

**Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan
For Commerce and Investment
Abdul Razak Dawood Left for Tehran
On Friday to Attend 9th Meeting of
The Joint Trade Committee Which Is
To Be Held on Saturday**

IRAN NEWS

**Kazakhstan Will Host the Next
Round of the Astana Talks on
Syria in Nur-Sultan Likely in
Mid-December, Kazakh Foreign
Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi
Announced on Thursday**

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Israel's Anti-Iran Propaganda Aimed at Shifting Attention From Its Crimes

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian diplomat has dismissed Israel's allegation at the United Nations that Tehran is "destabilizing" the Middle East, saying such propaganda against the Islamic Republic is meant to shift attention away from the regime's occupation agenda and other crimes.

At a session of the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) of the UN General Assembly, Iran's representative reacted to hostile comments by the Israeli envoy, who claimed Tehran was pursuing the goal of destabilizing the Middle East and sought to "derail the Middle East and any prospect of genuine dialogue in the Assembly hall."

"Israel has brought about anger throughout the region and is the top spoiler of international peace and security," the Iranian representative told the session. "Its propaganda against Iran has always been a smokescreen to divert public opinion from its own land-grabbing schemes and other crimes."

The Iranian official also responded to the Israeli envoy's complaint about Tehran's support for Lebanon's Hezbollah and the resistance group's influential role in its homeland.

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20% Enriched Uranium Stockpile Exceeds 210 kg

TEHRAN (MNA) - Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman said that 20% enriched uranium stockpile exceeded 210 kilograms.

"According to the Parliament's 'Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions and Protect Rights of the People' law, we were tasked to produce 120 kg of 20% enriched uranium, while now we have exceeded 210 kg," said Behrouz Kamalvandi.

"So far, we have produced 25 kg of 60% enriched uranium which no country is able to produce, except for countries with nuclear weapons," he added.

Amid the indifference of the JCPOA parties to continued U.S. violations of the JCPOA, in December 2020, the Iranian Parliament passed the Law on "Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions and Protect Rights of the People" that prompted the Iranian administration to restrict the IAEA's inspections and accelerate the development of the country's nuclear program beyond the limits set by the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement.

Iran has also increased the level of uranium enrichment beyond the level allowed under the JCPOA in accordance with the accord itself.

U.S. used to Taking Blow After Blow From Iran



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s chief says the United States is accustomed to suffering defeat after defeat from Iran but has yet to learn a lesson, a day after the elite military force released details of a recent counter-piracy operation that foiled a U.S. attempt to steal Iranian oil at sea.

Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks in an address to a ceremony marking the 42nd anniversary of the Iranian students' takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, also known as the "Den of Espionage."

Salami praised the IRGC Navy's successful operation in the Sea of Oman, which thwarted an attempt by the U.S. military to steal Iranian oil, saying the recent achievement, which was reported on Wednesday, was proof that the sons of this nation would courageously and decisively stand up to any power that may seek to harm Iran's national interests.

"The Americans are used to constantly suffering defeats at the hands of the Iranian people, but of course, this has not yet become a lesson for them. The decline of the United States has begun, and on the contrary, we have increasingly been boosting political vitality and revolutionary enthusiasm and our establishment has been reaching higher levels of power day by day," Salami said.

The IRGC advises "everyone to correct their calculations about Iran and recognize the power of this nation and its grandeur. We have said that we are the anchor of security in this region and we also tell our neighbors that there is no need to seek help from those who are unable to provide themselves with security," he said.

"Today, the distant territories of the sea are under the control and management of our Armed Forces," the senior commander said.

Referring to the U.S. warmongering across the globe, Salami said that Washington has waged more than 40 major wars in 40 parts of the world.

Over 8 million deaths have resulted from direct wars waged by the U.S., which has recorded more than 200 interventions in the internal affairs of other countries in the form of coups, economic sanctions, military invasions and civil sedition plots, he added.

The IRGC chief also noted that Washington, through more than 750 US military bases abroad, has sought to establish a widespread political dominance, stressing that the United States has turned into "a factory producing dictators all over the world."

"The Islamic Revolution of Iran disrupted the atmosphere of political domination, and a unique and amazing victory over American policy occurred. It shattered the American political order that sought to rule half of the planet. This was the beginning of a great jihad (endeavor for the sake of God) on the part of the Iranian nation to recover the grandeur it had lost [prior to the Revolution]."

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NAM Calls for Ending Unilateral Sanctions Against Other Countries

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations said in a speech on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement that this movement wants the countries that have imposed unilateral sanctions to end the sanctions immediately.

She told before the Sixth Committee of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Agenda item 84 that "while the Non-Aligned Movement continues to attach great importance to the work of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, it can also play a key role in the current reform process of the United Nations, as mandated in Resolution 3499(XXX) of 15 December 1975."

In the statement, she said, "Over the years, the Committee has worked diligently to produce various documents in the form of declarations and resolutions, such as the Manila Declaration. Negotiated and adopted by the Charter Committee in 1982, the Manila Declaration is only one of the many major achievements of the Committee. Such a body of work demonstrates the Committee's strengths as an effective forum to clarify and promote general international law and charter provisions. The Special Committee has been also instrumental in the preparation of the Handbook on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, which needs to be updated in light of the new developments as well as the practices of Member States in this regard."

She added, "The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates its concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and those of the Economic and Social Council through addressing issues which fall within the competence of the latter organs, and the attempts to enter areas of norm-setting and establishing definitions which fall within the purview of the General Assembly."

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ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Embassy Takeover, Beginning of U.S. Decline

November 4 (Aban 13) is a day which will never be forgotten in the Islamic Republic of Iran's and even world history when the grandeur of one of the biggest world arrogance broke by an Islamic establishment and every year Iranians and even most freedom-lover people in the world is observed.

On Thursday, Iranians of all walks of life begun staging rallies across the country to mark the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance, shouting slogans against the US and Israeli regimes over their inhumane, hegemonic actions.

This year's ceremony was coincided with a great military achievement by the IRGC in dueling with the U.S. forces and taking back Iran's pirated oil.

Forty-two years ago on November 4, Iranian students took over the American embassy in Tehran, also known in Iran as the "Den of Espionage," less than a year after the Islamic Revolution toppled the US-backed Pahlavi dictatorship in 1979.

The occasion was then named the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance. November 4 also marks National Student Day.

Each year, Iranians commemorate the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance by staging rallies across the country. Last year's events were canceled due to an increase in COVID-19 infections, this year's events are being held across the nation while people observe health protocols.

Rallies were held on Thursday in Tehran and some 800 cities and towns across the country.

Every year, demonstrators in Tehran gather outside the former headquarters of the US embassy, chanting "Down with the U.S." and "Down with Israel," Washington's closest ally, to show their anger with the actions of what is known in Iran as "Global Arrogance."

In a statement, the Iranian Army said Aban 13 (November 4) is reminiscent of three major events in Iran's contemporary history.

It explained that on November 4, 1964, Imam Khomeini, who founded the Islamic Revolution in 1979, was sent to Turkey, where he began a life of more than 14 years in exile "due to the Pahlavi regime's inability against the Imam's determination."

The Army then referred to the massacre of dozens of pupils during a protest on November 4, 1978 by the Shah regime's forces as the day that "watered the seedling of the Revolution," while describing November 4, 1979 as the day students foiled the enemy's conspiracy by taking over the US embassy in Tehran.

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China, Russia Calls for Pragmatic Attitude Toward Vienna Talks

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Russia and China have called on all parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), to adopt a flexible and pragmatic attitude towards talks in Vienna on the removal of anti-Tehran sanctions and implementation of the landmark agreement.

The plea was made after China's Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu held a phone conversation with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov on Wednesday, during which the two sides exchanged views on the Iranian nuclear issue.

"Both sides stressed that the Iranian nuclear situation is at an important juncture and all parties should make joint efforts to push for an early resumption of negotiations on resuming the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on its website.

"At the same time, all parties should respect and accommodate each other's concerns, adopt a flexible and pragmatic attitude, and bring the JCPOA back on track at an early date," it added.

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Taliban Delegation to Visit Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Taliban acting minister for higher education has said that a Taliban delegation will pay a visit to Iran to discuss increasing scientific cooperation.

Abdul Baqi Haqqani, Taliban acting minister for higher education, made the remarks during a meeting with Bahador Aminian, Iran's ambassador to Kabul.

A delegation from the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education would travel to Iran to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries and discuss scholarship positions for Afghan refugees in Iran, the acting minister said.

Iran Not to Leave Negotiation Table

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi in Semnan on Thursday emphasized that Iran would pursue a policy of simultaneous lifting and neutralization of sanctions, saying that the people of Iran appreciate the smart and authoritative actions of the country's border guards.

Raisi made the remarks in Semnan in the ceremony of the National Day of Fighting Against Global Arrogance, the capital city of Semnan Province, east of Tehran.

The history of US' animosity with Iranian people is not 40 years; it is more than 70 years; the difference is that in the first 30 years, the United States succeeded in plundering the interests of the Iranian people by a coup and supporting the dictators, but in the 43 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation has won the battle against the endless hostilities of the U.S., Raisi said.

