

Health Ministry Announced on Monday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to **141,189** With **12** More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Ports and Maritime Organization Says Basic Goods Unloading in the Ports Of Iran Rose 11% in the First Month of the Current Iranian Calendar Year (March 21-April 20) Compared to the Same Period Last Year

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7490 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY MAY 10, 2022 - ORDIBEHESHT 20, 1401

2

DOMESTIC

Tehran Firmly Opposes War, NATO's Expansionist Policies



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

No Restrictions on Developing Economic Ties Between Tehran, Managua



> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine Battles to Hold Eastern Bastions



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Man City Take a Grip of Premier League Title Race



> SEE PAGE 8

Tehran Ready For Deal If U.S. Honors Iranians' Rights

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Iran says the prolonged talks in Vienna on reviving the 2015 Iran deal can be concluded successfully if the U.S. honors “the Iranian nation’s rights”.

Speaking at a weekly presser in Tehran on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the Iranian delegation would return to the Austrian capital as soon as the US makes a political decision on whether it is willing to honor the agreement.

“If the U.S. makes its decision today and returns what it has taken from the Iranian nation’s rights and [stolen from their] pockets and acknowledges and respects the fact that the Iranian nation’s rights have been denied, we can return to Vienna the day after [Enrique] Mora’s [visit] and sign the agreement,” Khatibzadeh said.

He was making a reference to an upcoming trip to Tehran by the European Union’s deputy foreign policy chief for further consultations with top Iranian officials over the fate of the deal.

Several rounds of negotiations have been held in the Iranian capital since April 2021 to bring the US back into the Iran deal, with the EU leading the talks as the coordinator. **See Page 7**

Sanctions, Double-Standards Inhumane Act

TEHRAN (MNA) - First Vice President has condemned the western countries for imposing sanctions and double standards in dealing with people in war-affected countries.

Mohammad Mokhber made the remarks in his meeting with the President of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Francesco Rocca in Tehran on Sunday and stated that, unfortunately, some international organizations, under the pressure of the hegemonic system, are unable to fulfill some of their duties in the best way possible.

Imposition of pressure and inhumane sanctions against Iranian people have jeopardized important sectors in the country such as food and medicines which directly deal with lives and health of people, Mokhber emphasized.

Under such circumstances, Islamic Republic of Iran expects the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to further expand humanitarian aid on the situation of war-affected people in the Middle East especially in Syria and Yemen as well as Afghan refugees. **See Page 7**

Laborers Hailed for Fight Against Conspiracies Aimed at Paralyzing Economy



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has lauded Iranian laborers for their sacrifices in the country’s fight against conspiracies aimed at disrupting the Islamic Republic’s production capabilities and economic growth.

The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with a group of workers from all over the country in Tehran on Monday.

“Workers stood at the forefront of the fight against the enemies’ plots to disrupt the country’s production and did not allow the conspiracies to materialize. Workers played the pivotal role in this regard,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

He underscored that Iranian workers have made impressive achievements in military, economic, and political spheres, and at least 14,000 laborers sacrificed their lives during Iraq’s war on Iran in the 1980s.

“Among the main policies of arrogant powers since the victory of the Islamic Revolution [in 1979] has been to grind the country’s production to a halt,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader also stressed that laborers have aborted fiendish attempts to exploit their demands as a sign of popular protests and have definitively proven their allegiance to the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic establishment.

Earlier this year, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the enemies are waging a war against Iran’s economy in order to bring it to collapse and pit the people against the establishment.

“The country’s stronghold of production and economy is alive; thank God, it is standing. The army that stood against the enemy - the officers of this holy defense - were the entrepreneurs and capable economic managers. Its warriors were also workers. The workers were the sincere and earnest warriors of this battle. You and all economic actors share in this honor of preserving the country’s economy,” the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei reiterated his oft-repeated line that officials should not tie the country’s economy to the results of negotiations currently underway in Vienna to remove US sanctions on Iran.

The Leader also described production as a struggle in the path of Allah, which is known as the principle of jihad in Islam.

“The resistance of the producers against the attack on the economy and the enemy’s efforts to prevent the sale of oil and gas and cut foreign exchange resources and against its plans to block Iran’s foreign trade is in fact jihad and one of the greatest acts of worship.”

The enemy’s plans to “conquer the production stronghold” of Iran as part of its economic war on the country have failed, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

Navy to Deploy Forces To Int'l Waters of Over 2,000k in Depth

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Navy plans to deploy forces to international waters of over 2,000 kilometers in depth in order to maintain the Islamic Republic’s sway in high seas.

Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani made the remarks during a Sunday ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding on the expansion of bilateral cooperation between the Iranian Navy and the Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research.

The senior commander said the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has put special emphasis on the need for the development of the Makran coast in the southeastern part of the country.

“We pursue a vision for the depths of high seas. We plan to have a presence at over 2,000-kilometer-deep [waters]. That is why we must pay attention to the development of the shores,” he explained. Irani also said his forces are the frontrunners, among the Iranian Armed Forces, in defending the country and its national interests.

Last month, the navy chief said the country’s naval forces were roaming free waters of the world without any problem, adding that no foreign country would ever dare approach the Islamic Republic’s territorial waters. **See Page 7**

China's Iranian Oil Imports Ease on Poor Margins, Lure of Russian Oil

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - China’s Iranian oil imports in April came off peak volumes seen in late 2021 and early 2022 as demand from independent refiners weakened after COVID-19 lockdowns pummeled fuel margins and on growing imports of lower-priced Russian oil.

The easing of Iranian oil purchases, which still make up some 7% of imports by the world’s largest crude importer, came as Western diplomats have largely lost hope in reviving a 2015 nuclear pact while high oil prices emboldened Iran to take its time to return to an agreement.

A revived nuclear deal would allow Iran to boost its oil sales beyond China – Iran’s number one customer for the past two years – to previous clients in South Korea and Europe.

Meanwhile, Russian crude, displaced by falling demand in Europe on growing concerns about sanctions over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, is heading to China. Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 in what it called a “special operation”. **See Page 7**

Tehran Not to Give Any More Concessions In Vienna Talks

TEHRAN (IFP) - The spokesman of the Iranian parliament’s National Security Commission says Tehran is yet to achieve the results it has been seeking in the Vienna talks for revival of the 2015 nuclear deal.

According to Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, Iran has overcome the sanctions and is in no haste for an agreement.

He says the U.S. should now know it will get no concessions from Iran by delay tactics.

“It is the western side that should make its mind. The Islamic Republic of Iran will sure give no concessions and is seeking an agreement that secures its interests,” the lawmaker told Hamshahri Newspaper.

Abbaszadeh says Tehran wants to avoid a repetition of the problems that arose after the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2015.

“The western side is not showing goodwill in this regard. We believe their hesitation is aimed at getting more concessions from us. The ball is now in the US’s court. I think if they are serious in getting an agreement, this would be possible even in a few hours,” he says. **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

AUCTION

SJSCO. 140103

Hereby Sirjan Jahan Steel Complex announces selling and export 30,000 STEEL BILLET (5SP & 3SP Size 150 x 150 mm) on basis of FOB, Interested bidders are invited to get documents with send an email to sjSCO.sales.info@gmail.com All the documents will be sent VIA email. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than 11am, Tuesday, May 17, 2022(2022-05-17)

For more information, please contact us at:

Tel: +2186084642

Sirjan Jahan Steel Complex

Iranian Nationals Urged to Leave Moldova

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ukraine has urged Iranian nationals to leave the Moldova's Trans-Dniester region due to the prolongation of Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The Embassy issued a statement, saying, "Given that the war in Ukraine has dragged on and it's likely that war will spill over into Trans-Dniester in the republic of Moldova, all dear Iranians are strongly advised to leave the region ASAP".

The statement also said the Iranians whose stay in Moldova is not necessary had better leave the country quickly.

The Iranian Embassy in Ukraine also wished health and happiness for all Iranians, especially those in Ukraine and Moldova.

Tehran Firmly Opposes War, NATO's Expansionist Policies

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has expressed the country's categorical opposition to the expansionist policies of the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Europe.

Raisi made the remarks in a Sunday meeting with the visiting Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, during which the two sides explore ways of further expansion of bilateral relations.

Touching on the current conflict between Ukraine and Russia, Raisi said, "Just in the same way that the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to conflict and war, it is also firmly opposed to NATO's expansionist policies."

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the launch of the "special military operation" in Ukraine on February 24. The conflict has provoked a unanimous response from Western countries, which have imposed a long list of sanctions on Moscow.

Russia says it will halt the operation instantly if Kiev meets Moscow's list of demands, including never applying to join NATO.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi criticized the low level of trade and economic



cooperation between Iran and Poland, saying that the two countries have various potentialities, including in the industrial and economic fields, which must be utilized through joint efforts with the purpose of improving bilateral interactions.

The Polish foreign minister, for his part, said the history of mutual relations between Tehran and Warsaw dates back to the 16th century and noted that Tehran and Warsaw have had friendly relations for almost five centuries. He appreciated Iran's hospitality when receiving the Polish refugees during World War 2.

Rau said his country seeks further promotion of cooperation with Iran in such areas as trade, economy, culture and science.

Future of Region Determined by Resistance, Not Negotiating Table

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says the future course of developments in the West Asia region, especially with regard to Palestine, will be determined by resistance of nations, not negotiating tables.

