

Health Ministry Announced on Sunday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 127,299 With 126 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh Expressed Sympathy With the Government and People of Sierra Leone Over the Death of Tens of People in a Tanker Explosion

VOL. XXVII, No. 7355 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

MONDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2021 - ABAN 17, 1400

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Europeans Urged to Stop Double Standards In Dealing With Terrorism

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Secretary of Human Rights Headquarters of the Iranian Judiciary on Saturday called on the Europeans to put an end to the double standards and destructive policies in dealing with terrorism.

In reaction to holding a meeting on the situation of human rights in Iran by the terrorist group MKO in the Italian Senate, Kazem Gharibabadi condemned the measure.

He urged Italy to stop the double standards in dealing with terrorism and human rights.

The terrorist group has killed over 17,000 innocent Iranians but is freely traveling in European capitals, he underlined.

The group holds ridiculous human rights meetings with the support of European sovereign institutions, he added.

Such measures are clear examples of selective and instrumental treatment of human rights, as well as countering terrorism by Western states, he noted.

He called on the Italian government to strongly criticize the senate's move and abide by its counterterrorism commitments, he further noted.

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Pakistan Lauds Iran's Vital Role in Connecting Regional States

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Adviser for Commerce and Investment to Pakistani Prime Minister Abdul Razak Dawood said Iran plays an important role in connecting regional countries.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the ninth meeting of Iran-Pakistan Joint Trade Committee, Razak Dawood said that the event has brought about good agreements and has reinforced economic relations.

He added that various issues were solved in this meeting, noting that Iran-Pakistan agreements will help improve regional connections.

Razak Dawood went on to say that cooperation between Iran and Pakistan will benefit the region.

He expressed his satisfaction with the 9th session of the Iran-Pakistan JTC, calling it fruitful.

He noted that Iran and Pakistan would benefit by cementing more economic ties, especially during the upcoming month. He also mentioned that Islamabad would host the next session of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Trade Committee.

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Army Launches Large-Scale Joint Drills in Sea of Oman



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian Army has started large-scale military exercises in an area stretching from the eastern sector of the strategic Strait of Hormuz to the northern tip of the Indian Ocean and parts of the Red Sea, with the participation of airborne units, special forces, and rapid reaction brigades.

Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi, the spokesman for the joint drills codenamed Zolfaghar-1400, said troops serving in the Army's infantry and armored units, mechanized regiments, air defense units, naval units, and Air Force have taken part in the main stage of the exercise.

He said participating tactical and coastal units in the war game have successfully carried out various reconnaissance, surveillance, and combat exercises, employing different types of electronic warfare equipment and drones such as the homegrown Ababil-3, Yasir, Sadeq, Mohajer-4, and Simorgh unmanned aerial vehicles, besides P3F, RF4, and Boeing 707 aircraft.

The senior military figure highlighted that marine and commando units of the Iranian Army and its Navy carried out airborne, heliborne, and amphibious exercises, launched surprise attacks, and stroke predetermined mock enemy targets.

"The units used a wide variety of military equipment and weapons, including speedboats, fast attack craft, underwater propulsion vehicles, and rocket launchers," Mousavi said.

He highlighted that the Iranian marines and commandos, regardless of tough topographical features of the area and intense attacks by mock enemy forces, utilized effective combat and reconnaissance strategies to prevent the latter from conducting surveillance activities and making on-ground progress.

He said Iranian naval forces employed domestically-developed Azarakhsh, Shahab and Ra'd speedboats, which were equipped with rocket launchers, to destroy the naval units of the mock enemy.

Other missions carried out during the war game included naval mines planting, coastal defense by means of artillery units, and heliborne operations, the admiral added.

Mousavi further hailed the sustainability of communications during the ongoing military drills, stating that during the exercise, the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Defense Force monitors the country's airspace and that of the exercise zone, while air defense units confront mock enemy targets. Elite fighter pilots and unmanned aerial vehicles of the Iranian Army also conduct air patrol operations.

He pointed out that all stages of Zolfaghar-1400 war game will be evaluated by experts of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Khatam-al Anbiya Central Command, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Army.

Meanwhile Commander of the Khatam-al Anbiya Central Headquarters said that enemies should refrain from testing the strength of the Army and IRGC.

Major General Gholam Ali Rashid made the remarks among the army commanders in the area of the 'Zolfaghar 1400' military exercise.

Referring to the capabilities and combat readiness of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gen. Rashid said, "The Iranian Army and Armed Forces are always ready for a strategic, operational and tactical confrontation with the aim of maintaining the security stability and territorial integrity of Iran against the coalition of enemies (Specifically the U.S.-Zionist coalition)."

Iran Armed Forces, including IRGC and Army forces, will respond decisively to any threats by any arrogant and aggressor power at any level and from the origin of any country, he stressed.

Stating that the Armed Forces of the country have got familiar with the components of power and the ways how to use them during the Iran-Iraq war, he warned enemies to refrain from testing the strength of the will and power of the Army and IRGC.

Iran and Malaysia Urged to Work on Cultural Diplomacy

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Iranian Ambassador to Malaysia Ali Asghar Mohammadi emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy to foster mutual understanding and elevate Iran-Malaysia bilateral relations.

Mohammadi said both countries have many things to offer, adding that Putrajaya and Isfahan (central Iran) are "twin cities" that should be promoted to the people of both countries.

The design of the Putra Bridge, one of the notable bridges in Putrajaya linking Dataran Putra with Persiaran Perdana, is inspired by the famous Khaju Bridge in Isfahan.

"Your tradition, your beautiful festivals,...I think this is something we need to learn from each other. We (Iran) also have good artists coming to Malaysia; they have very good paintings and calligraphies," he said to Bernama during his courtesy visit to Chairman of Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) Senator Datuk Ras Adiba Radzi at Wisma Bernama here, recently.

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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Yemenis Inching Towards Victory

Nowadays there are reports on the successive victories of Yemeni forces against the Saudi-led coalition forces and on new arms sales to Saudi Arabia to stop Yemenis but this is a useless effort because Yemenis are determined to expel foreign forces out of their lands whether occupiers and enemies use American-made weapons or spending their petrodollars.

The Yemeni army announced on Tuesday the liberation of two more districts in the strategic west-central province of Ma'rib from pro-Saudi militants, urging the mercenaries to surrender "before it is too late."

At a presser, Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the armed forces' spokesman, said the province's al-Jubah and Jabal Murad Districts were liberated by the army and allied popular forces during the second phase of 'Operation Spring of Victory.'

The Yemeni armed forces have vowed not to lay down their arms until the complete liberation of the whole country that has been subjected to a Saudi-led war since March 2015.

On Friday, Yemeni forces and allied fighters from Popular Committees also captured a key military base occupied by Saudi militants loyal to former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in the country's strategic oil-rich province of Ma'rib, and moved closer to the heart of energy reserves in the area.

Local military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said army troops and their allies launched intense attacks in the al-Jubah district of Ma'rib, and managed to seize Umm Reesh base following hours of fighting with Saudi mercenaries on Friday.

As the Yemeni armed forces advance and liberate more districts, some media outlets have reported the U.S. is to sell more weapons to Saudi Arabia.

On Thursday the United States approved a \$650m sale of air-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon announced, in what would be the Biden administration's first major weapons deal with the Persian Gulf kingdom.

In a statement on Thursday, the Pentagon said the U.S. State Department approved the sale to help Riyadh counter current and future threats.

"This proposed sale will support US foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political and economic progress in the Middle East," the Pentagon said.

It added that Massachusetts-based firm Raytheon would be the "principal contractor" for the sale of AIM-120C-7/C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and related equipment.

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Iran Crude Oil Output Up 0.8% in September

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - OPEC figures show Iran's crude output reached 2.503 million bpd in September.

Latest figures by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) show that Iran's crude output rose slightly in September to reach 2.503 million barrels per day (bpd).

The figures, published in a report by Iran's Fars news agency on Saturday, showed that Iran's September oil output had increased by 21,000 bpd or 0.84% compared to production figures reported in August.

OPEC gathers its crude output data based on information provided by secondary sources.

Monthly output tables provided by the organization this year have shown that Iran has managed to increase its crude production against figures reported in 2020.

Analysts believe the surge proves Iran is actually exporting more crude despite continued American pressure on its energy sector.

Iran was the third largest OPEC producer before Washington imposed its sanctions on the country's crude sales in 2018.

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Plot to Assassinate Iraqi PM Hatched by Ill-Wishers

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian decried the assassination attempt against Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi as a plot masterminded by the ill-wishers with the purpose of disrupting calm in the Arab country.

The Iranian foreign minister called his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein on Sunday to send regards from Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to the Iraqi prime minister and stay informed about the health of the premier, who has survived the assassination attempt after a drone laden with explosives targeted his residence in Baghdad.

