

IRAN NEWS Felicitates Its Readers For The Beginning of the Ten-Day Dawn Festivities of the Anniversary of The Islamic Revolution Which Starts Today and Ends on February 11 With Holding Rallies Nationwide

IRAN NEWS

Health Ministry Announced on Monday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic In Iran Increased to 132,454 With 30 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

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Tehran Slams Certain European States For Selective Approach to Human Rights



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has slammed insincere Western concerns over human rights issues, saying murderers of Iranian people are roaming freely in Europe while European officials remain silent.

In a tweet, Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights and the Judiciary chief's deputy for international affairs, strongly criticized two European diplomats after they called for the release of a convicted prisoner in Iran.

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Industry Minister To Visit UAE, Oman

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - A high-ranking trade delegation, headed by Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin, is going to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman next week, the portal of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

According to Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries, Fatemi-Amin will be accompanied by TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak and the heads of some trade-related government entities.

The minister will travel to the UAE on February 6 to visit the EXPO Dubai and also attend a meeting with Iranian businessmen active in the UAE market, Piltan said.

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Success of Vienna Talks Hinges on Right Answer From West

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry has stressed that the talks between Iran and the five remaining parties to the 2015 deal can yield a reliable agreement once Tehran receives the "right answer" from the other sides to its rightful demands.

Speaking at a weekly press conference on Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh said "We can reach a sustainable, good and reliable agreement" in the shortest possible time if the other parties "give the right answer to Iran's natural rights as conveyed to them and to the submitted texts and the rightful demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

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Report of the CEO of Golgohar to the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution

Let's Bring the Courage Back to the Country's Managers

In this ceremony, which was broadcast online in the meeting hall of Golgohar Complex with the presence of city officials, managers of Golgohar companies, representatives of workers and employees of the region, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution called entrepreneurs and economic activists officers, and workers sincere warriors and said: "Hard working officials by "creating strategic industry roadmap document and "management, guidance, supervising and supporting the production continue the course of reducing and repairing damages and continue "accelerating production and progress in the country" with more efforts in order its effects of this trend are seen in the daily lives of the people." Ayatollah Khamenei added: "The resistance of producers against the attack on the economy and the enemy's efforts to prevent the sales of oil and gas, cutting the foreign exchange sources and planning to block Iran's foreign trade exchanges, is in fact jihad and one of the greatest acts of worship. Engineer Iman Atighi, CEO of Golgohar Company, said in this meeting and in the presence of the Supreme Leader: "One of the criteria for economic resilience is the complexity of the economy, which is based on two factors: product diversity and product complexity. In order to neutralize the sanctions, the way that can be used is the complexity of the economy." He added: "One of the most important reasons that have diminished the role of mines in the country is the lack of a comprehensive exploration system. In this regard, we must think, build a way and write a policy. In my opinion and experts, in addition to completing the chain of mineral products, exploration has a very important role." Engineer Atighi emphasized: "If the economic

companies are trusted and the national economic super-projects are handed over to these companies, they can drive the wheel of small industries as the locomotive of Iran's economy and makes an important part of Iran's economy to flourish." He said: "In the group of Golgohar companies with more than 25,000 workers and engineers, as well as former managers with a spirit of jihad, have expressed their beliefs with youth motivation and teamwork with an average age of 38 years in the heart of the desert. He noted: "Golgohar, as the pride of the system, which has gone through all its growth and development during the Islamic Revolution, is the first region completing the full steel chain, including exploration, extraction, production of concentrate, pellets, sponge iron, ingots and in the future, sheet, to be joined, this diversity of products in the Middle East is unique." The CEO of Golgohar said: "Kind leader, all of these things will not be achieved except with the grace of God, the help of the people's government, the Ministry of Silence, the serious determination of my young colleagues and most importantly His Holiness's paternal support of Golgohar Company and large companies to play their economic role." Engineer Atighi added: "A written request will be provided to you for kind attention, so that if you wish, you can order a team work with special and multi-faceted powers to solve the problems of exploration and determine the route." Also, the transfer of the southern zone of Golgohar mine 3 to the consortium of Golgohar and Gohar Zamin should be done more quickly in order to stabilize production. Please; Let's bring return the courage back to the country's leaders, give the necessary warnings, support; Complete the mission with us to get the result."

A group of the country's producers, economic and industrial officials met with the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution on Sunday at Imam Khomeini's Hosseiniyah. In this meeting, Engineer Iman Atighi, CEO of Golgohar Company, on behalf of the country's mining and industrial companies, delivered speech.

Task Force on Strategic Plan for Iran's Industry to Be Formed

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Following remarks by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei about the need for a strategic road map to development of Iran's industries, President Ebrahim Raisi assigned his vice president to form a task force to formulate the road map.

After the remarks by the Leader in a Sunday meeting with the managers involved in the production and industry, Raisi instructed the first vice president to launch a movement and form a working group consisting of specialists and experts in this field in the government, scientific societies, scholars and entrepreneurs to make attempts to implement the instructions of Ayatollah Khamenei.

Sanctions Affected Humanitarian Operations in Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society Pirhossein Koulivand in a meeting with UN Resident Coordinator for Iran Stefan Priesner said that the sanctions have negatively affected the humanitarian operations in Iran.



"The motto of the entire international foundations at the service of mankind, including the United Nations, is assisting the oppressed people of the world, but now the sanctions have affected only the Iranian nation, but also those Afghans who are guests in Iran and their number has increased greatly during the past months," Koulivand said during the meeting.

He added that the sanctions do not permit the Red Crescent Society to interact properly and receive the required credits to assist those refugees.

"During the past two years, floods, earthquakes, and also draught have put heavy responsibilities on shoulders of the relief and rescue workers, but the noticeable point is that a huge amount of our energy had also been focused on services in anti-Covid19 campaign and prevention of its grater outspread," Koulivand added.

He stressed that although it has always been said that medicines and medical facilities are exempted from the sanctions' list, but in practice most of the restrictions are created in those fields and the RSC of Iran managed to gain many of the required healthcare items, such as face masks, or oxygen for patients, by setting up production lines in its own subsidiary companies.

"The peak of RCS's success and pride was importing a large amount of coronavirus vaccine; over 130 million doses of foreign vaccines, in a

relatively short period of time," he reiterated.

The UN resident coordinator in Iran, too, praised the vast-scale activities shouldered by the RCS of Iran, saying, "In European countries almost 8% of the Gross National Product (GNP) is allocated to the voluntary services, but keeping in mind the statistics presented by Dr. Koulivand that figure is probably larger in Iran."

"The number of volunteers indicates a country's social capital. The high number of volunteers shows a society's internal inclination to help the human beings, and it's an important index in a society," he added.

Priesner said that he has informed the esteemed UN secretary general about the destructive effects of sanction and his honor, too, in his second six-month report emphasized the negative effects of the anti-Iranian sanctions, including restrictions in offering humanitarian assistance.

The UN representative in Iran said that the United Nations is willing cooperated with the RSC, which is a nation-based foundation.

"We know about the precious services presented to the Afghan refugees by the RSC," he asserted.

"Last year we doubled the amount of contributions to Iran, and fortunately that increasing trend has started," he added.

Iran a Key Trade Partner for Brazil

ARAK (IRNA) - Brazilian Ambassador to Iran Laudemar Goncalves de Aguiar Neto said that Iran is a key trade partner for Brazil.

The ambassador made the remarks during a meeting in Arak with the governor of Iranian central province of Markazi.

He said that Brazil has maintained the level of its trade relations with Iran despite the sanctions on Tehran.

Earlier in the day President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam Hossein Shafei had referred to Iran's chances for trade with Brazil and said that COVID curbs did not reduced trade ties with Brazil and exchanges between the two countries have even increased.

Iran imported some \$1.7 billion of goods from Brazil over the first 10 months of 2021 while exporting only \$116 million of goods to the country, Shafei said, urging the need for balancing trade between the two countries.

