

A Delegation From Turkmenistan Will Take Part in the 16th Meeting of The Joint Commission With Iran On Economic Cooperation, as Well as in Inter-Ministerial Consultations in Tehran

IRAN NEWS

Figures by the Iranian customs Administration (IRICA) Showed That Iranian Exports to Countries in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Rose by 61% in Value Terms in the Six Months to September 22

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Iran Inflation Rate Drops Slightly to 45.4% In October

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Data by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) show that the annual inflation rate in the country fell slightly in the calendar month to October 22 to 45.4%.

SCI figures published on Saturday showed that consumer prices had dropped by 0.4% against the annual rate announced for the month to late September. Iran continues to face high but controlled levels of inflation as the country is still struggling with the economic impacts of a large coronavirus outbreak as well as the pressure of sanctions imposed by the United States.

A new administrative government that came to office in early August has vowed it would control the prices through reduced borrowing from Iran's central bank while trying to rely more on revenues derived from domestic manufacturing and non-crude exports.

Experts believe a revival of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers could ease pressures on Iran and beef up the country's national currency rial.

SCI figures showed that Iranian consumers had faced a monthly inflation rate of 3.7% in the month to late October, down 0.2% against the previous month. **See Page 7**

China, India Exports To Iran Drop Sharply

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Official statistics from China and India, Iran's largest trading partners, show a sharp drop in their exports to the Islamic Republic.

According to Chinese customs statistics, the country exported about \$5.6 billion in exports to Iran in the first nine months of 2021, down more than 15 percent from the same period last year.

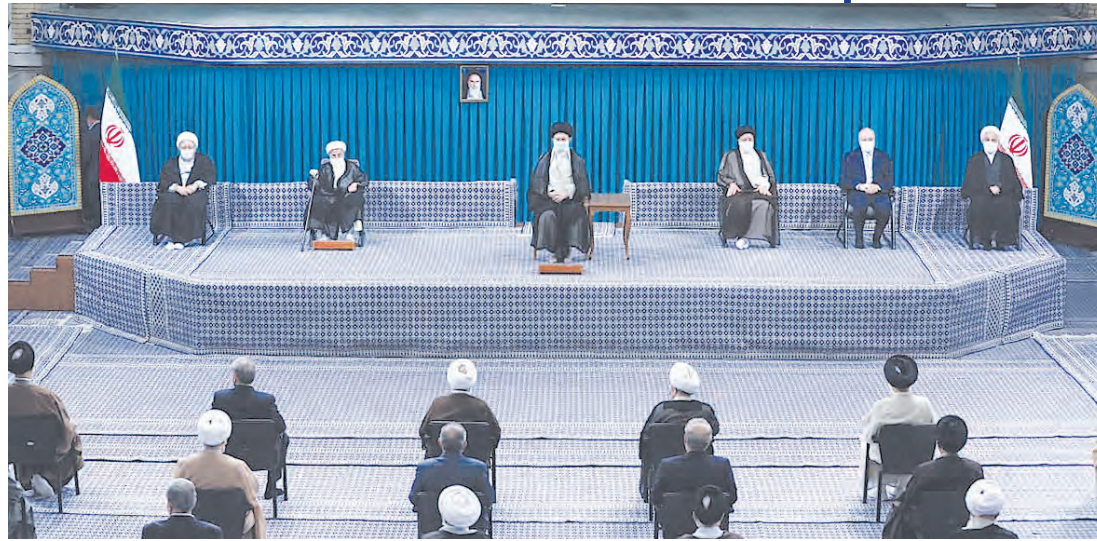
India's exports to Iran also fell by more than 48 percent to \$954 million during that time frame.

However, statistics from India's ministry of economy and industry also show that the country's imports from Iran jumped 73 percent in the first nine months of this year compared to the same period last year, reaching \$327 million.

This is in a place where Iran's exports to china fell 18 percent to \$4.8 billion during this period.

In both cases, Iran's trade balance with china and India has been negative in the first nine months of this year. **See Page 7**

Leader Calls for Islamic Unity As Matter of Principle



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei called for unity among Muslims saying it is a matter of principle and a clear religious duty.

The leader made the comment during a meeting with participants in the 35th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran.

"Unity and solidarity among Muslims is not a tactical issue, which some may imagine, we should, due to certain circumstances, be united. No, [Muslims' unity] is a fundamental issue. Muslims' synergy is necessary; if Muslims unite and work toward synergy, this strengthens all of them. Muslims' unity is a clear religious duty [mentioned] in the Quran," the leader said in an address to the participants on the birth anniversary of Islam's holy Prophet Mohammad.

"The birth of the prophet is actually the beginning of new era in the life of the humanity. It is a promise for a new chapter of divine will and blessing for the humanity."

He added that the reason that the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the unity among Muslims is that enemies are trying to create rift and division among Sunnis and Shiites and the issue of Shiite and Sunni has entered the literature of the U.S. in recent years while they essentially oppose Islam itself but stick to the issue of Shiite and Sunni.

He also said the U.S. can create sedition in any part of the world that it can, and the best example is the near incident in Afghanistan almost two weeks ago when a Shiite mosque was exploded and many people were martyred during the Friday Prayer.

Top Iranian officials, including the heads of the three branches of government, as well as participants in the 35th International Islamic Unity Conference in Iran have met with Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in the capital Tehran on Sunday.

The meeting was held on the birth anniversary of Islam's holy Prophet Mohammad, which is used as an occasion to hold the Islamic Unity Conference every year.

The event was held in strict observance of health protocols announced by the national taskforce against the coronavirus pandemic.

Raisi Enjoys Backing of Over 7 in 10 Iranian Adults

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Over seven in 10 Iranian adults have approved of President Ebrahim Raisi's job performance shortly after he took office from his predecessor amid the pandemic-induced health crisis and various challenges in the country, according to a new Gallup poll.

The poll published by the American research company said 72% of Iranians expressed approval of the job Raisi is doing just three weeks after taking office in August, a sharp increase from 32% approval for former President Hassan Rouhani in 2020. Gallup said the low rate of approval during Rouhani's presidency was due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Iran and his government's poor response to and mismanagement of the pandemic.

The findings of the survey, conducted between August 24 and 31, came as Gallup said the U.S. and Western media had labeled Raisi as a hard-line conservative cleric, contrasting with Rouhani who was said to be a moderate figure. "Despite his characterization as a moderate, Rouhani never received majority-level job approval in any of Gallup's readings during his presidency," the poll said.

Raisi has won Iran's 2021 presidential election by a landslide, according to the final results by the Interior Ministry.

Moreover, the results of the Gallup poll showed that 59% of Iranians have confidence in their national government, declining from 52% in July 2019 to 47% in August 2020 and falling further to 41% in November. The 41% registered during Rouhani's tenure was the lowest level of confidence recorded in Gallup's trend.

The U.S. research firm also attributed the drop in Iranians' confidence in their national government to the poorly-rated government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Raisi articulated a plan to tackle the pandemic, focusing on increasing COVID-19 vaccination throughout the country," Gallup said.

"Prior to Raisi's election in June, about 5% of the Iranian population was at least partly vaccinated; since then, the percentage of vaccinated Iranians has risen to nearly 50%. The increase in availability of vaccines from non-Western sources and the new administration's emphasis on taking action on the pandemic likely contributed to the spike in Iranians' confidence in their national government, which jumped to 62% shortly after Raisi entered office," it added.

Raisi, the eighth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, won almost 62 percent of the votes in the June 18 presidential election and succeed Rouhani, who served two four-year terms in office.

ViewPoint

United Muslim World Needed

These days Muslims in different parts of the world have been celebrating the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) who has been a savior for the humanity but through the history he has been under attacks by the enemies of Islam either through distorting his words or causing rift among his followers.

Muslim world has been suffering from disunity which has helped enemies to dominate it by creating rift among the Muslim nations. Creation of terrorist groups under the banner of the Islamists like Daesh or Al-Qaeda is of the major plots of enemies for dividing Muslims in order to rule.

Since the emergence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979, Muslim world has come to its senses that Islam is for the betterment and salvation of mankind and they can progress if they are real practitioners of Islam because a real Muslim will not give in cruelty and injustice which is currently widespread in the world by the arrogant countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been currently holding the 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity where many Muslim clerics and scholars gathered from any sect of Islam to show unity among Muslims.

There has been a dispute between Shiites and Sunnis over the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The two dates are the twelfth of Rabi Al Awwal, the first week of the third lunar month of the Islamic calendar, according to Sunnis, and the seventeenth of Rabi al Awwal, according to Shia. After the Islamic Revolution, its founder the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini proposed to call the interval between the two dates as Islamic unity week. It was suggested that the week is called Islamic unity week in reaction to the Saudi Mufti's attacks on Sunnis and Shia.

So every year, the Islamic Republic of Iran holds an international conference of Shia and Sunni eminent scholars and other Muslim participants from all over the world.

The goal behind this conference is to bring Muslims from any sect together and to unite them for their prosperity. What today Muslims in the world are suffering from is the division and rift which is good opportunity for the world arrogance to rule and humiliate Muslims.

