belarus in the war imposed by the Israeli regime, em-

iterated his country's support for the principled positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and thanked the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad for its active participation in the Belarusian Agricultural Exhibition held in Minsk this year.

TPO: Exports to Eurasia Increased by 22%



TEHRAN - Head of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization Muhammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi has emphasized the key role of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union member countries, and announced a 22 percent increase in Iran's exports to these markets.

Dehghan added, "tariff reduction is the main advantage of the trade agreement between Iran and the five members of the Eurasian Economic Union and has helped facilitate the entry of Iranian goods into the Eurasian market."

He added: "With the implementation of the tariff reduction agreement with the Eurasian Union member countries, Iran's exports to

these markets have increased by 22 percent compared to last year."

He further stated: Customs coordination between Iran and the 5 member countries of this union has been established and initial problems at customs have been resolved.

He went on, in the field of medical equipment, a number of manufacturers have succeeded in obtaining Eurasian standards and have begun their exports.

The head of the Trade Promotion Organization emphasized, this agreement is an important opportunity for the development of the country's exports, and with the cooperation of the private sector and the government, its capacities will be exploited in the best possible way.

Knowledge-Based Company Implements First Phase of Bajestan Desalination Project

TEHRAN - An Iranian knowledge-based company in cooperation with Khorassan Razavi province's water distribution company implemented the first phase of Bajestan desalination project by using advanced RO-EDR technology.

The first phase of one of the important drinking water supply projects in Khorassan Razavi province in Bajestan city was successfully designed, implemented and put into operation by a knowledge-based company active in the field of nanotechnology. This project aims to settle the problem of the water shortage crisis and improve the quality of drinking water in the arid regions

of the country, and has been implemented.

In this project, using modern technologies of reverse osmosis (RO) and selective reverse electrodialysis (EDR), two separate treatment lines with a total capacity of 3,000 cubic meters per day have been designed. This system has a net efficiency of 85% and, while providing a sustainable supply of drinking water, reduces dependence on groundwater extraction.

EDR technology, as one of the new technologies in the water treatment industry, enables the recycling of concentrated saline wastewater and,

along with RO technology, has significantly increased the efficiency of the system. PNF company, as one of the pioneers in the use of EDR technology in the country, plays an important role in the development of this technological approach in the water treatment industry.

In a relevant development in April, a technological team at Tarbiat Modarres University designed a nano-based floating desalination device that can turn salt water into drinkable water in 8 hours without the need for electrical energy.

"This floating desalination device can be placed on the surface of salt

water in the sea or pond and produce drinkable water by using sunlight without the need for electrical energy," said Muhammad Saber Sharifi, a member of team.

"This device can produce between one and two liters of fresh water in 8 hours, meeting the daily drinking water needs of an adult," he added.

Sharifi noted that nanotechnology is used in the product, saying, "Photothermal materials were used in manufacturing this device, and when exposed to sunlight, it creates a thermal reaction, leading to evaporation of water and ultimately its desalination."

Natural Bitumen Reserves in Ilam Drive Iran's Global Market Share



TEHRAN - Natural bitumen, also known as asphaltite or gilsonite, is a solid hydrocarbon resin found in specific geological formations and is a significant natural resource found in western Iran's Ilam province.

Situated along the border with Iraq, Ilam, the province with the lowest population in Iran, is one of the country's main sources for natural bitumen production, alongside Kermanshah and Lorestan.

This resource plays a vital role in the province's economy, contributing to both domestic use and international exports, particularly for road construction, waterproofing, and industrial applications.

A naturally occurring hydrocarbon resin, natural bitumen is formed from the evaporation of volatile components in crude oil over millions of years.

It appears as glossy, black lumps with high solubility in organic solvents, high purity, high molecular weight, and low ash content (typically 1-10 percent).

Natural bitumen contains 70-80 percent carbon, 3-7 percent sulfur, and 9-18 percent ash, depending on the deposit, and has a softening point between 130-250°C.

In Ilam province, natural bitumen is found in the Zagros Mountains, particularly in the Gachsaran and Asmari formations, which are rich in shale, marl, and limestone.

These formations, dating back to the Middle Eocene (47.8 to 38 million years ago), host bitumen deposits formed through processes like oxidation, polymerization, and reaction with sulfur, where crude oil seeps to the surface, loses volatile components, and hardens into solid bitumen.

Ilam's natural bitumen deposits are primarily located in the Seymareh, Mehran, and Dehloran regions, with notable sites including the Dehloran Bitumen Spring, a unique natural monument where bitumen flows to the surface alongside hot water.