"What determines the future of the region and Palestine are not negotiation tables and such agreements as the Oslo [Accords], and Camp David and the [so-called] Deal of the Century, but it is the resistance of nations that determines the new regional order," Iran's president said in a Sunday meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Bashar al-Assad, in Tehran.

"What we are witnessing today across West Asia is the fulfillment of a prediction by Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei] that resistance of nations against the oppressors and aggressors will bear fruit."

Raisi then laid stress on the need for all countries to respect Syria's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, saying, "Iran stood by the Syrian people and government when some Arab and non-Arab leaders in the region were betting on the time of the fall of the Syrian government."

He said the battle fought by Syria's army and allied popular forces, along with the Islamic resistance combatants, especially the heroic Hezbollah [resistance movement], played a leading role in uprooting the military power of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group and other terrorist groups, which posed a threat to security of the entire region.

The Iranian president expressed regret that important parts of the Syrian territory are still occupied by the foreign forces, adding the entire Syria must be liberated from foreign occupiers. "This occupation [of Syrian territories] should not be subject to the passage of time, and the occupying forces and their mercenaries must be expelled," Raisi pointed out.

Referring to Israel's acts of aggression, the Iranian chief executive said, "The Zionist regime's threats in the region should be addressed by strengthening and diversifying deterrence equations."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi stressed the importance of promoting cooperation and coordination between Tehran and Damascus, indicating Iran's serious determination and willingness to improve relations with Syria, particularly in the fields of economy and trade.

"This issue is one of the serious priorities of the [new Iranian] administration," he said.

Assad, for his part, declared his country's readiness to expand cooperation with Iran in political, security and economic fields. Syria's president also highlighted Iran's role in fighting terrorism across the region, saying, "During years of resistance against and confrontation with the Western and Takfiri aggression [against Syria], Iran was the only country that stood by us from the very beginning."

Assad described Iran's relations with Syria as strategic, noting that after a decade of war against the resistance front, regional developments have proven that resistance is effective and fruitful.

Stressing that the U.S. is losing its role in the region, the Syrian president said, "We have proven that through close cooperation among regional countries, it is possible to triumph over the United States and [other] hegemonic powers that claim to be superpowers."

Iran Welcomes Shore-Up of Ties With Senegal



TEHRAN (IP) - The President of Iran-Senegal Parliamentary Friendship in Iran's Parliament says the Islamic Republic welcomes the improvement of relations with Dakar.

Ruhollah Motefaker Azad stressed that the two countries must enjoy the cultural and religious commonalities to better the two nations, including economic benefits.

The Senegalese counterpart of the Iranian official said for his part that the relationship between the NGOs and the trade exchanges between the two countries could facilitate the shore-up of economic ties between them.

Iran Generous Towards Asylum Seekers

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross Robert Mardini emphasized that Iran has been a good host for Afghan refugees; so, the committee will try to publicize Iranians' efforts internationally.

Mardini made the remarks in a meeting with Head of the Red Crescent Society Pir Hossein Koulivand in Tehran on Monday, saying that Iran has always showed readiness to help in different arenas, including Ukrainian war refugees.

The committee is trying to expand cooperation with the Red Crescent Society, because there are numerous areas of collaboration, he said, adding that the Red Cross has a long-term and strategic cooperation with the Iranian body.

According to the Red Cross chief, expansion of international humanitarian rights, cooperation in organizing Afghan migrants and fight against COVID-19 are among other good examples of collaborations and coordination with Iranian entities.

Today, Iran's neighboring states suffer from multiple problems; so, the committee is prepared to cooperate with Iranian authorities to solve the challenges, he added.

Moreover, the international committee can help improve the situation of asylum seekers and refugees from Yemen and Syria, Mardini said, noting that given the importance of the issue of Palestine, the Red Cross is cooperating with Iran to support victims of violence.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent can hold relief training courses in wars, as well as for international humanitarian rights with the aim of enhancing partnership in different arenas, he argued.

Koulivand, for his part, said that both organizations pursue similar objectives; thus, they can rely on the commonalities to reach appropriate results.

One of areas of cooperation is the issue of asylum seekers, the Iranian official said, adding that the Islamic Republic has been very successful in hosting asylum seekers and refugees, because all Iranian bodies cooperate in this respect.



All Afghan refugees residing in Iran have been vaccinated, he mentioned, adding that they enjoy free education and healthcare now.

The Red Crescent chief also noted that Iran is the frontrunner in supporting Afghan refugees, and that the Red Cross has backed Iranians in this regard.

As to illegal sanctions on Iran, Koulivand urged the Red Cross to increase support for the Red Crescent, because the Islamic country is suffering from repercussions of cruel sanctions imposed by the US and its allies.

Iran has set up medical centers in 12 countries, including Congo, he noted, adding that the Red Cross can facilitate these efforts and create a

multilateral cooperation system.

Belarusian Envoy Emphasizes Boosting Regional Ties With Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - Expressing the desire to develop relations with Iran, the Belarusian ambassador to Iran said that the development of regional relations is of particular importance for Belarus.

Belarusian Ambassador to Tehran, Dmitry Koltsov has headed a delegation to Hormozgan province in southern Iran; visiting the Special Zone of Mining and Metal Industries of the Persian Gulf, and meeting with the President of Hormozgan University.

Talking to the Chairman and members of specialized commissions of Bandar Abbas Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture is also among the plans of the Belarusian Ambassador and accompanying delegation on a

two-day trip to Bandar Abbas.

Dmitry Koltsov, the Belarusian ambassador to Iran, in a meeting with Mahdi Dosti, the Governor of Hormozgan in Iran's Bandar Abbas city on Sunday evening stated that Belarus has a particular interest in the transit of goods through Iran whose origin or destination is Belarus, and in this regard, the capacities of Shahid Rajaei Port in Hormozgan province are essential.

"Belarus is ready to increase the level of trade with Iran and to provide the presence and investment of Iranian companies," Koltsov pointed out.

Iran, Qatar to Hold 1st Session of Joint Political Committee

TEHRAN (MNA)- Iranian Ambassador to Doha Hamidreza Dehghani Hamidreza Dehghani said that the first session of the Iran-Qatar joint political committee will be held in Tehran on Tuesday.

The session will be chaired by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani and the Qatari foreign ministry secretary-general Dr. Ahmed bin Hassen Al Hammadi, Dehghani wrote in a tweet.

The committee was formed after the foreign ministries of Iran and Qatar signed a joint political cooperation agreement during President Raisi's recent visit to Qatar.

Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani is reported to visit Iran soon to discuss political and economic agreements reached between the two countries during Raisi's visit to Doha.

Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee Meeting to Convene Today

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said on Monday that the 17th Joint Ira-Armenia Economic Committee meeting of the two countries will be held on May 10-11, 2022 in Yerevan.

Safari said on Monday that Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Armenian Minister of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources will co-chair Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting.

According to IRNA, the 16th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Tehran during June 30-July 2, 2019.

Iran and Armenia have been taking serious measures to boost their economic ties in line with the two countries' positive political relations.

Iran and Armenia, which have been in friendly relations for decades, began a new chapter in bilateral relations in 2018, as the two countries are taking steps in the direction of a strategic relationship. Iran was named as Armenia's 6th most important trading partner in 2017, but in 2018 Iran was promoted to Yerevan's fifth most important trading partner.

The 15th Joint Economic Committee meeting between Iran and Armenia was held in the Armenian capital city of Yerevan in February 2018.

Iran to Vaccinate Afghan, Pakistani Migrant Children for Free

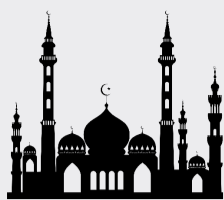
TEHRAN (IP) - All authorized and unlicensed Afghan and Pakistani nationals residing in Iran can vaccinate their children free for vaccine-preventable diseases.

Despite the cruel and unilateral U.S. sanctions, Iran has not only been able to meet the pharmaceutical and health needs of its people, but also to serve the citizens of other countries.

The World Health Organization has named Iran as a model and a large country that has managed to eliminate measles despite its infected neighbors.

Mohsen Zahraei, head of the vaccine-preventable diseases department at Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education, said concerns about the spread of measles were growing as the Afghan population grew.

Zahraei said that Afghans are not returning at the moment due to concerns about their illegal presence in Iran and fear of being deported to their country, and also because they are not sure that the vaccination program will be free. Afghans and Pakistanis can vaccinate their children against measles and other diseases by visiting all health centers, regardless of whether they are allowed or not to stay in Iran.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:00
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:17
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:25
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:02

19. ((Allah) will say): "Now have they proved you liars in what ye say: so ye cannot avert (your penalty) nor (get) help." And whoever among you does wrong, him shall We cause to taste of a grievous Penalty.

Surah 25. The Criterion, The Standard (19)

No Restrictions on Developing Economic Ties Between Tehran, Managua

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil minister says that there are no restrictions for Iran and Nicaragua in developing economic relations.

During a visit to Latin America, Javad Owji met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and thanked him for hosting the Iranian delegation.

He said the Raisi administration was keen on expanding relations with Latin American countries, saying during the past 9 months, two Iranian delegations have visited Nicaragua.

He stressed that the 13th government's approach is to expand economic and political relations with Latin American countries, especially Nicaragua. "There are no restrictions for the two countries in developing economic relations," he said.

