

Iranian Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian Met With Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda, Prime Minister Tajikistan, in Dushanbe to Mull Over Bilateral Cooperation in Energy Sector and Water Supply

IRAN NEWS

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Thani, Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Said That Qatar Trade Volume With Iran Has Seen a 34% Growth Over the Past Year

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7513 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY JUNE 9, 2022 - KHORDAD 19, 1401

2

DOMESTIC

Justice to Be Seen Carefully in Payment of Subsidies



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

Iran-Russia Annual Trade To Hit \$40b in 18 Months



> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine to Fight For All Territory, Stalemate Not an Option



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Kane's 50th England Goal Rescues Draw With Germany



> SEE PAGE 8

Iranian FM in India to Boost Comprehensive Cooperation

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian is in India to lay out a long-term roadmap for comprehensive cooperation between the two countries.

Amir-Abdollahian, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived in the Indian capital city of New Delhi on Wednesday morning at the official invitation of his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

He planned to hold talks with senior officials, meet religious scholars and local figures, as well as Iranian business people and expatriates. His itinerary also includes visits to Mumbai and Hyderabad.

"Relations between Tehran and New Delhi are at a very good level. We are witnessing growth and development of comprehensive relations, including in the economic and cultural fields, and exchange of delegations between the two countries, ever since the new administration took office" in Iran, Amir-Abdollahian told reporters upon arrival.

"Besides meetings with Prime Minister [Narendra Modi] and National Security Advisor [Ajit Kumar Doval], I will have an in-depth conversation with my counterpart today," he said.

See Page 7

Oman Clarifies Regarding Agreement in Joint Oil Field With Iran

MUSCAT (Dispatches) - Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals has denied any agreement to distribute shares between the partners in the joint offshore oil field (West Bukha - Hengam) which is located between the maritime borders of the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The joint offshore oil field (West Bukha - Hengam) is located between the maritime borders of the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran, off the Musandam Governorate from the Omani side. The part of the Iranian side is called Hengam and on the Omani side it is called West Bukha in concession area block 8. Production in the West Bukha field of the Sultanate of Oman has started since 1985," the Ministry said in a statement.

See Page 7

Arab States Normalizing Ties With Israel Will Be Exploited



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei says the Arab governments that chose to normalize their relations with Israel against the will of their people will only end up being exploited by the occupying regime.

"The Arab and non-Arab governments that moved toward normalizing their relations with the Zionist regime, against the will of their nations and for the will of the United States, must know that these interactions will bring them nothing but exploitation at the hands of the Zionist regime," the Leader said on Wednesday.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remark while addressing a gathering of Iranian officials in charge of organizing Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, this year.

"Exposing the Zionists' plots and conspiracies is one of the essential duties in Hajj," the Leader said.

The Leader hailed the resumption of Hajj pilgrimage after a two-year hiatus as a major blessing, saying the annual ritual is a symbol of unity among Muslims.

Efforts should be made so that the Islamic unity is not disrupted, Ayatollah Khamenei said, warning that sowing sectarian strife has long been a scheme used by the British.

The Leader hailed the resumption of the Hajj pilgrimage after a two-year hiatus as a major blessing, saying the annual ritual is a symbol of unity among Muslims.

Efforts should be made so that the Islamic unity is not disrupted, Ayatollah Khamenei said, warning that sowing sectarian strife has long been a scheme used by the British.

The Leader described revealing the Zionists' plots and conspiracies as among necessities during the Hajj pilgrimage.

"The Arab and non-Arab governments that moved toward normalizing their relations with the Zionist regime, against the will of their nations and for the will of the United States, must know that these interactions will bring them nothing but exploitation at the hands of the Zionist regime," the Leader said.

He added that today, Zionism is an obvious plague for the world of Islam. The Zionists have always been a plague, even before establishing the fraudulent Zionist regime. Even then, Zionist capitalists were a plague for the whole world. Now they're a plague especially for the world of Islam.

The plague of Zionism should be exposed, in any way you can. These Arab and non-Arab states that shook hands, kissed and held meetings with the Zionists won't benefit from what they did at all, not at all. This will only be to their loss, he noted.

In some part of his speech, the Leader said that this was great news that after 2 years, God reopened the door for Hajj, adding that this is a divine invitation opening the way to the Hajj pilgrims. This is not a favor from anyone; it is God's acceptance of the respected pilgrims' and your enthusiasm. God willing, you will have a good Hajj.

He added, "What are mankind's problems in the world now? That they don't know how to coexist, and they act aggressively toward each other. Hajj teaches coexistence. In Hajj people who don't know each other and who are coming from different cultures coexist in peace."

He reiterated, "Much of the world's miseries and problems are the result of aristocratic lifestyles and luxurious living. A great part of the world's wealth is being spent on such things everywhere. Hajj teaches you to have a simple lifestyle."

Iran Removes Two IAEA Cameras for Being Beyond Safeguards Agreement

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran says the Islamic republic has removed two surveillance cameras of the International Atomic Energy Agency which it said were beyond Iran's commitments under the safeguards agreement.

The AEOI said the UN atomic body has not appreciated this good-will gesture from the Iranian side and has instead viewed Tehran's voluntary move as part of Iran's obligations. The Iranian atomic organization noted that for these reasons, it orders the Online Enrichment Monitor and the flow meter to be taken offline.

The AEOI however noted that 80 percent of the IAEA's surveillance cameras are within Iran's obligations under the safeguards agreement and that they will be in place and will keep working.

Iran is angry at the IAEA over its chief's recent visit to occupied Palestine and his accusations that Iran has not cooperated with the UN atomic agency.

Tehran says Rafael Grossi's meeting with the Israeli regime officials shows that he has reduced the body to a political organization while the IAEA must only focus on its technical tasks.

See Page 7

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Zionists, Leader of Global State-Sponsored Terrorism

For years people in the world have been facing with the term of sponsored-terrorism and every government or politician has its or his definition for this phenomenon and term but one can definitely term Israel as the leader of state-sponsored terrorism in the world.

According to Wikipedia, the standard definition for state-sponsored terrorism is "the terrorist violence carried out with the active support of national governments provided to violent non-state actors. States can sponsor terrorist groups in several ways, including but not limited to funding terrorist organizations, providing training, supplying weapons, providing other logistical and intelligence assistance, and hosting groups within their borders. Because of the pejorative nature of the word, the identification of particular examples are often subject to political dispute and different definitions of terrorism."

During the 1970s and 1980s, state sponsorship of terrorism was a frequent feature of international conflict. From that time to the 2010s there was a steady pattern of decline in the prevalence and magnitude of state support. Nevertheless, because of the increasing consequent level of violence that it could potentially facilitate, it remains an issue of highly salient international concern.

The U.S. Government, which has repeatedly engaged in sponsorship of terrorism as a feature of its foreign policy, provides its own definition in the U.S. State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. Of course other Western states and big powers have also their own definitions and above all Israel which commits state-sponsored terrorism but tries to justify it or change the definition of this terminology.

The State of Israel has been accused of being a state-sponsor of terrorism,[61] and also committing acts of state terrorism. We have seen many examples of this kind of terrorist acts from the Zionist regime especially when it comes to the Islamic Revolution, Lebanon or Palestine.

Recently an American professor of international law and former UN special rapporteur said the Israeli assassination of a member of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) last month was a clear violation of international law, noting that Israeli is guilty of "state-sponsored terrorism."

In a terrorist attack in Tehran on May 22, Colonel Hassan Sayyad Khodaei was assassinated by two motorcyclists who shot him five times before fleeing the scene.

See Page 7

Iran-Saudi Talks Have Made Remarkable Progress

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - During a press conference in Baghdad, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Kadhim said that he had come into office at a very difficult and complicated time, in terms of the economy, the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict on Iraq soil.

"Before this government, the Iraqi economy was on the verge of collapse," Kadhim said. "We had no cash to pay salaries."

"However, Iraq has over \$75 billion in reserves in its central bank now and this is expected to increase to over \$90 billion by the end of this year."

Kadhim said Iraq was an isolated country before he came to the office, but now it is the center of the region, hosting several regional dialogues.

"Iraq has hosted five different dialogues in these two years, of which Saudi-Iran talks are just one," Kadhim said, emphasizing that the "Iran-Saudi talks have made remarkable progress."

Kadhim said the while the white paper prepared in 2020 (with 600 proposals for reform) contributed to economic reform and had been praised by international economic organizations, there is still a long road ahead for the Iraqi government in this area.

See Page 7



Advertisement Department

021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com

info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Gov't Has No Plans to Raise Fuel Prices

TEHRAN (IFP) - A member of the Iranian parliament's energy commission has dismissed reports making the rounds on social media about plans to raise fuel prices.

Parviz Mohammadnejad said the government and the legislative body have no plans to increase fuel prices or change the rationing program though they believe a more accurate scheme must be put in place for the consumption of gas, kerosene and other oil products.

The MP noted that if officials decide to change fuel prices, they will take great care to not harm consumers.

Justice to Be Seen Carefully In Payment of Subsidies

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Referring to some people's complaints about defining brackets for subsidies, President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi called on the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to investigate the brackets and stressed that justice must be observed in this regard.

Speaking in the meeting of the cabinet, Raisi instructed the Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare to review the definition of brackets by appointing a committee, referring to some complaints about the brackets in the implementation of the subsidy justification plan, and stressed that I assure people that justice will be seen carefully in the payment of subsidies.

He continued to call "diligent pursuit" the key to success in doing things and emphasized, "If a decision or resolution is not seriously pursued, no matter how much manpower and budget is used, the work will still not go ahead and will remain only as minutes on the paper".