Referring to the date of the start of negotiations on the lifting of the oppressive sanctions against the Iranians, the President said that the negotiation is a result-oriented one and Iran will not fall short of the rightful demand of the Iranian people to lift the oppressive sanctions.

Raisi added that as previously stated, Iran will not leave the negotiating table but will stand against the excessive demands that lead to the loss of the interests of the Iranian people.

Emphasizing that Iran will not retreat from the interests of the Iranian nation in any way, he added that at the same time, the country will pursue the lifting of



sanctions and the neutralization of sanctions.

In his Thursday remarks, Iran's President Raisi stressed that his administration will not back down on safeguarding the Iranian nation's interests, adding, "We will pursue both the removal and the neutralization of the sanctions simultaneously."

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has urged Iranian authorities to "neutralize the sanctions" through efforts aimed to materialize self-sufficiency and economic prosperity, at the same time that they pursue diplomatic channels to remove them.

The Iranian president also noted that the Iranian people have always denounced the meddlesome measures of the United States in the region, including their latest conduct.

He was making a reference to the U.S. seizure of an Iranian oil shipment late last month that led to a confrontation between the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the vessel that had stolen the shipment in what Iran slammed as "an act of piracy" in the strategic Sea of Oman, where the IRGC succeeded in landing its forces on the ship's deck and navigating it towards Iranian waters.

The Iranian people, Raisi continued, are always thankful to the revolutionary guards for protecting Iran's dignity and independence.

U.S. Forces Were Escorting Stolen Iranian Oil Cargo

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Spokesman of Iran's elite military force the IRGC has rejected statements by U.S. defense officials claiming that American forces involved in an October 25 ship incident in the Sea of Oman were present at the scene only to monitor the situation.

Brigadier General Ramazan Sharif said on Thursday that US forces had a mission to protect MV Sothys, a Vietnamese-flagged ship which was boarded by IRGC forces after it became known that the tanker was stealing a large Iranian oil cargo.

"They had come to provide support to the bandits of the Iranian oil and to escort them," Sharif was quoted as saying by ISNA news agency.

The statement came after U.S. Department of Defense rejected Iran's account of the incident which was extensively covered in reports published in the Iranian media on Wednesday.

IRGC's Navy released a video showing Iranian forces had to repel American destroyers from MV Sothys.

However, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said on Wednesday that US forces had come to the scene of the incident only to monitor the situation.

Other sources in the U.S. have made similar claims about the confrontation on Sothys but authorities in Washington have yet to provide any reason why US military had a major presence near a vessel that was carrying Iranian oil.

The United States has a history of carrying out piracy acts on Iranian oil tankers under the pretext that the shipments violate U.S. sanctions against Iran.

In August last year, U.S. forces confiscated 1.1 million barrels of Iranian petroleum from four tankers that were on their way to Venezuela.

Washington declared in November 2020 that the shipment had been sold for more than \$40 million.

Iraqi, Syrian FMs Talk With Amirabdollahian on Phone

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministers of Iraq and Syria separately called Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian to inquire about his health and discuss bilateral and regional issues.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein briefed Amirabdollahian on the latest developments with regards to the formation of the new government in Iraq.

Also, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad talked about the latest developments in the country and the Syrian people's resistance.

Many other top diplomats, including foreign ministers of China, Kuwait, and Jordan, as well as several foreign ambassadors in Tehran has since passed on best health wishes to him.

Pakistan Removes Iran From COVID-19 Travel Restrictions List

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - Pakistan has lifted COVID-19 travel restrictions from the Islamic Republic of Iran while announcing new conditions for air travel to the country.

National Command Operation Center in a meeting decided to relax coronavirus-related restrictions after the enforcement of obligatory vaccination for inbound travelers.

Accordingly, six countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was previously on List C of the air travel ban to Pakistan, were removed from the list.

"Inbound Air Traffic will operate at full quantum with effect from 10 November 2021," said NCOC in a statement. It said all foreign and domestic passengers must be 100% vaccinated and anyone over the age of 6 should be in possession of a negative PCR test report (max 72 hours old) before boarding.

Armenia, Costa Rica, Bulgaria, Iraq, and Mexico will remain on the "C" list, and air travel bans from these countries to Pakistan will continue. Mongolia, Slovenia, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine have also been named by Pakistan as high-risk countries due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Earlier this month, Pakistan's Taftan border crossing was reopened as a joint border with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Mirjavah area for Pakistani businessmen, students, and truck drivers.

Vice President Says Iran Has Been Selling Oil Secretly

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Vice President on Economic Affairs says for more than three years, the country has been selling oil in smuggling and secretly importing our dollar income into the country.

Referring to the government's role in the continuation of economic sanctions, Mohsen Rezaee said, "Iran's economic blockade by the United States must be broken with the efforts of the people," according to IRNA.

Tehran, Baku Determined to Overcome Obstacles in Relations

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign minister says the Islamic Republic and the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan enjoy the necessary will to overcome obstacles on the path of friendly relations.

"Positive neighborly relations continue between Tehran and Baku," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Thursday, adding that he and his Azeri counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov, continue their close contacts and "positive consultations."

"There might be some differences [in the two countries' viewpoints] with regard to certain issues, but the important point is that both sides possess serious determination to overcome the obstacles," Iran's top diplomat said.

Amir-Abdollahian further added that the two sides have agreed to boost cooperation for the improvement and better management of their media and public spheres and set up a joint commission to this end.

"We regard our neighbors as our relatives and observe the principles that govern such relations," he added.

In a phone call between Amir-Abdollahian and Bayramov on October 13, the two sides stressed the need for the resolution of some existing issues between Baku and Tehran through dialogue and cooperation.

Iran's foreign minister told his Azeri counterpart that any concerns or issues between Tehran and Baku must be resolved through dialogue and cooperation, and also in a calm and friendly atmosphere.

Amir-Abdollahian said the two countries must prevent misunderstandings in bilateral relations and that "it is better to continue their relations in the right and rapidly growing direction."

"The two countries have enemies that should not be given an opportunity to strain relations between them," Amir-Abdollahian said, underlining the need for "removing anxiety through dialogue and cooperation," he added.

The phone conversation in October came after the Iranian foreign minister issued a warning concerning certain provocations by the Israeli regime near Iran's borders with Azerbaijan.

The regime, he said, had used the flare-up of tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region last year to establish a presence in parts of Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Abbas Mousavi said Azerbaijan's diplomatic police and Interior Ministry had "identified, arrested and interrogated four" people in connection with the case.

Sanctions Removal Negotiations To Resume on November 29

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's chief negotiator in talks aimed at the potential removal of the United States' illegal sanctions against the Islamic Republic announces the date chosen for the resumption of the negotiations.

"In a phone call with [the European Union's deputy foreign policy chief] Enrique Mora, we agreed to start the negotiations aiming at removal of unlawful & inhumane sanctions on 29 November in Vienna," Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri-Kani tweeted on Wednesday.

The European Union acted as the coordinator for the talks that led to conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the historic 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world countries.

The U.S., however, left the agreement in 2018 and re-introduced the sanctions that the accord had lifted.

Following a year of strategic patience, Iran resorted to its legal rights stipulated in Article 26 of the JCPOA, which grants a party the right to suspend its contractual commitments in case of non-compliance by other signatories and let go of some of the restrictions imposed on its nuclear energy program.

Iran's envoy to talks aimed at potential removal of US sanctions says the Islamic Republic is to rejoin the negotiations before November's end.

The talks were, however, put on hold in the run-up to Iran's presidential elections in June so that the Islamic Republic could go through a period of government transition.

Iranian Influenza Vaccine out in Market

TEHRAN (MNA) – An Iranian health official said that the locally manufactured influenza vaccine is available on the market.

Director-General of the Department of Medicine which is a department of Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Syed Haidar Mohammadi said that currently, as many as 200,000 doses of influenza vaccine have been produced and this number will increase in the future.

Mohammadi emphasized that the Iranian flu vaccine is available to buy at pharmacies across at a price of 213,000 Tomans (less than \$15).

The health official said the flu vaccine is recombinant-protein-based and is the second recombinant influenza vaccine in the world, adding that the Iranian-made vaccine is more effective than other platforms.

He expressed hope that the locally manufactured flu vaccine will meet the domestic need for the vaccine and there will be no need for importing the vaccine from abroad.

It is noteworthy that the U.S. sanctions have blocked the import of foreign-made flu vaccines for vulnerable groups in Iran.

Iran to Add 30k Megawatts To Its Power Generation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian has announced that 30,000 megawatts of electricity will be added to the current capacity of the country's power generation network within four years in order to prevent future outages.

Mehrabian made the remarks when he was inspecting Shahid Bakeri power plant in Semnan on Thursday.

He added that some 10,000 megawatts will be generated by new thermal power plants, the second 10,000 megawatts via investment in power generation industry and the third one through renewable power plants within four years.

The Ministry of Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding with industries to construct new power plants, the minister noted.

Development of power plants aimed at increasing power generation and managing consumption of electricity are among two main strategies of the Ministry of Energy in order to provide the county with required electricity, Mehrabian said.

Director of Pouya Energy Company, Ozhan Mokri, pointed out to the construction of combined cycle at Shahid Bakeri Power Plant, adding that the plant has two gas-based units with the capacity of generating 183 megawatts, and that construction of two new units is on the agenda.

