

Health Ministry Announced on Wednesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 127,686 With 135 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri Said Yesterday That the U.S. Claim That Its Forces Were Only Monitoring the Incident in the Sea of Oman Was a Big Lie

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2

DOMESTIC

President, Economists Review Ways to Resolve Economic Problems



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

Easing Custom Condition Necessary For Boosting Iran-Pakistan Trade

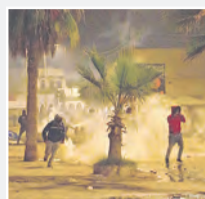


> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

Tunisian Demonstrator Dies After Inhaling Tear Gas

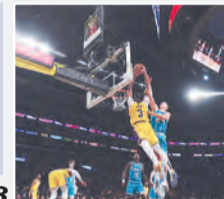


> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Curry Puts Up 50 In Warriors' Win



> SEE PAGE 8

Vietnamese Tanker Carrying Stolen Iranian Oil Released

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An oil tanker detained by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has been released by court order after its cargo of stolen Iranian oil was unloaded at Bandar Abbas port, the IRGC said on Wednesday.

The tanker, the MV Sothys, was confiscated on Oct. 24 in the Gulf of Oman where IRGC forces thwarted an attempt by the US Navy to escort the stolen cargo to the destination which the US government wanted.

Iran's oil sales are subject to the most draconian US sanctions ever imposed on a country, but the illegal measures have not deterred the Islamic Republic from sending shipments to their customers.

Earlier Wednesday, new agencies said satellite tracking data and other signals suggested that the detained oil tanker had left Iran and entered the Gulf of Oman.

The incident involved dramatic scenes in which IRGC speedboats and other assets rounded up US warships trying to escort the Sothys to safety.

The U.S. was caught off guard, especially after the IRGC released a video of the incident in which Iranian forces repelled American destroyers. **See Page 7**

Unilateral Sanctions Bar Sustainable Development

NEW YORK (Dispatches)- Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi said unilateral sanctions is barring affected countries from gaining access to financial resources needed for achieving goals of sustainable development.

In a statement on Tuesday, he said "issues such as exclusion and inequality can act as potential drivers and aggravating factors for conflicts and weaken opportunities in achieving lasting peace in conflict-ridden countries.

According to the UN reports, the provision of humanitarian needs in conflict situations has been on the rise and today it is at the highest level.

Humanitarian assistance can treat the symptoms but cannot cure the disease. Therefore, prevention is always better than cure.

In this context, prevention of conflicts is one of the main obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and primary responsibility for this obligation has been assigned to Member States. **See Page 7**

U.S., Allied Invaders Must Be Held Accountable for Afghanistan Woes



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's security chief says the United States and its coalition allies must be held accountable for the myriad of crises Afghanistan is facing today, adding the "least responsibility" they bear is to compensate for all the damage they have inflicted on the Afghan people over the past two decades.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani made the remarks at the third edition of the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, a meeting of national security advisers from regional countries, which kicked off in the Indian capital earlier on Wednesday.

"Twenty years ago, the United States occupied Afghanistan under the pretext of confronting the Taliban and al-Qaeda, claiming to be fighting terrorism and preaching that 'I want to turn Afghanistan into a role model and a source of inspiration,'" he said.

However, instead of acting on such a claim, it made the situation in Afghanistan even worse, he said. "Terrorism, poverty and misery, as well as drug cultivation and trafficking and migration, increased while a large number of innocent people in Afghanistan were massacred by American fighter jets at weddings and mourning ceremonies for vague reasons. The state- and nation-building claimed by the United States ground to a halt."

Shamkhani said the U.S. turned out to be a failure even in its "most basic role, i.e. the establishment of the army and security system," which quickly collapsed after Washington and its allies left Afghanistan and the Taliban group took over.

Having faced a "humiliating defeat," the United States was forced to escape from Afghanistan, after inflicting huge damage on the country, most significantly the carnage of thousands of innocent men, women, and children, Shamkhani added.

He said the U.S. eventually "became a lesson to all those who seek their survival in resorting to fake powers like the United States instead of relying on their own resources."

The Iranian official said the Americans "acted deceitfully" even in the issue of peace in Afghanistan and had no plans to promote peace in the country contrary to its claims. Washington, he added, was only after finding a way out of the crisis of its own making and chose to cause trouble for the region and the entire world due to its "hegemonic nature and superiority complex."

"That is why the Islamic Republic of Iran did not take part in any so-called peace or dialogue format or process that the United States would create" during the occupation period, Shamkhani said. **See Page 7**

China's Iran Oil Purchases Rebound

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - China's imports of Iranian oil have held above half a million barrels per day on average for the last three months, traders and ship-tracking firms said, as buyers judge that getting crude at cheap prices outweighs any risks from busting U.S. sanctions.

Chinese purchases of Iranian crude have continued this year despite the sanctions that, if enforced, would allow Washington to cut off those who violate them from the U.S. economy.

President Joe Biden's administration has so far chosen not to enforce the sanctions against Chinese individuals and companies amid negotiations that could revive a 2015 nuclear deal that would allow Iran to sell its oil openly again.

After a dip in June and July from a record high in May as buyers ran low on import permits, Chinese independent refiners embraced Iran's cheaper crude again as the government released fresh quotas, the traders and ship-tracking sources said.

"Deep discounts of Iranian oil and the new import quotas supported demand from Chinese independent refiners," said Emma Li, tanker tracker Vortexa Analytics' China market analyst, adding that strong Chinese refining margins also lent support.

Iranian oil shipments, now worth some \$1.3 billion a month and the bulk of which go to China, provide key revenue for Tehran. Iran and world powers are set to resume talks on Nov. 29 to restore the nuclear deal and lift U.S. sanctions on the sales.

Iranian arrivals into China hit 660,000 bpd in August and 545,000 bpd in September, before dropping back to 470,000 bpd in October, according to data from Vortexa Analytics.

That put the three-month average at 560,000 bpd, up from a 478,000 bpd average for June and July, according to Vortexa data. The shipments hit a peak of 730,000 bpd in May, while the year's average to end-October was 562,000 bpd. **See Page 7**

Iran Foreign Debt Falls 1.2%

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The latest data released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) show that the country's foreign debt stood at \$9.031 billion at the end of the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (September 22), down 1.2 percent from \$9.142 billion at the end of the previous year, IRIB reported.

From the total foreign debt, \$6.574 billion was mid-term and long-term debts while \$2.457 billion was short-term debts, the data indicated.

Iran's external debts stood at \$8.84 billion at the end of the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (August 22), down 3.3 percent from \$9.142 billion at the end of the previous year.

External debt is the portion of a country's debt that is borrowed from foreign lenders including commercial banks, governments, or international financial institutions. These loans, including interest, must usually be paid in the currency in which the loan was made.

Foreign debt as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the ratio between the debt a country owes to non-resident creditors and its nominal GDP.

Back in January, the former Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi had said the country's foreign debts were very insignificant.

"Currently, the volume of Iran's foreign debt is extremely small due to the existing restrictions," he said.

Tehran Calls for Shared Responsibility Towards Outcomes of Tobacco Use

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Ambassador and permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh urged the world nations to heed to their share responsibility on consequences of tobacco products consumption for the public health and block the destructive activities of the tobacco industry.

Addressing the week-long World Health Organization Framework Conference on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), he said Iran joined two tobacco control and uprooting the illegal trafficking of tobacco products conventions in 2005 and 2019, and those two documents are the only WHO conventions aimed at countering the destructive effects of tobacco products thus far.

Baqaei highlighted the destructive effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the negative effects of smoking on its spread and also said that based on an initiative by Islamic Republic of Iran, the final statement of the conference will be titled "The 9th Declaration of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and Recovery in Post-Corona Era". **See Page 7**

Zionists Trying to Divert Global Attention From Own Nuclear Activities

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations (UN) has denounced as hypocritical Israel's stance on Tehran's nuclear program, saying the regime is trying to divert global attention from its own nuclear activities and arsenal.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks in an address to the United Nations Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation on Tuesday, during which he slammed Israel for refusing to join the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty (NPT) as well as other arms control agreements.

Takht-Ravanchi described Israel's approach toward Iran as hypocritical and said Tel Aviv was trying to avert global attention from its own nuclear activities and arsenal.

The Iranian envoy highlighted Israel's defiance of calls to create a nuclear-free region and described the regime's nuclear arsenal as a threat to the region.

Takht-Ravanchi noted that Israel has a long history of aggression and crime against Palestinians, and has violated hundreds of UN resolutions **See Page 7**



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Shrinking World Contributions for Environmental Protection Criticized

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The head of Iranian Department of Environment Ali Slajegheh here on Tuesday criticized diminishing global contributions to environment preservation in Iran.