The President also expressed his sorrow over the train derailment on the Mashhad-Yazd route, and offered his condolences on the death of a number of citizens in the accident, and issued orders to expedite the investigation into the causes of the accident and urgent care for the injured and survivors.

At the beginning of his speech, Raisi congratulated Imam Reza's (AS) birthday, saying, "A just government and society will not be formed only with the presence of a just Imam at the head of society, but all pillars of governance and agents must observe justice so that people taste the sweet taste of justice".



The President pointed out, "All those who serve in the Popular Administration should seek justice and act with justice by following their own just Imam".

Earlier on Wednesday, the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution approved the plan to reform and complete the policies for assessing and admitting students to enter the university after several sessions of review.

In the meeting of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, chaired by President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, educational policies as well as assessment and admission received the final approval with the aim of providing educational justice in order to create equal opportunities for students in disadvantaged areas, especially popular university disciplines.

Also, the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution continued their discussions to improve the method of assessment and admission of students entering the university, in order to reduce the psychological pressure caused by assessing their 12 years of study in the 4-hour entrance exam.

The council decided to reduce the percentage of the influence of the exam to 40%. Accordingly, 60% of the assessment of students' academic ability is determined based on the academic records of the last three years of high school.

U.S. to Never Get Along Well With Iran



TEHRAN (MNA) - The United States will never get along well with Iran, according to Majlis Speaker, adding that the Islamic Republic will not compromise with anyone on its ideals for which the Islamic Revolution occurred.

Majlis Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qaliubaf made the comments in a ceremony held in Tehran to celebrate Imam Reza birthday and commemorate the demise anniversary of the founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini on Tuesday.

"The Islamic Revolution revived Islam and the dignity of Muslims in an era when the liberal and humanist culture in the world was in control in the world," the parliament speaker said.

"The enemies have a problem with the Islamic Republic that has the spirit of the Islamic Revolution, and if this spirit was not in the Islamic Republic, they would not have a problem with us," Qaliubaf also said.

"Today, there are other countries in the world that are called as the Islamic Republic, but make alliances with the enemies, and therefore the enemies have no problem with them," he added.

He also noted that it is the Islamic Republic of Iran who can only bear the maximum pressures that the global arrogance has exercised, adding that any of these pressures has not been tolerated by any system other than the Islamic Republic.

The speaker also said that the Islamic Republic will use its both soft and hard power to keep and enhance its position on the international stage.

He added that on the path forwards, the United States is not expected to get along with Iran, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not compromise with anyone on its essence for which the Islamic Revolution occurred.

Issue of Dust, Sand Storms Should Be Handled Immediately

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has stressed that the harmful phenomenon of dust and sand storms has to immediately be handled.

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Iraqi Interior Minister Othman Al-Ghanmi.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to seriously cooperate with Iraq within the framework of mutual ties and use of international capacities to solve the dust haze question as it has badly affected the two countries directly and also threatened the region, the foreign minister noted.

A few days ago, the spokesman for the Iranian government Ali Bahadori Jahromi said the Foreign Ministry was given a mission to pursue the dust and sand storms problem, the source of which is from



some neighboring countries.

Amirabdollahian has expressed hope that restrictions for travels for Arbacen rituals through land borders would be removed as the two countries enjoy good relations and the coronavirus pandemic is nearly over.

For his part, the Iraqi minister said his country does not let the security of its neighbors be threatened from the Iraqi soil.

About the fight against the influence of the Zionist regime of Israel in Iraq, Al-Ghanmi said his country's parliament has approved the normalization of relations with Israel as a crime.

Joint cooperation in the fight against terrorism, control of the dust haze question, and removal of restrictions for travel between Tehran and Baghdad were among the issues the two discussed.

Pakistan Wants More Iranian Electricity Exports

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Pakistan's Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives stressed the importance of neighborly relations with Iran and cooperation in energy field, and also asked for increased Iranian electricity exports to Pakistan's Balochistan state.

Islamic Republic of Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Mohammad Hosseini hosted Pakistan's Planning Development and Special Initiatives Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday evening.

In the meeting at the presence of Deputy Ambassador Mohammad Sorkhabi, the deputy of Pakistan planning development and special initiatives, the head of Pakistan and China Joint Cooperation Office, and some Pakistani energy ministry and ports officials, the two sides surveyed the latest developments in bilateral ties.

They also focused on Iran-Pakistan economic cooperation, especially in energy field, and in trilateral cooperation with China.

The Pakistan planning development and special initiatives minister appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for cooperation in energy field, especially in exporting electricity to Pakistan's Balochistan province, ensuring the Iranian ambassador of Islamabad's commitment to deepening cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

Ahsan Iqbal added in the meeting that his country is trying to resolve the energy shortage of its Balochistan province in collaboration with the neighboring and brother county, Iran, including through the Makran coasts of Iran.

He said that Pakistan wishes to have broader economic cooperation, especially in 100 megawatts more of Iranian electricity exports to its Balochistan province.

Ambassador Hosseini, too, welcoming Pakistan's proposal for greater cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran announced Iran's readiness for providing the shortage of Pakistan's electricity for Balochistan province.

Hosseini added that also keeping in mind the neighboring country, Pakistan's need to technicians and technologists, proposed cooperation in those fields in the framework of establishment of a joint science and technology park along the two countries' borderline. He also announced Iran's readiness for sharing experiences and training the youth in technology and technical fields, which was welcomed by the Pakistani officials.



Student Movement of Justice Calls for Halt in Cooperation With IAEA

Today, while issuing a resolution against Iran's nuclear issue is underway in the IAEA BoG that in the past years, especially after the JCPOA, most cooperation with the organization has been done and many accesses have been given to them, the statement said.

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Student Movement of Justice in Iran issued a statement on Tuesday themed "Stop cooperation with IAEA" due to the IAEA Board of Governors meeting and the resolution against the Iranian nuclear issue.

It added that the measures aimed at making trust have not had favorable results and have not helped to solve ambiguities of Iran's nuclear case.

These events and the IAEA reports, as well as the hard stances of the IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi against Iran after taking extensive concessions on the latest agreement with the IAEA show that extensive cooperation and voluntary measures by Iran have failed to help improve this process, the statement noted.

It further noted that not only the IAEA's approach has not changed, but it has also caused great damage, such as the leak of classified Iranian information by the IAEA and some sabotage moves by its investigators in

cooperation with the Zionist regime.

It highlighted that undoubtedly, the US and European countries are seeking to issue a resolution at the UN Security Council against Iran's peaceful nuclear program and the IAEA BoG's resolution lays the groundwork for this move, adding that Iran's cooperation with the agency not only couldn't stop this process, but it has completed the agency's cycle of the hostile move, demonstrating that the agency is a puppet of Zionism and a system of domination.

Instead of restricting the agency's access in various ways, blocking can be Iran's least and most urgent response, it underscored.

At Least 21 Killed In Iran Train Derailment

TEHRAN (IFP) - A deadly rail accident in Iran's South Khorasan Province has killed at least 21 people and injured scores of others.

The incident happened in an area 50 kilometers from the city of Tabas in South Khorasan Province at 5 am on Wednesday local time when the train hit an excavator that was apparently crossing the railway.

Following the crash, several cars of the train got derailed.

The train was traveling from the city of Mashhad to the city of Yazd. The derailment happened some 50 kilometers to the desert city of Tabas, on the rail that connects the town with the central city of Yazd.

Rescue teams on ambulances and three helicopters have arrived in the area. Reports say the number of deaths could rise as many of the injured are in critical condition.

Iran has railway lines spanning almost 14,000 kilometers. But train accidents are not commonplace in the country.

Tehran to Reconsider in Vienna Talks If IAEA Oks Resolution

TEHRAN (IFP) - A high-ranking Iranian MP has warned that if the UN atomic agency's Board of Governors approves a resolution against Iran, Tehran will reconsider participating in the Vienna talks with the P4+1 group to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

Vahid Jalalzadeh the head of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy commission said that the Islamic Republic will definitely give a strong response to efforts that are aimed at pressuring the country through the IAEA's Board of Governors.

He also added that the recent visit of the IAEA chief to Israel has proved once again that the agency is more a political body rather than a technical one.

Jalalzadeh also said the West has failed to extract concessions from Iran in talks and that's why it is weaponizing the IAEA's recent report on Tehran.

The IAEA board will vote on a resolution later this week that has been drafted by the US and the European troika.

A reporter familiar with the matter has said in a tweet that the resolution is not strongly-worded and it does not call for sending the Iran case to the UN Security Council.

Relations With Tehran Important for Yerevan

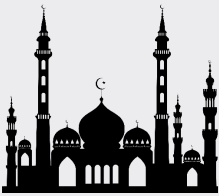
TEHRAN (MNA) - Stating that Armenia sees Iran as a reliable partner and a good neighbor, Armenia's National Assembly Vice-Speaker Hakob Arshakyan said that relations with Tehran have strategic importance for Yerevan.

Armenia's National Assembly Vice-Speaker Hakob Arshakyan and head of Armenia-Iran Friendship Group Gagik Papoyan met with the delegation headed by First Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Commission on National Security and Foreign Policy of the Parliament of Iran Abbas Moghtadai, News Armenia reported.

Welcoming the delegation members who arrived in Armenia within the framework of the CSTO PA Council Session, Arshakyan noted that the inter-parliamentary format is the best platform for discussing issues of mutual interest.

