

Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic In Iran Increased to 132,504 With 50 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

The U.S. Department of the Treasury Announced It Had Removed from the Sanctions List the Liberian-Flagged Tanker VLCC Oman Pride, Which Had Been Placed on the Sanctions List for Carrying Iranian Oil

VOL. XXVII, No. 7428 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2022 - BAHMAN 13, 1400

2 DOMESTIC

Iran, Australia FMs Discuss Deepening Relations



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Tokyo Expecting Vienna Talks To End Successfully



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

U.S., UK Ready to Punish Putin Associates if Russia Invades Ukraine



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Bengals Reach First Super Bowl Since 1989



> SEE PAGE 8

Iran Begins Festivities Marking 43rd Islamic Revolution Anniversary

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has begun celebrations to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, which overthrew the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime.

The festivities, known as the Ten-Day Dawn, start with ceremonies that mark the return to Iran of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic, after 15 years in exile.

Millions of Iranians welcomed the charismatic leader in Tehran on February 1, 1979. Imam Khomeini's arrival intensified months of popular protests against the Pahlavi regime.

Ten days later, the rallies culminated in the downfall of the Pahlavi regime, bringing the curtain down on more than two millennia of monarchy in Iran.

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

"Like every year, we gathered today in this holy place to pay respect to Imam Khomeini. A man who changed the course of history in our country and established a political system that respects our beliefs as Muslims," a person attending the ceremonies at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini told Press TV.

See Page 7

No IAEA Access to New Nuclear Site Before JCPOA Deal

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's ambassador to international organizations based in Vienna says the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will have no access to the country's new nuclear site in the central city of Isfahan before the ongoing talks on the removal of US sanctions and revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal reach a definitive result.

Mohammad Reza Ghaebi made the remarks while speaking to reporters on Monday after the IAEA announced earlier the same day that Iran has informed the world body that it would move the production of centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows from TESA Karaj Complex to Isfahan.

He said the process "has not started yet," adding, "The IAEA will be able to adjust its surveillance rules accordingly, although the information gathered through that surveillance process will remain in Iran and the IAEA will not have access to it until Tehran resumes its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA," referring to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

See Page 7

Iran Foreign Assets Rise, Foreign Debts Down



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Net foreign assets at the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) rose by more than a fifth year on year in November last year to reach over \$24.57 billion, according to the latest figures published by the lender.

A report by the official IRNA agency cited CBI figures showing that the lender had 6,872 trillion rials worth of foreign assets at the end of the calendar month to November 21, up 21.4% from November 2020.

CBI's net foreign assets rose by 6.5% against the end of the last calendar year to late March 2021, said the report.

The report did not mention in which currencies the CBI holds its foreign assets or whether the bank has assets held in bonds or deposits with banks abroad.

The figures come as Iranian government authorities have indicated in various remarks that the country has been selling more crude oil in recent months while being able to recover the exports proceeds despite American sanctions targeting both the shipments and banking operations meant to settle payments.

CBI figures published on Monday showed that the bank was owed over \$7.26 billion by the Iranian government and its companies and another \$5.08 billion by state and private banks in Iran.

CBI's total assets including banknotes and coins held by the bank rose 23.7% year on year in the month to November 21 to reach over 11,211 trillion rials (\$40.1 billion), showed tables published by the lender.

Meanwhile the released data show that the country's foreign debt stood at \$9.067 billion at the end of the eighth Iranian calendar month of Aban (November 21, 2021), down 0.8 percent from \$9.142 billion at the end of the previous year (March 20, 2021).

From the total foreign debt, \$6.619 billion was mid-term and long-term debts while \$2.447 billion was short-term debts, the data indicated, IRIB reported.

Iran's external debt stood at \$9.031 billion at the end of the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (September 22, 2021), down 1.2 percent from \$9.142 billion at the end of the previous year.

Some \$6.574 billion of the total foreign debt in the mentioned period was mid-term and long-term debts while \$2.457 billion was short-term debts.

External debt is the portion of a country's debt that is borrowed from foreign lenders including commercial banks, governments, or international financial institutions. These loans, including interest, must usually be paid in the currency in which the loan was made.

Foreign debt as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the ratio between the debt a country owes to non-resident creditors and its nominal GDP.

Iranian Tanker Discharging 2m Barrels of Oil in Venezuela

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A very large crude carrier (VLCC) has started discharging about 2 million barrels of Iranian condensate at a port in Venezuela in the latest energy swap which helps the two countries bypass illegal U.S. sanctions.

The Iranian-flagged Starla, owned and managed by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), arrived in Venezuelan waters on Friday and began unloading its cargo at Jose port on Monday, Reuters reported.

Iran's condensate shipments under a swap deal signed in the second half of last year have helped Venezuelan state-run oil company PDVSA sustain its oil output which had been severely paralyzed under the U.S. sanctions.

According to PDVSA internal documents, the delivery of condensate had been expected in December, but a lack of oil storage and bottlenecks at Jose created delays.

PDVSA's swap contract with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) provides it with a steady supply of condensate, a high-value light crude, as a diluent.

The bituminous crude from the Orinoco Belt, Venezuela's largest producing region, requires mixing before it can be transported and exported. Venezuela imported 2 million barrels of Iranian condensate in 2020 and 4.6 million barrels in 2021, snubbing U.S. oil sanctions on the country. This marks the fifth shipment of condensate state-owned PDVSA has received from Iran since September 2020.

The two countries have also exchanged Iranian gasoline for Venezuelan jet fuel under an agreement signed in 2020 which marked thousands of Venezuelans queuing up in miles-long lines to try to fill their cars with motor fuel.

Iran's supply of condensate helps Venezuela stabilize exports of the Orinoco's crude blends and allows its own lighter oil to be refined in the country to produce badly needed motor fuel.

The country needs revenues from oil exports which it has recently resumed to Asia to improve an economy suffering because of the U.S. sanctions.

Venezuela aims to pump over 1.5 million barrels a day in 2022 to keep its economy afloat, with Iranian condensate being crucial to the plan.

See Page 7

ViewPoint Zionists, Symbol of Inhumanity

Since the emergence of the fake Zionist regime and the occupied land, so called Israel, this illegal regime has started any types of inhuman tools and ways for suppressing the Palestinians and people of neighboring countries like Lebanon and Syria and this savagery still continues with full support of the founders and mentors of Israel, and Palestinians are suffering amid indifference of the human rights organizations or supporters.

On Monday, a human rights group unexpectedly documented the dire consequences of Israel's ongoing blockade on the Gaza Strip, calling on the international community to pressure the Tel Aviv regime to end its illegal siege of the impoverished coastal enclave. It is unbelievable that finally some international rights group decided to show at least some part of its real job which is to condemn inhuman acts in the world especially committed by the Zionist regime.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor said in its annual report that about 1.5 million of the Gaza Strip's total population of 2.3 million have become impoverished due to the Israeli blockade and restrictions imposed on the besieged enclave for over 14 years, Palestine's official Wafa news agency reported on Monday.

In its report, titled Bitter 16: A Generation Bred in Captivity, Euro-Med documented the dire effects of the Israeli blockade on the social, economic, and humanitarian levels, which were exacerbated by the repeated military attacks on Gaza—the most recent of which was in May 2021.

The nonprofit organization for the protection of rights also noted that despite the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the Israeli collective punishment policy against the population of the coastal silver remains in place, in a way that clearly exposes Tel Aviv's intention to inflict great material and moral damage on its residents.

The report further documented the multiplication of indicators of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza due to the blockade.

For instance, the unemployment rate has risen from 23.6% before the imposition of the siege in 2005 to 50.2% at the end of 2021—one of the highest in the world.

Likewise, poverty has risen sharply due to Israeli closures and bans, from 40% in 2005 to 69% in 2021.

It also reviewed the state of economic collapse Gaza suffers due to the blockade, highlighting that thousands of production facilities and services have been destroyed or damaged during Israel's military attacks over the past years.

See Page 7

U.S. Says Sees Path For Deal With Iran

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Biden Administration says it sees a path to an agreement in the Vienna talks over the nuclear deal, but Iran must make "tough political decisions now". Iran has repeatedly rejected any deadline or pre-condition over the deal, saying the US that unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA must first lift its sanctions against Tehran.

The comments are another sign that the Biden administration is somewhat optimistic as nuclear negotiations in Vienna get closer to a decision point. Last week, White House Middle East coordinator Brett McGurk stated the US and Iran are "in the ballpark" of a possible deal.

Biden administration officials have set the end of January or beginning of February as an unofficial deadline for the talks, in large part because they believe Iran's nuclear advances will soon render the 2015 deal ineffective.

Iranian officials have rejected western diplomats' remarks about a deadline for reaching an agreement in Vienna talks, and stressed Tehran is only after a good agreement.

See Page 7

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Leader Condoles Demise of Ayatollah Safi Golpaygani

TEHRAN (MNA) – Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has expressed condolences over the passing of senior Iranian theologian Grand Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpaygani.

In a Tuesday message, the Leader condoled the demise of Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpaygani to his honorable family and his pupils at Seminary.

Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to Ayatollah Safi Golpaygani's revolutionary services and important responsibilities during the Islamic Republic era and prayed to God to bestow divine forgiveness and blessings on him and elevate his ranks [in the Heavens] to the highest.

Iran, Australia FMs Discuss Deepening Relations

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Australian counterpart Marise Payne discussed expanding and deepening ties between the two countries as well as the regional and other international issues by phone.

