

**President Ebrahim Raisi  
Congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on His  
Election as the New Prime Minister  
Of Pakistan, Expressing Tehran's  
Readiness to Promote Cooperation  
With Islamabad in Various Fields**

# IRAN NEWS

**Government Spokesman Ali  
Bahadori Jahromi Wrote in a Tweet  
On Thursday That International Court  
Of Arbitration Has Ordered a French  
Gas Company to Pay \$1.5m to Iran**


VOL. XXVIII, No. 7474 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SATURDAY APRIL 16, 2022 - FARVARDIN 27, 1401

**2 DOMESTIC**

**U.S. Rights  
Claims Hypocritical**



> SEE PAGE 2

**3 DOMESTIC**

**Iranian Clothing Brands  
To Replace Western  
Labels in Russia**



> SEE PAGE 3

**4 INTERNATIONAL**

**Powerful Explosions Heard  
In Kyiv After  
Russian Warship Sinks**



> SEE PAGE 4

**8 SPORTS**

**Man City See Off Atletico;  
Liverpool Survive  
Late Collapse**



> SEE PAGE 8

**IAEA Access to  
Surveillance Camera Data  
Only After JCPOA Revived**

*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

TEHRAN - Iran's acting ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says the Agency will have no access to data recorded by its surveillance cameras installed in Iranian nuclear facilities until the 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is fully restored.

Mohammad Reza Ghaebi made the remarks while speaking to reporters on Thursday, reacting to the latest IAEA report on the verification of the implementation of the 2015 deal.

Ghaebi said the IAEA report was only a technical update presented by the agency's director general on monitoring the implementation of the JCPOA, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which provides the Agency's members with the latest information on Iran's nuclear activities.

Mentioning a "confidential report" issued by the IAEA, Reuters claimed on Thursday that the report said Iran is starting to operate a new workshop at its nuclear facility in the central city of Natanz, which will make parts for uranium-enriching centrifuges with machines moved there from its Karaj facility.

**See Page 7**

**Iran Not to Let Zionists Threaten  
Regional Security Through Any Country**



*IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK*

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says the Islamic Republic is closely monitoring Israel's regional activities and will not allow the regime to threaten security of the region via any country.

Raisi made the remarks in a Thursday meeting with visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, during which he emphasized the close ties between Tehran and Baghdad, saying no enemy can ever draw a wedge between the two countries.

He added that Iran expects its neighbors, especially Iraq, not to allow any presence on their soil, which would threaten the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has proved its brotherhood toward its neighbors in practice.... therefore, we expect the neighboring countries to remain vigilant toward the enemies' plots.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is closely monitoring the [regional] moves of the Zionist regime and cooperation with this infanticide regime cannot be hidden. We will by no means allow them to threaten the security of the region through any country, especially Iraq," Iran's president said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always underlined the importance of [maintaining] solidarity, territorial integrity and unity among all ethnic groups and religious denominations in Iraq, which would lead to stability" in the country, he said.

Iran's president noted that the security of Iraq must be established by Iraqis and presence of foreigners in Iraq will not lead to security in that country.

In another part of his remarks, Raisi said the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group is made by the United States and Israel and is now acting on their behalf in Afghanistan.

The Iraqi foreign minister, for his part, said Iraq considers itself not only a neighbor for Iran, but also an ally and friend.

He added that the Iraqi territory will never allow any measure against security of Iran, adding that Baghdad is ready to boost security cooperation with Tehran to prevent any security threats against the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Terrorism, Foreign  
Invasions Main Threats to  
ME Women's Security**

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's deputy permanent representative to the UN has described occupation, terrorism and foreign invasions as the main threats to the security of women in the troubled Middle East, saying women will continue to be the target of abuse unless such menaces are uprooted.

Zahra Ershadi made the remarks in an address to the high-level open debate on the theme "conflict-related sexual violence: accountability as prevention — ending cycles of sexual violence in conflict" organized by the Security Council.

The primary threats to the security of women in the Middle East, including foreign occupation, invasion and terrorism, totally disregard the rights and lives of women, Ershadi said.

The senior Iranian diplomat said the "heinous crime" of sexual violence is commonly used as a tactic in military conflicts and acts of terrorism, which mainly targets women, girls, and other vulnerable groups.

Armed conflicts also involve risks of human trafficking, which similarly affects women and children either forcefully displaced or fleeing their countries.

**See Page 7**

**Quds Force  
Commander Warns Israel**

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warns the Islamic Republic will harshly confront the Israeli regime wherever it deems necessary.

"If an act of aggression is carried out against the interests of the Islamic establishment anywhere in the world, we will respond with seriousness," Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani said on Thursday.

The senior commander reminded the regime of the IRGC's forceful missile attack on secret bases of Israel's Mossad spy agency in Iraq's Kurdistan region.

"In Erbil, many people who lived next to you did not know [the attacked site] was your base, but you had been under our surveillance," he said, addressing the Zionists.

The IRGC strike in March targeted "strategic center of Zionist conspiracy and evil" in Erbil in response to an Israeli airstrike on the Syrian capital of Damascus, in which two officers of Iran's elite force lost their lives.

The attack targeted 10 Israeli operatives, killing three of them and leaving seven others wounded.

"Therefore, wherever we identify [an Israeli threat], we will definitely confront the Zionist regime harshly. They are too small to confront us," Qa'ani said.

**See Page 7**

**Gov't Tighten Rules on  
Carrying Foreign Cash**

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian government has issued new regulations governing the supply, possession and carrying of foreign cash as the country seeks to crack down on foreign currency trafficking amid sanctions that have hampered its access to the international banking system.

The new law enacted earlier this week upon an order by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will force everyone possessing foreign cash to declare it on an online exchange system run by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), said a report by official IRNA news agency on Thursday.

Failure to declare the foreign cash can lead to prosecution, said the report, adding that individuals will also need to declare the foreign currency assets obtained before the implementation of the new law.

The new law stipulates that the supply, possession or carrying of foreign cash without receipt will be designated as an act of foreign currency trafficking, said the IRNA.

The new law went into effect after being discussed and approved by the Iranian parliament earlier this year.

**See Page 7**

**Israeli Forces Storm al-Aqsa Mosque, Injure Scores of Worshipers**

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Israeli forces have stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds, injuring scores of worshipers in stepped-up violence in the fasting holy month of Ramadan.

The Palestinian Ma'an news agency said the violence broke out at dawn on Friday when the occupation forces raided the al-Aqsa Mosque through the Moroccan Gate, also known as the Mughrabi Gate, firing sound bombs and rubber bullets at the worshipers randomly.

"Violent confrontations erupted between the occupation forces and hundreds of young men who were deployed in the al-Aqsa courtyards," the agency said, adding that the Israeli forces were obstructing the work of ambulances that reach the mosque's entry gates.

Media reports said the occupation forces also attacked paramedics and press crews, chased them in the courtyards of the al-Aqsa Mosque, and beat a number of them.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRSC) reported that 90 fasting Palestinians had been transferred to hospitals in the occupied al-Quds for injuries as a result of the raid.

The regime has stepped up its deadly acts of aggression across Palestinian territories since the beginning of Ramadan, as a result of which Palestinians put up a stronger resistance to counter the aggression.

Some two dozen Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since March 22, while Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has already given Israeli forces a free hand to "defeat" what he called "terror" in the West Bank.

The Islamic resistance movement Hamas has strongly condemned the recent killings across the occupied West Bank, stating that they exposed the appalling nature of the Tel Aviv regime.

The clashes on Friday occurred just hours after another Palestinian was killed by the regime's forces in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

Palestine's official Wafa news agency said 17-year-old Palestinian, Shawkat Kamal Abed, succumbed to his wounds a day after he was shot during an attack conducted by Israeli forces in Kafr Dan village, northwest of Jenin.

The Palestinian teenager (pictured below) was transferred to Ibn Sina Hospital in Jenin for treatment before he succumbed to his wounds.

Announcing the death of Kamal Abed, the Palestinian Health Ministry said the latest fatality brought to seven the number of Palestinians killed across the occupied territory in less than 48 hours.

**See Page 7**

**Saudi Arabia Repeats  
Claims About Disputed  
Persian Gulf Gas Field**

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia has repeated its claims about a gas field located in the Persian Gulf that Iran considers a shared reserve.

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement saying that the kingdom has the right to jointly develop the Durra/Arash gas field without the participation of Iran.

The statement, carried by the official SPA news agency, said that the issue that should be settled with Iran is just the delimitation of the eastern boundary of a neutral zone shared between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and lying along the Iranian maritime border where the gas field is located.

