

Health Ministry Announced on Wednesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to **140,711** With **33** More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

# IRAN NEWS

Gov't Spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi Says the Government Has Agreed to Offer Free Visas To the 2022 Qatar World Cup Spectators to Visit Iran

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7473 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2022 - FARVARDIN 25, 1401

## 2 DOMESTIC

President Calls for Identifying Behind the Scenes of Recent Inflation  
> SEE PAGE 2



## 3 DOMESTIC

Tehran Facing Water Rationing  
> SEE PAGE 3



## Iranian Export to Iraq Increased 21% in Past Year

ERBIL (Dispatches) - Iraq was the largest importer of Iranian products since March 2021, importing \$8.9 billion worth of goods, marking a 21 percent increase in Iranian exports to Iraq in comparison to last year, Iran's director general of customs said on Tuesday.

Alireza Moqaddasi told the country's state media that during the last Persian year, from March 2021 until March 2022, "100 million and 131 thousand tons of goods worth 51 billion and 875 million dollars in 1400 [last Persian year] were exchanged between Iran and 15 neighboring countries, of which 75 million and 445 thousand tons worth 26 billion and 29 million dollars [were] Iran's share of exports to these countries."

See Page 7

## Negotiators to Resist Excessive Demands in Vienna Talks



### IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iranian negotiators in the Austrian capital Vienna will not yield to excessive demands.

"In the negotiations, things are going well, and the negotiating team is keeping the president and the Supreme National Security Council and others informed,

they are making decisions and moving forward. Our negotiating team has so far resisted the excessive demands of the other side, and God willing, it will continue to do so," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with high ranking officials in Tehran on Tuesday.

The leader noted that the United States was the party that broke its promises under the 2015 nuclear deal and has now reached a dead end.

The Leader called on Iranian officials not to tie planning for the country to the outcome of the talks in Vienna.

Stating that the nuclear issue is now being highly considered in diplomacy, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said that the country's diplomacy is on the right track.

He also referred to the Saudi-led war in Yemen asking the Saudis why they are refusing to end a war they know they cannot win.

"Given the efforts of the Yemeni people, with the courage that their leaders show, with the practical initiatives that they have in different sectors, there is no chance of victory. So why does a war in which there is no chance of victory continue? Find yourself a way out of this war," Ayatollah Khamenei stated, addressing Saudi officials.

On the Palestinian issue, the leader said despite the policies of the Americans and the policies of the American followers who wanted the issue of Palestine to be forgotten, the Palestinian issue is alive.

"Today, the Palestinian youth in the 1948 lands, not in distant lands, in the very center of occupied Palestine have awakened, are moving, making efforts, working, and this will continue. Undoubtedly, it will continue, and by God's grace, according to God's promise, victory will be with the Palestinian people," Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

The Leader stated that all the problems of the country can definitely be solved. In explaining various aspects of the slogan of the year, he said, "The system of power in the Islamic Republic and its various achievements in different areas has turned Iran into an attractive role model for nations. Making the people lose hope and making them feel we have come to a dead-end situation is an act of oppression against the people and the Revolution."

Referring to the good direction pursued by the diplomacy of the country, he said, "The officials should not wait at all for the nuclear issue to be resolved. Based on the realities of the country, they should plan and take action to solve the problems in the country." Imam Khamenei described the officials in charge of the negotiations as being revolutionary, pious, diligent individuals. He explained, "The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the other officials involved in the negotiations deliver detailed reports to centers within the country. It is alright to criticize and evaluate their performance provided that such opinions are devoid of distrust and pessimism. As I have frequently said before, such opinions should not undermine the individuals involved or cause the people to lose hope."

Expressing his satisfaction with the resistance of the negotiating team to the other sides' aggression and avarice, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated, "The other side withdrew from the JCPOA and broke its commitments. Now they feel helpless and have reached a dead end. But the Islamic Republic will pass through this stage as it has passed through many stages before this by relying on its people."

See Page 7

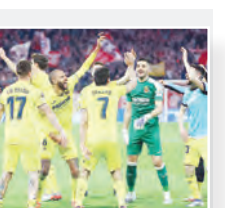
## 4 INTERNATIONAL

Russia Closes in On Mariupol As Putin Strikes Defiant Tone  
> SEE PAGE 4



## 8 SPORT

Villarreal Shock Bayern; Real Survive Chelsea Comeback  
> SEE PAGE 8



## Iran Among Top Countries With Lowest Foreign Debt

### IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has been ranked the world's seventh country in terms of the lowest foreign debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio, IRNA reported on Wednesday, citing established international sources.

As reported, Brunei, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Turkmenistan, New Caledonia, Nigeria, Iran, Algeria, Greenland, and the Virgin Islands are the world's top 10 countries with the lowest foreign debt to GDP ratio, respectively.

According to the latest statistics released by international entities, Iran's foreign debt currently stands at about \$7.12 billion, which means the per capita share of each Iranian is \$90.

The ratio of Iran's foreign debt to its GDP is only two percent.

The figure is 32 percent for Russia, 33 percent for South Korea, 59 percent for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 63 percent for Turkey, 68 percent for Malaysia, 83 percent for Qatar, and 96 percent for Japan.

See Page 7

## Annual Inflation at 40.2% in Late March

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has reported an annual inflation rate of 40.2% for the calendar year to March 20, a decline of 3.8% against the year to March 2021.

SCI figures published on Tuesday showed that the consumer prices index (CPI) measured on a point-to-point scale had dropped from 49.5% in March last year to 34.7% in the month to late March 2022.

The figures showed that food inflation in Iran soared 12.5% over the past calendar year to reach 51.5%, adding that non-food CPI also increased by 0.6% to 34.6%.

Lowest monthly CPI in Iran were recorded in the month to late May 2021 at 0.7% while Iranian households experienced the largest increases in consumer prices over the month to late September at 3.9%, showed the data.

See Page 7

## Iran Consulates in Afghanistan Are Open

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said that Iran's consulates in Afghanistan are open and continue their activities.

Regarding the activities of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul and its consulates in other cities of Afghanistan, Khatibzadeh said that all consulates of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Afghanistan are open and continue their activities.

He emphasized that Afghanistan's ruling administration is expected to ensure and protect the full security of diplomats and diplomatic missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Afghanistan.

Iranian diplomatic missions in Afghanistan's capital Kabul and the third-largest city, Herat were targeted on Monday.

Less than 15 Afghan citizens gathered outside the Iranian embassy in Kabul while a larger number also gathered outside the Iranian consulate in Herat, chanting slogans and throwing stones at the building.

See Page 7

انتخاب برترین قاری، حافظ، مرتل مردمی

۱۴۰۰

هَذَا بَيَانٌ لِلنَّاسِ (ششمین فجر تلاوت)

زمان برگزاری ۲۶ فروردین ۱۴۰۱

محل برگزاری تالار وحدت

Fajr Quranic Festival 2022

www.quranfajr.com

Instagram: @ftfQuran

ftfQuran



# Iraqi FM Reportedly Due in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) – News sources reported that Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein was scheduled to visit Tehran late Wednesday.

Iraq's national security adviser Qasim al-Araji and an Iraqi Intelligence Service official will accompany Fuad Hussein during his upcoming visit to Iran, according to Middle East Eye.

The Iranian and Iraqi sides will discuss bilateral ties and several other issues during Hussein's visit to Tehran.

## President Calls for Identifying Behind the Scenes of Recent Inflation

*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

**TEHRAN - Expressing dissatisfaction with the rise in prices for basic goods, President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi instructed regulators to look into the recent rise in prices and identify the reasons, and urged government economic ministers to put measures to regulate the market and controlling prices on the agenda.**

Speaking on Wednesday at the meeting of the cabinet, President Raisi stressed the need to boost supervision to prevent fluctuations in commodity prices in the market, and said, "We should not allow some people to abuse and disappoint people with high prices".

The President called the irregular prices unjustifiable and stressed that any change in the price of goods requires consideration of all aspects and proper information to the people, and that it is unacceptable for a private sector company or factory to suddenly increase the price of its goods.

In another part of his speech, referring to the statements made by the Supreme Leader during a meeting with government officials yesterday, Raisi said that the government should heed his instructions, and stressed, "All executive officials should try to give hope to the people through timely and efficient measures".

He emphasized, "Anything that causes despair and hopelessness in the society should not be done and this issue should be the most important concern of my colleagues in the government".



The President also referred to the need to prevent the import of similar domestic goods into the country, saying, "Improper imports will certainly harm production and weaken the national economy".

He further referred to the complaints of many knowledge-based companies about the import of goods that can be produced in the country, and strongly instructed government agencies not to import goods that have similar domestic ones under any circumstances.

The President called even an hour of delay in implementing this order unacceptable and called on the executive apparatus to follow the process of preventing the import of unnecessary and similar domestic goods.