Felicitating Australia's National Day to the Australian Foreign Minister and the country's people, Amir-Abdollahian referred to the half-century history of friendly relations between Iran and Australia, saying that the presence of the highly educated Iranian community in Australia has built a cultural bridge between the two countries.

Referring to the capacities and capabilities of both countries to expand relations, Amir-Abdollahian said that Iran is ready to expand cooperation with Australia in various fields, including trade and investment as well as scientific cooperation between the countries' public and private sectors.

He referred to the development of the Spicogen vaccine as a successful example of constructive collaboration between the two countries' scientific sectors.

The Iranian top diplomat also called the recent visit of the Australian Special Representative for Afghanistan to Tehran a success, saying that during the visit, new areas of cooperation between the two countries were defined in relation to Afghanistan.

Expressing gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its cooperation and effective consultations during the visit of the Australian Special Representative for Afghanistan, Payne, for her part, said that she hopes the two countries would work closely together



on Afghanistan to encourage the Taliban to live up to their commitments.

Welcoming the expansion of bilateral relations, Payne said that Australia supports Vienna talks.

Iranian Foreign Minister said that Iran welcomes and emphasizes a good agreement in Vienna talks.

Amir-Abdollahian further called on Australia to pay special attention to the rights of Iranians living in the country and especially the consular status of some Iranian citizens who are facing troubles in Australia.

Referring to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against terrorism and explaining the prominent role that Martyr Qassem Soleimani in creating peace and security in the world, the Iranian top diplomat called on Australia to responsibly confront perpetrators affiliated with the terrorist groups operating in the country.

40th Fajr Film Festival Kicks Off

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran held the first day of its annual Fajr Film Festival on Monday at the Milad Tower Conference Center.

On the first day, two films "Biro" about the goalkeeper of the Iranian national team Alireza Biranvand and the film "The Loser Man" directed by Mohammad Hossein Mahdavian were screened for critics.

In the Simorgh section, which is the main part of the festival, 22 Iranian films will be screened. Following the announcement of the list of qualified films in this category, a number of critics and directors criticized the removal of some films by the jury. Meanwhile, despite the current coronavirus surge in Iran, reports indicate that on the first day, health protocols were rarely observed.

From Tuesday, the public can watch the movies in theaters in Tehran and other Iranian cities. The director of cinema affairs of the festival earlier announced that 30 cinemas in Tehran and other cities (62 halls with 14896 seats) will screen festival films.

The 40th Fajr Film Festival, marking the anniversary of the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, will run through February 11 and will end with an awards ceremony.

Iranian Institute Ready to Produce 100m Covid Jabs by March 2023

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's Razi Vaccine Research Institute says the mass distribution of its coronavirus vaccines will begin this week, stressing that it has the capacity to produce 100 million doses of the jab by March 2023.

"So far five million doses of Razi vaccine have been delivered to the health ministry and another five million does are ready to be delivered," caretaker of the institute's vaccine production department Dr. Mohammad Hossein Fallah Mehrabadi said.

"Officials have pledged that the vaccine will become available in almost all vaccination centers of the country starting this week."

The Razi Covo-Pars vaccine is the second Iranian anti-covid shot to complete its clinical trials after its first doses were unveiled in March 2019.

The vaccine is a protein recombinant jab and has passed through the strictest control regimes based on the guidelines of the World Health Organization and domestic protocols.

This comes amid a resurgence in the disease cases across Iran due to the spread of the Omicron variant.

Transit of Goods Via Iran Rises 75%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Transit of goods through Iran rose 75 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, the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Alireza Moghadasi said that over 10.228 million tons of commodities were transited via Iran in the mentioned 10-month period.

"Based on the policies of the resistance economy and the fifth and sixth national development plans of the country, every year we should have witnessed a 10-percent growth in transit via the country, which unfortunately in recent years, after proper growth, we had a decreasing trend in transit", the official lamented.

"In the Iranian year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015), the transit of goods via Iran reached more than 13 million tons, after which not only did we not have growth in this due, but in 1398 and 1399, this amount reached 7.5 million tons", he added.

"Fortunately, transit has returned to its growth path in 1400 [the present Iranian year], and is expected to reach 12.4 million tons by the end of this year", Moghadasi further stated.

Iran is one of the countries that have a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

In the south of Iran is the Persian Gulf, which is home to the world's major oil-producing countries. This region is considered the energy bottleneck of the world.

In the north of Iran is the Caspian Sea, which is the best bridge between Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan and can play an important role in trade between these countries.

Brazilian Ambassador To Iran Pays Tribute to Late Imam Khomeini



TEHRAN (ABNA) - Brazilian Ambassador to Iran, visited the historical house of late Imam Khomeini in the city of Khomein, central Iran, and paid tribute to the great founder of the Islamic Republic.

The personality of Imam Khomeini in the leadership and victory of the Islamic Revolution is considered by politicians and respected by them, and his leadership is deemed to be influential in global equations.

The Brazilian ambassador to Iran, Laudemar Gonçalves de Aguiar Neto, said on Monday evening during a visit to Imam Khomeini's historical house in Khomein that Imam Khomeini was not only respected for the image he presented of Iran, but for the fact that he was a charismatic figure in the world.

He also stated that the character of Imam Khomeini is respectable for him because he was able to achieve and maintain the system of the Islamic Republic.

The Brazilian ambassador to Iran also signed the memorial book of the founder of the Islamic Republic in his house in Khomein and wrote sentences about the personality of Imam Khomeini in this memorial book.

On February 1, 1979, Imam Khomeini entered Islamic Iran after 15 years of exile amidst the enthusiastic welcome of the people.

Iran Self-Sufficient in Missile, Radar Industries

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Iranian armed forces have gained self-sufficiency in developing various air defense missile and radar systems, a senior commander said.

In comments at a military gathering on Monday, Air Defense Commander Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi Fard said the experts and technicians serving in the Air Defense have become self-sufficient in designing and manufacturing various weapons, including radar systems and air defense missiles.

He said such homegrown gears are so advanced that the enemies would not even dare to imagine the possibility of aggression against the Iranian territories.

In July 2021, the commander said the significant advances that Iran has made in the air defense industry has turned the country into one of the world's top powers with the capability to detect every aerial object in its airspace and even outside the borders.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

No Limits in Serbia-Iran Cooperation

BELGRADE (IRNA) - Serbian deputy culture and information minister said there is no limit in expansion of Belgrade-Tehran cooperation.

In a meeting here with the Iranian ambassador Rashid Hassanpour on Monday, Stancoc Blagovic referred to the two countries' comprehensive good relations, including in cultural field.

The Serbian official referred to his country's good and successful experience from working with the Iranians, adding that he is an enthusiast of the Iranian culture and civilization.

It is no exaggeration to say that there are lots of enthusiasts of Iran around the globe, he added.

Blagovic ensured the Iranian ambassador that he will inform the Serbian culture minister about the Iranian Embassy's proposed cultural programs and that ministry's concerned department will arrange for the type and ways for partnership in those programs.

He also welcomed the Iranian ambassador's proposal on staging joint photo exhibitions in Tehran

and Belgrade on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic ties, keeping in mind Iran and Serbia's joint experiences in social, cultural and historical fields.

The Iranian ambassador, too, in the meeting referred to the 20th Iranian Films Festival in Serbia, which will be opened on Friday, February 4th, and invited the Serbian Culture and Information Ministry officials to attend its opening ceremony and give lectures there.

At the cultural field we have broad commonalities, which provide a good cradle for broadening the sphere of cooperation," said Hassanpour.

He said that the rich Persian literature has an abundant treasure of ethical, humanitarian and Gnostic themes, presented by such great literary personalities as Hafez, Rumi, Khayyam, Saadi, Firdowsi, and... whose fame has travelled far beyond the Iranian borders and their enthusiasts establish shared feelings and emotions with the personalities in their stories.

INIOAS, UNESCO Sign MoU in Coastal Geological Hazards

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS), UNESCO Chair on Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis, and the Research Institute of Earth Sciences signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on coastal geological hazards.

According to Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS), the MoU was signed by head of Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science Behrouz Abtahi, head of Iranian Research Institute of Earth Sciences Marzieh Lak, and head of UNESCO Chair on Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis Hamid Nazari on expanding educational cooperation.

Sharing logistics hardware facilities, exchanging faculty members and specialists for research and teaching, and exchanging university scholars for study opportunities, providing facilities for university scholars to attend seminars, and collaborating in holding joint scientific workshops and exhibitions are some of the provisions of this memorandum of understanding (MoU).

Those Who Sow Seeds of Discord Have No Place in Islamic Society of Iran

CHABAHR (IRNA) - The president's advisor in ethnic and religious affairs said here that those who sow the seeds of discord have no place in the Islamic society of Iran, adding that no one is allowed to insult religious sanctities, since our religion, Quran, the Holy Prophet (AS), and Qibla are all the same, having roots in Islamic unity.

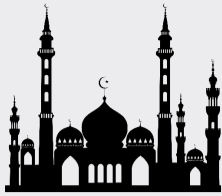
Mamusta Abdul-Salam Karimi made the comment at Joint Council of Konarak, Zarabad, and Chabahar Townships' Trustees, Clerics and Government Officials, on Monday and further reiterated that the president himself had emphasized the need to use the competent Sunni personalities at provincial political posts and asked me to inform the Sistan and Baluchestan governor of this point.

The president also has special attention to pursuing the resolving of the Sistan and

Baluchestan people's problems and difficulties, particularly those who have suffered losses in the recent flood and has issued special orders in that respect, which are being implemented, added Karimi.