The Minister of Petroleum, stating that the Iranian people have made great achievements in the field of oil industry, agriculture, nuclear, pharmaceutical, medicine, etc. in the last 43 years due to US sanctions, added: "Today, thanks to God and the efforts of oil industry workers in Iran, great achievements have been achieved in the oil and gas field such as the daily production of one billion cubic meters of gas, the activity of 65 petrochemical units and 25 oil and gas refineries."

Owji pointed to Venezuela's supply of fuel and petroleum products in recent years, and said: "Iran has been a helper of Latin American countries, especially Nicaragua, in the difficult days of US sanctions. The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to protect the independence, freedom and right to self-determination of nations and not to interfere in other countries, so we strongly condemn the interference of some countries in the internal affairs of Nicaragua."

"We have reached good agreements in the last two days in a meeting with



Nicaraguan oil and agriculture officials," he said. "These agreements and contracts will be signed in the presence of the President of Nicaragua. We hope to see a new chapter in bilateral relations in the oil industry and other areas. One of the most important of these contracts is the supply of fuel to Nicaragua."

The oil minister pointed out the importance and increase of energy prices in world markets and continued: "Our forecast and that of other energy experts is that the price of oil will undoubtedly increase in the coming months. I promise you we will do our best to supply fuel to the friendly and brother country of Nicaragua."

Referring to the completion of the first phase of the 100,000-barrel Nicaraguan oil refinery with the investment of Venezuela, despite U.S. sanctions, Owji said: "By submitting the technical documents for this project, Iran will undoubtedly participate in the completion of this project and other refining projects."

He pointed out that Iran is also in the process of developing the Nicaraguan oil and gas fields, noting: "Soon, when we return to Tehran, my colleagues and I will analyze the information obtained about development of this field."

Oil minister said oil bartering deals are good methods to circumvent US sanctions by Iran and Nicaragua, adding, "There is a good potential for agriculture and animal husbandry in this country that we can benefit from."

Exports to Poland Grow 114% YOY

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Simultaneous with a visit to Tehran by the Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, a report by Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) suggests that Iran's exports to Poland over the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) grew 114% compared to figures from the preceding year.

IRICA spokesman Ruhollah Latifi said that Iran exported over 18,000 tons of goods worth \$24 million to Poland over the year under review which shows a 145% growth in term of weight and a 114% increase in value terms year-on-year.

The official also said that Iran imported some 4,530 tons of goods worth some \$29 million from Poland in the one-year period, posting 14% and 4% declines in weight and value terms respectively in comparison to import figures of a year earlier.

Noting that the overall volume of trade between Iran and Poland over the past Iranian calendar year stood at \$53 million, he said that the overall annual trade between the two countries grew by 79% in value terms.

Discovery Should Be Priority of Steel Industry



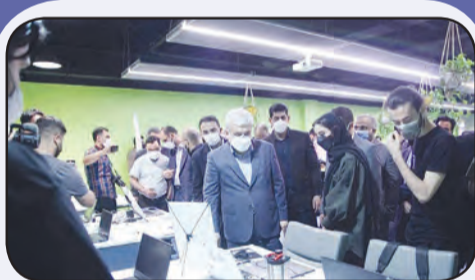
IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Chadormalu Industrial and Mining Company says discovery should be the priority of the steel industry on their agenda.

Addressing the specialized panel of the 12th Iranian Steel and Iron Ore Market Conference and Expo, Engi. Naser Taghizadeh emphasized prioritization of discovery in the steel industry and stipulated that to get out of the unbalanced development in the chain of steel production, it needs to establish a consortium comprised of strong companies for discovering new mines.

He also said that change in the approach regarding national steel development to the alloy steels is an inevitable necessity, adding that required infrastructures should be provided in this industry for easing the presence of companies and investors in order that the country can continue competition in the international scene.

Iran Develops Innovation Centers on Science and Technology



TEHRAN (IP) - The second phase of the university's innovation center, including a rapid prototyping laboratory, was put into operation in the presence of the Vice President for Science and Technology and the President of Khajeh Nasir al-Din Tusi University.

Sorena Sattari, Vice President for Science and Technology, and Hassan Karimi, Mazrae Shahi, President of the Khajeh Nasir al-Din Tusi University of Technology, visited the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and inaugurated the second phase of the University Innovation Center and visited the technology units located there.

Earlier, in 1997, the first phase of the Innovation Center was set up at the Faculty of Mechanics, and in the second phase, a rapid prototyping laboratory was opened.

Khajeh Nasir University Innovation Center includes the activities of knowledge-based and creative companies, entrepreneurial and innovative groups, consultants, and startup trainers.

The center has a capacity of 20 technology and creative companies, and companies in the fields of transportation, digital technologies, biotechnology, construction, and mechanics are active in this innovation center to commercialize their innovative ideas.

The collaborative workspace of the Innovation Center of Khajeh Nasir University, with 14 technology teams, has provided the ground for transforming innovative ideas into knowledge-based and creative products.

Tehran, Warsaw Sign Cultural Agreement

TEHRA (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his visiting Polish counterpart Zbigniew Rau inked a cultural agreement in Tehran on Sunday.

The signing ceremony was also participated by the head of the Islamic Culture and Communication Organization. The agreement reportedly covered various cultural, educational, scientific, sports and media areas of cooperation. The Polish foreign minister arrived in Tehran on Sunday night for a three-day visit.

During a press conference after a meeting earlier on Sunday, Amirabdollahian said that Iran and Poland have a long-standing and historical relationship that dates back to 540 years ago, and this is a great asset in the relations between Tehran and Warsaw.

During the visit of the Polish Foreign Minister, a document on cultural, sports, scientific, youth, and media cooperation will be signed, which is a comprehensive document, the Iranian senior diplomat said.

New Chapter Opens in Tehran-Havana Relations

TEHRAN (Shana) – Oil Minister Javad Owji and Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel signed memoranda of understanding to expand cooperation between the two countries in various economic sectors.

Owji met with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel during his visit to Latin America last week.

During his visit to Latin America, the Minister of Petroleum also discussed with Vice President of the

Council of Ministers of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas Ruíz, as well as the ministers of oil and energy of Cuba and explored avenues for cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy.

The Republic of Cuba is a country composed of the Algerian archipelago in the Caribbean Sea and its capital is Havana. The population of this country is 11 million and 200 thousand people and its official language is Spanish.

Gov't to Launch Its First Cruise Ship in Bushehr

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A first cruise liner sailing under Iranian flag is set to launch in the very near future with routes that cover major ports in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Iran's tourism ministry (MCTH) will launch the cruise ship in the southwestern port of Bushehr as the port prepares to process passengers traveling between Iran and Qatar for the 2022 World Cup tournament, said a ministry official on Sunday.

Mostafa Fatemi, who leads the domestic tourism department at MCTH, said the cruise ship has been purchased by an Iranian private owner from a French company.

The nine-storey cruise liner will be able to handle 1,700 people and 700 cars, said Fatemi, adding that ship will have a passenger capacity of 520.

The official said that the ship will start its services by domestic trips between southern Iranian ports, including the port of Chabahar on the Sea of Oman.

He said, however, that the private owner of the ship hopes to use the liner for transferring passengers between Bushehr and ports in Qatar during the World Cup tournament in November and December.

"Undoubtedly, tourist arrivals from Qatar will increase through the use of this ship," Fatemi was quoted as saying in a report by IRNA news agency.

Local officials in Bushehr said earlier this month that they will launch major infrastructure projects in the port to prepare it for hosting World Cup visitors from Qatar,



including a new wharf that will allow processing cruise liners.

Iran hopes it can use the World Cup opportunity to increase activity in its international tourism sector more than two years after the spread of the coronavirus forced closures and restrictions across the sector.

IMIDRO Defines Packages for Reviving Idle Mines

TEHRAN (MNA) - Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Vajihollah Jafari said his organization, which is in charge of a program for reviving idle small mines across the country, has defined 30 investment packages for continuing the implementation of the program in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Speaking in a meeting for reviewing the progress of the program in the previous year and planning for the current year, Jafari said after the complete monitoring of idle and semi-active mines throughout the country 850 mines have been identified this year and 30 investment packages have been defined to be offered in 19 provinces in this regard.

As reported by the IMIDRO portal, Jafari noted that the priority for the allocation of the mentioned packages is to implement infrastructure projects that would help revive several mines together.

As such infrastructure projects progress, it is necessary to measure their effectiveness in reviving the country's idle mines, he added.

According to the official, some 453 idle mines were activated under the framework of the program for reviving small and medium-sized mines in the previous Iranian calendar year, which created 3,500 jobs.

Jafari further noted that since the beginning of the program in 2019, over 852 mines have been revived and 13,800 jobs have been created, which has led to a 33-million-ton increase in the country's mineral production.

The Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's program for reviving small mines across the country was launched in late March 2019. The most important goal of this program is to activate the country's mines, which will result in increased production and employment, especially in deprived areas.

Saudi King Salman Enters Hospital for Examinations

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia's ageing King Salman has been admitted to hospital for unspecified tests, state media reported Sunday.

The kingdom has generally sought to quell speculation over the health of the 86-year-old monarch, who has ruled the top oil exporter and the Arab world's biggest economy since 2015.

He entered King Faisal Specialist Hospital in the coastal city of Jeddah on Saturday "to conduct some medical examinations", according to an official report, citing a royal court statement.