The NA Vice-Speaker said that next week an official visit of the delegation headed by the Speaker of the National Assembly Alen Simonyan to the Islamic Republic of Iran was envisaged. "The cooperation between Armenia and Iran can be a good example for two countries, which are guided by the agenda of peace, development and dialogue between civilizations," he said.

The year 2022 will also mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Iran. The Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly noted that the relations between the two countries are at a high level in almost all spheres. "Armenia sees Iran as a reliable partner and a good neighbor. Relations with Iran have strategic importance for us," Arshakyan said.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)

■ Evening (Maghreb)

■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)

■ Tomorrow's Sunrise

13:03

20:40

04:02

05:48

62. And it is He Who made the Night and the Day to follow each other: for such as have the will to celebrate His praises or to show their gratitude.

63. And the servants of ((Allah)) Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, "Peace!";

Surah 25. The Criterion, The Standard (62 - 63)

Iran-Russia Annual Trade To Hit \$40b in 18 Months

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil Minister Javad Owji said on Tuesday that the volume of annual trade between Iran and Russia will hit \$40 billion within the next one year and a half.

Owji made the remarks on the occasion of Russia’s National Day. The minister also said that banking projects due to be implemented by Russia, China and Iran will put an end to the dominance of dollar in the near future. Noting that Iran and Russia are two main suppliers of oil and gas in the world, he said that playing with these two countries would be a major threat to the world energy security. Europe’s reliance on energy is not a game and cannot be easily compensated, Owji said, adding that the game that the U.S. has begun is not to the benefit of other countries. The game has been experienced before in other countries, he stressed. Owji also warned that sanctions against Iran and the Russian Federation will backfire on the sanctioning countries, adding that the bans will have come with grave consequences for energy security. He addressed the participants at the beginning of the ceremony. He congratulated the Russian government, nation, and ambassador to Tehran Levan Dzagharyan on the occasion. The Iranian minister said his ministry which is in charge of the country’s joint economic commission not only tries to develop strategic cooperation in the field of energy between Iran and Russia but also supports boosting cooperation between other different Iranian and Russian ministries and organizations. Owji added that Iran and Russia’s cooperation not only will lay the ground for the growth of the countries but also for the growth of the regional countries. He gave North-South Transport Corridor as an example that can create a powerful trade network between countries of South Asia, Iran, Caucuses, Russia and Europe. He also said connecting two countries’ banking systems and using local currencies for trade in cooperation with China and some other powerful countries will end the U.S. dollar hegemony in the future.



The minister noted that the two given examples show the great capacities that Iran and Russia and other friendly countries have to affect the international atmosphere and the balance of power, adding, Iran and Russia as two key players in the field of energy can play a major role in world energy security. Iranian minister warned and said, “Let me be clear. Playing with the security of these two important international players (Iran and Russia) will have dangerous consequences for international security and particularly for world energy security.” Referring to the increase in energy prices in Europe and the heavy reliance of the European countries on Russian and Middle East energy, the Iranian minister advised European countries not to side with the U.S. Criticizing the U.S. and the Western unjust sanctions against other nations, he said sanctions are like a double-edged sword that can harm the state that resorts to them against other nations. Then the Russian ambassador, for his part, expressed his appreciation to the Iranian government for its fair stance regarding the developments in Ukraine. Levan Dzagharyan said in fact, that the ongoing war in Ukraine is the west’s proxy war against Russia, adding that the 5 determined goals of Russia’s special operation in Ukraine will be achieved soon. He further noted that “we won’t let them create problems for Russia and to this end, we will use all we have at our disposal.” The Russian ambassador further said that the Americans have engaged in the war in Ukraine to deflect attention from their disgraceful defeat in Afghanistan.

WB Raises Iran’s Economic Growth Forecast to 3.7

TEHRAN (IRNA)- The World Bank revised its projection for Iran’s economic growth in 2022 up to 3.7 from previously -1.3 predicted in January. The World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospect published earlier this month that the global economy was projected to slow from 5.7 in 2021 to 2.9 in 2022, largely because, among other things, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine would significantly disrupt activity and trade in the near term. The international body had predicted in its January report that the global economy would grow by 4.1 percent. In the meantime, the World Bank report expected Iran’s economy to grow by 3.7 percent this year, raising its projection in January report by 1.3 percentage point.

Tehran, Ashgabat Call for Bolstering Bilateral Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian in a meeting with Vice President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimukhamedov on Tuesday called for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy. On the sidelines of the second “International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development” conference in Tajikistan, Mehrabian met and held talks with Berdimukhamedov on Tuesday. During the meeting, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the level of cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan and called for expanding cooperation for a long-term period of time. They reviewed various ways for mutual cooperation in the fields of energy with each other. Earlier today, Mehrabian made the remarks at the second “International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development” conference in Tajikistan. He said that optimizing water usage and protecting the environment can be a ground for further interaction and useful talks and cooperation in the region. Iran has held various meetings with neighboring countries in the past years and has tried to move the problems related to shared water sources towards legal-technical negotiations and agreements and avoid politicization, the energy minister noted. He emphasized that Iran has provided 100 percent of its urban population and 82 percent of its rural population with healthy drinking water, as great water supply projects for 10,000 villages have been in process since a year ago. Mehrabian also noted that 53 percent of Iran’s population, at the international standard level, have access to wastewater networks.

Iran Lodges Complaint To IMO on Ship Seizure

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) lodged a complaint to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) over the seizure of its tanker in Greek waters. Chief Executive of Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) announced the strong protest of the country to the International Maritime Organization following the seizure of Iranian oil tanker by the Greek government. While protesting against the illegal seizure of Iranian oil tanker by Greece which was done with the support of U.S. government, Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development Ali Akbar Safaei said that the Greek government’s illegal action against Iranian ship is contrary to the goals and positions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as an international maritime authority. Speaking with the Secretary-General of the IMO Kitack Lim, Safaei emphasized that this is not the first time that Iranian merchant ships and oil tankers have been directly or indirectly seized by the United States. In recent years, a number of Iranian tankers have been seized by the United States and subsequently, Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, lodged its complaint to the Legal Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), he continued. Stating that the US actions are against the security in the seas as well as safe passage, the deputy roads minister stipulated, “Our ships and sailors have been under constant threat following harsh US sanctions. Therefore, we hope that IMO will pay special attention to this issue.”

Iranian Firms Ready To Implement Tajikistan Engineering Plans



TEHRAN - Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian in a meeting with Tajikistan Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda said that the Iranian companies are ready to implement technical and engineering projects in Tajikistan. Mehrabian, who is also the Iranian head of the Joint Iran-Tajikistan Economic Cooperation Commission in his meeting with Rasulzoda said that the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei believes that the Iranian and Tajik nations are relatives, announcing the Iranians’ readiness for assisting their Tajik brethren. He announced the Iranian companies’ conditions, their highly competing prices for offering services, and high quality products. The prime minister of Tajikistan, for his part, appreciated the hosting of Iran in the ceremony in which 17 cooperation documents were signed, saying that those documents pave the way for a lot broader mutual cooperation. Kokhir Rasulzoda said that the horizon of the two countries’ cooperation is now broader than ever before, announcing Dushanbe’s readiness for unprecedented economic and business ties. The prime minister also ensured Mehrabian that he is well aware of the competence and high quality of the technical and engineering services of the Iranian companies at rational prices. Meanwhile on Tuesday, Mehrabian said that Iran is ready to cooperate with Tajikistan in modern technologies. Mehrabian made the remarks during a meeting in Dushanbe with Tajikistan’s Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin. During the meeting, the two sides referred to the successful holding of an international conference entitled “water for sustainable development”, and stressed that the agreements made during a recent visit to Iran by Tajikistan’s President Emomali Rahmon is the base for promotion of trade relations between the two countries. They also underlined the need for activating the private sectors of Iran and Tajikistan as the driving force of expansion of bilateral relations.

Iran Hosts Students of Medicine From Over 20 Countries

TEHRAN (IP) - The chancellor of Tehran’s Medical University says the university is welcomed by other countries such that students from over 20 countries are studying at the university. Hossein Ghena’ati said on the sidelines of the ‘International Day’ celebration ceremony that the foreign students studying at the university followed their acquiring the Iranian culture and language. This way the Iranian honors in moral, cultural, and historical were introduced to the world, Hossain Ghena’ati told the IP correspondent. He highlighted the Iranian medical achievements in the transplantation of liver, heart, and kidneys as well as cancer treatment, and said that there was yet to introduce the achievements and capabilities to the world. “The trust in the Iranian physicians is to the extent that Iranians residing abroad prefer to have the surgical operation in Iran as their option,” he added. As with manufacturing medical equipment also the chancellor of Tehran Medical University said that currently the Iran-made neuro-navigation device to seven countries including Germany. Tehran University held the ceremony of ‘International Day’ with the foreign students studying at the university attended re ceremony, to shore up ties with other countries’ universities. Meanwhile in the ceremony, the Chancellor of Tehran University says to attract more foreign students the university is supposed to host 2,000 students for the new semester. Mohammad Moghimi reported about his trip to Iraq and said he was to talk about the university presidents of the country about the exchange of students. He described Iraq and Afghanistan as two existing potentials that could be gotten acquainted with Tehran University’s capacity and send students to Iran for higher education. He referred to the corona pandemic’s opportunities fostered for the universities, including virtual education, and said that by using virtual capacity, Iran universities’ could have more influence at the regional level. The Chancellor of Tehran University put emphasis on taking a unique strategy in having interactions with foreign universities, which would lead to success compared to other countries in terms of exchanging students and reaching a higher place internationally. Tehran University held the ceremony of ‘International Day’ with the foreign students studying at the university attended re ceremony, to shore up ties with other countries’ universities. During the International Day celebration, a number of foreign and Iranian students were honored.