He made the remark in a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility Carlos Manuel Rodriguez at the UN Glasgow Climate Change Conference.

Referring to the past Global Environment Facility (GEF) cooperation and contributions to Iran, he said that they helped Iran in pursuing its environmental objectives rapidly while at the 5th round of those contributions was severed.

Highlighting the need for the cross-border environmental effects, the Iranian environment official asked for allocation of facilities and credit to Iran in GEF's next round of global contributions.

President, Economists Review Ways to Resolve Economic Problems

TEHRAN (IFP) - President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi in a meeting with a group of economists reviewed possible ways and options to try to resolve the economic woes of the nation.

During the meeting on Tuesday night, Raisi explained the economic situation of the country when it was handed over to his administration in early August, saying that the current situation should be changed based on expert opinion.

He touched on some of the pressing problems plaguing the Iranian economy including the high rate of inflation, and ineffective state subsidies, noting that according to economists inside and outside his administration, it is possible to change and improve Iran's economic status.

Price stability and inflation management are among the main points pursued by the government in a way that prevents price increases and preserves the value of the national currency, makes the economy predictable for producers and business owners and the general public, the president said.



"We are about to begin preparing the most important financial document of the country, the budget for 1401 (next Iranian calendar year). The budget should be justice-oriented and based on spatial planning so that the resources can be distributed fairly," the Iranian president stated.

Raisi stressed that his administration views production prosperity as the way out of economic problems and seeks to act on the emphasis of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on removing barriers to production and supporting domestic manufacturing.

Iran Left on Its Own With Millions of Afghan Refugees

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's interior minister says the country has been left on its own to deal with millions of Afghan refugees who have been resettled in the country over the past decades.

Ahmad Vahidi said on Tuesday that Iran is currently the second largest migrant receiving country in the world with some 3.5 million Afghan refugees.

"The subsidies given to the Iranian citizens are also granted to these migrants," said Vahidi while addressing a gathering of foreign ambassadors and envoys from international organizations in Tehran.

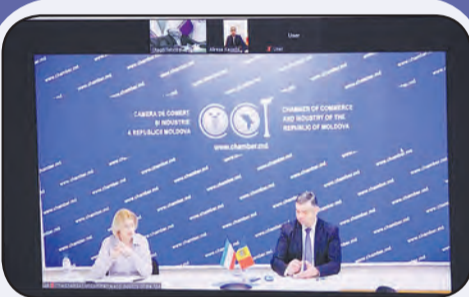
The minister, however, criticized lack of global financial supports for refugees in Iran, saying that funds provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have failed to match the size of the country's refugee programs.

"The aid provided by the UNHCR to Iran for admission of refugees is trivial or almost non-existent," he said.

Iran has been facing a new wave of refugees from Afghanistan since the country came under the control of the Taliban group in August.

Authorities have warned that if enough support is not provided for dealing with the refugees, the influx could reach countries in Europe.

Moldova Calls for Increasing Business Transaction With Iran



TABRIZ (IRNA) - President of Moldova's Chamber of Commerce Sergiu Harea said that his country's trade with Iran has seen growth this year, calling for further increasing business transaction between the two countries.

Speaking in an online meeting with the President of Tabriz Chamber of Commerce Abolfat'h Ebrahimi on Tuesday, Harea also called for exchange of business delegations between Iran and Moldova after the coronavirus pandemic retreats.

He said that by boosting communication, the two countries could explore mutual capacities for establishing trade ties and sign MoUs in this regard.

The Moldovan official said that the chamber was going to hold a virtual conference later in November and urged Iranian economic agents to actively participate.

Ebrahimi referred to the trade capacities existing in East Azarbaijan Province, northwestern Iran bordering with Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, saying that the province lies along the Silk Road. He also pointed to the tractor manufacturing plant in Tabriz which is the largest of its kind in Iran and many other industrial centers, including auto parts manufacturing factories, and refineries, and petrochemical plants, as well as transportation capacities and opportunities of East Azarbaijan Province.

Ebrahimi welcomed Moldovan official's proposal to exchange trade delegations, saying that Iran was interested in expanding economic ties with Moldova.

Vienna Talks Not on Nuclear Issues

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs has said that the country has no talks on nuclear issues in Vienna as the issue has already been solved completely within the framework of the 2015 nuclear deal, aka the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The main question in the talks in the Austrian capital is removal of the illegitimate sanctions and the aftermath resulted from the US unilateral withdrawal from the deal, Ali Bagheri Kani has said in an interview.

Referring to consultations with his French counterpart in Paris, the deputy foreign minister said that France can play a leading role in regional interactions and the process of talks as the country will be the president of the European Union (EU) next year.

As the diplomat announced, the talks in Vienna with participation of 4+1 will start as of November 29.

He further described the talks with his French counterpart as serious, blatant, and constructive.

Talks between Iran and 4+1 started as of April 2.

Modi Hopes to Meet Raisi

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Prime Minister of India met with visiting top Iranian security official Ali Shamkhani during which he expressed hope to meet with the Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi in the near future.

Iran's Secretary of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani, who has traveled to India to attend the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday morning.

In the meeting, which was attended by a group of heads of participating delegations at the Delhi meeting, Shamkhani said, "This meeting, which was initiated by Iran, has continued with success."

The SNSC secretary pointed to the need to achieve the goals set by the leaders of Iran and India in bilateral relations and stressed the importance of Iranian

Chabahar port in regional relations and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Shamkhani said that the reality on the ground in Afghanistan after 20 years of US occupation shows the country is in a dire situation and that the plight of the Afghan people has complicated the situation in the region.

Shamkhani stressed the need to resolve the Afghanistan issue within the framework of the regional security meeting.

The Indian Prime Minister Modi thanked the delegations for their participation amid the Covid-19 pandemic and expressed concern over the situation in Afghanistan while stressing the need for collective work and cooperation.

The Indian prime minister described terrorism as a pain shared by the entire region and expressed hope that he would meet with Iranian President Raisi as soon as possible.

Iran Becomes Full Member of UNSCEAR

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has been officially admitted as a full member of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), which is tasked with providing information on occupational, medical, natural radiation, and the associated health risks.

According to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, the decision to admit Iran as a full member was declared following several rounds of intensive negotiations on a draft resolution submitted by Australia. The resolution was approved by a unanimous vote on Tuesday.

Before full membership, Iran had observer status in the scientific committee.

Iran launched its bid to join the UNSCEAR in 2011, and, despite some serious opposition, could gain an observer membership six years later.

The Islamic Republic then planned to get full membership and conducted intensive diplomatic consultations in order to obtain the approval of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). It managed to do so, irrespective of stiff opposition from Israel and the US stonewalling on the issue.

Tehran Sets Condition for Acceptance of Any Commitment to Paris Agreement

GLASGOW (IRNA) - The head of Department of Environment of Iran has said that the Islamic Republic's acceptance of any commitments to the Paris Agreement depends on removal of all sanctions.

Ali Salajegheh made the remarks in the UK on the sidelines of Glasgow Climate Change Conference here on October 31-November 12.

As the official said, the new Iranian government attaches great importance to the issues of global warming and environment.

New Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi believes that the issue of environment is more important than development, Salajegheh noted.

And Iran has attended the Glasgow conference at the level of vice presidency because the country values the event, Salajegheh who is also vice-president underlined.

Most of the participants in the 26th UN Climate Change Conference attended the Glasgow event at the level of minister.

During the interview, the vice-president said that Iran's approaches towards the issue of environment are based on religion and traditional culture.

So, the country takes steps beside the international community towards environment, he added.

He went on to say that Iran has taken effective measures to save the environment, even before the Paris Agreement.

At his remarks, the official criticized the developed countries for being unfaithful to their commitments to help the developing states financially and technically.

Further, he stressed that implementation of the Paris Agreement from Iran needs lifting of all sanctions against the country. Iran is committed to reduce four percent of greenhouse gas only after removal of all sanctions and the issue has been put on the draft of the document signed by Iran, Salajegheh noted.

Meanwhile, the official said Iran is not indifferent to the issues related to the environment as the country started to follow environmental policies prior to the UN 1994 Convention on Climate Change.

As the official announced, Iran has good cooperation with the Group of 77 including China on the issue of environment. About the situation of Iran due to the sanctions, the official said the country is facing economic terrorism.

Referring to Iran's membership in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with 184 members, the official said that Iran has not been able to cooperate with the body since 2014 because it is based in Washington which has imposed sanctions on Iran.

Asked about the impact of acceptance of environmental commitments on life of the Iranian nationals, Salajegheh said that even if the country comes into the Agreement completely, it cannot make use of its benefits due to the sanctions.

