

The Vice President for Science
And Technology Sorena Sattari
Inaugurated an Innovation Center
For Knowledge-Based and Creative
Products in Iran's Khorasan Razavi
Province on Thursday

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Police Says a Group of
Bank Robbers Who Ransack
About 200 Deposit Boxes in
Bank Melli in Tehran on June 6
Were Finally Arrested

2 DOMESTIC

Independent States
Cooperate to Neutralize
West Pressures

> SEE PAGE 2



3 DOMESTIC

Iran, Nigeria Sign 9 MoUs
To Boost Economic Ties

> SEE PAGE 3



Retaliatory Measure Best Way to Defend Country Against Bullying

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) says the change in Greece's approach to illegal confiscation of an Iranian tanker on the US order proves that retaliatory measure is the best way to protect the country against bullying.

Ali Shamkhani made the remark in a Thursday tweet after reports indicated that a Greek court has overturned an earlier ruling that allowed the United States to confiscate part of a shipment of Iranian crude on an Iranian-flagged vessel seized in the European country's territorial waters.

See Page 7

Winning World Third Place in Creativity and Innovation in Dam Engineering by the Biggest Iranian Knowledge-Based Co.



Mahab Ghodss Knowledge-Based Company with 1500 top elite engineers in the first decade of exporting technical and engineering services sped past its major Canadian and European rivals in the creativity and innovation in the field of dam construction in the world. According to the public relations of Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineering Company, following the meeting of the Innovation Awards Committee of the International Commission on Large Dams in 2021 (ICOLD Innovation Award), the third world title and bronze medal was awarded to the Iranian Society of Consulting Engineers and Mahab Ghodss Knowledge-Based Company. This honor has been awarded to the experts of Mahab Ghodss Company and the Iranian Society of Consulting Engineers for the scientific breakthrough presented in the project of saving Cheshmeh Bell. The official prize of this competition was awarded to the members of Mahab Ghodss team a couple of days ago and during the 27th Congress and 90th Annual Meeting of the International Commission on Large Dams in France. The plan to move the Bell Spring estuary to a higher level was presented by Nasser Tarkeshdouz, Hassan Shafa Talab and Khashayar Solgi in order to preserve this valuable national treasure, and could win the third place and bronze medal creativity and innovation plan in the world dam industry while France and China finished first and second, respectively. Cheshmeh Bell, a roaring and clear spring, is one of the cleanest and highest quality mineral water springs in the country with an average flow of 2000 liters per second in the west of the country, in the city of Paveh and the border of Kermanshah and Kurdistan provinces. Since the location of the spring was in the reservoir of Darian Dam, after water intake, Darian Dam was submerged under a water column with a height of 110 meters and this God-given and valuable natural source was destroyed. Due to the importance of this issue and the commitment of the country's water industry to it, a project was defined as saving the Bell spring and in April 2010 by the employer of the Darian Dam project (Iran Water and Power Resources Development Company) to Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineering Company Was assigned. After that, Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineering



IAEA Taken Captive, Exploited by Zionists



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's nuclear chief says the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been taken captive by the Israeli regime and is being exploited following the anti-Tehran resolution at the agency's board of governors meeting in Vienna this week.

Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), made the

remarks in an interview with state television on Thursday while commenting on Iran's cooperation with the IAEA and the resolution adopted at the 35-nation board of governors meeting.

"It is regrettable that an international institution has been exploited by an illegitimate regime and its reputation has been questioned," Eslami said, referring to the Tel Aviv regime's influence on the UN nuclear agency.

Iran's nuclear agency chief said his country moved beyond its obligations within the framework of the 2015 nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — to show its goodwill, but the move was not reciprocated by the UN agency.

"Why did we accept [those commitments] and restrict ourselves? Only to ward off the accusations [against us], but our good faith and optimism have not been taken into consideration," he maintained.

Eslami further said that Iran has started installing new centrifuge machines at its nuclear facilities, and is not involved in any adventurous moves.

