

Speaker of Pakistan's Northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani is Scheduled to Visit the Islamic Republic of Iran Soon With the Aim of Strengthening Ties

IRAN NEWS

An Undisclosed Source Says a Meeting Between Russian and Saudi Diplomats in Vienna, Austria, On Thursday Had Nothing to Do With the Islamic Republic of Iran

VOL. XXVII, No. 7406 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SATURDAY JANUARY 8, 2022 - DEY 18, 1400

2 DOMESTIC

Leader Sends Message To Funeral Ceremony On Unidentified Martyrs



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Iran Gas Network to Become Stronger



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

Russia Sends Troops To Kazakhstan to Put Down Uprising



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Nets Win in Kyrie Irving's Season Debut



> SEE PAGE 8

Seoul Must Release Iran's Frozen Assets

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The top Iranian negotiator to the ongoing negotiations in the Austrian capital on the removal of Iran sanctions has met with South Korea's deputy foreign minister in Vienna to discuss release of Tehran's frozen assets in Seoul.

Ali Bagheri Kani, who is also Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, said in the meeting held with Choi Jong-kun on Thursday that regardless of the outcome of the talks in Vienna, the South Korean government is obliged to unfreeze Iran's frozen funds, stressing that unilateral U.S. sanctions cannot justify the non-payment of Seoul's debts to Tehran.

"The South Korean government is obliged to release Iran's blocked assets, and unilateral U.S. sanctions cannot justify non-payment of debts to Iran," he said.

The Iranian diplomat also underlined that South Korea's illegal and unjustifiable refusal to repay its debts to Iran would be a dark spot in the history of relations between the two countries, adding that Seoul should act as soon as possible to unfreeze Iran's assets.

See Page 7

Tehran Seeks Guarantees That New Sanctions Not to Be Imposed



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says during sanctions removal talks in the Austrian capital, Tehran seeks guarantees that no further sanctions will be imposed on the country once they are removed.

Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera news network, during which he elaborated on the overall course of negotiations in the Austrian capital with the goal of removing illegal sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic.

"We seek removal of sanctions that were imposed on Iran by [former U.S. President Donald] Trump, especially those sanctions that are at odds with the [2015] nuclear deal [officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)]," Iran's foreign minister said.

Amir-Abdollahian added, "We also want guarantees that no new sanctions are imposed and that the existing sanctions would not be reimposed once they are removed."

Iran's foreign minister stated that facilitating the country's oil exports and return of their revenues to the country are among guarantees sought by Iran in Vienna talks.

"The eighth round of Vienna talks is on the right path ... [and] achieving a good agreement is possible if the Western sides show serious determination," Iran's top diplomat said.

Amir-Abdollahian noted that Iran and the United States are exchanging unofficial messages in Vienna in order to facilitate the ongoing talks, saying, "We hear good words from Americans in Vienna, but what is important is to see them taking serious steps."

Elsewhere in the interview, Amir-Abdollahian reflected on the ongoing talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia saying, "Our negotiations with Saudi Arabia are positive and constructive and we are ready to reestablish ties at any time."

"Our representatives at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will return to Jeddah and this is a positive step," Amir-Abdollahian noted.

Iran's top diplomat said Tehran is aware of the importance of comprehensive talks encompassing Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey to help resolve regional problems.

He also condemned normalization of a number of Arab countries' relations with Israel, saying, "We have warned our neighbors that normalization of relations with the Zionist regime is a strategic mistake and they will be the first parties to pay a price for it."

Amir-Abdollahian's remarks came after earlier on Thursday, Iran's chief negotiator in Vienna talks said the negotiations with the remaining signatories to the Iran deal are "positive and forward-moving."

Ali Bagheri Kani added that efforts were underway to achieve results from the talks.

He made the remarks while speaking to reporters before heading for talks with representatives of the five remaining signatories to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name of the deal.

The Iranian chief negotiator has said the success of the Vienna talks depends on achieving an agreement on the effective removal of the cruel U.S. sanctions against Tehran.

The more serious the other side is in removing sanctions and accepting Iran's mechanisms for doing so, especially on the verification and guarantee issues, the sooner we can reach an agreement, Bagheri Kani added.

Gov't Reports Lowest Unemployment Rate In 25 Years

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's unemployment rate has dropped to its lowest point in the past 25 years mainly because the country's economically active population has shrunk because of the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a report by the Iranian government's statistics agency.

A Wednesday report by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) showed that jobless rate had dropped 0.5% year on year over the quarter to December 21 to stand at 8.9%.

The SCI said the figure was the lowest on record for Iran's labor market since 1996 although it insisted that lower jobless rate did not necessarily mean that Iran had created more jobs over the past year.

"This declining trend does not mean more employment but it is due to the spread of the coronavirus disease which has caused many young adults to leave the labor market after failing to find a proper job," and said the report.

"We are witnessing a reduction in active population and as a result the jobless rate has been declining," it added.

SCI calculations showed that Iran's economically inactive population of above 15-year-olds had increased to reach over 37.3 million people.

See Page 7

Flash Floods in South Iran Cost Nearly \$180m in Losses

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Initial estimates suggest losses from flash floods that affected areas in south and southeast Iran earlier this week could amount to nearly \$180 million.

Estimates provided by local authorities in four Iranian provinces affected by the floods that hit on Tuesday showed that losses inflicted on roads, homes and agriculture could reach 50 trillion rials, according to reports published in Iranian news agencies on Thursday.

Governor of Hormozgan province Mehdi Dousti said that the floods had inflicted losses worth 19 trillion rials (over \$66 million) to farming, residential and transportation infrastructure in the province which is located on the Persian Gulf coast.

In neighboring Kerman province, losses were estimated at 10 trillion rials with reports showing the worst-hit regions were those located to the south of the province.

Similar amount of damage was reported in the provinces of Fars, in south Iran, and in Sistan and Baluchestan, on the southeastern border with Pakistan, said the reports.

Farming and livestock units in the four provinces had suffered the brunt of the flash floods which swept through sparsely populated regions in south and southeast Iran.

See Page 7

Iran Offers To Waive Tariffs On Pakistan Agri-Products

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan's agriculture sector faces several challenges but with right policy interventions it can be transformed, remarked Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam.

In a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini on Tuesday, the minister said that the agriculture sector of Pakistan had been following traditional techniques and there was a need to look ahead in terms of modernisation.

He appreciated the Iranian government's offer to waive tariffs on export of agricultural products from Pakistan.

"Pakistan has immense potential for export of citrus fruit, rice, mango, onion, potato, fishery and livestock products," he said. "In fact, the country can meet the entire rice demand of Iran."

See Page 7

Sharp Drop in Iran's Gas Exports Shuts Down Iraqi Power Plants

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - The Iraqi government says several power plants in the country have stopped operations due to a sharp decrease in natural gas imports from Iran.

Iraqi Electricity Ministry spokesman Ahmed Moussa said the reduction of gas supplies by Iran has caused widespread electricity shortages especially in central and southern parts of the country.

According to Moussa, Iran has reduced its gas exports to Iraq from 50 million cubic meters per day to about 8.5 million, cutting about 4,000 megawatts from the national grid, which now carries only 13,000 megawatts.

Iraq, which depends on Iran for about one third of its electricity, needs about 35,000 megawatts of power during peak winter demand, with only about one-third available now.

The reason for the drop is attributed to billions of dollars of unpaid bills by Baghdad, due to U.S. banking sanctions against Iran. But the drop in Iran's gas supplies may also be the result of a recent accident in a pipeline in Iran that shut down one of the units of South Pars gas field, reducing at least 15 million cubic meters of daily production, which Iran desperately needs.

Last winter, Iran experienced large power cuts in major cities. Protests broke out on a few occasions. When authorities started burning mazut, a dirty unrefined fuel to generate electricity, it led to heavy pollution in cities adding to the popular anger.

U.S., Israel Major Hinders for Elimination of Chemical Weapons Worldwide

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian envoy to the United Nations has raised concerns about the possession of chemical weapons by the United States and Israel, describing the pair as the main obstacles to the elimination of such arms across the world.

Zahra Ershadi, deputy permanent representative of Iran to the UN, made the remarks on Wednesday at the Security Council briefing on chemical weapons in Syria.

She said that the elimination of all chemical weapons worldwide was the prime objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and that this goal could be realized only through the treaty's full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation, as well as its universality.

It is therefore a source of serious concern that due to non-compliance by the United States, this objective has yet to be realized, she added.

Ershadi also stressed that the Israeli regime must be compelled to join the CWC without any precondition or further delay.

Warning against the serious impact of politicization on the CWC's credibility, the Iranian envoy called for de-politicization of the work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

See Page 7

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Iran Rescues 11 Indian Crew After Vessel Accident

BANDAR ABBAS (IRNA) - Jask County acting Governor Ali Mehrani said that the Iranian marine forces have rescued 11 crew members of an Indian vessel.

Mehrani said that the vessel, which was carrying a sugar load, was headed to the Port of Sohar, Oman, which has shifted towards Iranian waters due to storms, weather conditions, and technical defects.

Stating that the general condition of the crew members is good, he noted that the vessel went down four miles from Gabrik, Jask, and sank due to a fracture.

Leader Sends Message To Funeral Ceremony On Unidentified Martyrs

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has extended a message on the occasion of the burial ceremony of 250 unidentified wartime martyrs, which is being held nationwide today.

