

The Kremlin Spokesman Announced The Possibility of a Meeting Between The Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia by the End of This Year and the Readiness Of Both Sides for the Meeting

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri to Meet With Turkish Counterpart Sedat Onal and Other Turkish Officials and Exchange of Views on Recent Developments In the Region and World

VOL. XXVII, No. 7331 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9, 2021 - MEHR 17, 1400

2 DOMESTIC

Neighborhood Policy Depends on Spirit of Goodwill



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

New CBI Governor Pledges Tight Monetary Policy



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

Greece Ratifies Landmark Intra-NATO Defense Pact With France



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

France to Play Spain in Nations League Final



> SEE PAGE 8

Tehran Assures Lebanon of Full Support

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has reaffirmed Iran's strong support for Lebanon, a sanctions-hit nation battered by an economic crisis, saying the Islamic Republic is ready to play an active role in promoting the Arab country's development projects.

During a trip to Beirut, Amir-Abdollahian held separate meetings with Lebanon's high-ranking officials, including President Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. He is also scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Najib Mikati later in the day.

During talks with Aoun, the two sides exchanged views about mutual relations and the latest developments in the region.

Amir-Abdollahian said Iran is ready to play an active role in development plans in Lebanon, particularly in power plant projects, given the country's technical and engineering capabilities.

Aoun, for his part, said the Lebanese people and officials regard Iran as a friendly country and commended the Islamic Republic's unwavering support for his country.

See Page 7

Iran Not to Accept Any Geopolitical Change in Region



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign minister has ringed the alarm about Israel's presence in the Caucasus, stressing Tehran will not tolerate a geopolitical change in the region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is deeply concerned by Israel's presence in the Caucasus," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Wednesday, stressing, Tehran "will not accept a map change in the region."

He made the remarks at a press conference with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow.

He added that Iran expects Russia to be sensitive to any potential changes in the borders in the region and the presence of terrorists and movements of the Zionist regime that threaten regional peace and stability.

The remarks came in reaction to recent developments along Iran's northwestern borders and the latest remarks by Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev.

Iran launched a drill, codenamed Fatehan-e Kheybar (Conquerors of Khaybar), in the northwest of the country on Friday, in line with efforts to boost its defense and deterrent capabilities in the face of potential threats.

Amir-Abdollahian said the Republic of Azerbaijan has held six maneuvers with some foreign parties, but Iran held only one exercise.

In addition to the presence of Daesh terrorists in the region, Iran has been suspicious of Azerbaijan's links to the Israeli regime, too.

Elsewhere in the presser, Amir-Abdollahian said, Iran and Russia "have agreed to discuss a treaty on strategic cooperation in the future, and soon, we will have a draft and we will issue a road map that will be the basis of our long-term cooperation."

He lauded the bilateral ties between the two countries but underlined the need to "make a leap" in the promotion of cooperation.

He also praised his "fruitful" talks with his Russian counterpart on regional issues, including Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and the Palestinian issue.

"We support the establishment of an inclusive government with all stakeholders included," he commented on Afghanistan.

He also said that Tehran was ready to make arrangements for Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi for a visit to Tehran.

"We welcome any visit by the IAEA head to follow up on technical issues," Amir-Abdollahian said, but expressed Iran's dismay over the failure of the UN nuclear agency to condemn the terrorist incident at a nuclear facility in Karaj in north-central Iran.

See Page 7

Iran Missile Capability Based On Int'l Commitments

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Representative at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly said that Iran's missile defense capability is within the framework of its inalienable rights and international commitments.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly First Committee meeting on Thursday, Heidar Ali Balouji said, "The undeniable fact about the JCPOA is that it was only Iran that complied with the JCPOA regulations and the three European countries and the United States did not fulfill their commitments under this document."

"Iran is committed to the implementation of the JCPOA, provided that other members fulfill their commitments and all unjust sanctions are lifted promptly and verified," he added.

"Iran's missile defense capability is within the framework of our inalienable rights and Iran's international commitments," the envoy noted.

Balouji went on to say, "European countries, in addition to fulfilling their obligations under the JCPOA, must put pressure on the United States to return to the full implementation of the JCPOA and UN Security Council Resolution 2231."

See Page 7

ViewPoint: Boycott-Versus-Sanctions

The emergence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979 was an awakening for the world oppressed people especially for the Muslim nations and the Palestinians as it showed them that they can stand up and resist against any arrogant country provided that there is will.

Since 1979, the oppressed people and Muslim nations have adopted new strategy for resistance against the world arrogance and they cornered the oppressors and put them in an intolerable condition so that the oppressors have resorted to the weapon of sanctions. Since the arrogant countries are unable to defeat the strong determination of the nations, they have resorted to imposition of sanctions and unfortunately the lackey governments and rulers are cooperating with those oppressors.

On Wednesday Algerian media reported that Algerian activists launched a widespread social media campaign demanding the boycott of French products and expulsion of France's ambassador from the North African country following recent incendiary remarks by the Elysée Palace occupant.

Algerians took to Twitter and other social media platforms to reflect the extent of the country's popular resentment of the offensive remarks recently made by French President Emmanuel Macron about Algeria's ancient history.

Macron accused the ruling elite in Algeria of "feeding a grudge against France," and questioned the existence of an Algerian nation before French colonialism entered the country in 1830.

The Algerian activists called the French president "ignorant" and urged a decisive response to Macron's "encroachment" on the country's history by promoting the hashtags of "Boycott of France" and "Boycott French Products" as well as "Expulsion of the French Ambassador, a Popular Demand."

The "Boycott French Products" was widely circulated in Arabic, French and English, with the activists sharing tables that classified French products and introduced Algerian products as a substitute.

In his remarks reported by the French newspaper Le Monde on Sunday, Macron claimed that the Algerian government had "totally re-written" the country's history "not based on truths" but "on a discourse of hatred toward France."

The French president also ordered the number of Algerian and Moroccan visas to be sharply reduced by 50 percent compared to 2020.

Paris said the decision had been made necessary by the former French colony's failure to do enough to allow illegal migrants in France to be returned.

See Page 7

Terrorism Shouldn't Be Associated With Religions

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has censured unilateral designations of states as supporters of terror, saying terrorism should not be linked to any religion and ethnicity or equated with legitimate national struggles to get rid of foreign occupation and achieve self-determination.

Speaking on behalf of NAM at the 6th Committee of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Zahra Ershadi, deputy permanent representative of Iran to the UN, said the forum of 120 developing world states unequivocally rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

She warned that terrorist acts constitute a flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights regulations, and deprive people of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

Such acts, she added, also endanger national, regional and international security, leaving adverse effects on economic and social development and destroying infrastructure.

"The NAM reiterates its respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all states in accordance with the UN Charter," Ershadi said.

See Page 7

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39
www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com
@irannewsdaily

U.S. Sanctions Harming UN Charter

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations' office in Geneva says the United States' sanctions targeting the countries that host displaced Afghans have come to interfere with their efforts to properly help out the refugees.

Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh said the "unilateral sanctions have seriously jeopardized" humanitarian endeavors by countries, such as the Islamic Republic that have been involved in assisting the displaced Afghans, to "timely address the needs of the refugees," IRNA reported.

The diplomat made the remarks at a meeting held on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s Programme.

"The oppressive American sanctions' adverse repercussions have overshadowed the host countries' capacities to support the refugees, and have [therefore] prevented the realization of the principle of humanitarian solidarity in the efforts that are aimed at helping out the people of Afghanistan," he noted.

Iran hosts close to 800,000 "registered" Afghan refugees and upwards of 2.3 million undocumented ones.

The number of the refugees have been on the rise since August, when the Taliban militant group rose back to power in the Central Asian country.

The Iranian official, meanwhile, underlined the need for creation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan that represents all the country's ethnicities and religious inclinations, respects the principles of human rights, and establishes good-neighborly relations with the country's neighbors.

Addressing the meeting, the UNHCR's chief, Filippo Grandi expressed gratitude on the part of the UN refugee agency for the Islamic Republic's efforts to host the Afghan refugees, especially given the adverse circumstances that have been brought about by the coronavirus' pandemic.

He urged the international community to do more to support Iran and Pakistan's respective roles in assisting the spillover of the displaced people from Afghanistan.

President Hails Domestic Vessel Production

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi has hailed endeavors to produce homegrown vessels as a manifestation of Iran's self-sufficiency, pledging to support them, as he embarked on yet another weekend provincial trip.

"The activities carried out for design and production of vessels in different classes are a manifestation of self-sufficiency. While having a defensive nature, they also play an important role in reinvigorating the maritime economy and preventing capital outflows from the country," Raeisi said on Friday.

He made the remarks during a visit to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Shahid Mahallati Shipyard in the southern province of Bushehr.

