

Managing Director of Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Ali Naderi Has Declared That More Than 3.5 Billion Dollars of Iran's Assets Blocked in Another Country Have Been Unfrozen Recently

IRAN NEWS

The Commander of the Border Guards of Iran Police and the Director-General of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency Reviewed The Latest Developments Related To Bilateral cooperation

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Gov't Applies Solutions For Water Shortage

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Sanctions Removal Main Objective of Upcoming Vienna Talks

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's chief negotiator describes the removal of the U.S.'s illegal and inhumane sanctions as the main purpose of the upcoming talks in Vienna between the Islamic Republic and the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal with the country.

"Our main objective is to remove the illegal sanctions that they have imposed on the Iranian nation in breach of UN resolutions," Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri-Kani told The Guardian on Thursday.

The official is in London as part of a series of visits to the European capitals in the run-up to the November 29 talks.

The talks would be the seventh round to go underway in the Austrian capital to explore the potential of elimination of the sanctions that the United States reimposed in 2018 after leaving the historic nuclear deal --officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Apart from breaching the JCPOA, the U.S.'s departure and its re-introduction of the sanctions are in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorses the nuclear agreement.

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IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

A senior Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander has played down the Israeli regime's occasional threats of war with Iran, saying Tel Aviv is well aware that initiating a confrontation will only bring its annihilation forward.

Speaking at a ceremony on Thursday, Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the

Zionists Cannot Survive War With Iran

IRGC's Aerospace Division, praised the growth in Iran's military capabilities, which he said had prompted the enemies to make attempts at limiting the country's defense power.

"That the enemies say 'let's negotiate missiles,' or that the Islamic Republic's drones have turned into a thorn in the enemies' side, and they (the enemies) say 'we have to put restrictions on them (missiles),' is indicative of our power," Hajizadeh said.

"Today, the security of the country is exemplary and we do not need to talk about our [military] capabilities, [even though] the enemies say 'let's talk about missiles today' more than enough," Hajizadeh said.

Hajizadeh further pointed to the drones produced by Iranian experts, saying that the enemy's attempt to put an arms embargo on Iran has failed.

"The Islamic Republic's drones have become a thorn in the enemies' side and they say we should limit them. Of course, the enemies tried for years in the field of an arms embargo, and in fact, they did not allow us to import, while they did not succeed," he pointed out.

Hajizadeh said Iran's enemies have tried in vain for many years to impose arms embargoes on the Islamic Republic in order to prevent the Iranian military from advancing.

Throughout the years, Iran has managed to make substantial progress in its military sector. The Islamic Republic has succeeded in domestically producing missiles, drones, aircraft, tanks, submarines, and other military hardware.

The Islamic Republic has, on countless occasions, reassured other countries, especially the neighboring ones, that its military power is merely intended for defensive purposes and does not pose any threat to them.

Hajizadeh added that although Iran has no shortcoming in the missile field, the country still faces a number of problems in other areas, including the economy.

"Today, with God's grace, we have reached good points in the field of defense, military and security, and under such security, we must get actively involved in other areas and resolve problems one after another," the general added.

Hajizadeh responded to the occasional threats made by Israeli officials against the Islamic Republic, saying they fully know that they can only be the initiator of any military action against Iran, "but we'll be the one who decides the ending."

A war against Iran will lead to the "destruction of the Zionist regime," and if they dare do something against it, "they will not see beyond the current period, and, historically speaking, the time of their destruction will be certainly brought closer."


The top Iranian commander said the Israeli regime is the only entity in the world that is talking about its existence and survival, with meetings and summits held regularly on the issue.

Israeli military chief Aviv Kohavi warned on Tuesday that the regime's military was ramping up its preparations for a possible attack on Iranian nuclear facilities.

Hajizadeh said Israel, as a regime that constantly talks about its existence, is doomed to bring its own destruction forward if it gives Iran "any pretext" by waging war.

"Such a regime cannot talk about another country, and the threats it makes are to a great extent for domestic purposes," he added.

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Tehran Eager to Boost Ties With Damascus

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ViewPoint
 By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

British Civilized Piracy

Some countries in the current world try to act as good police or even well-wishers of other nations but they are actually behaving like the civilized gangsters or pirates and one of these countries is UK which claims it is a human right defender but it does not give a damn to human right issue when it comes to its favor.

For years the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain have been at loggerheads over the return of Iran's money or delivery of the weapons that the UK was to sell to Tehran. The payment of a £400m debt that Britain owes to Iran over an unfulfilled military equipment contract dating back to 1970s.

In the mid-1970s the UK sold more than 1,500 Chieftain battle tanks and 250 repair vehicles to its close ally the Shah of Iran. Iran paid £600m for the tanks in advance, but the UK, through its arms sales export subsidiary International Military Services (IMS), in February 1979 refused to deliver the remaining weaponry when the shah was deposed and replaced by a new revolutionary and Islamic regime. Only 185 tanks had been delivered.

After years of private negotiations, in 1990 Iran made a claim for its money back for the undelivered weaponry by taking the UK to international arbitration in The Hague. The UK made a counterclaim in 1996, but in an arbitration in 2001 the UK lost both claims. Iran then sought to have the award enforced in the English courts, something Britain resisted until IMS in 2002 put £350m into the UK court as security. The UK, after getting the award's size reduced once in The Hague finally seemed to have run out of options when its final appeal was dismissed in 2009.

Although several times the domestic and international courts have ruled UK to pay Iran's debts, this country has evaded under the pretext of the U.S. and EU sanctions but it seems the country is inclined to pay back the money and Iran's money has been taken as hostage by the British like their ancestors who were pirates and used to loot people.

On Thursday, former British foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt urged the government in London to expedite efforts to settle an outstanding debt to Iran, saying the issue is affecting the relations between the two countries.

Speaking to the BBC Radio, Hunt said that the payment of a £400m debt that Britain owes to Iran over an unfulfilled military equipment contract dating back to 1970s was not equivalent of a ransom as described by some anti-Iran figures in Britain.

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Tehran Blames U.S. Sanctions for Failure To Meet Paris Targets

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's climate chief has blamed sanctions imposed by the United States for the slow pace of efforts to meet global environmental targets, including those set under a landmark agreement reached in France five years ago.

Ali Salajegheh, an Iranian deputy president who leads the country's environment protection agency, said in remarks published on Thursday that U.S. sanctions had stalled Iran's efforts to use the technology and knowhow needed to improve its environment standards.

Salajegheh told the BBC News that Iran would fully comply with its climate obligations under the 2015 Paris Agreement if sanctions imposed by the U.S. are dismantled.

"If the sanctions are removed, then we have a commitment towards the international community, it is at that time that they can transfer modern technology and finance to us especially in the area of renewable energy so we can modernize our deteriorating infrastructure," he said.

The comments came as the Iranian climate chief was attending the United Nations climate summit in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

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Ali Sarreshteh, Managing Director and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tabriz Machine-Foundry

Increase in production, productivity and sales revenue in the first 6 months of this year

Productivity and sales revenue increased in the first six months of the year in the production of supports and barriers. Tabriz Machinery Foundry Company intends to reconstruct all worn-out equipment of production workshops in the second half of this year, after receiving the necessary budget from the Industrial Development and Development Organization of Iran. In this regard, several development plans have been developed for the economic prosperity of the company. These designs include BMD casting lines and CCM ingot production line. God willing, these projects will be implemented in 2022 after obtaining the necessary capital.



Dr. Ali Sarreshteh, Managing Director and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tabriz Machine-Building Casting Company, said: Tabriz Machine-Foundry Company started operating 55 years ago (1967). He said: This company works in the field of supplying cast parts of Tabriz Machine-Building Company, supplying cast parts of automobiles, tractors and related industries. About 22% of the products of Tabriz Machinery Foundry Company were for consumption in the Machinery Company. 35% of the production was for the tractor manufacturing company. The rest of the products are produced for car and market companies and companies that had special orders. The headline continues: In 2021, the company's policies have been based on supporting production, supporting and disrupting. "In this regard, we tried to increase production tonnage," he said. The CEO of Tabriz Machine-Building Casting Company spoke about the unique advantage of this company. He explained: The production of parts from 200 grams to 8 tons has been the monopoly of Tabriz Machine-Building Casting Company. The company took advantage of this to produce a variety of heavy parts for machinery and other industries. He added: "The various orders of this company are from the Ministry of Energy, Copper Industries and other industries." Modeling, basic design, gate systems, technical-engineering discussions are performed in the company itself, and finally molding, smelting and production of the final part is done. Ali Sarreshteh continued: "Our plan for 2021 is to produce 12,000 tons of safe and standard cast pieces." The company's IATF certification was also required by SAPCO. The CEO of Tabriz Machinery Foundry considered export as one of the main goals of the company. "We have a look at the Turkish market, especially in the home appliances and auto parts sector," he said. Inshallah, with the planning that we are doing, we will produce export parts in 2022. He called breaking the 12-year record of producing healthy parts with a tonnage of 700 tons and delivering it to the machine-building company the most important achievement of this company. "Our next achievement has been a review of the company's contracts," he said. At the cost price, we were able to sign contracts with related companies with a 20% profit and with a definite profit. Sarreshteh said the company's next plan was to build a BMD line on production lines to enable the production of complex casting parts.

"Shams and Rumi Meeting" Listed in UNESCO Commemorations

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary General of national UNESCO commission of Iran Hojattollah Ayyoubi announced the approval of Sheikh Kharqani's birthday and the meeting of Shams and Rumi in the list of UNESCO commemorations in 2022 and 2023.

