

**President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi
Was Awarded an Honorary
Doctorate by Russia's State
University During His Recent Visit to
Moscow and Attending a Ceremony
At the Russia's State University**

IRAN NEWS

**Iran Advanced Into Second
Round as Group B Leaders After
Defeating the Hosts Saudi Arabia
24-20 in the 2022 Asian Handball
Championship Which is
Underway in Saudi Arabia**

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U.S. in Weakest Position Due to Resistance of Nations

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Addressing a meeting of Russia's State Duma, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says the United States is in the weakest position it has ever been, and that its "strategy of domination" is in disarray thanks to the "resistance" of independent nations such as Iran and Russia.

"The strategy of domination has now failed, and the United States is in its weakest position, and the power of independent nations is experiencing its historic growth," Raisi said while addressing the State Duma of Russia in Moscow on Thursday.

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Iran, Russia, China Hold Joint Naval Drills in Indian Ocean



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran, Russia, and China kicked off joint military drills in the north of the Indian Ocean, with vessels from the three countries hitting pre-determined targets at sea.

The "2022 Marine Security Belt" exercise, which began on Friday morning, marks the third of such joint exercises between the three countries.

"Together for peace and security" is the theme of the exercise, which covers an area of 17,000 square kilometers and includes both navies from Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), as well as the Russian and Chinese naval forces.

A variety of tactical exercises such as rescuing burning vessels, releasing hijacked vessels, shooting at specific targets, shooting at air targets at night, and other tactical and operational exercises were to be carried out during the drills.

Strengthening the security of international maritime trade, combating piracy and maritime terrorism, exchanging intelligence in the field of maritime rescue missions, and exchanging operational and tactical experience are among the objectives of the 2022 Marine Security Belt exercise.

"At this stage of the exercise, the vessels units of Iran, China, and Russia, under the command of the [fully homegrown] Iranian destroyer Jamaran, fired from 20mm caliber weapons at pre-determined surface targets at sea," Rear Admiral Mostafa Tajoddini, spokesman for the naval drill, said on Friday.

"Also, in the next stage, the 'PHOTOEX' exercise, including the formulation and offensive arrangement of the units participating in the exercise, was carried out in accordance with the threats in the region," he added.

Tajoddini further noted that Iran's presence in international coalitions manifests the improvement of the Islamic Republic's status in the world.

He said Iran attaches great importance to the establishment of security at regional and international levels, adding, "That's why the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow any threat in the maritime field."

A day earlier, Tajoddini said the purpose of the drill is to strengthen security in the region, expand multilateral cooperation between the three countries, and create a maritime community with a common future.

Meanwhile, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said the exercise in the Persian Gulf is a show of force by the regional powers against foreigners.

"Since foreign countries are always looking for insecurity in the region, holding this exercise will definitely send a good message to foreigners," Fada-Hossein Maleki told Fars news agency.

He warned the Americans and the Zionists that they must not be greedy toward the region's resources.

The Americans, as usual, have failed by forming a coalition against Iran, Maleki said.

"The Americans formed an alliance with NATO and invaded Iraq and Afghanistan and they have achieved nothing but destruction in the region after almost 20 years. Therefore, these alliances have no place in the region," the lawmaker said.

"The formation of a naval coalition in the Persian Gulf by the Americans will face the same fate that the previous ones did, because there is a powerful military force in the Persian Gulf like Iran," he added.

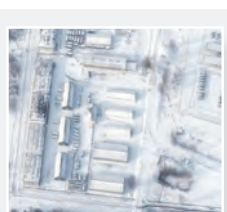
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Tehran Awards Oil Contracts to Russian Firms

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has awarded contracts to Russian companies for involvement in development works in its oil and gas fields, says a report by semi-official Tasnim news agency.

The Thursday report by Tasnim said that Oil Minister Javad Owji had finalized several contracts with Russian companies during his ongoing trip to Moscow.

The report said the contracts will allow Russian firms to engage in Iranian oil and gas projects through offering investment or technology or to have contractors involved in the projects.

It said that CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh Mehr had been in Moscow for final talks on the contracts several days before Owji travelled to Russia to award the deals.

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China Puts 4m Barrels of Iranian Oil Into State Reserves

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - China has offloaded nearly four million barrels of Iranian crude oil into state reserve tanks in the southern port city of Zhanjiang over the past few weeks, a trade source and ship tracking specialist Vortexa Analytics said on Thursday.

The move comes as world powers are locked in tough negotiations with Iran to revive a 2015 nuclear deal that will include the lifting of U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil. The former Trump administration pulled out of the deal and re-imposed sanctions.

The refilling of China's strategic petroleum reserves also comes ahead of a plan to release oil from its emergency stockpile in a rare coordination with the United States to help cool global oil prices which hit a seven-year high this week.

China has previously been importing Iranian oil under the radar, with the shipments not reflected in official customs data as buyers fear invoking U.S. sanctions. On Thursday, China's customs reported the first import of Iranian crude in a year despite ongoing sanctions.

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Iran Gas Flow to Turkey Disrupted

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has reduced its supply of natural gas to Turkey over technical problems amid reports suggesting that freezing temperatures have caused a record surge in domestic use of gas in Iran.

Turkey's state-run energy company BOTAS said in a Thursday statement that gas imports from Iran had reduced to a third of the daily supply normally provided by the NIGC as the company promised it would do its best to minimize the impacts of the cut on its customers in Turkey.

There was no comment from NIGC authorities on the reported cut to gas supplies to Turkey.

However, the Oil Ministry's news service Shana had said in a report on Wednesday that household gas consumption in Iran reached a record daily high of over 620 million cubic meters on January 18 as the country reported freezing temperatures of minus 28 centigrade in some mountainous regions.

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3th International Conference

Martyr Soleimani School and the New Islamic Civilization

سومین کنفرانس بین‌المللی
مکتب شهید سلیمانی و تمدن نوین اسلامی

المؤتمر الدولي الثالث
لمدرسة الشهيد سليماني والحضارة الإسلامية الحديثة

Conference axes

- The role of Martyr Soleimani in building security, justice and peace in the region and the world
- Thought and management in the school of martyr Soleimani
- The new Islamic civilization and Martyr Soleimani
- Martyr Soleimani, the aspect of Palestine, the fight against terrorism and the discourse of resistance

Timing: Feb 13 and 14, 2022 14:30 (UTC)
Email: culturalconference@gmail.com

www.rubika.ir/iw_Peace www.aparat.com/iwpeace/live www.salamnews.ir

web: www.iwpeace.com E-mail: CulturalConference@gmail.com Tel: +98 21 88538248 Fax: +98 21 88538247 +989933004147

Tehran Condemns Terrorist Attack in Pakistan's Lahore

TEHRAN (MNA) - Condemning the terrorist attack in Pakistan's Lahore, a senior Iranian diplomat stressed that such terrorist moves once again remind the need to fight terrorist groups in order to establish peace and tranquility in the region.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned the terrorist attack in Lahore that killed and injured Pakistani citizens.

At least three people were killed and 25 injured Thursday after a bomb blast rocked a busy shopping market of Pakistan's Lahore, police said.

Iranian, Russian FMs Reaffirm Their Countries' Determination to Bolster Ties

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The foreign ministers of Iran and Russia have reaffirmed both countries' determination to bolster relations in all areas following Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's historic visit to Moscow.

The remarks by the two foreign ministers were made in a Thursday meeting between Iran's top diplomat, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, in Moscow.

Pointing to the growing relations between Iran and Russia, Amir-Abdollahian and Lavrov described the recent meeting of the two countries' presidents as a sign of seriousness to further boost and deepen bilateral relations. They also expressed hope that the relevant institutions in both countries would implement the agreements reached by their presidents as soon as possible.

During the meeting, the Russian foreign minister called the Iranian president's visit to Russia an important development in the relations between the two countries and stressed that the ground has been prepared for the expansion of interactions between the two countries more than ever.

Lavrov expressed optimism that the economic projects currently being implemented with the participation of Russian companies in Iran would be completed as quickly as possible.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Russia also discussed the latest regional and international developments as well as the ongoing talks in the Austrian capital city of Vienna for the revival of the landmark Iran deal, which was reached in 2015, while



underscoring the need for further expansion of cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Also in their talks, the two diplomats stressed the need to finalize a roadmap for relations between the two countries, which had been already raised during the meeting of the presidents.

Touching on the current situation in Afghanistan, they said the political solution to the crisis in the war-ravaged country was formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups.

