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Iran-EAEU Trade Soars 40% in H1

TEHRAN (MNA) - The value of trade between Iran and the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) exceeded \$2.483 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 – September 22) to register 40 percent growth compared to the previous year's same period.

According to the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Ruhollah Latifi, Iran traded 5,549,311 tons of commodities worth \$2,483,129,784 with the EAEU members, up also 12 percent in terms of weight, IRIB reported.

The Islamic Republic exported over 1.167 million tons of goods worth more than \$514.399 million to the EAEU in the period under review, five percent and 36 percent more than the previous year's same period in terms of weight and value, respectively.

During the said six months, the Russian Federation with \$270.394 million, Armenia with \$123.675 million, Kazakhstan with \$78.628 million, Kyrgyzstan with \$32.195 million, and Belarus with \$9.505 million of imports were the top destinations for the Iranian exports to the EAEU, according to Latifi.

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China Ready to Implement Strategic Cooperation Agreement With Iran

TEHRAN (IFP) - China says Beijing is ready to implement the 25-year strategic cooperation document with Iran.

Wang Yi made the comment in a Friday phone conversation with Iran' foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

The Chinese foreign minister also stressed Beijing's commitment to continuing cooperation with Tehran to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

Yi also stressed Beijing's stance on the need for a full return of all JCPOA parties to honoring their obligations.

The top Chinese diplomat welcomed the beginning of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European side.

The Chinese foreign minister stressed that the leaders of the two countries are determined to fully expand bilateral relations, and therefore Beijing, just as in the past, will continue to cooperate and consult with the Islamic Republic of Iran at all levels, including mutual cooperation in regional and international organizations.

The Iranian foreign minister also put special emphasis on the need to implement the comprehensive 25-year cooperation program.

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IRGC Naval Forces to Be Armed With 2,000-km-Range Cruise Missiles



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami says the naval units of his forces will be armed with cruise missiles with an operational range of up to 2,000 kilometers and capable of targeting moving vessels in the near future.

During a Friday visit to IRGC naval units based in the Persian Gulf islands and the Strait of Hormuz, Major General Salami hailed the IRGC navy's defensive and offensive capabilities, especially in the field of navigation, and said the force has made a great achievement by increasing the velocity of its speedboats to nearly one hundred knots per hour.

He added that the IRGC navy has made considerable progress in development and manufacture of unmanned aerial vehicles, and now possesses hundreds of reconnaissance, surveillance, combat and kamikaze drones with different operational ranges of up to 1,200 kilometers (745 miles).

The IRGC navy force, he said, will continue to increase the range of its drones.

The IRGC navy also currently has missiles with various ranges of 35, 90, 300 and 700 kilometers in its inventory.

"In near future, the naval force will be armed with cruise missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometers, and capable of targeting moving vessels," the IRGC chief said.

General Salami went on to say that the IRGC navy has developed various signal collection systems, jammers and electronic warfare systems, and that the hardware expanded both defensive and offensive capabilities of the force.

Commander of the Valiasr Drone Unit of the Army, Brigadier General Shahram Hassannejad, also praised the homegrown technology of Iranian drones, stating that such a feature has eased their design, production, application and overhaul.

He told IRNA in an interview published on Saturday that the capabilities of Iranian unmanned aircraft have improved tremendously in recent years, and they are now equipped with state-of-the-art technology and enjoy sophisticated combat tactics.

"What makes Iranian drones a game changer in the region and the world is their indigenoussness. It means we have utilized completely homegrown technology in their production, use and overhaul. We are not dependent on any country in terms of drone production, and can simply replace them," he said.

He added, "Iranian drones have also been designed and built in accordance with climate and strategic characteristics of their operational zones. Iran has different weather conditions, and our drones can perform their missions over seas, mountains and desert areas."

Brigadier General Hassannejad said the US Central Command (CENTCOM) has acknowledged the aerial superiority of Iran in the region due to its large fleet of combat drones.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great progress in developing and manufacturing a broad range of domestically-manufactured equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in this regard.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the Islamic Republic will not hesitate to build up its defense capabilities, emphasizing such abilities are entirely meant for the purpose of defense and will be never subject to negotiations.

U.S. Forces Will Have to Leave Syria Soon

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - A Syrian official says the U.S. will have no forces and military bases in the country in the "near future," warning Washington-backed Kurdish militants to "take lessons" from the fate of those cooperating with US occupation troops in Afghanistan.

Ghassan Khalil, the governor of Syria's northeastern province of Hasakah, made the remarks in an interview with Iran's Tasnim news agency published on Saturday.

"There will be no American military bases or even a foothold for Americans in Syria, and all areas will be under the control of the Syrian government," Khalil said while commenting on the government forces pressing ahead to recapture remaining areas from anti-Damascus militants and foreign occupation troops in Syria.

"It was the Syrian government that armed the Syrian Kurds at the beginning of the imposed war against the country to defend their territories and protect themselves from terrorist attacks, but unfortunately they turned their backs on the central government and used the weapons against the Syrian army, facilitating the entry of the American occupiers into Syrian territory," Khalil added, referring to the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The SDF is an alliance of mainly US-sponsored Kurdish forces fighting against Damascus in northern and eastern Syria.

The Hasakah governor said when the Americans banished the SDF in some areas in favor of Turkey, the militants turned to the Syrian government and army again to ask them for help and Damascus extended a helping hand to them.

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Iran Opposes Adani Move To Not Handle Cargo

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - After Adani Ports announced its decision to no longer handle cargo from Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Iran said while its efforts against drug trafficking had been praised even by the UN, it had been targeted unfairly by what it described as an unprofessional and imbalanced move.

In a series of tweets on Wednesday, as it announced talks between narcotics control authorities of the two countries to check drug trafficking, the Iranian embassy here said Iran had suffered from many trade restrictions and unjust sanctions for more than 40 years and that it was once again being targeted unfairly ``through denial of trade and banning its consignments as an unprofessional and imbalanced move".

The Adani group's decision followed the seizure of close to three tons of heroin originating from Afghanistan worth an estimated \$2.65 billion from two containers at western Gujarat's Mundra Port, which is run by Adani Ports.

Seeking to highlight Iran's role in the fight against the drug menace, the embassy said it was for many decades that narcotics and organized drug trafficking from Afghanistan had posed a major threat to Iran, the region and to the world, necessitating a ``non-stop and united struggle as well as a genuine cooperation and partnership among all countries against this global issue".

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Pakistan-Iran-Turkey Trade Routes Can Add Value to OBOR Project

LAHORE (Dispatches) - Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Transport Corridor, in conjunction with the Chinese One Road, One Belt (OBOR) project will prove to be a game changer in promoting regional trade among the four friendly nations of the region. It was stated by Wang Zihai, President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) during a thin-tank meeting on Pak-Turkey-China Tripartite trade. The meeting was also attended by Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President, Faraz Butt, Vice President, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General and a number of the Executive Committee Members of PCJCCI.

PCJCCI Chief acknowledged that Turkey, like China, had been an all-weather friend of Pakistan and the friendly relationship has further been foster under the leadership of Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He observed that Pakistan is now more integrated into international trade because of CPEC and OBOR projects, which have created new opportunity for Turkey as well.

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Iran LPG exports to Reach Around 450,000 mt In October

LONDON (Dispatches) - Iran's LPG shipments are set to reach around 440,000-450,000 mt in October compared with 556,000 mt exported in September, largely to Asia, and are expected to rebound in November, trade sources said.

Exports up to Oct. 13 were around 220,000 mt, the sources added.

"The export volume in October will be lower in comparison to September. The export volume is fluctuating between 450,000 mt/month and 530,000 mt/month," a trade source told S&P Global Platts.

"November will be estimated to be the same as September in case we don't face shutdowns."

Iran's LPG exports were hovering near two-year highs at around 500,000 mt/month since July-August and rose further in September. This, together with volumes in October and November, would help to meet recovering Chinese demand, as more propane dehydrogenation plants return from maintenance.

Yantai Wanhua Chemical restarted the 750,000 mt/year PDH plant Oct. 13, a company source said, after shutting it Sept. 10 for 40 days.

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TEDPIX Gains 40,000 Points on Saturday

TEHRAN (MNA) - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 40,060 points to 1.437 million on Saturday (the first day of the Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 5.609 billion securities worth 50.034 trillion rials (about \$1.192 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index rose 37,188 points, and the second market's index gained 56,326 points. TEDPIX fell 6.5 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index lost 91,000 points to close at 1.397 million.

Public Vaccination Should Continue Powerfully

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Emphasizing that public vaccination should continue powerfully, President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said, "Academics and tribune holders have an important role to play in encouraging people to follow the health guidelines and get vaccinated against the coronavirus."

