

Health Ministry Announced on Saturday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 130,124 With 58 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Iran Delivered the Fourth Shipment Of Its Gas Condensate to Venezuela in Line With Concluding A Contract With Venezuela for Exporting Gas Condensate and Importing Crude Oil in Return

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P4+1 Must Give Reasonable, Rational Response to Iran Proposed Drafts

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's lead negotiator to Vienna talks says the P4+1 group of countries has been given the chance to consult with their capitals on the Islamic Republic's two proposed drafts, underlining that Tehran expects a "reasonable, documented and rational" response.

Ali Baqeri-Kani was speaking to reporters on Friday before leaving the Austrian capital for Tehran after five days of intensive talks aimed at removing the sanctions the United States imposed on Iran after its unilateral withdrawal from the multilateral 2015 nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

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Foreign Nationals Vaccination Continue Seriously



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi noted the vaccination of foreign nationals in the country due to the humanitarian concerns from past months said this process is being underway seriously.

Speaking in the meeting of the National Task Force for Combating Coronavirus on Saturday, Ebrahim Raisi said that concerning the humanitarian concerns, the Islamic Republic started the vaccination of the foreign nationals in the country entirely.

"Some European countries have just started thinking about this," Raisi added.

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U.S. Vows to Prevent Any Russian Invasion of Ukraine



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Croatia Edge Serbia to Reach Davis Cup Final



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Iran Non-Oil Export Reaches \$27b in 7 Months

TABRIZ (IRNA) - Iran's non-oil export has reached 27 billion dollars in seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021 to October 22, 2021), an official said.

Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade for industries affairs Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki made the remarks in a ceremony to commemorate Industry and Mining Day in East Azarbaijan province on Friday, noting that the volume of non-oil export indicates 48 percent and 15 percent increases in terms of value and weight respectively.

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Engineer Abbas Ali Nasehi, CEO of Dashtestan Steel Complex, demanded: Creating Fair Conditions in all links of the Steel Chain



The CEO of Dashtestan Steel Complex said: "Exclusive supply of hot rolled sheet for cold rolled sheet producers is excellent if it is fair and a law and method is applied to everyone." This will boost production downstream of steel flat sections and stabilize the sheet market. The same thing will happen if the proprietary offering wants to become again a tool through which anyone can exercise their tastes. This will not help at all.



The necessity of unity of procedure in the exclusive supply of hot sheets

Nasehi said that the mechanism of Mobarakeh Steel Company for the exclusive supply of hot rolled sheets for cold rolled sheet producers should be completely clear. Also, the mechanism of cold sheet supply by the companies that have purchased the hot plate must be completely clear and transparent.

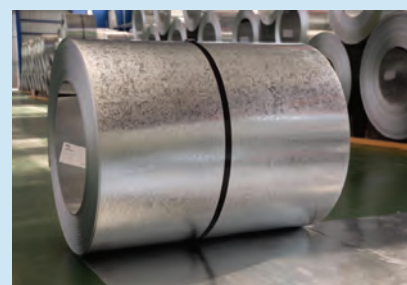
He continued: "Apparently, Mobarakeh Steel Company of Isfahan is going to provide hot rolled sheet to cold sheet manufacturing companies in the form of documentary credit." Criteria for product supply by companies that have purchased hot rolled sheets must be clear. If hot rolled sheet is purchased from Mobarakeh Steel as a letter of credit, cold sheet manufacturers must also sell their product as a letter of credit to galvanized sheet manufacturers. Nasehi added: in the form of exclusive supply, rolling work, receives quotas outside the stock market. For this reason, the criteria for this work should be specified for all companies. There must be unity of procedure so that justice is established among all links in the steel chain.

The problem of premiums must be solved

The CEO of Dashtestan Steel stated: "Unfortunately, there are problems regarding premiums or differences that are paid to the seller in some steel products." There are no specific rules for these cases. Any company

The CEO of Dashtestan Steel Complex stated:

We are the only producer of galvanized thin sheets in Iran. We are the only company that produces galvanized sheet with a thickness of 2 mm in the country.



can claim a high cost and get a high premium from the buyer. Terms and conditions for receiving premiums must be clear, transparent and fair. He continued: "Some companies have also specified a cost as the cost of others." For example, if a buyer wants to buy with a width of 1000, he has to pay a fee. If he wants to buy with a width of 1250, he has to pay extra. Every company seems to follow its own rules. There is no oversight of these rules.

In my opinion, Mobarakeh Steel Company, which is the largest supplier of sheet metal, should set a single and specific instruction and communicate it to all companies. In general, it is very important that there should be uniformity of procedure and conditions should be fair for all links in the steel chain. In this case, all the sectors will be developed and no losses will be imposed on the producers of some rings.

Raw material supply challenge

The CEO of Dashtestan Steel Complex told our correspondent: "The only expectation we have from the government is to boost



production and remove obstacles to production." Since February of last year until the exploitation license of Dashtestan Steel was obtained, the capacity of the factory has been 384 thousand tons per year, ie about 32 thousand tons per month. About 3200 tons of raw material quota, ie one tenth of the capacity, is set for us per month. During this period, we have been able to buy only about 9 to 10 thousand tons of this quota. Therefore, the challenge of supplying raw materials is very serious.

Only manufacturer of thin galvanized sheets

The CEO of Dashtestan Steel said: "Since February of last year, the galvanized production line of this company has started working and fortunately we are the only producer of thin galvanized sheets in Iran and we are the only company that produces galvanized sheets with a thickness of 2 mm in the country."

Dashtestan Steel Cold Rolling Line Opening Details

In the end, Nasehi said: Dashtestan steel cold sheet production line is also under construction. The hall of this line has been built and the necessary equipment has been purchased. With God's help, we hope that this line will be launched in 2022 and start working. The capacity of our acid washing line is 500,000 tons. The capacity of the cold rolling line is 250,000 tons.



Kyrgyz Security Council Deputy Chairman in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Security Council Deputy Chairman of Kyrgyzstan Talatbek Masadykov on Saturday afternoon arrived in Tehran to meet Iranian officials.

At the invitation of Iran's Secretary of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani, Masadykov traveled to the Iranian capital of Tehran for a three-day visit to meet and hold talks with political and security officials of the country.

On the sidelines of the 3rd Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in the Indian capital of Delhi in November, Ali Shamkhani met and exchanged views with his Kyrgyz counterpart Marat Imankulov.

West Urged to End Slogans That Violate Iran's Rights

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said the West must end its previous slogans regarding Tehran's nuclear program that violated the rights and interests of the Iranian people.

Amir Abdollahian made the comment during a phone call with the EU's Foreign Policy chief Josef Borrel. The two were holding talks on the process of the ongoing negotiations in Vienna.

Amir Abdollahian referred to Iran's initiative at the Vienna talks and its two draft documents that could mark a breakthrough in the negotiations. He urged the West to also offer its own initiatives.

He renewed call for the removal of all anti-Iran sanctions. Abdollahian also thanked the EU foreign policy chief and his colleagues for their efforts and described the process of talks as good though slow.

He added that the Iranian delegation is participating in the negotiations actively and in good faith as well as with necessary powers and achievable and progressing initiatives.

Amir Abdollahian stressed that Iran's participation in any talks and action is aimed at removing the sanctions that violated the Iran nuclear deal, JCPOA.

He also reaffirmed Iran's commitment to technical cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, adding that in addition to the negotiations and meetings by Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri, Iranian experts are also engaged in technical and expert discussions with the P4+1 group of countries in the form of sanctions removal and nuclear committees.