As for Yemen, a political solution based on ceasefire, the lifting of the Saudi-imposed blockade of the country, and the promotion of intra-Yemeni talks were emphasized by Iran's foreign minister and his Russian counterpart.

In a televised interview with Iran's state TV on Wednesday, Amir-Abdollahian said the Iranian and Russian presidents had tasked the top diplomats of the two countries with working out a roadmap for cooperation over the next two decades.

Amir-Abdollahian had earlier said in an article for Russia's Sputnik news agency that Iran and Russia were determined to update the 20-year cooperation treaty they had signed in 2001. The agreement was originally meant to last for 10 years, but it has twice been extended for five years.

Not Possible to Promise to Lift Ineffective Sanctions

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani said that it is not possible to promise to lift a sanction that has already become ineffective.

Shamkhani made the remarks in a tweet in reaction to a promise by Western countries to lift sanctions on Iran on certain concessions.

"The #Iran's oil trading and its financial affairs, has reached appropriate and irreversible conditions," Shamkhani said.

It is not possible to promise to lift a sanction that has become ineffective, in order to score a point, he added.

Heavy Snow, Flooding Block Dozens of Roads Across Iran

TEHRAN (IFP) - The director of Iran's Roads Management Center says 45 roads in several provinces are currently closed due to floods, blizzards and lack of safety.

Ali Akbar Ashouri said that efforts have been ongoing round the clock to open the blocked roads as soon as possible.

Due to heavy snow storms, rain and floods in some parts of the country, it is necessary to travel with snow chains and other winter equipment in mountainous areas, he said.

Some of the worst affected provinces are Golestan, Mazandaran, Semnan, Hamedan, Kordestan, Zanjan and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad.

Many parts of Iran have experienced their heaviest snowfalls in years leading to transport disruptions, cancelation of flights and closure of roads.

Meanwhile, in the southern Hormozgan province, torrential rains over the past two weeks have caused extensive damage to people's houses and farms.

The worst affected are the cities of Minab and Rudan, where many roads have been inundated.

UNSC Inaction Emboldened Israeli Regime

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran condemns the United Nations Security Council's refusal to take the Israeli regime to task over its war crimes and crimes against humanity targeting the Palestinian people.

The Islamic Republic's permanent ambassador to the UN, Majid Takht Ravanchi, made the remarks in a statement to a Security Council meeting on "the situation in the Middle East including Question of Palestine."

The envoy catalogued a litany of the regime's criminal activities targeting the Palestinians and others in the region over the past year, before lambasting the Council's inertia concerning Tel Aviv.

"The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to deteriorate, posing a threat to international peace and security," he said.

The official noted how the regime has slain as many as 341 Palestinians, including 86 children, across the Palestinian territories, adding that the number of the minors, who had perished as a result of the regime's brutality last year, was the highest since 2014. "These measures constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, for which the perpetrators of such crimes must be brought to justice," Takht Ravanchi asserted.

The regime had also razed down 894 Palestinian-owned structures in 2021, which resulted in displacing 1,179 people, he stated.

However, it was "the inaction of the Security Council [that] has emboldened the Israeli regime to continue its crimes against the oppressed people of Palestine," the envoy stated. The Security Council must oblige the Israeli regime to put an immediate end to its systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Takht Ravanchi concluded.

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The Security Council must oblige the Israeli regime to put an immediate end to its systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Takht Ravanchi concluded.

Kenya Voices Readiness to Welcome Iranian Investors

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Economic Attaché of Kenyan Embassy to the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his country is ready to attract Iranian investors eagerly.

Attending a press conference entitled "Iran-East Africa Trade Development Conference", held in Tehran on Thursday, Economic Attaché of Kenyan Embassy David Karanja said that the two countries of Iran and Kenya will establish interaction in oil, pharmaceutical and medical products with Iran.

He went on to say that Kenya also keen on attracting investment opportunities in Iran and vice versa.

A workshop will be held in the field of investment opportunities of Kenya and innovation of Iran, he said, reiterating that the two countries will cooperate and interact with each other in the fields of oil, medical and pharmaceutical products.

Iran and East Africa are both producers and consumers, and East Africa has good opportunities in labor, raw materials and produced items, he added.

Sina Sanjari CEO of International Industrial-Trade Research Institute and Secretary of Iran-East Africa Trade Development Conference said that reviewing challenges as well as investment and exports opportunities to East Africa is the main aim behind organizing this Conference and put Iran's financial turnover in export of products to Africa at between \$700 and \$800 million annually.

According to him, East African countries are a suitable and lucrative market for presence of Iranian technical-engineering companies, exporters and investors.

Iran, Russia Set to Boost Strategic Nuclear Cooperation

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian atomic official said Tehran and Moscow are in talks over the construction of new units at the Bushehr nuclear power plant as part of their efforts to promote bilateral strategic cooperation in the fields of energy and nuclear technology.

In an interview with Press TV on Thursday, Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said nuclear cooperation was "one of the most strategic issues" on the agenda of the Wednesday meeting between President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

"The issue of nuclear industry can be divided into two sections of energy-related and non-energy-related activities. In both fields, the relation between the two countries is excellent. We are being supplied by ... different types of radioisotopes which are used for medical purposes, industry, agriculture and other areas," he said.

At their meeting, Raisi and Putin explored ways to further elevate the already "excellent" relations Iran and Russia enjoy in the nuclear energy sector, Kamalvandi said.

He pointed out that the joint project to build additional units at the Bushehr plant were in line with Iran's plan to generate at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity using nuclear energy. The process was continuing apace despite delayed payments to the Russians, he added.

"As you know Iran has a program of bringing the capacity of electricity in nuclear field to at least 10,000 megawatts... The Russians can contribute a very good part at this program. It has been discussed by the two presidents and we are expecting to exchange delegations in the very near future in order to implement the new projects," Kamalvandi said.

The official further said that one of Iran's planned nuclear projects with Russia values at about \$5 billion. "As you know, a power plant with the capacity of 1,000 megawatts is working. The technology has been transferred to the Iranian expertise. It is operated by the Iranian engineers. We are already constructing two new units with the capacity of 1,000 megawatts, each of them."

Kamalvandi also noted that despite payment difficulties between Iran and Russia, the construction work at Bushehr power plant "is ongoing. It has not stopped."

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۶۰۵۸۱

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO.: 08-38-9440030

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
02	COILED TUBING REEL STRING, QT-800, SINGLE TYPE H2S SERVICE, FITTING FIG.1502 WING WITH INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CORROSION INHIBITOR, TEST CERTIFICATE/ANALYZES, WELDING LOCATION AND MATERIAL CERTIFICATE ATTACHED ON EACH REEL SHIPPING SPOOL-STEEL SPECIFIED AS OD SIZE, WALL THICKNESS REF.QUALITY TUBING LONG SIZE:15000 FT	13RL

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 49,737 EURO or 13,118,916,245 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

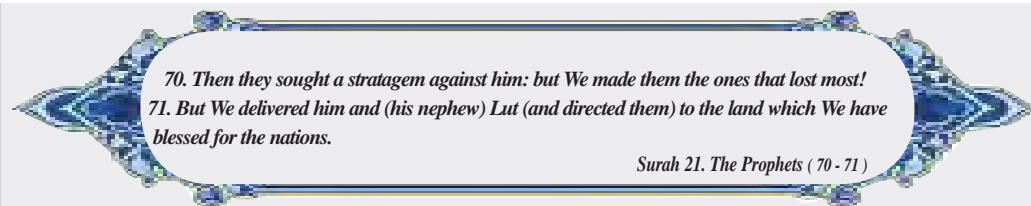
Public Relations
www.shana.ir
www.nisoc.ir
<http://tiets.mporg.ir>

AT-



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:15
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:40
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:43
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:10



Tehran, Bangkok Can Cooperate in Field of Electric Motorcycle

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Tehran and Bangkok emphasized the need for strengthening bilateral relations in the field of municipal and urban services.

Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani met and held talks with the Ambassador of Thai to Iran Vera Vera Wat Pong Pra Papan on Wednesday to discuss issues of mutual interests. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged their views in the field of urban issues including the plan for launching an electronic motorcycle project in the metropolis Tehran province.

The Mayor of Tehran pointed to the satisfactory situation of Thailand as a successful country in East Asia, saying that Iran attaches great importance to boosting its relations with this Asian country in the relevant field.

Zakani pointed to the electrification of vehicles in Thailand especially in the field of electric motorcycles and stated that the two countries of Iran and Thailand can share experiences in this regard.