He reiterated the necessity for launching direct shipping lines between Iran and South America and a direct air line to Sao Paulo, as well as to solve the problem of transportation to the region.



Germany Keen to Boost Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Germany's Ambassador to Iran Hans-Udo Muzel said on Sunday that his country is eager to increase the level of cooperation with Iran.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade Ali Rasoulian where they extended a cooperation document for partnership of Iranian companies with German ones.

The ambassador said that Germany has one of the biggest joint chambers of commerce with Iran which has 1,800 members.

He noted that such a big joint chamber of commerce indicates the depth of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the negotiations underway in Vienna between Iran and the five world powers – known as P4+1 – he said that an agreement will be clinched in the near future.

The ambassador called for further cooperation between Iranian and German businesses, saying that they have to be ready for the time a deal is brokered.

The Iranian deputy minister, for his part, said that expansion of cooperation between Iranian and German companies indicates that the base of unlawful sanctions on Tehran has been undermined.

He also hailed the cooperation of Germany in transferring technology to Iranian SMEs.



Iran Sends New Year Greetings to China

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran has extended felicitations to China on the occasion of the East Asian state's Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, which will start on February 1.

In a congratulatory message sent on Sunday to his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian wished success and prosperity for the Chinese government and heroic nation in the New Year.

Addressing Wang, he said, "I am glad to have had an opportunity for meeting and holding constructive talks with you, my old friend, in the beautiful city of Wuxi ahead of the Spring Festival."

"I am sure that the agreements reached during this trip will pave the ground for the expansion of comprehensive strategic cooperation between Iran and China in the second 50 years of their diplomatic relations," he added.

In mid-January, Amir-Abdollahian paid a visit to Wuxi, from where he announced, jointly with Wang, the implementation of the 25-year strategic partnership deal between the two sides. The two chief diplomats also held extensive talks on international and regional developments.

FM Wishes Indian Counterpart Speedy Recovery

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a phone call wished speedy recovery for his Indian counterpart who was infected by the coronavirus.

Wishing a speedy recovery for Indian Foreign Minister Subramaniam Jaishankar, Amir-Abdollahian said that he will travel to India at his earliest convenience.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's visit to India has been postponed as the Indian Minister of Foreign affairs has contracted with COVID-19, Saeed Khatibzadeh announced on Friday.

Welcoming the positive relations between the two countries, Amir-Abdollahian stressed that in his upcoming visit to India, he will discuss important issues of mutual interest, including Afghanistan, regional developments and the Vienna talks.

Jaishankar, for his part, appreciated his Iranian counterpart for the call and welcomed his visit to Delhi.

Romanian Diplomat Lauds Tabriz Rich History

TABRIZ (IRNA) - Romanian Ambassador in Tehran Mirela-Carmen Greco hailed the significant position of Tabriz in Iran, saying it enjoys rich history and unrivaled works.

Mirela-Carmen Greco made the remarks in a meeting with managing director of East Azarbaijan Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ahmad Hamzebad.

She urged officials to spare no efforts to introduce culture. She also termed the 15th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE) as an important opportunity to become familiar with various Iranian ethnic groups' culture.

Meanwhile, Hamzebad referred to the 4,000 historical and tourist attractions in East Azarbaijan Province, saying that the grounds have been paved for hosting Iranian and foreign tourists after COVID-19 pandemic and during Nowruz Holiday.

He noted that Leilan town in East Azarbaijan dates back to 9,000 years ago which is important in the history of Iran and the province.



Leader Pays Tribute to Imam Khomeini On Anniversary of Islamic Revolution

TEHRAN (MNA) – On the eve of 10-Day Dawn ceremonies and the 43rd glorious victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei attended the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini (RA) on Monday.

In the early hours of Monday morning, Ayatollah Khamenei visited the mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeini to pay tribute to the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution also attended Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery and graves of martyrs Beheshti, Rajaei and Bahonar as well as martyrs of 7th of Tir incident in 1981 and paid tribute to souls of martyrs of the Islamic Revolution who self-sacrificed in line with elevating sublime values of the Islamic Revolution.

By toppling the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime 43 years ago, the Iranian nations ended 2,500 years of monarchic rule in the country.

The Islamic Revolution established a new political system based on Islamic values and democracy.

During the 10-Day Dawn celebrations, Iranians take part in different events and activities to mark the occasion.



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۶۸۵۵۳

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9680030



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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
35	PARTS FOR "MAN TURBO" SCREM GAS COMPRESSOR TYPE CP 80 TAG NO C503 A/B SER. NO. 270259 & 270261 JOB NO. 82121 REF. MAN TURBO	165 NOs

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

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 7,099 EURO or 1,886,900,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

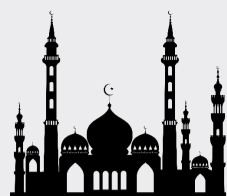
ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

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

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PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:17
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:50
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:37
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:03

88. So We listened to him: and delivered him from distress:
and thus do We deliver those who have faith.
89. And (remember) Zakariya, when he cried to his Lord:
"O my Lord! leave me not without offspring, though thou art the best of inheritors."
Surah 21. The Prophets (88 - 89)

Tehran-Bern Trade Grown by 11%

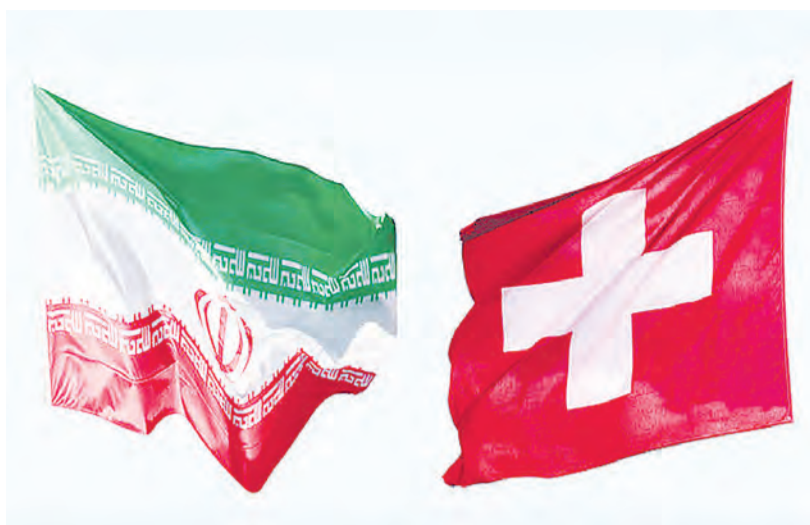
IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran-Switzerland Joint Chamber of Commerce says the trade between Iran and Switzerland has grown 100 percent, adding that with reducing tax, this volume will definitely increase.

Speaking to ILNA and reacting to Majlis decision for not levying double tax in trade between Iran and Switzerland, Sharif Nezam-Mafi said that this is positive news which can improve the trade between the two countries. He added that this decision shows that lawmakers look at Switzerland as a long-term trade partner in Iran's economy, adding that if it is implemented, it can boost the trade between Iran and Switzerland. He noted that Switzerland is currently the main European trade partner of Iran and it has more trade with Iran than Germany, France and Italy. He expressed hope that continuity of this growth will help Iran and Switzerland to be their strategic partners in the fields of goods and natural resources.

Nezam-Mafi added that after reimposition of the U.S. sanctions against Iran by former U.S. President Donald Trump, most of Swiss companies unlike other European companies did not leave Iran and continued their presence and it shows long term vision of Swiss government and private sector companies regarding Iran. He reiterated that if this decision of not levying double tax is implemented, it will be good for both Iranian traders and Swiss companies because one hurdle will be removed in way of expansion of ties.

He went on to say that whenever tax or involvement of state bodies are increased in the trade between the two countries, the process of trade is slowed down and the



cost of trade rises, adding that with reduction of ta, the trade volume will definitely increase and therefore it is considered good news for trade between Tehran and Bern.

