

Health Ministry Announced on Monday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic In Iran Increased to **141,332** With **1** More Iranian Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

# IRAN NEWS

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian Who Was Reportedly to Depart for Turkey on Monday Has Reportedly Postponed His Trip to Another Time

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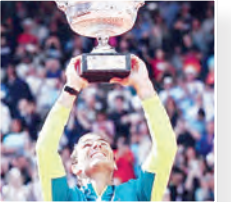


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## SPORTS

Nadal Wins 14th French Open, Record-Extending 22nd Grand Slam



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## Iran Preparing Seven Satellites for Launch Into Orbit

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian Space Agency says work has been underway to prepare seven more satellites for launch into orbit, as the country doubles efforts to promote its space science and technology.

Hassan Salariyeh, the head of the agency, said the technology used in Iranian-made satellite launch vehicles was still undergoing the "phase of consolidation" and needed a set of orbital and sub-orbital spaceflight test.

"The latest tests show the major part of problems with one of the launch vehicles has been solved," the official said, describing the issues as the reason behind the failure of some of the country's satellite launches.

"Currently, seven satellites stand in line to be launched, which we hope will be placed into the designated orbit and operationalized," Salariyeh added.

The official also spoke of a plan to launch microsatellites into geostationary orbit, which is around 36,000 kilometers in altitude, in the years to come.

The next step, he added, would be sending an "operational satellite" carrying telecommunication cargos into geo orbit.

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## Iran, Russia Discuss Joint Efforts to Tackle Money Laundering

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran and Russia have discussed how they can work together to tackle money laundering amid joint efforts between the two countries to minimize the impacts of foreign sanctions on their banking and financial sectors.

A report by the official IRNA news agency said that Iranian and Russian officials had met on the sidelines of the 36th Plenary Meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism in Uzbekistan's Tashkent.

During the meeting, Yuri Chikhanchin, director of Russia's Federal Service for Financial Monitoring, known as Rosfinmonitoring, made a case for increased cooperation with Iran on money laundering issues, said the report.

Chikhanchin insisted that such cooperation will strengthen joint efforts by Iran and Russia to offset the economic impacts of sanctions imposed on them by the United States and allies, according to the IRNA's report.

Iran has been facing a raft of American sanctions since 2018 when Washington pulled out of an international deal on the country's nuclear program.

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## Tehran to Respond to Any Anti-Iran Action at IAEA BoG



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Reacting to the meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors on Monday, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that Iran would respond to any action taken in the IAEA meeting.

Referring to the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the possibility of issuing a resolution against Iran in this meeting, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a state TV program, "We do not prejudge, but we will respond accordingly to what happens."

Discussing safeguards issues related to Iran and the report on the implementation of JCPOA is on the agenda of the quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, he also said.

Unfortunately, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi recently presented a hasty report on Iran's nuclear activities in the European parliament, he also said, stressing that this report ignores all the actions and responses that Iran has provided carefully and technically to the Agency's questions.

Saying that the traces of the fake Zionist regime can be seen in such a report, he added that Tehran neither accept this report nor the attempts of three European countries and their American allies to issue a resolution against Iran.

Iranian top diplomat also said that issuing anti-Iran resolutions is not constructive, saying, "We believe that it will have a negative impact on Iran's overall cooperation with the Agency and the nuclear negotiations."

He concluded his remarks by saying that all members of the Board of Governors must be vigilant about the intentions of the Zionist regime.

Khatibzadeh also called on them to vote against the resolution so that the window that Iran has created for diplomacy remains open.

Addressing the quarterly meeting of his agency's 35-nation Board of Governors on Monday, International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said that his report on verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 covers relevant activities of the Agency in the past few months.

"Up to 23 February 2021, the Agency verified and monitored the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. However, since that date, these activities have been seriously affected by Iran's decision to stop the implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA, including the Additional Protocol," Grossi said.

Grossi's remarks come as the Islamic Republic of Iran, after the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from JCPOA and the delay of European countries in fulfilling their obligations under the nuclear agreements, decided to stop the step-by-step implementation of voluntary nuclear commitments by granting 60 days to diplomacy.

Meanwhile on the eve of the meeting, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said the countries that are pushing for adoption of an anti-Iranian resolution by the United Nations nuclear watchdog should also bear the repercussions of such a move.

"Those who push for anti-Iran resolution at IAEA will be responsible for all the consequences," the top diplomat tweeted on Sunday.

## U.S. May Allow More Iran Oil to Flow Even Without Deal

LONDON (Dispatches) - The U.S. may allow more sanctioned Iranian oil onto global markets even without a revival of the 2015 nuclear accord, according to the biggest independent crude trader.

While a new agreement would limit Iran's atomic activities and ease U.S. sanctions on its energy exports, talks between Tehran and world powers have stalled since March. Oil traders are increasingly pessimistic that negotiators will strike a deal.

Still, U.S. President Joe Biden could decide that the need to bring down record-high pump prices ahead of November's midterm elections outweighs the benefit of strictly enforcing sanctions, including by seizing more Iranian oil tankers.

"Uncle Sam might just allow a little bit more of that oil to flow," Mike Muller, head of Asia at Vitol Group, said Sunday on a podcast produced by Dubai-based Gulf Intelligence. "If the midterms are dominated by the need to get gas prices lower in America, turning a somewhat greater blind eye to the sanctioned barrels flowing out is probably something you might expect to see. U.S. intervention in these flows has always been pretty sparse."

The U.S. confiscated oil from an Iranian-flagged vessel off Greece last month, which was followed days later by Tehran detaining two Greek tankers in the Persian Gulf. But Washington's move is unlikely to signal the start of more tanker seizures by the US, according to Muller.

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## ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian The Same Old Rubbish

Every time the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council holds its meeting, it ends it with issuing a statement in favor of the tiny UAE by claiming that three Iranian islands belong to this "fly-size" country while the member states know well that it is a false claim and it is just for pleasing the UAE.

On Thursday and like the previous meetings of the PGCC, the council once again issued a statement to please the UAE but the statement like the previous times faced a firm reaction from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Foreign Ministry said Iran's three islands in the Persian Gulf are eternal parts of the country's territory. Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh reacted to a recent statement by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at a session in Riyadh about the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb.

"Even an inch of the homeland's soil is like all of Iran," Khatibzadeh wrote in a Persian-language tweet, adding "The trio of islands is the eternal territory of honorable Iran in the heart of the Persian Gulf and a source of pride to the homeland."

"We kiss the hands of our valiant border guards who have stood firm to protect every inch of this precious soil."

Khatibzadeh also attached to his Twitter post the photos of his visit to Iran's maritime borders in the Persian Gulf in February 2021.

The strategically-positioned islands of Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb, and Greater Tunb have always been part of Iran, the proof of which can be corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world.

Tehran has on numerous occasions stoutly rejected claims leveled by the Persian Gulf countries to the three Iranian islands, saying that they definitely belong to Iran and will remain sovereign Iranian territories forever.

On Thursday, Khatibzadeh said Iran strongly condemns "any claim about these islands as interference in its internal affairs and territorial integrity."

Last September, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Majid Takht-Ravanchi dismissed the United Arab Emirates' "baseless" claims to the three islands, stressing that they are an "inseparable" part of the Iranian territory.

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## Saudi-Led Coalition Seizes Another Yemen-Bound Fuel Ship

SANAA (Dispatches) - The Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC) says the Saudi-led coalition has banned a Yemen-bound ship carrying tons of fuel from docking at Hudaydah port in violation of a UN-brokered ceasefire agreement to end the siege and war on the impoverished country.

Essam al-Mutawakel, a spokesman for the YPC, said in a tweet on Sunday the Saudi-led coalition seized the ship named Viviana, which was carrying 30,314 tons of fuel, despite securing UN clearance.

The latest incident brings to two the number of fuel ships impounded by the coalition despite having undergone inspection, al-Mutawakel added.

On Friday, al-Mutawakel said a vessel called Fos Power, that was carrying about 30,000 tons of fuel, was impounded by the coalition.

The Fos Power tanker, which was due to dock at Yemen's western port of Hudaydah, was carrying 22,915 tons of mazut and 7,296 tons of diesel fuel, according to al-Mutawakel.

He noted that the Saudi-led coalition is brazenly pressing ahead with its acts of piracy against fuel tankers carrying oil derivatives to Yemen.

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# Tehran Sympathizes With Bangladesh Explosion Victims

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Sunday expressed sympathy to victims of the fire that broke out at a container storage facility near the city of Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Khatibzadeh on Sunday sympathized with the Bangladesh nation and government on the sad occasion.

## Enemies Confess Conspiracies Against Iran Spoiled

**TEHRAN (IP) - The IRGC Deputy Commander said that for 43 years, the U.S. and its allies have failed to carry out their conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran and admitted their defeat.**

The enemies admitted that 87 countries helped Saddam Hussein during the imposed war on Iran, but all of them failed because they followed the US' wrong track, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Brigadier General Ali Fadavi addressed people at the commemoration anniversary of "15th Khordad Popular Uprising" which took place 52 years ago.