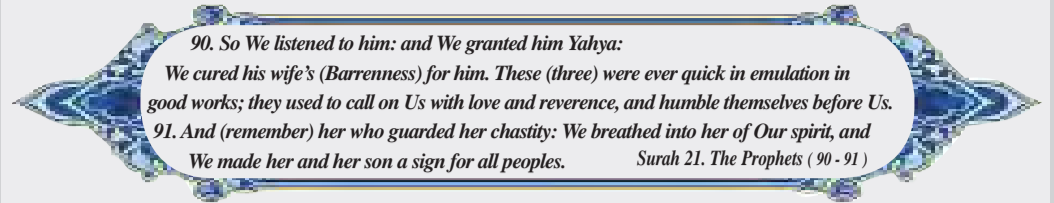
He said that in the Islamic society, the entire ethnic groups, different Islamic sects, as well as the Iranian Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians and the members of the two sexes are equals, and there are no division borders among them, as they are all the assets of the country.

He said that both the Supreme Leader and the president have always stressed the need for national unity and solidarity, as Almighty Allah, too, as stressed that He has created the human beings in different ethnic groups and tribes just in order that they will distinguish each other better and cooperate with each other.



PRAYER TIME

- Noon (Zohr) 12:18
- Evening (Maghreb) 17:51
- Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr) 05:37
- Tomorrow's Sunrise 07:02



90. So We listened to him: and We granted him Yahya: We cured his wife's (Barrenness) for him. These (three) were ever quick in emulation in good works; they used to call on Us with love and reverence, and humble themselves before Us.
91. And (remember) her who guarded her chastity: We breathed into her of Our spirit, and We made her and her son a sign for all peoples. Surah 21, The Prophets (90 - 91)

Tokyo Expecting Vienna Talks to End Successfully

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

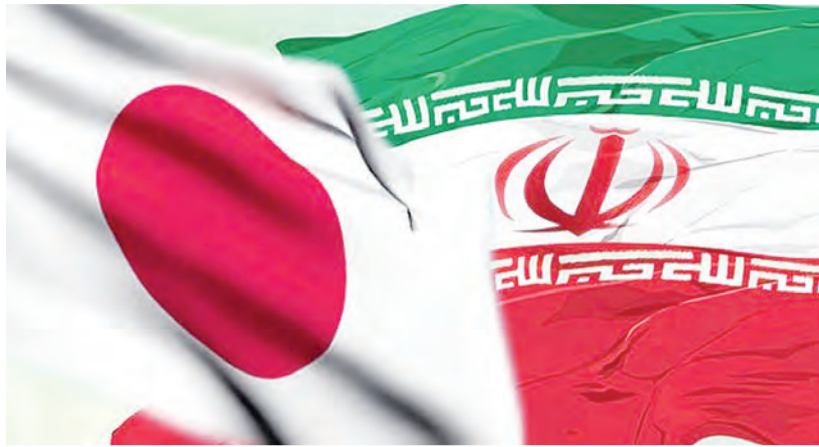
TEHRAN - Chairman of the Iran-Japan Joint Trade Committee says Iran is a rich country with abundant capacities and is located on a strategic point of the world with high capabilities, and looking only eastward will be an injustice towards the country.

Speaking to ILNA on the latest development of trade between Iran and Japan, Bahram Shakouri said that Iran's trade with Japan has almost been zeroed due to sanctions, adding that in the past, the country used to export crude oil to Japan but due to freezing of Iran's money in Japan, the export of oil to this country was practically halted.

He went on to say that Japan is a country with high potentials and a big market for Iran's exports and it is also a country with technology and innovation that Iran can provide any innovation, equipment, machineries and knowhow from this country and therefore Japanese goods are highly required in Iran.

On the plan of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) for trade with Iran, Shakouri said Iran's chamber of commerce had a meeting with JETRO as the Japanese showed their interest for setting up cooperation between economic activists of the two countries.

He added that after the first meeting the Japanese vowed to continue because they have likely good prediction of the Vienna talks on the JCPOA and they feel the talks will bear fruits and they can restore economic ties with Tehran. Shakouri noted that the Japanese want to gradually know the potentials and relations between the economic enterprises to



be restored in order to take advantage of ultimately.

Referring to the frozen money of Iran in Japan, he said talks are underway but nothing serious has happened yet in Tokyo, adding that it seems some moves have started by the Japanese Government and JETRO to resolve this problem and something which can unfreeze Iran's assets is the probable agreement in Vienna.

He went on to say that if Iran's ties with the world do not see any change, the Japanese will definitely not work with Iran because they have several joint investment cooperation with the U.S. and they will be unable to disobey the Americans. Japan is a country which interacts with entire world and of course their interactions with the West are more but Japan is not a country which only works with the Eastern Bloc and it continues cooperation with all the world.

Shakouri went on to say that Iran should move in a direction that it can restore trade ties with all countries and it can lead to the development and progress of the company. He added that Iran has this potential to be a gateway between Europe and the U.S. with the countries in the region and it can turn into an export hub in the region and other countries like the CIS countries.

Secretariat of Supreme Council of Free Zones Welcomes Supreme Leader's Remarks



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Some eulogists of the country in response to recent remarks of the Supreme Leader in collaboration with the secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones set up the national Amir al-Momenin social aids headquarters.

The first meeting of the headquarters for beginning its activities was held in presence of Advisor to President and Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones Mr. Saeed Mohammad.

Addressing the meeting, Mohammad said the Supreme Leader has repeatedly in his remarks has called for using the popular capacities and spontaneous non-governmental organizations in promoting the Islamic Culture, adding that using the capacities of all walks of the life like the committed and skillful youths is one of them.

He noted that doing any work in the state-run body faces ups and downs and slow pace but employing the spontaneous popular capacities does not have such problems and for this reason the Supreme Leader is concerned about the social ills and wants solutions to confront them.

Mohammad went on to say that the community of the free zones with population around 1.8m people have problems and are facing with some deprivations and Islands like Kish and Qeshm despite their beauties are struggling with problems.

He reiterated that the council has concerns for improving the social and cultural condition of this small community that some action should be taken and the Supreme Leader is for this reason persistent on using the capacities of the eulogists of the country because they are in the society and are well aware of the social problems.

Mohammad reiterated problems are not always resolved by money and sometimes they need prudence and wise and good action.

Tourism, a Chance to Promote Iran-Armenia Cultural Dialogue

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The head of the Armenian Tourism Federation Mekhak Apresyan believes tourism is a powerful means and best opportunity for the two brotherly nations of Iran and Armenia to promote cultural dialogue.

Apresyan, who was touring the 1st Conference on Iran and Food Tourism in the New Century on Monday, appreciated the great diversity in Iranian dishes and voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in food tourism.

The head of the Armenian Tourism Federation said that the issues addressed at the event were of great significance.

Culture and one of its most important sub-categories, culinary and foods, are of great importance in different countries so the improvement of food industry is among the primary objectives of the tourism and culture officials, he added.

Noting that the Iranian and Armenian cultures are very much intermingled, Apresyan said this could serve as an example of the two nations' shared heritage, including their culinary cultures.

The event was held as part of the 15th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE) which was inaugurated January 31-February 1 to promote more interaction between tourism and handicrafts industries.

Iran's Net Jobs Up by 122,100 in December Quarter

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran added a net 122,100 formal jobs in the quarter to December 21, shows a report in the local media which insists the figure is one of the best on record since the country started to feel the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the US sanctions more than two years ago.

The Monday report by the semi-official Fars news agency said that Iran's jobless population had declined to 2.44 million in December last year from 2.89 million recorded in March 2019.

The report cited figures and tables provided by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) and said that the data prove an administrative government that came to office in early August has adopted a correct path in its labor policies.

That comes as the SCI had previously reported that Iran's

annual unemployment rate had dropped to its lowest since 1996 mainly because of a reduction in the country's active population after the spread of the coronavirus.

The report by Fars admitted the fact that the pandemic had caused Iran's active population to shrink but said job growth figures started to return to positive territory only after the current government enforced its policies.

Iranian labor ministry officials have indicated they have plans to create over two million jobs within the first two years of the current government's tenure without clearly saying how they are going to meet the target.

However, the report by Fars said that the government will provide loans and grants to businesses affected by the pandemic and to the startups to meet a target of creating 1.068 million jobs in the year to March 2023.

Supreme Leader's Remarks on Production Fighters "Encouraging"

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Khorasan Steel Complex Company (KSC) Mr. Kasra Ghafoori says the Supreme Leader's comparison of producers with fighters in the war fronts is very encouraging and promising for all producers.

On Sunday Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in meeting with producers and economic activists said God willing the trench of production is strong and those fighters who lined up against enemies in this economic war were producers, adding that efficient economic managers and entrepreneurs were the officers of this war and their workers were their fighters who sincerely lined up in this scene and all of managers and workers have their own shares in this honor of defending the national economy.



The CEO of KSC said the Supreme Leader's comparisons of the economic activists with the fighters in the war fronts has been the source of hope, pride and encouraging and it can be a key for progress in the economic sector.

He said that in this meeting the economic activists directly spoke out their problems, adding that the Supreme Leader patiently listened to all of them and offered his guidelines to the related officials in the meeting to resolve problems.

Ghafoori noted that using the encouraging remarks of the Supreme Leader and his guidelines can help the country to progress and growth despite all hostile activities of the enemies.

Persian Gulf Saba Steel Co Top Export-Oriented Co.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Persian Gulf Saba Steel Company was named as one of the top 100 companies of the country during the 24th Top 100 Iranian Companies Conference (IMI-100) which was held by the Industrial Management Institute.