"Tehran has for the first time submitted its Country Programme Framework (CPF) to the IAEA," Iran's nuclear chief said.

"According to the agency's charter, the UN nuclear agency is now obliged to provide Iran with technical and educational support but the agency and other international institutions have been taken captive by the Zionists."

CPF is a frame of reference for the medium-term planning of technical cooperation between a member state and the IAEA and identifies priority areas where the transfer of nuclear technology and technical cooperation resources will be directed to support national development goals.

Stressing that Iran's peaceful nuclear activities will continue in a technical manner and under the IAEA's regulations, Eslami said Iran will only accept the agency's representatives to monitor its activities within the framework of the stated regulations.

"In the last twenty years, the entire psychological operations and sanctions and resolutions were imposed on us to stop the Islamic Republic's (progress)," he noted. "Why did Iran accept the JCPOA? To build trust, and for this reason, Iran agreed to even slow down its nuclear activities."

Eslami emphasized that Iran cannot put its trust in the U.S. and Europe forever, but would fulfill its JCPOA obligations once the U.S. returns to the deal which it unilaterally abandoned in May 2018.

The anti-Iran resolution, drafted by the US, Germany, France, and Britain, was adopted by late Wednesday with 30 votes in favor, two against, and three abstentions.

In his introductory remarks to the board of governors meeting last week, Rafael Grossi, director-general of the IAEA, repeated his anti-Iran rhetoric.

He alleged that since February 23, 2021, the agency's activities had been "seriously affected by Iran's decision to stop the implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA, including the Additional Protocol."

Grossi claimed that Tehran "has not provided explanations that are technically credible in relation to the agency's findings at three undeclared locations in Iran."

The trigger for the latest Western move was a report issued by the IAEA after Grossi made a whirlwind visit to Israel ahead of the Vienna meeting.

See Page 7

4 INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine Says Troops
Holding Onto Sievierodonsk,
Advance in South

> SEE PAGE 4



8 SPORT

Celtics Outmuscle Warriors
To Take 2-1 Finals Lead

> SEE PAGE 8



Venezuelan President Due In Iran for Key Talks

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro is expected to pay an official two-day visit to Tehran to hold talks with senior Iranian officials.

Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, Maduro will arrive in Tehran today at the invitation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi.

The Venezuelan president will meet his Iranian counterpart and attend a session of high-level delegations from the two countries.

Both Iran and Venezuela have managed to withstand economic pressures from the United States, and have closely cooperated to offset the impact of illegal sanctions, particularly those targeting their energy sectors.

Iran has supplied fuel shipments and equipment needed in crude refineries to Venezuela in the face of US pressure on the country's shipping and trade services. Venezuela has also received major shipments of condensate, a diluent of heavy oil, from Iran.

The US under the Donald Trump administration recognized opposition figure Juan Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate president following the country's 2018 presidential election. Trump ramped up sanctions against Venezuela, and floated the idea of invading the Latin American country to remove Maduro from power.

Iran Criticizes UN for More Sanctions on North Korea

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Zahra Ershadi has said that the imposition of new sanctions against North Korea will not help resolve tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Ershadi was addressing the UN General Assembly meeting on Wednesday that discussed a new set of sanctions pushed by the US against North Korea over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile program.

The US proposed the measures at a UN Security Council meeting on May 27, which were vetoed by China and Russia.

Here is the full text of the Iranian ambassador's statement read at the General Assembly meeting in New York.

See Page 7

Iraq Approves \$17b Finance Bill to Pay Iran Gas Debt

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraq passed an emergency finance bill to pay debts to Iran to ensure gas supplies and forestall worsening power cuts, as well as to buy grain for "food security".

Parliament, which has still not adopted its budget for 2022, approved the law relating to "food security and development" totalling 25 trillion Iraqi dinars, or just over \$17 billion.

Of that, \$2.6 billion will be allocated to settling Iraq's gas and electricity debts, as well as for buying further energy supplies from abroad.

About \$3.4 billion will be used to purchase cereals, including large volumes of wheat supplies from both the domestic market and abroad.