The Iranian foreign minister further said despite the violations by the US and inaction on the part of the European troika, Iran is attending the talks in god faith. Amir Abdollahian added that Iran's negotiating team has clear, tangible and practical initiatives for each stage. Amir Abdollahian said, "We believe that a good deal is at



hand but it requires a shift by some parties away from the language of threat to the language of cooperation and mutual respect that would be also result-based.

Borrel also described as important the serious efforts of all negotiating teams from Germany, China, Russia, France, Britain, and particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran to reach an agreement in Vienna.

Both Amir Abdollahian and Borrel described the atmosphere of the Vienna talks as positive.

Iran to Look to East If No Deal Achieved in Vienna

KERMAN (IRNA) - Iran's Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Hosseini said on Saturday Iran would protect its interest via the East if the talks in Vienna to remove sanctions failed to achieve a deal.

Speaking in a meeting with university students in Kerman on the occasion of Student's Day, Hosseini said that Iran's negotiating team of 40 was formed by experts in various fields and have full authority to conclude the talks.

He cited Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei as saying that the economic power in the world was leaning towards China and India and Iran could protect its interest via these countries if no deal was reached in Vienna.

Iran and other parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, namely China, France, Germany, Russia, and the UK, are holding talks in Vienna, Austria to agree on removing sanctions against Iran and Iran's return to full compliance with the deal.

Hosseini mentioned Iran's accession to Shanghai Cooperation Organization, agreement with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan on a gas swap, and oil barter with other countries as the measures that could be taken in this regard.

He said that the other participants of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), informally known as the nuclear deal, used to prepare the text on their own, and the previous Iranian team who struck the 2015 deal used to sign the prepared texts with minor changes.

The Vice President also criticized the former Iranian administration's negotiating team that they had launched a campaign in the country to block any criticism.

However, he added, Iran has now put on the table two suggestions and they couldn't dictate to the Iranian nation anymore.

He also touched on the historical events that resulted in designating December 7 (Azar 16) Student's Day, saying that the university students in Iran on that day in 1953 protested the then US Vice President Richard Nixon's declared visit to Iran and the incident led the killing of three students by the Shah's forces.

The former Culture Minister also said that the United States has always been against Iran, as they launched the 1953 coup d'état to overthrow the democratically elected prime minister in Iran.

Hosseini said that there was no bright spot in the history of Iran-U.S. relations and the Americans have always interfered in all aspects of Iran's domestic affairs.



Iran Calls for Enhanced Cooperation With Pakistan Through Research

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan expresses desire to enhance cooperation with Pakistan through increased research and dialogue.

Mohammad Ali Hosseini said this during an in house meeting with officials of Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). Director General ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and Director CAMEA Amina Khan received the ambassador at the institute.

Ambassador Hosseini expressed his desire to translate friendly sentiments into practical cooperation and coordination through increased research and dialogue.

Ehsan Khazai, the cultural consulate at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Hamaneh Karimikia, the head of press section were also present in the occasion.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry gave a presentation on the activities of ISSI and highlighted how academic and research interaction between both sides is key to strengthening Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations.

Both sides pledged continued exchanges and collaboration in future.

Iran to Further Fulfill Needs of Disabled People

TEHRAN (IP) - Head of the Special Education Organization of Iran says the organization aims to thoroughly fulfill the needs of the disabled.

Speaking in a ceremony held on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Javad Hosseini said that in a humane society, the right to enjoy health care, marriage facilities, participation in political events, sports, employment, schooling, and education are the most fundamental ones that all human beings, including the disabled, should be entitled to.

"We try to utilize all intra-organizational, extra-organizational capacities for the quantitative and qualitative development of educational, upbringing and rehabilitation services to students with special needs," Hosseini said.

He said that efforts are being made for the disabled to produce their products, hold exhibitions in every province of the country, and then commercialize, brand, and expose their products to the public through the websites.

The head of the Special Education Organization of Iran pointed to the measures that the Exceptional Education Organization has taken, one of which is to prepare grounds for the active participation of people with disabilities in policy-making and decision-making processes and to play their role in economic, social, cultural and political dimensions.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is an international occasion promoted by the United Nations since 1992 on Dec. 3. The occasion has been observed with varying degrees of success around the world.

Tehran to Be Able to Take Advantage of Zangazur Corridor

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran will also be able to take advantage of the Zangazur corridor, Former Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mohsen Pakayin said, Trend reports citing Iranian media outlets.

The ex-ambassador said that the Zangazur corridor is considered a part of East-West transport corridor and its restoration will not affect the Iranian-Armenian border.

Pakayin also pointed out the positions of various Iranian officials also show that Tehran is not opposed to the restoration of traditional roads left over from the USSR era, but is even positive about it. "If relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia improve and traditional roads are used peacefully, security in the region will increase, and thus, we will witness the restoration of security on Iran's joint borders with Azerbaijan and Armenia," Pakayin noted.

Tehran, Moscow Stress Importance of Enhancing Cooperation

MOSCOW (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali and Russia's Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa Mikhail Bogdanov held talks here on the necessity of expansion of relations in regional and bilateral issues.

In the meeting which was held on Friday, Jalali and Bogdanov also reviewed issues of Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria.

Then, the two politicians stressed the need to continue contacts and meetings on important regional issues between the two countries.

Bogdanov elaborated on his visit to Iran and Iraq.

The Russian representative flew to Tehran last week and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and Vice-President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Rezaei.

50 Persons Accused of Involvement In Martyr Soleimani Assassination

TEHRAN (IFP) - The deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps for legal affairs says fifty persons are accused of involvement in the 2020 assassination of Iranian anti-terrorism icon general Qasem Soleimani.

There are 50 defendants in this legal case that has been prepared by the IRGC and filed with Iran's Judiciary, Brigadier General Sohrab Ali Shamkhani told the Mehr News Agency.

The IRGC deputy commander for legal affairs stated that the accused are mostly American including former U.S. President Donald Trump, adding that a number of British citizens are also among them.

Shamkhani noted that the case has now reached a good stage and a draft indictment has been prepared in the Judiciary.

He said Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has convened meetings in international forums over the past months to follow up on the U.S. assassination, but unfortunately this case has not yet reached many international bodies, such as the United Nations Security Council, the General Assembly, and... to be raised and pursued.

General Soleimani and Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who played a key role in the fight against the Daesh terrorist group in Iraq and elsewhere in the region, were martyred in January 2020 in a U.S. drone strike which was directly ordered by Trump.

In response, Iran launched a missile attack on an Iraqi base hosting American troops, but also pledged to follow up on the assassination through legal channels.

First Announcement

شناسه آگهی: ۱۳۳۸۴۷

N.I.S.O.C.
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9150313

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
12	P/F"BORSIG"CENTRIFUGALGAS COMPRESSOR TYPE:RH 035/05,SER.NOS.23-1765/6	20

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 **1,525 EURO** or 416,526,798 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 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:55
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:10
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:30
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:00

102. Such is one of the stories of what happened unseen, which We reveal by inspiration unto thee; nor wast thou (present) with them then when they concerted their plans together in the process of weaving their plots.

103. Yet no faith will the greater part of mankind have, however ardently thou dost desire it.

Surah 12. Joseph (102 - 103)

Doha Seeks Broadening Trade Ties With Tehran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN –The joint meeting of the Iran-Qatar Joint Chamber of Commerce with Qatar's commercial attache to Tehran Mr. Hamad ben Ali Al-Ahbabbi convened in Tehran for broadening trade between the two states.

In the meeting, Al-Ahbabbi said Qatar seeks expansion of trade ties with Iran, adding that in the first eight months of 2021, the trade exchanges between Iran and Qatar has grown considerably but it has not met expectation and has not been enough.

He added that the private sector has an especial role in economic development and this role should be more colorful. He noted that traders should not think only of exports, adding that Iranian and Qatari traders can create the ground for expansion of trade between the two states through launching a fully Iranian company or in cooperation with a Qatari owner.

