

**Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 126,616 With 160 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours**

# IRAN NEWS

**Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian Said Yesterday in A Twitter Message on Tuesday That the P4+1 Should Be Ready For Negotiations Based on Mutual Interests and Rights**

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## Tehran Slams Israel for Tearing UNHRC Report

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's top human rights official says the silence of the so-called human rights protectors toward Israel's rights violations is the main reason that has emboldened the regime's ambassador to tear up UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)'s report on its crimes.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Judiciary chief's deputy and secretary general of the country's High Council for Human Rights, made the remarks in a Monday tweet in reference to a recent development in which the Israeli regime's UN ambassador tore up a copy of the UNHRC's annual report while delivering a speech to the world body's General Assembly.

Gilad Erdan took the move on Friday after issuing a tirade, in which he accused the UNHRC of "obsessive anti-Israel bias" and called the report "anti-Semitic," "distorted" and "one-sided."

The report's only place was "in the dustbin of anti-Semitism," he said, before ripping up the copy and leaving the podium.

The report has presented findings of an investigative body set up to examine the devastating and deadly effects of Israel's war against the already Tel Aviv-blockaded Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip in May. **See Page 7**

## Iran Non-Crude Exports Hit Record of \$5.26b in October

TEHRAN (PressTV)- Iranian non-crude exports hit a record high of \$5.268 billion in the calendar month to October 22, according to figures by Iran's customs office (IRICA), as a new administration that took office in mid-summer keeps encouraging more activity in the country's non-crude sector to offset losses suffered in oil exports because of US sanctions.

IRICA spokesman Rouhoallah Latifi said that Iran's October exports had been 67% higher than the average figures reported for the first five months of the calendar year starting late March.

Overseas shipments in the month to late October had risen by over 27% against September, said Latifi.

The official added that exports had started to jump in September when shipments had reached a total of \$4.145 billion, an increase of 60% compared to the previous five-month average.

Iran has seen a boom in non-crude exports since the United States pulled out of an international nuclear deal and imposed sanctions on the country in 2018. **See Page 7**

## Iran Needs \$160b of Investment in Its Oil Projects



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - About \$160 billion should be spent on projects in Iran's oil and gas sectors, the country's Oil Minister Javad Owji said.

He made the remark in a meeting with the chairman of the Plan and Budget Organization of Iran, Masoud Mirkazemi, in the framework of consultations on Tehran's budget for March 21, 2022, through to March 20, 2023.

The minister noted that the necessary funds have not been spent in the oil and gas sector in recent years. If the investments are not made, Iran will become an importer of oil and gas products in the coming years.

Owji reiterated that if the country does not spend on developing oil projects, then it will turn into an importing country of oil products. He noted that during the investments, the formation and condition of the areas of investment should be taken more into consideration, noting that those projects which do not have economic justification will harm the country and it will be the waste of money and time.

He also criticized the former governments for their negligence in investment in the developmental projects in the oil industry.

During the meeting, Mirkazemi said that some Iranian ministries should make plans that are effective in economic development. After funds are allocated for the plans, they will be monitored to ensure that the facilities are put into operation and have a positive impact on economic development.

There are currently 74 oil and 22 gas fields in Iran. Thirty-seven of these are operating in the territory of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC).

Iran's total hydrocarbon reserves are estimated at 836 billion barrels. With the available technology and equipment, Iran has the potential to extract 239 billion barrels. Thus, 29 percent of the country's hydrocarbon reserves are recoverable, while 71 percent remain underground.

## U.S. Prevents Iran Rail Exports to Afghanistan to Build Key Rail Link

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The U.S. has prevented exports of Iranian rail to Afghanistan to connect the landlocked country to the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf as well as Europe, an Iranian official says.

According to Mehrdad Tavallaiyan, head of the assistant directorate for operation and a member of the board of directors of the Isfahan Steel Company, the first rail export contract worth \$4.3 million with Afghanistan had been concluded.

"However despite receiving the money, we were unable to send the shipment due to US intervention," Iran's mining website Madan News on Wednesday quoted him as saying.

"With this agreement, the possibility of connecting Afghanistan through Iran to the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf and on the west to Europe would have realized," he added.

The agreement, Tavallaiyan said, would also have resulted in an increase in the volume of trade and transit exchanges with Afghanistan, but the Iranian cargo was not allowed to enter Afghanistan after the news was made public.

The rail cargo was apparently intended to extend a rail link from Iran to the Afghan city of Herat.

Last December, an Iranian goods train carrying tonnes of agricultural products chugged into the western Afghan province as the two countries marked the opening of their first shared railway network.

The train route so far links the Iranian city of Khaf with the Afghan town of Rozanak about 150 kilometers away, but is scheduled to be expanded to reach Herat, Afghanistan's third largest city.

The project has been billed a gateway to Europe for Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries.

Once completed, the 225 kilometer network would help transport six million tonnes of goods and a million passengers annually. The Khaf-Herat network would later be connected to Central Asian and Chinese rail networks.

Iran's trade with Afghanistan has been growing in recent years as overland connectivity, including through the India-built Delaram-Zaranj highway or Route 606 connecting Afghan cities to the Iranian border has facilitated exchanges.

Afghan cargoes are currently carried by road to Chabahar and other Iranian cities via the Iranian road network.

The Khaf-Herat railroad will boost trade further, allowing trainloads of Afghan goods to reach not only Iranian cities but also the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, the Caspian Sea and land ports in western and northwestern Iran from where they will head to European markets.

Evidently, such a prospect does not sit well with the Americans who had to withdraw from Afghanistan in August after 20 years of occupation. The current Taliban rulers of Afghanistan have indicated their willingness to maintain and expand trade ties with Iran. **See Page 7**

## ViewPoint "Mask of Impudence"

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

It seems the Islamic Republic of Iran's passiveness and to some extent its political considerations have emboldened South Korea and this country even dares to insult Iranians while it has frozen the country's billions of dollars in its banks.

Recent South Korea's donation of 2,000 face masks to a hospital in Tehran has triggered controversy as the country refuses to release several billion dollars of Iranian oil money in line with anti-Iran U.S. sanctions.

Some social media users have responded to the move on the South Korean Embassy's twitter page calling on Seoul to release Iranian funds immediately and this Koreans' move faced backlash in the country.

"Iranians are not in need of the small number of masks you have bothered to donate. And just for your information, Iran is now an exporter of masks," a social media user wrote on the embassy's page. "Release the Iranian nation's funds if you are so determined to look civilized."

Another user wrote that "Atieh Hospital should not have accepted such humiliation."

Some others said the South Korean Embassy has insulted the Iranians rather than sending a friendly signal.

The angry reactions poured in after the Korean embassy in Tehran announced in a Twitter post that ambassador Yun Kang-hyeon donated the face masks to Atieh Hospital on October 26 to "help the Iranian people overcome Covid-19."

The donated masks by Koreans turned into sign of impudence of this country that once Iran was its third-trade partner in the West Asia.

For kind information of South Koreans, the masks that they donated to Atieh Hospital are valued less than \$100 and I think Iranians' daily donations even in the worst economic condition is more than \$200,000 excluding secret and big donations by benefactors.

Iranians are famous in the world for its hospitality and open-handedness and one can see it in cases like hosting refugees and helping the oppressed people in the world. Therefore the country does not need such an insulting donation which is more humiliation than donation.

The interesting point is that South Koreans have blocked Iran's money in their banks under the pretext of the U.S. sanctions and they are not ready to unblock the assets and now in a humanitarian gesture donate 2,000 masks.

Iranians never need such aids and donations because they are rich enough to handle its own affairs even in the current sanctions condition and Koreans are better to use the masks in order to cover their hypocrite nature. **See Page 7**

## Iran Exports to Iraq Could Increase to \$9b by Yearend

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Chairman of the Iran-Iraq Chamber of Commerce, Yahya Ale Es'haq, has predicted that the value of this year's exports to Iraq could reach \$9 billion by yearend.