Mokri also said that the power plant is planning to build state-of-the-art gas turbines, expressing hope if all phases are being implemented in accordance with preplanned timetable, the two units would become operational next summer.

The energy minister inspected Shahid Bakeri Power Plant on Thursday, when President Ebrahim Raisi visited Semnan province as part of his provincial trips.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:23
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:06
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:32

65. Then when they opened their baggage, they found their stock-in-trade had been returned to them. They said: "O our father! What (more) can we desire? this our stock-in-trade has been returned to us: so we shall get (more) food for our family; We shall take care of our brother; and add (at the same time) a full camel's load (of grain to our provisions). This is but a small quantity. Surah 12. Joseph (65)

Oil Ministry Not to Wait for JCPOA Talks

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil Ministry will not wait for the decisions and negotiations, Minister of Petroleum said on Thursday after 22nd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting.

Javad Owji made the remark after 22nd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting held via video conference on Thursday, adding we are trying and have made some achievements in this regard by utilizing all capacities and applying different sales methods which help with the country's revenues.

There have been improvements in crude oil and gas condensates exports in the 13th administration through using capacities and potentials as well as national and international organizations, he added.

The U.S. recent attempt in Sea of Oman and Persian Gulf was due to the increase in crude oil and gas condensates output and exports, Owji said.

On OPEC+ meeting, he said the 22nd OPEC+ Ministerial Meeting was held today and the group agreed to continue with raising 400,000 bpd in crude oil output for December, he stated.

Meanwhile the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allied producers reached a consensus on Thursday on extending the current crude oil output plan and raise their production by 400,000 bpd for December.



The 23 members of OPEC and non-OPEC coalition, known as OPEC+, made an agreement during the 22nd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting, held via video conference on Thursday, to add further 400,000 bpd to their crude oil output despite pressures by the U.S. President, Joe Biden.

Meanwhile, the group agreed to hold the 23rd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting on December 2.

OPEC and its allies cut their crude oil output by a record amount in 2020 as COVID-19 pandemic and the global lockdown measures decreased fuel demand.

The coalition reduced its crude oil production by 9.7 million bpd in May 2020, then eased cuts as oil demand recovered.

Iran's Sari to Be Tourism Capital of ECO in 2022



TEHRAN (IP) - Sari, capital of Mazandaran Province, northern Iran, will be the tourism capital of ECO member countries in 2022.

The meeting of Sari city officials and ECO Cultural Institute was held on how to hold the "Sari of Tourism Capital of ECO in 2022" ceremony.

The meeting, which was held yesterday (Wednesday) at the Sari Municipality building, was attended by Sarvar Bakhti, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, Javad Talebi, Mayor of Sari, and members of the Sari City Council. The main topic of the meeting was the holding of the event called "Sari, the tourism capital of ECO in 2022".

Sarvar Bakhti also visited "Fazeli House" and "Kolbadi House," which are among the tourism capacities of Sari city, together with Sari city officials.

Iran-Turkmenistan Land Trade Booming

TEHRAN (IFP) - An Iranian official says the export of goods by truck from the city of Sarakhs bordering Turkmenistan to the neighboring country has tripled compared to the previous week.

Mohammad Reza Rajabi the governor of the city of Sarakhs in Iran's Khorasan Razavi Province says following the recent agreements between Iranian and Turkmen officials, trade is booming between the two countries given the fact that Iran's foreign policy gives priority to neighbors and that Tehran has recently joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

He said that exports from Sarakhs to Turkmenistan before the recent agreements was about 50 trucks daily in the past two weeks, but has now increased to 150 trucks per day thanks to the border agreements.

Rajabi noted that in terms of Covid outbreak, Sarakhs is marked blue, which is the lowest level of risk from the disease.

He said all Iranian truck drivers have received both doses of their Covid vaccine, and the necessary infrastructure such as disinfection tunnels is provided to observe healthcare protocols at the border.

Sarakhs border terminal is on the Iran-Turkmenistan border some 185 kilometers northeast of Mashhad, the capital city of Khorasan Razavi Province.

Iran Wheat Imports at Record Levels

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's wheat imports are expected to top 8 million tons in the year to March 2022.

The Government Trading Corporation (GTC) of Iran says wheat imports into the country would reach record levels in the calendar year to March amid a sharp fall in domestic crop which has been caused by drought as well as by price issues.

GTC chief Yazdan Seyf said on Wednesday that Iran had imported around three million metric tons of wheat since the start of the calendar year in late March.

Seyf added that Iran would need to import another five million tons of wheat until the end of the current calendar year to ensure supplies would be enough to meet domestic demand.

He said that total purchase of wheat from domestic farmers had reached 4.5 million tons at the end of the harvesting season in September.

"We hope higher precipitation and less severe drought could help up reduce reliance on foreign (suppliers) for wheat," said the official as he insisted that drought had severely hit the domestic wheat production this year.

Some experts have blamed low guaranteed purchase prices (GPP) announced for wheat by the government in recent years for a sharp fall in domestic crop.

They say the problem has been exacerbated by drought and has caused production to more than half within a couple of years.

However, Seyf said that a GPP of 75,000 rials (\$0.27) announced for buying wheat from Iranian farmers in the next harvesting season starting May 2022 would be on par with international prices.

Reports in the media and statements by government sources suggest that Russia has been responsible for a bulk of wheat exported to Iran this calendar year.

Taliban Set Timeframe for Iranian Truckers

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - An official of Iran's Road Maintenance Organization announced that the Taliban imposed restrictions on Iranian truckers once they had the right to enter within 25 days.

According to the new policy of Afghan rulers, "If the Iranian truck re-enters Afghanistan sooner than 25 days after unloading its cargo in Afghanistan, it will be subject to crimes," said Javad Hedayati, director general of the international transit and transportation office of the road maintenance organization.

Earlier on the Milk Border, the Iranian fleet, after

arriving in Afghanistan, "faced a long stop in the exit queue because the burden of the Iranian fleet would be reduced to help increase the transport of the Afghan fleet," he said.

Hedayati described Afghanistan's "new managers" as "inexperienced" and added that "these policies are actually lined up by people with backgrounds in this field."

After the Taliban completely seized Afghanistan, cross-border trade between the two countries was halted for some time. Iran's exports to Afghanistan are about "four billion dollars", and Afghanistan's exports to Iran are between \$40 million and \$50 million.

Sustainable Provision of Raw Materials for Steel-Makers to Pick Up Construction Industry

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The 8th International Steel Price Conference with the title of steel, raw materials and challenges ahead was held at Tehran's Olympic Hotel with presence of Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mr. Vajiollah Jafari, Head of IMIDRO, the CEO of Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) and some managers of the steel-making, mining companies and experts.

Addressing the conference, the CEO of Esfahan Steel Company Mr. Mansour Yazdizadeh said in the issue of providing raw materials, the steel-making companies are facing challenges and it can make colorful the needs for imports.

Pointing to the price of the energy carriers, he said ESCO and Middle East Mines and Mineral Industries Development Holding Company (MIDHCO) are the only blast furnace steel producing companies in the country which face a large number of problems in providing its required iron ore due to departure of the mining companies from their main job, adding that therefore, with this condition the country will move towards importing the raw materials.

He noted that the development trend in different complexes and companies have faced concerns due the water shortage and raw material which should be resolved.

Yazdizadeh said that they need a unity and consolidation in the policy-making in the country to overcome the challenges, adding that investment of the Persian Gulf states is also another threat and it can be also an opportunity which needs improving the technology and the country should focus production of certain steel products.

He went on to say that merge is one of the appropriate solutions for development but is should be some away from any bias.

He emphasized that the plan of the government for construction of one million units of houses is possible and ESCO has announced its readiness in this regard.

Yazdizadeh reiterated that ESCO is the producer off the standard construction structures but unfortunately non-standard construction products are produced in the country and it needs officials to have proper plans to resolve this problem which is in direct connection with the public health.



Iran, Turkey Expand Trade Through Anzali Free Zone

GILAN (IP) - Turkey's trade attache to Tehran visited Anzali free zone in Gilan, northern Iran, and discussed expansion of trade cooperation with the provincial officials.

Tahir Dingil announced the readiness of his country to conclude the necessary contracts between Iran's Anzali free zone and Turkish free zones to expand trade between the two countries.

Dingil said Anzali free zone had a good capacity to invite Turkish investors in the field of trade, production, insurance companies and services.

Deputy Head of Anzali Free Zone Organization for Port and Caspian Affairs for his part said one of the ways to develop the trade was to strengthen the China-Kazakhstan-Iran corridor and the Nestrak corridor, and that Turkey could act as an intermediary link between European countries and the Caspian states.

In the business meeting of Iran-Turkey Chambers of Commerce on October 23, Turkey's economic attache in Iran Salman Erdogan told Iran Press that Turkish commercial companies tended to make their investments in Iran to have better access to Iranian markets.

Tehran, Warsaw Sign MoU On Tourism, Trade

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran and Poland sign a memorandum of cooperation on tourism and trade development.

The memorandum of understanding on tourism cooperation between the Polish and Iranian Chambers of Commerce was signed by Andre Pilat and Hossein Nikkhah-Abyaneh, vice presidents of the two countries' Chambers of Commerce.