Amirabdollahian said incidents like the assassination attack run counter to Iraq's stability and security and have been carried out by the ill-wishers with the purpose of upsetting calm in the neighboring country.

Vienna Talks Useless Unless U.S., Europe Pursue Realistic Approach

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says he hopes that the United States and European parties to a 2015 nuclear deal will pursue a realistic approach to the scheduled talks later this month in Vienna so that the talks would culminate in results quickly.

In a phone call with China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Saturday, Amir-Abdollahian added that the U.S. cannot claim to be interested in the talks while it is still persisting on its failed 'maximum pressure' policy and economic terrorism against Iran.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the top Iranian diplomat also expressed confidence that Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would continue cooperation within the framework of regulations and their agreements.

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

The deal, however, was unilaterally abandoned by the US in 2018 despite Iran's full compliance with its nuclear undertakings, as repeatedly certified by the UN nuclear agency. The U.S. then unleashed a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran, which practically deprived the country of all of the deal's



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.

Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA have held six rounds of talks in Austria's capital, Vienna, since April, which began after the administration of US President Joe Biden voiced willingness to rejoin the agreement. The talks were, however, put on hold in the run-up to Iran's presidential election in June so that the Islamic Republic could go through a period of government transition.

In a Saturday phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, the Iranian foreign minister said the rapid progress of multilateral negotiations aimed at removing US sanctions requires a "constructive approach" on the part of the European and American sides, stressing that Tehran is perfectly serious in the talks.

Iran Condemns Attack on Iraqi PM

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has condemned the targeting of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, and reiterated the Islamic Republic's "firm and continuous position" in support of stability, security and tranquility in the Arab neighbor.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Sunday called for vigilance by all Iraqis against "conspiracies that have targeted Iraq's security and progress", Tasnim news agency reported.

"Such incidents are in the interests of the parties that have violated Iraq's stability, security, independence and territorial integrity over the past 18 years and sought to achieve their sinister goals in the region by creating terrorist groups and stirring sedition," it quoted Khatibzadeh as saying.

The spokesman also expressed satisfaction that the Iraqi premier is safe, saying he hoped that with unity and solidarity, the people, government and political currents of Iraq would contribute to the development and prosperity of their country.

Earlier Sunday, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said the attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Kadhimi was "a new sedition that must be traced back to foreign think tanks, which have brought nothing but insecurity, discord, and instability to the oppressed Iraqi people through the creation and support of terrorist groups and occupation of this country for years".

Kadhimi appeared in a video footage published by his office later Sunday, chairing a meeting with top security commanders to discuss the drone attack.

"The cowardly terrorist attack that targeted the home of the prime minister last night with the aim of assassinating him, is a serious targeting of the Iraqi state by criminal armed groups," the premier's office said in a statement issued following the meeting.

Security sources said six members of Kadhimi's personal protection force stationed outside his residence in the Green Zone were wounded.

State news agency INA quoted an interior ministry spokesman as saying that three drones were used in the attack, including two that were intercepted and downed by security forces while a third drone hit the residence.

A security official was quoted as saying that remains of a small explosive-laden drone had been retrieved by security forces to be investigated.

The attack came two days after government forces in Baghdad attacked protesters agitating peacefully against the results of a general election on Oct. 10, triggering an outcry by many Iraqis.

Iran Expects Europe to Be Responsible for Supporting Refugees

TEHRAN (MNA) – The director-general of the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior said that Iran expects Europeans to be responsible for supporting refugees and distributing financial resources.

Mehdi Mahmoudi, the Director-General of the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior met and held talks with the Finnish Director-General of Consular Services Pasi Tuominen in Tehran and the country's ambassador to Iran Kari Kahiluoto.

During the meeting, Mahmoudi said that Iran has always supported refugees and displaced people, adding that despite economic pressures and unfair sanctions, the country provides valuable services to a large number of refugees in the fields of education, health, livelihood,



vocational training, and employment.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expects Europeans and the international community, such as the United Nations and Finland to be more responsible for the distribution of financial resources and to support

refugees comprehensively, he noted.

Referring to the increasing trend of migrants and refugees from Afghanistan to Iran, Mahmoudi called on European countries, including Finland, to act seriously and provide the necessary financial support.

Pasi Tuominen, for his part, said that his country is eager to cooperate with Iran to solve the problems of refugees.

The Ambassador of Finland to Tehran also promised to cooperate with Iran in resolving issues and problems related to refugees.

Iran, Uzbekistan to Forge Closer Trade, Technological Ties



TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran and Uzbekistan are to hold their second meeting on trade and technology in a bid to boost mutual interactions in those areas.

Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari is to travel to Uzbekistan on November 22 heading a trade-technology delegation in a bid to lay the groundwork for closer technological cooperation between the two sides.

One of the events to be held during the 3-day trip is the second Iran-Uzbekistan trade-technology meeting. The first meeting was held back in 2019 when a meeting of the two countries' joint commission was also underway in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent.

The upcoming trip supported by the Science and Technology Department of the Presidential Office as well as Iran's Trade Promotion Center will also feature joint trade meetings with peer Uzbek companies as well as industrial and trade visits to the country's technological infrastructure.

Representatives of the companies travelling to Uzbekistan can also visit an innovation exhibit there.

As a key economic hub, Uzbekistan has served as a friendly country over the past years and Iran has sought to forge closer trade relations with it.

Accordingly, collaboration in the domains of technology and innovation between the two countries will help enhance bilateral ties in those areas.

Iran Hosts 2nd Batch of Foreign Tourists From France

TEHRAN (MNA) – French tourists – the second foreign tourists from the outbreak of coronavirus in Iran – are scheduled to visit Iranian tourist attractions while observing all health protocols.

As the National Headquarters to Combat and Prevent Coronavirus voted for issuing visas for tourists and then, the first group of foreign tourists arrived in Iran from Russia on November 5.

Following Russian tourists, a group of 9 French tourists arrived in Tehran on Sunday morning.

During their 15-day visit to Iran, these French tourists will visit the tourist attractions of Tehran, Hamedan, Kermanshah, Ahvaz, Shiraz, Yazd, and Isfahan while observing all health protocols.

UNESCO Ready to Support Iran On Science, Technology

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A UNESCO official said the UN body was ready to support Iranian entities to strengthen their efforts in science, technology, and innovation to address current challenges.

Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences at UNESCO Shamila Nair-Bedouelle delivered a message on Sunday to Iran's Minister of Science, Research and Technology Mohammad Ali Zolfi Gol and Secretary General of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO Hojjatollah Ayyoubi on the occasion of the World Science Day for Peace and Development.

Nair-Bedouelle said that the UN body has started attempts to develop a new toll called "UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science".

UNESCO counted on Iran's support of realization of the recommendation initiative to be able to move in line with sustainable development and make sure that everyone can access scientific, technological and innovative advancement, she added.

She also praised "In the Shade of the Sun" annual program organized by Iranian National Commission for UNESCO that commemorate an Iranian scientific, cultural and research figure each year. This year's program which is the fourth edition of the series is dedicated to professor Yousef Sobouti, celebrated Iranian astrophysicist.

Iran Exported Over \$1m of Farmed Caviar Last Year

TEHRAN (MNA) – Spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said that the country exported 2,282 kg of farmed caviar, valued at \$1,085,674, in the last Iranian calendar year (ended March 20, 2021).

Seyyed Rouhollah Latifi broke the news on Sunday that in the same period, the Islamic Republic of Iran exported 560, 220, 202, 201 and 199 kg of caviar to the countries including United Arab Emirates (UAE), Germany, Japan, Belgium and Spain respectively.

Turning to the export of caviar in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (from March 21 to Sep. 22), Latifi stated that the country exported 1,268 kg of caviar, valued at \$539,490, to other countries in the first six months of the current year.

2,611 Films Submitted To Iran CinemaVérité

TEHRAN (MNA) – So far 2,611 short, mid-length, and feature films have been submitted to participate in the national competition section of the 15th Iran International Documentary Film Festival (CinemaVérité).

Directed by Mohammad Hamidi Moghaddam, Iran International Documentary Film Festival (CinemaVérité) will be held from December 9 to 16, 2021.

The submitted films are slated to be reviewed by selecting the board of the festival.

The list of the selected films in the national competition section of the 15th "CinemaVérité", will be announced in three groups of short documentaries (up to 40 minutes), mid-length (40 to 70 minutes), and full-length (over 70 minutes) by the end of November.

Int'l Flights Cross Iranian Airspace Increase by 60%

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - As many as 66,000 flights used Iran's airspace in the first 6 months of the Iranian year 1400 (Mar. 22-Sep. 22), indicating a 60% increase in comparison with the same period last year, Trend reports citing Mehr News Agency.

