

**Health Ministry Announced on Wednesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 126,763 With 160 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours**

# IRAN NEWS

**Renowned Iranian Director, Producer, And Actress Niki Karimi Was Selected to Preside Over the Jury of Golden Scale Feature Film Festival In the Int'l Crime and Punishment Film Festival In Istanbul, Turkey**

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## IRGC Navy Foils U.S. Attempt to Steal Iranian Oil in Oman Sea

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have managed to thwart an attempt by the United States to take over a giant oil tanker in the strategic Sea of Oman and moved the vessel to Iranian territorial waters.

The U.S. military confiscated the Iranian tanker loaded with crude oil in the Sea of Oman, which connects the Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz, and intended to unload its shipment to another tanker and direct it to an unknown destination.

Reacting promptly, however, members of the IRGC's Navy carried out a heliborne operation on the stolen ship's deck, gained control of the vessel, and directed it back toward Iran's territorial waters.

U.S. forces then proceeded to chase the tanker using several helicopters and warships, but their attempt at taking over the vessel for a second time was thwarted again by Iranian naval forces.

The tanker is currently in Iranian territorial waters and under the protection of IRGC's Navy. **See Page 7**

## IAEA Chief Seeks Eye-to-Eye Talks With Iranians

TEHRAN (IFP) - The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has expressed hope to visit Iran 'soon' for 'high-level talks' with the Iranian officials.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been unable to access surveillance footage of Iranian nuclear sites, or online enrichment monitors and electronic seals since February.

Physical inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities have also been problematic even as Tehran has continued to develop new centrifuges and enrich uranium up to purity levels closer to what's required for an atomic weapon. Western nations fear Iran could be developing the skills and know-how to build an atomic bomb, though Tehran denies any such ambitions.

"I would say we are flying in a heavily clouded sky," Grossi said of his agency's ability to perform its monitoring function in Iran. "So we are flying and we can continue in this way, but not for too long," he added.

Grossi told The Associated Press that he hopes to return to Iran soon "and to have the proper high level talks, eye-to-eye" that would restore the agency's ability to know in real-time what the country is doing. **See Page 7**

# Gov't Determined to Fight Against Corruption



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Emphasizing that the 13th government will pursue the fight against corruption vigorously and seriously, President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said, "People may endure poverty and hardships and livelihood difficulties, but they will not tolerate corruption."

Speaking in a cabinet meeting on Wednesday morning, President Raisi emphasized that the fight against corruption was a condition for the people to vote for this government, saying, "We must be sensitive to the possibility of corruption and in no way hesitate fighting its manifestations".

Stating that there are grounds for corruption in more or less all institutions, the President added, "One of the grounds for corruption is human resources, so in recruiting, one should focus only on efficiency and legal competencies".

Addressing the members of the cabinet, he reiterated, "You must be very careful and safe so that there is no corruption in your subordinates".

The President stated, "In places where there is a negative atmosphere regarding your appointments, if these conditions are not corrected, defend your actions, but note that meritocracy in the thirteenth government is not just a slogan, but the basis of work".

Dr Raisi stressed the need to obtain the opinion of various regulatory bodies before employing individuals, noting, "The fight against corruption and attention to meritocracy is one of the basic principles of government in practice. But where we have done our job properly, we should not be influenced by negative atmosphere".

The President said that if there is corruption in the government body, the officials should first deal with the wrongdoer and then introduce them to the judicial authorities for legal proceedings, adding, "I have no red line. Neither my office, nor my deputies, nor ministers are a red line for me".

Raisi added, "I tried to choose my colleagues from among the honest and anti-corruption people. I have verified the purity of the people around this table so far, and we must continue to monitor and take care of it".

The President emphasized, "In the thirteenth government, for the first time in the appointments of high levels, in addition to inquiries from intelligence authorities, inquiries are also taken from other supervisory authorities such as the Inspection Organisation and the Court of Audit". **See Page 7**

## Tehran, Moscow Refute Claims on Limits On Caspian Resources

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Russian embassy in Tehran has rejected the recent claims over Iran's restriction for extracting Caspian Sea gas resources.

Referring to recent claims made by Ardeshir Dadras, Head of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Association, Russian Embassy in Tehran announced that these statements are not true.

Making such statements was aimed at undermining the friendly relations between Russia and Iran, the Russian embassy said in its Twitter account.

Earlier, the Head of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Association had said that according to an Iran-Russia agreement, as long as Iran's gas balance is positive and production is in the proportion to domestic consumption, Iran does not have the right to extract Caspian gas resources.

According to this agreement, Iran does not have the right to extract from 8 large gas wells in the Caspian Sea, which is in the waters of Iran, he had claimed.

Meanwhile Iran's envoy to Russia denies reports suggesting Moscow controls rights for drilling gas in Caspian Sea. **See Page 7**

## Envoy Wants Promotion Of Iran-Pakistan Trade

QUETTA (Dispatches) - Consul General of Iran in Quetta Hassan Darwishvand has said that in order to promote trade and achieve trade targets, governments of Pakistan and Iran should take steps to resolve issues being faced by businessmen of the two countries.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) led by its President Fida Hussain Dashti on Tuesday, Mr Darwishvand said the issues would be discussed in the upcoming annual meeting of the Joint Border Trade Commission.

He said a meeting of the commission would be held soon in Zahidan in which steps would be suggested for strengthening bilateral trade and for resolving issues being faced by the businessmen of the two countries.

"In this regard, Iran is always ready for all possible cooperation," said Iran's envoy, adding that authorities concerned should be approached for resolving issues affecting smooth trade activities between the two countries.

The envoy suggested that the business communities of Pakistan and Iran should form committees for resolving visa and other issues. **See Page 7**

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## Hackers Attack Israeli Engineering Firms

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) - A hacker group called Moses Staff says it has successfully conducted a cyberattack on three Israeli engineering companies, days after it leaked files obtained by targeting the regime's ministry of military affairs.

The group announced on Tuesday that it had struck Ehud Leviathan Engineering, David Engineers, and H.G.M. Engineering, without making any demands for money or anything else.

It also leaked data from the Israeli firms, including projects, maps, contracts, pictures, letters and video conferencing images.

Documents about infrastructure projects such as highways and public water systems, as well as a tender concerning construction at the entrance of al-Quds were also among the leaked information.

Moses Staff said that the information it had exposed did not include everything that it had obtained, and that it would gradually release the rest.

Recently, Black Shadow group hackers broke into the servers of Israeli internet hosting company Cyberserve, bringing down a number of widely-used websites and warning the firm that it was in possession of data that could be leaked.

It further demanded a ransom payment of \$1 million in digital currency to stop the leak.

Separately, Moses Staff said it had access to confidential documents, including reports, operational maps, information about soldiers and units, and letters and correspondence.

In an earlier attack, it leaked photos of Israeli minister of military affairs Benny Gantz and army soldiers and a 2010 letter from Gantz to the deputy chief of the joint chiefs of staff and chief of intelligence in the Jordanian Armed Forces.

It also released Excel files containing the names, ID numbers, emails, addresses, phone numbers and even socioeconomic status of Israeli army soldiers, mechina pre-military students and individuals connected to the ministry of military affairs.

"We are going to publish this information to aware [sic] all the world about the Israeli authorities' crimes," the hacking group said on its Telegram channel. "We've kept an eye on you for many years, at every moment and on each step. All your decisions and statements have been under our surveillance. Eventually, we will strike you while you never would have imagined." **See Page 7**

## Palestine, Arab League, OIC Condemn Balfour Declaration

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Palestine, the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have denounced the infamous Balfour Declaration issued by Britain in 1917, which set the stage for the creation of the Israeli entity and occupation of Palestine.

On Tuesday, Palestinian flags were flown at half-mast across the occupied territories on the 104th anniversary of the statement to remind the international community, the United Kingdom in particular, of the suffering of Palestinians and their deprivation of rights to independence, statehood and self-determination.

Schools held special ceremonies to reflect on the impacts of the Balfour Declaration on the Palestinian nation and its future.

"Today marks 104 years since the Balfour declaration. It has been a century of pain for us the Palestinian people but also of perseverance. It is time for Britain to apologize for its colonial acts & atone: Recognize the State of Palestine and sanction transgressions of the law," Palestinian Ambassador to Britain, Husam Zomlot, wrote in a post published on his Twitter page. **See Page 7**



## Enemy Seeking to Repeat Events on Nov. 2019

TEHRAN (MNA) – Reacting to the recent disruption of fuel card system in the country, Iran's Police Chief Brigadier General Hossein Ashtari said that enemy of the Establishment sought to repeat the event happened on November 2019 in country.

The conspiracy orchestrated by enemy of the Establishment was thwarted with the vigilance and technical support of Iran Cyber Police and with timely deployment of police forces at the gas stations across the country, Brigadier General Ashtari added.

It should be noted that a cyberattack disrupted the sale of fuel across the country by targeting its electronic card payment system on Oct. 26.

## Iranians Always Taken Wise Steps in Face of Arrogant Coercion

**TEHRAN (MNA) – Majlis Speaker said that since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian people have always taken wise steps in the direction of national interests in the face of arrogant coercion.**

Speaking at the open session of the Parliament on Wednesday on the occasion of the advent of Aban 13 (U.S. Embassy Takeover by students followers of Imam Khomeini (RA)), Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf reiterated that solving economic and livelihood problems facing Iranian people is the best and most important strategy to confront the Global Arrogance.

