

Health Ministry Announced on Saturday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic In Iran Increased to 132,044 With 18 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Iran Continues Its Humanitarian Aid To People in Need in Afghanistan, This Time, the Shipment Includes Food and Fuel as the Country Has Distributed \$20 Worth of Coal and Wood to Needy Afghan Families

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Tehran Blames Cruel U.S. Sanctions for Its UN Dues

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations says the cruel and unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States are to blame for the suspension of the Islamic Republic's right to vote at the United Nations General Assembly.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi on Friday said that the U.S. sanctions had resulted in Iran's failure to pay membership dues to the world body, but expressed hope that Tehran's efforts to end the suspension would bear fruit soon.

His remarks come as Iran has been denied the right to cast its vote on various matters at the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council for a second consecutive year.

The U.S. reimposed the sanctions after leaving the 2015 agreement with Iran and world powers that had partially suspended the coercive economic measures.

"As an active member of the UN, Iran has always been committed to paying up its membership dues on time, and we have proven this in practice, but unfortunately, due to the cruel and unilateral sanctions [by the US], we faced the problem of paying up our membership fee for the second consecutive year," Takht-Ravanchi said.

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Iran, Saudi Arabia Preparing To Reopen Embassies

TEHRAN (IFP) - An Iranian member of parliament says Iran and Saudi Arabia are preparing to reopen their embassies in their capitals.

That's according to a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission.

Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi said a rapprochement is in the works between Iran and Saudi Arabia. He added that this has important implications for reducing regional tensions and increasing the cohesion of the Islamic world.

Rahimi Jahanabadi urged the media to beware of what he called the Zionists' vileness and the extremists' stupidity.

"We had four rounds of positive and constructive talks with Saudi officials in Iraq," Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian also recently told Al Jazeera.

He added that what Iran stated as its official position is that whenever the Saudis want the relations between the two countries to return to normal, Iran is ready and welcome the reopening of embassies and consulates. Saudi Arabia unilaterally cut ties with Iran in 2016 after protests happened outside its embassy in Tehran over Riyadh's execution of dissident Shia cleric Nimr Baqer al-Nimr.

Iran and Saudi Arabia also have differences over a range of other issues like Riyadh's war on Yemen.

Oil Minister Expects Good News On Energy Cooperation With Russia



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Oil Minister Javad Owji has predicted that there will be good news related to cooperation with Russia in the energy sector as the Islamic Republic pursues a policy of neutralizing illegal U.S. sanctions through enhancing ties with friendly countries.

"In the energy sector, we are holding negotiations with the Russian side, and we will announce [their results] whenever the talks are concluded. I think there will be good news in the energy cooperation between Iran and Russia," he told reporters on Saturday.

Asked about the 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between Iran and China, Owji said that under the bilateral deal, accords must be signed in different fields, among them the oil and gas sector, and that their news will be transmitted accordingly.

He also said that the price of oil between 80 to 90 dollars per barrel would be favorable for both consumers and producers. Owji said: "Last week, good agreements were signed with Turkmenistan on the export of technical services and petroleum products, which we hope will be implemented soon."

He announced that a \$4 billion consortium would be formed to support petro-refinery projects. Asked the desired level of oil prices to meet the interests of producers and consumers, given the Brent price, which has reached \$86 per barrel, the Minister of Petroleum said: "In my opinion, and according to experts who have worked in this field, the price is of between 80 to 90 dollars [per barrel] is desirable; OPEC members also favor this price."

The Russian energy minister had recently said that prices above \$100/b were to the detriment of both producers and consumers. Regarding this, Mr. Owji added: "The members of OPEC+ would favor the price range I just said."

Regarding gas exports to Turkey, Owji said: "The contract for gas exports to Turkey will expire in 2026, and the issue of extending Iran's gas exports to Turkey is one of the programs on the agenda of the Ministry of Petroleum and the National Iranian Gas Company. Experts from the Turkish company Botas and the National Iranian Gas Company will hold talks this week."

Announcing that good decisions have been made regarding gas exports to Oman, the Oil Minister said: "We have started negotiations, and we hope that it will lead to a contract for export of gas to Oman for an LNG unit in this country."

In response to a question about the president's visit to Russia, he stated: "Good achievements and good news will be announced in due course. As you know, the Ministry of Petroleum is in charge of the Iran-Russia Joint Commission and, God willing, good news with Russia will be announced in due course."

Regarding implementation of the 25-year agreement with China, the Oil Minister stated: "We have not yet entered into the contract phase in the field of oil. God willing, we will announce any contract that is finalized."

The Oil Minister considered the support and financing of the country's development, economic and vital projects as one of the main missions of the banks, and said: "The Oil Ministry has other new projects on the agenda in the development of oil and gas fields, transmission lines and petroleum refineries."

He thanked the Ministry of Economy for providing financial resources and facilities to oil projects, adding: "Last week, with today's project, a total of \$500 to 600 million has been provided for projects in the oil industry."

Regarding the memorandum that was signed on Saturday, Owji said: "This project transports 150,000 barrels of products per day from Rafsanjan to the northeast of the country, and if this pipeline is not there, about 800 to 1000 tankers will have to carry this product daily. The project is important for fueling power plants and industries and for exporting to neighboring countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan."

Owji emphasized: "We are trying to tap domestic manufacturing capacity for all the equipment and raw materials needed for construction of these pipelines and stations."

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

New Milestone in Tehran-Beijing Ties

The Islamic Republic of Iran and China on Friday officially began a new era of bilateral cooperation which can enrage the West and especially the Americans and these two countries can cooperate in different fields.

On Friday Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said a 25-year strategic partnership deal with China signed in March last year has come into effect as part of the outcome of a key visit to China at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

"We agreed to announce today as the date to begin implementing the comprehensive agreement on strategic partnership" between Iran and China, Amir-Abdollahian said, after concluding detailed discussions on Sino-Iranian cooperation with the Chinese foreign minister in China on Friday.

Iran as a regional power and China as the one of the big world powers signed the landmark 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership agreement in March last year in defiance of the U.S.'s unilateral sanctions to strengthen long-standing economic and political alliance.

The deal officially documents the Sino-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that had been announced during a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to boost economic cooperation between the two countries for the next 25 years, and paves the way for Iran's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, a massive infrastructure project stretching from East Asia to Europe.

During the Friday meeting with China's foreign minister, Amir-Abdollahian pointed to the significance of the 25-year partnership agreement signed between Tehran and Beijing and emphasized that the implementation of the document would be an important event and a fundamental change in relations.

Tehran says the huge imports of China's coronavirus vaccine is thanks to the strategic partnership deal signed between the two sides in March.

The top Iranian diplomat outlined the latest state of bilateral cooperation in various fields and said Tehran is resolved to implement all infrastructure agreements with Beijing.

The Chinese foreign minister also said Beijing completely supports Iran's wise stance toward the bullying policies of the United States and also its position on the ongoing talks with the five remaining signatories to the 2015 nuclear agreement, urging Washington to make up for the past mistake in withdrawing from the deal.

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Russia Cautiously Optimistic Over Real Progress in Vienna Talks

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says he is cautiously optimistic about "progress" made in ongoing negotiations in the Austrian capital of Vienna between Iran and the five remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement aimed at securing the removal of all U.S. sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Speaking in an annual press conference on Friday, Lavrov said he was optimistic about the direction of talks over the revival of the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was abandoned by the US three years after its conclusion.