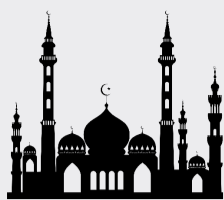
VP Urges for Development Of Tourism Economy

GORGAN (IP) - Vice President for Science and Technology emphasized the development of the tourism economy in the country.

During a visit to Touska Tourism Farm and the inauguration of Gorgan Creative House on Tuesday, Sorena Sattari said in an interview with Iran Press News Agency: The largest startup in tourism is active in Gorgan Innovation Factory, and Golestan province, has good tourism capacities.

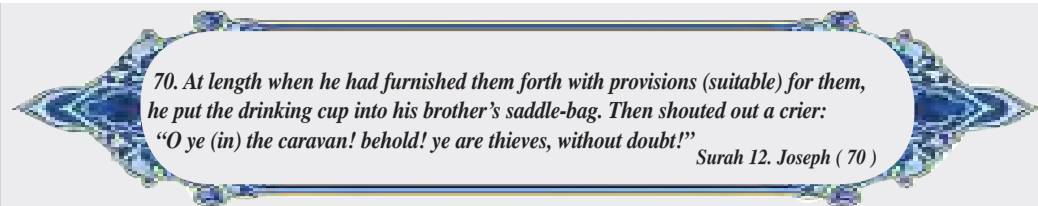
The Vice President for Science and Technology said that the development of the tourism industry is one of the issues of interest to a knowledge base economics.

An innovation factory and a house of creativity and innovation were inaugurated in Gorgan, the capital of Golestan province, in the presence of the Vice President for Science and Technology.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:19
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:11
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:37



Easing Custom Condition Necessary For Boosting Iran-Pakistan Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN – Participants in the forum on reviewing opportunities and capacities for trade between Iran and Pakistan on Tuesday in Tehran called for easing the custom condition for improving the trade between Iran and Pakistan.

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted this event where Syed Muhammad Tariq Huda, Head of the Customs Administration of Pakistan as well as heads of chambers of commerce of Iran's Zahedan and Pakistan's Quetta were present.

In the forum, Gholam-Hossein Jamili, a member of presiding board of ICCIMA, said in recent days, signs of eagerness of officials and chambers of commerce of the two countries have been promising for developing economic condition and it signals a new chapter in the economic relations of the two states.

He added that to improve bilateral trades, the huge potentials for economic cooperation should be activated and through the joint cooperation both sides would witness trade exchanges and joint investments.

Jamili said the current trade cooperation of the two states is unsatisfactory so that share of each country from the other party's market is less than 3 percent.

He referred to Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and it seems in this frame work the opportunities for cooperation have been multiplied and this is an incentive for strengthening the trade level between Tehran and Islamabad.

He pointed to the capabilities of Iran's private sector especially in the industrial and trade fields like medical equipment and medicines, agro and food products, detergents and hygienic products, construction materials and also in the technical and engineering services, tourism and handicrafts. He then announced readiness of Iran's private sector for cooperation with Pakistani economic activists.

Jamili reiterated that Pakistan can also export textile machinery and materials, tropical fruits, farming and products to Iran.

He said both countries can use the mechanism of barter trade for enhancing the bilateral trade and reiterated that high tariff is one of the hurdles in way of implementing the preferential trade agreement between the two states.

Then Head of Customs Administration of Pakistan Mr. Tariq Hoda reiterated that in near future Pakistan will ease the custom process and the country is ready to ease visa issuance for Iranian traders. He then called for expansion of trade between Iranian and Pakistani companies.

Kish Island, A Model of National Culture And Law-Abiding In the Country

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - Managing Director of Kish Free Zone Organization emphasizes the important position of this region in modelling the national culture and law-abiding in the country, reiterating that Kish National Day should be a day for enlightening the public opinion.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of November 11, National Kish Day, Jaafar Ahangaran felicitated the day and emphasized the importance of the position of the region in modelling the national culture and law-abiding in the country, noting that the day should be the day of enlightenment of the public opinion.

He added that Kish Island is the image of all the goodnesses and an example for economic activists, managers and even citizens of the land, and this event should turn into the day of love, faithfulness and affection.

He expressed satisfaction for the record of flight to Kish Island which was set on November 5 and said for the first time after successful passing of the fifth peak of coronavirus, some 108 sorties of flights carried out and landed on the island which signals the promising and good days ahead of the island.

Ahangaran said that Kish Island is indebted its progress to the efforts of all people and managers who worked hard in the past and they should be honored.

He termed the island as a symbol for positive popular governing, adding that easing travel of all people to the island is a guarantee for the bright future for investors and economic activists in the region.

He noted that citizens of Kish Island are law-abiding people and they should be honored deservedly.

Then head of organizing committee of Kish Island Ceremony Mr. Saeed Poor Ali hailed the former managing director of the organization for naming November 20 as the National Kish Day, adding that this is a good opportunity for better introduction of Kish Island in national and regional level.

He said that due to curbing COVID and vaccination of people in the country as well as good weather have been effective for the rush of travelers to this island and almost 80 percent of hotels have been occupied by the guests in recent days.

He then highlighted major cultural, sport and recreational programs of the organization for marking the national Kish Island.

The head of the public relations of the organization Seyed Alireza Alawi introduced the programs for marking the day and called on media to cover the activities for grandeur of Kish Island.

Iran Money Supply Up 40% y/y in Sept. to \$145b

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Latest figures by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) show that money supply in the country rose by over 40% year on year in September.

CBI data published on Tuesday showed that M1 money supply had reached a total of 40,676 trillion rials (over \$145.2 billion) in the calendar month to September 22.

The figure was up 40.5% against September 2020 and up 17% against the end of the last calendar year in March, showed tables published by the bank and covered in a report by the official IRNA news agency.

The tables showed that CBI's net foreign assets had increased by 36.5% year on year to reach 4,956.3 trillion rials (\$17.7 billion) in September. The figure showed an increase of 5.4% against March.

Net government debt to the CBI had declined by nearly 80% against last year to stand at nearly 37 trillion rials (\$132.1 million) although it was more than 116% higher than figures reported in March.

Debts owed by private and state banks to the CBI amounted to 1,273.5 trillion rials (nearly \$4.55 billion), down 1.4% on September 2020 and up 8.7% on March this year.

IRNA's analysis of the figures said that the surge in Iran's money supply has been consistent with economic realities in the country, including positive growth rates reported by the CBI for several successive quarters starting in late 2020.

It said a better control on money supply by a new Iranian government that came to office in August could lead to lower rates of inflation and joblessness in the country.

Hard Currency Resources From Oil Exports Up

TEHRAN (Shana) - The spokesman of the Program and Budget Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: "According to the report of the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, the total hard currency resources from oil, gas, gas condensate exports have risen significantly compared to last year."

Mohammad Mehdi Mofateh, describing the meeting of the Program and Budget Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Tuesday evening, which was held in the presence of Ali Salehabadi, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, said during the meeting, the CBI head provided a report about the country's hard currency exchanges.

He added: "According to the report of the Governor of the Central Bank, the total hard currency resources from oil, gas, gas condensate, currency provided in the Nima system and people's currency has increased significantly compared to last year and this growth will continue throughout the year. We expect relative stability in the hard currency market."

State of Oil, Petchem Exports, Good



TEHRAN (Shana) - A member of the presidium of the Energy Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: "Iran's oil and petrochemical exports are in a favorable condition and we will face better conditions by bartering oil with goods and services."

Hossein Hosseinzadeh underlined a recent meeting of the Minister of Petroleum with the First Deputy Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and said: "After this meeting, Mr. Nikzad announced that the performance of the Ministry of Petroleum in oil exports and oil diplomacy is acceptable. I also believe that the oil sales figure is increasing compared to the past and petrochemical exports are in a good condition."

He also referred to the issue of oil bartering, and added: "Undoubtedly, oil barter is a very desirable capacity for investment in development projects and will better the status of oil exports."

The member of the presidium of the Energy Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly stated: "I believe that in addition to increasing oil exports, a long-term and pivotal view on maintenance and protection against over-production can lead to the further development of the oil and petrochemical industry."



3 Arrested in Hong Kong for Urging Voters to Cast Blank Ballots

HONG KONG (AFP) - Three people were arrested in Hong Kong on Tuesday for urging voters to cast blank ballots in upcoming polls, a corruption watchdog said, as the city cracks down on efforts to boycott the first race since Beijing revamped the electoral process.

Under a sweeping overhaul imposed earlier this year, only those deemed “staunch patriots” are allowed to take part in politics, and anyone standing for public office must be vetted for national security risks.