Al-Ahbabbi went on to say that Qatar is after launching a system for registering companies in Qatar so that Iranians can register their company in Qatar from inside Iran through the economic section of the Qatar Embassy.

Then Head of the Iran-Qatar Joint Chamber of Commerce Mr. Adnan Mousapoor, for his part, extended an especial gratitude to Qatar's Ambassador to Tehran for expansion of economic relations with Iran and pointed to the significance of trade development with Qatar. He added that the main approach of the chamber is not merely promotion of



exports but it is more focused on the joint investment between Tehran and Doha.

Mousapoor went on to say that the chamber seeks to launch a permanent exhibition of Iran in Qatar to put on display for the public the capacities of the country in the fields of tourism, industries, culture and technical and engineering services.

He also pointed to the upcoming Soccer World Cup event to be held in Qatar and said 2022 World Cup in Qatar is not a sport event but it is a big economic and cultural event that Iran should take advantage of it for broadening joint economic cooperation between Iranian and Qatari traders.

Then in the meeting, members of the board and participants reviewed problems related to trade with Qatar and Qatari commercial attache vowed the problems to be resolved in the future.

Iran Highlights Need for More Customs Cooperation With Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (IRNA)

- The Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan in a meeting with the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) stressed upon the need to strengthen border infrastructure, facilitate the movement of Iranian trucks and enhance custom cooperation between the two neighbors.

Mohammad Ali Hosseini during a meeting with Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed on Friday reviewed the ongoing border cooperation between Iran and Pakistan.

He added: The priority of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to expand relations with its neighbors, and with this view, all efforts are focused on expanding cooperation with Pakistan's eastern neighbor.

Hosseini referring to Iran's actions to improve border conditions for smoother pilgrim traffic and complete the infrastructure at the border said that in order to facilitate the trade through trucks customs activities should be increased along with solution to tariff issues on the border.

He described the opening of two more border crossings between Iran and Pakistan, signing of an



agreement to build six border markets and the revitalization of the ITI transport corridor as important achievements of the two neighbors over the past year.

Welcoming the remarks of the ambassador, Chairman FBR said that reciprocal measures will be taken by the relevant institutions in Pakistan to resolve customs and infrastructure issues

on the borders of the two countries.

He considered the facilitation of border activities and resolving problems in this regard important for Iran-Pakistan relations and promised that all consultations would be discussed and reviewed in a short period of time and the mentioned issues would be raised and followed up with the Balochistan government for quick resolution.

Mohammad Ashfaq Ahmad stressed the importance of immediate completion and opening of joint border markets between Iran and Pakistan, adding consultations between the two countries to achieve common interests will continue without any interruption.

Iran highlights need for more customs cooperation with Pakistan

Commodities Traded on IME Exceeds 1,858,000 Tons



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 1,858,000 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$458m on its physical market.

According to a report by the IME's international affairs and PR, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1,515,000 tons of commodities valued at more than \$248m

On this floor, the IME's customers purchased 1,000,166 tons of cement, 218,941 tons of steel, 50,000 tons of I-beam, 34,000 tons of sponge iron, 30,685 tons of zinc, 10,000 tons of cast iron, 8,450 tons of aluminum, 4,120 tons of copper, 280 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 21 tons of precious metals concentrate and 4 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw trade 331,729 tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued almost \$204m.

Commodities sold on this floor included 106,950 tons of bitumen, 84,711 tons of polymeric products, 76,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 31,383 tons of chemicals, 22,000 tons of lube cut, 6,580 tons of sulfur and 5,449 tons of base oil.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 11,274 tons of commodities traded on it.

Sustainability of Production Process of Main Priorities of MSC



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – Manager of Purchase and Supply Transportation of Raw Materials says one of the main goals of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) for buying mines and mine-holding is to make the production process sustainable.

Saeed Abedi said that existence of middlemen can ease the process but at the same time, the middlemen can cause the hike in prices or create other problems in the field of provision. He added that for this reason the company tries to be in direct contact with producers for the purchase of raw materials and it prefers to get the required information from them directly. He reiterated that if someone is to represent a company, the company should introduce him officially.

He went on to say that from June to August, the company faced with sharp rise in prices of the raw materials in the international market, adding that the producers of these raw materials like to export their products or sell it to Mobarakeh Steel Company based on the international price.

He noted that fortunately production in the company has not decreased because of the shortage of the raw materials and hailed the CEO and other officials in the company. He admitted that some of the mineral reserves of the company have decreased because of the lack of cooperation of the producers but the company continues strongly production with the same reserves.

He noted that according to the CEO of the company Mr. Tayyebnia, if today the door of the company is closed, it can continue production for three months with its current reserves of mineral materials.

On using iron scrap instead of iron ore, Abedi said that it is not an economic-wise decision because Iran is a developing country and its amount of scrap is less than its need. He added for example the company needs some 300,000 tons of scrap per year and in case it decides to use it, there will be a turbulence in the scrap market of the country.

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۳۳۸۴۸

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9250077

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	PARTS FOR "DEMAG DELAVAL" CENTRIFUGAL GAS COMP. TYPE 05MV4	NO:2

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 **2,443 EURO** or 670,000,000 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
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Iran-Russia Payment Clearing Mechanism Starts Work

MOSCOW (IRNA) - Chairman of Russian-Iranian Business Council (RIDS) Vladimir Obydenov announced on Saturday that payment clearing mechanism between his country and Iran has been launched.

The clearing mechanism with national currencies is used by the two countries' employers, Obydenov said.

Elaborating on the work of the mechanism, the official said that an Iranian buyer purchases Russian products via rial and a Russian buyer purchases Iranian products through ruble.

Till now, the two have exchanged ten million dollars by using this mechanism, Obydenov added. The Russian official described such a mechanism as so important during the time of the sanctions imposed by the United States.

Further, he said Iranian businesspersons' unawareness of existence of the mechanism is the main obstacle to its development. At his remarks, Obydenov announced that despite the problems, Moscow-Tehran trade exchange has increased significantly as the value of Iran's exports to Russia has passed one billion dollars this year for the first time.

Although the current level of Russia-Iran economic exchange is not equal to the level of their political relations, the two countries' ties are continuous and stable, he added. The prospect of Russia-Iran commercial cooperation is bright.

Lebanon Minister Resigns to Ease Crisis With Persian Gulf

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The Lebanese minister whose comments on the Yemen war sparked a row with Persian Gulf countries that exacerbated Lebanon's multiple crises resigned Friday in hopes it would help end the standoff.

Speaking during a press conference, Georges Kordahi said he hoped this decision "could open a window... towards improved bilateral ties" with Saudi Arabia and its Persian Gulf allies.

"The timing is right because I am offering something that could provide Lebanon with an exit" from the crisis, the former information minister said.



Macron Defends Saudi Visit After Khashoggi Murder

DUBAI (Dispatches) - French President Emmanuel Macron insisted he hadn't forgotten the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi on Friday as he defended his decision to visit Saudi Arabia during his Persian Gulf tour.

On Saturday, Macron was to become one of the first Western leaders to meet the kingdom's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, since Khashoggi was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

Khashoggi's murder sparked international outrage that continues to reverberate. But Macron said it was impossible to engage with the region while ignoring the powerful Saudis.



U.S. Vows to Prevent Any Russian Invasion of Ukraine



WASHINGTON (AFP) – U.S. President Joe Biden said Friday he would make it "very, very difficult" for Russia to launch any invasion of Ukraine, which warned that a large-scale attack could be planned for next month.

Washington and Kiev say Moscow has massed troops near Ukraine's borders and accuse Russia of planning an invasion. The Kremlin denies the allegations, and on Friday said that a video call would take place next week between President Vladimir Putin and Biden.