At the end of the meeting, Raisi referred to the need to pay special attention to the issue of job creation and eliminating unemployment, and said, "Signing a memorandum between agencies is not enough to create employment, but this is the beginning of an executive movement for job creation that must be completed with effective measures".

## Iranian Delegation Meets Iraq's KRG Leaders

BAGHDAD (IRNA) - An Iranian delegation led by former ambassador to Iraq Hassan Danaeifar has met with top officials from the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government.

Iran's consulate in Erbil said on Tuesday that the Iranian delegation arrived in the city two days ago and they have so far had meetings with President of Kurdistan Democratic Party Masoud Barzani, Prime Minister of Kurdistan Region of Iraq Masrour Barzani, and President of Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani.

During the meetings, both sides called for further expansion of bilateral relations in all areas.

## Iran Seriously Determined To Develop Space Industry

TEHRAN (MNA) - A member of Iranian Parliament's Energy Commission said that 13th government under President Ebrahim Raisi is seriously determined to develop space industry and is pursuing the development of space technology diligently.

Fereydoun Abbasi Davani pointed to the process of development of space technology in the country and added that space technology in the country has a long history that dates back to the eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988).

He then referred to the aboriginal knowledge and technical know-how of launching a homegrown satellite to the space and stated that the domestically-manufactured Noor-2 satellite of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) was successfully launched last year and was placed into the orbit.

Abbasi pointed to the performance of the 13th government in the development of space technology in the country and added, "Although not much time has passed since the start of activity of the 13th government, President Raisi has a special attention on the issue and is seriously pursuing the development of the country's space technology."

## Tehran, Copenhagen Keen to Boost Scientific Ties



*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

TEHRAN - Deputy Minister Dr. Alireza Shahidi from the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) met with Chief Advisor Bjorn Jensen from the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) to promote a strengthened scientific collaboration between the two organizations.

"I am happy that this cooperation, in many ways focus on areas that emphasis on the sustainability agenda, particularly number 6 on clean water and number 13 on climate action," Danish Ambassador to Tehran Jesper Vahr said..

The purpose of the cooperation is to exchange scientific and technical capabilities in the field of climate change, severe droughts, extreme weather, and water resources to benefit both sides - thereby implementing sustainable solutions in the field of geology.

## Incidents in Herat, Kabul Aiming to Harm Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on Tuesday that the organized attempts taken in Herat, Kabul aimed to harm Iran-Afghanistan relations.

In reaction to the situation on Iran's borders and the recent incidents in Afghanistan, Vahidi said that the movements aim to harm Iran-Afghanistan ties, and this is the enemy's plot.

Referring to the deep-rooted history and good relations between the two nations, he highlighted that the Iranians have always been good hosts for Afghan refugees, and the attempts in Herat and Kabul are not approved and have certainly been directed to try to create convulsions, adding that Afghan officials should take care of these issues.

Iranian diplomatic missions in Afghanistan's capital Kabul and the third-largest city, Herat were targeted on Monday.

Less than 15 Afghan citizens gathered outside the Iranian embassy in Kabul while a larger number also gathered outside the Iranian consulate in Herat, chanting slogans and throwing stones at the building.

They tried to enter the consulate building but failed after the Herat governor intervened. They were later dispersed as Taliban forces and the consulate guards opened fire in the air.

Some sources in Herat believe that the two groups namely the Afghan Freedom and Justice Movement, as well as Women Justice-seekers, who used to be financed by the West prior to the Taliban rule, were behind the incident. The sources say that these groups have called for protests in the coming days.

## Afghans Gather at Iranian Embassy to Reject Divisive Actions

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Demonstrators in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, have roundly denounced actions aimed at driving a wedge between the Iranian and Afghan people, calling for unity between the two nations in the face of conspiracies to poison their friendly relationship.

Hundreds of Afghans gathered on Wednesday in front of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul, where they shouted "no to seditionists" and "unity! unity!" while hailing the brotherly relationship between the Iranians and Afghans.

A statement was also read out in condemnation of the recent attacks on Iran's Embassy in Kabul and the country's consulate in the western Afghan city of Herat.

No one was hurt during the attacks, which came amid resurfaced allegations of systemic mistreatment of Afghan refugees in Iran.

Reacting to the incidents, Tehran called on Tuesday for legal action against the attackers, stating that Afghanistan's acting Taliban government is responsible for protecting foreign diplomatic missions.

A day earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh had warned against plots by "certain ill-wishers of Iran and Afghanistan" to sow discord between the two countries.

The Taliban, for their part, explained that the protests were "arbitrary" and "not authorized," adding that the Afghan security forces rushed to the Iranian consulate in Herat and took full control of the situation immediately.

According to Iran's Ambassador to Kabul, the videos of the mistreatment of Afghan refugees in Iran were made by an anti-Iranian terrorist group.

## Iran's Position Has Strengthened in Vienna Talks

TEHRAN (IFP) - A member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission says there is no draft about the talks with the +P body and Iran's position has further strengthened in the nuclear talks.

Jalil Rahimi said the members of the commission met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Iran's chief negotiator in Vienna Ali Bagheri on Tuesday evening.

In the meeting, he said, Amir Abdollahian and Bagheri outlined the issues on which Iran and the +P have found common ground and also the disputed issues.

According to the MP, Amir Abdollahian and Bagheri then answered questions asked by the lawmakers. He cited the foreign minister and the lead negotiator as saying that the Iranian side has done their utmost to resolve the case and that Iran is participating in the negotiations with goodwill.

Rahimi said the Western parties to the Vienna talks are declining to cooperate despite their previous claims that they are behaving in good faith.

Rahimi also said Iran has a good bargaining chip at the negotiating table and this caused the US to fail to justify their pullout from the deal.

The Iranian lawmaker further underlined that during the Vienna talks, Iran's red lines have not been crossed.

Rahimi added that one major goal of Iran's participation in the negotiations in Vienna is to improve the economic situation for the people of Iran and if that does not happen, sitting at the negotiating table is not useful.

## Russia to Receive More Cabbage, Carrots and Garlic From Iran

*IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK*

TEHRAN - Last week, a meeting was held in Moscow between the head of the Rosselkhozadzor, Sergey Dankvert, and the Deputy Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Alireza Peman Pak. The parties confirmed their intention to progressively develop bilateral trade relations, to promote a constructive dialogue between parties from both nations.

Rosselkhozadzor spokespeople have said they see prospects in increasing supplies from Iran of tomatoes, peppers, white, Beijing and cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, garlic, celery and various types of salads, which can find their niche in the domestic market during the off-season. Iranian producers also export fruits, herbs and nuts to Russia.

The expansion of trade opportunities between countries should be facilitated by the convergence of systems of plant quarantine and protection and veterinary surveillance. The parties agreed to comprehensively study, including during mutual visits, the mechanisms used and the regulatory documents regulating them.

## Baku Ready to Launch Corridor to Nakhjavan Via Iran

TEHRAN (IFP) - Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has said arrangements are afoot to start the construction of a road linking his country to Nakhjavan through Iran.

Nakhjavan is an Azeri territory locked inside Armenia. This has disconnected the region from Azerbaijan.

Aliyev says the corridor passing through Iran will link Azerbaijan to world markets.

The Azerbaijani president referred to Armenia's failure to fulfill its commitments to let Nakhjavan get connected to Azerbaijan's main territory, expressing hope that the project of building the corridor will be launched soon.

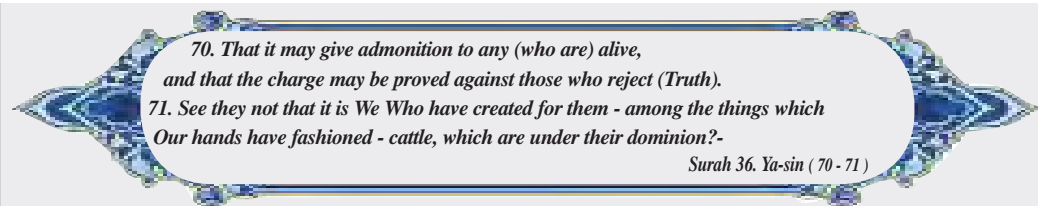
He thanked Iran for its help in this regard.





## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:04
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:55
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:03
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:31



# Tehran Facing Water Rationing

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN – Secretary General of Iran Water Industry Federation believes 300 cities and towns of the country are facing with the water tension and with the current condition, Tehran may face water rationing unless the city starts using the underground waters and to this end it should accept the subsidence.**

Speaking to ILNA, Alireza Shariat said that the future war will be over water and Iran has to get water in exchange with oil and unfortunately it is taking place very sooner than what has been expected.

He went on to say that soon Turkish President is to visit Tehran and during the visit Iran should talk with Turkey and even with neighboring countries like Iraq for the environment water rights in order to avoid future disputes and conflicts.

He said that new dams in Turkey collects water equal to all of Iran's dams and this point should be discussed during Turkish President's visit to Tehran.