The 52nd anniversary of the 15th Khordad (a public uprising on June 5, 1963, against Shah) was held with the presence and speech of Ali Fadavi, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) in Pishva, Tehran, on Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Today Iran commemorates the 52nd anniversary of a public uprising on June 5, 1963, that triggered the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Brigadier General Ali Fadavi said: "The enemies have spared no effort against the



Islamic Republic of Iran, but they have never succeeded" he emphasized that "We have been standing against the enemies in the strongest possible way for 43 years."

Fadavi noted: "Despite the efforts of the U.S. and its allies against our country, Iran successfully withstands the onslaught of the infidelity and oppression."

The Deputy Commander of IRGC said that Iranians did their best despite knowing they would be martyred in a public uprising to defend the country on June 5, 1963.

He stated: We must resist in this critical situation to move forward. The enemies admitted that 87 countries helped Saddam Hussein during the imposed Iran-Iraq war, but all of them failed because they followed the US' wrong track.

He further said even though the US and its allies did not stop their malice against the Islamic Republic of Iran, even for a moment, the Islamic Republic of Iran is becoming stronger day by day.

## Iran Offers Special Facilities To Elite Afghan Students

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A senior Iranian official at Student Affairs Organization has said that the elite Afghan students will receive special facilities in Iran.

Afghan nationals attending Iran's university entrance exam, aka Konkour, can be provided with special facilities, Ja'far Razeqi, the official in charge of following up international affairs at Student Affairs Organization said.

The official went on to say that there is no limitation for Iran's universities to accept foreign students.

About willingness of non-Iranian students to stay in Iran, Razeqi said they are interested in staying in the country due to religious and cultural commonalities.

According to national officials, Iran has been hosting four million Afghans for years.

## Covid Not Over Yet; Masks Still Necessary

TEHRAN (IFP) - A member of Iran's Scientific Committee on the Coronavirus has criticized the national broadcasting organization for a TV show in which a "feast of abandoning of face masks" was held.

Ahmad Tabatabaei says the coronavirus pandemic is not over stressing that such moves in a popular TV show creates a "false trust" in the public and exposes people to infection.

Iranian health officials have been warning the public against going back to normal as they say the pandemic persists.

The spokesman for the National Taskforce Against the Coronavirus now says no new variant of the virus is traced in the country adding that no new concern is expected to in the world at least for the next two months.

Abbas Shir Ojan, however, says new variants are likely to emerge in the future as a large proportion of the people around the world remain unvaccinated.

This, he said, keeps the cycle of Covid alive.

Iran experienced zero-deaths in the Covid fatalities a few days ago while the infection cases remain two-digit, the first time since the start of the pandemic in the country in early 2020.

## FM Highlights Strengthening CICA's Potential



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Sunday in the meeting of the Executive Director of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Kairat Sarybay, stressed the need to strengthen CICA's potential in combating terrorism.

Executive Director of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Kairat Sarybay, who is in Tehran, met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

In this meeting, the Iranian Foreign Minister referred to the important role of CICA in regional and international developments, and stressed the need to further strengthen the organization's potentials in regional issues, especially terrorism and extremism.

Kairat Sarybay, for his part, hailed the constructive participation and cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in CICA regional activities, presented a report on the Secretariat's actions, outlining the plans for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, including the CICA's upcoming Summit in the coming months.

## Unveiling of Brochure "10 Reasons To Travel to Iran" in Romanian

TEHRAN - On the occasion of the 120th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Romania, a booklet in the Romanian language entitled '10 Reasons to Travel to Iran' was unveiled and exhibited from 21 to 29 May at the National Rural Museum of Romania.

This cultural event has been conducted to increase inter-agency and in accordance with the provisions of the joint memorandum previously concluded between the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and the Organization of Islamic Culture and Communication.

According to the memorandum, continuous cooperation in the field of advertising between the two agencies and the use of the capacities of cultural advisers fluent in the language of the country, who cooperated in translating the content produced by the Ministry of Heritage, Culture, Tourism, and Handicrafts, has stopped.

### IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



The result of the cooperation is the unveiling of the propaganda booklet '10 Reasons to Travel to Iran' in Romanian at the Iranian Culture Days Exhibition, which was held on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Romania by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bucharest.

Ambassadors from Lebanon, South Korea, Libya, Tunisia, Pakistan, Slovakia, Portugal, diplomats from Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Indonesia, the Vatican, Cuba, and the director of the Turkish Cultural Center were also present at the Iranian Culture Days exhibition.

The advertising booklet '10 Reasons to Travel to Iran' in 11 languages has been produced and published by the Office of Marketing and Development of Foreign Tourism with the aim of introducing some of the historical, cultural, and tourist attractions of our country to the audience of tourism target markets.

## Iran Summons Indian Ambassador Over Sacrilegious Remarks

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Ministry has summoned the Indian ambassador to protest a TV debate during which sacrilegious remarks were made against Islam's Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), sparking widespread condemnations across the Muslim world.

The director general of the South Asia Department at Iran's Foreign Ministry on Sunday summoned the Indian envoy to convey the strong protest of the Iranian government and people over the sacrilegious comments against Prophet Muhammad, the Iranian Foreign Ministry website reported.

The Indian envoy, for his part, expressed regret, saying that any sacrilege against the Prophet of Islam is not acceptable at all. The ambassador also clarified that the comments made by two officials of the ruling party did not reflect the position of the Indian government, which he said reveres all religions.

In recent remarks on a TV news debate, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s spokesperson Nupur Sharma made inflammatory comments against the Prophet of Islam, which led to widespread condemnation in the country and also triggered violent clashes in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur on Friday.

The BJP on Sunday suspended Sharma from the party while distancing itself from her offensive remarks.

The party also expelled Naveen Kumar Jindal, who heads its Delhi media, from the party, after he allegedly posted a tweet about the Prophet but later deleted it. The BJP said Jindal's views on social media undermine communal harmony and are in violation of the party's fundamental beliefs.

In a statement earlier in the day, the BJP said, "During the thousands of years of the history of India, every religion has blossomed and flourished. The Bharatiya Janata Party respects all religions. The BJP strongly denounces insult of any religious personalities of any religion."

"The Bharatiya Janata Party is also strongly against any ideology, which insults or demeans any sect or religion. The BJP does not promote such people or philosophy," it added.

## Crews of Seized Greek Ships in Perfect Health

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) says all the crew members of the two Greek oil tankers seized late last month by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) are in perfect health and have phone communications with their families.

In a statement, the PMO said the deputy head of the maritime affairs of Iran's Hormozgan Province Ports and Maritime has met with the captains onboard the two tankers – Delta Poseidon and Prudent Warrior – after receiving numerous messages expressing concern about the conditions of the crew members.

"In this meeting, the captains of both ships confirmed that all crew members are mentally and physically healthy, and the military forces had treated them appropriately," the statement said. The IRGC announced in a statement late last month that it had seized the two Greek oil tankers over violations in the Persian Gulf, days after an Iranian oil tanker was captured by Greece in its territorial waters and its oil cargo was transferred to the US. Although the Greek Foreign Ministry immediately denounced the incident as a "violent taking over of two Greek-flagged ships," the PMO made clear that no complaints have been filed by the ships' crew members, who have also been provided with SIM cards and cellphones to call their families.

Considering that the tankers were carrying oil derivatives, the PMO representative provided the tankers' captains with necessary safety and pollution prevention instructions, the statement said, highlighting the sensitivity of the region, which is recognized as a Special Environmental Zone by the International Maritime Organization and the MARPOL Convention.

"According to the request of the ships' captains and in accordance with international regulations and standards, it was decided to take necessary action to facilitate the implementation of international requirements by the ships' crew, including recording the ship's events," the statement read. The organization noted that the captains received instructions on the preservation of the cargo during a phone conference with the ships' representatives and the shipowners' headquarters in Greece.

The statement also explained that the captains were advised to inform the relevant authorities "should a new need arises."

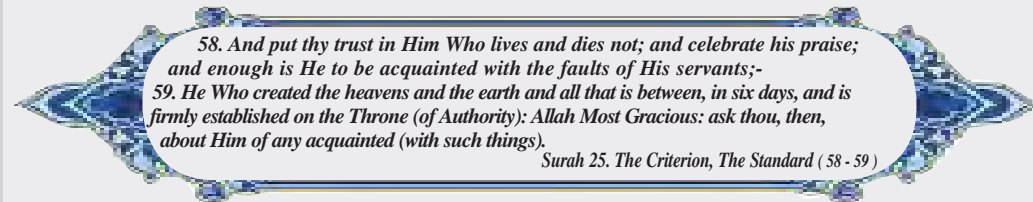
"The ships' captains and crews were also informed that in accordance with international standards, there would be no restrictions for carrying out daily operations and preparations on board the ships," it said, adding that consular meetings are now possible for the two ships' crews.





## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:03
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:39
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:02
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:48



58. And put thy trust in Him Who lives and dies not; and celebrate his praise; and enough is He to be acquainted with the faults of His servants; -  
59. He Who created the heavens and the earth and all that is between, in six days, and is firmly established on the Throne (of Authority): Allah Most Gracious: ask thou, then, about Him of any acquainted (with such things).