In this memorandum, Iran and Poland will form a joint working group to develop tourism and cultural cooperation. The necessary support will be provided to support the activists of this sector for development.

Representatives of Iran and Poland are expected to cooperate in holding exhibitions, joint conferences, and special programs in tourism and culture.

Home-Made Gas-Burning Turbine Tested in Refinery

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Deputy Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) announced the news that the 4-mehawatt IDRO-made gas turbine was tested during the last week in one of the refineries of the country and the testing process was conducted successfully.



According to IDRO News, Mohsen Salehinia announced this achievement and said that the design and production of this turbine is one of the fully obvious and examples in the field of innovation and indigenization of the modern technologies in the country.

He went on to say that this turbine was manufactured for the first time by the capable private sector and with full support of IDRO and it enjoys high technology whose foreign like is mainly used in the oil and gas industries of the country.

Salehinia noted that considering the current problem of electricity shortage in the country, this type o turbine can resolve the challenges ahead of industrial units for providing electricity in the peak consumption seasons of the year in the form of Cogeneration or combined heat and power (CHP) units.

He pointed to the readiness of the organization for continuing the cooperation in this field, adding that the technical knowledge and knowhow of manufacturing this type of turbine has been attained during the production process and in case of receiving orders, it is possible manufacturing it and meet the demands of the applicants.

The foreign-made like of this turbine is estimated to be over \$2m.

Russia Expels Dutch Journalist

AMSTERDAM (Dispatches) - Russia has expelled a journalist from a Dutch newspaper for "administrative violations", the publication reported, Moscow's second move against a member of the Western media in three months.

Russian authorities revoked Volkskrant correspondent Tom Vennink's visa and barred him from returning until January 2025, the newspaper said. He was told on Monday he had three days to leave.

"So, I packed my bags and left Russia yesterday," Vennink told Reuters in an interview. "I don't see a reason why the Russian authorities would personally target me, or target my newspaper."

Officials at the Kremlin and Russian foreign ministry could not be reached for comment on Thursday, a national holiday in Russia.



Dozens Killed in Jihadist Attack in Niger

PARIS (AFP) - A jihadist attack in Niger's volatile "tri-border" zone with Burkina Faso and Mali has killed dozens of members of a self-defence militia, local sources told AFP.

The assault took place on Tuesday at Adab-Dab, a village about 55 kilometres (32 miles) from Banibangou in the western region of Tillaberi, a source said. A motorcycle-borne defence force was attacked by "heavily-armed members of the ISGS (Islamic State in the Greater Sahara," who were also on motorbikes, the source said.

"In all there are about 60 dead, nine missing and 15 escaped. The mayor of Banibangou is among those who were killed and his body has been recovered," an MP in the western Tillaberi area said.



N.Korea Can Produce More Uranium Than Current Rate



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea can get all the uranium it needs for nuclear weapons through its existing Pyongsan mill, and satellite imagery of tailings piles suggests the country can produce far more nuclear fuel than it is, a new academic study concludes.

Despite a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear weapons tests since 2017, North Korea has said it is continuing to build its arsenal, and this year it appeared to have restarted a reactor that is widely believed to have produced weapons-grade plutonium.

According to research published last month in the journal Science & Global Security by researchers at Stanford University and an Arizona-based mining consulting company, North Korea may be able to increase production, and has no need for other uranium mills.

"It is clear that the DPRK appears to have substantially more milling capacity than it has been using to date," said the report, using the initials of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"This means that the DPRK could produce much greater quantities of milled natural uranium if desired."

The Pyongsan Uranium Concentration Plant and its associated mine are North Korea's only publicly acknowledged source of yellowcake, or uranium ore, according to analysts.

The report comes as other satellite imagery shows North Korea is building a large expansion at its Yongbyon nuclear reactor, which analysts say may be used to produce weapons-grade uranium.

"Given the DPRK's active nuclear program, it is of utmost importance to assess and understand its nuclear materials production capabilities," wrote the report's authors, who submitted their findings in April.

These capabilities govern the rate at which North Korea might expand its nuclear arsenal, determine the magnitude of the threat to international security and the challenge of potential nuclear disarmament, and measure North Korea's ability to fuel its future nuclear energy program, the report said.

The question over how many nuclear weapons North Korea possesses is a key issue for intelligence agencies in South Korea and the United States, as well as for any talks aimed at limiting or reducing North Korea's arsenal.

The United States, which wants Pyongyang to surrender its nuclear arsenal, has said it is open to meeting with North Korea without preconditions. North Korea says talks are only possible after the United States and its allies drop hostile policies.

Intelligence on North Korean nuclear weapons is limited, but David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, has told Reuters he estimates the country has the capacity to produce material for four to six warheads a year.

Sweden's Social Democrats Elect Andersson as Leader

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Sweden's ruling Social Democrats on Thursday elected finance minister Magdalena Andersson the new head of the party, putting her on track to be the country's first woman prime minister.

The 54-year-old economist and former top swimmer, who ran unopposed, was confirmed by the party's annual congress to succeed outgoing leader and Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who announced his resignation in August.

"I'm of course both honored and glad and I feel a great deal of humility for the task, but above all I am hugely excited to lead our great and proud party," Andersson told the congress after her election, to roaring applause.

Andersson also outlined three political priorities for the coming years.

Firstly she wanted to "take back democratic control of schools, healthcare and elderly care" in the country that has long had a debate over welfare sector liberalization and privatization and companies being able to profit from taxpayer money.

Secondly she wanted Sweden to become a leader in the "climate transition" and becoming a role model for the world.

"Thirdly, I want, no I demand that we turn every stone to end segregation and smoke out the violence that threatens our entire community," Andersson said.

The Nordic country has in recent years struggled to rein in rising shootings and bombings -- usually score settling by gangs and organized crime involved in drug trafficking.

Andersson is now on track to be the next prime minister following Lofven's resignation after seven years as head of government, with less than a year before elections expected in September 2022.

Lofven, who is still Prime Minister, has not yet announced the exact date of his resignation.

Once he is gone, Andersson would have to win a vote in parliament to be Sweden's first female prime minister.

The feat of installing a woman in the Rosenbad seat of government sounds almost anachronistic in a country that has long championed gender equality.

All other Nordic countries, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland have all seen women lead their governments.



Afghanistan Taliban Leader Warns Against Infiltrators in the Ranks

KABUL (Dispatches) - The supreme leader of the Taliban warned against the danger of turncoats and infiltrators in the movement that has taken charge of Afghanistan.

Reflecting the seriousness of the threat, the reclusive Haibatullah Akhundzada issued a rare written public statement to urge Taliban commanders to purge their ranks.

In it he says "all those elders of their groups must look inside their ranks and see if there is any unknown entity working against the will of the government, which must be eradicated as soon as possible.

"Whatever wrong happens, the elder will be responsible for the consequences of the actions in this world and in the afterlife," he warned, in a statement tweeted out by multiple Taliban accounts.

The Islamist militant movement seized power in August after overrunning the capital and ousting the collapsing U.S.-backed government, declaring a new Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

But after 20-years of guerrilla warfare, the Taliban has been forced to expand their ranks rapidly by recruiting former foes, allied Islamist militants and young madrassa students.

Now that it is the government, the movement faces attacks in its turn from hardline factions like the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K).

The groups are now bitter rivals, but there has been movement between them over the years and they both employed tactics like suicide bombings and civilian massacres to destabilize the former regime.

On Tuesday, at least 19 people including a Taliban commander were killed in a gun and suicide bomb attack claimed by IS-K on a military hospital in the heart of Kabul.

Taliban commanders insist that they can re-establish stability and security, but there have also been killings blamed on Taliban elements or extremist infiltrators.

Last week, for example, gunmen who presented themselves as Taliban shot dead three wedding guests in a dispute about the playing of music, which the movement frowns upon.

Lithuania Starts Building First European Wall to Ward Off Migrants

DRUSKININKAI (Dispatches) - Lithuania has built the first stretches of a steel wall on its border with Belarus since migrants from the Middle East and other areas began entering from Belarus this year.

The European Union accuses Belarus of deliberately encouraging the migrants to enter EU states Poland, Lithuania and Latvia via Belarusian territory as a way of putting pressure on the bloc.

Belarus has repeatedly denied this but its president, Alexander Lukashenko, has said his country would no longer stop the migrants since EU sanctions drain resources.

All three EU countries have put stretches of razor wire on the border to stop the migrants. Last week Lithuania began putting up the first stretches of the 3.4-metre (11-foot) high steel fence, topped with 0.6 meters (2 feet) of razor wire.

"It's probably impossible to build a totally unpassable obstacle, so I think that this barrier can

too be overcome. But that would take a long time, and we would be able to react", said Virgilijus Raugale, the chief boarder guard in southern Lithuania.

Lithuania has allocated 152 million euros to build 500 kilometers (300 miles) of the wall by September next year. The wall is supplemented by a 3-metre high heap of coiled razor wire next to it and video surveillance equipment.

More than 4,000 migrants entered Lithuania from Belarus this year before August, when the country resorted to sending almost all entering migrants back to Belarus. Over 5,600 migrants were prevented from entering since then, the border guard service said, including 2,300 who tried to enter in October.