Neighborhood Policy Depends on Spirit of Goodwill

TEHRAN (IP) – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said that Tehran's neighborhood policy depends on the spirit of goodwill, good neighborliness, and constructive cooperation, which this policy should be bilateral.

President Raisi expressed his condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Reza (AS) and said: "In the history of Islam, after the migration of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina, which founded the Islamic civilization with the Prophetic tradition, no migration is more important than the migration of Imam Reza (AS) from Medina to Tous, which shaped the Razavi lifestyle and movement."

Speaking at the cabinet meeting, Ebrahim Raisi stated that the emigration of the great Imams from Ahmad Bin Musa (AS) and Her Holiness Masoumeh (AS) to other Imams to different parts of our country was part of the Eighth Imam's trip to Iran, saying: "The entire emigration and presence of Imam Reza (AS) marked a civilisation for the region, the effects of which are still alive."

Stating that real attention to the people and especially the needy is an essential point in the lifestyle of Imam Reza (AS), he said: "I want to take advantage of this point and emphasize to the members of the government and all those who serve in the name of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish that merciful Imam in this regard."

Raisi further stated that after the initial success in widespread vaccination, these days the priority is to control the market of essential goods, adding: "The people, unions and guilds themselves are the first sectors that should be active in monitoring the market of basic goods so that no abuse happens in this regard."

He said: "At the beginning of the government, we announced that the first priority is the fight against coronavirus and widespread vaccination, and the Minister of Health announced last week that with the efforts of the medical staff, we have been able to reach 70% in vaccinating people, which is commendable." The President said: "The market regulation headquarters will meet continuously until the market stabilizes, because that is the philosophy of our presence that people should feel market stability."

Raisi said: "All government departments, from the Ministries of Agricultural Jihad, Industry, Mines and Trade, Cooperation, Labor and Social Welfare to other ministries and departments, especially the media, and especially the national media, should help the government regulate and stabilise the market."



Emphasizing that all sectors of government should make market regulation their priority, Raisi said: "We should all try to succeed in stabilizing the market, just as we have achieved relative success in vaccination."

In another part of his speech, emphasizing that the neighborhood policy has always been considered necessary for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the President said: "The neighborhood policy depends on the spirit of goodwill, good neighborliness and constructive cooperation, and this policy should be bilateral."

Raisi described constructive cooperation as the main factor of economic growth and prosperity of all nations in the region and added: "The Caucasus region has the potential to be a good example of this close cooperation."

Emphasizing the importance of regional security, the President said: "Regional security must be ensured through multilateral endogenous regional mechanisms, and the intervention of evil and ambitious elements is to the detriment of nations."

Raisi stressed that experience has shown that outsourcing approaches to security ultimately fail, stressing, "If countries undermine the national identity and morale of their armies by relying on foreign troops, they will have no one to help them in times of crisis."

Raisi also stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is vigilant and active in its national interests, saying, "The presence of the Zionist Regime and terrorist organizations such as ISIS in our surroundings is against the stability of countries and regional security and will not be tolerated by the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Iran Hopes for New Page in Friendship With Japan Under Kishida

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raeisi has offered congratulations to Fumio Kishida on his election as Japan's prime minister, expressing hope that the new premier's term in office will open a new page in friendly ties between the two countries.

"On behalf of the Iranian nation and government, I sincerely congratulate Your Excellency on your election as prime minister of the friendly country of Japan. I hope your tenure will open a new chapter in the friendship between the two states," Raeisi wrote in a message to Kishida on Thursday.

He expressed confidence that both sides would make joint efforts to enhance cooperation in all areas, especially in the economic and commercial fields, given their friendly and historical relations.

The Iranian president emphasized that Tehran's policy has always been to help "strengthen regional and international peace and security under the auspices of justice and mutual adherence to international obligations and agreements" besides "observing the sovereignty of independent countries and protecting the rights of nations."

Fumio Kishida was formally elected into office as Japan's 100th prime minister in a special parliamentary session on Monday, after winning a race to lead the country's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) with a pledge to bring the world's third-largest economy out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kishida won 311 votes as opposed to the 124 for opposition leader Yukio Edano.

Sanctions Target Ordinary People, Constitute Terrorist Act

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations says sanctions against countries are tantamount to a "terrorist act" as they target the daily lives of ordinary people.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks in the UN General Assembly's Sixth Committee while he was outlining the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the fight against terrorism.

Iran's permanent representative to the UN condemned all forms of terrorism, including economic terrorism and pharmaceutical sanctions, saying, "Sanctions target ordinary people and are considered a terrorist act."

Stressing Iran's inviolable commitment in combating terrorism, Takht-Ravanchi said the only way to fight terrorism is to fight its roots, including occupation and military intervention in other countries. "Regardless of whether unilateral sanctions affect countries' ability to fight terrorism, these sanctions target ordinary people and are aimed at creating chaos and disorder in countries and pitting people against governments, it is in itself considered a terrorist act," the Iranian envoy said.

Takht-Ravanchi underlined that the lack of a comprehensive global convention on counterterrorism and the lack of a global consensus on a single definition for terrorism constitute a pretext for some countries to abuse the application of double standards in the fight against terrorism.

Now, the new U.S. administration under President Joe Biden, says it wants to compensate for Trump's mistake and rejoin the deal, but it is showing an overriding propensity for maintaining some of the sanctions as a tool of pressure.

Tehran insists that all sanctions should first be removed in a verifiable manner before the Islamic Republic reverses its remedial measures.

Tehran Ranks 155th In World Happiest Report

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The 2021 World Happiest Report, issued by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, indicates that among the 186 cities in the world, Tehran is ranked 155th among the most unsymphonized cities in the world.

The report is published annually by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network shows that the effects of covid-19 on the happiness and differences of countries in their success rates in reducing mortality and maintaining the health and continuity of society are in the spotlight of the 2021 report.

In this report, Helsinki, the capital of Finland, ranked first, and Mashhad was ranked 156th after Tehran.

Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, is the most unfamiliar city in the world and is ranked 186th.

Iran Ready to Expand Relations With Tajikistan

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian President expressed Tehran's readiness to further expand all-out cooperation with Tajikistan on Wednesday.

President Ebrahim Raisi made the comments in a message to Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan, to congratulate his birthday.

In the message, Raisi expressed his gratitude for the hospitality of the Tajik president during the recent visit to Dushanbe for the SCO summit.

"I declare the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to further expand all-out cooperation with Tajikistan", he said in the message.

He also expressed hope to host his Tajik counterpart in Tehran in the near future.

"I wish health and success to your excellency, your honorable family, and dear people of the Republic of Tajikistan", he added.

The presidents of Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey also congratulated the Tajik president on his birthday in separate telephone calls.

Iran Not to Let Presence of Zionists, Takfiris on Its Borders

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Political Deputy of Political-Ideological Office of Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces said that Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow presence of Zionists and Takfiris in northwestern borders of the country.

Brigadier General Rasoul Sanaei-Rad made the remarks on the sidelines of the graduation ceremony for military cadets of Iran's Armed Forces Academies and reiterated that the powerful Islamic Iran will not allow presence of terrorists, whether Takfiris or Zionists, on northwestern borders of the country.

Turning to the recent incidents took place in northwestern region of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brigadier general said, "In the events that are taking place in the northwestern part of the country, we know that Zionist regime and some trans-regional powers are behind these incidents and seek to take advantage of neighboring countries for their benefits."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Brigadier General Sanaei-Rad referred to the recent military drills launched by Iran's Armed Forces in northwest part of the country and stated, "Staging a military drill entitled 'Conquerors of Kheibar' in northwest part of the country conveyed a strong message to enemies of the country that Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow presence of terrorists, whether Takfiri or Zionist, near its borders."

Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any geopolitical changes in the region and considers it 'important' to preserve its territorial integrity, observe international law, respect international rights and also rights of its neighbors, Political Deputy of Political-Ideological Office of Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces added.

Tehran Ties With Muscat Friendly, Exemplary

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani said on Wednesday that Iran's relations with Oman are friendly and exemplary.

Baqeri Kani made the remarks in a meeting with Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi in Muscat.

He said that the new Iranian government's policy is to foster further interaction with the neighboring countries.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed the latest developments in the region.

The Omani foreign minister, for his part, said that relations between Iran and Oman are based on mutual trust.

Albusaidi noted that Iran is a key player and influential power in the region.

11th Session of Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Political Consultations Held

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - 11th Session of Iran-Pakistan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in Islamabad on Tuesday with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Baqeri Kani and Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood.

A foreign ministry statement said, during the session the two sides reviewed entire spectra of bilateral relations in all areas including political, economic, trade, connectivity, security, energy, education, and people-to-people exchanges. The two sides also had a comprehensive exchange of views on the regional situation.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary congratulated the Iranian side on full membership of SCO.