Referring to the UNESCO meeting held on Thursday, he said that the case has been included in the UNESCO list of commemorations for 2022 and 2023.

He emphasized that the occasion marks the historical event of the meeting between Shams and Rumi.

Gov't Applies Solutions For Water Shortage

TEHRAN (IP) – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, in meeting with provincial MPs, referred to the water shortage as one of the essential responsibilities of his government and described short and long-term plans to address public concern about water shortage problems.

Raisi in the meeting with MPs from Isfahan, Semnan, and Qom provinces which are located in the central of the country and had been faced with water shortage problems, said that his government has applied short and long term plans to address public concern about water shortage problems across the country.

He described the equitable distribution of available water resources and extraction from deep water resources as two solutions to reduce water shortage in the short term, he said: "No solution to solve water shortage will be ignored and the government considers reducing this problem as one of its most important responsibilities."

Raisi also announced that the Centre for Strategic Studies of the Presidential organization was instructed to start scientific studies on reviving Zayandehrud River and said: "An active committee and working group will be formed to work on this Zayandehrud River revival."

Zayanderud is the largest river on the Iranian Plateau in central Iran. Zayanderud used to have significant flow all year long, unlike many of Iran's seasonal rivers, but today runs dry due to water extraction before reaching the city of Esfahan.



In the early 2010s, the river's lower dried out entirely after several years of seasonal dry-outs.

Iranian President emphasized the observation of environmental protection and fought pollution in the eco-system, and urged economic activists to invest in environmental-oriented projects.

Raisi pointed to the approval of the Family Protection Law in the parliament and said that his government would definitely implement this new law."

In another part of his speech, the President said that next year's budget (1401 in Persian Calendar) is being adjusted with no budget deficit. The government can curb inflation and reduce economic pressures created after U.S. sanctions.

"The situation in the country is sensitive but improving," he said.

Tehran Inks Pilgrimage Deal With Damascus

TEHRAN (PressTV) – Iran and Syria have signed an agreement to resume dispatching pilgrims to Syria, as Damascus has renewed presence in the region, with regional Arab counties normalizing their relations with Syria.

The agreement was inked by Head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization Alireza Rashidian and Syria's Tourism Minister Mohammad Rami Radwan Martini during the former's visit to Syria.

"The issue of health, observance of health protocols, and safety of pilgrims is very important in re-establishing these trips," Rashidian said after the meeting on Thursday.

He added, "The reopening of this pilgrimage route will bring joy to Iranian pilgrims."

In recent days, Iran has also welcomed the reestablishment of relations between Syria and other Arab countries of the region, saying such moves will benefit both sides.

"Syria has always been one of the most important and most influential countries in the Arab world and the region, and Syria's renewed presence in the region will lead to further growth and dynamism in this region," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Thursday.

In recent months, there has been a race among Arab countries to mend their ties with the Syrian government, ten years after the beginning of a conflict in Syria, through which key Arab countries tried to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Also on Thursday, Syria signed a contract with a group of Emirati companies to build a solar power station in a Damascus suburb.

According to Syrian state media, the solar power station will be constructed in the eastern Damascus suburb of Widyān al-Rabi'e.

The project would take two years to finish and it will produce 300 megawatts at peak rates.

HR Council Head Blasts Europeans for Double-Standards

TEHRAN (MNA) – Secretary of Iranian Judiciary's Human Rights Council Kazem Gharibabadi has lambasted the European countries for supporting the MKO as well as siding with the US sanctions against Tehran while claiming to be HR defenders.

"In the meeting of diplomatic community with the Judiciary Head, I raised a point: Iran is a victim of terrorism, 17000 of innocent people have been martyred by MKO terrorist group which is freely moving in European safe heavens, 5 nuclear scientists have been assassinated," Vice-President of Iran's Judiciary for International Affairs and Secretary General of the I.R of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi tweeted on Thursday.

HR council head blasts Europeans for double-standards "Iran's big hero to combat terrorism was martyred by the U.S regime, Iran is under inhumane U.S. sanctions. Nevertheless, those who have closed their eyes on these atrocities or supporting them are seen as their defenders, while Iran is being accused of human rights violations!" he said on his second post on his Twitter page.

These tweets by the Iranian human rights official come a few days after on Tuesday in a meeting with the ambassadors of more than 65 countries and also the heads of international organizations residing in Tehran he pointed to the unilateral sanctions, terrorism and some political approaches as obstacles and restrictions as obstacles that hindering the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts in the field of human rights.

"We expect all countries to counter the adoption of the politically motivated approaches by some countries in the field of human rights," Gharibabadi said, adding that unilateral sanctions are illegal and contrary to international law and the UN Charter.

"We Can" Manifested in Islamic Revolution of Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Majlis Speaker stressed that the dignity and authority of a nation are subjected to their belief in their ability and the "We Can" motto manifested in the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Speaking in the commemoration ceremony held on the occasion of the 10th martyrdom anniversary of the father of Iran's missile industry, Major General Hassan Tehrani Moqaddam, Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said what determined either the progress and dignity of a society or its dependence or humiliation was whether it believed in "We Can" or "we can't" concept.

"A clear example an individual, family, society, and ummah that believes it can progress, overcome problems, and stand against difficulties is Iran Islamic Revolution," Qalibaf said.

He said that through realizing the motto 'We Can,' not only the country's economy's problem over sanctions will be improved but also its social and cultural points will be progressed."

"We owe our sovereignty and power to the Iranian people," Qalibaf recalled, adding that people played a crucial role in Iran's security and developments in any field.

Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, tyranny and arrogance did not allow any progress in the country, and they accepted oppression and domination. Iran's Parliament speaker referred to the US-baked Shah era in Iran. He highlighted the U.S.'s inhuman sanctions against Iran. He said: "Enemies were deeply worried about the Islamic Republic of Iran's defensive power, security and might at the ground, sea, air, and boarders, so they are trying to plot against the country.

Qalibaf noted that "All of us are obliged to stand against oppression," he highlighted the capacities and achievements of Iran's aerospace power and said that Iran in aerospace power had been promising since the Islamic Revolution victory.

He expressed hope that a better, safer, and the more secure country would be built through unity.

On Thursday, the ceremony to commemorate the 10th martyrdom anniversary of Martyr Hassan Tehrani-Moghaddam was held in Tehran under full compliance with hygienic protocols.

The ceremony was held with Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, Deputy Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the Commander of Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, commander of the IRGC Ground Forces, Brigadier General Hamid Vahidi, Commander of the Army's Air Force and other senior military and national officials, people and families of the martyrs in attendance.

Martyr Major General Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, born on October 29, 1959, founded Iran's long-range missile technology.

Martyr Tehrani Moghaddam is well known for his studious efforts to develop Iran's missile program and crucial in establishing deterrence against Iran's enemies.

Martyr Major General Tehrani Moghaddam designed the Shahab, Ghadr, and Sejjil ballistic missiles with an operational range of more than 1,000 –2,500 kilometers to deter threats of his country's enemies.

On November 12, 2011, he was martyred due to a massive explosion at a missile garrison near the capital Tehran. He was named the Father of Iran's Missile Technology.

Iran-UAE Relations Important for Both States

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in a telephone conversation with his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed said that the relationship between Iran and the UAE is of particular importance to both states.

In the telephone conversation on Thursday, the foreign ministers of Iran and the UAE discussed bilateral relations, areas of joint cooperation, and ways to develop the cooperation in line with their shared interests.

Describing the relations between Iran and the UAE as traditional and positive, Amirabdollahian said that the relationship between Iran and the UAE is of particular importance to both countries, adding that they are confident that a good process in improving relations will lead to the full development of relations between the two states.

The Iranian foreign minister said that resolving some executive problems between the two countries would facilitate and develop trade relations, hoping that with the cooperation between the two governments, the problems in financial exchanges would be resolved in the light of bilateral relations and international law.

Referring to the upcoming nuclear negotiations, he noted that Iran is ready to reach a good agreement and believes that the other parties must return to their commitments. He described the Emirati counterpart's visit to the region, including Damascus, as a positive step.

The UAE foreign minister, for his part, said that the existing problems for trade exchanges between the two countries are being studied by experts from the two countries and efforts are being made to resolve them.

Referring to the environmental crises, he stressed that global and regional cooperation must be formed to solve environmental problems and that the UAE is ready to cooperate with countries in the region in this regard.

Moreover, the two foreign ministers extended invitations to each other to visit their respective countries.

Referring to the priority of the new Iranian government, the two diplomats considered the increasing dialogue and cooperation among the nations of the region important and stressed the need to strengthen it.

VP Calls for Acceleration of Booster COVID Jabs

TEHRAN (IFP) -First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber has called on officials to speed up the administration of booster doses of the Coronavirus vaccine based on the announced priorities.

Mokhber made the comments during a Thursday meeting with specialized committees of the National Taskforce Against the Coronavirus.

The vice president called for attention to health protocols saying that several other countries are facing a new wave of the pandemic, despite mass vaccination. "Although vaccines are being administered fast in our country, failure to pay attention to health protocols can offset efforts and achievements of the government, the efforts of the health personnel and the cooperation of the people," he warned.

"Fortunately, thanks to extensive efforts by the government to import vaccines and the work by Iranian producers, there is no problem in terms of the availability of vaccines in the country and the process of administering the third dose of the jab should be sped up based on the announced priorities."

During the meeting, the health minister also briefed participants on the situation on the ground in different provinces and their number of infections and deaths.

Tehran, Moscow Call for Joint Fight Against Terrorism

TEHRAN (IFP) - The security chiefs of Iran and Russia have underscored the two countries joint fight against terrorism. They called it constructive and a necessary step to establish and maintain peace and stability in the region.