Any terrorist act in the world is immediately attributed to Muslims without even launching a probe. World arrogance is well aware that Muslims are committed to their religion and its principles, and therefore it is trying to cause rift through distortion and mercenary clerics no matter he or she is from which sect of Islam. **See Page 7**

Turkish Halkbank To Be Charged in Iran Sanctions Case

NEW YORK (AP) — A Turkish bank must face criminal charges that it evaded sanctions against Iran by processing billions of dollars of Iranian oil revenue, an appeals court ruled.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a decision by U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman. An indictment returned in 2019 said the bank illegally moved about \$20 billion in Iranian oil and gas revenues. It also said the state-owned bank sometimes disguised money movements as purchases of food and medicine so they'd qualify for a "humanitarian exception" to sanctions.

A lawyer for Halkbank declined to comment on the ruling.

In a decision written by Circuit Judge Jose A. Cabranes, a three-judge panel concluded that assertions that Halkbank was protected from prosecution by immunity given to foreign sovereigns through the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act is overcome by an exception for crimes committed during commercial activity. **See Page 7**



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100% Villages in Iran to Have Access to Internet Next Year

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Iranian ICT minister said that “Currently, about 80% of the country’s villages are connected to high-speed Internet and the remaining villages located in remote areas will have access by the Iranian year 1401.”

Eissa Zarepour, Minister of Communications and Information Technology made the remarks in the northeastern city of Mashhad to inaugurate the Science and Technology Park in the city on Saturday.

“Currently, about 80% of the country’s villages are connected to high-speed Internet and the remaining villages located in remote areas will have access according to our planning by the Iranian year 1401 (21 March 2022-23).”

President Says New COVID-19 Wave Must Not Surprise Country

Speaking on Saturday morning at the meeting of the National Task Force Against Coronavirus, Raisi appreciated the efforts of all those who are involved in the fight against COVID-19.

“In the fight against coronavirus, persuading public opinion is an inevitable necessity”, he said.

The president added, “All those who possess a tribune, especially the national media, should explain the current situation in the country, especially in comparison with other countries, and explain the actions and the quality of dealing with this disease”.

“It is also necessary to explain to the public the studies conducted on the effect of public vaccination on health and possible disease in order to encourage those who have refused to be vaccinated for any reason to be vaccinated”, Raisi added.

“Our concern is to protect the health of the people, and in this regard, the procedures and recommendations of experts will be the basis for action,” the president said, referring to the injection of the third dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Raisi referred to the need to strengthen the infrastructure to successfully deal with the possible sixth wave of COVID-19 and said, “We hope not to face a new wave of



the disease, but in any case, we must be prepared not to react passively to the possible wave of the disease”.

“We should not allow a possible new wave of disease like the fifth wave, to surprise us”, the president said, adding, “We must prevent the recurrence of the country’s problems in facing the fifth wave of the disease by taking the necessary measures and preparations”.

Raisi said, “In addition to the national media, the reopening of universities and schools can also be a good platform for public and effective education in the field of preventive measures against Corona, which should be used in the best way”.

The president stressed the need for strong support for domestic vaccines from the Ministry of Health and added, “The reason for the widespread import of vaccines at this time is the need to deal quickly with the spread of the disease”.

Tehran Dismisses Erdogan Remarks

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian security chief has dismissed remarks by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan over recent issues between Tehran and Baku, as Iran and Azerbaijan stress need to settle differences.

“Fear of tribes belongs to a government that confronts them with sword and discrimination, not Iran which is the paradise of tribes,” Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani wrote in Persian, English, Arabic, and Turkish via his Twitter account on Saturday.

In remarks published on Thursday, Erdogan said that Iran will not target its northwestern neighbor Azerbaijan for Baku’s relations with the Israeli regime because of its noticeable Azeri population.

Responding to a reporter’s question on whether recent Iranian military drills would “escalate into a hot crisis” in the Caucasus, he said he had “no such expectation.”

Over “Israel’s relations with Azerbaijan, Iran will not be hostile to Azerbaijan or put Azerbaijan on the target list because the Azerbaijani population in Iran is noticeable today,” the Turkish president said.

“This, of course, gets them to contemplate the situation. It is not that simple. What has been done thus far is inappropriate, and I believe that Iran’s new administration will not repeat this misstep,” he added.

In his tweets, Shamkhani also said exaggerating the Israeli regime’s fake grandeur raises doubts about Erdogan’s power and his adherence to Islamic teachings, as a ruler who has claims on leading the Islamic world.

Iran has been suspicious of Azerbaijan’s links to the Israeli regime, whose supply of drones and other weapons helped Baku gain the upper hand in the war with Armenia last year.

At the same time, Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, among other Iranian officials, warned that Tehran does not tolerate the Israeli regime’s movements near its borders.

Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev criticized the exercises. He also accused Iran of sending over trucks to “illegally” cross into the Nagorno-Karabakh region, to which Shamkhani hit back by saying that ignoring the neighborhood principles and making false statements cannot be a good sign.

“Accusation against a country that the world recognizes as a hero in the fight against drugs has no effect other than invalidating the speaker’s words,” Shamkhani said in a tweet on October 15. “Beware of the devil’s costly traps,” he added.

Before the Iranian Army’s exercise, Azerbaijan held joint military drills with Turkey and Pakistan in Baku, a move that Iran censured as illegal under the Caspian Sea’s legal conventions. Azerbaijan and Turkey also held another joint military exercise in Azerbaijan’s isolated enclave of Nakhchivan after Iran’s drills.

Erdogan’s remarks come as Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Azerbaijani counterpart have in a recent phone conversation stressed the need for the resolution of issues between Baku and Tehran through dialogue and cooperation.

Iranian Delegation Meets With Uzbekistan’s Parliament Speaker

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran’s parliamentary delegation met and held talks with Chairman of the Uzbek legislative assembly Nouredine Jan Ismailov in Tashkent on Saturday.

The head of Iran-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Friendship Group Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleje has traveled to Uzbekistan upon an invitation

by the country’s head of the central commission for elections to supervise the presidential elections.

Referring to the developments of the past few years in Uzbekistan, Nouri Ghezleje expressed hope that the upcoming elections would be held successfully.



Pointing to the need for parliamentary cooperation between the two states, he stressed the development of relations between Iran and Uzbekistan in the economic and transit spheres as well as cooperation on Afghanistan issues.

Ismailov received an invitation message from Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf at the beginning of the meeting with the Iranian delegation.

An Iranian parliamentary delegation left Tehran for Tashkent on Friday to supervise Uzbekistan’s presidential election.

Iran-P4+1 Talks on Sanctions Removal to Resume Soon

TEHRAN (PressTV) – Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says the negotiations between Tehran and the P4+1 group of countries on the removal of US anti-Iran sanctions will be resumed in the near future.

In a meeting with Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Khusrav Noziri in Tehran on Saturday, Amir-Abdollahian pointed to the recent talks between Iran and the European Union in Tehran, and added that Iran would resume the negotiations with the P4+1 group (Russia, China, Britain, France, and Germany) soon.

Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have held six rounds of talks in Vienna, which began after the US administration of Joe Biden voiced willingness to rejoin the nuclear agreement, three years after former president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the deal and reinstated crippling sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Amir-Abdollahian hailed the implementation of a number of long-term and infrastructure projects by the ECO in various fields, including transportation, trade, monetary and banking sections, and expressed hope that the remaining plans would be completed during the tenure of Noziri, who took office in August.

The top Iranian diplomat also denounced the recent terrorist attacks in the Afghan cities of Kunduz and Kandahar, describing Afghanistan as an important ECO member.

More than 60 people were killed and over 80 wounded in three back-to-back explosions that hit the Bibi Fatima mosque during Friday prayers on October 15, one of the biggest blasts in Kandahar. It came just a week after a bomb attack killed more than 150 people and left scores of others injured at a Shia mosque in the northeastern city of Kunduz.

Amir-Abdollahian further said that Iran would continue to support the ECO and its chief and expressed hope that ECO member states would make important decisions that would strengthen regional cooperation during the upcoming summit of the organization.

Noziri, for his part, commended Iran’s support for his appointment as the new ECO secretary general and outlined plans for the 15th ECO Summit, which is scheduled to be held on November 28, 2021 in Turkmenistan.

The ECO chief said Iran plays a leading role in the Asian political and economic intergovernmental organization and called for the continuation of Tehran’s support.

Majlis Speaker Warns of U.S. Plot to Ignite Regional Wars



(IFP)- Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has warned of a plot hatched by the United States to ignite the flames of war in the region.

“In Afghanistan and throughout the region, these hidden hands are at work to perpetuate insecurity in the region by launching religious wars. The recent crimes in Afghanistan and the extensive plans of the Americans and the Zionists to create chaos and division in Lebanon and Iraq, and to provoke some heads of state in the region are all in this direction,” the Iranian parliament speaker said in the closing ceremony of the 35th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran on Saturday.

He said American troops may have apparently withdrawn from the region, but they are still planning to create unrest in this part of the world.

Qalibaf went on to say that the issue of Palestine has united the Islamic Ummah and formed a united resistance front against the “usurping Zionist regime”.

The Iranian parliament speaker said Israel’s “myth of invincibility” has crumbled because the regime has suffered defeats in several confrontations with popular resistance forces involving Shia and Sunni brothers in Palestine and Lebanon.

The Islamic unity conference, which began on Tuesday, was attended by over 400 Muslim scholars, thinkers and religious leaders from across the world.

Tehran Ready for Nuclear Cooperation With Islamic States

TEHRAN (MNA) - Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi has expressed Iran’s readiness to cooperate Islamic countries in the field of nuclear industry.

