Oil prices plunge on possible U.S.-Iran nuclear deal

Oil prices extended steep losses during Asian trading on Thursday after a report indicated Iran signaled openness to a nuclear deal with U.S. President Donald Trump, while data showing an unexpected increase in U.S. crude stockpiles raised concerns about oversupply.

At 01:13 a.m. (Brasília time), Brent crude futures for June delivery fell 1.6% to $65.04 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped 1.7% to $61.62 per barrel.

Both contracts fell on Wednesday, halting a four-day rally and pulling back from the two-week highs reached earlier in the week. The previous rally had been driven by Monday’s agreement between the U.S. and China to temporarily reduce high mutual tariffs.

Iran open to nuclear deal with U.S. if sanctions are lifted – report

Iran is prepared to sign a nuclear deal with U.S. President Trump if all economic sanctions are lifted, NBC News reported Thursday, citing Ali Shamkhani, a senior political and nuclear adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The statements represent the clearest public indication from Khamenei’s inner circle that Iran is open to a negotiated deal, provided U.S. actions match its rhetoric.

The comments come as U.S.-Iran nuclear talks continue, with recent rounds described as positive by American officials.

However, investors remain skeptical amid Trump’s hostile rhetoric and his push for "massive maximum pressure" on Iran.

A day earlier, the U.S. Treasury sanctioned a network it claims facilitates shipments of Iranian crude oil to China.

U.S. oil inventories rise unexpectedly, sparking oversupply concerns

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported on Wednesday that commercial crude oil inventories rose by 3.5 million barrels in the week ending May 9, reaching a total of 441.8

million barrels. This increase contrasts with analysts' expectations of a 2 million barrel drawdown. The unexpected build may reflect a short-term oversupply or a drop in demand.

Market reactions were swift, with U.S. oil prices falling more than $1 per barrel following the EIA report, as traders interpreted the inventory increase as a sign of potential oversupply.

This comes at a time when OPEC+ continues its aggressive output increases, underscoring concerns about excessive production.