Dairy Consumption Drops by 80%

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The chairman of the board of directors of the Iranian Dairy Industry Association says that after “reforming the subsidy system” last month, dairy prices experienced an 80 percent increase in rates. Since May 1, when milk prices have increased dramatically, dairy consumption in households has dropped by 20%, Mir Islam Teymouri said, referring to the decline in consumer purchasing power. According to him, this decrease in consumption has occurred in the short term and is anticipated to increase in the long run. Hossein Chamani, an advisor to the Dairy Industry Association, also warned yesterday that the decline in consumer purchasing power and the devaluation of the rial have changed people’s behavior and have had negative impacts on the food pyramid and food basket of people. He called the reduction in milk consumption in the last four years about 40 percent, adding that the consequences of reducing milk consumption in cell hunger are irreparable. Mr. Chamani continued: “The average consumption of dairy products in Western Europe is about 260 kg per year, while per capita consumption in Iran is less than 90 kg.

House Price Record Breaks

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran issued a report of a 26 percent increase in housing prices in Tehran in May this year compared to the same month last year. The details of the report show that the average price per square meter of housing in Tehran reached a historic record of 36 million and 351,000 tomans last month. House prices have also grown by more than six% compared to April. It seems that the acceleration of house price growth is related to the acceleration of the exchange rate in the Free Market of Iran and the fall of the rial. The dollar rate rose from 26,000 tomans at the beginning of April to 30,000 tomans at the end of May. The dollar rate on Iran’s free market is currently 32,000 tomans.

Sri Lanka Needs \$5b, Help From China

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka will need \$5 billion over the next six months to ensure basic living standards, and is renegotiating the terms of a yuan-denominated swap worth \$1.5 billion with China so as to fund essential imports, the prime minister said.

The island nation's worst economic crisis in seven decades led to a shortage of foreign exchange that stalled imports of essential items such as fuel, medicine and fertilizer, provoking devaluation, street protests and a change of government.

To tide over the turmoil, Sri Lanka will need about \$3.3 billion for fuel imports, \$900 million for food, \$250 million for cooking gas and \$600 million more for fertilizer this year, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told parliament.



Germany Not to Recognize Taliban

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Germany will not recognize the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan as long as "dire" conditions under the Islamists persist, Germany's foreign minister said, calling for a united international call on the Taliban for change.

No foreign government has formally recognized the Taliban since they took over Afghanistan last August as U.S.-backed foreign forces withdrew after two decades of war.

"When we look across the border the situation is dire," the German minister, Annalena Baerbock, told a news conference in the Islamabad, capital of neighboring Pakistan.



Ukraine to Fight for All Territory, Stalemate Not an Option



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine will fight to recover all its territory occupied by Russian forces, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as his troops battled street-to-street in Sievierodonetsk in one of the bloodiest land battles of the war.

"We have already lost too many people to simply cede our territory," Zelenskyy said by video link at an event hosted by Britain's Financial Times newspaper.

Stalemate was "not an option", he said. "We have to achieve a full deoccupation of our entire territory."

Zelenskyy's remarks responded forcefully to suggestions that Ukraine must cede territory to Russia to end the war, now in its fourth month.

French President Emmanuel Macron said in a recent interview it was important not to "humiliate" Moscow, comments interpreted in Ukraine as implying it must accept some Russian demands.

Asked about Macron's comments, Zelenskyy said: "We are not going to humiliate anyone, we are going to respond in kind."

As he spoke, Ukrainian troops in the ruins of Sievierodonetsk were trying to cling to gains Kyiv said its forces had made in a surprise counter-offensive that shifted momentum there last week.

The fight for the small eastern industrial city has emerged as a pivotal battle, with Russia focusing its offensive might in the hope of achieving one of its stated aims - to fully capture surrounding Luhansk province on behalf of separatist proxies.

Sievierodonetsk Mayor Oleksandr Stryuk told Ukrainian television on Tuesday that Ukrainian forces were doing all they could to hold their ground: "Our armed forces have strengthened their positions and are holding the line."

Another local official, Roman Vlasenko, said Ukrainian forces were in control of the city's industrial zone and the Azot chemical plant.

Moscow said its troops have been advancing.

Reuters could not independently verify the situation on the ground.

Ukrainian officials had said their forces staged a surprise counter-attack last week, driving the Russians from a swathe of the city center.

Before that, Russia had seemed on the verge of encircling Ukraine's garrison in Luhansk, attempting to cut off the main road to Sievierodonetsk and its twin city Lysychansk across the Siverskiy Donets river. On Sunday, Zelenskyy made a surprise visit to Lysychansk, personally demonstrating that Kyiv still had an open route to its troops' redoubt.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 saying it aimed to "disarm" and "denazify" the country. Ukraine and its Western backers say Russia launched an unprovoked war to grab territory.

Russia's troops were defeated on the outskirts of the capital Kyiv in March and it has since regrouped and ramped up an assault on the east, demanding Kyiv recognise its territorial claim to the Crimea peninsula that Moscow annexed in 2014, and the claims of its separatist proxies in Luhansk and Donetsk, the southeastern provinces together known as the Donbas.

Israel Mainly to Blame for Conflict

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Israel's occupation and discrimination against Palestinians are the main causes of the endless cycles of violence, UN investigators said, prompting angry Israeli protests.

A high-level team of investigators, appointed last year by the United Nations Human Rights Council to probe "all underlying root causes" in the decades-long conflict, pointed the finger squarely at Israel.

"Ending the occupation of lands by Israel... remains essential in ending the persistent cycles of violence," they said in a report, decrying ample evidence that Israel has "no intention" of doing so.

The 18-page report mainly focuses on evaluating a long line of past UN investigations, reports and rulings on the situation, and how and if those findings were implemented.

Recommendations in past reports were "overwhelmingly directed towards Israel," lead investigator Navi Pillay, a former UN rights chief from South Africa, said in a statement.

This, she said, was "an indicator of the asymmetrical nature of the conflict and the reality of one state occupying the other."

The investigators also determined that those recommendations "have overwhelmingly not been implemented," she said, pointing to calls to ensure accountability for Israel's violations of international law but also "indiscriminate firing of rockets" by Palestinian armed groups into Israel.

"It is this lack of implementation coupled with a sense of impunity, clear evidence that Israel has no intention of ending the occupation, and the persistent discrimination against Palestinians that lies at the heart of the systematic recurrence of violations in both the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel."

Israel has refused to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry (COI) created last year following the 11-day Hamas-Israel war in May 2021, which killed 260 Palestinians and 13 people on the Israeli side.



Cambodia, China Deny Naval Base Reports

PHNOM PENH (Dispatches) - Cambodia and Beijing denied a report that they are building a secret naval facility for the Chinese fleet, as Australia's new prime minister voiced concern and called for transparency.

The Washington Post, citing unnamed Western officials, said a new facility at Cambodia's Ream base -- strategically located on the Gulf of Thailand -- was being built for the "exclusive" use of the Chinese navy.

The base has been a running sore spot in US-Cambodian relations for years, with Washington long suspecting it is being converted for use by China as it seeks to buttress its international influence with a network of military outposts.

Phnom Penh rejected the report, saying the base's development was "not a secret". "Cambodia won't allow the Chinese military to use it exclusively or to develop the site as its military base," government spokesman Phay Siphan told AFP.

The Cambodian defense minister and China's ambassador will be attending a ground-breaking ceremony for new facilities at Ream, including a boat repair shop and a pier.

But Australia's new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, in Indonesia for a visit to shore up diplomatic ties to counter growing Chinese assertiveness in the region, labelled the reports "concerning".

"We encourage Beijing to be transparent about its intent and to ensure that its activities support regional security and stability," he told reporters, saying Cambodia had assured Canberra that no foreign military would be given exclusive access to the Ream base.

Australia has grown increasingly worried about Beijing's growing influence in the Pacific region.

A leaked draft of a Solomon Islands-China pact in April raised concerns that it would allow Chinese naval deployments to the Pacific island nation -- less than 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) from Australia.

Prime Minister Hun Sen has repeatedly insisted the work is nothing more than modernizing the base with a new boat maintenance facility developed with Chinese aid.

Syrian, Russian Forces Boosted After Turkey Signals Operation

AMMAN (Dispatches) - Russia and Syrian government forces have been bolstered in northern Syria where Turkey may soon launch an offensive against Kurdish fighters, Turkish and rebel Syrian officials said, as Ankara prepares for talks with Moscow.

President Tayyip Erdogan said two weeks ago Turkey would launch new military operations in Syria to extend 30-km (20-mile) deep "safe zones" along the border, aiming at the Tal Rifaat and Manbij regions and other areas further east.

Russia, which warned at the weekend against military escalation in northern Syria, is sending Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov for talks in Ankara on Wednesday.

The two countries have close ties and Ankara has sought to mediate talks over Russia's war in Ukraine, but their support for opposing sides in Syria may test President Vladimir Putin's relations with the only NATO member not to impose sanctions on Moscow over the invasion.

The stakes are also high for Erdogan. Without at least tacit approval from Russia, President Bashar al-Assad's powerful ally in the Syria conflict, a Turkish offensive would carry additional risk of casualties. Russia and Turkey have checked each other's military ambitions at various points in Syria's war, at times bringing them close to direct confrontation.

There have not yet been signs of a significant Turkish military build-up in the border region,

but reports of rocket and artillery exchanges have become more frequent in the past two weeks.