Chairman of Iran-Iraq chamber of commerce, Yahya Ale Es'haq told Iranian media on Monday that the value of Iran's exports to Iraq has been usually between \$8-12 billion in recent years. Ale Es'haq said that during the first seven months since the start of the current Iranian year of 1400 (beginning on March 21), the value of Iran's exports to Iraq was \$ 5.5 billion.

Meanwhile, the economic official predicted that the value of Iran's exported goods and commodities to neighboring Iraq could land somewhere between \$8 to 9 billion at the end of this year. He also attributed the 43% growth of the foreign trade in the first 7 months of the Iranian calendar year 1400(Mar 22 - Oct 22) compared to last year, to the improvement of the world's situation in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The economic expert further said that the normalization of the trade relations and getting the exports back on track requires officials' intensified efforts and determination.

Ale Es'haq also pointed to recent Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), saying that the membership provides Iran with a good opportunity to expand its trade ties with the SCO members states.

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# FM Tests Positive for Covid

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has tested positive for Covid-19.

Amir Abdollahian is at home in quarantine. Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed the top diplomat has contracted the virus.

Saeed Khatibzadeh however described Amir Abdollahian's general condition as good.

He said the foreign minister is performing his work-related duties from home.

## Tehran, Beijing Share Views on U.S. Unlawful Sanctions

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs says Tehran and Beijing, as reliable partners, have common views on the United States' unlawful and unilateral sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic.

Ali Baqeri-Kani made the remarks in a Monday tweet while explaining about a phone call he had with China's vice-minister of foreign affairs, Ma Zhaoxu, earlier the same day.

"In a friendly and fruitful phone conversation with Mr. Ma Zhaoxu, China's vice-minister of foreign affairs, I appreciated China's positive stance and constructive interaction," Baqeri-Kani added.

"Iran and China, as reliable partners, share views on the illegal nature of U.S. sanctions and the significance of the rule of law in international relations," he added.

He added that the two sides also emphasized the need for the removal of sanctions imposed on Iranian individuals and entities as well as third parties, and also to assure that such bans would never be repeated.

Tehran and Beijing would continue consultations on a range of issues, particularly in the international arena, the Iranian diplomat said.

In a clear violation of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint



Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the US refuses to remove the anti-Iran sanctions it re-imposed against Tehran following its withdrawal from the deal in 2018.

Iran fully honored its nuclear obligations for an entire year, after which it decided to ramp up its nuclear work as a legal "remedial measure" against the US violation of the deal and the abject failure on the part of the other signatories, the E3 in particular, to safeguard its benefits.

Wang Wenbin, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, urged the United States late last month to "thoroughly correct its wrong policy of maximum pressure" against Iran in order to bring the JCPOA back on the right track.

"The U.S. should thoroughly correct its wrong policy of 'maximum pressure' on Iran, and Iran should resume full compliance on this basis," Wang said, adding, "Other parties should also create a favorable atmosphere for achieving the above goals."

## Majlis Puts Family Policies On Top of Agenda

TEHRAN (IP) - Majlis Speaker says the issue of family is on top priority of the policy-makings.

In a Monday Tweet, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf wrote: "The law on 'Support for Family and Young Population' has one main goal that is to put the interests of family on the priority of policy-makings."

He added: "According to the law, families are given priority in various areas of economic, educational, employment support as well as in the allocation of public resources."

"The law specifically emphasized the support for young couples or those on the verge of marriage, as well as the general support for [house-holder] mothers, working or educating mothers, in order to reduce the additional pressure on them," he noted.

## IRGC Dismantles Sabotage Network

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) dismantled a group of foreign-backed saboteurs in Robat Karim city, southwest of Tehran.

According to the attorney of Robat Karim, the group intended to do the act of sabotage in the area, but with a court order, the agents involved the terrorist network were arrested and sent to prison.

Investigations into the case as well as the identification of other associates of the sabotage network are still ongoing.

Iran's Intelligence forces have identified and dismantled the 78 arms and ammunition smuggling gangs in the first six months of this year in the Iranian calendar (starting from March 21, 2021).

## MINEX 2021 Kicks Off in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The 10th International Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mines and Mining Industries Exhibition (MINEX) started work here on Tuesday with participation of 35 foreign companies.

The foreign companies which attended the Tehran international exhibition are from 22 countries including Italy, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, China, Russia, and Turkey.

The three-day exhibition is an opportunity for investors and experts to introduce their potentials and capabilities.

Mine and industry are two important sectors in Iran's trade and production as the country enjoys eight percent of the world's iron ores reserves and four percent of the world's mine stone.

## Iran Starts Fishing On Shores of Caspian Sea

SARI (IP) - Fishermen are fishing on the shores of the Caspian Sea in Mazandaran Province these days, which has a unique beauty.

With the beginning of the fishing season on the shores of the Caspian Sea every year, fishers are engaged in fishing from morning to night; Iran Press' reporter has photographed the fishing activities for one day.

About 4,200 fishermen in Mazandaran Province have fishing licenses, and the share of fish caught in Mazandaran is 62%, producing more than 47 tons of fish per year.

The Caspian Sea is home to more than 15 species of bony fish, of which three species of Caspian kutum, mullet, and carp have the highest catch of bony fish in Mazandaran Province.

Mazandaran Province is one of the tourist destinations in northern Iran; due to the humid and rainy climate, it has beautiful and green nature. Many travelers and tourists go to Mazandaran to visit its tourist attractions, including the beautiful shores of the Caspian Sea.

## South Pars Platforms Annual Overhaul Completed



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN- Annual overhaul operations for the platforms of Iran's South Pars gas field, which the country shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, have been completed, according to a deputy with South Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC).

Mehdi Tayebi, the deputy director for repair operations at POGC, which is in charge of implementing development phases of the gas field, said overhaul operation of 36 platforms was completed in 136 days, POGC public relations department reported.

According to the official, during the period of overhaul operations more than 100,000 hours of work were carried out without any accident.

Referring to the decrease in the average number of days for the overhaul of each platform in the current year compared to the previous year, Tayebi said: "The average duration of annual repairs in the previous year was nine days per platform, the figure has decreased to 8.3 days this year."

He underlined the importance of this reduction in production downtime, saying: "By reducing the average number of days of major repairs to 8.3 days, on average each platform will produce about 16.5 million cubic meters of gas and 11,000 barrels of gas condensate more than the previous year."

The overhaul of South Pars gas platforms is carried out in the first half of the year due to the reduction in natural gas demand across the country.

These repairs are aimed at monitoring, troubleshooting, and preparing platforms for safe and stable gas production in the second half of the year.

The operations mostly include inspection of containers, calibration of safety valves, periodic repairs of control and F&G systems (which was not possible at the time of production), inspection and periodic repairs of UPS systems, replacement of process lines, repair of MOV, and ESDV valves and other valves that couldn't be repaired or replaced during the production due to their location in the processing paths.

## MPs File Report on Violations by Former President Tackling Covid

TEHRAN (IFP) - Majlis has sent a report to the Judiciary on the performance of former President Hassan Rouhani as the then head of the National Coronavirus Task Force.

The report was also read out on Parliament floor in conformity with the legislature's bylaw.

"Most people in Iran were relatively not satisfied with the performance of the National Coronavirus Task Force and ministries, particularly President Rouhani, with regards to the containment and treatment of the coronavirus disease," read the report.

"Despite the numerous meetings held and decisions made, contradictions and defects are seen in the decisions and measures adopted, which has resulted in people suffering irreparable material and spiritual losses," the report also read.

"In this regard, one can refer to cases such as the president's wrong decisions in March 2021 (in the days before the start of the Persian New year), regarding the disease as something ordinary in the first days of the Persian New Year 1400, the president's improper reactions to the warnings given as part of the COVID-10 monitoring process, his inappropriate and contradictory decisions as the chair of the task force, and his very weak performance with regards to the management of the imports, production and distribution of coronavirus vaccines, etc.," said the report.