Surah 25. The Criterion, The Standard (58 - 59)

## Tehran Seeks Boosting Cooperation With BSEC

**TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Affairs Ministry hosted a conference on the opportunities for cooperation with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) dubbed “Iran and the 30-year-old BSEC: Prospects for Cooperation”.**

As reported by the portal of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Monday, the conference was attended by senior officials including BSEC Secretary General Lazar Comanescu, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari, UN Resident Coordinator in Iran Stefan Priesner and Secretary-General of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Khosro Nazeri.

Ambassadors of member countries and representatives of Iran and Black Sea coastal countries' private sectors as well as senior managers and experts from various sectors were also present at the event.

In this conference, the role of chambers of commerce in the development of private sector cooperation of BSEC member countries was emphasized. The attendees stated that such cooperation could lead to the implementation of national development programs in transportation, food security, climate and disaster management, etc.

Speaking in this gathering, Stefan Priesner stressed the significant role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, saying: “We have plans to work with Iran for the next five years and we welcome Iran's cooperation with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization as well.”



“The consequences of the war in Ukraine are global, and the food supply chain is disrupted, and we must focus on peace,” Priesner stated.

Comanescu for his part expressed appreciation for Iran's initiative to hold this conference and said: “2022 is the 30th anniversary of the organization's establishment and we appreciate Iran's efforts in holding this meeting. Iran has been the organization's most active dialogue partner.”

“This is the first event of its kind and I hope others will follow in Iran's footsteps,” he stressed.

Nazeri also noted that there is good potential for cooperation between ECO and BSEC and expressed hope to see more cooperation between these two organizations in the future.

“We have the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad and the Istanbul-Almaty-Bandar Abbas railways, which are very important and we are looking to launch a container train in these lines,” he said.

The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation is a regional international organization focusing on multilateral political and economic initiatives aimed at fostering cooperation, peace, stability and prosperity in the Black Sea region.

## IME Sees 68 % Growth In Weekly Trade Value



### IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week played host to trading 2,579,930 tons of commodities worth almost \$867m, logging growths of 23% and 68% in volume and value of traded compared with the week before that.

According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,108,000 tons of commodities valued at more than \$528m.

On this floor the IME sold 1,341,732 tons of cement, 130,000 tons of iron ore, 565,015 tons of steel, 55,000 tons of sponge iron, 42,020 tons of aluminum, 4,220 tons of copper, 1,790 tons of zinc, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate and 16 kg of gold bars.

Based on this report, on the IME's agricultural trading floor, customers purchased 3 tons of saffron.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 436,150 tons of commodities worth almost \$310m.

Commodities traded on this floor included 91,136 tons of polymeric products, 112,423 tons of bitumen, 108,000 tons of lube cut, 65,800 tons of vacuum bottom, 38,764 tons of chemicals, 15,270 tons of sulfur, 4,779 tons of base oil and 140 tons of argon.

The IME also traded within the same week 35,470 tons of commodities on its side market.

## Shared Gas Field Divided 80:20 Between Iran and Oman

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A source says a recent contract gives Iran the lion's share of Hengam, a gas field shared with Oman.

Iran and Oman have agreed to divide the Hengam gas field in the Persian Gulf on a 80:20 formula as part of a recent contract signed between the two countries to jointly develop the field, says an industry source.

Mohammad Hosseini, a former deputy oil minister, said on Saturday that determining the shares of Iran and Oman at Hengam had been a major obstacle in the way of efforts to develop the major gas field for many years.

“This problem about Hengam gas field has been solved and the share of each country has been determined,” Hosseini was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

He said that the contract signed last month gives Iran the lion's share of Hengam, a field which he described as having a major economic potential because of its vast resources and its geographical situation.

The oil expert said that Iran will have the opportunity

to supply part of the gas extracted from Hengam to a major gas liquefaction project in Oman.

“Oman is looking to receive supplies of natural gas from Iran for its LNG project,” said Hosseini, adding that such an arrangement will increase Iran's revenues from the joint development project in Hengam.

Iran and Oman signed a major contract last month to revive efforts to develop Hengam. Little details have emerged from the contract but Iranian authorities have

hailed it as a major achievement for the country's energy diplomacy with countries in the region.

The idea for a subsea gas pipeline from Hengam to Oman was first raised in 2005 when Iran committed as part of contract to start supplying 30 million cubic meters (mcm) per day of natural gas to Oman by 2008 and then increase the exports to 70 mcm per day by 2012.

Another agreement in 2013 stipulated that Iran should provide Oman with 28 mcm per day of gas over 15 years.

## Iran Alloy Steel Co. on Course to Development

TEHRAN – The ceremony for inaugurating wire production line was held at Iran Alloy Steel Company last week in the presence of the CEO of Ghadir Investment Company Dr. Hosseini, Representative of Yazd to Majlis Mr. Jokar and Mr. Ashkzar as well as managers of Iran Alloy Steel Company.

Addressing the ceremony, the CEO of Iran Alloy Steel Company Mr.

Alireza Chaychi highlighted the goals for the launch of the project and acceleration for its completion. He then termed the company as the steel-company with consuming the lowest amount of water in the steelmaking companies with using 0.7 cubic meters in ton and as the company with winning six top awards in the national green industry.

He then briefed the performance of the production and sales units of the company in the past Iranian calendar year while

### IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



the company had been facing many challenges and problems like electricity cut, reiterating that despite those challenges, the company materialized the set targets in sales and earning profits.

He also pointed to 20% growth in the Yazd One project last year and expressed hope that the first try for getting melt would be materialized in November. Chaychi then delved into details of the wire production

line project and said that with implementation of the melt in November, the production capacity of the company will be 700,000 tons per year and it will create over 500 direct jobs.

He also expressed hope that Iran Alloy Steel Company can launch its power station with the nominal capacity of 330 megawatts through the full support of the shareholders.

## Iran Steel Output Down 20.7% y/y in April

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's production of steel dropped by 20.7% year on year in April, according to figures by the World Steel Association (worldsteel) published in the local media and amid a continued decline in the global steel output that has been caused by lower manufacturing activity in China.

Worldsteel figures published in a Sunday report by the Fars news agency showed that total production at Iranian steel mills in April had reached 2.2 million metric tons (mt).

The figures showed that Iranian crude steel output over the four months to April had totaled at 9.1 million mt, down 8.9% against the similar period in 2021.

Iran remained the 10th largest steel producer in the world, trailing Brazil at output figures of 2.9 million mt for April and 11.6 million mt for the January-April period.

Global output of crude steel continued to decline over April as largest supplier China churned out 92.8 million mt, down 5.2% compared to the similar month last year, showed the worldsteel figures.

The figures showed that other major producers, including Japan, the United States, South Korea and Germany had also reported declines in April steel production although second largest supplier India, along with Russia and Turkey saw their output increase.

Iran had reported increased exports of steel over the calendar year to March. Government figures showed that shipments had increased by nearly 20% compared to the year before.

The country has seen a major surge in activity in its mining and metals sector since the United States imposed sanctions on the country's exports of crude oil nearly four years ago.

Metals exports have accounted for a major part of Iran's foreign exchange revenues since 2019 when oil shipments started to decrease because of US sanctions.

## HOSCO Wins Top Statue for Customer's Satisfaction

### IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) won top award during the sixth national conference on customer's satisfaction with an approach on the role of economic managers in the field of production.

According to reports, in the conference which was held at the Conference Hall of IRIB, the CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company Mr. Ataollah Maroufkhani received the award on behalf of the company for its excellence in the customer's satisfaction.

Following the achievement and on the sidelines of the conference, Mr. Maroufkhani in an interview hailed the performance of the company in winning the customer's satisfaction and said that development and production of new products are of the effective indicators on the customer's satisfaction. He added that the trend of progress of growing developments in the business climate is of the major requirements of any economic enterprises.

Maroufkhani noted that rise in competition and diversity in products lead to essential developments in customers' demands. He noted that maintaining the current market and its expansion requires discovery of demands and winning satisfaction of customers via creating changes in the production system, quality, marketing and sale of the products and customer's satisfaction tops the list.

He went on to say that customer is the capital, credit and future of a business and it leads to the growth of the business and improvement of operation and ultimately leads to the rise in revenues and dynamism of the companies especially faithful customers are valuable assets for the customer-oriented companies.

Then Maroufkhani highlighted the approach of the company for attracting the customers' satisfaction and customer-orientation. He reiterated that all measures and actions in HOSCO are taken based on the customers' satisfaction and they have been welcomed. He went on to say that to meet the Supreme Leader's recommendations and demands, the company is determined to implement its developmental projects as well as increasing production and job creations.



## Copper Concentrate at Sungun Complex to Hit 1m Tons



### IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) during President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Sungun Copper Complex said that the complex will increase its copper concentrate production from 300,000 tons to 1m tons per year.

The CEO of NICICO Dr. Ali Rostami said that the company seeks to increase copper concentrate production 300,000 tons to 1m tons per year at Sungun Copper Complex and with implementation of the melt and refining project for the first time in the complex, it will produce 400,000 tons of cathode.