Confronting these oppressive powers and defending the interests of the country and national unity and security is the wisest and logical social movement of the people, he said, adding that salient strategies instructed by the founding father of the



Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini (RA) and also Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei with a focus on confronting Global Arrogance is the wisest decision adopted to secure Iran's national interests.

Providing national security is the most important component that should be taken into serious consideration, Qalibaf said.

Global Arrogance has left no stone unturned since the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution to tarnish the image of the Islamic Revolution of Iran but their plots orchestrated against the country have doomed to failure, he added.

## Schools Mark National Day of Protest Against Global Arrogance

TEHRAN (IRNA) - On the eve of Aban 13 (November 4), which is a reminiscent of November 4, 1964, when Iranian students stood against the United States' arrogance and hegemonic power, schools around Iran rang anti-Arrogance bell on Wednesday November 3.

The countrywide ceremony's main slogan was "Steadfastness and national resistance of Iranian nation is key to the downfall of the U.S. arrogant hegemony."

Iranian officials, principals, and students participated in the ceremonies, while observing health protocols amid the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The ceremony of ringing anti-Arrogance bill has been held on November 3 instead of November 4, because Thursday is a school holiday throughout the country.

Aban 13, falling on November 4, marks the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and is a National Day in the Islamic Revolution. The day is also known as the Student Day in Iran, marking National Day of Protest Against Global Arrogance.

The National Day of Protest Against Global Arrogance will be held in front of former US embassy - known as the Den of Espionage - in Tehran on Thursday (November 4, 2021).

Major General Hossein Salaami, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), will make a speech during the ceremony. People in other cities are going to commemorate this event.

The 13th of Aban has turned into a symbol of great sensitive and momentous realities. The event reminds greed of the United States, because the American authorities thought that they are allowed to loot other countries resources. The 13th of Aban is the reminiscent of Iranian students' vigilance in dealing with the U.S. threats.

On Wednesday, students commemorated the memory of martyrs of November 4, 1979 at different schools in cities like Karaj, Rasht, Khoramabad, Bushehr, and Sanandaj.

An official present at the ceremony in Sanandaj, Kordestan Province, underlined that such events are appropriate opportunities to convey Islamic Revolution's tenets to the youths and teenagers.

## There Are No Boundaries to Expanding Tehran-Jakarta Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) – The head of the Iran-Indonesia Parliamentary Friendship Group said that there are no restrictions for the development of relations between the two friendly and Muslim countries of Iran and Indonesia.

A virtual meeting was held between the heads of the Iran-Indonesia Parliamentary Friendship Groups on Tuesday morning.

During the meeting, the head of the Iran-Indonesia Parliamentary Friendship Group Mohammad Mehdi Zahedi said that the development of economic relations with all countries is one of the priorities of the new Iranian administration under President Ebrahim Raisi.

Zahedi went added that Iran welcomes the strengthening of relations with Indonesia in various fields such as industry, agriculture, and energy.

The Iran-Indonesia Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Islamic Consultative Assembly is also ready to facilitate relations between the two countries, the Iranian lawmaker added. He also stressed that there are no boundaries to the development of relations between the two friendly and Muslim countries of Iran and Indonesia.

He also called for the promotion of economic and trade relations between the two countries through the efforts of the parliaments of both countries, especially the two friendship groups.

## Diplomat Vows to Develop Iran-Kenya Economic Ties

KASHAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry representative Bahaeddin Hosseini said Iran and Kenya will promote economic cooperation.

Speaking to IRNA, Hosseini referred to the meeting between businessmen from Muranga in Kenya and officials of Kashan chamber of commerce, saying both sides emphasized maintaining economic cooperation.

He added that the Kenyan delegation also discussed issues of mutual interest with economic agents of Kashan's private sector, which will result in signing contracts in the near future. Hosseini noted that the delegation expressed interest in cooperation on producing tea and coffee.

They also invited Iranian businessmen to visit Kenya aiming to develop bilateral economic relations.

Some 15 businessmen from Kenya including two lawmakers and exporters of avocado, pineapple, coffee, and tea visited Kashan and Aran-o-Bidgol.

## Shamkhani Draws Analogy Between 1980s War on Iran, Current Conditions

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council highlighted the similarities between the calls for negotiations with Iran in the current circumstances and during the Iraqi-imposed war in the 1980s.

In a thread on his Twitter account on Wednesday, Ali Shamkhani said there are lessons in making an analogy between the calls for negotiation with Iran at present and during the Iraqi imposed war in the 1980s.

"The attacks from Saddam were in progress / the sanctions continue. Part of Iran was under the enemy's occupation / the Iranian nation's economy has been held hostage. The combatants were defending (Iran) in the front line / The scientists proceed with the legal nuclear activities," Shamkhani said of the similarities between today's conditions and the war imposed by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

He said while there was no sign of the aggressor's regret at the time of the 1980s war when Iran was asked to hold negotiations, the U.S. president who lacks any authority is not willing to give any guarantee at present either.

"In case the current situation does not change, the result of negotiations would be clear in advance," Shamkhani added.

The difference between today and the conditions during the 1980s war is that Iran's capabilities and resistance power in all fields have become indigenous, constant, and based upon the domestic capacities thanks to the Islamic Revolution, he noted.

The U.S. re-introduced the sanctions against Iran in 2018 after leaving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a historic nuclear agreement that had lifted the inhumane economic bans in return for some voluntary restrictions on Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program.

## Iran Ready to Cooperate With UN to End War in Yemen

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that Iran is always ready to contribute to ending the war in Yemen, beginning of political talks, and decreasing the pains and sorrows of the oppressed and defenseless Yemeni people in collaboration with Yemen and regional countries.

Vahid Jalalzadeh made the comment in a meeting with the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, who is visiting Iran in his Middle East tour aimed at surveying the various dimensions of Yemen war.

"Seven years pass since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen now, throughout which the world has on each day been witness to the massacring of defenseless, innocent and civilian Yemeni women and children, which is a sample of crimes against mankind, amid the silence, and sometimes collaboration of some world powers," said Jalalzadeh.

He said that Iran's official stand, ever since the outbreak of the Yemen crisis has been emphasizing on



the need for Yemeni-Yemeni negotiations, that is among the entire groups there, free from foreign interventions or military aggression.

The head of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that the UN special envoy had better focus

its entire efforts aimed at ending the inhumane siege of Yemen, brokering an immediate ceasefire and arrange for the beginning of political negotiations in Yemen, aimed at establishment of sustainable peace in Yemen.

Hans Grundberg, too, initially appreciated Iran's positive and constructive role aimed at boosting the regional peace and stability, especially in Yemen, arguing that feeling responsible of different countries and their support for the UN efforts aimed at brokering peace and stability in Yemen are important factors that can contribute to ending the Yemen crisis.

The UN official evaluated his talks with Iranian officials as positive, expressing hope that the entire efforts aimed at ending the war in Yemen will end well and UN's efforts in that respect will bear fruit.

## Iranian Teacher Nominated For Global Teacher Prize



SANANDAJ (IRNA) - Soraya Motaharnia, a female teacher from Iran's Kordestan Province, was among the 10 finalists of Global Teacher Prize awarded by Varkey Foundation.

The Global Teacher Prize is worth one million dollars and is presented to the best teacher in the world selected from among the 10 finalists.

The finalists in turn are chosen from among 50 top teachers nominated from all corners of the world both in rural areas and inner-city schools.

Previously, an Iranian teacher named Ferdows Hajian who was widely known as Uncle Ferdows among Iranian children for his performance in a children's program in Iran's state TV, was nominated for the prize.

Ms. Motaharnia said in an interview with IRNA on Wednesday that she had served as a teacher for 26 years in remote villages in hot and cold days only to see students smiling. While spending the final days of her career as a teacher, she said that she spent each year teaching in a different village to make sure that no student was deprived of literacy because of remoteness or poverty.

Ms. Motaharnia has spotted thousands of students in remote areas who couldn't treat their illness because of poverty and introduced them to charity organizations and philanthropists to provide funds for their treatment.

Living in Bijar County, she said that the problem in the county was that philanthropists and charities there use their sources to fund charities in capital Tehran, whereas their own people in Bijar County and Kordestan Province are in need the most.

She also said that she has helped families of poor students, mothers in particular, to gain a livelihood through facilitating training and launching jobs like weaving rugs, optimizing production of dairy products and energy consumption, cultivating saffron bulb, etc.

Motaharnia has a degree in political science and international relations.

## Nigeria Welcomes Cooperation With Iran on Hajj, Pilgrimage

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Nigerian Ambassador to Tehran, Yakubu Santuraki Suleiman has announced that his country welcomes expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of Hajj and pilgrimage.

Santuraki Suleiman made the remarks in a meeting held in Tehran on Wednesday with Supreme Leader's representative in Hajj and pilgrimage affairs Hojjatolislam Abdolfattah Navvab.

According to information center of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, the Nigerian ambassador described Abuja-Tehran ties as good.