Beijing’s decree also sharply reduced the number of directly elected seats in the city’s legislature.



UAE Top Diplomat on First Syria Visit in Over a Decade

DAMASCUS (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates’ top diplomat met Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus Tuesday, state media said, in the first such visit by a top UAE official since Syria’s war began 10 years ago.

The visit is widely seen as a sign of regional efforts to end Assad’s diplomatic isolation as Syria grapples with a spiralling economic crisis caused by years of conflict and compounded by a spate of Western sanctions.

“President Assad received UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed,” and an accompanying delegation, the official SANA news agency said. “During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to develop cooperation in different sectors that are of common interest,” SANA added.



Tunisian Demonstrator Dies After Inhaling Tear Gas



TUNIS (Dispatches) - A Tunisian demonstrator died overnight after inhaling tear gas as police dispersed protests over the reopening of a landfill site, a medic and a relative said Tuesday.

The 35-year-old died in the town of Aguerb in the central region of Sfax, which has seen weeks of angry demonstrations over a growing waste crisis.

“Abderrazek Lacheheb was transferred to Aguerb hospital suffering from asphyxia,” a hospital official said.

The man’s cousin Houcine Lacheheb said the man had been alive when he arrived at the hospital but had died after security forces fired tear gas outside.

“It was the police who killed him,” he said.

An AFP journalist in Aguerb saw security forces using tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators.

Tunisian human rights group FTDES said Aguerb had seen “a violent intervention by security forces on Monday night to force the reopening of the Qena rubbish dump”.

“The massive use of tear gas caused the death of Abderrazek Lacheheb,” it said.

Protests flared again on Tuesday and demonstrators set fire to a National Guard station in the town, interior ministry spokesman Yasser Mesbah said.

The prosecution said it had opened an inquiry into Lacheheb’s death.

The interior ministry denied he had been suffocated by tear gas.

“The man had a health problem that was nothing to do with the protests. His hospitalisation and death were nothing to do with” the demonstrations, Mesbah said.

Videos shared on social media showed residents fleeing clouds of tear gas in front of the hospital, where angry relatives of Lacheheb were demonstrating after his death.

Public pressure had forced the closure of the Sfax region’s main rubbish dump, in Aguerb, in September. City councils in the region have been refusing to collect trash, complaining that the state has not found workable alternatives.

In a meeting on Monday with Prime Minister Najla Bouden and Interior Minister Taoufik Charfeddine, President Kais Saied called for an urgent solution to the Sfax rubbish crisis.

Thousands Protest in New Zealand Against Vaccine Mandate

WELLINGTON (Dispatches) - New Zealand beefed up security measures at its parliament on Tuesday as thousands of people gathered to protest against Covid-19 vaccine mandates and government lockdowns.

All but two entrances to the parliament building, known as the Beehive, were closed off in the presence of unprecedented levels of police and security personnel, as mostly unmasked protesters marched through central Wellington and congregated outside parliament.

Chile Lower House OKs Impeachment Trial of President

SANTIAGO (Dispatches) - Chile’s lower house of congress on Tuesday approved the impeachment trial of President Sebastian Pinera over corruption allegations that appeared in the Pandora Papers leaks.

Lawmakers in the Chamber of Deputies gathered the 78 votes required to seek impeachment and advance proceedings to the Senate over Pinera’s involvement in the controversial sale of a mining company.

The call for the impeachment of Pinera -- who is in the final stretch of a second non-consecutive term that began in March 2018 -- was presented in early October by members of the opposition, including socialist deputy Jaime Naranjo.

Naranjo took 15 hours on the floor on Monday to read from the 1,300-page accusation against the president, arguing that Pinera’s “impunity” should end in the South American nation rattled by social unrest that broke out in 2019.

The marathon speech was apparently designed to allow another left-wing lawmaker, Giorgio Jackson, to complete a period of quarantine and join the process before it ended so he could vote.

“What we saw was a show,” said Juan Jose Ossa, the minister general-secretary of the presidency, an equivalent to the chief of staff.

The case grew as new details emerged about a deal first revealed in the Pandora Papers document leak, which highlighted offshore transactions involving political figures.

Naranjo highlighted potential corruption around the 2010 sale of the huge Dominga mine in Chile when Pinera, a wealthy businessman, was a first-term president.

The Pandora Papers linked Pinera to the sale of Dominga, through a company owned by his children, to businessman Carlos Delano -- a close friend of the president -- for \$152 million.

The papers said a large part of the operation was carried out in the British Virgin Islands, a tax haven.

“Acting as president, he benefited (himself) and his family in a direct way, with information that he had in the exercise of his office,” said Naranjo, adding that Pinera’s involvement pushed up the sale price.

Pinera’s lawyer Jorge Galvez brought the embattled president’s defense to a close before the chamber, saying: “I beg you, honorable deputies, to reject this improper constitutional accusation.” The case now moves to the Senate, where the effort to remove Pinera from office does not appear to have the necessary votes.

However, the president is barred from leaving the country while the process continues.

If found guilty, Pinera could be jailed for up to five years.



Detained Afghan Pilots to Fly out of Tajikistan on U.S.-Brokered Flight

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - More than 150 U.S.-trained Afghan pilots and other personnel, held in neighboring Tajikistan for nearly three months since escaping with their planes as the Taliban seized their country, were preparing to depart on Tuesday on a flight arranged by the U.S. government, two of the pilots and others close to them said.

The Afghans had spent a full day waiting at the airport in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, for a flight that appeared to have been delayed. They were hoping it would not be canceled and they would depart before the end of the day.

“We hope to go out soon,” one of the Afghans told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. embassy in Dushanbe could not be immediately reached for comment.

The plight of the Afghan pilots -- including one who is at a very advanced stage of her pregnancy -- became a focus of U.S. lawmakers and military veterans, who grew frustrated by what they believed was a sluggish U.S. relocation effort.

They arrived in Tajikistan with advanced military aircraft at the end of the war, were detained by Tajik authorities and have been awaiting a U.S. relocation ever since -- hoping to move to a third country for eventual U.S. resettlement.



Hundreds of Migrants and Refugees Camped at Belarus-Poland Border

POLAND (Dispatches) - Hundreds of migrants and refugees are camped out in near freezing temperatures in Belarus after Polish security forces blocked people attempting to cross the border, with officials in Warsaw warning of a possible “armed” escalation in the coming days.

Poland has for months accused Belarus of trying to spark a major confrontation by encouraging migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa to cross into Central Europe and the wider European Union in revenge for Western sanctions on longtime President Alexander Lukashenko’s government.

On Monday, the situation escalated as hundreds of people headed towards the Polish border near Kuznica village. Some tried to breach a barbed wire fence using spades and other tools.

Poland deployed additional soldiers, border guards and police, preventing refugees and migrants forcing their way across the frontier.

Polish President Andrzej Duda on Tuesday accused Lukashenko’s government of “attacking” the border and the EU “in an unparalleled manner”.

“We currently have a camp of migrants who are blocked from the Belarusian side. There are about 1,000 people there, mostly young men. These are aggressive actions that we must repel, fulfilling our obligations as a member of the European Union,” he told reporters in Warsaw.

But Minsk said it was concerned by the Polish troop presence in the region, following a call between Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Moscow is an ally and creditor of Belarus, which is increasingly isolated after a brutal crackdown on dissent last year following a disputed election that handed Lukashenko a sixth term.

Lukashenko’s press office said he discussed Poland’s “harsh actions ... towards peaceful people” with Putin.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov suggested that the EU could provide funds to Belarus to encourage it to stop people crossing into the bloc.

Czech President Taps Opposition Leader for Gov’t Talks

PRAGUE (Dispatches) -

Czech President Milos Zeman has asked opposition leader Petr Fiala to lead talks on forming a new government, the presidential office said on Tuesday, a next step in a handover of power to center-right parties.

Fiala leads a coalition of five parties which together won the majority of votes in an Oct. 8-9 lower house election.

However, uncertainty has hung over talks on the formation of a new government as Zeman, 77, has been hospitalized since Oct. 10. He only addressed the election in a radio interview at the end of last week.

Despite asking Fiala to lead the talks, Zeman is still probably a few weeks away from formally nominating him as prime minister-designate.

With Zeman in hospital, lawmakers had discussed invoking Article 66 of the constitution to strip him of his powers if he were unable to appoint a new government to replace Prime Minister Andrej Babis, whose party narrowly lost the election.

But senators in the upper house on Tuesday abandoned plans to invoke the never-used rule after signs that the president was well enough to discharge his duties.

In his first public remarks since the election, Zeman had said in a radio interview last Friday that he expected to name Fiala as prime minister.