He then highlighted major plans for developing the national copper industry and said that this industry has the best condition for development and earning more forex, and said the plans are aimed at the development of the industry and increase of production.

Rostami expressed hope that the company would increase the production amount of 280,000 tons in the past year to one million tons of copper containing minerals and cathode in a 7 to 8 year period. He stated that production of one million tons of copper will earn the company \$12b, reiterating that this amount of forex will equal the earnings of exports in the petrochemical industry. He added that NICICO can have export volume equal to oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

Rostami added that following the President's visit at Sungun Copper Complex, the projects for producing one million tons of copper concentrate started. He added that NICICO is determined to produce 400,000 tons of melt and cathode copper after implementing the projects.



# Bangladesh Port Depot Fire Kills 34, Injures 300

CHITTAGONG (Dispatches) - At least 34 people have died after a fire that sparked a huge chemical explosion and was still blazing on Sunday at a shipping container depot in Bangladesh, officials said.

The toll was expected to rise with over 300 people injured, some of them seriously, and eyewitnesses said they had seen unrecovered bodies in the facility near the major southern port of Chittagong.

Several hundred rescuers were battling the blaze that broke out late Saturday in Sitakunda, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Chittagong, when a number of containers holding chemicals exploded, the fire brigade told reporters.



# Chinese Astronauts Blast Off to Space Station

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China sent three astronauts on Sunday on a six-month long mission to oversee a pivotal period of construction of its space station, whose final modules are due to be launched in the coming months.

The space station, when completed by the year-end, will lay a significant milestone in China's three-decades long manned space program, first approved in 1992 and initially code-named "Project 921". It will also flag the start of permanent Chinese habitation in space.

The completion of the structure, about a fifth of the International Space Station (ISS) by mass, is a source of pride among ordinary Chinese people, and caps President Xi Jinping's 10 years as leader of the ruling Communist Party.



# Russia Strikes Kyiv, Battle Rages in Eastern Ukraine



KYIV (Dispatches)- Russia struck Ukraine's capital Kyiv with missiles for the first time in more than a month, while Ukrainian officials said a counter-attack on the main battlefield in the east had retaken half of the city of Sievierodonetsk.

Dark smoke could be seen from many miles away after the attack on two outlying districts of Kyiv. Moscow said it had hit a repair shop housing tanks sent from Eastern Europe.

Ukraine said Russia had carried out the strike using long-range air-launched missiles fired from heavy bombers as far away as the Caspian Sea - a weapon far more valuable than the tanks Russia claimed to have hit.

At least one person was hospitalized but there were no immediate reports of deaths from the strike - a sudden reminder of war in a capital where normal life has largely returned since Russian forces were driven from its outskirts in March.

"The Kremlin resorts to new insidious attacks. Today's missile strikes at Kyiv have only one goal - kill as many as possible," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mikhailo Podolyak wrote in a tweet.

Ukraine's nuclear power operator said a Russian cruise missile had flown "critically low" over the country's second largest nuclear power plant.

The attack was the first big strike on Kyiv since late April, when a missile killed a journalist. Recent weeks have seen Russia focus its destructive might mainly on frontlines in the east and south, although Moscow occasionally strikes elsewhere in what it calls a campaign to degrade Ukraine's military infrastructure and block Western arms shipments.

Russia has concentrated its forces in recent weeks on the small eastern factory city of Sievierodonetsk, launching one of the biggest ground battles of the war in a bid to capture one of two eastern provinces it claims on behalf of separatist proxies.

After retreating steadily in the city in recent days, Ukraine mounted a counter-attack there, which it says took the Russians by surprise. After recapturing a swathe of the city, Ukrainian forces were now in control of half of it and continuing to push the Russians back, said Serhiy Gaidai, governor of the Luhansk region that includes Sievierodonetsk.

"It had been a difficult situation, the Russians controlled 70% of the city, but over the past two days they have been pushed back," Gaidai said on Ukrainian television. "The city is now, more or less, divided in half."

The claims could not be independently verified. Both sides say they have inflicted huge casualties in Sievierodonetsk, a battle that could determine which side carries the momentum into a protracted war of attrition in coming months.

Britain's defense ministry said on Sunday that Ukrainian counterattacks there over the past 24 hours were likely to blunt any operational momentum that Russian forces had previously gained. Russia was deploying poorly equipped separatist fighters in the city to limit the risk to its regular forces, it said.

# Several Dead and Wounded in Philadelphia Street Shooting

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Three people were killed and 11 others wounded on Saturday after multiple shooters opened fire into a crowd in the US city of Philadelphia, according to police.

The shooting took place on a busy street known for its nightlife. Police Inspector D. F. Pace told reporters that two men and a woman had been killed, adding that officers responding to the incident "observed several active shooters shooting into the crowd."

"You can imagine there were hundreds of individuals enjoying South Street, as they do every single weekend, when this shooting broke out," Pace said. He said that "numerous" officers were already on the scene when the first shots were heard, describing it as a "standard deployment" for the area on summer weekend nights.

A responding officer fired at one of the shooters, who dropped his gun and fled, though it was unclear whether the man was hit, Pace said. Local media reported that no arrests had been made.



## Australia Accuses China of Dangerous Interception Over South China Sea

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australia today accused the Chinese military of putting an Australian Defense Force flight crew at risk when their plane was intercepted late last month over the South China Sea.

Defense Minister Richard Marles revealed a Chinese strike fighter had on May 26 intercepted an Australian P-8 surveillance craft, flying close and releasing flares before it accelerated and cut in front of the plane.

"At that moment, [the Chinese plane] then released a bundle of chaff which contains small pieces of aluminium, some of which were ingested into the engine of the P-8 aircraft," Marles told media.

"Quite obviously, this is very dangerous".

The crew were unharmed and were able to return to their base, Marles said, but Australia had conveyed its concerns to Beijing — the first contact the country's new government has had with the Chinese military since it came to power on May 21.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said it was not unusual for Australia to undertake surveillance in the South China Sea, a region Beijing fiercely contests is its domain entirely, despite a 2016 Hague ruling that dismissed its historic claims.

China's stance has heightened tensions with the United States and its allies, which insist on freedom of navigation in the area.

Albanese said Australia had acted in "accordance with international law, exercising the right to freedom of navigation and overflight in international waters, and airspace".

The incident comes just three months after Australia accused the Chinese military of shining a military-grade laser at one of the country's defense planes over waters north of Australia.

The former Australian administration labelled the incident "an act of intimidation" and said it had the potential to endanger lives.

And earlier this month, Canada's military made a similar accusation, saying Chinese pilots acted unprofessionally during recent encounters with its planes in international airspace.

# U.S. to Allow Two Companies to Ship Venezuelan Oil to Europe

HOUSTON (Dispatches) - Italian oil company Eni SpA and Spain's Repsol SA could begin shipping Venezuelan oil to Europe as soon as next month to make up for Russian crude, five people familiar with the matter said, resuming oil-for-debt swaps halted two years ago when Washington stepped up sanctions on Venezuela.

The volume of oil Eni and Repsol are expected to receive is not large, one of the people said, and any impact on global oil prices will be modest. But Washington's greenlight to resume Venezuela's long-frozen oil flows to Europe could provide a symbolic boost for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

The U.S. State Department gave the nod to the two companies to resume shipments in a letter, the people said. U.S. President Joe Biden's administration hopes the Venezuelan crude can help Europe cut dependence on Russia and re-direct some of Venezuela's cargoes from China. Coaxing Maduro into restarting political talks with Venezuela's opposition is another aim, two of the people told Reuters.

The two European energy companies, which have joint ventures with Venezuelan state-run oil company PDVSA, can count the crude cargoes toward unpaid debts and late dividends, the people said.

A key condition, one of the people said, was that the oil received "has to go to Europe. It cannot be resold elsewhere."

Washington believes PDVSA will not benefit financially from these cash-free transactions, unlike Venezuela's current oil sales to China, that person said. China has not signed onto Western sanctions on Russia, and has continued to buy Russian oil and gas despite U.S. appeals.

The authorizations came last month, but details and resale restrictions have not been reported previously.

Eni and Repsol did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

Washington has not made similar allowances for U.S. oil major Chevron Corp, India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp Ltd and France's Maurel & Prom SA, which also lobbied the U.S. State Department and U.S. Treasury Department to take oil in return for billions of dollars in accumulated debts from Venezuela.

All five oil companies halted swapping oil for debt in mid-2020 in the midst of former U.S. President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign that cut Venezuela's oil exports but failed to oust Maduro.

PDVSA has not scheduled Eni and Repsol to take any cargoes this month, according to a June 3 preliminary PDVSA loading program seen by Reuters.

Venezuela Vice President Delcy Rodriguez tweeted last month she hoped the U.S. overtures "will pave the way for the total lifting of the illegal sanctions which affect our entire people."



# N. Korea Launches Multiple Ballistic Missiles

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea launched multiple ballistic missiles into waters off its east coast, South Korea's military said, a day after Seoul and Washington completed their first joint drills involving a US aircraft carrier in more than four years.