On the latest condition of Swiss Channel and trade between the two countries, he said if the Vienna talks bear fruits, then there will be no need to this mechanism any longer because banks can start cooperation with other countries and this mechanism can be used when all avenues are closed and locked. He added that currently nothing has changed regarding the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (SHTA) mechanism and the private sector can continue their trade via this avenue or other avenues that they have found.

He said removal of sanctions will reduce the cost of trade and this can increase the volume of trade. He expressed hope that with the deal in Vienna, the presence of Swiss companies and also Iranian traders' presence in Switzerland would become more colorful.

The trade volume between Iran and Switzerland has been around \$1.1b this year which shows 100% growth comparing to the same period last year. Iran's share of this trade and its imports has been around \$1b.

PGSOC Wins Award for Social Responsibility Management

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Persian Gulf Star Oil Company (PGSOC) won award during the 6th Social Responsibility Management Assessment Awards which was held by the Iran Management Association.

According to reports, in the assessment of the jury of the Social Responsibility Management Awards, Persian Gulf Star Oil Company was awarded top prize. This year awards were held in three levels of certificate, appreciation letter and statue and PGSOC won the statue for its performance regarding the social responsibility management.

The company has been always pioneer in observing its social responsibilities and it follow its social responsibilities along with its main task of providing the country with fuel and securing the fuel supply in the country.



IME's 10-Month Value of Trades Increases 93% yr/yr

TEHRAN (MNA) - The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) rose 93 percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

In terms of monthly trade, over 7.297 million tons of commodities worth over \$2 billion were traded at the IME in the tenth Iranian calendar month Dey (ended on January 20).

The exchange sold on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor more than 1.529 million tons of commodities worth over \$856 million.

Next was the metals and minerals trading floor with trades of 5.724 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$1 billion.

On its agricultural trading floor the exchange saw offering of 50 kg of saffron strands.

Iran Still Among Top 10 Biggest Steel Producers

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's steel production in December, after a three-month decline, increased by 15.1% compensating for much of the decrease since September 2021, and total production in 2021 mounted to 28.5 million tons.

The World Steel Association has released its latest report according to which Iran's steel production in December 2021 compared to the same period in 2020 increased by 15.1% to 2.8 million tons.

However, Iran's steel production in November 2021 compared to the same period in 2020 decreased by 5.2%.

Iran's steel production in September was negative for the first time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 and compared to the same period in 2020.

In February 2021, Iran ranked 10th among the largest steel producers in the world maintaining its position despite a three-month downward trend.

In 2021, China with 1032.8 million tons, India with 118.1 million tons and Japan with 96.3 million tons are the first to third-largest steel producers in the world, followed by the United States with 86 million tons, Russia with 76 million tons, South Korea with 70.6 million tons, Turkey with 40.4 million tons, Germany with 40.1 million tons, Brazil with 36 million tons and Iran with 28.5 million tons which ranked fourth to tenth.



Ramak Company's pride continues. This company was honored 29, January, 2022 as the top exporter of Fars in the 25th National Export Day celebration ceremony. According to the Southern News Economic Service, in a ceremony held 29, January, 2022 in the presence of the Governor of Fars, the deputies of the Trade Development Organization and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, executives and private sector activists, a statue and a plaque were awarded to Ramak Company.

Ramak company has become a well-known name in the dairy industry not only in the country, but also in different countries of the world. Countries such as Canada, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Syria are among the countries that are strong buyers of Ramak products. Annually, more than 15,000 tons of Ramak products are exported to different countries of the world, while our country is under the most severe oppressive global sanctions.

Ramak is the Top Exporter of Fars

Fortunately, with well-planned planning, Ramak did not lose the unequal economic war, but with more power, in addition to capturing a significant share of the domestic dairy market, also succeeded in conquering global markets. For about three decades, Ramak Company has proved its friendship with people, big and small, with its slogan of "Ramak is the friend of big and small" with its nutritious and popular products. This company is a familiar name in Fars. It is also a prominent brand in the country, whose products are consumed by the people every day. As in recent years, this year Ramak was selected as the top exporter. The reasons for the success of this company are the quality of products, observance of standard standards, continuous efforts to increase the quality level of products, observance of all health standards, use of quality raw materials, setting up production lines according to the best technology in the world, observing all production principles during processing Milk and dairy products and provide proper access. The company is constantly updating its products in accordance with national and international standards. In addition, it continuously launches new products based on needs assessment. Ramak Company has been proud of all festivals such as industrial, export, consumer rights, environmental, standard, entrepreneurship and food industry festivals. Ramak dairy products have loyal customers within the country. In addition, Ramak products are exported outside the geographical borders of Iran. These products are offered in global markets, including the countries of the Persian Gulf and other neighbors in the Middle East. Ramak has won the trust of consumers for many years with its commitment to producing healthy products. The choice of the slogan "big and small friends" has been done correctly and accurately from the first days of Ramak Company's establishment. Now, after about thirty years of activity of this collection, this slogan has been realized. It has played an important role in increasing the level of public health by producing healthy and nutritious products. It goes without saying that all these years, Ramak has considered the promotion of family health as one of the most basic components of society as one of his basic duties. Ramak has tried to produce products that do not contain preservatives, use healthy and natural milk, do not use any additives and produce healthy and natural products. The company has taken great and significant steps to produce a new generation of health products. Reasons that "Ramak" has always been among the sample units in all festivals are: attention to the diversity of production, increasing the level of customer health, production based on consumer taste, efficient management, high quality products, use of raw materials, Use of proper packaging equipment, use of advanced automated machines, use of technical knowledge, presence of specialized personnel and needs assessment. The company has taken a step towards growing creativity, customer orientation and paying attention to consumer rights. Ramak's success in production, sales due to targeted research and innovation costs, high manpower training costs. The company pays special attention to the value of exports, the number of manpower based on the list of insured, the number of



manpower and valid certificates related to product quality. These factors have made this company always register its name among the best. It should be noted that Ramak Company is one of the largest dairy companies in the country, which receives about 600 tons of raw milk daily and converts it into more than 100 types of dairy products, according to different tastes. This company has an important and fundamental role in providing the dairy products needed by the people and helping to maintain and promote the health of the people. Investing and creating jobs for nearly 3,000 people with a high level of knowledge has played an important role in the company's success. Other factors include successful production strategies, improving the level of technical knowledge, professional development of personnel, carrying out practical plans and paying attention to the environment. Specialized support and attention to social issues and commitments have made "Ramak" one of the top industrial companies in the country and successful in various conferences and festivals. Ramak's management and staff believe that nothing is more important to a company producing products that deal with public health than customer trust and community health. This approach has led Ramak to be a role model for dairy industry activists around the country. Of course, in addition to paying attention to the production of healthy and delicious products, this company also pays special attention to the environment. One of the effective measures of Ramak company in order to protect the environment is the construction of the most modern industrial wastewater treatment plant in the past years. Despite all this, Ramak has not stopped moving for a moment to improve its products, increase the variety of products, assess the needs of its customers and try to produce new products. The company is trying to maintain its position among the top dairy companies in the country.

Priest Shot Dead in Northwest Pakistan Ambush



PESHAWAR (Dispatches) - Gunmen shot dead a Christian priest and wounded his colleague in an ambush in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar on Sunday, police said.

The unknown attackers opened fire on a car carrying the cleric, William Siraj, and his colleague home from church in the city's Chamkani area, police officer Haroon Khan told Reuters.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the shooting. The region has seen a surge of militant attacks in recent days, many of them claimed by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a group which associates itself with the Afghan Taliban.

Kuwait Suspends Flights to Iraq



KUWAIT CITY (Dispatches) - Kuwait suspended flights to Iraq for a week starting Sunday citing security fears after a rocket attack targeted Baghdad International Airport. Iraqi authorities, meanwhile, announced an attacker was apprehended.