The five parties - ranging from the mildly eurosceptic Civic Democrats led by Fiala to the progressive Pirate Party -already signed a coalition agreement on Monday, pledging to cut the budget deficit, among other promises. Fiala is putting together a list of ministerial nominations.

Authorities have not disclosed details about Zeman’s illness, but one of his doctors said last week he was suffering from liver disease.

Zeman’s medical team said on Friday his condition had improved, but he still cannot fully perform his job and would need to remain in hospital, possibly for several more weeks.



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A large billboard is mounted on a tall metal structure, set against a backdrop of a city skyline under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The billboard itself is white and features the following text and graphics:

- IRAN**: The word "IRAN" is written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The letters are filled with a vertical gradient of colors: green at the top, yellow in the middle, and red at the bottom.
- NEWS**: The word "NEWS" is written in large, bold, black serif capital letters directly below "IRAN".
- PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS**: This text is written in a smaller, black, serif font below "NEWS".
- ADVERTISING**: The word "ADVERTISING" is written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Each letter is a different color and contains a small, colorful image related to advertising or media.
- Contact Information**: To the right of the main text, there is a section with contact details:
 - TEL: 44253448-50** and **FAX: 44253234**: These numbers are written in a red, serif font.
 - ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM**: This email address is written in a black, serif font below the phone and fax numbers.
- Graphic**: A faint, stylized graphic of a rolled-up newspaper or document is visible in the background on the right side of the billboard.

The billboard is supported by a dark metal frame, and the city skyline below includes various skyscrapers and buildings, with the Empire State Building being a prominent feature on the right side.

Bitcoin Surges to \$68,000 for First Time Ever

LONDON (Dispatches) - Bitcoin hit new records of \$68,000 (£50,000) per coin for the first time ever on Tuesday, while ethereum also pushed to all-time highs of \$4,840.

It came amid an ongoing cryptocurrency rally that analysts have attributed to hedging risks from rising inflation, with predictions it will rise further in coming weeks.

This beats the previous record high set last month, when bitcoin reached nearly \$67,700. The world's largest crypto is up more than 130% this year alone, while ethereum has gained some 550%. Just five years ago, a single bitcoin was worth about \$700.



Russian Gas Flows Resume to Europe

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Wholesale gas prices fell in Europe on Tuesday after Russian gas flows resumed to Germany, raising hopes that Moscow is acting on a pledge to increase supplies and ease concerns about shortages and high prices as winter approaches.

Russia started pumping gas to Germany again late on Monday via a pipeline from Yamal in Siberia, a day after a halt in exports had pushed up prices in Europe. The gas flows later rose to their highest level in almost two weeks, German data showed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered state gas company Gazprom to increase supplies to Europe and rebuild its inventories there once domestic storage tanks are replenished. In a sign it is starting to carry out that order, Gazprom said on Tuesday it had begun pumping gas to five European underground gas storages for November.

Russia provides a third of Europe's gas and its supply intentions are critical at a time when a surge in spot prices has hit households and businesses alike in Europe, underlining Europe's heavy dependence on Moscow for its energy supplies.

Though wholesale prices in European Union countries and Britain fell, market analysts said a bigger drop in prices would depend on Russia doing more to ease European concerns and on how cold the coming winter is.

"So, until those concerns go away, prices will stay high," Trevor Sikorski, an analyst at consultancy Energy Aspects, said by email.

Dmitry Marinchenko, senior director at Fitch ratings agency, said Gazprom would need to pump around 170 million cubic meters more of gas each day for a month - an increase of about a third on what it is shipping now - to get its European storage refilled.

"For such a serious increase in supplies, Gazprom would have to book additional transit capacity via Ukraine - the Nord Stream 1 and Yamal-Europe (pipelines) would not be enough," Marinchenko told Reuters.

Russia has denied withholding supplies to Europe to exert pressure on German regulators to approve gas shipments through the new Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline beneath the Baltic Sea. Germany has until early January to certify the pipeline.

Gas prices have risen this year because of factors including low gas inventories and increased demand following the economic recovery since the easing of COVID-19 lockdowns, as well as tighter-than-usual supplies from Russia.

In Britain, some energy companies have gone bust and consumers face much higher energy bills. The impact on business has been far-reaching.

Westbound flows into Germany at the Mallnow metering point, which lies on the Polish border, resumed late on Monday at an hourly volume of more than 3,000,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), after staying at zero net flows for the most of the day.

The volume increased to around 9 million kWh/hour on Tuesday, the highest level since October 29. Renominations - or requests to transport gas - into Germany stood at 9,729,461 kWh/hour, with exit requests to send gas into Poland much lower at 1,013,000 kWh/hour, the data showed. The levels of the flows and their direction at the Yamal-Europe pipeline, one of the routes for the Russian gas exports to Europe, are managed by Gascade in Germany and Gaz-System network operator in Poland, respectively, based on customers' requests.

The flows at the Yamal-Europe pipeline reversed eastbound to deliver gas from Germany into Poland last week which some analysts attributed to better pricing conditions. The reverse flows added pressure to the European spot gas prices. The flows briefly switched westbound again last week before reversing back to ship gas from Germany to Poland. They were at zero net flows most of Monday.

Cuban Businesses Plead for U.S. Sanctions Lift

HAVANA (Dispatches) - Private business owners in Cuba urged U.S. President Joe Biden to lift economic sanctions against the communist island in an open letter published on Monday.

While 85 percent of the Cuban economy is in the hands of the one-party state, there are more than 600,000 private sector workers, mainly in the tourism and services industries recently authorized to register small and medium enterprises.

But the coronavirus pandemic and sanctions tightened under former US president Donald Trump has hit Cuba with its worst economic crisis since 1993, with 250,000 small businesses folding in recent months.

"We call upon you to reflect on the impact of your administration's current policies towards Cuba, which are significantly harming our businesses and families," said the letter with 247 signatures.

"Through our businesses, we are working to build a strong economic future for our families so that enterprising Cubans do not feel the need to emigrate in order to have rewarding work and economic prosperity."

Cuba has been under U.S. sanctions since 1962, but the private sector saw a brief boom during a period of political rapprochement under the US administration of Barack Obama. Biden had promised during his election campaign to reverse certain sanctions toughened under Trump, but Cuba was expected to implement human rights reforms in return.

After a government clampdown on recent protests, the United States has announced further sanctions on individuals over alleged rights abuses.

Cuban authorities have been accused by rights watchdogs of regular human rights abuses, including arbitrary detention of dissidents, unfair trials and infringements of freedom of speech and assembly.



France Calls for Rapid Solution to Fishing Dispute With Britain

PARIS (Dispatches) - France urged Tuesday a "rapid solution" to a fishing dispute with Britain that has threatened to degenerate into a full-blown trade war, after new talks aimed at breaking weeks of deadlock.

"France remains open to dialogue, but a rapid solution must be found for our fishermen, in line with the implementation of our agreements," France's Europe Minister Clément Beaune wrote on Twitter after telephone talks with Britain's Brexit minister, David Frost.

The conversation came after a crunch face-to-face meeting between the two men in Paris last week failed to resolve the standoff.

The fishing dispute has added to a litany of bilateral problems between the Channel neighbors in the wake of Brexit that has plunged relations to a level of rancor rarely seen in recent years.

Under a deal agreed by Britain and the EU late last year, European fishing vessels can continue to ply UK waters if they can prove they operated there in the past.

However, Paris says dozens of French boats have had their applications to fish the UK's rich waters rejected.

The total volumes affected are tiny in terms of overall France-UK bilateral trade.

But analysts say French President Emmanuel Macron is keen to take a hard line as he eyes re-election next year, while British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is also keen to talk tough in the wake of Brexit.

France has threatened to ban British boats from unloading their catches at French ports and to subject all British imports to inspections.

Officials have also raised the prospect of decreasing power supplies to the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, crown dependencies which are not part of the UK but which depend on London for their security. Last week, Macron said France would hold off imposing the measures to give dialogue a chance but French officials have insisted the all options remain on the table should dialogue fail.

The two sides failed to resolve the dispute after talks last week, but vowed to press on with efforts to find a solution through dialogue.

Malaysia a Major Global Leader in Halal Economy

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - An official with Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) said the country is a major player in the global halal economy.

Matrade deputy chief executive officer Sharimahton Mat Saleh said many countries are looking to collaborate with Malaysia in order to strengthen the global halal ecosystem.

She said the global halal industry presents a huge opportunity with the market now valued at US\$3.1 trillion.

"Malaysia remained a major global leader in the Halal economy, sustaining its top position in the Global Islamic Economic Indicators (GIEI) for eight consecutive years.