In his message, Leader sent regards to the martyrs and their families, asking God to bestow blessing on all of them.

As the ceremony is held coincidentally with the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat-e Fatemeh (AS) - daughter of Great Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) - betokens eternity of martyrs' names and memories, Ayatollah Khamenei said in his message, according to a report of Leader's office.

Worldwide, Shia Muslims hold annual mourning ceremonies on Hazrat Fatemeh's tragic demise. The ceremonies aim to remember her whose characteristics are praised and followed as a role model for Muslim women.

In the meantime, the Funeral ceremony of 250 unidentified Iranian wartime martyrs, aka anonymous martyrs, was held across the country this morning.

Iranians held large funeral processions nationwide for 250 unidentified martyrs of the war imposed by the former Iraqi regime on the Islamic Republic in the 1980s.

The mourning ceremonies, which were held in several cities on Thursday, coincided with the martyrdom anniversary of Hazrat Fatima Zahra (SA), the daughter of Islam's Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

Out of the 250 martyrs, whose remains have been newly recovered, 150 will be laid to rest in Tehran Province and the remaining in 24 other Iranian provinces.

Supported by major Western and regional states, former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein launched a military invasion of Iran in 1980, less than two years after the Islamic Revolution.



With the army mostly in disarray, Iranians closed ranks under the leadership of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini as they rushed to the warfronts to push back Iraqi forces and liberate occupied territories.

The war ended in 1988 with a ceasefire deal, with the Iraqi dictator failing to achieve any of his goals and Iran not conceding an inch of its territory.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians lost their lives or went missing during the war.

Over the years, the Islamic Republic has carried out numerous search operations to recover the remains of its fallen soldiers.

Speaking at the event in Tehran, Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf praised the braveries of the martyrs during the 1980-1988 war imposed on Iran, which is known as "the Sacred Defense."

"We must know that our dear and precious martyrs ... entered the field and sacrificed their lives for the sake of Islam, the [Islamic] Revolution and our beloved Iran."

Referring to Iranian officials, Qalibaf said, "It is today upon us to serve this dear nation. We are duty-bound to make efforts to continue down the path opened by the martyrs, General Qassem Soleimani and Imam Khomeini with faith in the God and the people."

Algerian Envoy Submits Credentials to FM

TEHRAN (IP) - The new Ambassador of Algeria to Tehran submitted his credentials to the Iranian Foreign Minister on Thursday.

At the beginning of his mission, the Algerian envoy Ali Oruj met with Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and talked about the bilateral issues.

Yet, the Palestinian Ambassador to Tehran Salah al-Zawawi's mission finished in Tehran.

Al-Zawawi has been Palestine's second ambassador to Tehran since 1982.

Capitol Riot Glimpse of Many Lessons for Americans

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh says last year's deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. by supporters of then-president Donald Trump has many lessons for Americans.

"On #January6th the world witnessed a glimpse of what the U.S. has been trying to export to other countries for decades. The chaos was predictable when Trump was not held accountable for his unlawful conduct around the globe. What goes around, comes around. U.S. has a lot to learn," Khatibzadeh wrote in a post published on his Twitter page on Thursday evening.

He added, "The chaos was predictable when Trump was not held accountable for his unlawful conduct around the globe."

"What goes around, comes around. U.S. has a lot to learn," the senior Iranian diplomat pointed out.

On #January6th the world witnessed a glimpse of what the U.S. has been trying to export to other countries for decades.

The chaos was predictable when Trump was not held accountable for his unlawful conduct around the globe.

Iran Ready to Mediate Between Saudi Arabia, Yemen

TEHRAN (IFP) - The spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security Commission says Tehran is ready to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini added that Iran's mediation is contingent upon a request by Riyadh and Sana'a.

He also dismissed the notion that Iran controls Yemen. Abbaszadeh Meshkini said the Saudis think Iran calls the shots in Yemen but that is not the case. Abbaszadeh Meshkini underlined that Yemen is not an Iranian province.

The MP also spoke of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia. He said there are no permanent enemies in politics.

He rejected Riyadh's claim that it faces threats from Iran. Abbaszadeh Meshkini noted that Iran has proven that it has never invaded a country but it has defended itself fiercely when attacked.

The lawmaker added that Iran can give tangible guarantees that no threats will be ever posed to Saudi Arabia.

He also said the Islamic Republic is well aware that any war between regional countries will benefit extra-regional enemies.

Abbaszadeh Meshkini underscored that Iran is not opposed to a strong Saudi Arabia but it's opposed to the presence of extra-regional powers in West Asia and their shenanigans in the region.

The Iranian MP said improved relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia will be detrimental to the Israeli regime.

He referred to Saudi Arabia's hostile moves against Iran including the launching of a news channel that beams propaganda into the Islamic Republic.

He said one cannot engage in hostile activities against a nation and at the same time claim to be seeking friendly relations with it.

The lawmaker said Iran has exercised restraint in the face of enmities on the part of Saudi Arabia. "We are not saying it's impossible to establish relations; we are trying and will continue trying [to establish relations] because we care about nations".

U.S. to Leave Iraq With More Humiliation Than in Afghanistan

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the U.S. terrorist forces in Iraq will have to leave the Arab country with more humiliation than what they experienced in Afghanistan.

Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani made the remarks at a ceremony held in Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad on Thursday to commemorate the second martyrdom anniversary of top Iranian anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and his companions in a U.S. drone strike outside Baghdad International Airport.

Qa'ani stressed that the Americans will be finally expelled from the region as they are facing various problems there while the resistance front is advancing on a daily basis.

"By the grace of God, all Americans will be expelled ... from this region," the IRGC's Quds Force commander said. "A considerable number of Americans have been forced out of this region and this will continue. As for Iraq, they must leave Iraq, otherwise; the resistance front inside Iraq will make the Americans miserable and they will have to leave Iraq under more humiliated conditions than what they experienced in Afghanistan and they have no other choice but to leave Iraq."

There are about 2,500 US soldiers and another 1,000 coalition troopers currently based in Iraq.

Qa'ani added that resistance front forces are currently equipped with missiles and weapons which are capable of targeting U.S. warships and carriers anywhere in the region.

Pointing to the 11-day Gaza war in May last year, Qa'ani said Palestinian resistance factions in the coastal enclave fired 3,000 missiles at Israel, 100 of which hit Tel Aviv.

"The Americans built an army for Afghanistan for 20 years but the army could not resist for 20 days, and on the other side of the region, the Zionist regime is building a six-meter wall around its occupied territory, however, in last summer's battle, the resistance [front forces] fired 3,000 rockets from the besieged Gaza Strip at Israel and nearly 100 rockets landed in the regime's capital," he noted.

Qa'ani condemned as the "most cowardly" the assassination of General Soleimani and his Iraqi comrade Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), along with their companions in a US drone strike authorized by ex-President Donald Trump near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

Judiciary Chief Slams West's Warmongering Policy, False HR Claims

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Chief of Islamic Republic of Iran's Judiciary Hojjatoleslam Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei slammed Westerners' warmongering policies and criticized them for their false claims about the issue of human rights.

Hojjatoleslam Mohseni-Ejei made the remarks in a meeting held in Tehran attended senior Iranian officials including Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani and Secretary of High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi.

Those who have committed the most brutal crimes, taken anti-human measures, displaced the oppressed people worldwide, and annihilated countries' infrastructures claim now that they are after human rights, Mohseni-Ejei noted.

In his remarks, the Judiciary chief stressed the need to not take a passive approach towards the issue of the human rights.

He further appreciated measures taken by different bodies in the country to defend the Islamic Republic of Iran against human rights-related allegations. In late November 2021, Gharibabadi said that certain countries use the issue of human rights as a tool against others in order to achieve their political goals.

As Mohseni-Ejei announced, the United States as the main supporter of terrorism accuses Iran of supporting terrorists.

Also, Canada that has killed indigenous people and children often sponsors human rights resolutions against Iran, the official noted, adding that such claims shock the world.

In a related development, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh advised Canadian officials to halt systemic policy on genocide against indigenous people and be responsible for being an aider and abettor of Zionists' anti-human crimes against Palestinians.

Khatibzadeh termed declaration of an anti-Iran draft resolution by Canada with the support of certain Western countries as a repetition of baseless claim based on incorrect information and dishonest generalization.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Gharibabadi said that United States and the West have turned the issue of human rights as an anti-Iran project and make use of all their capacities to proceed their project.

Foreign Actors After Stoking Unrest in Kazakhstan

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Ministry warns that some foreign actors are after misusing Kazakhstan's tensions towards stoking unrest in the Central Asian country.

Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh made the remarks on Thursday, four days into violent protests at increase in gas prices in several cities in Kazakhstan, which have turned deadly for the country's police force.

"It is clear that Kazakhstan's developments are an internal issue, but some foreign parties are after manipulating the circumstances towards stoking the unrest and creating instability in the country," he noted.

So far, at least 18 members of the Kazakh law enforcement force have died and hundreds of others among them been injured in the unrest. At least 400 Kazakh citizens have also ended up in hospitals across

the country since the demonstrations spun out of control.

A state of emergency has been declared in the country's largest city, Almaty, where the protesters have set fire to the mayor's office and stormed other political offices.