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council has, in a meeting with his Russian counterpart, said regional problems like terrorism, military aggression and refugee crisis will end if extra-regional powers stop interfering in the region and if regional countries work together.

Ali Shamkhani, on the sidelines of the third security conference in New Delhi, held talks with secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev on Thursday.

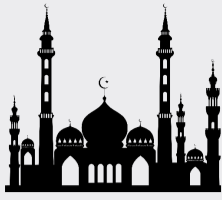
In the meeting, Shamkhani said given the ethnic and religious fabric of Afghan society, the solution to the crisis in the country is the continuation of inter-Afghan dialogue and the formation of an inclusive government based on the demographic realities in Afghanistan.

Shamkhani further said the expansion of relations with Russia in all areas, especially security and joint fight against terrorism, has a decisive role in regional stability. He said Iran and Russia are the targets of the U.S. conspiracies and sanctions and must bring down the illegal and inhumane sanctions regime of the United States through boosting their cooperation.

Patrushev also expressed pleasure at the expanding ties between Tehran and Moscow in various fields and said the continuation of the relations will benefit both nations. Patrushev referred to the constructive impact of the third regional security meeting on bringing closer the views of the countries on common threats and ways to deal with them.

He said regional cooperation is not just an option but an inevitable path to sustainable security.

He also said Afghanistan can get out of the current situation and have a better future if other regional nations work together in concert to restore stability to the country.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:18
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:12
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:39

71. They said, turning towards them: "What is it that ye miss?"
72. They said: "We miss the great beaker of the king; for him who produces it, is (the reward of) a camel load; I will be bound by it."

Surah 12. Joseph (71 - 72)

Tehran Eager to Boost Ties With Damascus

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's health minister announced readiness to cooperate with Syria in health and medical education fields.

During a meeting with the Syrian Minister of Higher Education Bassam Bashir Ibrahim in Tehran, Bahram Einollahi stated that the role of Iran and Syria as prominent members of the Resistance Axis requires them to continue their cooperation in various fields.

The Iranian health minister said: "After the Islamic Revolution, Iran's Health Ministry has turned into a role model in the world by meeting the country's medical needs and treating all diseases, despite the cruel sanctions."

"We have about 20,000 faculty members and 220,000 students and 53 medical universities across the country and we will solve our problems ourselves," he noted.

He also pointed to the COVID pandemic and said that Iran's medical staff made its utmost efforts to treat the patients and combat the notorious virus despite the crisis.

"Iran is also ready to exchange students, teachers, and medical experiences with Syria," added the Iranian official.

Einollahi also highlighted the high pace of the nationwide vaccination against COVID-19, saying: "Iran has injected 95 million doses of vaccines in about two and a half months, inoculating 83% of the people with the first dose and 60% with the second dose."

He referred to the education of international students in Iran and explained that the admission process for international students increased almost six fold and was on the rise,



with a large number of Syrian students were studying in Iran.

He announced that Iran established the first stem cell transplant department in Damascus and hoped it would be inaugurated soon.

In the end, the Iranian minister stated that Iran-Syria cooperation is feasible in many fields.

Meanwhile the Vice President for Science and Technology of Iran Sorena Sattari said that Iranian knowledge-based companies were ready to supply laboratory equipment required by the Syrian market.

On the sidelines of Bassam Ibrahim's visit to the permanent exhibition of knowledge-based companies in Tehran, Sattari said: "Given the existing capacity, Iranian technology companies to meet 80% of the needs of the domestic market in the field of laboratory equipment."

Referring to last year's visit to Syria and the agreements reached with Syrian officials, Sattari added: "There is a good capacity for Iranian knowledge-based companies to operate in Syria."

KSC Sets Another Record for Daily Sponge Iron Production

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Reduction Unit of Khuzestan Steel Company (KSC) Mr. Mehran Pak Aeen says steelmakers at the Reduction Unit No.2 of the company could due to their tireless efforts set a new record for sponge iron production by producing 7056 tons of sponge iron on November 8.

He said sponge iron is one of the raw materials used in production of blooming mill, billet and slab at KSC and the Reduction Unit No.2 of the company produced 7056 tons of sponge iron on November 8 which is a new record for the company.

He added that the former record for daily production of sponge iron at the Reduction Unit No. 2 was 6829 tons which had been set September 2017 and after four years of hard working, the record improved to 7056 tons.

Pak Aeen noted that the achievement is the outcome of hard working and producing based on the market demand and using state-of-the-art technology.

He then pointed to the restrictions regarding the electricity shortage in the spring and summer and said despite the restrictions, the company by taking some initiatives turned the threats into opportunity and continued production non-stop.



Chabahar Port Should Start Its Full Operations Soon

TEHRAN (IP) - In a meeting with his Indian counterpart in New Delhi, Iran's secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) called for further strengthening of economic relations and complete operations for Chabahar port between the two countries

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), attended the third regional security meeting in New Delhi, met with India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval this afternoon.

Shamkhani said: "Accelerating the full operations of Chabahar is one of the most important issues between the two countries, and Iran is willing to use its capacities for the development and growth of the

region, and strong bilateral relations with India can pave the way in this direction."

"In addition to cooperation with India in three areas: international, regional and bilateral, Iran wants to expand relations based on scientific, technical, and transit capacities with New Delhi," said the head of SNSC.

Ajit Duval, for his part, expressed his regret over the inapplicable level of economic relations between the two sides and stressed the need to expand cooperation, especially in the financial and security, and called for the removal of existing obstacles strengthening ties.

Delhi's third regional security meeting started on November 10 at the level of national security advisers

and secretaries of security councils. It was chaired by India's National Security Adviser, Shri Ajit Doval.

Iran hosted the first two editions of the event in 2018 and 2019.

Representatives from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, attended the meeting.

The high-level forum is expected to review the security situation in the region arising from recent developments in Afghanistan. It will also discuss measures to address the relevant security challenges and support the people of Afghanistan in promoting peace, security, and stability.

Afghanistan to Import 100 MW of Electricity From Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Afghanistan will import up to 100 megawatts of electricity from neighboring Iran, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the country's national power company has announced.

"Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat signed an agreement with Iran to import 100 megawatts of electricity to Afghanistan," the company said in a statement on Thursday.

The imported electricity would tackle part of the electricity shortage problem in western Herat, Farah and Nimroz provinces, according to the statement, Xinhua news agency reported.

The mountainous country needs 850 megawatts of electricity per year, with 620 megawatts imported from neighbouring countries and 230 megawatts supplied from domestic sources, according to the DABS officials.



Iran, Turkmenistan Stress Broadening of Cultural Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navid Rasouli and the head of Magtumulgi Institute in Turkmenistan Davud Orazsahedov in a meeting emphasized the expansion of cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting took place in Magtumulgi Institute of Language, Literature and National Manuscripts, affiliated to the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan on Thursday and the two sides discussed potential cooperation opportunities.

Rasouli said that the fact that thousands of Arabic, Farsi and Turkic manuscripts exist in Magtumulgi Institute bespeaks historical and cultural ties between Iran and Turkmenistan.

He also said that exploring, maintaining, restoring and publishing these valuable documents would serve both countries' knowledge from each other and help expand cultural cooperation in-between.

Iran's Cultural Attaché proposed Magtumulgi Institute to sign an agreement with National Library of Iran or the organization of Libraries, Museums and Documents Center of Astan Qods Razavi to work on manuscripts.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Orazsahedov said that Magtumulgi Institute was ready to work with Iran's Cultural Attaché Office in Turkmenistan on organizing scientific and cultural conferences, including commemoration of the millennium of the renowned Muslim mystic Abu Saeed Abul-Kheyr.

UAE-Turkey Land Transit Corridor Crossing Iran Inaugurated

TEHRAN (MNA) – The UAE-Turkey transit corridor which crosses Iran opened with the first shipment from the UAE port of Sharjah en route to the Turkish port of Mersin docking at the Iranian Shahid Rajaei port on Thursday.

Over the past few days, the route from the UAE to Turkey through Iran was opened with the first shipment. Mohammad Hossein Rezaian, an expert in the field of transit, told Mehr correspondent on the new transit route that crosses Iran that the consignment entered the port of Shahid Rajaei in south Iran on the Persian Gulf from the UAE and reached Turkey through the Bazargan border crossing in northwest Iran.

Rezaian said that the transit route starts from the UAE port of Sharjah to the Turkish port of Mersin. The expert said that the new route shortens the former transit route by 12 days, meaning that it will take 8 days for the shipments to reach Turkey's port through Iran from UAE's Sharjah while the previous route had to cross the Bab al-Mandeb strait, the Red Sea and the Suez Canal and all the way to Turkey which used to take 20 days.

Iran lies in a geographical location that can link different countries in the region as well as different regions in the world to one another. Last summer, the first shipment from Finland to India crossed Iran in late June.

IDRO Supporting Developmental Projects of ISOICO

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Deputy

Industry, Mine and Trade

Minister and Head of

Industrial Development

and Renovation

Organization of Iran

(IDRO) during his visit

to Iran Shipbuilding and

Offshore Industries

Complex Co (ISOICO)

said that IDRO supports

developmental projects of

ISOICO for boosting its

capacities.