According to the statistics released by the Iran Airports Company (IAC) during the first 6 months of the Iranian year 1400 (Mar. 22-Sep. 22), 65,939 flight sorties have been registered crossing the Iranian sky.

This is while during the same period in the last Iranian calendar year, 1399 (Mar. 22, 2020 – Sep. 22, 2020) that number stood at 41,025 flights which showed 60.7% growth this year.

The number of flights crossing Iranian airspace registered during September increased by 17.2% as compared to the month before, the IAC report said.

One of the reasons for the increase in the number of flights sorties in Iranian airspace during the removal of flight risk warning from Iran airspace by the European Union's Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) late last month.

16th Int'l Auto Parts Exhibition Kicks Off in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) – The 16th Iran International Exhibition of Auto Parts, Accessories and Assemblies was inaugurated at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Sunday in presence of Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade.

The exhibition started its work with the participation of about 500 domestic and foreign auto parts manufacturing companies from countries including Turkey, India, Germany and Italy as well as small- and large-scale auto parts manufacturing firms.

Iranian and foreign auto parts manufacturing companies will showcase their latest achievements in the field of manufacturing auto parts and equipment, Research & Development (R&D), raw materials and accessories needed for manufacturing cars, after-sales services as well as repair and maintenance services, etc.

It should be noted that the 16th edition of the Iran International Exhibition of Auto Parts, Accessories and Assemblies was opened on Nov. 07 and will run until Nov. 10 for a period of four days and is ready to welcome industrialists and enthusiasts.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:21
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:08
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:34

67. Further he said: "O my sons! enter not all by one gate: enter ye by different gates. Not that I can profit you aught against Allah (with my advice): None can command except Allah. On Him do I put my trust: and let all that trust put their trust on Him."

Surah 12, Joseph (67)

Tehran Calls for Trade With Pakistan With National Currencies

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture Javad Sadatinejad has proposed that Pakistan and Iran can use their own currencies to resolve problems in the way of conducting trade exchanges.

According to Ministry of Agriculture Jihad website, Sadatinejad made the remark on Sunday, when he received Abdul Razak Dawood, the advisor to Pakistan's prime minister for commerce, textile, industry, production, and investment and his entourage.

Pakistan and Iran enjoy long-term relations, joint borders as well as common religion, culture and tribes, which can help improve trade ties, the Iranian minister noted.

The two countries are not rivals in terms of producing agricultural products, but they are complementary to each other, he said, adding that the new administration in Iran prioritizes barter trade with neighboring states.

Given the existing sanction campaign against Iran, financial trade between the two nations can be implemented via exchanging currencies of both countries in order to resolve trade obstacles, he added.

Sadatinejad went on to say that Pakistan and Iran can expand their economic and trade cooperation, especially in the field of bartering livestock, camel, fruits, and other agricultural products.

Abdul Razak Dawood, for his part, warned that the current volume of mutual trade exchanges is not proportional to the long history of relationship between the two nations, expressing hope that the economic ties will improve in the future.

He call for creating a link among Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, noting that regional connection would not be fruitful without Iran's participation.



Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood held a meeting with Mr. Rostam Ghaasemi Minister of Road and Urban development on 06.11.2021

Development of economic and trade collaborations between Tehran and Islamabad are of utmost importance, the Pakistani official said, adding that the two countries should expand trade exchanges in particular in agriculture.

Dawood went on to say that Pakistan and Iran have rice and oil respectively, which can be bartered. Pointing to anti-Iran sanctions, he emphasized that his country is seeking for a mechanism to upgrade trade ties with Iran.

The Adviser apprised the Minister about Government of Pakistan's renewed focus on promoting agricultural production, research and innovation. It was also keen to promote trade with Iran in agricultural products, in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision to strengthen regional trade and connectivity.

The Adviser informed the Minister about recent policy measures by Pakistan to reduce barriers in bilateral agricultural trade and emphasized the importance of mutual reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Both sides called upon the need for strengthening regular exchanges and sharing of best practices between the two brotherly countries.

IME Posts Higher Records In Trade Value and Volume

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade 2,243,000 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$681m, posting growths of 31% in volume and 54% in value of trades compared to the figures of the previous week.



According to a report by the IME's international affairs and PR, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1,874,000 tons of commodities valued at more than \$459m.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1,000,044 tons of cement, 526,182 tons of steel, 260,000 tons of iron ore, 27,000 tons of sponge iron, 7,900 tons of zinc, 4,710 tons of aluminum, 4,370 tons of copper, 280 tons of molybdenum sulfur, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate and 2 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 364,994 tons of commodities worth more than \$219m.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 108,011 tons of bitumen, 98,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 75,942 tons of polymeric products, 42,000 tons of lube cut, 38,365 tons of chemicals, 3,320 tons of base oil, 248 tons of insulation and 860 tons of sulfur.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 4,262 tons of commodities traded on it.

CBI Announces New Round of Sukuk Bond Auctions

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced it will hold a first round of bond auctions under a new administrative government that came to office in August.

A statement by the CBI said that a total of 50 trillion rials (\$182 million) worth of sukuk bonds, or bonds that compliant with Islamic principles, will be on offer for sale to banks and credit institutions on November 9.

The statement said that as the issuer of the bonds, the Iranian finance ministry will be responsible for declaring the winners of the auction.

The CBI has held 18 rounds of weekly auctions for government bonds since the start of the calendar year in Iran in March.

That comes as a new administration led by President Ebrahim Raeisi had promised it will minimize borrowing to prevent any further expansion of Iran's money supply.

Iranian finance minister Ehsan Khandouzi said in October that the government had managed to avoid using bond issuance for funding its daily expenditures for a second consecutive month.

However, experts believe bond issuance has played a major role in helping the Iranian government shore up its finances at a time the country is grappling with the economic impacts of the US sanctions and the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

The value of bonds on offer in the new round of auctions is almost half that sold in a previous round in late September, a sign the government wants to put a cap on borrowing.

CBI's Saturday statement said the top lender will avoid bidding for the sukuk bonds in the new round of auction and will simply act as a mediator between the government and the buyers.



Dr. Alireza Salem
Secretary of the Employers' Association of Pharmacy Founders

Vital or essential medicines are medicines that are determined by criteria such as the prevalence of a particular disease and the needs of the population for health services. The purpose of providing

essential medicines is to provide these medicines with proper management in the system of health care providers in sufficient quantities in appropriate dosage and quality guaranteed at a reasonable price and always available. And there is a list of essential drugs at the national and organizational levels, which, although not a global standard, has been accepted by the international community. Based on the recommendations of the Supreme Leader on the expansion of the drug production industry in the country, in practice, most attention was focused on drug production, but unfortunately, due to mismanagement in some cases, the realization of this goal is interrupted and sometimes leads to injuries. Irreversibility in the production of effective drugs became and the supply of essential medicines to the people came to a standstill. At present, more than 95% of the medicine needed by the country is produced in domestic factories and the rest is supplied from international markets, of which up to 2% of the country's raw materials are imported and factories convert only medicinal materials into pharmaceutical forms. According to the report of the Social Studies Office of the Parliamentary Research Center, out of the total 3 molecules in the list of Iranian drugs, only 6.8% of the number of effective chemical molecules are produced by the pharmaceutical raw material industry in the country. The country has not reached the desired level and drug shortages in items whose raw materials are produced in the country are significant. Unfortunately, it has been observed that instead of focusing on the supply of vital and essential drugs based on economic indicators, the industry of producing active drug substances has tended to supply best-selling and profitable active substances. Imports are strongly affected.

Lack of Medicine and Threat to the Health System

Given the above points and delays in the pricing of goods subject to government currency due to incorrect policies in the allocation of government currency, we have witnessed a sharp rise in the price of pharmaceutical raw materials, which ultimately led to higher prices of drugs and increased out-of-pocket payments. The increase in the price of raw materials for domestic production in the range of 1 to 4 years in some items has even reached 3 to 4 percent, which is a considerable distance from the average inflation rate in other industrial sectors.

In this market, due to the turmoil in the production of raw materials, unfortunately, some companies that produce and import raw materials, using the privilege of banning the import of raw materials by other companies, with or without obtaining a license from the Food and Drug Administration, import raw materials and violate Showmanship and repackaging have achieved huge profits that are not far from the eyes of society.

The main reasons for drug shortages can be summarized as follows:

1. Lack of planning tailored to the needs of the country and the production capacity and inventory of manufacturing companies
2. Lack of managerial will at the highest levels of the country's pharmaceutical sector in order to timely provide the projected foreign exchange resources of the drug supply chain
3. Lack of time continuity and delay in allocating the currency required by manufacturing companies
4. Unrealistic and grammatical pricing of domestically produced items, which can discourage domestic producers and make it easier for importers or contract production of generics.
5. Mismanagement in planning and providing the required currency will lead to short-term shortages and go to imports

immediately, and in the meantime, some import companies that have foreign exchange resources outside the country can take full advantage of this path and Consume their remaining currencies abroad at the Nima rate.