Iraq's agricultural sector contracted by 17.5 percent last year "following severe droughts, energy outages and the rising global price of inputs", according to the World Bank.

See Page 7

West Knows That Iran Is Not After Nukes

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has said that his country, based on its religious beliefs, is not after nuclear bombs and the West knows this fact.

Amirabdollahian made the comment on Wednesday afternoon in his address to top Indian Muslim figures during his trip to the country.

He said the West, during nuclear negotiations with Iran in the past, had been pushing for the country's recognition of Israel in return for resolving issues over Tehran's nuclear program.

Independent States Cooperate to Neutralize West Pressures

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi said that cooperation of independent countries in order to ensure collective interest at regional and international levels will neutralize Western countries illegal pressures and actions.

In a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday evening, President Raisi referred to last year's meeting between the two countries' presidents in Moscow, saying, "After this meeting, significant progress was made in relations between the two countries, and the pursuit of agreements and the travel of high-ranking delegations between the two countries has provided the ground for the development of cooperation and coordination in various bilateral, regional and international areas."

Cooperation and coordination of independent countries in order to ensure the collective interest at the regional and international levels will neutralize the illegal pressures and actions of Western countries, he said.

Expressing hope that the conflict in Ukraine would end as soon as possible, Raisi stressed the importance of a diplomatic solution in this regard and stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to use its capacities to assist in the diplomatic settlement of the war.

"We have fulfilled our obligations under the nuclear deal, and now is the time for the United States to make a decision," he said, noting that the IAEA has repeatedly confirmed that there has been no deviation in Iran's nuclear activities.



President Raisi further emphasized, "Regardless of international developments, Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to deepen and stabilize its comprehensive relations with independent countries."

Referring to regional developments, the President also called terrorism and various forms of occupation as two sides of a coin. In this regard, the two sides stressed the success of the model of strategic cooperation between the two countries in the fight against terrorism, the continuation of cooperation and increased coordination in the West Asian region and the Caucasus.

In this telephone conversation, Russian President Vladimir Putin also expressed condolences over the train derailment accident in Iran and noted that the two countries are actively working to develop and increase economic and trade cooperation, and referred to the increased level of cooperation by 80%, saying, "We are interested in increasing cooperation in the fields of banking, transit, energy and agriculture."

Referring to the importance of Iran's presence and role in regional and international cooperation organizations, including the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Russian President added, "Iran's presence and role in regional and international organizations is in the interest of all countries and we support it."

Referring to the efforts of the United States and its European allies in the International Atomic Energy Agency, Putin said, "We believe that their actions will not help resolve the current issues, and Russia's position is to oppose such actions."

Iranian-Flagged Ships Possess Highest Int'l Safety Standards

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A senior Iranian maritime official has said that the country's sea transport enjoys the highest level of international safety standards.

Hossein Abbasnezhad, the head of Maritime Affairs at the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization, told IRNA that all Iranian-flagged, as well as foreign ships entering the country's waters, are subject to technical, safety, and environmental inspections.

He said that Iran is a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has signed more than 30 international conventions and protocols on maritime safety and environment.

"Iran observes all requirements, and despite cruel sanctions and the existing economic pressure, the Iranian-flagged fleet is navigating without any technical problems. There have been no reports of environmental contamination by the Iranian fleet."

Abbasnezhad also said that the Iranian naval fleet ranks among the top 20 in the world and is working hard to create the best conditions in the sea, given the fact that more than 90% of Iran's trade is conducted through the sea.

Comprehensive Approach; Key to Deal With Dust in West Asia

NEW YORK (DIP) - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations said that dealing with the phenomenon of dust and sandstorms in the littoral states of the Persian Gulf and West Asia requires a comprehensive approach.

The dust storm, which is the first product of the construction of the Dam of Turkiye, has affected the skies of some of Iran's western neighbors in recent days, including Syria, Iraq and Jordan.

According to a map of fine dust on the Barcelona World Site, the recent dust mass first covered large parts of Iraq and Syria and then entered Iran.