Biden told reporters he was putting together "the most comprehensive and meaningful set of initiatives to make it very, very difficult for Mr. Putin to go ahead and do what people are worried he may do."

Moscow seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and has since backed separatists fighting Kiev in the east of the country. The conflict has left more than 13,000 dead.

"The most likely time to reach readiness for escalation will be the end of January," Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov told parliament in Kiev on Friday. The minister said a "winter training period" had started in Russia and that Moscow had already launched exercises near Ukrainian territory.

He estimated that Russia had around 100,000 troops near Ukraine's border.

On the frontline in eastern Ukraine, government troops said they were ready to repel any Russian assault.

"Our task is simple: not to let the enemy enter our country," a soldier named Andriy, 29, told AFP, smoking in a trench near the frontline town of Svidodarsk.

"All our guys are ready to hold them back. This is our land, we will protect it until the end," another soldier, Yevgen, 24, added.

Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters a date had been agreed for the Putin-Biden video summit but would not be announced until final details of the talks have also been set.

The United States has said the call is planned, but has not confirmed any date.

Asked if he had spoken to Putin on Friday morning, Biden shouted "no" as he left the press conference on employment data in Washington.

Despite increased contacts between the two rivals since Putin and Biden met for the first time at a summit in Geneva in June, tensions remain high.

As well as the Ukraine conflict, Russia and the United States continue to argue over cyberattacks and the staffing of their embassies, after several waves of diplomatic expulsions.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told AFP on Friday that it rejects any efforts to get it to scrap its plans to join NATO.

Moscow wants to see an end to NATO's eastward expansion, after much of Eastern Europe joined the alliance following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Agreeing to abandon its plans to join the alliance "is not an option," Kuleba said on the sidelines of an OSCE meeting in Stockholm.

Austria's Ruling Party Names New Chancellor

VIENNA (AFP) - Austria's ruling party named Interior Minister Karl Nehammer to lead the conservative camp and the country after the shock resignation of former chancellor Sebastian Kurz as party head caused fresh political upheaval.

"I wanted to announce that today I was unanimously appointed by the OeVP (People's Party) leadership as party head and at the same time as the chancellor candidate," Nehammer told reporters.

The meeting of the party's top brass came a day after Kurz, implicated in a corruption scandal, said he was quitting as party boss. Alexander Schallenberg, who took over as chancellor in October, said on Thursday that he was ready to resign as "the posts of chancellor and head of the party... should quickly be taken on by the same person".

It will now be up to Austria's president to accept Nehammer's nomination and swear him in, but this is mostly a formality.

Kurz's announcement that he would quit politics to dedicate time to his family, especially his new-born son, came just two months after he resigned as national leader.

This followed his implication in a corruption scandal, bringing down a spectacular career, which saw him become the world's youngest democratically elected head of government in 2017 at just 31.

Besides naming Nehammer, the conservative party also nominated fresh faces for several other portfolios, the interior minister said.

This includes a new finance minister after Kurz ally Gernot Blumel also resigned on Thursday.

Born in Vienna in 1972, Nehammer worked in the army for several years before becoming a communications advisor.

He became a lawmaker in 2017 and interior minister in January 2020 and faced the first jihadist attack in Austria, which killed four people.

The interior ministry was strongly criticized for having failed to monitor the Austrian gunman responsible for the killings, even though they had been alerted to the danger.

The scandal bringing down Kurz erupted in early October when prosecutors ordered raids at the chancellery and the finance ministry.



Russia Planning Ukraine Offensive With up to 175,000 Troops

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Russia is orchestrating a multi-front offensive involving up to 175,000 troops as soon as next year, The Washington Post reported Friday, as Ukraine warned that a large-scale attack may be planned for next month.

Moscow's plans "involve extensive movement of 100 battalion tactical groups with an estimated 175,000 personnel, along with armor, artillery and equipment," a US administration official told the Post on condition of anonymity.

While the Pentagon told AFP it would not comment on intelligence matters, it said it was "deeply concerned by evidence that Russia has made plans for aggressive actions against Ukraine."

"We continue to support de-escalation in the region and a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine," Pentagon spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Tony Semelroth said.

Russian forces are currently massing at four points, with 50 battlefield tactical groups deployed in addition to the fresh arrival of tanks and artillery, the Post said, citing an unclassified US intelligence document.

Movement to and from the border is meant to make any tactical moves murky and cause uncertainty, the Post said, citing its sources.

U.S. President Joe Biden earlier in the day said he was preparing fresh policies to halt any Russian plans to invade Ukraine after both Washington and Kiev reported that Moscow had massed troops near its border.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov estimated that Russia has around 100,000 troops near the border. Russia denies any military build-up.

"The most likely time to reach readiness for escalation will be the end of January," Reznikov said.

Following a visit with his Russian counterpart on Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington had "deep concerns about Russia's

plans for renewed aggression against Ukraine." He warned Moscow of "serious consequences" if Russia "decides to pursue confrontation."

Biden and President Vladimir Putin are due to hold a video call to discuss the rising tensions, both sides confirmed Friday.

Sri Lankan Factory Manager Lynched in Pakistan

LAHORE (Dispatches) - A Sri Lankan factory manager in Pakistan was on Friday beaten to death and set ablaze by a mob, police confirmed, in an incident local media reported was linked to alleged blasphemy.

Few issues are as galvanizing in Pakistan as blasphemy, and even the slightest suggestion of an insult to Islam can supercharge protests and incite lynchings.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said he would personally oversee an investigation into "the horrific vigilante attack" which he also called "a day of shame for Pakistan".

"Let there be no mistake all those responsible will be punished with full severity of the law," he tweeted.

Friday's incident took place in Sialkot, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) southeast of the capital Islamabad.

Several gruesome video clips shared on social media showed a mob beating the prone victim while chanting slogans against blasphemy.

Other clips showed his body set ablaze, as well as the overturned wreckage of what was said to be his car.

Many in the mob made no attempt to hide their identity and some took selfies in front of the burning corpse.

Punjab government spokesman Hasaan Khawar told reporters in Lahore that police have already arrested 50 people. "CCTV footage is being carefully looked into as we have been directed to complete the inquiry within 48 hours," he said.

The slogans chanted in the social media videos were the same used by supporters of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) -- an anti-blasphemy party.

The TLP has in the past paralysed the country with protests, including an anti-France campaign after Paris-based satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo last year republished cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

It was only unbanned last month and its leader freed from detention after another period of civil unrest in which seven police officers were killed.

In just five years the party has seen its reach explode in Pakistan, opening a new chapter in the country's deadly confrontation with extremism.

On Sunday thousands of people torched a police station in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province after demanding officers hand over a man accused of burning the Quran. In April 2017 an angry mob lynched university student Mashal Khan when he was accused of posting blasphemous content online.

A Christian couple was lynched then burnt in a kiln in Punjab in 2014 after being falsely accused of desecrating the Koran.

A senior Pakistan official told AFP that Islamabad had been in touch with Sri Lankan diplomats over the incident "and have assured them that all those involved in the heinous crime will be brought to justice".



Taliban Leader Decrees Afghan Women's Rights Must Be Enforced

KABUL (Dispatches) - The Taliban issued a decree in the name of their supreme leader instructing Afghan ministries "to take serious action" on women's rights, but failed to mention girls' access to schools.

The move comes after the Islamists seized power in mid-August and as they seek to restore Afghanistan's access to billions of dollars in assets and aid suspended when the previous, Western-backed regime collapsed in the final stages of a U.S. military withdrawal.