Upon the MPs' agreement, the report was sent to the Judiciary for further review.

## Biden Has to Prove His Signature Is Something

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Ministry spokesman responds to a tweet by Republican Senator Ted Cruz, in which the latter had asserted that any future Republican president would again "tear up" the 2015 nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic.

"The world is acutely aware of what Mr. Cruz confesses: that regimes in Washington are rogue," Saeed Khatibzadeh tweeted on Monday.

The world is acutely aware of what Mr. Cruz confesses: that regimes in Washington are rogue.

Earlier, the Texan senator had tweeted that "it is a 100% certainty that any future Republican president will tear it (the agreement) up."

The United States left the deal in 2018 under Republican president Donald Trump.

Formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

Action (JCPOA), the deal had lifted the US's sanctions against the Islamic Republic in return for some voluntary changes in Tehran's nuclear energy program.

Trump also returned the coercive economic measures after bringing about Washington's departure from the JCPOA.

Therefore, Khatibzadeh added—despite the clear likelihood that any future Republican president could again suspend Washington's commitment to the JCPOA—"onus is on POTUS (president of the United States) to convince international community—including all JCPOA participants—that his signature means something."

"For that, 'objective guarantees' [are] needed. No one would accept anything less," urged the spokesman at the end.

## Iran-Iraq Cultural Cooperation Necessary

BAGHDAD (IRNA) - Iran's ambassador to Baghdad on sidelines of watching a street theater titled Resurrection of the Earth called it a great success in cultural field, arguing that cultural cooperation between the two countries is a necessity.

Ambassador Iraj Masjedi said that the artistic work, a joint theatrical play by Iran and Iraq, is a unique, constructive and positive cultural work that is quite awakening.

"Cultural cooperation in various artistic fields, such as producing full length movies, TV series, theatrical plays, and cooperation between the two countries' universities is quite necessary," added Masjedi.

He said that the two countries' joint cultural works is made possible thanks to the efforts made by the Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad, and the efforts have been made in such fields as arranging for book fairs to handicraft exhibitions.

"Our cultural attaché has established good ties with Iraqi cultural officials, a sample of which is tonight's quite successful street play, which attracts thousands of enthusiastic watchers every night, although it has been performed for a long time (18 nights so far)," added the envoy.

Masjedi said that other cultural activities, such as historical, religious, and Qur'anic works, too, have lots of enthusiasts among the Iraqi people.

The Iranian ambassador also spoke with the street play's director and actors and appreciated their efforts.

Masjedi said that he has also talked with several Iraqi media officials, encouraging them to cover the successful cultural event.

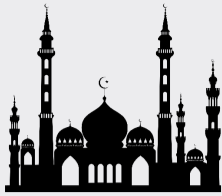
A sum of 63 of the special effect, designer, director and assistant directors of the play are Iranian, while its 123 actors and actresses are Iraqi.

## Iran, Afghanistan to Ease Trade Relations

MASHHAD (IP) - During the visit of the Governor-General of Iran's Khorasan Razavi province to Herat of Afghanistan, it was agreed to provide facilities in various economic fields.

Yaghoob Ali-Nazari said that under the agreement, Iranian specialized and technical delegations would travel to Afghanistan next week to evaluate the implementation of the previous contracts.

Ali-Nazari referred to the closure of Iran-Afghanistan border markets and the need to activate these economic bottlenecks, added that initial agreements were made during the trip to reopen border markets.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:47
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:26
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:04
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:29

64. He said: "Shall I trust you with him with any result other than when I trusted you with his brother aforetime?  
But Allah is the best to take care (of him), and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy!"  
Surah 12. Joseph (64)

## Round Table Held on "Interreligious Dialogue for Peace and Mutual Understanding"

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN - An online round table "Interfaith dialogue for peace and understanding" was held online in Tehran yesterday.**

The event was organized by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Iran with the support of Nursultan Nazarbayev's Center for the Development of Interfaith and Inter-civilizational Dialogue, with the active participation of the Organization for Cultural and Islamic Relations of Iran and the Iranian Embassy in Kazakhstan.

The round table was attended by the Vice Minister of Information and Social Development S. Egizbayev, Chairman of the Center for Interfaith and intercultural dialogue of the Organization for Cultural and Islamic Relations of Iran G. Suleimani, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran A. Orazbay, Ambassador of Iran to Kazakhstan M. Saber, Deputy Mufti of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Kazakhstan E. Ongarov, Deputy Head of the International Organization of Religious Studies in Qum X. Abdipur, Head of the NJSC "Kazakhstan Institute of Social Development" Rukhani Zhagyr, K. Maigeldinov, Head of the Department for Islamic, Orthodox Christian and Protestant Religions of the Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue of the Organization for Cultural and Islamic Relations of Iran Ms. Z. Rashidbeigi and other experts you are of two countries.

Vice Minister of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan S. Yegizbayev officially opened the round table and officially opened the round table and spoke about the achievements of Kazakhstan over 30 years of independence, including the importance of interreligious dialogue.

Head of the Institute of the Center N. Nazarbayev for the Development of Interfaith and Intercivilizational Dialogue Y. Baibol noted the effective implementation of the initiatives of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy N.A. Nazarbayev in the international arena, including the importance of the Congress of World and Traditional Religions in establishing interfaith dialogue in the world, the subsequent political and economic reforms of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan K.K. Tokayev, as well as development of the society of the Republic of Kazakhstan in harmony.

The Chairman of the Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue of the Organization for Cultural and Islamic Relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran G. Suleimani paid special attention to the role of interreligious dialogue in history and the meaning of the ayah of the Koran in this regard.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran A. Orazbay elaborated on the fact that under the leadership of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy N.A. Nazarbayev, a unique Kazakhstan model of achieving interreligious and interethnic dialogue was formed, such important international events as the Congress of World and Traditional Leaders were held in the international arena religions. The Ambassador of Kazakhstan stressed that Kazakhstan President K.K. Tokayev, without interrupting political continuity, attaches great importance to the preservation of interreligious and interethnic harmony and mutual understanding, including the continuation of the work of the Congress of Religions in a new context.

In addition, the Ambassador of Iran to Kazakhstan M. Saber said that he was very glad to be with a diplomatic mission in a peace-loving country, which is an adherent of dialogue and tolerance. He emphasized that the initiatives of the First President Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev to convene the "Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions", to create the "Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan" are a vivid evidence of Kazakhstan's aspiration to promote peace, dialogue and cohesion between different religions.

In turn, Mufti Ongarov noted the religious aspects of interfaith harmony, where Kazakhstan is the center of global interfaith dialogue.

Meanwhile Iranian official Rashidbeigi stressed the important role of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in the formation of interfaith dialogue.

In general, these and other speakers discussed the importance of promoting interreligious dialogue for peace and mutual understanding, the efforts of Kazakhstan and Iran in this direction, the relevance of initiatives and ideas put forward at a unique platform for interreligious dialogue - the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, as well as the progress of successful implementation tasks set by Kazakhstan President K.K. Tokayev in the address to the people of Kazakhstan. The speakers also highly appreciated the international initiatives of the leadership of the Republic of Kazakhstan and expressed their hope that the scale of interreligious dialogue would continue to expand and approach the final goal every day.

## HCCIMA's Efforts Resolved Problem of Exports to Mundra Port

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of India Desk at Hormuzgan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (HCCIMA) says the efforts of the chamber and talks with Indian officials led to resumption of exports to port of Mundra in India.



Ali Khamisi said during recent meeting and talks with Indian Ambassador to Tehran Gaddam Dharmendra the problem of exports and transportation of goods to Indian port of Mundra was resolved and transportation to this port was resumed.