Speaking on Saturday at the meeting of the National Task Force Against Coronavirus, Ayatollah Dr Raisi referred to the important achievements in the production and import of COVID-19 vaccine, saying, "The Ministry of Health and Medical Education should support the vaccine produced by domestic companies so that their products are distributed to the market with the required quality".

Meanwhile on Saturday, Peyman Jebelli, the Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), met with President Raisi.

In the meeting and referring to the important role of IRIB as a national media in explaining the issues and problems of the people and expressing the views of the country's officials, the President said, "IRIB should be a bridge between the



government and other officials of the country and the people".

Emphasizing the three important points of accuracy, speed and honesty in informing and explaining the work, achievements and performance of managers and officials, Raisi noted, "The result of this performance and joint cooperation between the government and IRIB should create hope in the people".

Iran's Security Chief Warns Aliyev Not to Discredit Yourself



TEHRAN (IFP) - Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani has hit back at Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev after he claimed the Islamic Republic, along with Armenia, has smuggled narcotics to Europe via Azeri soil.

In a tweet, Shamkhani said Aliyev's allegations are tantamount to negligence of principles and requirements of good neighborliness.

He also said lying and making baseless claims are not a sign of good-will and prudence.

The secretary of Iran's Suoreme National Security Council also said leveling such accusations against a country which is recognized by the international community as being the champion of fighting drugs would have no effect but discrediting the accuser's claims. Shamkhani urged the Republic of Azerbaijan to be wary of what he called "evils".

Tensions have been mounting between Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic over the past few weeks. Iran says Azerbaijan has given the Zionist regime a foothold on its soil, which Tehran sees as a security threat.

In response, Iran recently held military drills near Azerbaijan's border.

Aliyev criticized the drills and claimed Israel maintains no presence in Azerbaijan.

Goal of Int'l Conference on Islamic Unity Is to Confront Arrogant Enemy

TEHRAN (IP) - The general secretary of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought called on all countries, security and military officials, to work together to build peace and prevent terrorism, violence, and the massacre of innocent people. He said that the most crucial goal of the International Conference on Islamic Unity is to confront the arrogant enemy who is trying to divide the united Islamic nation in the world through hard and soft war.

In a press conference of the 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity, Hamid Shahriari stated that today's world is under the oppression of the United States and the domination of the arrogant world and creating many problems in the Islamic world and the Middle East.

Shahriari noted that many wars have started in Yemen, Palestine, Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and their oppressed people have been involved in these unwanted wars.

Condemning the Zionist regime in the Palestinian territories, he pointed out that the Palestinian people are under complete siege and have problems in their normal lives since the Zionist regime has prevented the formation of a just government for Palestine.

He also condemned the normalization of relations with the Zionist regime and warned the countries affiliated with the regime to reconsider their decisions, which would result in the overthrow of their government because of cooperating with Israel.

In response to Iran Press in the 35th Conference on Islamic Unity based on the results of the conferences, Hamid



Shahriari stated: "This time the International Conference on Islamic Unity will be held to be a message to Islamic societies: Only through unity, Empathy, synergy, and cooperation, we can stand up to global arrogance."

Shahriari noted that the International Conference on Islamic Unity had played an influential role in sending the message of Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the

Islamic Revolution, and Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, to the world.

He highlighted that the intellectuals of other countries had realized the cultural and security level of the Islamic Republic of Iran by attending international conferences on Islamic unity.

"They have seen the level of tolerance of the Iranian nation and the right of citizenship for Sunnis and other religions in the country," he added.

He pointed out that Iran is a role model for the Islamic world that can explain and resolve disputes, avoid divisions and aggression, and bring security to the country.

The Press conference of the 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity entitled "Islamic Unity, Peace and Avoiding Division and Conflict in the Islamic World" was held with the attendance of the Secretary-General of The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, Hamid Shahriari, on Saturday in Tehran.

The 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity will be held via webinar in Unity Week from 19th to 24th October with the participation of professors and intellectuals of Islamic countries.

Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces to Visit Moscow

TEHRA (MNA) - Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major-General Mohammad Bagheri will visit Moscow at the head of a high-ranking military delegation to develop mutual cooperation with the Russian Federation.

Commodore Reza Khosravi Moqaddam, the military attaché of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Russian Federation made the announcement on Friday, saying that Major-General Bagheri will travel to Moscow at the official invitation of the Russian Defense Minister General Sergei Shoigu next week.

According to Khosravi Moqaddam, General Baqeri is scheduled to discuss and exchange views with the Russian officials on the development of cooperation and joint defense and military relations, the fight against terrorism and investigating regional and international changes.

Iran, Pakistan Discuss Cooperation In Ship Manufacturing



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Ranking commanders from Iran and Pakistan agreed on a cooperation plan for manufacturing military vessels and maintaining submarines.

Heading a high-ranking military delegation, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri visited the Pakistani Navy's shipyards in the port city of Karachi on Friday and was briefed on the process of building warships, boats and submarines.

In talks with the Pakistani military officials, the two sides agreed to work closely together on the construction and maintenance of ships and submarines.

They also stressed that security in the region can only be ensured by the neighbors, IRNA reported.

In a meeting with the Commander of the Southern Fleet and the Commander of the Pakistani Navy in Karachi, the top Iranian general emphasized the importance of maritime security at the common sea borders by conducting joint exercises.

The two sides also agreed to share experiences in various naval fields, try to remove the obstacles to the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism, and exchange students.

Private Sector Ready to Operate in Lebanon

TEHRAN (IFP) - A senior Iranian official says the country is seeking to remove existing obstacles to the presence of the Iranian private sector in Lebanon.

"No government had been established in Lebanon for around 13 months. Moreover, the issue of the coronavirus pandemic, U.S. sanctions and issues in banking relations

as well as last year's Beirut port explosion have been among impediments to the expansion of relations between the two countries in economic and trade areas," said Mirmasoud Hosseinian, the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Department for Middle East and North Africa.

The top diplomat added efforts are being made to hold an Iran-Lebanon joint economic commission by the end of this year.

He said the private sector can conduct activities in Lebanon in a variety of fields.

"At the moment, the main problem facing Lebanon is economic issues, and we can play an important role in this regard by exporting technical and engineering services," the official said.

"Iran has not violated the laws of the Lebanese government in this regard. A great part of Lebanon's economy is run by the private sector, and we have sold fuel to businessmen of the private sector in Lebanon, and Hezbollah has supported and managed this idea," he explained.

He further added Iran intends to keep sending fuel to Lebanon as several other fuel shipments are scheduled to be dispatched to the Arab country.

This is while Iran has already sent several fuel consignments to Lebanon. Elsewhere in his remarks, the official said Lebanese authorities have welcomed talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"Iran and Saudi Arabia are two major countries in the region, and if relations between the two countries improve, it will influence Iran's ties with a large number of countries in the Persian Gulf region and North Africa," he said.

He also touched upon Iran-Egypt relations, and said the two countries have numerous issues.

"We hope these issues will soon be resolved," he said.

Joint Barter Chamber Could Enhance Iran-Pakistan Trade

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani said that the joint barter chamber was of significance, as it would enhance Iran-Pakistan trade.

Amirabadi who is paying a visit to Pakistan had a meeting with the head of commerce chambers federation of Pakistan Naser Hayat Maku in Karachi.

He said that Iran and Pakistan have great capacities in economy, industry, and agriculture which should be leveraged in the interest of both nations with proper planning.

He raised a proposal called available mechanism, saying that U.S. sanctions have caused barriers in Iran-Pakistan trade, but this mechanism could facilitate trade and banking ties.

Amirabadi who represents Qom city in the Iranian Parliament called on Pakistan to pursue the establishment of a joint barter chamber with Iran, as it would lead to an economic book in Iran-Pakistan relations.

The MP urged Pakistan to fulfill its commitments regarding Iran and indicate serious support in practice, as U.S. sanctions have lost their impact on the Iranian economy.

Hayat Maku welcomed the joint barter chamber proposal and said specific commerce regulations in Pakistan need to be modified to expand cooperation with Iran.

Iran-Saudi Arabia Ties in Interest of Whole Region

TEHRAN (MNA) - Former Head of Iranian Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia are in the interest of the whole region.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Ex-Head of Iranian Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that establishing ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is in favor of all countries in the region.

Even if the West seemingly welcomes the agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, but they are not interested in the resumption of good relations between Iran and the regional countries, he added.

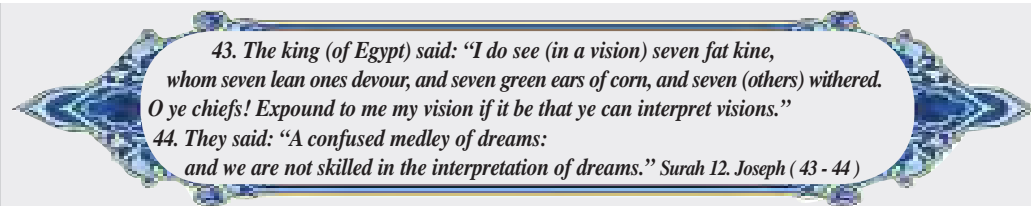
Turning to the positive attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the development of relations with neighboring countries and the world, he stressed that the policy of Iran from the beginning has been to establish good and amicable relations with all neighbors and countries of the Islamic world.

