

Ogra team's recommendations

Iranian LPG import can expose Pakistan to US curbs

Ogra team visits Taftan, finds quality of Iranian LPG substandard, transfer facilities unsafe

By Khalid Mustafa

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can be exposed to a major risk of drawing sanctions from the US and Western countries and diplomatic pressures with grave consequences if it imports Iranian LPG.

This is the crux of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) recommendations following a visit by a team, constituted by the authority, of Iranian LPG facilities at Taftan from April 6-7.

The Ogra has also found the quality of Iranian LPG to be highly substandard and the LPG transfer facilities at Taftan to be hazardous and can lead to a catastrophic explosion during transfer. The team was sent at the direction of the top management of the regulator. The officials of the Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP) were also part of the Ogra team that inspected the quality of the LPG and other facilities installed at Taftan.

During the survey of Iranian LPG facilities, the Ogra team found them to be substandard posing a serious

hazard. The report suggests that during gas transfer an explosion can occur, called BLEVE (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion) releasing a vast amount of energy in the form of shock waves, projectiles, and thermal radiation causing unprecedented annihilation. Iran has been under US economic sanctions for its ambitious nuclear program for decades and Pakistan is unable to lay down the portion of the proposed Iran-Pakistan oil pipeline in its territory because of the sanctions. The Ogra experts have warned against importing LPG from Iran due to the risk of drawing sanctions from the US and other Western countries. The report suggested Ogra sensitize the government on this particular issue and take appropriate actions to stop the LPG import from Iran. They have also highlighted that international agencies hostile to Pakistan operating in Balochistan, can also deliberately sabotage imports at Taftan.

The OGRA team also said it is unclear whether Iranian LPG HS Code is under sanc-

tion or otherwise as HS Code is mentioned in the Goods Declaration (GD). However, Iranian entities (umbrella companies) and banks are under international sanctions. Therefore, importing Iranian LPG cannot be declared as a legal activity. The team also posed a question if OGRA can give a license to establish an LPG import terminal and LPG Quality testing Lab and regulate unapproved product transfer facilities. And what action the Authority can take if Iranian LPG entities and banks fall under US sanctions.

The OGRA team recommended the maximization of indigenous energy resources especially oil, gas, coal and also LPG (production/extraction) as strongly recommended by Energy Wing (MOPDSI), Policy Wing, Petroleum Division and others. In its conclusion, the team suggested Ogra take necessary actions to ensure safety from a major accident threatening the safety of the general public in Taftan besides seriously studying the grave consequences for the country in view of international sanctions over Iranian LPG.

Marketing companies selling LPG at price higher than Ogra determined rate

FAWAD YOUSAFZAI
- ISLAMABAD

The LPG marketing companies, including the state owned Sui companies, while challenging the Ogra writ, are selling the liquefied gas at rate higher by up to Rs100 per kilogramme than the regulator determined rate.

Even the state-owned Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) is selling the LPG at Rs3300 per 11.8kg domestic cylinder which is Rs600 higher than the Ogra determined rate of Rs 2702/11.8kg domestic cylinder. Since SNGPL is also getting LPG from SSGC, therefore its rate is also higher than Ogra determined price.

Ogra's LPG rate is Rs229/kg for April 2023 but the state owned Sui companies are selling gas at Rs280 per kg while the other private companies are selling it at around Rs330/kg.

Irfan Khokhar, Chairman of the LPG Industries Association, blamed the state owned SSGC for its involvement in the black marketing of LPG.

The black marketing of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in Pakistan has reached alarming levels of nearly Rs750 million (US\$2.6 million) per day, he claimed. Price violators are exploiting the political and economic unrest,

150/kg above the government's notified prices in major urban centers and far-flung areas.

The country's daily consumption of LPG is 5000 tons (5 million kilograms). The price manipulators are increasing the

State-owned Sui companies selling LPG at Rs280 per kg while other private companies are selling it at around Rs330/kg

leaving the government unable to control the skyrocketing prices, he maintained.

This situation has given rise to a gas mafia that is exploiting the price hike by engaging in widespread black-marketing activities across various regions of the country.

The importers and quota holders especially SSGC have ganged up and sold the gas to poor consumers at exorbitant prices in the range of Rs100 to

Authority (OGRA) however has failed to control the situation, despite its slashing the LPG price by Rs100 per kilogram to Rs229/kg for domestic and commercial consumers for April 2023 due to global gas prices drop.

It is worth mentioning here that Aramco, the Middle Eastern oil producer, had reduced the contract price (CP) of propane and butane to Asia for April 2023 by \$165/ton a month ago to \$555/ton and \$545/ton, respectively, down by \$195/ton. Propane and butane are two significant components of LPG sold to Asian countries, Khokhar claimed.