"There's real progress. There's real desire - primarily between Iran and the United States - to understand specific concerns and how these concerns can be considered in the general package" of documents, the top Russian diplomat said. He added that the two sides are making "good progress at the moment" and would "come to an agreement."

Iran and the P4+1 group of countries - Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China - resumed talks in Vienna on January 3 after the parties took a three-day break for the New Year. The US is not allowed to directly attend the talks due to its pullout in 2018.

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China Blasts U.S. Sanctions on Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - China has reaffirmed its opposition to unilateral sanctions by the United States against Iran as the Chinese and Iranian foreign ministers announced the launch of a 25-year cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening economic and political ties.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in the city of Wuxi, in Jiangsu province on Friday, with a summary of the meeting posted on China's foreign ministry website on Saturday.

Wang, who is also State Councilor, said the US bears primary responsibility for the ongoing difficulties with Iran, having unilaterally withdrawn from a 2015 nuclear deal.

The United States reimposed the sanctions that the agreement had removed and slapped new bans under different labels. Wang said China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions against Iran, political manipulation through topics including human rights, and interference in the internal affairs of Iran and other regional countries.

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Iran's Annual Non-Oil Exports Expected to Touch \$46b

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) predicted the country's annual non-oil exports would amount to \$46 billion in about two months.

Given the growing trend of exports, the country's revenues from the shipping of non-oil products could reach \$46 billion, said the IRICA deputy chief for technical affairs. The country's average value of monthly non-oil exports in the first half of the Iranian calendar year (starting March 21, 2021) equaled to \$3.5 billion, Foroud Asgari added.

The revenues have witnessed a considerable increase since late August, rising to \$5 billion and bringing the total earning to \$36 billion up to now, said the official, noting the rise in non-oil exports was behind it.

President Calls For Observing COVID-Related Health Protocols

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



Speaking on Saturday at the meeting of the National Task Force Against Coronavirus, Raisi referred to the issue of requesting sports competitions and exhibitions, and emphasized, "Sports competitions and exhibitions should be accompanied by strict observance of health protocols and the limited presence".

"In this regard, the related ministries are obliged to take the necessary measures in this regard in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education," he said.

The President stressed the importance of observing health protocols in public transportation and stated, "Protecting the health of the people in public transportation, especially in the metro and airplanes, is

very important, and the planning of the related agencies in this field should be such that people are not harmed".

Appreciating the support of the people and the efforts of all those involved, especially the health sector, Raisi said, "Maintaining and improving the existing conditions requires the observance of all health protocols, along with strict supervision by the relevant agencies".

The President also stressed the need to inform the public in a timely manner in this regard and said, "Information on issues related to corona should be done only through the spokesman of the National Task Force Against Coronavirus and no one should cause anxiety in the society by presenting personal opinions in the national media as a specialist".

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi emphasized, "Considering the significant reduction in the number of patients and deaths caused by coronavirus, it is necessary to maintain and improve the existing conditions, strict observance of health protocols and the continuation of monitoring procedures".

Official Proposes Formation of Countries' Union Against Sanctions

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Vice-President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Rezaei has proposed formation of a union with participation of the resistant countries against the sanctions and the excessive demands of the bullying powers.

All, with consolidation, should stand against the U.S. sanctions and plots, Rezaei said in a meeting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

In his remarks, Rezaei said that the Iranian nation and government pay special respect to Nicaragua's resistance against excessive demands.

He went on to stress that the resistant countries should make further efforts to expand their relations and friendship because the bullying powers, particularly the United States, are after preventing nations' development and cooperation.

Further, he noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has stood by Nicaragua and is ready to strengthen ties with it.

For his part, the Nicaraguan president thanked Rezaei for attending his swearing-in ceremony and appreciated the strong spirit of the Islamic Republic against the enemies' pressures.

As President Ortega said, Nicaragua-Iran relations are deep and cordial. He went on to say that his country pays great respect to General Qasem Soleimani.

Also, the Nicaraguan president appreciated Iran's power during the talks with the world powers in Vienna.

Nicaragua defends Iran's right to use peaceful nuclear energy, he stressed. Elsewhere, Rezaei held talks with Nicaraguan minister of health on exchange of the related experiences between the two countries.

Also, Rezaei held meeting with President of the National Assembly of Nicaragua Gustavo Porras Cortés and stressed that the era of bullying, war, and sanction is over.

Iran-China to Finalize Strategic Partnership in Coming Months

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian economy minister said Saturday that Iran and China will sign the contracts to implement their previously signed 25-year strategic partnership in the coming months.

Iran and China will sign the deals to implement Iran-China 25-year cooperation in the coming months, the Iranian economy minister Ehsan Khandouzi said on Saturday.

Khandouzi made the remarks while talking to reporters on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of a memorandum between National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) and Bank Mellat on Saturday.

"The 25-year Iran-China Memorandum of Understanding must become specific agreements in each area that various ministries have occupied themselves with over recent months and [the contracts] are now being finalized," the economy minister added.

"By signing these memoranda of understanding, we show that the financing of oil projects from external sources that were in trouble is still possible from domestic sources and the process is going to be done more rapidly."

The strategic partnership document between Iran and China was signed on March 26, 2021, between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Tehran.

President Invited to Visit UAE

TEHRAN (IRNA) - In a meeting with Iran's minister of culture and Islamic guidance, the UAE minister of international cooperation extended the official invitation for Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi to visit the country.

While visiting some parts of the 2020 Expo, Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili visited the UAE pavilion and met and talked with the UAE minister of international cooperation, Reem Al Hashimi.

The general manager of Expo 2020 also announced his readiness to travel to Iran to develop cultural relations and interactions between the two countries and hoped to travel to Iran soon to develop cultural exchanges between the two countries at the highest level.

Dubai Expo is one of the largest world gatherings where the best of the world come together to build a better future. Young people will play an important role in this event and will have the opportunity to observe, learn and help shape creative ideas and can offer innovative solutions to create a more productive future in the Middle East and the world.

Iran Announces Conditions for Passengers to UK, Lebanon

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IranAir) or Homa Airlines announced on Friday that all passengers over 12 years old, traveling from Iran to UK and Lebanon must hold a negative Covid-19 PCR test certificate taken no more than 48 hours before departure.

According to IranAir Public Relations, to avoid Covid-19 spread, the passengers can travel from Iran to UK and Lebanon with the following conditions.

All passengers traveling from Iran to UK and Lebanon must hold a negative Covid-19 PCR test certificate taken no more than 48 hours before departure.

In the latest update on its website, Homa Airlines said that a negative Covid-19 PCR test certificate must be taken no more than 48 hours before departure.

Accordingly, having arrived at the destination, passengers will be under quarantine for 10 days.

All passengers to the UK must also complete the self-declaration form before traveling to the UK, followed by QR Codes negative Covid-19 PCR test as well.

Establishing Maritime Security Iran's Goal in Southern Waters



TEHRAN (MNA) - Referring to the presence of the Army's Naval forces in open waters, Iran's Army-Navy Commander said that establishing maritime safety and security is one of the most important goals of such presence.

Speaking in a TV program on Friday, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said that Iran army enjoys enough maritime capabilities to be present everywhere.

Providing security and safety for all vessels in open waters is a priority for Iran Army, he said, adding that demonstrating the authority of Iran as well as conveying the message of peace and friendship to all nations is another reason behind such presence.

Today, the maritime presence of the Army reaches about two thousand kilometers from the borders of Islamic Iran, he said, "But we plan to expand our presence to farther areas."