Surely, Nigeria can make use of Iran's experiences in Hajj and pilgrimage, he added.

He went on to say that his country respects rights of prominent Shia leader Ibraheem Zakzaky.

As he hoped, Islamic countries would copy Iran's move to establish coexistence among Islamic religions as a model.

He underlined that the world Muslims have great respect for Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

The Nigerian ambassador further said that development of relations between the

two countries will be of benefit to both.

For his part, Navvab said that religious and cultural commonalities between Iran and Nigeria are good grounds for fostering bilateral ties.

Iran is ready to share its experiences in Hajj and pilgrimage with Nigeria, the Hojjatolislam said.

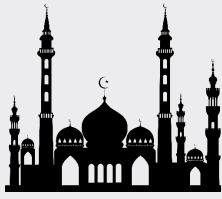
Islamic Republic is also ready to sign a mutual agreement with Nigeria on the field, he added.

As Navvab noted, presence of Sheikh Zakzaky in Nigeria is a positive capacity for exchange of message of friendship.

Reportedly, there are about 20 mutual agreements between Iran and Nigeria in different areas.







## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:47
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:25
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:05
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:30

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)

## Leap in Tehran-Algeria Trade Depends on Removing Hurdles

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – In a webinar held on Wednesday, Iran and Algeria's Chambers of Commerce reviewed ways to boost bilateral trade and using the barter trade mechanism to increase the bilateral trade to \$2b.**

Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Mr. Golam-Hossein Shafei and Head of Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Shabab Tayeb in the webinar reviewed ways for boosting bilateral trade exchange.

In the meeting, Shafei deplored the current low economic relations between Iran and Algeria despite their huge historical and cultural commonalities, adding that this is not good for the two countries despite their capacities and capabilities. He went on to say that the value of bilateral trade between Iran and Algeria was reported around \$124m in 2020 while the potentials for cooperation between the two countries can be beyond this figure, noting that in case the hurdles are removed, the trade volume can hit \$2b.

He went on to say that by resolving problems ahead of trade for economic activists like banking and transportation, their trade exchanges can surpass \$500m in the shortest time, and with a well-organized planning, it can hit \$2b in the long-term.

Shafei went on to say that Iran's private sector is seeking seriously and willingly the expansion of economic relations with African countries especially Algeria. He added that Iran and Algeria each in its own region in the Middle East and North Africa enjoys having an important geopolitical position and each has great capacities and can be the flag-bearer of economic connection in the two regions.

He then pointed to some fields for cooperation and said Iran and Algeria can cooperate in the fields of petrochemical, equipment for gas transfer and refinery services. He noted that Iran has good and advanced experiences in house construction and related industries of the construction industry, car, home appliances, agro products equipment and technology, renewable energies, launch of production lines for different industries especially in the food industries, and the country is after joint



economic cooperation with Algerian companies and reciprocal utilization from the capabilities of Algeria in different fields and production products.

Shafei then pointed to the brilliant experience of Iran's private sector in discovery and exploitation of mines, it can have good cooperation in the field of mining industry with Algeria.

He reiterated that the ground for cooperation in the form of barter trade is ready and Iran can import sugar and phosphate in exchange with exporting steel. He said that to this end, statesmen of the two countries should prepare the required grounds in this field.

He expressed hope soon through the launch of the joint economic commission, the hurdles in way of bilateral trade, like banking, visa and transportation problems, would be removed and trade and custom cooperation would be eased.

Meanwhile Head of Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Tayib, for his part in the webinar, said that Iran is one of the top economies in the Middle East, adding that Algerian economy relies on export of oil, gas and petrochemicals. He reiterated that the chamber is working hard for removal of hurdles in way of bilateral trade, reiterating that this issue is pursued regarding their special political relations.

He noted that Algeria have plans for boosting the trade exchanges and the country is looking for joint projects with Iranian companies especially in the fields of agriculture, olive and also hygienic products.

Tayib admitted that of course there are some obstacles for expanding ties but he is sure that with a program which will be prepared by the yearend in Algeria, a good opportunity will happen for expansion of cooperation between Iranian and Algerian companies and all should take advantage of it for expansion of relations between Iran and Algeria.

## Iran-South Korea Chamber of Commerce Discusses Possible Return of Brands

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - Return of South Korean home appliance brands to Iran in exchange for releasing Iran's frozen assets in South Korean banks is not a priority, the secretary of Iran and South Korea Joint Chamber of Commerce said.**

Possible discussion about the return of brands to Iran depends on South Korean company's decision and that transferring knowledge and technology is on their new agenda, Pouya Firouzi has indicated.

He noted that the other part of the topic relies on Iran's domestic regulations, and at the moment import of home appliance products is not on the agenda and it is not expected that the import prohibition law is being ignored under specific situations.

"In terms of import of home appliance in exchange for the unfreezing of Iran's assets, the Iran South Korea Chamber of Commerce has made an inquiry and based on our information no discussion has been made about the import of home appliance," Firouzi emphasized.

"If there has been conversation about importing commodity in exchange for the release of blocked assets, the priority should be the import of medical commodity and technologies," he stressed.

He added that the meeting between the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and representatives of home appliance unions were about the roadmap and they had no connection to the return of South Korean brands to Iran.

Firouzi indicated that the priority of negotiation with the South Korean side would be related to other items including South Korea's unfinished investment in a petrochemical sector that halted due to re-imposed sanctions against Iran, while investment in the electric auto sector also has higher priority over South Korean home appliance brands.

South Korea's LG Electronics and Samsung have ended their presence in the Iranian market following the US re-imposed sanctions in 2018.

## Tehran Ready to Broaden Agro, Fisheries Cooperation With Oslo



**TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's agricultural jihad minister in a meeting with the Norwegian ambassador to Iran Sigvald Tomin Hauge voiced Iran's interest in broadening agricultural cooperation with Norway, especially in technology transfer, investments, and fisheries fields.**

Javad Sadatinejad in his meeting with Norway's ambassador referred to the 90-year record of Iran-Norway cooperation, which he said is good proof for the depth of the two countries' relations.

"The main part of Iran-Norway interactions currently is in fisheries field, but now the ground is well paved for broader cooperation in forestry and care taking of pasture lands as well," said Sadatinejad.

"Each Norwegian citizen uses 120 kilograms of fruits and vegetables, only a quarter of which is produced in Norway, and keeping in mind the good capacity for agricultural products and vegetables production we can also have a good level of cooperation in that field," he added.

The agriculture minister also announced Iran's readiness for exporting organic dried nuts to Norway.

The Norwegian ambassador, for his part, said in the meeting that Iran has the most ambitious objectives in the agricultural field in the region, announcing Norway's hope to cooperate in agricultural and fisheries fields with Iran.

"We know that the U.S. sanctions have created lots of problems for Iran and we hope the Vienna negotiations will resume soon and lead to good results, since these sanctions have not only created lots of problems for Iran, but have also disturbed Iran's trade ties with various countries, but those problems should not harm Iran-Norway cooperation," he added.

The Norwegian ambassador said that cooperation in food, fisheries and agricultural fields can continue between the two countries, as those fields are none included in the sanctions. He said that currently the Iran-Norway trade is conducted indirectly, expressing hope its expansion, especially in the fisheries field. He also said that only a small portion of the Norwegian lands can be cultivated and appropriate for animal husbandry, which is mostly used to produce animal food and dairies.

## "Domus" Magazine Dedicating Special Issue on Villa Namazee

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN – Embassy of Italy on Tuesday and at the beautiful Villa Namazee Garden hosted a ceremony for screening the last episode of the 10-episode "Domus Eyes on Iran" project which was welcome by Iranian architects and other distinguished guests.**

Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Perrone, Italy's Commercial Attache David Baloni and veteran Iranian architect and university teacher Kamran Afshar Naderi delivered speeches during this ceremony.

The renowned Italian magazine on architecture and design Domus is about to issue a special booklet entirely dedicated to Iran and specifically to the project "Domus Eyes on Iran" by the Italian Embassy in Tehran.

The booklet, which will be attached to the November issue of Domus magazine and distributed in 89 countries for an expected total of 50,000 copies, was unveiled on the occasion of this event which took place in the gardens of Villa Namazee.

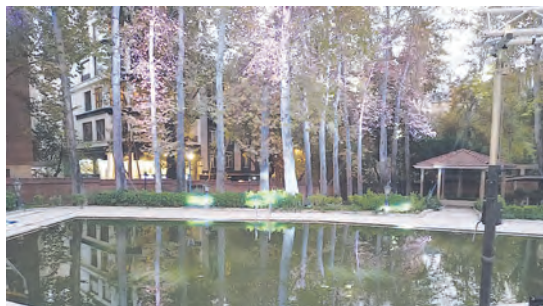
Villa Namazee is a residential building located in the Niavaran district of North Tehran, designed by the great Italian architect Gio' Ponti between the 1950s and the 1960s. It is in fact one of only three residential buildings (the other two being in Venezuela) designed by Gio' Ponti, existing outside of Europe.

The booklet on "Domus Eyes on Iran" is the outcome of a high-profile initiative aiming to highlight the special role played in the last 70 years by Iranian architecture and design on the world stage and the successful cooperation established with Italian architects.