In Pakistan, the applicable prices of LPG are calculated on a 40:60 ratio of propane to butane. Any changes in the CP of these two components can have a significant impact on the LPG prices in Pakistan.

But, unfortunately, the government's lack of control over LPG prices has led to an alarming situation for both the government and the general pub-

lic. Consumers are forced to pay exorbitant prices for LPG, which has become an essential commodity for households and businesses alike.

Chairman of the LPG Industries Association criticized the government's policies towards the LPG industry, stating that they have resulted in a negative impact on the sector. He is calling for taxes on LPG to be waived, citing the high cost of taxes which LPG distributors have been paying, and for the government to restart the LPG production plant of Jamshoro, Joint Venture Limited to ensure a sustainable supply of cheaper LPG. Khokhar also suggested that the government should treat the LPG industry in the same way as the LNG sector, where no taxes are imposed, which would allow LPG to be supplied to domestic consumers at a lower cost than piped gas. When contacted, Imran Ghaznavi, Executive Director and Spokesperson Ogra, said that Ogra would take action against those selling LPG at higher rates.

REJOINDER

SSGC refutes reports about MD

NEWS DESK. Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has termed recent news reports about the company and its Managing Director Imran Maniar "baseless assertions". In a statement, it reiterated that SSGC management under the leadership of Maniar has undertaken a number of initiatives that have helped the company come out of the woods from a loss-making entity to a profitable venture once again after a lapse of four years. In addition, "the company has taken bold and unprecedented measures to control unaccounted-for-gas (UFG), or line losses, that had severely impacted the bottom line". About the appointment of MD, SSGC said that the company had engaged the services of a renowned and leading headhunting firm that referred the most suitable candidates after due process of screening, shortlisting and interview. "From day one, the MD has been geared towards rejuvenating the company on profitable lines while motivating its employees to become highly proficient and efficient workforce and find solutions to current problems with an out-of-the-box approach."

■ \$30 DISCOUNT

G7 coalition to keep Russian oil price cap at \$60 per barrel

WASHINGTON: The Group of Seven (G7) coalition will keep a \$60 per barrel price cap on seaborne Russian oil, a coalition official said, despite rising global crude prices and calls by some countries for a lower price cap to restrict Moscow's revenues Reuters reported.

The G7 and Australia made the decision to maintain the cap over the past few weeks after a review of the \$60 price - set in December with an aim to reduce Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine, the official said on condition of anonymity.

It comes after four weeks of gains in benchmark oil prices helped by an output cut announced by OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, as well as a recovery in Chinese consumption.

The market was consolidating on Monday with Brent and U.S. crude futures holding above \$80 per barrel.

Russian crude has been selling at a discount of around \$30 to Brent, the official said.

Coalition officials concluded the price cap was working to both limit Russian revenue while maintaining energy market stability, but said they would continue coordinating to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement, the official added.

The coalition will also intensify efforts to combat evasion of the price cap and sanctions imposed on Russia, including the use of deceptive practices to access insurance and other coalition services for oil traded above the cap.

Coalition members plan to provide guidance to help service providers identify red flags for evasion, such as manipulation of ships' location tracking or failure to itemize shipping, freight, customs, and insurance costs separately from the oil itself, the official said.

The oil price cap bans G7 and European Union companies from providing transportation, insurance and financing services for Russian oil and oil products if they are sold above the cap. The U.S. and Britain have also imposed restrictions on

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G7 coalition to keep...

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Russian oil imports. The official noted that a recent International Energy Administration (IEA) report concluded that the G7 sanctions regime had been effective "in not restricting global crude and product supplies, while simultaneously curtailing Russia's ability to generate export revenue."

The IEA said on Friday that Russian's March oil revenue rose by \$1 billion month on month to \$12.7 billion, but was still 43% lower than a year earlier.

Russian crude exports have been consistent at over 3 million barrels per day and global markets have been steady, the G7 official said. —News Desk

Oil drops 2pc on higher dollar, rate concerns

NEW YORK: Oil prices turned lower on Monday as the US dollar strengthened and as investors mulled over a possible May interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve, which could dampen economic recovery hopes.

Brent crude futures fell \$1.75, or 2%, at \$84.56 a barrel at 12:54 p.m. EDT (1654 GMT), while US West Texas Intermediate crude dropped \$1.83, or 2.2%, at \$80.69 a barrel.

Both contracts notched their fourth weekly gain in a row last week, the longest such streak since mid-2022.

The US dollar has been strengthening alongside interest rate hikes, making dollar-denominated oil more expensive for holders of other currencies.

The dollar index gained around 0.6% on Monday.

"The dollar is a little bit stronger, and that seems to be putting a little bit of pressure on oil here," Price Futures Group analyst Phil Flynn said.

Traders are betting the Fed will raise its lending rate in May by another quarter of a percentage point and have pushed out to late this year expectations of a rate cut, as typically occurs in a slowdown.

