

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Top Negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani and Deputy EU Foreign Policy Chief Enrique Mora Met In Tehran to Exchange Views on Vienna Talks and Other Issues

DOMESTIC



DOMESTIC



INTERNATIONAL

A photograph of a heavily damaged Russian T-72 tank. The tank is positioned in a field with trees in the background. It appears to be a main battle tank, and its armor shows significant signs of destruction, including missing sections and exposed internal components. The tank is facing towards the left of the frame.

SPORTS

See Page 7

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

During the meeting, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei stated that there is no opportunity higher and better for the Islamic Republic of Iran than twelve years of school education. These twelve years are the greatest opportunity to institutionalize the ideals of the revolution.

Young generation must learn the value and importance of Resistance from now, said Leader stressing the young generation must get acquainted with the importance of confronting the arrogant powers in the world.

See Page 7

Work on closing the remaining gaps of this negotiation continues, Mora added.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

The forecast seems plausible as it is close to figures announced by other officials in the sector, such as the head of the Flour Producers Association who said earlier this month that the country needs to import at least 20 million tons of grain this year, including six to seven million tons of wheat. Mohammad-Reza Mortazavi admitted that the country has never been so dependent on imports.

See Page 7

Goharzamin pleases the Supreme Leader by participating in the Janja mine and transferring water to the arid regions of the country. The morning session council of deputies and managers of Goharzamin Iron Ore Company was held in the presence of the CEO of the company Mr. Mohammad Fallah, Dr. Mohammad Reza Khezripour, member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Director of Management and Human Capital Development Dr. Mohammad Reza Khezripour, deputies and managers of the company. In this session which continued with introducing Eng. Khalili as deputy on exploitation and manager of the site and Eng. Najafabadi as the deputy of development of Goharzami as well as introducing the new manager of the security department of company and new director of security, the CEO of the company Mr. Fallah pointed to the significance of Janja and Jabal Baez mines in development of seven southern towns of Kerman and South Khorasan provinces and participation of the company in exploiting these mines and expressed hope at least one cluster of Jabal Barez mine would be exploited by September. He further said: "By participating in Janja mine and transferring water to dry areas and solving the country's water problem, we will provide the satisfaction of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran." The CEO also added that the development, export, sale of products and wealth creation for the development of the company should be on the agenda. Pointing out that empathy in the workplace will lead to the development of that collection, he said: creating wealth, spending this wealth correctly, producing and creating jobs, as well as fair criticism have a great impact on achieving the lofty goals of a collection. In another part of the meeting, Dr. Khezripour, a member of the board of directors and deputy director of management and human capital development of Goharzamin, stated: The colleagues of Goharzamin Company in many indicators such as housing, laboratory and safety cooperatives have become. He also added that in the field of education, holding 1400 training classes for staff and families has increased seven times compared to last year. At the end of the meeting, the deputies and managers raised various issues related to their field of work.

20 Afghan Investors Receive Iran's Residency

TEHRAN (MNA) – Twenty Afghan investors who were eligible to achieve the citizenship of the Islamic Republic and had gone through the legal process acquired the citizenship during a ceremony on Tuesday.

Alireza Bikdeli, Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs said during the ceremony that the existence of religious, cultural and historical commonalities between Iran and its neighbors paves the way for strengthening the relations among them.

He added that the Ministry of Interior is identifying foreign nationals, and under the plan, efforts will be made to identify elites and use their capacities and talents.

President Calls For Monitoring Goods Supply Chain

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said, “Supervising the supply chain and distribution of goods is an important issue in the successful implementation of the economic reform plan, which requires serious, continuous and field activity of all related institutions, and no negligence will be accepted in this regard.”

Raisi attended a meeting of the Market Regulation Headquarters and thanked the Supreme Leader of the Revolution, who called on everyone to help the government implement the economic reform plan better, saying, “The role-playing and participation of the people, like all the serious areas of the past, is important in this economic reform and guarantees its success”.

Emphasizing that people's doubts about this plan must be answered, the President added, “It is very important and necessary to inform the people and different groups and elites of the society so that they can better understand and cooperate in the implementation of this plan”.

Raisi stated, “Supervising the supply chain and distribution of goods is an important issue in the successful implementation of the economic reform plan, which requires serious, continuous and field activity of all related institutions, and no negligence will be accepted in this regard”.



Meanwhile the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution reviewed and approved the second chapter of the council's transformation document, which was related to the relations and interactions with other bodies.

The meeting of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution was held on Tuesday evening, chaired by President Raisi, and the second chapter of the transformation document of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, related to the model of the council's interactions with other institutions, was finalized and all its articles were approved.

This chapter deals with issues such as the relationship between the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution and the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the conflicts between the resolutions of this council with the Assembly or the approvals of the Assembly with the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution and the interaction of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution with the Expediency Council.

33rd Tehran Int'l Book Fair to Revitalize Publication Industry

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The 33rd Tehran International Book Fair opened on Tuesday local time in the Iranian capital to pave the ground for reinvigorating reading and publishing arenas after COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and economic hardships.

The fair was officially inaugurated in the presence of Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mahdi Esmaili, Lebanese Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi and some Iranian cultural officials at Imam Khomeini Mosalla in Tehran.

According to the organizers of the event, the 33rd book fair is being held both virtual and in person simultaneously. The organizers have made coordination with Iran's Post Office to transfer books. Moreover, subsidies for the purchase of books from the book fair allocated to students and university professors have been raised significantly, indicating 100% increase in comparison to subsidies provided to the target community in the last Iranian year (March 20, 2021 to March 20, 2022).

In the second virtual book fair, which was held last year, some 1,331,530 volumes were sold.

Yaser Ahmadvand, head of the 33rd Tehran International Book Fair, said that some 1700 publishers are showcasing their products in the cultural event, adding that furthermore, 1100 publishers supply their books in cyberspace.

According to the organizer, 170 foreign publishers take part in the book fair, and almost 50 foreign guests from 30 countries are scheduled to visit the cultural event.

Publishers from Switzerland, India, Hong Kong, Turkey, Italy, France, China, South Korea, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Pakistan, Tunisia, Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Azerbaijan Republic, Tajikistan, Russia, Serbia, Mexico, England, Australia, the Netherlands, the US, Germany and Spain show their books in the fair.

According to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar is to have a strong presence in the event.

The Tehran book fair is being held physically after two years of corona restrictions and following vaccinations of people in different countries around the world.

Iran, India Anti-Narcotics Police Stress More Cooperation

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Iranian and Indian anti-narcotics police stressed the need for online exchange of information and stepped-up intelligence cooperation between the two countries in the fight against drug trafficking.

The commander of Iran's anti-narcotics police Brigadier-general Majid Karimi held a meeting with General Satya Narayan Pradhan, India's Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Tehran on Tuesday.

Enhancing the level of bilateral cooperation can undoubtedly lay the ground for sharing police capabilities between the two countries in the field of combating illicit drugs, the Iranian commander said in the meeting.

Gen. Karimi said that Iran's geographical location has made it the most economical transit route for drug traffickers to get their illegal drugs to the European countries, which in turn has caused a lot of problems for Iran in the fight against drug traffickers. He added that Iran plays a major role in combating drug traffickers at an international level.

The Iranian military official also noted that the presence of powers beyond the region in Afghanistan from 2001 under the pretext of fighting narcotics and terrorism increased the production of narcotics in that country by 50 times, adding that studies show that the main financial sources of income for the terrorist groups are from drug trafficking.

He also stressed the need for sharing information and online exchange of information between the two countries' police in the fight against narcotics.

“Holding joint training courses, forming specialized information committees, exchanging knowledge and technology related to indigenous equipment to identify and discover drugs, as well as sharing the latest methods and techniques of hiding drugs by the traffickers, exchanging experiences related to sniffer dogs, etc. can help in uprooting the elements behind drug trafficking to a large extent,” Majidi said.

Satya Narayan Pradhan, for his part, admired Iran's efforts in the fight against drug trafficking and said that “We welcome the development of cooperation with the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police and call for signing a memorandum of understanding on cooperation and the use of the experiences of Iran in the field of combating narcotics in continuation of longstanding joint cooperation between the two countries.”