“We are ready to cooperate with the Islamic world in the development of nuclear technology in line with the welfare of the people and Islamic societies, in order to pave the way for the new Islamic civilization,” Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi said in remarks to mark the birthday anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on a visit to some nuclear sites on Saturday while being accompanied by the foreign guests attending the Islamic Unity Conference underway in Tehran.

The Spokesman hailed the Muslim scientists for their role in the progress of knowledge and sciences while calling on Muslim societies to revive the great Islamic civilization through a rebirth and Renaissance.

He also called for unity among Muslims in the face of the Global Arrogance’s unilateralism and bullying behavior.

Leader Pardons, Commutes Sentences of 3,458 Prisoners

TEHRAN (PressTV) – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has pardoned or commuted the sentences of a large number of Iranian prisoners.

The Leader on Saturday agreed to a request by Iran’s Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei to pardon or reduce the sentences of as many as 3,458 inmates subject to mitigating circumstances.

Ayatollah Khamenei issued the approval on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the sixth Shia Imam, Imam Ja’afar Sadiq (AS).

The prisoners, who were granted the clemency, had had their verdicts issued at courts of common pleas and Islamic Revolution tribunals, the Judicial Organization of the Armed Forces, and the State Discretionary Punishment Organization.

The official amnesty request was approved in line with the implementation of the 11th paragraph of the Constitution’s Article 110.

The Leader regularly issues such verdicts on the occasion of religious festivities.

The Prophet of Islam was born on the 17th day of the lunar calendar month of Rabi-ul-Awwal in 570 CE. The date also marks the birth anniversary of Imam Ja’far Sadiq (AS).

Iran Urged to Prioritize Trade With Neighboring States

TEHRAN (IP) - The Iran-Turkey Chamber of Commerce head said that Iran must prioritize trade with neighboring countries to succeed.

Jalal Ebrahimi stated that Iran should have an economic advisor in all embassies, and the shortcomings in the Iran-Turkey trade relations must be eliminated so that both sides can reach the appropriate profitability stage.

The Iran-Turkey Chamber of Commerce head emphasized that Iran must prioritize trade with neighboring countries to succeed. Jalal Ebrahimi added: “Currently, Turkey has 128 economic advisers and on this basis, this country has successful trade with other countries. In order to have success in the field of trade and economy, Iran must also have an economic advisor in all embassies.”

Iran’s Borders in Full Security

TEHRAN (IP) - Commander of the Border Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stating that the Iranian border guards were stationed in the country’s borders with full readiness, said that Iran’s borders were in full and stable security.

Brigadier-General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi, Commander of the Border Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the graduation ceremony of the students of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, noted: “ Iran shares borders with 15 neighboring countries and has stable and desirable security on its borders, especially on the southeastern borders.”

Pointing out that the presence of enemies and foreigners in the borders of the country is the red line of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: “If hostile groups and foreigners move on the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave border guards of the police force will guard the country with authority.”

Goodarzi added: “Diplomatic interaction and communication with neighboring countries is well established and none of the border crossings and terminals are closed. Also, trade and economic exchange at the borders is well underway.”



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:35
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:56
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:21

51. (The king) said (to the ladies): "What was your affair when ye did seek to seduce Joseph from his (true) self?" The ladies said: "(Allah) preserve us! no evil know we against him!" Said the 'Aziz's wife: "Now is the truth manifest (to all): it was I who sought to seduce him from his (true) self: He is indeed of those who are (ever) true (and virtuous). Surah 12. Joseph (51)

Iran Comes Out of Recession

IRAN NEW ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Central Bank of Iran Governor Ali Salehabadi said on Saturday that the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has seen growth in Q2 2021 despite the coronavirus pandemic and this indicated that the country has emerged from recession.

In a virtual meeting attended by International Monetary Fund Chairwoman Kristalina Georgieva, as well as central banks governors and chairs of financial institutions of the MENAP region, held on Saturday, Salehabadi said that just like many other countries, Iran was severely hurt by the coronavirus pandemic, but its economy is now on a strong path of improvement.

The latest statistics show a 6.2 percent growth in Iran GDP in Q2 2021 which is a great achievement despite tight restrictions on Iran's access to its funds abroad, CBI Governor added.

Iran's non-oil economy grew by 4.7 percent in the same period, according to Salehabadi, indicating that Iran's economy has significantly climbed out of recession and moved towards improvement.

Salehabadi also said that unemployment retreated to 8.8 percent in Iran in Q2 2021 thanks to CBI and the administration's supportive financial and monetary policies.



The official criticized the inequality in economic recovery among world regions and also in countries' access to the coronavirus vaccine resulting in different economic recovery processes.

No country is safe unless all the countries are protected against the virus, Salehabadi said, noting that any delay in vaccination in countries would pose a threat to the global economic perspective.

SDR allocation process in 2021 cannot help IMF member states meet their long-term COVID-19 vaccine demands, he underlined.

CBI Governor expressed support to the IMF's new initiative to help members address climate change challenges, adding that the burden of climate change has been put on the countries with the minimum share in carbon emission.

He proposed that neighboring countries make multilateral funding and rich countries share their technological knowledge to better address climate change.

NC Macaron Earnings the Country 7m Euros Last Year

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of NC Macaron Food Industries Group says the products of the company in terms of quality is among the first grade brands in the country and its products earned the country some 7m euros last year.

Speaking on the sidelines of media persons' visit of the production line of the second phase of the company at Safa Dasht Industrial Park, Dr. Seyed Yaser Mirahmadi said that despite major problems last year, the company continued its exports mainly the coil and string vermicelli to Iraq and Canada and it exported over 3,000 tons to Iraq.

He added that although Europe ranks first in terms of spaghetti production, NC Group could export its products to this continent and it shows that NC products can compete with their European rivals.

He reiterated that products of the company in terms of design and quality are among the top brands in the country.



South Pars Gas Output Peaks

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company said: "Gas production from South Pars has reached its peak."

According to POGC, Mohammad Meshkinfam said the above warning that from the next four years, the field would face a drop in production as much as one phase of South Pars every year.

Addressing a meeting held in the presence of the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company and a group of members of the Planning, Budget and Accounts Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly in South Pars Special Economic Zone on Wednesday evening, Mr. Meshkinfam outlined the measures taken in South Pars, and said the area of this joint field in the Iranian part is about 3,700 square kilometers.

He stated that the amount of in-place gas reserves in the Iranian section of the field is 410 trillion cubic feet, and said South Pars has 8% of the world's gas reserves and 50% of Iran's gas reserves, and currently 70% of the country's gas consumption is supplied from this field.

700 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of gas is produced from South Pars, while 252 mcm/d is produced from other fields and 70 mcm from is produced in the form of associated petroleum gas (APG) which means South Pars enjoys a 70% contribution in the country's total gas production mix.

He further said that the cumulative rich gas recovery from the field has reached 1,994 bcm since the beginning of production from the field, and said the value of South Pars products in this period is estimated at \$359 billion.

Meshkinfam considered the competitive production state of Iran and Qatar as favorable, and noted:



"Qatar extracts 628 mcm/d of gas from this joint field, while Iran has reached 700 mcm/d overtaking its rival in the field."

According to the CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company, 37 gas platforms, 340 wells, 3,200 km of pipelines and 50 operational trains are being operated in the offshore sector of South Pars.

He named the volume of investment in the massive offshore field since the beginning of its development at \$80 billion, and said out of a total of 37 platforms, 17 main platforms with a production capacity of 28 mcm/d of gas and 20 sub-platforms with a production capacity of 14 mcm are installed and operational in the Persian Gulf.

"Each of the main platforms in the field, with a capacity of 28 mcm/d, supplies gas for about one million households," Meshkinfam said.

The senior POGC official announced the weight of each topside of South Pars field with its accessories at 8,000 tons, adding in total, for each of the South Pars offshore trains (including drilling wells, offshore topsides and subsea pipelines) nearly \$1 billion has been invested.

Referring to the localization of Persian Gulf

gas rigs, he said: "All the rigs have been built and installed by Iranian contractors, including SADRA, Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company, ISOICO (Iran Shipbuilding & Offshore Industries Complex) and SAFF Offshore Industries Company."

He further announced that part of the Phase 14 refinery would come online by the end of the current Iranian calendar year to March 20.

The CEO of Pars Oil and Gas Company estimated the value of the products of each South Pars refinery at \$10 million per day, and added: "The value of the products of each South Pars gas refinery is estimated at \$3.5 billion per year, which is close to one percent of the country's GDP."

He announced the total production of other South Pars products as 12 million tons of ethane, 12 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and 700,000 barrels of gas condensate per day, and said: "Most of the gas condensate produced from South Pars in the country turn into valuable products domestically."

Expressing concern over the current status of South Pars gas production in the coming years, Meshkinfam said: "Gas production from South Pars has reached its peak, but from the next four years, it is expected to decrease by one phase of South Pars (28 million cubic meters) annually."

He also said that so far 15% of the field's gas reserves have been produced, adding with the current facilities and equipment, 50% of the field's reserves will be recoverable.

In the end, Meshkinfam estimated the capital needed for the development of other gas fields in the country at \$17.5 billion, and said: "By investing about \$20 billion in the South Pars joint field, 75% of gas extraction will be achieved, and the 25% increase is worth roughly \$500 billion."