Any Turkish operation would attack the Kurdish YPG militia, a key part of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) that controls large parts of north Syria and is regarded by Washington as an important ally against Islamic State. Ankara sees it as a terrorist group and extension of the militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

A spokesman for the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) said Russia was reinforcing positions near Tal Rifaat, Manbij, the southern outskirts of Kobani, and Ain Issa - all towns within 40 km (25 miles) of the Turkish border.

"Since the announcement of the operation, the Syrian regime and its Iranian militias have mobilised and (are) sending reinforcements to the YPG," Major Youssef Hammoud told Reuters.

Their intelligence had spotted Russian helicopters landing at an air base close to Tal Rifaat, he added.

Turkey's state-owned Anadolu news agency cited local sources on Saturday as saying Russia was making deployments in north Syria to "consolidate its control", flying reconnaissance flights over Tal Rifaat and setting up Pantsir-S1 air defence systems in Qamishli, a border town nearly 400 km further east.



Johnson Seeks to Rally Conservatives After Surviving Leadership Test

LONDON (Dispatches) -

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson tried to shore up his leadership on Tuesday by setting out a raft of new policies to ministers after he narrowly survived a confidence vote that revealed the scale of the threat to his position.

Johnson won the ballot of Conservative Party law-makers on Monday evening by 211 votes to 148 - enough to avoid having to immediately resign but a larger than anticipated rebellion within his party that leaves him wounded and battling to win back the confidence of his colleagues and the general public.

His first challenge is to convince his most senior allies, some of whom would have been likely to run to replace him if he had been forced out, that he will be able to move on from questions about his leadership.

Johnson thanked cabinet ministers for their support as he urged them to push through reforms to lower costs for consumers, businesses and government.

"We're able now to draw a line under the issues that our opponents want to talk about, and we're able to get on with talking about what I think the people in this country want us to," Johnson told his cabinet in televised remarks.

Lawmakers in Johnson's party called the confidence vote after months of scandal over lockdown-breaking parties at the heart of government and criticism of his response to an inflation-fuelled surge in the cost of living.

At issue is Johnson's integrity. His opponents accuse him of being a habitual liar and he faces an investigation into whether he misled parliament in his explanations over the series of parties held in Downing Street - his office and residence - while Britons were following strict lockdown rules during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Police have fined him over one such gathering.

Johnson used the cabinet meeting to set out his vision for the coming weeks, including new policies to reduce the cost of childcare and to help more people buy their own homes.

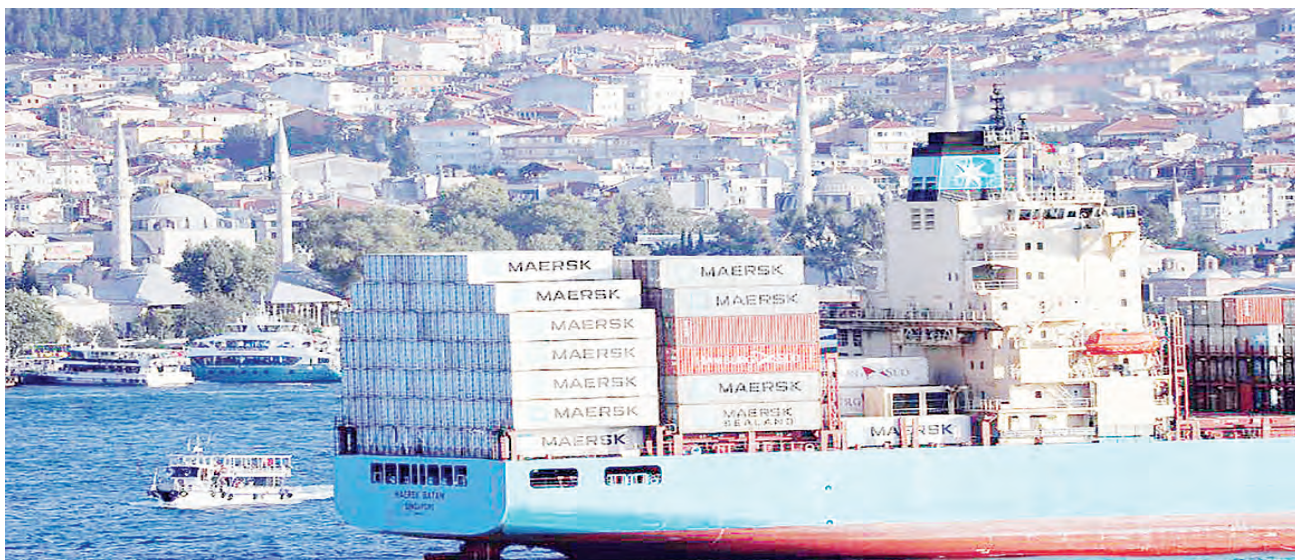
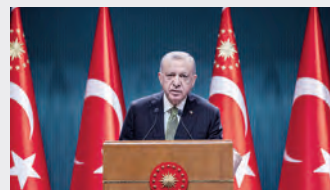


A large billboard for IRAN NEWS PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS ADVERTISING. The billboard is white with black and red text. The word "IRAN" is in large, bold, red letters with a green outline. Below it, "NEWS" is in large, bold, black letters. Underneath "NEWS" is "PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS" in smaller black letters. At the bottom, "ADVERTISING" is written in large, bold, black letters, with each letter containing a small image of a newspaper cover. To the right of the main text, there is contact information: "TEL: 44253448-50", "FAX: 44253234", and "ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM". The billboard is mounted on a tall metal pole. In the background, the New York City skyline is visible, including the Empire State Building. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Turkey Will Keep Lowering Interest Rates

ANKARA (Dispatches) - President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan vowed that Turkey would continue lowering interest rates rather than increasing them, in his most explicit remarks that come as inflation soars.

“This government will not hike interest rates, no one should expect this from us. On the contrary, it will continue cutting the rates,” Erdoğan said in a televised address after a Cabinet meeting in capital Ankara. Erdoğan reiterated his opposition to higher borrowing costs, which he says only makes “the rich richer and the poor poorer.”



World Bank Slashes Global Growth Forecast to 2.9%

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The World Bank on Tuesday slashed its global growth forecast by 1.2 percentage points to 2.9% for 2022, warning that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has compounded the damage from the COVID-19 pandemic, with many countries likely to face recession.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine had magnified the slowdown in the global economy, which was now entering what could become “a protracted period of feeble growth and elevated inflation,” the World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects report.

World Bank President David Malpass said global growth was being hammered by the war, fresh COVID-19 lockdowns in China, supply-chain disruptions and the risk of stagflation, a period of weak growth and high inflation last seen in the 1970s.

“The danger of stagflation is considerable today,” Malpass wrote in the foreword to the report. “Subdued growth will likely persist throughout the decade because of weak investment in most of the world. With inflation now running at multi-decade highs in many countries and supply expected to grow slowly, there is a risk that inflation will remain higher for longer.”

Between 2021 and 2024, the pace of global growth is projected to slow by 2.7 percentage points, Malpass said, more than twice the deceleration seen between 1976 and 1979.

The report warned that interest rate increases required to control inflation at the end of the 1970s were so steep that they touched off a global recession in 1982, and a string of financial crises in emerging market and developing economies.

While there were similarities to conditions back then, there were also important differences, including the strength of the U.S. dollar and generally lower oil prices, as well as generally strong balance sheets at major financial institutions. To reduce the risks, policymakers should work to coordinate aid for Ukraine, counter the spike in oil and food prices, step up debt relief, strengthen efforts to contain COVID-19, and speed the transition to a low-carbon economy, Malpass said.

The bank forecast a slump in global growth to 2.9% in 2022 from 5.7 percent in 2021, with growth to hover near that level in 2023 and 2024. It said global inflation should moderate next year but would likely remain above targets in many economies.

Growth in advanced economies was projected to decelerate sharply to 2.6% in 2022 and 2.2% in 2023 after hitting 5.1% in 2021.

Emerging market and developing economies were seen achieving growth of just 3.4% in 2022, down from 6.6% in 2021, and well below the annual average of 4.8% seen in 2011-2019.

Negative spillovers from the war in Ukraine would more than offset any near-term boost reaped by commodity exporters from higher energy prices, with 2022 growth forecasts revised down in nearly 70% of emerging markets and developing economies.

The regional European and Central Asian economy, which does not include Western Europe, was expected to contract by 2.9% after growth of 6.5% in 2021, rebounding slightly to growth of 1.5% in 2023. Ukraine's economy was expected to contract by 45.1% and Russia's by 8.9%.

Russia Hikes Oil Exports From Major Eastern Port

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia is ramping up oil exports from its major eastern port of Kozmino by about a fifth, aiming to meet surging demand from Asian buyers and offset the impact of European Union sanctions, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Moscow has said it hopes to reroute energy exports from the West to Asia, but doing so via long tanker voyages from European sea ports is expensive and complicated by Western sanctions over the conflict in Ukraine, such as on shipping. Russia's pipeline monopoly Transneft has already increased the amount of crude pumped to Kozmino on its main Asian oil route, the East Siberia Pacific Ocean (ESPO) pipeline, by 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) by using chemical additives to speed up oil flows, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Transneft did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

Moscow also plans to send an extra 80,000 bpd of so-called ESPO Blend crude to Kozmino via rail from Meget, a route previously used to supply Kozmino and domestic refineries when the ESPO pipeline was being built, the sources said.

The additional supplies will allow Kozmino to increase overall loadings to some 900,000 bpd in the months ahead, from an average of around 750,000 bpd so far this year, they added. In 2021, Kozmino loaded about 720,000 bpd (35.1 million tonnes).