Commenting on this special issue, the Italian Ambassador to Iran, H.E. Perrone, stated that bilateral cultural relations between Italy and Iran have traditionally been built upon a solid foundation of confidence, familiarity and mutual respect, adding that Villa Namazee embodies this extraordinary history of collaboration and exchange between the two countries.

Making reference to the unique role played by Domus magazine in its almost 100 years since its birth, throughout which it represented the most eminent voice on architecture and design on a global scale, Perrone thanked all Iranian and Italian architects, researchers and professionals who have made it possible for this initiative to become one of the most successful examples of cultural cooperation between Rome and Teheran.

The initiative features 10 episodes which bring viewers back in time to discover the main stories featuring Iran published by Domus magazine over the last seven decades.



Each episode focuses on a different work realized in Iran by Iranian or Italian architects and designers, thereby highlighting the importance of Iran in the history of modern architecture and design and its continuous and fruitful relationship with Italy.

During the event the tenth and last episode of the series "Domus Eyes on Iran" was screened, featuring Villa

Namazee itself. As indicated in the episode by Salvatore Licitra, Ponti's grandson and curator of the Ponti Archives, Villa Namazee represents one of the freest and most complete expressions of Ponti's architectural production.

In the same interview, Licitra recalls the special interest shown by the famous Italian architect towards the Islamic world and the crucial role he assigned to dialogue between different civilizations as the highest expression of culture, as is evident from the resonance gained throughout the years by the spectacular works he has made in countries like Iran and Pakistan.

Meanwhile Baloni in the event said that a delegation from Domus magazine is to visit Tehran in Iran. He said Iran and Italy enjoy having good experience in architecture and called for more cooperation between the two countries in this field.

## Iran to Resume Fuel Exports in Next Two Weeks

**TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji says exports of petroleum products from the country including fuel will resume within the next two weeks amid plans by the refiners to ramp up output to respond to a growing domestic demand and to increase overseas shipments.**

Owji said on Tuesday in remarks made in the Iranian parliament that fuel exports will be launched once the Oil Ministry is ensured that supplies will be enough to meet demand inside the country over the upcoming cold months.

Iran briefly halted exports of gasoline in mid-summer to boost supplies in its storage houses. Reports in September suggested the country had increased its gasoline storage capacity to 3 billion liters, a surge of nearly 70% compared to figures reported earlier this year.

The halt also came amid official reports showing that dogmatic demand for gasoline had increased significantly to a record of 109 million liters per day in the early summer days.

That caused concern in the Oil Ministry where authorities had robust plans for increasing gasoline exports amid Iran's efforts to compensate for losses suffered in direct crude sales because of American sanctions.

Iran has become a net exporter of gasoline less than a decade after the country was grappling with fuel shortages because of a previous round of sanctions on its nuclear program.

Owji said Iran will continue to increase its fuel production capacity to boost export revenues.

"With plans in the Oil Ministry and efforts made in the government we look for a surge in the country's refining capacity so that it will reach 1.4 million tons per day in the next four to five years," said the minister.

## Fuel Distribution Returns to Normal

**TEHRAN (IFP) - The spokesperson for the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company has said refueling has returned to normal at all gas stations across Iran following days of disruption due to a cyberattack.**

Fatemeh Kahi said drivers can now fill in using subsidized fuel cards. She added that refueling cards were not damaged in the incident.

The cyberattack disrupted gasoline stations across Iran on Tuesday last week. But it mainly affected the payment mechanism for subsidized fuel cards.

The outage left millions of drivers stranded in Iran due to the closure of gas stations.

Iran has blamed the cyberattack on foreign enemies of the country. The US and Israel have launched such attacks on Iran in the past.

Many of those attacks targeted Iran's nuclear energy program though. This time around, the gas stations were hit. Some officials have said the enemies intended to cause discontent among people in Iran by disrupting refueling at gas stations.



## Czech Centrist, Center-Right Parties Reach Agreement on Gov't

PRAGUE (Dispatches) - Czech centrist and center-right parties reached an agreement on forming a majority coalition government and its key agenda, said the chairman of the strongest party in the forming coalition on Tuesday.

The parties, grouped in two coalitions, won the majority of seats in the lower chamber of parliament in the Oct. 8-9 election, beating the current Prime Minister Andrej Babis, whose key allies were ousted from the parliament.



## Lebanese Newspaper The Daily Star Closes

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The English-language Lebanese newspaper The Daily Star has told its staff they will all be laid off, joining a list of Lebanese media outlets that have been forced to close or scale back due to financial pressures.

In a message to staff, The Daily Star management said the decision to lay them off had been taken "with a heavy heart". It said arrangements were being finalized for compensation, and wished them luck "during these difficult times".

Lebanon is in the throes of a depression described by the World Bank as one of the sharpest of modern times.



## Dozens Killed and Wounded As Blasts Hit Kabul Hospital



KABUL (Dispatches) - At least 25 people were killed and more than 50 wounded when gunmen attacked Afghanistan's biggest military hospital after two heavy explosions at the site in central Kabul, officials said.

The explosions hit the entrance of the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital and were followed by an assault by a group of Islamic State gunmen, all of whom were killed within 15 minutes, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

He said Taliban special forces dropped by helicopter had prevented the attackers from entering the hospital itself, with all killed at the entrance or in the courtyard. Earlier another spokesman said one of the attackers was captured.

The blasts add to a growing list of attacks and killings since the Taliban completed their victory over the Western-backed government in August, undermining their claim to have restored security to Afghanistan after decades of war.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the operation was typical of the complex attacks mounted by Islamic State. It follows a string of bombings by the group which has emerged as the biggest threat to Taliban control of Afghanistan.

A Taliban security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 25 people had been killed and more than 50 wounded in the assault but there was no officially confirmed casualty toll.

Among the dead was Mawlawi Hamdullah Mukhlis, head of the Kabul military corps and one of the first senior Taliban commanders to enter the abandoned presidential palace when the city fell, Taliban officials said.

Photographs shared by residents showed a plume of smoke over the area of the blasts near the former diplomatic zone in the Wazir Akbar Khan area of the city.

Witnesses said at least two helicopters flew over the area as the assault went on, one of the first times Taliban forces have used aircraft captured from the Western-backed government in a military operation.

A health worker at the hospital, who managed to escape, said he heard a large explosion followed by gunfire and a second, larger explosion about 10 minutes later.

Islamic State, which has carried out a series of attacks on mosques and other targets since the Taliban's seizure of Kabul in August, mounted a complex attack on the hospital in 2017, killing more than 30 people.

The group's attacks have caused mounting worries outside Afghanistan about the potential for the country to become a haven for militant groups as it was when an al Qaeda group attacked the United States in 2001.

## Dozens of Nations Back Pledge to Slash Methane Emissions at COP26

LONDON (Dispatches) - Dozens of countries have joined a United States and European Union pledge to cut emissions of methane by at least 30 percent this decade, in one of the most significant climate commitments so far at COP26.

The initiative, which experts say could have a powerful short-term effect on global warming, followed an announcement earlier on Tuesday in which more than 100 nations agreed to end deforestation by 2030.

"One of the most important things we can do between now and 2030, to keep 1.5C in reach, is reduce our methane emissions as soon as possible," said U.S. President Joe Biden, referring to the central goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

He called the pledge, which has so far been signed by more than 80 nations, a "game-changing commitment" that covered countries responsible for about half of global methane emissions.

European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen said that more than 80 countries had signed on to the methane cut, which would "immediately slow down climate change".



## Ethiopia Declares Nationwide Emergency

ADDIS ABABA (Dispatches) - Ethiopia declared a nationwide state of emergency on Tuesday and ordered residents of Addis Ababa to prepare to defend their neighborhoods amid fears that Tigrayan rebels were heading for the capital.

The measures came after several days of reported advances by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) rebel group, which is locked in a brutal year-long war against Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government.

"The state of emergency is aimed to protect civilians from atrocities being committed by the terrorist TPLF group in several parts of the country," state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported.

Possible restrictions include a curfew, road closures and searches of "anyone suspected of collaborating with terror groups", Fana said.

The measure also allows the authorities to conscript "any military age citizen who has weapons" or suspend any media outlets believed to be "giving moral support directly or indirectly" to the TPLF, Fana said.

Lawmakers were expected to approve the state of emergency within 24 hours, it added.

Following the announcement, Abiy urged citizens "to undertake their role and cooperate with law enforcement entities".

"This is a testing time where all these problems piled up simultaneously. Until the test passes, it's inevitable every person will be tested," he tweeted.

Earlier Tuesday officials in Addis Ababa announced new security measures for the city's five million residents, requiring that all firearms be registered within two days.

"All residents must be organized by blocks and neighborhoods to protect peace and security in their home area in coordination with security forces, who will coordinate activities with community police and law enforcers," said Kenea Yadeta, chief of the city's Peace and Security Administration Bureau.

She said about 30 percent of global warming since the Industrial Revolution is due to methane.

"Today global methane emissions grow faster than at any time in the past," she said adding that reducing methane is one of the most effective ways to reduce near-term warming and keep the Paris goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming alive.

"It is the lowest hanging fruit," she said.

Biden, who spelled out the U.S. commitments to reduce its own methane emissions, said "approaching 100 nations" were signing on to the global methane pledge. However, US climate envoy John Kerry had earlier put the figure at more than 100 nations.