Pyongyang has doubled down on upgrading its weapons program this year, despite facing crippling economic sanctions.

"Our military detected eight short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Sunan area in Pyongyang, North Korea into the East Sea," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, referring to the Sea of Japan.

The launches took place over about 30 minutes this morning, it added.

"While our military has strengthened surveillance and vigilance in preparation for additional launches, South Korea and the United States are closely cooperating and maintaining a full readiness posture."

The launches took place at multiple locations, Tokyo said, adding that Pyongyang had tested missiles at "unprecedentedly high frequency" this year. "We can say the very large number of launches from at least three locations in a short period of time like this time is unusual," Japanese Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said, confirming the North fired at least six missiles.

"This is absolutely unacceptable," he added.

The launches came barely a day after South Korea and the United States wrapped up large-scale, three-day exercises involving the USS Ronald Reagan, a 100,000-tonne nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

They were the allies' first joint military drills since South Korea's hawkish new President Yoon Suk-yeol took office last month, and the first involving an aircraft carrier since November 2017.

Pyongyang has long protested against the joint exercises, calling them rehearsals for invasion.

"The exercise consolidated the two countries' determination to sternly respond to any North Korean provocations while demonstrating the US commitment to provide extended deterrence," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

Go Myong-hyun, a researcher at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said Sunday's launch was likely a response to the US-South Korea manoeuvres.





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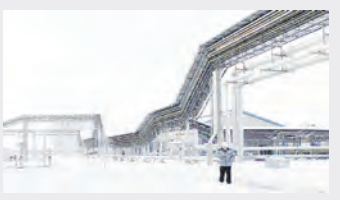
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## Moscow Expects Big Jump in Profits From Energy Exports in 2022

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Western sanctions would have no effect on the country’s oil exports and predicted a big jump in profits from energy shipments this year. “Considering the price level that has been established as a result of the West’s policies, we have suffered no budgetary losses,” the foreign ministry quoted him as telling a Bosnian Serb television station. “On the contrary, this year we will significantly increase the profits from the export of our energy resources.” Last Monday, European Union leaders agreed in principle to cut 90% of oil imports from Russia by the end of this year to punish Moscow for invading Ukraine.



## Global Food Prices Dip but Wheat, Meat, Cereals Costs Push Higher

ROME (Dispatches) - Food prices around the world fell slightly for a second consecutive month in May after hitting a record high in March, although the costs of wheat, cereals and meat rose, the United Nations’ food agency said. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine sent food prices to a record high as both countries are major exporters of agricultural goods, sparking fears of a global hunger crisis. The Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) food price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 157.4 points last month versus 158.3 for April. The April figure was previously put at 158.5. Despite the monthly decline, the May index was still 22.8% higher than a year earlier, pushed up in part by concerns over the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In separate cereal supply and demand estimates, the FAO said it expected global cereal production would drop in the 2022/23 season for the first time in four years, easing 16 million tons from record 2021 levels to 2.784 billion tons.

While the dairy, sugar and vegetable oil price indices all fell last month, the meat index edged up to hit an all-time high and the cereal index climbed 2.2%, with wheat posting a 5.6% month-on-month gain. Year-on-year, wheat prices were up 56.2%.

FAO said wheat prices were shunted higher by India’s announcement of an export ban, as well as reduced production prospects in Ukraine following the Russian invasion.

Citing inflation and its own food security needs, India banned last month any new wheat exports without government approval after the hottest March on record – blamed on climate change – hit harvests.

The vegetable oil price index dropped 3.5% from April, pushed down in part by Indonesia’s decision to lift a short-lived export ban on palm oil.

“Export restrictions create market uncertainty and can result in price spikes and increased price volatility. The decrease in oilseed prices shows how important it is when they are removed and let exports flow smoothly,” said FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero Cullen.

The dairy index also dropped by 3.5% month-on-month, with the price of milk powders shedding the most because of market uncertainties tied to continued COVID-19 lockdowns in China.

The meat index rose 0.6% in May, with stable world beef and pork prices offset by a steep increase in poultry prices. Issuing its first forecast for global cereal production, FAO predicted declines for maize, wheat and rice production, while barley and sorghum outputs were seen increasing.

“The forecasts are based on conditions of crops already in the ground and planting intentions for those yet to be sown,” FAO said.

World cereal utilization was forecast to ease in 2022/23 by 0.1% from 2021/22 levels, to 2.788 billion tons – the first contraction in 20 years.

## Canada Handgun Sales Soar After Trudeau Proposes Freeze

OTTAWA (Dispatches) - Aman Sandhu checked store after store for a handgun in Canada’s British Columbia, hoping to make a purchase before a freeze on sales takes effect, but struggled to find one in stock.



“I’m concerned that if I don’t buy one now, I may never have the choice again,” Sandhu, a member of the Dawson Creek Sportsman’s Club, told AFP.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s proposed freeze on pistol sales -- which he announced in the wake of a series of high-profile mass shootings in the United States -- has pushed some Canadians to rush out to gun stores while they still can.

While Sandhu is keen to buy a pistol, he is also wary of becoming mired in new rules that include hefty penalties for even minor lapses.

“Jeez, if I slip up, I could screw up the rest of my firearms ownership,” he said, describing a handful of long guns in his collection.

Several gun stores in British Columbia province saw lines out the door within hours of the liberal leader’s declaration on Monday. Other shops across Canada said they sold out within days.

“Sales have been brisk,” said Jen Lavigne, co-owner of That Hunting Store in a strip mall on the outskirts of the capital Ottawa, nestled between a barbershop, a Chinese buffet restaurant, and a conservative lawmaker’s constituency office.

“We sold 100 handguns, or almost our entire stock, in the last three days, since the prime minister announced the freeze,” she said, showing off her nearly empty handgun cabinet.

At DoubleTap Sports in Toronto, a similar scene unfolded. Owner Josko Kovic said the government announcement “created a panic, and people are now rushing out to buy handguns.”

“Almost all stores are sold out, including me,” he said.

According to government estimates, there are more than one million handguns in Canada, which has a population of 38 million people. Some 2,500 stores sell pistols in the country.

At present, a person must have a restricted firearms license in order to purchase a handgun. Most also require a special permit to transport them from any location to another, and they must be in secured cases.

Shooting ranges are about the only places where they can be legally fired.

The new regulations, unveiled after mass shootings killed 21 people at an elementary school in Texas and 10 at a supermarket in New York state, would prohibit the purchase, sale, transfer and importation of handguns.

They are expected to come into force in the fall, along with a border crackdown on weapons smuggling from the United States. “We are capping the number of handguns in this country,” Trudeau said Monday, citing “a level of gun violence in our communities that is unacceptable.”

Almost two-thirds of gun crimes in Canadian cities over the past decade involved handguns, according to government data.

## Pakistan Expects GDP Growth to Slow to 5% Amid Fiscal Consolidation

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan GDP growth will slow to 5% for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1, from 5.9% in the outgoing year, following budgetary tightening aimed at winning International Monetary Fund (IMF) support, the government said.

The planning ministry made the estimates ahead of the annual budget to be presented on June 10.

“Keeping in view external and local uncertain economic environment, GDP growth will slightly taper off and is envisaged at 5 percent for 2022-23 on the back of agriculture (3.9%), manufacturing (7.1%) and services sector (5.1%),” said the ministry in a working paper seen by Reuters.

The paper said the fiscal consolidation will be pursued to bring down the deficit through a combination of expenditure management and revenue enhancement.

Pakistan’s foreign reserves have been on a steep decline in recent months - falling to \$9.7 billion, less than 45 days of imports - and its double digit inflation and a widening current account deficit have put it in a tight spot.

Moody’s has changed Pakistan’s outlook to negative from stable.

Pakistan has been waiting for the IMF board to clear a seventh review to resume a \$6 billion rescue package signed in 2019 after both sides concluded talks in Doha last month.

The paper said the fiscal deficit for the July-March portion of the outgoing fiscal year had widened to 4% of GDP, compared to 3% of GDP for the corresponding period last fiscal year.

## Kazakhstan Renames Its Export Oil to Avoid Russia Sanctions Risk

NUR-SULTAN (Dispatches) - Kazakhstan is changing the name of the oil it exports via Russian sea ports to Kazakhstan Export Blend Crude Oil (KEBCO) to dissociate it from oil originating in Russia in order to avoid sanction risks and issues with financing.

“Due to recent significant geopolitical changes ... and to avoid negative effect of the changes on Kazakh oil exports via Russian ports, from June 2022 the following name for

the grade applies – KEBCO (Kazakhstan Export Blend Crude Oil),” Kazakh oil producer CNPC-Aktobemunaigaz that transits its oil via Russian ports said in a written answer to a Reuters request.

Four sources in Kazakhstan’s oil companies involved in transit via Russian sea ports also confirmed the renaming of their barrels and added that the change to KEBCO will come into effect from Monday for all official documents.

According to one source, the Kazakhstan Energy Ministry is going to ask for authorization from the government for the official usage of the new grade.