"The Islamic Emirate's leadership directs all relevant organisations... to take serious action to enforce Women's Rights," the decree states, quoting elusive supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

The decree centers on marriage and widows' rights, stating "no one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure" and that a widow is entitled to an unspecified fixed share of her husband's inheritance.

It instructs the Ministry of Culture and Information to publish material on women's rights "to prevent... ongoing repression".

Respect for women's rights has repeatedly been cited by key global donors as a condition for restoring aid.

The decree crucially makes no mention of girls' secondary education -- which has been suspended for millions -- or the employment of women, who have been barred from returning to jobs in the public sector.

Women's rights were severely curtailed during the Taliban's previous stint in power, which lasted from 1996 to late 2001.

Women were forced to wear the all covering burqa, only allowed to leave the home with a male chaperone and banned from work and education.

Akhundzada has maintained a very low public profile since becoming supreme leader in 2016, after his predecessor was killed in a US drone strike.

The Taliban on 30 October released a 10-minute audio recording purported to be him addressing a madrassa in the southern city of Kandahar that day.

But some analysts believe he may have been killed one or more years ago.



Farmanieh Apt (\$2000)
180sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Darrous Villa (\$5000)
1300sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, Jacuzzi
pkg, & yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Zaferanieh (\$2200) 230sq.m, 3bdrs, S/pool, S, J, F.F
Kamranieh (\$2000) 180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/pool, S, J, F.F
Mahmoodieh (\$3000) 340sq.m, 4bdrs, S/pool, S, J, F.F
Gheitarieh (\$1600) 140sq.m, 2bdrs, S/pool, S, J, F.F

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IMF Chief Economist Gopinath To Replace Okamoto

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund said its second ranking official, First Deputy Managing Director Geoffrey Okamoto, will leave the Fund in early 2022 and will be replaced by Gita Gopinath, who currently serves as the IMF's chief economist.

Gopinath had been scheduled to leave the global lender to return to Harvard University in January, but decided to stay on in the

wide-ranging policy role under IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF said.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said Gopinath was "universally recognized as one of the world's leading macroeconomists" and had precisely the expertise needed for the No. 2 job, given the increased macroeconomic challenges facing IMF member countries as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Poor Nations Could Face Economic Collapse Unless G20 Extends Debt Relief

LONDON (Dispatches) - Poorer nations could be facing economic collapse unless the world's richest economies agree to step up debt relief efforts, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Kristalina Georgieva warned.

Some 60 per cent of low income countries are already in or at high risk of debt distress, compared to less than half that in 2015, Georgieva wrote in a blog co-authored with Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, director at the IMF Strategy, Policy and Review Department.

"For many of these countries, the challenges are mounting," Georgieva and Pazarbasioglu warned. "We may see economic collapse in some countries unless G20 creditors agree to accelerate debt restructurings and suspend debt service while the restructurings are being negotiated."

The G20 group of major economies launched the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in spring 2020, designed to offer a temporary freeze in payments to low-income countries, many of which had already faced hefty debt burdens pre-pandemic. However, that initiative is running out at the end of the year.

Progress on another G20 plan, the Common Framework for Debt Treatments designed to reduce the overall debt burdens of poor countries, has been very slow.

"Recent experiences of Chad, Ethiopia, and Zambia show that the Common Framework for debt treatments beyond the DSSI must be improved," the authors wrote, acknowledging that the Common Framework had yet to deliver on its promise.

The reasons for this were manifold — coordinating Paris Club and other creditors, as well as multiple government institutions and agencies within creditor countries slowed down decision making. In Chad's case, having to restructure a large, collateralized obligation held by a private company and partly syndicated to a large number of banks and funds complicated progress.

"It is also critical that private sector creditors implement debt relief on comparable terms," the authors wrote.

Meanwhile major central banks like the Federal Reserve preparing to unwind easy money policies could spell more trouble.

"No doubt 2022 will be much more challenging with the tightening of international financial conditions on the horizon."

U.S. Job Growth Likely Picked Up

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. employers likely stepped up hiring in November as they scrambled to meet strong demand for goods and services, giving the economy a strong boost as another challenging year draws to a close, though worker shortages remained a constraint.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday is expected to show a rapidly tightening jobs market, with the unemployment rate seen falling to a 20-month low of 4.5 per cent and wages increasing further. It would come days after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell told lawmakers that the U.S. central bank should consider speeding up the winding down of its massive bond purchases at its Dec. 14-15 policy meeting.

"There is clearly massive demand out there for workers. The bigger issue is the supply to meet that demand," said James Knightley, chief international economist at ING in New York. "If supply doesn't show any meaningful increase, that would suggest we are going to be in a situation where the labor market is going to continue to add to upside inflationary pressures."

Nonfarm payrolls likely increased by 550,000 jobs last month after rising 531,000 in October, according to a Reuters survey of economists. That would leave employment about 3.7 million jobs below its peak in February 2020. Estimates ranged from as low as 306,000 to as high as 800,000 jobs.

Strong employment gains would add to solid consumer spending and manufacturing data in suggesting that the economy was accelerating after hitting a speed bump in the third quarter. They would also put an early interest rate increase from the Fed on the table. The Omicron variant of Covid-19, however, poses a risk to the brightening picture.

While little is known about Omicron, some slowdown in hiring and demand for services is likely, based on the experience with Delta, which was responsible for the slowest economic growth pace in more than a year last quarter.

"No company wants to hire more labor if there isn't going to be a demand for that labor," said David Wagner, portfolio manager at Aptus Capital Advisors in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Japan Services Sector Grows at Fastest Pace Since 2019

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's services sector activity grew at the fastest pace in more than two years in November on

a jump in new business, signalling stronger consumer confidence as the coronavirus pandemic subsided.

The world's third-largest economy has lagged other advanced nations in its recovery from the pandemic's hit, with coronavirus curbs crimping activity for parts of the year.

The final au Jibun Bank Japan Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to a seasonally adjusted 53.0 from the prior month's 50.7 and a 52.1 flash reading.

That marked the fastest pace of expansion since August 2019.

"New orders rose for the first time since January 2020 as panel members cited the lifting of state of emergency measures had boosted confidence and sales," said Usamah Bhatti, economist at IHS Markit, which compiles the survey.

"Despite increasing demand and evidence of pressure on capacity, Japanese service providers decreased staffing levels for the first time since July."

More robust spending on dining out, overnight stays and other services would likely support Japan's economy as a persistent global chip shortage and soaring raw material prices pressure manufacturers.

"Both manufacturers and services firms pointed to prominent rises in cost pressures in November," Bhatti said.

The composite PMI, estimated using manufacturing and services, expanded at the fastest rate in more than four years, rising to 53.3 from October's final of 50.7.

UAE Buys Record 80 French Rafale Jets in \$19b Arms Deal

DUBAI (Dispatches) - The United Arab Emirates and France have signed a \$19bn arms deal that will see the Gulf state acquire 80 Rafale fighter jets and 12 military helicopters.

The largest-ever overseas sale of Rafale jets was sealed on Friday as French President Emmanuel Macron began a two-day trip to the Gulf, during which he will also visit Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

"This contract cements a strategic partnership that is stronger than ever and directly contributes to regional stability," the French presidency said in a statement after Macron and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MBZ) signed the deal on the sidelines of the Dubai Expo 2020.

Macron's visit comes at a time when Persian Gulf Arab states have voiced uncertainty about the United States's focus on the region even as they seek more weapons from their key security ally.

The French leader has forged a good relationship with MBZ with investments flowing between the two countries.

The deal will directly support 7,000 jobs in France and guarantee the supply chain of the Dassault Aviation-made aircraft until the end of 2031, a French official told journalists.

He also said the UAE contract, which follows deals in Greece, Egypt and Croatia this year, would lead to an increase of the monthly Rafale production.