Al Jazeera's environment editor Nick Clark, reporting from Glasgow, said lowering methane levels was "critical" in the fight against climate change and the level of methane emissions "needs to be cut back radically".

"It is 84 times as powerful as a greenhouse gas than CO2 and its heat-trapping abilities are much greater in the blanket of greenhouse gases that surround us," Clark said.

## Ukraine Denies Russia Border Build-Up

KIEV (Dispatches) - Ukraine has denied reports of a Russian military build-up near its eastern border that raised fears of a new escalation in fighting with pro-Moscow separatists.

The statement came hours before a government official said Tuesday that Ukraine's Defence Minister Andriy Taran had resigned -- reportedly on health grounds.

Taran, who had led the ministry since March 2020, has not commented on his resignation, a decision which parliament must ratify amid reports of an impending wider cabinet reshuffle.

The 66-year-old Taran "has complaints about his health", the leader of President Volodymyr Zelensky's faction in parliament, Davyd Arakhamiia, told reporters.

Opponents had criticized him during his tenure, citing insufficient reform of an under-resourced military.

Social media videos in recent days have shown Russian military trains and truck convoys moving tanks and missiles in the country's southwest near the Ukrainian border.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters Monday that Washington was monitoring the situation, and The Washington Post quoted U.S. officials saying they were concerned.

But Ukraine's defense ministry said in a statement late Monday that "no additional deployment" of Russian forces had been observed.

The videos could comprise "special informational and psychological actions" and show a planned troop movement after a Russian military exercise, it added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday he had discussed the conflict with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

"The U.S. continues to support territorial integrity and reforms in Ukraine," Zelensky tweeted.

Zelensky also had a more formal meeting in Glasgow with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who "reaffirmed the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity," a State Department statement said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday dismissed the reports of a potential build-up, saying there was no need to "waste time" on "low-quality" claims.

"The movement of our military equipment and army units... is exclusively our business," he told reporters. "Russia has never threatened anyone."

The Ukrainian army is locked in a simmering conflict with pro-Russian separatists that erupted after Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014.

After a rise in violence early this year, Russia in March amassed around 100,000 troops on Ukraine's borders, sparking fears of a major escalation.

## France Accuses Australia of Inelegant Methods

PARIS (Dispatches) - France on Tuesday accused Australia of using "very inelegant methods" after a text message sent by President Emmanuel Macron to Australian leader Scott Morrison was leaked in an apparent bid to imply that he knew about the collapse of a major submarine deal earlier than he maintains.

Media in Australia and Europe reported on the SMS which the French leader sent to Morrison two days before Australia announced that it had torn up a decade-old multi-billion-dollar contract with France to build a new fleet of submarines.

France, which reacted furiously to the cancellation, has always said it had been blindsided by the announcement, and Macron added to the furore at the weekend by accusing of Morrison of lying to him.

But the revelation of the text message Tuesday can be seen as suggesting Macron was less surprised by the cancellation than he has admitted.

"Should I expect good or bad news for our joint submarine ambitions?", reads the SMS sent to Morrison 48 hours before the official contract cancellation announcement which was made at a news conference.

A source close to Macron, who asked not to be named, said the leak was proof of "very inelegant methods". Standing by earlier assurances that Macron had not been given advance warning of the cancellation, the source told AFP the SMS did not undermine that narrative.

"On the contrary, this SMS shows that the president did not know that they were going to cancel the contract," the source claimed.

Had a message existed that clearly showed that he did in fact know "they would have reported that instead". The source added: "We knew that the Australians had some issues, but they only concerned technical aspects and the timetable, as with every big contract like this one."

It was precisely those issues that the SMS referred to, ahead of a discussion with submarine manufacturer Naval Group planned for the following day, the source said. It is not clear what response Morrison gave to the SMS.





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## Indonesia Could Phase Out Coal by 2040

LONDON (Reuters) - Indonesia could phase out coal-fired power plants by 2040 if the country gets sufficient financial help from the international community, its finance minister told Reuters on Tuesday.

The Southeast Asian archipelago is the world's fourth most populous country and eighth biggest greenhouse gas emitter with coal accounting for around 65% of its energy mix. It is also the world's biggest coal exporter. Sri Mulyani Indrawati told Reuters during her visit to the Scottish city of Glasgow for the COP26 conference that Indonesia will on Wednesday announce detailed plans to move to cleaner energy, with the phase-out of coal being the key issue.



## S. Korea Exports Expected To Reach All-Time High

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea's exports last month reached the second-largest monthly amount and a record high based on October exports. Following annual exports exceeded USD 500 billion last month, cumulative exports already exceeded last year's total annual exports in October this year.

Korea's exports have increased for 12 consecutive months and exceeded annual exports of \$600 billion, making it likely to achieve a record high. It is analyzed because exports continued to grow evenly in major exporting items and regions. Despite the COVID-19, Korea's exports rebounded rapidly and led the economic recovery and growth.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy announced on the 1st that exports amounted to \$55.55 billion in October, up 24% year-on-year. Monthly exports amount recorded second-largest ever following September (\$55.83 billion), surpassing \$50 billion in monthly exports for the eight consecutive months.

Korea's exports have also increased for 12 consecutive months.

Korea's exports have continued to increase from November (3.9%) last year to December (12.4%), January (11.4%) this year, February (9.5%), March (16.6%), April (41.1%), May (45.6%), June (39.7%), July (29.6%), August (34.9%), and September (16.7%).

The cumulative exports from January to October this year amounted to \$523.2 billion and exceeded last year's total annual exports (\$512.5 billion), turning to surplus for the first time in three years.

"Korea's increased for the 12th consecutive month, and high growth rate continued with double-digit for the 8th consecutive month," said an official from the Ministry of Trade, industry and Energy. "When positive growth continued for more than a year, it set a new annual export record. This year is also expected to reach all-time high."

The current highest annual export is \$604.9 billion in 2018.

This year's average daily exports amounted to \$2.645 billion. Imports increased by 37.8% to \$53.86 billion last month. During the same period, the trade balance continued surplus for 18 consecutive months at \$1.69 billion.

The volume of trade exceeded \$1 trillion in October, reaching \$1 trillion in the shortest period. The global trade volume ranking also jumped one notch from the previous year's ninth to eighth this year for the first time in 9 years.

By exporting item, 13 of Korea's 15 major items showed a strong increase. Major items such as semiconductors, general machinery, petrochemicals, and steels, and new growth items such as bio-health ranked first and second among exports in October.

Semiconductor exports rose 28.8% to \$11.17 billion as demand for mobile devices increased during the peak season due to the launch of new smartphone models.

Semiconductor exports rose for 16 consecutive months, surpassing \$10 billion for 6 consecutive months. As of October, the cumulative annual exports of semiconductor products exceeded \$100 billion.

## Turkey Mulls Wage Hikes, Tax Cuts for Households Hit by Inflation

ANKARA (Dispatches) - The Turkish government is preparing to boost wages and cut some taxes to support lower-income households that are particularly affected by the high inflation, two senior officials familiar with the plan to tap the country's relatively strong budget told Reuters.

Turkey's public finances are strong compared to emerging market peers, leaving it room for potential fiscal stimulus. The budget deficit has dipped to 1.5% of the gross domestic product (GDP) so far this year, and is projected to be about 3.5% for this year and next.

The officials, who requested anonymity because plans are not yet public, said the fiscal support would aim to offset pressure on more vulnerable households from inflation running near 20%.

The Treasury and Finance Ministry declined to comment. Family and Social Services Minister Derya Yanik said on Monday that TL 2.5 billion in aid will be provided to ease fuel and electricity expenses for needy citizens during the winter.

Among the options being considered is lifting the minimum wage by more than the inflation rate, as well as providing relief on the rising cost of energy and raising the salaries for some civil servants, the officials told Reuters.

"There is a bit more tightness than there should be in the budget. This must be opened somewhat and a step will be taken in this regard (at least) from the start of next year," said one senior official.

"Work is being done so that those with low incomes are impacted less by inflation," the person added.

The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) surprised markets by pivoting to policy easing in September, sharply cutting its benchmark policy rate to 16% in the last two months.



## German Energy Demand, Carbon Dioxide Emissions Seen Rising in 2021

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - Germany's energy consumption in 2021 is likely to rise by nearly 3% and the country's carbon dioxide emissions are set to increase by at least 4% as more coal is burnt, industry statistics group AGEB said on Tuesday.

The rise in energy demand is mainly due to a pickup in economic growth and cold weather at the start of the year, although higher prices of energy and carbon pollution allowances have tempered growth in demand, AGEB said.

AGEB monitors data on primary energy, which refers to raw energy sources such as fossil fuels and renewable power that have not been converted into other forms.

Slow wind speeds meant that more coal was burnt this year to offset shortfalls of renewable power in a pattern that is likely to drive carbon dioxide emissions up by at least 4% in the full year, vis-a-vis 2020, AGEB said.

Energy consumption in Germany rose 3.3% in January-September from a year earlier, AGEB said, as Europe's biggest economy started to recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

During that period the economy used 298.9 million tons of coal equivalent, an industry standard measure, up from 289.3 million a year earlier.