Meanwhile, the release of China's first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data at 0200 GMT on Tuesday is expected to be positive for commodity prices, with the International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasting it will account for most of 2023

demand growth.

However, the IEA also warned in its monthly report that output cuts announced by OPEC+ producers risked exacerbating an oil supply deficit expected in the second half of this year and could hurt consumers and a global economic recovery.

The Group of Seven (G7) coalition will keep a \$60 per barrel price cap on seaborne Russian oil, a coalition official said, despite rising global crude prices and calls by some countries for a lower price cap to restrict Moscow's revenues.

In Saudi Arabia, crude oil exports in February fell to 7.455 million bpd from 7.658 million bpd in January, official data showed on Monday.—Reuters

Traders, workers, petrol users reject fuel prices hike

ISRAR AHMED
RAWALPINDI

The students, lawyers, teachers, lecturers, government employees, traders, labourers and people belonging to various walks of life on Monday rejected the recent hike in petroleum prices by the government.

They said that the high inflation caused by surge in petroleum prices made it hard for the common man to bear what he could afford on Eid in the past. They said that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should immediately decrease the price of petroleum products to save people of Pakistan from sky-high inflation. Meanwhile, the shopkeepers have also raised prices of almost all the items including clothes, shoes, ready-made garments, grocery items, meat, mutton, chicken, food, vegetables, yogurt, milk, and other daily use items while damping the Eid shopping started in the city.

Though the bazaars, markets and shopping malls are witnessing an unusual rush, yet the citizens are returning homes with empty hands due to soaring prices.

Unfortunately, the district government has failed in initiating any action against the profiteers.

Earlier, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) had jacked up prices of petroleum products from 10 to 15 rupees, sparking unrest among the masses.

Muhammad Sabir, a student of engineering university, while talking to The Nation, said government had dropped petrol bomb over poor people of Pakistan ahead of Eid Ul Fitr. "The Eid this year lacks almost everything for which it known for across the Muslim world," he said, adding that poor people cannot even purchase clothes for their children.

He said that PDM government, under command of PM Shehbaz Sharif, had promised the masses to provide them relief but they turned brutal towards the poor people of the country.

"The past government of PTI was well wisher of the masses as it used to provide petrol against Rs 150 per litre," he said.

Another citizen namely Bilal Ghakkar, a businessman, said that the Eid shopping as well as to have two-time meals for com-

moners have become impossible task. He said that the Eid is incomplete without new clothes but the prices of clothes and shoes have increased exorbitantly this time due to surge in petroleum prices. He said that past PTI government was better than the PDM government which is sucking blood of poor people.

ter on average.

The main cloth markets are situated in Saddar, Tench Bhatta, Chungi Number 22, Peshawar Road, Commercial Market, Bata Market, Sadiqabad and Muslim Town, he said, adding, the cloth sales centres were a deserted look during these days.

According to other shopkeepers,

Eid shopping as well as to have two-time meals for commoners have become impossible task due to sky-high inflation

"I am a poor labourer and earn Rs 1000 after eight hours hectic work of picking concrete and bricks. Prices of everything have been increased by the anti-poor government. It is impossible for me to buy new clothes and shoes for my children on this Eid Ul Fitr," said Riaz, a resident of Lalkurti.

The price hike not only affected the commoners but also the business community as a fabric trader, namely Waqar said that the price of men's unstitched fabric has gone up by Rs 500 to 1000 per me-

most items such as clothes and shoes are being provided by the factories and manufacturers on high prices because of hike in fuel prices. "Who else will not want to earn money ahead of Eid but we can't sale the products on cheaper prices," they said.

On the other hand, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema has said that since 1st April, the district administration of Rawalpindi has taken more actions against hoarders and illegal profiteers as compare to ad-

ministration of any other district in Punjab. He said that price magistrates and administrative officers are fully active and have conducted 28,180 raids during the last 17 days, while 21,833 and 21,843 raids have been conducted in Lahore and Faisalabad districts respectively which stand at second and third places.

He said this while addressing a meeting of price magistrates. The deputy commissioner said that during the last 17 days, 1257 illegal profiteers have been fined Rs 33 lakh and 54 thousand while 132 illegal profiteers have been arrested. He said that during this period 21 FIRs have been registered while 11 shops have been sealed. He said that warnings have been issued to 2536 profiteers while action has been taken against 2391 shopkeepers for not displaying the rate list.

The deputy commissioner said that the entire machinery has been active in the distribution of free flour in Rawalpindi, while the price magistrates have worked tirelessly so that the people are not left at the mercy of profiteers during the month of Ramadan.

Saudi Arabia, UAE defying sanctions to buy cheap Russian oil products

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are buying petroleum products from Russia at steep discounts, ignoring US objections, the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) reported on Monday.