During visit of different

sections of ISOICO,

Mr. Mohsen Salehinia said

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the lateral workshops and

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He went on to say that



شناسه آگهی: ۱۳۱۸۰۱۴

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9580041



National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
68	PARTS FOR "AIR PACK " AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE AP-66-AC+SFN-250, SERIAL NO.,T-2003-00530	242

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 7,492 EURO or 2,031,650,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL
NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3772 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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Heavy Rains in India, Sri Lanka Kill 41

CHENNAI (Dispatches) - Heavy rains across southern India and Sri Lanka have killed at least 41 people, authorities said on Thursday, with weather forecasters expecting the downpours to ease in the next few days as stricken communities pumped out the deluge.

The Indian Meteorological Department forecast light to moderate rain in most affected areas, with occasional flooding of some roads and low-lying areas.

Counterparts in neighbouring Sri Lanka said rain there was expected to ease from Thursday as the low pressure that brought the bad weather moved away.



Pakistan Takes Islamist Off Terrorism List

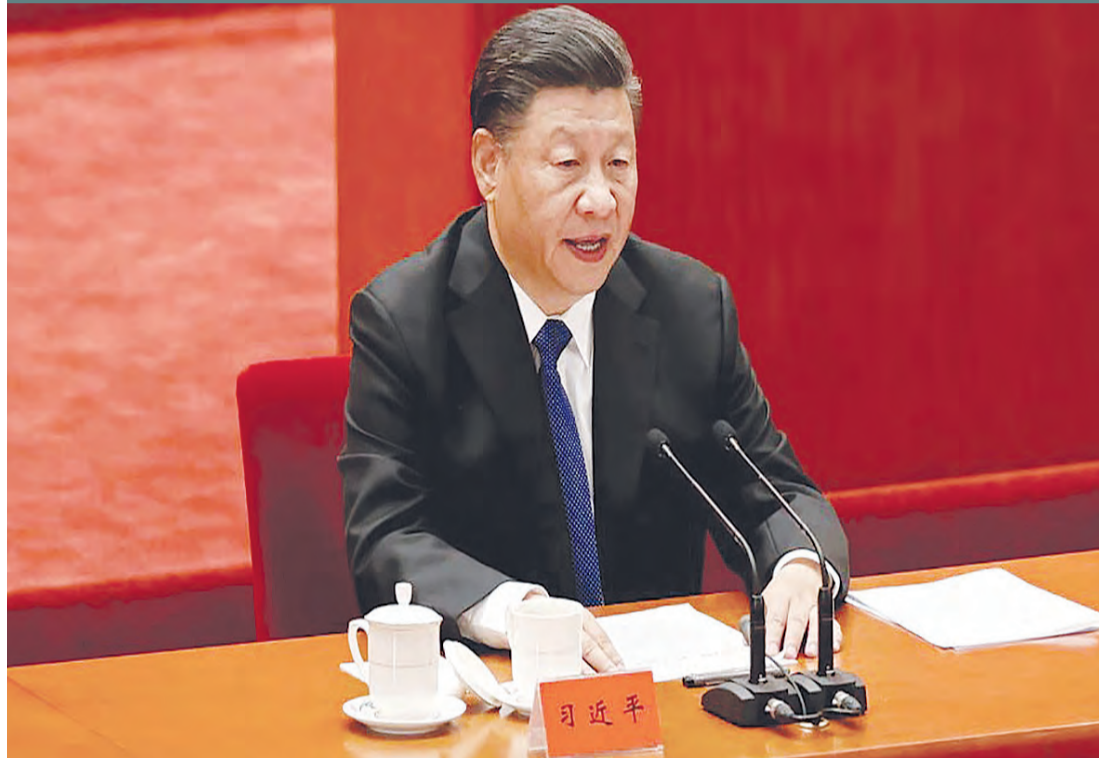
LAHORE (Dispatches) - Pakistan removed Islamist leader Saad Rizvi from its terrorism watchlist on Thursday, paving the way for his release from detention under a deal to end weeks of deadly protests by his followers over an alleged blasphemy.

The move came a week after the government agreed to free 2,000 detained members of his Tehrik-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) movement, lifted a ban on the group and agreed to let it contest elections.

In return, the TLP has agreed to shun the politics of violence and withdraw a demand to have France's ambassador expelled over the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad by a French magazine, negotiators have said.



China President Warns Against Return to Cold War Tensions



WELLINGTON (Dispatches) - The Asia-Pacific region must not return to the tensions of the Cold War era, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Thursday, ahead of a virtual meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden expected as soon as next week.

Xi, in a recorded video message to a CEO forum on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit hosted by New Zealand, said attempts to draw ideological lines or form small circles on geopolitical grounds were bound to fail.

"The Asia-Pacific region cannot and should not relapse into the confrontation and division of the Cold War era," Xi said. Xi's remarks were an apparent reference to U.S. efforts with regional allies and partners including the Quad grouping with India, Japan and Australia, to blunt what they see as China's growing coercive economic and military influence.

China's military said on Tuesday it conducted a combat readiness patrol in the direction of the Taiwan Strait, after its Defense Ministry condemned a visit by a U.S. congressional delegation to Taiwan, the democratically governed island claimed by Beijing.

Combative U.S. diplomatic exchanges with China early in the Biden administration unnerved allies, and U.S. officials believe direct engagement with Xi is the best way to prevent the relationship between the world's two biggest economies from spiraling toward conflict.

A date has not been announced for the Xi-Biden meeting, but a person briefed on the matter said it was expected to be as soon as next week.

The week-long annual forum, culminating in a meeting of leaders from all 21 APEC economies on Friday, is being conducted entirely online by hosts New Zealand, a country with hardline pandemic control measures that has kept its borders closed to almost all travelers for 18 months.

Xi has only appeared by video, and has not left China in about 21 months as the country pursues a zero-tolerance policy towards COVID-19. The Chinese president is also participating this week in a meeting of the ruling Communist Party that is expected to further cement his authority.

Xi said emerging from the shadow of the pandemic and achieving steady economic recovery was the most pressing task for the region, and that countries must close the COVID-19 immunization gap.

"We should translate the consensus that vaccines are a global public good into concrete actions to ensure their fair and equitable distribution," Xi said.

APEC members pledged at a special meeting in June to expand sharing and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and lift trade barriers for medicines.

Belarus Warns Against New EU Sanctions

MINSK (Dispatches) - Belarus's strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko vowed to respond to any new sanctions imposed over the migrant crisis on the country's border with Poland, including by potentially cutting off the transit of natural gas to Europe.

"If they impose additional sanctions on us... we must respond," Lukashenko said in comments to officials released by the presidency.

"We are warming Europe, and they are threatening us," he said, pointing out that Russia's Yamal-Europe gas pipeline transits through Belarus to Poland.

"And what if we halt natural gas supplies?"

Pressure is building to address the plight of hundreds of migrants, mainly Kurds from the Middle East, who are stuck at the Belarus-Poland border in freezing weather.

The UN Security Council was to meet later Thursday for emergency talks on the crisis, after international appeals to deal with the refugees' plight.

The West accuses Lukashenko of luring the migrants to Belarus to send them across the border, in revenge for sanctions imposed last year after a heavy crackdown on the opposition.

EU officials say they expect to approve new sanctions over the migrant crisis next week.

"We are in a situation in which the proper consequences (for Minsk) are overdue. This is what we want, together with our European partners," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Thursday.

Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei said Minsk wanted the crisis "resolved as quickly as possible" and was ready to talk to the EU, but the bloc was refusing dialogue.

Poland has deployed 15,000 troops along the border, put up a fence topped with barbed wire and approved construction of a wall on the frontier with Belarus.

In a statement released for Poland's Independence Day on Thursday, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said his country was facing a "new kind of war" whose "ammunition is civilians".

Europe Is in Danger

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Union's foreign policy chief warned the bloc that it must agree an ambitious doctrine as the basis for joint military action abroad, including with a deployable crisis force.

Josep Borrell told reporters his first draft of the "Strategic Compass" - the closest thing the EU could have to a military doctrine and akin to NATO's "Strategic Concept" that sets out alliance goals - was crucial to security.

"Europe is in danger," Borrell said in the foreword of the full strategy document that has been sent to the EU's 27 states for debate. "We need to have rapid deployment capabilities," he also told reporters.

One idea is to have a 5,000-strong EU crisis force, Borrell said, stressing though that the U.S.-led NATO alliance remains primarily responsible for Europe's collective defense.

EU foreign and defense ministers will take up the issue on Monday, aiming to agree a political document in March. While European countries have highly-trained soldiers and cyber, naval and air power, resources are duplicated across 27 militaries and EU train-and-assist missions are modest in size.

Member states also lack the logistics and command and control capabilities of the United States and cannot match its intelligence-gathering.

A separate threat assessment is confidential, but diplomats cite the failing states on Europe's frontiers as areas where the EU might need to send peacekeepers or evacuate citizens.

With the blessing of U.S. President Joe Biden in a communique with French President Emmanuel Macron last month, the EU argues it can be a more useful ally to the United States if it develops standalone military capacities.

Britain's exit from the EU, while depriving the bloc of a military power, has given Paris an opportunity to push ambitions for a bigger EU role in defense, with Berlin.

"We have a strategic responsibility. Citizens want to be protected. Soft power is not enough," Borrell said of the economically powerful EU, the world's largest trade bloc.

Ethiopia Sets Out Terms of Possible Talks With Tigray Rebels

ADDIS ABABA (Dispatches) - Ethiopia outlined conditions for possible talks with rebels from the country's war-hit Tigray region, following days of frantic diplomatic efforts by international envoys to head off another surge in fighting.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has been locked in a year-long war with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which has pushed south in recent months and not ruled out a possible march on the capital Addis Ababa.

Foreign ministry spokesman Dina Mufti told reporters that one of the conditions for possible talks -- which he stressed have not been agreed to -- would be for the TPLF to withdraw from the Amhara and Afar regions bordering Tigray.