Shariat also blamed the climate change as one of the reasons behind recent problems in the world and in Iran, and recent dust storm problem is because of the climate change and mismanagement. He also blamed sanctions as one of the reasons behind recent dust storm problem.

He admitted that this is the beginning and as time passes by, the condition is getting worse because when the precipitation declines, the region is prone to



have more dust and sand storms and Turkey has realized it sooner and the country has taken actions regarding their national interests but Iran and Iraq have not pursued any diplomacy and we have not paid to this issue as much as we have paid to the nuclear talks.

Shariat called for planting indigenous plants in the some areas to prevent the spread of the storm to some extent.

He said that Iraq's ignorance to the environmental issues like plantation and water issues has created the difficult condition in the region and especially for Iran. He reiterated the country needs to take serious action in this regard or else the dusts will not end and it will hurt the country and the people.

Shariat went on to say that the future of the country depends on water and no development is possible without water resources and currently 300 cities and towns are facing water tension and if this condition goes on, Tehran will face water rationing unless the underground water is used despite subsidence.

## Oil Ministry, Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology Sign MoU



TEHRAN (MNA) - Oil Ministry has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology for cooperation in preparing a comprehensive program for the knowledge-based development of the country's oil, gas, refining and petrochemical industries.

The MOU was signed by Oil Minister Javad Oji and Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari at the place of the ministry on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

The MOU is aimed at developing the oil industry's innovation and technology bases and expanding the capacity of knowledge-based companies and start-ups active in the oil, gas, refining and petrochemical industries.

Under the framework of the MOU, a policy council will be formed with the aim of defining macro policies for the knowledge-based development of mentioned industries.

As reported, the vice president for science and technology, the deputy oil minister for engineering, research, and technology, the deputy oil minister for planning, the secretary of the water and energy technologies development headquarters, and the heads of the oil ministry's four main affiliated companies will be members of the mentioned council.

In order to accelerate the implementation of the MOU, seven specialized working groups are also going to be formed to tackle issues in specific areas including the upstream sector refining and petro-refining, petrochemicals, downstream sector, domestic manufacturing of oil industry equipment, energy consumption optimization, and ecosystem development.

The mentioned working groups will be chaired by the heads of the Oil Ministry's major subsidiaries as well as senior managers from the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology.

## Gov't to Launch New Power Plants to Catch Up With Demand

TEHRAN (PresSTV) - Energy Ministry plans to launch several new power plants within the next two months to catch up with an increasing demand for electricity that could create a shortage of 10 gigawatts (GW) over the peak summer days.

A senior official from Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) said on Tuesday that a new 307-megawatt power plant is planned to come on line in late May in the southern Iranian province of Khuzestan.

Head of development projects at TPPH Hamid Reza Azimi said that the plant in the city of Andimeshk will be a third electricity station in Iran that will use F-class gas turbines in a combined-cycle system in which the exhaust heat from the turbines is used to raise steam.

The launch of the new power plant is one of several major projects planned by the Iranian Energy Ministry to minimize power cuts in Iran over the warm summer days.

Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC) said on Tuesday that the difference between maximum demand for electricity and actual production could amount to 10 GW in July, down from 15 GW recorded over the past summer.

IGMC's CEO Mostafa Rajabi said that the launch of new power plants and better management on the demand side could help Iran see out the upcoming summer with lowest cases of power cuts.

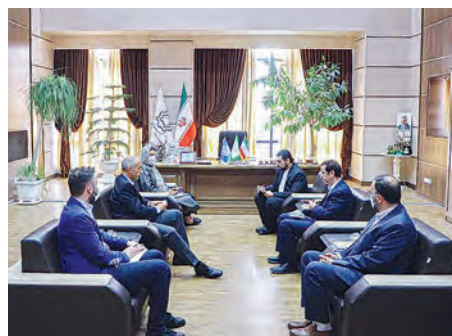
Rajabi said that Iran may also decide to resume electricity imports from Azerbaijan to respond to rising demand in north and northwestern Iran over the coming months.

## Qom Municipality, UNDP Discuss Cooperation

QOM (IP) - The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) agent in Iran met with Qom Mayor and negotiated common fields of cooperation.

During a meeting with the Mayor of Qom, Morteza Saghaeenejad, UNDP agent in Iran Kolodia Provides considered supporting research programs of the municipality one of the most important goals of the United Nation.

Provides said: "UNDP is able to support and take part in areas related to research, environment and population."



The Mayor of Qom for his part highlighted the municipality's readiness to cooperate with the UN in various fields of environment, waste, transportation, and firefighting.

UNDP in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working with different organizations in Iran, including municipalities, for sustainable development in various areas such as urban issues.

Qom municipality is also cooperating with UNDP in order to use technical and educational help.

## Khuzestan Fishery Resumes Export to Iraq

KHUZESTAN (IP) - Director-general of fisheries of Iran's Khuzestan Province announced that the Shalamcheh border crossing reopened and exporting farmed fish to Iraq resumed.

Fatollah Abu-Ali stated that Shalamcheh international border crossing is one of the central business routes for exporting fish to Iraq.

"Considering the border's short distance to Iraq's Basra market place and because of the high capacity of fish production in Khuzestan Province, we can witness the uptrend in fish exports, as well as increase in quality and stability in market price," he noted.

The director-general of Khuzestan's fisheries pointed out that Khuzestan farmed fish exports through Shalamcheh and Chazzabeh borders were halted for more than two years due to the COVID outbreak; the farmed fish was exported to Iraq through Parvizkhan and Khosravi borders in Kermanshah Province and through also through the commercial border of Bashmaq in Kordestan Province.

"Based on consultations held, farmed fish exports from Khuzestan to Iraq through Shalamcheh border is resumed and the fisheries industry continues to develop," he said.

Head of Transit and Transportation Department of the Shalamcheh Border Crossing in the Arvand Free Zone, Hadi Edrispour, also announced that in the last Iranian year, 568,450,667 dollars of non-oil goods weighing 2,263,710 tons had been exported to Iraq through Shalamcheh international border.

The Shalamcheh international border is located 15 Km from west of Iran's Khorramshahr and 20 Km from Iraq's Basra.

## CBI Allocates \$4b for Imports of Basic Goods

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Central Bank of Iran (CBI) allocated \$4 billion for the import of basic commodities on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Of the mentioned figure, 1\$ billion had been allocated for the import of medicine on Tuesday, and the rest \$3 billion was allocated on Wednesday, the bank announced.

Iran imported 30.9 million tons of basic goods in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) told ISNA.

Foroud Asgari, the deputy head of IRICA for customs affairs, said that the imported goods were in 25 commodity groups.

Putting the value of the imported basic commodities at \$19.6 billion in the past year, the official said that the imports show a 60-percent rise in worth and 32-percent growth in weight, as compared to the Iranian calendar year 1399.

## MSC Gets ISO/IEC Certificate

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ESFAHAN – Laboratory Manager of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) says the company managed to get ISO/IEC 17025-2017 certificate, adding that the certificate is one of the requirements for standardizing the laboratories of the company in the international level.

Amir Salehi in an interview said that ISO/IEC 17025-2017 is of the requirements for qualification of the calibration and testing laboratories and implementation, and executing requirements of this standard is necessary for the laboratories of companies which are active internationally and their strategy is to produce high quality products.

He said that in the evaluation of this standard, the laboratory is appraised in terms of technology and management.

Salehi went on to say that execution of requirements of this standard and getting related certificate has always been regarded by the customers, Institute of Standards and Industrial Research, organizations and organs which evaluate Mobarakeh Steel Company due to different reasons.

He went on to say that fortunately implementation and execution of the requirements of this standard have started in the company for more than a decade and in this stage and for the third time, renewal of the international certificate of this standard in the testing laboratories of MSC and Saba Foolad was done successfully.

Salehi reiterated the company which endorsed qualification of MSC and awarded the certificate is the international agency of accreditation Turkish Accreditation Agency (TURKAK) which is an international reference and its activities are approved by International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and this has boosted the international credit of the results of this evaluation.

The new 2017 standard is the edited version of 2005 version which puts on agenda the improvement of quality management system of the laboratories of the company in accordance with the new requirements.



## Tulip Festival Underway in Arak

ARAK (IP) - Tulip Festival has been underway in Arak Tulip Garden since April 11, 2022, aiming at creating a happy environment for the people of Iran's Markazi Province and tourists.



Arak Tulip Garden is one of the recreational and tourist places in Arak, the capital of the Markazi Province of Iran ( center part of the country ), and has facilities such as a lake, urban furniture, a greenhouse, and pavilion, which these days hosts the most memorable tulip festivals.

The General Director of Arak Municipality Parks, Ahmad Hassani, said in an interview with Iran Press: "Having more than 100,000 tulip branches along with violet flowers and ornamental shrubs on 8,000 square meters, the Tulip Festival is held so that people and tourists can spend memorable moments in this beautiful and spectacular area."

He stated that the tulip is one of the national flowers of Iran and has a special place in Iranian culture.