Meanwhile the Polish Defence Ministry said on Thursday, that Belarusian soldiers threatened to open fire on Polish troops just across the border, in what it said was an attempt to escalate a crisis over migrants at their common frontier.



Lebanon PM Urges Action To Mend Persian Gulf Row

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati urged feuding politicians to end government paralysis and mend a damaging row with Persian Gulf Arab states, as rifts threatened his fragile cabinet.

The government is breaking at the seams over a series of disputes involving a probe into last year's monster port blast, and remarks by Information Minister George Kordahi over the Yemen war that sparked reprisals from Saudi Arabia and its allies.

The measures include a blocking of Lebanese imports -- a move that could plunge Lebanon further into financial meltdown.

The crisis has split Mikati's government -- which has not met for three weeks -- with some ministers backing Kordahi in his refusal to resign and others calling for him to step down to assuage Saudi anger.

"I call on all parties to... take the necessary steps towards a solution and I emphasise the need for the government to resume work to make up for wasted time," Mikati told a news conference on Thursday.

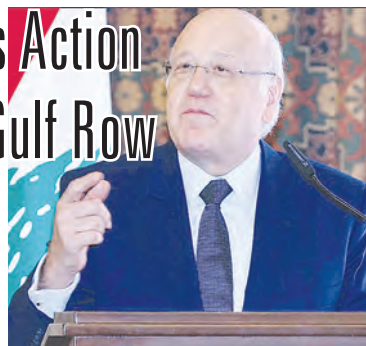
Kordahi must "take the necessary measures and prioritise national interest" over partisan or populist considerations, Mikati said, stopping short of asking for his resignation.

The row was triggered by comments made by Kordahi, who in a pre-recorded interview broadcast last week, characterised the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen since 2015 as an "external aggression".

Regional kingpin Saudi Arabia retaliated by blocking imports from Lebanon, in a fresh blow to a country in financial and political ruin and where a weak government is struggling to secure international aid, namely from wealthy Arab neighbours.

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

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





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Exxon Warns Some Assets May Be at Risk

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Exxon Mobil Corp on Wednesday said for the first time some of its oil and gas properties may face impairment due to climate change, according to a securities filing.

The largest U.S. oil company's board will test assets for climate impairments "in the context of overall enterprise risk" during the annual asset review by its board of directors. "Certain assets could be at risk for impairment," it said.

Earlier this year, Exxon's board was overhauled with three new directors in a proxy battle that weighed heavily on the company's failure to address climate change in the past. Hedge fund Engine No. 1 was successful in convincing enough shareholders a new board could improve performance and rethink the energy transition.



Global Air Travel Demand Declines 53% in September

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Global air travel demand, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs), saw a decline of 53.4 per cent in September 2021 compared to the same month of 2019, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said.

However, the performance was a moderate rebound from August 2021, which was 56 per cent lower when compared to August 2019, it said in a statement today.

"This was driven by recovery in domestic markets, in particular China, where some travel curbs were lifted following the Covid-19 outbreaks in August. International demand, meanwhile, slipped slightly compared to the previous month," it said.

Its director general Willie Walsh said that September's performance is a positive development but recovery in international traffic remains stalled amid continuing border closures and quarantine mandates.

"The recent U.S. policy change to reopen travel from 33 markets for fully vaccinated foreigners from Nov 8 is a welcome, if long overdue, development. Along with recent re-openings in other key markets like Australia, Argentina, Thailand and Singapore, this should give a boost to the large-scale restoration of the freedom to travel," he said.

On the Asia-Pacific front, IATA said the region's airlines saw their September international traffic fall 93.2 per cent compared to September 2019, virtually unchanged from the 93.4 per cent drop registered in August 2021 versus August 2019 as the region continues to have the strictest border control measures.

"Capacity dropped 85.2 per cent and the load factor was down 42.3 percentage points to 36.2 per cent, easily the lowest among regions," it said.

Meanwhile in a separate statement, IATA said global air cargo demand grew 9.1 per cent in September 2021 compared to the same month in 2019, as there is a benefit from supply chain congestion as manufacturers turn to air transport for speed.

Walsh said, however, severe capacity constraints continue to limit the ability of air cargo to absorb extra demand.

"If not addressed, bottlenecks in the supply chain will slow the economic recovery from Covid-19. Governments must act to relieve pressure on global supply chains and improve their overall resilience," he said.

For the Asia-Pacific, IATA said the region's airlines saw their international air cargo volumes increase 4.5 per cent in September 2021 compared to the same month in 2019, which was a slowdown compared to the previous month's 5.1 per cent expansion.

"Demand is being affected by slowing manufacturing activity in China. International capacity is significantly constrained in the region, down 18.2 per cent versus September 2019. Looking forward, the decision by some countries in the region to lift travel restrictions should provide a boost for capacity," it said.

Eurasian Development Bank to Invest \$1.2b in Its Members in 2021

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) plans to invest \$1.2 billion in its members' economies this year, mainly in Russia and Kazakhstan, and eyes borrowing around \$1 billion next year, the same as in 2021, its board chairman said.

Majority-owned by Russia and Kazakhstan and also present in Belarus, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the EDB carries out project financing in infrastructure and industrial projects as well as transport and energy fields.

The EDB's chairman Nikolai Podguzov said the bank's strategy for 2022-2026 envisages investing at least \$500 million in projects in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on top of the money that the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) could provide.

The EFSD is designed to provide budget and crisis-fighting support to its member states and, in this way, it is similar to the International Monetary Fund, Podguzov said in an interview with Reuters.

Set up in 2009, the EFSD stands at \$8.513 billion. Russia is the main contributor to the fund with \$7.5 billion, followed by Kazakhstan with \$1 billion and other member states with smaller contributions.

In 2020, the EFSD gave Belarus \$500 million, \$100 million to Kyrgyzstan and \$50 million to Tajikistan to counter the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Podguzov did not say how much the fund would give to its members in 2021.

When asked if Afghanistan has sought financial aid from the bank, Podguzov there were no such contacts and Afghanistan is not a member of the bank.

EDB will soon expand its membership by including Uzbekistan, Podguzov said, the move that could be finalized next year.



Speaking of economic rebound after a sharp contraction in 2020 due to the COVID-19, Podguzov said Russia's and Kazakhstan's economies recovered to pre-crisis levels in the second quarter.

"All states, including bank members, have channelled very serious resources to support their economies," Podguzov said.

But not all bank members have fully recovered.

"The recovery growth has not ended yet, but it is already on the decline. Armenia and Kyrgyzstan have not yet reached the pre-pandemic development level," Podguzov said.

EDB provided the following assessment of state economic support in 2020 as well as economic performance and forecasts:

ECB Interest Rate Rise Very Unlikely in 2022

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - The European Central Bank is "very unlikely" to raise its interest rates in 2022, president Christine Lagarde said, amid pressure on central bankers to respond to soaring prices.

"Despite the current inflation surge, the outlook for inflation over the medium term remains subdued," Lagarde said in a speech in Lisbon.

And the ECB's conditions for a possible rate increase "are very unlikely to be satisfied next year," she said. Previously, the ECB has stated that it will not increase borrowing costs until it sees inflation reaching its 2.0 per cent target "well ahead" ahead of a projected timeframe.

Inflation would have to be at that level, or higher, on a durable basis throughout the remainder the forecast period and be supported by data on underlying price pressures.

The ECB's 25-member governing council last week held interest rates at historic lows, including a negative bank deposit rate which means lenders pay to park excess cash at the central bank.

In its most recent forecast in September, the ECB is pencilling in an inflation rate for the euro area of 1.7 per cent in 2022 and 1.5 per cent in 2023.

But the recent high pace of inflation has turned pressure on the Frankfurt-based institution, with annual inflation hitting 4.1 per cent in October, according to Eurostat.

In view of the surge in inflation, central banks are under pressure to row back the vast financial support put in place at the start of the coronavirus pandemic to support the economy.

China's PM Warns of New Downward Pressures

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's economy faces new downward pressures and has to cut taxes and fees to address the problems faced by small and medium-sized companies, according to the country's Premier Li Keqiang.

Li did not specify the extent of the new "downward pressure" or its cause, but the phrase is generally used by Chinese officials to refer to a slowing economy. He has used the phrase before, including several times in 2019.

The economy needs "cross-cyclical adjustments" to continue in a proper range, Li said during a visit to China's top market regulator, state broadcaster CCTV reported. That phrase is associated with a more conservative fiscal and monetary approach that focuses more on the long-term outlook instead of immediate economic performance.

China's economy has been slowing in recent months due to Beijing's push to slow growth in the real-estate sector. Li's remarks came after further signs of weakness in October due to power shortages which weighed on manufacturing, and strict coronavirus controls which put a brake on holiday spending.

"There are no obvious growth drivers now, so the government is looking for one," said Bruce Pang, head of macro and strategy research at China Renaissance Securities Hong Kong Ltd. "Small businesses' investment can provide a source of healthier, longer-term growth, compared with government or property investment."

Authorities will encourage banks to lend more to small businesses, further reduce taxes and fees for them, and look to simplify administrative procedures to encourage more entrepreneurs, Pang said.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index fell to 49.2, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Sunday, the second month it was below the key 50-mark that signals a contraction in production.