Shares in Dassault Aviation SA, the Rafale's maker, rose more than 9 percent.

The F4 model Rafales, currently under development, will be delivered from 2027.

By snapping up the fighter craft, the UAE is following the lead of Persian Gulf rival Qatar, which has bought 36 of the planes.

The on-off negotiations for the Rafale fighter jets took more than 10 years with Abu Dhabi publicly rebuffing France's offer to supply 60 Rafale jets in 2011 as "uncompetitive and unworkable". Abu Dhabi already has French-built Mirage 2000 warplanes.

Defence sources said the Rafale would replace the Mirage 2000 fleet but is unlikely to displace the American-built F-35 as the UAE continues to hedge its security with two main suppliers, France and the United States.

The deal could nonetheless be seen as a signal of impatience as the US Congress hesitates on approving an F-35 deal amid concerns about the UAE's relationship with China, including the prevalence of Huawei 5G technology in the country.

Abu Dhabi also ordered 12 Caracal helicopters. It is the French code name for the H225M, the multi-role military version of the Super Puma.

France has deep ties with the UAE and is one of its main arms' suppliers, but it has faced increasing pressure to review its sales because of the conflict between a Saudi-led military coalition and the Houthi rebels in Yemen, which has become one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Brazil's Economy Enters Recession



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazil's economy, the largest in Latin America, slid into recession in the third quarter of 2021 as agricultural production dropped, official data showed.

GDP declined 0.1 percent for the second straight quarterly fall, the government statistics agency IBGE said.

The second-quarter drop was revised to a larger 0.4 percent from an initial estimate of 0.1 percent compared to the previous three months.

Brazil's second-quarter GDP slowdown ended the recovery that started late 2020 after the collapse caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In comparison to the same period a year ago, the economy grew four percent in the third quarter, said the IBGE.

Agricultural production fell 8.0 percent, while manufacturing was flat and the services sector grew 1.1 percent.

Brazil's services industry was boosted by an improvement in the health situation in a country hard hit by the global pandemic.

After its immunization campaign got off to a rocky start, the South American country has now managed to fully vaccinate 60 percent of its population against coronavirus, although there are fears the emergence of the new Omicron variant -- with three cases confirmed in Brazil -- could at least partly undo progress.

The third-quarter drop in farming production was partly a function of the end of the soybean harvest, which happens mainly in the first quarter, but also drops in coffee (-22.4 percent), cotton (-17.5 percent) and maize (-16 percent) output compared to 2020.

"The drop is attributable to the drought, the water crisis, because there were crop losses and grain production declined," according to Alex Agostini of consulting firm Austin Rating.

First Announcement
شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۳۳۸۴۹

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9250049

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
52	PARTS FOR"ATLAS COPCO"SCREW AIR COMPRESSOR MODEL ZT 145	159

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 **5,146 EURO** or 1,411,439,500 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

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“Aparat” to Vie at Brazil, Philippines Festivals

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian short film ‘Aparat’ by Hassan Najmabadi will take part in two international film festivals in Brazil and the Philippines.

The 3rd edition of the Alter do Chão Film Festival in Brazil and the 19th Mindanao Film Festival in the Philippines will host the Iranian short film ‘Aparat’.

Directed by Hassan Najmabadi, ‘Aparat’ tells the story of six teenage boys who decide to work in the village cages so as to earn the money they need to rent an 8 mm camera from a wanderer.



Partnering With Persons With Disabilities Toward an Inclusive, Accessible, Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World

BY: ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA

(Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP)

As the world observes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities today, we honor the leadership of persons with disabilities and their tireless efforts to build a more inclusive, accessible and sustainable world. At the same time, we resolve to work harder to ensure a society that is open and accommodating of all.

An estimated 690 million persons with disabilities, around 15 per cent of the total population, live in the Asia-Pacific region. Many of them continue to be excluded from socio-economic and political participation. Available data suggests that persons with disabilities are almost half as likely to be employed as persons without disabilities. They are also half as likely to have voted in an election and are underrepresented in government decision-making bodies. Just about 0.5 per cent of parliamentarians in the region are persons with disabilities. Women with disabilities are even less likely to be employed and hold only 0.1 per cent of national parliament positions.

One of the main reasons behind these exclusions is a lack of accessibility. Public transportation and the built environment in general -- including public offices, polling stations, workplaces, markets and other essential structures -- lack ramps, walkways and basic accessibility features. Accessibility, however, goes beyond the commonly thought of physical structures. Barriers to access to services and information and communication technology must also be removed, to allow for the participation of persons with diverse types of disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities and hearing and vision impairments.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns has exacerbated existing inequalities. Many persons with disabilities face increased health concerns due to comorbidities and were left without access to their personal assistants and essential goods and services. As much of society moved online during lockdowns, inaccessible digital infrastructure meant persons with disabilities could not access public health information or online employment opportunities.

Despite these challenges, persons with disabilities and their organizations were among the first to respond to the immediate needs of their communities for food and supplies during lockdowns in addition to continuing their long-term work to support vulnerable groups.

ESCAP partnered with several of these organizations to support their work during the pandemic. Samarthayam, a civil society organization in India led by a woman with disabilities, has trained many men and women with disabilities to conduct accessibility audits in their home districts. With these skills, they are becoming leaders and advocates in their communities, working towards improving the accessibility of essential buildings everywhere.

Another ESCAP partner, the National Council for the Blind of Malaysia (NCBM), is working to improve digital accessibility by training a group with diverse disabilities in web access auditing, accessible e-publishing and strategic advocacy. NCBM hopes to support participants in forming a social enterprise for web auditing



and accessible publishing, creating employment opportunities and enabling persons with disabilities to lead efforts to improve online accessibility.

Women and men with disabilities have been leaders and champions to break barriers to make a difference in Asia and the Pacific. Today, ESCAP launches the report “Disability at a Glance 2021: The Shaping of Disability-inclusive Employment in Asia and the Pacific.” The report highlights some innovative approaches to making employment more inclusive, as well as recommendations on how to further reduce employment gaps.

Adjusting to a post-COVID-19 world presents an opportunity for governments to reassess and implement policies to increase the inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment, decision making bodies and all aspects of society. Accessibility issues impact not only persons with disabilities but also other people in need of assistance, including older persons, pregnant women or those with injuries. Implementing policies with universal design, which creates environments and services that are useable by all people, benefits the whole of society. Governments should mainstream universal design principles into national development plans, not only in disability-specific laws and policies.

As a global leader in disability-inclusive development for over 30 years, the Asia-Pacific region has set an example by adopting the world's first set of disability-specific development goals in the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real.” Meeting the Incheon Strategy goals will require governments to intensify their efforts to reduce barriers to education, employment and political participation.

At ESCAP, we know that achieving an inclusive and sustainable post-COVID-19 world will only be possible with increased leadership and participation of persons with disabilities. To build back better -- and fairer -- we will continue to strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders so together we can “Make the Right Real” for all persons with disabilities.

Air Travel Recovery Continues in October

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - The recovery in air travel continued in October 2021 with broad-based improvements in both domestic and international markets, but the imposition of travel bans by governments in response to the new Omicron variant may threaten the sector's recovery, said the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

It said although total demand for air travel in October 2021 measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs) was down 49.4 per cent compared with October 2019, the number was an improvement over the 53.3 per cent fall recorded in September 2021 compared to two years earlier.

“Domestic markets were down 21.6 per cent compared with October 2019, bettering the 24.2 per cent decline recorded in September 2021 versus September 2019.



“Meanwhile, international passenger demand in October 2021 was 65.5 per cent below October 2019, compared with a 69.0 per cent decline for

September 2021 versus the 2019 period, with all regions showing improvement,” it said in a statement late today.