Riyadh invited Iran to hold negotiations on the issue and claimed that Tehran had ignored a previous call for talks.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, as a single negotiating party, renew their invitation to the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold these negotiations," read part of the statement.

**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

## Iran, Russia Stress Strengthening Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov and Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali emphasized strengthening cooperation between Tehran and Moscow regardless of sanctions. Morgulov and Jalali met in Moscow on Thursday and discussed important issues in Russia-Iran cooperation, according to Russian Foreign Ministry. The two stressed the necessity of consultation and cooperation between the two countries on important bilateral issues and continuation of contacts and meetings between the two officials on the matter.

## U.S. Rights Claims Hypocritical

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has strongly dismissed "hypocritical allegations" by the U.S. administration in its latest report on the human rights situation in Iran, saying Washington aims to achieve its illegitimate political goals by spreading such accusations.

Khatibzadeh made the comment in response to the U.S. State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices released on Tuesday, saying the publication of repetitive and baseless reports would lend no legitimacy to such reports. "The U.S. government, with a history full of wars, coups, aggression, assassinations, kidnappings, economic blockades and the killing of innocent people around the world, has been the main violator of human rights and, therefore, it is in no way qualified to speak of such sublime concepts as human rights," Khatibzadeh said on Thursday. "The United States sheds crocodile tears for the Iranian nation while its crimes against the country ... will live on in the minds of the Iranian people forever," he said. "The United States' unilateral coercive measures, including illegal economic sanctions imposed [on Iran] by that country, which are a clear example of economic terrorism against the Iranian people as they prevent the import of necessary drugs for Iranian patients, have amounted to gross violation of the rights of the Iranian people." The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the U.S. administration's human rights allegations were hypocritical and aimed at achieving the country's illegitimate political goals. "The direct order of then U.S. president [Donald Trump] for the cowardly assassination



of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was a hero in the fight against terrorism in the West Asia region, has laid bare the terrorist nature of the United States." Khatibzadeh further noted that the U.S. government has consistently turned a blind eye to gross and systematic violations of human rights within its own country and by its allies. The Iranian official said everyone has time and again seen various cases of racial discrimination happening against minorities and African Americans in the United States on a systemic and extensive basis, which in turn have led to widespread protests by black people and the public in the country. "The Islamic Republic ... has always moved in the direction of realizing the rights of the great nation of Iran ... and such baseless and hypocritical statements and reports will not cause it to falter in this regard and will not weaken the resolve of the Iranian government and nation in their march to build a dignified Iran on the basis of its own religious values and principles," Khatibzadeh concluded. The U.S. State Department in its annual report on April 12 once again leveled such baseless accusations against Iran as "arbitrary arrest or detention" of political activists, "denial of fair public trial," as well as "politically motivated reprisal against individuals located outside of the country." Iran has repeatedly warned of the exploitation of human rights as a pressure tool by Western countries.

## Iran's Embassy Reacts To The Time's "Iranophobic" Report

LONDON (IRNA) - Iran's Embassy in London responded to The Time's anti-Iran report, saying that the Iranian civilizational and historic identity cannot be distorted. The Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf are safe for all the people and the 2022 Qatar World Cup fans who wish to visit Iran enjoying free visa to be granted to spectators, the embassy said in a tweet on Thursday. Contrary to the Iranophobic propaganda run by The Times, Iran and its islands in the Persian Gulf are safe for all including Britons & W/Cup fans from around the world to enjoy of beauties of this land. The Iranian civilizational and historical identity cannot be distorted by Times. The embassy was responding to a report in The Time that tried to paint a black picture of Iran after Iran announced that World Cup fans who travel to the hosting Qatar could receive free visa to visit Iran.

## Tehran Denies Guardian's Report

TEHRAN (IP) - The Iranian embassy in London denied a report by the British Guardian newspaper on "Russia is receiving munitions and military hardware sourced from Iraq for its war effort in Ukraine with the help of Iranian weapons smuggling networks." The Iranian embassy in London tweeted, that Today's (Tuesday, April 12th) article in the Guardian titled "Russia using weapons smuggling by Iran from Iraq against Ukraine" is unrealistic and baseless storytelling. "Trying to link the recent developments in Ukraine to the developments in the Middle East and mentioning the name of the Islamic Republic of Iran is an unprofessional and unacceptable act and a kind of disrespect to the readers of the newspaper," the embassy added. "The Iranian embassy in London wrote in another tweet, that The Guardian is expected to publish the truth, but today's article contradicts this approach. We express our protest against this matter and demand the necessary action in this regard," the tweet reads.

## U.S. HR Reports Hypocritical, Crooked

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Head of the Iranian Judiciary and Secretary of High Council for Human Rights described U.S.' annual human rights reports as being hypocritical and crooked. In a statement issued on Thursday in response to the US State Department 2021 Human Rights Report, Kazem Gharibabadi said that the U.S. that is the biggest violator of human rights is not qualified to comment on human rights situation in other countries. He said that the U.S.' annual reporting is aimed at deviating global attention from gross violation by the U.S. and at false self-exemplification on human rights. Gharibabadi dismissed the content of the report and expressed concern over human rights situation in the United States, saying that the American society suffered from racial indiscriminate and injustice during 2021. The official also mentioned violation against refugees and immigrants, sanctions against some nations, police violation against people, infringement of prisoners' human rights, increase in the number of the homeless, and jeopardizing American people's health rights through mismanagement during the pandemic as the U.S.' human rights background in 2021.

## Iran Stress Expansion of Ties With South Africa

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in a phone conversation with his South African counterpart on Thursday highlighted the significance of Africa in Iran's foreign policy. Amirabdollahian said that Iran had serious determination to expand ties with African nations, especially South Africa. He had a good evaluation of bilateral ties in different fields and expressed Iran's readiness to hold the 15th joint economic commission with South Africa in near future. The Iranian top diplomat also mentioned Iran and



South Africa's mutual support in international organizations and emphasized continuation of the trend. He praised South Africa's stance on Palestine, saying that the South African nation can understand the current apartheid against the Palestinian people. South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, for her part, hailed Iran's support for her country in international organizations and said that South Africa recognizes Palestine as a friend. She invited Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi to visit South Africa and hoped the visit to be a ground for a surge in bilateral relations.

## Iranian DM Urges Regional Cooperation to Ensure Security in Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani slams the "illegitimate" presence of foreign powers in the strategic Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, urging collective cooperation among regional countries to ensure stability and security. In a video call with Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi on Thursday, Ashtiani said Iran's defense doctrine and policy attached importance to collective cooperation among regional countries to maintain security and stability. He said it is the regional countries are responsible for establishing maritime security in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, warning the "illegitimate" presence of foreign forces in the region disrupts security there. Ashtiani further said Iran and Japan have sensitive and key positions in the key geopolitical regions of the West and East Asia, and that the two countries are

enhancing relations within the framework of peace and stability in a positive and constructive way. The Japanese defense minister, for his part, outlined activities of his country's naval forces in the West Asian region and stressed the need to cooperate with Iran in ensuring maritime security. Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said in March that Iran would never compromise on defending the country's interests and resources, warning that security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is "our red line." "We have always maintained that regional countries are responsible for safeguarding security in the Persian Gulf and that foreigners must leave this region at the earliest," Tangsiri added.

## Tehran, Baghdad See Eye to Eye on Need to Uphold Yemen Truce

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign minister says Tehran and Baghdad see eye to eye on the necessity of upholding the truce in Yemen and the lifting of the inhumane Saudi-led siege on the impoverished country. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks during a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein in Tehran, during which the two sides discussed a range of bilateral and regional issues. "We agreed on welcoming the ceasefire in Yemen and the importance of Yemeni-Yemeni talks and the lifting of the inhumane siege," Amir-Abdollahian said. "We believe that under a lasting ceasefire, lifting of the inhumane siege, and a dialog between all Yemeni parties without any foreign interference, the Yemeni people will be able to make the best decision about their destiny," he added. In his meeting, Amir-Abdollahian also highlighted Iraq's regional role and said "we thanked the Iraqi government for its role in building regional understanding." "We also stressed the importance of regional dialog and welcomed the Iraqi government's efforts to resume the Iranian-Saudi dialogue," he said, referring to Baghdad-hosted talks between Tehran and Riyadh to mend ties severed in 2016. The chief Iranian diplomat further said that he and Hussein discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan. "We support the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan," he said. Also, he continued, "we consider the recognition of the governing body of Afghanistan to be conditional on the formation of an inclusive government in the country." He then pointed to the recent attacks on Iran's embassy in Kabul and the country's consulate in the western Afghan city of Herat, saying the Taliban-led governing body has clearly stated its condemnation of the attacks. "Today, a large number of Afghan people and political groups appeared in front of the missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and gave flowers to our staff, trying to show that the common enemies of Iran and Afghanistan will not be able to hatch plots with the aim of causing problems and insecurity on common borders and bilateral relations," Amir-Abdollahian added.