IME Experiences Higher Records In Trade Value and Volume

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week enjoyed trade 1,913,000 tons of commodities with a total trading value of almost \$543m, posting growths of 5% in volume and 18% in value of trades compared to the figures of the previous week.

According to a report by the IME's international affairs and PR, the exchange traded on its metal and minerals trading floor 1,479,000 tons of commodities valued at more than \$301m.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1,000,118 tons of cement, 329,144 tons of steel, 6,700 tons of copper, 7,250 tons of aluminum, 24 tons of precious metals concentrate, 280 tons of molybdenum sulfur, 100 tons of zinc, 26 kg of gold bars and 19,000 tons of sponge iron.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 429,560 tons of commodities worth more than \$237m.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 96,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 120,000 tons of bitumen, 81,913 tons of polymeric products, 38,051 tons of chemicals, 48,000 tons of lube cut, 3,047 tons of base oil, 2,500 tons of slops wax, 570 tons of insulation and 40,120 tons of sulfur.

It's worth noting that the IME's agricultural trading floor played host to trading 400 kg of saffron.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 4,479 tons of commodities traded on it.



Museum of Historical Cars Opens in Tehran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Museum of Iranian Historical Cars opened on Saturday in Tehran.

Iran Press/ Iran news: According to the officials of the Museum of Historical Cars of Iran, the preparations for the opening of this museum had been made months ago, but due to coronavirus restrictions, the opening ceremony was postponed to today.

The ceremony was attended by Parviz Fattah, President of the Mostazafan Foundation of Iran's Islamic Revolution, and Ezzatollah Zarghami, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran.

61 unique historical vehicles belonging to the Qajar and Pahlavi eras are on display at the museum.

According to the relevant officials, the Museum of Historical Cars of Iran has been constructed at a cost of 120 billion Tomans in an area of 11,000 square meters.

One of the most important cars on display at this museum is the only 500K Mercedes Benz in the world, which has been exposed to the public along with the first model of Rolls-Royce's Silver Ghost owned by Ahmad Shah Qajar.

The royal carriage of Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar is another unique feature of this museum.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Head of Mostazafan Foundation Mr. Fattah announced the good offer of the world's automakers for Iran's historic cars.

Fattah stated this morning: "Car manufacturers made good offers to buy these cars, but we refused to sell them due to the history of the cars and their high value for the Iranian nation."

He said: "These cars, which were the property of the Iranian nation and were bought at a high price during the time of misery of the Iranian people, were exposed to the public today."

Fattah noted: "The opinion of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, is to show historical objects of the Mostazafan Foundation to the public."

"In addition to the Museum of Historical Vehicles and 5 other museums that have been opened in the past few months, several other museums will be put into operation in the coming months," he added.

Meanwhile Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Mr. Zarghami, for his part, predicted that the Museum of Historical Cars of Iran would attract foreign tourists from around the world.

Zarghami stated this morning at the opening ceremony of the Museum of Historical Vehicles of Iran: "World Service news agencies and networks must attract foreign tourists by publishing the news and pictures of the opening ceremony of this museum."

He said: "One of the places that foreign tourists will visit from now on will be the Museum of Historical Cars of Iran."

In another part of his speech, Zarghami added: "Currently,



274 historical license plates have been registered in Iran in the field of automobiles, and another 1800 license plates are in the process of being reviewed for the registration."

He predicted that a historical license plate would be registered for 4,000 Iranian cars after the necessary investigations.

Historical license plates will be given to more than 50 years old, and their parts have not been replaced.

Peru Surpasses 200,000 COVID Deaths

LIMA (Dispatches) - The ministry announced 25 new deaths over the previous 24 hours, taking the South American country over the symbolic threshold with 200,003 deaths since the pandemic started in March 2020.

The Andean country of 33 million has also recorded 2.2 million infections.

With 6,065 deaths per million population, Peru's Covid mortality rate is the highest in the world, according to an AFP count based on official data.



U.S. Military Announces Killing of Senior al-Qaeda Leader

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - A senior al-Qaeda leader was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Syria, the Pentagon said Friday. The strike comes two days after a base in southern Syria, used by the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group, was assaulted.

"A U.S. airstrike today in northwest Syria killed senior al-Qaeda leader Abdul Hamid al-Matar," said Central Command spokesman Army Major John Rigsbee in a statement.

There were no known casualties from the strike, he said, adding it was conducted using an MQ-9 aircraft.

"The removal of this al-Qaeda senior leader will disrupt the terrorist organization's ability to further plot and carry out global attacks," he said.



969 Int'l Observers Monitor Uzbekistan Presidential Elections



IRAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL DESK

TASHKENT - As Uzbekistan went to polls on Sunday, almost 1,600 journalists were covering the elections, 140 of them are foreign media representatives.

Over 160 observers from the CIS countries traveled to Uzbekistan ahead of day of vote. 969 international observers monitor the elections. Tashkent Youth Palace is used as a media center.

Candidates of all 5 registered political parties are running in the elections, incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev among them. These first-time voters professed themselves eager to cast their ballots for Mirziyoyev "because he's our president and we love him," enthused 19-year-old Jurabek Mehmonov.

Uzbekistan's 21 million voters will choose between Mirziyoyev and four ostensible challengers representing pro-government parties that sit in what is still a rubberstamp parliament, despite pledges to beef it up.

The students' sentiments, not uncommon among voters that Eurasianet reporters quizzed around Uzbekistan, will help propel Mirziyoyev to a crushing victory against four stalking horses. It is a safe bet that he will top the 89 percent he received when he was first elected in 2016. Mirziyoyev's popularity is genuine, even if it is hard to gauge how deep it runs in the absence of reliable polling and genuine political alternatives.

Mirziyoyev represents the Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party (shorted to O'zLiDeP in Uzbek); the heads of Adolat, Milliy Tiklanish, and the Ecological Party — Bahrom Abdulhalimov, Alisher Qodirov, and Narzullo Oblomurodov respectively — are running; and the only woman in the race is the deputy leader of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Maksuda Varisova.

Since taking over the presidency, after the death of longtime leader Islam Karimov, Mirziyoyev has overseen a raft of changes. Significant improvements in the economy on his watch have bolstered his popularity, though the economic reforms have come with no signs of greater political freedom.

"The last five years have been truly excellent," enthused Aziz, who runs a small business in the capital, Tashkent. "In the economy, in education, in health care, in all spheres there have been improvements."

Uzbekistan's economy was one of a handful to achieve growth in 2020, even as the COVID-19 pandemic raged, with the World Bank indicating gross domestic product expanded by 1.6%. In 2021, the bank projects a rebound to 6.2%.

Looking ahead, Uzbekistan will be aiming to maintain the momentum with more privatizations of state-owned companies planned, an ongoing overhaul of the tax system and World Trade Organization accession talks underway.

Currently, there is a new Uzbekistan, an Uzbekistan that has acquired a new image in the international arena. On Sept. 1, the country celebrated the 30th anniversary of the independence of its republic, a celebration backed by what can be called a serious breakthrough when it comes to transparency and openness over the past five years.

For the first time, for example, the presidential elections will be held on the fourth Sunday of October under the amendments to Uzbekistan's constitution introduced into law on Feb. 8, 2021. Thus the electoral campaign launched on July 23.

Afghanistan Heading Towards Collapse Faster Than Expected

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Afghanistan is heading towards economic collapse that risks spiralling the country into a new political crisis, Sweden's minister for international development cooperation warned.

Afghanistan has been plunged into crisis following the collapse of the Western-backed government and Taliban take over in August, which was met with an abrupt end of billions of dollars in assistance to its aid-dependent economy.

"My concern is that the country is on the brink of collapse and that collapse is coming faster than we thought," Per Olsson Fridh told Reuters in Dubai, warning that economic freefall could provide an environment for terror groups to thrive.

The 27-country European Union, which includes Sweden, has increased humanitarian aid to Afghanistan since the Taliban swept back to power but has halted its development assistance, a measure taken by many other countries and the World Bank. The Red Cross on Friday urged the international community to engage with the Taliban,

warning that aid groups on their own could only provide temporary solutions.

Sweden was looking into scaling up efforts through Afghan civil society groups to secure basic services, Fridh said, but that other countries needed to be convinced this was possible to do without legitimising the new Taliban rulers.

However Sweden would not channel development money through the Taliban, he said. The movement has faced international criticism for its failure to uphold certain rights since returning to power, including allowing girls access to education.

Most countries have shuttered their embassies in Kabul with some having relocated them to Qatar, the Gulf state which is a key interlocutor between the West and the Taliban.

European countries were not ready to reopen their Kabul embassies, Fridh said, adding that more diplomatic missions would open in Qatar before there is a return to Afghanistan.



Russian, Chinese Warships Hold First Joint Patrols in the Pacific



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian and Chinese warships held their first joint patrols in the Western part of the Pacific Ocean on October 17-23, Russia's defense ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

Moscow and Beijing, which staged naval cooperation drills in the Sea of Japan earlier in October, have cultivated closer military and diplomatic ties in recent years at a time when their relations with the West have soured.

The naval manoeuvres have been closely watched by Japan which said earlier this week that a group of 10 vessels from China and Russia sailed through the Tsugaru Strait separating Japan's main island and its northern island of Hokkaido.