Sandstorms and dust storms also killed scores of people in some parts of Syria and Iraq, and thousands were rushed to hospitals for respiratory problems.

In Iran, some cities were closed due to dust.

In this regard, and according to Iran Press on Thursday, Majid Takht Ravanchi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, at the annual meeting of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Program, said that the widespread conflict between West Asia and the Persian Gulf countries pointed to dust and sandstorms in the area and added:

"Meeting this challenge requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach between affected countries and other countries, specialized organizations and international financial institutions that can help solve this problem."

Takht-e Ravanchi called on the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to assist countries in the region in countering this vast challenge.

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations also pointed to the shortage of food and energy and their rising prices in the world and said: "The current food, health and financial crises, as well as conflicts and unilateral actions, have hindered the progress and development of countries."

Tehran, Islamabad Review Latest Development on JCPOA



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Mohammad Ali Hosseini and Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting on Thursday discussed the latest development on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Hosseini met and held talks with the Pakistani prime minister on Thursday in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Pointing to the obstacles created in the path of success of the JCPOA by the US and Europe, Hosseini explained the latest developments in the negotiations.

He stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to activate joint committees and commissions, including the Joint Economic Commission and the Joint Consular Commission, the Banking Committee, and use a barter mechanism between the two states.

Announcing Iran's readiness to cooperate with Pakistan on Afghanistan's developments, he presented a report on the latest status of new border crossings, new border markets, and equipment of the border crossings.

Shehbaz Sharif, for his part, thanked Iran for supporting the people of Kashmir and expressed the Pakistani Government's support for Iran's peaceful nuclear program and the continuation of ongoing negotiations.

Welcoming Tehran-Islamabad talks on the issue of Afghanistan, he called for the international community's attention to Afghanistan people and to help solve the humanitarian and economic crisis in the country.

He also thanked Iran for the fire extinguishing operations with the IRGC Fire Extinguisher Ilyushin plane in Solomon Mountain of Balochistan Province in Pakistan.

The two sides also discussed the latest relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries in various political, economic, and cultural fields.

India Calls for Expanding Ties With Iran

TEHRAN - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for speeding up efforts to boost his country's relations with Iran.

Modi, during talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in New Delhi, said that relations between the two countries were less enhanced during the COVID-19 pandemic, expressing hope that the ties will further develop in future.

The Indian prime minister sent greetings to Supreme Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi.

Modi referred to cooperation agreements previously signed between the two countries and announced India's readiness to implement those agreements.

Amirabdollahian, for his part, spoke about areas of cooperation between Tehran and New Delhi, and said that the two sides share common views on the issues he discussed with Indian officials during his trip.

The top Iranian diplomat began his official visit early on Wednesday when he arrived in the Indian capital.

Meanwhile later Amirabdollahian hailed his trip to India, saying that the two sides agree on the need to respect Islamic sanctities and avoid divisive statements.

Amirabdollahian posted a tweet on Wednesday night, praising his talks with Indian top officials, saying that Tehran and New Delhi are determined to expand their relations.

"Pleased to meet PM Modi, FM Jaishankar & other Indian officials to advance our bilateral strategic dialogue. Tehran & New Delhi agree on the need to respect divine religions & Islamic sanctities & to avoid

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

divisive statements," the tweet said, adding that Iran and India are "determined to bring relations to new heights."

The Iranian foreign minister, during his talks with his Indian Counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, stressed the necessity of laying out a roadmap for cooperation between the two countries, saying that the move would help organize long-term relations and protect them from destructive factors.

Amirabdollahian's tweet follows developments in the past week after an Indian ruling party lawmaker made insulting comments about the Prophet Mohammad.

Reacting to the comments, some Muslim countries summoned Indian diplomats in their soil, while people took to the streets in protest.

On Thursday and in Mumbai, Amirabdollahian invited the Indian businessmen to have investments in Iran.

Amirabdollahian then left New Delhi for Mumbai on Thursday morning and met with Indian businessmen there.