According to the Indian official, the growing trend of narcotics production and the long shared borders that Iran and India have with Afghanistan and Pakistan implies the necessity of constructive interaction between the two countries.

He further expressed gratitude for the Iranian side's hospitality during the visit and said that given the existing capacities between the two countries, the two need to enhance the level of cooperation.

Raisi Felicitates 30th Anniversary of Setting Up Iran-Kyrgyzstan Diplomatic Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi in a message to his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov on Tuesday, congratulated the president and the people of Kyrgyzstan on the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of Iran-Kyrgyzstan diplomatic ties.

In a congratulatory message to the Kyrgyz President on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, President Raisi noted that cultural and civilizational common grounds, as well as common national plus religious traditions, are huge assets that form the basis of bilateral relations.

The president added that the declaration of independence of the Kyrgyz Republic has ushered in a new era in the long-standing relations between the two peoples, rooted in the region's ancient history and culture.

Pointing out that cultural and civilizational common grounds and common national and religious traditions are huge assets that form the basis of mutual relations, President Raisi highlighted that during its thirty years of diplomatic relations, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made serious efforts to develop relations between the two states.

The relations between the two states and the two nations cover a wide range of issues, the result of which is the signing of more than 120 cooperation documents at various national, provincial, inter-institutional, public, and private sectors levels, he stated.

Tehran Calls for Release of Diplomat in Belgium Detained on False Charges

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran condemns imprisonment of an Iranian diplomat in Belgium on false terror-related charges, calling for his immediate release.

In June 2018, Belgian authorities said that the Belgian police had intercepted a car carrying homemade explosives and a detonation device, claiming that Assadollah Assadi had handed the materials to two people in Belgium earlier. Assadi, himself, was apprehended in Germany the next day and told that he could not apply his diplomatic immunity.

A Belgian court then sentenced the diplomat, who serves as the third counselor at Iran's Embassy in Vienna, to 20 years in prison after accusing him of plotting an alleged attack against the anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MKO) cult.

On Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the process of detention and trial of Assadi has been flawed and in violation of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

“The European parties involved in the case of Assadollah Assadi have been called to account,” Khatibzadeh said.

His remarks came after an appellate court rejected appeal requests submitted by three people, whom are said, in line with “unfounded and baseless accusations,” to have been “connected” to Assadi.

“Unfortunately, today, under the pretext of holding appeals court for the three foregoing people, we are once again witnessing fabricated lies by Western media about Mr. Assadi, a diplomat of the Islamic Republic of Iran”.

“As said in the past, the entire procedures of detention, trial, and issuance of legal verdict against Assadi have taken place in complete violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations,” he noted.

Negotiations Will Be Pursued To Remove Sanctions

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian says negotiations will be pursued to have the sanctions on Iran removed while at the same time other measures will be taken to neutralize those bans.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Amir Abdollahian wrote that both tracks of negotiating to remove the sanctions and working to neutralize them via “economic advancement” and the “fair distribution... of subsidies” would be followed.

He said negotiations will take place while “observing Iran's red lines in reaching a good, strong, and maintainable deal.”

Iran has been under stringent sanctions by the United States, which have battered its economy. Some of the harshest of those sanctions were imposed after former US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018.

President Says

Tehran-Tashkent ties at Highest Level

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi said that relations between Iran and Uzbekistan have reached their peak since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992.

The president made the remarks in a congratulatory message to his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the occasion of the 30rd anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Tashkent.

President Raisi said that great history, culture, as well as common concerns and beliefs have tied the two nations together.

He noted that there are still many untapped potentials for further expansion of relations which requires the determination of leaders of both countries.

Isfahan Opens Polish Children Photo Exhibition

TEHRAN (IFP) - Isfahan has opened a photo exhibition featuring Polish refugee children who came to the city during the Second World War.



Poland's top diplomat Zbigniew Rau attended the opening ceremony on Monday.

He said the exhibition tells the story of an odyssey of 120,000 Poles who came to Iran during World War II.

The Polish top diplomat said “The story is well known both in Iran and in the heart of Poland and another thing that remains well in the memories is the generous help of the Iranians who saved the lives of thousands of Poles.”

Gov't to Ease Granting Citizenship to Foreign Investors

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran has plans to further facilitate the procedures of granting Iranian citizenship based on economic activities in the country, according to a Foreign Ministry official.

Iranian Foreign Minister's Deputy for Consular, Parliamentary, and Iranian expatriates Affairs Alireza Bigdeli made the remarks during a ceremony on Tuesday where 20 Afghan investors who have become eligible to receive Iranian citizenship were granted their relevant documents.

Bigdeli said that identifying and organizing the foreign nationals living in Iran is now underway by the Foreign Ministry which he believed will improve the conditions for identifying and making use of the talented people.

Iranian missions in foreign countries, particularly those in the neighboring ones, have been told to facilitate granting services to foreign nationals, the official said.

He added that all-out interaction with neighboring countries is on the agenda of the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the country provides support for the activity of foreign investors and entrepreneurs in Iran.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:00
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:19
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:23
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:00

21. Such as fear not the meeting with Us (for Judgment) say: "Why are not the angels sent down to us, or (why) do we not see our Lord?" Indeed they have an arrogant conceit of themselves, and mighty is the insolence of their impiety!

Surah 25. The Criterion, The Standard (21)

Tehran, Doha To Expand Bilateral Trade Relations

TEHRAN (MNA) – Turning to the upcoming visit of Emir of Qatar to Iran, the Chairman of Iran-Qatar Joint Chamber of Commerce said mutual agreements signed between the two countries of Iran and Qatar will be pursued and implemented seriously.

Adnan Mousapour stated that the upcoming visit of the Emir of Qatar to Iran will open a new chapter in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

The visit of the Emir of Qatar to Iran is made in line with strengthening and boosting bilateral ties between the two countries, he said, adding that Qatari and Iranian economic activists are very interested in cooperating with one another in relevant fields.

Iran-Qatar Joint Chamber of Commerce undertakes great responsibility in guiding the private sectors of the two countries, he said, adding that drastic planning has been made for the expansion of relations between the two countries in relevant fields.

The result of the visit of the Emir of Qatar to Iran after the visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi to this country is of paramount importance which can lead to the



expansion of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

He further stipulated that the visit of the Emir of Qatar to Iran at the head of a high-ranking delegation can herald a promising future in economic relations between the two countries in terms of economy.

Given the holding of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Mousapour called on the private sector to play a leading role in the field of exporting required goods and also meeting the needs of this country.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the chairman of the Iran-Qatar Joint Chamber of Commerce pointed to the visit of Qatari officials to Kish and emphasized that the upcoming visit of the Emir of Qatar to Iran can be fruitful in line with following up the agreements for cooperating in co-hosting 2022 World Cup.

Symposium on Investment in Italy Held

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – In the event "Symposium on Investment in Italy held on Monday at the Italian Ambassador's residence, investment opportunities in Italy, facilities and incentive policies, special economic zones and banking issues and current problems of companies were discussed and reviewed.

The event was held in Tehran by Embassy of Italy in collaboration with Italian Trade Agency and Iran-Italy Joint Chamber (CCIM) where experts and entrepreneurs were present and it was aimed at easing the route for resumption of pick-up in economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Italy.

Speaking in the event, Italian Ambassador to Tehran Giuseppe Perrone said that in a strongly instable international context, huge financial resources in the form of the Recovery and Resilience Plan will lead to injection of over 200b euros to the Italian economic system and this will definitely lead to growth and it will be a driving force which can boost domestic production and increase consumption and it will create attractive opportunities for investment.

Participants in the event by sharing their past lessons and recounted trade successes like old Italian city Padova-based home appliances manufacturing company Lofra which has been bought and re-launched by Iranian entrepreneur Mr. Reza Salehizadeh. They also reviewed the possibility for reinforcing bilateral cooperation in the field of investment and future trends through the speeches of experts in different trade and legal fields.

Chairman of Iran-Italy Joint Chamber Eng. Pourfallah, Head of Economic and Commercial Section of Italian Embassy David Balloni and head of ITA in Tehran Mr. Giancarlo Albano were other speakers in this event.