"The group of ships passed through the Tsugaru Strait for the first time as part of the patrol," Russia's defense ministry said in the statement. The strait is regarded as international waters.

"The tasks of the patrols were the demonstration of the Russian and Chinese state flags, maintaining of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and guardianship of the subjects of maritime economic activities of the two countries," the ministry added.

Turkish Defence Minister Warns Against Alliances That Harm NATO

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - NATO-member Turkey's defense minister said the forming of alliances outside of NATO would harm the organization, according to comments released on Saturday, after Greece and France agreed a defense pact last month.

NATO allies Greece and France clinched a strategic military and defense cooperation pact in September, which includes an order for three French frigates worth about 3 billion euros.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said this month that the agreement will allow the two countries to come to each other's aid in the event of an external threat.

"Given that we are inside NATO, everyone should know that the search for various alliances outside of it will both cause harm to NATO and our bilateral relations, and shake confidence," Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar told reporters after a NATO defense ministers in Brussels this week.

The comments were released by the Turkish defense ministry.

Greece and Turkey are at odds over their continental

shelves and their maritime boundaries. They re-launched exploratory contacts on their disputes earlier this year and Akar said he had a constructive meeting with his Greek counterpart.

"We had positive, constructive talks with the Greek defense minister. We expect to see positive results from these talks in the period ahead," Akar said.

Separately, Akar said that "technical work has been launched" on obtaining Viper F16 jets from the United States as well as modernising warplanes that Turkey already has.

The United States this week did not confirm President Tayyip Erdogan's comment that Washington had made an offer to Ankara for the sale of F-16 fighter jets but added that it has not made Turkey a financing offer for the warplanes.

Erdogan said on Sunday that the United States had proposed the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey in return for its investment in the F-35 program, from which Ankara was removed after buying missile defense systems from Russia.



Biden, Macron Discuss Stronger European Defense



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The two leaders "discussed efforts to enable a stronger and more capable European defense while ensuring complementarity with NATO," the statement said.

Biden will meet Macron in Rome later this month, and the statement said he looked forward to the chance to "take stock of the many areas of US-France cooperation, and reinforce our shared interests."

A similar statement was issued by the French presidency.

Biden and Macron last spoke on September 22 for their first conversation since the furious spat over selling submarines to Australia severely strained relations.

Specifically, Australia agreed to acquire US nuclear sub technology and in doing so scrap a huge, already existing deal with France to buy conventional submarines. The new accord infuriated the French.

Macron recalled France's ambassador to Washington and Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian compared Biden's unilateral methods to ex-president Donald Trump's but "without the tweets."

Although Biden did not apologize for secretly negotiating to sell nuclear submarines to Australia, he did acknowledge that the issue "would have benefited from open consultations among allies," according to a statement after the dispute erupted.

Following four years of tumultuous relations with Trump, the diplomatic fireworks dashed hopes of a complete reset under Biden, who took office in January aiming to rebuild frazzled ties with Europe.

U.S. officials have since sought to patch up ties, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken visiting Paris earlier this month and holding a one-to-one meeting with Macron. In their September call, Macron secured what he saw as a significant commitment from Biden to respect French-led efforts to boost European defense and autonomy.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris will also hold talks with Macron in Paris next month, the White House announced.

"They will discuss the importance of the transatlantic relationship to global peace and security," it said, underlining partnership on challenges "from Covid-19 and the climate crisis to issues affecting the Sahel and the Indo-Pacific."

Australia has said it had decided to pursue nuclear submarines amid rising tensions with China, and it won the right to the technology as part of a new three-way alliance with the United States and Britain.



Shanon
(adviser)

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L.balcony
yard, pkg
fireplace
Fully Furn

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600sq.m b/up
5bdrs, S/p
Sauna, J
green yard

Jordan (\$1300)
140sq.m, 2bdrs, F.F

Zaferanieh (\$1400)
120sq.m, 2bdrs, S/pool
S, J, roof garden, pkg
balcony, green yard, F.F

Darrous bldg
3storey, 10bdrs, F.F

Niavaran (\$2000)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

Elahieh bldg (\$5000)
4storey, 12bdrs, pkgs

Elahieh (\$1800)
200sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p, & J

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Canada's Inflation Rate Hits 18-Year High

OTTAWA (Dispatches) - Canada's annual inflation rate accelerated to an 18-year-high in September, driven by high gas prices, soaring housing costs and rising food prices, data showed on Wednesday, putting the focus on the Bank of Canada ahead of a rate decision next week.

Inflation increased to 4.4%, beating the average analyst estimate of 4.3%, to reach its fastest clip since February 2003, Statistics Canada data showed. It was the sixth consecutive month in which headline inflation topped the central bank's 1-3% control range. "It suggests there is still momentum at the margin in terms of inflationary pressures that can't be just dismissed on base effects and other factors. So it's still a sustained overshoot," said Derek Holt, vice president of capital markets economics at Scotiabank.



IMF Cuts Asia's Growth Forecast, Warns of Supply Chain Risks

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund slashed this year's economic growth forecast for Asia and warned that a fresh wave of COVID-19 infections, supply chain disruptions and inflation pressures pose downside risks to the outlook.

China's economy will grow by 8.0% this year and 5.6% in 2022, but the recovery remains "unbalanced" as repeated coronavirus outbreaks and fiscal tightening weigh on consumption, it said.

Any "untimely policy normalization or misconstrued policy communications" by the U.S. Federal Reserve could also trigger significant capital outflow and higher borrowing costs for Asian emerging economies, the IMF said.

In its regional outlook report, the IMF cut this year's economic growth forecast for Asia to 6.5%, down 1.1 percentage point from its projection made in April, as a spike in Delta variant cases hit consumption and factory output.

The IMF raised its Asia growth forecast for 2022 to 5.7% from a 5.3% estimate in April, reflecting progress in vaccinations.

"Although Asia and Pacific remains the fastest growing region in the world, the divergence between Asian advanced economies and emerging market and developing economies is deepening," the report said.

"Risks are tilted to the downside," mainly on uncertainty over the pandemic, supply chain disruptions and potential spillovers from U.S. policy normalization, it said.

China's economy hit its slowest pace of growth in a year in the third quarter, highlighting the challenge policymakers face as they seek to prop up a faltering recovery while reining in the real estate sector.

India is expected to expand 9.5% this year, while advanced economies like Australia, South Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan benefit from high-tech and commodity booms, the IMF said.

But ASEAN-5 countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand - still face "severe challenges" from a resurgent virus and weakness in service consumption, it said.

"Over the coming months, new infection waves remain the biggest concern," the IMF said.

While inflation expectations are "generally well-anchored" in Asia, higher commodity prices and shipping costs, coupled with continued disruption of global value chains, are amplifying concerns over persistent inflation.

Most Asian emerging economies must maintain monetary support to ensure a lasting recovery, but central banks "should be prepared to act quickly if the recovery strengthens faster than expected or if inflation expectations rise," it said.

G7 Countries Well Placed to Fully Decarbonize Power Supply by 2035

LONDON (Dispatches) - G7 members, who are well placed to fully decarbonize their electricity supply by 2035, could serve as the first movers in lowering the cost of technologies for other countries while maintaining electricity security, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Requested by the United Kingdom, which holds the G7 Presidency this year, Achieving Net Zero Electricity Sectors in G7 Members report builds on the IEA's Roadmap to Net Zero by 2050 report published in May to identify key milestones, challenges and opportunities for G7 members.

At the G7 Summit in June this year, the leaders of Canada Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the US, plus the European Union committed to reaching "an overwhelmingly decarbonized" power system in the 2030s and net zero emissions across their economies no later than 2050.

G7 countries currently account for about 40 percent of the global economy, 36 percent of global power generation capacity, 30 percent of global energy demand and 25 percent of global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, the report notes.

The agency says the electricity sector now accounts for one-third of the G7's energy-related emissions, down from a peak of nearly two-fifths in 2007. Natural gas and renewables were the primary sources of electricity in the G7 in 2020 as each provides about 30 percent of the total with nuclear and coal near to 20 percent each.

Renewables need to provide 60 percent of the G7's electricity supply by 2030 whereas under the current policies the countries are on track to reach only 48 percent. "The G7 has an opportunity to demonstrate that electricity systems with 100 percent renewables during specific periods of the year and in certain locations can be secure and affordable. At the same time, increased reliance on renewables does require the G7 to lead the way in finding solutions to maintain electricity security, including seasonal storage and more flexible and robust grids," the report said.

According to the IEA's pathway to net zero by 2050, innovation delivers 30 percent of G7 electricity sector emissions reduction to 2050, requiring international collaboration while creating technology leadership opportunities for G7 countries.

The report underlines that people need to be placed at the center of all clean electricity transitions, and decarbonizing electricity could create as many as 2.6 million jobs in the G7 over the next decade.

California Ports, Key to U.S. Supply Chain, Among World's Least Efficient

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Southern California's Los Angeles and Long Beach ports handle the most ocean cargo of any ports in the United States, but are some of the least efficient in the world, according to a ranking by the World Bank and IHS Markit.

In a review of 351 container ports around the globe, Los Angeles was ranked 328, behind Tanzania's Dar es Salaam and Alaska's Dutch Harbor. The adjacent port of Long Beach came in even lower, at 333, behind Turkey's Nemrut Bay and Kenya's Mombasa, the groups said in their inaugural Container Port Performance Index published in May.