"In order for there to be a peaceful solution, they say it takes two to tango," Dina said.

"There are conditions: First, stop your attacks. Secondly, leave the areas you have entered (Amhara and Afar). Third, recognise the legitimacy of this government," he said.

"By the way, don't misunderstand, it's not being said a decision has been made to enter into negotiations," he added.

TPLF spokesman Getachew Reda told AFP at the weekend that pulling out from Amhara and Afar before talks begin is "an absolute non-starter".

The TPLF is demanding the end of what the UN describes as a de facto humanitarian blockade on Tigray, where hundreds of thousands of people are believed to be living in famine-like conditions.

No aid has gone into Tigray by road since October 18, and 364 trucks are stuck in the capital of Afar "pending authorization from the authorities to proceed", the UN said Thursday in a weekly report on the humanitarian situation.

"It is estimated that 80 percent of essential medication is no longer available in Tigray while most health facilities are not functional due to damage and lack of supplies," it said.

The region's biggest hospital, Ayder Referral Hospital in Mekele, has been forced to close its cancer treatment program, "leaving some 500 patients without treatment", it said.

Last week the government imposed a nationwide state of emergency, triggering a fresh wave of mass arrests that has further hobbled the aid response.

Some 22 UN staffers have been detained in the raids that rights groups say target ethnic Tigrayans, and nine remained in custody as of Wednesday.

The UN has also sounded the alarm about 72 drivers contracted by the World Food Programme who have been detained in Afar.

The government describes such arrests as part of a legitimate effort to stamp out the TPLF.



Hezbollah Rejects Calls For Minister to Quit Over Yemen Comments

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The Hezbollah leader rejected calls for the resignation of a Lebanese minister who sparked a diplomatic rift with Riyadh by criticizing its military intervention in Yemen, underlining the slim chances of the crisis easing any time soon.

Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Hezbollah, also said Saudi Arabia faced complete failure in the Yemen war, where he said the fall of the city of Marib to the Iran-aligned Houthi movement would have big consequences.

Saudi Arabia's ties with Lebanon, which have been strained for years by the growing role of the heavily armed Hezbollah, have hit a new low since the airing of an interview in which information minister George Kordahi sided with the Houthis and said Yemen was being subjected to external aggression.

Saudi Arabia has expelled the Lebanese ambassador, recalled its envoy to Lebanon and banned all Lebanese imports. Several of its Persian Gulf allies have also expelled Lebanese ambassadors and recalled their own.

Nasrallah said Kordahi's comments were "calm and objective" and the Saudi reaction exaggerated. Nasrallah accused Saudi Arabia of seeking a civil war in Lebanon, and he said that Riyadh had contrived the crisis over the Kordahi comments as part of "the battle with the resistance".

Riyadh has said Kordahi's comments were a symptom of its dominance of Lebanon. Nasrallah denied that Hezbollah dominated the country, saying it could not always get its way.

Kordahi says the interview was recorded before he became a minister and has refused to apologize or step down.

Prime Minister Najib Mikati has called on Kordahi to put the national interest first, suggesting he wanted him to quit. But he has stopped short of explicitly demanding his resignation.

Saudi Arabia and its allies launched a military intervention in Yemen in 2015 after the Houthis ousted the Saudi-backed government.

The Houthis have been advancing in Marib governorate and have vowed to march on Marib city, the last stronghold in northern Yemen of pro-government troops.

Saudi Arabia says Hezbollah arms, supplies and trains the Houthis. Nasrallah said Hezbollah had no role in Houthi "victories" in Yemen.



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S, J, pkg
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Niavaran Villa (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh Apts
(\$1500) 2bdrs, 140sq.m, & F.F
(\$2200) 3bdrs, 240sq.m, & F.F
(\$3000) 4bdrs, 300sq.m, & F.F

Nice view (\$2200)
Velenjak Apt
200sq.m, 3bdrs
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balcony, & F.F

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PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS

Google Loses Bid to Overturn €2.4b Antitrust Fine

LONDON (Dispatches) - Google lost an appeal to overturn a 2017 decision by the European Commission to fine the tech giant €2.4bn (\$2.8b, £2.05b).

The Commission said Google had given preferential treatment to its own price-comparison shopping service over rival services.

"The General Court finds that, by favoring its own comparison shopping service on its general results pages through more favorable display and positioning, while relegating the results from competing comparison services in those pages by means of ranking algorithms, Google departed from competition on the merits," the court said.



China Factory-Gate Inflation Hits New High in October

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's factory-gate inflation hit a 26-year high in October while fresh virus outbreaks and soaring food and energy prices sent consumer prices up more than forecast, official figures showed Wednesday.

The producer price index (PPI) has been rising for four straight months, putting pressure on authorities to stop costs from running out of control, just as officials battle to kickstart a recovery in the world's number two economy.

The reopening from lockdowns around the world has ramped up energy demand just as stockpiles are low, with supply struggles made worse by China's drive to meet environmental targets.

The PPI, which measures the cost of goods at the factory gate, jumped a bigger-than-expected 13.5 per cent on-year in October, said the National Bureau of Statistics.

"The rise in PPI expanded due to the combination of imported global factors and the tight supply of major domestic energy and raw materials," said NBS senior statistician Dong Lijuan.

These include a sharp increase in domestic coal prices, rising oil and gas prices globally and supply chain disruptions, said Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit.

Another recent factor, he added, was a sharp uptick in shipping costs around the world "due to the strong rebound in trade flows" between China, the United States, and Europe.

PPI reached 10.7 per cent in September, which was then the highest on record in NBS data since the mid-1990s.

"The surge of PPI inflation is especially negative for investment demand as developers and local governments are financially stretched this year due to the unprecedented property curbs," Nomura chief China economist Lu Ting told AFP.

Factory prices have also been pushing up export costs and "impairing Chinese exporters' competitiveness", although the PPI may have now peaked as Beijing moved to contain coal prices.

Dong said 36 out of 40 industrial sectors surveyed saw price increases, including spikes in coal mining and oil and natural gas extraction.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of retail inflation, meanwhile picked up more than expected in October after four months of decline.

The CPI hit 1.5 per cent — up from 0.7 per cent in September.

Vegetable costs surged almost 16 percent owing to poor weather, coronavirus outbreaks and rising transportation costs, Dong said.

The government this month urged people to stock up on food amid increasingly tight measures to contain its latest Covid outbreak — prompting reports of panic buying across the country.

The commerce ministry notice also told authorities to take measures to facilitate agricultural production, keep supply chains smooth, and maintain stable prices.

"Due to the rise of food prices thanks to both panic buying, bad weather and some pass through from higher energy prices, we expect CPI inflation to rise further," said Nomura's Lu.

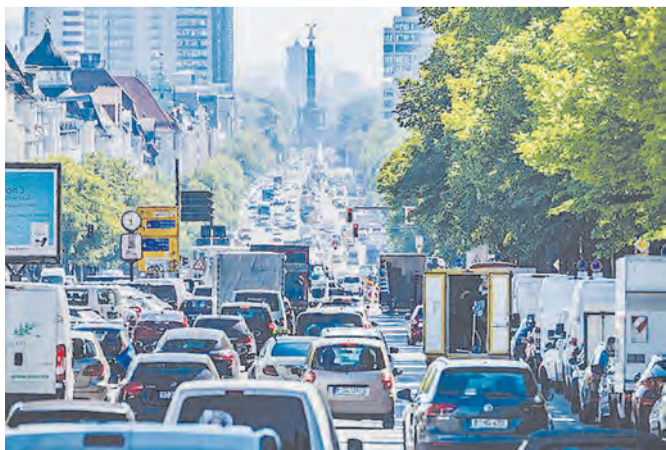
Germany's Independent Economic Advisers Cut 2021 Growth Forecast

BERLIN (Dispatches) - The German government's panel of independent economic advisers on Wednesday cut its 2021 growth prediction for Europe's biggest economy to 2.7%, the latest in a series of downgrades by forecasters.

The panel's new forecast was down from the 3.1% it predicted in March. It expected gross domestic product would expand by 4.6% in 2022, with the economy likely to return to its pre-pandemic size in next year's first quarter.

Germany's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is progressing more slowly than originally anticipated amid concerns about higher energy prices and stubborn bottlenecks in supplies of raw materials and parts.

We think the economic recovery remains intact, panel member Volker Wieland said. It is delayed somewhat until the bottlenecks disperse bit by bit. A resurgence of COVID-19 infections also is causing alarm, though German authorities want to avoid blanket lockdowns of the kind imposed during earlier surges.



There is great uncertainty about how the economy will perform going forward, the economic advisers said. Renewed health policy restrictions or longer-lasting supply shortages could take a heavy toll on the recovery.

They said, however, that inflation could drop again next year following an acceleration over recent months.

Official figures show that Germany's GDP grew by 1.8% in the July-September period compared with the previous quarter. That followed growth of 1.9% in the second quarter and a 1.9% decline in the first quarter. Factory orders and export figures for September, the most recent month available, were disappointing.

The German government also recently cut its full-year growth forecast to 2.6% from the 3.5% it had predicted in April. Last year, GDP shrank by 4.9%.

Free Trade Key to Pandemic Recovery

WELLINGTON (Dispatches) - Pacific Rim trade and foreign ministers agreed at a virtual summit Wednesday that free trade and open economies will drive the region's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Ministers from the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group met online to discuss their Covid-19 response ahead of a meeting of national leaders on Saturday, including U.S. President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O'Connor, hosting the meeting, said highlights included a plan to voluntarily freeze fossil fuel subsidies and commitments to liberalize tariffs on vaccines and other pandemic medical supplies.