IATA has changed the year-on-year comparison to 2021 versus 2019, saying that 2020 monthly results were distorted by the extraordinary impact of Covid-19.

Commenting on the performance, IATA Director General Willie Walsh said October 2021's traffic performance showed that people would travel when they were permitted to.

“Unfortunately, government responses to the emergence of the Omicron variant are putting at risk the global connectivity it has taken so long to rebuild,” he said.

Walsh warned that the imposition of travel bans by governments, against the advice of the World Health Organization, could threaten the sector's recovery.

Foreign Nationals...

FROM PAGE 1

Due to the increase in the production of domestic vaccines and the supply of imported ones, the necessary predictions should be made so that even with the injection of the third dose, there was no shortage in this field in the country, he said.

He also stressed, “The only way to stay safe from the new wave of COVID-19 is to follow health protocols and serious monitoring”.

Raisi thanked all those involved in the fight against coronavirus, especially the health and medical staff, saying, “Reduction in the number of coronavirus cases and the stabilization of the current situation requires following health protocols with sensitivity”.

Emphasizing that there should be no shortage of vaccines in the country, the President said, “Considering the increase in domestic vaccine production and the supply of imported vaccines, the necessary predictions should be made so that even with the injection of the third dose, there is no shortage in this field in the country”.

Raisi reiterated the importance of traffic control at land, air and sea borders and the seriousness of quarantine for suspicious cases.

The President Raisi also called for close and intelligent monitoring of the reopening of schools, offices and businesses in order to comply with health protocols to protect the lives of the people.

Referring to the shortage of specialist doctors in the cities, the President said, “In this regard, a working group of proponents and opponents of increasing the recruitment of doctors has been appointed, to examine the existing problems in this field, including the unfair distribution of doctors in the country”.

Expressing the dangers of air pollution, especially in big cities, the President said, “Relevant agencies should seriously address the problem of air pollution and protect the lives of the people”.

Raisi emphasized on avoiding vaccination of children under 12 years old and stated, “This should not be done until accurate research and scientific work has been done in this field and it has been proven, and the government will refrain from anything that has not been tested and approved before”.

Emphasizing the need to continue vaccinating foreign nationals, the President said, “Some European countries have just started to think about this, while the Islamic Republic of Iran has started vaccinating all foreign nationals from the very beginning due to humanitarian issues and will continue to do so seriously”.

P4+1 Must Give...

FROM PAGE 1

During the JCPOA Joint Commission meeting on Friday, the sides gave a brief overview of the talks, which started between Iran and the remaining parties to the nuclear deal -- Britain, Germany, France, China and Russia -- on Monday.

“It was emphasized that the proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the removal of illegal and oppressive sanctions and the nuclear issue are on the table,” Baqeri-Kani, who serves as Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, said. “Since the opposite side needed to consult with their capitals to provide a documented and reasonable response to these proposals, it suggested that the talks be suspended for a few days.” The senior Iranian diplomat noted that a new round of negotiations between the two sides would resume in the middle of next week.

The JCPOA was abandoned by then U.S. President Donald Trump in May 2018. Trump then targeted Iran's economy with what he called the “maximum pressure” campaign, but he failed to compel Iran to negotiate a “new deal.”

Meanwhile an informed source familiar with the ongoing talks between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries in Vienna tells Press TV that the Islamic Republic's proposed drafts are in full conformity with the 2015 nuclear agreement and the principles contained therein.

Speaking to Press TV on Friday, the unnamed source expressed regret that some European parties have turned the negotiations into a forum to dictate their own positions and demands.

“Regrettably, some European parties have mistaken the negotiating table for a platform to dictate their positions and demands,” the source said.

“Some parties have not come to the diplomatic maturity that the survival and endurance of the JCPOA (the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), depend on the commitment of all parties to their obligations, and some parties' refusal to implement their commitments indicates that they are not serious in the negotiations,” the source emphasized.

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۳۳۸۵۰

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9780009

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
32	PARTS FOR "BROWN BOVERI-SULZE" GAS TURBINE TYPE NS70	367

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The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **12.839 EURO** or 3,506,925,460 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

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Iran Non-Oil...

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The official argued that production growth is one of the main strategies to develop the Islamic Republic, adding that the Statistical Centre of Iran and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced in different report 5.5 percent and 6.1 percent production growth respectively.

In line with a new economic regulation of the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, five billion dollars has been allocated to remove obstacles in the way of exporting Iran-made products, he noted.

As to spatial planning in industry, mining and trade sectors, Sadeqi Niaraki said that some 450 economic elite and operators are going to submit their suggestions and reports on provincial capacities. According to statistical reports, 15 out of 25 industrial fields have experienced growth and that home appliances industry has seen an eight percent growth.

The deputy minister went on to say that the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade kicked off a movement to promote home-made products, noting that East Azarbaijan province has got 80 percent of the indigenization process so far.

As a result of supports made by the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, the value of export commodities increased 48 percent in seven months this year in comparison to figures announced in the same period last year.

Kjaer Out for Six Months After Knee Surgery

MILAN (Dispatches) - AC Milan suffered a major blow yesterday after medical tests revealed that their Denmark centre back Simon Kjaer is expected to be out for six months following a knee operation.

Kjaer, who has played 14 games in all competitions so far this season, sustained the injury in Wednesday's 3-0 Serie A win over Genoa. Milan said the 32-year-old had arthroscopic surgery yesterday to reconstruct the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and re-insert the medial collateral ligament (MCL) in his left knee.

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Goggia Wins Lake Louise Downhill

LAKE LOUISE (Dispatches) - Italy's Olympic champion Sofia Goggia turned in a near perfect run to claim the opening women's Alpine World Cup downhill of the season on Friday ahead of American Breezy Johnson and Austria's Mirjam Puchner.

Goggia, who last season won the downhill crystal globe for a second time, posted a time of one minute 46.95 seconds at the Canadian ski resort crossing almost a second and a half clear of Johnson to secure her ninth World Cup downhill win.

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SPORTS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2021

Croatia Edge Serbia to Reach Davis Cup Final

MADRID (Dispatches) - Croatia reached the Davis Cup final after Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic beat Novak Djokovic and Filip Krajnovic 7-5 6-1 in a decisive doubles clash to give the competition's twice former winners a 2-1 win over Serbia.

The Croatians will clash in Sunday's showpiece with either Germany or the Russian Tennis Federation, who meet in the other semi-final on Saturday.

Borna Gojo fired Croatia ahead with a 4-6 6-3 6-2 win over Dusan Lajovic in the opening rubber before Djokovic redressed the balance as he brushed aside Marin Cilic 6-4 6-2.

Krajnovic's late inclusion in the crunch encounter was a surprise move by Serbia's team captain Viktor Troicki, who left out the team's only doubles specialist Nikola Cacic.

The Serbians held their own against the world number one pairing of Mektic and Pavic early on but Krajnovic faltered in the final game of the opening set, as he dropped serve when Mektic rifled a forehand down the middle.

The superior movement and volleying of Mektic and Pavic made the difference as their class showed in the second set, with the Serbian duo fizzling out after a bright start.

"It's a great win against a tough team," Pavic said after the Croatian danced in delight on the court. "We are super happy to be in the final and we're ready."

Mektic added: "Novak showed why he is the best player in the world but there are four people on the court in the doubles and we played an amazing match."

"They served really well in the first set but we took advantage of their level dropping a little bit in the second."

Gojo put Croatia in the driving seat when he beat Lajovic after a magnificent fight back gave the world number 279 his third win of this year's competition against better-ranked opponents.

The outcome proved to be crucial in the tie as Gojo overpowered world number 33 Lajovic, emerging as the ace up team captain Vedran Martic's sleeve in Croatia's run to the final.