According to the reports, in the export-oriented companies' category, Persian Gulf Saba Steel Company after succeeding the evaluation of the jury was named as one of the top 100 companies in the country.

The company after being evaluated in terms of exports indicators achieved this success.

The CEO of the company Eng. Saeed Bozorgi received the award for this achievement at one of the top export-oriented companies.

The Industrial Management Institute every year holds this conference which is aimed at creating transparency in the business climate by choosing the top companies of the country in terms of some factors like profit, performance, productivity, exports, liquidity and debts.

This event is held every year at the conference hall of IRIB.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۷۰۶۵۲

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9150037

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 13,785 EURO or 3,844,516,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL
NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3772 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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

IASCO Among Top 100 Companies

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran Alloy Steel Company (IASCO) was named among the top 100 companies of the country during the 24th Top 100 Iranian Companies Conference (IMI-100) which was held last week.

According to reports, after evaluation of 500 big companies based on 33 indicators which was carried out by Industrial Management Institute, Iran Alloy Steel Company was named among the top 100 Iranian companies.

This year the company despite restrictions due to the energy shortage has continued improving the quality of production along with developing its products successfully and the CEO of the company was chosen as the top manager in the national steel industry during the 1400 Steel Symposium.



Burkina Faso Kicked Out of African Union

OUAGADOUGOU (Dispatches) - The African Union (AU) said Monday it had suspended Burkina Faso in response to the Jan. 24 coup that ousted President Roch Marc Christian Kabore.

The bloc's 15-member Peace and Security Council said on Twitter it had voted "to suspend the participation of BurkinaFaso in all AU activities until the effective restoration of constitutional order in the country."

Mousa Faki Mahamat, chair of the African Union Commission, had already condemned the coup the day it happened and before it was clear who was taking charge.



French Ambassador Given 72 Hours To Leave Mali the country

PARIS (Dispatches) - Mali on Monday gave the French ambassador 72 hours to leave the country after "hostile and outrageous" comments by former colonial power France about its transitional government, it said in a statement read on national television.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Friday that Mali's junta was "out of control" amid escalating tensions between the West African state and its European partners following two coups.

He also called the junta illegitimate. French Defence Minister Florence Parly said on Saturday French troops would not stay in Mali if the price was too high.



U.S., UK Ready to Punish Putin Associates If Russia Invades Ukraine



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States and its allies have prepared a list of Russian elites in or near President Vladimir Putin's inner circle to punish with sanctions if Russia sends troops into Ukraine, a senior U.S. official said on Monday.

Britain urged Putin to "step back from the brink" after the Russian buildup of troops near Ukraine stoked fears of war, and also warned that any incursion would trigger sanctions against companies and people with close links to the Kremlin.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov called the British warning "very disturbing", saying it made Britain less attractive to investors and would hurt British companies.

"It's not often you see or hear such direct threats to attack business," he said. "An attack by a given country on Russian business implies retaliatory measures, and these measures will be formulated based on our interests if necessary."

"What I will say to President Putin, as I've said before, is that I think we really all need to step back from the brink, and I think Russia needs to step back from the brink," Johnson told reporters.

The TASS news agency quoted the Russian foreign ministry as saying Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was to speak by phone with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday.

The U.N. Security Council was due to meet in public on Monday, at the request of the United States, to discuss Russia's troop build-up. The United States describes the meeting of the 15-member body as a chance for Russia to explain itself.

Russia signaled it could try and block it, and the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations said his government favored quiet diplomacy and would oppose a public Security Council session. Nine votes are needed for the meeting to proceed.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, London has become the haven of choice for a vast outflow of money from former Soviet republics.

Opponents of Putin have urged the West to get tough on Russian money, though oligarchs and Russian officials continue to flaunt their wealth at Europe's most luxurious destinations.

Both Washington and London declined to name the individuals they planned to target.

"The individuals we have identified are in or near the inner circles of the Kremlin and play a role in government decision making or are at a minimum complicit in the Kremlin's destabilizing behavior," the U.S. official in Washington said.

"Putin's cronies will no longer be able to use their spouses or other family members as proxies to evade sanctions. Sanctions would cut them off from the international financial system and ensure that they and their family members will no longer be able to enjoy the perks of parking their money in the West and attending elite Western universities."

North Korea Tests Biggest Missile Since 2017

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea confirmed it had launched a Hwasong-12 ballistic missile, the same weapon it had once threatened to target the U.S. territory of Guam with, sparking fears the nuclear-armed state could resume long-range testing.

Don't Miss: Analysis - With seven tests in a month, N.Korea calls for world to accept its missiles

The launch of the intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) was first reported by South Korean and Japanese authorities on Sunday. It was the seventh test conducted by North Korea this month and the first time a nuclear-capable missile of that size has been launched since 2017.

The United States is concerned North Korea's escalating missile tests could be precursors to resumed tests of nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and vowed an unspecified response "designed to show our commitment to our allies," a senior U.S. official told reporters in Washington.

"It's not just what they did yesterday, it's the fact that this is coming on the heels of quite a significant number of tests in this month," the official said, while urging Pyongyang to join direct talks with no preconditions.

North Korea has said it is open to diplomacy, but that Washington's overtures are undermined by its support for sanctions and joint military drills and arms buildups in South Korea and the region.

Amid a flurry of diplomacy in 2018, including summits with then-U.S. President Donald Trump, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared his nuclear force complete and said he would suspend nuclear testing and launches of the country's longest-range missiles.

Kim said he was no longer bound by that moratorium after talks stalled in 2019, and North Korea suggested this month it could restart those testing activities because the United States had shown no sign of dropping its "hostile policies."

It is unclear if IRBMs such as the Hwasong-12 were included in Kim's moratorium, but none had been tested since 2017.

Kim said he was no longer bound by that moratorium after talks stalled in 2019, and North Korea suggested this month it could restart those testing activities because the United States had shown no sign of dropping its "hostile policies."

It is unclear if IRBMs such as the Hwasong-12 were included in Kim's moratorium, but none had been tested since 2017.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Everything is going to be different in parliament," Chega leader Andre Ventura, a tough-talking former TV sports commentator, told his supporters.

Taliban Killed Over 100 Former Afghan Officials

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The United Nations has received "credible allegations" that more than 100 former members of the Afghan government, its security forces and those who worked with international troops have been killed since the Taliban took over the country Aug. 15, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says.

In a report obtained Sunday by The Associated Press (AP), Guterres said that "more than two-thirds" of the victims were alleged to result from extrajudicial killings by the Taliban or its affiliates, despite the Taliban's announcement of "general amnesties" for those affiliated with the former government and U.S.-led coalition forces.

The U.N. political mission in Afghanistan also received "credible allegations of extrajudicial killings of at least 50 individuals suspected of affiliation with ISIL-KP," Guterres said in the report to U.N. Security Council using another acronym for the Daesh terror group.

He added that despite Taliban assurances, the U.N. political mission has also received credible allegations "of enforced disappearances and other violations impacting the right to life and physical integrity" of former government and coalition members.

Guterres said human rights defenders and media

workers also continue "to come under attack, intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment and killings."

Eight civil society activists were killed, including three by the Taliban and three by Daesh extremists, and 10 were subjected to temporary arrests, beatings and threats by the Taliban, he said. Two journalists were killed - one by Daesh - and two were injured by unknown armed men.

The secretary-general said the U.N. missions documented 44 cases of temporary arrests, beatings and threats of intimidation, 42 of them by the Taliban.

The Taliban overran most of Afghanistan as U.S. and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years. They entered Kabul on Aug. 15 without any resistance from the Afghan army or the country's president, Ashraf Ghani, who fled.

The Taliban initially promised a general amnesty for those linked to the former government and international forces, and tolerance and inclusiveness toward women and ethnic minorities. However, the Taliban have renewed restrictions on women and appointed an all-male government, which have met with dismay by the international community.



UK "Partygate" Report Slams Failures of Leadership

LONDON (Dispatches) - A long-awaited report into claims of lockdown-breaking parties at British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's offices was published in part on Monday, criticizing "failures of leadership" that allowed events to go ahead.

Political and public anger at the revelations put Johnson's position as leader under threat, but senior civil servant Sue Gray has been forced not to go into detail on all events due to a separate police probe.

After interviewing more than 70 people about 16 events held in 2020 and last year, Gray said what she could say was "extremely limited" owing to the Metropolitan police's intervention.

But she found that given the demands the government was making of the public to fight the spread of coronavirus, "some of the behavior surrounding these gatherings is difficult to justify".

Some represented a "serious failure" to observe the high standards expected of those working in government, and "too little thought" was given to how appropriate the events were at the time and how they would be perceived.

"There were failures of leadership and judgment by different parts of No 10 (Downing Street) and the Cabinet Office at different times," Gray wrote in her 12-page report.

"Some of the events should not have been allowed to take place. Other events should not have been allowed to develop as they did."

Gray also criticized the drinking culture at the heart of government in the report, which saw her examine emails, text messages, photos and Downing Street's entry and exit logs. Johnson's immediate future had been in doubt until the Met police said last week it was also looking into 12 of the 16 events for possible breaches of coronavirus regulations.

Scotland Yard's request for Gray not to publish her report in full has given Johnson some breathing space while detectives conduct their own enquiries. A copy of the redacted report was delivered to Downing Street on Monday morning and Johnson was due to respond to it in parliament.

Johnson's opponents have accused him of misleading parliament by insisting the events at Downing Street were within the rules at the time and were work-related.