"May God preserve the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and may he enjoy health and wellness," the statement said.



U.S. Imposes Sanctions On More Russians

WILMINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States on Sunday unveiled sanctions against three Russian television stations, banned Americans from providing accounting and consulting services to Russians, and sanctioned executives from Gazprombank to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

The new sanctions are the latest effort by the United States to increase pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin after his country's assault on Ukraine and came as President Joe Biden met virtually with G7 leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the war.



Ukraine Battles to Hold Eastern Bastions



SEVERODONETSK (Dispatches) - Ukrainian forces were braced to defend their final bastion in the devastated port city of Mariupol, desperate to deny Russia a symbolic win on the eve of Moscow's Victory Day celebrations.

Shelling and missile strikes have intensified in the build up to the World War II anniversary, and rescuers are hunting for 60 Ukrainian civilians feared killed in the bombing of a village school.

President Volodymyr Zelensky marked the anniversary on the end of the World War by comparing Ukraine's battle for national survival to the region's war of resistance against its former Nazi occupiers.

"Decades after World War II, darkness has returned to Ukraine, and it has become black and white again," Zelensky said, in a monochrome social media video shot against the backdrop of bombed out apartment block.

"Evil has returned, in a different uniform, under different slogans, but for the same purpose," he warned, trying to turn Russia leader President Vladimir Putin's "anti-Nazi" rhetoric back on itself.

Russia, meanwhile, was gearing up for a Victory Day parade designed to associate the invasion of its neighbor with the national pride felt over the Soviet Union's defeat of Germany.

Zelensky was also to meet G7 leaders via video conference to discuss the crisis, and European diplomats were hammering out the details of their latest sanctions package against Moscow.

On the ground, the key battles were being fought in Ukraine's east.

Civilians have now been evacuated from Mariupol's Azovstal steelworks, leaving a small force of defenders holed up in its sprawling network of underground tunnels and bunkers.

The complex -- the final pocket of Ukrainian resistance in the port city -- has taken on a symbolic value.

"The enemy is trying to finish off the defenders of Azovstal, they are trying to do it before May 9 to give Vladimir Putin a gift," warned Zelensky aide Oleksiy Arestovych.

Taking full control of Mariupol would also allow Moscow to create a land bridge between the Crimean peninsula, which it annexed in 2014, and regions run by pro-Russian separatists in the east.

In one of those regions, Lugansk, Ukrainian forces are now mounting a last ditch defence of the city of Severodonetsk, formerly an industrial city of 100,000 people, now Russia's next target.

In the same region, governor Sergiy Gaiday said 60 civilians were feared dead after a school in the village of Bilogorivka was hit in an air strike.

"The bombs fell on the school and unfortunately it was completely destroyed. There were a total of 90 people, 27 were saved," he said on Telegram.

"Sixty people who were in the school are very probably dead."

Rescuers could not work overnight because of a threat of new strikes, but resumed their work on Sunday.

Australia PM to Ensure No Chinese Base on Solomon Islands



SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australia will work with its allies to ensure China does not set up a military base in the Solomon Islands, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has pledged during a heated pre-election debate.

China's growing clout in the Pacific has become a hot political issue in Australia ahead of May 21 elections and following Beijing's announcement last month that it had signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands leadership.

The China-Solomons deal has not been publicly released but a leaked draft alarmed countries in the region, particularly sections that would allow Chinese naval deployments to the Solomons, located less than 2,000km (1,200 miles) from Australia.

The prime minister had warned that establishing a Chinese military base in the Solomons would be crossing a "red line".

Pressed during the Sunday debate on what that red line means, Morrison said: "Australia would work with partners to ensure that that type of an outcome would be prevented."

Morrison also added that it would be "unwise" to speculate on specific measures that Australia might take to prevent a military base being established on the Solomons.

"The Solomon Islands government themselves have made it very clear to us that that is not an outcome that they are seeking or supporting either. I believe it is not in their national interest to have such a presence," he said.

Morrison, whose conservative government is trailing the opposition in the latest opinion polls, has been criticised for failing to prevent China from signing the deal in a region where Australia has traditionally had great influence.

Opposition Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese described the security pact in the televised debate as a "massive foreign policy failure".

Hundreds Rally in Support of Tunisia's Saied

TUNIS (Dispatches) - Hundreds of Tunisians demonstrated Sunday in a show of support for President Kais Saied and a series of extraordinary measures he took since last July that critics have slammed as a "coup".

The rallies come as Saied faces mounting criticism over his July 2021 power grab, in which he sacked the government and suspended parliament before moving on to rule by decree.

Demonstrators gathered in the capital's central Bourguiba Avenue -- the epicentre of vast protests that toppled former leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011 -- in response to a call by a pro-Saied alliance.

They held banners reading "We are all Kais Saied" and demanded the prosecution of "corrupt" politicians, echoing a frequent refrain uttered by the head of state.

Critics have warned that Saied's moves mark a shift towards autocracy, threatening the only democracy to have emerged from the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

In late April, several Tunisian opposition parties announced the formation of a National Salvation Front to "save" the country from the deepening political crisis.

Prominent leftist Ahmed Nejib Chebbi said at the time that the alliance aimed to unite political forces, re-establish constitutional and democratic processes and guarantee freedoms and rights in the country.

Saied in early May announced the launch of a "national dialogue" to help resolve the crisis -- but excluded critical opposition groups, including his arch-rivals, the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party.

In parallel with the political turmoil, Tunisia has been gripped by a dire social and economic crisis, and has sought a loan package from the International Monetary Fund.



Dozens Killed in Attacks in Northwest Nigeria

ZAMFARA (Dispatches) - Gunmen killed at least 48 people in attacks on three villages in northwest Nigeria's Zamfara state, a local official and residents said.

Northwest and central Nigeria have been terrorized for years by criminal gangs known as bandits who raid and loot villages, steal cattle and carry out mass abductions of residents for ransom.

"A total of 48 people were killed by the bandits in the three villages (Damri, Sabon Garin and Kalahe) attacked Friday afternoon," said Aminu Suleiman, administrative head of Bakura district where the villages are.

Dozens of gunmen on motorcycles entered the three villages in coordinated attacks, shooting people as they tried to flee, Suleiman said.

The worst hit was Damri where the gunmen killed 32 people, Suleiman told AFP, including patients at a hospital. "They burnt a police patrol vehicle, killing two security personnel."

Troops deployed in the area engaged the attackers in a gun battle, forcing them to withdraw, Suleiman added.

Abubakar Maigoro, a Damri resident, said the gunmen went on a shooting spree before looting livestock and food supplies.

"We buried 48 people killed in the attacks," Maigoro said.

Nigerian police did not respond to requests for comment.

The criminals have recently stepped up their assaults despite military operations against their hideouts.

The so-called "bandits" maintain camps in a vast forest, straddling Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger states.

In the past two months, they have attacked a train between the capital Abuja and Kaduna city and kidnapped dozens of passengers, massacred more than 100 villagers and killed a dozen members of vigilante groups.

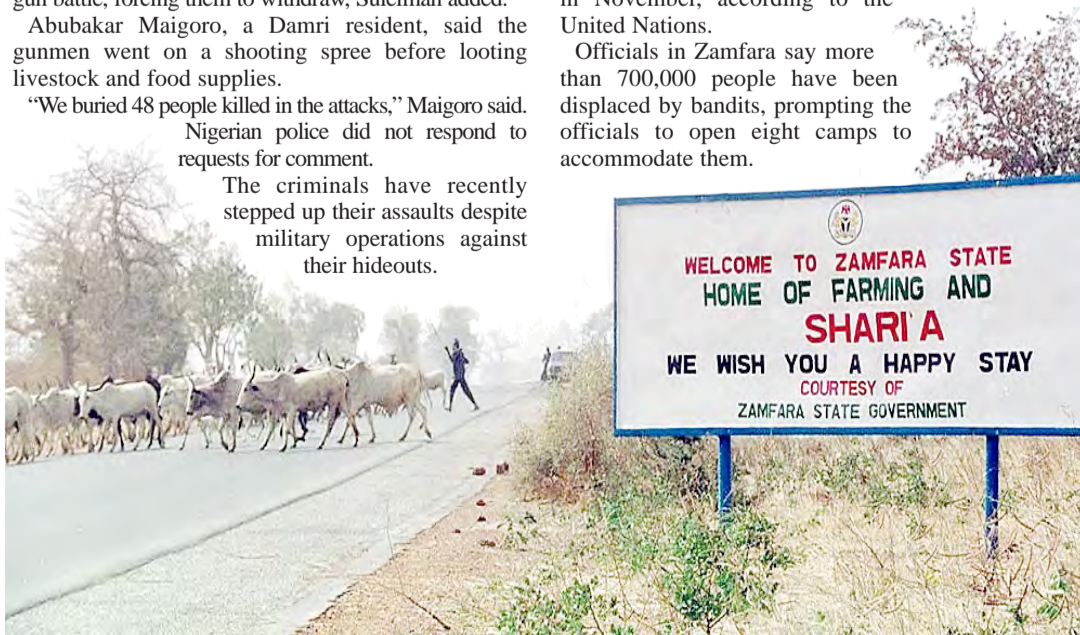
In early January, gunmen killed more than 200 people in Zamfara state.