Consumption of mineral oil products dropped by 7% because of a downturn in aviation and road traffic. Heating oil sales were off 38% as householders had stocked up well in 2020 and felt deterred by high prices.

Natural gas consumption increased by 8.5% in the nine months while the power sector saw higher output produced from coal and nuclear energy.

## Poland's Economic Growth in October Continues to Be Strong

WARSAW (Dispatches) - Poland's manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) continued to expand solidly in October

but the pace of growth was much weaker than in the summer, IHS Markit reported on Tuesday.

The IHS Markit Poland Manufacturing PMI grew from 53.4 points in September to 53.8 in October, indicating an acceleration in growth, IHS Markit wrote in a communique.

According to Markit experts, "Poland's manufacturing economy continued to expand solidly in October, although ongoing supply-side constraints again served to restrict expansion."

"Price pressures also strengthened, with firms indicating that the short supply of goods and strong global demand was underpinning rapid inflation," IHS Markit reported.

In the opinion of Markit experts, the slower expansion pace has been caused by two factors, namely, weaker export demand and supply problems.

"Companies reported that demand from neighboring European Union countries had fallen overall, which was in turn linked to the second factor weighing on production: supply-chain difficulties," IHS Markit said.

Shortages in labor were also reported in October, with companies being unable to recruit additional staff.

Firms were confident that in the coming 12 months production would continue to rise and that recovery from the pandemic should support economic growth. But there were also fears that supply-side difficulties and increasing prices will limit the expansion.

The PMI index is a composite indicator of manufacturing performance derived from indicators for new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases.

## Supply Shortages Another Headache for Lockdown-Free Asian Factories

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Asia's factory activity stepped up a gear in October as emerging economies saw COVID-19 infections subside, but rising input costs, material shortages and slowing Chinese growth cloud the outlook, business surveys showed.

Policymakers in the region face pressures on multiple fronts as they steer their economies out of the pandemic-induced doldrums while also trying to keep prices under control amid rising commodity costs and parts shortages.

China's factory activity expanded at its fastest pace in four months in October, the private sector Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Managers' Index (PMI) showed Monday, as dwindling COVID-19 cases drove up domestic demand.

But a sub-index for output showed production shrank for the third straight month due to power shortages and rising costs, falling in line with Sunday's official PMI that showed factory activity in October shrinking.

"Shortages of raw materials and soaring commodity prices, combined with electricity supply problems, created strong constraints for manufacturers and disrupted supply chains," said Wang Zhe, senior economist at Caixin Insight Group.

Factory activity in October expanded in Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia as operations gradually normalized after being hit by shutdowns caused by a spike in COVID-19 infections.

Taiwan saw manufacturing activity growth accelerate on robust chip demand, while Japan's factory activity expanded at the fastest pace in six months in October in an encouraging sign for the world's third-largest economy.

India's factory activity expanded at its quickest pace in eight months in October, pointing to an extended business recovery in Asia's third-largest economy.

In a sign of the patchy nature of the region's recovery, however, South Korea's factory activity rose at the slowest pace in 13 months in October on shrinking output and softer demand.

Material shortages and delivery disruptions drove up Japan's input prices by the most in over 13 years.

"While October Manufacturing PMIs point to a strong rise in manufacturing output, industry is likely to be working through huge backlogs of orders for many months to come and resulting supply shortages further afield are set to persist," said Alex Holmes, emerging Asia economist at Capital Economics.

The final au Jibun Bank Japan PMI in October rose to 53.2 from 51.5 in the previous month, expanding for the ninth consecutive month.

South Korea's PMI, by contrast, fell to 50.2 in October from 52.4 in September, though it managed to stand above the 50-mark threshold that indicates expansion in activity, for a 13th straight month.

Vietnam's PMI rose to 52.1 from 40.2 in September, while that of Indonesia increased to 57.2 from 52.2, the surveys showed. Malaysia's index stood at 52.2, up from 48.1.

## Russia's Electricity Exports to NE China Jump



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian electricity exports to Northeast China has been increasing sharply in recent weeks and could get a further boost if arrangements were made on prices and supplies, a Chinese energy expert said on Tuesday, noting growing energy cooperation between the two countries, particularly in oil and gas.

Russian power firm Inter RAO Group said on Monday that the company, at the request of China, has doubled exports to China since November, Russian news portal sputniknews.cn reported.

The requested amount of power imports was reportedly 555 million kilowatt hours (kWh) per month.

Inter RAO began to export at levels exceeding normal years in early October, when a power shortage hit Northeast China. The company's October exports to China were up 90 percent from planned levels.

Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University, told the Global Times on Tuesday that while China has long been importing Russian electricity, the volume has been small due to the less competitive price offered by Russian power companies.

"The high price of Russian electricity has meant for a long time that the real trade volume was at a [relatively low] level, since China's northeastern provinces usually had a power glut and could get cheaper electricity from coal-fired plants," Lin said.

Russia exports power to China via a cross-border transmission line in Heihe, Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. The usual level of exports was 3.1 billion kWh a year. In comparison, data from Heilongjiang's provincial economic planning agency showed that the province consumed 101.44 billion kWh in 2020.



## Iran's Cinema Verite Festival Sees Global Interest

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The 15th Iran International Documentary Film Festival, Cinema Verite, has seen over 2,500 foreign filmmakers submitting their works to participate in the event. While there is still 36 days left until the beginning of the Cinema Verite Festival, the secretariat of the festival announced that 2,611 works from over 70 countries have been submitted. The selection committee would vet the submitted films and introduce the curated ones to compete in the festival. Also, 650 films have been submitted to participate in the national section of the festival. Cinema Verite festival will be held on December 9-16, 2021.



# Covid Global Death Toll Passes 5m

PARIS (AFP) - Five million people have died worldwide from Covid-19 since the disease first emerged in China nearly two years ago, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

Monday's milestone, nearly four months after four million deaths were registered, came even as mortality rates slow thanks to a global vaccine rollout that has seen billions of people injected.

While the number of daily deaths worldwide fell below 8,000 for the first time in almost a year in early October, there remain blackspots globally.

"The total number of cases and deaths of Covid-19 is increasing for the first time in two months, due to the current increase in the epidemic in Europe," World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference on Thursday.

In the 52 countries and territories that form the WHO's European region, the mounting death toll is mainly coming from the east.

Russia -- a country with strong vaccine hesitancy -- has seen infections and deaths reach new records, with average daily fatalities in excess of 1,000 since October 20.

And according to the authorities themselves, this toll is largely underestimated.

The government's daily toll shows a total of 239,693 deaths as of 1 November.

However, national statistics agency Rosstat, which has a broader definition of Covid deaths, said at the end of September that the death toll was nearly 450,000.

After Russia, Ukraine and Romania are the two countries in Europe with the highest daily death toll -- averaging 546 and 442 deaths per day, respectively, over the past seven days.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the world's deadliest region (1,521,193 deaths since the start of the pandemic).

But the number of daily deaths, currently around 840, has been declining since May.

In the United States, more than 1,400 deaths were recorded each day on average over the past seven days, 15 percent down on the previous week. With its total of 746,747 deaths, the country is bearing the brunt of the pandemic.



The WHO estimates that the pandemic's real toll could be two to three times higher than official records, due to the excess mortality that is directly and indirectly linked to Covid-19.

The Economist magazine looked at excess mortality and concluded around 17 million have died from Covid.

"This figure seems more credible to me," Pasteur Institute epidemiologist Professor Arnaud Fontanet told AFP.

Whatever the case, the death toll is lower than from other historical pandemics, such as Spanish flu that killed 50-100 million in 1918-1919.

Nonetheless, Covid has "caused a lot of deaths in a short period", said Jean-Claude Manuguerra, a virologist at the French institute.

"It could have been a lot more dramatic without all the measures taken, particularly restrictions on movement of people and then the vaccinations," according to Fontanet.

### Gov't Determined...

FROM PAGE 1

In another part of his speech, referring to the collection plan and measures to support beggars, Raisi said, "The government has a duty to prevent child abuse and mental and moral harm to them in matters such as begging. Therefore, we support the municipalities to resolve this situation".

Emphasizing the need to follow up on the implementation of provincial travel approvals, the President said, "The results and fruits of provincial trips in the implementation of the approvals of these trips will be revealed and it is necessary to follow up the implementation of these approvals seriously".

Meanwhile on Tuesday evening, Raisi gave an assurance that his administration is not facing any dead-end in the course of settlement of issues.

In comments at a meeting of the Administration's Economic Coordination Headquarters, Raisi emphasized that there is no deadlock in the process of addressing the country's problems.

The governmental units must act in a coordinated and systematic manner so that their complementary measures would contribute to the settlement of problems, he noted.

Additionally, Raisi was given a report about the latest condition of oil exports, which stated that the volume of Iranian oil sales has increased compared to the past and that the export of petrochemical products is in a proper situation.

In the meeting, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran briefed Raisi on the status of the currency resources and the efforts to repatriate the country's financial resources frozen abroad.

A few days after taking office in August, Raisi called on his economic team to shift the focus on efforts to normalize the sale of oil and ensure the release of the country's funds blocked abroad.

He has also emphasized that the settlement of the economic problems should not depend on the removal of sanctions.