Also on Thursday, the United Nations called on all sides in the country to refrain from violence and seek a peaceful resolution to their grievances.

"Stability and security in Kazakhstan is of special importance. Therefore, we hope that calm is restored in the country as fast as possible," Khatibzadeh urged.

The spokesman finally expressed certainty that the "understanding brotherly country's government and people" would ultimately deliver a suitable reaction to the situation and frustrate the nation's ill-wishers through internal integrity.

Iran's Human Rights Chief Calls for Iran-France Legal, Judicial Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Judiciary Deputy for International Affairs and the Secretary of High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi in a meeting with French Ambassador to Iran Philippe Thiebaud on Tuesday called for the legal and judicial cooperation between the two states.

Referring to the experience of specialized legal and judicial dialogues with some states, including European countries, Gharibabadi announced Tehran's readiness to exchange views and make talks with Paris.

He noted that specialized dialogue between the judicial delegations of the two states and exchanging experiences can also help the sides to reach further mutual understanding.

Criticizing the political approach of some states and human rights mechanisms to human rights and applying contradictive and selective standards, he reiterated that

cooperation and dialogue are effective tools for the promotion of human rights, not political and double-standard policies.

In explaining the human rights approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gharibabadi stated that the laws and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran stipulate the promotion and respect for human rights.

He went on to say that Iran is a member of numerous human rights conventions and treaties that adhere to them and provide periodic reports on their implementation. Philippe Thiebaud, for his part, described his country's vision for human rights and welcomed the recommendation of Iran's human rights chief on the legal and judicial dialogue between the two states.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:11
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:27
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:45
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:14

46. If but a breath of the Wrath of thy Lord do touch them, they will then say,

"Woe to us! we did wrong indeed!"

47. We shall set up scales of justice for the Day of Judgment, so that not a soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least, and if there be (no more than) the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it (to account); and enough are We to take account. Surah 21, The Prophets (46 - 47)

Iran Gas Network to Become Stronger

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil minister announced that the trilateral gas swap project among Iran, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan Republic began on Monday, in which Iran receives between 4 to 4.5m cubic meters of natural gas in northeast which strengthens the north Iranian Gas Network.

Javad Owji, who was speaking with the press after attending the Energy Commission of the Parliament on provision of fuel for the nation during the winter season said that by grace of God, thanks to the efforts made by our colleagues, and the people's support, up to the present day we have not faced the need to cut the gas in any part of the country, or with decreased pressure problem.

The oil minister referring to the gas consumption in the homes said that in most provinces the temperature has decreased severely and in 20 provinces we have temperatures around zero degree centigrade, or a couple of degrees below zero.

"Thanks to the measures adopted to provide liquidated fuel for the power generation stations and the industries, those industries and power stations which used natural gas were decreased, and fortunately they kept on generating electricity using liquidated gas," added Owji.

He also requested the people that just as they have thus far economized in usage of gas and all benefitted from this God-given blessing thanks to their maximum cooperation, from now on, too, keep on cooperating so that we will not face any challenge in provision of gas for home usage or be urged to cut the gas for the industries.

"In homes, commercial and transportation sectors altogether we have used around 600 million cubic meters nowadays, and in power generator stations around 100 million cubic meters, or its equivalent in gas oil, and the fuel oil usage has been very low, close to 25 million cubic meters, but by providing fuel oil for the industries we did not let them shut down," said Owji.

On the moves made to finalize the gas swap deal, the oil minister said that the swap contract among Turkmenistan, Iran and Azerbaijan was signed on the sidelines of a conference in Turkmenistan in the presence of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.



He said that the gas swap operation was initially scheduled to start as of the beginning of the Christian New Year, and fortunately started on Monday, and Iran receives from the northeast part of the country 4 to 4.5 million cubic meters of gas daily, which is pumped in the provinces in the same region to strengthen the network, and is a good fortification.

Owji added that in northwest Iran, too, the swap operation is operational with Azerbaijan Republic, which keeping in mind that our usage in northeastern parts in stabilized, it contributes stabilizing the balance in the National Gas Network.

He also said on Tuesday evening that the members of OPEC+ coalition are ready to swiftly and securely provide the market and consumers with oil when required.

Owji made the remark after the 24th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting held via video conference on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, adding the group agreed to extend their agreement to increase crude oil output by 400,000 bpd for February 2020.

According to JMMC's report as well as the world economic outlook and global oil supply-demand drivers analysis for 2022, the OPEC+ member states all agreed to raise production by 400,000 bpd, he added.

Statistics and reports show that despite concerns over the outbreaks of Omicron variant, global oil market is moving towards balance and stability, thanks to the improved economic indicators in the world, particularly in major oil consuming countries, as well as the appropriate OPEC+ member states' compliance, which reached 117 percent in November, Owji said.

OPEC+ member countries are also satisfied with the current situation and all producers try to maintain the existing stability in the oil market, he stated.

"Given the promising economic outlook for the first quarter of 2022, the current trend is expected to be maintained. The OPEC+ countries are ready to swiftly and securely provide the market and consumers with oil when required," Owji said.

The country's logistics ecosystem development platform was unveiled;

Coalition of Post, Logistics, E-Commerce and Financial Technology Activists

The ecosystem ecosystem logistics platform has been formed with the aim of creating a suitable logistics platform to develop and facilitate business interactions and improve customers' access to the required goods and services, with the most appropriate quality, time and price. The platform was unveiled on the sidelines of a special event. This specialized event was held in the form of an exhibition on the occasion of the fifth year of the establishment of Fakher Holding. All the subsidiary companies of this holding were present at this event. A conference, workshops and specialized panels on "Infrastructure", "Post and Logistics" and "Electronic Commerce" were held on Tuesday, January 28, at the Spinas Palace Hotel in Tehran. In recent decades, as the pace of change in the business world has increasingly increased, new concepts, approaches and methods for management have been introduced. One of these concepts is the "business ecosystem". The business ecosystem includes a network of interconnected organizations and actors, including manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, customers, competitors, banks and insurance companies, and public and private institutions that provide the products and services needed for the survival and growth of their business. They compete with each other.

The first step to starting a new path



In the digital age, interaction plays a key role in the success of businesses," said Mehrdad Fakher, chairman of Fakher Holding, at the opening ceremony of the ZiBoom 2022 event, which was held to unveil the Zi Boom ecosystem logistics platform. Creating a platform for developing the ecosystem of postal, logistics, e-commerce and financial technology businesses was

essential. With the unveiling of this platform, Fakher Holding has taken the first step to start a new path in the country.

Develop an ecosystem in a completely democratic way



Furthermore, Reza Samizadeh, CEO of Fakher Holding, called the digital transformation a historical turning point in human life and added: "This historical transformation has changed all processes, business models and the experience of stakeholders." In this regard, the two concepts of "platform" and "ecosystem" have entered the business literature. Defining these two concepts, he said: "The platform is a powerful platform for the business ecosystem, which is typically created by a business or enterprise and has the ability to attract a large number of participants." Therefore, a platform can be created by one firm and different actors can play in it. On the other hand, the ecosystem can run naturally on the platform. We can actually provide the platform to create it, and one of the most important of these platforms is the platform. Samizadeh added: "Ecosystem is a dynamic community consisting of various actors of different businesses who play with each other outside the ability of an organization." In an ecosystem, the services that stakeholders can obtain from each actor are more than the capacity of an actor; As a result, the ecosystem is a coalition of actors and customer service providers that would not normally be able to receive all of them from one actor. He emphasized: "Fakher Holding has tried to develop the ecosystem ecosystem in the last 5 years in a completely democratic way and by preserving the identity of the actors in which they cooperate and compete." This does not mean that we want to run this ecosystem

forever. We hope that Ecosystem will be able to build a democratic ecosystem using all the actors, big and small, logistics, e-commerce and fintech.

Having a central role in the ecosystem does not mean competition

Furthermore, Jamshid Nazemi, a member of the board of directors of Tipax Company, stated that in the business ecosystem, one of the members plays a pivotal role and coordinates the other members. He said: "This pivotal role does not mean competing with other members." And its purpose is to direct long-term plans and investments, etc., by creating harmony among all members.

Establish a retail industry technology association

Farzin Ferdos, Chairman of the Innovation Economics Commission of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, expressed his satisfaction that with the presence of key players and leaders of the retail industry and those working in the value chain of this industry, an ecosystem meaning regulator is being formed, said: Along with other collections he has put together, he has asked the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture to establish the Association of Retail Industry Technologies. In our opinion, the place of this association in the country is empty.

Embark on an exciting and challenging journey



Zahed Shaykh al-Islami expressed his hope that the ecosystem ecosystem could gradually find its way with this first step, adding: "It is not possible without the support and empathy of all actors in this industry."

ACECR Appoints Member of Steering Council on Social Responsibilities

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – In a decree issued by Head of Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), Jihad-e Daneshgahi, member of steering council on social responsibilities was appointed. Head of ACECR Mr. Hamid Reza Tayebi in his decree appointed Mr. Ghorban Mohammad Pourghaz as the member of steering council on social responsibilities.



In the decree, Mr. Tayebi pointed to the valuable experiences of Mr. Pourghaz and expressed hope he would be influential in the materializing the goals of this council.

He said social responsibility is a moral framework and it indicates this fact that any institute, organization or individual should act responsibly regarding social, cultural and environmental issues and the outcome of these actions will be in favor of the society.