Majlis Tables Second Impeachment in Less Than a Month

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - For the second time in less than a month the Iranian parliament's presidium has stopped a motion to impeach one of President Ebrahim Raisi's economic ministers.

On December 28, dozens of lawmakers tabled a motion to impeach populist Labor Minister Hojjat Abdolmaleki but Majles Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf stopped the motion and called on lawmakers to give the minister another six months to tackle rising unemployment and create jobs for young Iranians.

On January 13, tens of Iranian lawmakers tabled another motion to impeach Industry Minister Reza Fatemi Amin for failing to stand by his promises including making Iranian-made cars cheaper and boosting their quality. Although only 10 lawmakers need to sign an impeachment motion, nearly fifty lawmakers signed. Nonetheless, the Majles (parliament) presidium refused to acknowledge the receipt of the motion, stopping the impeachment for the time being, said Lotfollah Siahkali a member of the Industry Committee of the Majles.

According to Siahkali, although Amin's supporters are lobbying at the Majles to prevent the minister's impeachment, tens of Iranian lawmakers are adamant to have the minister impeached as he has failed to convince the parliament about resolving shortcomings in his ministry's performance in the areas of automobile manufacturing and mining, both largely controlled by the government.

Implementation of Iran-China Accord Among Achievements of FM's Visit to Beijing

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarzadeh said that one of the most important achievements of Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian's visit to China was implementing Iran-China 25-year Cooperation Program.

Keshavarzadeh said in his Twitter account on Saturday that the implementation of the Iran-China 25-year Cooperation Program was one of the important achievements of the visit.

Iranian high-ranking delegation consisting of political and economic officials, oil, banking officials, had very good negotiations, he said.

Amirabdollahian arrived in Wuxi Thursday afternoon local time to hold talks with Chinese authorities on Iran-China 25-year strategic cooperation program.

He said on Friday that the 25-year agreement with China will become operational as of today.

He made the remarks at the end of his comprehensive talks with his Chinese counterpart during his one-day trip to the country.

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۵۷۴۵۷

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0040001

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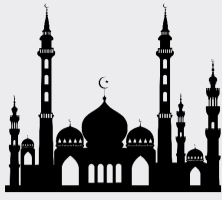
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PRAYER TIME

- Noon (Zohr) 12:14
- Evening (Maghreb) 17:34
- Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr) 05:44
- Tomorrow's Sunrise 07:12

60. They said, "We heard a youth talk of them: He is called Abraham."
61. They said, "Then bring him before the eyes of the people, that they may bear witness."

Surah 21, The Prophets (60 - 61)

Smuggled Iran Fuel Fetches UAE \$20b Per Year

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Advisor to President and Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones says the UAE earns some \$20b annually for bunker fuel and in fact offering services to the ships and vessels in the Persian Gulf which move towards Fujairah Port and unfortunately major part of the bunk fuel of the UAE is provided by the ships which smuggle fuel from Iran to Fujairah.

Speaking to ILNA, Saeed Mohammad pointed to the inauguration of the first phase of Qeshm super heavy oil refinery by President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and said this refinery has been built by the private sector and its first phase has been completed. He added that the capacity of the first phase is 35,000 barrels of super heavy oil that the oil is provided through the Soroush and Nowruz fields and some strategic products like bitumen are provided there. He added that the refinery can produce one million tons of bitumen annually as well as 6.5m tons of light oil. He added that the second phase of the refinery with capacity of 35,000 barrels has progressed 20% physically and with finance of the private sector, this phase will be completed and come on stream. He then pointed to his visit to the bunkering facilities of Qeshm Island and said the IAE earns \$20b annually through bunkering and offering services and fuel supply to vessels that major part of its fuel is smuggled via Iran and moving towards Fujairah while Iran should revive its competition advantage in the region for bunker fuel. He added that in order to attract vessels for refueling in Iranian ports like in Qashm,



the ports need to boost its infrastructures and to provide recreational facilities for the crew of the vessels and this will lead to considerable forex earning for the island and its native citizens. He added the preparations have started for the launch of bunker fuel on Qeshm Island. On the construction of the national Persian Gulf bridge project on Qeshm Island, Mohammad said that the Persian Gulf bridge will connect Bandar Abbas Port to Qeshm Island, adding that this is a long dream of the public in those areas and the council has planned to start and complete the bridge in 2.5 years and it will be built with a budget around 280m euros. He reiterated that in order to reduce its financial burden on the government, there has been an agreement with the contractor to be paid some part of its money through barter of oil and for this reason the council has asked the government to include barter of oil for 100m euros in next year budget which has been approved. Mohammad noted that some other part of the budget will be provided via sales of luxurious villas of the Presidency and soon those villas will be rented to earn money for pre-payment for the start of the project. He also vowed that soon the problem of water supply to the villages of Qeshm will be resolved through the creation of water desalination systems which will be carried out by the private sector.

ICCIMA to Host Forum On Iran-India Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) is to hold a forum on reviewing the problems and exploring ways for boosting trade between Iran and India which will be held on January 17 afternoon. According to reports, the forum is aimed to explore ways for boosting trade between Iran and India by resolving problems and business activists who are involved in trade between the two countries are to attend the forum. Last month Mehdi Safari, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy has said that Iran-India trade cooperation will expand in the Iranian port of Chabahar. The deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy said that relations with India topped the agenda of the Foreign Economic Relations Coordination Council.

Iran Transits More Than \$5b of Goods by Bashmaq Customs

MARIVAN (IP) - More than five billion dollars of goods were transited through the Bashmaq customs of Marivan, Kurdistan Province of Iran, in the last nine months. Khalil Heydari, the supervisor of Iranian Kurdistan Customs, stated: "In the last nine months, 2 million 479 thousand 192 tons of goods were transited through the Bashmaq border of Marivan, which shows an increase of 116 percent compared to the same period last year." Heydari announced the dollar value of the number of goods transited in the last nine months in the province of Kurdistan as 5 billion 337 million 374 thousand dollars and added: "In terms of dollar value, the transit of goods in the last nine months compared to the same period the previous year has grown by 87%." Bashmaq Marivan Customs is the only transit border of Kurdistan Province of Iran where domestic and foreign transit of origin and foreign transit of destination is done.

Illicit Capital Flight From Iran Amounts to \$6b in 6 Months

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's central bank says that over \$6 billion was taken out of the country in six months (March 21-Sept. 20), because of political and economic uncertainty. The precise amount of capital leaving Iran is very difficult to calculate but it can be deducted from the official data on net capital account deficit. The amount of capital lost during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year equals the entire twelve months of the previous year when capital flight amounted to around \$6.3 billion, Fararu website wrote Thursday. This is a significant amount for Iran that struggles to sell oil and earn dollars amid US sanctions. The report said Central Bank of Iran (CBI) figures indicate that Iranians were not reassured about the safety of their investments even when officials of the new government said it intended to resume the Vienna talks to restore the 2015 nuclear deal, Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). According to official figures, Iran's net capital account balance was positive from 2001 to 2005 when there was foreign investment. But in the following years, except in 2014, the balance has been in the negative. Foreign investment in Iran in 2020 was around \$1.35 billion.