According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), bandits killed 2,600 civilians in 2021, an increase of 250 percent from 2020.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, a former army commander, has been under intense pressure to end bandit violence before he leaves office next year at the end of his two terms in power.

The violence has forced thousands to flee to neighboring Niger, with over 11,000 seeking refuge in November, according to the United Nations.

Officials in Zamfara say more than 700,000 people have been displaced by bandits, prompting the officials to open eight camps to accommodate them.



Germany's Conservatives on Track To Win Election in Northern State

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's conservative CDU looked set to win an election in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein, a boost to the party of former Chancellor Angela Merkel, which was ousted from national government in federal elections last year.

An exit poll by infratest dimap put the Christian Democrats (CDU) at 43% of votes, up 11 percentage points from when Schleswig-Holstein last held a state election in 2017.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's centre-left Social Democrats, the main party in Germany's "traffic light" coalition with the environmentalist Greens and liberal Free Democrats (FDP), meanwhile slumped to 15.5%.

The exit poll put the Greens and FDP, which in Schleswig-Holstein have been in coalition with the CDU since 2017, at 17% and 7% respectively, meaning the conservatives may be able to form a government there with only one of the two parties. The CDU's stronger standing in the state than at the national level - where it is polling at 26% following its worst ever federal election result in September - is partly down to the popularity of state premier Daniel Guenther, analysts say.

Another term for 48-year-old Guenther, who polls show is the most popular state premier in Germany, could strengthen the role of moderates within the CDU, in a counterpoint to their more right-wing leader Friedrich Merz, CDU sources told Reuters.

The South Schleswig Party (SSW), which represents the ethnic Danish minority in the state, won 6% of the votes while both the far-right AfD and far-left Linke parties did not reach the 5% of votes necessary to secure seats in the state's parliament.

More significant will be elections next week in Germany's most populous state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), where the SPD and CDU are running neck and neck.

A loss by the conservatives in NRW, after losing in March in the tiny western state of Saarland, would be a significant blow to the party.

It would also make it easier for Scholz's SPD-Greens-FDP coalition to pass laws in the upper house of the national parliament, where regional elections help to determine the distribution of votes.





Farmanieh Apt (\$2200)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
pkg, & yard
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Pasdaran Villa (\$2500)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
marble floor
Fully Furn

Parsian

Elahieh (\$2500) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F
Velenjak (\$2700) 300sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F

Darrous Apt (\$1800)
180sq.m, 3bdrs, balcony, F.F

Zaferanieh bldg (\$10000)
5storey, 20bdrs, S/p, & pkg lots

Sa'adat abad (\$1300)
140sq.m, 2bdrs, & F.F

Cell: +989121907875
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
Tel : 88510081
Fax : 88506474

Jordan Office (\$30 per sq.m)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, & 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

Saudis Cut Oil Prices From Record Highs Amid China Lockdowns

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia cut oil prices for buyers in Asia as coronavirus lockdowns in China weigh on demand, countering uncertainty around Russia's supplies as the Ukraine war drags on.

Saudi Aramco is lowering prices for the first time in four months. The state-controlled company dropped its key Arab Light crude grade for next month's shipments to Asia to \$4.40 a barrel above the benchmark it uses, from \$9.35 in May. That's in line with a Bloomberg survey of refiners and traders from late April that forecast a \$5 decrease.



Turkish Exporters Lose Nearly \$140m in April

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's exports to Russia and Ukraine fell by nearly \$140 million in April, as Moscow's invasion of its southern neighbor continues to disrupt shipments.

Sales to Turkey's two Black Sea neighbors fell to around \$500 million last month, down from \$638 million a year ago, according to data compiled from the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM).

Although exports were up from \$293.1 million in March, they came in below \$655.5 million in February. The 55.3% month-over-month fall in March demonstrated the biggest impact yet of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

January-April shipments to Russia dropped 5.5% year-over-year to \$1.4 billion, while sales to Ukraine saw a much steeper fall, declining \$21.7% to \$542.1 million, the data showed.

In April alone, Turkey's exports to Ukraine plunged 49.3% to \$105.2 million, down from \$207.5 million a year ago.

It followed a nearly 80% and 81% fall on an annual and monthly basis in March to just \$41.7 million.

Sales to Russia saw a more limited fall, dropping 8.2% year-over-year to \$395 million. Exports in March were down nearly 40% to \$252.4 million, from \$419.8 million a year ago.

Turkey shares a maritime border with Ukraine and Russia in the Black Sea and has good relations with both.

While it has criticized Russia's offensive, Ankara is trying to balance its close ties and has positioned itself as a neutral party attempting to mediate between the warring sides.

Turkey's trade with both Russia and Ukraine reached a record high in 2021. The volume with Russia reached \$34.7 billion, while the turnover with Ukraine jumped to \$7.4 billion.

Russia ranked 10th among its biggest export markets last year and came in second when it comes to imports. Ukraine stood 20th in exports and 13th in imports.

Nevertheless, Turkey managed to register the highest monthly exports ever in April, as sales surged 24.6% year-over-year last month to \$23.4 billion, the TIM data showed.

It followed monthly records in the first three months of the year, a period marked by a widening trade deficit fueled by increasing energy costs.

The war in Ukraine has sent global commodity prices soaring, threatening to impact Turkey's new economic program that aims to record a current account surplus.

The trade deficit jumped 98% year-over-year in April to \$6.1 billion, the data showed, for a total of \$32.5 billion in the first four months of 2022.

Energy imports soared 134.1% year-over-year to \$7.7 billion, slightly down from \$8.4 billion in March, taking a total to \$32.7 billion from January through April – equal to an annual rise of 173.1%.

Exports of cement, jewelry, automotive and steel sectors to Russia and Ukraine suffered the biggest losses, according to the data.

Sales of cement-glass-ceramics-soil products to Ukraine plunged 92.4% year-over-year to just \$563,000 in April; exports of olives and olive oil also slid by 88.2% to around \$11,900.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict Hits Vietnam's Economy

HANOI (Dispatches) - The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has disrupted supplies of fuels and materials to Vietnam, pushing up the country's inflation, as well as adversely affecting the country's economic growth, local experts have said.

While supply disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic have not come to an end, firms in Vietnam have to face increasing thinner supplies of fuels and materials for production due to the conflict, Le Hoang Anh, a senior researcher at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Banking, told Xinhua on Friday.

"The Russia-Ukraine conflict has lifted production costs of different goods, resulting in inflation in many nations, including Vietnam, and hampering their economic growth," Anh noted.

Since Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine on Feb. 24, many countries have imposed rounds of sanctions including severe financial restrictions on Moscow, which has led to delay and disruption in payments through banks as well as in goods delivery, and surge in transport cost.

"It is hard for companies to fulfill already-signed contracts and to ink new ones. Many goods orders have been delayed or cancelled," Truong Dinh Hoe, general secretary of the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Processors, said at a seminar on Vietnam's import-export held on April 20.

Vietnamese enterprises have had difficulties in importing certain goods from Russia, and in exporting products to Russia and Ukraine. Meanwhile, they have had to encounter fiercer competition in buying materials from other markets, Pham Binh An, deputy head of the Ho Chi Minh City Institute for Development Studies, said at the seminar.



"Rapid increase in prices of materials has fueled inflation pressure. Higher inflation pressure plus risks in logistics and international payment has placed a heavy burden on import and export activities," An stated.

An's statement was echoed by Nguyen Bich Lam, former head of the General Statistics Office under the Ministry of Planning and Investment.

"The Russia-Ukraine crisis is one of the main reasons for the increase in commodity prices in the world market," Lam told local reporters on Monday. "The production output and export market share of some fuels and materials for production and consumption such as petroleum, gas, wheat, corn, aluminum and nickel of Russia and Ukraine are very big."

Sri Lanka in Talks for \$100m Emergency Funding From Beijing-Backed Bank

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - The China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is considering granting \$100 million in emergency support to Sri Lanka, the country's finance ministry said today.

Sri Lanka has requested foreign-exchange liquidity support for state banks from the lender, it said in a statement.

Hit hard by the pandemic, rising oil prices and populist tax cuts by the government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the South Asian island's economy is in crisis, with usable foreign reserves down to \$50 million, Finance Minister Ali Sabry said last week.

Shortages of imported food, fuel and medicines have brought thousands onto the streets in over a month of mostly peaceful protests. Rajapaksa declared a second state emergency in five weeks on Friday.

The multilateral AIIB, founded in 2014 to promote infrastructure investing throughout Asia, draws most of its funding from China.

China is Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender, with an outstanding balance of \$6.5 billion mostly lent over the past decade for large infrastructure projects, including highways, a port, an airport and a coal power plant.

Beijing has extended Sri Lanka a \$1.3 billion syndicated loan and a \$1.5 billion yuan-denominated swap to boost its reserves. The two countries are in talks for a \$1.5 billion credit line and a fresh syndicated loan of up to \$1 billion.

Colombo said this month that talks had started on refinancing Chinese debt after Sri Lanka suspended some of external debt repayments in April.

Dubai Tops Rankings, Attracts Highest Greenfield FDI in 2021

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Dubai ranked first in the world in attracting greenfield foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2021, with a record number of 418 greenfield projects, data showed on Sunday. The emirate stood third last year.