This lively and fruitful event ended with a question-answer section where some distinguished Iranian entrepreneurs had chances to get their answers regarding their questions on the technical issues which were aimed at their successful entry into the Italian economic system.



Tehran, Yerevan Stress Need for Expansion of Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian and Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Mher Grigoryan underlined the necessity of developing mutual ties between the two friendly countries.

According to paven.ir, a high-ranking Iranian delegation headed by Mehrabian arrived in Yerevan Tuesday night, which was warmly welcomed by Grigoryan, who is also chairman of the Armenian side of the Iran-Armenia intergovernmental joint commission.

Mehrabian and Grigoryan held talks on important issues playing key role in developing mutual relations.

The two sides declared that the aim of holding 17th joint economic cooperation commission is to expand ties between the two countries really and effectively, underscoring their seriousness in implementing agreements achieved so far.

Facilitation of transit, transportation, exchanges and trade between Armenia and Iran are among issues raised in the meeting. They also discussed expansion of cooperation in energy sector in the presence of deputy ministers of both sides, and they reached proper decisions in this respect.

Moreover, minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Republic of Armenia and his deputy for energy affairs are scheduled to visit Iran in a bid to follow up energy cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Tehran, Baku Sign a Cooperation Agreement



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel-General of the Customs Service Safar Mehdiyev met with his Iranian counterpart.

During the meeting in Julfa, East Azerbaijan Province, S. Mehdiyev spoke about the need for joint management of the customs service on the existing borders between the two countries, noting that this will facilitate trade and increase mutual cooperation.

Mehdiyev noted that the customs administrations of the two countries are a gateway to friendship between Iran and Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan is ready to cooperate with Iran in facilitating and accelerating traffic. Azerbaijan, Iran and Russia can manage the region and international transit by increasing transit and customs cooperation.

During the visit, a document on cooperation was signed between the customs administrations of Iran and Azerbaijan. The document was signed by the chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel-General of the Customs Service Safar Mehdiyev and the head of the State Customs Administration of Iran Alirza Muqaddas.

In order to increase trade between the two countries, the document agreed to simplify procedures and eliminate problems with the movement of goods and passengers.

Chairman of the Customs Committee of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Sahat Habibbayli also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Alirza Muqaddas told reporters that increasing trade cooperation with the Republic of Azerbaijan has always been the focus and desire of Iranian officials. In order to develop comprehensive cooperation with Azerbaijan, regular meetings are held with the leadership of the customs authorities of this country. "The customs administrations of the two countries have held several joint meetings so far.

According to him, such meetings are held regularly in order to increase Iran's trade with neighboring countries.

Iran Exports to Africa Sees 120% Growth

KARAJ (IRNA) - Worth of Iran's exports to Africa has been 1.2 billion dollars with 120 percent increase in the past Iranian calendar year ended on March 20 while being compared with the preceding year, an official in charge of African affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday.

Ali Akbar Rezaei made the remarks at a video conference on reviewing Senegal's market.

Iran's Ambassador to Senegal Mohamad Reza Dehshiri was also present in the conference which was based in the Iranian province of Alborz near Tehran.

West African region with 400-million population is an appropriate place for making investment and promoting Iran's exports, Rezaei told the provincial officials.

As Rezaei announced, aim behind holding such a conference is to help the business persons and members of the province chamber of commerce get familiarized with capacities of the target countries.

For his part, the Iranian ambassador described Senegal as one of the most stable countries in the African continent.

There is a good opportunity for the Iranians to invest in this African country whose economic growth has been about six percent during the past five years, Dehshiri added.

The ambassador referred to launch of refinery in Senegal as among opportunities for investment. Alborz Province is one of the industrial Iranian provinces which has 3,500 industrial and manufacturing units.

Gov't Hands out \$1.5b Worth of Cash Subsidy

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The government has granted around \$1.5 billion worth of cash subsidies to more than 23.6 million households in the country as part of efforts to cushion shocks that could be caused by price hikes in consumer goods.

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said on Tuesday that private and state-run banks in the country had deposited around 400 trillion rials of cash to accounts held by families under the government's new cash subsidy system.

The CBI said that the money will remain blocked in the accounts until a government announcement allows withdrawals. Government authorities said more than 72 million Iranians would benefit from the new cash system which earmarks a monthly payment of 3-4 million rials (\$10-\$15) to each individual.

The handouts offered overnight on Tuesday covered payments for two calendar months to June 21.

Previous monthly payments of around 1 million rials (\$3) given to more than 60 million people over the past years will be dismantled under the new subsidy system, said a government statement, adding that future monthly payments will be in the form of electronic coupons that can be used for purchase of basic goods.

The new cash handouts come as the government plans to stop subsidizing bread and other basic consumer goods like medicine. Under the plan the government will stop offering heavily subsidized foreign exchange to importers and suppliers of food, medicine and other staple goods.

A report by the official IRNA news agency said the government had earmarked more than \$74 billion since March 2018 to the supply of basic goods at a price of 42,000 rials per US dollar.

That comes as the market price of the US dollar has increased from 129,000 rials in March 2018 to over 280,000 rials this month.

Arvand Petrochemical Co.

To Offer 100 Products in Domestic Market

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Commercial Manage of Arvand Petrochemical Company says the company will offer all of its products on mercantile exchange for the sake of helping a sustainable market and developing the downstream industries in the country.



On the sidelines of the 12th international exhibition of Isfahan Plast 2022, Mr. Mohammad Reza Karimi said that Arvand Petrochemical Company in the past two months has entered into a 45-day overhaul for sustainability and increase of production and consequently some of the units were forced to exit the circuit and therefore the amount of production will decrease for a certain period which will be announced by the downstream industries office.

He went on to say that during this period, the company with offering its existing products in its warehouses, the company fulfilled its obligations and other demands of the market will be met after the overhaul in the company.

Pointing to the monopoly of some parts and equipment and unilateral sanctions against the petrochemical industry of the country, the company could manufacture and indigenize its required parts with reliance on the potentials and capabilities of the domestic experts.

Karimi went on to say that since the beginning of the overhaul in the company, the company offered some 40,000 tons of its products on the mercantile exchange to meet the demands of the downstream companies for regulating the market.

He then pointed to the higher value added and earning of forex in the downstream industries, adding that the company will stop exporting its products to meet the demands of the domestic market and support the downstream industries.

Honduran Ex-Police Chief Extradited To U.S. to Face Drug Charges

TEGUCIGALPA (Dispatches) - Former Honduran police chief Juan Carlos Bonilla was extradited Tuesday to the United States, where he stands accused of supervising drug trafficking operations on behalf of ex-president Juan Orlando Hernandez.

Hernandez, 53, was extradited to the United States last month to face drug trafficking charges, less than three months after he left the presidency following eight years in office.

An airplane belonging to the US Drug Enforcement Agency took off from a military base in Tegucigalpa with a handcuffed Bonilla aboard, an AFP journalist at the scene saw.



Bolsonaro Planning to Skip Americas Summit Hosted by Biden

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Brazilian far-right President Jair Bolsonaro is not planning to attend the Summit of the Americas next month in Los Angeles, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

They said Bolsonaro has told his aides he won't be going to the U.S.-hosted gathering of heads of state from across the continent, but gave no reason why.

Bolsonaro had admired former U.S. President Donald Trump and was slow to recognize the election victory of President Joe Biden. Relations between Washington and Brasilia chilled last year. Bolsonaro and Biden have never spoken to each other.



Ukraine Pushes Russian Troops Back In Counter-Offensive Near Kharkiv



KHARKIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine said today its forces had recaptured villages from Russian troops north and northeast of Kharkiv, pressing a counter-offensive that could signal a shift in the war's momentum and jeopardize Russia's main advance.

Tetiana Apatchenko, press officer for the 92nd Separate Mechanized Brigade, the main Ukrainian force in the area, confirmed that Ukrainian troops had recaptured the settlements of Cherkaski Tyshky, Ruski Tyshki, Borshchova and Slobozhanske, in a pocket north of Kharkiv in recent days.

Yuriy Saks, an adviser to Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov said the successes were pushing Russian forces out of range of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, which has been under perpetual bombardment since the war began.