Several investment banks have lowered their forecasts for China's 2021 growth to below 8 percent in recent weeks. However, former Chinese central bank adviser Huang Yiping told Bloomberg News on Tuesday that while China's economy will slow further over the next few months, annual growth of about 8 percent is achievable.

Li called for the creation of a better business environment through equal treatment of all types of companies and better market oversight, mentioning efforts to combat monopolies, unfair competition and hoarding.

Turkish Inflation Climbs, Producer Prices Rise at Fastest Pace Since 2002

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish inflation accelerated to 19.89 percent in October, the highest level since January 2019. Producer price increases hit a 19-year high.

The consumer price inflation rate rose from an annual 19.56 percent in September, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) said on Wednesday. It was expected to nudge up to 20.4 percent, according to the median estimates in polls of economists conducted by Reuters and Bloomberg.

Annual producer price inflation accelerated to 46.3 percent last month, the fastest increase in prices since July 2002. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government gained power in November of that year on the back of an economic crisis. The rate had stood at 44 percent in September.

Inflation in Turkey is gathering pace amid a global uptick in inflation and after the central bank cut interest rates over the past two months.

"Even if Turkey's October inflation miraculously stayed below 20 percent, the outlook is still awful," said Erik Meyersson, a former economist at U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs. "The idea that any central bank monetary policy committee could consider rate cuts in this environment boggles the mind."

The lira sank to a record low of 9.85 per dollar in late October due to concerns about the impact of central bank policy on the economy. It was trading down 1 percent at 9.7 per dollar at 1:30 p.m. local time in Istanbul, extending losses made before the inflation data was published.

Core consumer price inflation, which excludes more volatile items such as food and energy prices, slowed to 16.82 percent last month from 16.98 percent, TÜİK said. The central bank has started using the lower core number as a key indicator for changes to monetary policy.

"The central bank will justify more cuts in policy rates by the fact core inflation dropped," said Tim Ash, senior emerging markets strategist at BlueBay Asset Management in London.

Investors are concerned that the interest rate cuts, ordered by Erdoğan, will boost economic growth at the expense of the lira and higher inflation. Many emerging market central banks are hiking interest rates to curb price increases brought on by global supply problems and a surge in energy costs.

Erdoğan, who says higher interest rates are inflationary, has replaced three central bank governors in just over two years due to clashes over monetary policy. The bank's official medium-term inflation target is 5 percent.

Some economists and analysts are concerned that the Turkish Statistical Institute's ability to report inflation and other economic data accurately has been compromised by a slew of appointments to the state-run body via presidential decree.

Gazprom Committed to Meeting European Gas Demand



AMSTERDAM (Dispatches) - Russia's Gazprom is committed to meeting European gas demand and is keen on reaching a balanced, predictable market, the company's export chief said.

Speaking in a recorded message played at the Flame Gas and LNG conference in Amsterdam, Elena Burmistrova said that unlike spot and short-term contracts, the oil-linked, long-term contracts with take-or-pay conditions are the ones that can achieve balance and predictability.

Russia provides a third of Europe's gas and its supply intentions are critical at a time when spot prices across the continent have surged, hitting households and businesses.

Russia has said it is meeting its contractual obligations in full, but the International Energy Agency and some European politicians have suggested Moscow can do more. Moscow denies using gas as a political weapon.

"I will say again - we are not interested either in record low, or in record high gas prices. The latter leads to gas demand degradation in Europe, which is clearly against our interests as a gas producer and supplier," Burmistrova said.

"We want to see a balanced and predictable market, where we and our customers can successfully develop our business."

Burmistrova said that from January to mid-October, supplies to European partners increased by more than 15 billion cubic meters or 13%.

Gazprom's long-term business strategy is based on the assessments of effective prospective demand in Russia and key export markets, therefore it is not easy for the company to support a shift to hub-indexation and short-term trade models, she said.

"We have always stood for long-term contracts with take-or-pay conditions, and will continue to do so. Our industry is capital-intensive and has a long investment cycle, and only such long-term contracts can provide confidence ... (and) make the market balanced and predictable, therefore profitable for investors."

81st Shipment of COVID Vaccines Arrives in Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - Deputy Head of Customs Administration of Iran reported the import of yet 81st shipment of COVID vaccine.

Mehrdad Jamal Arvanaghi told IRIB on Thursday that the consignment, consisting of 777,600 doses of Sputnik-V COVID vaccine imported from Russia. The shipment entered Imam Khomeini International Airport and was delivered to the Health Ministry. According to Arvanghi, this shipment of vaccines is probably the last one imported to the country, and the vaccine will not be imported until further notice.



Toyota Ranked One of Worst Major Automakers for Emissions Efforts

TOKYO (Dispatches) - The world’s top-selling carmaker Toyota has come joint last in a Greenpeace ranking of carbon emission efforts by auto firms, according to a list published Thursday during the COP26 climate summit.

The campaign group gave Toyota and US-European firm Stellantis “F minus minus” grades for decarbonisation efforts including phasing out engines that burn planet-warming fossil fuels in favour of electric vehicles.

Minimising carbon emissions in the supply chain and reusing or developing greener technology for car batteries were among the factors examined in the report that compared 10 major automakers.

General Motors received the least damning rating with a C- grade, followed by a D for Volkswagen and D- for Renault.

All the other firms, including Ford, Honda and Hyundai-Kia, were rated F plus or minus.

“Toyota, the world’s number-one car seller last year, is the most stubborn in holding onto internal combustion engines,” said Ada Kong, senior project manager of the auto industry campaign at Greenpeace East Asia.

The Japanese giant is also “most vocal in such advocacy, domestically and abroad”, Kong said in a statement.

Toyota, which releases its earnings later Thursday, said in September it would invest 1.5 trillion yen (\$13.2 billion) in batteries for electric and hybrid cars by 2030.

It declined to comment ahead of the publication of the emissions report, in which Greenpeace urged automakers to embrace fully-electric vehicles.

“Some Japanese companies, such as Toyota, are confident that hybrid technology is an effective alternative to the internal combustion engine,” the report said.

“However, the real-world emissions reduction and fuel economy of hybrid vehicles



are not as good as expected,” it said, noting that plug-in hybrids only reduce emissions by an estimated one-third, compared with petrol or diesel cars.

The assessment came as world leaders met in Glasgow this week as part of the COP26 climate conference -- billed as vital for the continued viability of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which set a goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Greenpeace said none of the 10 auto firms had announced plans to phase out combustion engines before 2035, which would make the 1.5-degree goal “almost impossible”.

Embassy Takeover...

FROM PAGE 1

A statement was also read out during the nationwide events, reaffirming the Islamic Republic’s support for the cause of al-Quds and the Palestinian resistance, and also for the Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah, Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement, Bahraini protesters and the popular Iraqi and Syrian forces.



They are the “powerful army of the Islamic Ummah (community)” against the “system of global domination and Zionism” and regional reactionary regimes, the statement said.

It condemned the normalization agreements between certain regional countries and Israel, urging those countries’ rulers to reconsider their decision and end their relations with the occupying regime.

Referring to the abject failure of the United States’ approaches and policies toward West Asia, especially those in Iraq and Syria, as well as its humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan, the statement said such recurring phenomenon is a symbol of the “acceleration of the US decline” and the outcome of regional nations’ resistance and perseverance under the Iranian-led discourse of resistance and unity against the Global Arrogance.

It called on regional nations to beware of the White House’s conspiracies, pointing to the latest terrorist attacks in Afghanistan’s mosques as an example.

Elsewhere, the statement highlighted the importance of using the classified documents acquired during the U.S. embassy takeover for the purpose of familiarizing the younger generations of Iran with Washington’s conspiracies.

The Iranian administration and parliament should prevent “the evil, malicious, and criminal actions of the Americans in Islamic community from fading into oblivion,” it added.

This event and statement shows Iran’s determination in fight with the world arrogance and it will not let the Americans threaten its national interests.

The Islamic Republic of Iran since the embassy takeover and severing diplomatic ties with the U.S. has progressed well especially in the military field so that it can now bravely stand against any military plot of Americans.

Recent U.S. move for pirating Iran’s oil and the brave reaction of the IRGC Navy forces in thwarting this plot is another golden leaf in the history of Iran’s independence and its fight against global arrogance.

So the U.S. is recommended to leave the region and not to mess with the Islamic Republic of Iran’s forces because they will be a real loser as they have experienced in the past several defeats one after the other.

The brave Iranian military forces will not let the Americans do any harm against Iran’s interests and if the Americans are looking for more humiliations, so they can continue their plots but they should not forget this point that as the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has reiterated, the era of hit-and-run is over and Americans have to pay more for any mischievous act. The U.S. Embassy takeover was a beginning for the U.S. decline and this humiliation of the Americans goes on.

And this year’s November 4 was observed with another humiliation and blow to the U.S. forces and God willing these proud achievements will continue in any field and scene if the nation remains united.

NAM Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

She noted, “The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms that the reform of the Organization should be carried out in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the Charter of the United Nations while preserving the legal framework of this constitutional instrument. For this purpose, the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the organization can contribute to the examination of the legal matters in this process.”