The result of all the above problems in the field of decision-making of the Food and Drug Administration and neglect of public health, significant shortage of essential medicines in patients' medicine baskets and wandering patients in various areas of disease such as cancer, ms, infertility, neurology, gastrointestinal, bone and joint, Skin and other diseases, and the growing proliferation of illegal drug supply channels and the creation of a parallel network of drug trafficking inland have severely endangered public health.

Numerous problems in the drug distribution system and the expansion of the reprehensible phenomenon of monopolizing the sale of certain pharmaceutical items in public pharmacies and the private sector under selected and special titles have led to the establishment of fixed bases for the supply of drugs by drug profit networks in various forms. It has sadly shown the shortage of medicine in the eyes of the society.

Exploiting the problem of shortage of vital pharmaceutical items by some suppliers and distributors in order to sell baskets and conditional low-selling products to pharmacies is another ugly trick that is clearly seen in the turbulent domestic pharmaceutical market of our country, and that is the main loser. No one but the patient has a prescription.

Lack of sensitivity of patients needing to increase the astronomical prices of vital and essential drugs and unwillingness to attend crowded government centers and willingness to receive drugs from the nearest pharmacy, along with the lack of such drugs in private pharmacies, practically make room for profitable networks in It has prepared the level of society and, unfortunately, this disruption in the country's pharmaceutical management complex will cause a great catastrophe for our country's health system.

India Covid Hospital Fire Kills 11

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - Fire tore through a hospital in western India on Saturday killing at least 11 coronavirus patients, officials said.

The blaze was the latest to hit pandemic wards across India.

There were about two dozen patients at the intensive care unit in the hospital in Ahmadnagar district, Maharashtra state, when the fire broke out, officials said. Most of the dead were aged over 60.

The hospital ward, which was left a charred wreck, had been newly built for coronavirus patients.



Over 90 Killed in Sierra Leone Fuel Tanker Explosion

FREETOWN (AFP) - A massive explosion at a petrol station in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown has killed 92 people, the country's vice president said on Saturday.

Hospitals were treating 88 more people for severe burns, said Vice-President Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, who arrived at the scene on Saturday along with several local officials.

A rescue worker and a nurse had earlier confirmed at least 80 deaths to AFP, with the nurse saying he had treated women, men and children with "serious injuries".

According to witnesses, the blast happened when a vehicle caught fire at a petrol station after a road accident.



Big Crowds Rally in Rainy Glasgow For COP26 Climate Action



GLASGOW (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of protesters marched through rainy downtown Glasgow, and in many other cities around the world, to demand bolder action at the U.N. climate conference.

Students, activists and climate-concerned citizens linked arms as they moved slowly through the streets of the Scottish city, host of the COP26 meeting that began on Monday.

Some pushed children in strollers, some danced to stay warm. Police watched the procession from the flanks.

"It's good to have your voice heard," said Kim Travers of Edinburgh. "Even with the rain, I think it makes it a bit more dramatic."

Just a few blocks from the procession, back-room negotiations continued at the COP26 meeting. On stage, speakers sounded the alarm over the threat of global warming to food security.

Since the climate talks began, national delegations have been working to agree on technical details for the final pact, to be announced at the end of the conference after more negotiations this week.

The first week also saw countries make a slew of promises to phase out coal, slash emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane and reduce deforestation. Business leaders and financiers, meanwhile, pledged to invest more in climate solutions.

But activists have demanded that the meeting make more progress.

Ros Cadoux, a grandmother from Edinburgh, said she came to march for future generations. "If you've got kids and grandkids - my God, What else could you do?"

Colorful banners bore slogans ranging from earnest calls for "Climate Justice Now," to the more comical: "No planet = no beer".

One group bounced along to the sound of a drum and chanted "Get Up, Get Down, Keep that Carbon in the Ground."

"The climate crisis is about the survival of humanity as we know it," said Philipp Chmel, who traveled from Germany for the march. "It's up to the youth and the workers, the working class, to bring about the change that is necessary."

One group of youths - some with bullhorns - blamed companies for the climate crisis and chanted calls in favour of socialism while punching their fists in the air.

Around midday, the rain cleared for a few hours, and an enormous rainbow streaked across the sky.

"If ever there was a time for activism, and if ever there was a time for the people to come out onto the streets, then it is today," said University of Glasgow student Theo Lockett, 20.

Climate activists held rallies in many other cities, including Seoul, Melbourne, Copenhagen and London.

During a panel of speeches on Saturday, Democratic U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse urged companies to rein in groups lobbying politicians to block climate action.

Thousands Rally for Georgia's Jailed Ex-Leader Saakashvili

RUSTAVI (Dispatches) - Thousands of Georgians rallied Saturday for the jailed opposition leader and ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili as fears grew for his health because of a hunger strike lasting several weeks.

Waving Georgian flags and chanting Saakashvili's name, protesters gathered on Saturday evening outside the prison in Georgia's southeastern city of Rustavi, where the former president is held.

Georgia's president from 2004-2013, Saakashvili was arrested on October 1 upon his return from exile in Ukraine. He has refused food for 37 days to protest his imprisonment, which he says is politically motivated.

The jailing of the country's foremost opposition leader has further fuelled a protracted political crisis that gripped Georgia last year after the opposition denounced fraud in parliamentary elections won narrowly by the ruling Georgian Dream party. The protesters have vowed round-the-clock permanent protests until Saakashvili is transferred to a hospital, as recommended by medics.



Russia Not Expecting Progress at Talks With U.S. on Visas

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia said it does not expect progress in talks in the coming weeks with the United States on issues including visas and the size and functioning of their embassies, Russian news agencies reported.

With ties already at post-Cold War lows, Moscow and Washington are in a dispute over the number of diplomats they can post to each other's countries, though Russia has said it was willing to lift restrictions imposed in recent years.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov on Saturday said recent contacts with Washington had simply involved the two sides repeating their previously stated positions, but that a new round of talks in a third country would take place in the coming weeks.

"There is no progress and, it seems, none is expected," Interfax cited Ryabkov as saying.

Russia and the United States failed to make major headway on the embassies dispute during a visit to Moscow last month by U.S. Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland.

The U.S. State Department is getting to the point of being able to maintain only a "caretaker presence" in Russia, a senior department official said in late October, with just 120 staff at the embassy in Moscow.

Russia has just over 400 diplomats in the United States, including its delegation to the United Nations in New York, the U.S. official said.

"The Americans need to simply increase the number of their staff in Russia to restore normal consular and visa services," Ryabkov said on Saturday. TASS cited Ryabkov as saying that the next round of U.S.-Russia talks on strategic stability could take place in January.



Several Wounded in Knife Attack on German Train

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Several people were wounded on Saturday in a knife attack on a high-speed train in southern Germany, local police said, adding the alleged perpetrator had been arrested.

The motive for the attack on the passenger train, making its way from the Bavarian city of Regensburg to Hamburg, was not yet clear.

"According to preliminary information, several people were injured," police in Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz said in a statement, saying there was "no more danger".

The Bild newspaper said at least three people had been hurt, two of them seriously.

A police spokeswoman said none of them had suffered life-threatening injuries.

A man has been arrested, police said, without giving any more details.

According to Bild, the suspect is a 27-year-old man of "Arab origin" who may be suffering from psychiatric problems.

The ICE high-speed train was halted in the station of Seubersdorf in the south.

"This knife attack is horrible," Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said on Twitter.

"I would like to thank everyone, especially the police and the train staff, for their brave action, which prevented something even worse from happening."

"The motive for the crime is still unclear and will now be determined." The attack took place at a tense time in Germany, which faces terror threats from jihadists and right-wing extremist groups.

Islamist suspects have committed several violent attacks in recent years, the deadliest being a truck rampage at a Berlin Christmas market in December 2016 that killed 12 people.

The Tunisian attacker, a failed asylum seeker, was a supporter of the Islamic State jihadist group.

Seehofer said earlier this year that German authorities had foiled 23 attempted attacks since 2000.

"Germany and Western Europe are still in the sights of radical Islamists," he warned at the time.

Since 2013, the number of Islamists considered dangerous in Germany has increased fivefold to 615, according to the interior ministry.



Bosnia's Disintegration Would Affect Entire Region

BERLIN (Dispatches) - If a multi-ethnic Bosnia is pushed towards disintegration, that will inevitably have an impact on other unresolved conflicts in the Western Balkans such as that between Serbia and Kosovo, Bosnia's peace envoy told Reuters on Saturday.