He added tomorrow is the Clean Air Day and Tehran due to its condition and air pollution needs to electrify its vehicles like motorcycles and both countries can cooperate in this field.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Tehran Mayor put the number of active motorcycles in metropolis Tehran at more than three million, stating that it is very important for



the country to move towards electrifying the motorcycle in the country in line with alleviating air pollution in the country.

Turning to the proposal of the Thai ambassador for the construction of Friendship Garden in Tehran, Zakani reiterated, "We try to strengthen and broaden cultural relations with other countries and for this reason, we call for construction of a garden in Bangkok entitled "Garden of Friendship" for the two nations in order to pave the suitable way for enhancing relations between the two countries."

Thai envoy to Tehran, for his part, stated that his country is interested in broadening its relations with Iran on relevant issues.

Turning to the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Thailand, the ambassador said that a garden entitled "Garden of Friendship" can be constructed in Tehran.

The Thai envoy to Iran also said that he will make all his utmost effort for strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He said some 200 Thais live happily in Iran with Iranian citizenship, adding that he is sure that if they face any problem, Tehran Mayor will show his supports.

He wished Zakani a successful term in office and announced Thailand Embassy's support and help.

Minister Vows to Facilitate Trade With Russia for Traders

TEHRAN (MNA) - Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance (MEAF) has said that the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the economy ministry and Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPOI) will facilitate trade with Russia and Euroasia region.

Speaking in a meeting with Iranian traders residing in Russia on Wednesday, Seyed Ehsan Khandouzi said that his ministry in cooperation with other responsible organizations will pave suitable ways for Iranian traders to do trade activities easily in Russian with peace of mind.

With the coordination made in this regard, it was agreed that Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance (MEAF) and Central Bank of Iran (CBI) would cooperate with one another so that Iranian traders do their business with Russian and Eurasian traders easily without any problem.

During this meeting, Iranian traders based in Russia briefed Iranian economy minister with problems they face in Russian Federation.

Khandouzi promised said that TPOI, MEAF and CBI will make their utmost efforts to facilitate business for Iranian traders in Russia and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

It is hoped that historic visit of President Raisi to Russia will open a new chapter in bilateral relations between Iran and Russia in all fields, especially in the economic area.

Chabahar Port Can Be Main Hope of the Country for Sustainable Int'l Marine Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Director of Ports and Maritime Organization of Sistan and Baluchistan Province believes Chabahar Port and coasts of Makran can be the main hope of sustainable international marine trade of Iran and said Chabahar due to its access to the ocean, enjoying an outstanding geographical and commercial position.



Mr. Behrouz Aghaee says Chabahar Port has a favorable position because it has access to the ocean and it is the deepest port of the country that can host ocean liner vessels with high tonnage without any restrictions. He went on to say that that in this regard the second phase of the oceanic port which is comprised of two 450-meter wharfs with 18 meters of depth is under construction and

80 percent of the operation for strengthening its infrastructures has done and the operation for equipping the wharf which needs up to \$200m investment is predicted to be completed by next year.

Aghaee noted that if the required investment is provided for advancing the development project at Chabahar Port and the second phase is finished as the schedule, next year Iran will have a port Iran able to support huge vessels and ships. He reiterated that the acceleration and rise in exports and imports in the Makran coasts and especially at Chabahar Port will show the emerging power in economic development in the region.

He then pointed to the growing trend of non-oil exports from Chabahar Port and said due to the strategic location and upgraded equipment of Chabahar Port, this year this strategic port has witnessed 167% growth in exports, adding that by the way for the first time in recent days a 76,000-ton construction material consignment has been loaded on a vessel in this big oceanic port.

Aghaee then pointed to the advantages and capabilities of Chabahar Port like its strategic equipment of loading and unloading, considerable discounts in tariffs and

port costs as well as the regular shipping lines from Chabahar.

He reiterated that due to the strategic location of Chabahar Port and its importance for the country and the region, it is ready for attracting any foreign investments especially from the regional states or countries from East and Southeast Asia. He noted that the port can both support the east of the country and the development of the transit corridor of Iran, and it can also turn into the main hope of the country in near future for sustainability in the international marine trade.

Italian Embassy Hosts Event on Reading of Iranian Contemporary Short Stories

IRAN NEW NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Italian Embassy in Tehran held today, at the residence of Ambassador Giuseppe Perrone, a reading event with the Italian magazine "Internazionale" and the Iranian "Na Dastan". The event featured short stories of Iranian contemporary literature published in the latest issue of Internazionale magazine.

The event, held in hybrid format, was attended by Mohammad Tolouei, Iranian journalist and writer, director of "Na Dastan", Francesca Gnetti, editor of the Middle East section of "Internazionale", as well as translator Giacomo Longhi, writers Ali Khodai, Mahsa Mohebali, Bitia Malakuti, Alieh Atai, Arash Sadeghbeigi, photographer Moshde Nourmohammadi, and cartoonists Maysam Barza and Rambod Khanlari.

"The stories published by Internazionale are very different from one another" Ambassador Perrone said in his introductory remarks, "but they all have a common thread in their focus on the daily life of Iranian ordinary people. The individual experiences of each of the writers and their main characters appear intertwined in their narrations, poems and photographs through time and space, so as to bring the reader closer to contemporary Iran," Ambassador Perrone concluded.



The reading event is part of a series of initiatives by the Italian Embassy in Tehran on Italian and Iranian literature, aimed at highlighting the historical literary ties between the two countries. This year the rich program of activities by the Italian Embassy in Tehran, as far as literature is concerned, will include the celebration of Italy's revered writer and intellectual Pierpaolo Pasolini, on the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, as well as many other workshops, translation competitions, screenings and readings on various authors both Iranian and Italian.

HOSCO Shines at National Festival of Productivity



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) had a brilliant performance at the National Festival of Productivity where it won a top prize for its project of reducing electrode consumption at the electric arc furnace.

At the ceremony during the festival, the CEO of HOSCO Dr. Ataollah Maroufkhani was feted with the award for this great achievement as the company's project for reducing electrode consumption by 600 electrodes at the electric arc furnace was selected as one of the top three projects in the country.

Head of technical office of steel production of HOSCO Mr. Javad Gharagozloo reacting to this achievement said that the project was defined and operationalized in line with the strategy of the company for reducing costs of major consumptions. He added that regardless of the financial achievements for the company and following the launch of the project, the company succeeded in transfer of its experience and knowhow to other producing companies in the country and the consumption control of this goods has determinative role in the final cost of steel and the capability for competing with other steel companies.

He noted that with implementation of the project, a successful example of transfer of strategies to the body of the organization was experienced. He said that this achievement is attained at the time the global price of electrode has soared and it has led to the decline of production in the steel making companies worldwide but Hormozgan Steel Company has continued its production without any halt and decline.

Secretary of the National Festival of the Productivity Mr. Farshid Shokr Khodaei reacting to the success of HOSCO said that in the 11th festival only three companies deserved to get the plaque of appreciation and awards and HOSCO was one of it.

Six Largest Importers of Potatoes From Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran is likely to be in the top-5 global exporters of marketable potatoes in 2021. The volume of potato exports from Iran in 2021 increased by 16% and reached a record 855,000 tons. Six nations are among the largest markets for Iranian potatoes: Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Five more countries of the region, namely, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova take 14th– 19th positions. Moreover, it was the sharp increase in the supply of potatoes to the post-Soviet states that provided Iran with a record volume of potato exports in 2021. As a rule, other major importers reduced their purchases of potatoes in Iran: Afghanistan reduced imports by 17%, and Iraq more than twice.

In addition to Iran, Pakistan is also increasing supplies to Eastern Europe and the countries of Central Asia. By the way, winter potatoes in Pakistan ripened earlier than usual this season.

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۶۱۶۰۲

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO.: 08-38-9640008

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	COILED TUBING REEL, STRING, QT-700 TOTAL LENGTH 15000 FEET WALL THICKNESS: 0.095" WITH 2" FIG. 1502, WING NUTFITTING (H2S SERVICE) MIN. LOAD YEILD: 24130 LBS 1.250 IN. (OD NOM)	10 RL
02	COILED TUBING REEL, QT-700 15000 FEET LONG, 0.109" WALL THICKNESS WITH 2" FIG. 1502 WING NUT FITTING, (H2S SERVICE) YIELD MIN. 33340 LBS. 1.500 IN. O.D.NOM.	20 RL

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 73,925 EURO or 19,680,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

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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), Ahwaz, Iran

Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 34 457437

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

AFA

Mottley Hails Landslide Victory for Ruling Party

LONDON (Dispatches) - Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley on Thursday celebrated a landslide victory in the Caribbean nation's first general election since it became a republic last year by removing Britain's queen as sovereign head of state.