"The military operations of the Ukrainian armed forces around Kharkiv, especially north and northeast of Kharkiv, are sort of a success story," Saks told Reuters. "The Ukrainian army was able to push these war criminals to a line beyond the reach of their artillery."

The counterattack could signal a new phase in the war, with Ukraine now going on the offensive after weeks in which Russia mounted a massive assault without making a breakthrough.

By pushing back Russian forces who had occupied the outskirts of Kharkiv since the start of the invasion, the Ukrainians are moving into striking distance of the rear supply lines sustaining the main Russian attack force further south.

"They're trying to cut in and behind the Russians to cut off the supply lines, because that's really one of their (the Russians') main weaknesses," said Neil Melvin of the RUSI think-tank in London.

"Ukrainians are getting close to the Russian border. So all the gains that the Russians made in the early days in the northeast of Ukraine are increasingly slipping away."

The setbacks near Kharkiv deal a blow to Moscow's war plans at precisely the moment when Western capitals believe President Vladimir Putin had been hoping to announce a major victory for a holiday marking the end of World War Two.

On Monday, Putin presided over a huge Red Square military parade for Victory Day. Western countries had worried that, in the absence of major battlefield success to announce, he might instead order a nationwide mobilisation. In the event, he did neither — exhorting Russians to keep fighting but giving no indication about his further strategy.

US Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said Washington believes Russia still plans for a long war, aiming to capture more of Ukraine than just the eastern Donbas region that has been the main focus of its assault this month.

Putin was counting on the Western resolve to weaken over time, Haines told lawmakers.

Shoot-on-Sight Orders in Sri Lanka After Deadly Violence

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lankan authorities issued shoot-on-sight orders to quell further unrest a day after the island was rocked by deadly violence and rioting.

With thousands of security forces enforcing a curfew, the defense ministry said troops "have been ordered to shoot on sight anyone looting public property or causing harm to life".

Yesterday, government supporters attacked with sticks and clubs demonstrators in Colombo protesting peacefully for weeks over a dire economic crisis and demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Mobs then retaliated across the country late into the night, torching dozens of homes of ruling-party politicians and trying to storm the prime minister's official residence in the capital.

Police said today that in total eight people died.

Protests continued despite the curfew.

A crowd attacked and set fire to a vehicle carrying Colombo's most senior policeman.



Japan Says S. Korea Wants to Work on Improving Ties

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan and South Korea have agreed that their frayed relationship can be improved, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said after meeting Yoon Seok-yeol, the new president of the neighboring nation.

Yoon was sworn in at a time when Washington is seeking to boost three-way security co-operation with Tokyo and Seoul amid renewed missile and nuclear threats from North Korea.

Ties between the key US security allies in North Asia have been dogged by the bitter legacy of Japan's 1910-1945 occupation, with recent disagreements on issues ranging from wartime forced labour to export controls.

Yoon said he would like to improve ties by maintaining close communication, Hayashi told reporters.

"South Korea is an important country and cooperation ... is indispensable for the stability of this region, including response to North Korea," Hayashi said after attending Yoon's inaugural ceremony in Seoul.

"We agreed that we should not leave the Japan-South Korea relations getting worse," he added, making specific mention of co-operation between Japan and South Korea as well as Japan, the United States and South Korea.

Yoon told Hayashi he hoped to meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida soon, and work with him to improve ties, according to a pool report from the South Korean presidential office.



On Monday, Rahm Emanuel, the U.S. ambassador to Tokyo, said he viewed Hayashi's trip to Seoul as "significant" since it could place their relations on a "better footing".

Marcos Tells World to Judge Him by Actions, Not Family's Past

MANILA (Dispatches) - The son of the disgraced late Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos vowed on Tuesday to work for all people after his stunning election victory, and told the world to judge him by his presidency, not his family's past.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr, better known as "Bongbong", become the first candidate in recent history to win an outright majority in a Philippines presidential election, paving the way for a once unimaginable return to rule for the country's most notorious political dynasty.

"Judge me not by my ancestors, but by my actions," Marcos told the world, according to a statement by his spokesperson Vic Rodriguez.

Marcos fled into exile in Hawaii with his family during a 1986 "people power" uprising that ended his father's autocratic 20-year rule, and has served in congress and the senate since his return to the Philippines in 1991.

Marcos' runaway victory in Monday's election now looks certain with 98% of the eligible ballots counted in an unofficial tally showing he has 31 million votes, double that of his nearest rival, Vice President Leni Robredo.

An official result is expected around the end of the month. "This is a victory for all Filipinos, and for democracy," spokesman Rodriguez said.

"To those who voted for Bongbong, and those

who did not, it is his promise to be a president for all Filipinos. To seek common ground across political divides, and to work together to unite the nation."

Though Marcos, 64, campaigned on a platform of unity, political analysts say his presidency is unlikely to foster that, with bitter feelings about his family's vast political influence and wealth.

Philippine markets were mixed after the vote. Stocks (.PSI) lost as much as 3% at one point, sovereign dollar bonds fell, while the peso currency rose 0.4% against the dollar.

Marcos in his statement said he would begin delivering for the Filipino people and looked forward to working with international partners and organisations.

Many who did not support Marcos are angered by what they see as a brazen attempt by the once reviled former first family to use its mastery of social media to reinvent historical narratives of its time in power.

Thousands of opponents of the senior Marcos suffered persecution during a brutal 1972-1981 era of martial law, and the family name became synonymous with plunder, cronyism and extravagant living, with billions of dollars of state wealth disappearing.

The Marcos family has denied wrongdoing and many of its supporters, bloggers and social media influencers say historical accounts are distorted.



China Wants to Take Taiwan Peacefully But Is Preparing Militarily



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - China would prefer to take over neighboring Taiwan without military action but is working to get to a position where its military could prevail even if the United States intervenes, U.S. intelligence chiefs said.

China views Taiwan, a democratically governed island, as its "sacred" territory and has never renounced the possible use of force to ensure eventual unification.

The United States, like most countries, has no formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan but is its most important international supporter and arms supplier, making it a constant source of tension between Beijing and Washington.

"It's our view that they (the Chinese) are working hard to effectively put themselves into a position in which their military is capable of taking Taiwan over our intervention," Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told the Senate Armed Services Committee. Haines and Lieutenant General Scott Berrier, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, testifying on worldwide threats to U.S. national security, discussed the lessons China may be taking from the war in Ukraine and the international response to it.

Haines said she did not believe the war was likely to accelerate China's plans on Taiwan. Berrier said using the military to achieve its objective was not Beijing's top choice.

"I believe the PRC (People's Republic of China) would rather not do it by force. I think they would rather do this peacefully over time," Berrier said.

China was learning "some very interesting lessons" from the Ukraine conflict including the importance of leadership and small unit tactics, as well as effective training with the right weapons systems and a strong non-commissioned officer force, Berrier said.

U.S. officials needed to work with their partners in the Indo-Pacific and Taiwan's leadership, Berrier said, "to help them understand what this conflict has been, about what lessons they can learn and where they should be focusing their dollars on defense and their training. "They have a largely conscript force. I don't believe it is where it should be," Berrier said of Taiwan.

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

Parsian

Velenjak Apt (\$3000)
250sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, S, J
L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Darrou Villa (\$4500)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p, S
J, yard, pkg
Fully Furn

Elahieh (\$3000)
300sq.m, 4bdrs
S/p, S, J, & F.F

Jordan (\$1400)
2bdrs, 140sq.m
balcony, pkg, F.F

Fereshteh bldg
4storey, 12bdrs
yard, & pkg lots

Darrou (\$2600)
300sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, balcony, & F.F

Niavaran (\$2000)
180sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, & F.F

Velenjak bldg
5storey, 20bdrs
S/p, yard, & pkgs

Farmanieh (\$2200) 220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, balcony, pkg, & F.F
Zaferanieh (\$2800) 240sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, balcony, pkg, & F.F

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

World Bank Approves \$150m Food Security Loan for Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The World Bank on Monday approved a \$150 million loan to help Lebanon fund wheat imports and keep bread prices stable for nine months, the country’s economy minister told Reuters. The program, known as the Lebanon Wheat Supply Emergency Response Project, still needs approval by the country’s cabinet and parliament, said Amin Salam. A World Bank spokesperson said the loan aimed to “finance immediate wheat imports to avoid the disruption in supply over the short term and help secure affordable bread for poor and vulnerable households including... refugees in Lebanon.”