Bilateral relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, mediated by Iraqi Prime Minister, have generally produced positive results, he added.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:49
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:44
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:50
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:13



Tehran-Madrid Trade Declined Due To Sanctions

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – A member of board of directors of Iran-Spain Chamber of Commerce says Iran's trade with Spain has declined due to the U.S. sanctions and most of Iran's exports to Europe are done through the third party countries or intermediaries.

Speaking to ILNA, Mr. Asghar Ahaniha said most of Iran's exports to Europe are done through the intermediaries and for this reason, one cannot give exact details on the trade volume of Iran and Spain, adding that but Iran's trade with Spain was 92.426m euros in 2019 which declined to 63.862m euros in 2020 due to the sanctions.

He went on to say since Iran in its foreign trade especially in Europe lacks banking transactions due sanctions and trade is conducted through forex shops, the trade volume with Europe is not considerable. He added that Iran has cooperation with Spain in some industries like tile and ceramic, medical products and oil and companies are working together in those fields but even these co-operations are not serious because Spanish companies are afraid of trade with Iran due to the U.S. sanctions and punishments as well as the banking problem which has increased the cost of trade for economic activists.

Ahaniha went on to say that despite considerable commonalities between Iran and Spain and capacities for having good cooperation, unfortunately the level of trade and economic cooperation between Tehran and Madrid is insignificant and even the Covid pandemic has not improved it.

On putting the name of Spain on the list of export destination of Iranian luxury cars, he said Iran's car exports have not matured enough yet to enter European markets



because in Europe the luxury cars are sold with cheap prices than Iranians and entering this market needs creating some infrastructures in the country. He reiterated that as long as these infrastructures are not provided, Iran will not be able to enter Europe's car market. He noted that most of Iran's goods are exported to Spain indirectly and it is very limited number.

He added that Iran's trade with Spain declined in 2020 comparing to 2019 and it slumped to 63.862m euros as industrial and technology products had major share of exports to Spain in 2020 which was valued at 17.889m euros.

Ahaniha went on to say that the most important export items to Spain in this period have been saffron, steel and iron, dried fruits, granite stone, marble, hygienic products and plastic raw materials. He stated Iran's saffron goes indirectly to other countries like in Europe, for example it goes to Afghanistan and then it is re-exported.

He said Iran ranks seven among the Middle East states in terms of exports to Spain and Saudi Arabia tops the list while Iran was fifth in 2019 and before the slump in its trade with Spain. He said Iran's imports from Spain were 225.768m euros in 2019 and it slumped to 205,614m euros in 2020.

Ahaniha went on to say that major imports of Iran from Spain were transportation and loading machineries, protecting agro products, food ingredients, equipment, feedstock, auto-parts, paper, steel and Iran.

He added that Iran ranked six among the Middle East states in terms of imports from Spain as Saudi Arabia topped the list.

Ex-CBI Chief Sentenced to 10 Years

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Former governor of the Central Bank of Iran Valiollah Seif has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for disrupting order and calm in the currency market, paving the way for illegal trade of foreign currency, and mismanagement during his tenure.



The spokesperson for the Iranian Judiciary announced on Saturday that Seif has been convicted of preparing the ground for illegal trade of currency amounting to \$159.8 million and €20.5 million. Another convict is the then-deputy chief of the Central Bank, Ahmad Araqchi, who has been sentenced to eight years in prison, the spokesman added.

The prosecutor of Tehran said in May that more than \$30 billion and 60 tons of gold reserves had been mismanaged by Seif.

Seif's case, which has been ongoing since shortly after his dismissal in mid-2018, came to a court set up to rule on economic crimes, with the banker being accused of repeatedly violating regulations and of dereliction of duty.

Seif led the Central Bank of Iran when a controversial decision to set an artificial rate of 42,000 rial to the U.S. dollar was implemented in April 2018 in an effort to forcefully unify the country's multiple exchange rates.

A number of Seif's deputies were arrested after his sacking. One of them was then-deputy for foreign exchange affairs, Ahmad Araqchi, the nephew of former deputy foreign minister, Abbas Araqchi.

Iran's Export of Fruits to Russia Sees 50% Growth

TEHRAN (MNA) – Statistics indicate that Iran's export of fresh fruits to Russian Federation has registered a 50 percent growth in nine months of the current year in 2021 (from Jan. to Sept.) as compared to last year's corresponding period.

The Islamic Republic of Iran exported \$196 million worth of fresh fruits and dried nuts to the Russian Federation in the first three months of the current year in 2021.

Andrea Yarmak an expert official at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Investment Center said that Russia faced problems in the field of importing similar products from Uzbekistan and Moldavia last year in 2020 and this was the main reason behind the increased volume of export of Iranian fruits and dried nuts to the Russian Federation in this period.

Apple is one of Iran's main export fruits to the Russian Federation in a way that export of Iranian apple to this country has in the first nine months of the current year in 2021 has become two-and-a-half-fold growth, followed by kiwi fruit, watermelon, peach and nectarine, raisins and date.

He put the fresh apple exported by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Russian Federation in this period at 125,000 tons.

NC Products Exported to Persian Gulf States, U.S., Canada

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of NC Macaron Food Industries Group Company in a press conference revealed the future programs of the company and said company's products are exported to the Persian Gulf countries, Canada, the U.S., Australia and African states.

Speaking in a press conference, Dr. Yaser Mir Ahmadi said that NC Food Industries Company was established in 1972 and it first started its activities in the form of a workshop at Yaft Abad of Tehran and it was the first producer of traditional string spaghetti.

He added in line with expanding the job and improving it, the company added new equipment and machines and upgraded its facilities in compliance with the world modern technology. He said the equipment and machines used in the production line of the company do not differ from the European ones and in terms of output and productivity it is one of the best in the world.

Mir Ahmadi reiterated that NC Company is among the grade ones in terms of quality and design of its products. He noted that with employing the R&M system, the company's products are considered as one of the top brands in the target export markets, adding that the company's achievement is indebted to the round-the-clock efforts of experts and personnel of the company.



He said while we are on the eve of the World Standard Day, the company has produced the first standard noodle string in the country, and preparation of grounds for standardization in the company has been kicked off by the experts of NC Company.

Mir Ahmadi then pointed to the demands in the export markets and said the company has produced new products like pickles, olive, pickled cucumbers and lemon juice. He noted that the products of the company have been exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Persian Gulf states, Canada, the U.S., Australia and Africa, reiterating that Iraq was the main target for exports.

In the domestic front, he said NC accounts for 12 percent of string noodle production in the country and its products are grade one. He criticized the wrong policies of the statesmen which halted the company from being more active in the domestic market and said exporters in the country face almost 35 custodians for exporting their products while in the developed countries there is only one custodian.

Mir Ahmadi said that NC exported some 3,000 tons of products to Iraq and one type of its products was also exported to Canada. He admitted that the company's exports this year have almost been halved this year and the shortage of wheat, flour, dough and forex problems has been the reasons behind this slump.

IME Weekly Trade Value Up by 13%

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 1,817,000 tons of commodities on its physical market worth almost \$464m, showing 13% of growth in both volume and value of trades as compared to the figures of the previous week.

According to a report by the IME's international affair and PR, the exchange experienced within this week trade of 1,323,000 tons of commodities valued at almost \$217m on its metals and mineral trading floor.

On this floor the IME sold 980,520 tons of cement, 184,807 tons of steel, 11,325 tons of copper, 6,725 tons of aluminum, 15 tons of precious metals concentrate, 4,050 tons of zinc, 135,000 tons of iron ore, 2,000 tons of coke, 20 kg of gold bars and 2,500 tons of sponge iron.

Furthermore, the IME saw trade 484,132 tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued at almost \$236m.

Commodities sold on this floor included 211,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 104,000 tons of bitumen, 75,393 tons of polymeric products, 33,935 tons of chemicals, 33,500 tons of lube cut, 4,989 tons of base oil, 500 tons of slops wax, 105 tons of insulation and 20,800 tons of sulfur.

It's worth noting that the IME witnessed trade of 400 kg of saffron on its agricultural trading floor.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 9,611 tons of commodities traded on it.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).



Iran Steel Exports Up 48%

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian steel giants exported 3,811,617 million tons of steel during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (starting on March 21) and experienced an 18-percent growth compared with the same period last year.

The exported steel products consisted of blooms, billets, slabs, all kinds of engineering alloy, rebars, sponge iron, and hot briquettes iron. Khuzestan Steel Company with 903,757 tons exports has had the best performance.