**TENDER NO.:**  
**01-31-22-0080005**

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
28	PARTS FOR 'SEIMENS' GAS COMPRESSOR MODEL:08-8B,TYPE:STC,S/N:LC 14998 DRW NO:98555615,PART LIST:98555715	63 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](http://www.nisoc.ir), not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

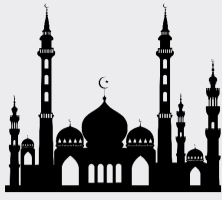
The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 4,048 EURO or 1,072,250,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

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

**FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**  
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran  
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4016 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations  
[www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir)  
[www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)  
<http://jets.mporg.ir>



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:04
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:56
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:00
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:28

72. And that We have subjected them to their (use)? of them some do carry them and some they eat:  
73. And they have (other) profits from them (besides), and they get (milk) to drink.  
Will they not then be grateful?

Surah 36. Ya-sin ( 72 - 73 )

## Iranian Clothing Brands To Replace Western Labels in Russia

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Western clothing brands that have left the Russian market due to sanctions and the war in Ukraine could be replaced by Iranian brands according to a proposal made by the Russian Council of Shopping Centers (RCSC).

According to Russia's state-owned news agency TASS, the head of RCSC Oleg Voytsekhovskiy met with the representatives of Iranian business associations at the Iranian Embassy in Moscow, where it was agreed that a replacement of Western clothing brands with that of the Iranian ones might occur within three years as there are a number of organizational issues that need to be resolved first.

"Russia is interested in opening stores with goods from Iranian manufacturers, but several issues have to be resolved in the process of bringing them to Russian retail, so it is unlikely to happen this year," Voytsekhovskiy said in a statement.

As a starting point of cooperation with Iranian producers at least 30 outlets are slated to start operations in Russia. Iranian brands will also be included in the assortment of existing clothing and footwear chains, he said.

"Iranian manufacturers want to expand their business in our country, but without additional investment, for example, through a local dealer who will buy goods. There are no well-known brands in Iran that are recognized in Russia, so money and time



will also have to be invested in brand creation and marketing support for the goods," the head of RCSC said.

The RCSC also said that it is necessary to solve the issue of logistics to promote brands. The best option seems to be "slow" routes, which will take more time, but cost less.

"While the issues of logistics and certification are still not resolved, there is no confidence that manufacturers will be able to set the prices of their products in the usual price ranges of the Russian consumer," the organization said.

Russian department stores, for their part, are ready to present a range of Iranian goods. At the same time, they put forward a condition that the manufacturers themselves will have to invest in the launch of local branches with their own management offices and in advertising.

During the meeting, representatives of the Russian side got acquainted with the range of goods of several factories in Iran - mainly leather clothing, shoes and bags in different price categories.

## Flights From Iran to Kazakhstan To Resume From Apr 20

TEHRAN - Iran's Kish Air airline plans to launch regular international flights en route Tehran-Almaty and Gorgan-Aktau starting from April 20.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development of Kazakhstan, flights en route Gorgan - Aktau will be run on Wednesdays and Tehran-Almaty flights on Thursdays on A321 and MD-82/83 aircrafts with strict observation of sanitary and epidemiological requirements and as scheduled on the websites of the airlines.

## Momeni Appointed as Head of Parsian Hotels Group

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The farewell and introduction ceremony for the outgoing and new CEO of Parsian Hotels Group was held last week in the presence of CEO of Parsian Tourism and Recreational Centers Holdings Dr. Heshmatollah Qanbari where Eng. Hamid Reza Momeni officially replaced Eng. Seyed Ali Miramini as the new CEO of Parsian Hotels Group.



In the ceremony Dr. Qanbari hailed the performance of the outgoing CEO of Parsian Hotels Group Mr. Miramini during his tenure and highlighted major goals of the group for improving quality and strengthening the infrastructures in the new era.

He pointed to some goals of the group like listing in the stock market, defining standard Islamic-Iranian hoteliering., improving quality and quantity of the services of the hotels in accordance to guests' expectations, observing social responsibilities of Parsian Hotels, special attention to improvement of infrastructures of human assets and training, efforts for improving the business of hoteliering and tourism in the post-coronavirus era and achieving favorable economic results.

Before appointing as the new CEO of Parsian Hotels Group, Eng. Momeni had experiences as the CEO of Qeshm Free Zone as well as the secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade-Industrial and Special Economic Zones.

## Iran-Oman Trade Increases to New Record High

TEHRAN (MNA) - The volume of trade between Iran and Oman in the last Iranian year of 1400 increased to a new record more than \$1.336 billion.

The Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce said in a report that statistics show that the volume of trade between Iran and Oman in the year 1400 in the Iranian calendar (March 21 2021-2022) increased by 53% compared to the previous year.

Mohsen Zarrabi, the chairman of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce said that Iran's exports to Oman in the year before (1999) \$ 438 million while the



amount increased to \$ 716 million in 1400, indicating a 63% increase in Iran's exports to Oman.

According to Zarrabi, in 1992, when the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce was formed, exports to Oman were \$ 148 million and the total volume of trade between the two countries was only \$ 221 million.

The Iranian economic official said that the reason for this increase in the volume of exports to Oman is the new Iranian administration's support for the private sector.

The increase in the bilateral trade with Oman is taking place while Tehran is under tough western sanctions.

## Iranians' Investment in Turkey on the Rise

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - According to data extracted from the monthly reports of the Turkish Chambers and Exchanges Union, Iranian nationals are in the first place of foreign investors in Turkey in the past two years by registering 1,661 companies and buying 16,000 homes.

Turkey has become a destination in recent years for many Iranians. About five years ago, Turkey was ruled a country that Iranians considered mainly for their tourist trips or considered it a transit point for European countries, but today it has become the "home" of many Iranian nationals.

Although there is no precise figure on the presence of Iranians in the land of Anatolia, the statistics on buying a home as well as starting a company are two

factors that well illustrate the process of converting Turkey from a transit country to a "home". The statistics for both of these data have increased dramatically in recent years.

Statistics published by official Turkish organizations indicate that since 2020, Iranians are both at the top of home buyers in turkey and at the top of the list of founders of the company. However, the above statistics were previously available to residents of other countries in the region such as Iraq, Syria and even Russia.



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

### TENDER NO.:

# 01-31-22-0080004



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

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
17	PARTS FOR "SEIMENS " GAS COMPRESSOR MODEL:08-8B,TYPE:STC,S/N:LC 14998 DRW NO:98555615,PART LIST:98555715	38 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](http://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 4,246 EURO or 1,124,700,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

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

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran  
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4016 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations  
[www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir)  
[www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)  
<http://iets.mporg.ir>

## Iranian Major Tire Production Factory Goes Bankrupt

TEHRAN (IFP) - A major car tire production factory on a suburb of the Iranian capital Tehran has gone bankrupt. Kian Tire which is in Chahar Dangeh town near Tehran was launched before the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

A detailed report by the IRIB says Kian Tire was transferred to the private sector in 2003.

From then on, drastic changes happened in the factory and the final outcome was huge bank debts that adversely affected production and the workforce.

Workers of Kian Tire acknowledge that it used to produce 70 tons of tires per day before declaring bankruptcy two years ago.

In the last few months of the Persian year 1400, the factory was shut down because it received no raw material. This has left 950 workers of Kian Tire jobless.

Following efforts by local authorities, the Mostazafan Foundation and the Shasta Company are supposed to take over the management of the factory.

Meanwhile, production at Kian Tire is going to resume from next week.

## Self-Esteem, Clear Sign of HOSCO Personnel



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) Dr. Ataollah Maroufkhani believes self-esteem is the clear sign of the personnel of the company.

During an iftar reception attended by the personnel and managers of the company, Dr. Maroufkhani congratulated the holy month of Ramadhan and said recent achievements and successes of the company are due to the Almighty's blessing to the endeavors of the tireless, sincere and jihadi staff of the company as well as results of the proper plans besides the approach of the managers and personnel of the company towards sublime goals.

He then said the Supreme Leader's emphasis on the production bespeaks importance of this field in the national economy. He noted with forming specialized workgroups, the company would do its best to materialize recommendations of the Supreme Leader in the field of production with reliance on the knowledge-based companies.