The total number of ships waiting to unload outside the two adjacent ports hit a new all-time record of 100 on Monday. Americans' purchases of imported goods have jumped to levels the U.S. supply chain infrastructure can't handle, causing delivery delays and snarls.

Top port honors went to Japan's Yokohama and Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah on the ranking. Finishing out the top five were Chiwan, part of Shenzhen's port in Guangdong Province; South China's Guangzhou port; and Taiwan's Kaoshiung port. Ports in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa dominated the top 50 spots, while just four U.S. ports cracked the top 100 - Philadelphia (83), the Port of Virginia (85), New York & New Jersey (89) and Charleston, South Carolina (95).

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted trade around the globe, snarling trade and exposing the frailty of a supply chain built for predictable, just-in-time movement of goods.

High Oil Prices to Hurt World Economic Recovery

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, has told Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations that high oil prices will hurt the nascent economic recovery the world is witnessing after the devastating pandemic and that they have to price oil at reasonable levels, a top official said.

Petrol and diesel prices have shot up to record highs across the country after relentless price increases since early May.

India, which imports almost two-thirds of its oil needs from West Asia, has told crude oil producers, including the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), that high oil prices will hasten the transition to alternate fuels and such rates will be counter-productive for the producers, the official said.

"Oil prices have to strike a balance between the interests of the producers and consumers. Right now they are really high because the demand is more than the supplies," the official, who wished not to be named, said.

International oil prices had crashed to \$19 per barrel in April last year as demand evaporated with most nations clamping lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19. The demand recovered this year as vaccination against the infection revived economies world over.

International benchmark Brent crude has since rallied to \$85.67 per barrel.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has in recent weeks flagged the issue of high oil prices to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, the U.S., Russia and Bahrain, the official said.

Puri, in his meetings with the Secretary-General of OPEC and his counterparts in Saudi Arabia and other nations, conveyed India's serious concerns over crude oil price volatility.

He conveyed India's strong preference for responsible and reasonable pricing which is mutually beneficial for consumers and producers, the official said.

India is again likely to raise the issue of high oil prices when global leaders meet for the India Energy Forum by CERWeek later this week. Saudi and UAE oil ministers besides the OPEC secretary-general are expected to participate in the meeting.

"He (Puri in his previous meetings) conveyed in no uncertain terms the need for oil prices to be stable and within limits, else the economic recovery witnessed the world over will suffer," the official said, adding oil prices above \$65-70 per barrel will hurt importing nations.

Turkey Faces Threat of "Grey-Listing" by Global Finance Watchdog

ANKARA (FT) - Turkey is set to be "grey listed" by a global finance watchdog this week for failings in its approach to combating money laundering and terrorist financing, according to two western officials.

In a move that risks further denting Turkey's already limited ability to attract crucial foreign capital, members of the Financial Action Task Force were likely to approve the decision during discussions in Paris on Thursday, the officials said.

They said an FATF review had recommended that Turkey should be subject to special monitoring by the taskforce's International Co-operation Review Group — a process known as "grey listing" — joining 22 other states including Albania, Morocco, Syria, South Sudan and Yemen.

The 39-member plenary was "very likely" to endorse the recommendation, according to one of the officials. The other said that approval was expected to be a mere formality. The decision is due to be formally announced on Thursday.

The move comes as foreign investment in Turkey is already close to the lowest level reached during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's almost 20 years at the helm.

Political instability and concerns over political interference in monetary policy and rule of law have served to scare away foreign money vital for financing the country's chronic trade deficit and fuelling economic growth.

A grey listing could strike a further blow at a time when the Turkish lira, which has lost about 20 per cent of its value against the dollar this year, has hit a succession of record lows and could fall further, as markets expect, the country's central bank cuts its benchmark interest rate again.

Turkey's grey-listing will heap pressure on the EU to add the country to its own money-laundering list, which identifies high-risk non-EU jurisdictions that threaten the bloc's financial system.

An IMF study published in May this year found that FATF grey listing had "a large, significant negative effect" on a country's capital inflows.

Its authors estimated that it caused a reduction in portfolio flows — a form of short-term investment sometimes referred to as "hot money" — equivalent to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, plus a similar reduction in foreign direct investment. A 3 per cent decline would be equivalent to about \$23bn in Turkey's case.

The impact is likely to be limited, however, by the exodus of foreign capital that the country has already suffered in recent years. Total foreign investment in stocks and bonds stood at just \$30.6bn at the start of August, according to central bank data. Foreign direct investment totalled \$5.7bn last year, compared with more than \$19bn at its peak in 2007.

Indonesia Needs \$200b a Year Until 2030 for Net-Zero Emissions



JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia will need \$200 billion per annum in the next decade and over \$1 trillion annually in the next four decades to achieve its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2060, a recent government study showed, highlighting the need for massive financing in a country heavily reliant on coal.

The 108-page report was issued by Bappenas, a ministry responsible for national development planning, in light of carbon dioxide reduction development "tak[ing] a backseat following economic and social challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic" despite it being a pillar of the country's mid-term national development plan, the report said.

The study found that significant financing will need to be made to transform Indonesia into a net-zero economy by 2060, both in terms of shifting existing investments and new sources of finance.

From 2021 to 2030, the report said overall investment needs will amount to an average of \$150 billion to \$200 billion per year, \$700 billion to \$1 trillion per year in the next decade, \$1.3 trillion to \$1.6 trillion per year in 2041 to 2050, and \$2.1 trillion to \$2.2 trillion per year in the two decades after.

Funds to finance the transition can come from the phasing out of fuel subsidies as well as carbon pricing, which could generate savings and new revenues equivalent to 2.2% of gross domestic product in 2030, the report said. Indonesia recently passed an overhaul of tax regulations, introducing a carbon tax scheme.

The report also said that with "appropriate regulatory reforms, as well as de-risking measures such as guarantees, joint operations and public-private partnerships" the country can facilitate private investment as well, especially in this decade and the next, when Bappenas expects investment needs to peak.

Iran Attends Asian Cultural Festival in WIPO

LONDON (IRNA) - The first cultural and art festival of the Asian countries, named Asian Festival - Flavors of Asia, was held with participation of Iran in the World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva.

Participants from 20 Asian states showcased handicrafts, traditional textiles, national, and traditional symbols. The program started with Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang's speech. The festival's income was allocated to international charities, including the Afghanistan Refugee Women and Children Support Center.



Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Laureate Discusses “Puzzles to Unravel the Universe”

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – One of the 2021 Mustafa (PBUH) Prize laureates on Thursday delivered a speech during the Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Science Café.

On Thursday, the Mustafa (PBUH) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) hosted Cumrun Vafa, Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Harvard University, String Theorist, and a 2021 Mustafa (PBUH) Prize laureate in All Areas of Science and Technology, during a Mustafa (PBUH) Prize Science Café on the theme of String Theory in physics.

Another lecturer of the event was Hessamedin Arfaei, physicist in the area of String Theory and Professor of Physics at Sharif University of Technology, who has translated Cumrun Vafa's book *Puzzles to Unravel the Universe* into Persian.

The event was attended by many students and enthusiasts from different universities.

Vafa started his speech by saying “my interest in science dates back to the days I lived in Iran.”

He said in those days he found out that the basic mathematical puzzles are relevant to understanding the universe and physics in particular.

“I started to bring these puzzles into the format of a class held at Harvard University,” he continued.

He mentioned the efforts of Muslim scientists centuries ago who have done fascinating work in the realm of mathematics and physics.

Vafa specifically named Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, and then drew attentions to the “fascinating” work of Ibn al-Haytham.

“The height of the atmosphere was measured by Ibn Muath,” he said.

He then talked about the contributions of other scientists such as Newton, Gauss, Maxwell, and Einstein.

He stated that “the field of my research is String Theory, but I have not started it.”

“String Theory was discovered accidentally,” he continued, adding that “this theory seeks to define physics from the tiniest particles to the biggest scales— the scale of the universe.”

“Mathematics is very important in this field of research,” he added.

He then started to ask some puzzles from the audience. Through these puzzles, he led the discussion towards fundamental notions in mathematics and physics. “I want to show you the power of basic mathematical ideas in the area of physics,” he said.

He talked about ideas such as symmetry breaking, Higgs particle, the power of ‘continuity’, and ‘gravitational lens’.

At the end of his speech, a friendly Q & A session was held with the audience.

Hessamedin Arfaei, physicist in the area of String Theory and Professor of



Physics at Sharif University of Technology, began his talk by saying that “I became fascinated with String Theory 50 years ago.”

He talked about Standard model of elementary particles including three generation of matter (fermions) and interactions / force carriers (bosons). He then proceeded to explain standard model interactions

He hinted at the concept of ‘Unitarity’ in physics.

“String theory imposes the dimensions of place and time upon us,” he said, adding that according to this theory “the universe is multi-dimensional, made up of 10 dimensions.”

Prior to String Theory, it was believed that the universe is made up of 4 dimensions, he continued.

“According to String Theory, we are not able to see the other 6 dimensions because our apparatuses are not able to see them,” he added, noting that “the 6 dimensions leave footprints of them, even though we do not see them directly.”

Arfaei said that String Theory has many wonders, one of which is the concept of ‘duality’.

He then briefly hinted at ‘Brane’ in String Theory. There was a problem about it that that Vafa and his team solved,” he said.