Miss
SHANON
Contract manager
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081
FAX : 88506474

Darrous Apt (\$2500)
300sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fle
Fully Furn

Niavaran Villa (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, Jacuzzi
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Zaferanieh (\$2500) 250sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F
Gheitarieh (\$1800) 150sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F



Andarzgoo bldg (\$9000)
5storey, 20bdrs, S/pool
S, J, yard, storages, balcony
enough pkg lots, Brand new

Vali-e-Asr office (\$30 per sq.m) 300sq.m, & pkg lots

Kamranieh (\$2200)
220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/pool
S, J, balcony, fireplace
marble floor, pkg, & F.F

Andarzgoo bldg (\$9000)
5storey, 20bdrs, S/pool
S, J, yard, storages, balcony
enough pkg lots, Brand new



ADVERTISING

44253401

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME

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



IRAN

NEWS

PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS

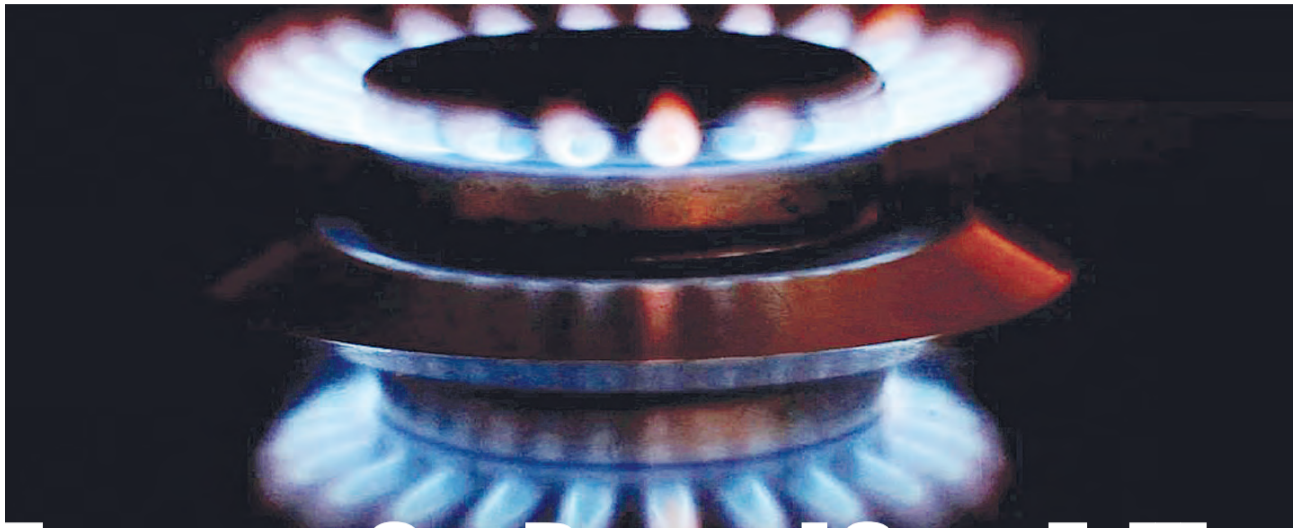
ADVERTISING

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

Huawei Takes Sweden To Court Following 5G Ban

STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Huawei said it has initiated arbitration proceedings against Sweden under the World Bank Group after the Nordic country banned the Chinese tech giant from rolling out its 5G products. "The Swedish authorities' decision to discriminate against Huawei and exclude it from the 5G rollout has significantly harmed Huawei's investment in Sweden, in breach of Sweden's international obligations," the Chinese company said in a statement to AFP.

The company had therefore "initiated arbitration proceedings" under the World Bank Group's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) "against the Kingdom of Sweden following a number of measures taken by the Swedish authorities targeting directly Huawei's investments in Sweden and excluding Huawei from the rollout of 5G network products and services in the country," Huawei added.



European Gas Demand Seen Falling This Year Due to Cheaper Coal

LONDON (Dispatches) - European gas demand is expected to decline this year as continued high prices make coal more competitive for power generation, while Asian demand growth could slow, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

Last year, European gas consumption increased by an estimated 5.5% to 552 billion cubic meters (bcm). However, demand is expected to fall by around 4.5% this year to 527 bcm, partly driven by reduced burning of gas in the power sector which could fall by 6% from 2021, the IEA said in its quarterly gas market report.

"Gas-fired power generation is expected to decline amid the strong expansion of renewables, while high gas prices continue to weigh on its competitiveness vis-à-vis coal-fired generation," the report said. European and Asian gas prices climbed to record highs last year, while U.S. prices rose to the highest in a decade, driven by reduced supply, low storage levels, infrastructure outages and competition for liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes.

Although European coal and EU carbon prices also jumped, they lagged behind the spike in gas prices, causing short-term marginal costs to shift in favor of using coal to generate electricity.

In Europe, lower-than-usual pipeline supplies from Russia, coupled with concerns about supply disruption in the event of sanctions against Russia if it invades Ukraine, have helped to keep prices elevated into this year and still incentivize more coal use in countries that can shift between fuels.

This year, European gas and Asian LNG prices are expected to average \$26 per metric million British thermal units (mmBtu) and \$27/mmBtu respectively - both all-time high annual averages - due to continued low stock levels and reduced supply, the IEA said.

Currently, Dutch gas at the TTF gas hub for March is around \$30/mmBtu, while Asian spot LNG for March is \$27/mmBtu.

High prices are expected until the middle of the year and then could decline if supply availability improves, the IEA said.

In the United States, however, Henry Hub prices are expected to average close to 2021 levels, at \$4/mmBtu.

Despite a drop in Russia's pipeline exports in the fourth quarter last year, in 2021 overall the country's pipeline exports to Europe, including Turkey, rose by 4% year-on-year, while flows to the European Union declined by 3%.

This year, overall Russian production is estimated at 763 bcm, up from 761 bcm last year, the report said.

In Asia, gas demand increased by 7% last year but is expected to slow to 5% growth at 950 bcm this year. Chinese demand jumped by 12% last year amid a rebound in economic activity but could moderate to 8% growth at 394 bcm this year due to slowing economic growth, higher import prices and more normal seasonal weather.

India's gas demand is expected to increase by 8% this year, following a 5% rise in 2021. In North America, gas demand inched up by 0.9% last year and is forecast at around 1% growth this year at 1,091 bcm.

Eurozone Economy Rebounds by 5.2% in 2021

LONDON (Dispatches) - The eurozone economy posted a robust rebound in 2021 but growth slowed noticeably toward the end of the year as surging COVID-19 cases driven by the omicron variant piled on top of supply shortages and rising consumer prices. The result: An economic winter of discontent that may not lift until later this year.

Much of the slowdown came in Germany, Europe's largest economy, where difficulty getting needed parts held back its export-heavy manufacturing economy. France, Spain and Italy showed stronger growth.

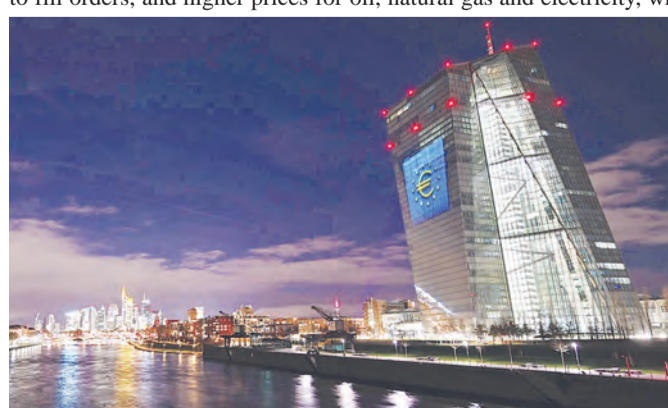
Growth in the last three months of 2021 came in at 0.3% quarter-over-quarter for the 19 countries that use the euro, the European Union's statistics agency Eurostat said Monday. That was a slowdown from 2.2% in the July-September quarter.

For the year, growth came in at 5.2%, underlining that Europe's economic recovery from the pandemic has moved somewhat slower than the rebound in the United States, where 2021 growth was 5.7% compared with the year before. U.S. growth was boosted by what economists say was a comparatively larger share of federal stimulus spending than in Europe.

Europe's economy is "almost exactly back to its pre-virus size," but that leaves it "way behind" the U.S., which reached that milestone last year and where output is now more than 3% above what it was in late 2019, said Jessica Hinds, senior Europe economist at Capital Economics.

A major reason for Europe's slowdown toward the end of the year was that spiking COVID-19 cases led to new and shifting restrictions and deterred cautious consumers from spending money at restaurants, hotels and entertainment.

That comes on top of clogged supply chains, which are leaving the eurozone's export-oriented manufacturing sector unable to fill orders, and higher prices for oil, natural gas and electricity, which are weighing on businesses and consumers.



Businesses have shown more resilience in dealing with successive waves of the pandemic, helping keep the eurozone from falling into recession and limiting unemployment to 7.2% in the latest reading. But slower growth is compounded by higher inflation and eroding wage increases.

"This adds to a sizable squeeze in purchasing power for the consumer and dampens growth prospects," said Carsten Brzeski, global head of macro at ING Bank.

And the friction in Europe's gears isn't over yet. Growth "might weaken further" in the current quarter, according to economists at UniCredit Bank. Germany, usually a growth motor for the eurozone, shrank 0.7% in the fourth quarter and would slide into a shallow recession if growth is negative again in the first three months of this year. Two straight quarters of declining output is one definition of a recession.