During the meeting, he highlighted the old background of Iran-India's trade and the key role of Iran's Chabahar port as a secure route to develop bilateral trade.

Still, he noted that there were good potentials in oil, gas, and petrochemical products in Iran that would be taken into account in the interactions with Iran.

He highlighted India as a priority for attracting foreign investments in Iran and invited Indian businessmen to come to Iran and enjoy investment facilities.



Iran Not to Step Back One Iota From Its Positions

TEHRAN (MNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi said that Iran is not scared of the IAEA resolution, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not step back one iota from its positions.

Speaking on a visit to Charmahal and Bakhtiari Province in Shahr-e Kord city, the Iranian president advised the enemies not to test Iran again.

"How many times do you want to test the Iranian nation and not listen to the words of the country's officials? Do you think that by issuing resolutions we will retreat?" Raisi said in reference to the IAEA Board of Governors yesterday's resolution against Tehran which was drafted and backed by the Western powers.

He stressed that "Iran will not retreat one iota from its positions" and nuclear rights.

"We will not stop and do not tie the development of industry, agriculture and tourism to the enemy's frown and smile," he underlined.

Raisi recalled the Western powers that after hijacking an Iranian oil tanker by Greece, two of their ships in a tit for tat move were seized by Iran. "The time for hit and run approach is over," the president underscored.

TPOI Plans to Boost Trade Ties With African States

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Deputy Head of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) for Export Markets Development Affairs said that the Organization is planning to boost trade ties with African states using a barter mechanism.

Seyed Ahmad-Reza Alaei Tabatabaei made the remarks and said that equipping exports infrastructures and strengthening active presence of commercial envoys in African continent have been put atop agenda of the Organization.

Turning to the TOPI programs to take advantage of trade and economic capabilities of African Continent during the 13th government under President Raisi, he said that bolstering logistics infrastructures especially maritime logistics is one of the man prerequisites for boosting trade with African states.

Establishing regular shipping lines, which have recently been witnessed in East Africa and needs to be strengthened, must also be implemented in West Africa, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Alaei Tabatabaei pointed to country's high capacity in the field of exchanging goods with African states through bartering mechanism and added, "Given the establishment of infrastructures and implementation of bartering platform by the Organization with some countries, it is hoped that such infrastructure would be implemented in African countries."

Turning to the high capacities and potentials of the country in the field of exporting technical and engineering services, he emphasized that some African countries are the most important importers of technical and engineering services, so that this issue has recently been taken into serious consideration in the country.

He then referred to 45% growth in Iran's export of products to African states and noted that Ghana is currently Iran's first export target market, followed by South Africa and Nigeria in 2nd and 3rd places, respectively



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:04
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:41
■ Tomorrow’s Dawn (Fajr)	04:01
■ Tomorrow’s Sunrise	05:48

64. Those who spend the night in adoration of their Lord prostrate and standing;
65. Those who say, “Our Lord! avert from us the Wrath of Hell, for its Wrath is indeed an affliction grievous,-

Surah 25. The Criterion, The Standard (64 - 65)

Iran, Nigeria Sign 9 MoUs To Boost Economic Ties

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran and Nigeria have signed nine major memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to expand their economic and trade ties.

Iran’s Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Reza Fatemi Amin and Nigeria’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zubairu Dada watched over the signing of the cooperation documents between the two countries during an a meeting in Tehran.

Local media reports said that the MoUs covered various fields, including culture, tourism, petroleum, agriculture, sports and trade.

They said that the agreements had been reached as part of a sixth round of intergovernmental committee meetings held between officials of Iran and Nigeria.

Iranian trade minister said the value of bilateral trade between Iran and Nigeria has witnessed a 300% growth within the last 9 months of the past Persian Calendar year (ending on March 20).

The value of trade between Iran and Nigeria reached about 125 million dollars, witnessing a 300% growth in the last 9 months of the Iranian year 1400 (March 21, 2021 - March 20, 2022), Fatemi Amin said during a meeting with a high-level delegation from Nigeria, headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dada.