Germany, Qatar at Odds Over Terms In Talks on LNG Supply Deal

LONDON (Dispatches) - Germany and Qatar have hit difficulties in talks over long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply deals amid differences over key conditions, including the duration of any contract, three people familiar with the discussions told Reuters. Germany, which aims to cut its carbon emissions by 88% by 2040, is reluctant to commit to Qatar’s conditions to sign deals of at least 20 years to secure the massive LNG volumes it needs to reduce its dependence on Russian gas, the people said. Qatar, the world’s largest LNG supplier, is also specifying terms such as a destination clause that would prevent Berlin from rerouting the gas to other areas in Europe, a condition which the European Union opposes. The tough talks between Qatar Energy and German utilities highlight the challenges the EU faces in its ambition to diversify away from Russian gas as the German government struggles to balance any deal with its carbon reduction targets. Germany consumes around 100 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas annually, with around 55% of that coming from Russia and smaller volumes piped from Netherlands and Norway. It has backed the construction of two LNG terminals and has rented four floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) as a stop-gap measure. What it needs now is the actual LNG.

“The issue of LNG contract length potentially putting Germany’s decarbonization targets at risk is part of the ongoing discussions with Qatar,” one of the people said, adding Germany was also competing with other nations for LNG from Qatar. Another source said that securing LNG supplies from Qatar “is not expected to happen soon”.

Qatar’s government communication office declined to comment on ongoing negotiations. Germany’s Economy Minister was not immediately available for comment.

Qatar is also firm on oil-indexation, linking the contracts to oil price, which represents the pricing structure of their alternative sales into Asia, while the Germans are seeking linkage to the Dutch TTF benchmark, Felix Booth, head of LNG at energy intelligence firm Vortexa, said.

“Qatar is in the driving seat in these discussions, with a new project underway, strong interest in their volumes and a long history as a reliable supplier,” Booth said.

“To secure this supply, it is expected that the German team will need to accept a traditional oil linked pricing structure. Leaving the European buyer with significant financial exposure compared to the European hub prices,” he added.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck in March visited Qatar, along with officials from German utilities RWE and Uniper, to discuss procuring additional volumes but no deal has been agreed so far.

RWE, Germany’s largest power producer, in 2016 struck a deal with Qatargas, a unit of Qatar Energy, under which up to 1.1 million tons of liquefied natural gas will be delivered to Northwestern Europe annually by the end of 2023.

RWE declined to comment on the talks. Uniper also declined to comment, saying only that its ties with Qatar go back a long way and that it hoped to be able to build on that relationship.

German gas companies will be back to Qatar in May to resume talks, two separate people familiar with the process said.

They said that Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, will visit Germany in the second half of May to sign a partnership agreement between the two countries.

Imminent Yemen Oil Spill Would Cost \$20b to Clean Up

AMMAN (Dispatches) - The United Nations warned Monday that it would cost \$20 billion to clean up an oil spill in the event of the “imminent” break-up of an oil tanker abandoned off Yemen.

“Our recent visit to (the FSO Safer) with technical experts indicates that the vessel is imminently going to break up,” the UN humanitarian coordinator for Yemen, David Gressly, said ahead of a conference, hosted by the UN and The Netherlands, to raise funds for an emergency operation to prevent an oil spill.

The 45-year-old FSO Safer, long used as a floating oil storage platform with 1.1 million barrels of crude on board, has been moored off the rebel-held Yemeni port of Hodeida since 2015, without being serviced.

“The impact of a spill will be catastrophic,” Gressly continued at a briefing in Amman. “The effect on the environment would be tremendous... our estimate is that \$20 billion would be spent just to clean the oil spill.”

The UN official had earlier announced on Twitter that the Netherlands would host on Wednesday a pledging conference for the international body’s plan to avert the crisis.



Last month, the UN said it was seeking nearly \$80 million for its operation. It warned of “a humanitarian and ecological catastrophe centered on a country already decimated by more than seven years of war”.

It said that the emergency part of a two-stage operation would see the toxic cargo pumped from the storage platform to a temporary replacement vessel at a cost of \$79.6 million.

Gressly estimated that a total of \$144 million would be needed for the full operation, reiterating that \$80 million was needed “to secure the oil safely in the initial phase”.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed directly or indirectly in Yemen’s seven-year war, while millions have been displaced in what the UN calls the world’s biggest humanitarian crisis.

Erdogan Announces Measures to Address Soaring Housing Prices

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan announced several measures to address soaring real estate prices on Monday, as residents struggle to find affordable homes to rent or buy after last year’s currency crisis.

Housing prices have surged over the past year, stoked by inflation which hit 70% in April, an ailing currency, a hot property market, as well as a growing local population in addition to a steady influx of immigrants.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting, Erdogan said cheaper housing loans would be provided to those who convert their forex savings to lira or sell their gold to the central bank to use in purchases of houses worth up to 2 million lira.

The rates on the loans would be a monthly 0.89% with a maturity up to 10 years, he said. Ankara has urged individuals and companies to convert their forex savings to lira in the wake of the currency crisis, prompted by a series of unorthodox rate cuts engineered by Erdogan.

Erdogan said the measure on housing loans would support this effort, reversing a years-long dollarisation trend. He said loans of up to 2 million lira with a monthly rate of 0.99% and a maturity of 10 years would be provided to first-time home owners.

Loans with 36-month maturities would be provided to construction companies to complete some projects if they promise to keep sale prices unchanged for a year, Erdogan said.

“With this we aim for projects under construction to be completed quickly, increasing the housing supply in the short term and thereby bringing the prices to balance,” he said.

A construction boom has helped drive economic growth through Erdogan’s nearly 20 years in power.

Greece, UAE Agree Joint Investments in Energy, Other Sectors

ATHENS (Dispatches) - Greece and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday agreed to jointly fund investments worth 4 billion euros (\$4.2 billion) in the Mediterranean country and explore further cooperation in the energy sector, the Greek prime minister’s office said.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met with Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin

Zayed al-Nahyan in Abu Dhabi and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties as well as the impact of the war in Ukraine, his office said.

“The renewal of the successful collaboration between the Hellenic Development Bank and Mubadala Investment Company and the creation of a joint initiative for investments worth 4 billion euros is of pivotal importance,” it said.

Mitsotakis said there was room for further cooperation between the European Union and the UAE on renewable energy.

“Due to its geographical position, Greece has the potential to become a gate for natural gas from the Middle East to Europe,” Mitsotakis added. “We would like to explore the possibilities for further strategic cooperation and the participation of funds from the UAE in this direction.”

The two countries on Monday signed nine agreements on technology, energy and health, among other sectors.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Motor Oil Hellas Corinth Refineries agreed to explore opportunities for the supply of liquefied natural gas in Greece, which could include a planned floating storage and regasification unit off Athens.

Motor Oil and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) also agreed to develop offshore wind farms and other renewable energy projects in Greece.

As part of its effort to boost the share of renewables in energy consumption to 35% by 2030 from around 23% now, Athens wants to install offshore wind parks capable of generating 2 gigawatts by 2030, with required investments seen at 6 billion euros.

U.S. Wholesale Inventories Rise Strongly

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. wholesale inventories increased solidly in March and the pace of accumulation in the prior month was stronger than previously reported, which could lead to a small upward revision to the first-quarter gross domestic product estimate.

The Commerce Department said on Monday that wholesale inventories rose 2.3% in March as reported last month. Data for February was revised higher to show stocks at wholesalers climbing 2.8% instead of the previously reported 2.6%.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected March inventories would be unrevised. Wholesale inventories advanced 22.0% in March on a year-on-year basis. Inventories are a key part of gross domestic product. Wholesale motor vehicle inventories accelerated 2.4% after rebounding 1.9% in February.

Wholesale inventories, excluding autos, rose 2.3% in March.