Iran Boosts Sales to Uzbekistan

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - In 2021, Iran saw its exports of fruit and vegetables fall by 6 per cent on the back of a sharp decline in sales to the likes of Iraq, Russia, China and Afghanistan. At the same time, however, sales of fruit and vegetables to Uzbekistan rose significantly, according to a report from EastFruit, increasing fivefold in value terms compared with 2020. Iranian revenue on exports of fruit and vegetables to Uzbekistan reportedly reached US\$46.2m in 2020, making the Central Asian country Iran's 15th biggest market. The top item, according to EastFruit, was potatoes, with volumes growing by 36 times to 146,000 tons, followed by dates (trebling to 7,400 tons), apples (up by nine times to 6,400 tons) and kiwifruit (doubling to 3,900 tons). Uzbek imports of Iranian mandarins and oranges also rose sharply, EastFruit noted, while pistachio imports increased by two and a half times and garlic volumes rose by almost five times. According to Uza, Uzbekistan exported 1.39m tons of fruit and vegetables worth over US\$863.1m between January and November 2021, a fall of 7.8 per cent from the year-earlier period. The country's State Statistics Committee reported that the main market was Russia, which accounts for 31.5 per cent of the value of Uzbek fruit and vegetable imports, followed by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and China.



Foundation of MSC Accelerated Industrial Development in Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN - Former CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) says the foundation of Mobarakeh Steel Company created a big development in the industry and national development. Speaking on the occasion of the foundation anniversary of MSC, Bahram Sobhani said the launch of the company led to a major development in industry and development in the country and at the time of its foundation, the then most steel technology of Europe was used by the experts in order to pave the ground for emergence of skillful human resources in the field of steel in the country and wit inauguration of the company, industrial development in Iran was accelerated and since the first day, thousands of people have played their roles for inauguration and run of the biggest industrial unit of the country. Sobhani who is currently Head of Iran Steel Producers Association that steel production in the country at the time of inauguration of MSC was one-thirds of the current production capacity and noted that the company could increase the steel production capacity of the country with expansion of its subset companies with a national approach and it has also provided the ground for production of different steel sheets based on the domestic and native knowhow beside job creation. Referring to the effects the company on the downstream industries, Sobhani said productions of many companies depend on MSC's productions and over 400,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created by MSC. He also pointed to the growth and development of other industries like home appliances with reliance of MSC's productions and added auto, home appliances, pipe, oil and gas productions are indebted to MSC their progress. Sobhani wished the current management and staff of the company success and prosperity as the company has continued its non-stop operation, reiterating the MSC staff personnel are able to take bigger steps in the development and boost in production in the country.



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Iran, Syria Discuss Operationalizing Strategic Deal

TEHRAN (MNA) - Syrian economy minister has said that in his meeting with visiting Iran's road minister they had discussed ways to operationalize the strategic agreement signed between two nations in 2019. In an interview with the "alahednews" website, the Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil said that in his meeting with Rostam Ghasemi, Minister of Roads and Urban Development of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they discussed the barriers to expanding economic and trade relations between the two sides. The Syrian minister said that the economic and trade problems between the two sides are mostly about the issue of transportation which has made it difficult for goods to be transported quickly and conveniently to the two countries. Al-Khalil also said that another part of the problems is related to financial remittances, adding that some of the problems have been discussed by the Iranian delegation and the Syrian side, and the two sides have been consulting for hours on those areas and the possibility of finding a solution to these obstacles.

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۵۹۲۴۱

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO.: 08-21-9640013

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	CASING 7IN, 29 PPF DRIFT:6.125 IN API GRADE P-110, SEAMLESS "VAM","N.VAM" OR "SEC"THREAD, RANGE 3(MAX LEN: 40.5 FT) AS PER API 5CT/ISO11960 SIZE(OD), WIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT NOTE:LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 14 (L.O.I:1) "QCP/MPS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION"	1000 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender 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.2, 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 39,501 EURO 10,659,532,344 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

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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.: 061 341 25010 Fax No.: 061 34 457437

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Brazil Polls Show Lula Gaining Over Bolsonaro



BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Brazil's former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva increased his lead to 17 percentage points over far-right President Jair Bolsonaro in a new survey of voter preferences ahead of an October election.

If the election were held today, Lula would win 41% of votes against 24% for Bolsonaro, according to the survey by polling firm Ideia, published late on Thursday by business weekly Exame.

In the previous poll last month, 37% of those surveyed said they would vote for Lula and 27% for Bolsonaro. Neither politician has formally declared his candidacy in what is expected to be a highly polarized race.

10 Injured in Kuwait Refinery Fire



KUWAIT CITY (Dispatches) - A fire at a gas liquefaction unit in Kuwait's largest refinery Friday left 10 people injured before it was put out, the plant's operator said.

The blaze "erupted during maintenance work" on the unit at Mina al-Ahmadi refinery, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of Kuwait City, state-owned Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) announced on Twitter.

It said 10 people were injured, five of them hospitalised with severe burns. Firefighters were mobilised and had extinguished the blaze.

KNPC said Kuwait's refining operations and exports were unaffected, as the unit affected had already been out of service.

Ukraine Hit by Cyberattack as Russia Moves More Troops



KIEV (Dispatches) - Ukraine was hit by a cyberattack splashing a warning across government websites to "be afraid and expect the worst", while Russia, which has massed 100,000 troops on its neighbor's frontier, released pictures of more of its forces on the move.

The cyber attack unfolded hours after talks wrapped up with no breakthrough between Russia and Western allies, which fear Moscow could launch a new military assault on a country it invaded in 2014.

"The drumbeat of war is sounding loud," Michael Carpenter, U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said at the close of talks on Thursday.

Russia denies plans to attack Ukraine but says it could take unspecified military action unless its demands are met, including a promise by the NATO alliance never to admit Kyiv.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday that Russia hoped security talks with the United States would resume but that this would depend on Washington's response to Moscow's proposals.

"We categorically will not accept the appearance of NATO right on our borders, especially so given the current course of the Ukrainian leadership," he said.

Asked what Moscow meant by threatening this week to take "military-technical action" if talks fail, Lavrov said: "Measures to deploy military hardware, that is obvious. When we take decisions with military hardware we understand what we mean and what we are preparing for."

Russian Defense Ministry footage released by RIA news agency showed armored vehicles and other military hardware being loaded onto trains in Russia's far east, in what Moscow called an inspection drill to practice long-range deployments.

"This is likely cover for the units being moved towards Ukraine," said Rob Lee, a military analyst and a fellow at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Ukrainian officials were investigating the huge cyberattack, which they said hit around 70 internet sites of government bodies including the ministry of foreign affairs, cabinet of ministers, and security and defense council.

Though they avoided directly accusing Moscow, they made clear they suspected Russia. Russia did not comment but has previously denied being behind cyber attacks, including against Ukraine.

"Ukrainian! All your personal data was uploaded to the public network. All data on the computer is destroyed, it is impossible to restore it," said a message visible on hacked government websites, written in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish.

"All information about you has become public, be afraid and expect the worst. This is for your past, present and future."

North Korea Fires Two Missiles, Warns of Action Over U.S. Sanctions Push



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea fired at least two ballistic missiles on Friday, its third test in less than two weeks, just hours after criticizing a U.S. push for new sanctions over the previous launches as a "provocation" and warning of a strong reaction.

Two weeks of missile launches by North Korea, retaliatory sanctions designations by the United States, and indignant statements by both sides raised the specter of a return to the 2017 days of "fire and fury" threats before a flurry of diplomacy stalled and slipped back into a standoff.

South Korea's National Security Council held an emergency meeting and expressed "strong regret" over the test and called on Pyongyang to return to talks.