# Johnson, Sunak Fined Over “Partygate”

LONDON (Dispatches) - UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and finance minister Rishi Sunak are to be fined for breaching Covid-19 lockdown laws in what has become known as the “Partygate” scandal, prompting calls on Tuesday for their resignation.

“The prime minister and chancellor of the exchequer have today received notification that the Metropolitan Police intend to issue them with fixed penalty notices,” a Downing Street spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

The announcement came after London’s Metropolitan Police said they had issued more than 50 fines over the parties, without disclosing the number or identities of those being fined.



# Dozens Killed in South Africa Floods and Mudslides

CAPE TOWN (Dispatches) - At least 45 people have died in floods and mudslides after rainstorms struck the South African port city of Durban and surrounding KwaZulu-Natal province, the authorities said on Tuesday.

“The latest reports indicate that over 45 people have lost their lives as a result of the heavy rains, this number could possibly increase as more reports come in,” the province’s Department of Cooperative Governance announced in a statement.

Days of pounding rain flooded several areas and shut dozens of roads across the southeastern city, while landslips caused train services across KwaZulu-Natal to be suspended.



# Russia Closes in on Mariupol As Putin Strikes Defiant Tone



KRAMATORSK (Dispatches) - Russian troops intensified a campaign to take the port city of Mariupol, part of an anticipated massive onslaught across eastern Ukraine, as President Vladimir Putin made a defiant case for the war on Russia’s neighbor.

Moscow is believed to be trying to connect occupied Crimea with Russian-backed separatist territories Donetsk and Lugansk in Donbas, and has laid siege to the strategically located city, once home to more than 400,000 people.

Civilians were struggling to flee targeted zones, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemning alleged mass rapes in areas previously occupied by Russian troops, including sexual assaults of small children.

As the fighting dragged toward its seventh week, the Ukrainian army fought desperately to defend Mariupol against the Russian offensive.

“The connection with the units of the defense forces that heroically hold the city is stable and maintained,” the Land Forces of Ukraine wrote on Telegram. However, the Russian defense ministry said its army had thwarted an attempt to break the siege with “airstrikes and artillery fire” at a factory in a northern district of the city.

In his nightly address, Zelensky on Monday made another plea to his allies for more weapons to boost the defense of the city.

“We are not getting as much as we need to end this war sooner. To completely destroy the enemy on our land... in particular, to unblock Mariupol,” he said.

Zelensky has said he believes Russia has killed “at least tens of thousands of people” in the city.

With little hope of a quick end to fighting, Putin pledged Moscow would proceed on its own timetable with its military operation, rebuffing repeated international calls for a ceasefire.

“Our task is to fulfil and achieve all the goals set, minimizing losses. And we will act rhythmically, calmly, according to the plan originally proposed by the General Staff,” Putin said during a televised press conference with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

He also dismissed as “fake” reports of the discovery of hundreds of dead bodies of civilians in the town of Bucha outside the Ukrainian capital Kyiv after the withdrawal of Moscow’s forces.

Images taken by journalists on the ground, including AFP reporters, of bodies littering the streets of Bucha sparked worldwide outrage and calls for an investigation into possible war crimes.

Bucha Mayor Anatoly Fedoruk said on Tuesday that more than 400 people had been found dead so far and 25 women reported being raped, as the town prepares for the return of residents who fled the fighting.

# Multiple People Shot In New York Subway Station, 13 Injured

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Multiple people were shot and at least 13 were injured today in a New York City subway station, the fire department said, in the latest spasm of violence in the city’s sprawling transit system.

The shootings occurred during the morning commute at the 36th Street subway station in Brooklyn’s Sunset Park neighborhood.

CNN and other media reported that at least five people were shot, citing sources in the New York Fire Department, but Reuters could not immediately confirm the specific number. It was not immediately clear whether the number of injured people included those who were shot.

The whereabouts of the perpetrator were unclear.

Juliana Fonda, a broadcast engineer at radio station WNYC, told local news website Gothamist that she heard shots while in an adjoining subway car.

“The reaction of the passengers was terrifying because they were trying to get into our car away from something that was happening in the back of the train,” she said. “None of us in the front of the train knew what was going on, but people were pounding and looking behind them, running, trying to get onto the train.”

She added that she heard “a lot of loud pops” and that there was smoke in another train car. Authorities shut down a dozen or so blocks around the 36th Street subway station and another nearby station, and closed off the immediate area with yellow crime scene tape.

The New York Police Department warned people to stay away from the area, which is known for its thriving Chinatown, views of the Statue of Liberty and Industry City, a sprawling warehouse district that has become home to many creative businesses. In recent months New York has experienced a rise in gun violence in general and a spate of attacks in the city’s transit system, one of the world’s oldest and most extensive. Local and federal law enforcement officials gathered at the scene, watched by small crowds of people on sidewalks huddled against buildings in a drizzle. Many officers could be seen donning heavy-duty armor and helmets.



# Macron Now Back-Pedaling on Brutal Pension Plans

PARIS (Dispatches) - President Emmanuel Macron is “back-pedaling” in his offer to soften his planned pension reform to seduce voters but would still execute his plans if re-elected, the head of France’s far-right Rassemblement National party Jordan Bardella said today.

Campaigning in France’s former industrial heartland, Macron yesterday said he was prepared to readjust his planned pension reform, which is at the core of his program for re-election.

“I am ready to change the timeline and say we don’t necessarily have to do a reform by 2030 if I feel that people are too anxious”, Macron said, adding that he was also prepared to “open the door” on pushing the pension aged to 64 rather to 65, his current proposal.

“He probably realizes that it is a brutal and unheard-of social policy”, Bardella, an ally of presidential candidate Marine Le Pen, told France 2 television, adding he still believed Macron would go on to push up the retirement age to 65.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, an ally of Macron, told broadcaster CNews that Macron had not changed his plans on the pensions reform and is still “totally determined” to carry out the reform.

“We will stick to (the minimum age of) 65, but there will be options for discussing details,” said Le Maire.

Manuel Bompard, the head of the campaign of far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon, who came in third in the first round, he did not agree with Macron’s or Le Pen’s retirement proposals.

“I tell Macron this: If he really wants to appeal to our voters... he has to make a clear commitment,” he said.

Speaking on Public Senat television, Bompard pointed to the possibility mentioned by Macron of carrying out a national referendum on the minimum pension age.

# U.S. Aircraft Carrier Deploys off Korean Peninsula

SEOUL (Dispatches) - The USS Abraham Lincoln strike group is operating in waters off the Korean peninsula, the U.S. Navy said on Tuesday, amid tensions over North Korea’s missile launches and concerns that it could soon resume testing nuclear weapons.

“The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group is conducting bilateral operations with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force in the Sea of Japan,” Commander Hayley Sims, a spokesperson for the Japan-based U.S. Seventh Fleet, said in a statement.

This is the first time since 2017 that a carrier group has deployed to the waters between South Korea and Japan, and comes as U.S. officials are increasingly concerned that North Korea could carry out an underground nuclear test in the coming days.

Sims said the carrier was conducting “routine bilateral operations” to reassure our allies and partners of the U.S. commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

“Our training enhances the credibility of conventional deterrence by demonstrating the strength of our bilateral partnerships,” she added.

On March 15 the USS Abraham Lincoln led military exercises in the Yellow Sea, launching its F-35 stealth fighters and other jets in what the U.S. military said was a demonstration in response to the increased pace and scale of North Korea’s ballistic missile launches.

Last month North Korea conducted a full test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) for the first time since 2017.

During the last major flurry of ICBM and nuclear tests in 2017 the USS Ronald Reagan, Theodore Roosevelt and Nimitz, and their multi-ship strike groups, deployed to the Sea of Japan, also known in Korea as the East Sea, in a show of force.

Advisers to South Korea’s president-elect sought redeployment of U.S. strategic assets, such as aircraft carriers, nuclear bombers and submarines, to the Korean peninsula during talks held on a visit to Washington last week.

South Korea’s defense ministry said it was aware that the carrier group was in international waters but declined to comment further.

North Korea has previously criticized U.S. military drills as a rehearsal for war, and said they increase tensions.



# EU Winds Down Military Training Operations in Mali

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Union has decided to suspend crucial military training programmes in Mali, as relations between Western forces and the West African country’s transitional military government sour further.

Speaking at a ministerial meeting, EU’s top diplomat Josep Borrell cited the presence of Russian-affiliated forces in the country, as well as reports of human rights abuses by Malian troops and foreign fighters, among the reasons for the decision.

“We are halting the training missions for the [Malian] armed forces and national guard,” Borrell said.

He added that developments in the country “have forced us to see there were not sufficient guarantees ... on non-interference by the Wagner group,” which he said was likely “responsible for some very serious events which have led to tens of people being killed in Mali in recent times”.

The Russian private military organization has been accused by Western countries of acting with impunity in the country. It is also an accusation that has been directed at French soldiers in the past across the Sahel.