Mobarakeh Steel Company and Esfahan Steel Company stood second and third, respectively.

Iran enjoys 68 different types of minerals. It has 2.7 billion tons of iron ore reserves and 2.6 billion tons of copper ore reserves.

Developing Interactions With SCO To Facilitate Iran's Foreign Trade

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman Pak said developing exports and imports with members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will pave the way for boosting Iran's trade with the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been accepted as a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the 21st SCO Summit in Dushanbe.

In addition to political and security achievements, Iran's membership in SCO also offers a wide range of economic opportunities to its economic activists and facilitates trade with member states. Peyman Pak said Iran's official membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will open a new chapter in developing political, economic, and cultural interactions.

He added that the Iranian economic diplomacy system can take advantage of SCO membership for reducing tariffs, banking system connections, transportation, logistics, and energy transfer. The SCO provides the member states with a bright future because it can help them end unilateralist policies and change the balance of power in favor of the East (Asia), he noted.

Joining the organization helps Iran foil American attempts to isolate the Islamic Republic because the SCO membership can uphold Tehran's deterrence power. Changing Iran's status will prompt other member-states to back the Islamic country in the face of hostile countries such as the US.

Tehran can also rely on the multilateral mechanism of the SCO to upgrade its regional relationships and expand diplomatic and political exchanges.

Iran can use the organization as a platform to ink bilateral and multilateral financial contracts in a bid to evade the U.S. sanctions. While the West has been trying to prevent Iran from attaining its foreign exchange resources, the full membership paves the way for Iran to use the assets.

Italian Captain Gets Jail Term For Taking Migrants to Libya

ROME (AFP) - An Italian court has in a landmark trial slapped a one-year jail term on the ship captain who returned 101 migrants rescued at sea to crisis-hit Libya.

In the first trial of its kind in Italy, the captain of the Italian-flagged Asso 28 was found guilty of violating international laws that forbid the forced return of people to countries where they or their rights are at risk.

Libya is not considered a port of safety under international law. The captain was sentenced to one year in jail, according to a copy of the court's ruling seen by AFP Friday.



UK Conservative MP Stabbed to Death

LONDON (Dispatches) - Conservative British lawmaker David Amess was killed on Friday after being stabbed "multiple times" during an event in his local constituency in southeast England, in the second death of a UK politician while meeting voters since 2016.

Local police did not name Amess but said a man had been arrested "on suspicion (of) murder" after another man had been stabbed and died in Leigh-on-Sea.

"We are not looking for anyone else in connection with this incident," said Essex police, adding that the man in custody was aged 25, and a knife was recovered.



Blast at Shi'ite mosque In Kandahar Kills Dozens



KABUL (Dispatches) - A large explosion tore through a Shi'ite mosque in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar killing at least 35 people, the second week in a row that militants bombed Friday prayers and killed dozens of worshippers from the minority sect.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Friday's attack in Kandahar, but Islamic State claimed the similar bombing that killed scores of Shi'ites in the northern city of Kunduz a week earlier.

The attacks have caused shock and terror among members of Afghanistan's Shi'ite minority and undermine the ruling Taliban movement's claim to have restored security since taking control of the country in August.

A health official at Kandahar's Mirwais hospital told Reuters it had confirmed 35 dead and was treating 68 wounded.

Haji Sarwar Hazara, a local construction contractor who worships at the mosque and arrived soon after the blast, said there had been at least three attackers. One attacked security guards at the entrance, allowing two suicide bombers to get into the mosque in the confusion. "When I arrived at the mosque, I saw injured, dead bodies, and people who had fallen on top of each other," he said, adding that he had seen the bodies of two attackers.

"I do not know who did this work, it is the enemy of Islam. But they cannot bring differences among Muslims," he said.

Photographs and mobile phone footage posted by journalists on social media showed many people apparently dead or seriously wounded on the bloody floor of the Imam Bargah mosque.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said security forces had been ordered to capture the perpetrators and bring them to justice under Islamic law.

Sunni Muslim fighters of Islamic State have repeatedly targeted Shi'ites in the past with large-scale attacks intended to kill civilians, including one that killed scores of schoolgirls in a Shi'ite district of Kabul in May last year.

The Taliban are also strict Sunni Muslims but consider Islamic State their enemy and have pledged to protect all ethnic and sectarian groups since sweeping into power in August as U.S. forces withdrew.

The embassy of Iran, Afghanistan's neighbor and the region's largest Shi'ite power, condemned the attack.

"We hope Taliban leaders take decisive action against these wicked terrorist incidents," it said in a tweet.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan said those responsible should be held to account.

Taliban Special Forces arrived to secure the site and an appeal went out to residents to donate blood for the wounded.

The blast, coming so soon after the Kunduz attack, underlined uncertainty over security in Afghanistan as the Taliban grapple with an escalating economic and humanitarian crisis that threatens millions with hunger.

Germany Parties Agree Initial Deal for Next Gov't

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz on Friday took a step closer to succeeding Angela Merkel as chancellor, as his Social Democrats, the Greens and liberal FDP announced a preliminary deal to form a new government.

The three parties have been holding talks since Scholz's center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) won the general elections on September 26 with Merkel's conservatives in second place as she prepares to leave politics.

"Overall, we can sense here that a new beginning is possible, brought about by the three parties that have come together here," Scholz told reporters.

"We have agreed on a text from the exploratory talks," he said, calling it a "very good result that clearly shows that a government that aims to ensure we achieve progress can be formed in Germany".

Greens co-leader Annalena Baerbock said the initial agreement heralds a "coalition of progress" to "really use the next decade as a decade of renewal". The agreement that will form the basis of formal coalition talks all but means that



Hezbollah Not to Be Dragged Into War

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah said on Friday it would not be dragged into civil war even as it stepped up accusations against the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) party it says killed seven Shi'ites in Beirut's bloodiest street violence in years.

The accusation, denied by the LF, underlines worsening sectarian tensions after Thursday's violence which began as people were gathering for a protest called by Hezbollah against the judge investigating last year's Beirut port blast.

The probe into the catastrophic blast appears in increasing doubt, fuelled by a bitter political dispute over the lead investigator's attempts to question officials who include Hezbollah allies. The violence, which erupted at a boundary between Christian and Shi'ite Muslim neighborhoods, has added to concerns for the stability of a country that is awash with weapons and grappling with one of the world's sharpest ever economic meltdowns.

The Lebanese Forces condemned the violence on Thursday which it blamed on Hezbollah "incitement" against Judge Tarek Bitar, the investigator.

The sound of gunfire could be heard across Beirut during funerals on Friday. Speaking at the funeral of Hezbollah members killed on Thursday, senior Hezbollah leader Hashem Safieddine accused the Lebanese Forces, which had a powerful civil war militia, of trying to start a civil war. "Because they know that we don't want civil strife, they dared to do that," he said. "We will not be dragged into civil war but at the same time we will not let the blood of our martyrs be in vain."

The coffins were draped in yellow Hezbollah flags and surrounded by men in military fatigues during the funeral in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Safieddine accused the LF of taking orders from the United States, which lists Hezbollah as a terrorist group, and of being financed by "some Arab countries", an apparent reference to Saudi Arabia.

U.S. Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, on a visit to Beirut on Thursday, expressed condolences for "the tragic loss of life" and called for calm and de-escalation.

Russian Warship Prevented U.S. Destroyer Entering Its Waters

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's Defense Ministry has said a Russian warship prevented a U.S. Navy destroyer from what it described as an attempt to intrude into Russia's territorial waters in the Sea of Japan.

The incident on Friday came as Russia and China conducted joint naval drills in the area, and follows other close encounters involving Russian and Western warships. It appears to reflect Moscow's intention to raise the stakes in deterring the United States and its allies from sending their ships on missions near Russian waters, as relations between Russia and the West are at a post-Cold War low.

There was no immediate response from Washington.

The ministry said the Russian navy's Admiral Tributs destroyer closely approached the U.S. destroyer USS Chafee to force it out of the area near Russian waters that was declared off limits to shipping due to the gunnery drills there as part of the Russia-China manoeuvres.

It said the Russian vessel came close to the U.S. warship after it had ignored repeated warnings to leave the area in the Peter the Great Gulf. The ministry charged that after making "an attempt to cross the

Russian sea border", the U.S. warship changed course when the two ships were just 60 metres (66 yards) away from each other and sped away.

It denounced the U.S. destroyer's manoeuvres as a "crude violation" of the international rules on averting ships' collision and a 1972 agreement between Moscow and Washington on preventing air and naval incidents.

In June, Russia said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of British destroyer Defender to drive it away from Black Sea waters near the Crimean city of Sevastopol. The United Kingdom denied that account, insisting its ship was not fired upon and said it was sailing in Ukrainian waters.

Like most of the world, Britain recognizes Crimea as part of Ukraine despite the peninsula's 2014 annexation by Russia.