German politician Christian Schmidt, who is international High Representative in Bosnia, said this week that the peace deal that ended the country's war in the 1990s was at risk of unravelling unless the international community took measures to stop Serb separatists.

He was referring to moves by the Bosnian Serb leadership aimed at undoing key state institutions such as the joint armed forces, the indirect taxation authority and the top judicial body, as well as other institutions. "The unrest in this region will also affect the question of the difficult relationship between Serbia and Kosovo in the same or similar way," Schmidt said in an interview.

"Serbia should have an interest in Bosnia-Herzegovina staying together," he said, adding that Belgrade's path towards European Union membership could be gravely affected by instability in Bosnia, where it supports its ethnic kin.

Asked if there was a realistic possibility of Bosnia breaking apart, Schmidt said it was not an imminent danger.

"But if the degradation of the Dayton treaty continues ... there is a risk that the country will break apart," he added.

The U.S.-sponsored Dayton peace accords signed in 1995 ended the 3-1/2-year war among Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslim Bosniaks by splitting the country along ethnic lines into two autonomous regions - the Serb-dominated Serb Republic and the Federation shared by Croats and Bosniaks.

While Schmidt said he still hoped that international pressure would move developments in a "sensible direction", the red line would be the Serb Republic's withdrawal from the joint armed forces and the creation of its own separate army within Bosnia, as announced by Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik.

"If this proves to be true... then we in the international community will have to think very, very, very seriously about how we can move forward," Schmidt said.

He said that using his sweeping powers to sack officials and impose laws would be the last resort.





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Niavaran Villa (\$4000)
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5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh (\$2000) 220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

Gheitarieh (\$2300) 240sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, roof garden, F.F
Kamranieh (\$1800) 160sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, roof garden, F.F

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Kuwait Nominates Former Governor as New OPEC Chief

LONDON (Reuters) - Kuwait has nominated its former governor to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Haitham al-Ghais, to lead the oil producer group after Mohammad Barkindo's term as secretary general, two sources close to the matter said. Nigerian Barkindo, whose is due to step down at the end of July next year, took OPEC's top job in mid-2016 and was granted a second three-year term in 2019.

Al-Ghais is the only candidate to be nominated so far, the sources said.

Al-Ghais stepped down as Kuwait's OPEC governor in June this year and was appointed deputy managing director of international marketing at state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).



Oil Exporters to See Large Surpluses in 2021 and 2022

LONDON (Dispatches) - Oil exporting countries will have large surpluses in 2021 and 2022 as higher crude prices lead to more revenues for many producers, according to the Institute of International Finance.

"Net hydrocarbon exports and hydrocarbon government revenues account for more than half of total exports and total government revenues, respectively in major oil exporters," the institute said in a report.

"Consequently, the fiscal deficits of 2020 will shift to large surpluses in 2021 and 2022 in most oil exporters, except in Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Algeria."

However, in Nigeria, Africa's largest producer, declining crude output will partially offset any gains from higher oil prices because of diminishing volume.

On Wednesday, Fitch Ratings said the higher oil prices, reform momentum, a gradual return of global trade and tourism are "brightening the economic prospects for much of the region, supported by Covid-19 vaccination and easing restrictions".

"The PGCC will experience significant narrowing of fiscal deficits in 2021," the ratings agency said. Fitch's forecasts assume average Brent crude oil prices of \$63 a barrel in 2021, accompanied by further unwinding of Opec+ production cuts.

As a result of the surge in oil windfall due to the crude price surge, the breakeven price of oil for exporting countries will continue to decline, falling below \$70 per barrel for the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Angola, according to the IIF.

Fitch estimates a fiscal break-even oil price range between \$55 a barrel to \$90 a barrel, depending on the country.

"Our calculations show that Russia's fiscal breakeven oil price in 2022, \$44 per barrel, will be the lowest among oil exporters, supported by the expected recovery in oil and natural gas exports in volume terms," IIF said in its report.

Oil prices have surged to multi-year highs this year, supported by a broader recovery in the global economy, which has led to a greater demand for crude.

Prices are also up because of underinvestment in the sector, leading to a tighter supply for crude as well as rising demand and a faster than expected recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in developed markets.

While oil exporters will recover some of the ground lost to the decimation of the sector due to low energy prices last year, oil importing countries will be hurt the most due to the continuing rally in commodities.

"Higher energy prices will hurt several emerging and frontier market economies that remain heavily dependent on crude oil and natural gas imports," the IIF said.

"The terms of trade loss are particularly sizeable for countries with hydrocarbon imports of above 4 per cent of gross domestic product - including, Thailand, Turkey, Chile, Jordan, Morocco and Lebanon."

Large oil importers such as India have already called on Gulf oil producers to ease the pressure on their consumers by pumping more crude.

However, OPEC+, the bloc of oil exporters, which is on course to bring 2 million barrels per day back to the market by the end of the year, has so far resisted pressures to significantly increase output.

Global Food Prices Hit 10-Year High

ROME (Dispatches) - Global food prices kept climbing for the third straight month in October, said the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Food prices around the world continue to climb, hitting a fresh decade high last month, according to the latest report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The FAO Food Price Index climbed for a third straight month in October, jumping 3 percent from the previous month to reach its highest level since July 2011.

Higher food prices are felt by everyone, but are especially hard on poorer households that need to shell out a larger share of their income to keep themselves and their families fed.

Global prices for food, energy and other commodities have soared this year as countries roll back COVID-19 restrictions, triggering supply shortages and bottlenecks.

Reduced harvests for some items and a recent surge in energy prices is also feeding food price inflation.

October's gains in the FAO Food Price Index were led by vegetable oils, with prices increasing 9.6 percent in October from the previous month - a new all-time high.

Cereal prices also rose sharply, gaining 3.2 percent from the previous month and a massive 22.4 percent from a year ago.

Within the cereals category, wheat prices rose for a fourth straight month to reach their highest level since November 2012. Prices of maize and rice also edged up in October.

Saudi Import Ban Deals Another Blow to Reeling Lebanese Industry

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - At Oriental Paper Products, a stationery factory outside Beirut, machinery sits idle and shifts have been reduced. The firm was already struggling amid Lebanon's financial crisis; a full-blown diplomatic row with Saudi Arabia has made matters worse.

Last week Riyadh extended a blockade on some goods from Lebanon to a blanket ban, in response to criticism by a Lebanese minister of Saudi Arabia's role in the civil war in Yemen.

The comments exacerbated deteriorating relations between the former allies, with Riyadh increasingly critical of what it says is

arch-enemy Iran's growing influence over Lebanon through the powerful armed Hezbollah movement - which Tehran backs.

At Oriental Paper Products and businesses across Lebanon, the impact is already being felt.

The company had been producing \$500,000 worth of books and office supplies destined for Saudi Arabia when the ban came into force.

"We already had our problems and now they (Lebanese politicians) increased them. God help the Lebanese," Chief Executive Officer Ziad Bekdache told Reuters.

The row comes at a particularly bad time for the Lebanese economy.

Industries had sought to leverage increased competitiveness due to the currency's collapse to boost exports to Saudi Arabia from \$240 million in 2020 to \$600 million, said Bekdache, also the deputy head of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists.

"Now, it's zero," he said, noting several Lebanese companies had begun moving factories to countries including Oman, Turkey and Cyprus to evade the Saudi ban.

Non-food Lebanese exports to Saudi Arabia include aluminum, gold and jewelry, machinery, soaps and paints.

"It's as if there is a plan to break the economic and industrial sectors in Lebanon, in addition to cutting the ties and connections between Lebanon and the world and especially the Gulf and Saudi Arabia," Bekdache said.

Lebanon's economy and industry ministers did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the impact of the Saudi ban on exports. The Center for International Communication, the Saudi government media office, also did not immediately respond.

Lebanese businesses have been battered by one of the worst economic crises in the country's history. That was compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and a massive explosion at Beirut's port last year that wrecked parts of the capital.

Expo 2020, Higher Oil Set to Drive Economic Growth in PCC

DUBAI (Dispatches) - The UAE and Persian Gulf economies will stage a strong economic recovery next year as the Covid-19 pandemic induced

challenges subside and non-oil sectors return to their pre-pandemic levels, according to reports.

Analysts and research reports pin high hopes on Expo 2020 to revive travel and tourism sectors of the region that will support swift recovery in the non-oil sector and diversify the PGCC economies.

PwC Middle East in its latest Economy Watch, said the PGCC economies are primed for growth due to buoyant oil and non-oil sectors. "A combination of factors are contributing to recovery across the region. Non-oil growth is a pivotal driver of this recovery; sectors such as financial services have emerged from the pandemic in a position of strength," PwC report said.