Welcoming the Deputy Foreign Minister on his first visit to Pakistan after assumption of office, the Foreign Secretary expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory in bilateral relations. He stated that the recent high-level interactions have further enhanced common understanding on matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood underlined the importance of closer coordination to enhance trade and economic relations in order to achieve its true potential.

It was emphasized that regular convening of various institutional mechanisms, including Joint Economic Commission and Joint Trade Committee, would be instrumental in overcoming existing challenges.

The two sides underlined complementarities in the regional projects and agreed that these would transform the region into a pivotal hub for trade, transportation links, and connectivity.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at mutual cooperation at multilateral fora, including at the UN, OIC, ECO and reaffirmed the resolve to continue collaboration on global and regional issues of common interests.

On Afghanistan, the Foreign Secretary briefed his Iranian counterpart on Pakistan's contribution to efforts for peace and stability. He highlighted that after 40 years of war in Afghanistan, there was an opportunity to end the conflict and establish sustainable peace in the country.

The current situation demanded positive engagement of the international community, urgent provision of humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people, and measures to help build a sustainable economy.

It was agreed that the two countries would coordinate closely at bilateral and regional level to reinforce efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The two sides agreed to maintain the current momentum of high-level bilateral exchanges and strengthen mutually-beneficial cooperation in diverse fields.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:51
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:55
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:43
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:06

34. So his Lord hearkened to him (in his prayer), and turned away from him their snare:
Verily He heareth and knoweth (all things).
35. Then it occurred to the men, after they had seen the signs, (that it was best)
to imprison him for a time.
Surah 12. Joseph (34 - 35)

New CBI Governor Pledges Tight Monetary Policy

IRAN NEW ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's newly appointed chief banker Ali Salehabadi has vowed he would introduce a tight monetary policy to control inflation in the country.

Hours after he was named Central Bank of Iran (CBI) governor on Wednesday, Salehabadi said he would prevent any further expansion of money supply in Iran while trying to stop excessive borrowing of the banks from the CBI.

"We will try to control the monetary base and prevent extra borrowing of the banks from the CBI resources in order to control the market," said the new CBI governor.

Salehabadi, 44, will be the youngest ever banker in charge of the CBI. He is a financial management PhD from the University of Tehran and has served as head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) of Iran between 2005 and 2014 before becoming the CEO and chairman of the board at Export Development Bank of Iran.

A key legacy of his time as SEO head was to set up various bodies and departments in the organization, including a religious committee to check if trading complies with Islamic principles.



He told the Iranian state TV after his appointments was announced on Wednesday that the CBI and the Iranian finance ministry would cooperate to prevent any further attempt by the government to finance its budget deficits through expanding the money supply.

Salehabadi said that controlling rising foreign currency prices would also be one of his top priorities.

"We have thought about required mechanisms to restore calm to the exchange market in the upcoming days and weeks," said Salehabadi.

He was last in charge of Iran Export Development Bank.

Iran's rial has continued to drop against major international currencies since new President Ebrahim Raisi came into office in August.

The rial rebounded slightly on Wednesday to sell for 279,300 against the U.S. dollar.

Iranians Spent \$7b On Real Estate in Turkey

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - An Iranian MP says Iran has repeatedly saved political life of the Turkish president.

Mojtaba Yousefi, an Iranian lawmaker representing the city of Ahvaz at Parliament, has said after Iran played a key role in saving Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from going down in the 2016 coup, this time around, Iranian nationals pulled back Turkey from the brink of bankruptcy by buying real estate in the country. Yousefi said from 2018 to 2020, Iran lost \$7 billion in expenditure by Iranians on housing in Turkey.

He added that in response to the purchase of real estate in Turkey by Iranians, the Turkish government made hostile moves against Iran.

Experts and observers warn against the outflow of currency to buy real estate in Turkey and at the same time emphasize that the risk of investing in the real estate market of countries such as Turkey or Georgia in the hope of obtaining residency is high due to changes in the laws of such countries.

Tehran, Yerevan Agree to Keep Caucasus Transit Route Open

TABRIZ (IRNA) - Deputy Minister of Road and Urbanization Kheyrollah Khademi said that Iranian and Armenian officials have held effective meetings, agreeing to keep the Caucasus transit route open.

Speaking to reporters while paying a visit to the Nurdaz border cross in Northwest Iran, Khademi said that Iranian and Armenian officials agreed on three decisions.

The first decision is to keep open the transit route connecting Iran to Armenia and thence to Georgia, according to the official.

He added that the second decision was to operationalize an alternative route offered by Armenia and also relocate a 20-kilometer part of the existing route which crosses Azerbaijan Republic as the third decision.

Iran and Armenia have agreed to reconstruct hazardous spots in Tato transit road in Armenia, while the implementation of another road as the fourth piece of North-South transit route was ongoing, according to Khademi.

He said that the fourth piece of the road would have 15 kilometers of tunnels and it would take five years to complete.

Tehran, Baku Review Ways to Develop Communications Cooperation

ISTANBUL (IP) - Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan reviewed ways to develop communications and information technology cooperation.

Iranian Minister of Communications and Information Technology Isa Zare Pour met his Azerbaijani counterpart Rashad Nabiyeu in Istanbul on the sidelines of the 12th meeting of the Communication and Information Council of the eight developing countries in the region.

After the meeting, Zare Pour said: "We are trying to solve the problems of most of the neighboring countries caused by the digital platforms of the trans-regional countries by developing interactions and establishing regional sovereignty in communication."

He announced a bilateral meeting and talks with his Turkish counterpart as one of his plans for visiting Turkey.

Domestic Demand for Gasoline Rises by 14%



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran reports a 14% surge in demand for gasoline in the first half of the year that started in March.

A report shows that demand for gasoline increased considerably in Iran in the six months to late September despite restrictions imposed on movement over the period to curb the spread of the coronavirus in the country.

The Thursday report by the official IRNA news agency said that gasoline use inside Iran had been around 85 million liters per day on average in the first half of calendar year that ended September 22.

The figure was a 14% increase compared to March-September 2020 when average gasoline consumption in Iran was about 75 million liter per day, said the report.

Iranian government authorities are concerned that a fresh surge in demand for gasoline could affect surplus supplies that are normally earmarked for exports.

Experts believe that rising demand could even force Iran to resume imports of gasoline after nearly a decade of self-sufficiency in supplying the fuel to the motorists in the country.

Iran introduced a series of controversial fuel price hikes in November 2019 mainly to control the rising demand and prevent smuggling of cheap fuel into the neighboring countries.

The measure caused gasoline consumption to drop from record highs of over 110 million liters per day to just over 50 million liters per day for a short period in late 2019.

It also caused many motorists to switch to alternative fuels like compressed natural gas (CNG) which is abundant in Iran and even cheaper than the heavily subsidized gasoline.

Gasoline demand had hit record lows of around 40 million liters per day in April 2020 when Iran introduced its first lockdown to curb the coronavirus.

Iran's Maneuverability Power Increased With SCO Membership

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of UNESCO's Silk Road and Business Workgroup, said that taking proper advantage of unique opportunity of presence in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and expansion of trade ties with regional powers will lead to Iran's increased economic maneuverability in world.

Mehdi Karimi-Tafreshi said that membership in SCO in which such big world powers as China and India are present will have lots of economic and commercial, transportation, transit, security, and even cultural privileges for Iran.

"The world is passing through the western to the post-western world, and Iran has welcomed the acceptance of its request for permanent membership at a block led by Russia and China, which is turning towards east, and can mean the opening of doors towards the large Asian countries and defeating the western sanctions, particularly those of the U.S.," he added.

The Head of UNESCO's Silk Road and Business Workgroup said that ever since the beginning years after the establishment of the SCO presented his permanent membership request to that organization, which was in accordance with the legal and diplomatic norms initially dealt with as Iran's observer status.

"The president is trying to strengthen the regional treaties, and to expand Iran's trade ties the way it was with Iraq and Afghanistan during the US maximum pressure era, with the other countries, even in the framework of bartered transactions," added Karimi-Tafreshi.

He said that the SCO member-countries' nations have half of the world population and 20% of the world's gross national production (GNP) is in member-countries of that organization.

Karimi-Tafreshi, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Iranian Industries Confederation, said that the SCO has a bright future, as at least three members of the SCO, namely China, India and Russia are among the top 10 economic world powers, and during the course of the next ten years their status will even improve more.

Iran Fully Relying on Home-Grown Vaccine Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran Veterinary Organization (IVO) says the country is no longer reliant on foreign suppliers for vaccines needed to tackle the foot-and-mouth disease.

IVO chief Alisafar Mankanli said on Wednesday that domestic manufacturers of FMD vaccines had for a first time provided enough supplies of the jab for use in the country's livestock sector.