June's incident marked the first time since the Cold War that Moscow acknowledged using live ammunition to deter a NATO warship, underlining the rising threat of military collisions amid Russia-West tensions.

Moscow warned in June that it is prepared to target intruding warships if they fail to heed warnings.



Japan, South Korea Discuss Lingerin Wartime Disputes

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's new prime minister Fumio Kishida on Friday told reporters he had spoken with South Korean President Moon Jae-in urging an "appropriate" response on disputes including compensation for forced wartime labour.

Moon said he told Kishida in their first phone conversation that it was important to resolve wartime issues in a way that doesn't cause diplomatic friction, South Korea's presidential Blue House said.

The neighboring nations have long been at odds over territorial claims and their wartime history, including compensation for Koreans forced to work in Japanese firms and military brothels during Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule.

Disagreements over recent court rulings related to the forced labor issue have been followed by a dispute over export controls that has yet to be resolved.

Kishida, who became prime minister on Oct. 4, said he told Moon that bilateral relations were in a "difficult situation", adding "I strongly called for an appropriate response" on issues such as wartime compensation.

While he did not elaborate on that phrase, Japan has long argued that the matter of compensation was settled under a 1965 treaty between the countries.

Late in September, a South Korean court ordered that assets seized from Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries be sold off to pay compensation to two women subjected to forced labor for the company during Japan's occupation of the Korean peninsula, further straining ties.

"Relationships between the two countries are experiencing difficulties due to several issues, but I think that we can overcome them together if we have the will and make efforts," Moon said, according to the South Korean government statement.

On the subject of North Korea, which has conducted multiple missile launches in recent weeks, he said he and Moon confirmed that they would cooperate bilaterally in dealing with Pyongyang, as well as closely cooperating with the United States.





Shanon
(adviser)

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S/p, S, J
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Niavaran Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
4bdrs, S/p
green yard
Nicely Furn

Darrous (\$1600)
3bdrs, baclony, F.F

Apt (\$3000)
Kamranieh Apt
260sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J
balcony, pkg, Fully Furn

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

Niavaran (\$1800)
170sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

Darakeh bldg (\$7000)
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Russia Could Resume Spot Gas Sales

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on Friday that Russia could resume spot gas sales after it finishes filling its storage reserves, a step that could ease pressure on prices in Europe.

Novak did not say how soon or in what quantities such sales could take place, but the government has said it intends to keep topping up domestic inventories until Nov. 1.

Asked if Russia could resume spot sales once reserves were filled, Novak told reporters: "If such opportunities exist, yes, of course." His comments came as Russia faces pressure to step up gas shipments to Europe where prices have rocketed this year, sending household bills higher and hitting industrial users such as steelmakers and fertilizer producers.



China Growth Dips to 5% In Q3 on Energy Woes

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's economic growth is expected to have slowed further in the third quarter, according to an AFP poll of analysts, with a mounting energy crisis and property market tremors casting a pall as the country's post-Covid recovery lost steam.

While the world's number-two economy bounced back quickly from the coronavirus outbreak last year, with gross domestic product growth returning to pre-pandemic levels, economists say further slowdown is "inevitable".

Growth is forecast to come in at 5.0 percent on-year for July-September by the 12 analysts polled by AFP, representing a sharp slowdown from the 7.9 percent clocked in the previous three months.

They also downgraded their full-year growth expectations to 8.1 percent, from the 8.5 percent predicted in a July poll. Official figures will be released on Monday.

Analysts said China's growth slowdown mainly stems from policy tightening this year in key areas including the property sector and a drive to cut emissions.

Residential real estate activity has slowed with tightened regulations and credit policies for developers, along with guidance to banks to slow mortgage lending, according to Oxford Economics.

The travails of property giant Evergrande -- which is struggling under a mountain of debt worth more than \$300 billion -- is dragging down sentiment among prospective buyers, it added.

Christina Zhu, of Moody's Analytics, said a slowdown in property investment and house prices could hit growth as real estate investment accounts for a large share of fixed asset investment, which she said accounts for more than 40 percent of total GDP.

"The two major risks for the remainder of the year are the property market debt problem and power shortages," Zhu added.

Power rationing in recent weeks, along with surging raw material costs and the government's climate push, have led to reduced mining activities and manufacturing production.

Such disruptions "will not only put pressure on (the) domestic labour market and consumption, but also have ripple effects on global trade and prices", Zhu warned.

But UBS economists believe Beijing will further fine-tune policies to avoid a sharp power crunch, having already introduced guidelines to raise coal production and imports.

The actual hit to GDP will depend on how this is managed, they added. Meanwhile, the government is trying to recalibrate the economy to one driven by consumers and away from investment and exports.

But officials presently have to walk a fine line between supporting growth and keeping a lid on inflation with factory gate prices rising at their fastest rate in a quarter of a century. Despite still-strong foreign demand, factors like extreme weather and fresh virus outbreaks, on top of energy shortages and the cooling housing market have all weighed on China's economy, said Gene Ma, head of China research at the Institute of International Finance.

Flooding shuttered coal mines earlier this month, while extreme weather has destroyed crops and a series of regional lockdowns have brought large cities to a standstill with just a handful of Covid-19 cases.

Aviation Supply Chain Faces Mounting Strain

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) - Global shipping and supply chain disruptions are making it harder for corporate planemakers and suppliers to meet resurgent demand for parts, according to industry executives and analysts.

Disruptions, which are also hitting commercial aviation, are beginning to drive up costs and risk slowing down the aerospace industry's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With private aviation traffic surpassing 2019 levels this year, some corporate planemakers and suppliers at a flagship business jet show in Las Vegas this week flagged warning signs about supply chain and labor hiccups. Their comments added to recent concerns expressed by Airbus Chief Executive Guillaume Faury about mounting pressure on commercial aerospace's supply chain.

Aerospace has, so far, avoided the scale of supply woes faced by auto makers and machinery companies as planemakers Boeing Co and Airbus are producing fewer jets than before the pandemic. But supply chain strains are increasingly becoming visible for the production of narrow-body jets, which have seen a pick-up in demand due to a recovery in short-haul trips, said Eric Bernardini, global co-head of aerospace, defense and aviation at consultants AlixPartners.

Easing travel restrictions and the lure of private flights have led to an unexpected surge in business jet traffic, filling seats for private operators and expanding order backlogs for planemakers, but straining supply of jets, parts and pilots.

Planes produced by Cessna business jet producer Textron Inc (TXT.N) are flying around 20% more than in 2019, putting pressure on suppliers to keep up with the need to deliver replacement parts. "We're in a healthier position compared to what it could be, but we are starting to see some issues," said Ron Draper, chief executive of Textron Aviation.

Draper said Textron is managing the hiccups, but is still "seeing some suppliers pop up with capacity constraints."

Stirling Macfarlane, a segment manager in aerospace with PPG Industries (PPG.N), said at the show that the maker of aircraft coatings and transparencies has faced some delays in receiving needed components. Aerospace companies are experiencing shortages of semiconductor chip and plastics, and paying far more for raw materials like steel and aluminum, Bernardini said.



Food, Fuels Lift U.S. Import Prices in September

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. import prices rebounded in September, lifted by higher food and energy costs, but underlying imported inflation showed signs of moderating.

Import prices rose 0.4% last month after falling 0.3% in August, the Labor Department said on Friday. In the 12 months through September, prices shot up 9.2% after advancing 8.9% in August. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast import prices, which exclude tariffs, increasing 0.6%.

The government reported this week that strong food prices and rents pushed up consumer inflation in September, while higher energy costs kept producer prices elevated. The price of Brent crude has shot above \$80 a barrel.

Imported fuel prices increased 3.7% last month after declining 3.0% in August. Petroleum prices rebounded 3.9%, while the cost of imported food accelerated 1.3%.

Excluding fuel and food, import prices dipped 0.1%. These so-called core import prices fell 0.1% in August and were up 4.7% on a year-on-year basis in September.

The report also showed export prices nudged up 0.1% in September after rising 0.4% in August. Prices for agricultural exports fell 1.7%. Nonagricultural export prices gained 0.3%. Export prices rose 16.3% year-on-year in September after increasing 16.8% in August.

Erdogan's Central Bank Overhaul Clears Way for More Rate Cuts

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan dismissed three central bank policymakers, two of whom were seen to oppose the last interest rate cut, clearing the way for more policy easing and sending the lira to a new all-time low.

Analysts viewed the move - announced at midnight in the Official Gazette - as fresh evidence of political interference by Erdogan, a self-described enemy of interest rates who frequently calls for monetary stimulus.

With no explanation for the decision, Erdogan fired deputy governors Semih Tumen and Ugur Namik Kucuk, along with the longest-serving monetary policy committee (MPC) member,

Abdullah Yavas, the gazette said.