When looking at Saudi Arabia, its large pool of domestic demand and the government's commitment to the mega-projects is central to spurring economic recovery, it said.

"For the UAE, a critical marker for recovery in its travel and tourism sector will be in the visitor numbers achieved at Dubai Expo 2020, during the six month event -- which so far look positive and will undoubtedly boost travel and hospitality within the UAE," according to PwC.

FocusEconomics in its monthly report also said the UAE economy should pick up next year as oil output rises, with the oil sector seen as dragging on overall growth this year.

Matthew Cunningham, economist at FocusEconomics, said non-oil sector should add further support, with private consumption buoyed by the strong vaccination campaign and the six-month-long Expo 2020 boosting tourism numbers.

"Heading into Q4, Expo 2020, which began in October, is likely boosting inbound visitor arrivals, aiding the UAE's important and hard-hit tourism industry. The Expo also forms part

of efforts to diversify the economy away from oil, amid the government's commitment made in October to reach net-zero emissions by 2050," Cunningham said.

"FocusEconomics panelists forecast UAE's economic growth to expand 4.4 per cent in 2022 and 3.3 per cent in 2023 while non-oil GDP will be expanding 3.6 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively," he said.

The IMF, in its latest forecast, expects three per cent GDP growth for the UAE in 2022 and 2023, respectively. The World Bank is more optimistic and sees 4.6 per cent growth next year and 2.9 per cent in 2023.

Saad Maniar, senior partner at an audit and consulting firm Crowe, said oil and gas has been the most dominant industry historically. "Propelling the economic engine of the UAE, is its diversification drive and the investment in the infrastructure, which has ensured the economy is reducing its reliance on oil and gas," Maniar said.

He said transportation, tourism, trade, retail and real estate are the five key drivers of economic growth, particularly for Dubai.

Euro Zone Retail Sales Record Surprise Fall on Weak Germany



LONDON (Dispatches) - Euro zone retail sales recorded an unexpected drop in September as Germany, the bloc's biggest economy, underperformed and non-food sales were also weak, data from Eurostat showed.

Retail sales, a proxy for consumer demand, in the 19 countries sharing the euro, fell 0.3% month-on-month in September and were up 2.5% from a year earlier, the European Union's statistics office said.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected a 0.3% monthly rise in retail sales and a 1.5% year-on-year increase.

Part of the month-on-month miss, however, may be down to revisions as retail sales in August were now estimated to be up 1% compared with a 0.3% rise reported earlier.

With energy prices soaring, coronavirus infections rising and supply chain bottlenecks dragging on, consumers are expected to become even more cautious in the coming months, a trend already evident in PMI data that showed business growth slipping to a six-month low in October.

High petrol prices are also expected to curb household purchasing power, leaving families with less to spend on other goods.

Eurostat said car fuel sales rose 1% on the month while food, drinks and tobacco sales rose 0.7%. But non-food sales dropped by 1.5%, including a 1.4% decline in Internet and mail order sales.

Germany, the euro zone's biggest economy, recorded the largest, 2.5% drop in retail sales but Finland and the Netherlands were also deep in negative territory.

Turkish Lira Edges Near Record Lows

ANKARA (Dispatches) - The Turkish lira weakened 0.5% on Friday as investor concerns persisted over the combination of lower rates and higher inflation, and after the government denied a newspaper report that the finance minister had offered his resignation.

The resignation speculation played little role in market activity, traders said, pointing rather to the firmer dollar that was pushing the lira to near an all-time low of 9.85 touched late last month.

The currency weakened as much as 0.6% to 9.75 against the greenback and stood at 9.7200.

It has lost some 23% of its value so far this year, hurt primarily by what analysts have called premature monetary easing in the face of inflation running near 20%.

The central bank has cut its policy interest rate by a total of 300 basis points since September, sending the lira to a series of record lows against the dollar.

Presidential communications director Fahrettin Altun denied a Cumhuriyet newspaper story on Friday that Treasury and Finance Minister Lutfi Elvan had offered his resignation and that President Tayyip Erdogan had not accepted the offer.

"Our Treasury and Finance Minister Lutfi Elvan is carrying out his duties. The story here is a lie," Altun wrote on Twitter.

In a speech on Thursday evening, Elvan dismissed some analysts' view that the government sought a weak lira to support exports. He said Turkey had a floating exchange rate policy and that the market set the currency's value.

Elvan said there had been volatility in financial markets in the last two months under the impact of global developments, with movement seen in market rates, asset prices and the exchange rate after Turkey's rate cuts.

The central bank surprised markets in September by starting the easing cycle despite inflation rising to a 2-1/2-year high.



“Nightly Whispers” to Go On Screen at Izmir Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Written and directed by Omid Abdollahi, “Nightly Whispers”, will be screened at the 22nd Izmir International Short Film Festival in Turkey.

The 17-minute short film, “Nightly Whispers” by Omid Abdollahi has made it to the 22nd edition of the International Izmir Short Film Festival in Turkey.

The short film will be screened at the short film panorama program of this festival which will be held from 22 November to 28, 2021.

“Nightly Whispers” depicts the story of a single dad whose daughter is in a relationship with an unknown guy. The girl refuses to introduce the guy to his father but after all, they meet and at that point, the father encounters something awkward and intolerable.



Australian Resources and Energy Keep Export Dollars Flowing

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Latest trade data confirms Australia’s resources and energy sector is on target for another record year of exports and confirms its status as a cornerstone of Australia’s economy.

Minister for Resources and Water Keith Pitt said the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ International Trade in Goods and Services data for September 2021 show how important our resources exports continue to be to the recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

“These latest quarterly figures show Australia’s resources are the gifts that keep on giving,” Minister Pitt said.

“Our resources exports continue to bring hundreds of billions of dollars into the country and keep thousands of Australians in high-value, high-skilled jobs – particularly in regional Australia.

“Just as iron ore’s incredibly strong run cools, soaring demand for our coal and liquefied natural gas is fuelling a surge in export revenues.

“Total resources and energy exports were \$95.9 billion for the 3 months to September 2021, which is 50 per cent higher than for the same period last year and 11 per cent higher than in the previous 3 months to June 2021.

“Resources exports were \$332.6 billion in total for the year to September, an impressive 23 per cent higher than the previous 12 months,” Minister Pitt said.

“Coal has been an outstanding performer. Exports climbed to \$16.3 billion in the 3 months to September 2021, up 80 per cent on the same period last year and 47 per cent higher than for the previous 3 months to June 2021.”

Total iron ore exports were \$44.4 billion in the 3 months to September 2021, which was up 48 per cent on the same period last year. Exports were \$167.3 billion in the 12 months to September 2021 which was 58 per cent higher than for the previous 12 months (to September 2020).

Liquefied natural gas exports were \$13.9 billion for the quarter to September 2021,



which was 130 per cent more than for the same period last year and 59 per cent higher than for the previous 3 months (to June 2021).

Minister Pitt said Australia resources are also supporting the global economic recovery.

“The resources industry supports our regions, but it also underpins growth and prosperity for large parts of the world, our commodities are pivotal too much of global manufacturing and energy supply,” Minister Pitt said.

“These strong figures are also a testament to the Australian men and women of the resources and energy sector whose hard work continues to support the Australian economy.”

Motorbike-Clogged Hanoi Rolls Out First Urban Railway

HANOI (AFP) - It’s a city of more than five million motorbikes but Hanoi on Saturday opened its first ever urban railway line as authorities try to cut traffic and pollution that have long dogged the Vietnamese capital.

After years of delays and a near-doubling of construction costs, a train eased out of Cat Linh station, close to the centre of the city, to begin its 13-kilometre journey towards the densely populated east.

NASA to Bring Astronauts Back to Earth



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Four astronauts are scheduled to return to Earth from the International Space Station early Monday after spending more than six months in space, NASA announced.

The four members of the Crew-2 mission, including a French and a Japanese astronaut, will therefore return to Earth before the arrival of a replacement crew, whose take-off was delayed several times due to unfavorable weather conditions. NASA said in a statement late Friday that Crew-2 members are due to return to Earth “no earlier than 7:14 am EST (1214 GMT) Monday, Nov. 8, with a splashdown off the coast of Florida.”

“As we’re preparing to leave, it’s kind of a bittersweet feeling, we might never come back to see the ISS, and it’s really a magical place,” French astronaut Thomas Pesquet said earlier Friday during a press conference from the space station.

“I’m very thankful that people dreamt the ISS some time ago and then went ahead and worked hard to make it happen and to build it for the benefit of everyone,” Pesquet added.

Endeavour, the Crew Dragon spacecraft, was scheduled to undock from the International Space Station at 1805 GMT Sunday to begin the journey home.