Last year, the United States and its Western partners imposed strict sanctions on Russia for invading Ukraine, cutting off Moscow from its traditional trading partners. This has forced Russia to sell its products at much cheaper rates. "The Gulf countries, especially the UAE, have also become key storage and trading hubs for Russian energy products that can't be as easily shipped around the globe because of the war."

The price cut has benefitted some energy-starved nations, such as India, but the Russians have also found "eager trade partners in an unlikely place:

The oil-rich states of the Persian Gulf," WSJ reported.

"Despite US objections, the Gulf countries are using the discounted Russian products internally, including for consumption and refining purposes, and exporting their own barrels at market rates, boosting their profits," the report added.

The report described the development as a "counterintuitive shift," allowing countries with the world's largest oil reserves to buy cheap Russian oil and sell it at higher prices.

This was "an illustration of the unexpected consequences of Western sanctions and another example of the US's waning influence over the Middle East," the newspaper noted.

But the newspaper noted that so far there were no signs that the Gulf countries were "turning off the spigot of Russian oil." The report pointed out that Saudi Arabia was pursuing a nationalist energy policy that

took precedence over US concerns.

According to the report, Russian oil exports to the UAE more than tripled to a record 60 million barrels last year. But exports to Singapore, Russia's traditional trading partner, only rose 13 per cent to 26 million barrels in 2022. Russian gas oil now accounts for more than one in 10 barrels of the product stored in Fujairah, the UAE's main oil-storage hub, second only to Saudi Arabian gas oil.

Russia is shipping 100,000 barrels a day to Saudi Arabia or more than 36 million barrels annually, compared with virtually none before the Ukraine war.

WSJ reported that the Saudi and Emirati trade in Russian oil and fuel products has irked US officials, who see it as undermining Western efforts to force Russia to leave Ukraine. US Undersecretary for Treasury Brian Nelson toured the Middle

East in February to try to persuade countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Turkey to enforce the Western sanctions against Russia.

An Emirati official, however, told WSJ the country abides by United Nations sanctions and has "robust processes in place to deal with sanctioned entities." But the UAE "will continue to trade openly and honestly with its international partners," the official added.

The report also noted that earlier this year, Saudi and its allies announced an oil production cut aimed at boosting prices, ignoring US objections that higher prices aid the Russian war machine. WSJ also pointed out that Dubai and other emirates have become an international hub of choice for many Russian companies and wealthy individuals seeking to run their businesses and avoid Western sanctions. Because of price caps and other sanctions, Russia's flagship Urals crude

has typically traded at a discount of over 30pc to benchmark Brent in recent months.

On March 12, Saudi national oil company Saudi Arabian Oil Co, or Aramco, reported record annual profit of \$161 billion for 2022, the largest ever by an energy firm. That included a 27pc boost to profits for the state-run giant's refining unit.

Elshan Aliyev, head of the Mideast Gulf product department at Argus told WSJ that Gulf countries already had abundant refined products such as naphtha, fuel oil and diesel.

"So, the only reason for importing from Russia is to capitalise on the price difference," he said. Russian naphtha and diesel respectively sell \$60 and \$25 a ton below their equivalent produced in the Persian Gulf. The report noted that in 2022, Saudi Arabia ramped up its diesel exports to France and Italy, two countries that previously relied largely on Russia for their motor fuel.

NOCs for petrol pumps welcomed

By our correspondent

LAHORE: The Oil Marketing Association has welcomed the initiatives of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi for issuing NOCs for setting up petrol pumps.

In a statement, Oil Marketing Association Chairman Tariq Wazir Ali said that Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi had ordered the issuance of NOCs for petrol pumps pending for many years, which was a breath of fresh air for the oil industry in unfavorable economic conditions.

He said the order would provide more than 30,000 employment opportunities across the province.

"Many people have become unemployed in the recent wave of inflation, while this decision will prove to be effective in providing livelihood to thousands of families," he added.

He recalled that the NOCs had been pending for a long time and more than 1,200 petrol pumps awaited them.

"If such a number of petrol pumps open, not only employment opportunities will be created but the country's economy would also improve.

This decision has restored the confidence of investors," he maintained.

Oil increases ahead of showing economic reb

■ Oil prices rebounded slightly on Monday in anticipation of the release of positive Chinese economic data

■ Prices began to rise in anticipation of release of China's first-quarter economic data, which is expected to outperform expectations due to rebound in consumption

By Sibel Morrow

Oil prices rebounded slightly on Monday in anticipation of the release of positive Chinese economic data, but negative comments from US Federal Reserve (Fed) officials weighed on prices.

International benchmark Brent crude traded at \$86.35 per barrel at 10.01 a.m. local time (0701 GMT), a 0.04% increase from the closing price of \$86.31 a barrel in the previous trading session.