ESPO oil exports via Kozmino are planned to reach all-time high of around 880,000 bpd in July, two of the sources said.

The EU announced its embargo on Russian oil last week, saying it would stop imports of 90% of oil and products from Russia from the end of the year. Companies in China, which has repeatedly criticized Western sanctions on Moscow, and in



U.S. Trade Deficit Posts Sharp Retreat on Falling Imports

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - A jump in exports and similar decline in imports caused the US trade gap in April to reverse most of the prior month's increase, retreating from a record to US\$87.1 billion, according to government data released.

The US\$20.6 billion drop from March was the largest decline on record, the Commerce Department reported.

Imports fell by US\$12.1 billion, half of which was due to the decline in purchases of consumer goods, added to a drop in industrial supplies, while auto imports rose, according to the data.

Companies in recent months have rushed to replenish depleted inventories amid strong demand from American shoppers, and while spending so far has not slowed significantly, sky-high inflation has raised concerns consumers will close their wallets.

Exports increased by US\$8.5 billion, pushed by jumps in industrial supplies, and foods, notably soybeans, the report said.

While analysts say a narrower trade gap could help growth in the second quarter, Mahir Rasheed of Oxford Economics cautioned that the trade deficit is likely to be a “sharp drag” on economic expansion this year.

“In the near term, export demand will continue to face strong headwinds from fragile economic conditions in Europe amid the ongoing war in Ukraine, while the threat of new lockdowns will keep China's growth outlook uncertain despite the reopening of Shanghai,” he said.

The US trade deficit with China decreased US\$8.5 billion to US\$34.9 billion in April, on a big drop in imports.

For the year-to-date, the total trade gap increased 41.1 per cent from the same period in 2021, according to the data.

Australia Hikes Interest Rates to Rein in Inflation

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australia's central bank raised interest rates more than expected Tuesday and warned of more increases as officials try to rein in “significantly” high inflation.

Governor Philip Lowe said the Reserve Bank's main lending rate would go up half a percentage point to 0.85 percent, surprising analysts who had tipped a quarter point lift.

He also said “extraordinary” support for the economy via low rates would continue to be unwound.

The move comes as inflation has seen the price of lettuce increase 300 percent and sent already sky-high house prices in major cities soaring by a quarter since the start of the pandemic.

“While inflation is lower than in most other advanced economies, it is higher than earlier expected,” Lowe said.

“Global factors, including Covid-related disruptions to supply chains and the war in Ukraine, account for much of this increase in inflation,” he added, while warning that “domestic factors are playing a role too.” The governor cited a tight labour market and widespread floods as local reasons helping inflation rise to 5.1 percent.

The pandemic forced Australia's economy into its first recession in a generation, and the recovery has been patchy.

Rate rises hit hard in a country where debt levels from pricey mortgages are particularly high.

Lowe said the bank would be looking closely to see if that dual shock causes consumption to decrease more than expected.

He also warned that there were concerns about the global outlook, with Russia's war in Ukraine pushing energy and agricultural prices higher.

“There are also ongoing uncertainties related to Covid, especially in China,” the bank said.

China's May Exports, Imports Seen Recovering

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's exports are expected to have expanded at a faster pace in May as factories reopened and supply chain disruptions calmed after Shanghai began to emerge from a lockdown, while imports also likely rose, a Reuters poll showed.

The recovery adds to evidence the world's second-largest economy has begun to chart a path out of the supply-side shock that rocked world trade and global markets. However, China's trade outlook faces risks from factors such as high raw material costs, uncertainties from the Ukraine war and as recovering production overseas affects demand for Chinese goods.

Official and private surveys showed China's factory activity contracted at a slower pace in May as COVID-19 curbs in major manufacturing hubs eased, with a gauge on export orders improving.

Exports in May likely grew 8.0% from a year earlier, accelerating from a 3.9% expansion in April, according to a median forecast in a Reuters poll of 28 economists.

Major automakers ramped up production in May. Electric car maker Tesla (TSLA.O) reopened its factory in Shanghai on April 19 after a 22-day stoppage, but only returned to pre-lockdown production levels in late May.

Shanghai's COVID-19 lockdown, which officially ended on June 1, snarled logistics and regional supply chains but there are signs of a turnaround.

Official data showed the average daily container throughput at the Port of Shanghai rose 7% in May from a month earlier.

“COVID disruptions to logistics, production and customs clearing seem to have started to ease since late April,” said analysts at UBS, adding that South Korea's strong trade data in May likely pointed to still strong global demand.

A low base of comparison from a year earlier also likely contributed to the rebound in export growth, according to Zhang Yu, chief analyst of Huachuang Securities.

Imports were expected to have risen 2% year-on-year in May, the poll showed, likely driven by imports of raw materials and intermediate goods as domestic production resumed. That compared with flat growth in April.

China's trade surplus is likely to have widened to \$58 billion from \$51.12 billion in April.

Trade data will be released on Thursday.

Economic activity cooled sharply in April as the country grappled with the worst COVID-19 outbreak since 2020.

To stabilize the situation in a politically sensitive year, China's cabinet recently announced a package of 33 measures covering fiscal, financial, investment and industrial policies, although analysts say the official GDP target of around 5.5% will be hard to achieve without easing the zero-COVID strategy.

EU Agrees Single Charger Standard, in Blow to Apple



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - European officials agreed the text of a proposed EU law imposing a standard charger for smartphones, tablets and laptops sold in the bloc, in a blow to Apple.

EU member states and MEPs believe a standard cable for all devices will cut back on electronic waste, but iPhone juggernaut Apple argues a one-size-fits-all charger would slow innovation and create more pollution.

For most portable devices the requirement for charging via a USB Type-C port will come into effect from late 2024, negotiators said, while laptops will be given more time.

The USB-C rule will also stretch to digital cameras, headphones, headsets, portable speakers and E-readers, they said.

Lawmakers agreed on the common charger based on a proposal that was made by the EU executive — the European Commission — in September, but came more than a decade after the European Parliament first pushed for it.

The decision will be formally ratified by European Parliament and among EU member states later this year before entering into effect.

“We have been able to do it in nine months, that means that we can... move fast when there is a political will,” the EU internal market commissioner Thierry Breton said.

“We are able to say to the lobbies, ‘sorry, but here it is Europe and we’re working for our people’,” he said.

The 27-nation union is home to 450 million people, some of the world's richest consumers, and the imposition of the USB-C as standard could affect the entire global market.

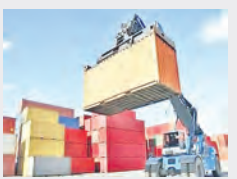
“This is a rule which will apply to everyone,” said MEP Alex Agius Saliba, who led the negotiations for the European Parliament.

Iran Non-Oil Trade Under Raisi Gov't Up to \$84b

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Seyed Rouhollah Latifi said that the non-oil trade since the 13th government under President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi assumed office reached \$84 billion.

The Iranian13th administration under President Raisi took office in mid-August 2021.

The IRICA spokesman said since the 13th government came to power in Iran nine months ago, the country's non-oil trade reached 126,877 million tons of goods valued at 83,971 billion dollars, indicating an increase by 8% in weight and 36% in value compared to the same period the previous year.



Asian Wealth Managers Seen Wary of Digital Assets Despite Soaring Demand

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Wealth managers in Asia are holding back from offering digital assets to investors despite soaring demand due to a lack of understanding of these assets, according to an industry survey by consulting firm Accenture published on Monday.

Global banks have been cautiously moving into crypto for several years, some building it within existing operations and others setting up new businesses.

“Currently, 52 percent of affluent investors in Asia hold digital assets of some sort. Accenture’s research indicates this could reach 73 percent by the end of 2022,” Accenture said on Monday.

“Digital assets represent 7% of surveyed investors’ portfolios — making it the fifth-largest asset class in Asia — more than they allocate to foreign currencies, commodities or collectables. Yet two-thirds of wealth management firms have no plans to offer digital assets,” Accenture said.

The findings were part of Accenture’s report on the future of Asia’s wealth management industry based on two surveys - one of about 3,200 investors and another of more than 500 financial advisors at wealth management firms in Asia. The surveys were done in December 2021 and January 2022.

“For wealth management firms, digital assets are a \$54 billion revenue opportunity - that most are ignoring,” Accenture said.

“Among firms’ barriers to action are a lack of belief in (and understanding of) digital assets, a wait-and-see mindset, and - given that launching a digital asset proposition is operationally complex - choosing to prioritize other initiatives,” it said.

Southeast Asia’s biggest bank DBS Group (DBSM.SI) launched a standalone cryptocurrency trading platform in December 2020 offering corporate investors



and accredited investors crypto trading services for many digital assets.

Last month, Nomura Holdings (8604.T) said it will create a digital asset company this year allowing institutional investors to trade products linked to cryptocurrencies, among others.

Palm Oil Eases as Indonesia Gears Up To Resume Exports



KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysian palm oil futures slipped on anticipation of higher global supply as top producer Indonesia prepares to resume exports of the commodity.

The benchmark palm oil contract for August delivery on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange slid 10 ringgit, or 0.16%, to 6,294 ringgit (\$1,434.69) a ton by the midday break, down for a third in four sessions.

“Traders are focused on increasing global supply as Indonesia gears up to enter the export market and as both countries go into seasonal high output,” said Sathia Varqa, co-founder of Singapore-based Palm Oil Analytics.

Prices will continue to face downward pressure although demand is seen improving as China gradually opens up, Varqa added.

Palm oil may test resistance at 6,423 ringgit

Traders are concerned over a slower recovery in Malaysia’s production after Indonesia on Tuesday cancelled a plan to send its citizens to work in palm oil plantations in the world’s second largest producer, which has faced a labor shortage.