Once detached from the ISS, the capsule will begin a journey of several hours, the duration of which can vary greatly depending on the trajectory, and will then land off the coast of Florida.

A backup undocking and splashdown opportunity is available Monday, if weather conditions are not favorable, NASA said.

The two missions are being carried out by NASA in collaboration with SpaceX, which now provides regular launches to the ISS from the United States.

Crew-3 is scheduled to take off for the ISS aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where astronauts have been in quarantine for days.

US astronaut Megan McArthur was confident that not getting the replacement crew to ISS before the current crew departs was just a temporary setback.

“Of course that’s not optimal,” McArthur told reporters during the Friday press conference. “But we are prepared to manage that. Spaceflight is full of lots of little challenges.”

“I decided to give this a try because I was curious,” Nguyen Thi Thu told AFP inside a busy carriage of the Chinese-made train.

“I am very happy to be able to take a ride after all the postponements.”

Other passengers showed up early to strike a pose in front of the shiny new train, while young children on board stared in wonder out of large windows at the Hanoi skyline rushing past.

The buzzing capital of nine million people is known the world over for its dense crowds of motorbikes that fill the city’s streets and make life perilous for pedestrians attempting to cross.

The number of bikes on the roads has soared from two million in 2008 to 5.7 million in 2020, according to police.

The figure for cars has also rocketed in the same period, from 185,000 to 700,000.

Residents often spend hours stuck in queues, with few opting to catch the bus -- the only public transport option available until now.

The terrible traffic is also a major source of air pollution in the capital, according to Hanoi’s

department of environmental protection.

The city frequently records “unhealthy” AQI levels during the winter months.

Transport ministry official Vu Hong Son insisted Saturday the railway would address many of those issues.

It will help “ease traffic congestion, limit private vehicles, reduce environmental pollution and contribute to the change of inner-city movements”, he said.

The Cat Linh-Ha Dong line has taken a decade to complete, with its construction interrupted several times due to safety issues and spiralling costs that have seen spending balloon to nearly \$900 million from its original \$550 million budget.

Nine more lines are planned for Hanoi by 2030, and authorities last month floated the idea of installing toll booths in the capital -- as well as business hub Ho Chi Minh City -- to charge cars wanting to enter.

But it remains unclear if residents will be easily parted from their bikes.

“It takes a long time to change people’s habits,” said Thu.

Pakistan Lauds...

FROM PAGE 1

Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade, Reza Fatemi-Amin also said that interacting with neighboring countries is Iran’s priority, particularly Pakistan.

Fatemi-Amin stated that Iran is eager to cement economic ties with Pakistan, same as political ties, which are promising.

He noted that Iran and Pakistan intend to increase transactions volume to \$5 billion within two years.

He announced that an Iranian delegation would head to Pakistan for economic and trade negotiations next month.

On the closing ceremony of the 9th session of the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) of Iran and Pakistan, the two sides agreed to revive talks on a free trade agreement and increase annual trade volume to \$5 billion.

The decision was taken during the 9th session of the Joint Trade Committee of Iran and Pakistan, which was wrapped up in Tehran on Sunday, co-chaired by the Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade Fatemi-Amin, and Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Commerce and Investment, Dawood.

The two sides also discussed barter trade, transportation, border markets, exhibitions, and private sector investments during the meeting.

The ninth meeting of Iran-Pakistan Joint Trade Committee pursued issues such as signing preferential agreements and free trade agreements between the two countries, as well as organizing exhibitions.

The meeting was attended by senior Iranian and Pakistani authorities as well as business and banking officials.

Iran and Malaysia...

FROM PAGE 1

Politically, Mohammadi said Iran and Malaysia are moving in the right direction and he expected both countries to work more closely on international platforms such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

On economic ties, he said Iran is one of the largest importers of Malaysia’s palm oil among countries in the Middle East, and is poised to continue increasing palm oil imports from Malaysia.

Last year, Malaysia’s palm oil exports to Iran were estimated at 320,000 tons and as of May this year, a total of 238,683 tons of palm oil worth over RM970 million were exported to the country.

The ambassador said Iran also hoped to encourage collaboration between Bernama and Iranian media organizations to strengthen people-to-people relations.

“They (Iranian media organizations) are quite ready, in fact, to receive any good proposal or joint program, even online,” he said.

Mohammadi added the media can play a role in changing the misperception about Muslim countries such as gender inequality in education, pointing out that female students make up 60 to 65 per cent of the total enrollment in Iran’s higher education institutions.

“I’m very grateful and happy that despite having some sort of misperception, we are moving in the right direction. Of course, we have learned from Malaysia, and also vice versa.

“This is one area that we need to work on -- how the Islamic countries and the women affairs can work together, because we are victims of the sort of Western values; (and) that we are neglecting this,” he added

Yemenis Inching...

FROM PAGE 1

The sale comes months after President Joe Biden said he would end U.S. support for Saudi Arabia’s “offensive operations” in Yemen, including “relevant arms sales”.

The State Department’s bureau of political-military affairs noted in a series of tweets on Thursday that the missiles are “not used to engage ground targets”. As a candidate, Biden berated Saudi Arabia over the Yemen war and the killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, calling the kingdom a “pariah”.

It seems Biden is not a man of words and he has changed his words due to the advancement of Yemeni Army and he has come to the rescue of the Saudis under the pressure of Zionists and Saudis despite his election campaign vows.

Yemen’s Ansarullah movement condemned the new U.S. arms deal with Saudi Arabia as a show of Washington’s continued support for Riyadh’s war-mongering.

A senior member of Yemen’s Supreme Political Council, Mohammed al-Houthi, has slammed the recent U.S. arms sale to Saudi Arabia, saying it confirms the contradiction in Biden’s administration when it comes to Yemen.

In a tweet, al-Houthi said the arms sales once again proved that the administration of U.S. President Biden had no real intention to stop the support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen.

Observers say Biden’s promises to stop the war on Yemen have been nothing but lies to gain more votes in the elections. They say the new U.S. missiles sold to Riyadh will be used to bomb Yemenis in fighter jets such as F-15, and not as defensive weapons, contrary to what Washington claims.

Saudi Arabia, with Washington’s support, launched a deadly war on Yemen in March 2015. Over the years, the kingdom has used internationally-prohibited weapons, including the US cluster bombs, to target residential areas, according to the Cluster Munition Monitor.

But Yemenis have proved that they can overcome problems and defeat enemies with empty hands but with strong determination. Their recent victories have angered Saudis in a way that Saudis have started a dispute with Lebanon to stop Hizbullah from its support to Ansarullah and Yemen Army, and the U.S. Administration has been forced to arm Saudis with new weapons but they have forgotten that strong determination is the best weapon for defeating enemies as the Americans themselves have witnessed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and soon Saudi-led coalition forces will experience such a humiliating defeat in Yemen.

Resistance Front and Islamic Movement in the world is now determined to fight for its right against any ill-wisher either it is the U.S, Zionists, European or any other country as the victory approaches.

Europeans Urged to...

FROM PAGE 1

The MKO’s hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent Iranians, but they travel freely in the European capitals and hold “ridiculous” human rights meetings with the support of those countries’ state bodies, he added.

“Such measures are a clear symbol of the Western countries’ selective and instrumental approach to human rights as well as the fight against terrorism,” Gharibabadi said.

He also called on Iran’s Foreign Ministry to counter the West’s “duplicitous and political game” by taking necessary actions such as the summoning of the Italian ambassador to Tehran.

The Judiciary official further urged the Italian government to distance itself from the Senate move and abide by its commitments regarding the fight against terrorism.

Iran Crude Oil...

FROM PAGE 1

Iranian Oil Ministry authorities have repeatedly announced that they can swiftly ramp up crude output to pre-sanction levels of around 3.8 million bpd if the country and global powers reach an agreement on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal.

OPEC’s recent report said that the average price for Iranian crude was \$74.08 per barrel, an increase of over 5% compared to the previous month.

The report said that OPEC’s total output had reached 27.328 million bpd in September, up 1.8% against August.



Genoa Sack Ballardini, Shevchenko Set to Step In

ROME (Dispatches) - Struggling Serie A side Genoa sacked coach Davide Ballardini on Saturday with reports identifying former AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko as his likely successor.

Genoa, languishing 17th after one win in a dozen games, gave credence to suggestions they were pursuing Shevchenko by officially axing Ballardini.

The 57-year-old Ballardini returned to the Italian club for his fourth stint as their manager in December last year.

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Public Relations Tel: (+98)(21) 44253450	ISSN 1024-6053
Editorial Board: 44253449	P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Public Relations Fax: (+98)(21) 44253395	Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Advertising Department: Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234	Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz
Website: http://www.irannewsdaily.com	Distributed by: Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute
	Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Hamilton and Raikkonen Reprimanded for Bollard Error

LONDON (Dispatches) - Formula One world champions Lewis Hamilton and Kimi Raikkonen collected reprimands for going off track and then failing to return correctly in first practice for the Mexico City Grand Prix.