The EU’s decision comes after Human Rights Watch released a report on the alleged killing of 300 people, mostly civilians from the town of Moura, in a military operation conducted by Malian forces alongside foreign fighters. The Malian army, which had previously said that about 200 “terrorists” were killed in the operation, said it had opened an investigation.

“The Sahel remains a priority. We’re not giving up on the Sahel, far from it. We want to commit even more to that region,” Borrell said, suggesting that other forms of training might be sustained.

The EU is involved in two training missions in Mali. The first one – the EU Training Mission – had more than 1,000 members from 25 European countries training Malian soldiers until 2024, according to its website. The other, the EU Capacity Building Mission (EUCAP) focused on police coaching with a mandate expiring next year. The move does not have severe implications security-wise, noted Alain Antil, director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Centre at the French Institute of International Relations. “It’s better if troops are trained rather than not, but it’s not as if the EU has withdrawn a battalion,” he said.





*Miss*  
**SHANON**  
Contract manager  
**Shanon\_tari@yahoo.com**  
**+989121907875**  
Tel : 88510081  
FAX : 88506474

**Parsian**

**Niavaran Apt (\$2000)**  
250sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, Sauna  
J, L.balcony  
marble fl  
Fully Furn

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

**Jordan (\$1800)**  
180sq.m, 3bdrs  
balcony, F.F

**Velenjak (\$2400)**  
220sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, S, J, F.F

**Darrous Villa**  
1200sq.m, 5bdrs  
S/p, yard, & F.F

**Farmanieh Apt (\$1500)**  
220sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, S, J, & F.F  
(\$3000)

**Elahieh (\$2600)**  
260sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, S, J, balcony  
pkg, & Fully Furn

**Jordan office (\$8000)**  
300sq.m, 4bdrs  
(\$40 per sq.m)  
pkg lots  
Velenjak bldg  
5storey, 20bdrs  
S/p, s, J, & pkgs

**IRAN NEWS**  
**ADVERTISING**  
**44253401**

**Don't Waste Your Time**  
Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties  
**www.DeltaHOME.ir**  
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners  
**HOME**  
Real Estate  
Member of **DELTA** Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865

**IRAN NEWS**  
PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS  
**ADVERTISING**

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



## Turkish Industrial Output to Rise 13.3% in February

ANKARA (Dispatches) - The factory activity in Turkey expanded more than expected in February, data showed Tuesday, rising for a 20th consecutive month in a sustained burst of economic activity since the lifting of coronavirus measures.

Seen as a preliminary indicator of economic growth, the country's industrial production index expanded 13.3% year-on-year in February, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) said.

All sub-indices backed the index this month, especially mining and quarrying, along with manufacturing, the data showed.



## U.S. Annual Inflation Hits Fresh 40-Year High of 8.5%

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Inflation in the United States has soared over the past year at its fastest pace in more than 40 years, official data showed on Tuesday, as costs for food, gasoline, housing and other necessities are squeezing American consumers and wiping out the pay raises that many people have received.

The Labor Department said that the consumer price index (CPI) jumped 8.5% in March from 12 months earlier – the biggest year-over-year increase since December 1981. Prices have been driven up by bottlenecked supply chains, robust consumer demand and disruptions to global food and energy markets worsened by Russia's war against Ukraine.

The government's report also showed that inflation rose 1.2% from February to March, up from a 0.8% increase from January to February.

The March inflation numbers were the first to capture the full surge in gasoline prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Moscow's brutal attacks have triggered far-reaching Western sanctions against the Russian economy and have disrupted global food and energy markets. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), the average price of a gallon of gasoline – \$4.10 – is up 43% from a year ago, though it has fallen back in the past couple of weeks.

The escalation of energy prices has led to higher transportation costs for the shipment of goods and components across the economy, which, in turn, has contributed to higher prices for consumers.

The latest evidence of accelerating prices will solidify expectations that the Federal Reserve (Fed) will raise interest rates aggressively in the coming months to try to slow borrowing and spending and tame inflation. The financial markets now foresee much steeper rate hikes this year than Fed officials had signaled as recently as last month.

Even before Russia's war further spurred price increases, robust consumer spending, steady pay raises and chronic supply shortages had sent U.S. consumer inflation to its highest level in four decades. In addition, housing costs, which make up about a third of the consumer price index, have escalated, a trend that seems unlikely to reverse anytime soon. Economists point out that as the economy has emerged from the depths of the pandemic, consumers have been gradually broadening their spending beyond goods to include more services. A result is that high inflation, which at first had reflected mainly a shortage of goods – from cars and furniture to electronics and sports equipment – has been emerging in services, too, like travel, health care and entertainment.

The expected fast pace of the Fed's rate increases will make loans sharply more expensive for consumers and businesses. Mortgage rates, in particular, though not directly influenced by the Fed, have rocketed higher in recent weeks, making home buying more expensive. Many economists say they worry that the Fed has waited too long to begin raising rates and might end up acting so aggressively as to trigger a recession. For now, the economy as a whole remains solid, with unemployment near 50-year lows and job openings near record highs. Still, rocketing inflation, with its impact on Americans' daily lives, is posing a political threat to U.S. President Joe Biden and his Democratic allies as they seek to keep control of Congress in November's midterm elections.

## New Mechanisms Needed for Debt Stress as Poor States Hit by Surging Prices

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Sharply higher global food and energy prices due to the war in Ukraine are hitting poor countries, and better mechanisms for dealing with sovereign debt stress will be needed to stave off defaults, the IMF said.

"The war in Ukraine is adding risks to unprecedented levels of public borrowing while the pandemic is still straining many government budgets," Vitor Gaspar, director of the International Monetary Fund's fiscal affairs department, and Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, the IMF's strategy chief, wrote in a new blog.

"With sovereign debt risks elevated and financial constraints back at the center of policy concerns, a global cooperative approach is necessary to reach an orderly resolution of debt problems and prevent unnecessary defaults."

Spikes in food and energy prices were hitting low-income countries particularly hard, and they may need more grants and highly concessional financing. Countries should undertake reforms to improve debt transparency and strengthen debt management policies to reduce risks.

About 60 per cent of low-income countries were already in, or at risk of, debt distress, the authors said. Rising interest rates in major economies could lead to widening spreads for countries with weaker fundamentals, making it more costly for them to borrow.

The credit crunch was exacerbated by declining overseas lending from China, which is grappling with solvency concerns in the real-estate sector, Covid-19 lockdowns and problems with existing loans to developing countries, they said.

Actions taken by major economies were insufficient, they said, noting that a freeze in official bilateral debt payments adopted at the start of the pandemic had ended, and no restructurings had been agreed under a framework set by the Group of 20 industrialized nations.

Options were needed for a broader range of countries, now not yet eligible for debt relief.

"Muddling through will amplify costs and risks to debtors, creditors and, more broadly, global stability and prosperity," they wrote. "In the end, the impact will be most sharply felt by those households that can least afford it."



## Russia's Economy Set for Biggest Contraction Since 1994

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's economy is on track to contract by more than 10% in 2022, the biggest fall in gross domestic product since the years following the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, former finance minister Alexei Kudrin said on Tuesday.

Russia is facing soaring inflation and capital flight while grappling with a possible debt default after the West imposed crippling sanctions to punish President Vladimir Putin for sending tens of thousands of troops to Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Russia's economy and finance ministries are currently working on new forecasts, RIA state news agency quoted Kudrin, who now serves as head of the Audit Chamber, as saying.

"The official forecast would be for more than around a 10% contraction," said Kudrin, who served as Putin's finance minister from 2000 to 2011, according to RIA.

Previous Russian government forecasts envisaged gross domestic product growth of 3% this year after the economy expanded by 4.7% in 2021.

A source close to the Russian government who spoke on condition of anonymity told Reuters that the economy ministry projects a GDP contraction of between 10% and 15% this year.

A contraction of 10% would amount to the biggest decline in gross domestic product since 1994, according to World Bank and International Monetary Fund data.

The World Bank this month forecast Russian GDP output would fall 11.2% this year.

## Global Growth Optimism at All-Time Low

LONDON (Dispatches) - Optimism among fund managers over global economic growth has hit an all-time low while concerns of possible stagflation have risen to the highest since August 2008, a monthly survey by investment bank BoFA Securities showed on Tuesday.

The survey, which took the views of firms managing a total of more than \$833 billion, is one of the biggest regular tests of fund manager views and comes as inflationary pressures rise even as the risk of recession increases in major economies.

Asked about their expectations for global growth in the coming months, a net 71% of survey respondents were pessimistic about prospects, the most since the survey records began in the early 1990s.

The European edition of the survey found investors continuing to cut their European growth projections, with a net 81% of survey respondents expecting the region's economy to weaken over the coming year compared with 69% in the March edition.