Kuwait Airways, the country's main carrier, said in a statement on Saturday that flights to Iraq were temporarily suspended based on instructions from the Kuwaiti Civil Aviation Authority because of "current conditions".

Six rockets were fired on Friday at the Iraqi capital's airport, causing damage to one runway and two civilian planes but no casualties. It was the latest in a string of attacks the United States blamed on Iran-linked armed groups.

NATO Calls on Europe to Diversify Energy Supply Amid Standoff With Russia



LONDON (Dispatches) - Europe needs to diversify its energy supplies, the head of NATO said on Sunday, as Britain warned it was "highly likely" that Russia, a major natural gas supplier, was looking to invade Ukraine.

Russia has massed some 120,000 troops near its neighbor and demanded the western defense alliance pull back troops and weapons from Eastern Europe and bar Ukraine, a former Soviet state, from ever joining the Western defense alliance.

U.S. officials said on Saturday Russia's military buildup had been expanded to include supplies to treat casualties of any conflict. Across the border in Ukraine, locals trained as army reservists as the government scrambled to prepare.

Moscow denies any plan to invade but said on Sunday it would ask NATO to clarify whether it intends to implement key security commitments after earlier saying the alliance's response to its demands did not go far enough.

"If they do not intend to do so, then they should explain why," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on state television. "This will be a key question in determining our future proposals."

The United States has said it is waiting to hear back from Russia. It says NATO will not withdraw from Eastern Europe or bar Ukraine but it is prepared to discuss topics such as arms control and confidence-building measures.

Washington has spent weeks trying to build agreement with European partners on a strong sanctions package if Russia attacks Ukraine. But the issue is divisive, with Germany urging "prudence".

The European Union depends on Russia for around a third of its gas supplies and any interruption would exacerbate an existing energy crisis caused by a shortage.

"We are concerned about the energy situation in Europe because it demonstrates the vulnerability of being too dependent on the supplier of natural gas and that's the reason why NATO allies agree that we need to work and focus on diversification of supplies," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

Britain said on Sunday it would expand the scope of its own possible sanctions in legislation this week to deter Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We think it's highly likely that he is looking to invade Ukraine. That is why we're doing all we can through deterrence and diplomacy, to urge him to desist," Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told BBC television. Truss, who is due to visit both Ukraine and Russia in the next two weeks, told Sky News the legislation would enable Britain to hit a much wider variety of targets "so there can be nobody who thinks that they will be immune to those sanctions".

Asked if the new powers could include the ability to seize property in London, Truss said: "Nothing is off the table."

The Center for American Progress, a U.S. think tank, has Britain would face a challenge uprooting wealthy Russians with Kremlin links from London given close ties "between Russian money and the United Kingdom's ruling conservative party, the press, and its real estate and financial industry".

North Korea Test-Fires Most Powerful Missile Since 2017



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea tested its most powerful missile since 2017, ramping up the firepower for its record-breaking seventh launch this month as Seoul warned nuclear and long-range tests could be next.

Pyongyang has never test-fired this many missiles in a calendar month before and last week threatened to abandon a nearly five-year-long self-imposed moratorium on testing long-range and nuclear weapons.

With peace talks with the U.S. stalled, North Korea has doubled-down on leader Kim Jong Un's vow to modernize the regime's armed forces, flexing Pyongyang's military muscles despite biting international sanctions.

South Korea said Sunday that North Korea appeared to be following a "similar pattern" to 2017 -- when tensions were last at breaking-point on the peninsula -- warning Pyongyang could soon restart nuclear and intercontinental missile tests.

North Korea "has come close to destroying the moratorium declaration", South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said in a statement following an emergency meeting of Seoul's National Security Council.

Sudanese Anti-Coup Protester Killed in Security Crackdown

KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - Sudanese security forces killed a protester as they cracked down on thousands marching for civilian rule, medics said, taking the number killed since last year's military coup to at least 79.

"Blood is the path to freedom," protesters waving the Sudanese flag chanted, as they marched through the streets of Omdurman, which lies across the Nile river from the capital Khartoum.

"Go back to the barracks," protesters in eastern state of Gedaref shouted at soldiers, witnesses said.

Pro-democracy activists have upped calls for protests to restore a transition to civilian rule, following the October 25 military takeover led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

The coup, one of several in Sudan's post-independence history, derailed a power-sharing arrangement between the army and civilians that had been painstakingly negotiated after the 2019 ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir. Sunday's demonstrations took place in the capital Khartoum, as well as in Omdurman, Gedaref, and the northern cities of Atbara and Dongola, according to witnesses.

Sudanese authorities warned protesters against heading towards Khartoum city centre, with security forces sealing off streets leading to the presidential palace.

But protesters in the capital converged in large numbers as they headed towards the palace, and police fired volleys of tear gas canisters when they approached, an AFP correspondent said.

A 27-year-old protester was killed in Khartoum after suffering a "wound to the chest... by coup forces," the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors said in a statement, adding that it was not immediately clear what caused the injury.

Several protesters were seen Sunday suffering breathing difficulties and bleeding from wounds from tear gas canisters. At least 79 people have so far been killed and hundreds wounded in the crackdown on anti-coup demonstrations, according to the independent group of medics, while authorities have also rounded up hundreds of pro-democracy activists.

Taiwan VP Repeats Accusation China Blocked Vaccine Access

TAIPEI (Dispatches) - Taiwan Vice President William Lai used his final day in the United States to repeat an accusation that China blocked the island from obtaining COVID-19 vaccines last year, and to thank a U.S. lawmaker for her role in donating the inoculations.

Last May, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen accused China of blocking a deal with Germany's BioNTech SE for COVID-19 vaccines, after Beijing offered the shots to the island via a Chinese company just as Taiwan was dealing with a rise in domestic infections.

Beijing has angrily denied trying to stop Taiwan getting vaccines, and also offered Chinese-developed shots which the island rejected, citing safety concerns. China claims Taiwan as its own territory.

Less than two weeks after Tsai's comments, Senator Tammy Duckworth, visiting Taipei with two other U.S. lawmakers, said the United States would donate 750,000 vaccine doses to Taiwan.

Speaking to the Illinois Democrat during a stop-over in San Francisco while on the way back to Taiwan from Honduras, Lai offered his thanks.

Lai said he was "especially grateful to her last year when Taiwan was unable to obtain vaccines due to the China factor", Taiwan's presidential office said, citing the de facto U.S. ambassador to Washington Hsiao Bi-khim, who is accompanying Lai.

"She not only actively advocated that the Biden administration should provide vaccines to Taiwan, but also personally went to Taiwan to announce that the United States would donate Taiwan vaccines."

In Beijing, China's foreign ministry said Lai's accusation was "total fiction", calling it a "malicious slandering and smearing of the true face of the mainland".

Taiwan eventually began receiving the BioNTech vaccines, jointly developed with Pfizer Inc, in September.

But that was only after Taiwan's government allowed major Apple Inc supplier Foxconn, as well as its high-profile billionaire founder, Terry Gou, along with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd and a Taiwanese Buddhist group to negotiate on its behalf for the doses.

While Lai, a possible presidential candidate in 2024, was ostensibly abroad for the new Honduran president's inauguration, he made good use of his time to engage in diplomacy with the United States, Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier.

He briefly talked to U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris while in Honduras, drawing Chinese anger, and on Friday had a virtual meeting with U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.



Ireland Calls for Justice On 50th Anniversary of "Bloody Sunday"



LONDONDERRY (Dispatches) - Ireland on Sunday called for Britain to ensure justice for the families of 13 peaceful protesters shot dead by its soldiers on "Bloody Sunday" in 1972 as thousands marked the 50th anniversary of one of the defining days of the Northern Ireland conflict.