"This (calendar) year 100% of the country's demand for vaccine to battle the foot-and-mouth disease has been supplied through domestic production and we have reached self-sufficiency in this regard," said Mankanli.

The official said that Iranian vaccine developers are currently capable of supplying seed stocks as well as active ingredients needed for manufacturing FMD vaccines inside the country.

He said that local FMD vaccine brands were over

75% cheaper than their foreign rivals, adding that prices had become even more competitive in recent years.

Mankanli said that Iran was preparing to launch exports of FMD vaccines, adding that nearly 22 million doses of the jabs were available for shipping to neighboring countries of Turkey, Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Once an epicenter of the foot-and-mouth disease, Iran has managed to largely control the virus through extensive vaccination programs implemented in recent years.

Government figures show that 28 out of 31 Iranian provinces have eradicated the disease that can cause lameness and lesions in cattle and sheep.

Iran has reported increased activity in its agriculture and livestock sectors in recent years as the government keeps encouraging more exports amid plans to create more jobs and diversify the economy away from crude revenues.

Tehran Ready to Open WIPO Office

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The head of State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties expressed Iran's readiness on Wednesday for opening World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) office in the country.

Zabihollah Khodaeian made the remarks in a meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, with Deputy Director General of WIPO Regional and National Development Sector Hasan Kleib.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the third day of the Sixty-Second Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO.

As Khodaeian announced, the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to have close ties with WIPO.

Referring to the country's national capacities and infrastructures, the official said that the country is pursuing implementation of Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) project, launch of school classes with Persian Language in the region in summer, and establishment of educational center for intellectual property.

For his part, Kleib said the process of launching TISC offices in Iran will start soon.

The current conditions are appropriate for having interaction with Iran, he added.

He went on to say that WIPO is ready to hold summer classes in the region for students in Persian-speaking countries.

As he underlined, WIPO is ready to support Iranian small and medium-sized companies and entrepreneurs to enter world markets.

WIPO introduces itself as a global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information, and cooperation.

Established in 1967, WIPO has 193 member states.



Iran Helps Restore Yemen Hospital's Emergency Ward

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has helped restore an emergency ward at a key hospital in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, which had stopped functioning 25 years ago after excessive longevity of its operation rendered it incapable of serving patients.

Iran's Ambassador to Yemen Hassan Irlou re-inaugurated the al-Jomhuri Hospital's Emergency Gynecological and Obstetric Operations Ward on Tuesday, Yemen's Sanaa 24 news outlet reported.

The envoy used the ceremony to reassert the Islamic Republic's resolve to provide the Yemeni people with medical and humanitarian assistance. "The hospital's restoration went underway at the request of Dr. Taha al-Motavakkel, the Yemeni National Salvation Government's health minister," Irlou noted. The renovation operation, he added, has been taking place "within the framework of the friendly countries' cooperation, and would continue in all areas."

Peru President Names Environmentalist as New PM

LIMA (Dispatches) - Peru swore in an environmental activist as prime minister, replacing a controversial leftwing figure in the politically tumultuous South American nation.

The country's current leftist leader Pedro Castillo came to power in July facing a lengthy to-do list, including constitutional reform, but battled to get his cabinet approved and narrowly staved off political collapse earlier this year.

He gave no reason over his decision to remove Guido Bellido -- a hardline leftist and political novice, whose appointment was controversial from the start -- and replace him with Mirtha Vasquez.



More Than 100 Haitians Repatriated From Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - More than 100 Haitians flew home on a repatriation flight from Mexico, the country's migration department said, as part of an agreement to address the rise in migration on the U.S. border.

Authorities carried out "the return of migrants from Haiti, in compliance with human rights and in agreement with consular authorities of that country," the National Migration Institute said Wednesday.

The 129 Haitians departed from Tapachula, Chiapas to the International Airport of Port-au-Prince, the statement added.



Greece Ratifies Landmark Intra-NATO Defense Pact With France



ATHENS (Dispatches) - Greece on Thursday ratified a mutual defense pact with France, the first between two NATO members.

The two countries are already bound to help each other from an attack originating outside the alliance. But the Strategic Partnership on Defense and Security for the first time joins two NATO members to support one another from an attack originating inside the alliance.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis hailed the agreement as the cornerstone of an independent European defense policy. "The defense of European interests in the Mediterranean now acquires new substance," Mitsotakis told parliament. "If attacked, our country will have at its side the most powerful military on the continent, the sole European nuclear power."

Article 2 of the Partnership states that the pair will assist each other "with all the means at their disposal, in the event that armed force is needed, if they both ascertain that an attack is taking place against the territory of either."

Greece's main security threat comes from fellow NATO member Turkey.

The two nearly came to open hostilities in August last year as they battled over their conflicting claims to the Eastern Mediterranean.

They nearly went to war over the Imia islets in the Aegean in 1996, and over oil and gas exploration in 1987. The greatest threat of war during the last century came in 1974, when Turkey militarily intervened in Cyprus, in response to a brief Greek-backed coup.

"We've lived with NATO's unwillingness [to deal with Turkey] since the 1950s, because Article 5 doesn't cover threats among alliance members," said Athanasios Platias, professor of strategy at the University of Piraeus.

According to Mitsotakis, Greece "has been negotiating since 1974 ... for such a treaty."

The pact is Greece's second formal security guarantee against Turkey. It signed a mutual defence pact with the United Arab Emirates last November.

Turkish-French relations have also deteriorated since Ankara assumed a military role in the Libyan civil war in October 2019. France sees Turkey as a rival for influence in North Africa.

Mitsotakis and French president Emmanuel Macron oversaw the signing of the Partnership on September 28.

They also announced Greece will buy up to four French-built Belharra frigates and up to four French GoWind corvettes with state-of-the-art radar and hypersonic missiles for up to \$5bn. Greece has also committed to buy 24 French Rafale fighter jets for \$2.5bn.

There has been no official reaction about the Partnership from Turkey.

Greece and Turkey have increasingly clashed over rights to undersea oil and gas.

NATO Says Russia Expulsions Not Linked to Specific Event

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The expulsion of eight members of Russia's mission to NATO is not linked to a particular event, but the alliance needs to be vigilant in the face of "malign" Russian activity, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday.

Stoltenberg said the eight, whose expulsion was announced on Wednesday, were "undeclared Russian intelligence officers". "This decision is not linked to any particular event, but we have seen over some time now, an increase in Russian malign activity, and therefore we need to be vigilant," he told a news conference.

The activities of the eight were not in line with their accreditations, Stoltenberg said, also describing relations with Russia as at their lowest point since the end of the Cold War.



CIA Steps Up Spying Contest With China With New Unit

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency announced Thursday a new China-focused unit that underscored its view of Beijing as the country's toughest long-term adversary.

CIA Director William Burns said in a statement that the new China Mission Center will address the challenge China poses to all of the U.S. spy agency's mission areas.

"CMC will further strengthen our collective work on the most important geopolitical threat we face in the 21st century, an increasingly adversarial Chinese government," Burns said.

The announcement parallels the broader shift of the administration of President Joe Biden to confronting China as its leading "strategic competitor." In June Biden announced a new task force at the Pentagon to assess and respond to Beijing's military challenge.

Burns' announcement came after the CIA and FBI have unearthed dozens of cases of China recruiting U.S. citizens to supply it classified or corporate proprietary information, and using Chinese citizens working in the United States as intelligence collectors as well.

It also comes as U.S. intelligence sees their Chinese rivals making use of their strength in the global electronics market and in hacking to penetrate U.S. government and private computer networks.

Underscoring the challenge from Beijing as well as other rivals like Pakistan, the CIA recently sent a memo to its arms around the world admitting that it had lost dozens of its own covert informants in other countries, some captured or killed, according to the New York Times and Washington Post.

"Throughout our history, CIA has stepped up to meet whatever challenges come our way.... And now facing our toughest geopolitical test in a new era of great power rivalry, CIA will be at the forefront of this effort," Burns said. Burns, a veteran diplomat who became CIA director in March, also announced a new position, CIA chief technology officer, and a new Transnational and Technology Mission Center.

CIA director in March, also announced a new position, CIA chief technology officer, and a new Transnational and Technology Mission Center.

Pakistan Quake Kills at Least 20, Injures Hundreds

QUETTA (Dispatches) - An earthquake of magnitude 5.7 hit southern Pakistan in the early hours of Thursday, killing 20 people, most of them women and children, and injuring about 300, at a time when many victims were asleep, authorities said.

The earthquake struck at a shallow depth of about 20 km (12 miles), with its epicenter 102 km (62 miles) east of the city of Quetta, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said.

"I was sleeping when suddenly my entire house jolted," Munir Shah, 40, a resident of Harnai district in Balochistan province, told Reuters by telephone.