Mottley called the snap election in December, saying it would help promote unity as the government battled the coronavirus pandemic, which has heavily affected the tourism-focused economy.

"We stand today on the morning of the 20th of January confident that the people have spoken with one voice - decisively, unanimously and clearly," Mottley told cheering supporters at the headquarters of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP).



Hungary's Ruling Party Pulls Two Points Ahead of Opposition

BUDAPEST (Dispatches) - Hungary's ruling Fidesz party pulled two percentage points ahead of the opposition alliance, according to a survey of voter intentions by think tank IDEA Institute published on Thursday ahead of a parliamentary election on April 3.

The survey put support for the six united opposition parties at 37% with long-serving nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Fidesz on 39%. The institute's December survey showed the two camps tied on 38%.

It said Thursday's poll confirmed that "month by month, Fidesz is growing its support systematically, although not spectacularly," adding that "the governing party gained an advantage in all voting groups surveyed."



West Stresses Unity on Ukraine After Biden Implies Divided Response



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Western countries insisted they would be unified in responding strongly to any Russian assault on Ukraine, shifting into damage control after U.S. President Joe Biden suggested divisions about how to react to a "minor incursion".

Russia has massed tens of thousands of troops on its borders with Ukraine, and Western states fear Moscow is planning a new assault on a country it invaded in 2014. Russia denies it is planning an attack, but says it could take unspecified military action if a list of demands are not met, including a promise from NATO never to admit Kyiv as a member.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Biden said he expected Russian President Vladimir Putin to launch some kind of action, and appeared to suggest Washington and its allies could argue over the response if Moscow stopped short of a major invasion. "My guess is he will move in," Biden said. "He has to do something."

"Russia will be held accountable if it invades - and it depends on what it does," Biden said. "It's one thing if it's a minor incursion and we end up having to fight about what to do and what to not do, et cetera," Biden said, adding that an invasion would be a "disaster" for Russia.

Shortly after the nearly two-hour news conference ended, the White House rowed back from any suggestion that a smaller-scale Russian military incursion would meet a weaker U.S. response.

"If any Russian military forces move across the Ukrainian border, that's a renewed invasion, and it will be met with a swift, severe, and united response from the United States and our allies," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki.

European allies made similar remarks stressing a unified position, and threatening strong financial measures against Russia for any assault.

Europe would respond to a new attack "with massive economic and financial sanctions. The transatlantic community stands firm in this," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who heads the EU executive.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "Be in no doubt that if Russia were to make any kind of incursion into Ukraine, or on any scale, whatever, I think that that would be a disaster, not just for Ukraine, but for Russia. It would be a disaster for the world." read more

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Germany on Thursday, meeting French, British and German ministers ahead of talks on Friday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

With Western countries having long emphasized their united position in public, some officials privately expressed frustration at Biden's remarks, although they described it as a gaffe that was unlikely to alter Moscow's calculations.

"It was not helpful, in fact it was a gift to Putin, but we should not read too much into it. Biden has not given Moscow the green light for an attack on Ukraine. It was a slip of his tongue, and the official Western position will prevail," said one Western security source.

Another said: "I think the Russians will know how to rank Biden's remarks, they will classify it as what it was - a gaffe." The Ukrainian government also played down Biden's remarks. "It is definitely not worth evaluating the words spoken the day before as something separate from the integral policy of the American administration," Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, told Reuters in a message.

N. Korea Suggests It May Resume Nuclear, Missile Tests

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea will bolster its defenses against the United States and consider resuming "all temporally-suspended activities", state news agency KCNA said on Thursday, an apparent reference to a self-imposed moratorium on tests of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

Tension has been rising over a recent series of North Korean missile tests. A U.S. push for fresh sanctions was followed by heated reaction from Pyongyang, raising the specter of a return to the period of so-called "fire and fury" threats of 2017.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un convened a meeting of the powerful politburo of the ruling Workers' Party on Wednesday to discuss "important policy issues," including countermeasures over "hostile" U.S. policy, the official KCNA news agency said.

The politburo ordered a reconsideration of trust-building measures and "promptly examining the issue of restarting all temporally-suspended activities," while calling for "immediately bolstering more powerful physical means," KCNA said.



The decision appears to be a step beyond Kim's previous remarks at the end of 2019 that he would no longer be bound by the moratorium on testing nuclear warheads and long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), after the United States did not respond to calls for concessions to reopen negotiations.

Washington's hostility and threats had "reached a danger line," the report said, citing joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises, the deployment of cutting-edge U.S. strategic weapons in the region, and the implementation of independent and U.N. sanctions.

"We should make more thorough preparation for a long-term confrontation with the U.S. imperialists," the politburo concluded.

North Korea's warning came hours before the United Nations Security Council was due to convene a closed-door meeting on Thursday to discuss the recent missile tests, at the request of the United States and several other countries.

Greece Receives Game-Changer Rafale Aircraft From France

TANAGRA (Dispatches) - "La bas!" - "Over there" - a French journalist broke the silence pointing at a formation of specks in the overcast sky.

Greece's newly-acquired fourth generation Rafale aircraft made a series of deafening overpasses before landing at Tanagra Air Force Base, 70km (43 miles) north of Athens. They had flown from Merignac airport near Bordeaux.

A ceremony was held at the airbase to mark their arrival, in which a Greek priest blessed the jets and their pilots.

The Rafale mark a turning point in Greek defence capabilities, defence experts say, because they carry more advanced targeting and weaponry than anything seen in the Aegean theatre until now.

"They have very advanced [surveillance], possibly greater than 100km [62 miles], in the form of a camera that scans for the thermal signature of other aircraft," said Konstantinos Grivas, who teaches weapons systems at the Hellenic Army Academy.

"Unlike radar, this doesn't let the enemy know when they've been spotted because it's not emitting a beam," he told Al Jazeera.

"The most important thing of all is this plane comes with the Meteor air-to-air missile, which is currently considered the best of its kind in the Western arsenal. Its range is officially 120km (75 miles), but it is thought that it can be as much as 150km (93km).

"These six planes can unleash a very large firepower without the enemy knowing they're even there." Greek pilots and technicians have spent a year training on the aircraft in France, so they will enter service immediately.

Greece's air force is among the most active in NATO because Greek pilots are constantly intercepting Turkish F-16 fighter jets performing incursions into its airspace or overflying Greek islands.

Defense Minister Nikos Panayotopoulos told Al Jazeera that Rafale would be doing more important work. "It's not a weapon we have for daily interceptions over the Aegean, it's a strategic weapon," he said. Pilot Theodoros Christodoulou offered an idea of what Rafale missions might involve. "In older aircraft, if the radar locked on a target, only that radar was locked on it. Here ... one aircraft can pass on its information to another," he told Al Jazeera. Grivas calls this capability of being an

eye in the sky and passing on targeting information to other air, naval and land-based assets a "force multiplier". Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Konstantinos Floros told Al Jazeera this networking capability across branches of the Greek military was already up and running.

Turkey, Qatar Reach Preliminary Deal on Kabul Airport Security



ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey and Qatar have reached agreement on ensuring security at Kabul's main airport should they be awarded the mission amid ongoing talks with the Taliban government, Turkish diplomatic sources said on Thursday.

Kabul's international airport is landlocked Afghanistan's main air link to the world. Following the August takeover of Afghanistan by the hardline Islamist Taliban, Turkey has said it would be open to operating it with Qatar but only if its security demands are met.

Reuters has reported that the United Arab Emirates also held talks with the Taliban to keep the airport operational. The sources told reporters on Thursday that Ankara and Doha had agreed on a security framework for the airport mission, but added talks continued on other aspects such as financing.

"It is expected for the Taliban to ensure security outside, and for whoever runs the airport to ensure it inside," one of the sources said. "The process is continuing constructively," the person said on condition of anonymity.

They added that a delegation of Turkish and Qatari officials were holding talks on the issue in Kabul this week.

Qatar's state news agency said the Taliban government will be in Doha next week to complete discussions with Qatar and Turkey over the operation and management of the airport.

It added that delegations from Qatar and Turkey have held two days of "intense negotiations" in Kabul this week over control of the airport.

Qatar - which helped run the airport along with Turkey after playing a major role in evacuation efforts following the chaotic U.S. withdrawal in August - say that Ankara, Doha, and the Taliban have agreed that discussions are going to be completed next week.