Maroufkhani then stated that self-esteem among the staff of the company is one of the clearest characteristics of them, adding that God willing this year due to guidance of braint managers and existence of endeavoring staff, the company will create outstanding results in different fields.

## Nine Million in Need of Aid in South Sudan

JUBA (Dispatches) - The UN's envoy to South Sudan warned that almost nine million people will be in need of aid this year as the fragile country grapples with a surge in violence between armed factions and a food crisis.

Clashes have flared anew in the world's youngest nation despite a pledge by President Salva Kiir and his rival, Vice President Riek Machar, to silence their guns and strive towards implementing key provisions of a 2018 peace pact.

Nicholas Haysom, the head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), called on the leaders to step up efforts to quell the violence and urged the international community to channel in more assistance.



## Canada to Deploy Military Personnel to Poland

OTTAWA (Dispatches) - Canada will deploy up to 150 military personnel to Poland to support Ukrainians fleeing Russia's war and address a growing refugee crisis, Defense Minister Anita Anand said on Thursday.

Most of those military personnel will assist with the immediate care and processing of Ukrainian refugees at reception centers across Poland, Anand said.

"Our people will provide general support, spiritual services and limited medical care enabled by Ukrainian-speaking Canadian Armed Forces personnel," Anand told reporters. The Canadian Armed Forces members would also support a Polish-led task force for humanitarian assistance, and help resettle Ukrainians in Canada.



## Powerful Explosions Heard in Kyiv After Russian Warship Sinks



KYIV (Dispatches) - Powerful explosions were heard in Kyiv on Friday and fighting raged in the east after Ukraine claimed responsibility for the sinking of the Russian navy's Black Sea flagship in what would be one of the heaviest blows of the war.

The explosions appeared to be among the most significant in Ukraine's capital region since Russian troops pulled back from the area earlier this month in preparation for battles in the south and east.

Ukraine said it hit the Moskva missile cruiser with a Neptune anti-ship missile. The Soviet-era ship sank on Thursday as it was being towed to port following a fire and explosions, Russia's defence ministry said.

Over 500 crew were evacuated, the ministry said, without acknowledging an attack. The ship's loss comes as Russia's navy continues its bombardment of Ukrainian cities on the Black Sea nearly 50 days after it invaded the country to root out what it calls far-right nationalists.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy paid homage to all "those who halted the progress of the endless convoys of Russian military equipment ... Those who showed that Russian ships can go ... down to the bottom."

There were no immediate reports of damage following the explosions reported in Kyiv, Kherson in the south, the eastern city of Kharkiv and the town of Ivano-Frankivsk in the west.

Ukraine's armed forces said Russian attacks on the towns of Popasna and Rubizhne, both north of the port city of Mariupol, had been repulsed and a number of tanks and other armoured vehicles had been destroyed. Reuters was not able to verify the reports.

Whatever the cause of the Moskva's loss, it is a setback for Russia and a major boost for Ukraine's defenders.

Russia's navy has fired cruise missiles into Ukraine and its Black Sea activities are crucial to supporting land operations in the south and east, where it is battling to seize full control of Mariupol.

The United States said it did not have enough information to determine whether the Moskva was hit by a missile.

"(But) certainly, the way this unfolded, it's a big blow to Russia," national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

Russia launched what it calls its "special military operation" to invade Ukraine on Feb. 24, in part to dissuade Kyiv and other former Eastern Bloc countries from joining NATO.

But in more setbacks for Moscow, Finland, which shares a long border with Russia, and nearby Sweden are now considering joining the U.S.-led military alliance.

Moscow warned NATO on Thursday that if Sweden and Finland join, Russia would deploy nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles in a Russian enclave in the heart of Europe.

## Russia Warns of Nuclear, Hypersonic Deployment If Sweden, Finland Join NATO

LONDON (Dispatches) - One of Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest allies warned NATO that if Sweden and Finland joined the U.S.-led military alliance then Russia would deploy nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles in an enclave in the heart of Europe.

Finland, which shares a 1,300-km (810-mile) border with Russia, and Sweden are considering joining the NATO alliance. Finland will decide in the next few weeks, Prime Minister Sanna Marin said on Wednesday.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said that should Sweden and Finland join NATO then Russia would have to strengthen its land, naval and air forces in the Baltic Sea.

Medvedev also explicitly raised the nuclear threat by saying that there could be no more talk of a "nuclear free" Baltic - where Russia has its Kaliningrad enclave sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania.

"There can be no more talk of any nuclear-free status for the Baltic - the balance must be restored," said Medvedev, who was Russian president from 2008 to 2012.

Medvedev said he hoped Finland and Sweden would see sense. If not, he said, they would have to live with nuclear weapons and hypersonic missiles close to home.

Russia has the world's biggest arsenal of nuclear

warheads and along with China and the United States is one of the global leaders in hypersonic missile technology.

Lithuania said Russia's threats were nothing new and that Moscow had deployed nuclear weapons to Kaliningrad long before the war in Ukraine. NATO did not immediately respond to Russia's warning.

Still, the possible accession of Finland and Sweden into NATO - founded in 1949 to provide Western security against the Soviet Union - would be one of the biggest strategic consequences of the war in Ukraine.

Finland gained independence from Russia in 1917 and fought two wars against it during World War Two during which it lost some territory. On Thursday, Finland announced a military exercise in Western Finland with the participation of Britain, the United States, Latvia and Estonia.

Sweden has not fought a war for 200 years. Foreign policy has focused on supporting democracy and nuclear disarmament.

Kaliningrad, formerly the port of Königsberg, capital of East Prussia, lies less than 1,400 km from London and Paris and 500 km from Berlin.

Russia said in 2018 it had deployed Iskander missiles to Kaliningrad, which was captured by the Red Army in April 1945 and ceded to the Soviet Union at the Potsdam conference.



## Worldwide COVID Cases Surpass 500m as Omicron Variant BA.2 Surges

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Global COVID-19 cases surpassed 500 million on Thursday, according to a Reuters tally, as the highly contagious BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron surges in many countries in Europe and Asia.

The rise of BA.2 has been blamed for recent surges in China as well as record infections in Europe. It has been called the "stealth variant" because it is slightly harder to track than others.

South Korea leads the world in the daily average number of new cases, reporting more than 182,000 new infections a day and accounting for one in every four infections globally, according to a Reuters analysis.

New cases are rising in 20 out of more than 240 countries and territories tracked, including Taiwan, Thailand and Bhutan.

Shanghai is fighting China's worst COVID-19 outbreak since the virus first emerged in Wuhan in late 2019, with almost 25,000 new local cases reported, although the city's quarantine policy is criticized for separating children from parents and putting asymptomatic cases among those with symptoms. read more



## Germany Arrests Covid Protesters for Kidnap Plot

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German investigators said they had arrested four members of a far-right anti-lockdown group with pro-Russian leanings for planning violent attacks, including a plot to kidnap the country's health minister.

The suspects from the "Vereinte Patrioten" (United Patriots) group are accused of "preparing explosive attacks and other acts of violence" as well as the "kidnapping of well-known public figures", prosecutors in Koblenz said in a joint statement with the Rhineland-Palatinate police.

Health Minister Karl Lauterbach confirmed he was among their targets and had received police protection.

The main aim of the group was to "destroy power supply facilities in order to cause a prolonged nationwide blackout", the investigators said.

"This was intended to cause civil war-like conditions and ultimately overthrow the democratic system in Germany," they said.

Investigators had identified five German suspects aged between 41 and 55 and on Wednesday carried out searches leading to four arrests and the seizure of around two dozen guns, including a Kalashnikov.

Police also found ammunition, around 8,900 euros (\$9,700) in cash, gold bars and silver coins and foreign currency worth more than 10,000 euros.

They also seized forged Covid-19 vaccination certificates, as well as several written documents about the group's plans to overthrow the state.

The Vereinte Patrioten group includes members of the far-right Reichsbuerger (Citizens of the Reich), who reject Germany's democratic institutions, as well as opponents of the government's anti-virus measures, the prosecutors said.

Responding to the news, Lauterbach said some protesters against Covid-19 measures had become "highly dangerous".

A small minority have "not only become radicalized but are now about more than Covid and... are intent on destabilizing the state and democracy," he said in a statement.

## Pakistan Military Dismisses Khan's Theory U.S. Conspiracy

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan's powerful military dismissed ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan's accusation that the United States had conspired to topple him in a parliamentary vote of confidence.