India has slashed the base import prices of crude and refined palm oil, while raising the price of crude soyoil, the government said in a statement late on Tuesday.

Indonesia set crude palm oil reference price at \$1,700.12 per ton for June, senior official at coordinating ministry of economic affairs, Musdhalifah Machmud, said on Tuesday, up from May’s \$1,657.39 a ton.

Dalian’s most-active soyoil contract fell 0.4%, while its palm oil contract rose 0.03%.

Soyoil prices on the Chicago Board of Trade were down 0.3%.

Palm oil looks neutral in a range of 6,220 ringgit to 6,423 ringgit per ton, and an escape could suggest a direction, Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao said.

Romania’s Economic Outlook Bleak But Investor Interest Remains High

BUCHAREST (Dispatches) - Romania’s economy will deteriorate next year but investor interest is growing, the Romanian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, AHK Romania, said on Monday, citing the results of a survey conducted among 56 German companies.

Over 50% of German companies which participated in the survey estimate that Romania’s economic development will ‘worsen considerably’ in the next 12 months, while only 10.7% expect an improvement, AHK said in its 2022 Business Outlook.

Some 37.5% do not expect any change in the economic situation in Romania in 2023.

“We are living in very difficult times and we find ourselves once again in a paradoxical situation. Despite the obviously negative economic outlook, companies still want to invest in Romania and, especially, to increase the number of their employees. Despite the crises, most of the surveyed companies are doing well today,” AHK Romania general manager Sebastian Metz said.

Some 51% of surveyed German firms active in Romania said that their current situation is good, down from 67% which said the same thing last year. Over 37% of respondents characterized their current situation as satisfactory, while the remaining 10.7% said that they are going through a difficult situation.

Looking ahead, 40% of respondents think that their performance will improve in the next 12 months, while 10% believe that their performance will be weaker in the coming year and 48% foresee no change.

Iranian FM in India...

FROM PAGE 1

The Iranian foreign minister explained that he had reached an agreement with his Indian counterpart in Tehran earlier this year to draw up a roadmap for long-term cooperation between the two countries.

Amir-Abdollahian also touched on the recent controversial remarks by India’s two ruling party officials that insulted Prophet Muhammad (Peace upon Him), saying the Indian government has taken a stance and categorically condemned them.

“India has long been following the path of peaceful coexistence, and adherents of all religions have lived there in peace and tranquility,” the Iranian foreign minister said, noting that Muslims cannot accept desecration of the Prophet of Islam in any way.

“We expected to hear Indian leaders speak out about peaceful coexistence of all religions and sects, as we have seen throughout the country’s history. We hope Indian authorities will reiterate this stance in the talks,” Amir-Abdollahian said.

On Wednesday Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar welcomed Amir-Abdollahian, saying the discussion between the visiting minister and Indian officials will reflect the close ties between Tehran and New Delhi.

“The visit to India is aimed at expanding ties between the two countries and holding strategic consultations over cooperation regarding regional issues and international developments,” Iran Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

India’s relations with Iran are unique and historic. Iran is an important partner and a close neighbor.

Iran Removes...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran’s move to take the IAEA cameras offline also comes as the body’s board of governors is going to vote on a US-European troika drafted resolution that slams Tehran for what they call its failure to cooperate with the IAEA.

Tehran has said if the resolution gets approved, it will reconsider participation in the Vienna talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, otherwise known as the JCPOA. Meanwhile Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), made technical comments on the report.

He said IAEA Chief briefly mentions four locations in his report, about one of which the IAEA has no more questions at least at this stage. In other words, this location is no more considered an outstanding safeguards issue, but the IAEA has announced that Iran’s explanations on the other three locations are technically questionable and invalid. The IAEA Chief has also said in his report:

“Iran has not provided explanations that are technically credible in relation to the Agency’s findings at three undeclared locations in Iran. Nor has Iran informed the Agency of the current location, or locations, of the nuclear material and/or of the equipment contaminated with nuclear material, that was moved from Turqzabad in 2018.

Unless and until Iran provides technically credible explanations for the presence of uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at Turqzabad, Varamin and ‘Marivan’ and informs the Agency of all current locations of the nuclear material and/or of the contaminated equipment, the Agency cannot confirm the correctness and completeness of Iran’s declarations under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. Therefore, the safeguards issues related to these three locations remain outstanding.

As in the past, and in order for the Agency to be in a position to provide assurance that Iran’s nuclear program is exclusively peaceful, the Agency remains ready to re-engage without delay with Iran to resolve these matters.”

Zionists, Leader of...

FROM PAGE 1

Khodaei was dismantling his car to enter his home in an eastern neighborhood of the Iranian capital when three bullets hit him in the head and two bullets in the hand.

“The assassination of Sayyad Khodaei ... seems a clear violation of the right to life, defined in international law by Article 6(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,” Richard Falk, a former special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, said in an interview with Press TV.

“This fundamental provision of international human rights law affirms an ‘inherent right to life’ enjoyed by all persons and is given further specificity by asserting that ‘no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life,’” he said.

He suggested that Falk was arbitrarily deprived of his life “given what we know about his life and activities at the time of the assassination.”

The New York Times on May 25 cited an intelligence official as saying that Israel had informed American officials that it was behind the assassination.

“The targeted killing of Khodaei was unsupported by any Israeli presentation of evidence of his violent intentions or of engagement in extra-national violent plots as alleged by informal spokespersons for [Israel] in offering their rationalization for the assassination to the media and the US government,” Falk told Press TV.

“I believe a reasonable person would conclude that the assassination suggests that Israel is guilty of state-sponsored terrorism, which is a criminal behavior under international law.”

Given its timing, Falk said, the assassination was “intended either to prompt an Iranian act of proportional retaliation or strengthen the insistence of the Iranian negotiators in Vienna that the [Iran deal] cannot be restored without removing the [Islamic] Revolution Guards Corps from the US list of ‘terrorist organizations.’”

He noted that Iran has the right to strongly protest at the UN and call for a thorough international investigation of the assassination.



This is not the first time that a Western scholar accuses the Zionist regime of state terrorism and the Islamic Republic of Iran has been always the target of this type of terrorism through the sold-out enemies’ pawns in the country, mainly MKO terrorist group’s mercenaries, who perform terrorist acts in the country with the support of Israel and Western countries.

The strangest thing is that all international bodies are fully aware of the Zionists’ crimes and terrorist acts but they remain silent and passive and this emboldens them to continue their crimes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has stepped up its security and defense against terrorist acts during decades of its existence and has minimized and foiled the terrorist acts but sometimes because of some sold-out mercenaries inside the country, Israelis can perform their vicious act but they should wait for due response by Iranian forces.

Iranians hate terrorist and coward acts and they prefer to retaliate in a manly and brave way rather than clandestine killing of the ordinary citizens but we recommend the Western states and international bodies to remain also silent and not to accuse Iran of violating law when Iranians take retaliatory actions against any hostile pro-terrorist country.

The slogan of the Islamic Republic of Iran has changed in recent years and it believes the era of hit-and-run has ended and terrorists cannot escape unpunished and they will receive their due punishment in due time.

Iran-Saudi...

FROM PAGE 1

Iraq is spending \$7 billion monthly on public servant salaries, costing the country’s budget \$84 billion annually, Kadhimi said, emphasizing that Iraq cannot rebuild its economy and move toward development in this way.

He said the government has a plan for the Iraqi economy, as stated in the white paper, and it already started implementing it, but the plan has been stopped following the elections, since the caretaker status of the government gives it only the authority to deal with everyday issues.

In regards to the political deadlock, Kadhimi accused the political parties of preventing the government from carrying out its reform plan, as the caretaker government cannot present a budget to the parliament.

The government proposed the food security law to address the food and the electricity issues in the country.”

Iraq has been facing rises food prices following the Russia-Ukraine war, alongside electricity cuts in the hot summer.

Kadhimi said his government has paid all its debt to Iran for imported gas and electricity, but Iran is asking for the remaining debt from the previous governments, something this government is not able to pay without an official budget.

Iran last week cut its daily gas supply from 40 million cubic meters to 30 million cubic meters, something that has already affected electricity supply in the country.

Kadhimi slammed the former governments for establishing gas-based generators while Iraq does not have gas for these generators to operate, claiming that this has made Iraq dependent on Iran.

He said his government worked on clean energy and made several deals for solar energy and also is working on grid connections with Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan.

He added that the government is working on developing another reform plan for the environment and improving Iraqi agriculture, calling it a “Green Paper.”

Iraq is negotiating with Turkey to get its fair share of water, and the region needs more cooperation in dealing with environmental challenges, he said.

Kadhimi emphasized that his government realized a great achievement in organizing the recent elections, as the United Nations and other international organizations praised the election’s integrity.

Oman Clarifies...

FROM PAGE 1

With regard to the joint development of the field, and the division of shares between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran, there have been discussions from an earlier period about joint development in which no agreement was reached.

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals confirms that it has not recently participated in any technical discussions or commercial negotiations related to this joint field, thus it denies that there is any agreement to distribute shares between the partners. It confirms that maximizing the benefit of this field will be through joint development if it is agreed upon.

Johnson Quits PGA Tour

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former world number one golfer Dustin Johnson confirmed on Tuesday he has resigned his membership of the US PGA Tour to play in the breakaway LIV Golf Invitational Series.

The decision effectively rules the American two-time major winner out of participating in the Ryder Cup, which pits the United States against Europe every two years.