Asian Economic Growth to Outstrip Americas and Europe

LONDON (FT) - In Asian economies, a powerful dynamic is unfolding that will unleash productivity growth and drive outperformance over other regions. It is a trend that has been under-appreciated by skeptical investors.

Over the next two years, gross domestic product will rise faster in Asia than in the Americas and Europe, strengthening its position as the largest and fastest-growing economic bloc. Asia's GDP is expected to expand in nominal terms from \$33tn in 2021 to \$39tn in 2023, exceeding the \$34tn for the Americas and \$26tn for Europe. The \$5.4tn increase for Asia compares with \$4.8tn for the Americas and \$2.9tn for Europe.

This dynamic is the interplay of growth in exports, capital expenditure and productivity. In contrast to other economies that have relied heavily on stimulus, Asia's recovery from the Covid-19 shock has been fuelled by a sharp upturn in exports. Investors may be tempted to write this off as a reflection of a revival of global growth, but what happens next is arguably much more interesting.

As the world's largest producer gets back to work, unused capacity will be absorbed and corporate confidence will rise, boosting demand for capital equipment. Rising capital expenditures should pull more workers into the labor force, laying the groundwork for a self-sustaining cycle.

In fact, Asia's productivity — or incremental GDP generated by new debt — is poised to turn in the best performance since the 2003-07 cycle. Post-2008, global trade volumes grew at an average of just 1.2 per cent compared with 6 per cent in the 2000s. Without the support of external demand, Asian policymakers had to rely on higher leverage to stimulate aggregate demand, which inevitably gave rise to macro-stability concerns.

Now, backed by strong global trade, Asia's growth will be far less dependent on stimulus and leverage, while inflationary pressures and other macro-stability concerns will be kept at bay.

Nonetheless, unique circumstances have kept this productivity dynamic from playing out fully. Typically, a sharp upswing in exports and capex translates into stronger income and consumption growth. This time round, the transmission mechanism has been stalled by successive Covid waves and restrictions damping consumption. But Asian economies outside of China are adapting to life with Covid and are following a path to put pandemic woes behind them.

In China, the more transmissible Omicron coronavirus variant could put the zero Covid policy to the test and still constrain the consumption recovery. If Covid variants remain mild, however, policymakers could move away from aggressive implementation of its zero Covid strategy after the Winter Olympics.

Turkey's Trade Deficit Shrinks 7.5% to \$46.13b in 2021

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's annual foreign trade deficit narrowed 7.5% year-over-year in 2021, official data showed on Monday, but the shortfall deteriorated in December on the back of a surge in costs of energy imports.

The shortfall was down to \$46.13 billion for the whole of 2021, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) said, dropping from around \$49.88 billion in 2020.

However, the data showed a deterioration in December, with the deficit surging 49% from a year earlier to \$6.79 billion, marking the highest monthly gap since May 2018, driven by a soaring energy import bill.

In 2021, exports jumped 32.8% to \$225.3 billion and imports grew 23.6% to \$271.4 billion, the data showed. In December, exports climbed 24.9% to \$22.28 billion and imports rose 29.9% from the previous year to just over \$29 billion, the institute said.

The energy import bill increased by 160.5% to \$7.17 billion in December from a year ago, the data showed. The costs soared due to an increase in global energy prices ahead of the winter season.

Turkey imported 2.98 million tons of crude oil last month, up from just over 2 million tons in December 2020. The country's crude oil imports showed a 45.9% increase compared to the same month a year ago.

Steel and iron imports rose 84.6% during the same period, highlighting the impact of a rally in commodity prices. Supply bottlenecks slowed growth in some of the key export sectors, such as cars where shipments abroad rose only 3.4% to \$2.59 billion.

Japan's Factory Output Undershoots Forecasts

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's factory production dipped more than expected in December, marking the first drop in three months, as a decline in machinery production outweighed a small rise in autos, casting a cloud over the strength of the economic recovery.

Retail sales posted their third straight month of year-on-year gains in December as low coronavirus cases encouraged shoppers. Record infections this month driven by the omicron variant, however, are expected to

have hit consumer sentiment.

Factory output lost 1.0% in December from the previous month, data showed on Monday, pulled down by a decline in output of general-purpose and production machinery, including chip-making equipment and engines used in manufacturing.

That meant that output, which fell faster than the 0.8% decline forecast in a Reuters poll of economists, dropped for the first time in three months.

"Output especially fell among capital goods makers, probably due to the strong impact from the chip shortages," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

"It suggests its impact is widening even though the focus has been on the car industry."

Automakers have been forced to curb production even as demand in key markets such as China rebounds, while they also have had to contend with soaring semiconductor demand at consumer electronic companies.

Toyota Motor, the world's biggest car seller, said this month it expected production to fall short of an annual target of 9 million vehicles for its current business year that runs until end-March due to the drag from the chip shortage.

Last week, motor maker Nidec Corp's third-quarter operating profit dipped as rising material prices and a shortage of semiconductors squeezed margins.

The data showed output growth of cars and other vehicles slowed to 1.5% from the previous month in December, much weaker than the 43.7% surge in November and a 15.9% jump in October.

Some companies in the car industry had weathered the competition for chip supply better than others, a government official said.

"Procurement is increasing, but the situation is different from firm to firm," the official said. Manufacturers surveyed by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry expected output to grow 5.2% in January and 2.2% in February.

The forecasts did not include production cuts made after the Jan. 10 survey deadline, the official said.

Permanent Inflation Will Hit Returns



LONDON (FT) - The world's largest sovereign wealth fund has warned that investors face years of low returns as the surge in inflation becomes a permanent feature of the global economy.

Nicolai Tangen, chief executive of Norway's \$1.3tn oil fund, told the Financial Times he was "the team leader for team permanent" in the fierce debate over whether the jump in rates was transitory or a lasting threat.

Consumer price inflation is running at its highest level for more than two decades in the world's big industrial economies, in particular in the U.S., where the annual pace of price growth hit 7 per cent in December, up from just 0.1 per cent in May 2020.

Tangen said the oil fund, which owns the equivalent of 1.5 per cent of every listed company in the world, thought inflation "could be stronger than what is generally expected" as the world experiences high demand and lingering disruption to supply chains.

"We are seeing it across the board, in more and more places. You saw Ikea increasing prices by 9 per cent, you have seen food prices going up, continued very high freight rates, trucking rates, metals, commodities, energy, gas... We're seeing signs on wages as well."

The former hedge fund manager said: "How will it pan out? It hits bonds and shares at the same time... for the next few years, it will hit both."

Economists are divided over whether the surge in inflation will be fleeting. Some have argued that the pandemic caused a temporary shock to supply chains that coincided with a sharp economic recovery, which will ease over time.

Market measures of inflation expectations suggested investors were not overly concerned about runaway inflation. One popular gauge, the 10-year break-even rate, showed inflation moderating from today's levels to roughly 2.5 per cent. The two-year measure indicated inflation would remain just above 3 per cent in the near term.

Iran Establishes 6 New Trade Centers Abroad

TEHRAN –Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin said his ministry has established six new trade centers in other countries to facilitate the trade in the designated markets, the ministry’s news portal reported on Tuesday. “We have set up six new business centers, as well as two export terminals, which will resolve many challenges, and we

had six commercial attaches in destination markets, to which four have been added,” Fatemi-Amin told the national TV. Mentioning his ministry’s programs for promoting exports and foreign trade, Fatemi-Amin said the exports of engineering and technical services have reached \$1.8 billion from the previous year’s \$700 million.



Global Carbon Markets Value Surge to Record \$851b in 2021

LONDON (Dispatches) - The value of traded global markets for carbon dioxide (CO2) permits grew by 164% to a record 760 billion euros (\$851 billion) last year, analysts at Refinitiv said on Monday.

Most of the increase came from the European Union’s Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), which launched in 2005 and is the world’s most established carbon market. It accounted for 90% of the global value at 683 billion euros, the annual Refinitiv Carbon Market Year in Review showed.

Prices in the EU ETS ended 2021 at more than 80 euros a ton, more than double the price at the end of 2020, on expectations that a more ambitious EU climate target of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030 would lead to a tighter market.

Added to that, soaring natural gas prices from the fourth quarter led to more coal power generation, spurring demand for permits and making them more expensive. The analysts expect gas prices to continue to impact EU carbon permit prices this year.

“More expensive emission permits hit coal power plants relatively harder than gas plants, but because of the soaring gas prices in the second half of 2021, coal generation was still more profitable,” lead carbon analyst at Refinitiv Ingvild Sørhus said.

Emissions trading schemes, or carbon markets, are market-based tools meant to limit greenhouse gas emissions. They put a cap on the amount countries or companies can emit, and if they exceed those limits, they can buy permits from others.

The two regional carbon markets in North America - the Western Climate Initiative and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - grew by 6% last year combined to around 49 billion euros, Refinitiv said.

Permits in those schemes rose in price by 70% over the course of last year and traded volumes also hit record highs because the caps on the schemes are much tighter through 2030 than to the end of 2020.

China’s national emissions trading scheme launched in mid-July last year. In contrast to other schemes, China’s emission cap is based on emissions intensity.

Around 179 million tons of Chinese emissions permits were traded during the first five and a half months of the scheme, a modest volume compared to the more liquid



carbon markets in Europe and North America, the report said.

Britain also launched a carbon market last year, following its departure from the EU.

The UK scheme differs from the EU ETS in that it has a price floor of around 25 euros/ton that is meant to help drive investment away from fossil fuels, although some companies say it puts them at a disadvantage in the global market.

Turnover amounted to around 23 billion euros last year.