He noted that Vafa and his team have also worked on the idea of ‘the initial singularity’.

Global Oil Refiners Crank Up Output as Margins Recover to Pre-COVID Levels

SINGAPORE (Dispatches)

- Oil refiners are ramping up output to meet a synchronized uptick in demand across Asia, Europe and the United States, but plant maintenance and high natural gas prices will constrain supply in the fourth quarter, company officials and analysts said.

This comes as profits for producing ground transportation fuels such as diesel and gasoline have rebounded globally for the first time since the start of the pandemic, as countries gradually emerge from COVID-19 movement restrictions.

A coal and natural gas crunch across Europe and Asia, which has forced some power generators to burn kerosene, diesel or fuel oil and stock up ahead of the peak winter heating demand, is also supporting global oil prices. Global crude, and key refined product prices have risen more than 60% in 2021 to multi-year highs.

“Refining margins have finally found some ground,” said Sri Paravaikkarasu, director of Asia oil at energy consultancy FGE, as she forecast a “big increase” in crude runs this winter.

The increase will be “led by India, followed by South Korea, while Taiwan and Japan will increase runs as well, as refiners try to take advantage of the current high margins”, she added. Asia's crude runs are expected to reach 29.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in the fourth quarter, versus 29.1 million bpd a year ago and 30.3 million bpd over October-December in 2019, Paravaikkarasu said.

Taiwan's Formosa Petrochemical Corp (6505.TW), one of Asia's top fuel exporters, said it plans to process 400,000 bpd in November, up from 370,000-380,000 bpd in October.

That is expected to rise to 460,000 bpd, or 79% of Formosa's capacity, in December and January 2022, spokesman KY Lin said.



“The increase in output won't happen so quickly as we have maintenance at a unit in October,” he noted. In South Korea, a major refiner plans to boost output in the fourth quarter by about 5% versus the third quarter, a source familiar with the matter said, declining to name the company.

An executive at India's Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd said the company's group refineries were operating at full capacity.

Singapore complex refining margins, a proxy for refiner profitability in top oil consuming region Asia, hit their highest since September 2019 above \$8 a barrel this month.

The margins had turned negative last year, plunging a record low in May, as the pandemic eroded demand.

In Northwest Europe, refining margins topped \$9 last week, the highest since April 2020, while U.S. Gulf Coast refining margins are currently around \$14, up nearly three-fold from the same period a year ago, Refinitiv Eikon data shows.

The spike in margins comes against the backdrop of a steady drop in inventories across key markets.

Combined oil product inventories from the United States, northwest Europe, Fujairah, Singapore and Japan fell to their lowest since 2014 as of Oct. 14, according to FGE.

Hurricane Ida disrupted operations in the world's top refiner, the United States, in the past two months, while No. 2 refiner China has curbed exports as part of reforms.

Consultancy Energy Aspects cut its China crude runs forecast by 400,000 bpd to 15.18 million bpd for the fourth quarter, as new refiner Shenghong Petrochemical has delayed its start-up and a lack of product export quotas capped state refiners' output.

Iran, Turkey Can Trade With National Currencies

ANKARA (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Farazmand said that it is possible for Iran and Turkey to trade with national currencies.

While noting that the two countries are under threat of different powers, the ambassador said that both Iran and Turkey have enough economic power to be able to trade with national currencies. He said that a currency swap deal has even been signed between the central banks of Iran and Turkey which has not come into effect yet due to the existence of arbitrary sanctions. Several factors have led to the reduction of bilateral trade between Iran and Turkey over the past few years, the ambassador added.

The unilateral US sanctions against Iran are the prime issue affecting the decline of trade between the two neighboring states, Farazmand noted.

He also referred to the coronavirus outbreak as another factor contributing to the reduction of trade level between Iran and Turkey, noting that transactions between the two countries fell sharply since two years ago when the spread of the disease began. Pointing to the preferential trade agreement between Iran and Turkey, he highlighted that the need to update the agreement has also affected the trade between Tehran and Ankara.

Iran Exports to SCO Rises 61% in H1

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian exports to countries in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) rose by 61% in value terms in the six months to September 22.

Figures by the Iranian customs administration (IRICA) published showed that Iranian shipments to the SCO countries had reached over \$9.558 billion in value terms.

Exports to the SCO also rose by 13% in volume terms to a total of more than 22.8 million metric tons, showed the figures. That comes as Iran expects its trade with SCO to increase significantly after the bloc started a formal process in mid-September to accept the country's full membership.

Iran has been an observer member in the organization for years aiming it can expand its trade ties with leading members like China while also seeking to bolster relations with Russia and landlocked countries in the Central Asia region. Both China and Russia have expressed optimism that Iran's accession to the SCO would boost trade ties across the bloc as the country can provide unique opportunities for facilitating trade between the members and countries outside the region through its vast transportation network.

However, IRICA spokesman Rouhollah Latifi said on Thursday that exports to the SCO had been rising this year even before Iran joined the bloc.

United Muslim...

FROM PAGE 1

Islam seeks unity among Muslims because it has come for the prosperity of humanity, and any rift is against this objective. Today we see this rift apparently in Muslim countries especially between the governments and the nations and this has caused Muslim world not to develop well.



The Islamic Republic of Iran as a leading nation both in strengthening unity among the Muslims and development has tried to encourage Muslims to put aside their small differences so that they can progress.

If we look at Muslim countries in any part of the world we see tension, differences and internal conflicts and this is just because of the seed of the division which has been sown by the world arrogance. Countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan and Libya are today in the hell of fire and rift because of the hostility of enemies of Islam, above all, the Zionists.

Daesh and Al-Qaeda groups or some other groups like Al-Shabab in Africa have been made by the enemies of Islam and Muslims in order to paint a negative picture of Islam and Muslims, and by calling Muslims terrorists or extremists, the makers of these groups can rule the countries and the regions.

Addressing the 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity, Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said, “Today, we are witnessing divisions and conspiracies of the enemies of Islam in all countries around the region, including Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Yemen, and we must all try to protect the Islamic community from these conspiracies”.

Ayatollah Raisi said, “The domineering system is trying to sow discord amongst the Islamic community and using its media power to undermine the power factors of the Islamic community, but the effective human resources and scientists and scholars are the greatest energy, power and opportunity of the Islamic community who must stand against the conspiracies of the enemies”.

The President added, “Insulting the holy values, separating Islamic countries from each other and exploiting scientists in the Islamic community are also among the measures taken by the domination system to weaken and prevent the formation and strengthening of the Islamic community”.

According to President Raisi, if Muslim states get united, major problems in those countries will be resolved and they can overcome the world arrogance domination. If they get united, liberation of Palestine will happen and liberation of Palestine is in dire need of unity and consolidation among world of Islam otherwise the Zionist will continue their bloodshed and the big powers will support the crimes.

Muslims should rely on their own capabilities and power for a better future because they cannot expect prosperities from other nations.

Turkish Halkbank...

FROM PAGE 1

Although the bank was not charged until two years ago, the allegations involving it surfaced in 2015 when a wealthy Turkish-Iranian gold trader was arrested on sanctions charges as he arrived in the U.S. to take his family to Disney World in Florida.

The trader — Reza Zarrab — eventually testified he paid over \$50 million in bribes to a former Turkish finance minister to help a sanction-busting scheme prosecutors say was run by Halkbank's deputy general manager for international banking, Mehmet Hakan Atilla. Prosecutors maintained that Atilla used his position to help build and protect the scheme that enabled billions of dollars in profits from Iranian oil sales to flow through world financial markets since 2011.

Atilla was convicted of five of six criminal charges against him, including conspiring to defraud the U.S., bank fraud and conspiracy to violate sanctions against Iran.

Zarrab hired Rudy Giuliani, the former New York mayor, to try to broker a deal between Turkey's president and the U.S. government to resolve the charges. The talks in 2017 failed to result in a deal.

Zarrab eventually cooperated and testified against Atilla at his trial. Atilla was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison. After Atilla's release from a U.S. prison, he returned to Turkey. The earlier prosecution against Zarrab and Atilla and the current case against Halkbank has further strained ties between the two countries.

Iran Inflation Rate...

FROM PAGE 1

The annual point-to-point inflation rate also stood at 39.2% for the similar month, a decline of 4.5% on the month to late September, said the SCI.

The figures come as economic analysts believe consumer prices could again increase in Iran in November as markets would start to react to a fresh devaluation reported for the rial. The rial was trading at around 250,000 against the U.S. dollar in mid-summer when the government led by President Ebrahim Raeisi was sworn in. The Iranian currency closed at 275,000 against the greenback on Saturday, down 1.85% against the close of trade on last day of the working week on Thursday.

China, India...

FROM PAGE 1

Chinese customs statistics also show that in the first nine months of this year, no oil was purchased directly from Iran.

According to international statistics, Iran has exported about 600,000 barrels of oil per day to china indirectly under the name of oil from other countries. It is unclear whether all of the oil Iran has supplied to china has been sold to its refineries or stored in Chinese oil storage facilities that the Islamic Republic has leased for the past three years.