Simultaneously, the American

benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) traded at \$82.47 per barrel, up 0.05% from the previous session's close of \$82.43 per barrel.

Prices began early trade on a down note after Fed Governor Chris Waller stated on Friday that the Fed had made little progress in lowering inflation based on current data, though he added that the central bank's job was not finished.

"Whether you measure inflation using the CPI (Consumer Price Index) or the Fed's preferred measure of personal consumption expenditures, it is still much too high and so my job is not done," Waller said in a speech at the Graybar National Training Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

"Financial conditions have not significantly tightened, the labor market continues to be strong and quite tight, and inflation is far above target, so monetary policy needs to be tightened further," Waller added.

Fears of higher interest rates also fueled the US dollar's strength, discouraging oil-importing countries from purchasing dollar-indexed crude.

The US dollar index, which measures the value of the American dollar against a basket of currencies, including the Japanese yen, British pound, Canadian dollar, Swedish krona and Swiss franc, rose 0.08% to 101.32 early Monday.

Following the brief dip in early trade, however, prices began to rise in

anticipation of the release of first-quarter economic data.

DAILY TIMES, APRIL 18, 2023

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ON. APP

Gas supply restored**LDPL
withdraws
OFME notice**

ISLAMABAD: M/s Liberty Dharki Power Limited (LDPL) has withdrawn Other Force Majeure Event (OFME) notice served on Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) after restoration of gas supply to

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LDPL withdraws OFME

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the power complex, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

Emran Ahmed Khan, Co-Chief Executive Officer, LDPL, in letter to CEO CPPA-G and Managing Director SNGPL has stated that through its letter of March 17, 2023 declared Other Force Majeure Event under Article 13.1(c) of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) read with Section 2.8 of the Settlement Terms of the PPA Amendment. The notice was necessitated following the suspension of gas supply to the company's power generation complex by Sui Gas Pipeline Limited on March 17, 2023. Subsequently, in response to Liberty Dharki Power Limited's request, the SNGPL, in its letter of April 5, 2023 informing to the company to restore the gas supply and complex was synchronised with the grid on April 5, 2023 at 2023 hrs after necessary gas treatment process. The complex achieved base load of 225 MW on April 5, 2023. Accordingly, the company declared full availability of the Complex to NPCC.

Co-CEO, LDPL, in his letter has conveyed that based on restoration of gas supply, to Liberty Dharki Power Limited has notified SNGPL of the cessation of OFME of the Complex.

Earlier, the power company communicated cessation of Other Force Majeure Event to CPPA-G through cessation of OFME letter. However, despite sharing of CPPA-G payment plan with the SNGPL and personal follow-ups with their management, the SNGPL has again suspended gas supply by giving instructions to the Plant Manager, Qadirpur Field vide SNGP Gas Suspension

Letter. The company has reproduced Section 2.8 of the Settlement Terms which is annexure B to the PPA Amendment Agreement executed on 15 October 2021, as follows:

"Further understandings: The Parties further agree and declare that outside of any OFME period, any future outage or failure or interruptions to the complex's generating capability and/or failure to deliver Net Electrical Output on account of non-supply of fuel by any of the Fuel Suppliers shall: (1) release the Company from any obligation to use backup fuel, (2) not to be treated as a Forced Outage/Partial Forced Outage under the PPA; and (3) be treated as an Other Force Majeure Event under the PPA." The company had argued that the performance of the Company to operate the Complex and to discharge its contractual obligations under PPA had been constrained on account of suspension of gas supply by the gas supplier, which is beyond the reasonable control of the Company, and as a consequence thereof, the company has declared Other Force Majeure Event under Section 13.1(c) with effect from 14:15 hrs of March 17, 2023.

According to the company upon declaration of Force Majeure, it would be excused from the performance of its obligations under the PPA and shall not be liable for any failure in performing such obligations till such time the gas supply is restored by the SNGPL. The power company had emphasized that while the cause of OFME stems from delay in payments by CPPA-G, the LDPL and power consumers are left to suffer the consequences. —