"It emphasized that North Korea's series of missile tests are not helpful for stabilizing the situation of the Korean peninsula at this important time, and urged North Korea to swiftly respond to calls for dialogue," the presidential Blue House said in a statement.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it had detected what it presumed were two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) launched eastward from Uiju, in North Pyongan province on the North's west coast, near its border with China.

Japan's coast guard also said the North fired what could be a ballistic missile. The missiles appeared to have landed in the sea outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, broadcaster NHK said, citing an unnamed Japanese defense ministry official.

"The actions of North Korea, including the repeated ballistic missile launches, are a threat to the safety of our nation and the region, and they are an important issue for all of international society," Hirokazu Matsuno, Japan's chief cabinet secretary, told a regular news conference.

The U.S. military's Indo-Pacific Command said while it assessed that the launch did not pose an immediate threat to the United States or its allies, it highlighted the "destabilising impact of the (North's) illicit weapons program."

Pakistan to Seek Peace, Economic Connectivity Under New Security Policy

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan on Friday launched its first-ever comprehensive National Security Policy that it said was centered on regional peace and economic connectivity, and stressed that it wanted improved relations with arch-rival neighboring India.

The National Security Policy, seven years in the making, is meant to act as a comprehensive framework tying together policies in different sectors. Economic security is listed as the top priority.

"I am confident that effective implementation of this policy will contribute immensely to our country's economic security," Prime Minister Imran Khan said, speaking at an event to launch the public version of the policy in Islamabad.

Officials say the details of the policy, prepared by a department jointly headed by civil and military leaders, will remain confidential.

The policy revolves around seeking peace with neighbors and exploring opportunities to make Pakistan a trade and investment hub.

"Pakistan is poised to take advantage of its geo-economically pivotal location to operate as a production, trade and investment, and connectivity hub for our wider region to strengthen our economic security," the policy document stated.

It also sought peace and better relations with rival India but warned that policies being pursued by its eastern neighbor could lead to conflict.

"The political exploitation of a policy of belligerence towards Pakistan by India's leadership has led to the threat of military adventurism and non-contact warfare to our immediate east," it said.

Pakistan and India, both of which have nuclear weapons, have fought three wars since 1947 and had a number of military skirmishes - most recently a limited engagement between their air forces in 2019.

Pakistan has long been considered by analysts as a security state, where military policy has always trumped other considerations.

China Says UK Spy Claims Result of Watching Too Many 007 Movies

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China on Friday dismissed a rare public warning by British security services that a suspected Chinese agent was trying to influence lawmakers, saying it was the result of watching "too many 007 movies".

British authorities said Thursday that a London-based solicitor "knowingly engaged in political interference activities" inside parliament, citing Britain's counter-intelligence and domestic spy agency MI5.

Christine Lee had reportedly worked on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party to gain influence through donations, the office of House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said.

China's foreign ministry denied engaging in "interference activities", blasting the accusations as "alarmist remarks based on some individuals' subjective assumptions".

"Perhaps some individuals have watched too many 007 movies, leading to unnecessary mental associations," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a regular press conference, referring to the James Bond book and movie franchise.

MI5's security notice said Lee was acting "on behalf of the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party" and answered to figures in China and Hong Kong.

Academics and multiple foreign governments have long recognised the United Front as a tool for influencing organizations and politicians abroad.

The opaque party-controlled network covers issues such as minority rights within China to monitoring Chinese communities overseas.

Lee had previously been celebrated as a link between China and Britain and it was unclear what evidence sparked MI5's public warning -- a highly unusual move from the intelligence services.

Former prime minister Theresa May -- whose Conservative Party has been accused of benefiting from millions in Russian money -- presented Lee with an award in 2019 to recognise her contribution to Sino-British ties.

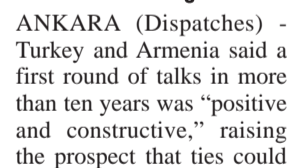
She was also photographed with May's predecessor David Cameron at an event in 2015, and separately with former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The Times of London said Lee was a VIP guest when President Xi Jinping visited Britain in 2019 and sat behind the Chinese leader in a posed group photograph.

Governments and politicians in other Western countries, including Australia and New Zealand, have accused China of attempting to influence domestic politics through donations and espionage.



Turkey, Armenia Hold First Talks On Normalizing Ties in Years



ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey and Armenia said a first round of talks in more than ten years was "positive and constructive," raising the prospect that ties could be restored and borders reopened after decades of animosity.

Turkey has had no diplomatic or commercial ties with its eastern neighbour since the 1990s. The talks in Moscow were the first attempt to restore links since a 2009 peace accord. That deal was never ratified and relations have remained tense.

The Turkish and Armenian foreign ministries said on Friday the talks were held in a "positive and constructive" atmosphere, adding both sides were committed to a full normalisation without any pre-conditions. They said special envoys had "exchanged their preliminary views regarding the normalisation process".

The neighbors are at odds over several issues, primarily the 1.5 million people Armenia says were killed in 1915.

Armenia says the 1915 killings constitute a genocide, a position supported by the United States and some others. Turkey accepts that many Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire were killed in clashes with Ottoman forces during World War One, but contests the figures and denies killings were systematic or constitute genocide.

Tensions again flared during a 2020 war over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory. Turkey accused ethnic Armenian forces of occupying land belonging to Azerbaijan. Turkey has since called for a rapprochement, as it seeks greater influence in the region.

In separate but similarly worded statements, the foreign ministries said a date and location for the next round of talks would be finalized later.

Turkish diplomatic sources said the discussions between the delegations lasted for about 1.5 hours. Russia's TASS news agency cited Armenia's foreign ministry as saying on Thursday it expected the talks to lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of frontiers closed since 1993.

Thomas de Waal, a senior fellow with Carnegie Europe, said in November opening borders and renovating railways to Turkey would have economic benefits for Armenia, as the routes could be used by traders from Turkey, Russia, Armenia, Iran and Azerbaijan.

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S/p, Sauna, J
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

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

Parsian

Farmanieh (\$2000)
3bdrs, S/p, S, F.F

Jordan (\$1800)
3bdrs, 200sq.m, & F.F

Elahieh bldg (\$6000)
4storey, 12bdrs, pkg

Zaferanieh (\$2600) 260sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

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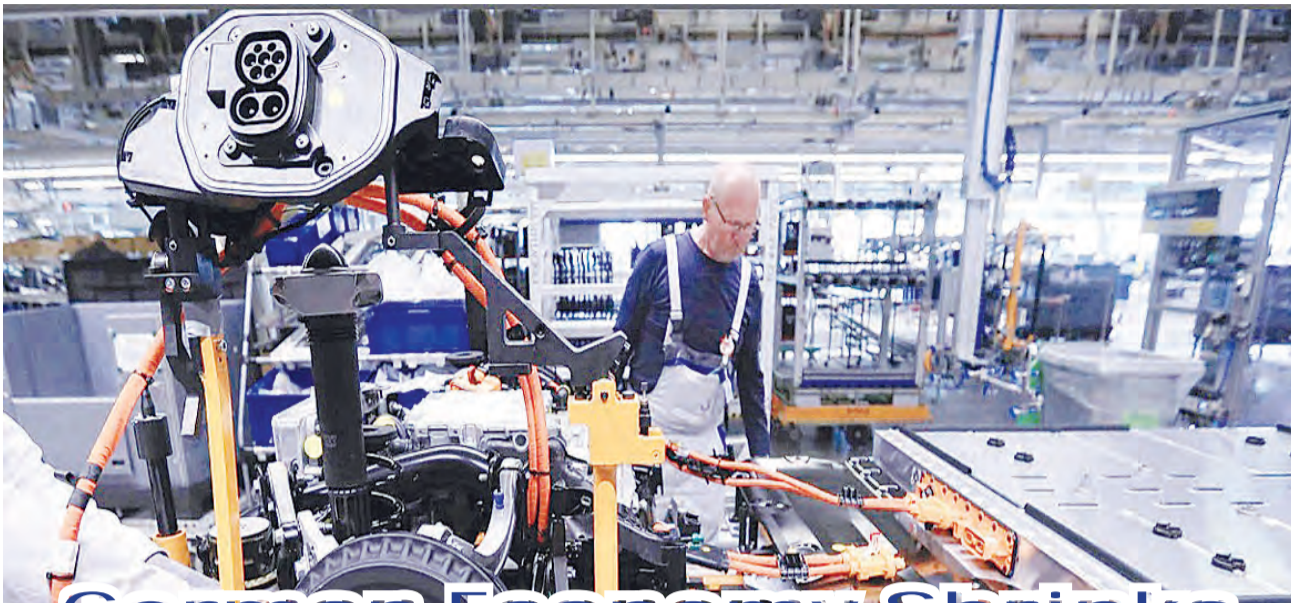
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Euro Zone Swings to Trade Deficit in November