The voluntary carbon market (VCM), where companies, organizations or individuals purchase carbon credits generated from projects to reduce emissions, had turnover of \$1 billion last November, putting it on course for an all-time high annual value, the report said.

“We expect interest in the VCM to keep growing, boosted by an increasing number of companies worldwide taking on carbon neutrality goals and other climate commitments that involve the use of carbon offsets,” it added.

Bangladesh Prepares to Counter Heat as Productivity Losses Hit GDP



DHAKA (Dispatches) - Climate change officials in Dhaka are studying ways to make the country’s urban areas more habitable in the face of increasing temperatures, as heat-related productivity losses are estimated to cost the Bangladesh economy over 5 percent of gross domestic product.

Cyclones, floods, and droughts are already regular issues for Bangladesh, but the losses it incurs from drops in productivity range around 32 billion hours of labor annually between 2001-2020, according to a Duke University study published in the Environmental Research Letters journal in mid-January.

The study showed that heat-related losses in Bangladesh amounted to about 5 percent of GDP in 2000, steadily increasing to 5.5 percent in 2020.

Mirza Shawkat Ali, climate change director at the Department of Environment, told Arab News earlier this week that officials are aware of the study and are working on a set of measures to mitigate the fallout of global warming.

“In recent years, the situation in Bangladesh has been deteriorating due to increases in heat,” he said, adding that as the mercury had risen to 41.2 C in April last year, the Department of Environment and the government-affiliated Institute of Water Modelling decided to assess the causes of urban heat island effects in the country’s largest city, Dhaka, a megapolis with a population of 22 million.

An urban heat island is an area that is significantly warmer than its surroundings due to human activity.

“The project is aimed to find ways the capital city can be made more habitable for dwellers,” Ali said.

No IAEA Access...

FROM PAGE 1

The Iranian diplomat emphasized that the IAEA’s Monday report was a routine update issued by the Agency, which provides the “latest technical information on Iran’s nuclear activities to its members.”

In its Monday statement, the UN nuclear agency said its inspectors had installed surveillance cameras in a new workshop in Isfahan on January 24 to ensure the machines intended for the production of centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows were under monitoring but the production of the parts there had not started then.

The UN nuclear agency noted that the production of centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows at TESA Karaj Complex has been ceased.

Turkish Aerospace, Pakistan to Jointly Develop Satellite Projects

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) signed a cooperation agreement with Pakistan’s Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) to develop space and satellite projects.

Turkish defense giant TAI and SUPARCO will carry out joint studies on electric communication satellites and other space projects within the scope of the agreement.

“We have signed a cooperation deal with the SUPARCO to develop satellite projects. We wish good luck for the two countries,” said TAI in a statement on Twitter.

In Dec. 2019, TAI opened its first office in Pakistan at the country’s National Science and Technology Park.

Speaking at the Satellite Technologies Week held in December, TAI CEO Temel Kotil said that they are looking for new customers for the SmallGEO satellite, a



telecommunications satellite platform that works with an electric propulsion system.

“It looks like we found a customer, but we don’t share it because it has not been finalized. If it does, we will build three more satellites. A fourth customer also showed up. When these are finalized, we will reach five satellites in total,” said Kotil, adding that if TAI made these satellites in three or four years, Turkey would be able to achieve a good figure in satellite exports.

Turkey inked its first satellite export deal with an Argentinian company in August at the International Defense Industries Fair (IDEF) held in Istanbul.

Recently, TAI also signed a memorandum of understanding on space and satellite systems with El Salvador during President Nayib Bukele’s Turkey visit last week.

U.S. Says...

FROM PAGE 1

The State Department official, speaking to reporters on the condition of anonymity, noted the talks are entering “the final stretch” this week.

“There are still significant gaps but we can see a path for a deal if decisions are made quickly by Iran,” the official stressed.

The official reiterated that the U.S. will only be able to continue talks for a few more weeks, otherwise the Iranian nuclear program will be too advanced.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh separately on Monday said the Vienna talks have made significant progress.

“There are still important issues left in the field of sanctions removal ... Progress [made] must be acceptable in the fields of verification and assurances,” he added.

The State Department official said the Biden administration is ready to hold direct talks with Iran, stressing such negotiations will increase the chances for a deal.

“It will be unfortunate if we lose the chance for a deal because there were no direct talks,” the official continued.

Iranian Tanker...

FROM PAGE 1

The Islamic Republic has stepped in to help its South American ally with engineers, refined products and spare parts for its oil industry.

Last year, Venezuela began receiving a shipment of catalysts from Iran to help it produce fuel. It came after Iran sent more than a dozen flights to Venezuela to help restart Cardon refinery and alleviate acute gasoline shortages.

In a sign of recovery for its industry, PDVSA doubled its oil exports in December from a year earlier.

According to oil industry sources cited by US daily the Miami Herald, the Venezuelan oil production reached an estimated average of 900,000 bpd in December and could reach 850,000 bpd in January.

Venezuelan oil experts confirmed the significant growth in the country’s oil production, underlining that

the Iranian naphtha is essential for Caracas to be able to sell crude from the Orinoco Oil Belt.

“Indeed, they have increased production and there are several elements that indicate this,” said Juan Fernandez, former executive director of planning for PDVSA. “A lot of it is because they have been receiving the Iranian thinner and that goes directly to production in the Orinoco heavy-oil belt.”

Fernandez said the Venezuelan industry estimates that each barrel of thinner allows Venezuela to produce three of Orinoco Belt oil.

“Oil production estimates for the belt currently add up to 450,000 to 500,000 barrels a day and that is due mainly to Iran’s help.”

Other sources said the sale of 600,000 bpd of oil could be generating about \$1.1 billion a month for Venezuela.

Zionists, Symbol...

FROM PAGE 1

The last military attack in May 2021 alone resulted in the destruction of hundreds of economic facilities, with total losses of about \$400 million, the report added.

The health sector is one of the most affected by the blockade since Israel prevents or limits the entry of medicines and medical supplies into Gaza, causing health care services to decline by 66%, according to the report.

Euro-Med further called on Israel to end its blockade on Gaza, allow Palestinians to exercise all their rights and stop collectively punishing civilians.

The international community should compel Israel, as an occupying power, to respect the rights of all Gazans in accordance with the relevant international norms and set aside the economic, health, food, infrastructure, and other sectors, the group said.

It also urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to open investigations against Israeli leaders and soldiers involved in the collective punishment and military attacks against Gaza to be held accountable in accordance with international justice standards.

The Gaza Strip, home to some two million people, has been under a blockade imposed by Israel for over 14 years. The tight blockade has caused a decline in the standards of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

What this group has mentioned in its report is a small portion of many crimes of the Zionists and blockade is somewhat one of their civilized methods of savagery.

The Zionists usually prefer to show their power through their jet fighters, assassination and bombing the residential areas and shedding the blood of the innocent people mainly the Palestinians to frighten Resistant Front countries in order not to think of any attack at the Israel forces.

Palestinian prisoners are the other victims of the Zionist crimes as they suffering more because of the indifference of the observing bodies while everyday some of them lose their lives in the Zionists’ prison cells.

This week prisoners’ rights activists and families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons held a sit-in inside the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Gaza.

They protested Israel’s inhumane treatment of thousands of Palestinian political prisoners.

Palestinian prisoners see no end in sight to their suffering as hundreds of them are being held without charge or trial under the so-called administrative detention where incarceration periods can be renewed indefinitely.

In 2021, Israeli courts issued 1595 administrative detention orders against Palestinian prisoners.

Many Palestinian prisoners suffer from chronic illnesses and are denied proper medical treatment by Israel’s Prison Service who runs Israeli prisons.

Unfortunately only few countries usually raise their voices against these atrocities of the Zionist regime and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon and Syria are the leading countries standing firmly against the Zionist crimes.

It seems it is time for the world to rise and take a serious action against the Zionists’ crimes and if they are not willing to do so, they are still better to keep quiet when other countries try to punish this inhuman regime and let them do their jobs.

When any retaliatory action is taken against the Zionist regime, suddenly some countries wake up and defend the Zionists but when some crime is committed against Yemenis, Palestinians or other weak countries, there is no news of these countries which seem they have gone on holiday.

So the Palestinians, Yemenis, Lebanese or other nations who are at odds with the Zionists’ crimes should themselves stand and fight against this inhumanity or they have to starve or die under the Zionists’ bloodshed.

Iran Begins Festivities...

FROM PAGE 1

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, visited the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini on Monday.

Ayatollah Khamenei also visited Behesht Zahra cemetery where many Iranians martyred in the course of the revolution and during the 1980-1988 war of the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein on Iran are lying in eternal rest.

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

Less than two months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iranians took part in a referendum, where more than 98 percent of eligible voters voted ‘yes’ to the Islamic Republic as a new political system.



Eriksen Signs For Brentford

LONDON (Dispatches) - Christian Eriksen has completed a remarkable return to the Premier League, signing for Brentford just seven months after suffering a cardiac arrest while playing for Denmark at last year's European Championship. The 29-year-old playmaker, who has been fitted with a pacemaker, has signed a contract with Thomas Frank's side until the end of the season. The ex-Tottenham player left Inter Milan last month by mutual consent. The pacemaker meant he was not allowed to play in Italian football, but other leagues do not have the same rules.