He appointed two new members - Taha Cakmak as a deputy and also Yusuf Tuna - who are little known at the central bank or among economists, leaving the MPC with little monetary policy experience after a years-long overhaul by the president.

Two sources familiar with internal deliberations said Kucuk and Yavas were ousted after disagreeing with last month's 100 basis-point rate cut, which at the time surprised investors and sent the currency tumbling.

Soon after the announcement the lira weakened to a record low against the dollar, before paring its losses during the day. However it hit a fresh all-time low of 9.1950.

The currency has shed some 19% this year, primarily due to the central bank's bruised credibility and worries among investors and savers over premature rate cuts in the face of inflation that has risen to nearly 20%.

"The lira has lost its institutional support in recent years ... and last night's changes strongly indicate that the central bank is no longer capable of managing Turkey's monetary policy," said Arda Tunca, economist at Eko Faktoring.

The combination of monetary policy and financial regulations have left the "Turkish economy extremely fragile," he added.

Last month the central bank cut its policy rate to 18% as Erdogan - sliding in opinion polls and keen to boost credit and exports - had publicly sought. Most analysts called the easing a mistake at a time of accelerating global inflation.

The MPC overhaul came after the presidency said on Wednesday evening that Erdogan had met Central Bank Governor Sahap Kavcioglu and it published a photo of the two men together.

That marked a turnaround from last week when Reuters reported, citing three sources, that Erdogan was losing confidence in Kavcioglu and that the two had communicated little in recent weeks.

Though the MPC has seen a rapid turnover this year, Kavcioglu pushed for changes in recent days, according to one of the sources with knowledge of the matter.

Quicker Vaccinations Key To Pandemic Recovery

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

Accelerating the pace of vaccinations worldwide will be key not just to containing the coronavirus pandemic, but also to resolving the speed bumps besetting the global economic recovery, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said.

Finance officials gathered for the annual meeting of the Washington-based crisis lender have flagged concerns about supply chain bottlenecks that are pushing prices higher.

Those disruptions stem from the unprecedented situation created by the pandemic and the sharp rebound in demand as economies reopen, as well as struggles to hire workers amid renewed infections from the Delta variant of the coronavirus.

But Georgieva said the "more fundamental problem" is the growing divergence between "countries that are pulling forward more strongly, and those that are falling behind," largely due to the drastically lower vaccination rates in lower-income nations.

"There was a very clear message coming out of this meeting that vaccinating the world is critical," she told reporters.

While advanced countries are starting to provide booster shots, about 96 percent of the population of low-income countries are unvaccinated.

International Monetary Fund members "called for a strong international cooperation and immediate action to achieve universal vaccination," said Sweden Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson, who chaired the IMF's steering committee.

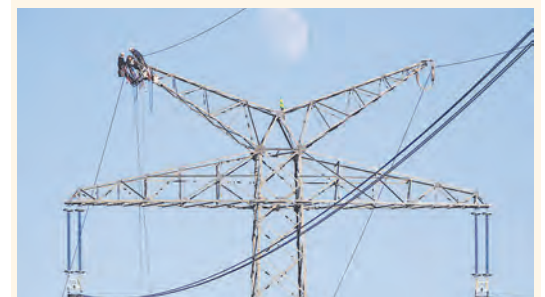
Georgieva repeated the Fund's view that inflation pressures are mostly transitory, but the committee stressed that central banks will be watching prices closely and will take action if "concrete" risks materialize.

The committee, in its concluding statement, recognized the risks to the recovery and highlighted the need for "immediate action" on vaccinations and to address the crisis that is exacerbating poverty.

The membership also repeated the pledge to "extend financial assistance to countries in need."

That includes shifting funds from the newly-issued IMF reserves -- \$650 billion in special drawing rights -- to countries most in need. Georgieva said her \$100 billion goal is "very achievable."

Germany Slashes Energy Surcharge to Help Consumers Weather Soaring Prices



FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Germany will cut a power surcharge levied on consumers to support renewable energy by 42.7% to help households cope with soaring energy prices, network operators said on Friday.

Germany and other governments in Europe are seeking to provide relief for consumers as gas prices skyrocket.

The reduction in the German levy, to 3.723 euro cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), confirms a Reuters report on Thursday. It will not take effect until Jan. 1.

The government will help fund the cut with 3.25 billion euros (\$3.77 billion) in revenue collected from carbon taxes.

The fee, which was reduced by 3.9% last year to help the economy out of the coronavirus slump, is collected under the renewable energy act (EEG) and paid to producers of wind and solar electricity installations.

The EEG fee makes up one-fifth of a consumer's energy bill.

Transmission system operators (TSOs) calculate the fee by continuously monitoring income from the EEG levy payments and the size of the account in which they are deposited, and by factoring in wholesale prices and anticipated feed-in of renewable power onto the grids.

They said that in 2022 renewable power production is expected to rise by 11 terawatt hours to 239 TWh, worth 22.8 billion euros at expected market prices.

The TSOs are Amprion, 50Hertz, TransnetBW and Tennet.

Price comparison portal Verivox said a typical household consuming 4,000 kWh per year would save 132 euros on its annual bill.

But this is only arithmetic, because the savings may not be passed on fully by suppliers.

"Because of high wholesale market prices and rising network tariffs, there will not be significant relief for households," it said.

Kerstin Andreae, of the German utility industry association BDEW, said the incoming German government should quickly abolish the EEG fee. "That would relieve power customers and not least medium-sized industries permanently," she said in a statement.

Foolad Crowned Champions of Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran’s Foolad Sirjan team defeated Al-Arabi SC 3-1 to win the 2021 Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship on Friday.

Foolad Sirjan of Iran defeated Qatari side Al-Arabi 3-1 (25-19, 21-25, 25-23, 25-22). Saber Kazemi chipped in with 28 points including 22 attacks from 46 attempts and 5 aces for Sirjan, while Mahdi Jelveh kept good company to contribute 14 points.



Japan’s Q3 Growth Forecast Trimmed Further

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan’s economy likely grew at a slower pace than previously expected last quarter and faces ongoing risks from soaring raw material prices and coronavirus-linked production and supply disruptions, a Reuters poll of economists showed on Friday.

Government and central bank policymakers are hoping a jump in consumer activity put the export-reliant economy firmly on a recovery path after Japan saw COVID-19 case numbers plummet and made progress on vaccinations.

Analysts, however, warned of risks such as an unexpected economic slowdown in China and semiconductor chip and factory parts shortages due to the pandemic.

“There is a risk problems due to supply chain disruption will last longer, putting downward pressure on the global economy,” said Harumi Taguchi, principal economist at IHS Markit.

Japan’s economy grew an annualized 0.8% in the third quarter, weaker than a 1.2% expansion projected last month, according to the median forecast of 39 analysts polled.

Growth is expected to accelerate to 4.5% this quarter as an end to state of emergency curbs boosts consumption and corporate activity, the poll showed.

The projection was roughly in line with last month’s forecast for 4.4% growth, the Oct. 6-14 poll showed.

Parts shortages and factory disruptions in Southeast Asia have forced Japanese automakers to cut output in recent months, clouding the outlook for the export-reliant economy.

Japanese companies also face rising raw material costs, aggravated by a weaker yen, that could erode margins.

For a major importer of raw materials like Japan, rising input costs will worsen terms of trade, said Mari Iwashita, chief market economist at Daiwa Securities.

“That will lead to a decrease in corporate profits and real purchasing power for consumers,” Iwashita said.

The poll also showed Japan’s new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida should focus on fighting the coronavirus pandemic, boosting digitalization of the economy and stimulating domestic demand and consumption.

Kishida, who became leader earlier this month after taking over from Yoshihide



Suga as premier, on Thursday called a general election in which he is hoping to solidify his grip on power.

Asked which areas the government should focus on under the new prime minister, 27 economists selected “response to the coronavirus pandemic”.

The next most popular picks were “digitalization in society and among firms” and “stimulate domestic demand and private consumption”, which were picked by 17 and 14 economists, respectively.

Six economists chose “social security issues” such as the pension system and care for elderly and children. Three analysts picked “foreign and security policy”, while none chose “fiscal reform”.

The poll allowed respondents to choose up to two areas.

U.S. Firm Sees Exciting Moment as Space Tourism Booms

MOSCOW (AFP) - As competition in the space tourism industry heats up, a U.S.-based firm said Friday it was excited to re-enter the sector with the upcoming launch of a Japanese billionaire.

Space Adventures, headed by Tom Shelley, is set in December to send Japanese tycoon Yusaku Maezawa to the International Space Station (ISS) from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

It’s the company’s first launch in over a decade after suspending trips to the ISS as NASA bought up seats on Russia-operated flights and no other vehicles were available. “It’s a very exciting time for us,” Shelley, 48, the president of Space Adventures, told AFP during an interview in Moscow on Friday.