He added that one of the problems that Iranian traders had faced in recent days was the shipment of a consignment from one of the neighboring countries via Iran to India and therefore officials at Mundra Port decided not to let entry of any goods from Iran and during recent talks between the HCCIMA and Indian ambassador and this problem was resolved and exports to this port was resumed.

Khamisi added that this is a big achievement for the HCCIMA in the international field because Mundra is considered the biggest container port of India and undoubtedly it can open a new chapter in expansion of trade ties between Iran and New Delhi.

Head of India Desk added that ban of Mundra Port could affect the bilateral trade of Iran and India and fortunately this problem was resolved in the shortest time due to efforts of the HCCIMA.

He reiterated that any halt in bilateral trade due to any reason can increase the costs of trade because the trade has to be done via the third party states and therefore the cost of the trade will increase by up to 30 percent.

He also hailed Indian Ambassador to Tehran for doing his best to resolve this problem which had caused concerns among the Iranian business activists.

Dr. Naseri announced; Start of the largest centralized agricultural operation in the country

## Simultaneously with the Production Estimate of 630,000 Tons of Sugar, Sugarcane Harvest has Begun in Khuzestan



**The largest centralized harvesting operation in the country's agricultural sector began with the start of sugarcane harvest from 66,000 hectares of land under cultivation of Sugarcane Development Projects in the north and south of Khuzestan. According to our correspondent, on Wednesday, October 20th 2021, on the sidelines of the beginning of the sugarcane harvest in Hakim Farabi Agro-Industry Dr. Abd Ali Naseri by announcing this news, specified: "We anticipate that this year we will produce 630,000 tons of sugar from the entire Sugarcane Development Industry, which accounts for about 40% of the country's sugar production. Sugarcane fields are located in Khorramshahr, Shadegan, Karun, Ahvaz, Bavi, Shoush and Shushtar. The nominal capacity of each of the Seven Units of Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company is 100,000 tons of sugar. The sugarcane harvest operation starts annually from the end of October and will continue until the middle of April the following year. This operation is the largest concentrated harvesting operation in the agricultural sector of the country, which is 100% mechanized and is carried out with sugarcane harvesting machines called "Harvesters".**

### Crossing the drought pass

Referring to the consequences of this year's drought on Sugarcane, Naseri said: "With the management done on the issues of water, we were able to get through this difficult spring and summer water drought, even though the reduction in the river inflows increased the salinity of the water needed for sugarcane cultivation". He added: "Due to salinity and problems in the water supply issue, in most sugarcane companies, especially in Dehkoda sugarcane, we faced a severe shortage and reduction of the crop." The CEO of Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company stated that this year we are facing a decrease of about 18% in production and indicated: According to the plans, we were going to harvest the sugarcane plant with a growth of 240 cm but due to severe drought conditions, we started harvesting with a growth of 208 cm. He said: "Sugarcane Development Company uses the best and most modern irrigation method with an efficiency of more than 50%, and the irrigation system it uses is low pressure surface irrigation." Referring to water resource management, Naseri emphasized: The irrigation method used in the Sugarcane Development farms is the Hydroflume method and the irrigation efficiency in Sugarcane Development is 55%. This method is the best and most modern method of agricultural irrigation in the world. Sugarcane fields have faced two major crises of floods and droughts in recent years, but the company has been able to overcome these crises with measures taken, including recycling water to reduce consumption patterns. Naseri continued: "This year, we estimate that about 5.5 million tons of sugarcane and about 600,000 tons of sugar will be produced in the Seven Agro-Industries of Khuzestan province."

### Haft Tappeh will be well managed

The CEO of the Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company Reminded: Haft Tappeh Agro-Industry, which has recently joined us, has been severely damaged by drought and is being overhauled. By stating that the overhaul (Overhaul of machinery and mechanical chain) of Haft Tappeh sugar factory has started in the last few days, he added: with the efforts of all employees and the new

management, Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Agro-Industry Company will return to its golden years so that all people can benefit from it. He added: about 2,000 hectares of sugarcane lands in Haft Tappeh are dry and 5,000 hectares can be harvested with 300,000 tons of sugarcane and 30,000 tons of sugar. According to this official, in total, including Haft Tappeh Agro-Industry, we expect to have 630,000 tons of sugar production this year, which is about 40% of the total sugar production in the country. Naseri added: "Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company has lots of capabilities and handing over Haft Tappeh Sugarcane to us will not create a problem for Sugarcane Development." This year, for the first time, the product of Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Agro-Industry farms will be harvested under the management of Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company.

### Maximum green harvest

Naseri cited: "We try to harvest sugarcane in a green way as much as we can, and at least 20% of sugarcane harvests can be done in green, because the height of the cane in 20% of sugarcane fields is short, but in farms where the cane is dormant, green harvesting is not possible." In the end, the CEO of Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company mentioned: "We do not have a problem even in places where the possibility of green harvesting is between 20 and 30%." Increasing soil resistance, self-sufficiency of the country, supply of domestic markets, creating employment for the locals, improving the environmental conditions, increasing the per-capita of landscapes are among the benefits of sugarcane projects. Alcohol, yeast, chipboard, MDF, animal feed, paper, compost and... are other by-products of the Sugarcane Development Company. In the previous year, 34 million liters of alcohol, 7,500,000 tons of yeast and 100,000 cubic meters of MDF boards have been produced and supplied to the domestic markets by the Sugarcane & By-Products Development Company. According to the Vision for 2025, about 70% of the sugar required by the country will be provided from the production of two strategic products, sugarcane and sugar beet in Khuzestan. It should be noted that the current need for sugar in the country is 2.2 million tons annually.



## Ukraine Denies Report of Russian Troop Buildup Near Its Borders

KIEV (Dispatches) - Ukraine's defense ministry denied a media report of a Russian military buildup near its border, saying it had not observed an increase in forces or weaponry.

The Washington Post said at the weekend a renewed buildup of Russian troops near the Ukrainian border had raised concern among some officials in the United States and Europe who are tracking what they consider irregular movements of equipment and personnel on Russia's western flank.

"As of November 1, 2021, an additional transfer of Russian units, weapons and military equipment to the state border of Ukraine was not recorded," the Ukrainian defense ministry said in a statement.



## Erdogan Skips Glasgow Climate Summit in Security Dispute

ANKARA (Dispatches) - President Tayyip Erdogan cancelled plans to attend the global climate conference in Glasgow on Monday because Britain failed to meet Turkey's demands on security arrangements, Turkish media quoted him as saying.

Heads of state and government from around the world are attending the COP26 summit, regarded as critical to averting the most disastrous effects of climate change.

Erdogan had been expected to join them in Scotland after attending the G20 summit in Rome at the weekend, but instead landed back in Turkey shortly after midnight on Monday.



## Russia Adopts Climate Strategy, Rejects U.S. Criticism



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia approved a long-term government climate strategy targeting carbon neutrality by 2060 and rejected U.S. allegations it was not doing enough on climate change as the COP26 conference began.

President Vladimir Putin, the leader of the world's no. 4 greenhouse gas emitter, plans to deliver a recorded message at the Glasgow talks, which he is not attending, and will not be able to speak live, the Kremlin's spokesman said.

Putin's absence, as well as that of Chinese President Xi Jinping, has been seen as a blow to the prospects of a breakthrough at the talks. The Russian leader spoke by video link at Sunday's G20 talks focusing on climate change.

A 2050 deadline to halt net carbon emissions is widely cited as necessary to prevent the most extreme global warming; Russia and China have both committed to a 2060 target instead.

After the G20 talks, U.S. President Joe Biden criticised Russia and China for not bringing proposals to the table, criticism that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov rejected on Monday during a conference call.

"Russia as a country is making enormous efforts and will continue to do so systematically to reduce the anthropogenic burden on the climate, but this is a process that requires adequate measures on the part of all states," he said.

He said a live Putin video conference at Glasgow would not be feasible. "Still, a conference on forestry and land use management will be held in Glasgow ... and the president has already recorded an address to the participants of that conference," he said.