The Energy Ministry declined to comment on the matter.

Russian export blend crude oil or Urals, Russia’s flagship crude oil loading from the state’s western ports, has recently become difficult to place, especially with European buyers, due to Western sanctions and self-sanctioning by European companies. Earlier this week the EU announced an embargo on Russian oil imports from end-2022.

Kazakhstan uses Russian sea ports as a transit route for 20% of its export oil flow, some 13.3 million tons in 2021, while oil originated from Kazakhstan is technically not subject to Western sanctions. Kazakh shipments have been repeatedly mistaken for Russian barrels, traders said.

“It’s a necessary measure, so that our oil is not sanctioned, while its name clearly shows the country of origin in the documents. Otherwise, we have problems opening letters of credit,” a trader involved in Kazakhstan’s oil transit via Russian ports told Reuters.

Kazakh oil producers hope they can achieve better prices for their oil and sell it easier if it’s clearly stated in the documents that it does not come from Russia, the sources said.

The Urals oil discount to dated Brent fell to an all-time low of more than \$30 per barrel from the end of March.

## Turkey Inflation Trending Lower After Hitting 24-Year High

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey’s annual inflation rate rose at a lower-than-expected pace in May but still jumped to a 24-year high, official data showed Friday, fueled by soaring food and energy prices.

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 73.5% in the 12 months through May, up from nearly 70% in April, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) said.

The increase, however, was smaller than in previous months, signaling that price pressure might be slowing. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which led to a surge in gas, oil and grain prices, has compounded the situation in import-reliant Turkey.

Treasury and Finance Minister Nureddin Nebati said monthly inflation readings are trending lower in a positive sign.

“Fight against inflation will continue to be our top priority in the coming period,” Nebati wrote on Twitter. “We will never allow our citizens to be crushed under the pressure of inflation.”

The sharpest increases in annual prices were in the transportation sector, at 107.6%, followed by food and nonalcoholic drinks prices at 91.6%, according to the statistical institute’s data.

Month-over-month, consumer prices rose nearly 3%, TurkStat said, compared to a market forecast of 4.8%. The consensus forecast was for annual inflation to rise to 76.55%.

A core index that strips out the impact of volatile items such as food and energy reached 56%, the data showed.

The domestic producer price index climbed 8.76% month-over-month in May for an annual rise of 132.16%.

The latest figure surpassed the 73.2% touched in 2002 and is the highest since October 1998 when annual inflation was 76.6%.



Turkey’s consumer price index has surged since last autumn as the Turkish lira weakened after the central bank in September embarked on a 500 basis-point easing cycle.

Consumer prices have been increasing despite tax cuts on basic goods and government subsidies for utility bills to ease the burden on household budgets.

The government says inflation will fall under its new economic program, which prioritizes low-interest rates to boost production and exports to achieve a current account surplus.

The lira weakened 0.25% to 16.5050 against the dollar touching its weakest since December. The currency declined 44% in 2021 and another 20% this year.

## Beijing Sets up \$120b Credit Line to Drive Infrastructure



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China has launched a \$120 billion credit line for infrastructure projects, state media reported, as Beijing tries to jump-start its ailing economy, which has been pounded by the country’s zero-COVID-19 measures.

Growth has slowed sharply in recent months as the Communist leadership sticks to a strategy of quashing virus clusters with mass tests and lockdowns – forcing factories to halt work and clotting supply chains.

Premier Li Keqiang last week called for “reasonable” expansion in the second quarter as fears mount for the vaunted official annual growth target of around 5.5%.

Pump priming hard-hit provinces with infrastructure schemes has emerged as a key tool to create jobs and drive growth in local economies flatlined by the virus and a concurrent collapse in receipts from land sales to developers.

A State Council meeting chaired by Li on Wednesday approved a mammoth new sum for infrastructure.

“It is necessary to increase the credit line of policy banks by 800 billion yuan (\$120 billion),” state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Experts say the announcement is likely to help provincial governments match Beijing’s banner statements on supporting growth.

“It will provide long-term support to various infrastructure projects,” said Betty Wang and Zhaopeng Xing of ANZ Research in a report on Thursday.

In turn that will “drive business activities along the supply chain.”

The amount is “nearly half of the 1.65 trillion yuan in new policy bank lending in 2021,” Nomura analysts added in a note.

The sum accounted for about a fifth of new medium to long-term loans for the infrastructure sector in 2021, the note said.

Nomura analysts estimate that Beijing has a six trillion yuan funding gap, in part due to a collapse in land sales – a key source of funds – and because of the omicron wave.



# Iran, Qatar Stress Broadening of Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Qatar Petroleum Saad Sherida al-Kaabi in a meeting in Doha, stressed the need for strengthening Tehran-Doha bilateral ties and joint cooperation.

Iran’s Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian met CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Qatar Petroleum Saad Sherida al-Kaabi

on Monday to discuss main issues of bilateral ties of Iran-Qatar.

In this meeting, Iran’s Energy Minister expressed Tehran’s interest in further expanding of ties between the two countries in various fields, and termed cooperation potentials of the two countries very appropriate and stressed removing of existing obstacles in expanding relations.



# Bosphorus Sea Trade Unaffected by Ukraine War, Sanctions

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - At the gates of the Black Sea, trade is in full swing as freighters and oil tankers sail from the heart of Istanbul to Russian and Ukrainian ports.

Just after the Russian offensive in Ukraine on February 24 and the first Western sanctions, the largest vessels of international companies plying on these waters were replaced by smaller ships.

The total number of ships on the route remains around the pre-war level of 40,000, according to experts.

“Russia shamelessly steals Ukrainian grain and sends it overseas from Crimea, including to Turkey,” said Vasyl Bodnar, Ukraine’s ambassador to Ankara.

“In May alone, we counted at least 10 passages including two round trips from three vessels flying the Russian flag... Not to mention those that we would have collectively missed.”

From his terrace overlooking the Bosphorus, Yoruk Isik has been a passionate observer of ship movements on this key waterway between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean for a decade now.

While swiftly condemning the Russian offensive in Ukraine, Turkey positioned itself as a neutral mediator and refused to join Western sanctions against Moscow.

Although Ankara has banned the passage of military vessels through its straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus since late February under the Montreux Treaty of 1936, it is not legally entitled to intercept commercial ships or to search them, a diplomatic source said in Ankara.

“We don’t follow the ships on their way out of the Straits. We monitor them 10 kilometres before they enter and 10 kilometres after they leave,” the source said on condition of anonymity.

Elizabeth Aunina, a researcher at Amsterdam University, said: “If we look at the vague words of the Montreux treaty it leaves a lot up for interpretation.

“It did not foresee that merchant vessels could be carrying stolen goods... Turkey has before showed a certain commitment to stick to the very basic interpretation of the Convention as a way to also protect itself from entering deeper into the conflict”.

The European Union imposed an embargo on Russian imports but tankers flying the Greek or Maltese flags are seen sailing through the Bosphorus up to the Black Sea to the Russian ports.

Thanks to real-time tracking applications, a strong network of observers, Russian and Ukrainian activists and satellite images, no vessel escapes Isik’s radar.

“We can see from end to end, where the ship is getting loaded by the ship,” he said.

Some freighters loaded the wheat in Ukrainian ports under Russian blockade such as Odessa, Chornomorsk or Mariupol, he said.

The destination? Syria — where Russia retains an operational base — and then Lebanon or Egypt.

Isik also identified a flotilla of old Turkish boats, “never seen before in the area” suddenly appearing under a flag of convenience in the Russian port of Novorossiysk — “likely under contract with the Russian government”.

He lists a few names: Kocatepe (now Tanzanian), Barbaros (Equatorial Guinea), Hizir (Malta) and Sampiyon Trabzonspor (Cameroon).

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Turkey



on Wednesday to discuss a possible establishment of “sea corridors” — although Ukrainian wheat is being covertly exported to Russia’s benefit, according to experts.

“This is the information we get but we cannot stop, or check, or question the intention of any cargo ship except if we feel a threat to Turkish peace or security,” the diplomatic source said.

But for Isik who keeps the list of cargo ships belonging to the Russian defence ministry and those of private companies operating on its behalf, “what is happening is unacceptable”.

Before the war, Ukraine was on track to becoming the world’s third biggest exporter of wheat and many countries in Africa and the Middle East depend on it.

“If Russia exports Ukrainian products, nobody authorises Turkey to stop the vessels,” said Yucel Acer, professor of international law at the University of Ankara, adding “unless there is a United Nations resolution” — a futile move as long as Russia holds a veto power in the Security Council.

Without openly admitting it, the European Commission has found holes in the current sanctions regime and is preparing to tighten the screws again, said a source in Brussels.

These foresee a new set of sanctions targeting Moscow plans to deprive the European operators of their insurance if their vessels are caught red-handed.

“Most of these vessels are covered by European and British insurance: with this new package, they will no longer be able to use them,” said the source.

“This should have a significant impact.”

But Turkey could do more, said Aunina, from Amsterdam university.

“Following the annexation of Crimea, Turkey technically banned ships from Crimea in its ports: This could be done as well!”