A unique geological feature located 7 km from Dehloran city, this spring has been active for thousands of years, bringing black bitumen to the surface with hot water (50°C).

The spring's pond is 9 meters in diameter and 50 cm deep, fenced to protect wildlife. It is Iran's only bitumen spring, recognized as a national natural monument, and highlights Ilam's geological significance.

Iran holds approximately 15 million tons of natural bitumen reserves, accounting for 15 percent of the global total (100 million tons), making it the third-largest holder after the United States and Canada (65 percent combined).

Ilam is the second-largest province for natural bitumen reserves in Iran, behind Kermanshah. The country produces over 6 million tons of bitumen annually, including both natural and refined, of which natural bitumen makes up a quarter.

The province's output supports Iran's 8percent share of the global bitumen market (125 million tons in 2021). Exact reserve and production figures for Ilam alone are not specified in credible sources, but the province's contribution is substantial within Iran's 1.5 million tons of annual production.

Natural bitumen in Ilam is extracted through underground and open-pit mining, targeting vertical veins in the Gachsaran and Asmari formations, with modern excavators used to extract vertical bitumen veins.

The process involves drilling and blasting to access bitumen, which is then crushed, heated, and processed into lumps or micronized powder for various applications.

Traditional methods persist in some areas, leading to inefficiencies and environmental concerns, but modern equipment like excavators is increasingly used.

Key extraction sites include Seymareh, which hosts significant bitumen deposits within the Gachsaran formation, with 76 percent carbon and 5.1 percent sulfur content, as well as Mehran and Dehloran. The latter's proximity to oil fields like Cheshme Khosh enhances its bitumen production.

After extraction, bitumen is transported to processing plants, where it is broken into lumps, milled into powder, and graded based on ash content and particle size. Local companies in Ilam process gilsonite for export, ensuring low ash content and high purity.

Natural bitumen from Ilam is versatile, with applications across multiple industries due to its waterproofing, adhesive, and durable properties. The primary use, accounting for 85 percent of Iran's bitumen consumption, is in asphalt for road paving.

Ilam's natural bitumen, with 70-80 percent carbon content, is crushed, heated, and mixed with aggregates to create durable road surfaces. It is often blended with refined bitumen to enhance hardness and longevity.

Its impermeability to water makes it ideal for roofing, floor insulation, and sealing buildings. Ilam's bitumen is used in Iran's construction industry and exported for similar purposes.

Natural bitumen is also used to coat pipelines to prevent corrosion, a critical application given Iran's oil and gas sector, which incurs 3-5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in corrosion-related costs annually. It is also used in drilling cement and as a sealant.

Its high solubility in organic solvents makes it suitable for varnishes, stains, and protective coatings in the paint industry. Natural bitumen further serves as an additive in casting and as a fuel source, similar to coal, due to its high carbon content.

In ancient times, Ilam's bitumen was used for making cylinder seals, waterproofing buildings and treating diseases. Today, it is also used in adhesives and sealants.

While Ilam's economy is dominated by agriculture and oil/gas, with \$1.169 billion in exports annually (2024 estimate), natural bitumen is a growing contributor.

Iran is the world's fourth-largest bitumen producer and the regional top exporter, with Ilam contributing significantly to exports to countries like India, China, Turkey, the UAE, and African nations.

Natural bitumen's competitive pricing and high quality (low ash and high carbon) make it globally sought-after. The global market is projected to reach \$143.84 billion by 2030, with Ilam's output supporting Iran's competitive position.

Bitumen mining and processing create jobs in Ilam, particularly in Dehloran and Mehran, though the sector is less labor-intensive than agriculture.

In 2019, Ilam's governor announced a \$135 million investment for oil and gas projects, including exploration in Bijar canyon, which may include bitumen prospects. These projects aimed to enhance production capacity.

Aeroflot to Resume Flights From Moscow to Tehran

TEHRAN - Russia's Aeroflot Airlines will resume flights from Moscow to Tehran on August 6, the press service of the carrier announced. "Flights will start on August 6 with a frequency of once a week on Wednesdays, and from September 12 - two flights a week on Wednesdays and Fridays," said the Aeroflot Telegram channel.

It is noted that flights will be operated on Airbus A321 airliners.

Iran closed its airspace to all domestic and international flights at the end of June due to Israeli aggression on its territory. In this regard, Russian airlines have suspended their flights to Tehran.

On July 3, the Islamic Republic opened its airspace and also restored the operation of most airports.