He added that Space Adventures with Russia was planning future launches “to innovate and find new offerings” for clients. Shelley said the next Space Adventures flight to the ISS -- scheduled for late 2023 or early 2024 -- will give one of its clients an opportunity to complete a spacewalk.

The return of Shelley’s company to the industry with Russia was made possible after the succesful flight of Elon Musk’s SpaceX last year that delivered astronauts to the ISS. The move rendered NASA less dependent on Russian launches, freeing up seats with Moscow’s space agency, Roscosmos. Maezawa, 45, will board a Soyuz rocket operated by Roscosmos together with his assistant Yozo Hirano and cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin.

The December launch comes in the middle of a flurry of non-professional launches.

SpaceX this year sent an all-civilian crew on an orbit of the Earth, a first in the history of amateur space travel. In Moscow, Shelley said the boom in civilian launches meant the general public was becoming “more aware” of space travel. “2021 has turned into a very interesting year within the private spaceflight industry,” he said.

It’s “not just something that has been talked as something for the future, but it is happening now”.

UN Chief Calls for Food Security Around the World

TEHRAN (UNIC) - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message on World Food Day, 16 October 2021, warned about the growing number of people lacking access to a healthy diet, while calling for food systems that deliver better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for every person.

The full text of his message reads:

World Food Day is not only a reminder of the importance of food to every person on the planet — it is a call to action to achieve food security around the world.

Today, almost 40 per cent of humanity — three billion people — cannot afford a healthy diet.

Hunger is on the rise. So too are undernourishment and obesity.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 have made a bad situation even worse.

The pandemic has left an additional 140 million people unable to access the food they need.

At the same time, the way we produce, consume and waste food is taking a heavy toll on our planet.

U.S. Forces...

FROM PAGE 1

Khalil said the SDF is a “tool” for the Americans to steal the national resources and wealth of the Syrian people, from wheat to oil.

Pointing to some Afghans cooperating with US forces in the war-ravaged country, Khalil said, “The Kurdish militants should never forget the lesson of Afghanistan - how the United States sacrificed its mercenaries in Afghanistan and left them down after twenty years of occupation and years of service.”

“For this reason, it is worthwhile for the SDF to be well aware that occupation, especially the American type, is perishable,” he added.

Thousands of Afghans, among them Afghan translators working for US forces, were left behind in the war-torn country after the United States abruptly withdrew forces from Afghanistan in September.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the U.S. and its allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the Arab country.

The United States has deployed forces and military equipment in Syria without any authorization from Damascus or the UN. It has long been training militants and stealing Syria’s oil, ignoring repeated calls by Damascus to end its occupation of the country.

Iran LPG...

FROM PAGE 1

Fuji Petrochemical, a subsidiary of Oriental Energy, resumed operations of its PDH plant in eastern Zhejiang province around mid-September following maintenance since early August.

LPG prices in Asia have been rallying, as heating demand picked up ahead of the Northern hemisphere winter and concerns arose over global gas supply, with CFR North Asia propane rising to \$910/mt Oct. 6, the highest since July 2, 2014, when it reached \$918/mt, Platts data showed. It eased to \$870.5/mt Oct. 15, as the market took occasional pauses and sellers emerged amid favorable prices.

Robust Asian market sentiment, led by Chinese demand for feedstock as new PDH plants come onstream, has also been pushing up the monthly Saudi term contract prices. Saudi Aramco’s October term propane CP was set at \$800/mt, the fifth-straight monthly increase and highest since July 2014, and the butane CP was at \$795/mt, the highest since August 2014, Platts data showed.

The upcoming November term propane and butane CPs are expected to rise for the sixth month in a row, trade sources said, as the November propane CP swap was notionally indicated Oct. 15 at \$845/mt, up from \$840.5/mt valued in the previous session, while butane was indicated \$25/mt below propane. Chinese sources have said more Iranian LPG was shipped to China this year due to the grade’s competitive price.

Iranian LPG was heard sold at discounts steeper than \$20/mt, or even \$30/mt, compared with other Middle Eastern cargoes, trade sources said.

The previous round of Western sanctions in 2012 saw Chinese importers buying Iranian cargoes at around \$40-\$50/mt discounts.

Negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program stalled since mid June following a pause for the Iranian elections. US President Joe Biden tried to revive the talks Sept. 21 by promising in his first address to the UN General Assembly that Washington would return to full compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action if Tehran did the same. Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman said Tehran was prepared to resume talks.

Platts Analytics has cautioned that by mid 2022, OPEC+ spare capacity “will be insufficient to offset a no-Iran deal.” Without the 1.5 million b/d of additional Iranian crude hitting the market, and with US supply growth still likely to be somewhat constrained by capital discipline, the oil market could be vulnerable to further disruptions, according to Platts Analytics. Recent LPG supply from other major Middle Eastern producers has been steady.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. or ADNOC, announced acceptances of November-loading term LPG cargoes without cuts, delays or advancements, market sources said.

ADNOC’s acceptances of September, August, July, June and April-loading cargoes had also been in line with lifters’ nominations, Platts reported earlier. Qatar Petroleum also announced acceptances of November-loading term cargo nominations without cuts or delays, with at least one lifter given advance loading of one week, traders said.

Saudi Aramco’s acceptances of November-loading term cargo nominations are due by the weekend, after Aramco’s acceptances of October-loading term cargo nominations saw no cuts and delays. The company was heard to have asked one major Japanese lifter to change the ratio of its October-lifting program to be more butane-rich, sources said. At the Oct. 4 meeting, OPEC and its allies kept to their original plan to raise oil production in November by just 400,000 b/d.

Iran-EAEU...

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Iran also imported over 4.381 million tons of goods worth more than \$1.968 billion from the block in the mentioned period, registering 14.5 percent and 41 percent rise in terms of weight and value, respectively, the official said.

Russian Federation with \$1.716 billion, Kazakhstan with \$234.77 million, Belarus with \$12.183 million, Armenia with \$4.627 million, and Kyrgyzstan with \$372,441 were the top five sources of Iranian imports.

Iran and Eurasian Economic Union reached a free trade agreement in October 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed on May 17, 2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan).

The free trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides. The agreement with the bloc has increased Iran’s exports to the EAEU member states significantly, which is a turning point for the Islamic Republic’s plans for boosting non-oil exports during the U.S. sanctions.

China Ready to...

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Amirabdollahian described relations between the two countries as strategic, emphasizing Tehran’s serious efforts to follow up on the agreements reached between President Xi Jinping and President Ebrahim Raeisi in a recent telephone call between the two sides, as well as the full implementation of the 25-year cooperation document.

The Iranian foreign minister explained the framework of Iran-EU talks and the definite policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is the effective and complete removal of unilateral and illegal US sanctions. Amirabdollahian also criticized the inaction of the three European countries.

The top Iranian diplomat emphasized that the talks have started in a positive and constructive direction.

Iran Opposes...

FROM PAGE 1

The embassy said occupation of Afghanistan by foreign forces, infighting between various groups and severe poverty had all contributed to considerable rise of narcotic drugs production.

“In spite of that, such factors in particular foreign occupation and sudden flee (sic) of U.S. forces and its allies from Afghanistan as the main root causes of recent surge in all chaos, insecurity, and exacerbation of drug trafficking in the region is ignored or underestimated,” said the embassy in another tweet.

Pakistan-Iran-Turkey...

FROM PAGE 1

Turkey’s exports to China will be able to route through Pakistan towards China, he said adding that Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Transport Corridor Project was successfully carrying commercial cargo on Pakistani trucks to Turkey and vice-versa up to Chinese Markets.

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that both countries share positive trade relations and the investments by Turkish companies in Pakistan have increased by over US\$1 billion. The two countries also signed a Strategic Economic Framework agreement that covers a broad spectrum of cooperation in science and technology, defense, tourism, education, and health. He said that PCJCCI would enhance Chinese investment in these sectors to create a sustainable economic triangle amongst the three friendly states.

Faraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI said that, despite of recent economic initiatives, Pakistan should take additional steps to reprioritize this essential aspect of the bilateral equation with Turkey. Successful completion of ongoing projects with Turkey such as the Trans-Afghan Railway project, CASA-1000, and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline could significantly improve Pakistan’s connectivity with Western Asia and Europe, he said and urged to exploit such projects in conjunction with One Road, One Belt (OBOR) project of China.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI shared his views by saying that, Pakistan’s economic woes are no longer simply a domestic issue but a foreign policy challenge. Considering that Turkey is such a close ally, where President Erdogan has addressed the parliament four times, exploring an economic dimension within the bilateral relationship makes sense. It is yet to be seen if the Khan administration can reprioritize international relations beyond the national security prism and without compromising Chinese Economic Development Program in the region.

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Jabeur to Become First Arab Player to Crack Top 10

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Tunisia's Ons Jabeur will become the first Arab player to crack the top 10 of the tennis world rankings after she defeated Estonian Anett Kontaveit 7-5 6-3 in their Indian Wells quarter-final, the WTA confirmed on Thursday.