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The euro zone swung to a small trade deficit in November from a large surplus 12 months earlier because of a surge in the cost of imported oil and gas, data from the European Union's statistics office Eurostat showed on Friday.

Eurostat said the non-adjusted trade deficit of the 19 countries sharing the euro was 1.5 billion euros (\$1.7 billion) compared to a 25.0 billion euro surplus in November 2020. Payments for imports jumped 32.0%, while revenues from exports grew by only 14.4%. Data for the whole 27-nation European Union showed the trade deficit for energy rose by 68% to 241.7 billion euros in the January-November period.



German Economy Shrinks As Much as 1% in Q4 of 2021

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's economy contracted by as much as 1% in the final quarter of 2021 as the emergence of the coronavirus's omicron strain added to drags on output from supply snarls and the fastest inflation in three decades.

Gross domestic product shrank by between 0.5% and 1% in the three-month period, the Federal Statistics Office said Friday at a briefing. For the year as a whole, it advanced 2.7%, in line with expectations. That, however, leaves GDP still 2% short of its level in 2019, before Covid-19 struck, and trailing Europe's other big economies in healing from the pandemic. Analysts estimate France, Italy and Spain will report expansion of 4.5% or more later this month.

The continent's largest economy is tipped to make up ground in the year ahead -- even as omicron's rapid spread threatens stricter curbs on movement, staff shortages and production cuts in the near term.

While a flood of infections triggered by the variant will weigh during the winter months, there'll be "significant momentum" from the spring onward, according to the Bundesbank, which predicts growth of 4.2% for the whole of 2022. First, though, Germany may have to come through a technical recession. Dekabank economist Andreas Scheuerle forecasts output will shrink 0.8% between January and March -- a second straight quarter of contraction.

He says Friday's full-year figure suggests the economy must have performed better than so-far reported in previous quarters.

The spread of the delta, and now omicron, variants has drawn tighter restrictions on hospitality, weighing on activity, while a parts shortage is keeping industrial output way below demand. We see both of these constraints easing a little through 1Q, but it won't be until later this year that a fuller recovery is made.

A large share of Germany's struggles is rooted in its outsized reliance on manufacturing -- a boon during previous crises that turned into a liability as supplies of microchips dried up and other components became harder to source. Carmakers have suffered the most, with almost a fifth of employees in the industry furloughed in December.

As omicron takes hold, more stringent rules on vaccination may ease some pressure on factories. Chancellor Olaf Scholz reaffirmed his support on Wednesday for making shots compulsory for all adults, while Volkswagen AG stepped up its own vaccination push.

Inflation has been another obstacle. Nearly 80% of non-food retailers surveyed by industry group HDE said they're unhappy with end-of-year sales, which were also hurt by rules banning unvaccinated customers who hadn't recovered from Covid-19.

Private spending was unchanged last year, while the savings rate remained elevated at 15%. Those savings may now prove crucial in cushioning the hit from soaring prices. Germany's government is also considering aid for households struggling to pay surging energy bills.

China Exports Surge In 2021 as Global Demand Picks Up

BEIJING (Dispatches)- Chinese exports surged in 2021 on solid global demand as countries reopened, official data showed Friday, bumping its overall trade surplus to a record high and supporting growth.

The world's second-biggest economy saw a quick rebound from the coronavirus last year -- after cases first surfaced in a central city in late 2019 -- allowing factories to operate and feed global appetite for electronics and medical supplies.

That led to a 29.9 per cent spike in exports last year, helping push the annual trade surplus to US\$676 billion (RM2.8 trillion), customs data showed.

The surge came on the back of an uptick in shipments of mechanical and electronic products, customs spokesman Li Kuiwen said.

Although China "handed in a dazzling report card" in the face of challenges, Li told reporters Friday that the economy "faces triple pressures of demand contraction, supply shock and weakening expectations".

Imports increased 30.1 per cent last year.

In December, exports rose largely in line with expectations -- at 20.9 per cent -- while imports disappointed with 19.5 per cent growth.

The December export figures "may reflect the Omicron damage to the global supply chain", with export orders shifting to China from other countries, said Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management.

"Currently, the strong exports may be the only driver helping China's economy," he added.

China's trade surplus with the United States widened 25 per cent last year to US\$396.6 billion.

While a deal marking a ceasefire in the bruising trade war between Beijing and Washington expired this month, two years after it was signed, authorities have yet to confirm their next steps.



UN Report Projects Global Economy Growth to Slow in 2022, 2023

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - The global economy is projected to grow by 4 per cent in 2022 -- down from 5.5 per cent last year -- and expand 3.5 per cent in 2023 amid new waves of Covid-19 infections, labor market challenges, supply-chain constraints and rising inflation, according to a UN report released on Thursday.

The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022 report said 2021 growth momentum -- following a contraction of 3.4 per cent in 2020 -- began to slow by the end of the year, including in big economies like China, the European Union and the United States, as the effects of fiscal and monetary stimuli faded and major supply-chain disruptions surfaced.

Along with the ongoing pandemic, "rising inflationary pressures in major developed economies and a number of large developing countries present additional risks to recovery," according to report by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. "Global headline inflation rose to an estimated 5.2 per cent in 2021, more than 2 per cent points above its trend rate in the past 10 years," it said.

The report also warned that an emerging longer-term consequence of the coronavirus pandemic was higher levels of inequality within and between countries.

"For the vast majority of developing countries, a full recovery of GDP per capita will remain elusive. The gap between what they will achieve and what they would have achieved without the pandemic will persist well into 2023," the report projected. "In contrast, GDP per capita in the developed economies is expected to almost fully recover by 2023 relative to pre-pandemic projections," it added.



EU Blocks Mega-Merger of South Korean Shipbuilders

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The EU today blocked the merger of two South Korean ship-making giants over concerns the deal would restrict the supply of large liquefied

gas carriers, posing a threat to Europe's energy security.

The takeover of Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering by rival Hyundai Heavy Industries Holdings, the European Commission said, "would have created a dominant position by the new merged company and reduced competition in the worldwide market for LNG carriers".

The veto of the tie up comes two years after Brussels stopped India's Tata Steel and Germany's Thyssenkrupp from merging, and three years after it blocked the merger of the train-making businesses of Siemens and Alstom, angering France and Germany.