Economic Cooperation Between Iran, Armenia Increases

TEHRAN (IP) - After the recent developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and the war between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Iran's relations with Armenia have entered a new phase.

Tehran and Yerevan intend to maximize their interactions by developing cooperation, especially in the economy; in this regard, Ara Shavardian, Vice President of the Iran-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group, emphasizes economic cooperation development between the two sides.

Referring to the achievements of the Iranian parliamentary delegation's visit to Armenia, the Vice President of the Iran-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group said: "Armenia is one of the unique opportunities for Iran to neutralize sanctions."

He added: "During the recent visits of the Iranian Parliamentary delegation to Armenia, we concluded that economic, political, cultural, and social relations should be developed."

Shavardian also said that we emphasized strengthening the south-north corridor during the meeting with Armenian officials, which connects the Indian Ocean, the Oman Sea, and Chabahar to the provinces of West and East Azerbaijan from Armenia to Georgia, the Black Sea, and Central Europe.

Emphasis on Job Creation and Engineering Development in Kerman Province

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of board of directors of Goharzamin Iron Ore Company Eng. Mohammad Jalal Maab with presence in the part-manufacturing and machineries plant of Kerman Industrial Group visited activities for indigenization in Ghete Gostar Industrial Group of Kerman in this plant.



According to reports, during the visit Head of Engineering of Goharzamin Eng. Ali Zohrvardi explained the macro programs of the company in the industrial development of the company which has started since 2018 and with choosing this group as the pilot for producing products with high technology.

Then Eng. Jalal Maab hailed the co-operations of the CEO of Ghete Gostar Part Group in the success of challenging research projects and in indigenizing industry and said the designing and engineering activities in achievement to knowhow which is of the vacuums of indigenizing technology in Kerman Province should be developed.

He also called for developing the role of technology industries in the province for manufacturing parts, machineries with the goal of supporting the production lines and future projects of Goharzamin as well as job creation in this province.

Ghete Gostar Part Group, equipped with unique heavy and semi-heavy machineries, is located in Kerman Province and one of its current projects is the operation of machining and completing the special HPGR grinding rolls which are being indigenized under the technical supervision and consultation of experts and specialists in indigenization.

French Lawmakers Approve New Vaccine Pass



PARIS (Dispatches) - After three days of tumultuous debates, fuelled by controversial remarks by President Emmanuel Macron, the French National Assembly approved a bill early Thursday morning that would transform the country's health pass into a stricter "vaccine pass".

The bill passed shortly before 5:30 am Paris time with 214 votes against 93, and 27 abstentions. It still needs to pass in the Senate, which is due to review it early next week. Macron's government wants the new measures to take effect on January 15, but implementation will likely be delayed after debate was held up in the Assembly.

Lebanon Leader to Convene Cabinet Within Days



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said he will convene the Cabinet within days for the first time in nearly three months, potentially ending a standoff that has paralyzed the government during a financial crisis.

"We will convene Cabinet as soon as it receives the (2022) budget," Mikati said following a meeting with President Michel Aoun, adding this should happen "within the next two days". The powerful Hezbollah group and its ally the Amal movement have refused to allow the Cabinet to meet since Oct. 12, demanding the removal of a judge investigating the devastating 2020 explosion in Beirut port. Mikati has said the executive branch has no say in the matter.

Russia Sends Troops to Kazakhstan to Put Down Uprising



ALMATY (Dispatches) - Russia sent paratroopers into Kazakhstan on Thursday to help put down a countrywide uprising after deadly violence spread across the tightly controlled former Soviet state.

Police said they had killed dozens of rioters in the Central Asian country's main city Almaty. State television said 13 members of the security forces had died, including two found decapitated.

A presidential residence and the mayor's office in the city were both ablaze, Reuters journalists said. By Thursday afternoon, the city's airport, seized earlier by protesters, was under firm control of military personnel. Burnt out cars littered the streets.

Earlier on Thursday, several armored personnel carriers and scores of troops had entered the main square of Almaty, and gunshots could be heard as troops approached the crowd, Reuters correspondents reported from the scene. Later, the square appeared peaceful, with 200-300 protesters still gathered and no troops around.

Unverified video on social media showed troops patrolling Almaty's foggy streets overnight, firing weapons, as well as widespread looting in the city. Masked protesters, some carrying shields and batons apparently seized from police, marched through billowing tear gas along a tree-lined avenue, to the sound of detonations.

The internet had been shut down across the country and the full extent of the violence was impossible to confirm. But the unrest was unprecedented for Kazakhstan, ruled firmly since Soviet times by leader Nursultan Nazarbayev, 81, who had held on to the reins despite stepping down three years ago as president.

Nazarbayev's hand-picked successor, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, called in forces from ally Russia overnight as part of a Moscow-led military alliance of ex-Soviet states. He blamed the unrest on foreign-trained terrorists who he said had seized buildings and weapons.

"It is an undermining of the integrity of the state and most importantly it is an attack on our citizens who are asking me... to help them urgently," he said.

Moscow said it would consult with Kazakhstan and allies on further measures to support the Kazakh authorities' "counter-terrorist operation" and called the uprising a foreign-inspired attempt to undermine the country's security by force.

Neither Kazakhstan nor Russia provided evidence to support the claim of foreign involvement.

The secretariat of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation said advanced units of Russian paratroopers were in the country and had "already begun to fulfil their assigned tasks."

Troops being sent included units from Belarus, Armenia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan as well as Russia, the secretariat said. It did not disclose the overall size of the force.

N.Korea Launches Second Hypersonic Missile in Fiery Test



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea fired a "hypersonic missile" this week that successfully hit a target, state news agency KCNA reported on Thursday, its second such test as the country pursues new military capabilities amid stalled denuclearisation talks.

The launch on Wednesday was the first by North Korea since October and was detected by several militaries in the region, drawing criticism from governments in the United States, South Korea, and Japan.

North Korea first tested a hypersonic missile in September, joining a race headed by major military powers to deploy the advanced weapons system.

Hypersonic weapons usually fly towards targets at lower altitudes than ballistic missiles and can achieve more than five times the speed of sound - or about 6,200 km per hour (3,850 mph).

Despite their name, analysts say the main feature of hypersonic weapons is not speed - which can sometimes be matched or exceeded by traditional ballistic missile warheads - but their maneuverability.

In Wednesday's test, the "hypersonic gliding warhead" detached from its rocket booster and maneuvered 120 km (75 miles) laterally before it "precisely hit" a target 700 km (430 miles) away, KCNA reported.

The missile demonstrated its ability to combine "multi-step glide jump flight and strong lateral maneuvering," KCNA said.

The test also confirmed components such as flight control and its ability to operate in the winter, KCNA added.

"The successive successes in the test launches in the hypersonic missile sector have strategic significance in that they hasten a task for modernizing strategic armed force of the state," the KCNA report said.

While it has not tested nuclear bombs or long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) since 2017, in recent years North Korea has developed and launched a range of more maneuverable missiles and warheads likely aimed at being able to overcome missile defenses like those wielded by South Korea and the United States, analysts have said.

Turkish Prosecutor Seeks Jail for Opposition Politician Over Espionage

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - A Turkish prosecutor is seeking a jail term of up to 20 years for Metin Gurcan, a founder of the Turkish opposition Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA), over military and political espionage, state media said on Thursday.

In late November Gurcan was jailed pending trial over his contacts with foreign diplomats based in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Gurcan, a retired member of the Turkish Armed Forces, helped establish DEVA with Ali Babacan, a former deputy prime minister and minister under President Tayyip Erdogan. Gurcan is also a defence analyst.

In an indictment, the Ankara Chief Prosecutor's Office accused Gurcan of obtaining confidential documents with the aim of political or military espionage, state-owned Anadolu Agency said on Wednesday.

The indictment, which needs to be approved by a court, says it was determined that Gurcan held meetings with foreign state officials and includes photos of the meetings, Anadolu added.

Babacan has said Gurcan's work is based on open sources and he does not have access to state secrets.

He has also said Gurcan's detention was an attempt at diverting attention from the country's economic crisis, marked by the currency plunging to all-time lows.

The lira lost 44% of its value last year, which sent inflation soaring in December to 36%, the highest under Erdogan's 19-year-old rule.

Polls show support for DEVA, founded in March 2020, around 2%, while support for Erdogan and his AK Party are at multi-year lows. Turks have cited economic mismanagement among their main concerns.

DEVA and other opposition parties have called for urgent elections due to what they say is poor management of the economy, but the government has said presidential and general elections would be held as scheduled in June 2023.

Tear Gas and Burning Tires as Thousands Rally in Sudan

KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - Sudanese security forces fired tear gas Thursday aiming to stop thousands of protesters demanding a transition to civilian rule, the latest in weeks of unrest since a military coup.

Singing, beating drums, and holding up posters of some the dozens killed in demonstrations since the October 25 coup, protesters in the capital Khartoum shouted slogans against the army in defiance.

"We will not stop until we get our country back," shouted one protester, 22-year old Samar al-Tayeb.

Other protesters set fire to tires to create burning barricades on the streets.

Crowds were marching towards the presidential palace in Khartoum when security forces fired volleys of tear gas canisters forming thick and choking clouds, witnesses said.