Johnson was speaking at a press conference at Centurion Club, near London, ahead of the opening event of the Saudi-backed series, which starts on Thursday.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:

(+98) (21) 44253448

Public Relations Tel:

(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

Public Relations Fax:

(+98)(21) 44253395

Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234

Website:

http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:

info@irannewsdaily.com

ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Woods Declined Enormous Offer to Join LIV Golf

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - LIV Golf will make its debut this week at London without Tiger Woods, but it made a substantial offer to lure the 15-time major winner to the new international golf league, according to a new report.

In an interview with the Washington Post, LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman said that Woods was offered a “mind-blowingly enormous (deal); we’re talking about high nine digits.” Woods, who has played in just two tournaments since a devastating leg injury after a car crash in February of 2021, has maintained his loyalty to the PGA Tour as recently as last month at the PGA Championship.

Kane's 50th England Goal Rescues Draw With Germany

BERLIN (Dispatches) - England captain Harry Kane scored his 50th international goal on Tuesday by converting a late penalty in Munich to seal a 1-1 Nations League draw with Germany.

Germany broke the deadlock when Jonas Hofmann fired the hosts ahead at the Allianz Arena, but Kane levelled from the spot with two minutes left.

Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck stumbled into Kane in the area and the penalty was given after a VAR review.

The Tottenham striker moved into outright second — just three behind Wayne Rooney — on England's list of all-time leading goalscorers, passing Bobby Charlton's total of 49. “It's a really nice feeling,” Kane told Channel Four.

“I had a couple of early chances and thought it could be one of those days.” “It's good to get the goal and it's just a shame we didn't nick it in the end,” added Kane, who had earlier been denied by a superb Manuel Neuer save.

Gareth Southgate's side remain bottom of Group A3 after losing 1-0 to Hungary in Budapest last Saturday.

Southgate was “pleased with lots of parts” of the England performance.

“The Germans are the masters of tournaments and this was a good test,” he told ZDF.

“Most of this (England) team has played a World Cup semi-final and the Euro 2020 final — they showed the character to fight for a point.” Germany, who visit Hungary on Saturday, are a point above them in third as the Germans' coach Hansi Flick extended his unbeaten run to 11 games, dating back to September.

“We played a really good game, but weren't rewarded for the performance,” Flick told ZDF.

Germany, playing in the shirts of their national women's team, twice breached the England defense in the first half without reward.

Thomas Mueller lobbed the ball over England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, but the whistle had already gone after an injury to Calvin Phillips, who was replaced by Jude Bellingham.

Hofmann then broke clear and fired past Pickford, but after a VAR check, the effort was ruled offside.

Neuer, who captained Germany for the 54th time to overtake 2014 World Cup-winning skipper Philipp Lahm, made a reflex save to deny Bukayo Saka.

Raducanu Injured At Nottingham

LONDON (Dispatches) - Emma Raducanu's Wimbledon preparations were thrown into turmoil after the US Open champion was forced to retire from her Nottingham Open first round match on Tuesday.

Raducanu needed a medical timeout in the early stages of her clash with Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic after suffering an injury.

The 19-year-old Briton received treatment on her left side and took painkillers in an attempt to carry on, but had to pull out after just 33 minutes while trailing 4-3 in the first set.

It was the third time Raducanu had withdrawn from a tournament due to injury since she burst onto the tennis scene with her stunning US Open triumph in September last year.

The world number 11 also bowed out of matches in Guadalajara in February and Rome in May with injuries.

The latest retirement will raise further questions about Raducanu's fitness as she continues to struggle with the physical demands of life on the WTA Tour.

She is due to play in Birmingham next week, but doubts about her participation at Wimbledon are certain to increase ahead of the start of the grass-court Grand Slam on June 27.

Raducanu, who made her WTA debut at Nottingham 12 months ago, has not won more than two matches at a tournament since her remarkable journey from the qualifying rounds to the title at the US Open.

In her first match on British soil since that astonishing victory at Flushing Meadows, the signs of discomfort were there early on as Raducanu was seen holding her side in the opening game of the match.

Her first round of treatment came at the first change of ends and although she was able to open a 3-1 lead, it was clear she was in pain and called time having lost three games in a row.



Meanwhile Italy moved top of their UEFA Nations League group on Tuesday after a new-look team continued their unbeaten start to the campaign with a 2-1 win over Hungary.

Roberto Mancini's side lead the way in League A, Group 3 thanks to first-half goals from Nicolo Barella and Lorenzo Pellegrini in Cesena which put them a point ahead of second-placed Hungary.

A largely impressive display was blighted by Gianluca Mancini's 61st-minute own goal which gave the match a scoreline that flattered Hungary, led by coach Mancini's former Sampdoria team-mate Marco Rossi.

The European champions, who are trying to rebuild after failing to qualify for a second straight World Cup, now travel to Wolverhampton to face bottom side England on Saturday before taking on Germany in Muenchengladbach three days later.

“It was a good performance, especially in the first half. Their goal made us a little bit fearful but it was a match which we should have won by a bigger margin,” Mancini told RAI.

“This is a team full of young players who need to work a lot, we've got a long way to go.” Mancini selected a host of players who played little or no role in Italy's triumph at Euro 2020, the glow of which has dimmed after they were dumped out of this year's World Cup in Qatar by North Macedonia in March.

Before Tuesday's match Italy had won just three of the 11 fixtures played since being crowned kings of Europe at Wembley in July, one of those a meaningless win in Turkey days after their play-off defeat to North Macedonia.



He has previously had spells in charge of Greuther Fuerth, Fortuna Duesseldorf and several of Germany's national youth teams.

Schalke Name Kramer as Head Coach

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Schalke 04 on Tuesday announced the appointment of Frank Kramer as their new head coach on a two-year deal following the club's return to the Bundesliga.

Kramer, 50, was sacked by Arminia Bielefeld in April as the club made an unsuccessful last-ditch bid to avoid relegation from the German top flight.

Before Tuesday's match Italy had won just three of the 11 fixtures played since being crowned kings of Europe at Wembley in July, one of those a meaningless win in Turkey days after their play-off defeat to North Macedonia.

“As a promoted side, even as Schalke 04, so not your classic promoted side, the only goal can be to avoid relegation. The Bundesliga will be a huge challenge for us,” Kramer said in a statement.

On his coaching staff, Kramer will have two club legends in Mike Bueskens, part of the Schalke team which won the 1997 UEFA Cup, and ex-Germany striker Gerald Asamoah. Schalke finished bottom of Germany's top tier in 2020/21 but came straight back up after winning the second division title.

“With 160,000 members and many millions of fans, Schalke 04 is one of the biggest clubs in Germany,” added Kramer.

“I'm looking forward to standing on the sideline as head coach and playing my part in achieving our collective goals.”

Lewandowski Looking for More Emotions

WARSAW (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich star Robert Lewandowski revealed Tuesday he wants to call time on his career with the Bundesliga giants because of his desire for “more emotions in life”.

The Polish forward announced last week that his time with Bayern “had come to an end” without specifying his future plans.

Asked Monday during a podcast on Polish website Onet.pl if his departure was dictated by a desire for more money or emotions in life, the 33-year-old answered without hesitation it was for him “emotions in life”.

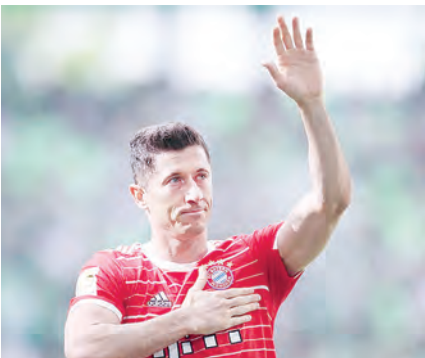
“Firstly, something went out inside me and it's something you can't recover, can't make up for,” he explained.

Barcelona are reported to have made an offer of 32 million euros (\$34 million) for Lewandowski, FIFA men's best player for 2020 and 2021, whose contract with Bayern expires in June 2023.

The only way the Bavarians can make a financial profit from Lewandowski's departure would be to sell him this summer.

“With what I acquired thanks to Bayern -- and (reciprocally) Bayern thanks to me -- it would be better to find a solution acceptable to both parties,” he said.

After eight seasons together, “loyalty and respect are more important than business, I think,” continued the striker, insisting he would leave behind ‘friends’ rather than ‘colleagues’.



Nadal Wants to Play At Wimbledon

PARIS (Dispatches) - French Open champion Rafa Nadal will play at Wimbledon later this month if his body allows him to, the Spaniard said on Sunday after winning Roland Garros for a record-extending 14th time.

“I am going to be in Wimbledon if my body is ready to be in Wimbledon. Wimbledon is not a tournament that I want to miss,” said Nadal, who has been suffering from a chronic foot injury. Nadal, a double Wimbledon champion, destroyed Norwegian Casper Ruud 6-3 6-3 6-0 to stay undefeated in Roland Garros finals.

The 36-year-old, who has won the season's first two majors, now owns a men's record 22 Grand Slam singles titles - two more than nearest rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer. Wimbledon starts on June 27.

Nadal explained that he had played Sunday's final with a numbed foot thanks to a series of injections throughout the tournament, but that he would not go through a similar procedure again for the grasscourt Grand Slam.

“Wimbledon is a priority, always has been a priority. If I'm able to play with anti-inflammatories yes,” Nadal said.

“To play with anaesthetic injections, I do not want to put myself in that position again. It can happen once but no it's not the philosophy of life I want to follow.

“Let's see. I am always a positive guy and always expect the things are going the right way. Let's be confident, let's be positive and let's see what's going on.”