"This is a promising indicator of recovery for Malaysia's Halal export performance, in line with the country's outstanding trade performance that we have seen in the first nine months of 2021" she said in a statement.

As the national trade promotion organization of Malaysia, Matrade is leading the export acceleration mission on Halal digital ecosystem from November 14-20 to forge lasting partnership at the Expo 2020 in Dubai.

With the theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", the World Expo 2020 in Dubai will be an excellent platform for the Malaysian exporters to connect with the global community boosting Malaysia's leadership in halal global trade and economy.

According to Matrade, Malaysia recognizes the fact that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has also established itself as a regional hub for halal products and services.

The collaboration will include knowledge sharing, capacity-building and business matching to create a vibrant and sustainable business landscape for the Muslim-friendly consumer segment using Dubai's extensive regional trade network, it said.

Sharimahton said the countries must move together as they play a major role in terms of promoting the halal agenda globally.

"Cooperative competition will eventually benefit us, but most importantly, we have to find ways to work together and achieve mutual recognition to develop more business opportunities," she added.

Toshiba to Split Business Into Three

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Toshiba plans to split into three companies as early as 2023, a report said Tuesday, after a series of crises at the firm including the ouster of the board's chairman and a contentious buyout offer.

The Nikkei business daily said the three units would focus on infrastructure, devices and semiconductor memory and are expected to be listed, possibly within two years.

Toshiba told AFP the option of splitting its business up was under consideration but said nothing had been decided.

The Nikkei, which did not cite sources, said the move could be announced Friday when Toshiba reports earnings.

"We are drafting a mid-term business plan to enhance our corporate value, and dividing our businesses is one of the options, but there is nothing officially decided at this point," Toshiba spokesman Tatsuro Oishi told AFP.

"We will swiftly announce if we decide anything that should be disclosed," he said.

The decision, if confirmed, would cap a period of enormous upheaval for the firm, once a symbol of Japan's advanced technology and economic power.

In June, shareholders voted to oust the board's chairman after a series of scandals and losses, in a rare victory for activist investors in corporate Japan.

The move followed the damaging revelations of an independent probe that concluded Toshiba attempted to block shareholders from exercising their proposal and voting rights.

The investigation's report detailed how the firm had pursued an intervention from Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to help sway a board vote.

The revelations came after an unexpected buyout offer in April from a private equity fund associated with then-CEO Nobuaki Kurumatani.

The offer sparked uproar, with allegations it was intended to blunt the influence of activist investors.

Other offers emerged subsequently, and Kurumatani resigned in April, though he insisted it was not related to the buyout controversy.

The decision to split Toshiba's businesses "is a consequence of listening to activist shareholders", said Hideki Yasuda, an analyst with Ace Research Institute.

The move would be seen by proponents as maximizing the combined market value of Toshiba's operations.

But he warned there could be downsides.

"You can't cover losses in one business with profits in other businesses," making individual segments of Toshiba's operation potentially more vulnerable, he said.

APEC Ministers Pledge Recovery Support



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Pacific Rim trade and foreign ministers on Tuesday pledged to maintain measures to sustain a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic while pursuing talks to curb subsidies for fisheries and agriculture at a forthcoming World Trade Organization meeting.

The ministers from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries said in a communique issued after a virtual meeting there was wide divergence in recovery across and within economies, with downside risks remaining.

"We need to sustain our economic recovery through continued policy support measures, while preserving financial stability and long-term fiscal sustainability," the ministers said.

They also said they would facilitate trade in a broader range of medical supplies to fight COVID-19 and voluntarily work to reduce the cost of vaccines and related goods. They pledged to support WTO negotiations on a temporary waiver of intellectual property protections on COVID-19 vaccines.

With many economies in the region dependent on tourism, the APEC ministers said they would work to ensure safe travel in the region, with "tangible outcomes in 2022."

"We need to continue to pave the way for the resumption of cross-border travel, without undermining efforts to control the spread of COVID-19," the ministers said.

The trade-focused group said officials would work to foster a favorable trade and investment environment and "ensure our trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable."

"We reaffirm our commitment to keep markets open, and to address supply chain disruptions, thereby fostering mutually beneficial trade relations and reducing trade tensions," the communique said.

Iranian Film “Drown” Awarded in Spanish Festival

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian director Mohammad Kart’s “Drown” (Shenaye Parvaneh) won the Best Script Award in Asian Film Festival Barcelona 2021.

Written and directed by Kart, the film participated in the Special Section of the festival and won the Best Script Award.

As the first directing experience of Kart, the film has had great achievements, including the Best Feature Film Simorgh Award from the 38th Fajr Film Festival.



New Emissions Pledges Barely Affect Global Heating

GLASGOW (AFP) - New emissions-cutting pledges -- including a vow during COP26 by India to be carbon neutral by 2070 -- are likely to have a minimal effect on temperature rises this century, an updated UN assessment said Tuesday.

In its annual Emissions Gap report last month, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) had said current decarbonisation plans -- known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs -- put the world on track to warm 2.7C this century.

It warned that countries needed to slash emissions more than seven times faster to keep warming in line with 1.5C, the most ambitious Paris Agreement temperature goal.

In an updated assessment, UNEP said Tuesday that even when new pledges were factored in, the effect on the climate is predicted to be “very similar” to existing net-zero plans.

This is due to due to “limited changes to 2030 emissions,” UNEP said.

UN Climate Change said last week that countries’ renewed NDCs -- updated every five years under the Paris agreement -- would see emissions climb 13.7 percent by 2030 before sharply declining thereafter.

To keep in line with 1.5C, those emissions must instead fall 45 percent by then.

“We are not where we need to be and we need to step up with much more action,” said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen.

“At this point, when we look at what has come in in the additional pledges frankly, it’s an elephant giving birth to a mouse.”

Current plans and announcements made as of Tuesday would likely save 500 million tons of carbon pollution by 2030, UNEP said.

But it said that, taken together, all current national emissions-reduction plans would still see warming of 2.7C by 2100.

Factoring in net-zero action such as carbon offsets and reforestation alongside decarbonisation efforts could see that fall to 2.1C -- down from last month’s assessment but still missing the Paris goal of “well below” 2C of warming.

Some major emitters such as the United States and European Union have relatively



comprehensive, costed plans on how they plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Other large polluters, notably China, have indicated net-zero targets but have yet to publish details on how they plan to achieve this.

“It is not good to see that the (net-zero) pledges are generally untransparent,” said Andersen.

“They’re hard to calculate, hard to hold to account and of course many of them kick the can beyond 2030.”

UNEP’s assessment came on the same day as a similar analysis by the think tank Climate Action Tracker (CAT), which said that if countries fully implement their short-term emissions goals, heating could be limited to 2.4C this century.

The CAT calculation is based on a 50-percent probability of hitting a given temperature, whereas UNEP’s is a more conservative 66 percent.

China’s Iran Oil...

FROM PAGE 1

Other tanker trackers said Vortexa’s volumes for the three months are similar to their own estimates.

Petro-Logistics Chief Executive Daniel Gerber, while noting that the volumes are down from earlier in the year, said: “Going forward, if China is able to control the recent surge in COVID infections, I would not be surprised to see stronger imports from Iran, given high oil prices, OPEC discipline and the discounts that are available on sanctioned oil.”

Officially, China has not imported any oil from Iran since the start of 2021, according to its customs data, as state-owned refiners remain sidelined by the U.S. sanctions.

Iranian crude, which accounts for about 6% of China’s crude oil imports, is currently exported to China as oil from Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia, squeezing out supplies from Brazil and West Africa, traders said.

Iranian oil was last transacted at a \$4-\$5 per barrel discount to Brent crude on a delivered basis, about \$6-\$7 below Middle East benchmark Oman, traders said.

Beijing’s acquiescence over these transactions has also emboldened traders and buyers.

“The government does not wish to intervene as it sees little downside risks allowing in these imports,” said a China-based trading executive involved in the business, who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

China’s foreign ministry told Reuters normal business dealings between China and Iran should be respected, without going into details on shipments.

“China urges the U.S. to lift the illegitimate unilateral sanctions as soon as possible,” the ministry said.

Washington is aware of China’s Iranian oil purchases, a senior U.S. official told Reuters in September, and has chosen diplomacy as a “more effective path forward to address our concerns”.

The official, however, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said the United States had applied sanctions before and would do so again if necessary.

The U.S. State Department and Iran’s oil ministry both declined to comment.

China’s June and July Iran shipments dipped as Beijing clamped down on irregular quota trading and independent refiners’ import permits dried up.

In the quota interim, about 7 million barrels were moved into bonded storage between July and September, according to Vortexa and the China-based trading executive, to await Beijing’s October quota release.