Switchboard:

(+98) (21) 44253448

Public Relations Tel:

(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

Public Relations Fax:

(+98)(21) 44253395

Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax: (+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234

Website:

http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:

info@irannewsdaily.com

ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St. Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Man Utd Sideline Greenwood After Assault Accusation

LONDON (Dispatches) - Mason Greenwood will not play or train with Manchester United "until further notice", the English Premier League giants said. United issued a statement after police confirmed they were making enquiries following an accusation that the 20-year-old England forward had been violent towards a woman. Earlier yesterday, video, photos and an audio recording were posted on the woman's Instagram account, together with accusations of violent assault, before being deleted.

Bengals Reach First Super Bowl Since 1980

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Evan McPherson kicked the winning field goal in overtime as the Cincinnati Bengals came from behind to upset the Kansas City Chiefs 27-24 and reach their first Super Bowl since 1989.

The upstart Bengals, who won only twice just two seasons ago, will play for the NFL crown on February 13 at Los Angeles against Los Angeles Rams.

"We're not done yet," warned Bengals coach Zac Taylor.

"We've got a special team. Everyone stepped up, man. We knew it would come down to one team making the plays to win, and our guys did that."

It was a stunning AFC Championship defeat for the host Chiefs, who were seeking a third consecutive Super Bowl trip after winning in 2020 and losing to Tampa Bay last year.

Cincinnati will try to win the Super Bowl for the first time since the club began play in 1968, having lost to San Francisco in 1982 and 1989 in its only prior appearances in the NFL spectacle.

Burrow, a 25-year-old quarterback who led the NFL in completion percentage in only his second NFL campaign, completed 23-of-38 passes for 250 yards and two touchdowns.

Kansas City star Patrick Mahomes threw for 275 yards and three touchdowns but surrendered his first two interceptions in four AFC finals.

Rallying from an 18-point deficit to match the greatest comeback in conference championship history, the Bengals escaped a 21-3 first-half hole to advance.

Sparked by Burrow, the Bengals snapped an eight-game playoff losing streak dating to 1991 with three wins this month.

Rookie McPherson kicked a 52-yard field goal to give the Bengals their first lead at 24-21 with just over six minutes to play.

The Chiefs marched to the Cincinnati 4-yard line in the final seconds but Mahomes was sacked and nearly lost the ball, but Harrison Butker's 44-yard field goal on the final play of regulation forced overtime.

The Chiefs, coming off a walk-off overtime victory against Buffalo a week earlier, won the coin toss and received the ball, trying to become the first team to win back-to-back NFL over-time playoff games.



But Vonn Bell intercepted a Mahomes pass and the Bengals took over, Burrow guiding them down the field to set up McPherson's decisive field goal from 31 yards.

The Chiefs went 11-1 in their prior 12 games but the loss was at Cincinnati by 34-31 on January 2, when Burrow threw for 446 yards and four touchdowns as the Bengals rallied from 11 points down at half-time — as they did again.

McPherson's 31-yard field goal with 2:58 remaining in the third quarter had lifted the Bengals within 21-13.

Meanwhile later the Los Angeles Rams booked a second Super Bowl appearance in three years after staging a fourth rally to outmuscle the San Francisco 49ers 20-17.

Quarterback Matthew Stafford threw for two touchdowns while Matt Gay drilled a 30-yard field goal with 1:46 remaining to ensure the Rams will advance to the February 13 Super Bowl at their own SoFi Stadium.

The Rams will play Cincinnati in next month's NFL championship showcase after the Bengals upset the Kansas City Chiefs for the AFC title earlier Sunday.

The nail biting NFC Championship showdown between the two Californian rivals effectively ended when 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo gave up an interception on San Francisco's final possession. It was the final act of a tense duel at SoFi Stadium which had seen San Francisco's dogged defence lay the foundation for a 17-7 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

But Stafford found star receiver Cooper Kupp for his second touchdown of the game to make it 17-14 and then Gay nailed two field goals to give the Rams the lead.



Man City Sign Argentina Forward Alvarez

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City today announced the signing of Argentina forward Julian Alvarez from River Plate on a five-and-a-half-year deal for a reported fee of £14 million (RM79 million).

The 22-year-old, who has won five senior international caps with Argentina, will remain with River on loan at least until July 2022.

Director of football Txiki Begiristain said Premier League leaders City had signed a player with significant potential.

"Julian is a player we have monitored for some time," he said. "He is capable of operating in a number of attacking roles, and we firmly believe he's one of the best young attacking players in South America."

"I am so happy we have managed to bring him to Manchester City. I really believe we can provide him with the right conditions to fulfil his potential and become a top player."

Alvarez made his senior international debut in a World Cup qualifier against Chile in June last year and was part of the squad that won the Copa America in July.

City have been short of a specialist striker after the departure of their all-time leading goalscorer Sergio Agüero last year.

They subsequently missed out on the capture of Harry Kane from Tottenham.

Barty Extends Lead in Rankings

PARIS (Dispatches) - Ashleigh Barty's achievement in becoming the first Australian woman in 44 years to win the Australian Open title has seen her consolidate her place atop the WTA rankings.

The 25-year-old has increased her lead over Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus -- who exited in the fourth round of the Australian Open -- to over 2,600 points.

Danielle Collins's consolation for losing to Barty in Saturday's final is the highest ever ranking for the 28-year-old American as she soars 20 places to 10th.

Poland's Iga Swiatek -- who Collins beat in the Australian Open semi-finals -- has also risen to her highest ever ranking, moving up five spots to fourth.

The Czech Republic's French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková moves up one place to third.

There are differing fortunes for two second round losers in Melbourne.

Spain's Garbine Muguruza drops four places to seventh whereas Britain's US Open champion Emma Raducanu rises five to her best ever ranking of 13th.

F1 to Make COVID Vaccine Mandatory for 2022 Season

LONDON (Dispatches) - Formula One will make it mandatory for all personnel working in its paddock to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, without exemption, starting this season, a spokesperson for the sport's commercial arm said.

The mandate, which was first reported by the Times newspaper and the BBC, will apply to anyone entering the paddock -- an exclusive area in which teams and drivers set up shop for a race weekend.

"F1 will require all travelling personnel to be fully vaccinated and will not request exemptions," the spokesperson said.

This will include all competitors, hospitality staff, members of the media, the governing FIA, Liberty Media-owned commercial rights holders FOM and even celebrity guests.

The mandate was approved at a December meeting of the FIA's World Motor Sport Council.

Djokovic Remains Number One



PARIS (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal's record-breaking 21st Grand Slam singles title in winning an epic Australian Open final frustrated Novak Djokovic's hopes of being the first to do so, but the Serb remains world number one in the rankings released Monday.

The 34-year-old was unable to play in the first Grand Slam of the year after being deported from Australia over Covid-19 vaccination issues but he extended his

record-breaking run as number one to 358 weeks.

Nadal's beaten opponent in the Melbourne final, Daniil Medvedev, stays second but the Russian moves to within 1,000 points of Djokovic.

Djokovic will keep the points he earned from winning his ninth Australian Open title last year till February 21 as last year's tournament was played at the later dates of February 8-21.

Nadal remains fifth in the rankings despite his record-breaking title and the only movement in the top 10 sees Italy's Matteo Berrettini -- who lost to the Spaniard in the semi-finals in Australia -- rise one place to sixth.

Spain's Pablo Carreno and Taylor Fritz of the United States enter the top 20 in 17th and 20th respectively.

Everton Appoint Lampard to Save Premier League Status

LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Everton on Monday appointed Frank Lampard as their new manager on a two-and-a-half year deal with the task of keeping the Toffees in the Premier League.

Lampard has been out of the game since being sacked as Chelsea boss a little over a year ago.

The former England international will take charge for the first time on Saturday when Everton host Brentford in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

"It is a huge honor for me to represent and manage a club the size and tradition of Everton Football Club. I'm very hungry to get started," said Lampard.

"I think Everton is a unique club in that you can really understand what the fans want to see. The first thing they want is fight and desire and that must always be our baseline."

"My first message to the players will be that we have to do this together. We'll try to do our job and I know the fans will be there backing us."

Lampard takes charge with Everton just four points above the relegation zone.

Fans protested over the past week outside Goodison Park at the running of the club from British-Iranian businessman Farhad Moshiri. Moshiri has spent over half a billion pounds on transfers since his takeover in 2016, but much of that money has been wasted.

Lampard becomes the club's seventh permanent manager in less than six years.

His former England teammate Wayne Rooney turned down the chance to have an interview for the job, while Portuguese coach Vitor Pereira was reportedly the favourite until a fan revolt against his appointment.



Kyrgios Lashes Out at Media

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Nick Kyrgios has lashed out at the media and doubles rival Max Purcell as he denied claims he had disrespected world number one Ash Barty following her Australian Open win.

Kyrgios and fellow Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis won the men's doubles title on a packed Rod Laver Arena on Saturday after Barty's victory over Danielle Collins had given the country its first singles champion in 44 years.

As had been the case throughout the tournament, the "Special Ks" were backed by a raucous crowd as they defeated compatriots Max Purcell and Matt Ebden to win their first Grand Slam title.

Kyrgios said after the final that the duo had "created probably the best atmosphere this tournament has ever seen", which was interpreted by some media as a slight on Barty.

In an Instagram post which opened with an expletive aimed at the media, Kyrgios denied the charge. "Honestly, I said nothing disrespectful to Ash Barty," he wrote.

"I said that the crowd this year was amazing and I feel as if (Kokkinakis) and I were a big part of that. Ash's father came to me and even said that."

"All I said was that when people watch me around the world the stadiums are full."

Purcell, meanwhile, had suggested after the doubles final that the behavior of the crowd had been bad for the game.

"As for Max Purcell you donut," Kyrgios wrote. "Regarding your comments after the match you clearly have no idea about entertainment and sport."