# Shershaah Steals Show as Bollywood’s Oscars Return



ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - War movie “Shershaah” marched off with Best Picture and Best Director as Bollywood’s Oscars returned for the first time since the pandemic began with an all-singing, all-dancing awards ceremony in Abu Dhabi.

“Shershaah”, depicting Indian war hero Vikram Batra, who was killed in the 1999 Kargil conflict with Pakistan, had been tipped to dominate after receiving 12 nods for the first International Indian Film Academy Awards since 2019.

“I would like to thank the family of Vikram Batra for helping me make this movie,” director Vishnuvardhan told the crowd at the end of the energetic, five-hour gala in the United Arab Emirates capital.

Indian A-listers packed the ceremony, which featured a belly-dancing number during the lavishly choreographed stage show. Bollywood, the Hindi-language film industry known for its strong musical tradition, is the world’s most prolific producer of movies.

Best leading male went to Vicky Kaushal for “Sardar Udham”, a drama depicting an Indian revolutionary’s revenge on the British officer behind the 1919 Amritsar massacre.

And Kriti Sanon won best female lead for “Mimi”, a comedy-drama that tackles the thriving surrogacy industry and attitudes towards single mothers. Sai Tamhankar won best supporting female for the same film.

But cricket movie “83”, which depicts India’s seminal 1983 World Cup triumph and received nine nominations, missed out on the major prizes.

The IIFA awards follow a torrid period when India and its film industry were sent reeling by Covid-19, which shuttered cinemas and triggered a rush to streaming services.

Host Salman Khan, one of Bollywood’s heavyweights, opened proceedings by riding into the auditorium on a motorbike, a gold IIFA trophy perched on the handlebars.

# Australia’s Economic Growth Slows in March Quarter

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australia’s economic growth slowed in the March quarter as rising spending by households, businesses and governments could not counter a dive in net exports.

In the first three months of 2022, gross domestic product rose to an annual rate of 3.3%, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said. That eased from the earlier reported annual pace of 4.2% and compared with about 3% forecast by economists.

The quarterly rate of growth was 0.8% reaching a record \$527.7bn, and marked the second consecutive quarter of expansion. Wages showed a pick-up while several inflation measures rose, one to the highest in 34 years, stoking concerns that the Reserve Bank of Australia will have to hike interest rates faster and sooner to curb inflation.

The GDP growth pace was expected to slow after the ABS reported on Tuesday that the nation’s current account surplus had shrunk by \$5.7bn to \$7.5bn in seasonally adjusted terms for the quarter, shaving 1.7% off overall growth alone.

Domestic final demand, though, contributed 1.6 percentage points to GDP growth, with households making up half of that. Government spending delivered 0.6 percentage points of growth, driven by extra spending on health and flood relief in New South Wales and Queensland, the ABS said. Business, too, added to their stocks.

“Household consumption continued to drive growth this quarter,” said Sean Crick, the acting head of national accounts at the ABS. “Following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, household spending on transport services, hotels, cafes and restaurants, and recreation and culture increased.”

The quarterly GDP numbers are the first major economic figures to be released since the Albanese Labor government took office after their 21 May election victory.

The March data provided a snapshot of the momentum of the economy that the incoming ministers inherited. It also showed price pressures were mounting at the start of the year, supporting the case for another rise in official interest rates when the RBA board meets next Tuesday. The new treasurer, Jim Chalmers, said the figures were a glimpse of the “economic mess” Labor had inherited from the Morrison government.

“Skyrocketing inflation is a big challenge, falling real wages is a big challenge, and the impact of interest rate rises that the Reserve Bank governor [Philip Low] has flagged is a big challenge,” he said.

## Saudi-Led Coalition...

FROM PAGE 1

The kingdom has maintained a blockade on the war-torn country, where the population is in dire need of basic supplies such as food and medicine. Riyadh imposed the blockade in 2015, the same year that it began to lead a war on its southern neighbor.

A ceasefire, announced by UN special envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg and welcomed by the warring sides, went into force on April 2. The truce stipulates halting offensive military operations and the siege on Yemen. However, the Yemeni side reported violations of the truce by the Saudis soon after it began.

Saudi Arabia launched a devastating war on Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with its Arab allies and with arms and logistics support from the US and other Western states.

The objective was to reinstall the Riyadh-friendly regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and crush the Ansarullah resistance movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of a functional government in Yemen.

While the Saudi-led coalition has failed to meet its objectives, the war has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and spawned the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

## U.S. May Allow...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran has raised oil exports this year, most of them ending up in China. A new nuclear deal would lead to an additional 500,000 to 1 million barrels per day coming on to international markets, enough to weigh on prices, according to energy analysts. The Islamic Republic also has around 100 million barrels of oil in storage that could be sold down quickly.

Crude prices have soared more than 50% this year to almost \$120 a barrel, mostly because of the fallout of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. While many Republicans and some Democrats oppose any lifting of Iranian sanctions, Biden is under plenty of pressure to lower gasoline prices, which have shot up to an average of more than \$4.80 per gallon in the U.S.

There’s little consensus about the direction of oil prices, according to Vitol, which traded 7.6 million barrels of crude and refined products a day in 2021. While supplies are tight, Washington’s release of strategic reserves is helping balance the market.

Thursday’s decision by OPEC+ — a 23-nation group of producers led by Saudi Arabia and Russia — to accelerate output increases is unlikely to have much impact, Muller said. That’s because many members will struggle to pump more and Moscow’s exports could drop due to sanctions over the war in Ukraine.

“The range of expert opinion out there has never been wider,” said Muller, who’s based in Singapore. “There are people who think the market’s going to \$135-\$140 a barrel. And there are people who think we’re going below \$100 again.”

There’s also a dichotomy emerging between richer and poorer countries, he said. Some in Asia such as Malaysia and Singapore are experiencing a demand rebound as coronavirus lockdowns ease. Others including Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which has defaulted on international bonds and is struggling to pay for fuel imports, are experiencing demand destruction.

“It’s a tale of two worlds,” Muller said. “The affluent world is going to have their holidays and burn jet fuel. But the impact elsewhere is a lot more profound. The divide between the prosperous and the countries that have a lower ability to pay for commodities is becoming extremely stark.”

## The SameOld Rubbish

FROM PAGE 1

The pint-size or better to say the fly-size countries like the UAE and Bahrain are not in a position to issue or to have such claims against the Iranian lands and they should know this fact that Iranians will defend their lands until their last drop of blood, and any political difference in the country does not mean that Iranians will remain passive against any ill-wish and offense of the enemies of the country. The UAE and Bahrain think that since they have normalized their ties with the Zionist regime can state any rubbish claim but they should know that they are not in a position to threaten the Islamic Republic of Iran and they are better not to play with the lion’s tail or else they have to face the consequences.

The UAE rulers are better to stop such redundant claims which are repeated each time in the PGCC meeting to put pressure on Tehran and create unity among the anti-Iran bloc in the council. They are also better not to test Iranians’ patience or else they should wait for the consequences of their acts.

Iran has never coveted lands or sovereignty of any country and it has not started any war and each time in case of breakout of war it has only defended its lands and the UAE rulers should realize this fact that they cannot mess with Tehran as they have gotten stuck in quagmire of war in Yemen which is a small country with strong determination and the result of any mess with Tehran will be worse than Yemen for them.

Tehran has always sought friendly ties with its neighboring states but it does not mean it is because of its weakness but it is because of the nature of the Islamic Revolution which supports friendly ties with nations especially with Muslim states and the UAE is recommended to stop such baseless claims that they have been increased in recent years under the influence of the Zionists and normalization of ties with the Zionist regime.



## Iran Preparing...

FROM PAGE 1

In March, Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force launched its second homegrown satellite, dubbed Nour-2, into a low Earth orbit.

The domestically-developed satellite’s mission was to carry out a range of military and civilian missions in Iran, including reconnaissance and natural disaster response operations.

The first version of the satellite, called Nour 1, was successfully shot and placed into the orbit 425 kilometers above Earth’s surface in April 2020.

## Iran, Russia...

FROM PAGE 1

Russia has come under a similar set of sanctions by the West since February when it got involved in a military conflict in Ukraine.

Chikhanchin said that Iran and Russia had come closer to each other because of the sanctions and insisted they should share intelligence and technical expertise as well the physical infrastructure used to boost their crackdown on money laundering.

He made his comments during a meeting with head of the Iranian finance ministry’s department for financial information Hadi Khani.

Khani, for his part, welcomed the proposal for increased cooperation on financial monitoring issues between Iran and Russia, said the report by the IRNA.



## Na Quits PGA Tour to Play Saudi-Backed Series

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Veteran U.S. golfer Kevin Na said Saturday he has resigned from the PGA Tour in order to avoid facing sanctions for playing in the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Invitational Series.

The 38-year-old world number 33, who has five victories on the PGA Tour, was this week named in the field for the lucrative new series' opening event teeing off in Britain next week.

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## Tanak Wins Rally of Sardinia

ROME (Dispatches) - Hyundai's Ott Tanak won the Rally of Sardinia on Sunday ahead of Irishman Craig Breen in a Ford, while world championship leader Kalle Rovanperä extended his lead at the top.