"(It) feels amazing — we've been working hard (for) years and when I spoke at the end of last season I said I wanted to be in the top 10, you know, people doubted us as a team but we proved them wrong," she said after the match.

Norrie Crushes Schwartzman, Dimitrov Holds Off Hurkacz

INDIAN WELLS (Dispatches) - Cameron Norrie overpowered No. 11 seed Diego Schwartzman 6-0, 6-2 to reach the semi-finals of the ATP Indian Wells Masters.

Norrie, the 21st seed, needed just 73 minutes to dispatch the Argentinian and has now won three of four career matches against Schwartzman, who was undone by a string of unforced errors in the California desert.

"Everything went my way today," Norrie said. "Right from the beginning I was timing the ball well. I thought I was in for a long match because the previous times we have played have been so long and so physical so I was ready for that.

"I hit a lot of lines in the first set and stayed tough in the second and served well when I needed to. I am so happy to be through, it is such a big win for me."

Britain's Norrie, appearing in his first Indian Wells quarter-final, next faces Grigor Dimitrov who outlasted eighth seeded Hubert Hurkacz in three sets, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

Dimitrov eliminated top-seeded Russian Daniil Medvedev in a hard-fought fourth round match on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old Norrie, who will supplant Daniel Evans as the British No. 1 when the new rankings come out on Monday, is enjoying a career best season.

"I have been pretty consistent this year," Norrie added. "I think I am really doing the fundamentals well on serve and return and playing the big points better.

"I have been a little more aggressive and feel I am learning more as I go along and becoming more experienced."

Norrie cruised through the opening set in 32 minutes, losing just one point on his first serve. He won 72 percent of his first serve points overall and won 58 points compared to just 30 for Schwartzman.

Earlier this year, Norrie captured his first



ATP title in Los Cabos. He also delivered a run to the championship match of a grass court tournament in London.

Dimitrov withstood 14 aces from Hurkacz as their first career meeting turned into a classic lasting two hours and 37 minutes.

The Bulgarian used a steady game and a more consistent serve to shake off a first-set loss and then close it out in a third set tiebreaker.

Dimitrov won the final three points of the tiebreaker, clinching it when Hurkacz hit the final shot into the net.

"I am so glad I have a day off tomorrow," said Dimitrov. "I never played Hubert before. He has all the weapons.

"At the beginning his serve was too good. After the first set I tried to regroup and tried to turn things around. I still felt I had something left in me but I wasn't sure how much I had.

"I stayed in there and dug deep. The only way he could have done it is if he took it away from me. The last few points was the difference."

Hurkacz hit more aces and made fewer double faults (4-1) but had his serve broken three times.

Benzema Keen To Play With Mbappe at Real Madrid

MADRID (Dispatches) - Karim Benzema has said he would like to play alongside his France strike partner Kylian Mbappe for Real Madrid one day and spoken of his joy at winning a trophy with his country after six years away from the team.

Paris St Germain rejected a bid from Real for Mbappe for €160 million (RM770.8 million) this year, with Spanish and French media reporting they made two further offer — the second of —180 million— which were also turned down.

Mbappe will be free to negotiate with Real and other clubs from January with a view to joining for free when his contract with PSG expires next June, unless the Ligue 1 side can convince him to sign a new deal.

Benzema and Mbappe each scored as France came from behind to beat Spain 2-1 in Sunday's Uefa Nations League final in Milan and the Real player told Spanish state network TVE he would like to play with the 22-year-old in Madrid.

"Why not? I've always said it and I'll say it again, of course I would like to (play with Mbappe) one day," Benzema said.



Hernandez to Face Spanish Court

MUNICH (AFP) - Bayern Munich defender Lucas Hernandez will travel to Madrid to appear in court for violating a restraining order in 2017, said club president Herbert Hainer.

"He's going now, then he'll be heard, then we'll see," Hainer said Thursday night on the sidelines of a protest at the club's training center.

A Madrid court on Wednesday ordered the imprisonment of the French international for non-compliance with the restraining order which followed a fracas in 2017 with his then-girlfriend who was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Neither made a complaint against the other but both were charged by Spain's public prosecutor.

The then-Atletico Madrid player and his girlfriend, who have since married and have a son, were each sentenced to 31 days of community service. They were also ordered not to see each other for six months.

In December 2019, Hernandez was sentenced to six months in prison for breaking the restraining order when the couple landed in Madrid after getting married in the United States.

Hernandez, a 2018 World Cup winner, has been summoned to appear before a court next Tuesday. He will have 10 days from October 19 to enter prison "voluntarily".

No Munich official has commented on the legal issues of the case. "This is Lucas Hernandez's private business, I don't want to judge them," Hainer said on Thursday.

FIFA Helps Evacuate 100 Players, Family Members From Afghanistan

ZURICH (Dispatches) - World soccer's governing body FIFA said on Friday it had worked with the Qatari government to evacuate almost 100 football players and their families from Afghanistan.

The Taliban seized control of Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Aug. 15 and announced a new government last month after U.S.-led foreign forces withdrew and the Western-backed government collapsed.

Raducanu Withdraws From Kremlin Cup



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu has pulled out of next week's Kremlin Cup in Moscow following her second-round loss at the Indian Wells tournament, British media reported.

No immediate reason was given for the withdrawal.

"Unfortunately, I've had to make a tournament schedule change and won't be

able to play Moscow this year but I hope to compete there and in front of the Russian fans next year," Raducanu said.

"I look forward to returning to the tour in the next couple of weeks."

Briton Raducanu, 18, lost to Belarus' Aliaksandra Sasnovich in straight sets at Indian Wells last week in her first match since winning the U.S. Open title at Flushing Meadows.

The world number 22 said she was disappointed with the defeat by Sasnovich but needed to "cut herself some slack". "The experiences that I'm going through right now, even though I might not feel 100% amazing right now, I know they're for the greater good... in the bigger picture, I'll be thanking this moment," Raducanu said.

She is scheduled to play in events in Romania and Austria before the end of the season.

Klopp Says Money Doesn't Buy Success

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has warned Newcastle that money does not buy success as the Magpies dream of joining the European elite after their Saudi-led takeover.

Struggling Newcastle are the talk of the Premier League following the £305 million (\$419 million) takeover as the new owners prepare to start their reign against Tottenham on Sunday.

Newcastle hope to emulate the sustained success enjoyed by Premier League champions Manchester City under their Abu Dhabi-based backers.

Klopp expects Newcastle to fulfil their ambitions eventually, but he suggested it might be a rocky road to the top because money alone cannot guarantee success.

"What will it mean for football? A few months we had an issue with clubs building a Super League, and rightly so. But this is building a super team, guaranteed places in the Champions League in a few years," Klopp told reporters on Friday.

"Newcastle fans will love it, but money doesn't buy success. They have money to make mistakes, but they will be where they want eventually."

Newcastle's takeover was greeted with dismay by Amnesty International, which described it as a "bitter blow for human rights defenders".

Saudi Arabia faced international condemnation following the brutal murder of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate three years ago.

"I was waiting for official statements from (Premier League chief executive) Richard Masters because obviously there are concerns about human rights, that is obvious," Klopp said.

Klopp revealed Liverpool are sending goalkeeper Alisson Becker and midfielder Fabinho straight to Spain from international duty with Brazil to complete their coronavirus quarantine.



Guardiola Wants Sterling to Stay And Fight

LONDON (AFP) - Pep Guardiola says he wants Raheem Sterling to fight for his place at Manchester City after the frustrated forward admitted he "would be open" to leaving the Premier League champions.

England forward Sterling has been with City since 2015, when he moved from Liverpool, and has won three Premier League titles with the club.

However, the 26-year-old has made just two league starts this season, struggling with his form and fierce competition from attacking stars including Phil Foden and club record signing Jack Grealish.

Speaking at the FT Business of Sport U.S. Summit on Thursday, Sterling, who has been linked with a loan move to Barcelona, said: "If there was the opportunity to go somewhere else (for more game time), I would be open to it at this moment in time.

"As I said, football is the most important thing to me -- challenges that I have set myself from a young age and dreams as well, to play abroad."

But Guardiola told reporters on Friday that he wanted Sterling to stay with City.

"Raheem is our player and will hopefully be an incredibly important player for us," he said.

"Some players want to play all the time but I can't assure them of that. Always they have to speak on the grass -- not Raheem, all of them.

"What I want from Raheem and everyone is for them to be happy."

Despite his few starts, Sterling, whose deal with City runs until 2023, said he would not be running to Guardiola's office to demand more playing time.

Sterling, who starred for England at Euro 2020, could be in line for a rare start on Saturday against Burnley after City winger Ferran Torres suffered a fractured foot while playing for Spain in the Nations League.