These barrels were subsequently trans-shipped in October to Shandong province, China’s independent refining hub.

“Any significant improvement in the nuclear talks will lead to higher imports from Iran, although much of the volumes will first be discharged from bonded tanks,” said Michal Meidan, director of the China programme at Oxford Institute for Energy Studies.

“Renewed flows from Iran are more likely next year.”

Vietnamese...

FROM PAGE 1

Pentagon press secretary John Kirby then claimed that U.S. forces had come to the scene to monitor the situation.

IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Ramazan Sharif dismissed it, stating that US forces had a mission to protect the MV Sothys.

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

Meanwhile a ceremony was held on Wednesday to honor the brave IRGC forces who thwarted an attempt by the United States to support stealing Iran’s oil.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Major General Hossein Salami and IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri as well as other IRGC forces and commanders.

Speaking in this ceremony, Major General Hossein Salami appreciated IRGC for creating such a great epic.

He stressed that IRGC forces adopted a professional measure in confrontation with U.S. navy fleets.

“With your mastery and vigilance, you showed that the grandeur of the enemy is hollow and has only a geometric aspect”, the IRGC chief stressed.

According to him, IRGC forces strengthened the position of the Iranian nation against the terrorist regime of the United States which is close to declining.

Unilateral Sanctions...

FROM PAGE 1

Tackling such challenges, which are essentially internal matters of countries, require an integrated and holistic approach and should be dealt with by the states concerned.

Nevertheless, the international community also needs to be involved in addressing such challenges.

The international community and the UN must assist conflict-affected countries, upon their request, through provision of tailored technical and financial supports to address the root causes of the conflicts properly and more effectively.

As stated in Goal 10 of SDG, reducing poverty and inequality, and ensuring no one is left behind are integral to achieving the sustainable development. We highlight the significant role of the United Nations in this regard.

For effective prevention of conflicts, other underlying causes, such as climate change, foreign intervention, and occupation as well as application of unilateral acts, which lead to prolonged conflict situations, must also be considered, and tackled.

In this context, the imposition of unilateral coercive measures such as illegal US sanctions imposed on the Iranian people causes serious consequences for the well-being of all segments of population.

These unlawful acts, which have caused severe shortages in basic needs of the people, especially medicines and medical equipment needed for combatting COVID-19, exacerbate economic hardships.

Unilateral sanctions also prevent access of the affecting countries to their financial and developmental resources necessary for realization of the goals of the sustainable development.

The provision of technical and humanitarian assistance to the people in need in conflict and post conflict situations should in no way be politicized, conditional or discriminatory.

The constructive contribution of the UN in preventing conflicts requires coherence, sustained engagement, and coordination among the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, consistent with their mandates as set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

In this context, we emphasize that the Security Council must adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and should focus its efforts on any situation, which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

The issues such as exclusion and inequality with social and economic aspects, must be addressed, by competent organs of the United Nations, namely the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Zionists Trying to...

FROM PAGE 1

“Throughout history, Israel has consistently and blatantly violated hundreds of UN resolutions against aggression, occupation and war crimes, and these are not to be forgotten,” Takht-Ravanchi said.

“Israel has not adhered to the rules and regulations prohibiting the production, development and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, and its arsenals, given the regime’s threatening attitude towards world peace and security, play a destabilizing role,” he added. “The world must be fully aware of Israel’s illegal actions and threats to regional peace and security.”

Israel, which pursues a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear weapons, is estimated to have 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal.

The regime has refused to allow inspections of its military nuclear facilities or sign the NPT.

The Israeli regime, the Middle East region’s sole nuclear arms possessor, has also assassinated seven Iranian nuclear scientists.

Neither the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nor the United Nations have taken the Tel Aviv regime to task for its illegal activities aimed at endangering the regional and international peace and security.

U.S., Allied Invaders...

FROM PAGE 1

On the contrary, he said, Iran “tried, through cooperation with internal and external players in Afghanistan, to move toward plans which would truly serve the interests of our oppressed brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and those of the neighbors and the entire region, as well as [plans] that would establish broad-based, lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan that would meet the common interests of us all.”

Shamkhani also stressed the need for the United Nations to play a role in the consultations and efforts to assist the Afghan people.

“Today, Afghanistan is left with a pile of problems and we are all duty-bound to drive the country to safety,” the top security official said.

“The focus should now be for the United States and its partners in the 20-year-long occupation of Afghanistan to accept responsibility. Compensating for the losses of life and material damage inflicted to the people of Afghanistan is the least responsibility of the occupiers.

He said everyone knows, however, that a great portion of the damage was “irreparable,” adding, “Is it possible to compensate for the lost lives or the damage inflicted to the human body and soul, or to restore the lost time to build a nation and a country? On the contrary, we see that the United States, in a hostile and arrogant act, has banned the Afghan people’s access to their small assets,” referring to the sanctions the U.S. imposed on the country after its exit.

Shamkahnai also pointed to the threats posed by the growth of Daesh and other Takfiri terrorist groups in Afghanistan to the country’s neighbors and those states in the region that have no common borders with it.

He further highlighted three issues of concern in Afghanistan that should be resolved through regional cooperation, namely the involvement of some countries in transferring Takfiri terrorists to Afghanistan, the spread of poverty and humanitarian crisis, and the migration crisis.

He enumerated the “important duties” that Afghanistan’s neighbors need to fulfill in the process to help settle the crises unfolding in the South Asian state, including efforts “to hold to account the countries behind the current situation in Afghanistan,” “establish an inclusive government comprised of all ethnicities” there, and tackle the humanitarian crisis gripping the war-torn country.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran declares its readiness to offer all the facilities at its disposal, such as roads and ports, to help resolve this [humanitarian] crisis,” the top security official said.

Shamkhani said regional countries should also “exert pressure on the United States to unblock the financial resources of the oppressed Afghan nation so it can benefit from its own resources and facilities.”

Furthermore, he added, the participants in the summit should work to confront Daesh and Takfiri terrorists operating Afghanistan, identify the channels through which they are financed, and cut those lines.

The neighbors should likewise address the migration crisis and help the countries hosting Afghan refugees, according to him.

Shamkhani elaborated on the case of Iran and said the country had been hosting over three million Afghan migrants and paying around 96 percent of the costs on its own, while international institutions had only provided for four percent only.

He warned that Iran “we will not be able to host a new influx [of refugees] due to the unjust sanctions imposed against our people. In case other countries and relevant international institutions fail to offer assistance with this issue, we won’t be able to manage [the situation] and the Western states, like it or not, will be affected.”

The Iranian official called for broadening the topics on the agenda of the Afghanistan summits and proposed the formation of a permanent secretariat aimed at following up on the resolutions adopted at the events.

He said Tehran could host the proposed secretariat.

Tehran Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

The most important issue to be considered by the event is the destructive efforts made by the gigantic world tobacco industries, and their penetration into the daily lives of member nations that threaten the world health seriously, further reiterated Baqaie.

He said that tobacco consumption puts at stake the health of world nation so it’s negative impacts on materializing the objectives of comprehensive development of the countries should be given due attention.

The World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is a treaty adopted by the 56th World Health Assembly held in Geneva.

Newcastle Appoint Howe As New Manager

LONDON (Dispatches) - Newcastle ended their long wait to hire a new manager, unveiling former Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe as the man to lead the Magpies into a new era under wealthy Saudi ownership.

Howe, 43, takes charge of a side languishing second from bottom of the Premier League, five points from safety, and without a win all season. He replaces Steve Bruce, who left the club by “mutual consent” on October 20, two weeks after the Saudi-led takeover propelled the club into the ranks of the super-rich.

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Pogba Out of France's World Cup Qualifiers

PARIS (Dispatches) - Midfielder Paul Pogba has been ruled out of France's World Cup qualifiers against Kazakhstan and Finland after suffering a right thigh injury, the French federation (FFF) said on Monday.

The Manchester United player was seen leaving Monday's training session with team doctor Franck Le Gall.

“Paul Pogba is forced to withdraw from France's next two games at the Parc des Princes against Kazakhstan and against Finland in Helsinki,” the statement read.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Curry Puts Up 50 In Warriors' Win

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Stephen Curry scored 18 of his NBA season-high 50 points in a third-quarter flurry Monday night that rallied the Warriors past the Atlanta Hawks 127-113 in San Francisco, Golden State's fifth straight win.

Atlanta led by as many as 15 points in the second quarter before getting steamrolled by the NBA's winningest team in the second half.