"I took my children and wife outside. It was a terrifying situation as houses in Harnai were collapsing, my house was also damaged," he added.

"I found a large number of people under debris. Some of them might have died."

More than 100 mud houses collapsed and many buildings were damaged, said district official Sohail Anwar. Television images showed buildings with gaping cracks, caved-in roofs and crumpled walls.

About 250 homes collapsed and many people were killed by falling roofs and crumbling walls in the district's Babu Mohallah neighbourhood, said Nawab Khan, a local journalist.

"The entire town is a picture of devastation, as no house looks safe, thousands of people are rendered homeless and are under open sky," Khan said, adding that almost 70% of power supply to the district had been disrupted.

Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered immediate assessment of the damages and offered condolences to families that lost loved ones, adding, "I have ordered immediate assistance on an emergency basis ... for the earthquake victims."

Social media showed houses shaking and light fittings swaying as the quake struck. Stunned residents later gathered in the streets in the dark. Geo Television carried CCTV footage of trucks shaking.

Rescuers sifted rubble for survivors, with some of the injured being treated on stretchers in the street by torchlight from mobile telephones.



Taiwan Will Ensure Regional Peace

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan will continue to play its role as a member of the international community and ensure regional peace and stability, President Tsai Ing-wen told a visiting delegation of French senators on Thursday amid escalating tensions with China.

The four senators, led by former defense minister Alain Richard, arrived in Taiwan on Wednesday despite the strong objections of China, which views the island as its own territory and is always angered by visits of foreign officials.

The visit by the senators comes after four straight days, beginning last Friday, of massed Chinese air force missions into Taiwan's air defense zone - moves that drew the concern of the United States and its allies.

Speaking to the senators at the presidential office, Tsai thanked France for its concern about the situation in the Taiwan Strait and support for its international participation.

"We will continue to fulfil our responsibilities as members of the international community to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. We also hope to make more contributions to the world along with France," she added.

Richard, head of the French Senate's Taiwan Friendship Group, was France's defence minister from 1997 to 2002 under President Jacques Chirac. Richard has visited Taiwan twice before, in 2015 and 2018.

Tsai said Taiwan was "very moved" Richard decided to come, despite what she described as "pressure" - a reference to China.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen stands next to French Senator Alain Richard during their meeting in Taipei, Taiwan October 7, 2021. Central News Agency/Pool via REUTERS

In March, the Chinese Embassy in Paris warned against lawmakers meeting Taiwanese officials, prompting a rebuff at the time from the French Foreign Ministry. "French lawmakers decide independently on their travel plans and their contacts, by virtue of the principle of the separation of powers," the ministry said in a statement on Thursday.



Shanon
(adviser)

Elahieh Apt (\$1900)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Niavaran Apt (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

(\$2500)
Zaferanieh
240sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, pkg
balcony, & F.F

Farmanieh Apt (\$2200)
220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/pool, S, J
balcony, marble fl, pkg, F.F

(\$6000)
Darrous Villa
2000sq.m, 8bdrs
S/p, S, J, yard
terrace, pkg, F.F

Darrous Apt (\$1300)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, & F.F

Cell: +989121907875
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
Tel : 88510081
Fax : 88506474

Jordan Office (\$20 per sq.m)
300sq.m, 5bdrs pkg lots

ADVERTISING

44253401

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME

Real Estate

Member of **DELTA** Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

IRAN
NEWS

PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS

ADVERTISING

TEL: 44253448-50

FAX: 44253234

ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Kazakhstan Hailed for Its Interethnic and Interfaith Development Model

BY: F. TAHERPOOR

NUR-SULTAN – The 19th session of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was held in Nur-Sultan, the capital city of Kazakhstan, on Wednesday October 6 where it was decided the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions to be held in Nur-Sultan on September 14-15, 2022.

Before the secretariat meeting on Wednesday, workgroups of the secretariat in different brainstorming meetings on Tuesday prepared the grounds and topics on the agenda for the session.

On Wednesday the 19th session of the Secretariat was held where the date for holding the 7th Congress was fixed and the participants determined the format of the final document of the congress and also adopted the protocol of the 19th meeting of the Secretariat through a declaration.

The session of the Secretariat was chaired and kicked off by welcoming speech of the Kazakh Senate Speaker and Head of the Secretariat of the Congress Mr. Maulen Ashimbayev. Addressing the participants in the session, Ashimbayev said Kazakhstan has its own model of peace and interfaith dialogue.

He said, "This year Kazakhstan marks 30th anniversary of independence. Over the past years the country built its own model of peace, national unity and interfaith dialogue. The model built by First President of Kazakhstan - Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev proved its efficiency and viability. Today Kazakhstan led by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev follows its policy to ensure interethnic and interfaith consent. That's why holding the Secretariat and the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is not an image-building event but an organic and integral component of the country's development model."

He noted that the Congress is unique event in the international agenda and the real tool of global interfaith dialogue. Over the years of independence Kazakhstan founded its own model of peace and national dialogue based on principles of unity in diversity and common responsibility for the country's future, respect and enforcement of rights of citizens, despite their ethnic and religious identity.

In a conclusion he expressed his deepest gratitude to all for their participation and supporting of the forum.

Meanwhile Chairman of the Board of Nursultan Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue Bulat Sarsenbayev highlighted the role of the First President of Kazakhstan who played in the development of inter-faith accord in the country and beyond.

While speaking at the session of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, Sarsenbayev paid attention to the fact that practically all speakers mentioned Nursultan Nazarbayev's role in the gradual promotion of international dialogue in the sphere of inter-civilizational, inter-religious and inter-faith relations.

"The convocation of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is a fundamental contribution of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan-Elbasy, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the global peace and security," Sarsenbayev said.

According to him, Elbasy succeeded in turning the inter-faith and inter-ethnic diversity of Kazakhstan and its people into one of its fundamental strengths.

Then Secretary of the Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims and bureau chief for Islam at the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue Monsignor Khaled Akasheh addressed the session.

He stressed that pandemic gave humanity, countries, religious communities and all some opportunities to learn about existing viruses, restrictions and shortages in many spheres of our lives, such as healthcare, economy, social solidarity and unity. He said that religious leaders and their communities demonstrate solidarity to those hit by pandemic.

He also expressed gratitude to First President of Kazakhstan -Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev for initiating and supporting the Congress.

"The President of Kazakhstan, (Kassym-Jomart) Tokayev, for many years headed the Secretariat contributing his wisdom and talents to the noble calling of interfaith and intercultural dialogue," he resumed.

The session of the Secretariat was attended by representatives of world religions and confessions from 20 countries, as well as representatives of international organizations that some of them attended the event virtually. In their speeches religious leaders noted the high importance of the work carried out by Kazakhstan to establish interreligious and interfaith dialogue not only within the country but also at the international level.

In particular, the High Representatives of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Miguel Angel Morantinos, stressed the importance of the Congress in terms of discussing the role of religion in society and interaction at the international level to build a sustainable and secure world.

He said, "The unique platform that this initiative provides will constitute a key opportunity for representatives of governments, religious leaders, international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to reflect collectively about the challenges for the interreligious, dialogue, and sustainable peace in peace in increasingly polarized world. The UN Alliance of Civilizations will play an active role during the VII Congress."

Meanwhile The Islamic Republic of Iran's representative from its Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations Ms. Zahra Rashid Beigi, addressing the session, hailed Kazakhstan for its initiative and called it a step towards peace and security, adding that she is happy that her country passed safely through all economic, sanctions and security wars. She reiterated that today's world not only needs religious leaders but also needs political leaders because cooperation between them and support from governments can lead to the peace. She also hailed efforts of for Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev's efforts for this initiative and his efforts for cooperation between political and religious leaders. She also supported the Astana International Award for Contribution to Inter-Faith Dialogue



and the Medal of Honor of the Congress, reiterating that launching such awards show how much Kazakhstan takes the matter seriously.

She went on to say that reinforcement of ties between the religions can help humanity, adding that putting an end to war is duty of the religious leaders and they should help. She said that peaceful and responsible talks play important role in restoring peace and justice in the world and all men are responsible for the humanity and they should stand beside each other and repel extremism. She then hailed the Nazarbayev Center for encouraging detent and resolving differences among religions.

Following the outcomes of the 19th session of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Nur-Sultan, its participants highlighted the significance of Kazakhstan's unique model of inter-ethnic and inter-faith development and the role of the First President of Kazakhstan-Elbasy, Nazarbayev, in the promotion of global inter-civilizational and inter-religious dialogue.

It is crucial to further effectively use the opportunities and potential the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions offers, added Ashimbayev.

He said that this forum has turned into an international platform for discussion on the most pressing issues. The Congress, in his words, sets the example of development of inter-cultural dialogue, strengthening of peace and greatly contributes to enhancing inter-faith tolerance.