Inventory investment slowed in the first quarter from the October-December period’s robust pace, subtracting 0.8 percentage point from GDP last quarter. That combined with a record trade deficit to weigh on GDP, resulting in the economy contracting at a 1.4% annualized rate in the first quarter.

Following February’s upward revision, economists estimate that inventories subtracted 0.6 percentage point from GDP, which would trim the pace of decline in output to a 1.3% rate.

Economists had anticipated the rate of decrease in GDP would be raised to a 1.5% rate after data last week showed the surge in the trade deficit in March was bigger than what they said the government assumed in its snapshot of first-quarter GDP.

“The real change in inventories in the first quarter looks strong,” said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan in New York. “But this is still more modest than the fourth quarter change in inventories, and we still believe inventories weighed on GDP growth in first quarter.”

The government is scheduled to publish its first GDP revision later this month. The number could also be impacted by March business inventories data due next week as well as any revisions to March retail sales, industrial production, housing starts and durable goods orders data.

Sales at wholesalers increased 1.7% in March after gaining 1.5% in February. At March’s sales pace it would take wholesalers 1.22 months to clear shelves, unchanged from February.

With the Federal Reserve raising interest rates to curb inflation, demand is expected to cool. Some economists warn that this, in an environment of fractured supply chains, could create an inventory imbalance that could trigger a recession.

“The current supply-chain disruptions are making it difficult for businesses to manage their inventories,” said Matt Colyar, an economist at Moody’s Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania. “Therefore, it’s possible that businesses are caught with excess inventories in a couple of years as they over-order today to compensate for the delays.”

Zimbabwe’s Bank Lending Freeze Will Worsen Economic Crisis



HARARE (Dispatches) - Zimbabwe’s decision to suspend bank lending in a desperate bid to arrest the rapid devaluation of its currency will worsen the economic crisis and expose borrowers to predatory loans, the country’s business chamber said on Monday.

“Surely, this is not an ideal measure to control the growth in broad money supply,” the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) said in a statement.

“This legitimizes a parallel banking system with usurious interest rates and no investor would be attracted to such an economy where lending can be suspended overnight.”

President Emmerson Mnangagwa ordered banks to stop lending with immediate effect on Saturday, saying the unprecedented move was meant to stop speculation against the Zimbabwean dollar, which has been rapidly devalued on a thriving black market.

Before Mnangagwa’s announcement, the Zimbabwean dollar was officially quoted at 165.94 against the U.S. dollar, but had been trading at an exchange rate of between 330 and 400 to the greenback on the black market.

On Monday, the official rate moved to 275.79 Zimbabwe dollars, according to the central bank website, after the government decided to use interbank market rates instead of a rate determined during the central bank’s weekly auctions.

Zimbabwe abandoned its inflation-ravaged dollar in 2009, opting instead to use foreign currencies, mostly the U.S. dollar. Mnangagwa’s government reintroduced the local currency in 2019, to circulate alongside foreign currencies in the economy, but it has rapidly lost value again. An official of the Bankers Association of Zimbabwe told Reuters it would comment the order to suspend lending only after a meeting with the central bank on Monday.

The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, which along with the ZNCC represents major businesses, said it would comment late on Monday after reviewing the new regulations.

Border Guards Disband Weapon-Trafficking Gang

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian border guards dismantled an arms-smuggling gang in the Southeastern parts of the country, the Iranian border police commander reported.

In an intelligence and planned operation on Wednesday, the border guards of the Zabul province succeeded in identifying an arms smuggling gang in the border area of

Sistan and Baluchestan, Iranian border police commander Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi said.

In this operation, border guards stationed in the border area managed to arrest a smuggler and seize a vehicle carrying 18 handguns, 3 mini Kalashnikov, 3 Rifle grenades, and a Goryunov handgun.



Tesla Halts Most Output at Shanghai Plant, April Sales Dive

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - Tesla Inc has halted most of its production at its Shanghai plant due to problems securing parts for its electric vehicles, according to an internal memo seen by Reuters, the latest in a series of difficulties for the factory.

The automaker's sales in China had already slumped by 98% in April from a month earlier, data released by the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA) showed on Tuesday, underscoring the hit from China's hard COVID-19 lockdowns.

Shanghai is in its sixth week of an intensifying lockdown that has tested the ability of manufacturers to operate amid hard restrictions on the movement of people and materials.

Tesla planned to manufacture fewer than 200 vehicles at its factory in the city on Tuesday, according to the memo, far below the roughly 1,200 units per day it had ramped up to shortly after reopening on April 19 following a 22-day closure.

Tesla did not respond to a request for comment.

After reopening, the factory produced 10,757 vehicles by the end of April, selling 1,512 of them, the CPCA said.

That compared to 65,814 cars sold in March and marked the lowest sales tally since April 2020, four months after the factory started delivering China-made cars.

Tesla did not export any China-made Model 3s and Model Ys from the Shanghai plant in April, the data showed.

Two people familiar with Tesla's operations said earlier that the Shanghai plant suspended work on Monday after it faced difficulties procuring supplies.

The company had been aiming to increase output at the plant to 2,600 cars a day as soon as next week, Reuters reported previously.

Overall passenger car sales for China, the world's largest auto market, dropped almost 36% in April from a year earlier, the CPCA said. However, sales of battery-electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids - a category China targets for incentives - rose more than 50%, boosted by particularly good performances by BYD and SAIC-GM-Wuling, (600104.SS).



Another auto association estimated last week that overall auto sales in China had dropped 48% in April as lockdowns shut factories, limited traffic to showrooms and put the brakes on spending.

Shanghai authorities have tightened a city-wide lockdown imposed more than a month ago on the commercial hub with a population of 25 million, a move that could extend curbs on movement through the month.

China's Zero-Covid Strategy Unsustainable



GENEVA (Dispatches) - China's flagship zero-Covid strategy to defeat the pandemic is unsustainable, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, adding that it had told Beijing so and called for a policy shift.

China has imposed draconian measures, trapping most of Shadnghai's 25 million people at home for weeks as the country combats its worst outbreak since the pandemic began.

The Shanghai lockdown has caused outrage and rare protest in the last major economy still glued to a zero-Covid policy, while movement in the capital Beijing has been slowly restricted.

"When we talk about the zero-Covid strategy, we don't think that it's sustainable, considering the behaviour of the virus now and what we anticipate in the future," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference.

"We have discussed about this issue with Chinese experts and we indicated that the approach will not be sustainable."

"Transiting into another strategy will be very important."

There is a pressing political dynamic to China's virus response, with President Xi Jinping pegging the legitimacy of his leadership on protecting Chinese lives from Covid.

Xi has doubled down on the zero-Covid approach, despite mounting public frustration.

Shanghai is China's economic dynamo and its biggest city. The zero-Covid policy has winded an economy which just months ago had been bouncing back from the pandemic.

"We need to balance the control measures against the impact they have on society, the impact they have on the economy, and that's not always an easy calibration," said WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan.

He said any measures to combat the Covid-19 pandemic should show "due respect to individual and human rights".

Calling for "dynamic, adjustable and agile policies", Ryan said early responses to the crisis in many countries showed that a lack of adaptability "resulted in a lot of harm".

He reflected on how the world's most populous nation had had relatively very few deaths officially ascribed to Covid, and therefore had "something to protect".

Given the rapid rise in deaths since February-March, "any government in that situation will take action to try and combat that", he told reporters.

Tedros has been discussing adjusting according to the circumstances to find an exit strategy, "in depth and in detail with Chinese colleagues", Ryan said.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, said that worldwide, it was impossible to stop all transmission of the virus.

"Our goal, at a global level, is not to find all cases and stop all transmissions. It's really not possible at this present time," she said.

"But what we need to do is drive transmission down because the virus is circulating at such an intense level."

Germany Prepares Crisis Plan for Abrupt End to Russian Gas

BERLIN (Dispatches)

-German officials are quietly preparing for any sudden halt in Russian gas supplies with an emergency package that could include taking control of critical firms, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The preparations being led by the Ministry for Economic Affairs show the heightened state of alert about supplies of the gas that powers Europe's biggest economy and is critical for the production of steel, plastics and cars.

Russian gas accounted for 55% of Germany's imports last year and Berlin has come under pressure to unwind a business relationship that critics says is helping to fund Russia's war in Ukraine.