The government announced it had approved a 2050 strategy to reduce carbon emissions that envisages Russia reducing its net greenhouse gas emissions to 80% of 1990 levels and 60% of 2019 levels in 2050 in a main scenario.

That main "intensive" scenario, the document said, would put Russia on course to reach carbon neutrality no later than 2060, the target announced by Putin earlier this year.

Russia will start implementing green projects next year including ones aimed at carbon capture, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin told a government meeting, referring to a technology that is still at a very early stage.

### Brazil Truckers Protest High Fuel Prices

SANTOS (Dispatches) - Brazilian truckers protesting high fuel prices have not disrupted any of the country's logistics with no federal roads or ports blocked, the Infrastructure Ministry said on Monday.

Citing data from the federal highway police updated around noon, the ministry's latest statement on the ongoing protests said there was only one place where truckers were still demonstrating - the BR-116 highway in the town of Barra Mansa.

There are no blockades and truckers not participating in the protests were able to continue their journeys, the statement said.

## Lebanon Invites Saudis for Talks as Diplomatic Row Deepens

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon on Monday called for talks with Saudi Arabia to ease a spiralling diplomatic row sparked by remarks made by a Lebanese minister on the Yemen war.

"Lebanon invites Saudi Arabia to engage in dialogue to solve all outstanding problems and not just the latest spat, so that the same crisis is not repeated every time," Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib, told AFP.

On Friday, Saudi Arabia gave Lebanon's ambassador 48 hours to leave the country, recalled its envoy from Beirut and suspended all imports from Lebanon.

The Saudi foreign ministry said the measures were taken after "insulting" remarks made by Lebanese Information Minister Georges Kordahi on the Yemen war, but also due to the influence of Lebanon's Iran-backed Shiite movement Hezbollah.

In an interview recorded in August and aired last week, Kordahi said Iran-backed Huthi rebels were "defending themselves... against an external aggression," by a Saudi-led military coalition.

His comments sparked angry rebukes from Saudi Arabia and its allies, worsening diplomatic ties that

have weakened significantly in recent years over the growing dominance of Hezbollah which is viewed by the kingdom as a terrorist group.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia said dealing with Beirut was "pointless" due to Hezbollah's dominance.

But Bou Habib told AFP on Monday that "problems between friendly and brotherly countries can only be resolved through dialogue, communication and trust, and not through imposition".

The diplomatic crisis with the kingdom and its allies is a fresh blow to Lebanon, a country in financial and political turmoil where a fragile government is struggling to secure international aid, namely from wealthy Arab neighbours.

Saudi Arabia is Lebanon's third largest export market, accounting for six percent of the country's exports in 2020, worth around \$217 million, according to the Lebanese chamber of commerce.

"If there is no dialogue or communication with Saudi Arabia, then everything that is happening goes against the values of friendship and fraternity" between both countries, Bou Habib said.



## Biden Apologizes for Trump Exit From Climate Accord

GLASGOW (AFP) - U.S. President Joe Biden on Monday apologized to world leaders for his predecessor Donald Trump's withdrawal from a global climate accord and said fighting the crisis should be seen as an economic opportunity.

In a reference to Trump, who withdrew from the Paris climate deal on world action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Biden told the COP26 summit in Glasgow that he was sorry.

"I guess I shouldn't apologize but I do apologize for the fact that the United States in the last administration pulled out of the Paris Accords and put us sort of behind the eight ball a little bit," he said, noting that one of his first actions on taking office this January was to re-enter the accord.

Trump had argued that the Paris accord killed jobs.

But in his main speech to the UN COP26 summit in Glasgow, Biden said that fighting climate change will boost, not hurt economies. "Within the growing catastrophe I believe there's an incredible opportunity -- not just for the United States, but for all of us," he said in his speech to the summit.

He promised U.S. leadership and "action, not words."

"The United States is not only back at the table but hopefully leading by the power of example. I know that hasn't been the case and that's why my administration is working overtime," he said.

Biden pushed back against criticism that reducing greenhouse gases and reliance on fossil fuels will hurt jobs, arguing that "it's about jobs".

Electrifying transport, building solar panels and wind turbine networks "create good, paying union jobs for American workers". Continuing down the current path is already causing economic damage, Biden said.

"We're standing at an inflection point in world history," Biden said, citing the proliferation of wildfires, droughts and other climate-related disasters.

"Climate change is already ravaging the world," he said. It's not hypothetical. It's destroying people's lives and livelihoods.

"We have the ability to invest in ourselves and build an equitable, clean-energy future and in the process create millions of good paying jobs and opportunities around the world.

"We meet with the eyes of history upon us," Biden told the summit in Glasgow, Scotland. "Every day we delay, the cost of inaction increases, so let this be the moment when we answer history's call, here in Glasgow.

"God bless you all and may God save the planet," he said in closing.

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## Macron Accuses Australia PM of Lying to Him on Submarine Deal

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - French President Emmanuel Macron said Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison lied to him over

the cancellation of a submarine building contract in September, and indicated more efforts were required to rebuild trust between the two allies.

In Rome for the G20 summit, the two leaders were meeting for first time since Australia scrapped the multi-billion dollar deal with France as part of a new security alliance with Britain and the United States unveiled in September.

The alliance, dubbed AUKUS, which could give Australia access to nuclear-powered submarines, caught Paris off guard, prompting it to recall ambassadors from Washington and Canberra amid accusations that France had been betrayed.

"I don't think, I know," Macron said in response to a question whether he thought that Morrison had lied to him.

"I have a lot of respect for your country," he said in comments yesterday to a group of Australian reporters who had travelled to Italy for the summit of leaders of the top 20 economies.

"I have a lot of respect and a lot of friendship for your people. I just say when we have respect, you have to be true and you have to behave in line, and consistently, with this value."

Morrison told a media conference later the same day that he had not lied, and had previously explained to Macron that conventional submarines would no longer meet Australia's needs. The process of repairing ties had begun, he added.

Australian Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce urged France to view the matter in perspective.

"We didn't steal an island, we didn't deface the Eiffel Tower. It was a contract," Joyce told reporters in Moree, 644 km (400 miles) northwest of Sydney.

"Contracts have terms and conditions, and one of those terms and conditions and propositions is that you might get out of the contract."

On Friday, U.S. President Joe Biden said the handling of the new pact had been clumsy, adding that he had thought France had been informed of the contract cancellation before the pact was announced.



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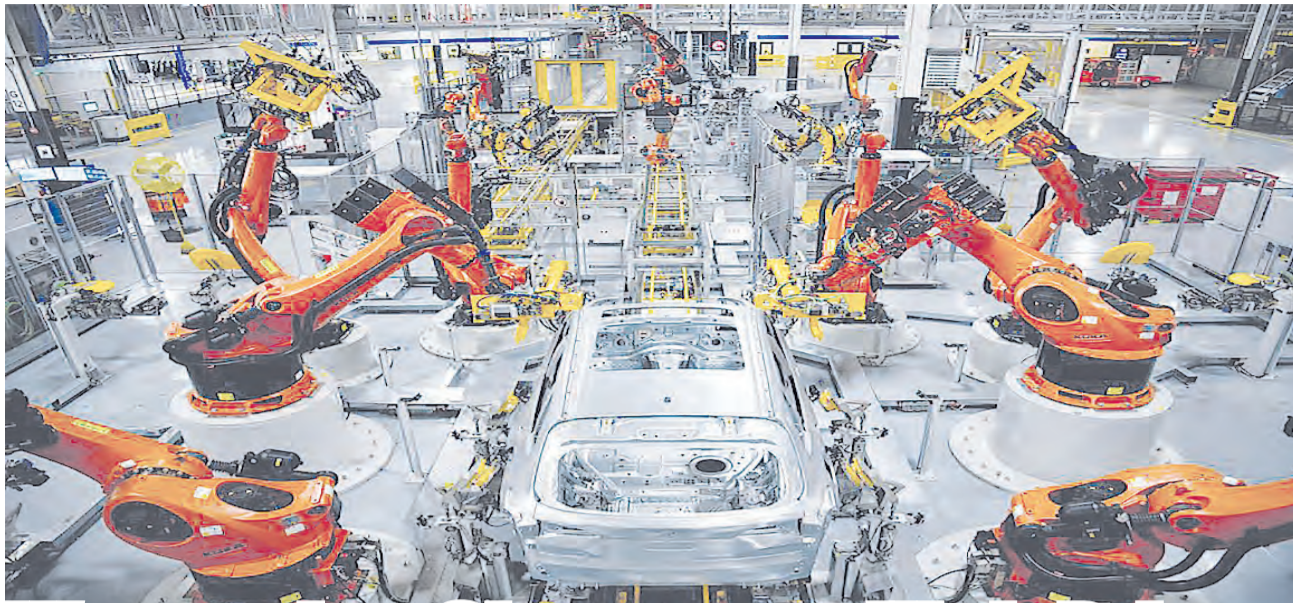
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## Petrobras Privatization Would Be Ideal as Fuel Prices Rise