Ashimbayev reminded that the Congress was for the first time convoked in 2003 at the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan-Elbasy, Nazarbayev. President Tokayev attaches great importance to fruitful work of the platform as well.

"Since the very first days of its work this platform has brought together representatives of many confessions. Our forum has always been supported by the most reputable spiritual leaders and top politicians. It is crucial to further effectively use the opportunities and potential the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions offers," he stressed.

After adaptation of the protocols of the meeting of the Secretariat, it was announced that the 20th meeting of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions will be held prior to the Congress on September 12-13, 2022, in Nur-Sultan. The 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is also decided to be held on September 14-15, 2022, in the capital of Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile on October 5 and prior to the session of the secretariat, Chairman of the Management Board of N. Nazarbayev Center for Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue Sarsenbayev in an interview with reporters highlighted the goals of the center.

He said the 7th Congress of Leaders and World and Traditional Religions due to the COVID-19 pandemic was postponed to next year and the secretariat is preparing the necessary plans for it. He said the secretariat began its work in 2003, adding that after the September 11 terrorist attack, the then Kazakh President Nazarbayev raised this initiative for holding the congress of religious leaders and its secretariat was set up.

Sarsenbayev added that Kazakhstan in its young history has proved that it can hold such important and big conferences and for this reason it has won trust of the countries and nations and for this reason the number of participants in the congress is on the rise. He said other countries are also seeking to hold such gatherings but Kazakhstan has been the first.

He said that the congress has been a unique platform for bringing together leaders of religions and it was because of initiative of Mr. Nazarbayev. He added that the new Kazakh President Mr. Tokayev has also followed the path of Mr. Nazarbayev as he once was Nazarbayev's vice-president.

He then pointed to the current condition of Kazakh population and said over 100 religious and ethnical groups exist in the country and they are free to have their own beliefs but the government does not let any radicalism in the country according to the laws. He said on the past 30 years the country has been administered based on this model of unity and without any rift. He said President Tokayev is a veteran politician and has enough experience to continue the path.

He said Kazakhstan is the secretariat of the congress and it allocated an especial building for it in 2006, and after the Sixth Congress, the building was named after Mr. Nazarbayev and it was named Nazarbayev Center for Development of Inter-Faith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue.

He noted that the center is evolving and it is after finding better ways to improve the programs, adding that the Congress by itself has been a successful issue and during the past 18 years its members have been on the rise and its quality has improved while influential religious leaders partake in it.

He reiterated that the center invites respectable religious leaders to the congress and the government has also supported it.

For the first time, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was convened on September 23-24, 2003 on the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev.

And the last Congress was held in October 2018. It is held every three year but this year due to the pandemic it was postponed to 2022. However, the session of Secretariat is held every year.



Sarsenbayev is preparing to answer reporters on October 5

Iran Edges UAE in 2022 World Cup Qualification

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran secured three priceless points on the Road to Qatar, emerging from a dramatic AFC Asian Qualifiers clash against the United Arab Emirates with a 1-0 win at Zabeel Stadium on Thursday.

A Mehdi Taremi strike with 20 minutes remaining proved decisive, keeping Dragan Skocic's side on top of Group A with its third win from as many matches in the Final Round.

The visiting team had a golden chance to add to the scoring when it was awarded a penalty after Taremi was impeded by Abdullah Ramadan in the dying minutes, but Ali Khaseif saved brilliantly to deny Sardar Azmoun from the penalty spot.



U.S., Israel Blamed For Preventing a Nuke-Free Middle East

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations complains about the United States and the Israeli regime's decades-long efforts to prevent the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free Middle East region.

"In our region, the U.S. stance and that of the Israeli regime on the Middle East free zone of nuclear weapons, initiated by Iran in 1974, have prevented the establishment of such a zone," Majid Takht Ravanchi told a UN General Assembly meeting.

The envoy was referring to the Israeli regime's ongoing acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, a process that has provided it with hundreds of nuclear warheads.

Though its weapons program has turned the regime into the region's sole possessor of nuclear weapons, Tel Aviv neither admits nor denies owning such armaments. It has, meanwhile, invariably evaded scrutiny by the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), thanks to constant protection provided for it by the United States on the international stage.

"The Israeli regime possesses all types of weapons of mass destruction and threatens to use them against the regional countries," Takht Ravanchi said.

"This regime must be forced to join all related instruments, including the NPT (nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), without any precondition while accepting the comprehensive safeguards of the IAEA," he added.

The ambassador then turned to the issue of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear agreement that was clinched between the Islamic Republic and world countries.

The U.S. left the deal in 2018 and then reimposed the inhumane, oppressive, and unilateral sanctions that the accord had lifted. It has successfully been forcing many countries into abiding by the coercive measures, including Washington's allies in the deal—the UK, France, and Germany, also known as E3.

Iran has been enacting a set of remedial nuclear measures in response to the Western allies' non-commitment to the JCPOA. Tehran has vowed to fully and immediately reverse the retaliatory steps, once those countries resumed their contractual obligations too.

"On the JCPOA, the uncontested reality is that until now, Iran has adhered to the JCPOA terms while the U.S. and E3 have failed to meet their JCPOA obligations. Iran is committed to the full implementation of the JCPOA provided that the other participants live up fully to their commitments and lift all unjust sanctions in a speedy and verifiable manner," Takht Ravachni noted.

He finally asserted, "Iran's defensive missile capability is being pursued in line with our inherent rights and international commitments."

The envoy was referring to some countries' insistence that Iran allow inclusion of its missile program in talks that are concerned with the nuclear deal. Tehran has categorically rejection the prospect given the importance of the missile work to the Islamic Republic's defensive imperatives.

Outer Space, Cyberspace Must Remain Peaceful

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's permanent Ambassador to the United Nations said that outer space and cyberspace must remain peaceful and share a common human heritage.

Speaking at the Committee of Disarmament and International Security at 76th UN General Assembly meeting, Majid Takht-Ravanchi Iran's permanent Ambassador to the United Nations reiterated that outer space and cyberspace must remain peaceful and share a common human heritage.

He called the recent steps to arm outer space and cyberspace 'a matter of concern' and said that both areas i.e. outer space and cyberspace must remain peaceful and common heritage of humanity.

Referring to the chronic security threats and emergence of new threats, Takht-Ravanchi stated that in this situation, international peace and security condition has deteriorated and "we witnessed unpredictable events and continued armament of artificial intelligence, cyberspace and outer space in 2020."

Contrary to the statements indicating existence of strategic stability, it should be noted that these strategic rivalries are among great powers in the world that foster more modernization and more nuclear arms races, he criticized.

Turning to the devastating and destructive effects of using and testing nuclear weapons since 1945, he said, "Nuclear disarmament is the duty of nuclear powers according to Article 6 of Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in a way that these countries have not yet demonstrated their adherence to the treaty."

The positions adopted by the United States and Zionist regime have prevented the establishment of a region free from nuclear weapons in the Middle East, an initiative of Iran since 1974, he said, adding that international community must put pressure on the Zionist regime to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear member and to accept IAEA inspections on its nuclear activities.

As the sole holder of chemical weapons in the world, Iran UN envoy called on the United States to dismantle its chemical weapons as soon as possible and withdraw its protection under 1925 Geneva Protocol.

Iran Not to Accept...

FROM PAGE 1

For his part, Lavrov said he discussed with his Iranian counterpart specific ways to expand cooperation between the two countries "in bilateral projects based on the agreements achieved on the highest level."

"We have a stable growth of trade, which despite the COVID-19 pandemic and sanctions increased by 42 percent" this year, he said, adding, "We have agreed to boost our economic cooperation further and develop economic ties."

He also rejected U.S. push for a West-style world order, stressing, "We oppose the rules-based world order that is promoted by the US and its Western allies that are trying to impose [it] on all international players."

On the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the top Russian diplomat underscored the necessity for the implementation by all sides of UN Security Council resolution 2231 that endorses the agreement.

He also said the talks in Vienna aimed at reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) should

be resumed as quickly as possible.

He echoed Iran's stances that expect the US to resume its obligations according to the Iranian deal, but dismissed Washington's expectation of Tehran to make certain changes so the US would re-enter the deal.

"As for the expectations of the US that Iran should make certain changes for the U.S. to re-enter the deal, it is something that we do not accept and that Iran does not accept," Lavrov said.

He also said Iran and Russia see eye to eye over the fact that the US worsened the situation in Afghanistan in the past 20 years. "Both countries believe that the people of Afghanistan have suffered a lot over the two decades of political experiments carried out by the U.S.," he said, adding that the Afghans "have the right to freely decide the future of their land."

"We believe that political stabilization is important to reach this goal," he further commented.

Amir-Abdollahian's visit to Moscow is his first since taking office as Iran's foreign minister.

Iran Not to Accept...