Fatemi amid said, however, that an annual bilateral trade figure of \$125 million does not match the position of Iran and Nigeria as two major economies in their respective regions.

He said launching direct flight routes between Iran and Nigeria will be a first step in facilitating trade between the two countries. Fatemi Amin said despite the good history of cultural cooperation between the two countries, unfortunately, the level of bilateral trade is not favorable and needs to be improved.

“The two countries are members of international organizations, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Islamic Development Bank, D8 Group, etc. which provides the necessary opportunities for further development of trade cooperation between Iran and Nigeria,” he noted.

The Iranian trade minister also pointed to the economic capacities of Iran and Nigeria and said their economies can complete each other.



Fatemi Amin also called for drafting a roadmap envisaging economic cooperation between Iran and Nigeria. “As the first step to develop trade ties between Iran and Nigeria, it is necessary to facilitate the visits by Iranian and Nigerian businesses via establishment of direct flights between Iran and Nigeria,” the Iranian trade minister concluded.

Meanwhile, Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Dada described the bilateral ties between Iran and Nigeria as “long-term and cordial”, saying that his country attaches significance to the expansion of ties with Iran.

“Iran and Nigeria have already had good cooperation at the bilateral and international levels. Nigeria attaches great importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran because there are good potentials and capacities that if used, can serve the interests of both countries,” Dada underscored.

He described the participation of the Nigerian delegation in the 6th Iran-Nigeria Joint Commission in Tehran as his country’s “commitment to the implementation of agreements and contracts” with Iran.

“Despite the cordial relations between the two countries, the bilateral economic relations are not satisfactory, Dada noted.

“During Iran-Nigeria Trade Summit, nine cooperation documents were signed between the two countries in various fields of culture, tourism, oil, agriculture, sports, and trade,” the Nigerian official said, expressing hope that the Sixth Iran-Nigeria Joint Commission can pave the way for boosting bilateral trade between Iran and Nigeria.

The high-ranking Nigerian delegation headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs also had separate meetings with top Iranian officials including the first Vice President Mohammad Mokhber.

The Nigerian official hailed the resumption of intergovernmental committee meetings between Iran and Nigeria after more than eight years.

He said the presence of the Nigerian trade delegation in Iran is a sign the African country is committed

15% of Initial Capital of Industries Earmarked for Renovation

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of renovation and exploitation of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) on the sidelines of his visit to Luleh Gostar of Esfarayen Plant and in a meeting with the board of directors and managers of the plant announced necessity of earmarking 15% of total value of the industrial units to the process of renovation in a standard framework.

According to Mr. Farshad Moghimi’s remarks made at the strategic plant of Luleh Gostar Esfarayen, with the total value worth of 30m euros as well as 70b rials in a standard track, 15% of plant’s value should be annually allocated to renovation and upgrade of the facilities. He emphasized that if this principle is observed in all industries, there will be no need to heavy renovation and improvement investment. He reiterated that dominance of this idea in the thematic literature of industries can lead to optimization of investments for renovation.

Moghimi called renovation of equipment as the most important part of the renovation cycle in an enterprise which leads to the rise in the rate of production in time and reduction of waste. He added that Luleh Gostar can be a suitable example and a successful pilot for the precise process of renovation.

He also emphasized that some factors like the presence of the industries in the specialized domestic and international scenes, improving capabilities of the human capitals, painting good pictures in the public opinion, moving towards state-of-the-art technologies, identifying joint opportunities in the scene of knowledge-based and promoting new markets can be important axes of activities of this big industrial group.

Moghimi also hailed efforts in the plant which led to registering records for productions beyond the set targets and called for continuation of this trend.

In the meeting, the CEO of Luleh Gostar Company Mr. Maziar Zand Briefed Mr. Moghimi of the latest developments in the company regarding production of different types of steel pipes and later Moghimi and his accompanying team visited the production lines of the plant.