On the dirt and gravel roads of the Italian island of Sardinia Tanak took nine of the 18 specials, and had his share of luck on Friday when the last stages were cancelled while he had a transmission problem.

He finished 1min 03.2sec ahead of Breen -- Dani Sordo was third another 30sec adrift.

# Nadal Wins 14th French Open, Record-Extending 22nd Grand Slam

PARIS (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal won a 14th French Open and record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title on Sunday with a straight-sets rout of Casper Ruud to become the oldest male champion at Roland Garros and he vowed to "keep fighting".

In a disappointing final, 36-year-old Nadal won 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 with victory coming 17 years to the day since he claimed his first French Open as a 19-year-old in 2005.

Nadal won the last 11 games of the final and is now two Slams ahead of old rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer with Sunday's victory coming against all the odds.

Nadal, the oldest winner in Paris since a 34-year-old Andre Gimeno in 1972, had not been certain of taking part after a chronic left foot injury, which has plagued him throughout his career, flared up again.

He also needed the best part of a gruelling 12 hours to see off Felix Auger-Aliassime, Novak Djokovic and Alexander Zverev in the previous three rounds.

"I don't know what I would do in terms of injuries if it wasn't for the team, my family and everyone around me," said Nadal.

"I would've already retired much before if it wasn't for you.

"I never believed, that I'd be here at 36, being competitive again. Being here, means a lot to me on the most important court in my career. It helps me to keep going.

"For me, it's incredible to play here. It's an incredible feeling. I don't know what can happen in the future, but I'm going to keep fighting to try to keep going."

## Ham Confirmed As Lakers Coach

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Darvin Ham was formally confirmed as the new head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, the team announced in a statement.

Ham, an assistant coach with the Milwaukee Bucks, joins the franchise on a multiyear deal, the team said.

The 48-year-old Ham was a key assistant to Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer during Milwaukee's NBA championship-winning 2021 campaign.

He replaces Frank Vogel, who was fired in April after the Lakers' disastrous season that saw the 2020 champions fail to reach the playoffs.

Ham's appointment had been widely expected, with reports last month saying he had agreed a four-year deal.

Lakers star LeBron James had already congratulated Ham via social media, writing: "So damn EXCITED!!!!"

Lakers president of basketball operations Rob Pelinka said Friday Ham would bring a "no-nonsense" approach to the franchise, citing his steady rise through the coaching ranks from developmental league to elite level.

"When someone begins his NBA coaching career at the G League level and goes all the way through playing an integral role on the front bench of an NBA Championship team, it really speaks to a certain strength of character," Pelinka said.

## Osaka in Wimbledon Entry List

LONDON (Dispatches) - Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka's name appeared on the singles entry list for Wimbledon released by the organizers yesterday but veterans Roger Federer and the Williams sisters were not included.

Osaka said last month that she was "not 100 per cent sure" she would participate at the grasscourt Grand Slam because of the decision by the sport's governing bodies to strip the tournament of ranking points had reduced her motivation to play.



"You are a true champion. This is the first time I have faced you so now I know what it's like to be the victim! There will be many others.

"You have taken me into your academy with open arms and you are a true inspiration to me. We all hope you continue for some more time."

Nadal, unbeaten in 13 previous finals in Paris and playing in his 30th Grand Slam decider, got off to a flying start against Ruud, the first Norwegian man to feature in a championship match at the majors.

He broke for 2-0 and even though he handed the break straight back courtesy of a two uncharacteristic double faults, he was quickly back in front again for 3-1.

The Spaniard wrapped up the opener in 49 minutes against his 23-year-old opponent who has trained at his academy in Manacor since 2018.

World number eight Ruud, the in-form player on clay since the start of 2020 with 66 wins on the surface, was under siege again in the second set, having to fight off three break points in the opening game.

There was a sudden glimmer of hope when he broke for 3-1 with Nadal again coughing up a double fault. However, Nadal roared back with a double break for 4-3.

Ruud saved three set points in the ninth game but his first double fault of the final handed Nadal a two-set lead.

Nadal had said on the eve of the final that he would rather lose Sunday's match in exchange for a new foot.

However, without needing to hit top gear, he was in complete control against Ruud, racing away to the title with three breaks in a third set which was over in 30 minutes.

Nadal sealed the win with a backhand down the line, his 37th winner of the final.

## Swiatek Wins Second French Open Title

PARIS (Dispatches) - Iga Swiatek cruised to her second French Open title by dominating teenager Coco Gauff in the final, as the world number one claimed her 35th successive victory.

The 21-year-old Polish star stormed to a 6-1, 6-3 win in only 68 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier, equalling Venus Williams' record for the longest winning run by a woman in the 21st century.

Swiatek celebrated her sixth straight title this year in the players' box with her friends and family.

"I told Coco 'Don't cry' and that's what I am doing. Congrats to Coco," said an emotional Swiatek.

"You are doing an amazing job. At your age, I was on my first year on tour and I did not know what I was doing. You will find it, I am sure of that."

A disconsolate Gauff was left sitting on her seat in tears after a nervous performance, punctuated by 23 unforced errors and three double faults.

The 18-year-old American came up short in her bid to become the youngest Grand Slam singles champion since Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon in 2004.



Tevez played 76 times for Argentina, including at two World Cups, and was a part of the gold-medal winning team at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

At club level, he started and ended his career with Boca Juniors, winning the Copa Libertadores in 2003, but in between he enjoyed huge success and no little controversy in England and Italy.

# Tevez Announces Retirement

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Former Argentina forward Carlos Tevez, who has been without a club for the past year, announced his retirement from the game.

"I'm retiring, it's confirmed," the 38-year-old told America TV in Argentina.

"As a player I gave everything I had in my heart and that leaves me at peace with myself."

In 2006 he joined West Ham but his subsequent transfer to Manchester United a year later became mired in the 'third-party ownership' dispute which was to prompt changes to both Premier League and FIFA regulations with regard to player contracts.

At Manchester United he won two Premier League titles and the 2008 Champions League, scoring in the penalty shoot-out against Chelsea.

A year later he made the controversial decision to cross Manchester to join United's biggest rivals, helping City to win the 2011-12 Premier League, their first English league title since 1968.

He later decamped to Italy winning two Serie A titles with Juventus before returning to Boca Juniors in 2015.

Tevez was marked by the death of his adoptive father, Segundo Tevez, from Covid-19 in February 2021 and stepped away from Boca in June that year for family reasons.

"I stopped playing because I lost my number one fan and I lost the desire. I was eight years old when he came to see me play," he said on television.

## Brazil Don't Need Neymar Magic to Win

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Brazil no longer rely on superstar Neymar to win games, manager Tite said Sunday, with an Olympic gold medal-winning generation looking to step up at the World Cup.

Neymar underlined his importance to Tite's side by netting the 72nd and 73rd goals of his Brazil career in a 5-1 friendly thrashing of South Korea in Seoul last week.

That took him within striking distance of the legendary Pele's record of 77 goals for the five-time World Cup winners.

Tite played down Brazil's dependence on Neymar as his team prepared to face Japan in a friendly in Tokyo on Monday, saying a new generation of players are ready to share the load.

"I have been in charge of the national team for a long time, and in that time I have made lots of mistakes and also made some good decisions," he said.

"We have a new generation coming through and one good thing I have done is to try out a lot of players. Now we are not so dependent on one attacking player."

Brazil won gold at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics last year, beating Spain 2-1 in the final after extra time.

Olympians like Richarlison and Bruno Guimaraes have broken into Tite's senior squad, and assistant coach Cesar Sampaio said it was a "happy problem" to have.

"The players with experience and the players who won the Olympic gold here in Japan are now coming together," said the former midfielder.

"We have players with a lot of speed and creativity, especially in attack."



## Haney Becomes Undisputed Lightweight World Champion

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Unbeaten American Devin Haney comfortably beat Australian George Kambosos on points to become the first undisputed lightweight world champion in modern boxing history.

Highly-rated WBC title holder Haney, a clear favorite, successfully defended his belt for a fifth time and in the process took the WBA, IBF and WBO straps off Kambosos with a unanimous verdict.

Victory made him the first undisputed lightweight champion since Pernell Whitaker in 1992 and the first in the four-belt era, which began in 2004.

Kambosos was undone by Haney's sensational speed, instinct and relentless left jab that frustrated the Australian who struggled to land enough big blows.

It was a defensive masterclass by the American, whose slick skills and smart tactical nous won the day in front of a 41,000-strong pro-Kambosos crowd at an electric Marvel Stadium in Melbourne.

All three judges scored the bout in Haney's favour, 116-112, 116-112 and 118-110.

"This is a dream come true," said Haney, who got a big boost on the eve of the fight when his father and lead trainer Bill was granted an 11th-hour visa after initially being denied entry to Australia over a three-decades-old drugs conviction.

"I was comfortable," said Haney. "I was just sticking to the game-plan ... I handicapped him of his best things. He wanted to land the overhand right and the left hook."