Qatar's role at the Kabul airport has ensured that flights have operated between Doha and Kabul since September, allowing Qatar to become a hub for countries to maintain links to Afghanistan and to meet the Taliban government. The United States, United Kingdom, Canada and several other countries have moved their Afghanistan embassies to Qatar.

On Wednesday, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was sending 700 tonnes of emergency aid and supplies to Afghanistan, without providing a date.

شناسه آگهی: ۱۶۲۵۴۰

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO.: 08-21-9740012

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	CASING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS "VAM", "N.VAM" OR "SEC" THREAD, RANGE 3 (MAX LEN: 40.5 FT) AS PER API 5CT/ISO 11960 SIZE (OD), WEIGHT (PPF), AS SPECIFIED MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I:1) "QCP/MPS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION" 01- 7IN. 29 PPF DRIFT: 6.125"	5000 LE

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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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A large billboard for IRAN NEWS PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS ADVERTISING. The billboard is white with black and red text. The word "IRAN" is in large, bold, red letters with a green outline. Below it, "NEWS" is in large, bold, black letters. Underneath "NEWS" is the text "PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS" in a smaller, black, serif font. At the bottom of the billboard, the word "ADVERTISING" is written in large, bold, black letters, with each letter containing a different colorful image. To the right of the main text, there is contact information: "TEL: 44253448-50", "FAX: 44253234", and "ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM". The background of the billboard features a stylized, grey, swirling graphic. The billboard is mounted on a tall, dark metal pole. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The skyline includes various skyscrapers, with the Empire State Building being a prominent feature on the right side.

Turkish Footwear Exports Exceed \$1b in 2021 for First Time

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish footwear exports have surged 22.9% year-over-year in 2021, exceeding \$1 billion for the first time.

While Turkey's leather and leather products exports reached \$1.73 billion (TL 23.6 billion) last year, the share of this sector in total exports was 0.8%, according to data compiled by Anadolu Agency (AA).

The share of the footwear group in the leather and leather products sector exports was 58.3%. Although the increase in exports of shoes remained below the average, the weight of the sector in total exports did not change. Increasing its exports from \$818.4 million in 2020 to \$1.6 billion in 2021, the shoe industry has thus exceeded the \$1 billion thresholds that it has been targeting for a long time.



UK Inflation Hits Near 30-Year High

LONDON (Dispatches) - Inflation in Britain rose faster than expected to a near 30-year high in December, intensifying a squeeze on living standards and putting pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates again.

The annual rate of consumer price inflation increased to 5.4 per cent from November's 5.1 per cent, the highest since March 1992, the Office for National Statistics said. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a rise to 5.2 per cent.

Financial markets now price in a more than 90 per cent chance that the BoE will raise its main interest rate to 0.5 per cent on February 3. Last month it became the world's first major central bank to tighten policy since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Bank of England was already feeling uncomfortable about its monetary policy stance. Today's upside surprises to both the headline and core inflation readings will certainly not have helped," said Ambrose Crofton, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

Two-year British government bond yields, which are sensitive to financial markets' interest rate expectations, came within a whisker of their highest level since 2011.

Inflation has risen sharply across most advanced economies, reflecting a global rise in energy prices and supply chain difficulties.

But the BoE appears more concerned than the US Federal Reserve or the European Central Bank that labor shortages and wage pressures will cause inflation to be slow to fall back once immediate price pressures have passed.

A surge in cases of the Omicron coronavirus variant had negligible impact on inflation, ONS statisticians said.

Instead, prices for food, hospitality and household goods were the main factors pushing up inflation in December while fuel prices — the main driver in previous months — remained at recent highs.

"Not only does this provide additional evidence that inflation is becoming endemic rather than transitory, it also bodes ill for households facing multiple rises in the cost of living this spring," said Kitty Ussher, chief economist at the Institute of Directors.

British inflation is widely expected to peak in April when regulated household energy bills look set to increase by around 50 per cent. Last month the BoE forecast a peak of around 6 per cent, but now some economists see 7 per cent as more likely.

BoE Governor Andrew Bailey is due to speak to a parliament committee at 1415 GMT, and the bank will publish new inflation forecasts on February 3. Its last set in November showed inflation staying above its 2 per cent target until mid-2024.

Rising inflation is also turning into a political problem for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government, which faces calls from the opposition and charities to offset the rise in energy bills, which comes at the same time as a tax increase on wages to fund higher health and social care spending.

Omicron Will Pinch, Not Derail U.S. Economic Growth

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The latest coronavirus variant will weigh on US economic growth in the months ahead but will not derail it, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will assure the nation's mayors as they gather in Washington.

"Yes, Omicron has presented a challenge and will likely impact some of the data in the coming months, but I am confident it will not derail what has been one of the strongest periods of economic growth in a century," Yellen will say according to remarks released ahead of her speech.

"None of this was guaranteed. I think it's important we recognize that," she adds in her appearance before the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"There's a very real counterfactual where Omicron did derail our recovery; a scenario where the new variant hurdled our economy backwards towards its state on Inauguration Day 2021" when Joe Biden assumed the presidency.

The Omicron variant has led to a surge in infections and quarantine cases, keeping many Americans away from their jobs.

Airlines, for example, have cancelled thousands of flights since Christmas due to staff shortages.

As a result of the Covid-19 surge, economic growth is expected to slow in the first quarter of 2022, economists forecast.

But Yellen will insist the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress in March 2021 under the impetus of Biden, just weeks into his White House job, "acted like a vaccine for the

American economy, protecting our recovery from the possibility of new variants."

"The protection wasn't complete, but it was very strong — and it prevented communities from suffering the most severe economic effects of Omicron and Delta," she will say, noting that US\$350 billion (RM1.4 trillion) in emergency funding was funneled to local governments.

The first year of the pandemic "decimated government budgets" and forced mass layoffs and the collective furlough of some 1.3 million workers including teachers and health care workers deemed essential personnel, Yellen said.

But the funding allowed communities to better prepare against and battle Omicron when it began spreading, she added.

Oil Market Headed for Surplus as Omicron Impact Muted

LONDON (Dispatches) - Oil supply will soon overtake demand as some producers are set to pump at or above all-time highs, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said, while demand holds up despite the spread of the Omicron coronavirus variant.

The outlook could mean an easing of a rally in oil prices as supply reined in by producers finally meets demand levels recovering from the pandemic. Brent and U.S. oil benchmarks hit highs last seen in October 2014.

An oil supply surplus should also lead to a build-up in inventories, as the IEA reported that commercial stocks in OECD countries were well below pre-pandemic levels around seven-year lows.

"While the steady rise in supply could see a significant surplus materialise in 1Q22 and going forward, available data suggest that 2022 is starting off with global oil inventories well below pre-pandemic levels," the Paris-based IEA said in its monthly oil report.

The United States, Canada and Brazil are set to pump at all-time highs for the year while Saudi Arabia and Russia could also break their output records.

"World oil supply in 2022 has the potential for a massive Saudi-driven gain of 6.2 million bpd (barrels per day), provided the OPEC+ alliance continues to unwind the remainder of its record 2020 supply cut."

OPEC and other producers including Russia, a group known as OPEC+, is unwinding record output cuts put in place last year to counter a fall in demand caused by the pandemic. Its plan calls for adding back 400,000 bpd of production per month to fully unwind the cuts by the end of September, although some countries are struggling to raise output, with OPEC+ in December falling 790,000 bpd short of its target.

Eased lockdown measures mean mobility remains robust, the IEA added, leading the energy watchdog to increase its oil demand estimate for last year and 2022 by 200,000 barrels per day (bpd).

"Supply disruptions and underperformance by OPEC+ are tempering growth expectations for 2022," it said.

But the IEA warned that with commercial oil and fuel stocks in OECD countries at their lowest levels in seven years, any dents in supply could render the oil market in 2022 volatile.

Turkey Signs \$5b Swap Deal With UAE, Boosting Foreign Reserves

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey signed a \$4.9 billion currency swap agreement with the United Arab Emirates, boosting dwindling foreign-exchange reserves depleted by the country's financial turmoil.

The three-year deal reflects a warming of ties that began last year after a decade of frosty relations that rippled across the Middle East. Turkey has already signed swap deals with Qatar, South Korea and China to prop up its reserves, which shrank more than 10% in December as the central bank intervened in the foreign-exchange market to stem the lira's decline.