She criticized sanctions and said, “Sanctions are blunt instruments, the use of which raises fundamental ethical questions as to whether the suffering inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country is a legitimate means of exerting political pressure. The objectives of sanctions are not to punish or otherwise exact retribution on the populace. Sanctions regimes should avoid triggering unintended consequences in the target State or third States which may lead to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They should also avoid hindering humanitarian assistance from reaching the civilian population.”

She added, “In this regard, the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined based on tenable legal grounds, and their imposition should be for a specified timeframe. Lastly, such sanctions should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved. The conditions demanded of the State or party on which sanctions are imposed should also be distinctly outlined and be subject to monitoring its impacts and periodic review.”

U.S. Shale Producers Signal More Oil Coming

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - U.S. shale producers’ decision this year to resist pumping more oil even as prices surge could be nearing an end, according to company executives.

Several major oil companies, including BP Plc, Chevron Corp and Exxon Mobil Corp, are planning to increase output or shale spending next year, undercutting OPEC’s tight supply management that has pushed crude oil prices above \$80 a barrel as global demand for fuel rebounded more swiftly than many anticipated.

“As oil prices rise, it’s increasingly likely that oil production growth resumes,” said Josh Young, chief investment officer of energy investor Bison Interests. The gains, however, will remain below the rate of pre-COVID-19 increases, he said.

Overall U.S. crude production rose last week to 11.5 million barrels per day, according to latest U.S. Energy Department figures, inching closer to its peak of about 13 million bpd before the coronavirus pandemic hit last year. More than 70% of U.S. output comes from shale production.

The planning uptick in shale will come from larger companies and particularly from the Permian Basin, the top U.S. shale field. The change follows pressure from the White House for more production as retail fuel prices rise.

U.S. Resorts to Piracy To Prevent Iran Oil Sales

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - A report says that stealing oil cargoes is a last-ditch effort by the U.S. to prevent Iran’s growing sales.

The United States has resorted to pirating Iranian oil cargoes as it has failed in its various attempts to cut the country’s oil exports to zero through its regime of sanctions, says an analysis published in the Iranian media just after reports showed that Iranian military forces had prevented one such piracy attempt in the Sea of Oman.

The Wednesday report by the Tasnim news agency said that Washington had become increasingly irritated by the fact that Iran has managed to get round US sanctions and sell its oil cargoes to customers in Asia and elsewhere.

The report said that a recent attempt by US marine forces to confiscate Iranian oil cargo in the Sea of Oman was a sign that Washington had become desperate in its efforts to choke off Iran’s oil trade.

“Following the failure of U.S. government’s maximum pressure campaign to stifle Iran’s rising crude exports and given the new wave of growth in the Iranian oil exports, we witnessed an attempt by this country (the U.S.) which reflects the Great Satan is hopeless,” said the report.

Iranian elite military force the IRGC said on Wednesday that it had prevented a piracy attempt on an Iranian oil cargo travelling in the sea of Oman last month.

IRGC’s Navy released videos showing its servicemen had boarded a ship that was carrying Iranian oil just before an alleged attempt by US forces to confiscate the tanker.

The analysis by Tasnim, which is close to the IRGC, claimed that Iran’s oil exports had increased under a new administration that came to office in early August.

Reports have suggested that Iran is planning to ramp up its exports of crude and petroleum products in the upcoming months as the country come up with solutions to circumvent a series of U.S. sanctions that have targeted its energy trade since 2018.

U.S. used to Taking...

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The National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance’s final resolution on Thursday says the resistance has caused the failure of U.S. strategies and policies.

The final resolution of the nationwide rallies held on the 13th of Aban (November 4Th) to mark the National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance was issued on Thursday in 8 paragraphs.

The resolution reads: “National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance” has emerged with the “decline of the United States,” the failure of White House regional strategies and policies, the withdrawal of its terrorist forces from Afghanistan from West Asia, and the gradual collapse of Western liberal democracy.”

The text of the final resolution also states: “The failure of US strategies and policies has been the result of the strength of resistance and the resilience of the nations of the region under the discourse of resistance, unity and Fighting arrogance of the Iranian nation.”

The resolution states: “Hereby we will declare full support for the cause of al-Quds and the Palestinian Islamic Resistance, as well as the braveries of Hezbollah in Lebanon, Yemen’s Ansarallah, the militants in Bahrain and the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq and National Defense Forces in Syria as a “powerful army of the Islamic Ummah” against global domination and “regional reaction.”

The participants in the resolution emphasized: “While condemning the treacherous actions of some governments in the region in normalizing relations with the fake Zionist regime and legitimizing it and fomenting disunity among Islamic countries, we warn the leaders of these governments, to obey the will of their nations to support the oppressed Palestine and the fight against the usurping Zionist regime stop this shameful act and stop enhancing relations with the occupiers of al-Quds.”

Iranians of all walks of life staged rallies across the country to mark the National Day of the Fighting Global Arrogance, chanting slogans against the US and Israeli regimes over their inhumane, hegemonic actions.

The citizens of Tehran gathered to mark the 42nd anniversary of the takeover of the “Den of Espionage.” The event was held before the former US embassy on Thursday.

Israel's Anti-Iran...

FROM PAGE 1

He said Israel was playing the “victim card” while pursuing apartheid policies and war crimes, particularly those against the Palestinian people, which have been documented by the United Nations.

Pointing to Israel’s 11-day bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip in May, the Iranian diplomat stated that the Tel Aviv regime committed crimes not only against Palestinians, but against all freedom-loving countries of the world.

“The General Assembly has a responsibility to condemn Israel’s aggression and ethnic cleansing and hold it accountable for its war crimes and crimes against humanity,” he said.

In the latest bombardment campaign, at least 260 Palestinians, including over 60 children, were killed in a time span of 11 days that began on May 10. The Gaza-based resistance movements retaliated.

The regime was eventually forced to announce a ceasefire, brokered by Egypt, which came into force in the early hours of May 21.

The Gaza Strip, home to some two million people, has been under a blockade imposed by Israel since June 2007.

At the same session, the Iranian diplomat dismissed the claims of the United Arab Emirates and Morocco about Emirati “sovereignty” over three Persian Gulf islands, reaffirming that the “islands in question have been an integral part of Iran for thousands of years.”

He added that the UAE delegation made such an “irrelevant claim “to advance its country’s political aims in the Persian Gulf region.”

The UAE representative claimed that Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands are an integral part of her country’s territory, accusing Iran of the occupation of the trio islands.

He voiced the UAE’s readiness to engage positively with Iran to settle the dispute through direct negotiations or the International Court of Justice.

In turn, the Moroccan representative reiterated his country’s support for the United Arab Emirates’ claim over Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands, in a statement that the Iranian envoy slammed as “flagrant interference” in Iran’s domestic affairs.

Iran pursues a policy of friendship and good neighborliness, he said, adding Tehran stands ready to engage in bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates.

China, Russia...

FROM PAGE 1

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome, Italy, on Sunday that Moscow fully supports the idea of resuming the implementation of the landmark Iran nuclear agreement.

Iran and six world powers, including the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, and China plus Germany, inked the JCPOA in July 2015. The agreement removed international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for certain limits on Iran’s nuclear activities.

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

The start of the next round of talks on the removal of anti-Iran sanctions is scheduled for November 29.

AS Roma Handed Suspended Stadium Closure

ROME (Dispatches) - AS Roma say they are taking a zero tolerance attitude towards racism after their fans racially abused AC Milan players during a Serie A game, resulting in the club being handed a suspended closure of a section of the Stadio Olimpico.

Lega Serie A issued a statement yesterday saying that discriminatory and racist chants were aimed at Milan players Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Franck Kessie during Sunday's 2-1 victory for the Rossoneri in Rome.

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Aguero to Be out for At Least Three Months

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Barcelona striker Sergio Aguero will be out for at least three months while his treatment for a heart problem is assessed, the club said.

"Aguero has been subjected to a diagnostic and therapeutic process by Dr. Josep Brugada. He is unavailable for selection and during the next three months the effectiveness of treatment will be evaluated in order to determine his recovery process," the club said.

Liverpool, Ajax Reach Champions League Last 16

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool and Ajax kept up their perfect records in the Champions League this season to qualify for the last 16 on Wednesday, while a Paris Saint-Germain side missing Lionel Messi were held by RB Leipzig.

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool blew Atletico Madrid away in a whirlwind start at Anfield, with Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane scoring in the first 21 minutes to secure a 2-0 win against opponents who finished with 10 men.

Atletico's Brazilian defender Felipe was sent off for a foul on Mane before half-time, as the 2019 Champions League winners made it four wins out of four in Group B.

Liverpool are now guaranteed to top the group, sitting seven points clear of Porto with two games remaining, while Atletico are another point back in third.

Porto drew 1-1 away to AC Milan, as Chancel Mbemba's own goal at San Siro cancelled out Luis Diaz's early opener for the Portuguese side.

It was a first point in the group for seven-time former European champions Milan, who maintain a slim chance of reaching the knockout phase in their first appearance in the competition since 2013-14.

Ajax continued their marvellous run in Europe this season by coming from behind to win 3-1 at 10-man Borussia Dortmund as Sebastien Haller scored his seventh goal in just four Champions League appearances.