"Our marches will continue until we restore our revolution and our civilian government, even if martyrs fall among us," said Mojtaba Hussein, a 23-year-old protester.

When military chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan staged the power grab over two months ago, it dismantled a precarious power-sharing arrangement between the military and civilians that had been established in the wake of the April 2019 ouster of longtime autocrat Omar-al-Bashir.

The protests on Thursday come days after prime minister Abdalla Hamdok -- who had first been held under house arrest for weeks following the coup, before then being reinstated amid international pressure in a November 21 deal -- resigned leaving the military fully in charge.

The protest movement had slammed the November deal as a "betrayal" for providing what they said was a cloak of legitimacy for Burhan's coup, and had kept up its rallies.

When Hamdok stepped down on Sunday, he said Sudan was at a "dangerous crossroads threatening its very survival".

The military takeover -- one of several in Sudan's post-independence history -- has seen security forces launch a bloody crackdown that has left at least 57 people dead and hundreds wounded, according to the independent Doctors' Committee.

Demonstrations on Thursday also took place in other cities, including in the eastern Red Sea city of Port Sudan, as well as in Atbara in the north and Wad Madani in the south, witnesses said.

"The authority is that of the people," protesters chanted in Wad Madani, as they demanded soldiers "go back to the barracks".

In Atbara, protesters called on Burhan to "hand over the country's keys and leave," witnesses said.



Biden Calls Trump Threat to Democracy On Anniversary of Capitol Attack



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Joe Biden on Thursday accused his predecessor Donald Trump of posing a continuing threat to American democracy in a speech on the anniversary of the deadly U.S. Capitol attack by Trump supporters who tried to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

Speaking at the white-domed building that was the scene of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot, Biden warned that Trump's false claims that the election was stolen from him through widespread voting fraud could unravel the rule of law and undermine future elections.

"We must be absolutely clear about what is true and what is a lie. Here's the truth: A former president of the United States of America has created and spread a web of lies about the 2020 election. He's done so because he values power over principle," Biden said.

The speech was a departure for Biden, who has spent most of his first year in office focused on pursuing his own agenda rather than looking backward. But Democrats, a handful of Republicans and many independent observers have warned that the damage Trump did before the riot - in an incendiary speech to supporters in which he repeated his false election claims and exhorted them to go to the Capitol and "fight like hell" to "stop the steal" - lingers on.

"One year ago today in this sacred place, democracy was attacked. Simply attacked," Biden said. "The will of the people was under assault. The Constitution, our Constitution, faced the gravest of threats."

Biden added that "for the first time in our history a president had not just lost the election he tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power." Biden condemned Trump for watching the riot on television "and doing nothing for hours."

According to Reuters/Ipsos polling, some 55% of Republican voters believe Trump's false claim, which was rejected by dozens of courts, state election departments and members of Trump's own administration.

Four people died in the hours-long chaos, while one police officer died the day after battling rioters and four later died by suicide. Around 140 police officers were injured.

One of the officers at the scene, Sergeant Harry Dunn of the Capitol Police, said the attack took an emotional toll.

"You cannot get away from Jan. 6 even if you're trying to. It's everywhere, especially if it's your place of work," Dunn said in a phone interview. "Accountability needs to be had, no matter who that comes at."

Elahieh Apt (\$2500)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
fireplace
Fully Furn

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

Niavaran (\$2700) 280sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F

Jordan (\$2200)
230sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, pkg
balcony, & F.F

Velenjak Apt (\$2200)
220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, F.F

Zaferanieh bldg
5storey, 20bdrs
S/p, pkg lots, storages
brand new (\$8000)

Darrous (\$1600)
150sq.m, 2bdrs, & F.F

Jordan office (\$2000)
300sq.m, 4bdrs, pkgs

Shanon (adviser)
Parsian

Cell: +989121907875
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
Tel : 88510081
Fax : 88506474

IRAN NEWS ADVERTISING
44253401

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

IRAN NEWS
PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS
ADVERTISING

TEL: 44253448-50
FAX: 44253234
ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Saudi Arabia Cuts February Crude Prices to Asia

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - The world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, has cut February's official selling price (OSP) for all grades of crude it is selling to Asia by at least \$1 a barrel, three sources with knowledge of the matter said. State oil giant Saudi Aramco set the February OSP for Arab Light crude at \$2.20 a barrel above the average of Oman/Dubai quotes, down \$1.10 from the previous month, they said.

The February OSP for the flagship crude is the lowest in three months.

Saudi Aramco had been expected to make deep price cuts for February after Middle East benchmarks and spot prices slumped last month.

However, the sources said the price cuts were still smaller than industry expectations.



Japan, Australia Sign Defense Treaty With Eyes on China

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan and Australia signed a "landmark" treaty to strengthen defense ties, saying the accord would contribute to regional stability, as China expands its military and economic clout.

While Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison did not mention Beijing directly in a statement released ahead of the signing, the agreement is seen as another step by the regional allies to signal their concern over China's military expansion.

Ahead of Thursday's online summit with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, Morrison called the agreement "a statement of two nations' commitment to work together in meeting the shared strategic security challenges we face and to contribute to a secure and stable Indo-Pacific". "This landmark treaty will... for the first time provide a clear framework for enhanced inter-operability and cooperation between our two forces," Morrison said.

The partnership reflects "our shared values, our commitment to democracy and human rights, and our common interests in a free, open and resilient Indo-Pacific", he added.

Japan and Australia, along with the United States and India, are part of the "Quad" grouping that has worked to build an alliance in the face of China's swelling presence across Asia, including its threats to vital international sea lanes.

Ali Wyne, senior analyst at Eurasia Group, said the treaty could enhance Tokyo and Canberra's ability to carry out joint military exercises in Japan with the United States.

It "goes a considerable way towards concretising the forms that security cooperation between Japan and Australia could take", he told AFP. "China will likely cast it as further evidence that advanced industrial democracies seek to stymie its resurgence, although Beijing's own conduct in recent years has contributed considerably to its growing diplomatic estrangement from those countries," Wyne added.

When asked about the treaty at a regular briefing on Wednesday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said "the Pacific Ocean is vast enough for the common development of countries in the region".

"State-to-state exchanges and cooperation should be conducive to enhancing mutual understanding and trust among countries in the region and safeguarding regional peace and stability, rather than targeting or undermining the interests of any third party," he said.

"We hope that the Pacific will be an ocean of peace, not a place to make waves." Japan's defence spending has been increasing steadily for a decade and the country's draft 2022-23 budget includes a record figure for the military.

Tokyo's defense ministry says the regional security situation is becoming "increasingly severe at an unprecedented speed", noting challenges posed by China and North Korea.

Wyne said Thursday's treaty also underscores the momentum of the Quad, which held its first in-person summit

Also in September, the United States, Britain and Australia announced they had formed a new alliance -- AUKUS -- under which Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines using US technology.

Britain's Stalling Economy Blamed on Inflation and Product Shortages

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's economic recovery stalled before the arrival of the Omicron variant of Covid and the dampening effect of the government's plan B restrictions on consumer spending in the Christmas shopping period, a wide-ranging company survey has found.

Businesses blamed spiralling inflation and shortages of imported goods for a decline in sales in the fourth quarter, which meant that an expansion during the spring and summer ground to a halt.

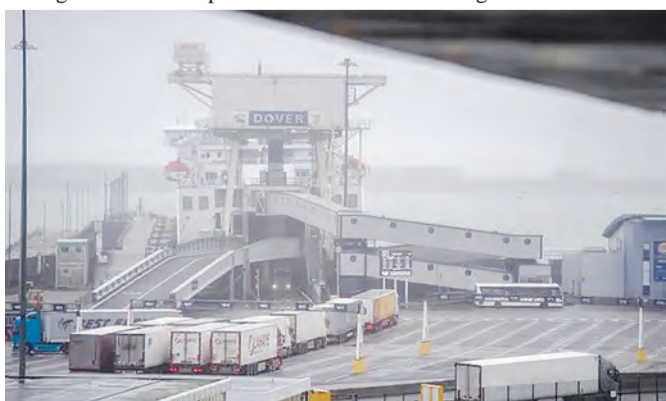
In a message that will concern the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, the British Chambers of Commerce added that many respondents to its quarterly survey of almost 5,500 firms revealed that they were running low on cash and had ditched investment plans to stay afloat into the new year.

Suren Thiru, the BCC's head of economics, said sales growth stalled as firms struggled with the "mounting headwinds" of inflation, a scarcity of skilled workers, and problems sourcing products from overseas.

"The persistent weakness in cash flow is troubling because it leaves businesses more exposed to the economic impact of Omicron, rising inflation and potential further restrictions," he said.

The survey also found that the prospect of Bank of England officials raising interest rates was another concern for firms that had taken on extra debt over the last 20 months to cope with the pandemic. The bank raised rates to 0.25% in December.

A series of reports have shown the UK economy heading into a challenging spring, with a strong rise in consumer prices hitting household disposable incomes and denting consumer confidence.



Official figures showed the consumer prices index (CPI) jumped to 5.1% in November following persistent increases in oil and gas prices and other commodities, including wheat and copper. Consumer spending has underpinned the recovery, accounting for more than 80% of the UK's growth, while spending on government services such as the NHS has made up much of the difference.