The British government in 2010 apologized for the "unjustified and unjustifiable" killings of 13 Catholic civil rights protesters by British soldiers in Londonderry on Jan. 30, 1972 - and of a 14th who died later of his wounds.

But none of those responsible for the shootings have been convicted and last July British prosecutors announced that the only British soldier charged with murder will not face trial - a decision that is being challenged by relatives.

"There should be a route to justice," Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney told state broadcaster RTE after laying a wreath and meeting with relatives of the victims. "As somebody said, our children were buried 50 years ago but we still haven't laid them to rest ... because we don't have justice," he said.

Coveney reiterated the Irish government's opposition to a proposal by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government to halt all prosecutions of soldiers and militants in a bid to draw a line under the conflict - a move that angered relatives and has been rejected by all the main local political parties.

"We absolutely cannot and will not support that approach," he said. Relatives holding white roses and photographs of those killed led thousands of people in retracing route of the 1972 march.

Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin looked on as the names of each of the victims were read out at a memorial. "The full process of the courts and of justice should be deployed," Martin told journalists after the ceremony.

No member of the British government attended the events, but Johnson in a Twitter post on Saturday described Bloody Sunday as "one of the darkest days of the Troubles" and said Britain must learn from the past.

1972 saw a major escalation of the conflict between Irish nationalist militants seeking unification with the Republic of Ireland, the British Army and loyalists determined to keep the region British. More than 3,000 people were killed before the 1998 peace process largely ended the violence.

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PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS

Dubai Leads Arab Region With \$4.35b FDI

RIYADH (Dispatches) - During the first 9 months of 2021, Dubai ranked first in the Arab world and third globally in attracting foreign direct investment with projects with an accumulated worth of 16 billion dirhams (\$4.35 billion), Crown Prince Hamdan bin Mohamed said in a tweet.

This comes as the city continues to consolidate its global position as a leading investment destination, according to the Crown Prince.

The number of investment projects in the city reached 378.

The total declared value of foreign investment capital in Dubai amounted to 15.9 billion dirhams.



EBRD Invests a Record \$690m in Uzbekistan in 2021

TASHKENT (Dispatches) - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) invested almost US\$ 690 million (€607 million) in 22 projects in Uzbekistan in 2021, with Central Asia's most populous state becoming the largest recipient of EBRD funds in the region for the second year running.

The Bank's funds promoted renewable power generation, green lending, the upgrade of key infrastructure and domestic small businesses. The previous record for the annual investment in Uzbekistan was in 2019 when the EBRD pledged US\$ 575 million (€517 million) through 13 projects in various sectors of the national economy.

The EBRD also expanded its presence on the ground last year by opening its third regional office, in Urgench.

The Bank's Head of Uzbekistan, Alkis Drakinos, said:

"The EBRD has been reporting record investment in the country for the third time since 2018 and the main credit for this goes to our team on the ground. I am very proud of our commitment and determination to deliver strong results, despite the pandemic-related adversities. We are privileged to be living in the fast-reforming state of Uzbekistan and contributing to its success."

Among the highlights of the EBRD's activity last year were its efforts to help Uzbekistan develop its low carbon pathway and achieve carbon neutrality in the power sector by 2050. The Bank and the Uzbek government also agreed to develop a long-term low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilience strategy to take the country towards Paris Agreement alignment.

The Bank invested €21.8 million to help construct and put into operation a 100 MW photovoltaic solar power plant near the city of Samarkand. One of the first private-sector renewable energy projects in the country, it will help diversify the energy mix, which is currently dominated by fossil-fuel-fired power stations.

More than 170,000 people living in the Namangan region of eastern Uzbekistan will receive access to fresh drinking water and wastewater services following a major rehabilitation program financed by an EBRD loan of US\$ 70 million.

The EBRD and the city of Samarkand agreed to develop a Green City Action Plan, which will help introduce carbon neutral electric buses in the city.

In the financial sector, the EBRD strengthened digital finance and boosted financial inclusion in the country by acquiring a 20 per cent stake in TBC Bank Uzbekistan, the country's first digital bank.

It provided loans of US\$10 million and US\$ 25 million under the EBRD's Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) to HamkorBank and UzPromstroybank to support small private sector companies investing in green technology.

Risk-sharing frameworks signed between the EBRD and UzPromstroybank and HamkorBank helped strengthen operations of domestic companies such as medical goods producer SEEM and dairy company Tillo Domor.

Turkey's Interest Rates to Be Lowered

ANKARA (Dispatches) - President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said interest rates would be further lowered and suggested inflation would fall as a result as he underlined that Turkey's economic woes would pass.

"We will lower interest rates as we have done already," Erdoğan told an audience in the northern province of Giresun.

The Turkish central bank this month halted a rate-cutting cycle after it had slashed its benchmark policy rate by 500 basis points since September to 14%.

"We are aware of the fact that inflation is a serious burden on citizens, Erdoğan said. "You know of my battle with interest rates. We are lowering interest rates and we will lower them. Know that inflation will fall too then, it will fall more," he explained.

"The exchange rate will stabilize, and inflation will fall, prices will fall too, all of these are temporary," he added.

Erdoğan has been reiterating a view that lower interest rates lead to lower inflation. He has also endorsed a new economic path that prioritizes production, exports, employment and low borrowing costs.

The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) says the strategy will help Turkey's chronic currency account deficits turn to a surplus, bringing price stability.

The country's annual inflation surged to a 19-year high of 36.1% in December, driven by last year's slide in the Turkish lira and rising global commodity prices.

This month, the lira has settled into a tight range of around 13.5 against the United States dollar, after the government took several steps to boost public confidence and official reserves.

Turkey is due to release January inflation data this Thursday, and surveys see it reaching around 47%, which would mark the highest reading in nearly 20 years, on the back of steep price hikes.



China Factory Activity Edges Down in January

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Factory activity in China edged down in January, official figures showed Sunday, but slightly exceeded expectations as businesses struggled with sporadic disruptions due to coronavirus outbreaks.

The Purchasing Managers' Index — a key gauge of manufacturing activity — in the world's second-largest economy inched down to 50.1, just above the 50-point mark separating growth from contraction.

The data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows a slight decrease from last month's reading of 50.3, when activity was buoyed by an easing of commodity prices.

"Faced with a complex and severe economic environment and scattered outbreaks ... China's economy continued to recover and develop, though growth levels somewhat declined," said NBS statistician Zhao Qinghe.

The NBS reading contrasted with a private survey of smaller manufacturers, which fell by 1.8 points to 49.1.

"The slowdown is particularly severe for the small firms," said Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management.

The NBS figures have hovered in growth territory since November, following a seven-month downward trend in part due to power shortages and high raw material prices.

The reading fell below 50 for two months in September and October as the power crunch hit business operations. Meanwhile, the non-manufacturing business activity index was 51.1 in January, a contraction of 1.6 points from the previous month.

The decline was due in part to a slowing recovery in the services sector and a seasonal slowdown in construction. Analysts have warned that domestic coronavirus outbreaks will likely continue to weigh on China's economy as sporadic outbreaks dent consumer confidence and cause business shutdowns.

Beijing is on high alert for new virus outbreaks as it prepares to host next month's Winter Olympics.

Authorities locked down an area neighboring Beijing this week following a handful of reported cases, appearing not to publicly announce restrictions that have confined around 1.2 million people in Xiong'an New Area to their homes.

Pakistan's Unabated Borrowing Poses Economic Challenges

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Providing an overview of Pakistan's policy priorities, regulatory environment, and its private sector development, a UN report warned that continued borrowing from multilateral and other sources is posing all sorts of economic

and political challenges in the country.

"A new report on private investments for Pakistan's sustainable development warns that continued borrowing from multilateral and other sources is posing all sorts of economic and political challenges while external development grants are rapidly shrinking," Dawn reported.