O'Connor said there was overarching agreement on the need to avoid erecting trade barriers in response to the challenges thrown up by the pandemic.

"It is free, fair and open trade that will help economies move forward out of this pandemic... we need openness to drive global growth, indeed it is trade that presents the solution to our challenges," he said.

"Some 81 million jobs have been lost across the region due to Covid-19 and the impact on supply chains has been significant, but APEC members have rejected protectionism during this crisis."

APEC's 21 member economies collectively account for almost 40 per cent of the world's population and around 60 percent of the global economy.

The summit was originally slated to be held in Auckland but is being held online for a second time due to Covid-19 after Malaysia hosted virtually in 2020.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern this week conceded "it means our ability to put New Zealand on the world stage isn't quite what it would have been".

But she said the digital platform was easier to access than an in-person event, making participation easier for all concerned.

That allowed Ardern to call an unprecedented early leaders' meeting in July, which carried out much of the heavy lifting on agreements surrounding international trade in vaccines and medical equipment.

When APEC leaders meet again early Saturday New Zealand time, topics will include how to reopen borders without spreading the virus, ensuring an equitable pandemic recovery and moving toward a carbon-free economy.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said APEC members had agreed to send a strong message about halting any increase in fossil fuel subsidies.

"These subsidies cost our economies billions of dollars a year, but the real impact is on our environment," she said.



UK Urges EU to Stay Calm on N. Ireland Trade Row

LONDON (Dispatches) - UK Brexit minister David Frost today called for cool heads in Europe as talk of a trade war increased amid an ongoing row over post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland.

Frost is set to meet European Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic on Friday, with the UK widely expected to trigger a suspension clause in the so-called Northern Ireland protocol.

The EU has warned of "serious consequences" if it does, prompting speculation the separate Brexit trade and cooperation deal could be pulled, and tariffs imposed.

But Frost told parliament that four weeks of talks were not yet over and still needed to properly examine several points. "I certainly will not give up on this process unless and until it is abundantly clear that nothing more can be done," he told the upper House of Lords chamber. "We are certainly not at that point yet."

But if that happened, "article 16 safeguards will be our only option", he added, referring to the protocol's suspension clause. EU member Ireland's government yesterday said it had met to discuss contingency planning in case talks break down, the UK suspends the protocol, and Brussels issues reprisals.

Deputy prime minister Leo Varadkar said the bloc may have "no option" but to introduce "balancing measures" if London triggered the break clause.

The possibility has led to wider fears about its impact on Northern Ireland, which endured three decades of violence over British rule before a landmark peace deal in 1998. The protocol mandates checks on goods heading into Northern Ireland from mainland Great Britain — England, Scotland and Wales.

Emirates Airline on Recovery Path

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Emirates airline said it was on the path to recovery from the Covid pandemic today as six-month losses dropped by more than a half from a year earlier.

The Dubai-based carrier posted an April-September loss of \$1.6 billion (RM6.6 billion), compared with \$3.4 billion during the same period in 2020.

"Across the group, we saw operations and demand pick up as countries started to ease travel restrictions," CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said in a statement.

"This momentum accelerated over the summer and continues to grow steadily into the winter season and beyond."

Revenue was up 86 per cent year-on-year and passenger numbers rose 319 per cent to 6.1 million, Emirates said, adding that cargo volumes had recovered to 90 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.

The airline also received a \$681 capital injection from its owner, the Dubai government, following a \$3.1 billion payment announced earlier.

In June, Emirates announced its first annual loss in more than three decades after the coronavirus crisis forced it to suspend operations and slash staff last year.

"While there's still some way to go before we restore our operations to pre-pandemic levels and return to profitability, we are well on the recovery path," Sheikh Ahmed said.

Like other major carriers, Emirates began announcing heavy layoffs when its fleet of A380 superjumbos and Boeing 777s was grounded last year.

Today, it said the overall group workforce has shrunk again by 2.0 per cent to 73,571, but a recruitment drive is underway prioritizing employees who were furloughed or made redundant.

By the end of September, Emirates was operating passenger and cargo flights to 139 airports, using its entire fleet of Boeing 777s and 37 Airbus A380s. It launched services to Miami, a new destination, in July.

"The strong revenue recovery reflects quick return of passenger demand wherever flight and travel restrictions were eased around the world," the Emirates statement said.

Operating costs rose 22 per cent against overall capacity growth of 66 per cent, with fuel costs more than doubling, partly because of higher oil prices.

The financial results come ahead of next week's Dubai Air Show, where Emirates is expected to discuss its delayed 777X order with Boeing.

The airline has repeatedly complained about the delivery of the long-haul jet, whose launch has been set back by a series of safety and technical problems.

Airlines Likely to Beat Interim Sustainable-Fuel Goal



DOHA (Dispatches) - Airlines will likely beat an interim industry goal of around 5% sustainable aviation fuel consumption by 2030 so long as energy companies boost production, the head of a global airline industry association of airlines said.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents nearly 300 airlines, last month released its strategy to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, including a progressive increase in sustainable aviation fuel use.

Under the plan, airlines have committed to significantly increasing the use of bio-based fuel from 2% of fuel consumption in 2025 to 65% in 2050, including a stepping stone of 5% in 2030.

Last week, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson criticized sustainable aviation fuel targets as "pathetic".

But IATA Director General Willie Walsh said he expected airlines would beat their interim 2030 target of 5.2%, citing some airlines who have set out higher goals.

"Probably it stems from his view that we should be able to do better, we should be more ambitious, and generally I think we will," Walsh said in reference to Johnson's comments.

His remarks coincided with a transport debate at the United Nations' climate conference in Glasgow.

The aviation industry, which accounts for some 3% of global carbon emissions, is considered one of the toughest sectors to tackle due to a lack of alternative technologies to jet-fuelled engines. It plans to bridge the gap with bio-based fuels.

Walsh said there was "no question" airlines would be using sustainable fuel today if it were as available as conventional jet fuel, and urged oil companies to increase production.

"There's no point mandating airlines to use it when it isn't there for us to use."

He cautioned that passengers would have to accept that high usage of sustainable fuel will mean higher fares so long as it is sold by oil companies at a premium to conventional jet fuel.

Farhadi Wins Asia-Pacific Best Director Award for "A Hero"

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Famous Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi has won the Best Director Award at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival in 2021 for his film "A Hero".

The winners of the 14th Asia-Pacific Film Festival were announced, and "A Hero," which was nominated in four categories, eventually won the award for the best director at the event.

"A Hero" had been nominated for an award for the best movie, best screenplay and best actor (Amir Jadidi). Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi's film "Drive My Car" won the award for the best movie at the annual Asia-Pacific Festival, and the jury's grand award went to Abdullah Mohammed Sad's "Rehana," a joint production of Bangladesh, Qatar and Singapore.



U.S. Consumer Prices Rise at Fastest Pace in 31 Years

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. consumer prices accelerated in October as Americans paid more for gasoline and food, leading to the biggest annual gain in 31 years, suggesting inflation could stay uncomfortably high well into 2022 amid snarled global supply chains.

Inflation pressures are also brewing in the labor market, where an acute shortage of workers is driving wages higher. The number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits fell to a 20-month low last week, other data showed on Wednesday.

High inflation is eroding the wage gains, adding to political risk for President Joe Biden, whose approval rating has been falling as Americans grow more anxious about the economy. The White House and the Federal Reserve, which views high inflation as transitory, have maintained that prices will fall once supply bottlenecks start easing.

"There is increasing evidence that inflationary pressures are broadening out, underlining that inflation will remain elevated for much longer than Fed officials expect," said Andrew Hunter, a senior economist at Capital Economics.

The consumer price index jumped 0.9% last month after climbing 0.4% in September, the Labor Department said on Wednesday. The largest gain in four months boosted the annual increase in the CPI to 6.2%. That was the biggest year-on-year rise since November 1990 and followed a 5.4% increase in September.

The broad-based increase in prices last month was led by gasoline prices, which surged 6.1% after rising 1.2% in September. Food prices advanced 0.9%, with meat, eggs, fish, vegetables, cereals and bakery products becoming more expensive. But prices for alcoholic beverages declined. Rents increased a solid 0.4% and prices for both new and used motor vehicles rose.

Excluding the volatile food and energy components, the CPI gained 0.6% after climbing 0.2% in September. The so-called core CPI jumped 4.6% on a year-on-year basis, the largest increase since August 1991, after being steady at 4.0% for two straight months. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the overall CPI shooting up 0.6% and the core CPI rising 0.4%.

U.S. stocks opened lower. The dollar rose against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury yields rose.

Inflation is heating up again as the economic drag from the summer wave of COVID-19 infections, driven by the Delta variant, fades and supply bottlenecks persist. Trillions of dollars in pandemic relief from governments across the globe fueled demand for goods, leaving supply chains overstretched.

The nearly two-year long pandemic has upended labor markets, causing a global shortage of workers needed to produce raw materials and move goods from factories to consumers. The government reported on Tuesday that producer prices increased strongly in October, reversing a slowing trend in the monthly PPI that had become entrenched since spring.



Though the Fed last week restated its belief that current high inflation is "expected to be transitory," most economists are skeptical, also noting that wages are rising strongly as companies scramble for workers.

The U.S. central bank this month started reducing the amount of money it is injecting into the economy through monthly bond purchases. The Fed's preferred inflation measure for its flexible 2% target increased 3.6% year-on-year in September.