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

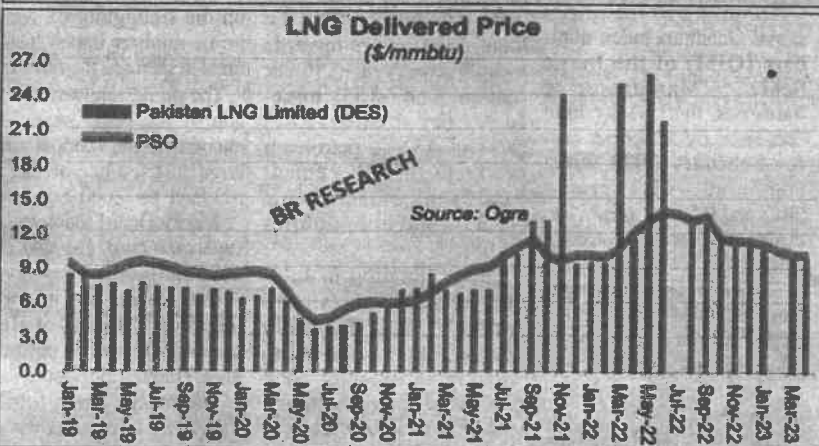
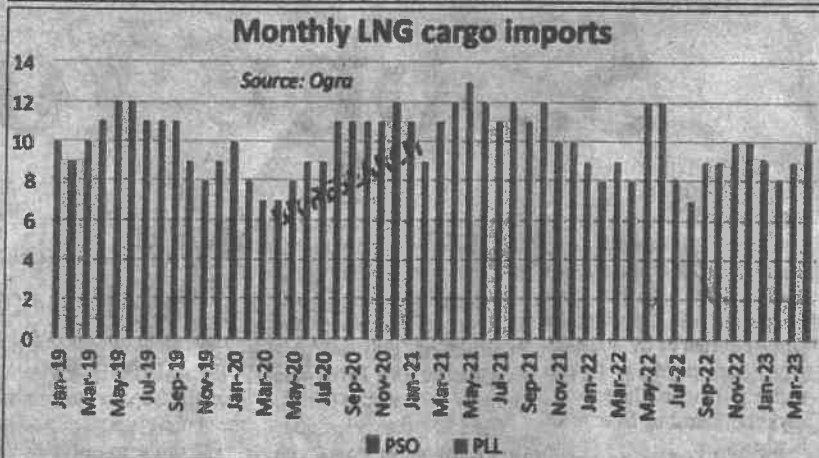
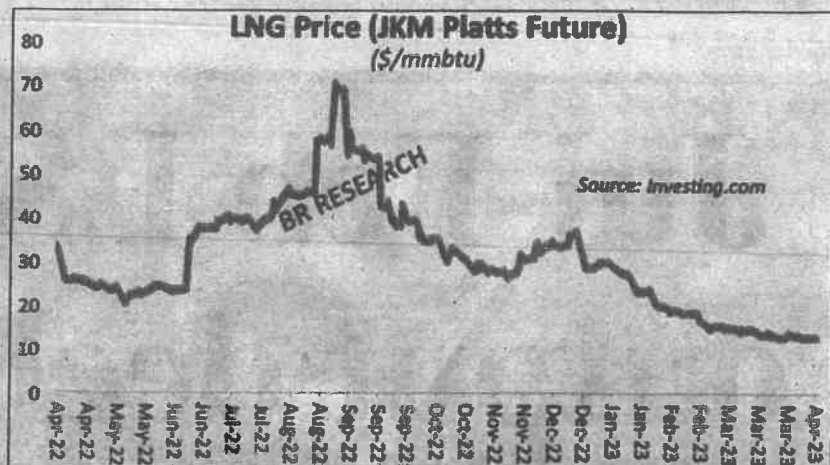
LNG: Can Pakistan stay relevant?

From the entire Europe lining up to secure every possible LNG vessel and store as much as possible a few months ago – the LNG market dynamics have come a full circle. Having climbed up to near \$70/mmbtu in late August 2022 – LNG Japan-Korea Marker (JKM) benchmark future contract prices have come down to near \$12/mmbtu. April 2023 has so far seen average prices dip by 8 percent from a month ago.

Europe seems to have the stomachs full as the demand center gradually shifts back to Asia. Recall that Asian buyers have historically been the dominant force in LNG markets, before the harsh winters of 2021 compelled Europe to engage in anticipatory buying – driving out key Asian buyers. China's remarkably strong start to the path of recovery means the top spot is regained – with Japan and Korea steady as always.

The likes of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh having been nearly shut out, especially from the spot market, now stand a chance to take advantage of low prices. Exports to India have already picked up, but Pakistan may not be able to take full advantage yet. Dollars continue to be short supply in Pakistan – evident from much reduced LNG imports even in the peak winter demand season – at average Delivered-Ex-Ship prices of average \$10/mmbtu since the start of 2023.

Long-term contracts have been the saving grace for Pakistan, without which Pakistan would have struggled to even afford or arrange a single cargo when prices shot up beyond \$30/mmbtu. Pakistan's last spot cargo arrived way back in June 2022 – after which there have been frequent cancellations and no-bids for months. Last two months have seen smaller cargoes of half the usual size imported by Pakistan LNG Limited under long-term deals of



Brent slope at 12.14 percent.

Brent oil has inched up once again and could take the landed price slightly higher for the next two months – but it will still largely be under control. Pakistan has slipped down in terms of relevance for LNG market – as bigger buyers have of late inked several long-term contracts, leaving little free LNG available for the next three to four years.