Germany has said it wants to wean itself off Russian supplies but expects to be largely reliant on Moscow for gas until the middle of 2024.

It remains unclear whether an abrupt halt would happen and the officials said Germany wanted to avert an escalation, such as by backing a European gas embargo, having already supported sanctions against Moscow on coal and oil.

But they now fear Russia could cut off gas flows unilaterally and want to be able to cope if it does.

While a broad framework is in place and the government is determined to help, the details of how it will put the plan into action are now being thrashed out, the officials said.

The government would back granting further loans and guarantees to prop up energy firms, helping them cope with soaring prices, and could take critical companies, such as refineries, under its wing, the three officials said.

Asked for comment on the measures, Germany's economy ministry pointed to statements by its head, Vice-Chancellor Robert Habeck, that the country had made "intense efforts" in recent weeks to reduce its use of Russian energy.

Last month, Berlin approved a legal change to allow it take control of energy companies as a last resort.

It is now discussing how it could use the measure in practice, such as by taking control of the PCK refinery operated by Russia's Rosneft in Schwedt near Poland, two of the people said. It accounts for most of Germany's remaining Russian oil imports and could be hit by a European Union oil embargo.

Rosneft declined to comment on any possible German action.

One of the people said the nationalization of energy companies was an option being considered but it would have to be weighed carefully and justified on the grounds of securing energy supplies rather than to punish Russia.

Germany could also take stakes in other companies, said two people familiar with the matter. In 2018, it made a similar move when state development bank KfW bought 20% of energy network operator 50Hertz to fend off an offer from China's State Grid.

The final government emergency package has not yet



been finalised. One of the people cautioned that taking minority stakes in companies and intervention at the Schwedt refinery remained under discussion but had not been decided.

Officials are also examining how KfW can alleviate pressure on critical companies by supporting them with further loans, or emergency credit lines they could use

if energy prices soar and trigger costly margin calls on their market positions.

Earlier this year, KfW helped German energy firm Uniper, EnBW's gas division VNG and coal-fired power plant operator Leag cope with volatility in energy markets.

KfW declined to comment on which companies it had helped.

Germany is also examining how it would ration gas in an emergency. Its regulator is considering whether to give industry priority over households, which would be a reversal of the current policy where businesses would be cut off first.

The discussions are unfolding against the backdrop of war in Ukraine and an increasingly charged stand-off between Moscow and Brussels, which has backed tough sanctions to isolate Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin told his armed forces at a parade on Monday they were fighting for their country but offered no clues as to how long their assault on Ukraine, which the Kremlin calls a special military operation, would last.

Russia's Gazprom halted gas exports to Poland and Bulgaria last month after they refused to pay in roubles but the Kremlin has rejected accusations by the European Commission that Moscow was using natural gas supplies as blackmail.

The Kremlin and Gazprom have repeatedly said that Russia was a reliable energy supplier.

The Kremlin and Gazprom did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the reliability of supply.

After hesitantly backing sanctions on coal and oil, Berlin also now wants to draw a line, four officials said.

They are concerned that curbing gas as well could send prices rocketing, allowing Moscow to cash in on sales outside the EU and thus still failing to drain its war chest.

The officials said Germany was reaching the limit of sanctions it could impose without triggering an economic spiral, with even those in the governing coalition wholeheartedly behind penalizing Moscow wary of imposing sanctions on gas.

Berlin has also been swayed by captains of German industry, including chief executives of its biggest listed companies and representatives of firms with ties to Russia, who have regularly met and lobbied officials not to ban gas, one person with knowledge of the matter said.

Company executives have told Berlin they are preparing to pare back Russian energy ties in any event, but appealed to the government not to force them to do so immediately, said a second person familiar with those discussions.

IRGC...

FROM PAGE 1

"Counterrevolutionary groups have been organized by intelligence services of hostile and foreign countries and even some Arab states in northern Iraq" to be used "in line with [achieving] their goals and creating obstacles in the way of the Islamic Republic," the deputy commander of the IRGC Ground Force's Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base in northwestern Iran, Brigadier General Majid Arjmandfar, said at the time.

In March, the IRGC fired a dozen ballistic missiles that hit a secret Mossad base on the Masif-Saladin Street in Erbil in the Kurdistan region. The attack reportedly killed and injured several Israeli operatives.

Tehran Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

"There is no good or bad terrorism. Such a short-minded division would lead to further exacerbation of crises and threats to global security since terrorism cannot be constrained to one particular region," Dehqani said.

He added, "War, sanctions, [economic] siege and blockade of humanitarian aid will not do good to their architects. The international community must take lessons from its mistakes, and stop efforts aimed at isolation of the Syrian government by lifting oppressive sanctions against the Syrian nation."

Dehqani then pointed to Iran's humanitarian assistance to Syria, namely construction of schools, hospitals and medical facilities, saying Tehran has also supported Damascus in the fight against COVID-19 outbreak and helped it rebuild Syria's economic and industrial infrastructure.

The Iranian ambassador criticized the silence of the international community on Israeli acts of aggression against non-military and civilian sites inside Syria, terming such strikes a blatant violation of the UN Charter.

"Solution to the Syrian crisis can only be achieved through a comprehensive approach that covers all aspects of the matter, including an end to illegal sanctions, return of all Syrian refugees, cessation of Israeli attacks on Syria and increased humanitarian aid to the country," he said.

Iran Needs at...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran, which has in some years been self-sufficient in the production of the staple cereal, is among countries in the Middle East whose production is heavily dependent on the amount of rainfall and has been suffering from a dry spell as authorities have predicted even less precipitation this year.

The importers are now facing extra difficulties as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has disrupted Black Sea grain shipments, increasing the global prices.

In March, reports revealed that Iran has signed a deal with Russia to import 20 million tons of basic goods, including vegetable oil, wheat, barley and corn.

Italian Ambassador Hails Deep Relations With Iran

TABRIZ (IRNA) - Italian Ambassador to Iran Giuseppe Perrone, who is on a visit to the northeastern province of East Azarbaijan, hailed the deep and positive relations between his country and Iran.

Speaking during a meeting with Governor of East Azarbaijan Province, the ambassador said that an Italian company continued with its cooperation with Iran in completion of a power plant in the province in spite of all the tough sanctions on Iran.

Perrone said that he and his colleague at the Italian embassy had come to Tabriz to explore the opportunities for cooperation.

Noting that the East Azarbaijan is a key Iranian province, he said that his country is willing to enhance relations with this province.

The Iranian governor, for his part, said that East Azarbaijan Province is ready to make use of all its capacities to open a new way in promotion of relations with Italy.

He said that the unique capacities of this province in different industrial, mining, energy and tourism sectors provides a chance for investment and trade exchanges.

Kamna Wins on Mt Etna at Giro d'Italia

CATANIA (Dispatches) - Spaniard Juan Pedro Lopez took the overall lead of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday as Lennard Kamna won stage 4 after a 23km climb up Mt Etna in Sicily. The pair had been part of a long-range breakaway. The overall favorites Richard Carapaz and Simon Yates finished 2min 37sec adrift. After a three-day stay in Hungary, the Giro peloton had a rude awakening on its arrival in Italy as a 14 rider escape group tore away early on the 170km ride from Avola to Etna.

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

Mickelson, Woods Remain in Field for PGA Championship

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Defending champion Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods were both listed on the PGA Championship field list released on Monday but their appearance in Tulsa, Oklahoma, next week for the year's second major remains up in the air. Mickelson announced in February that he was taking a break from golf after inflammatory comments he made about the Saudi-backed golf league surfaced while Woods has competed once, at last month's Masters, since his February 2021 car crash.