### IRGC Navy...

FROM PAGE 1

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have exacerbated after former U.S. President Donald Trump nixed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and re-imposed the anti-Iran sanctions that the deal had lifted.

He also placed additional sanctions on Iran under other pretexts not related to the nuclear case as part of his "maximum pressure" campaign, which is mainly aimed at blocking the country's oil exports and depriving the Iranian nation of its energy revenues.

The fate of the JCPOA is currently in doubt as Trump's successor, Joe Biden, continues to stick with the previous administration's pressure tactics in dealing with Iran.

### Tehran, Moscow...

FROM PAGE 1

Kazem Jalali denied reports suggesting that Tehran should obtain Russia's approval before any decision to drill for natural gas in the Caspian Sea.

"Over the 20 months that I have served as ambassador in Russia there had been no such issue," Jalali was quoted as saying on Tuesday by the official IRNA news agency.

"Unfortunately, some reports are published in the media space from time to time to influence Iran-Russia relations," he said.

The comments came a day after an Iranian energy businessman said that Tehran had to obtain Russia's consent for taking gas from eight major wells that are located in the Iranian waters in the Caspian Sea.

Ardehsir Dadras, who serves as president of Iran's Syndicate of Compressed Natural Gas, told the ILNA news agency on Monday that Iran and Russia had agreed that tapping the Iranian gas wells in the Caspian Sea would only be possible if Iran's demand for gas exceeds its output.

Otherwise, Dadras claimed in the interview, that Russia would have the right to protest against any extraction of gas from the reserves because the move would hurt Russia's position as the largest holder of natural gas resources in the world.

However, Jalali said that Iranian judicial authorities have a duty to examine whether the comments made about the issue are true or they are simply meritless.

A Tuesday statement by Khazar Exploration and Production Company (KEPCO), the Iranian firm which controls petroleum operations in the Caspian Sea, also denied the claims by Dadras, saying they were utterly baseless and constituted spread of lies which is a crime under the Iranian law.

## Climate Change Main Cause of Fires In U.S. West

LONDON (Dispatches) - Climate change caused overwhelmingly by human activity is the primary source of the unprecedented forest fires regularly ravaging the western United States, according to a study published yesterday.

Fires destroyed an average of 13,500 square kilometers (5,200 square miles) per year in the American west between 2001 and 2018 -- twice as much as between 1984-2000.

"It's happened so much faster than we previously anticipated," Rong Fu, who led the study published by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), told the Los Angeles Times.

In order to understand what contributed to such a significant deterioration of conditions in such a short time, a team of American researchers led by Fu analyzed various factors at work in the "vapor pressure deficit" (VPD), which indicates how dry the air is.

The VPD represents the difference between the amount of water actually present in the atmosphere and the maximum that the atmosphere could hold. The greater the deficit, the more water is drawn into the air from soil and plants, drying them out and creating conditions that are increasingly conducive to fires.

Scientists have determined that the increase in wildfires in the western United States is closely linked to this deficit during the warm season. Between May and September, the number of days with a high VPD increased 94 percent between 2001 and 2008 compared to the previous period, the study said.

According to Fu and her colleagues' calculations, "natural" atmospheric variations were only responsible for an average 32 percent increase in VPD. The remaining 68 percent of the increase in atmospheric water deficit over the past 20 years is due to global warming, which is largely caused by human activities.

"Prior to 2000, we can explain this fire weather pretty well just using weather patterns," said Fu, a climatologist at the University of California UCLA. "But now we can only explain 30 percent of what we see with fire weather."

Some models show anthropogenic, or human-originated, warming could explain up to 88 percent of the anomalies seen in the VPD, the study found.

### Hackers Attack...

FROM PAGE 1

According to Moses Staff's website, the group has hacked over 165 servers and 254 websites and compiled over 11 terabytes of data, including Israel Post, the ministry of military affairs, files related to Gantz, the Electron Csillag company and Epsilon company.

The group also noted that it will not forget "the soldiers whose blood is shed due to wrong policies and fruitless wars, the mothers mourning for their children, and all the cruelty and injustice done to the people of this nation," vowing to "keep fighting! To uncover your hidden crimes."

### IAEA Chief...

FROM PAGE 1

"This is in their interest as much as it is in the international community's interest, because if they take seriously their intentions to continue with their nuclear program for civil purposes, they have to give the guarantees of what is going on there," he noted on the sidelines of the UN climate summit in Glasgow.

"One has to, at some point, come to grips with this situation," Grossi said, adding, "Otherwise we are going to be in a very uncertain territory, and I hope that will not be the case."

The IAEA was charged with monitoring a 2015 accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA, aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear activity in exchange for the lifting of crippling sanctions.

The U.S. pulled out of the accord under former President Donald Trump and reimposed sanctions on Iran. European nations have tried to bring the United States back into the nuclear accord, but their efforts have been frustrated by the unwillingness of Tehran's new hardline government to resume formal talks that would include reopening parts of the 2015 deal.

"Together with the change of government, we have seen increased levels of tight security around their facilities, and this has led on occasion to some difficult moments with our inspectors," Grossi added.

"We are checking that very, very carefully. I would never put my inspectors in harm's way," he said, without elaborating.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has announced the IAEA should not turn into a plaything for terrorist groups.

Mohammad Eslami stated "nuclear terrorism" has levelled accusations against Iran's nuclear program using "seditious ploys and ... undocumented evidence".

"Such behavior has become threadbare," noted Eslami, who is also the vice president.

He also weighed in on the level of uranium enrichment in Iran, saying Tehran remains committed to regulations within the framework of the Additional Protocol and lives up to its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program is peaceful, and uranium is enriched to a level which could be used for peaceful projects," he added.

### Palestine, Arab League...

FROM PAGE 1

The Arab League called on the United Kingdom to "correct this historic mistake and assume its historical, legal and moral responsibility by apologizing to the Palestinian people, and recognizing the Palestinian state on June 4, 1967, lines with East Jerusalem as its capital in support of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in accordance with the vision of a two-state solution."

Moreover, the OIC stated that the Balfour Declaration led to the creation of a colonial occupation regime in Palestine, which is exercising the policies of mass expulsion, ethnic cleansing, settlement construction and expansion, Judaization, land confiscation and property destruction, and denies Palestinians of their legitimate national rights.

"As the world commemorates this dramatic event, which has left a dark stain on human history and consciousness and undermined the values of freedom and justice, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation renews its unwavering commitment to Palestinian people as they are struggling for their legitimate

rights," it said in a statement.

The organization then called on the international community "to assume its historical, legal and political responsibility to bring the Israeli occupation to account, and to enable the Palestinian nation to recover their inalienable rights, including the right of return and the right to an independent state based on the 1967 borders with East al-Quds as its capital."

The Balfour Declaration came in the form of a letter from Britain's then-foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, addressed to Lionel Walter Rothschild, a figurehead of the British Jewish community. It was published on November 2, 1917.

The declaration was made during World War I (1914-1918), and was included in the terms of the British Mandate for Palestine after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire.

It is widely seen as the precursor to the 1948 Palestinian Nakba, when Zionist armed paramilitary groups, who were trained and created to fight side by side with the British in World War II, forcibly expelled more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland.

### Envoy Wants...

FROM PAGE 1

He appreciated the role of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry in promoting Pak-Iran trade relations and held out an assurance that Iranian government would play its role in removing all obstacles for smooth trade activities between the two countries.

Earlier, Mr Dashti and Mohammad Ayub Mariani drew the attention of Iran's envoy towards difficulties being faced by those involved in border and barter trade.

Mr Dashti expressed the hope that immediate steps would be taken to resolve these issues.

He said that the QCCI had been making efforts since day one to promote trade relations between the two countries. "Promotion of Pak-Iran bilateral trade is the guarantor of economic stability and prosperity of the people living on both sides of the Pak-Iran border," Mr Dashti said.



## Marquez to Miss Algarve MotoGP With Concussion

PARIS (Dispatches) - Marc Marquez will miss the Algarve MotoGP in Portugal after suffering a "slight concussion" in a training crash, Honda announced on Tuesday.

"This past Saturday Marc Marquez, while preparing for the Algarve Grand Prix with one of his standard off-road training sessions, suffered a fall that caused a slight head concussion," said his team's statement.

"After a few days of rest at home and seeing that he was still unwell, today Marquez has been assessed by doctors in a medical check-up to evaluate his current status. As a precautionary measure, this coming weekend Marquez will not contest the Algarve Grand Prix."

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## Pakistan Seal Semifinal Spot With Namibia Scalp

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - Pakistan became the first team to reach the Twenty20 World Cup semi-finals after beating Namibia by 45 runs, with brilliant half centuries from Mohammad Rizwan and skipper Babar Azam in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Rizwan finished with a slow-to-fast 50-ball 79 not out while Babar notched his 23rd Twenty20 international fifty with a 49-ball 70 to lift Pakistan -- who won the toss and batted -- to 189-2 in their 20 overs.

# Bayern Munich, Juventus Reach Last 16 in European Champions League

LONDON (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich and Juventus became the first two clubs in the hat for the Champions League round of 16 draw as both secured impressive wins to take them to 12 points from 12 in the group stages.