Luleh Gostar Company is subsidiary of IDRO which produces different types of pipe lines for the oil industry which are strategic products.



Concreting Operation Ends At 100k-Ton Cereal Silo Hives in Chabahar

TEHRAN – Caretaker of Sistan-Baluchestan Province’s Ports and Maritime Department announced the concreting operation in the 100-000-ton cereal silo hives of Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar.

Naser Ravanbakhsh said that the concreting operation ended according to the schedule in last Iranian month of Ordibehesht, adding that this is the biggest project of cereal silo in southeastern country and with its exploitation, the process for transfer of the basic goods from Chabahar Port to the target destinations with more space and it will assist provision of the basic goods in the country.

He went on to say that transfer of cereal from ship to the wharf by two fully mechanized lines with the capacity of 1200 tons per hour and this volume of operation will be the highest for unloading a ship.

The 1200,000-ton cereal silo of Beheshti Port of Chabahar includes 12 hives and currently its concreting operation has ended.



In the First Conference on Bauxite, Alumina, Aluminum and Sustainable Development Announced

We Face Shortage in Aluminum Industries

The First Conference on Bauxite, Alumina, Aluminum, and Sustainable Development was held with the participation of activists, investors and enthusiasts in this field. Sustainable supply of bauxite and development of alumina and aluminum value chain, review of bauxite reserves in Iran and the challenges of raw material supply and presentation of new methods for exploration, extraction and processing of environmentally friendly bauxite were the most important topics of the conference.

We Face Shortage in aluminum Industries

The use of new environmentally friendly technologies in the production of alumina and aluminum, the study of social responsibility of mining companies in the impact of sustainable development and energy efficiency strategies in the aluminum production chain were other topics of the conference at the Olympic Hotel in Tehran.

The role of alumina and aluminum in the development of downstream industries, Iran Alumina Company is the center of economic, cultural and social development of the region and the latest status of aluminum as a strategic metal in the 21st century.In this conference, the capacities of Iran Alumina Company and the preparation of the necessary bases for the activists in this field in order to further increase the opportunities facing the aluminum industry and remove the existing obstacles for the realization of sustainable development, were discussed in this important event.

Necessity for Implementing Comprehensive Plans for Steel, Aluminum, Gold, Copper and Coal

The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Mines and Mineral Industries Development and Renovation Organization of Iran said at the ceremony: To increase the added value in the mines and mineral industries, the implementation of the comprehensive plan of steel, aluminum, copper, gold and coal industries in IMIDRO has received serious attention. Wajihullah Jafari added: “Due to the growth of value added in the chain of various industries, the amount of exports of the country’s mining industries has now increased to more than 12 billion dollars.”The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade reminded: Currently, 38% of the value of the Iranian stock market belongs to mining and mining companies, and the added value of this sector has grown by 50% in the last 6 or 7 years.He stressed: “Today in the country, the mineral field and mineral reserves and its chains are very effective in economic development, and now good capacities have been provided for investment in employment in this sector.”Jafari, stating that we have achieved good growth and development in the country’s steel industry and in the steel industry chain, our goal is to produce 55 million tons of steel products per year, he added: While the production of the country’s steel products has now increased to more than 30 million tons.He added: “Last year, our planning for the development of large industries with water and electricity supply was considered and if we can do this important, we will not face problems with water and electricity supply in the country’s large industries in the future.”The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Organization for Development and