According to the Pakistani publication, the situation calls for an exploration of resources from the private sector, as well as non-traditional regional partners, emphasizing the 'Pakistan SDG Investment Report 2021' published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The report was launched at a ceremony in Islamabad chaired by the country's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The report notes that the country aims to create strategic partnerships with international investors looking for impact investments, particularly in the areas of climate change and climate financing, SMEs and industrial development, ICTs, healthcare and education, and transportation and logistics, Dawn reported.

"Though innovative partnerships seem to be the progressive way forward as some important new donors like China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are already providing financing to Pakistan's social sectors, private investors looking for social impact should therefore look at partnering with regional development partners to ensure targeted transactions and mutual learning opportunities," read the report.

Meanwhile, the report suggests that risk guarantees and the securitization of receivables could provide additional comfort to financial market participants.

India Plans Over \$40b for Food, Fertilizer Subsidy for 2022/23



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India is likely to set aside about 3 trillion rupees (\$40 billion) on food and fertilizer subsidies in its budget next week for 2022/23, officials said, roughly the same amount the government budgeted for this fiscal year ending in March.

India's subsidy bills have spiraled due to pandemic relief measures for the poor and a sharp rise in global prices of chemicals. New Delhi has already raised fertilizer subsidies twice in this fiscal year, and sources said that its payouts for 2021/22 could be its highest yet.

In the budget Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is due to present on Tuesday, the government will allocate 1.1 trillion rupees to fertilizer subsidies, and 2 trillion rupees to food subsidies, three officials told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

The fertilizer ministry had sought assistance of as much as 1.4 trillion rupees for 2022/23, another official said.

For the current fiscal year the finance ministry had budgeted 835 billion rupees for fertilizer subsidies, although the real allocation could rise to a record 1.5 trillion rupees.

The bulk of fertilizer subsidies are used to provide urea at a cheaper government-fixed rates to farmers. The government also provides a fixed amount of subsidy to companies for selling other fertilizers at lower rates to help farmer, a key vote bank.

For food subsidies, India had budgeted 2.43 trillion rupees in 2021/22 although the government later provided an additional 600 billion rupees.

India usually revises its budget for fertilizers and food subsidies upwards in the last few months of a fiscal year.

India's finance, fertilizer and food ministries did not immediately reply to emails and messages seeking comments. Global fertilizer prices have surged over 200% over the last 12 months after record rises in the price of the two main energy sources - coal and natural gas - used to produce the crop nutrients.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۶۸۵۵۴

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9150036



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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
32	PARTS FOR "AIR PACK " AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE HA-550-LT SERIAL NO.,T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3	318 NO

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

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 27,194 EURO or 7,665,140,000 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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Iran's Imports From U.S. Up 17%

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Figures published by the Iranian trade and customs bodies show that imports into the country in the three quarters to December 21 included nearly \$70 million worth of shipments from the United States.

A Sunday report by the semi-official ILNA news agency said that American exports to Iran in March-December last year had amounted

to \$69.345 million, up 17% from March-December 2020.

The report cited figures by the Iranian customs office (IRICA) and the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO).

It said that Iran's exports to the U.S. over the same three quarters in 2021 had totaled at only \$0.248 million although it added that shipments had increased by 253% year on year.



Researchers Pin Hopes on Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine to End the Pandemic

DUBAI (Dispatches) - When a handful of pharmaceutical firms began the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines in early 2021, many thought the worst of the pandemic was over. Indeed, the idea of a tangible weapon against the virus that had killed millions and devastated economies worldwide was temporarily empowering.

Within months, a selection of vaccines hit the market, with countries racing to secure enough doses for their populations in the hope of preventing further disruption. More than 9 billion doses later, with about half the global population "fully vaccinated," it seemed as though the tide was finally turning against the virus and that normal life could soon resume.

Sadly, such optimism would prove short-lived. Although the vaccine roll-out reduced the severity of COVID-19 symptoms, alleviating pressure on hospitals and saving many lives, scientists have struggled to contain mutations of the virus, including the latest highly transmissible omicron variant, which has broken through the vaccine shield.

This has forced pharmaceutical firms to return to the drawing board to consider variant-specific vaccines, an extended booster program to prolong immunity, or even "universal" vaccines that can tackle every variant of the virus. Such a pan-coronavirus vaccine could become publicly available in the not too distant future.

"I believe a fourth (omicron specific) dose could become available in another six to nine months, as long as the omicron variant is dominant," Emmanuel Kouvousis, a senior scientific adviser at Vesta Care, told Arab News. "However, if another more disruptive variant emerges, then we need to consider a scenario where we get a booster shot every three months."

Kouvousis says a change in seasons could help delay the emergence of a new variant as the spread of the virus tends to slow in the spring and summer months. This could offer scientists a window of opportunity to get ahead of new variants.

"Many people ask if there will be a solution to this pandemic, and I say absolutely," Kouvousis said. "There is huge hope that this pandemic will end,



firstly because billions of people have been vaccinated and many others have been persuaded that the only way out of this is through vaccines, and secondly, because of a pan-COVID or 'universal' vaccine, which is currently in the testing phase."

Last year, the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases awarded \$36.3 million to three academic institutions — Duke University, the University of Wisconsin, and Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital — to research and develop universal vaccines.

"We want a pan-coronavirus vaccine so that you have it on the shelf to respond to the next viral pandemic," Anthony Fauci, the White House chief medical adviser, told NBC in January.

Bank Mellat Fully Ready to Boost Oil Investment

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The CEO of Bank Mellat announced the bank's 100% readiness as an energy bank to enhance investment in oil industry projects in hard currency and Rials.

Reza Dolatabadi, stating that the oil industry is one of the most influential industries in the Iranian economy, told Shana: "Considering the capacities and high profits of investing in the oil industry, Bank Mellat hopes to cooperate with this industry in all its sectors."

Recalling Bank Mellat's €300 million investment in the Tabesh project (a pipeline for transporting petroleum products from Rafsanjan to Mashhad), he said: "Part of the resources of the Persian Gulf Star, Shazand Arak,



Tehran Oil, Bandar Abbas Oil, Tabriz Oil, Abadan Oil and Lavan Oil refineries in recent years have been supplied through Bank Mellat."

The CEO of the bank added: "Bank Mellat has always had the largest role and share in financing projects in the field of oil and energy, especially the super-projects of the oil industry, refining and distribution, gas and petrochemicals."

Dolatabadi estimated Bank Mellat's financial relations with the oil sector at about €18 billion, and said: "This bank has been responsible for financing dozens of projects in the past, and today a large part of these projects have been commissioned."

UN to Urged to Act Immediately to Stop Yemen War

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian foreign minister's senior aide for special political affairs has once again urged the United Nations to take immediate action to end the war launched on the impoverished Yemeni nation by the Saudi-led military coalition.

Ali Asghar Khaji made the remarks in a video conference with Hans Grundberg, the United Nations secretary general's special envoy for Yemen, in Tehran on Sunday.

He called on the United Nations and the international community to help stop the Saudi-led war on Yemen and lift the coalition's inhumane blockade against its oppressed people.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official added that the Islamic Republic will continue its efforts to establish peace in Yemen.

Khaji also expressed concern over the intensification of tensions and airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition on the residential areas and non-military sites across Yemen, including air raids that target the country's telecom infrastructure.

The UN official, for his part, said Iran plays a leading role in promoting peace in Yemen and outlined the world body's efforts to lift the Saudi-led blockade on the country, establish ceasefire and resume political talks.

The new development came after in a message addressed to Grundberg on Thursday, Khaji condemned the Saudi-led war coalition's relentless assaults against the Yemeni people, calling on the United Nations and all international humanitarian organizations to take immediate actions to put an end to the atrocities.

He denounced the massacre of the people of Yemen and the extensive bombardments of Yemeni cities, civilian sites, and infrastructures by the Saudi-led coalition, saying, "The United Nations and all international humanitarian organizations are urged to take immediate action to stop these inhumane crimes."