Only a minority of businesses have pushed ahead with spending on new equipment, buildings and machinery, despite the offer of tax subsidies on investment, made in the budget last March. In the second quarter of 2021 GDP growth hit 5.5%, but fell back to 1.3% in the third quarter. The BCC survey, which was conducted in the last week of November, indicated that the economy was on course to flatline in the fourth quarter.

Taiwan Sets Up \$200m Fund For Lithuania After China Row

VILNIUS (Dispatches) - Taiwan said it would set up a fund with \$200 million (176 million euros) to invest in Lithuania, as businesses there complain of losses from a China-Lithuania row.

Lithuania allowed Taiwan to open a representative office in Vilnius in November under its own name -- a significant diplomatic departure that set off a bitter dispute with China.

"Taiwan is setting up an investment fund with an initial funding of 200 million US dollars to invest in Lithuanian industries which are strategic for both Lithuania and Taiwan," said Eric Huang, the head of the Taiwanese representative office in Lithuania.

He said the investment was part of Taiwan's plan to develop economic ties with Lithuania following pressure from China.

Huang said the fund would invest in semiconductor, laser, biotechnology and similar Lithuanian industries, with the first investments expected this year.

The Baltic EU state defied pressure from Beijing and allowed Taipei to open a de facto embassy.

That prompted retaliation, Lithuanian business leaders and officials say, in the form of blocked exports from Lithuania and other economic restrictions.

A Taiwanese liquor company said this week that it has snapped up more than 20,000 bottles of Lithuanian rum that were blocked from China.

Huang said that 120 cargo containers that were affected had also been bought by Taiwan.

The United States, which has been increasingly vocal in its concerns about Beijing, has also offered support to Lithuania.

United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai, in a telephone call with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis, promised cooperation to "address coercive diplomatic and economic behavior," her office said.



German Industrial Orders Bounce Back on Strong Foreign Demand

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Higher demand from abroad drove a bigger-than-expected rebound in German industrial orders in November, in rare good news for manufacturers suffering from supply bottlenecks and labor shortages in Europe's largest economy.

Goods orders rose 3.7% on the month in seasonally adjusted terms after a revised drop of 5.8% in October, figures from the Federal Statistics Office showed on Thursday. A Reuters poll of analysts had pointed to a 2.1% rise.

The rise was driven by a surge in foreign demand for capital and intermediate goods, with orders from other euro zone countries jumping 13.1% and bookings from clients outside the single currency bloc up 5%.

"This provides a positive impetus for the economic outlook, although economic activity continues to be burdened by existing delivery bottlenecks," the economy ministry said. In contrast to previous months, orders for large-ticket items such as planes did not have a big impact on the headline figure in November. Excluding this special factor, industrial orders rose 3.8% on the month, the ministry said.

"The upturn in foreign business is particularly encouraging, especially since delivery bottlenecks seem to be easing," said Alexander Krueger, an analyst with private bank Hauck Aufhaeuser Lampe.

But Krueger cautioned that supply chain problems would likely persist well into spring, until delivery logistics functioned more smoothly again.

Economic institutes expect the German economy to have shrunk in the final three months of 2021 and to stagnate in the first three months of 2022, delaying the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

India to Attract Large Investments Due to COP26 Commitments

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The commitments on emission control made by India at the recent Glasgow COP26 summit are expected to benefit the country in the long-term with new technologies in energy efficiency, carbon reduction and green fuels, rating agency said adding this is likely to attract investment in billions across sectors.

ICRA, in its recent research report, has analysed India's commitment in two phases -- up to 2030, and the net-zero target for 2070.

Being a developing country, which is at an inflection point in terms of its energy consumption, the nation's per capita energy consumption is expected to surge 3x-4x over the long term. Parallel to this, India has also committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 1 bn MT by 2030. The country has additionally committed to a net-zero carbon emission target by the year 2070, by when the per capita energy consumption would have surged multifold from current levels, it said.

"In order to achieve the net-zero target by 2070, a focused roadmap would be required. It calls for timely interventions by the government and large capex/investments in GHG emitting sectors like power, industry, and transport. These sectors together emit 90% of CO2 as per 2019 data of the International Energy Agency. Ambitious targets for COP26 open massive investment opportunities across segments stemming from 500 GW renewables by 2030, higher EV penetration (10% by 2025), 20% ethanol blending for petrol (3x increase from current levels), improvement in energy efficiencies (battery storage, smart cities, etc.) and improvement in carbon capture from enhancing green cover and use of advanced technologies. This would be a daunting task, and would need massive policy interventions to ensure investments across aforementioned sectors remain profitable enough to sustain well beyond 2030," Rohit Ahuja, Head of Research and Outreach, ICRA said.

The five-pronged strategy presented during the COP26 summit includes higher generation and use of renewable energy sources for incremental energy needs, limiting and then reducing emissions from conventional sources of energy. This makes strategic sense considering recent success in capacity additions (>150 GW capacities commissioned), and coal power generation being the largest contributor to carbon emissions, the report said.

IMF Postpones World Economic Outlook To Consider Latest COVID Data



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is postponing its World Economic Outlook by about a week until January 25 to account for the more recent developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, Reuters reported.

"The World Economic Outlook update will be launched on January 25 to allow our teams to incorporate the latest developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic into the economic forecasts," an IMF spokesperson told Reuters.

The forecast was originally planned for release on Jan. 19, IMF spokesperson Gerry Rice told the media last month.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said at the Reuters Next conference last month that the Washington, D.C.-based international financial institution was probably going to lower its global economic growth projections this month, due to the impact of the omicron variant of the coronavirus.

In October, the global economic growth forecast was projected by the IMF to be 5.9% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022. At the time, the IMF said that this year will be affected by new variants and the surrounding unpredictability.

Since COVID-19 gripped the world in early 2020, almost 5.5 million individuals have died from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University data. There have been approximately 297 million cases diagnosed around the globe.

On Monday, the U.S. set a worldwide record of almost 1 million new coronavirus infections, according to Reuters data. The daily average in the U.S. hit 486,000 cases over the last week, more than any other country.

Economists anticipate that the IMF will slash its forecast for the U.S. as the omicron variant continues to spread. The forecast could also drop over the failure on the part of Congress to pass U.S. President Joe Biden's \$1.2 trillion social and climate spending package, Reuters reported.

Iranian, Norwegian FMs Discuss Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Norwegian counterpart Anniken Huitfeldt in a telephone conversation on Thursday night exchanged their views on Vienna talks for removal of anti-Iranian sanctions. During the phone talk, Iranian and Norwegian foreign ministers exchanged their views on bilateral relations, regional and international issues, as well as the talks on the removal of sanctions in Vienna. Referring to the high economic and technological potentials of the two countries, Amir-Abdollahian expressed hope that the cooperation between the two countries would develop relations.



China's Economy Could Overtake U.S. Economy by 2030

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - China's economy will increasingly rely on state investment, high-tech development and domestic consumption - with less input from its past staple of export manufacturing - as it stands to overtake the United States in the coming decade, analysts predict.

China's GDP should grow 5.7% per year through 2025 and then 4.7% annually until 2030, British consultancy Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) forecasts. Its forecast says that China, now the world's second-largest economy, would overtake the No. 1-ranked U.S. economy by 2030. Credit insurance firm Euler Hermes made a similar forecast.

Chinese leaders have pushed over the past decade to rely more on value-added services over traditional factory exports, state media have said. The Sino-U.S. trade dispute and early 2020 workplace closures due to COVID-19 have added pressure on manufacturing.

Reducing factory output in China, foreign multinationals have been expanding outside China, targeting places such as Vietnam to avoid rising wages and environmental compliance costs. By offshoring in multiple countries they hope to head off any repeat of China's early 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns that shut down factories.

China's economy totaled \$15.92 trillion in 2020, and market research firm IHS Markit estimates that it reached \$18 trillion last year on export manufacturing growth and capital for new projects. The U.S. economy reached about \$23 trillion last year, the market research firm said. The country that's already known for fast economic growth over the past 20 years would see the state take more control over key sectors after intervening in several, including the internet, in 2021, economists expect.

"Beijing has the funds and the unfettered domestic political power to use China's large public treasury to make strategic investments in the service of the leadership's national and global objectives," said Denny Roy, senior fellow at the East-West Center think tank in Honolulu.

China scored 2.98 in 2018, up from 2.45 eight years earlier and approaching about three times the world average, on the Organization for Economic Co-operation Development policy forum's Direct Control Over Enterprises index.

That means the government's direct control over enterprises "well exceeded the open economy average" and "reflects China's increasing emphasis on the role of the state in the economy under Xi Jinping," the think tank Atlantic Council says in its October report China Pathfinder: Annual Scorecard.

Chinese leaders will probably prioritize tech, especially hardware that does not require constant innovation, as a growth engine, economists say.

State intervention in the internet sector won't hobble expansion in semiconductors and infrastructure software, said Zennon Kapron, founder and director of the Shanghai-based financial industry research firm Kapronasia.

"If the country does become self-sufficient in terms of technology and then is able to sell and export those products and services that are based on the technology, then that would be a huge bump to its economy, because [that] is a key driver certainly of the U.S. GDP now," Kapron said.

The U.S. economy will keep growing but without spurts through 2030, Kapron predicts. China has a "huge base of engineers," albeit less creativity than it needs to foster



the "zany ideas" that drive development of new technology, said Douglas McWilliams, founder and executive deputy chairman of CEBR.