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Monday that dealing with high fuel prices is his top priority and he sees privatization of the state-run oil company Petrobras as the "ideal" move. "Every bad thing that comes from Petrobras is my fault... I told (Economy Minister) Paulo Guedes that it would be ideal to push for Petrobras' privatization, but such a process would take more than a year," Bolsonaro told reporters during a visit to Anguillara Veneta in Italy. He also said he was "unofficially" told that Petroleo Brasileiro SA - as the company is formally known - is expected to raise fuel prices at the refineries again in about 20 days.



## Worsening Shortages, High Prices Restrain U.S. Manufacturing Activity

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. manufacturing activity slowed in October, with all industries reporting record-long lead times for raw materials, indicating that stretched supply chains continued to constrain economic activity early in the fourth quarter.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) survey on Monday also hinted at some moderation in demand amid surging prices, with a measure of new orders dropping to a 16-month low. Still, demand remains strong as retail inventories continue to be depressed, which should keep manufacturing humming.

According to the ISM, "companies and suppliers continue to deal with an unprecedented number of hurdles to meet increasing demand." The government reported last week that the economy grew at its slowest pace in more than a year in the third quarter because of widespread shortages tied to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Stress in U.S. supply chains isn't abating, lending downside risk to our forecast for GDP growth in the near term and a clear upside risk to the forecast for inflation," said Ryan Sweet, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

The ISM's index of national factory activity slipped to a reading of 60.8 last month from 61.1 in September. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in manufacturing, which accounts for 12% of the U.S. economy. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the index would fall to 60.5. The ISM reported 26 commodities were in short supply in October, some for as long as 13 straight months. That compared to 24 in September.

The economy is struggling with shortages across industries as global supply chains remain clogged. Supply constraints were worsened by a wave of coronavirus infections driven by the Delta variant over the summer, especially in Southeast Asia. Congestion at ports in China and the United States was also causing delays in getting materials to factories and retailers. The motor vehicle industry has been the hardest hit amid a global semiconductor shortage.

Transportation equipment manufacturers in the ISM survey said they had diverted chips "to our higher-margin vehicles and stopped or limited the lower-margin vehicle production schedules."

Other industries are also hurting. Manufacturers of computer and electronic products reported "extreme delays" and that "getting anything from China is near impossible." Food manufacturers said "rolling blackouts in China starting to hurt shipments even more." Makers of electrical equipment, appliances and components said though demand remained strong, production continued "to be held back by supply chain issues."

The ISM survey's measure of supplier deliveries increased to a reading of 75.6 last month from 73.4 in September. A reading above 50% indicates slower deliveries. Economists and businesses expect supply chains could remain tight through 2022.

Longer waits for materials meant high inflation at the factory gate persisted. The survey's measure of prices paid by manufacturers accelerated to 85.7 from a reading of 81.2 in September. Prices increased for 48 commodities last month, with only prices for wood falling. Prices for products like steel have increased for 15 consecutive months.

## UK Business Confidence at Record High

LONDON (Dispatches) - Business confidence in the UK hit its second highest level since March 2020 last month, as furloughed staff returned to work.

According to Lloyds Bank Business Barometer, which surveyed 1,200 firms from 1 October to 15 October, overall confidence stood at 43%, a slight dip from September's 46%, but well above the long-term average of 28%.

Sentiment remained strong during the month, and the net balance for firms' own trading prospects in the year ahead was down by just one point, despite rising energy costs and ongoing supply chain disruptions. Six of the 12 regions and nations saw confidence improve or remain stable, with London remaining the most confident at 65%, boosted by employment expectations, followed by the North East at 61%.

The other regions that saw an increase were the East Midlands (up seven points to 55%), West Midlands (up four points to 50%), the South West (up one point to 48%) and the East of England (up three points to 33%). However, confidence slipped in the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, although it was still close to the national average. The research, which was conducted before the chancellor's Autumn Budget, showed some positive findings on employment, which "may point towards the easing of staff shortages suffered in some sectors", Lloyds said. Six in 10 (60%) British companies that have furloughed staff are looking to bring them all back said they planned to bring back more than half of employees on furlough, while 30% of firms expect more than half to return.

Some 48% of businesses also said that it has become easier to hire people with the right skills or experience since the end of the Coronavirus job retention scheme. In a further sign of continued strength in the UK's employment, the net balance of businesses expecting to increase staffing levels in the coming 12 months was at 37% (down one from 38%) having jumped by 20 points in September. In addition, firms expecting at least a 2% or 3% increase in average wage growth over the next year remained unchanged at 43% and 25% respectively, having increased from 25% and 12% three months ago.



## Nearly Two-Thirds of Turks Say Erdogan Doing Bad Job on Economy

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Almost two-thirds of Turkish voters think President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government is doing a bad job on the economy, according to an opinion poll by Avrasya Araştırma.

Just 21.1 percent of respondents in the poll of 2,460 people said Erdoğan was managing the economy effectively, Kemal Özkiraz, the head of Avrasya Araştırma, said on Twitter at the weekend.

Turkey's lira sank to record lows against the dollar over the past month and has lost almost a quarter of its value this year. Inflation in the country accelerated to almost 20 percent in September, cutting spending power, while the official unemployment rate stands at 10.8 percent for men and 15 percent for women. Less than a third of women are now in the labour force.

Less than 20 percent of Turks think the government is capable of resolving Turkey's economic problems, according to the poll. Asked whether a change of government would improve the economic situation in the country, 48.1 percent of respondents answered positively, while 32.1 percent thought it would worsen.

Sixty-two percent of voters thought the government should call early elections, Avrasya Araştırma said. Former Economy Minister Ali Babacan, who heads the opposition Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA), would do a better job on the economy than Erdoğan, 63.4 percent of respondents said. The economy would also fare better under other opposition leaders including Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Meral Akşener and Ahmet Davutoğlu, they said.

Turkey is going through a serious economic crisis, according to 56.9 percent of people questioned in the poll. Less than 30 percent thought the situation amounted to a temporary downturn.

## Bangladesh Keeps Outrunning India in Per Capita GDP Race

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Bangladesh is forecast to remain ahead of India in terms of per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in the next five years to 2026 powered by buoyancy in remittance, exports and agricultural activities.

With \$355 billion, Bangladesh, the second-biggest economy in South Asia, first overtook India in 2020 in terms of per capita GDP, a measure of the economic prosperity of a nation, thanks to its more than 6 per cent annual economic expansion for the last 15 years.

Bangladesh managed to grow even during the pandemic when most of the economies contracted.