Reserves totaled just under \$110 billion on Jan. 7, according to official data, but fell significantly below zero when the central bank's liabilities from swap deals with foreign counterparts or commercial lenders are stripped out. The lira, meanwhile, still lost about 40% of its value last month alone, when investors fled lira assets in search of protection against a worsening inflation outlook.

The run on the currency began after the central bank started a cycle of interest rate cuts in September at President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's demand. Erdogan argues that lower borrowing costs will curb price pressures, contrary to what most central bankers think.

The size of Wednesday's swap agreement in local currencies is 18 billion UAE dirhams or 64 billion Turkish liras, according to separate statements by both monetary authorities.

The deal followed a visit by the UAE's de facto ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to Turkey in November. Relations between the countries had been strained over the role of Islamist groups in the tumult that followed the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. The countries also supported opposing sides in Libya's conflict, and have disagreed on other issues including gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean.

German 10-Year Bond Yield Above 0% for First Time in 3 Years



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's 10-year bond yield rose above 0% for the first time since 2019 on Wednesday, marking a potential turning point for euro area debt characterized by years by negative yields thanks to copious central bank support fighting deflationary forces.

The 10-year yield note, considered a benchmark for the whole eurozone, rose as high as 0.009%, up 2 basis points (bps) on the day.

Gareth Hill, fund manager at Royal London Asset Management, called the move above zero a "very key level," seeing it as a reflection of policy tightening by the European Central Bank (ECB).

"Pushing through that zero barrier is indicative really of the path of things to come with higher yields across the board."

The rise in German yields reflects record-high inflation in the euro area and an economy recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic that is allowing the ECB to pare back monetary stimulus that has depressed the bloc's bond yields for years.

The immediate move above 0% comes as eurozone bond markets pulled forward their bets on a 10 basis-point rate hike from the ECB to September, and are betting on a second rate hike by December.

Traders have ramped up their rate hike bets mirroring moves in the United States, where investors bet the U.S. Federal Reserve could hike rates as early as March and another three times by the end of the year.

Fed policymakers have also signaled they may shrink the bank's \$8 trillion-plus balance sheet by offloading bond holdings.

Those concerns have driven eurozone bond yields higher in recent weeks with 10-year German yields rising nearly 40 bps over the last month, tracking U.S. Treasury yields higher.

Unease as the ECB plans to end its pandemic emergency bond purchases in March, which will leave it conducting conventional bond purchases that are less than what some investors had expected, has also driven yields higher.

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۶۲۵۴۱

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDER NO.: 08-38-9640015

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	SLICK LINE, SPOOLED ON IRON REEL, H2S, CO2, CHLORIDE TRIM TYPE: SUPA-75 OR SANICRO-26 MATERIAL: HIGH CROSION RESISTANCE STAINLESS STEEL; UNS N08926 (ALLOY 25-6 MO) NDT TEST INCLUDING EDDY CURRENT TEST AND ALSO WRAP TEST SHOULD BE PERFORMED & DOCUMENTED DIAMETER & LENGTH AS SPECIFIED: REF. "SANDVICK (ZAOO-GROUP)" "BRIDON" SIZE 0.108 INCH X 20000 FEET	10 RL

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

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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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AFT

Iran Exports to Iraq Fetch \$8b in 8 Months

People Play Key Role Protecting Environment

TEHRAN (IP) – The First Vice President said that the environment is essential to anyone’s life, so people play a crucial role in protecting it.

Referring to the National Clean Air Day in Iran and the need to pay serious attention to the issue, Mohammad Mokhber said: “Good decisions have been made on environmental issues and clean air in the cabinet, but implementing some of the decisions may take time.”

Every year, January 19 is the National Clean Air Day in Iran to remind and highlight the main factors in maintaining air quality and promoting a sense of responsibility and citizen participation in protecting the urban environment and fulfilling social responsibility for the environment.

He stressed that the government, parliament, judiciary, and all bodies must save and protect the environment.

Ali Salajegheh, the head of the Department of Environment, also said long-term plans had been managed to protect the environment.

TEHRAN (IFP) - The head of Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce said Iran’s exports to Iraq during the first eight months of the Iranian calendar year (starting March 21, 2021) have fetched the country around \$8 billion.

Yahya Al-e Es’haq added that the revenues show a 14 percent growth when compared to the figures during the

similar period in its preceding year, expressing hope the earning would hit \$10 billion by late March 2022.

Elaborating on the recent visits of two Iranian trade and economic delegations to Iraq and its Kurdistan region, he said the Iranian industrialists should seize the trade opportunity at this juncture.



Iran, Russia Set to Boost Strategic Nuclear Cooperation

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian atomic official said Tehran and Moscow are in talks over the construction of new units at the Bushehr nuclear power plant as part of their efforts to promote bilateral strategic cooperation in the fields of energy and nuclear technology.

In an interview with Press TV on Thursday, Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said nuclear cooperation was “one of the most strategic issues” on the agenda of the Wednesday meeting between President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

“The issue of nuclear industry can be divided into two sections of energy-related and non-energy-related activities. In both fields, the relation between the two countries is excellent. We are being supplied by ... different types of radioisotopes which are used for medical purposes, industry, agriculture and other areas,” he said.

At their meeting, Raisi and Putin explored ways to further elevate the already “excellent” relations Iran and Russia enjoy in the nuclear energy sector, Kamalvandi said. He pointed out that the joint project to build additional units at the Bushehr plant were in line with Iran’s plan to generate at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity using nuclear energy. The process was continuing apace despite delayed payments to the Russians, he added.

“As you know Iran has a program of bringing the capacity of electricity in nuclear field to at least 10,000 megawatts... The Russians can contribute a very good part at this program. It has been discussed by the two presidents and we are expecting to exchange delegations in the very near future in order to implement the new projects,” Kamalvandi said.

The official further said that one of Iran’s planned nuclear projects with Russia values at about \$5 billion.

“As you know, a power plant with the capacity of 1,000 megawatts is working. The technology has been transferred to the Iranian expertise. It is operated by the Iranian engineers. We are already constructing two new units with the capacity of 1,000 megawatts, each of them.” Kamlavandi also noted that despite payment difficulties between Iran and Russia, the construction work at Bushehr power plant “is ongoing. It has not stopped.”

Seoul, Tehran Discuss Possible Use of Iran’s Frozen Funds as UN Membership Fee

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea is in consultations with Iran over the proposed use of Tehran’s funds, frozen under re-imposed U.S. sanctions, to help it pay its dues to the United Nations and regain its voting rights, government sources said Thursday.

Last week, the U.N. notified Iran that it would immediately lose its voting rights over the arrears, reportedly \$18.4 million, along with seven other member states, under the U.N. Charter.

Iran has more than \$7 billion in funds for oil shipments frozen at two South Korean banks — the Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK) and Woori Bank — due to the U.S. sanctions. Iran has demanded the release of the money, a major sticking point in bilateral relations.

The two sides are seeking to capitalize on the assets to handle the problem of the

delinquent U.N. dues, according to the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

“Our government is in consultations with the Iranian government in that regard and is in related consultations with the U.S. and the U.N. as well,” one of the sources told Yonhap News Agency.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry confirmed that the country is looking for “a safe channel” for a faster payment of the U.N. membership fees, with relevant talks under way.

In 2021, the U.N. deprived Iran of its voting rights for failing to pay its dues. The U.S. agreed to enable Tehran to use some of the funds held at the IBK for the payment of a minimum amount of fees for the year and the restoration of its voting power.

Tehran Awards Oil...
FROM PAGE 1

However, Tasnim’s report said that Owji had signed other agreements in Russia which need to be finalized between the two countries before they go into effect.

The deals came as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi was in Russia on Wednesday to hold high-level talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Raisi’s government has indicated since taking office in August that it is intent on expanding energy ties with Iran’s neighbors, especially with Russia as a global petroleum powerhouse.

Owji himself posted a tweet on Thursday saying that he had held “numerous intensive meetings” with senior officials in Russia, adding that the two sides had signed “important documents” while adopting major decisions for their future cooperation.

Owji later told the state TV that Iran had reached agreements with a number of Russian companies on their participation in the development of oil and gas fields as well as in construction of oil refineries in Iran.

However, the minister did not elaborate whether contracts had been awarded allowing Russian companies to immediately start works in the Iranian projects.

China Puts 4m Barrels...
FROM PAGE 1

China brought in 260,312 tons (1.9 million barrels) of Iranian crude oil in December, according to data from the General Administration of Chinese Customs, which last recorded Iranian oil inflows in December 2020 at double the volume.