Domestic spending has driven most of China's economic growth before 2021 as the country reduced its exposure to the world in view of the Sino-U.S. trade dispute, McKinsey & Co. says in its China consumer report 2021. Supply chains have "matured and localized, and its innovation capabilities were enhanced" in turn, McKinsey & Co. says.

That trend is likely to continue despite hits to income under lockdowns during the first year of COVID-19, analysts say. China's population exceeds that of the United States by 3.5 times, though American consumers are wealthier on average.

"In the past five years, domestic consumption has ... become a more significant growth driver as China's domestic consumer market has grown dramatically in size," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific chief economist with IHS Markit. Beijing's leadership "aims to create more than 11 million new urban jobs and expand domestic demand and effective investment," the official Xinhua News Agency said in mid-2021. Those measures, it said, "are expected to put the economy firmly back to pre-pandemic vibrancy."

Status as the world's largest economy does not confer any automatic advantages over others, economists said, but countries dependent on the Chinese economy would take note. "There is no gold medal or anything like that," CEBR's McWilliams told VOA. "But when you've got more money to spend, you do have the ability to influence things, and China will have that ability to influence things."

China would be better placed, he said, to advance its Belt and Road Initiative, a 9-year-old effort aimed at building land and sea trade routes through Asia, Europe and Africa in the form of infrastructure projects and investments.

Officials in Beijing are already leveraging their economy in disputes with other countries, said Roy of the East-West Center. China vies with four Southeast Asian governments over maritime sovereignty, contests a group of islets with Japan and has gotten into territorial standoffs with India since 2017.

Seoul Must Release...

FROM PAGE 1

Pointing to the significance of Seoul-Tehran relations, Choi, for his part, offered explanations about Iran's blocked funds in South Korea and said his country is making efforts to repay its debt to Iran.

The meeting, which was held at the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna, was not directly related to the ongoing negotiations between Iran and the P4+1 group and was convened within the framework of routine bilateral consultations between the two countries at the request of the Korean side.

South Korea owes Iran more than \$8 billion for gas condensate imports from the country but has so far refused to pay it. South Korea sees unilateral sanctions and the so-called US maximum pressure as an impediment to paying off its debt. The issue has been criticized multiple times by the Iranian officials.

Meanwhile the former Iranian ambassador to South Korea said, "South Korea's debt to Iran is much more than \$8 billion, and Seoul must compensate financial damages Iran faced over eight years delay in receiving its money." Fereydoun Entezari said, "Korea has benefited a lot from blocking Iran's assets, and should compensate damages that inflicted on Iran."

"The Korean government follows U.S. policies and it is needed that to be dealt with decisively," he said.

Gov't Reports Lowest...

FROM PAGE 1

The agency said that jobs had increased by 122,000 over the quarter to late December to a total of 23,535 million.

Jobless rate was 23.6% among the youth between 15 and 23 years old, down 0.1% against the similar quarter last year, said the SCI.

The Iranian services sector was responsible for 49.9% of the jobs in the country over the quarter, followed by manufacturing and agriculture with 34.7% and 15.4%, respectively. Some 20 out of 31 Iranian provinces had reported single digit jobless rates over the three months to late December, including Razavi Khorasan in the northeast where unemployment was lowest in the country at 5.3%.

The highest jobless rate of 15.3% was recorded in Hormozgan Province on the Persian Gulf coast, said the SCI.

Flash Floods in...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran's Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber said on Thursday that the government has plans to quickly offset the impact of the floods in those regions.

Speaking in a meeting with local authorities in Kerman, Mokhber said that the government would allocate the funds needed to compensate people and businesses affected by the floods in a first Cabinet meeting planned for the weekend. Iran's National Disaster Monument Organization said on Wednesday that a total of nine people had been killed in the floods in the four provinces affected by the crisis.

Iran Offers...

FROM PAGE 1

Citing figures, he said that Pakistan could export up to 8 million tons of rice.

On the other hand, the country shipped nearly 144,000 tons of mangoes abroad and it could enhance its exports to Iran as well, he said.

Imam added that Iran had expertise in the floriculture sector and exchange of such talent could benefit both sides. Speaking on the occasion, Hosseini said that Iran imported numerous agricultural products from Pakistan.

"Iran imports 5,000 tons of citrus fruit from Pakistan," he said. "We also import rice from Islamabad and there is a huge demand for Pakistani livestock, red meat and fishery products in Iran." He pointed out that his country was exporting 104 megawatts of electricity to Pakistan.

Iran and Pakistan had a 900km-long border and both countries should take advantage of it to support each other, he said. Hosseini offered to exchange Iran's technical knowledge of floriculture with Pakistan.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research Secretary Tahir Khurshid said that the long border between the two countries could play a huge role in perishable goods trade.

Pakistan Embassy in Tehran Marks Kashmir's Self-Determination Day

TEHRAN (IP) - The Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran arranged a ceremony on the eve of the 73rd anniversary of the United Nations' commitment to Kashmir Self-Determination Day through a plebiscite.

In a statement the Pakistani Embassy issued on Wednesday, it marked the 73rd anniversary of the United Nations' commitment that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute would be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices.

"In case of Jammu and Kashmir, the right of self-determination has been guaranteed through several UN Security Council and UN Commission Resolutions which establish that the final settlement of the Kashmir dispute was only possible through free and fair plebiscite which allow the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination."



India has promulgated new domicile rules and introduced amendments in land ownership laws to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory in clear violation of the international law including the UN

Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and the 4th Geneva Convention, according to the embassy.

The statement recalled that Pakistan unveiled a Comprehensive Dossier on 12 September 2021, comprising irrefutable evidence of Indian human rights violations in IIOJK.

Elsewhere in the statement, the Pakistani embassy referred to the Palestinian issue and the necessity of plebiscite there: "We believe that the only viable solution to the situation in Palestine is the creation of an independent State of Palestine with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital."

"We thank the Supreme Leader, the entire Iranian leadership and the brotherly nation of Iran for their unflinching support to the people of Kashmir and to the just and peaceful settlement of Kashmir dispute," the statement said.

The United Nations must live up to its promise of granting the right to self-determination to Kashmiris, the statement stressed: "It must urge India to allow UN Fact Finding Mission to IIOJK to investigate the reports of grave human rights violations."

The ceremony was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, to observe solidarity with the innocent Kashmiris of the Indian-occupied Kashmir, with Zeib Tayyeb, Charge d'affairs of Pakistan Embassy in Tehran reading the statement.

India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads over the Jammu and Kashmir region since they divided two independent countries in 1947. Part of this land is under the control of India and the other part is under the control of Pakistan.

On August 5, 2019, the Parliament of India voted in favor of a resolution tabled by Home Minister Amit Shah to revoke the temporary special status, or autonomy, granted under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir.

U.S., Israel Major...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran reiterates its long-standing and principled position on the need to strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances, she said.

The only absolute guarantee that chemical weapons will not be used again is the total destruction of all chemical weapons across the globe, she said, adding that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure that such weapons will not be produced and used in the future.

Citing significant efforts by Syria to carry out its obligations under the CWC, including the complete destruction of all its 27 chemical facilities as verified by the OPCW, Ershadi said the holding of monthly Security Council meetings to consider the Syrian file is unjustified.

Syria surrendered its entire chemical stockpile in 2013 to a mission led by the United Nations and the OPCW. It believes that false-flag chemical attacks on the country's soil have been staged by foreign-backed terrorists in a bid to pressure the government amid army advances.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۵۲۴۰۵

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9150038/02



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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
11	PARTS FOR" AIR PACK " AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE HA-550-LT SERIAL NO. T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3	165 NO

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 3,440 EURO or 921,100,000 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

Public Relations
www.shana.ir
www.nisoc.ir
<http://iets.mporg.ir>

Rahm Wants Wins Over Consistency in 2022

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - World number one Jon Rahm says he would happily swap consistency for more victories as he opens his 2022 campaign at the Sentry Tournament of Champions in Hawaii this week. Spaniard heads a star-studded field at the PGA Tour's calendar-year opening tournament in Maui following a dazzling 2021 campaign which included a maiden major victory at the US Open as well as PGA Player of the Year honors.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:
(+98) (21) 44253448
Public Relations Tel:
(+98)(21) 44253450
Editorial Board: 44253449
Public Relations Fax:
(+98)(21) 44253395
Advertising Department:
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
Website:
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:
info@irannewsdaily.com
ISSN 1024-6053
P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed by:Honar Sarzmin Sabz
Distributed by:
Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute
Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Korda Tests Positive For Covid-19

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - American Sebastian Korda said he had tested positive for Covid-19 after landing in Adelaide ahead of this month's Australian Open. Korda had already withdrawn from the Adelaide International warm-up event but the world number 41 is in the main draw entry list for this month's Grand Slam at Melbourne Park. "No symptoms and two negative results since testing positive," he wrote on Twitter alongside a video of him hitting a ball against the hotel room wall.

Nets Win in Kyrie Irving's Season Debut

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Kyrie Irving scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter as the Brooklyn Nets made his season debut a successful one by overcoming a 19-point deficit for a 129-121 victory over the host Indiana Pacers.