Enjoying complete arms, logistical, and political backing from the United States and its Western allies, especially the UK, Saudi Arabia led many of its allies, chief among them the UAE, in an invasion of Yemen, which started in March 2015. The war has been seeking to crush the popular Ansarullah resistance movement and reinstall the former Riyadh-friendly government.

The war has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and turned the entirety of Yemen into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

However, the Ansarullah movement, which runs the National Salvation Government in Sana'a, has vowed not to lay down its arms until the country's complete liberation from the scourge of the Saudi invasion.

Throughout the course of the Saudi war, Iran has voiced its support for the Yemeni people and denounced the coalition's crimes in Yemen.

Tehran has time and again called for a political solution for years-long Saudi Yemen war, stressing that siege and military strikes will not end the crisis in the war-torn Arab country.

Industry Minister...

FROM PAGE 1

During the three-day visit, Fatemi-Amin will also meet with the UAE government and private sector officials to discuss economic and trade relations, he added.

The Iranian delegation will then visit Oman during February 8-11 to attend the 19th Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting. During the event, Fatemi-Amin will meet with political, economic, and private sector officials from Oman.

The two sides are going to discuss expansion of cooperation in a variety of areas including investment, trade, industry, mining, aviation and maritime transport and transit, energy, technical and engineering services, tourism, culture, as well as judicial, consular, labor and health issues, during the two countries' joint economic committee meeting.

Tehran Slams...

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, the German Commissioner for Human Rights Luise Amtsberg and the French Ambassador for Human Rights Delphine Borione had denounced what they called the unfair sentencing of Iranian prisoner Narges Mohammadi and called for her immediate release.

"If these two French and German officials feel a concern for human rights, instead of defending a convict, they should adopt a stance on the victims of Monafeqin (hypocrites) in Iran who are operating freely in their countries," Gharibabadi tweeted, responding to the European diplomats' remarks.

Monafeqin is the sobriquet used to describe the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), a terrorist group vehemently detested in Iran due to its history of atrocities against the Iranian nation, including its liaison with former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the war he waged against Iran in the 1980s.

Gharibabadi hit out at Amtsberg for turning a blind eye to the case of Kazem Darabi, who has been deprived of visiting his paralyzed daughter in Germany since he was deported to Iran in 2007 after spending 15 years behind bars over his alleged role in assassinations that took place in 1992.

"By the way, what's the stance of the German commissioner on Kazem Darabi being deprived of visiting his daughter in Germany for 15 years?" he asked.

Gharibabadi separately dismissed recent statements made by the French Foreign Ministry threatening to exert pressure on Iran to secure release of two convicts.

He said, "The difference between Iran and France is that we deal with criminals according to the laws, but France protects and welcomes criminals and terrorists. The fact that some members of the MKO terrorist group are freely and actively present in this country confirms this point."

He also made clear that a country that uses its citizens to spy on other nations and later threatens to exert pressure to secure their release "has no right to pretend to be righteous."

The senior Iranian rights official added that France has to be held accountable before the Iranian nation due to its numerous violations of their rights, especially in the case of the MKO group, stressing that Paris is in no position to dictate its will to the Iranian judicial system.

The MKO has conducted numerous assassinations and bombings against Iranian statesmen and civilians since the 1979 victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution. Its members fled Iran in 1986 for Iraq, where they enjoyed backing from former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist assaults since the Islamic Revolution, about 12,000 fell victim to the MKO's acts of terror.

The anti-Iran cult was on the U.S. government's list of terrorist organizations until 2012. Major European countries, including France, have also removed it from their blacklists.

A few years ago, the MKO elements were relocated from their Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala Province to Camp Hurriyet (Camp Liberty), a former U.S. military base in Baghdad, and later sent to Albania.

Success of Vienna...

FROM PAGE 1

He stressed that the answer must be within the framework of the historic deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The other parties are clearly aware of the disputed issues and they, especially Washington, must make political decisions." Regarding the removal of U.S. sanctions, the spokesman noted that "there are still significant and remarkable issues that have made [reaching] an agreement not possible to date."

The spokesman reiterated that Washington must provide guarantees that it won't withdraw from the deal once again.

His remarks come as the negotiating delegations are expected to go back to Austria's capital, Vienna, to resume talks in the coming days.

Multilateral talks have been underway for almost ten months during the administration of Joe Biden, who had vowed to re-enter the JCPOA.

In spite of his criticisms of the "failed maximum pressure" campaign pursued by his predecessor, Biden has not only kept all the sanctions imposed under Donald Trump but has also unleashed new ones.

For that reason, Tehran has continued to reject direct negotiations with the U.S. in Vienna.

Khatibzadeh also said that Iran and France held several rounds of discussions, the last of which was on Jan 29, 2022, and its direct effects would be seen on the coming Vienna talks.

French President Emmanuel Macron made an hour-long phone call with President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Saturday, calling for the continuation of talks between Tehran and Paris with the aim of deepening bilateral relations.

Khatibzadeh stated on Monday: "The ties between the presidents of Iran and France in various levels would affect the decisions on the nuclear talks."

He noted that Iran has clearly defined its stance and the two presidents' talks are effective for Vienna.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۶۸۵۵۶

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9150040



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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
42	PARTS FOR "AIR PACK " AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE HA-550-LT SERIAL NO.,T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3	317 NO

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

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 1,781 EURO or 501,985,000 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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Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3772 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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www.shana.ir
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List Edges Zalatoris In Torrey Pines Playoff

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Luke List birdied the first playoff hole to beat Will Zalatoris in the Farmers Insurance Open on Saturday, notching his first US PGA Tour title in his 206th start.

List, 37 and ranked 151st in the world, delivered a sensational final round on the South Course at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California, where his seven birdies included four in a row on the front nine and a 13-footer for the clubhouse lead at the 18th.

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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Hovland Nets Dubai Desert Classic

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Viktor Hovland made a remarkable final round charge to defeat Richard Bland in the first play-off hole and win the Dubai Desert Classic.

The 24-year-old Norwegian, six shots off overnight leader Justin Harding, produced a storming finish, sandwiching a terrific eagle two on the par-4 17th hole with birdies on the 16th and 18th to close with a sensational six-under par 66. That took him to 12-under par and set the clubhouse mark, which was later matched by England's Bland, double the age of Hovland, after a stunning 22-foot birdie on the 18th hole.

Thompson Treys Lifts Warriors In Win Over Nets

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Klay Thompson drained a three-pointer with 12.5 seconds remaining to lift the Golden State Warriors to a 110-106 NBA victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Saturday.

The Warriors' victory in San Francisco was just one close shave on a night that saw the Toronto Raptors edge the Eastern Conference-leading Miami Heat 124-120 in a triple-overtime thriller and the Philadelphia 76ers rally for a 103-101 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

"Splash Brothers" Thompson and Stephen Curry struggled early, combining for just seven points in the first half. But they scored the last 17 for Golden State as the Warriors toughed out a victory over a Nets team led by Kyrie Irving but missing the other two of their "Big Three" Kevin Durant and James Harden.

Irving, who was needled by the San Francisco crowd over his refusal to receive a Covid-19 vaccine, scored 32 points and the Nets clawed back from a 19-point third-quarter deficit to cut the lead to one on two free throws from Patty Mills.

Golden State answered promptly as Thompson, left open as Curry drew the double-team, made his three-pointer for a 107-103 lead.

Irving responded with a three-pointer, but a free throw from Curry and two from Thompson sealed the Warriors' win.

Thompson, still returning to form after an injury layoff of two-and-a-half years, finished with 16 points. Curry scored 19 and Andrew Wiggins led the Warriors with 24 points and eight rebounds.

Mills made six three-pointers on the way to 24 points for Brooklyn, who were without Durant as he continues to recover from a knee sprain and missed Harden, who was a late scratch with a right hand strain that "really flared up this morning" according to coach Steve Nash.