Though fund manager holdings of cash - traditionally an indicator of investor caution - eased to 5.5% in the April edition of the survey from 5.9% in the previous month, prospects of a global recession remain the top "tail risk" for global markets, the survey found.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has receded to fourth place, after aggressive central bank interest rate actions and inflation.

Allocations to commodities jumped to a record 38%, with investments into oil and commodities zipping up the charts to become the top most "crowded trade".

Other "long" positions were in resources stocks and healthcare, while "short" bets - by investors expecting a decline in prices - were evident in bonds and cyclical stocks whose performance is most linked to economic growth, BoFA said.

Participants in the survey expect the U.S. Federal Reserve to raise interest rates by as many as seven times in the current cycle, compared with four times in the previous edition, with a majority of investors expecting inflation to soften over the next 12 months.

Global profit expectations deteriorated to their weakest levels since March 2020, BoFA said.

In terms of regional stock market allocations, investors were most bullish on U.S. equities, while European and UK equities were the top bearish bets.

Despite the growing recession concerns, a majority of survey respondents expect European equities to mark new highs in the currency economic cycle, with less than 30% of survey respondents expecting market weakness.

## Crisis-Hit Sri Lanka Defaults On All Foreign Debt

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt as the island nation grapples with its worst economic crisis in memory and widespread protests demanding the government's resignation.

Acute food and fuel shortages, alongside long daily electricity blackouts, have brought widespread suffering to the country's 22 million people in the most painful downturn since independence in 1948.

Public anger has flared in recent weeks with crowds attempting to storm the homes of government leaders and security forces dispersing protesters with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Sri Lanka's finance ministry said the country was defaulting on all external obligations, including loans from foreign governments, ahead of an International Monetary Fund bailout.

"The government is taking the emergency measure only as a last resort in order to prevent further deterioration of the republic's financial position," a statement from the ministry said.

Creditors were free to capitalize any interest payments due to them or opt for payback in Sri Lankan rupees, the ministry added.

Sri Lanka's snowballing economic crisis began with an inability to import essential goods, after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances.

The government imposed a wide import ban to conserve its foreign currency reserves and use them to service the debts it has now defaulted on.

Economists say the crisis has been made worse by government mismanagement, years of accumulated borrowing and ill-advised tax cuts.

Public frustration with the government is widespread, with long queues around the island nation forming each day to buy scarce supplies of petrol, gas and kerosene for cooking stoves.

Thousands of people were camped outside President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's seafloor office in the capital Colombo in the fourth straight day of protests calling for him to step down.

International rating agencies also downgraded Sri Lanka last year, effectively blocking the country from accessing foreign capital markets to raise new loans and meet demand for food and fuel.

Sri Lanka had sought debt relief from India and China, but both countries instead offered more credit lines to buy commodities from them.

Official figures show that China and Japan, two key bilateral sovereign creditors, hold about 10 percent each of Sri Lanka's foreign debt while India's share is under five percent.

Just under half of Sri Lanka's debt is market borrowings through international sovereign bonds and other similar instruments.

Estimates showed Sri Lanka needed \$7 billion to service its debt load this year, against just \$1.9 billion in reserves at the end of March.

## Ukraine War Fuels Overlapping Crises



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Russian war on Ukraine has set off a chain reaction in the global economy with rising energy and food prices that will worsen poverty and hunger and exacerbate debt concerns, World Bank President David Malpass said.

Faced with these "overlapping crises," the leader of the development lender urged advanced nations to keep markets open, removing trade barriers and reversing policies that concentrate wealth.

The war came as the global economy was trying to right itself following the Covid-19 pandemic, even as new lockdowns in China create uncertainty about the recovery.

"Never have so many countries experienced a recession at once, suffering lost capital, jobs, and livelihoods. At the same time, inflation continues to accelerate," Malpass said at an event in Warsaw.

Speaking ahead of annual meetings next week of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Malpass pledged to help Ukraine rebuild following the war.

The two global lenders have quickly rolled out aid for the country, and Malpass said the bank has secured donor support for \$1 billion in funding under the concessional lending arm, as part of a \$3 billion package, as well as \$100 million for Moldova.

Beyond the immediate humanitarian crisis caused by the war that created a flood of refugees – four million fleeing into neighboring countries like Poland – "supply constraints and disruptions, have fueled price increases and worsened inequality around the globe."

Ukraine is a key source of grain while Russia is a major producer of energy and fertilizer, and the war is "creating sudden shortages of energy, fertilizer, and food, pitting people against each other and their governments," he said.

And an "intense drought" in South America is making the food situation worse.

"For every one percentage point increase in food prices, 10 million people are expected to fall into extreme poverty," he said, adding "Malnutrition is expected to grow."



# Iran Increases Official Crude Price for Asia

TEHRAN (IRNA) - National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has increased the official price for different kinds of crude to export to Asian states.

According to the report, the NIOC has priced light crude, heavy crude, and Forouzan for April respectively \$9.20, \$7.95, and \$8.05 more than the average in Oman or Dubai.

The price for a barrel of Iranian light crude oil, heavy crude oil, and Forouzan crude oil for sale in May is \$9.20, \$7.95, \$8.5 more than that of April. The average price of Oman/Dubai crude oil is considered as the base price for crude oil in West Asia.



# Saudi Arabia Leads OPEC Decision to Drop IEA Data as U.S. Ties Fray

DUBAI (Dispatches) - A decision driven by Saudi Arabia that OPEC+ should stop using oil data from the West's energy watchdog reflected concern about U.S. influence on the figures, sources close to the matter said, adding to strain on ties between Riyadh and Washington.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, a group referred to as OPEC+, has so far ignored Western calls to increase output to try to lower oil prices of around \$100 a barrel .

The issue is delicate as expensive energy, in part because of Russia's war with Ukraine, has stoked inflation and as U.S. President Joe Biden faces pressure to lower record U.S. gasoline prices ahead of mid-term elections in November.

Any willingness on the part of Riyadh and its allies to help the United States has been eroded as Washington has not addressed Persian Gulf concerns about Iran at nuclear talks in Vienna, has ended its support for offensive operations by a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen and imposed conditions on U.S. weapons sales to Gulf states.

In addition, Biden has not dealt directly with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler of the kingdom.

A White House spokesman declined to comment.

Against this backdrop, an OPEC+ technical discussion that lasted over six hours in March ended with a unanimous decision to eliminate the International Energy Agency's (IEA) numbers when assessing the state of the oil market.

The meeting was co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and Russia and also attended by Algeria, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela, the sources said.

The decision is largely symbolic as OPEC+ could always choose to select which numbers it uses from six non-OPEC sources when forming its view of the balance of supply and demand in the oil market.

That it formally dropped the data reflects a build-up of frustration, six sources said, over what OPEC+ saw as the IEA's bias towards its biggest member the United States.

In particular, the sources cited the IEA's big upward revision in historical demand in February, as well as the agency's view of how much Russian crude western sanctions would remove from the market, which they saw as exaggerated.

"The IEA has an independence problem, which is translating into a technical assessment problem," one of the sources directly involved in the decision told Reuters.

The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Saudi Arabia's and the United Arab Emirates' energy ministries did not reply to a request for comment.

One of the sources went as far as to describe the situation as a "cold war" and blamed the IEA for starting it.

The IEA told Reuters its data analysis was politically neutral.

"The IEA strives to provide an unbiased and independent view of oil market fundamentals and political considerations have never been a factor in how the agency assesses the market outlook," it said in an emailed response to questions.

"The oil market report includes supply, demand and inventory data from official sources, supplemented by estimates where no data is available," it said.

The IEA was established in 1974 to help industrialized nations deal with the oil crisis after the Arab embargo squeezed supplies and sent prices surging.

The body, which groups 31 industrialized countries, advises Western governments on energy policy and counts the United States as its top financier.

It has seen energy markets transformed since its creation, and the relationship with OPEC has ebbed and flowed.

Even before the heightened tension this year, an inflection point for Saudi Arabia and its close ally the United Arab Emirates was the IEA's report ahead of United Nations climate talks in Glasgow late last year.

The report concluded that if the world was serious about reaching net zero emissions by 2050, then no investment should be made in new hydrocarbon projects.

That has exacerbated OPEC+ concern the IEA was ignoring the extent of continued demand in the medium term, the sources say, and OPEC+ bridled at the IEA request for extra oil to lower prices to suit the West when it considered the market was adequately supplied.

In addition to the comment from sources, some in OPEC have been openly critical.



The United Arab Emirates' energy minister Suhail al-Mazrouei, addressing an industry conference at the end of March, asked the IEA to be "more realistic" and not issue misleading information.

The IEA in February took the oil market by surprise when it revised its baseline estimate of global demand by nearly 800,000 barrels a day, just under 1% of the roughly 100 million bpd global oil market.

The revision, which followed an upward reassessment of petrochemicals demand in China and Saudi Arabia back to 2007, leads to a view that the oil market is tighter than previously thought, increasing the argument OPEC should try to increase output more quickly, analysts said.