Lajovic seemed to have gained the upper hand when he rallied to take the opening set as he battled back from 4-2 and 40-down on Gojo's serve, but the 23-year old Croatian was unfazed and turned the tide emphatically.



Gojo raced into a 3-0 lead in the second set and, having broken serve to edge ahead 4-2 after Lajovic hit back, he levelled the scores thanks to a big serve and stinging baseline shots which kept Lajovic on the back foot.

It was one-way traffic in the third set as Gojo kept up the pressure and stormed into a 4-0 lead, sparking joy amongst the Croatia fans as he wrapped up the contest with a service winner.

Djokovic then kept Serbia's hopes alive, having saved four break points in the final game of the opening set after Cilic had double-faulted to hand the world number one the initiative.

The Croatian saved a break point in the opening game of the second but Djokovic moved up a couple of gears to brush Cilic aside for his 19th successive singles win in the competition.

Having saved all eight break points he faced in the contest, as he also rifled down four aces, Djokovic sealed the victory after Cilic sent a forehand over the baseline.

But Djokovic then conceded that Serbia were always going to struggle in the decisive rubber.

Djokovic showed no signs of fatigue against Mektic and Pavic with a thundering serve and some fine baseline shots but Serbia's challenge fell apart after they dropped the opening set.

He slammed his racket in frustration as the Croatians broke serve again in the fourth game of the second set before they raced away to spark joyous celebrations among their fans.

Kilde Edges Odermatt in Super-G for Comeback Win



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Aleksander Aamodt Kilde won the men's World Cup super-G at Beaver Creek, cementing his return from injury as he denied Marco Odermatt a second win in as many days in Colorado.

Kilde, who captured the overall World Cup crown in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, clocked 1min 10.26sec, bouncing back from a failure to finish in Thursday's super-G.

Odermatt, who was going for a third super-G win in Colorado and also a third straight race win in the discipline, challenged his time but settled for second, three-hundredths of a second back.

American Travis Ganong was third, 37-hundredths back after a storming run as the second starter of the day.

Kilde's victory cemented his return from the ruptured right knee ligament suffered last January that ended his World Cup season as he was in second place in the overall standings.

But his pleasure in the win was tempered by concern for fellow Norwegian Kjetil Jansrud, who crashed heavily but was eventually able to make it off the hill under his own steam.

Tragedy Narrowly Averted At Euro 2020 Final

LONDON (Dispatches) - Crowd trouble at the Euro 2020 final at Wembley could have led to tragedy if England had won the game, the stark findings of an independent review suggested.

A 128-page report into the chaos at the showpiece game on July 11 concluded there were real fears thousands of ticketless fans could have stormed the ground had England beaten Italy.

The author of the study called it a "near miss" that could have led to deaths or serious injury, blaming it on a reckless "horde" of 6,000 or more fans without tickets.

"The drunkenness, drug-taking, irresponsibility, criminality, and abuse of innocent people... was shocking and intolerable," wrote Louise Casey.

"I am clear that we were close to fatalities and/or life-changing injuries for some, potentially many, in attendance," she added, calling the trouble a "national shame".

England's Football Association governing body, which commissioned the study, apologised and said it accepted its conclusions in full.

As a punishment, UEFA has banned supporters from England's next home international in their competitions.

Casey, a member of Britain's upper chamber of parliament the House of Lords, said much of the trouble was foreseeable and organizers had been caught off-guard.

There had been a collective failure to plan for the worst, and police were deployed too late.

She recommended the government consider the creation of a special category of matches of national significance, where security would be tighter and with curbs on alcohol.

Better stewarding in the area immediately around the stadium was needed, and harsher penalties for anyone involved in football-related disorder, she added.

Some 2,000 ticketless fans were found to have gained access to the stadium in 17 separate breaches of disabled gates and emergency fire doors to the ground.

The breaches, which began from 90 minutes before kick-off and continued up to the penalty shoot-out, "jeopardised the lives of legitimate supporters and staff", said Casey.



The England captain, who has won the Golden Boot in three of the past six years, has looked a shadow of his former self since his failed attempt to force a transfer to champions Manchester City in the close-season.

Kane Will Score Many Goals

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham manager Antonio Conte is certain misfiring striker Harry Kane is primed to end his barren run in the Premier League.

Kane has found the net just once in 12 league games during the current campaign as he struggles to recapture the form that made him the English top-flight's leading scorer last season.

The 28-year-old has also admitted he felt mentally and physically drained after England's Euro 2020 final defeat against Italy in July.

He failed to score in Tottenham's 2-0 win against Brentford on Thursday, missing a golden opportunity in the second half, but Conte is convinced Kane will be back on track soon.

"First of all, I'm sure Harry is happy if we win and he doesn't score because Tottenham is the first thought for us and Harry," Conte said ahead of Sunday's home match against struggling Norwich.

"It's important to have chances to score and we're improving a lot in this aspect. I'm sure Harry is going to score many goals."

"I'm sure he's going to have a good performance in the same way he had against Brentford against every team we play. I'm very pleased for the way that he's playing."

UEFA Fines Sporting, Porto for Breaching FFP Rules

NYON (Dispatches) - Sporting and Porto were among eight clubs sanctioned by UEFA yesterday for breaching the European football governing body's Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations.

UEFA's newly-established 'First Chamber of Club Financial Control Body' said the eight clubs faced sanctions due to their "non-compliance with the 'no overdue payables' requirement".

Portuguese champions Sporting were fined €250,000 (RM1.2 million), while Porto were fined €300,000.

Astana, CFR Cluj, CSKA Sofia, Mons Calpe, Real Betis and Clube Desportivo Santa Clara were the other clubs sanctioned, with UEFA imposing fines on each team.

UEFA said all the clubs apart from Astana and CFR Cluj will face additional punishment if they do not pay the overdue amounts by January 31, 2022, UEFA added in a statement.

"A conditional exclusion from participating in the next UEFA club competition for which they would otherwise qualify in the next three seasons... unless they can prove by 31 January 2022 that they have paid the outstanding overdue amounts," UEFA said.

The statement added that Turkish champions Besiktas had fulfilled certain obligations after breaching the 'no overdue payables' requirement in the 2020-21 season and would not have 15 per cent of any UEFA prize money withheld from this campaign.

Besiktas have already been eliminated from Europe this season, having lost all five of their Champions League matches so far. They will finish fourth in the Group C standings.



Dortmund Praying Haaland Stays Next Season

DORTMUND (Dispatches) - Borussia Dortmund legend Karl-Heinz Riedle says the Bundesliga club is 'praying' star striker Erling Haaland stays next season as they fend off interest from the Premier League.

"We're praying he will stay another year at Borussia Dortmund," Riedle told international media on Friday.

"It will be very difficult to keep him after this season, but he is a crucial player for us." Haaland was set to feature when Dortmund, who are second in the title race, host leaders Bayern Munich.

Haaland's contract runs until 2024 but a release clause, reportedly for 80 million euros (\$90 million), is said to become active next year.

Injury ruled him out of Dortmund's 3-1 defeat at Sporting Lisbon last week which ended their chances of reaching the last 16 of the Champions League this season.

The 21-year-old scored as a substitute on his return from a persistent hip injury last Saturday.

His stunning volley at Wolfsburg was his 50th Bundesliga goal in as many games. "It's quite a miracle he came back so early and you could see the impact he had on the Dortmund team," Riedle said of Haaland's cameo.

Dortmund coach Marco Rose expects to again use Haaland off the bench with the towering striker "perhaps not yet ready for 90 minutes" against Bayern.

Despite missing the previous five weeks, Haaland has still managed to score 19 goals for Dortmund and Norway this season.

Manchester United are reportedly among the Premier League clubs chasing Haaland.