India, one of the main economic powerhouses in Asia, saw its economic output decline to \$2,660 billion in 2020 as it suffered a severe setback from the crisis. As such, its per capita GDP declined to \$1,929 from \$2,098 in 2019, according to the World Economic Outlook database of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Last year, the IMF projected that per capita GDP for India was likely to grow to \$2,030 in 2021, and Bangladesh's per capita GDP would grow by 5.4 per cent to \$1,990. This meant that the country's achievement would be short-lived.

But on Tuesday, the lender forecast that Bangladesh's per capita GDP would accelerate to \$2,138 this year, and India's to \$2,116. And Bangladesh will continue outrunning India for the next five years as well.

The IMF said India's economy rebounded by 9 per cent in 2021. Yet, the growth is not going to enable India to surpass its close neighbor in terms of per capita economic output.

Driven by steady economic growth, Bangladesh is forecast to have an 8 per cent higher per capita GDP at \$3,253 in 2026 than India's \$3,018.

Bangladesh's GDP will stand at \$565 billion five years later. India's size will be \$4,393 billion.

"The good news is Bangladesh is catching up on the per capita income metric," said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office.

"This is true generally in relation to the rest of the world and our biggest neighbour, India. It goes to show the dynamism of Bangladesh's economy in normal times and resilience in crisis."

He, however, says people need to be more guarded in reaching conclusions on whether Bangladesh has become richer than India in terms of income per capita.

## OPEC Oil Output Rise In October Undershoots Target

LONDON (Dispatches) - The increase in OPEC's oil output in October fell short of the rise planned under a deal with allies, a Reuters survey found on Monday, as involuntary outages in some smaller producers offset higher supplies from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) pumped 27.50 million barrels per day (bpd) in October, the survey found, a rise of 190,000 bpd from the previous month but below the 254,000 increase permitted under the supply deal.

OPEC states and their allies, a grouping known as OPEC+, are relaxing output cuts made in 2020 as demand recovers from the coronavirus pandemic, although some members are not delivering the full boosts promised due to a lack of capacity. The OPEC+ alliance is also wary of pumping too much oil in case of renewed setbacks in the battle against COVID-19.

"OPEC+ will likely stay behind the demand curve, rather than risk jumping ahead and getting burned," said Rystad Energy analyst Louise Dickson. The supply restraint has helped support oil prices, which are trading near \$85 a barrel and close to a three-year high, prompting the United States and other consumers to urge producers to supply more crude.

The OPEC+ agreement allowed for a 400,000 bpd production increase in October from all members, of which about 254,000 bpd is shared by the 10 OPEC members covered by the deal, OPEC figures seen by Reuters show. With output undershooting the planned increase last month, OPEC's compliance with its pledged cuts increased to 118% in October the survey found, from 114% a month earlier.

OPEC+ meets on Thursday to review its policy and is expected to reconfirm its plans for monthly increases. The biggest rises in October came from OPEC's top two producers, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, which both boosted output largely as promised according to the agreement.

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Algeria also made increases as called for by their higher October quotas. Angolan exports bucked their declining trend and rose in October.

Output declined or did not increase in Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, the survey found, owing to a lack of capacity to produce more.

The biggest output decline - 70,000 bpd - was in Nigeria where output was disrupted after a recovery in September.

A Royal Dutch Shell venture in Nigeria declared force majeure on loadings of Bonny Light crude after a pipeline shut down. The second largest decline was in Libya, one of the countries exempt from OPEC supply curbs, due to a pipeline leak.

Output in Iran, which has raised exports since the fourth quarter despite U.S. sanctions, showed little change in October. Talks to revive its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which would allow a larger export recovery, are set to resume. Venezuelan output increased slightly, the survey found, helped by the arrival of Iranian condensate to help Caracas convert its extra heavy oil into exportable crude.

## China Taps Oil Reserve, Refiners Ramp Up Output



BEIJING (Dispatches) - International crude benchmarks slipped on Monday but recovered following China's weekend statement that it would tap its state fuel reserve while national refiners ramp up output sharply to avert a diesel shortage in the world's second-largest oil user.

In a rare public statement on Sunday, China said it was releasing gasoline and diesel reserves to boost market supply and stabilize prices. The news comes after media reports in recent weeks of tight diesel supplies and queues at petrol stations in several provinces.

Chinese refiners cut fuel output in the third quarter because of COVID-19 curbs and floods but diesel consumption rebounded, partly triggered by a widespread power crunch that caught the market by surprise.

China has been a net exporter of diesel and gasoline for years, but Beijing's recent clampdown aimed at removing excess fuel output, from cutting quotas for crude oil imports and refined fuel exports to a hefty import tax on a diesel blending component, tightened supplies of fuel, especially diesel.

Beijing has taken steps to cool a stellar commodity price rally this year, releasing crude oil and base metals to cool prices in a rare move in the last few months.

"(Oil) product rotation should be more common than crude (oil releases from reserves)," said Sengyick Tee, analyst at Beijing-based consultancy SIA Energy, adding that such moves were not typically confirmed in official statements.

Sunday's move could be the first time Beijing has publicly announced a release of oil products, he added.

"Words are bigger than actions, (China) learned it from OPEC+," he said, referring to communications on supply from the alliance of the world's major oil producers that can have the effect of lowering market prices.

Brent crude lost 0.6% on Monday before flipping to stand up nearly 50 cents a barrel by 0920GMT, in the wake of the previous day's statement by the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration.



## Kontaveit Scoops Fourth Title of 2021

LONDON (Dispatches) - Anett Kontaveit said greater self-belief was the foundation for her victory over Romania's Simona Halep in the final of the Transylvania Open on Sunday, which secured the eighth and final spot in the WTA Finals for the Estonian. The 25-year-old captured her fourth title of the season with the 6-2, 6-3 victory over Halep in Cluj-Napoca, also ensuring she would move into the top 10 in the world rankings for the first time at number eight. "I'm still unsure of what's going on!" Kontaveit told reporters.

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## Hungary Fans Banned From Poland Qualifier

BUDAPEST (Dispatches) - Hungary fans will be barred from attending their team's final World Cup qualifier away to Poland following clashes with police during last month's group game against England at Wembley Stadium, world soccer's governing body (FIFA) said on Monday. Britain's Metropolitan Police said the violence broke out after the alleged racial abuse of a steward in the Group I qualifier on Oct. 12 that ended in a 1-1 draw.

# Norrie Overwhelms Delbonis At Paris Masters

PARIS (Dispatches) - Cameron Norrie outclassed Argentinian opponent Federico Delbonis 6-2, 6-1 to reach the second round of the Paris Masters on Monday, saying he was proud to still be in contention for the season-ending ATP Finals.

The 26-year-old British number one has been one of the most impressive performers on the circuit this year rising to 13th in the rankings released on Monday having begun the year 71st in the world.

The South Africa-born left hander has reached the Queen's final -- losing to eventual Wimbledon finalist Matteo Berrettini -- among others this year but his greatest moment came when he won the prestigious Indian Wells title last month.

He had little trouble with Delbonis breaking the 31-year-old to go 4-2 up in the first set and then sealing it by breaking the Argentine in his next service game.

Norrie did not take his foot off the pedal as he broke Delbonis in his first service game of the second set to go 2-0 up and then again for 4-0.

Delbonis secured a rare break point on Norrie's serve but the 10th seed saved it and won the game for 5-0.

Delbonis stopped the rot temporarily by at last winning a service game but Norrie sealed his place in the second round serving out for the match in the next.

Norrie will play the winner of the match between Serbia's Filip Krajinovic and big-serving American Reilly Opelka.

Norrie said he was excited about still being a contender for the end of season finals which take place in Turin, Italy, from November 14-21 which features the top eight in the Race to Turin rankings.

Six places are already secured with just two spots remaining.

"It is always a goal to be in the mix for something like that," said Norrie, who could seal his place in Turin by lifting the Paris trophy.



"I have played some very good tennis and in big matches and you want to be playing with that extra pressure.

"I could not be more proud of myself to be in contention.