Khan, 69, who led the nuclear-armed South Asian country of 220 million people for 3-1/2 years, accused Washington of backing his ouster because he had visited Moscow against U.S. advice. Washington denies the charge.

Khan met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Feb. 24, the day Russian forces invaded neighbouring Ukraine.

Khan initially blocked the no-confidence move, saying a forum of civil and military leaders, the National Security Committee, had endorsed the alleged conspiracy.

The military's spokesman, Major General Babar Iftikhar, denied this. "You can see clearly whether there's any word of conspiracy in that statement. I don't think so," he told a news conference in reference to an NSC statement this month which had expressed concern over non-diplomatic language used in a cable from a "foreign country", widely assumed to mean the United States, about the no-confidence vote.

Pakistan's lower house of parliament eventually voted in favor of removing Khan from office on Sunday.

Opposition parties and analysts say the military helped Khan win election in 2018, which they both deny, but that support waned after a falling-out over the appointment of the country's next intelligence chief late last year.

Khan's former information minister, Fawad Chaudhry, called for the setting up of a judicial commission to probe into the accusation that the United States conspired to topple Khan.

Iftikhar denied Khan's assertion that the army chief of staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, had offered to help mediate in his deadlock with the opposition.

Instead, he said, Khan had asked Bajwa to convey to the opposition on his behalf that he would call snap elections if the no-confidence motion was withdrawn.

"(Bajwa) went to the opposition and placed this request in front of them, and after a detailed discussion they said that they wouldn't take any such step, and that 'we will go on as we have planned'," said Iftikhar.



**Shanon**  
(adviser)

**Niavaran Apt (\$2500)**  
250sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, Sauna  
J, balcony  
marble fl  
fireplace  
Fully Furn

**Darrou Villa (\$3000)**  
800sq.m  
5bdrs, S/p  
S, J, balcony  
yard, & pkg  
Fully Furn

**Parsian**

**Jordan (\$1500)**  
2bdrs, S/p, F.F

**Apt Sa`adat abad (\$1700)**  
160sq.m, 2bdrs, S/pool  
balcony, pkg lot  
F.F

**Vanak office (\$2500)**  
200sq.m, pkgs

**Zaferanieh (\$2700)**  
300sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, F.F

**Elahieh bldg (\$7000)**  
4storey, 10bdrs, pkgs

**Farmanieh Apt (\$3000)**  
400sq.m, 4bdrs, balcony, F.F

Cell: +989121907875  
Shanon\_tari@yahoo.com  
Tel : 88510081  
Fax : 88506474

**Kamranieh Villa (\$8000)**  
2000sq.m, 7bdrs, S/p, & yard



**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**  
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

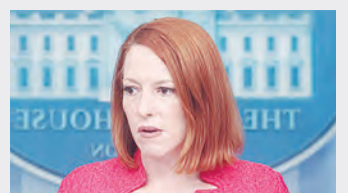
**HOME**  
Real Estate  
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865



## White House Warns of Extraordinarily Elevated March Inflation

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The already-high U.S. inflation rate likely climbed even further last month, the White House warned, amid a spike in energy prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "We expect March headline inflation to be extraordinarily elevated," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters ahead of the Tuesday release of the closely watched consumer price index (CPI) data.

The world's largest economy has seen prices rise at record rates as it recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic, with CPI increasing 7.9 per cent over the 12 months to February, its fastest rate in four decades.



## Oil Traders to Cut Russian Oil Purchases From May 15

LONDON (Dispatches) - Major global trading houses are planning to reduce crude and fuel purchases from Russia's state-controlled oil companies as early as May 15, sources said, to avoid falling foul of European Union sanctions on Russia.

The EU has not imposed a ban on imports of Russian oil in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, because some countries such as Germany are heavily dependent on Russian oil and do not have the infrastructure in place to swap to alternatives.

Trading companies are, however, winding down purchases from Russian energy group Rosneft as they seek to comply with language in existing EU sanctions that were intended to limit Russia's access to the international financial system, the sources said.

The wording of EU sanctions exempts oil purchases from Rosneft or Gazpromneft, which are listed in the legislation, deemed as "necessary for ensuring critical energy supply" for Europe.

Traders are wrestling with what "necessary" means, the sources said. It may cover an oil refinery receiving Russian oil through a captive pipeline, but it may not cover the buying and selling of Russian oil by intermediaries. They are cutting purchases to ensure they comply by May 15, when EU restrictions take effect.

Trafigura, a major Russian oil buyer, told Reuters it "will comply in full with all applicable sanctions. We anticipate our traded volumes will be further reduced from 15 May."

Vitol, another big buyer, declined to comment on the May 15 deadline. Vitol has previously said traded volumes of Russian oil "will diminish significantly in the second quarter as current term contractual obligations decline," and it will cease trading Russian oil by the end of 2022.

The war and sanctions on Russia have already led some buyers of Russian crude such as Shell to stop buying its oil.

Refiners in Europe are becoming increasingly reluctant to process Russian crude. That has already disrupted Russian exports, although purchases by India and Turkey have made up for some of the slack. Sales to China also continue unabated.

Rosneft and Gazpromneft volumes accounted for 29 million barrels, or nearly 1 million barrels per day (bpd) in April, which is over 40 per cent of overall Urals crude oil exports from Russia's western ports in April, according to the loading plan.

The International Energy Agency said on Wednesday Russian oil supply could be down 3 million bpd from May.

Rosneft declined to comment. Gazpromneft did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment. Other Russian oil buyers, Gunvor and Glencore, declined to comment on the impact of the deadline.

Energy trading firms face compliance and reputational risks from the current raft of Western sanctions. They have to examine closely which entities they can pay as well as their employees' nationalities. Also, the lack of an outright ban complicates ending existing contracts.

"All companies are sitting down with their lawyers to figure out what they can and cannot do," a senior trading source said. "It's unclear what this means for the whole supply chain, for shippers, insurers," adding that his firm was looking at implications for non-state owned oil sales.

"Lawyers are having a feast on this. Where there is uncertainty, companies will step back. Russian oil flows will be greatly reduced going forward."

## Sri Lanka Beggars Diaspora To Send Cash

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka urged its citizens overseas to send home money to help pay for desperately needed food and fuel after announcing a default on its \$51 billion foreign debt.

The island nation is in the grip of its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948, with severe shortages of essential goods and regular blackouts causing widespread hardship.

Authorities are weathering intense public anger and spirited protests demanding the government's resignation ahead of negotiations for an International Monetary Fund bailout.

Central bank governor Nandalal Weerasinghe said he needed Sri Lankans abroad to "support the country at this crucial juncture by donating much needed foreign exchange".

His appeal came a day after the government announced it was suspending repayments on all external debt, which will free up money to replenish scant supplies of petrol, pharmaceuticals and other necessities.

Weerasinghe said he had set up bank accounts for donations in the United States, Britain and Germany and promised Sri Lankan expatriates the money would be spent where it was most needed.

The bank "assures that such foreign currency transfers will be utilized only for importation of essentials, including food, fuel and medicines", Weerasinghe said in a statement.

Yesterday's default announcement will save Sri Lanka about US\$200 million in interest payments falling due on Monday, he said, adding that the money would be diverted to pay for essential imports.

Weerasinghe's appeal has so far been greeted with scepticism from Sri Lankans abroad.

"We don't mind helping, but we can't trust the government with our cash," a Sri Lankan doctor in Australia told AFP, asking for anonymity.

A Sri Lankan software engineer in Canada said he had no confidence that the money would be spent on the needy.

"This could go the same way as the tsunami funds," he told AFP, referring to millions of dollars the island received in aid after the December 2004 disaster, which claimed at least 31,000 lives on the island.

Much of the foreign cash donations meant for survivors was rumoured to have ended up in the pockets of politicians, including current Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was forced to return tsunami aid funds credited to his personal account.

Sri Lanka's snowballing economic crisis began to be felt after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances.

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



## New PM Orders "Pakistan Speed" to Fix Stagnant Economy

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Thursday the country's economy had stagnated under his predecessor Imran Khan, setting the tone for possibly months of bitterness before an election that must be held by October next year.

Sharif, sworn in Monday after Khan was ousted by a no-confidence vote in parliament, is still finalising his cabinet but has called for "Pakistan speed" to hurry along development projects and fix the economy.

On Thursday the 70-year-old notorious workaholic visited a metro bus project in Rawalpindi and complained about the pace of infrastructure development.

"Almost all sectors of economy remained stagnant under IK," he later tweeted, referring to his predecessor by his initials.

His early-morning visit came after Khan on Wednesday night held a huge rally in Peshawar.