A Dortmund side missing the injured Erling Haaland had Mats Hummels harshly sent off before the half-hour mark after he slid in on Ajax's Brazilian winger Antony.

However, English referee Michael Oliver then awarded Dortmund a penalty for a foul on Jude Bellingham following a VAR review, and Marco Reus converted from 12 yards.

Yet Ajax equalised in the 72nd minute as Dusan Tadic nipped in at the back post to score.

Ivory Coast striker Haller then headed in Antony's cross, becoming the first player to score in each of his first four Champions League appearances since Haaland in 2019.

Davy Klaassen wrapped up the win from another Antony assist in stoppage time, meaning Erik ten Hag's Ajax have scored 14 goals in winning all four games so far in Group C.

Ajax will go through with either Dortmund or Sporting Lisbon, the



Portuguese side boosting their hopes by crushing Besiktas 4-0.

Pedro Goncalves scored twice in the first half including a penalty, while Paulinho and Pablo Sarabia also struck for Sporting.

Besiktas, who had Brazilian midfielder Souza sent off, are eliminated.

Messi missed PSG's trip to Germany due to injury, and without him Mauricio Pochettino's side came from behind to lead before conceding a late penalty and settling for a 2-2 draw.

Christopher Nkunku headed Leipzig in front before Andre Silva had a 12th-minute penalty saved.

Kylian Mbappe set up Georginio Wijnaldum to equalise midway through the first half and the Dutchman headed in another before the break, the goal standing despite initially being flagged offside.

However, a Presnel Kimpembe foul was spotted after a VAR review in the last minute and Dominik Szoboszlai scored from the spot to make it 2-2.

Leipzig are eliminated despite the draw, while Manchester City move above PSG to the top of Group A thanks to their 4-1 home win against Club Brugge.

Phil Foden's opener was cancelled out by a John Stones own-goal, but Riyad Mahrez, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus all scored in the second half for City.

Real Madrid are two points clear of Inter Milan at the top of Group D after Karim Benzema netted twice in a 2-1 win over Shakhtar Donetsk.

Benzema's opener was Real's 1000th European Cup goal and the Frenchman got the winner after Fernando had brought Shakhtar level.

Inter won 3-1 at Sheriff Tiraspol, with Marcelo Brozovic, Milan Skriniar and Alexis Sanchez all on target in the second half before Adama Traore pulled one back.



LONDON (Dispatches) - Unai Emery said he has decided to stay at Villarreal, despite interest from Newcastle to appoint him as their new coach.

Emery appeared open to a return to the Premier League on Tuesday night, when he admitted there had been "interest" from Newcastle. He added that if an offer arrived, he would speak to Villarreal president Fernando Roig.

But the former Arsenal manager ruled out the possibility on Wednesday, confirming he will remain at Villarreal, where he is in his second season on the back of winning the Europa League last term.

"No matter how much noise there was yesterday in another country, within the club there was transparency and loyalty with the Roig family and with my staff, which is the most it can be and for me the most important thing," Emery said in a statement.

"Villarreal is my home and I am 100 per cent committed. I am honestly grateful for the interest of a great club but even more grateful to be here and that is why I communicated to Fernando Roig my decision to continue being part of this project because of the commitment and respect that I have from the club and from my players, which is mutual.

"I want to thank the fans for the support they have always shown me. On Sunday we have a very important game and I hope that all together we can get the victory. See you at la Ceramica."

Sanders, Tomljanovic Guide Australia Into Billie Jean King Cup Semis

PRAGUE (Reuters) -Storm Sanders and Ajla Tomljanovic won their respective singles rubbers to help Australia beat Belarus and book the team's spot in the semi-finals of the new-look Billie Jean King Cup finals.

Australia, chasing an eighth title in the women's team competition which was previously called the Fed Cup, had defeated Belgium in their opening tie and their unassailable 2-0 lead against Belarus ensured they will top Group B.

Belarus, who have never won a Billie Jean King Cup title, came to Prague without their top two players - world number two Aryna Sabalenka and two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka - and ended up losing both their group ties.

Under the tournament's new format, 12 teams have been split into four groups of round-robin play and the group winners progress to Friday's semi-finals, with the final on Saturday.

The Russian Tennis Federation will face 18-time winners United States in the first semi-final in the morning with Australia taking on either hosts Czech Republic or Switzerland in the evening session.

The 27-year-old Sanders, who made her tournament debut this week, gave Australia the ideal start with a comfortable 6-3 6-3 win in her first meeting against an error-prone Yuliya Hatouka, ranked 192nd in the world.

"For me to come out and deliver under pressure, it's a great feeling," said Sanders, who won her singles rubber but lost the doubles against Belgium on Tuesday.

"I played a really solid match. I was a little bit tired from my two matches on Tuesday, but I came out and just fought really hard."

Aliaksandra Sasnovich jumped to a 4-0 lead in the second singles rubber against Tomljanovic before the 43rd-ranked Australian, who missed the tie against Belgium through illness, found her footing in the contest.

Tomljanovic found her mark as the match progressed and though she could not save the opening set she did enough to beat the 88th-ranked Sasnovich 4-6 6-2 6-3.



Monfils Pulls out of Djokovic Clash in Paris

PARIS (Dispatches) - , Nov 4 — Frenchman Gael Monfils withdrew hours before his match against Novak Djokovic in the Paris Masters y due to an adductor strain, sending the Serbian world number one into the quarter-finals.

After his second round win over compatriot Adrian Mannarino, Monfils said he got injured during the match and an ultrasound today revealed a muscular lesion.

"I have the impression that to be optimistic, in about 10 days I will be at 100 per cent, but because of muscular lesion, you just need rest," Monfils told reporters, confirming that it was the end to his 2021 season.

Djokovic, who is playing his first tournament since finishing runner-up in the US Open, will face the winner of Cameron Norrie and Taylor Fritz in the quarter-finals.

Poland's Hubert Hurkacz also booked his place in the quarter-finals with a 4-6 7-5 6-2 win over German Dominik Koepfer, to improve his chances of qualifying for the November 14-21 ATP Finals in Turin.

The season-ending tournament is played between the top eight men's singles players and doubles teams.

Conte Vows To Revive Tottenham's Fortunes

LONDON (Dispatches) - Antonio Conte said managing Tottenham was an "honour" and vowed to "repay the trust" of chairman Daniel Levy by reviving the fortunes of the struggling Premier League club.

The Italian was appointed on Tuesday, a day after Spurs sacked Nuno Espirito Santo following last weekend's limp 3-0 defeat at home to Manchester United.

Conte, who guided Chelsea to the 2016/17 Premier League title, had said Levy's "contagious enthusiasm and determination" convinced him to join.

"It's a great pleasure, a great honour to become the Tottenham manager. This is a great opportunity to come back to England in a club of top players," he told Spurs TV.

"The club and Daniel Levy wanted me strongly and it has been an honour to accept. Now, for sure, I want to repay this trust."

The 52-year-old led Inter Milan to their first Serie A title since 2010 last season to break Juventus' nine-year stranglehold on the Italian league before leaving the Nerazzurri.

Conte began Juve's period of dominance with three Serie A titles between 2011 and 2014 and managed Italy from 2014 to 2016 before his two-year stint at Chelsea.

His spell at Stamford Bridge saw the Blues accumulate 93 points and score 85 goals en route to the Premier League title before FA Cup success in 2018.

In stark contrast to Conte's array of trophies, Spurs have not lifted any silverware since the 2008 League Cup.

After four consecutive seasons in the Champions League under Mauricio Pochettino between 2016 and 2019, Tottenham have failed to qualify for European club football's premier competition for the past two years.



Fritz Stuns Norrie at ATP Finals

PARIS (Dispatches) - Cameron Norrie's bid for a spot at the season-ending ATP Finals took a damaging blow at the Paris Masters as Taylor Fritz derailed his bid with a stunning performance.

Norrie was beaten 6-3 7-6 (7-3) by the American in the last 16 and now the British men's No 1 faces a tough task of qualifying for the event in Turin from 14-21 November.

Seventh-placed Casper Ruud is in line to secure his spot with victory over Marcos Giron later on Thursday, while eighth-placed Hubert Hurkacz can stamp his ticket with a win against James Duckworth on Friday.

Norrie, who has earned a career-best 50 tour-level victories this season and is 11th in the Race To Turin, is likely to head to Italy as an alternate.

The 26-year-old almost made the ideal start in the opening game, only for Fritz to save the sole break point he faced in the set with a brilliant backhand winner down the line.

Two double faults from Norrie in the sixth game then gifted Fritz the decisive break of serve and the American held his nerve to close out the set.

Norrie saved two break points in the seventh game of the second set to keep his nose in front and then forged two set points in the 10th but was unable to convert and Fritz powered through the eventual tie-break.

"Cam and I have played a lot and it's always a battle when we play - except last time when he beat me pretty bad," Fritz said in a post-match courtside interview.

"He's always so tough to beat and I came out here and I played my best tennis and it feels great. It was a lot of fun."

Fritz will next face Novak Djokovic after the world No 1 was handed a walkover when last-16 opponent Gael Monfils was forced to withdraw with a leg injury.