One of the sources said Saudi Arabia disagreed with the reassessment.

The IEA said disruptions caused by the pandemic had made it more difficult to get accurate figures and that it published its revision as soon as the information had become available.

"The IEA had noted for some time an increasing mismatch in observed and implied inventory changes and the revision to our historical oil demand estimates incorporated in the February report went some way to close that gap," it said.

The IEA's predictions of the impact of sanctions on Russian production have also drawn criticism from within OPEC as being designed to press the case for an OPEC output increase, the sources said.

The IEA has said Russian oil output could drop by 3 million bpd from April, while trading houses, such as Vitol and Trafigura, said Russian oil exports could fall by 2-3 million bpd. Russian oil output was down by less than 1 million bpd in early April, according to analyst estimates and Russian data.

"We based our initial assessment of exports on statements from a number of companies already announcing they would reduce or cut their purchases of Russian oil but noted increased interest in discounted barrels that could provide an offset," the IEA said.

"As we indicated, given the rapidly evolving circumstances, the estimate is under continuous review and will be revised as necessary."

OPEC+ has so far resisted calls by the United States and the IEA to pump more oil to cool crude prices that rose to 14-year highs after Western sanctions on Moscow followed Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, which Russia describes as a "special military operation".

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which hold the bulk of spare capacity within OPEC, have both said OPEC+ should stay out of politics and at a monthly meeting at the end of March the group struck to a previously planned modest monthly increase.

President Biden and his allies have taken the view that a lot more supply is needed to lower prices. The U.S. has announced it will make a record release of up to 180 million barrels of oil from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

The IEA last week said it planned to release 120 million barrels of oil over six months.

## Iran Among...

FROM PAGE 1

In some countries, such as the United States, Australia, Italy, Germany, Spain, France, Switzerland, the UK, and Singapore, the amount of foreign debt is even higher than their GDP.

Back in February, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) had put the country's foreign debt at \$9.067 billion by the end of the eighth month of the previous Iranian calendar year (November 21, 2021).

Of 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.

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.

## Annual Inflation at...

FROM PAGE 1

Average monthly inflation in Iran was 2.5% over the year to March 2022, the SCI said, adding that inflation was on a falling path in the second half of the last calendar year.

The government agency said that households in the southern province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad experienced the highest CPI rate in March at 48.2% while lowest inflation rate was recorded in the western province of Hamedan at 36.3%.

The gap between highest and lowest inflation rates

recorded in Iran's 31 provinces reached 11.9%, more than double the figure recorded over the year to March 2021.

Iran has seen high but controlled levels of inflation over the past three years as the country has been grappling with the economic impacts of American sanctions and the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

A government that took office in August has defended its economic records by pointing to the downward trend in inflation seen over the past six months.

## Iran Consulates...

FROM PAGE 1

They tried to enter the consulate building but failed after the Herat governor intervened. They were later dispersed as Taliban forces and the consulate guards opened fire in the air.

Some sources in Herat believe that the two groups namely the Afghan Freedom and Justice Movement, as well as Women Justice-seekers, who used to be financed by the West prior to the Taliban rule, were behind the incident. The sources say that these groups have called for protests in the coming days.

Earlier, Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan, Bahador Aminian, in a recent interview, had warned that "a plot is coming".

## Global LNG Body Urges Governments to Support Fuel Buyers



TOKYO (Dispatches) - An international liquefied natural gas (LNG) body has appealed to governments to help mitigate fuel price spikes and promote new LNG developments to secure a stable global supply.

"This is the first time the International Group of Liquefied Natural Gas Importers (GIIGNL) has issued such an urgent message, underlining the sense of crisis," Michiaki Hirose, GIIGNL's vice president for Asia told reporters on Tuesday.

The Paris-based group, whose members account for more than 90% of global LNG trade, issued a statement a day earlier after a meeting of its executive committee, saying governments should provide protection mechanisms to reduce the exposure of LNG importers and consumers to potential procurement cost increases.

It also said governments should encourage technological development and LNG contracts through policy and financial support to underpin final investment decisions in the LNG value chain.

"In the midst of the current global energy crisis, the stabilisation of LNG trade is a matter of urgency," said Hirose, who is also Chairman of Tokyo Gas Co Ltd.

## Negotiators to...

FROM PAGE 1

Expressing his satisfaction with the widespread presence of the youth in the managerial system of the country, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution called on all officials to beware of two important harms, namely arrogance and passivity. He explained, "Arrogance due to one's position, achievements, God's Grace or any other thing will be the beginning of one's personal, social and professional decline. It will cause officials to drift away from the people as a result of one's illusions."

Pointing to passivity as being the second harm, His Eminence said, "Passivity means having a sense of being at a dead end. It is the opposite of arrogance, and it is very dangerous. The enemies are trying to inject this into society and officials. On the basis of God's irreversible promise, the way to confront this plot of the enemy is patience and piety. Patience means not becoming tired and fleeing the arena, and piety means being vigilant of oneself and watching the enemy carefully."

He stressed that piety has a vast scope and that it has a different meaning in different areas, such as the areas of economy, diplomacy and security. He added, "Today, making the people hopeless and injecting a sense of being in a dead-end situation is an act of oppression against the people, the country and the Revolution."

Referring to some of the negative indexes regarding the economy of the country, Imam Khamenei said, "Problems and issues exist, but they are solvable. The criteria for judging the country and its achievements should not be confined to economic factors, and we should consider other factors as well."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also stated, "Despite the negative indexes regarding the economy, there are signs of success in this area too. An example of this is the resilience of the country's economy in the face of unprecedented sanctions."

Elsewhere in his statements, he touched on the slogan of the year and brought up some points regarding it. He referred to some people's viewpoint that being knowledge-based and creating employment is incompatible with one another and explained, "It is true that with progress in technology, there will be less need for manpower. However, this does not hold true for our country which has many untapped, unexploited capacities in downstream areas. By making production knowledge-based in these areas, employment opportunities will increase by several times."

He stated that the result of knowledge-based production will be an improvement in the quality of the workforce and the employment of the educated youth. In addition, he said, "Unfortunately, a high percentage of the graduates in the country are working in occupations not related to their field of study. But with the expansion of knowledge-based companies, the quality of the workforce will improve and the [educated] elite will no longer need to be employed in occupations of little value."

## Iranian Export to...

FROM PAGE 1

Of those countries, Iraq comes top of the list in importing Iranian goods with \$8.9 billion, giving the country's imports from its neighbor a 21 percent increase compared to the year before.

Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the UAE followed Iraq on the list of top five importers of Iranian goods. In total, Iran's trade with its 15 neighboring countries saw a 23 percent rise in weight and a 43 percent increase in the cost of these goods as compared to the year before.

Iraq's main purchases from Iran are agricultural products, engineering services, construction materials, and energy, such as electricity and natural gas. Baghdad has received waivers from Washington allowing it to buy Iranian electricity and natural gas.

In 2021, Iran said they had exported \$11 billion worth of food and agricultural products to Iraq in five years. In 2019, Iraq accounted for around \$9 billion of Iran's \$12.5 billion in exports.

Iraq also exported to Iran on a larger scale over the year. According to Moqaddasi, Iraq exported \$1.2 billion worth of goods to Iran, marking a 790 percent increase on Iranian imports from Iraq.

The devastating economic impact of the coronavirus dealt a significant blow to trade volume between Iraq and Iran in 2020.

As cases of the infection began to seep into Iraq - many of which among people who had returned from Iran - Baghdad began restricting travel, shutting its five main border crossings with its eastern neighbor in mid-March 2020.

The Kurdistan Region did not follow Baghdad's lead, keeping all three of its major border crossings open. At times, the Region closed the border crossings to tourists, though trade continued normally.E



## Ramos Wants Five More Years at the Top

PARIS (Dispatches) - Paris Saint-Germain's veteran Spanish defender Sergio Ramos would like to play four of five more years of top level football before retiring, according to an interview he gave to Prime Video.

The 35-year-old Ramos joined PSG in July after winning the Champions League four times with Real Madrid and the 2010 World Cup and two European Championships with Spain.

"I'd like to play between four and five years at the top before moving on to a new experience," Ramos told the Ligue 1 broadcaster.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE	
<b>Switchboard:</b> (+98) (21) 44253448 <b>Public Relations Tel:</b> (+98)(21) 44253450 Editorial Board: 44253449 <b>Public Relations Fax:</b> (+98)(21) 44253395 <b>Advertising Department:</b> Tel/Fax: (+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234 <b>Website:</b> http://www.irannewsdaily.com	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> info@irannewsdaily.com <b>ISSN 1024-6053</b> <b>P.O. Box:</b> 15875-8551 <b>Address:</b> No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St. Marzdaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran <b>Printed by:</b> Honar Sarzmin Sabz <b>Distributed by:</b> Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute <b>Managing Director:</b> Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

## Japan's Olympic Champion Kodaira to Retire

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's former Olympic speed skating champion Nao Kodaira will retire from the sport in October following a final race in her hometown of Nagano, the long track speed skater said.