"Dubai has created a stable, sustainable economic environment and a vibrant business ecosystem for companies and entrepreneurs to launch new ventures, tap new opportunities and expand their business both in the country and beyond its borders.

Over the years, Dubai has also demonstrated its resilience to global economic fluctuations, earning the confidence of global investors, and enhancing its reputation as one of the world's leading lifestyle and business destinations," said Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council.

Unveiling the annual 'DUBAI FDI Results & Rankings Highlights Report 2021,' published by Dubai Investment Development Agency (Dubai FDI), an agency of the Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), Sheikh Hamdan said "Dubai's government departments, free zones, and private sector partners combined their strengths to create a fertile ground for talent, enterprise, and investment in the emirate".

The report was based on data from the Financial Times Ltd's 'fDi Markets', a leading source of data on greenfield FDI projects.

Dubai ranked first in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and third globally, up from fourth place last year, in FDI capital inflows, data showed. In reinvestment FDI projects, Dubai ranked first in the MENA region and third globally (up from fourth place last year), and seventh globally, up from 11th place last year, in FDI capital inflows. As for FDI job creation, Dubai ranked first in the MENA region and fifth globally, up from the sixth place last year.

The report revealed significant growth in all key FDI indicators compared to the previous year, where the estimated value of FDI capital flows into Dubai exceeded Dh26 billion from a total of 618 announced FDI projects in 2021, with a growth rate of 5.5 per cent compared to 2020. Both FDI projects and FDI job creation witnessed a significant increase of 36 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020, with an estimated 24,868 jobs in 2021, compared to 18,325 jobs in the previous year.

Xi Offers Backing for China's Economy

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Chinese President Xi Jinping has offered state backing for tech, infrastructure and jobs to revive the country's economy, but analysts warn growth will continue to wilt until Beijing drops its rigid virus controls.

Two and a half years since the coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan, China is the last major economy still closed off to the world, despite its relatively low death toll.

Lockdowns across dozens of cities – from the manufacturing hubs of Shenzhen and Shanghai to the breadbasket of Jilin – have wreaked havoc on supply chains over recent months, crushing small businesses and trapping consumers at home.

That has imperiled Beijing's full-year growth target of about 5.5%, with forecasters anticipating that around one percentage point may be shaved off that figure.

"We remain deeply concerned about growth," Nomura analysts said this week. "We believe the Omicron variant and zero-COVID-19 strategy represent the dominant challenges to growth stability."

Yet China's Communist leadership insisted Thursday that the country will stick "unswervingly" to zero-Covid, with a meeting chaired by Xi declaring that "persistence is victory."

To curtail the growing economic damage, Beijing has offered words of respite to the tech sector from rolling regulatory crackdowns and promised to pump prime the economy with an "all-out" infrastructure campaign.

But observers say rallies may be temporary as long as the state's reflex remains to hammer down the virus caseload at all costs.

"(The measures are) all very welcome ... but how many more bridges and how many more sports stadiums are going to help us in creating an environment of predictable growth?" Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Chamber of Commerce, told reporters on Thursday.

While many cities have bounced back after short, targeted lockdowns, other areas such as agricultural base Jilin province have been slow to recover from waves of restrictions.

"That precedent (Jilin) could mean a longer-lasting impact from Shanghai's highly disruptive lockdown," said Eran Cui of Gavekal Dragonomics in a report Friday.

Analysts are waiting for details of the delivery behind sweeping promises of support from Beijing's policymakers.

China's tech firms have been under the state's microscope on concerns over data misuse and monopoly.

But shares of major tech firms soared as the government called for "healthy development" of the sector and shifted its language on completing its "rectification."

Dubai Tops Rankings, Attracts Highest Greenfield FDI in 2021



DUBAI (Dispatches) - Dubai ranked first in the world in attracting greenfield foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2021, with a record number of 418 greenfield projects, data showed on Sunday. The emirate stood third last year.

"Dubai has created a stable, sustainable economic environment and a vibrant business ecosystem for companies and entrepreneurs to launch new ventures, tap new opportunities and expand their business both in the country and beyond its borders. Over the years, Dubai has also demonstrated its resilience to global economic fluctuations, earning the confidence of global investors, and enhancing its reputation as one of the world's leading lifestyle and business destinations," said Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council.

Unveiling the annual 'DUBAI FDI Results & Rankings Highlights Report 2021,' published by Dubai Investment Development Agency (Dubai FDI), an agency of the Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), Sheikh Hamdan said "Dubai's government departments, free zones, and private sector partners combined their strengths to create a fertile ground for talent, enterprise, and investment in the emirate".

The report was based on data from the Financial Times Ltd's 'fDi Markets', a leading source of data on greenfield FDI projects.

Dubai ranked first in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and third globally, up from fourth place last year, in FDI capital inflows, data showed. In reinvestment FDI projects, Dubai ranked first in the MENA region and third globally (up from fourth place last year), and seventh globally, up from 11th place last year, in FDI capital inflows. As for FDI job creation, Dubai ranked first in the MENA region and fifth globally, up from the sixth place last year.

Iran Determined for Enhanced Ties With Syria

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Sunday that Iran is determined to enhance bilateral relations with Syria.

Writing on his personal Twitter account, he said that a visit by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his fruitful meetings with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and

President Ebrahim Raisi open new chapter in strategic ties between Syria.

“Determined to enhance our bilateral relationship with triumph of Syria’s resistance,” the foreign minister said.

He said that Iran will continue to stand with Syria in the fight against terrorism and extremism.



China Orders Government, State Firms to Dump Foreign PCs



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China has ordered central government agencies and state-backed corporations to replace foreign-branded personal computers with domestic alternatives within two years, marking one of Beijing’s most aggressive efforts so far to eradicate key overseas technology from within its most sensitive organs.

Staff were asked after the week-long May break to turn in foreign PCs for home-made alternatives that run on operating software developed domestically, people familiar with the plan said. The exercise, which was mandated by central government authorities, is likely to eventually replace at least 50 million PCs on a central-government level alone, they said, asking to remain anonymous discussing a sensitive matter.

The decision advances China’s decade-long campaign to replace imported technology with local alternatives, a sweeping effort that covers everything from semiconductors to networking gear and phones. It’s likely to directly affect sales by HP Inc. and Dell Technologies Inc., the country’s biggest PC brands after local champion Lenovo Group Ltd.

Lenovo erased losses to climb as much as 5% on Friday morning in Hong Kong, while software developer Kingsoft Corp. also recouped its earlier decline to gain 3.3%. On mainland Chinese exchanges, Inspur Electronic Information Industry Co., a Chinese server maker, gained 6% while peer Dawning Information Industry Co. jumped more than 4%.

The replacement effort reflects Beijing’s growing concerns around information security as well as a confidence in homegrown hardware: the world’s biggest laptop and server makers today include Lenovo, Huawei Technologies Co. and Inspur Ltd., while local developers such as Kingsoft and Standard Software have made rapid strides in office software against the likes of Microsoft Corp. and Adobe Inc.

The campaign will be extended to provincial governments later and also abide by the two-year timeframe, the people said. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and State Council Information Office didn’t respond to faxed requests for comment.

China has been encouraging use of home-made IT products in government agencies for at least a decade, regularly barring certain products from government procurement lists. In response, U.S. IT giants such as Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. and Microsoft have set up joint ventures with firms backed by the Chinese government, to secure orders from the richest state-owned companies.

That process has long been dogged by inadequacies in Chinese-developed software

and circuitry, forcing users to rely on imported equipment. That changed in recent years, as local champions such as Inspur and Lenovo gained global market share, though their products still rely on cutting-edge American components such as processors from Intel Corp. or Advanced Micro Devices Inc. As of Friday, HP-branded machines were still available for purchase on a website used by central government procurement bodies, though it’s unclear if transactions would go through.

The latest central government directive is likely to cover only PC brands and software, and exclude hard-to-replace components such as processors from Intel and AMD, the people said. China will mostly encourage Linux-based operating systems to replace Microsoft’s Windows. Shanghai-based Standard Software is one of the top providers of such tools, one person said.

Certain agencies, including state-owned media and cybersecurity bodies, may continue to buy advanced foreign equipment under special permits as they always have, one of the people said. That permit system could be tightened in future, the person said.

Russia Publishes List of Parallel Imports Goods



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia published a detailed list of goods from foreign carmakers, technology companies and consumer brands on Friday that the government has included in a so-called “parallel imports” scheme aimed at shielding consumers from business isolation by the West.

Many global brands have halted sales in Russia in response to Moscow sending tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, while unprecedented Western sanctions have limited access to already strained global supply chains.

The government had announced in March it would allow the “parallel imports” system.

The mechanism allows a Russian company to buy goods from any company outside Russia, including from the country of the goods’ origin, that earlier purchased those goods legally, a source at the Russian trade ministry said on Friday, explaining the scheme.

The government list published in a document on Friday includes goods from all major foreign carmakers, technology companies such as Apple and Cisco, and a long list of fashion brands.

The document named the trademark holders to whom it said certain copyright provisions no longer apply. The list of goods ranged from car parts and construction materials to cosmetics, electrical equipment and textiles.

“Parallel import does not mean permission to import and circulate counterfeit goods in Russia - the products must be legally put into circulation from the country of import,” the trade ministry said in a statement.

“One of the principles of compiling the list was defending the interests of domestic consumers for products of those foreign companies that left the Russian market under the sanctions regime imposed by ‘unfriendly’ countries,” it said.