Curry, who had been held to 20 or fewer points in four consecutive games, finished 14-for-28 from the field, 9-for-19 on 3-point attempts and 13-for-13 at the foul line. He also found time for 10 assists, giving him the first double-double in a 50-point game of his career. Trae Young scored 28 points and John Collins added 19 for the Hawks, who lost their fourth game in a row.

Lakers 126, Hornets 123 (OT)

Anthony Davis scored six of his 32 points in overtime and added 12 rebounds as Los Angeles ended a two-game losing streak with an overtime victory against visiting Charlotte.

Carmelo Anthony had 29 points off the bench and Russell Westbrook amassed a triple-double with 17 points, 12 rebounds and 14 assists as the Lakers won for the first time in three tries since star LeBron James was lost for at least a week with an abdominal strain. Terry Rozier scored 29 points for the Hornets and LaMelo Ball had his second career triple-double with 25 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists. Charlotte overcame a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime.

Grizzlies 125, Timberwolves 118 (OT)

Ja Morant scored 33 points, including the final seven of a pivotal fourth-quarter run, and Memphis held off visiting Minnesota in overtime.

Memphis pulled ahead immediately in the extra frame when Desmond Bane hit a jumper for two of his 13 points and Morant made two foul shots. The Grizzlies never trailed in the overtime.

Marquez Ruled Out of Valencia GP

MADRID (Dispatches) - Six-times MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez will miss the season finale at the Valencia Grand Prix this weekend after being ruled unfit following an off-road training accident last week, race organisers said on Tuesday.

The Repsol Honda rider has been suffering from vision problems since the training accident in the build up to the Algarve Grand Prix in Portugal, which he was also forced to miss.

“During these days of rest, Marc has continued to feel unwell and has suffered from vision problems, which is why this Monday he was visited by Dr. Sanchez Dalmau who examined him and performed the tests, which detected a new episode of diplopia,” Repsol Honda said in a statement.

The 28-year-old, who has won three races this season, will not feature in post-season testing in Jerez, Spain on Nov. 18 and 19.

Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo sealed the world title following a fourth-placed finish in the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix last month.

Russian High Jumper Blames Officials for Doping Suspension

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - High jumper Danil Lysenko, suspended for anti-doping violations in a case that rattled Russian sport, has admitted guilt for his offences but said he blames the athletics federation for a plan to forge documents to try to evade punishment.

Lysenko, silver medallist at the 2017 World Athletics Championships, was provisionally suspended in 2018 after recording three whereabouts failures within a 12-month period, once missing a doping test and twice failing to provide his whereabouts to anti-doping authorities.

The aftermath plunged Russia's athletics federation, suspended since 2015 for mass doping across the sport, into more turmoil after senior federation officials became embroiled in a scheme to forge medical documents and provide false explanations to justify Lysenko's violations.

“Of course I could have said no, but I didn't,” Lysenko, whose suspension ends in August next year, told Reuters. “I listened to the bosses and decided to do as they said.”



The depleted Sixers played without Joel Embiid, who tested positive for COVID-19 and missed the game. Andre Drummond powered the Sixers with 14 points and 25 rebounds. Furkan Korkmaz scored 19 points and Tyrese Maxey added 16.

Bulls 118, Nets 95

DeMar DeRozan scored seven of his 28 points in a decisive run early in the fourth quarter as Chicago pulled away for a victory over visiting Brooklyn.

DeRozan hit 10 of 20 shots and scored at least 25 points for the fifth straight game to help the Bulls beat the Nets for the third time in the past 14 meetings. Zach LaVine added 24 for Chicago, which outscored Brooklyn 42-17 in the final period. Kevin Durant led all scorers with 38 points, including 11 in the fourth, but the Nets saw their five-game winning streak end.

Mavericks 108, Pelicans 92

Luka Doncic scored 25 points and host Dallas' bench outscored New Orleans' bench 42-10 in the Mavericks' victory.

Tim Hardaway Jr. and Jalen Brunson added 17 points each as the Mavericks won for the fourth time in five games and for the seventh time in their past eight games against the Pelicans.

Nuggets 113, Heat 96

Nikola Jokic had 25 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists for his first triple-double of the season before being ejected late in the game, and host Denver beat Miami.

Will Barton scored 25 points, Monte Morris scored 14, Jeff Green had 13 and Aaron Gordon had 10 for the Nuggets.



LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford today pledged to pursue his campaign to help disadvantaged children after he was presented with an honor by Prince William.

Rashford, 24, was recognized for his high-profile campaign to ensure children from under-privileged backgrounds did not go hungry during the coronavirus pandemic.

The England international was given an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) medal at a Windsor Castle ceremony by William, who also serves as president of the Football Association.

Rashford said he would give the MBE — an award to recognize achievement and service to the country — to his mother Melanie, who raised him and his four siblings.

He said his motivation was to give Britain's children the things he did not have when growing up and stressed every youngster deserved an “opportunity”.

“It seems like there's a lot going on but for me to put it in the simplest way, I'm trying to give children the things I didn't have when I was kid. If I did have, I would have been much better off and had many more options in my life,” Rashford said.

“I'm just giving them the opportunity and I think they deserve the opportunity. What child doesn't? For me it's a punishment for them not to be getting things like meals or supplies of books.



Coutinho Backs Xavi to Succeed at Barca

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Brazilian attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho said he thinks new Barcelona coach Xavi will be a success at the troubled Catalan giants.

Club great Xavi was unveiled as the new coach earlier on Monday, just over 10 days after the sacking of Dutchman Ronald Koeman.

“Xavi was a great player, a football icon, and now he is back home at Barcelona. I hope he has a lot of success with the group that we are,” said the 29-year-old.

“Given the person he is, he will definitely do very well at Barcelona.”

Despite being nothing more than a bit-part player under Koeman since returning to Barca 18 months ago from a season-long loan at Bayern Munich, Coutinho has nonetheless earned himself a recall to the Brazil squad for this month's World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina.

Coutinho suffered a knee injury last December that ended his season and following two operations he has played little this campaign.

“It's like it was my first time,” said Coutinho of his surprise recall to coach Tite's squad after a year out.

“It's always an honour to wear this jersey.”

Brazil can book their ticket to Qatar if they beat Colombia on Thursday, and a draw would also be enough should Uruguay lose to Argentina the next day.

Barcelona sit ninth in La Liga after winning just four of their opening 12 league matches.

It Is Time for Solskjaer to Leave Man Utd

LONDON (Dispatches) - Rio Ferdinand has called for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to hand over the Manchester United manager's “baton” after a string of damaging results left the club well off the pace in the Premier League.

The Norwegian boss is under intense pressure after a 5-0 home thumping by Liverpool and a one-sided 2-0 defeat at the hands of Manchester City on Saturday.

Ferdinand has been one of many ex-United players to voice support for his former team-mate, who led the club to a second-place finish in the league last season.

The ex-England defender said fans started the season full of hope after the high-profile signings of Cristiano Ronaldo, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane before results nosedived.

“I sit here now and I don't think we can challenge to win this league,” Ferdinand said on his Vibe with Five podcast. “I look at our team every week and I'm wondering what we are going to do tactically. I don't see any philosophy or an identity in the Man United way of playing, whatever that should be from the management. I sit here confused, looking at the team.”

Ferdinand said United had made steady progress during Solskjaer's nearly three years at the helm but now he felt there is a need for a change.

“I was always deep down a bit sceptical,” said the 43-year-old. “Could he take us on to be champions? I wasn't sure, I wasn't fully convinced — I hoped he would be able to do that.



Kimmich Among German Players in Covid Quarantine

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Unvaccinated Bayern Munich star Joshua Kimmich is one of five players in Germany's national football squad having to quarantine after one tested positive for coronavirus, the German federation (DFB) said.

The infected player, Niklas Sule, is fully vaccinated and currently asymptomatic, added the DFB.

Fellow Bayern teammates Kimmich, Serge Gnabry and Jamal Musiala as well as Karim Adeyemi of RB Salzburg, have been asked to isolate because they are close contacts of his, even though they have tested negative, DFB chief director Bierhoff said.

“This news, coming so close before the final World Cup qualifiers, is bitter for the coaching team as well as for Die Mannschaft,” said Bierhoff. The latest high profile case comes as Germany is fighting a surge in new infections, with its seven-day Covid rate striking a new record.

It also puts the spotlight again on Kimmich, who had sparked a fierce debate in the country last month when he revealed he opted not to get vaccinated, because of “personal concerns”.

It even prompted Interior Minister Horst Seehofer to urge him directly to rethink his position as “vaccination is the main weapon in the fight against the pandemic”.

Kimmich appears to be in the minority as more than 90 per cent of footballers and backroom staff in Germany's top two leagues are vaccinated, according to figures released last month by the German Football League (DFL).