"Given the evidence of negative effects of the merger (and) the absence of remedies, the Commission decided to block the merger," said EU competition chief Margrethe Vestager at a news briefing.

The EU found that the merged entities would create a group controlling nearly two-thirds of the global LNG cargo ship market and would have grown more dominant over time.

The merger comes when energy prices are soaring in Europe and as the bloc tries to pivot away from its dependence on Russian natural gas towards other sources, including LNG.

"European customers would be left with few alternatives to the merged entity, only a handful of competitors would remain in the market," Vestager warned.

"It does not matter where the merging firms are located. What matters is whether they compete for demand in Europe," she said.

The merger of the two of the largest shipyards in the world had been notified to the EU in November 2019, which had opened an in-depth investigation the following month.

Record U.S. Inflation Growing Concern for Fed, Businesses



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The scourge of rising prices now ranks among American business leaders' top concerns, according to a survey released Thursday, while Federal Reserve official indicated the central bank is ready to move against inflation.

Official data shows signs the wave of increases may have peaked at the end of the year, but with inflation at its highest level in nearly four decades, more economists and some Fed officials say the central bank might have to be more aggressive to stem the surge.

Inflation is the number-two worry among chief executives, behind labor shortages, and the price pressures could persist into 2023, according to a survey by The Conference Board released Thursday.

"I'm very concerned about the high level of inflation," Fed Governor Lael Brainard said at her nomination hearing before the Senate Banking Committee.

Brainard, whom President Joe Biden nominated to serve as vice chair of the central bank, said most forecasts show prices are likely to stay high for the first half of the year and come down later in 2022.

But she warned to "take these projections with a fair amount of caution."

Brainard told lawmakers the Fed will focus on bringing inflation back down to its two-percent target but will do so "consistent with a sustained and strong recovery."

The Fed's key inflation-fighting tool is the benchmark lending rate, which was slashed to zero at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many economists expect three rate hikes this year, but St Louis Federal Bank President James Bullard said Wednesday policymakers might have to be more aggressive and raise four times.

Another regional Fed president, Raphael Bostic of Atlanta, said he was open to hiking as early as March.

Brainard, however, said the moves would be made in a "well communicated way" to ensure a "measured" response by financial markets and allow the economy to continue to recover jobs.

If confirmed, Brainard would replace Richard Clarida, who in a paper released prior to his Friday departure from the Fed argued that the price increases were closer to the Fed's target than they appear.

"The unwelcome surge in inflation in 2021, once these relative price adjustments are complete and bottlenecks have unclogged, will in the end prove to be largely transitory under appropriate monetary policy," he wrote.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۵۹۲۴۲

TENDER NO.: 08-38 -9740001



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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	COILED TUBING REEL STRING, QT-800, SINGLE TYPE H2S SERVICE, FITTING FIG. 1502 WING WITH INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CORROSION INHIBITOR, TEST CERTIFICATE/ANALYZES, ELONG LOCATION AND MATERIAL CERTIFICATE ATTACHED ON EACH REEL SHIPPING SPOOL:STEEL SPECIFIED AS OD SIZE, WALL THICKNESS REF. QUALITY TUBING LONG SIZE: 22000FT OD 1.25 IN., W.T. 0.095 IN.	5

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Rossi Moves From Two Wheels to Four in 2022

PARIS (AFP) - Nine-time world champion Valentino Rossi, who retired from motorcycling last season, will return to the track on four wheels in 2022, racing in the GT World Challenge event. The 42-year-old will drive an Audi for the Belgian WRT team in both sprint and endurance categories. "Everybody knows that I have always been a great car racing fan and that I have always been interested in a racing on four wheels once my MotoGP career would come to an end," said Rossi on Thursday.

Valieva Sets New Figure Skating World Record

PARIS (AFP) - Russian 15-year-old Kamila Valieva set a new short program world record at the European Figure Skating Championships, just three weeks out from the Winter Olympics. Valieva, who is undefeated in her first season as a senior, scored 90.45 points after a flawless performance to "In Memoriam". It bettered her previous world best mark of 87.42 points at the Russian Grand Prix in November.

Bucks Humble Warriors, Grizzlies Beat Timberwolves

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points in a triple-double as the NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks dominated the Golden State Warriors 118-99. In a clash billed as a potential NBA Finals preview, the Bucks took an early stranglehold in Milwaukee on the way to a wire-to-wire win. Two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Antetokounmpo added 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his third triple-double of the season and the 28th of his career. Milwaukee, with coach Mike Budenholzer back on the bench after missing four games over Covid concerns, roared to a 77-38 halftime lead -- Antetokounmpo pouring in 23 points before the interval. The halftime lead was two short of the club-record the Bucks set when they led 77-36 against Orlando in November on the way to a 123-92 victory. And it was the biggest halftime deficit for the Warriors since the franchise moved to California in the 1962-63 season. "Obviously, we know we're the defending champs, everybody's going to come hard at us," Antetokounmpo said. "But at the end of the day, it's about us." Khris Middleton scored 23 points for Milwaukee. Bobby Portis added 20 -- draining a three-pointer at the halftime buzzer and giving a shoulder shake reminiscent of Warriors star Stephen Curry's trademark celebratory shimmy. With Curry limited to 12 points, Andrewiggins led the Warriors with 16 points. Klay Thompson added 11, but the Warriors clearly missed Draymond Green, who remained sidelined due to tightness in his left calf. Even so, the Warriors battled in the second half, out-scoring the Bucks 34-20 in the third quarter. They cut the deficit to 18 points early in the quarter, but wouldn't get any closer. "The second half was a much better effort," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I know the game was out of hand, but our response was great."



we're just in a rough patch in our season. It happens to every team every year, pretty much." It was a much different story in Memphis, where the Grizzlies pulled away late to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 116-108 and push their winning streak to 11 games. Desmond Bane scored 21 points and Jaren Jackson Jr added 20 to lead the Grizzlies. Memphis star Ja Morant chipped in 16 points with nine assists and eight rebounds as the Grizzlies avenged a 138-95 loss to the Timberwolves in November. Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 30 points and D'Angelo Russell scored 29 as the Timberwolves made Memphis work to extend their winning streak. The final four minutes featured four lead changes, the Grizzlies taking the lead for good on two free throws by Brandon Clarke with 1:47 remaining. A layup by Bane and a three-pointer by John Konchar helped seal it for Memphis, who trailed 60-53 at halftime but came out strong in the third quarter and led 90-84 going into the final period. Elsewhere, the short-handed Nets fell 130-109 to the Oklahoma City Thunder in Brooklyn to lose ground in their quest to overtake Chicago atop the East. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points, pulled down 10 rebounds and handed out nine assists for Oklahoma City, who snapped a five-game skid. A day after a Nets team featuring its "Big Three" of Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving manhandled the Bulls in Chicago, Brooklyn found it tough going at home without Durant and Irving in the lineup. Durant was resting, while the unvaccinated Irving remains ineligible to play in home games due to New York's vaccine mandate. Harden shouldered the load with 26 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, but the Nets couldn't silence the Thunder.