Parallel imports should not be seen as equal to grey imports as customs services will be paid and the shipments will be legal from Russia’s point of view, said Dmitry Polevoy, head of investment at LockoInvest asset management and former chief economist at the state-run Russian Direct Investment Fund.

“The volume of imports will likely be lower than before the latest sanctions, as issues with logistics need resolving,” said Polevoy, adding that producers could impose restrictions to comply with sanctions and extra costs incurred would likely push prices up.

Lockheed Martin Looks to Nearly Double Javelin Missile Production

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Weapons maker Lockheed Martin Corp plans to nearly double production of Javelin missiles, the antitank weapon that has helped Ukraine fight Russia’s invasion, Chief Executive Officer James Taiclet said in an interview on Sunday.

The aim is to boost output to 4,000 per year from 2,100 per year currently, Taiclet said in an interview with CBS News. The increase will take as long as a couple of years, he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden last week visited a Lockheed facility in Alabama that manufactures the weapons, which are made jointly by Lockheed and Raytheon Technologies, in an effort to press Congress to approve his proposed \$33 billion assistance package for Ukraine.

The United States has rushed \$3.4 billion worth of weapons to Ukraine since Russia invaded on Feb. 24, including Javelins as well as howitzers, anti-aircraft Stinger systems, ammunition and body armor.

China’s Iranian Oil...

FROM PAGE 1

Initial assessments by Vortexa Analytics showed China imported nearly 650,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude in April, slightly less than the nearly 700,000 bpd discharged in March.

Kpler, another data analytics firm, tentatively pegged Iran’s April exports at 575,000 bpd, down from an average of 840,000 bpd in the first quarter of 2022, though the agency expected to revise up April volumes in coming weeks.

China’s independent refiners, also known as teapots and situated mostly in the eastern province of Shandong, are key Iranian oil buyers. The refiners have since February reduced crude imports, operating under half their capacity in April as soaring prices, tighter import quotas and COVID lockdowns squashed margins, traders said.

“The Iranian barrels started having difficulties finding buyers since February, after independent plants cut throughput,” said Emma Li, China analyst with Vortexa.

At least six cargoes of Iranian oil totalling eight million barrels have not been able to offload at Chinese ports, floating off Shandong and Zhejiang ports for more than three months, Li added.

In contrast, China’s sea-borne crude imports from Russia jumped 16% in April from March to about 860,000 bpd, the highest since last December, Refinitiv data showed.

Though the April Russian supplies were dominated by its Far East export grade ESPO blend, the prospect of growing Urals cargoes being forced out of Europe is providing a new lure for the teapots.

At least one teapot refiner bought one June-arriving Urals cargo at a discount of \$6 to \$7 a barrel to Brent on delivered basis, traders said. That compared with Iranian oil, transacted at \$5 a barrel under Brent.

“Teapots are facing terrible margins and plentiful oil on offer. Dealing Iranian and Russian barrels both carries risks, so refiners would be careful and picking the cheaper supplies that offer relatively better margins,” said a trading executive with a Shandong-based refiner.

To avoid U.S. sanctions, Iranian crude has been exported to China marked as oil from Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia, traders have said.

Aware of the Chinese purchases, U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration has chosen not to enforce the sanctions against Chinese individuals and companies.

China’s foreign ministry did not respond to request for comment. Iran’s oil ministry also did not respond to a request for comment.

Chinese customs data last reported imports of 260,000 tons (1.9 million barrels) of Iranian oil each in December and January, in its first official record in a year.

Tehran Not to Give...

FROM PAGE 1

“For us, the main issue is that of guarantees. Seeing that the western sides go back on their commitments and do not fulfill their pledges, we should have the guarantees. Neither the US, nor any other western country should arbitrarily neglect its obligations and dodge them, again.”

“We have paid a heavy price. We have managed our economy without taking the result of the negotiations into consideration... and we are trying to break the links in the chain of sanctions one by one,” he says.

The lawmaker also suggested that a breakthrough in the talks with Saudi Arabia could positively affect the nuclear talks.

“In politics, subjects are more or less interconnected and affect each other. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always welcomed expansion and promotion of ties with key and influential countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey,” he says.

“We had five or six rounds of talks with Saudi Arabia ... We hope, with their goodwill and seriousness, we can have normal relations with neighboring countries, especially Saudi Arabia.”

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini also talked about the foreign minister’s comments that Iran and the US are exchanging messages through the European coordinator of the Vienna talks. He said the outcome is not reported to media because Iran is not at the point where there is an agreement, but any breakthrough will be made public as soon as it is achieved.

Tehran Ready...

FROM PAGE 1

The U.S. left the accord, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018 and launched a maximum pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic, despite the latter’s full adherence to its commitments under the deal.

Asked whether European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell was correct to use the word “impasse” to describe the state of the talks, Khatibzadeh refused to use the same word and reiterated that an agreement can be “easily” reached once the U.S. makes a decision.

The U.S., he went on, is not expected to present a gift to Iran or do anything beyond its commitments, but it must restore the rights of the Iranian people.

Elsewhere during his press conference, Khatibzadeh was asked to comment on the case of Hamid Nouri, an Iranian citizen who has been incarcerated in Sweden since 2019 over alleged rights abuses back in the 1980s.

He slammed Nouri’s trial as illegal. “The court of Hamid Nouri has no jurisdiction, and unfortunately, Nouri’s basic rights have not been respected.”

Nouri was arrested upon arrival in Sweden at Stockholm Airport in November 2019 and was immediately imprisoned. He has been held in solitary confinement for over two years.

Swedish prosecutors have requested the maximum penalty of life imprisonment for Nouri, accusing the former Iranian judiciary official of prisoner abuse in 1988.

The charges against Nouri stem from accusations leveled against him by members of the anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), which has conducted numerous assassinations and bombings against Iranian statesmen and civilians since the 1979 victory of Iran’s Islamic Revolution.

“My husband traveled to Sweden with an invitation and as he was disembarking from the plane he was brutally detained and insulted by several police officers in front of a crowd of Iranians and others and taken into custody,” Nouri’s wife told Press TV last week.

Sanctions...

FROM PAGE 1

Referring to the high number of Afghan refugees in Iran, First Vice President said that millions of Afghan people have migrated to Iran as refugees in a way that the country is making its utmost effort to provide humanitarian aid to Afghan people despite US pressure and sanctions.

It is a matter of regret to say that many international organizations have not provided significant assistance and humanitarian services to Afghan refugees in Iran, Mokhber highlighted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the key role of Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and stressed that experts and skilled manpower at the Society are ready to provide International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with all-out contributions especially training services in both regional and international levels.

President of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, for his part, called IRCS as one of the best international organizations in its respective field and stated that Iran Red Crescent Society has managed to fulfill its duty in the best way possible despite sanctions and international pressures imposed on the country.

Referring to the 100th foundation anniversary of Iran Red Crescent Society in Iran, Francesco Rocca said that expanding and deepening cooperation with IRCS is one of the policies and priorities of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Navy to...

FROM PAGE 1

Irani made the remarks in an interview with the Arabic-language al-Alam television news network on April 21 as he was elaborating on the latest developments and defense achievements of the country in addition to the Islamic Republic’s maritime capabilities.

“Nowadays, the northern Indian Ocean is a main waterway to connect the continents. If we do not have an effective presence, governments without a right will come [to the region] and approach our territorial waters. However, owing to the authority and presence of our fleet in high seas and [their] constant monitoring, we do not have any problems and no country dares approach our country’s waters,” Irani said.

“The geometry of power in the world is changing ... and various players are at work,” the navy commander said.

“Given our capabilities, we can have an effective presence in all maritime environments of the world whenever the Commander-in-Chief [of the Iranian Armed Forces] orders us to do so,” Irani said, referring to Ayatollah Khamenei.

Coleman Wins First 100m After Ban

TOKYO (Dispatches) – U.S. sprint star Christian Coleman took first place in his 100-meter debut after returning from a ban for breaching anti-doping rules, clocking a “pretty decent” 10.09sec in Tokyo on Sunday.

The reigning 100m world champion made his comeback in January after the 18-month suspension for failing to adhere to whereabouts requirements, which kept him from last summer’s Tokyo Olympics.

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

Cavendish Storms Giro Stage 3

BUDAPEST (Dispatches) - Veteran Mark Cavendish won stage three of the Giro d’Italia on Sunday after launching a long sprint for the line at the end of a flat 201km run to Lake Balaton in Hungary.

Dutch ace Mathieu van der Poel retained the overall leader’s pink jersey as Quick-Step’s Cavendish easily outpaced FDJ’s Arnaud Demare with Team UAE’s Fernando Gaviria coming third.

Man City Take a Grip of Premier League Title Race

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester City bounced back from their Champions League heartbreak to take a firm grip on the Premier League title race with a 5-0 win over Newcastle on Sunday.

Raheem Sterling’s double and goals from Aymeric Laporte, Rodri and Phil Foden moved Pep Guardiola’s men three points clear of Liverpool with three games left to play.

City also edged four goals ahead of the Reds on goal difference which could still decide the title if the defending champions do lose one of their remaining games against Wolves, West Ham and Aston Villa.

The title is the only trophy left for City to fight for after blowing the chance to reach a second consecutive Champions League final, against Real Madrid on Wednesday.