A senior trade source with knowledge of the shipment told Reuters this particular cargo was offloaded into a state reserve site in Zhanjiang in late December.

This was followed by another similar-sized shipment that was discharged into the same port for the emergency stockpile, according to ship tracking specialist Vortexa Analytics.

“There were reports of importing Iranian crude earlier - but hush hush somewhat. Now I think the Chinese are testing openly to see U.S. response,” said Tilak Doshi, managing director of Doshi Consulting in Singapore.

Iran’s oil ministry was not available for comment, but a senior oil ministry official told Reuters that Iran has publicly said its oil exports had increased sharply.

“We do not disclose to which countries because of the U.S. sanctions, but China is one of the countries that buys Iran’s oil. It shows that the sanctions have become ineffective.”

“Our policy is to improve our trade, including oil, with non-Western countries,” said a second Iranian official.

Asked about China storing Iranian oil in state reserves and noting it in customs data - effectively confirming violations of U.S. sanctions - the U.S. State Department said U.S. sanctions remain in effect and would be enforced, though Washington believed diplomacy was the best way to address the issue.

“We are aware of the purchases that Chinese companies are making of Iranian oil. We have used our sanctions authorities to respond to Iranian sanctions evasion, including those doing business with China, and will continue to do so if necessary,” said a State Department spokesperson who asked not to be named.

“However, we have been approaching this diplomatically with the Chinese as part of our dialogue on Iran policy and think that, in general, this is a more effective path forward to address our concerns,” the spokesperson added.

China’s National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

“This is (China’s) attempt to cool oil prices. It’s basically to show the world that there’s more supply even though it’s only available to them,” said a senior oil trader who declined to be identified as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

China’s imports of Iranian oil had continued unofficially despite the sanctions that, if enforced, would allow Washington

U.S. in Weakest...
FROM PAGE 1

“The important thing in this age, which requires vigilance, is that the desires for domination have not disappeared and new forms of domination are on the agenda,” he added.

He said the new forms of domination are meant to weaken independent countries, particularly through economic sanctions, and promote instability and insecurity. “In such a way that they try to change the place of the oppressor and the oppressed in public opinion,” he added.

The president added that an international system based on domination has yielded no result but war, violence, insecurity, and division among nations.

The “evil alliance” of the United States with terrorists is clear to the world, especially to the nations of West Asia, from Syria to Afghanistan, Raisi said.

He warned of complex plots aimed at sending Takfiri terrorists on “new missions from the Caucasus to Central Asia,” adding, “Experience has shown that it is pure Islamic thought that can prevent the formation of extremism and Takfiri terrorism.”

The Iranian president emphasized that the resistance of nations is the main cause of the failure of the policy of military occupation and the United States’ escape from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The idea of resistance serves the independence of countries. In modern times, the concept of resistance plays a central role in deterrence equations,” he stated.

Raisi said Iran is determined to promote “maximum interaction” with all countries around the world, especially its neighbors and allies.

“The purpose and basis of this cooperation and interaction is the mutual interests of nations and the increasing formation of a ‘civilized global community,’” he added, noting that such a goal can be achieved through cooperation among “independent countries with high cultures and attention to the principles of justice, morality and spirituality.”

He said Iran’s policy of maximum interactions with independent states are “original and will continue regardless of the developments in the international environment.”

Reiterating Iran’s will and readiness to expand relations with Russia, Raisi said there are very clear horizons for cooperation between Tehran and Moscow at bilateral, regional and international levels.

“Strengthening Iran-Russia relations in bilateral and multilateral forms will boost the economies of the two nations and strengthen regional and international security,” the Iranian president added, He said the economic and trade capacities of Iran and Russia along with their power and influence in the geographical areas can strengthen the convergence between the regions.

He added that Iran and Russia have had a “successful” model of cooperation in Syria which has also “ensured the independence of the countries and the consolidation of regional security in the continuation of the resistance of the Syrian people and government.”

Elsewhere in his address, Raisi said imposing sanctions on nations is a common form of new domination, stressing the importance of cooperation among independent states and a collective response to counter such a policy.

“Otherwise, sanctions will affect all countries, even US allies, under various pretexts,” he added.

He noted that the United States claimed that it has imposed sanctions on Iran over the Islamic Republic’s nuclear activities, although it is clear to all that Tehran’s nuclear program is legal and under the constant supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“But the reality is that in different historical periods of Iran’s development, whenever our nation has raised the banner of nationalism, independence, or scientific development, it has faced sanctions and pressures of the Iranian nation’s enemies,” Raisi said.

In accordance with the fatwa of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Iran does not look for a nuclear weapon, he added, emphasizing, “Such weapons have no place in our defense strategy.”

The chief executive warned that the U.S. seeks to oppose the Iranian nation’s rights, saying, “Our philosophy is also clear: ‘We do not relinquish the rights of our nation.’”

“We are not satisfied with anything less than our rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran is serious about reaching an agreement if the other parties are serious about lifting the sanctions effectively and operationally,” Raisi said.

Iran, Raisi said, is the winner of two battlefields; one against terrorism and the other against the American campaign of maximum economic pressure.


The president said the country has “extensive economic potential, especially in the fields of energy, trade, agriculture, industry and technology, which pave the way for beneficial cooperation for any bilateral or multilateral interaction with different countries.”

He noted that basic agreements which have been signed between Tehran and Moscow would set the stage for a significant leap in bilateral economic relations, serve both nations’ interests and promote peace and stability of nations in different regions.

“The privileged geographical location of Iran, especially the north-south corridor, can make trade from India to Russia and Europe less expensive and more prosperous,” he said.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۶۲۵۴۴



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

TENDER NO.: 08-38-9940006

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	PARTS FOR WILSON “ROTARY TONGS SHORT JAW”	70 NO

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 1,327 EURO or 356,500,000 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](http://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.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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AFT

Argentina Rest Messi for World Cup Qualifiers

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Paris Saint-Germain star Lionel Messi, who recently recovered from a Covid-19 infection, was left out of Argentina's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Colombia, with the twice former winners already qualified for Qatar 2022.

Argentina will play Chile in Santiago on January 27 and Colombia at home on February 1 with both opponents still in contention to qualify for the tournament. Messi contracted the virus whilst on holiday in his hometown of Rosario in Argentina in December.

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

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Atletico Knocked Out of Copa del Rey

MADRID (Dispatches) - La Liga champions Atletico Madrid were knocked out of the Copa del Rey after a 2-0 defeat at Real Sociedad in the last 16.

Real Sociedad took the lead in the 33rd minute from a superb header by Adnan Januzaj, who jumped between three defenders to score into the bottom-left corner of Jan Oblak's goal.

Real extended their lead after a defensive mistake, when Mikel Oyarzabal robbed the ball from Felipe and freed Alexander Sorloth to run into the box and rifle into the net from close range.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2022

Murray Dumped out of Australian Open, Medvedev Advances

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Former world number one Andy Murray was stunned by Japanese qualifier Taro Daniel in straight sets in the second round of the Australian Open.

The 120th-ranked Daniel ambushed the three-time Grand Slam winner 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in 2hr 48min on John Cain Arena to reach the third round of a major for the first time.

He will now face either Italian 11th seed Jannik Sinner or American Steve Johnson.

"Amazing level from me. I was getting pretty nervous in the third set, I was cramping a little bit, but I tried not to make too big a deal out of this match against Andy Murray," Daniel said.

The 34-year-old Murray, ranked 113 and playing as a tournament wild card, didn't stick around afterwards and walked quickly from the court, showing great disappointment at his lost opportunity.

Murray, who had career-saving hip surgery in 2019, on Tuesday won his first match at the Australian Open since 2019.

But his five-set epic against big-hitting Georgian 21st seed Nikoloz Basilashvili left the veteran leaden-footed and he cut a frustrated figure at times, even changing his shoes at one point to stem the tide.

The 28-year-old Daniel exploited his illustrious rival's lethargy and was whippet-quick around the court chasing down balls, while Murray was picking his battles.

The Japanese broke Murray in the third game and was broken back in the sixth game with a backhand error. Daniel broke again when Murray double-faulted and served out the opening set with an ace. Murray tried to stay in reach of Daniel, who broke again, and despite having four break-point chances, the Scot could not find a way to break back.



Meanwhile composed Daniil Medvedev took all that mercurial Australian Nick Kyrgios and the home crowd could throw at him to march into the third round.