The spot market will continue to favor the richer countries that can afford to pay hefty premiums – which will continue to corner Pakistan.

As summer arrives, the electricity system will need 12-13 monthly cargoes to satiate the plants' demand at full throttle. That is unlikely to happen and more inefficiencies in the generation chain are just around the corner – as economic order of

dispatch will continue to be violated, there will be higher incidence of load shedding, fuel adjustments will be higher as more expensive fuel will be used to compensate for LNG. To think that it has not even been a year when the previous government was being lambasted for not putting an additional LNG terminal in its tenure. Pakistan's LNG story may already have climaxed.

LPG مزید 10 روپے مہنگی، 320 کی کلو ہو گئی

24 گھنٹوں میں دوسرا اضافہ، گھریلو سلنڈر 100 روپے اور کرکشل 400 روپے مہنگا

کشمیر میں 350، گلگت بلتستان، سرحد اور ہنزہ میں 370 روپے کلو فروخت

لاہور (دقائق ٹار) ایل پی جی کی قیمت میں | ایل پی جی ایسوسی ایشن عرفان کوکھر کے مطابق ایل
مزید 10 روپے کی کلو کا اضافہ کر دیا گیا اور اب ایل | پی جی کی قیمت میں 24 گھنٹوں میں دوسری اور ایک
پی جی کی قیمت 320 روپے کلو ہو گئی ہے۔ چیز میں | ماہ میں تیسری بار بلا جواز اضافہ (باقی صفحہ 5 نمبر 14)

ایل پی جی

کر دیا گیا ہے۔ ایل پی جی کی سرکاری قیمت
229 روپے کی کلو کی جگہ 320 روپے کی کلو پہنچ
گئی، قیمت مزید بڑھنے کا اندیشہ ہے۔ ایل پی جی کی
قیمت میں اضافے کے بعد گھریلو سلنڈر 100 روپے
اور کرکشل 400 روپے مہنگا ہو گیا ہے، اور اب گھریلو
سلنڈر 2702 روپے سے 3775 روپے تک پہنچ گیا
ہے۔ چیز میں ایل پی جی ایسوسی ایشن نے بتایا کہ آزاد
کشمیر، کوئٹہ، میرپور، مظفر آباد میں ایل پی جی
350 روپے کی کلو، گلگت بلتستان، سرحد اور ہنزہ میں
370 روپے کی کلو ایل پی جی فروخت جاتی ہے۔ عرفان
کوکھر کا کہنا تھا کہ ایل پی جی ایسوسی ایشن کوٹہ ہولڈنگز
معزومی قلت کر کے ایل پی جی کی قیمت بڑھا رہے
ہیں، حکومت اس بلکسٹریکٹنگ کا فوری نوٹس لے

ایرانی ایل پی جی غیر معیاری ہے، ہینڈل کرنا خطرناک عمل ہے

ایران پر عالمی پابندیاں پاکستان کے لئے مشکلات کھڑی کر سکتا ہے، اوگراٹیم کی رپورٹ
اسلام آباد (خالد مسطیٰ) ایران سے 1750 ریکارڈ بن سکتی ہیں اور یہ حکومت کے لئے مشکلات
میٹرکٹن ایل پی جی اپورٹ کرنے میں امریکا اور کھڑی کر سکتی ہیں۔ دوسری طرف ایران سے کھواکی
مغربی ممالک کی طرف سے دہائی کی پابندیاں باقی صفحہ 6 نمبر 3

3 خطرناک عمل

جانے والی ایل پی جی غیر معیاری ہے اور اسے ہینڈل کرنے میں خوفناک دھماکہ ہو سکتا ہے جسے لی ایل ای وی ای کہتے ہیں۔ ایرانی ایل پی جی کو اپورٹ کرنا ایک مہلک ہم ہینڈل کرنے کے مترادف ہے۔ یہ تمام باتیں اوگراٹیم کی رپورٹ میں لکھی گئی ہیں جس نے چھ اور سات اپریل کو تافان کا دورہ کیا تھا۔ اس ہم کو ریشہ یٹر کے اعلیٰ حکام نے بھیجا تھا۔ ہائڈروکاربن ڈیوٹسٹ اسٹی ٹیٹ آف پاکستان کے افسران بھی اوگراٹیم میں شامل تھے جنہوں نے ایرانی ایل پی جی کا معائنہ کیا تھا۔ ایران اس وقت بین الاقوامی اور امریکی پابندیوں کا شکار ہے جسکی وجہ ہے کہ پاکستان نے پاک ایران پائپ لائن کے اپنی حدود میں نہیں بچھائی کیونکہ یہ پتہ نہیں کہ امریکی اور بین الاقوامی پابندیاں کب تک رہیں گی۔ پاکستان ایران سے گیس درآمد کرتا ہے مگر اسے پابندیوں کی وجہ سے مسلسل خطرہ لاحق ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ اوگراٹیم سے گیس درآمد کرنا بند کرنے میں اپنا کردار ادا کرے۔ اس بات کا خطرہ موجود ہے کہ عالمی ایجنسیاں پاکستان کی اس کوشش پر مہم چلا سکیں گی۔