In Miami, Fred VanVleet made two three-pointers in the third overtime and the Raptors held on against the weary Heat, who were playing the second night of a back-to-back.



VanVleet's shot from beyond the arc made it 117-117 with 3:35 to play. He came up with a steal and drained another three to put Toronto up 122-117 with 2:17 remaining.

VanVleet finished with 19 points for Toronto, who were led by Gary Trent's 33.

Jimmy Butler had a triple-double of 37 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists for the Heat. In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 30 points and handed out 12 assists to lead the Mavericks in a 132-105 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

It was a rude welcome back to Texas for Indiana coach Rick Carlisle, who coached the Mavericks the previous 13 seasons and led the team to a title in 2011.

The Mavs played a video tribute to Carlisle before the game that had fans on their feet and the coach in tears.

"I wasn't expecting that," Carlisle said. "It was a wonderful gesture."

There were a lot of hugs exchanged after the game, too, but the Mavericks showed no sentiment in their wire-to-wire victory.

Reggie Bullock added 23 points, hitting six of his seven three-point attempts. Maxi Kleber celebrated his 30th birthday with 15 points and 14 rebounds for Dallas.

The only down note for the Mavericks was Kristaps Porzingis's second-quarter departure with a sore right knee, the same knee on which he had meniscus surgery in October 2020.

The Philadelphia 76ers, fueled by 36 points from Cameroonian big man Joel Embiid, notched a fourth straight win, but it was a battle against the Kings.

Tyrese Haliburton scored a career-high 38 points for Sacramento, and the Kings led by 17 in the third quarter before dropping their sixth straight.

Led by an aggressive Embiid, the Sixers had taken a 10-point lead with less than three minutes to play. The Kings fought back, with Haliburton's off-balance three-pointer cutting Philadelphia's lead to two with 11.1 seconds left.

But Harrison Barnes's last-gasp three-point attempt for the Kings bounced off the rim.

Liverpool Sign Diaz From Porto

LONDON (Dispatches) - Colombian international winger Luis Diaz signed for Premier League side Liverpool on Sunday from Portuguese side FC Porto, which will place further doubt on the future of their Egyptian star Mohamed Salah.

The 25-year-old Diaz signed a contract till 2027 for a reported fee of £37.5 million (\$50 million), with a further £12.5 million in potential bonuses.

There is no resolution in sight to protracted talks over a contract extension for Salah, who is presently away at the Africa Cup of Nations. "Liverpool Football Club have completed the signing of Luis Diaz from FC Porto, subject to the successful granting of a work permit and international clearance," Liverpool said in a statement on their website.

"He joins Liverpool after two-and-a-half seasons with FC Porto, where he made 125 appearances and scored 41 goals."

Diaz was rumored to be Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp's primary target for the summer transfer window, but growing interest in the player, most notably from Tottenham Hotspur, forced the Reds to move early.

He is presently on international duty with Colombia for 2022 World Cup qualifying matches. Liverpool sent a delegation to Argentina -- where Colombia play on Tuesday -- to conduct a medical so the move could be completed before the January transfer window closed.

Krejcikova, Siniakova Win Australian Open Women's Doubles

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Top seeds Barbora Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova won their fourth Grand Slam Sunday, sweeping to the Australian Open women's doubles title against Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina and Brazilian Beatriz Haddad Maia.

The Czech pair battled from a set down to come through 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena and go one better than last year when they were runners up to Elise Mertens and Aryna Sabalenka.

"I want to thank my partner Katerina," said Krejcikova, the world's fourth-ranked singles player.

"She's been playing with me for a very long time and I'm happy we are still working really, really well together. I'm looking forward to the next adventure."

Krejcikova and Siniakova have already won titles at Roland Garros (2018, 2021) and Wimbledon (2018) since making their debut as a partnership in 2016.

The Australian Open was the pair's 11th tour title, with five of them coming last year.

The unseeded Danilina and Haddad Maia only teamed up for the first time at the Sydney Classic in the lead-up to the Australian Open, which they won.

Brady Poised to Retire After 22 Seasons

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Seven-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Tom Brady is poised to retire after 22 NFL seasons, according to multiple U.S. media reports.

The 44-year-old signal caller won his record seventh crown last year with Tampa Bay after taking six in 20 years with the New England Patriots.

ESPN and the NFL Network reported Brady will hang up his helmet and cleats while CBS Sports declared his retirement was imminent, all citing unnamed sources.

Brady's agent, Don Yee, would not confirm the gridiron legend's plans, only saying that nothing will be official until Brady says it is.

Brignone, Huetter Share Super-G Honors



Italy's Brignone and Huetter timed 1 minute 18.19 seconds each for a rare share of the honours with another Austrian Tamara Tippler taking third spot.

"Being here, having the pressure of the World Cup, trying to do my best with this pressure was the best preparation I could do for the Olympics (they get underway on February 4 and run till Feb 20)," said Brignone.

"This win today will be a big push and will give me a lot of confidence, because in

Beijing there will be so much pressure, much more pressure than here."

Brignone, the first Italian female skier to win the overall World Cup title when she triumphed in 2020, said she prayed she would bow out of what is her fourth and probably final Olympics with a bang.

The women's Olympic Super-G race is on February 11 and the downhill four days later.

"I would like to take this confidence with me, I hope to find the same feeling with the skis and try and enjoy the moment," said Brignone, who has just the one Olympic medal, bronze in the 2018 giant slalom.

"I think this will be my last Olympic Games and would like to give my everything to my nation and for myself and for everybody that works with me."

Huetter said it had all been rather surreal crossing the line to see they were level pegging.

Kobayashi Soars to World Cup Win

LONDON (Dispatches) - Japan's Ryo Kobayashi geared up for the Winter Olympics in style, clinching his seventh World Cup win of the season in a large-hill event at Willingen, Germany, to soar to the top of the overall standings.

Kobayashi, one of the favourites for Beijing, leapt 145m and was awarded 115.6 points, easily beating Norway's Halvor Egner Granerud by four points. Granerud's countryman Marius Lindvik took third with 107 points.

The competition had to be reduced to just one jump due to heavy rain and strong winds.

"Of course, I'm happy about my win. I was also lucky with the conditions today, but that's what you need to finish on top on days like today. It was really difficult," Kobayashi said after his 26th World Cup victory.

The 25-year-old now has a 27-point lead over Karl Geiger in the overall classification after the German could manage only 19th place on home soil.

Kobayashi finished seventh in the normal hill and 10th in the large hill in Pyeongchang four years ago but is tipped to improve that showing at this year's Games, which get underway on Friday.

On the women's side, Austria's Marita Kramer extended her overall advantage with a 13th World Cup career triumph, winning with a jump of 123.5m ahead of Katharina Althaus and Ema Klincic.



Nadal Makes History With 21st Slam

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal roared back from two sets down to win a titanic five-set duel with Daniil Medvedev and claim a record 21st Grand Slam men's title in the Australian Open final on Sunday.

The Spanish great looked dead and buried as the Russian world number two carved out a two-set lead but Nadal surged home for one of his mightiest comeback wins 2-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in 5hr 24min on Rod Laver Arena.

Nadal came out on top in the physical war of attrition to move ahead of era rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer on the all-time list of men's major winners.

Djokovic missed his chance to improve on his nine Australian Open wins when he was deported over vaccination issues on the eve of the tournament, while Federer is injured.

It was one of the 35-year-old Spanish warrior's greatest title victories in his 29th Grand Slam final winning his second Australian Open, 13 years after his first in 2009.

Nadal also became only the fourth man to win each of the four Grand Slams twice and the third oldest man in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam title, behind Ken Rosewall and Federer.

The final went down to the bitter end with Nadal being broken as he served for the championship only for the Spaniard to break back.

On his second attempt to serve it out, Nadal powered to three match points to win amid chaotic scenes in his player's box and the frenzied crowd.