Three reprimands in the course of a season trigger a 10-place grid penalty but Friday's was a first of 2021 for both drivers.

Stewards found Mercedes' Hamilton, the sport's most successful driver of all time, and Alfa Romeo's Raikkonen, who holds the record for race starts, had gone off to the left between turns one and two before rejoining.

Knicks Rally to Stun Bucks

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Julius Randle posted a game-high 32 points as the New York Knicks rallied from a 21-point first-half deficit to beat the defending champion Milwaukee Bucks 113-98.

The Knicks outscored the Bucks 94-60 over the final three quarters to snap a two-game losing skid in front of a crowd of 17,300 at the Fiserv Forum.

"Obviously, you don't want to get down like we did, but we did," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "It's a long game. You've got to keep fighting and get it to a manageable number."

"Once we got going a little bit and we made a couple hustle plays, it galvanized us and gave us energy."

Randle went 11-for-22 from the field and added 12 rebounds, while RJ Barrett finished with 20 points to record his fifth straight game with at least 20 points.

Derrick Rose came off the bench to score 23 points as the Knicks dominated the Bucks 54-28 points in the paint.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 25 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

"It was a struggle. Defensively, we lost our identity," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We just didn't play well after a good start."

Elsewhere, Kevin Durant scored 29 points and added 10 rebounds as the Brooklyn Nets won their fourth straight game, holding on to beat the Detroit Pistons 96-90.

Durant also had five assists and LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 points for the Nets, who had to stave off a fourth-quarter Pistons rally for the win.

Durant became the first player in Nets history to score at least 20 points in the first nine games of a season.

Blake Griffin added 13 points and Bruce Brown chipped in 10 for the Nets.

James Harden finished with 13 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists but also committed nine turnovers.



"You are going to have games where emotionally, physically or mentally you just aren't sharp," Nets coach Steve Nash said. "I didn't think we were as sharp as we needed to be tonight, but we scrapped defensively and won the game."

Cade Cunningham led the Pistons with 17 points. Kelly Olynyk contributed 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Cory Joseph and Saddiq Bey added 12 points each.

Frank Jackson nailed two three-pointers as the Pistons began the fourth quarter with a 9-2 scoring surge.

Cunningham and Joseph then made three-pointers to pull Detroit within two at 88-86 with four minutes left in the game.

A Durant floater doubled the Nets' lead but Cunningham answered with a three-pointer. Durant hit a mid-range jumper to make it 92-89.

Griffin then drew a charge against Pistons forward Bey and made an offensive rebound to set up Durant's clinching layup with 12 seconds left on the clock.

In Washington, Montrezl Harrell scored a game-high 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the Washington Wizards used a balanced scoring attack and a stifling defense to beat the Memphis Grizzlies 115-87.

Seven players scored in double figures to complement the stingy defense by the Wizards.

The Wizards opened up a double-digit lead at the end of the third quarter and never looked back.

In Florida, Dejounte Murray finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs snapped a two-game losing streak, beating the host Orlando Magic 102-89.

Devin Vassell had 12 of the Spurs' 35 points from their reserves.

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry led a high-octane Golden State offense with 19 points and six assists as the Warriors clobbered the New Orleans Pelicans 126-85.



LONDON (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic gained some consolation in missing out on a Grand Slam sweep this year by being crowned season-ending world number one for a record seventh time on Saturday.

The 34-year-old Serbian had jointly held the record of six with Pete Sampras but took sole possession when he beat Poland's Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-0, 7-6 (7/5) to reach the Paris Masters final.

Djokovic had taken a seven-week break after his dreams of a Grand Slam sweep were dashed by Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final in September.

However, the 20-time Grand Slam champion said on Friday the main reason for him returning this week was to seal the number one spot and break the record.

"It is a dream for me as Pete was my idol when I was a young boy," said Djokovic.

"To arrive at this moment is not just my achievement but my team's, it is wonderful to be in this position."

"I am very proud to finish number one and what a match to do it in. It was so tight right to the last point but I am a very happy man now obviously."

India to Play Three Tests in South Africa

CAPE TOWN (Dispatches) - India will play matches across all three formats on their tour of South Africa, starting with a three-match test series that begins in Johannesburg on Dec. 17, in a much-needed boost to the coffers of the cash-strapped host nation.

There will also be a Boxing Day test in Pretoria (Dec. 26-30) and a New Year's match in Cape Town (Jan 3-7), with a limited number of vaccinated spectators expected to be allowed into the venues.

Current government legislation allows for 2,000 fans into sporting stadia, but the path of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country over the coming month will determine if that number is increased or scrapped altogether.

Figures for new cases are currently among the lowest since the start of the pandemic.

The teams will stay in the Western Cape for the limited overs matches, with three One-Day Internationals between Jan. 11-16 in Paarl and Cape Town, and four Twenty20 clashes from Jan. 19-26 at the same two venues.

"Cricket South Africa is excited to welcome India back to South Africa, which also significantly marks the 30th anniversary of South Africa's first tour to India after re-entry into International Cricket in 1991. This tour affirms our unique relationship with the BCCI," CSA Director of Cricket Graeme Smith, said in a media release on Friday.

CSA has been hit hard by a number of tour cancellations since the start of the pandemic, not least a proposed visit by Australia this year that was postponed indefinitely in February.

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The four-time Grand Slam champion has struggled for form since she withdrew from the French Open in May after a row with tournament officials over her

Osaka Hints at Return

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Naomi Osaka hinted she had resumed training after posting photos of herself standing on a tennis court and holding a racket.

The Japanese former world number one said she was taking a break from the sport to focus on her mental health following her shock third-round exit at the US Open in September.

It remains to be seen whether she will compete at January's Australian Open, where she is a two-time champion.

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Man City Outclass Crisis-Hit Man Utd

MANCHESTER (Dispatches)- Manchester United suffered another home humiliation as Manchester City cruised to a 2-0 win at Old Trafford today to raise further questions over the future of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Eric Bailly's own goal and Bernardo Silva's strike on the stroke of half-time was the difference between the sides on the scoreboard.

But that did little justice to the chasm between the teams as only a string of stunning saves from David De Gea prevented United from a thrashing similar to the 5-0 humbling they were handed by Liverpool less than two weeks ago.

Solskjaer bought himself some time with a 3-0 win at Tottenham last weekend.

But United have now won just one of their last six Premier League games and could finish the day 11 points off the top of the table should Chelsea beat Burnley at Stamford Bridge.

Solskjaer's switch to a back five worked a treat at Spurs, but that owed much to the return of Raphael Varane from injury.

Without the French World Cup winner, who sustained a hamstring injury against Atalanta on Wednesday, the Norwegian's decision to retain the same system quickly backfired.

Bailly was included for the first time in the Premier League this season and took only seven minutes to give City the perfect start when he sliced Joao Cancelo's cross into his own goal.

United have won just five of Cristiano Ronaldo's 13 appearances since the five-time Ballon d'Or winner returned to the club.



Barca Welcome Xavi With Three-Goal Collapse

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona threw away a three-goal half-time lead on the day Xavi Hernandez was appointed coach as Celta Vigo scored in the 96th minute to complete a stunning comeback in La Liga on Saturday.

Another deflating result for Barca was made worse by another injury for Ansu Fati, who gave his team an early lead and then had go off with a hamstring problem.

Goals from Sergio Busquets and Memphis Depay had Barcelona 3-0 in front after 34 minutes but Celta came back, Iago Aspas scoring twice either side of one from Nolito to seal a 3-3 draw.

Aspas' equalizer, with a brilliant shot from the edge of the area, came with 95 minutes and 34 seconds on the clock and left the Barcelona players crumpled on the floor.

It is now Xavi's job to pick them up, with the team's new coach watching from Barcelona, where he had landed around three hours before kick-off.

The 41-year-old had flown from Doha following confirmation of his sensational return to the club in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Barcelona's chaotic defending and inability to manage a game when they looked in charge, will have come as little surprise to Xavi but Fati's hamstring injury will be a concern, especially with a crunch Champions League game against Benfica to come on November 23, shortly after the international break.

Eric Garcia was also forced off with a calf strain while Nico Gonzalez appeared to be in discomfort when he was substituted before the hour.

Fati's absence for any length of time would be a blow for Barca, and also for Spain, who will be without the 19-year-old for crucial World Cup qualifiers against Greece and Sweden next week.

It all started so well for Fati and Barca, who took the lead in the fifth minute with a goal out of nothing, Fati drifted in from the left and squared up Celta right-back Hugo Mallo.