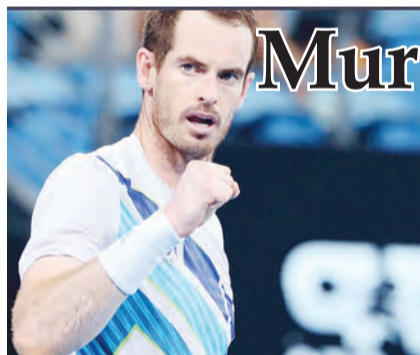
Djokovic Races To Avert Deportation



MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Unvaccinated tennis star Novak Djokovic asked an Australian court to block his deportation ahead of the Australian Open after the government cancelled his visa for the second time over COVID-19 entry regulations. The government nevertheless ordered that he return to pre-deportation detention at 8 a.m. (2100 GMT Friday) on Saturday, albeit with permission to meet his lawyers at their offices. Djokovic's legal team submitted their request for an injunction late at night, less than three hours after Immigration Minister Alex Hawke used discretionary powers to revoke the visa. The world tennis number one, bidding for a record 21st Grand Slam trophy in defending his Australian title, had been told on arrival on Jan. 5 that his visa, granted on the basis of a medical exemption from a vaccination requirement for visitors, was invalid. The 34-year-old Serbian spent several days in immigration detention, in a hotel also used for asylum-seekers, before that decision was revoked on procedural grounds.

Krejckikova Rallies To See Off Kontaveit

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - French Open champion Barbora Krejckikova showed her resilience to overcome a poor opening set and hand Anett Kontaveit a 0-6 6-4 7-6 (12) defeat to advance to the final of the Sydney Tennis Classic. Krejckikova lost the opener to love but bounced back to see off the world number seven and set up a meeting with either Paula Badosa or Daria Kasatkina in the final of the Australian Open warm-up event. The Czech, ranked number four in the world, needed a lengthy tie breaker to see off Kontaveit, winning the final game 14-12 when she converted match point at the fifth attempt. "She started really well and was hitting the ball really hard," said Krejckikova. "I felt at some point I'm going to get my chances, I need to convert them. I felt she was playing really aggressive I had to find a plan B and I'm really happy I found a plan B." A tight opening game saw Kontaveit forced to save three break points before holding serve, but from there she moved clear. The Estonian held a 4-0 lead and further extended her advantage when she saved another break point in the fifth game to underline her early dominance. Kontaveit then closed out the set to love when Krejckikova hit into the net after a dipping return caught the Czech off balance. Stung by that heavy opening loss, Krejckikova pushed early in the second set as she forced Kontaveit to save four break points in the first game. Eventually the pressure paid off when a cross-court winner gave Krejckikova her long-awaited break in the ninth game and from there she levelled the scores. Both players broke serve early in the decider before Krejckikova was forced to save match point on three occasions, eventually taking proceedings into a tie-break.



Murray Battles Into First Final Since 2019

He again was exceptional against towering Reilly Opelka at the Sydney Classic, battling through their semi-final 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4, successfully blunting the American's giant serve. Murray, who has been given a wildcard into next week's Australian Open, said he was encouraged by how he was playing heading into the opening Grand Slam of the year, a tournament where he is a five-time finalist. "It would be amazing to start the year with a win, it's already been a great week for me," said the Scot, now ranked 135, who closed his eyes and let out a huge roar on winning the match.

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Former world number one Andy Murray reached his first final since 2019 in a massive boost to his confidence ahead of the Australian Open. The 34-year-old three-time major winner, who underwent career-saving hip surgery, has now strung together four wins in a row for the first time since being crowned champion at Antwerp nearly three years ago. World number four Barbora Krejckikova saved seven match points to edge an epic third-set tie-break against Anett Kontaveit and storm into the women's decider. The French Open champion looked out for the count when she lost the first set to love against the seventh-ranked Estonian, but refocused to take the match into a deciding third. It could have gone either way in a high-quality toe-to-toe encounter from two of last year's most improved players, who signalled they will be a real threat at next week's Australian Open. But it was Krejckikova who eventually triumphed 0-6, 6-4, 7-6 (14/12) after two hours and 30 minutes on her fifth match point, after saving seven, to prevent Kontaveit from reaching her fourth final in a row. She will play either in-form 26th-ranked Russian Daria Kasatkina or Spain's world number nine Paula Badosa in tomorrow's decider.

"It's big progress from anything I've done in the last year or so. To string four matches together like this, against a couple of top players," said Murray, setting his sights on a 47th career title. "I'll go for 47 tomorrow. I've played better with each match and hopefully I step it up again tomorrow." He will face either fellow Briton Dan Evans or Russia's Aslan Karatsev in the final. World number four Barbora Krejckikova saved seven match points to edge an epic third-set tie-break against Anett Kontaveit and storm into the women's decider. The French Open champion looked out for the count when she lost the first set to love against the seventh-ranked Estonian, but refocused to take the match into a deciding third. It could have gone either way in a high-quality toe-to-toe encounter from two of last year's most improved players, who signalled they will be a real threat at next week's Australian Open. But it was Krejckikova who eventually triumphed 0-6, 6-4, 7-6 (14/12) after two hours and 30 minutes on her fifth match point, after saving seven, to prevent Kontaveit from reaching her fourth final in a row. She will play either in-form 26th-ranked Russian Daria Kasatkina or Spain's world number nine Paula Badosa in tomorrow's decider.

Al-Attiyah Claims Fourth Dakar Crown

JEDDAH (Dispatches) - Qatari driver Nasser al-Attiyah won the Dakar Rally for a fourth time after the gruelling two-week trek through the Saudi Arabian desert came to a climax today. The 51-year-old — champion in 2011, 2015, 2019 — took the overall honours ahead of France's nine-time world rally champion Sebastien Loeb. Al-Attiyah — bronze medalist in skeet shooting at the 2012 London Olympics — led the race from start to finish. Earlier British motorbike rider Sam Sunderland had claimed his second Dakar Rally crown. The KTM rider and 2017 winner, when he was the first British champion in either car or bike category, finished ahead of Chile's Pablo Quintanilla and Austrian Matthias Walkner to take the chequered flag in Jeddah. Dubai-based Sunderland, 32, dominated the first week but he duelled for the overall lead over the final days and surrendered it several times before finally coming out on top. He said it had not been all plain sailing on the final stage which he entered with a healthy lead. "I honestly can't be happier," said Sunderland. "This last stage was so difficult and so much stress A lot of navigation, a lot of tricky notes, a few times a bit confusing and not sure I was going the right way. "Phew. Honestly, my head can explode. The last ten minutes, I was not sure whether I'd won, now they've told me and, wow, dream come true."



Kilde Takes Revenge On Odermatt

WENGEN (Dispatches) - Norway's 2020 overall World Cup champion Aleksander Aamodt Kilde said on Friday it was "insanely good" to win the men's downhill at Wengen by gaining revenge on Marco Odermatt. Switzerland's Odermatt had swept to victory over Kilde 24 hours earlier in the super-G at the same resort. Kilde, though, got his own back timing 0.19sec faster than Odermatt. "It's an absolutely wonderful feeling," Kilde told Norwegian broadcasters NRK. "It was almost an impeccable race. I had a couple of small issues, but otherwise it felt insanely good," he added. Odermatt's compatriot Beat Feuz finished third 0.30sec off the pace on a shortened course, originally scheduled for Bormio in December but was moved from Italy due to high temperatures near the Swiss border. Kilde, 29, trails 24-year-old Odermatt by 376 points in the overall standings after 19 of the season's 35 races. Former Olympic giant slalom champion Carlo Janka will retire after the weekend's meet having won at Wengen three times, in the super combined twice and the downhill in 2010. The men's downhill event at this year's Beijing Olympics takes place on February 6, with the super-G two days later.