The 35-year-old won Olympic gold in the women's 500 metres in Pyeongchang four years ago, as well as a silver in the 1,000 metres. She also won a silver in the team pursuit event in Vancouver 2010, alongside Masako Hozumi and Maki Tabata.

# Villarreal Shock Bayern; Real Survive Chelsea Comeback

LONDON (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich were stunned as underdogs Villarreal scored an 88th minute equalizer through substitute Samuel Chukwueze to snatch a 1-1 draw and reach the Champions League semi-finals with a 2-1 aggregate win over the Germans on Tuesday.

Six-time European champions Bayern, who had won 12 of their previous 13 home games in the competition, levelled the tie when Robert Lewandowski drilled the ball in off the post after 52 minutes with his 13th Champions League goal of the season.

Instead it was Villarreal, semi-finalists in 2006, who netted against the run of play with Chukwueze beating goalkeeper Manuel Neuer with a left-foot effort to silence the home crowd.

Villarreal will play Liverpool or Benfica in the last four, with the English side leading 3-1 after the first leg in Portugal, with the return at Anfield.

"We feel a lot of happiness. Ever since the draw paired us with Bayern, we have been telling ourselves that we could do it," Villarreal forward Gerard Moreno said. "The belief and the way this team competes has helped us to achieve it."

"In the first leg we made the mistake of not finishing the tie, and all the comments serve as motivation for us. They made the mistake today of not killing us off and we took advantage of that."

Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann fielded an attacking formation with Jamal Musiala, Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller up front but they had only one effort on target in the first half with Musiala's weak header on the half hour mark.

Villarreal, unchanged from last week's 1-0 win in Spain, were comfortable with staying back and efficiently absorbing the waves of Bayern attacks while remaining a threat on the break.

Meanwhile Real Madrid saw off a stirring Chelsea fightback to book their place in the Champions League semi-finals following a 3-2 defeat after extra time in a scintillating



second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday to go through 5-4 on aggregate.

Chelsea had looked on course to complete an astonishing comeback after taking a 3-0 lead in their quarter-final second leg with goals from Mason Mount, Antonio Rudiger and an excellent individual effort from Timo Werner.

Yet the hosts came roaring back, with Rodrygo finishing from a superb pass by Luka Modric to level the tie 4-4 on aggregate and force extra time when Karim Benzema headed home to decide a remarkable encounter.

Real Madrid will now face either Manchester City or local rivals Atletico Madrid in the last four, with the English side taking a 1-0 lead into their quarter-final second leg in Spain on Wednesday.

It was a Champions League night for the ages at a packed stadium as a brilliant Chelsea came within 10 minutes of completing a rescue act that their manager Thomas Tuchel had said they were unlikely to accomplish.

His team took the game to Real Madrid as they looked to turn around a two-goal deficit from the first leg and it took only 15 minutes for Mount to open the scoring from a through ball behind the defense.

Chelsea were even more aggressive after the break and scored their second in the 51st minute when Rudiger guided home a header from a Werner corner to level the tie 3-3 on aggregate.

"It was another incredible night, what a sweet tasting loss," Modric told Movistar Plus. "We didn't give up until the end. Despite going 0-3, I don't think we played a bad game. Another night of suffering, but the important thing is that we have qualified."

## Nadal Still Unable to Train With A Racket



MONTE CARLO (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal has not yet been able to resume training with a racket, said one of his team said on Tuesday, adding that the world No. 4 will "logically" miss the Barcelona tournament next week.

"He is still suffering from his ribs and as expected when his injury was announced, he needs four to six weeks. We are at three, so logically he will not be able to play again in Barcelona," a person close to Nadal told AFP.

"He does the gym, but nothing that hurts him and therefore obviously not with the racket."

After Nadal went down to his first loss of the year to Taylor Fritz in the Indian Wells final, the 35-year-old Spaniard said he had suffered a stress fracture of a rib in the semi-final against 18-year-old compatriot Carlos Alcaraz.

He has already missed the Miami Masters on hard court and Monte Carlo, which opens the European clay court season.

The next Masters events are Madrid starting on May 1 and then Rome beginning on May 8. The French Open begins on May 22. Nadal has won the title at Roland Garros 13 times.

## Former Real Madrid Player Rincon

### Critical After Bus Crash

BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Former Colombian star midfielder Freddy Rincon is in critical condition following a collision between the vehicle he was traveling in and a bus, authorities said.

The 55-year-old former Real Madrid and Napoli player was taken to hospital suffering from a "severe head injury," said Dr Laureano Quintero of the Imbanaco Grupo Quironsalud clinic in the southern city of Cali.

Rincon underwent almost three hours of surgery before being transferred to intensive care in a "very critical condition ... his prognosis is reserved," said Quintero.

A Cali bus and "a truck seemingly carrying four people" collided at around 4:30 am (0930 GMT), said Edwing Candelo, the local transport undersecretary.

Five people were injured in the crash, including the bus driver, said Candelo.

Local media shared a video that showed the bus hitting the passenger side of the truck at a crossroads.

Candelo said the images "suggest that the traffic light was red when the truck crossed."

He said both the truck and bus could have been speeding.

The bus driver passed a breath test for alcohol, while Candelo said it was not known who was driving the truck.

Rincon was born in the southwestern port city of Buenaventura and was known as the "Colossus" during his career.

He was a star of the Colombia side that played at the World Cup in Italy in 1990.

## Fernandinho Stuns Guardiola By Announcing Exit

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester City captain Fernandinho shocked manager Pep Guardiola by saying he planned to leave the English champions at the end of the season.

The 36-year-old former Brazil international, who has won four Premier League titles since joining City from Shakhtar Donetsk in 2013, revealed his intentions at a pre-match press conference ahead of tomorrow's Champions League quarter-final second leg away to Atletico Madrid.



# Clijsters Retires Again as Family Life Beckons

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former world number one Kim Clijsters has retired from professional tennis, the 38-year-old said on Tuesday, bringing the curtain down on her career for probably the last time.

Clijsters, a four-times Grand Slam winner who retired twice in her career in 2007 and 2012, returned to action in February 2020 but did not win a single match and also had to undergo knee surgery in October that year.

She last played at Indian Wells in October

last year and was knocked out in the opening round.

"I want to share with you that I have decided to no longer play official tournaments. I can't wait to see what new adventures will cross my path," the Belgian wrote on Instagram.

In an interview with the WTA website, Clijsters explained she had been busy settling down in New Jersey with her family.

"I still love to hit the ball. With my schedule three, four days was enough to keep my rhythm under control but definitely not good enough if I decided to play another tournament," she said.

"Say, if I picked Australia, it's three-four weeks. That's just not possible at this stage in our family life. Life just sort of takes over, right?"

Clijsters ends her career with 41 singles titles and over \$24 million in prize money.

## Fritz Survives Scare In Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO (Dispatches) - The sigh of relief Taylor Fritz let out as he waved to the fans on Tuesday afternoon said it all.

Despite trailing by a break in the third set against Monagesque wild card Lucas Catarina, the World No. 430, Fritz rallied for a 6-7(6), 7-6(5), 6-4 victory to reach the second round of the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters. The American will next play former World No. 3 Marin Cilic, who eliminated Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Fritz is enjoying the best season of his career, having just lifted his first ATP Masters 1000 title in March at the BNP Paribas Open. The 10th seed, who is making his third appearance in the Principality, earned seven service breaks in his two-hour, 40-minute triumph.

Catarina played inspired tennis on home soil to take a 4-2 lead in the decider, but Fritz never panicked and used his big forehand to great effect in the big moments. The 24-year-old is now 18-6 on the season.

The air in Monaco brings out the best in Briton Daniel Evans. The World No. 27 soared to his first Masters 1000 semi-final in Monte Carlo last year, upsetting World No. 1 Novak Djokovic and Pole Hubert Hurkacz en route.

One year on and Evans once again found the winning formula at the clay-court event, moving past Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi 6-0, 7-6(4) on Tuesday to reach the second round.



## Blatter, Platini To Face Swiss Corruption Trial in June

ZURICH (Dispatches) - Former FIFA officials Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini will go on trial in June to face Swiss corruption charges over a \$2 million payment that world soccer's governing body made to Platini, the court announced on Tuesday.

Both Blatter and Platini have repeatedly denied wrongdoing in the past over the incident, for which Swiss prosecutors indicted them in November.

Prosecutors allege former FIFA president Blatter improperly arranged the payment to Platini in 2011 for consulting work.

Both are suspected of fraud and other charges amid what became part of the biggest corruption scandal to shake FIFA.

Blatter, who led FIFA for 17 years, resigned in 2015, followed by Platini in 2016. Both were handed six-year bans for ethics violations.

The trial before the Swiss Federal Criminal Court is due to start on June 8 and last until June 22, the court said on its website.