Khan -- along with most of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers -- quit the national assembly after losing Sunday's no-confidence vote, saying he would take his fight to the people to press for an early election.

On Wednesday, Khan said he would stage twice-weekly rallies across the country until a new poll date was set.

"Young people, get ready, I will take to the streets with you. I will go out in every city, and I will continue to go out until they are forced to hold election."

Sharif, younger brother of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, set out his stall on Tuesday by ordering the government to adopt a six-day work-week, instead of the previous five, and bringing forward office opening hours to 8 am from 10 am.

His "Pakistan speed" policy is an extension of a similar programme he introduced as chief minister of Punjab, the country's most populous province, where he was credited with launching a series of high-profile -- and vote-catching -- projects.

The government would take unspecified "emergency measures" to stabilise the economy, Sharif's office said later, focusing on steps to improve the condition of ordinary people.

Sharif inherits crippling national debt, galloping inflation and a feeble rupee -- although analysts say Khan also took over a broken economy in 2018 that was further battered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

## IMF Hopes to Mobilize \$45b for New Trust to Aid Broader Range of Countries

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund hopes to mobilize around \$45 billion for a new trust to help a broader range of countries, including some middle-income economies, deal with climate change and other longer-term challenges, a paper prepared by IMF staff and reviewed by Reuters shows.

The IMF's executive board is expected today to approve plans for the new Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) that were hammered out by IMF staff after the Group of 20 major economies backed creation of the instrument in October. Read full story

Nearly three-quarters of the IMF's 190 members would be eligible to borrow from the new trust, the global lender's first facility set up expressly to help countries manage balance of payments risks posed by longer-term challenges, the paper said.

"Today, even as IMF member countries confront the immediate challenges of rising inflation, constrained fiscal space and pandemic recovery -- heightened by risks associated with the war in Ukraine -- they are also calling on the Fund to help respond to longer-term challenges such as climate change and pandemic preparedness," the paper said.

Currently, the IMF offers low-cost and zero-interest rate financing to help countries deal with short-term challenges, such as capital flight, inflation or high commodities prices, and medium-term fiscal and financial challenges.

But it lacks a facility to help countries manage risk to balance of payments posed by longer-term threats, build economic resilience to shocks, and tap opportunities to achieve sustainable, inclusive growth.



The IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust is also open only to low-income countries.

The RST, first proposed by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in June, would fill that gap and offer countries affordable financing over extended repayment periods. The IMF has said it plans to begin lending under the program by October.

It would be available to low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries, including small states, many of which were hit particularly hard by the pandemic and its economic impact.

To qualify for lending from the new RST, countries would still need to develop "credible policy and reform measures," have sustainable debt and adequate capacity to repay the IMF, and be part of a concurrent financing or non-financing IMF-supported program, the paper said.

In addition to providing loans, the IMF also has policy-coordination arrangements with other countries, including Serbia, Rwanda and Senegal, that do not entail funding.

The eligibility criteria were set up to "preserve economic stability" while mitigating financial risks to the fund, the paper said.

Richer IMF member could contribute to the trust by donating their unneeded Special Drawing Rights, the IMF's own currency reserves, from a US\$650 billion allocation approved last August.

The funding is also expected to serve as a catalyst for additional public and private financing, the paper said.

## IEA Lowers World Oil Demand Outlook on China Lockdowns



PARIS (Dispatches) - Global oil demand will be slightly lower than forecast this year in the wake of strict Covid lockdowns in China, the world's biggest importer of crude, the International Energy Agency said.

Russian oil supply, meanwhile, is expected to continue to fall in April by 1.5 million barrels per day amid its invasion of Ukraine, according to the IEA, which advises developed countries on their energy policies.

But increased output from the Opec+ group of oil producing countries and stock releases from the United States and other IEA members "should prevent a sharp deficit from developing," said the agency in a monthly report.

Rich countries have agreed to tap an additional 120 million barrels of oil from emergency reserves, with half from the United States, in a bid to calm crude prices that have soared following Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Prices fell below \$100 in recent days as severe lockdowns in Shanghai raised concerns that crude demand from China would fall, only to rebound after officials eased restrictions in some neighborhoods of the country's biggest city.

"Severe new lockdown measures amid surging Covid cases in China have led to a downward revision in our expectations for global oil demand" in the second quarter of 2022 and the year as a whole, the IEA said.

Weaker-than-expected demand in countries of the OECD -- a group of mostly developed nations -- added to the decline, the Paris-based agency said.

The IEA said it now expects demand to average 99.4 million barrels per day in 2022, 260,000 barrels per day lower than previously estimated, though it will still be higher than last year by 1.9 million barrels.

## Guterres Calls for Probe Into Violence in Palestine

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for an immediate investigation into the violence in occupied Palestine.

"Any use of force that results in death or injury must be investigated promptly and thoroughly," said Guterres

spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

The UN Secretary-General also said that Israeli forces must show the utmost restraint.

The Israelis have intensified their attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank and occupied al-Quds since the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.



## Iranians Should Be Able to Experience Cheap Pilgrimage Travels

TEHRAN (IP) - The first meeting of the Supreme Council of Hajj and Pilgrimage was held under the chairmanship of the President, in which the need to facilitate and cheapen travel to places of pilgrimage abroad and inside the country was stressed.

Speaking on Thursday, President Raisi said that the facilitation of pilgrimage trips is an important task and referred to the effects and blessings of these spiritual trips, saying, "Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization must cooperate with the relevant ministries to provide suitable conditions for easy and cheap pilgrimage."

Referring to people's rightful concerns over the unusual cost of air travel, especially at certain times, the President told the relevant government departments, "Do not allow some to put pressure on the people in spiritual travel and pilgrimage."

Raisi also stressed the need to follow up on reopening the land border with Iraq. The President also ordered the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization to be entrusted with the process of chartering travel planes to places of pilgrimage by the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development and the National Aviation Organization to reduce prices and facilitate the pilgrims' travel.

## FM to Support Iranian Technical, Engineering Companies

TEHRAN (IP) - The Deputy Minister of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran emphasized that the body supports the activities of technical and engineering service companies abroad.

The Deputy Minister of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran hosted more than forty companies active in exporting technical and engineering services.

During the event, which was held in the presence of "Mahdi Safari," Deputy Minister of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CEOs of companies active in the export of technical and engineering services explained their activities.

Safari said at the meeting: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will use all its tools, facilities, and capacities to increase exports and help the currency and economic development of the country."

In this regard, the Deputy Minister of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured the managers of these companies that all the missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad are ready more than ever before to cooperate and assist in this field.

In this context, Safari invited these companies to take a serious look to expand their activities to other parts of the world and plan to develop target markets, given their high capability and capacity in this field.

According to Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade, exporters of technical and engineering services last year (1400) were able to earn more than \$ 2 billion in foreign currency by participating in more than 30 projects abroad.

## Iran Backs Political Solution to War in Ukraine

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian communicates the Islamic Republic's opposition to war in Ukraine during a telephone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba.

The top Iranian diplomat urged attention on the part of the concerned parties to the conflict, to political solution and diplomatic dialog during the phone call that took place on Wednesday, hoping that negotiations between Russia and Ukraine "would lead to stability and peace."

Amir-Abdollahian also laid emphasis on the need for protection of diplomatic missions and transfer of humanitarian aid during the war, saying the Islamic Republic is prepared to dispatch a medical team assembled by the country's Red Crescent Society to the conflict-stricken country. Kuleba, for his part, stressed that Kiev favored an end to the dire situation, thanking Tehran for its objection to the hostilities.

The Ukrainian government would try its best to provide protection for foreign diplomatic facilities during the conflict, he said, welcoming further talks with the Iranian minister and expansion of the bilateral ties in all areas.

## First Martyrdom Anniversary of Brigadier General Hejazi Commemorated

TEHRAN (IP) - The first martyrdom anniversary of Brigadier General Seyed Mohammad Hosseinzadeh Hejazi, the Deputy Commander of the Revolution Guards Quds Force, was held on Thursday in the Ministry of Interior.

The ceremony was attended by Brigadier General Ismail Qaani, Commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, the families of the martyrs, and several state and military officials.

Brigadier General Hejazi, the Deputy Commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, joined his fellow martyrs on April 18, 2021, due to injuries caused by chemical weapons dating back to the holy defense era. Brigadier General Mohammad Hosseinzadeh Hejazi was born in 1956 in Isfahan.

He graduated from the University of Tehran with a master's degree in public administration, was a doctoral student at the Faculty of National Defense in strategic management, and was also a faculty member of Imam Hossein University.