The Spanish giants came from two goals down in the dying stages to win a classic semi-final 6-5 on aggregate and set up a meeting with Liverpool in Paris.

Liverpool remain in contention for a historic quadruple of trophies, but their 1-1 draw at home to Tottenham on Saturday opened the door for City to extend their lead at the top of the table.

City showed no signs of physical fatigue or a mental hangover from Madrid as they took full advantage.

Guardiola freshened his side up with four changes to the side that started in the Bernabeu.

Kyle Walker was ruled out by the recurrence of an ankle injury, while Bernardo Silva, Phil Foden and Riyad Mahrez were left on the bench.

But City’s strength in depth shone as Sterling, Jack Grealish, Ilkay Gundogan and Oleksandr Zinchenko all starred in a brilliant team performance.

Meanwhile earlier Eddie Nketiah boosted Arsenal’s bid to finish in the Premier League’s top four with a brace in their 2-1 win against Leeds as the Yorkshire club dropped into the relegation zone after Everton’s 2-1 victory at Leicester.



Nketiah netted twice in the first 10 minutes at the Emirates Stadium as Mikel Arteta’s side earned their fourth successive win.

Leeds had skipper Luke Ayling sent off and, although Diego Llorente got one back, it was too little, too late for Jesse Marsch’s strugglers.

Fourth placed Arsenal are four points clear of fifth placed Tottenham, with three games left for both teams in the race to qualify for next season’s Champions League via a top four finish.

Tottenham’s gritty 1-1 draw at Liverpool on Saturday had kept them in the hunt, but Arsenal will visit their north London rivals on Thursday knowing a win would guarantee they finish above Antonio Conte’s men.

Leeds sit third bottom of the table due to having a worse goal difference than Burnley.

Everton made the most of Leeds’ stumble as they beat Leicester to secure a second consecutive win.

Frank Lampard’s side arrived at the King Power Stadium with just one win and three draws from 16 away games, including losses in their last seven matches on their travels.

But Lampard and his players were given a rousing send-off by Everton fans outside the club’s Finch Farm training ground when they left for Leicester on Sunday morning.

West Ham crushed relegated Norwich 4-0 at Carrow Road to ease the pain of their Europa League semi-final defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt on Thursday.

Said Benrahma put West Ham in front after 12 minutes when his shot deflected off Max Aarons and squirmed past Norwich keeper Tim Krul.

Michail Antonio doubled West Ham’s advantage after 30 minutes with his first league goal since January 1.

Benrahma bagged the third on the stroke of half-time and Manuel Lanzini converted a 65th minute penalty after Jacob Sorensen’s handball.



Alcaraz Downs Djokovic in Thriller

MADRID (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz believes the sky is the limit after becoming the first player to beat Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic at the same tournament on clay as he stormed into the Madrid Open final.

The 19-year-old Spaniard reached his second ATP Masters final in five weeks and claimed his first win over a reigning world number one, overcoming Djokovic 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in front of a sell-out home crowd at the Caja Magica.

Alcaraz has a tour-leading seven wins against top-10 players this season. He enters Sunday’s final against defending champion Alexander Zverev carrying a nine-match winning streak, having triumphed in Barcelona a couple of weeks ago.

He is the youngest player to beat a world number one in 17 years.

Asked if he sees a limit to what he can achieve, Alcaraz said: “I don’t think so. Tomorrow I will go for the final as I did in Miami. I’m really happy to be able to play a second Masters 1000 final.”

“I would say that I feel ready to compete against them (the top players) in every single tournament, in every single surface,” added the Miami champion.

Zverev moved into his third Madrid final with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 win against Greek world number five Stefanos Tsitsipas, in a clash that finished at 1:06 am local time.

Bivol Retains WBA

Light Heavyweight Title

LAS VEGAS (Dispatches) - Unbeaten Dmitry Bivol retained his WBA light-heavyweight world title with a unanimous points decision over Saul “Canelo” Alvarez, handing the Mexican superstar the second defeat of his career. Russia’s Bivol, 31 improved to 20-0 with 11 knockouts while multiweight champion Alvarez, a heavy favorite, fell to 57-2 with two draws. His only other defeat was to Floyd Mayweather at light middleweight in 2013.

Alvarez made boxing history in November when he stopped Caleb Plant to become the first man to unite all four super middleweight world title belts.

He had fought at light-heavyweight before, stopping Sergey Kovalev in the 11th round to win the WBO 175-pound title in November 2019.

But there would be no late heroics against Bivol, who pressured Alvarez relentlessly throughout the bout and never appeared to be hurt seriously by the Mexican, who struggled to get past Bivol’s guard.

“He hurt my arm,” Bivol said, displaying a bruised upper arm that absorbed a string of punches.

“I felt his power, you can see on my arm. He beat my arm up -- but not my head.”

All three judges -- Tim Cheatham, Dave Moretti and Steve Weisfeld -- scored the bout 115-113 for Bivol.

It was a massive disappointment for the pro-Alvarez crowd at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, who were pulling for a Mexican victory on the Cinco de Mayo holiday weekend.

Bivol said their partisan cheers whenever Alvarez seemed to be gaining ground “gave me more energy.”

Bivol fought a disciplined fight, keying a steady attack with a piston-like jab that opened the door for powerful combinations.

Alvarez was put on the defensive, and the naturally lighter fighter couldn’t find a way to respond.

By the seventh round his face was bruised, his feet looked slow and his punches lacked their usual power.

“He’s a very good fighter,” Alvarez said. “He comes in, goes out. He managed his distance really well. That’s boxing.



Jabeur Wins First WTA 1000 Title in Madrid

MADRID (Dispatches) - Tunisian Ons Jabeur sealed her first WTA 1000 title after defeating American Jessica Pegula 7-5 0-6 6-2 in an entertaining Madrid Open final.

Jabeur had been in scintillating form at the claycourt tournament and the 27-year-old produced a determined display against Pegula to end her journey in the Spanish capital on the perfect note.

Jabeur had a slow start, being down 1-4 in the

opener, but took advantage of a handful of loose baseline errors from Pegula to make it 4-4.

The first Arab player to crack the top 10 of the world rankings, Jabeur showed flair and fighting spirit as she saved a set point at 4-5 before closing out the set on her serve.

The Tunisian, however, lost her grip in the second set where she was handed a bagel by Pegula, who recovered remarkably and looked unstoppable.

The decider saw world number 10 Jabeur at her aggressive best -- the Tunisian fighting through a long deuce game and breaking on her first chance to earn a double-break lead and chance to serve out the win.

Jabeur fell to her knees after completing the biggest win of her career, becoming the first African player to win a WTA 1000 title.

Nadal Staying Positive Despite Alcaraz Defeat

MADRID (Dispatches) - Rafa Nadal said there were positives to take from the Madrid Open despite the 21-times major winner falling to a quarter-final defeat by teenager Carlos Alcaraz on Friday in his first tournament back following a stress fracture in the rib.

Australian Open champion Nadal, who picked up the injury at Indian Wells in March, went down 6-2 1-6 6-3 to Spanish compatriot Alcaraz, ending his quest for a sixth title at the ATP Masters 1000 event.

“The reading of the tournament is I have played three matches and that I came here with hardly any preparation... I said it before coming here it was going to be a tough week,” Nadal told reporters.

“But it has not been a disaster in any case. I think that I have competed with the correct attitude. I have played two, two-and-a-half hours, nearly three... this is a positive outcome.”

The 35-year-old overcame Miomir Kecmanovic and David Goffin in his opening two matches before coming up short against an inspired Alcaraz.

Nadal added that he would have ideally preferred to make a return to action at the Estoril Open in Portugal last week because of the high altitude in the Spanish capital.

“It would have been much better to start the week before in Estoril, at sea level, a 250 tournament, but I didn’t manage to make it,” said Nadal, who will be bidding for a record-extending 14th title at Roland Garros later this month.

“I came here knowing that this is the toughest tournament, because here the ball flies much more. When they return the ball, you have to be much faster with your legs... because if you don’t position yourself properly behind the ball, the unforced error comes easily.”



Liverpool Will Keep Going

LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said his Liverpool side would still chase an unprecedented quadruple despite seeing their Premier League title hopes suffer a huge blow on Saturday.

Klopp’s side have already won the League Cup and are in the FA Cup and Champions League finals and victory over Tottenham on Saturday would have cranked up the pressure on Manchester City in the title race.

But they could only draw 1-1 with Tottenham Hotspur -- ending a run of 12 successive home league wins and City can pull three points clear with three games remaining if they beat Newcastle United on Sunday.

Son Heung-min gave Tottenham the lead and though Luis Diaz equalized, Liverpool’s knack of finding a winner deserted them as their attack lacked its usual potency.

“I’m not happy, but not as sad as the players are right now and it is my job to explain why something happens like this,” Klopp, whose side beat Villarreal to reach the Champions League final on Tuesday, said after a tense Anfield duel.

“They are down in the dressing room, it was intense. When you play top teams, you need luck in the decisive moments.

“I’m not happy, but not as sad as the players are right now and it is my job to explain why something happens like this. “That is why it is so hard. That is why the quadruple is so unlikely; there is a reason nobody has done it in this country. We will keep going.”

Klopp praised his players and refused to use tiredness as a reason for dropping vital points but conceded that he was not expecting Manchester City to slip up.