Lim Takes Lead in BMW Ladies Championship

BUSAN (Dispatches) - The tournament in the port city of Busan is the only Asian event in the U.S. LPGA season this year, after stops in Shanghai, Japan and Taiwan fell off the schedule because of coronavirus restrictions. Lim, who shared top spot with compatriot An Na-rin after 36 holes, opened up a four-shot lead through 54 holes Saturday, remaining bogey-free after three rounds. Fellow South Korean players An and Ko Jin-young were tied for second.

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Morikawa Strikes New First in Japan

INZAI (AFP) - The world number three was playing from the fairway at the par-five sixth hole in his third round at Narashino Country Club outside Tokyo when he suffered a dreaded shank -- every golfer's worst nightmare. A shank is a horrible miscue where the ball is struck by the holes -- the base of the shaft -- instead of the club face, and usually results in the ball flying off at right angles to its intended target.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

MONDAY OCTOBER 25, 2021

Chelsea Hit Norwich For Seven, Man City Beat Brighton

LONDON (Dispatches) - Chelsea opened up a two-point lead at the top of the Premier League with a 7-0 demolition of Norwich, while Phil Foden starred as Manchester City moved up to second place after a 4-1 victory at Brighton on Saturday. Mason Mount scored a hat-trick for the Blues at Stamford Bridge as the European champions coped easily without first-choice strikers Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner. Mount started the rout after just eight minutes and finished it with two more in the closing stages after Ben Gibson had been sent-off for the visitors. Callum Hudson-Odoi, Reece James and Ben Chilwell were also on target for Thomas Tuchel's men, while Max Aarons' own goal summed up a sorry day for the Canaries. Mount had not scored since May and Tuchel welcomed his return to scoring form with Lukaku and Werner expected to be out for some time. "No matter how satisfied the coach is, the offensive guys need goals to be fully happy," said Tuchel. "He waited too long, so it was good that he got some goals. I agree he looked fresh again today." Norwich already look destined for a swift return to the Championship with only two points and minus-21 goal difference from their opening nine games. At the Amex Stadium, champions Manchester City underlined their determination to hold onto the title with a commanding performance. City took the lead after 12 minutes when Brighton goalkeeper Robert Sanchez spilled the ball under pressure and Ilkay Gundogan applied the finish.

Haaland Out for Several Weeks With Hip Injury

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Borussia Dortmund's star striker Erling Haaland will be sidelined for "several weeks" with a hip flexor injury, coach Marco Rose said. The 21-year-old Norwegian played the entire match as Dortmund went down 4-0 to Ajax in the Champions league on Wednesday. "Time to focus on my injury. I will be back stronger," tweeted Haaland alongside a photo of himself clapping the public. Haaland's absence is a blow for Dortmund, currently second in the Bundesliga, one point off leaders Bayern Munich. The Norwegian has already scored nine goals this season, sitting atop the league's goal-scoring charts alongside Bayern rival Robert Lewandowski. Those nine goals represent a third of all scored by Dortmund this season, while his tally of four assists is also a club best, underlining the importance Haaland has in Rose's team. Haaland had already recently sat out three matches because of a bruised thigh, but made his comeback in mid-October. His absence will also be felt by the Norwegian team, with Haaland to miss two crucial World Cup qualifiers against Latvia and the Netherlands on November 13 and 16 respectively.

"Never Give In" Is Part of United's DNA

LONDON (Dispatches) - Victory eased the pressure slightly on United's Norwegian manager after a series of disappointing results in the Premier League. Ahead of this weekend's games they are five points off leaders Chelsea and face a daunting clash with in-form Liverpool. Liverpool, the only unbeaten side in the league, could stretch their advantage over United to seven points if they win. However, Solskjaer took heart from Wednesday's come from behind win which saw superstar Cristiano Ronaldo head home the winner nine minutes from time.



But Riyad Mahrez converted Foden's pass to wrap up an emphatic win in stoppage-time. Second bottom Newcastle's wait for a Premier League win went on after a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace. Newcastle's new Saudi owners were given another reminder of the investment it will take to make the Magpies a force to be reckoned with at Selhurst Park. Interim manager Graeme Jones took charge for the first time since Steve Bruce was sacked and needed a moment of brilliance from Callum Wilson just to salvage a point. Christian Benteke headed the Patrick Vieira's men in front. Claudio Ranieri got his first win as Watford manager as the Hornets twice came from behind to stun Everton 5-2 at Goodison Park. Josh King failed to score as an Everton player last season, but hit a hat-trick to help move Watford six points clear of the relegation zone. Juraj Kucka and Emmanuel Dennis were also on target for the visitors, who scored four times in the final 12 minutes. Leeds needed a stoppage-time penalty to earn a 1-1 draw at home to Wolves. South Korean international Hwang Hee-chan opened the scoring at Elland Road. Wolves were set to move up to fifth until Joe Gelhardt was fouled inside the area in the 94th minute and Rodrigo slotted home the penalty. Burnley remain in the bottom three, but Maxwell Cornet is proving himself a shrewd signing for Sean Dyche's men as the Ivorian scored twice in a 2-2 draw at Southampton. Saints turned the game around after Cornet opened the scoring to take the lead with goals from Tino Livramento and Armando Broja. The former Lyon winger then salvaged a point for the Clarets with a thumping finish on the volley from outside the area.

Barty Pulls Out Of WTA Finals, Ends Season



SYDNEY (Dispatches) - The Australian has not played since a shock third-round loss at the U.S. Open in September and has now formally ended a year that earned her five titles, including a second major at Wimbledon after her French Open triumph in 2019. "I wanted to let everyone know that I won't be competing in any further tournaments in 2021, including the WTA Finals in Mexico," the 25-year-old said in a statement. "It was a difficult decision but I need to prioritize my body and my recovery from our 2021 season and focus on having the strongest pre-season for the Australian summer." Barty won the WTA Finals in 2019 before last year's version was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. She spent most of this year abroad because of strict quarantine rules on entering Australia, finally returning in September and undergoing a mandatory two-week stint in hotel isolation. She said she was not ready to go through that again, ending any hope of playing the WTA Finals at Guadalajara next month. "With ongoing challenges of travelling back to Queensland and quarantine requirements, I am not willing to compromise my preparation for January," she said.

Murray Bemoans Poor Attitude in Antwerp Exit



LONDON (Dispatches) - Former world number one Andy Murray said he showed a poor attitude and did not make the right decisions in Thursday's second-round exit at the European Open in Antwerp, Belgium. Murray, currently ranked 172nd, lost 6-4 7-6(6) to Argentine second seed Diego Schwartzman as the Briton failed to match his 2019 display when he triumphed in Antwerp -- the last time he won a single's title.

The 34-year-old, who had hip surgeries in 2018 and 2019, has not been able to get back to the kind of form that helped him win three major titles and two consecutive Olympic singles gold medals in London and Rio de Janeiro. "Mentally, today (Thursday) I was poor," Murray said after the match. "My attitude was poor on the court and those are two things you can control. If they're not there, that also will make the decision-making harder. "You're not going to get every single one (decision) right in the match, but you also have to be present enough to acknowledge what is actually happening in the points and why you are winning and losing points." Murray reached the third round at Wimbledon this year and suffered a first-round exit at the U.S. Open.

Bayern Boss Dismissive of FIFA's Biennial World Cup Idea



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich president Herbert Hainer became the latest high profile football figure to criticise FIFA's idea of staging a World Cup finals every two years saying "you must never sacrifice football on the altar of financial interests." "Players, coaches, everyone who bears responsibility in the clubs groan and moan about too many games -- and now the World Cup rhythm is to be increased again? That simply doesn't make sense," Hainer said in Thursday's edition of German magazine Kicker. "We have to think about the health of the players." On Wednesday, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said he wants to find a consensus on the controversial idea before a summit planned for December 20. There is already strong criticism from Europe. The German Football Association (DFB) is opposed to a World Cup every two years, an incendiary topic given the various interests at stake, between clubs and national teams, domestic leagues and international competitions. Hainer says FIFA should not tamper with the current schedule of a global finals every four years. "The rhythm has proven itself over many decades," said the boss of Bayern, who have been European champions six times. "The World Cup is one of the biggest sporting events in the world -- and not without reason," he added, fearing FIFA's proposal could "ultimately lead to over-saturation and thus damage football in the long run".

Durant Stars as Relentless Nets Reel in Sixers



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - The Nets appeared to be poised for a second straight loss following their opening defeat to Milwaukee after the Sixers pulled into a 108-98 lead with just five minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. But the Sixers hopes of extending their unbeaten start to the season evaporated as their shooting accuracy deserted them in the closing stages. The Sixers made 10 misses as the Nets turned a 10-point deficit into a 114-109 win with a 16-1 scoring run. Durant finished with 15 rebounds and 12 assists along with his 29-point haul, while LaMarcus Aldridge finished with 23 points and James Harden 20. Joe Harris added 14 off the bench while Patty Mills chipped in with 11. The Sixers led for the entire game until their late fourth-quarter collapse, going 14 points clear in the first quarter alone. But they were unable to respond when Brooklyn turned up the pace in the fourth quarter with a more physical approach. "We played with more pace there in the fourth," Durant said afterwards. "We were more aggressive defensively, more physical. "We're fine-tuning ourselves on both ends of the floor so this is a good game to see where we are. We were down early, but tried to fight out here and we got over that hump." Nets coach Steve Nash said his team, still adjusting to the absence of Kyrie Irving who is unavailable due to his refusal to take a Covid-19 vaccine, had been "relentless" over the closing stage.