Julian Nagelsmann's side had their wobbles against Benfica, conceding two goals in a game for the fourth time this season. Happily for them, however, Robert Lewandowski marked his 100th Champions League appearance in style with a hat trick that made him the club's record scorer in the competition -- he could have had four had he not tamerly missed a penalty. Leroy Sane and Serge Gnabry also scored exceptionally in a 5-2 win.

Juventus' goals were equally impressive and came at both ends against Zenit. Paulo Dybala's smart early strike was cancelled out by a remarkable flicked header into his own net by Leonardo Bonucci. However Massimiliano Allegra's side continued their fine form in Europe as Dybala netted a penalty, Federico Chiesa powered in a low drive and Alvaro Morata finished off a flowing counter attack.

Unsurprisingly Manchester United delivered the greatest drama of the night, a thrilling 2-2 draw with Atalanta that kept them in top spot in Group F.

Yet again it was Cristiano Ronaldo who saved Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, equalizing late in the first half and the second as United came from behind for the third straight Champions League game, even if on this occasion they had to settle for a point. A David De Gea error had handed Josip Ilicic the opener while it was Harry Maguire to blame for Atalanta's second, playing Duvan Zapata on to slip a finish high into the net.

Meanwhile Ansu Fati's thunderous strike kept Barcelona in the hunt for second place behind Bayern while what could be Unai Emery's final game as Villarreal manager ended in a 2-0

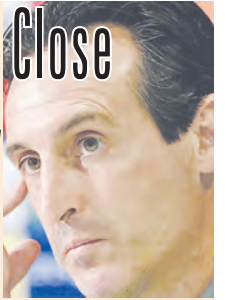


victory over Young Boys that leaves them well placed in Group F. Group G is shaping up for a dramatic conclusion after Jonathan David and Jonathan Bamba earned Lille a 2-1 win at Sevilla that drew them level with Wolfsburg in the race to catch Red Bull Salzburg.

In the day's earlier games Chelsea took a sizeable step towards the last 16 with a hard fought 1-0 win in Malmo. Hakim Ziyech scored the game's only goal in the 56th minute in a match where U.S. international Christian Pulisic made his first club appearance since August 14 after spells out with COVID-19 and an ankle injury.

Some of the best drama was to be found in Wolfsburg, where goals from Riedle Baku and Lukas Nmecha fired home either side of a superb Maximilian Wober free kick, earning three crucial points for Florian Kohfeldt's side against Red Bull Salzburg. The Austrian champions had more than enough chances to earn the win that would have guaranteed them qualification with Karim Adeyemi spurning two good chances on his left foot.

## Newcastle Close In on Emery Appointment



LONDON (Dispatches) - Newcastle are hoping to appoint Villarreal boss Unai Emery as their new manager by the weekend, according to widespread reports on Tuesday.

The former Arsenal manager will be on the touchline for Villarreal's home Champions League clash against Swiss side Young Boys on Tuesday.

The BBC said newly wealthy Newcastle were aiming to hire Emery in time for Saturday's trip to Brighton.

A compensation deal worth £6 million (\$8 million) is reportedly being negotiated to free Emery from the remainder of his contract.

Newcastle were taken over by a consortium led by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund last month and have ambitions to recreate the success of Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea, all of whom are backed by wealthy foreign investors. However, the Magpies' immediate target is to avoid relegation from the Premier League.

Newcastle have not won any of their first 10 league games of the season and sit second-bottom of the table on four points, six adrift of safety.

Previous manager Steve Bruce parted ways with the club following the takeover but performances have not improved under caretaker boss Graeme Jones, who has taken one point from two games against Crystal Palace and Chelsea.

## Aussies Stun Belgium At Billie Jean King Cup

PRAGUE (Dispatches) - Daria Gavrilova and Storm Sanders handed Australia a surprising 2-1 win over Belgium in Group B of the Billie Jean King Cup final tournament in Prague on Tuesday.

In the other afternoon tie, Russia sent Monday's heroes Canada packing with a convincing 3-0 win in Group A.

Dubbed the world cup of women's tennis, the Billie Jean King Cup is a rebranded version of the Fed Cup, played in a tournament format.

Twelve teams divided in four groups vie for four spots in Friday's semi-finals, granted to the group winners. The final tie is scheduled for Saturday.

Fed Cup finalists from 2019, Australia are without world number one Ashleigh Barty and they rested their highest-ranked player Ajla Tomljanovic on Tuesday.

Belgium had in turn eased past Belarus 2-1 on Monday and any win over Australia would have sent them straight into the semi-finals.

But Gavrilova, the world number 412 who had played her last competitive game at the Australian Open in February, would have nothing of that as she saw off 70th-ranked Greet Minnen 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

The Russian-born Gavrilova, a former world number 20, struggled with her serve at times, but she managed to break Minnen's serve when she needed it most, including in the last game of the third set.

"I'm feeling pretty exhausted, it's been a long process to get here, ten months off," said Gavrilova, who had undergone an Achilles tendon surgery after the Australian Open.

"I'm exhausted and really happy. I probably never had this much motivation in my life," she added.

Sanders, ranked 33rd, then beat 18th-ranked Elise Mertens 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-0.

The Australian lost the first set on two breaks, but fought back to take the second in a tie-break as Mertens's game plan collapsed while Sanders, spotless on the return, took the final set to love.

"That was the most incredible feeling, I'm still shaking. But I played really, really well," Sanders said.



## Nishikori Ends 2021 Season Due to Back Injury

LONDON (Dispatches) - Japan's Kei Nishikori has ended his season due to a back injury, the former world number four has said.

The 31-year-old, currently ranked 49th in the world, played at last month's ATP Masters 1000 event in Indian Wells, where he lost in the second round to Dan Evans.

In the leadup to the Indian Wells, Nishikori had pulled out of the ATP 250 event in San Diego just hours before his opening match against Britain's Andy Murray.

Nishikori then pulled out of an ATP 500 event in Vienna and the ongoing Paris Masters and also withdrew from next week's tournament in Stockholm before announcing his decision to end his season.

"I hurt my back some weeks ago before San Diego and it has continued to bother me," he said on Twitter.

"It's been a long year, coming back from injury and I look forward to off-season. "Also look forward to having a strong pre-season training to make 2022 a great year."

Nishikori, who reached a career-high ranking of fourth shortly after becoming the first Asian man to reach a major final at the 2014 U.S. Open, has been plagued by injuries in recent years and has struggled for consistency.

## Bulls Overtake Celtics in 4th Quarter

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - DeMar DeRozan had a game-high 37 points on 15-of-20 shooting and added seven rebounds, Zach LaVine had 26 points and seven assists, and the Chicago Bulls rallied past the Boston Celtics for a 128-114 road win.

The Celtics led by as many as 19 points late in the third quarter before the Bulls responded with a 29-9 surge between quarters to take a 106-105 lead on Ayo Dosunmu's 3-pointer with 6:54 remaining. Chicago outscored Boston 39-11 overall in the final quarter.

Dosunmu finished with 14 points, Lonzo Ball added 12 and Nikola Vucevic totaled 11 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Bulls, who earned their sixth win in seven games to open the season.

Jaylen Brown had 28 points and seven rebounds to lead the Celtics. Jayson Tatum scored 20, Al Horford chipped in 20 with 10 rebounds, and Marcus Smart scored 16 for Boston. Smart later criticized Brown and Tatum for not passing the ball enough.

Seth Curry scored 23 points, Georges Niang added 21 and host Philadelphia won its third in a row by defeating Portland 113-103.

Furkan Korkmaz added 15 points and Andre Drummond had 14 points, 15 rebounds, seven assists and five steals for the short-handed Sixers, who were without Joel Embiid (rest), Ben Simmons (personal) and Tobias Harris, who was a late scratch for health and safety protocols.



## Koepfer Saves 7 MPs, Stuns Murray in Paris

PARIS (Dispatches) - Dominik Koepfer made the most of his second chance at the Rolex Paris Masters, when he saved seven match points in a gritty 6-4, 5-7, 7-6(9) win against Andy Murray.

Despite winning just three games in the final round of qualifying against Miomir Kecmanovic, lucky loser Koepfer eliminated the former World No. 1 in three hours and one minute to reach the second round of the main draw on his tournament debut.

Koepfer was in control of the match at 6-4, 5-3, but was broken at love when serving for the match and it was a rollercoaster from there. Murray had two match points on his opponent's serve at 5-4 in the decider and five more in the tie-break, but was left walking off Court Central shaking his head in disappointment after failing to convert.

"It was unbelievable. I thought I had it in my hands in the second set serving for it at 5-4. He just made a lot of balls, I didn't make a lot of balls. That was the difference, and it was just a great fight in the third set," Koepfer said in his post-match interview. "I just tried to stay in the moment and tried to play every point."

"Obviously it's tough to play against him. He makes so many balls and is an unbelievable competitor. I knew that going in, I was ready for it and [am] just happy I got through."

Last week in Vienna, Koepfer fell short as a lucky loser in singles to Lorenzo Sonego and made the semi-finals in doubles as a lucky loser alongside Sander Gille. This time he took full advantage of his opportunity in the singles draw, standing on top of the baseline and battling through physical, entertaining rallies to overcome the 2016 champion.