FROM PAGE 1

The Lebanese president highlighted the significance of the ongoing negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying Beirut is pleased with Tehran's close ties with regional states which would help promote peace in the region.

Iraq has hosted several rounds of direct talks between Iranian and Saudi delegations since April with the aim of reviving relations severed five years ago over a host of issues.

Lebanon's al-Manar television network quoted the Lebanese president as saying that his country supports Iran's efforts to enhance rapprochement among countries in the region, especially relations with Arab states, through dialogue.

"Such dialog can bring the views on the disputed issues closer," Aoun said.

He hailed the measures Iran has taken to help Lebanon overcome the crises it is facing and its assistance after the devastating port explosion that claimed more than 200 lives in Lebanon's capital Beirut last year.

Amir-Abdollahian also reiterated Iran's keenness to stand by Lebanon and conveyed Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi's greetings to his Lebanese counterpart.

He reiterated Tehran's steadfast support for Lebanon and its readiness to provide Beirut with full support in the areas it requires, especially in the difficult economic conditions it is going through.

The top Iranian diplomat briefed the Lebanese president on his country's position on regional and international developments, ways to improve the ongoing negotiations between Tehran and a number of Arab countries, and the Vienna talks on the revival of a 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Heading a delegation, Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Beirut on Thursday on a first visit to the country since his appointment, after wrapping up a trip to Russia.

Similar to Iran, Lebanon has been under tough American sanctions, which have been designed to pressure the country over the influence wielded in its political and military sectors by Hezbollah. In the 2000s, the movement fought off two major wars on Lebanon that had been waged by the Israeli regime, Washington's most treasured ally in the region.

The sanctions have taken a huge toll on the Lebanese economy, leading to an acute shortage of staples, including gasoline and diesel.

Amir-Abdollahian also sat down with Berri for issues of bilateral and regional significance.

At a press conference after the talks with Berri, Amir-Abdollahian said, "There was a mutual agreement about the need to strengthen bilateral ties in various ways."

The Iranian foreign minister said the two sides discussed the important role of the Hezbollah resistance movement in deterring Israeli threats, among other regional issues.

"I would like to assure you that the Islamic Republic of Iran will always stand alongside to Lebanon and assist it in overcoming the various problems it is going through," Amir-Abdollahian said.

Amir-Abdollahian also met with Hezbollah officials.

Boycott-Versus-Sanctions

FROM PAGE 1

We know this fact that the industrialist countries are mostly dependent on their trade and selling their products especially to the developing and Muslim countries and their trade revenues are their Achilles Heel and any rupture in their business chain can lead to the collapse of the governments and even lead to violence.

Since Muslim countries are unfortunately importers of commodities from the arrogant and industrialist countries, they have turned into a milking cow and it helps the arrogant countries to become rude continue their dominance.

If we have a look back at the history, we will see some movements have become successful in fighting against dictators or colonialism through boycotting the purchase of foreign countries. Mahatma Gandhi became one of the pivotal figures, if not the main figure, in India's history in the Twentieth Century and he was of the first leaders who started the tactic of boycotting.

Gandhi encouraged Indians to boycott British goods and buy Indian goods instead. This helped to revitalize local economies in India and it also hit home at the British by undermining their economy in the country. Gandhi preached passive resistance, believing that acts of violence against the British only provoked a negative reaction whereas passive resistance provoked the British into doing something which invariably pushed more people into supporting the Indian National Congress movement.

It is a good international example for bringing down the arrogant and colonialist powers down or minimizing their meddling in other countries' internal affairs.

The Persian Tobacco Protest is another example for fight for independence. The protest was a Shia Muslim revolt in Iran against an 1890 tobacco concession granted by Nasir al-Din Shah of Iran to the United Kingdom, granting British control over growth, sale and export of tobacco. The protest was held by Tehran merchants in solidarity with the clerics. It climaxed in a widely obeyed December 1891 fatwa against tobacco use issued by Grand Ayatollah Mirza Hassan Shirazi.

So Muslim nations through their unity can use boycott as a weapon against the threats of the world arrogance. Now that the Western powers are not in a condition to wage wars and fight against the nations because of the awakening of the nations, they resort to sanctions and restricting economic access of the countries.

Therefore, Muslim and any freedom-loving nations should use a counter-weapon against the Western tactics and boycott-versus-sanction tactic is the one of the best ways which can be used by the nation against the hegemonic worlds.

What Algerians have started can be spread among the other Muslim nations which can inflict heavy losses on the arrogant and dominating countries without firing any bullet like what the West does against other countries through imposing sanctions.

Muslim nations are now more powerful than any time and they can bring down the U.S. and its allies or any aggressive country like what happened in Afghanistan and Iraq. Muslim states are populous and they are good markets for the West and now they can take advantage of this weapon of boycott as the West is nowadays struggling with its economy and it cannot help losing its target markets and it is the best chance to punish the West's unilateral policy.

Iran Missile...

FROM PAGE 1

"During the JCPOA negotiations, Saudi Arabia and the Israeli regime did their best to disrupt the JCPOA process," he said, adding, "Of course, we are not surprised by their position on the JCPOA, and after the JCPOA was unanimously approved in the Security Council, they have not missed any opportunity to spread false accusations for destroying the deal and the resolution."

The Iranian diplomat noted, "Saudi Arabia accuses Iran while it refuses to accept and implement a comprehensive safeguards agreement, despite repeated requests from the International Atomic Energy Agency, and as a result, the IAEA is unable to fully monitor and verify Saudi Arabia's nuclear program."

On regional security allegations, Balouji said that the baseless allegations about Iran's missile defense program were a desperate attempt to cover Saudi Arabia's staggering military spending and its insatiable thirst for the purchase of military weapons.

"The real source of regional insecurity is the large military presence of foreign forces and foreign military bases in the region, including in Saudi Arabia," he added.

Terrorism...

FROM PAGE 1

"We would like to stress that terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalization of people remaining under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and the use of state power for the suppression and violence against people struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned."

She said terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, voicing deep concern over the misinterpretation of religions by terrorist groups to justify terror.

Underlining the need for swift and effective measures to eliminate international terrorism, she said the NAM urges all governments to fulfill their obligations under international law by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts, among other measures.

The Iranian envoy further expressed the NAM's rejection of the unilateral designation of certain governments over their alleged support for terrorism, saying such moves are a kind of psychological and political terrorism.

The 120-nation bloc condemns the negative effects that unilateral sanctions have on the countries' fight against terrorism, she added.

"The Movement also calls upon all states to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and to reaffirm their commitment ... to prevent human rights violations in consistency with the rule of law ... and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions."

Ershadi also reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the crucial role of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Switchboard:
(+98) (21) 44253448
Public Relations Tel:
(+98)(21) 44253450
Editorial Board: 44253449
Public Relations Fax:
(+98)(21) 44253395
Advertising Department:
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
Website:
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:
info@irannewsdaily.com
ISSN 1024-6053
P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St.,
Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran
Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed by:Honar Sarzmin Sabz
Distributed by:
Cities of Iran Cultural and
Artistic Institute
Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Vlahovic Will Not Renew Contract

ROME (Dispatches) - Serbia's Dusan Vlahovic will not renew his contract with Fiorentina, the owner of the Serie A club Rocco Comisso said on Tuesday, opening the door to an early exit for one of European football's rising stars. In an open letter to supporters posted on the club's website, billionaire businessman Comisso said the 21-year-old striker, whose contract with the Viola expires in June 2023, had refused an offer that "would have made him the highest paid player in the history of the club".

Sasnovich Books Second-Round Clash With Raducanu

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Aliaksandra Sasnovich booked a clash with the WTA's hottest star, downing Maria Camila Osorio in straight sets to reach a second-round meeting with Emma Raducanu at Indian Wells. Sasnovich, a 27-year-old from Belarus ranked 100th in the world, saved nine of the 10 break points she faced to emerge with the 6-0, 6-4 first-round victory and advance to a meeting with Raducanu, the British 18-year-old whose run to the US Open title last month electrified the tennis world.

France to Play Spain in Nations League Final

PARIS (Dispatches) - Theo Hernandez shot France into a Nations League final with Spain on Thursday with a last-gasp strike which earned Les Bleus a thrilling 3-2 win from two goals down against Belgium.

AC Milan full-back Hernandez netted his first France goal in the 90th minute of the second international appearance after France had come back from 2-0 down at half-time at the Allianz Stadium in Turin through strikes from Karim Benzema and Kylian Mbappe. Didier Deschamps' side will face La Roja in Sunday's final at the San Siro in Milan after an exciting encounter which Belgium thought they had won in the final minutes when Romelu Lukaku netted from Yannick Carrasco's cross.