ایل پی جی 24 گھنٹوں میں دوسری بار 10 روپے کلو مہنگی

قیمت 320 کی بلند سطح پر، گھریلو سلیڈر میں 100 روپے اضافہ کیا گیا

کراچی (پریس رپورٹر) چیئر مین ایل پی جی | اہرام عائد کیا ہے کہ سرکاری ادارہ ایس ایس جی سی ایسوی ایٹن عرفان کھوکھر نے ایس ایس جی سی پر | ایل پی جی کی بلیک مارکیٹنگ (باقی صفحہ 3 بقیہ 21)

مہنگی

بقیہ نمبر 21

میں بازی لے گیا ہے اور ایل پی جی ایپروزر اور کل کوٹ ہولڈرز کے گٹھ جوڑ سے ملک میں مصنوعی قلت پیدا کر دی گئی ہے عرفان کھوکھر نے کہا کہ ملک میں سیکی، محاشی، آگنی بحران سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے ایس بافیل نے قیمت میں من مانا اضافہ کر دیا ہے اور مزید قیمت بڑھنے کا خدشہ ہے جب کہ حکومت خاموش تماشائی بنی ہوئی ہے۔ چیئر مین ایل پی جی ایسوی ایٹن نے کہا کہ ملک بھر میں ایل پی جی کی تاریخی بلیک مارکیٹنگ جاری ہے جسے حکومت روکنے میں ناکام ہو چکی ہے، ایل پی جی کی قیمت میں 24 گھنٹوں میں دوسری اور ایک ماہ میں تیسری بار بلا جواز اضافہ کیا گیا۔ ایل پی جی کی قیمت میں 10 روپے فی کلو اضافہ بلا جواز ہے، گھریلو سلیڈر 100 روپے اور کمرشل سلیڈر 400 روپے مہنگا کر دیا گیا، ملک بھر میں سرکاری قیمت 229 روپے کلو کی جگہ 320 روپے فی کلو پر پہنچ گئی۔ عرفان کھوکھر نے بتایا کہ کراچی، لاہور، ملتان، سکھر، حیدر آباد، راولپنڈی، اسلام آباد، گوجرانوالہ، گجرات، جہلم، پشاور اور ایبٹ آباد میں 320 روپے فی کلو اور گھریلو سلیڈر 2702 روپے کی جگہ 3775 روپے میں فروخت ہو رہا ہے۔

پٹرول کی بڑھتی قیمتوں کا حکومت سے کوئی تعلق نہیں، شاہد خاقان

تیل کی قیمت بڑھانے کیلئے وزیر کا پریس کانفرنس کرنا ٹھیک نہیں، یہ کام اوگرا کا ہے

اداروں کو آئین کے دائرے میں رہ کر کام کرنا ہوگا، الیکشن میں پتا چلے گا کون کزور ہے

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) سابق وزیر اعظم اور

رہنما مسلم لیگ (ن) شاہد خاقان عباسی نے کہا کہ

ملک میں پٹرول کی قیمتوں کا وقتی حکومت سے کوئی

شاہد خاقان

بقیہ نمبر 30

کانفرنس کرنا ٹھیک نہیں، یہ اوگرا کا کام ہے کہ وہ پٹرول کی نئی قیمتوں کا اعلان کرے۔ میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے شاہد خاقان عباسی نے کہا کہ اداروں کو آئین کے دائرے میں رہ کر کام کرنا ہوگا، الیکشن میں پتا چلے گا کون کزور ہے اور کون نہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ قاعدہ (لیگ) اور شریف خاندان آئیں گے۔

عالمی مارکیٹ میں خام تیل
کی قیمتیں 2 فیصد تک گر گئیں
منچاپور (رائٹرز) عالمی مارکیٹ میں گزشتہ روز
خام تیل کی قیمتیں 2 فیصد تک گر گئیں۔ نیوز ایجنسی
کے مطابق گزشتہ روز برطانوی (باقی صفحہ 5) بقیہ 3

بقیہ نمبر 3 خام تیل
برسٹ کے سودے 1.8 فیصد کی کمی ساتھ 84.76
ڈالر فی بیرل پر ہوئے جبکہ امریکی ویسٹ ٹیکساس کے
سودے 2.1 فیصد کی کمی ساتھ 80.83 ڈالر فی
بیرل پر ہوئے۔

[illegible]