With labor scarce, companies are holding on to their workers. In another report on Wednesday, the Labor Department said initial claims for state unemployment benefits fell 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 267,000 for the week ended Nov. 6.

That was the lowest level since the middle of March in 2020, when the economy almost ground to a halt under the onslaught of mandatory business closures aimed at slowing the first wave of COVID-19 infections. Claims, which have now declined for six straight weeks, are within striking distance of their pre-pandemic level.

The report was published a day early because the federal government is closed on Thursday for the Veterans Day holiday.

The government reported last Friday that the economy added 531,000 jobs in October, with annual wage growth the largest in eight months. The labor force is down 3 million from its pre-pandemic level, making it harder to fill the 10.4 million job openings as of August.

"Businesses facing labor shortages are likely retaining rather than laying off workers," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics in White Plains, New York. "Even so, for the labor market, supply remains a constraint that is a headwind for the recovery for now."

Iran Ready to Host Foreign Tourists

BANDAR ABBAS (IRNA) - The lifting of visa ban for foreigners' entry following decline of corona cases in Iran proves that the Islamic Republic is keen on hosting foreign tourists, an Iranian deputy minister says.

Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ali-Asghar Shalbafian said on Thursday night that 20-month halt of issuing visa cause an interrupt in attracting foreign tourists due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in Iran, but now the country is preparing to hold tours, while it is trying to assure quality of services and respect health protocols.

There are numerous stakeholders in tourism industry, who are expected to play a role in promoting this sector, he said, adding that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is also responsible for parts of executive and decision-making procedures of the industry; although, some 27 entities in Iran cooperate to guarantee all important considerations of this sector.

Referring to tourism industry in southern province of Hormozgan, he expressed hope that cooperation among different governmental organizations will help remove obstacles and weaknesses in infrastructure of tourism industry in this province in order to preserve sustainable development.

Shalbafian went on to say that Hormuz Island possesses numerous historical and natural tourist attractions, which have been paid attention by Iranian and foreign tourists for years.

According to the official, investments in the island are growing; so, its capacity and sustainable development in long-term should be considered as main factors, which could guarantee residents' profit from tourism industry.

Bandar Abbas, Dakar Sign MoU of Cooperation

BANDAR ABBAS (IRNA) - With the consultation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dakar, Senegal, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between Bandar Abbas' and Dakar's chambers of commerce during a webinar on Thursday.

Referring to the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Senegal, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dakar Mohammad Reza Dehshiri said that the development of Iran's cooperation with Africa is one of the government's priorities and that in this regard, a lot of efforts are being made.

He added that improving cooperation through signing a memorandum of cooperation concerning Bandar Abbas' capacities in the field of agriculture, fisheries, and shipbuilding, as well as significant transit capacity of Dakar is on the agenda.

Pointing to cooperation between Hormozgan Province, Iran, and Dakar, Senegal, in fields of trade and investment, he noted that the Iran-Senegal joint cooperation opportunities planned by the Dakar chamber of commerce in the fields of food, health, energy, mining, and religious tourism can also be considered.

He further noted that the existence of more than 2,400 kilometers of coastal border in Hormozgan Province makes the opportunity to access open waters very unique; also, in terms of security, it has a special impact on the Strait of Hormuz.

Referring to the existence of powerful military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dehshiri said that the region is under their full control, adding that the province has a very important and strategic position in the field of foreign trade and economic diplomacy.

This project aims to create a new position in development of trade ties between the countries in south of the Persian Gulf and African states, and development of cooperation between Bandar Abbas' and Dakar's chambers of commerce can be an effective solution for Iran's stronger presence in this area.

Algeria's Vote Against Israel's Membership at AU Laudable

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign minister has lauded a recent vote by Algeria in opposition to Israel's membership at the African Union (AU), noting that it was the most logical position to be taken by Algiers on this matter.

"Algeria has acted based on wisdom and logic," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told his Algerian counterpart, Ramtane Lamamra, in a phone conversation on Thursday as he praised Algeria's negative vote for Israel's membership at the AU.

"This measure, which was taken by you, in addition to Algeria's rational stance on Syria's return to the Arab League are valuable," Amir-Abdollahian added.

The Iranian foreign minister also expressed hope that the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League be ensued with significant benefits for the Muslim Ummah.

Referring to cordial political relations between Iran and Algeria, Amir-Abdollahian voiced optimism that the ties between the two countries would further develop in all fields.

Lamamra, for his part, officially invited the top Iranian diplomat to visit the North African country while underlining the importance of forming a political committee between Tehran and Algiers as well as a committee to pursue development of bilateral relations.

Back in August, the Algerian foreign minister chastised the chairman of the AU Commission for defending his decision to grant Israel observer status at the African bloc, saying insistence on the measure will eventually result in the breakup of the regional organization.

Israel announced on July 22 that it had joined the influential pan-African body, which debates continental issues, as an "observer state," after unsuccessful lobbying for nearly 20 years.

Tehran Blames...

FROM PAGE 1

Salajegheh said in a speech to the gathering of global leaders that the Iranian parliament has refused to ratify the Paris deal on climate change only because lawmakers are not sure the country would be able to meet targets set under the accord because of the U.S. sanctions.

"Their question is that if the Islamic Republic of Iran becomes a full member of the Paris Agreement, with sanctions or unilateral coercive measures still applied, how can we fulfill our obligations when we are unable to receive any financial or technical assistance from the international community?" said the official on Tuesday.

Iran heavily relies on oil and gas for its energy and financial needs and has been described by the Climate Action Tracker as the eight largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world.

However, authorities say they a full commitment to international obligations on climate protection would be possible if the Iran's economy is relieved of the illegal foreign pressure.

"When you have an economic terrorism that has blockaded us, we are now saying remove this and we can engage with the world and then rest assured that we will be here," Salajegheh told the BBC in Glasgow.

British Civilized Piracy

FROM PAGE 1

Instead, Hunt said, that the failure to pay the long-overdue debt would damage relations between Iran and the UK.

"... this is not ransom money. This is a debt. An international court has said so. The defense secretary has said so. We should pay it because it is an irritant to relations," said the Conservative member of the British parliament.

The comments come just before a planned meeting in London between UK Foreign Office officials and Iranian deputy foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani as the two sides prepared to return to talks aimed at reviving a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

They also came on the 19th day of a hunger strike outside the Foreign Office by Richard Ratcliffe, the husband of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, an Iranian-British journalist who has been sentenced to prison in Iran over involvement in anti-government activities.

Hunt said the UK government could use the opportunity of Bagheri's visit to London to secure the release of Zaghari-Ratcliffe as part of broader discussions on bilateral issues between the two countries.

But despite the court ruling and request of officials and people, British government resists paying Iran's debts and each time blames Iran for not observing international laws and the JCPOA deal while it itself is one of the major violators of the international laws.

British officials say, and have done for three years, that the equivalent sum could be paid to Iran in medicines, or that the Iranian foreign ministry could give an undertaking that the money would not be used on armaments. The UK post-Brexit, they add, is now in charge of its own sanctions policy.

The British should know this fact that historically Iranians have fought for their rights and they know it well how Iranians expelled the British troops from their land in the past and they will finally get back their money by using a language which suits the British like what the British have experienced in the past.

Iranians have never trusted the British and will never do it unless they pay Iran's debts and show good will in the future to amend their negative picture which has been painted among the Iranians during the past centuries and especially during Pahlavi dynasty and they are better to put an end to their modern and civilized style of piracy of freezing the assets or imposing sanctions.

Sanctions Removal...

FROM PAGE 1

"Any sanctions in breach of the JCPOA imposed by President [Barack] Obama and President [Donald] Trump have to be lifted," Baqeri-Kani added, referring respectively to the American chief executives, who entered Washington into the nuclear deal and took it out of the accord.

The Iranian official, meanwhile, ruled out that the negotiations could include any discussion about "Iran's missile and security program," The Guardian wrote.

"The JCPOA has a clear framework and other issues are not relevant. We are not going to negotiate on our defense capabilities or our security," he said.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Tehran is prepared to reach a "good agreement" during the sanctions removal talks with the other parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, which are slated to start in the Austrian capital of Vienna at the end of this month.

In a post on his Twitter account, Amir-Abdollahian added that Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Baqeri-Kani was "engaged in successful talks in Europe."

The top diplomat said it was an "important and leading principle" for all parties to return to their commitments.

In an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on Wednesday, Baqeri-Kani said the upcoming talks of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)'s commission would not be about the nuclear issue, which was already resolved, but would rather focus on the US withdrawal from the 2015 multilateral deal and its illegal sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Russia Increases Gas Flows to Europe

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia increased its flow of gas to Europe via Poland and Belarus as well as Ukraine, easing some of Europe's concerns about tight supplies before winter and pushing down wholesale prices.

Low flows to Europe and reverse flows on the Yamal-Europe pipeline last week - meaning gas flowed eastwards into Poland instead of westbound into Germany - had worsened a supply squeeze in Europe that has driven up prices for industry and consumers. But Russia started pumping gas to Germany again late on Monday, acting on an order by President Vladimir Putin to increase supplies to Europe and rebuild Russian inventories there once domestic storage tanks were replenished.

On Tuesday, Russian state gas company Gazprom said it had started to refill its European gas storage. This pushed down spot prices in the region although analysts said Moscow would have to do more to ease concerns in Europe to lead to a more significant drop.

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Venezuelan Triple Jumper Aiming to Repeat Record Year

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuelan triple jumper Yulimar Rojas has told Reuters she hopes to repeat her stupendous form in 2022 and maintain the standards that led her to break a world record and win an Olympic gold medal in 2021. Rojas is the world record holder both outdoor and indoor and won gold in the Tokyo Olympics in August with a record leap of 15.67 meters. The charismatic 26-year-old told Reuters she will defend her indoor and outdoor world titles in 2021, as well as compete in events in South and Central America.