## 150 KBCs Ready to Join Iran Oil Projects

TEHRAN (Shana) - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said 150 knowledge-based companies have announced their readiness to cooperate with the oil industry.

The Oil Minister released a post on his Twitter account, which read: "Over 150 knowledge-based companies have participated in the first step of the call of the Ministry of Petroleum to make the industry knowledge-based in priority and job-creating fields."

Javad Owji wrote in his latest Twitter post on Tuesday (April 12): "Over 150 knowledge-based companies have participated in the first step of the Ministry of Petroleum's call for knowledge-based oil industry in priority and job-creating areas such as optimization, well rehabilitation and value chain. After the final approval, in May, conclusion of contracts and provision of facilities to these companies will begin."

## Saudi Arabia...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran has described a deal signed on March 21 between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to develop Durra/Arash as illegal. Iranian authorities say the field is considered a shared reserve and no party is allowed to start development works on the field until Iran and Kuwait reach a final agreement on maritime border demarcation.

"Iran has declared that these resources should not be tapped before border demarcation," said Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in his weekly press briefing on Monday.

Iranian Oil Ministry announced last month after the signing of the Saudi-Kuwaiti deal to develop Durra/Arash that it will soon install a drilling platform on the offshore reserve to start extracting natural gas from the field.

## Quds Force...

FROM PAGE 1

He added that Iran has supported and will continue to support any group that fights the Israeli regime, emphasizing that the annihilation of the Tel Aviv regime is gaining ground.

With a shaky government at work in Tel Aviv, which is already on the verge of collapse, the downfall of the regime would surely be accelerated, the IRGC commander pointed out.

He noted that Iran knows where and when it should confront the Israeli regime.

"If have certain reservations, that concerns ourselves and has nothing to do with [concerns] over your power," he said, referring to the Israelis.

The IRGC commander paid tribute to the Palestinians who lost their lives in the fight against the Israeli regime and said, "Resistance has now spread across the world."

Qa'ani pledged Iran's support for all Muslims anywhere in the world in their battle against oppressive powers.

The senior IRGC commander also advised the "unwise" Saudi officials that they must realize they have been defeated in the war on Yemen despite by all the means they possessed, saying, "This war is not one that benefits them."

He was echoing an advice by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to Saudi officials.

Qa'ani slammed Saudi Arabia's crimes in Yemen, including the destruction of the impoverished country's infrastructures, and said, "We have conclusive and definitive evidence of Saudi crimes."

## Terrorism, Foreign...

FROM PAGE 1

Ershadi said the four Geneva Conventions and their two Additional Protocols explicitly and implicitly condemn different forms of sexual violence as serious violations of humanitarian law, with all States and non-State parties to the conflict being duty-bound to comply with the relevant obligations.

Despite all the existing laws, she added, preventing and combating that inhumane practice requires a collective effort and will not be successful until its root causes — namely the circumstances surrounding the occurrence of an armed conflict — are addressed.

"Unfortunately, as long as terrorism, violent extremism, foreign occupation and foreign interference persist, such a solution will remain elusive," she said.

As cases in point, Ershadi referred to the situation of Palestinian women, whose land has been under Israeli occupation for decades, and women in Afghanistan, which has been ravaged by two decades of militancy and foreign invasion.

The situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have recently taken over state affairs, is gravely affecting women's rights, she said.

Citing a UN report, the Iranian official said Afghan women and girls are the target of widespread systematic violence as part of a campaign to impose restrictions on their social and political lives.

Afghan women's right to educate, work and political inclusion must be recognized by Taliban, Ershadi said.

Ershadi reiterated that Iran's position on the debate's topic, saying issues concerning women and girls should be dealt with by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies, and that the Security Council should only address those issues if they are directly related to international peace and security.

## Gov't Tighten Rules...

FROM PAGE 1

It comes as Iran continues to tighten its rules governing the trafficking of goods and foreign currency at a time it is facing an unprecedented strain on its foreign currency resources because of American sanctions.

Washington imposed the bans in 2018 after it unilaterally withdrew from an international deal on Iran's nuclear program.

Talks on reviving the deal and removing the sanctions stalled in Vienna last month over what Iranian authorities have described as lack of decisiveness in Washington.

## Israeli Forces...

FROM PAGE 1

Fawaz Hamayel, from the town of Beita in the south of Nablus, succumbed to gunshot wounds by the Israeli occupation forces on Wednesday. Shas Kammaji, the brother of the Palestinian prisoner Ayham Kammaji, was killed in clashes in the town of Kafr Dan, west of Jenin, and Mustafa Faisal Abu al-Rub was fatally shot by Israeli soldiers at the western entrance to Jenin.

Tensions have escalated in the occupied land since last Thursday when Palestinians launched a retaliatory attack in the heart of Israel, Tel Aviv, as part of their resistance to the intensified Israeli crackdown. Since then, Israeli forces have been carrying out raids in different towns, especially in Jenin.

The attack was conducted when a Palestinian youth, identified as Raad Fathi Hazem, entered a pub on a crowded main street in Tel Aviv and began firing his weapon.

The 28-year-old, a resident of the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, was killed by Israeli forces in a pre-dawn firefight near a mosque on the first Friday of Ramadan.

Palestinian resistance groups and the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah hailed Hazem's action as a "heroic operation."

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

# TENDER NO.:

# 01-31-22-0080003

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

شناسه آگهی: ۱۲۹۸۲۱۳

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
21	PARTS FOR "SEIMENS " GAS COMPRESSOR MODEL:08-8B,TYPE:STC,S/N:LC 14998 DRW NO:98555615,PART LIST:98555715	45 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](http://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 5,475 EURO or 1,450,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

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

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

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT  
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran  
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4016 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations  
[www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir)  
[www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)  
<http://ijets.mporg.ir>

## Australia to Host 2028, 2040 Presidents Cups

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Australia will host the 2028 and 2040 editions of the Presidents Cup, with the biennial team-based tournament returning to Melbourne's 'Sandbelt' as part of a long-term commitment, the PGA Tour said.

The venue for the 2028 Presidents Cup will be announced at a later date. The competition was staged at Royal Melbourne in its three previous trips to the city in 1998, 2011 and 2019. The International team defeated the United States in 1998 under the leadership of the late Peter Thomson, while the United States won in 2011 and 2019.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

**Switchboard:**  
(+98) (21) 44253448  
**Public Relations Tel:**  
(+98)(21) 44253450  
Editorial Board: 44253449  
**Public Relations Fax:**  
(+98)(21) 44253395  
**Advertising Department:**  
Tel/Fax: (+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234  
**Website:**  
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

**E-Mail Address:**  
info@irannewsdaily.com  
**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

## Spurs to Play in South Korea On Pre-Season Tour

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham Hotspur will play a K League XI in the South Korean capital Seoul on July 13, the club said, as Premier League teams return to lucrative overseas tours stopped due to Covid-19.

Korean forward Son Heung-min and England international striker Harry Kane will be the star attractions when Spurs face a selection of the best players from South Korea's top league. Antonio Conte's side will also play a second pre-season friendly in South Korea, with details to be announced "in due course".

# Man City See Off Atletico; Liverpool Survive Late Collapse

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City held off a late surge by Atletico Madrid as a bad-tempered stalemate at the Wanda Metropolitano saw Pep Guardiola's side safely through to the Champions League semi-finals.

Kevin De Bruyne's first-leg strike last week at the Etihad Stadium proved enough for City to claim a 1-0 victory on aggregate in Madrid, although the Belgian had to go off with an injury which, if serious, would be a hammer blow to their hopes of winning the treble.

Kyle Walker also hobbled off in the second half.

City will now face Real Madrid, with Liverpool up against Villarreal in the other semi to complete an all Spanish-English line-up in the last four.

A prickly contest boiled over in the final minutes when Atletico's Felipe was sent off for a wild swipe at Phil Foden, the City midfielder already with his head in a bandage from an earlier Felipe challenge.

The exchange sparked a mass brawl in the corner, which only checked Atletico's momentum as the hosts finally put an otherwise dominant City under pressure in the last 10 minutes.

Diego Simeone was widely criticised for Atletico's negative tactics in the first leg and there was only a minor shift here, with the plan still to keep the game tight ahead of a final push.

Atletico, though, could not find the goal they needed and instead City advance to the semis for a second consecutive year, in sight again of their first Champions League triumph.

After a rousing ceremony before kick-off that saw the words "Pride, Passion, Feeling" spelt out across the crowd, Atletico made a stirring start, harrying City high up the pitch and snapping at their heels in midfield.