The Russian world number two and title favourite served out a 7-6 (7/1), 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 win over the 115th-ranked Kyrgios in 2hr 58min.

It was a madhouse inside Rod Laver Arena with unpredictable Kyrgios dealing out all his assortment of unplayable serves and tweeners before a partisan home crowd, while embroiled in a running battle with the chair umpire.

But calculating Medvedev dealt with it all to ease through and will now face Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp in the third round.

Medvedev was not happy with some of the antics of the vociferous crowd.

Then misfiring Stefanos Tsitsipas survived a thorough examination by former world number one junior Sebastian Baez before taking his place in the third round.

The Greek world number four raced through a first-set tie breaker but struggled to put away the tigerish 88th-ranked Argentine before winning in four sets.

Tsitsipas wrapped up the match 7-6 (7/1), 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4 in 3hr 22min on Margaret Court Arena.

He will next face Frenchman Benoit Paire or Bulgarian 26th seed Grigor Dimitrov.

"It wasn't easy. I'm glad I overcame that obstacle today. Lots of fighting, a little bit of swearing, but I'm glad to be in the third round," Tsitsipas, who is yet to win a Grand Slam, said.

"It was a pretty hot day today playing here, but I tried to play with the heart and it paid out at the end."



DEMBELE (Dispatches) - Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez has suggested Ousmane Dembele could be sold this month after saying the winger must sign a new contract or "we will look for an exit for the player".

Barca are desperate to avoid Dembele leaving on a free transfer when his contract expires in the summer and would at least pocket a fee for the 24-year-old if he is sold in the current transfer window.

Dembele has suffered numerous injuries since joining from Borussia Dortmund in a deal worth €140 million (RM664 million), in 2017.

Yet after losing several key players to reduce the club's debts, Barcelona have been keen to keep the Frenchman, who remains one of the team's most talented players.

Xavi said talks have been ongoing for five months and that "we cannot wait any longer".

He added he is "not contemplating" leaving Dembele in the stands until the summer.

"Either the player renews or we look for an exit for the player, there is no other possibility," said Xavi at a press conference.

"We are in a complicated situation and we have been very clear with Ousmane.

Qatar World Cup

Ticket Sales Launched At Reduced Prices

DOHA (Dispatches) - Qatar World Cup ticket sales were launched at reduced prices with residents and migrant workers able to attend games for just \$11 as concerns persist over Covid-19.

Authorities have not yet announced how many fans will be allowed into stadiums for the first World Cup in an Arab country, which runs from November 21 until December 18.

Football's world governing body FIFA opened a draw which offers individual match tickets for as little as \$69 for international fans -- about one third less than at Russia 2018 -- but a ticket for the final could cost up to \$1,607.

Qatari residents, including migrant laborers whose treatment has been a source of controversy for the organizers, will be able to get tickets for as little as \$11.

However, fan organization Football Supporters Europe (FSE) said that tickets would cost more for travelling spectators than in Russia.

"As FIFA announces the most expensive World Cup ever, it also appears that it has drastically reduced the number of affordable tickets," FSE said on Twitter.

The cheapest tickets for the final itself would be over \$604 rather than \$455 in 2018.

Fans who apply now for the different packages -- for individual games or following a team, or for special stadium tickets -- will go into a draw after the first deadline on February 8. FIFA said fans who are successful in a random draw will be told by March 8.

Qatar has spent billions of dollars preparing for the first winter World Cup and FIFA is staking a lot of its prestige in making sure it goes smoothly.

Seven stadiums have been purpose-built and one refurbished, but as there will not be enough hotels some fans may have to stay on cruise ships for the event.

Sania Mirza to Quit Tennis This Year



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Indian former doubles world number one Sania Mirza said she will retire from tennis at the end of this season with injuries taking their toll.

It came after the 35-year-old, regarded as her country's greatest women's tennis player, bowed out of the Australian Open in the first round with her partner Nadiia Kichenok of Ukraine.

"I have decided this will be my last season. I'm taking it week by week, not sure if I can last the season, but I want to," she told press in Melbourne, in comments later confirmed to AFP by her father.

"I still feel I can play well, go deep into tournaments and all that. But beyond this season I don't see my body do it either. It's beat."

Mirza, who has won six Grand Slam doubles titles, is paired with America's Rajeev Ram

in the mixed doubles at the Australian Open. They play on Thursday in the first round.

Mirza, who is married to former Pakistan cricket captain Shoaib Malik, last won a women's doubles title at the Ostrava Open in September, with China's Zhang Shuai.

But Mirza admits that injuries and a young family is drawing a curtain on her career.

"I do feel my recovery is taking longer, I'm putting my three-year-old son at risk by travelling so much with him, that's something I have to take into account. I think my body is wearing down," she said.

"My knee was really hurting today and I'm not saying that's the reason we lost, but I do think that it is taking time to recover as I'm getting older."

Mirza became the first Indian to win a WTA singles title, in 2005, in her hometown Hyderabad.

She reached the fourth round of the US Open the same year and by 2007 was among the women's top 30.

But a wrist injury caused her to concentrate on doubles, forging a partnership with Swiss great Martina Hingis which produced three Grand Slam titles.

Jokic Carries Nuggets to OT Win

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Nikola Jokic had 49 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, Aaron Gordon hit a 3-pointer with 2.2 seconds left in overtime and the host Denver Nuggets beat the Los Angeles Clippers 130-128 on Wednesday night.

Jokic finished one point short of his career high, and Gordon wound up with 28 points. Monte Morris had 19 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Jeff Green scored 12 for Denver.

Ivica Zubac scored a career-high 32 points and grabbed 10 rebounds while Reggie Jackson had 28 points and 12 assists for Los Angeles.

Zubac tied the game with a layup with 26.4 seconds left before the Nuggets' final play. With the shot clock running down, Jokic threw a cross-court pass to Gordon in the corner, and Gordon drained a trey as the shot clock expired.

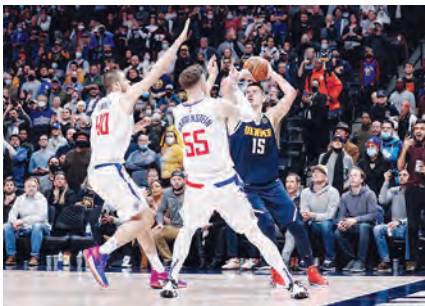
Meanwhile Joel Embiid tied his career high with 50 points to go along with 12 rebounds and three blocked shots while leading host Philadelphia 76ers to a 123-110 victory over Orlando Magic.

Embiid shot 17 of 23 from the field and 15 of 17 from the free-throw line. It was his 17th career game with at least 40 points and 10 rebounds. Tobias Harris added 21 points, Tyrese Maxey contributed 14 and Georges Niang had 10 for the Sixers.

Mo Bamba hit 7 of 8 3-point attempts, scored a career-high 32 points and blocked three shots before fouling out for the Magic.

Later Giannis Antetokounmpo finished three assists shy of his fourth triple-double of the season as Milwaukee Bucks handed Memphis Grizzlies its first road loss 126-114 since Dec. 23.

Antetokounmpo poured in 33 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and handed out seven assists while helping the Bucks snap their two-game losing streak. Khris Middleton added 27 points.



Man Utd Back on Track But Grumpy Ronaldo Mars Win

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ralf Rangnick defended Cristiano Ronaldo after the Manchester United star's petulant reaction to his substitution cast a shadow over their 3-1 win at Brentford.

Rangnick's side were indebted to David de Gea for a superb first-half display that kept Brentford at bay before United finally sprang to life in west London.

Anthony Elanga put United in front early in the second half before Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford wrapped up their first win in three Premier League games.

But it was Ronaldo's grumpy response to Rangnick's decision to haul him off in the 71st minute that could prove the evening's lasting image.

Shaking his head and muttering to himself, Ronaldo appeared to say something to Rangnick as he brushed past him.

Angrily throwing his coat to the floor, Ronaldo pointed at his chest while his team-mates on the bench nervously looked away.

Rangnick initially ignored Ronaldo before sitting next to him and patting the Portugal forward on the leg as he attempted to placate him.

The 36-year-old's strop will raise fresh questions about his willingness to fit into Rangnick's system after his latest underwhelming display.

However, Rangnick refused to criticize Ronaldo when asked about his behavior.

"It's normal, he's a striker and wants to score goals. He came back from a little injury and for me it is important to bear in mind we have another game in a few days' time," Rangnick said.

"We were 2-0 up, the same as at Aston Villa. I decided to defend that lead this time and it was the right decision to switch to a back five."