"We shall see if it becomes reality."

Norrie is in world number one Novak Djokovic's half of the draw but the Serbian will be wary of him if they meet in the quarter-finals.

Djokovic is making his return to the circuit for the first time since Daniil Medvedev dashed his dreams of a Grand Slam sweep in the US Open final in September and warned on Sunday lack of match play is his major worry.

The 34-year-old perhaps also with one eye on the Davis Cup finals is unusually for him playing doubles in Paris and was in action on Monday with his partner Krajinovic.

He took to the court knowing who his second round singles opponent would be -- Hungary's Marton Fucsovics.

It will be a rematch of their Wimbledon quarter-final earlier this year which Djokovic breezed through in straight sets.

Fucsovics secured his place in the second round prevailing in a marathon three setter with Italy's Fabio Fognini 6-1, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5).

Former world number one Andy Murray has been given a wild card for the tournament and will begin his campaign against American qualifier Jenson Brooksby later on Monday.

## Spurs in Advanced Talks With Conte

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham are in advanced talks to make Antonio Conte their new manager after sacking Nuno Espirito Santo, according to widespread reports on Monday.

Former Inter Milan and Chelsea boss Conte is understood to be Tottenham's top target to replace Nuno, who was dismissed on Monday after just four months in charge of the Premier League club.

Tottenham had approached Conte about succeeding the axed Jose Mourinho earlier this year but were unable to convince the Italian to take the job.

Reports suggested the Italian could be appointed within the next 24 hours.

If the 52-year-old accepts Tottenham's offer, Conte would return to the Premier League three years after leaving their London rivals Chelsea, where he won the Premier League and the FA Cup.

Conte guided Inter Milan to the Serie A title last season but surprisingly left during the close-season.

The former Italy midfielder has also managed Juventus, where he won three Serie A titles, and took charge of the Italian national team from 2014 to 2016.

## Canada Stun France as Billie Jean King Cup Finals Kick Off

PRAGUE (Dispatches) - Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski and Rebecca Marino won the deciding doubles rubber to help stun defending champions France 2-1 on the opening day of the new-look Billie Jean King Cup finals on Monday.

Formerly called the Fed Cup, the event was renamed last year in honor of American 12-time major winner King and restructured into a 'World Cup of tennis' format concluding with 12 nations competing over one week for the title.

Canada were the last of 12 teams to make the cut, replacing previous hosts Hungary in the draw due to their status as the highest-ranked side to win a playoff tie in April this year.

It was the fifth meeting between the French and Canadians - the first in 28 years - with the holders heading into the Centre Court contest at the O2 arena with a 3-1 head-to-head advantage.

At the start France's Fiona Ferro, who reached a career-high ranking of 39 earlier this year, clearly looked the superior player in her first meeting against the 353rd-ranked Francoise Abanda, quickly going up by a set and a break.

But Abanda dug deep to take down Ferro 4-6 6-4 6-4 for her fifth consecutive win in the competition.

Alize Cornet, the highest ranked French singles player at 59th, managed to stave off the big-hitting Marino 6-4 7-6(5) to level the tie at 1-1.

But Marino soon had her revenge as she returned alongside Dabrowski, the world number five in doubles, to beat Cornet and Clara Burel 6-3 7-6(6) in the deciding rubber.

With the Russian Tennis Federation, whose entire squad is ranked in the top 50, the third Group A team, France will face an uphill task to make it to the semi-finals.

The sides play two group-stage ties to determine the winners of the four three-team groups, who progress to the semi-finals.

In Belgium's Group B tie against Belarus, Greet Minnen and Elise Mertens won their singles rubbers to seal the tie in the presence of a sizeable number of Belgian fans, who came with drums, trumpets and other musical instruments on Court One.

# Messi Keen on Barcelona Return



"What is almost confirmed ... is that we are going to live in Barcelona again and that our life will be there," the 34-year-old Argentine said in an interview with Spanish outlet Sport.

PARIS (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi said he will return to live in Barcelona with his family when his time at Paris St Germain is over and would like to help the LaLiga club in the role of a technical director.

Messi ended a two-decade stay at the cash-strapped Spanish club, where he is their record scorer with 672 goals, in the off-season and joined PSG on a free transfer on a two-year deal.

"It's what my wife wants and what I want. I don't know when my contract with PSG ends but we'll go back to Barcelona to live.

"I always said that I would love to be able to help the club ... I would love to be a technical director at some point. I don't know if it will be at Barcelona or not.

"If there is a possibility, I would like to contribute again because it's the club that I love and I would love for it to continue doing well, to continue growing and to continue being one of the best in the world."

Barca, who are ninth in LaLiga, sacked coach Ronald Koeman last week.

Messi limped off injured in PSG's 2-1 win over champions Lille on Friday but coach Mauricio Pochettino is hopeful he will be available for this week's Champions League game at RB Leipzig.

## Nadal Targets Australian Open Warm-Up Return In December

MADRID (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal, who has been out with a foot injury since losing in the semi-finals of the French Open, said on Monday that he wants to return in December in Abu Dhabi, as he targets the Australian Open in January.

"My plan is to play Abu Dhabi in December and then in a tournament before Australia and then the Australian Open. That's my goal," the Spaniard said at a sponsor event in Paris. "We're working hard to make it happen."

Nadal won the Australian Open in 2009 and has lost in the final four times since then. The 35-year-old Spaniard could face a weakened field as uncertainty swirls around the Covid-19 rules for players coming into Melbourne for the first Grand Slam of next year which runs from January 17-30 in Melbourne.

World number one Novak Djokovic, who beat Nadal at Roland Garros, said on Sunday he would make his mind up about whether he defends his title when an official decision is made regarding players and vaccinations.

Nadal hopes to be there. "I don't know exactly when I'll be back," he said on Monday.

"But I can say that my goal is to try to come back to Abu Dhabi in December, and then, of course, for the start of the new season in January."

"The injury in my foot still needs to get a little better, but I'm already training almost an hour and a half a day so that's positive. Some days are better than others, but I'm starting to have a lot more positive days than negative ones. So I'm on the right track," he said.

"I'm training, I'm feeling better. I'm back on the court," he said.

In early September, Nadal announced that he had undergone treatment on his left foot that would keep him "away from the courts for several weeks".



## Triple-Double For Harden In Nets' Win

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Kevin Durant scored 23 points before being ejected for a flagrant foul late in the third quarter as the host Brooklyn Nets beat the Detroit Pistons 117-91.

Durant was ejected with 3:23 remaining in the third quarter and the Nets leading 85-68. He was thrown out when his right forearm and elbow hit Kelly Olynyk's face just outside the paint. Durant shot 10 of 13 from the field before getting ejected.

James Harden produced his 59th career regular-season triple-double with 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds as the Nets led by as many as 30. It was Harden's 13th triple-double with the Nets.

The Nets shot a franchise-record 65.3 percent from the field, making 47 of 72 attempts. Their previous high was 65.2 percent on April 17, 1982, at Detroit.

The Pistons rested rookie Cade Cunningham. Cory Joseph led the Pistons with 13 points and Josh Jackson added 12 as Detroit shot 40.5 percent from the field. Jerami Grant was held to 11 points on 5-of-15 from the floor.

### Lakers 95, Rockets 85

Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points and Russell Westbrook added 20 points, nine assists and eight rebounds as Los Angeles routed visiting Houston.

LeBron James added 15 points, eight assists and seven rebounds for the Lakers, who led by as many as 28. The teams meet again at the Staples Center on Tuesday. Anthony made 5 of 8 attempts from 3-point range in 25 minutes and is averaging 25.0 points over his last three home games. Anthony Davis recorded 16 points and 13 rebounds. Eric Gordon scored 17 points for Houston and Christian Wood chipped in 16 points and 13 rebounds. The Rockets committed a season-high 27 turnovers while shooting 21.4 percent (6 of 28) from beyond the arc.