Djokovic Sees Off Karatsev to Ease Into Last 16 in Rome

ROME (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic's love affair with Rome continued as the five-time champion picked up his 60th victory at the Italian Open with a 6-3, 6-2 success over Aslan Karatsev. The Serb has never lost before the quarter-finals at the tournament and is now just three victories shy of joining the 1,000 match-wins club. "He probably has the biggest calf we have in tennis. Very strong guy, just solid from the baseline," Djokovic said of the 35th-ranked Karatsev. "You never know with him. If he's feeling the ball, he can be very dangerous because he stays so close to the line, puts pressure on his opponents." Karatsev committed 36 unforced errors during the match and Djokovic made sure to capitalise on those mistakes. "He was missing a lot of points today though, gave me a couple of breaks there in the first and second. "I'll take this win for sure. It's a straight-sets win against a quality opponent and I'm looking forward to the next challenge," continued the Serb. Djokovic, who is in his record-extending 369th week as the world number one, must reach at least the semi-finals in Rome to hold onto his top ranking, and avoid being overtaken by Daniil Medvedev.

Brady to Take TV Commentary Role After Retirement

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - American football icon Tom Brady will move into the television commentary booth when he finally calls time on his NFL career, broadcaster Fox Sports confirmed on Tuesday. The 44-year-old seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback recently decided to extend his career by at least one more season, reversing a retirement decision announced in February. However the Tampa Bay Buccaneers star has already lined up a lucrative broadcasting career with Fox when his playing days are finally over. "We are pleased to announce that immediately following his playing career, seven-time Super Bowl Champion Tom Brady will be joining us at @FOXSports as our lead analyst," Fox Corporation chief executive Lachlan Murdoch said in a statement, describing Brady's signing as a "long-term agreement." "We are delighted that Tom has committed to joining the Fox team and wish him all the best during this upcoming season," Murdoch added.

Brady meanwhile said he was looking forward to the move. "Excited, but a lot of unfinished business on the field with the @Buccaneers," Brady wrote on Twitter. US broadcasting networks have a long tradition of hiring former players, especially quarterbacks, as analysts, often on multi-million-dollar contracts. Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman recently left Fox for ESPN in a five-year deal worth a reported \$92.5 million, or \$18.5 million a year. Another former Cowboys quarterback, Tony Romo, has forged a successful commentary career with CBS, signing a new deal with the network in 2020 which will pay around \$17 million a year.



on his first opportunity, to improve to 2-1 in his head-to-head against Karatsev. Grigor Dimitrov and Stefanos Tsitsipas will square off for the second time in seven days after the Bulgarian moved past American qualifier Brandon Nakashima 6-3, 6-4 in first round action on Tuesday. It was Dimitrov's 10th Masters 1000 match-win of the season and he'll be searching for just a second victory over Tsitsipas in their sixth career meeting against one another. Argentina's Diego Schwartzman saved two match points and recovered from a 15-point losing streak during his clash with the in-form Miomir Kecmanovic before punching his ticket to the second round with a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7/3) result. The 12th seed will face lucky loser Marcos Giron next. British ninth seed Cameron Norrie saved 4/4 break points in his 6-4, 6-4 success over local wildcard Luca Nardi and will next play former US Open champion Marin Cilic. In the women's tournament, Madrid finalist Jessica Pegula enjoyed a winning start to her campaign, squeezing past world number 25 Liudmila Samsonova 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the second round. A runner-up to Ons Jabeur in the Spanish capital on Saturday, Pegula withstood 38 winners off from the big-hitting Samsonova to set up a last-32 showdown with in-form Ukrainian Anhelina Kalinina. The 13th-seeded Pegula, who played with a heavily-strapped left thigh against Samsonova, made the quarter-finals in Rome last season and has improved her 2022 win-loss tally to 18-9. Former French Open champion and number 11 seed Jelena Ostapenko was sent packing by American qualifier Lauren Davis 6-2, 6-3 in just one hour and 10 minutes. American world number 32 Amanda Anisimova, a former Roland Garros semi-finalist, will take on Olympic champion Belinda Bencic in the next round after recovering from a second-set bagel to overcome Czech qualifier Tereza Martincova 6-2, 0-6, 6-4.



KLONN (Dispatches) - Antonio Conte has accused Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp of looking for an "excuse or an alibi" after he criticised Tottenham's style of play following their 1-1 draw on Saturday. The result was a huge blow to Liverpool's hopes of winning the Premier League title -- the Merseysiders are three points behind leaders Manchester City with only three games left to play this season. Tottenham, who were dangerous on the break at Anfield, could even have come away with a victory. But Klopp, clearly unhappy at seeing his side drop points in the title race, suggested the visitors had been overly defensive in their approach, saying: "I don't like this kind of football, but that is my problem. I cannot coach it." Conte said Klopp should concentrate on his own team. "Jurgen is an intelligent person, very clever," the Italian told reporters on Tuesday. "He was a bit frustrated after the game, but at the same time for every coach it is important to learn to be focused on your team, not the opponent. "It means you want to find an excuse or an alibi because your job didn't work or something was wrong." Despite a creditable point, the draw at Anfield has hampered fifth-placed Tottenham's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League.



Guardiola Hints Man City Closing in on Haaland Deal

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola said he could not comment on Manchester City's move for Erling Haaland until "it's completely done", all but confirming that a deal for the forward is imminent. There were reports that the Norway international had already undergone a medical after agreeing personal terms with the Premier League champions. The club have not officially commented but manager Guardiola gave a clue that the 21-year-old is on his way to the Etihad when speaking at a press conference on the eve of his side's match against Wolves. "Everybody knows the situation," said Guardiola. "I shouldn't talk because I don't like to talk about the future or next season. Borussia Dortmund and Man City told me I'm not allowed to say anything until it's completely done."

It has been reported that Haaland is set to sign a five-year contract to move to the Etihad for the start of next season after City formally triggered his release clause, reportedly £63 million (RM340 million). Guardiola said: "I'd love to talk but they tell me don't say anything until (after) the legal actions. We'll have time to talk, not because I don't want to." The signing of Haaland would end City's long search for a specialist centre-forward to replace record goalscorer Sergio Aguero, who left last year. City then tried but failed in a high-profile attempt to prise England captain Harry Kane away from Tottenham. Haaland, whose father Alf-Inge played for City from 2000 to 2003, has been prolific since joining Dortmund from RB Salzburg in January 2020, scoring 85 goals in 88 appearances for the German side.

UEFA Unveil Champions League Revamp

VIENNA (Dispatches) - The European Champions League will see an increase of four teams to 36 and the present group stage replaced by one single league from the 2024/25 season, UEFA said on Tuesday. The revamp of European football's premier club competition will see each team play eight league games -- four home and four away -- as opposed to six in the group stage. The top eight sides in the league will qualify automatically for the knockout stage, while the teams finishing in ninth to 24th place will compete in a two-legged play-off to secure their path to the last 16 of the competition. "We are convinced that the format chosen strikes the right balance and that it will improve the competitive balance and generate solid revenues that can be distributed to clubs, leagues and into grassroots football across our continent," said UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin. Ceferin and UEFA will be hoping the reforms -- passed unanimously by their executive board -- will kill off once and for all any thought of the rebel Super League making a reappearance. Twelve of Europe's biggest clubs signed up to the proposed new competition last April but it collapsed within days following a fierce backlash from their own players and fans, as well as governments and football's governing bodies. Nine clubs distanced themselves from the project but Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus remain on board with the concept.



Shapovalov Calls for Stricter Measures Against Disruptive Fans

ROME (Dispatches) - Denis Shapovalov called for tennis officials to take a stronger stand against disruptive fans after he was heckled during his three-set win over local hope Lorenzo Sonego at the Italian Open on Monday. Shapovalov lost his cool, was handed a point penalty and was booed by the fans but he overcame all those distractions to beat Italy's Sonego 7-6(5) 3-6 6-3 in his opening match in Rome. The Canadian was given a point penalty after he climbed over the net to point out to the chair umpire the mark on his rival's side of the court, which is prohibited by the ATP rules. After Shapovalov complained about the punishment to the supervisor while being jeered by the fans, he screamed an expletive at the crowd as he believed he was being taunted by one spectator. "He was just telling me to get off the court, get out of there, waving me off the court. Trying to obviously get under my skin or whatnot," the Canadian told a news conference. "I think the umpire just needs to keep an eye on it if a player mentions something. "The reason why (the heckler) didn't get kicked out was because (the umpire) told me he didn't see what happened. That's very understandable. I feel like he kept an eye on him after that. It didn't bother me after that." The 23-year-old suggested that tennis should follow the lead of other sports where disruptive fans are evicted from the stands.