## Felix to Run Final Track Season

LONDON (Dispatches) - Seven-times Olympic gold medallist Allyson Felix said that she would run one final track season, months after competing in her fifth Games.

The most decorated American track and field Olympian picked up bronze in the 400 metres and gold in the 4x400 metres relay in Tokyo last year, having already confirmed that it would be her final Games.

In an Instagram post, she said that she would say goodbye to the sport "with one last run".

"This season isn't about the time on the clock, it's simply about joy. If you see me on the track this year I hope to share a moment, a memory and my appreciation with you," said Felix, 36, who is expected to run the Penn Relays later this month.

The 13-times World Champion became an advocate for working mothers after giving birth to her daughter, Camryn, via an emergency C-section in 2018.

## Malaga to Host Knockout Stage of Davis Cup Finals

LONDON (Dispatches) - Malaga in Spain will host the knockout stage of this year's Davis Cup Finals in November on an indoor hard court, the International Tennis Federation said.

Malaga, in the southern Spanish region of Andalusia, was earlier chosen as one of the four cities to host the group stage of the men's team competition from Sept. 14-18 but will now host the knockouts for the 2022 and 2023 Finals.

The Finals will have 16 nations competing in four groups across Bologna, Glasgow, Hamburg and a fourth city -- replacing Malaga -- with each staging one group of four teams. The top eight teams will then advance to the knockout stage, which will serve as the season-ending event on the men's tennis calendar and will be held from Nov. 21-27 in Malaga.

Bids to replace Malaga as the host city for the group stage have to be submitted by April 21, the ITF and event owners Kosmos Tennis said.



Meanwhile Liverpool booked a Champions League semi-final showdown against Villarreal as the quadruple chasers survived a late collapse in Wednesday's 3-3 draw against Benfica.

Jurgen Klopp's side already had one foot in the last four after winning 3-1 in the quarter-final first leg in Lisbon.

They were on cruise control for long spells in the second leg at Anfield, but had to hold their nerve before advancing 6-4 on aggregate after an uncharacteristic meltdown in the closing stages.

Ibrahima Konate put Liverpool ahead before Goncalo Ramos equalised late in the first half.

When Roberto Firmino netted twice after the interval, the tie looked all but over. However, Roman Yaremchuk and Darwin Nunez struck for Benfica to briefly give the visitors hope of an astonishing escape act, before Liverpool finally restored order.

The Reds will face Spanish side Villarreal in the semi-finals as they look to reach their 10th Champions League final and claim a seventh title in the competition.

Despite Villarreal's impressive wins over Bayern Munich and Juventus in the last two rounds, Liverpool will be firm favourites to make a third Champions League final in the last five seasons.

That would put them a step closer to an incredible clean-sweep of all four major trophies in one campaign.

Significantly, Klopp was able to keep Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Virgil Van Dijk fresh as he started with his stars on the bench.

Klopp made seven changes from Sunday's 2-2 draw with Premier League leaders Manchester City as he opted to keep his stars fresh for Saturday's FA Cup semi-final against Pep Guardiola's side at Wembley.

## Colombian Football Colossus Rincon Dies Aged 55

BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Colombian former international midfielder star Freddy Rincon died on Wednesday aged 55 of injuries he sustained in a traffic accident, doctors said.

Rincon suffered a severe head injury following a collision on Monday between the vehicle he was travelling in and a bus in the southwest city of Cali.

The former Real Madrid and Napoli ace underwent almost three hours of surgery before being transferred to intensive care, but died on Wednesday.

"Despite all the efforts made by our medical and care team, the patient Freddy Eusebio Rincon Valencia has died today," said the Imbanaco Clinic in Cali, which was treating him.

"We ask everyone to honor and praise the life of Freddy Eusebio for all the joys he gave us," clinic director Laureano Quintero said, his voice breaking, after reading the official statement.

Colombia's football federation, the FCF, said his death was "a great loss" and "we will miss him and remember him with great affection, appreciation, respect and admiration."

"The Colombian Football Federation deeply regrets the death of Freddy Eusebio Rincon Valencia, and sends a message of support and encouragement to his family, friends and relatives at this difficult time," it said in a statement.

# Kahn Dismisses Lewandowski Bayern Exit



However, Lewandowski, who turns 34 in August, is out of contract next year.

MUNICH (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich CEO Oliver Kahn has dismissed as "nonsense" reports that their top-scoring striker Robert Lewandowski could leave when the season finishes next month.

Lewandowski chalking up his 47th goal this season in 1-1 draw at home to Villarreal which saw Bayern knocked out of the Champions League with a 2-1 aggregate defeat in the quarter-finals.

Bayern are taking their time offering him an extension, fuelling reports he may leave with Barcelona touted as one possible destination, which irks Kahn.

"Apparently there's a competition out there: who can tell the biggest nonsense story about Robert Lewandowski?" Kahn fumed after yesterday's Champions League exit.

Kahn insists the runaway Bundesliga leaders are "not crazy and are now discussing the transfer of a player who scores between 30 and 40 goals with us every season".

Kahn insists Lewandowski won't leave at the end of the current campaign. "We will definitely have Robert with us for another season."

Yet while Kahn tried to insist Bayern are "relaxed" about extending the striker's deal, the club's lack of action keeps the topic ticking over in the German media.

Lewandowski reacted with surprise last month -- "I am hearing this for the first time" -- when told sports director Hasan Salihamidzic said Bayern want to extend.

## Beckenbauer Biopic "Der Kaiser" Starts Filming in Prague

PRAGUE (Dispatches) - Filming has begun in Prague on the Sky Original film "Der Kaiser," which focuses on the life of German soccer player and manager Franz Beckenbauer.

In the movie, Beckenbauer is shown fighting against the rigid structures and outdated rules in soccer, in order to do things his way. He also is shown to conduct his private life as he wishes, outside of the moral constraints and expectations of the time. The movie culminates in the victory of the German national team, which he managed, in the 1990 World Cup.

Klaus Steinbacher, whose credits include "Das Boot" and "Oktoberfest 1900," takes the leading role. Other roles are played by Ferdinand Hofer ("Tatort München"), Teresa Rizo ("J.G.A."), Stefan Murr ("The Ibiza Affair"), Oliver Konietzny ("Kids Run"), Bettina Mittendorfer ("Zimmer mit Stall"), Heinz-Josef Braun ("Hindafing"), Christine Eixenberger ("Marie fängt Feuer") and Sina Tkotsch ("UP UP").

"Der Kaiser" is produced by Bavaria Fiction on behalf of Sky Studios. The biopic is directed by Tim Trageser ("Der Lissabon Krimi - Die verlorene Tochter," "The Magic Kid") with Martin Rauhaus ("Allmen," "Endlich Witwer") responsible for the script.

Director of photography is Eckhard Jansen ("Der weiße Äthiopier"). Developed by Markus Zimmer, "Der Kaiser" is executive produced by Stephan Bechtle for Bavaria Fiction and by Frank Jastfelder for Sky.

The film will be broadcast at the end of this year. NBCUniversal Global Distribution is responsible for international distribution on behalf of Sky Studios.



## Tsitsipas Through to Monte Carlo Quarters, Ruud Ousted

MONTE CARLO (Dispatches) - Holder Stefanos Tsitsipas moved into the Monte Carlo Masters quarter-finals with a 7-5 7-6(1) victory over Laslo Djere while fourth seed Casper Ruud was knocked out in straight sets by Grigor Dimitrov.

Tsitsipas broke only once in a match where break points were in short supply but the Greek third seed pounced when it mattered most at the end of both sets to seal victory.

The opening set went with serve but Djere was nearly broken when he was down 5-4 after he made three double faults. Djere held on but Tsitsipas switched gears and broke him in his next service game when the Serbian fired wide on set point.

The second set was nearly identical to the first with just one break point between the two. This time Djere forced a tiebreak, but Tsitsipas was unstoppable as he took the first five points before sealing the match with a forehand winner.

"I knew that I was going to have to be alert and 100%, he's someone that can compete very well on clay... I really had to work hard for this win," Tsitsipas said in an on-court interview.

"The beginning of the tiebreak was very important to get such a good, dynamic start... I was able to dictate those rallies and really get ahead of the game early on."

Earlier, Norwegian Ruud became the tournament's latest high-profile casualty as he went down 6-3 7-5 to Bulgarian Dimitrov, who moved into the quarter-finals for a fourth time.



"It's always tough this week because you're switching surfaces," Dimitrov said. "So I try and not be too tough on myself in practice. I just try to do the simple things. It's going so well so far."