Czech Billionaire Buys 27% Stake in West Ham

LONDON (Dispatches) - Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky has completed his purchase of a 27 per cent stake in West Ham, the Premier League club announced. West Ham said in a statement "it is intended" that Kretinsky and his colleague Pavel Horský would become members of the board at the London Stadium alongside joint-chairmen David Sullivan and David Gold and vice-chair Karren Brady. The London club said the deal would help reduce long-term debt and continue the "positive progress" made in recent years.

Spain Pounce On Sweden Shock, Portugal Held

LONDON (Dispatches) - Spain took a huge step towards next year's World Cup in Qatar as a 1-0 win in Greece coupled with Sweden's shock 2-0 defeat to Georgia on Thursday put Luis Enrique's men in pole position to qualify. Pablo Sarabia's penalty proved enough for La Roja to take all three points in Athens and move a point above Sweden ahead of a winner-takes-all clash between the sides in Seville on Sunday.

"Of course I think we are going to have a place in the World Cup come Sunday, but I already thought that when we were second in the group," said Spain boss Luis Enrique.

"We are playing against a good team that will, in theory, have to attack more against us now."

Despite the presence of Zlatan Ibrahimovic and rising star Alexander Isak up front, the Swedes were humbled by two second-half goals from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia in Tbilisi.

Cristiano Ronaldo failed to fire a lackluster Portugal as they had to hold on for a 0-0 draw against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin after a late red card for Pepe.

Ronaldo twice came closest to breaking the deadlock for the visitors as he headed inches wide before also failing to hit the target with a curling effort from the edge of the box.

Pepe was shown the 14th red card of his career eight minutes from time for elbowing Callum Robinson.

Ireland lost to Luxembourg and drew with Azerbaijan at home earlier in the group to spoil their chances of qualification.

But Stephen Kenny's men were denied a famous win in stoppage time when Matt Doherty's strike was ruled out for a foul on Portuguese goalkeeper Rui Patrício.



"We scored a legitimate goal that was disallowed," said Kenny, who faces an anxious wait to see if his contract will be extended at the end of a disappointing campaign.

A point edges Portugal to the top of Group A, level on points with Serbia, who they host in their final game of the section in Lisbon at the weekend.

Croatia will also face Russia on Sunday in a shootout to qualify after both recorded resounding wins.

Luka Modric was among the goalscorers for the 2018 World Cup finalists as they thrashed Malta 7-1.

Aleksandr Erokhin scored twice as Russia eased past Cyprus 6-0 to maintain a two-point lead at the top of Group H ahead of their trip to Split.

Germany have already long since qualified but showed no mercy to hammer the 10 men of Liechtenstein 9-0 as Hansi Flick became the first coach to win his first six games in charge of the national side.

Ilkay Gundogan opened the floodgates from the penalty spot after Jens Hofer saw red for a high boot on Leon Goretzka.

Daniel Kaufmann's own goal, Leroy Sane and Marco Reus made it 4-0 inside 23 minutes.

Sane added his second in the second half before a double from Thomas Mueller, Ridle Baku and another own goal from Max Goppel completed the rout.

Gerrard Appointed as Aston Villa Boss

LONDON (Dispatches) - Steven Gerrard will get his first taste of management in the Premier League after the Liverpool midfield great was appointed Aston Villa manager on Thursday.

Gerrard has left his role as Rangers boss to take the reins at the Midlands club, who sacked Dean Smith on Sunday after five straight league defeats.

Considered one of the greatest players in Premier League history, Gerrard has made a promising start to his managerial career in reviving the fortunes of the Glasgow giants.

The 41-year-old guided Rangers to a first Scottish Premiership title in 10 years last season, finishing the campaign undefeated in the league for the first time in 122 years.

Gerrard also made progress in Europe, reaching the knockout stages of the Europa League for the past two seasons.

Villa finished 11th in the Premier League last season, but have ambitions of challenging for Europe after spending nearly £300 million (\$402 million) on players over the past three seasons.

However, Smith paid the price for losing Jack Grealish to Manchester City in August for a British record £100 million, with new signings Danny Ings, Leon Bailey and Emi Buendia struggling for form and fitness.

Pliskova, Kontaveit Open WTA Finals With Wins

GUADALAJARA (AFP) - Karolina Pliskova continued her dominance of Garbine Muguruza, opening her WTA Finals campaign with a battling 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) victory over the Spaniard.

Czech third seed Pliskova, at 29 the oldest player in this year's edition of the elite season-ending event, has now won nine of 11 career meetings with Muguruza, the latest putting her atop her round-robin's group standings alongside Estonian Anett Kontaveit, who beat second-seeded Czech Barbora Krejickova 6-3, 6-4.

After dropping the first set, Pliskova produced a superb serving effort to take the second, putting 16 of 18 first serves in play and dropping just two points on serve.

In a tense third set, Muguruza saved two match points while serving at 4-5 -- the first with a service winner.

But she was unable to capitalize on two break points that followed as they went to the tiebreaker. Muguruza saved another match point to knot the decider at 6-6, but Pliskova won the next two to polish it off after two hours and 26 minutes when Muguruza belted a forehand wide.

The tournament was moved to Mexico from its usual home in Shenzhen, China, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The switch in venue means the tournament's eight-strong singles field must adjust to the thin air of Guadalajara, which is around 5,100 feet (1,550 meters) above sea level.

Red-hot Kontaveit kicked off group stage action with her straight-sets win over French Open champion Krejickova.

Estonia's Kontaveit, the last player to secure her spot in the event, notched her 11th straight match victory, continuing a superb season that has seen her capture four WTA titles and rise to eighth in the world.

She needed just half an hour to pocket the first set -- sealing it with an ace.

Kontaveit, who didn't face a break point, secured the match when Krejickova fired a backhand into the net on match point.

"I'm definitely very thrilled to get the win, it was a very tough match," Kontaveit said. "I think I managed to win a lot of points on my first serves once they actually went in."

Murray Stuns Sinner in Stockholm



Hurkacz, now at nine in the world, in Vienna. "It was a very tough match. He hits the ball huge from the back of the court so there

STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Former world number one Andy Murray claimed his second top 10 win in two weeks with a straight sets victory over top-seeded Jannik Sinner in Stockholm.

Three-time major winner Murray clinched a 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 win against the world number 10 to move into the quarter-finals.

Murray had also defeated Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, now at nine in the world, in Vienna.

were a lot of long rallies and a lot of running," Murray told atptour.com. "But it's probably my best win this season. I want to keep it going now."

Murray, now ranked a lowly 143 in the world, will face Tommy Paul of the United States for a place in the last-four.

Paul defeated American compatriot and fifth seed Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4.

Defending champion and third seed Denis Shapovalov defeated Italian qualifier Andrea Vavassori 7-6 (7/1), 6-1.

Shapovalov will next face France's Arthur Rinderknech, who won 6-4, 6-1 against lucky loser Jozef Kovalik of Slovakia.

U.S. Open quarter-finalist Botic van de Zandschulp defeated Hungarian seventh seed Marton Fucsovics 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 7-5.

Late Show Keeps Iran Unbeaten in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Iran claimed a dramatic 2-1 win over Lebanon at Saïda Stadium on Thursday as added time goals from Sardar Azmoun and Ahmad Nourollahi maintained their unbeaten run and kept Dragan Skocic's side top of their World Cup qualifying group.

Soony Saad looked to have earned the Lebanese an unlikely win over the five-time World Cup qualifiers with a first-half goal, but Azmoun levelled in the 91st minute and Nourollahi hit the winner four minutes later to secure a barely deserved win.

Iran lead Group A of Asia's preliminaries for Qatar 2022 with 13 points from five games, two ahead of South Korea after Paulo Bento's side beat the United Arab Emirates 1-0 in Goyang.

The Iranians were fortunate to come away with all three points after Saad scored an opportunistic opener before the Lebanese defence put on a disciplined rearguard performance.

Saad's goal came after Iran's defense expected Abbas Asi's deep cross from the right touchline to sail out of play only for the strong wind from behind the goal to keep the ball in bounds.

The striker was the only player alive to the possibility and he calmly controlled the ball before lifting his finish over goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand.

Iran pushed for the equalizer and looked set to end the day frustrated until Azmoun swooped inside the area in the first minute of injury time.

Nourollahi then stole the points for Skocic's side with a low drive from the edge of the area to keep the Iranians unbeaten as the group phase hit the halfway point.



Medvedev Signals Will Play Australian Open

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - World number two Daniil Medvedev has indicated he will play at the Australian Open in January as speculation continues to swirl around the availability of champion Novak Djokovic.

Medvedev, beaten by Djokovic for the title in February, tweeted a photo of himself holding the runner-up trophy at Melbourne Park with the caption: "See you in January! @AustralianOpen"

Medvedev had said in late-October he could not confirm he would play the tournament in southern Victoria state, where authorities have said they will ban players who are not fully vaccinated for Covid-19.

The Russian has refused to disclose his vaccination status, saying he prefers to keep his medical records private, a stance similar to world number one Djokovic.

Tennis Australia boss Craig Tiley on Tuesday declined to answer any questions on the tournament regarding players' vaccination status.

Medvedev and Djokovic have built an intriguing rivalry since the Australian Open decider, which the Serb won comprehensively.



Medvedev upset Djokovic's bid for a record 21st Grand Slam title in the final of the U.S. Open in September.