Irving returned as a part-time player due to being unvaccinated against COVID-19 and the vaccine mandate in New York City, which prevents him from playing in home games. He was dominant in the fourth quarter as the Nets snapped a season-high three-game losing streak.

With his father, Drederick, sitting courtside, Irving shot 9 of 17 from the field in 31:59 of play. It was his first action since Game 4 of the Eastern Conference semifinals in Milwaukee when he injured his ankle.

Kevin Durant led the Nets with 39 points, eight rebounds and seven assists as Brooklyn shot 56.3 percent and made 13 of 19 shots in the fourth. James Harden added 18 while LaMarcus Aldridge chipped in 13.

76ers 116, Magic 106

Joel Embiid scored 31 points and Seth Curry had 20 points and 12 assists, helping Philadelphia rally past host Orlando in head coach Doc Rivers' return to the bench.

After being named the NBA Eastern Conference Player of the Month for December on Tuesday, Embiid made 12-of-22 field goals and 7-of-10 free throws as Philadelphia extended its winning streak to five games.

Cole Anthony (right ankle sprain), who had not played since Dec. 23 and has missed 14 games this season due to injury, had 26 points and seven assists for the Magic despite leaving briefly in the third quarter with an injury to his left ankle. Wendell Carter Jr. (non-COVID illness) had 12 points and 10 rebounds for his fifth straight double-double.

Jazz 115, Nuggets 109

Bojan Bogdanovic had a season-high 36 points and a career-best 13 rebounds, Rudy Gay scored 18 points and visiting Utah beat Denver.

Donovan Mitchell scored 17 points, Royce O'Neale had 13 points and 11 rebounds, Jordan Clarkson also scored 13 and Mike Conley scored 10 for Utah, which has won 10 straight road games.

Nikola Jokic notched his 64th career triple-double with 26 points, 21 rebounds and 11 assists, Monte Morris and Will Barton scored 20 points each and Aaron Gordon had 17 points for Denver.

Heat 115, Trail Blazers 109

Max Strus shot 7-of-13 from 3-point range and scored a team-high 25 points in his return, and Miami used an 18-4 run in the fourth quarter to hold off host Portland.

Behind the shooting of Strus and Duncan Robinson, both of whom made their return from health and safety protocols, Miami hit 19-of-41 from 3-point range. Robinson scored all 12 of his points off the bench on 4-of-6 shooting from deep.

Mavericks 99, Warriors 82

Luka Doncic went for a game-high 26 points and Dallas dominated visiting Golden State from both the 3-point and free-throw lines in a victory on a night when the hosts retired Dirk Nowitzki's number.

Dorian Finney-Smith and Tim Hardaway Jr. combined for 31 points and six 3-pointers in the Mavericks' fourth straight win. Finney-Smith totaled 17 points on 4-of-7 shooting from long range, while Jalen Brunson had 15 points and Hardaway 14 for the Mavericks, who had been 1-11 this season when getting held under 100 points.

Raptors 117, Bucks 111

Pascal Siakam scored a season-high 33 points as visiting Toronto took down Milwaukee to extend its win streak to four games.

The 6-foot-9 forward shot 13 of 23 and also collected five rebounds and six assists to lead the Raptors over Milwaukee for the second time this season. Gary Trent Jr. and OG Anunoby chipped in 22 points, and Fred VanVleet notched 19.

Nadal Back With Patchy Win

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal stepped up his return from Covid and injury with a patchy win over qualifier Ricardas Berankis at the Melbourne Summer Set tournament.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion launched his Australian Open preparations with a 6-2, 7-5 win in the second round, his first singles match on the ATP Tour since August.

The 35-year-old, who tested positive for Covid last month, was in action just as his rival Novak Djokovic was facing deportation from Australia.

Nadal, who suffered a foot injury last year and sat out Wimbledon and the US Open in 2021, received a first-round bye at the Melbourne Summer Set before meeting Lithuania's 104th-ranked Berankis.

Nadal, who played doubles on Tuesday, looked in good touch early on and wrapped up the first set comfortably, breaking Berankis twice.

The Spaniard broke Berankis early in the second set and looked on track for a straightforward win when he led 5-2, only for his serve to go off the boil and allow the Lithuanian back into the match.

Berankis levelled the set at 5-5 before Nadal at last held serve, then broke once more to wrap up victory.

He will now play either Australia's Alexei Popyrin or Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands in the quarter-finals.

Australia Bars Djokovic, Cancels Entry Visa

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Australia said Thursday it had cancelled the entry visa of Novak Djokovic, opening the way to his detention and removal in a dramatic reversal for the tennis world number one.

The Serb had landed in Melbourne the previous evening, after celebrating on social media that he had a medical exemption to play in the tournament without proof he was fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

The vaccine exemption, granted by the Australian Open organizers after his application had been cleared by two medical panels, sparked fury among Australians who have endured Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions for two years.

But the nine-time Australian Open champion never got past border control.

"Mr Djokovic failed to provide appropriate evidence to meet the entry requirements to Australia, and his visa has been subsequently cancelled," the Australian Border Force said in a statement.

"Non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa on entry or who have had their visa cancelled will be detained and removed from Australia," it added.

"The Australian Border Force will continue to ensure that those who arrive at our border comply with our laws and entry requirements."

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the country's strict border policies had been critical to keeping death rates low.

"Rules are rules, especially when it comes to our borders," he said.

"No one is above these rules."

Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said the government made "no apologies" for protecting the border.

"Individuals who do not meet our strict requirements will be denied entry to Australia, it does not matter who they are," she said in a statement.

Djokovic was expected to leave Australia at the earliest opportunity after the loss of his visa.

Serbia's president blasted Australia for the "maltreatment" of the star.



Morata Is Staying at Juventus

TURIN (Dispatches) - Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said Spanish striker Alvaro Morata would not be leaving the Serie A club in January, with Aaron Ramsey the only player likely to depart Turin this month.

Reports in the Italian and Spanish media have linked Spain international Morata with a move to Barcelona this month, while Welshman Ramsey is rumoured to be heading back to England as he looks for more regular action.

"Morata does not leave," Allegri told a news conference ahead of his side's clash with Napoli. "He is a player who scored 21 goals last year, this year already seven. The problem with Alvaro is that he is seen as always lacking in something."

"I talked to him and told him that he doesn't move from here because to find someone at his height and ability is very difficult. Alvaro remains with great enthusiasm, end of discussion."

"Ramsey is back in training today after saying he wanted to work in England - he will be the only outgoing player."

Juve are languishing in fifth place in the Serie A standings ahead of the return of the league following the winter break.

Medvedev Steers Russia Into ATP Cup Semis

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - World number two Daniil Medvedev battled past seventh-ranked Matteo Berrettini and returned to court to win the deciding doubles to keep defending champions Russia on track for another ATP Cup title as they swept into the semi-finals.

Medvedev, who is set to be the top seed at this month's Australian Open with Novak Djokovic facing deportation over a visa issue, was dominant in the first set.

But the gritty big-serving Italian battled back to win a second set tie-break before the Russian got a crucial break in game three of the third set to carve out a 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4 win.

Russian number two Roman Safiullin earlier lost 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 to world number 10 Jannik Sinner with the tie forced into a doubles shoot-out.

Medvedev played just five doubles matches in 2021, but has fronted up for three so far in Sydney and partnered with Safiullin again to keep their unbeaten record intact, digging deep to beat Berrettini and Sinner 5-7, 6-4, 10-5.

"What we did amazing today was we were in a tough position at one point, and every change, every shot we had to make we tried to discuss it, and it worked," said Medvedev of the doubles.

"Roman stated playing unbelievable and we had some crazy rallies, it was amazing."

Medvedev and Berrettini met in singles for the first time since the 2021 ATP Cup final, when the Russian ran out a 6-4, 6-2 winner to seal the trophy for his team, and he again had the edge.



Chelsea Defeat Chelsea in First-Leg League Cup Semi

LONDON (Dispatches) - Thomas Tuchel warned Chelsea their League Cup semi-final against Tottenham is not over yet after they took control of the tie with a 2-0 first leg win.

Tuchel's side are within touching distance of a first League Cup final appearance since 2019 after brushing aside Tottenham at Stamford Bridge.

Kai Havertz put Chelsea ahead with a deflected strike before Ben Davies's farcical own goal increased their lead before half-time.

Although Chelsea were unable to completely kill off their London rivals, they head to Tottenham for the second leg on January 12 as firm favorites to reach the final against Liverpool or Arsenal.

Liverpool's semi-final first leg, scheduled for Thursday, was postponed until next week after a significant coronavirus outbreak among Jurgen Klopp's squad.

Chelsea's victory was their first in three games, building on their spirited fightback from two goals down to draw 2-2 against Liverpool on Sunday.

"It seems like a deserved win, an excellent result because it reflects the game. We could have scored more but it is hard to score against Tottenham," Tuchel said. "We did create a lot, some huge chances. The up-side is everybody knows it is going to be a tough match in the second leg. It's not decided yet."

With Romelu Lukaku back in the fold, albeit once again looking far from his best, Tuchel will hope he has navigated a storm that threatened to derail Chelsea's season.

Lukaku, Chelsea's club record £97.5 million (\$132 million) signing from Inter Milan last year, was dropped for the Liverpool game after he gave an interview that featured criticism of the way he was being used by Tuchel.