However with the Red Devils players still celebrating, Lukaku's first-time finish was ruled out for offside. And with the match looking like it was heading to extra-time, Hernandez collected the ball on the left before rifling home the winner.

He had started the match alongside his brother Lucas Hernandez, making the pair the first two brothers to play for France since Herve and Patrick Revelli featured in a friendly against Romania in 1974.

"Winning that match from where we were proves the strength of character of this team," Deschamps told TF1 after the match.

"Nobody thought it possible at half-time, and I understand that looking at the score, but they were here to not leave anything on the pitch and to play in the final."

The match had been fairly even for most of the opening period, although Hugo Lloris had to be at his best to stop Kevin De Bruyne's close range finish in the fourth minute.

Three minutes later Benjamin Pavard should have done better when he met Mbappe's cross from the left with a volley that he sent straight at Thibaut Courtois.

Meanwhile on Wednesday night, Ferran Torres put Spain into the Nations League final with a brace in a 2-1 win that ended Italy's world record unbeaten run at 37 matches in front of their own fans.

Torres struck twice in the first half to



make sure that Luis Enrique's Spain won the Final Four clash at the San Siro in Milan, where they will face either France or Belgium in Sunday's final.

Lorenzo Pellegrini pulled a goal back with seven minutes left but the European champions failed to complete what would have been a memorable comeback after a spirited second-half performance with 10 men.

Italy, who beat Spain in the Euro 2020 semi-finals, had to play over half the match with one man fewer after Leonardo Bonucci was sent off in the 42nd minute for picking up a second yellow card for elbowing Sergio Busquets in the face during an aerial challenge.

"The first half could have easily finished 1-1... It's a shame because we would have stayed with 11 men were it not for an error which you can't commit at this level," Italy coach Roberto Mancini told RAI.

The match was played in a strange atmosphere as AC Milan fans in the stadium harangued Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma throughout his return to the San Siro following his move to Paris Saint-Germain.

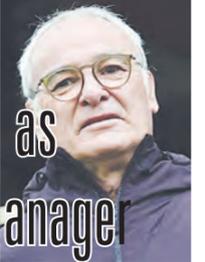
Donnarumma, who is considered one of the world's best goalkeepers and won the Player of the Tournament award at the Euro, left Milan as a free agent in the summer and his departure left a bad taste in the mouth of supporters who loudly booed and whistled his every touch of the ball.

"It upset us, because it was Italy playing, it wasn't a club match. They could have put it to one side for one match," Mancini told reporters later.

"Italy is Italy and I think it should come above everything else."

Donnarumma was barracked by the home fans both when he came out for the pre-match warm-up and when the teams were read out, with the boos and whistles loud enough to drown out the announcements over the stadium's speakers.

Ranieri Appointed as Watford Manager



LONDON (Dispatches) - Claudio Ranieri is back in the Premier League after being hired as Watford's new manager.

Former Chelsea boss Ranieri, who led Leicester to the Premier League title in 2016, agreed a two-year contract with the Hornets to replace the sacked Xisco Munoz.

"Watford FC is delighted to confirm the appointment of Claudio Ranieri as the club's new head coach, on a two-year contract," a statement on the club's website announced.

"The Italian arrives at Vicarage Road boasting a wealth of experience in charge of some of Europe's biggest clubs, with Premier League, Coppa Italia and Copa del Rey titles among his managerial highlights."

Ranieri takes over with Watford in 15th place in the Premier League after earning seven points from their opening seven matches.

The 69-year-old Italian left Sampdoria at the end of last season and had been looking to return to the game since then.

Xisco had led Watford to promotion from the Championship last season, but he was axed on Sunday after only 10 months in charge.

Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Leeds prompted Watford's owners, the Pozzo family, to act, with the club claiming a "negative trend" in performances had convinced them to move on from Xisco.

Ranieri is Watford's 13th permanent manager since the Pozzo family took control of the club in 2012.

Hamilton and Verstappen Renew Battle in Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton clinched his seventh Formula One world championship in Turkey last year while Max Verstappen had a race to forget, but this time the title remains wide open and the Dutch driver could be the one celebrating on Sunday.

Only two points separate Mercedes' championship leader Hamilton from his Red Bull rival with six races left after Istanbul and the battle set to go down to the wire.

One mistake, one retirement -- whether a mechanical failure or collision -- would be a massive blow at this stage in the season and Hamilton may yet have to take a new engine and penalty.

Verstappen turned 24 last week and an eighth win of the season would put him back on top after Hamilton, 36, seized the advantage in Russia two weeks' ago with his 100th career victory.

Red Bull will also have a special livery on their cars as a tribute to departing engine partner Honda on what would have been the Japanese Grand Prix weekend, but for the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Last year's Turkish GP was of course not the best weekend for us as a team but I think it will be quite different circumstances this year, hopefully the Tarmac will be a bit more grippy," said Verstappen, who finished sixth in the 2020 race.

"I think it will be quite a new weekend in general for everyone, there will be a lot to learn so I'm looking forward to seeing how competitive we are there."

Verstappen has been on pole eight times this year to Hamilton's three and narrowly missed out on the top slot in Turkey last year.

Last year's race was the first at the Istanbul track since 2011 and the freshly resurfaced and slippery track triggered plenty of complaints.

Hamilton, the winner on that wet November afternoon, compared conditions to an ice-rink and said organisers had wasted their money.

That should not be such a problem this time, with the surface blasted to make it less slippery and Pirelli bringing softer tyres for a race that is also being held a month earlier.

Barty to Skip Billie Jean King Cup



DUBAI (Dispatches) - World number one Ash Barty will miss the maiden edition of the Billie Jean King Cup in Prague next month, Tennis Australia said Tuesday, increasing doubts about whether she will play again this season.

The Australian's withdrawal from the women's team tennis competition formerly known as the Fed Cup comes hot on the heels of her decision to sit out this month's Indian Wells tournament in California.

Tennis Australia gave no reason for Barty's absence, simply saying world number 47 Ajla Tomljanovic would lead Australia's five-player team in the Czech Republic at the November 1-6 event.

The decision raises doubts about 25-year-old Barty's participation in the rest of the 2021

season, including her defence of the WTA Finals title she won in 2019 before last year's version was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Barty had a stellar start to the year, winning five titles including Wimbledon, which gave her a second Grand Slam to add to her 2019 French Open crown.

But she has not played since suffering a shock third-round loss to American Shelby Rogers at the US Open in early September, when she said the year had been a "rollercoaster".

Barty's coach Craig Tyzzer said in the weeks after the US Open that her priority was to get ready for the Australian Open, which is set to resume its traditional January timeslot in 2022 after a pandemic-enforced delay this year.

Her best performance at her home Grand Slam is a semi-final appearance in 2020.

If Barty did travel to Mexico for the season-ending WTA Finals, Australia's strict border controls mean she would face two weeks quarantine upon returning home, potentially disrupting her training.

Son Strikes Late To Earn S. Korea Victory Over Syria



HONG KONG (Reuters) - Son Heung-min struck with less than two minutes remaining to earn South Korea a dramatic 2-1 win over Syria in Ansan on Thursday as Paulo Bento's side maintained their unbeaten start in Group A in the final phase of Asia's World Cup preliminaries.

Son swept the ball home from close range in the 89th minute, five minutes after Omar Khribin looked to have secured a share of the points for the Syrians in a game dominated by the hosts.

The win moves South Korea onto seven points from their first three games and Bento's side could have had the result sealed long before Hwang In-beom put his side in front three minutes into the second half. The Koreans hit the woodwork as early as the 10th minute when Song Min-kyu's header clipped the frame of the goal in front of the empty stands of the Ansan Wa Stadium.

Hwang Hee-chan struggled to show his early season Wolverhampton Wanderers form, shinning the ball high over the crossbar from close range midway through the half.

The striker fired off target again when he thumped Song's cushioned header well over the bar and, with the first half in injury time, he steered another effort over the bar after deftly controlling Hwang In-beom's ball over the defence.

Zverev Welcomes ATP Investigation Into Abuse Allegations



LONDON (Dispatches) - Alexander Zverev welcomed an ATP investigation into allegations of domestic abuse against him, saying it was about time.

World number four Zverev's ex-girlfriend Olga Sharypova said in an interview with online magazine Slate on Aug. 25 that the German was emotionally and physically abusive to her during their relationship.

The ATP had faced increasing criticism for failing to look into the allegations until the men's tennis governing body announced on Monday it was conducting an investigation. The Olympic gold medalist has repeatedly denied the allegations and now hopes an ATP investigation will clear his name.

"Bloody (time) finally to be honest," said Zverev, during his news conference ahead of the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells. "I have been asking them myself for months now."

"I have been asking them to do that since London last year because it is very hard for me to clear my name."

"Only with something like this I can."

"It has been around for a year and there is not much more I can do to clear my name and I hope this will finally do it."