Renovation of Mines and Mining Industries of Iran pointed out: “Today, the issue of water use in various industries has been considered and we should pay more attention to the issue of water transfer from the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, because it needs sustainable water supply.” We use the resources of the seas.He said: “Currently, we have a shortage in the aluminum industry and we supply some of the required products in this sector through imports.”Jafari continued: “We have favorable reserves for the production of aluminum industry products and alumina powder, and we intend to supply our alumina powder from four regions, especially Jajrum region, to supply the raw materials needed by the aluminum industry.”Jafari added: the use of new technologies in the aluminum production chain can create more added valuefor the country and the export of mineral products for its sustainability is one of the most important programs of IMIDRO in this industry.The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Organization for Development and Renovation of Mines and Mining Industries emphasized the use of specialized human resources in the field of mining and said: “Today we have entered the fourth generation to discuss new technologies and with proper planning we can Use 4th generation technologies and technologies.He reminded: “All our efforts are to follow the new technologies and intelligence in the mining industry and mineral reserves well, and in this approach, more attention should be paid to environmental protection.”Jafari added: “Proper exploration and proper extraction operations should always be considered in the country’s mining industry, and this is one of our most important programs in Imidro, and in the recycling chain in the aluminum and steel industry, its value should reach zero.”He pointed out: “Using appropriate technical knowledge and planning, our waste should be reduced to zero in the processing of various industries so that we can get more added value in the mining chain and mining industries and reduce the cost price in the mining industry and mines to a minimum.” . The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Organization for Development and Renovation of Mines and Mining Industries reminded: IMIDRO, as a

governing organization, seeks to provide a suitable environment for mining activities in the country, and our important task in this area is very heavy and we must do everything we can. Use for more added value in the country’s mining industry.

Some 250,000 Tons of Alumina Powder Annually Are Produced in Iran Alumina Company

The CEO of Iran Alumina Company in this ceremony pointed out that due to the annual need to one million tons of alumina powder in the country, some 250,000 tons of this important product are produced in Iran Alumina Company, adding that one million tons of alumina powder needs to be imported with the cost around \$1b.Touraj Zare said: “Increasing production is always considered and planned by Iran Alumina Company, and fortunately, this year, two important projects with an investment of 2,000 billion rials have been planned to produce a new product that has more added value.”The CEO of Iran Alumina Company stated: Iran Alumina Company is the only producer of alumina powder in Iran and one of our most important challenges in this sector is the production and supply of high quality bauxite in the country.The Chairman of the Policy Council of the First Conference on Bauxite, Alumina, Aluminum and Sustainable Development noted: “Fortunately, with the planning and efforts of Iran Alumina Company, the Jajarm mines in North Khorasan have increased fivefold in the last five years.”He said that the production capacity of high quality alumina from mineral reserves in this region has increased to 40 million tons, adding that it is estimated that the production process and the need for bauxite in the world will always grow significantly.Zare emphasized on the development of private sector activities in the aluminum industry and said: “Currently, 10% of the bauxite we need is supplied from private sector mines, and all our efforts are to be able to increase the quality of bauxite in this regard.”The CEO of Iran Alumina Company added: “One of the most important projects of Iran Alumina Company is the commissioning of a 160 MW combined cycle power plant in this company, and all our efforts are for this power plant to start its activities in the second half of this year.”According to him, one of our most important projects is the production of low-quality aluminum in a new way that we can build capacity to produce 500,000 tons of this product, which is currently under study and requires an investment of 800 million euros. Zare stated that the growth of the bauxite market in the world is more than 2% annually, adding that the production of alumina in 2021 has reached 138 million tons and this shows that it has grown by 6% annually.He said: “Iran has now been upgraded from 21st to 14th with the production of 800,000 tons of aluminum metals annually.”According to the CEO of Iran Alumina Company, the production of aluminum and aluminum metals in the chain will lead to the development of the aluminum industry chain in the country, but the protection of the environment and natural resources is one of the most important programs of Iran Alumina Company. He specified: in order to protect natural resources, a memorandum of 1500 billion Tomans has been signed with the environment so that we can protect the environment of Jajarm city more than before.

Erdogan Calls on Greece Not to Arm Non-Military Islands

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Greece should stop arming islands with non-military status and should abide by international agreements, in comments likely to fuel a renewal in long-running tensions between the Aegean Sea neighbors.

Last week he announced Turkey was halting talks with Greece, partly over a dispute with the Greek prime minister, and what Ankara calls airspace violations.

“I warn Greece to avoid dreams, acts and statements that will result in regret. Come to your senses,” he said in a televised speech made as he observed Turkish military exercises near Izmir on the coast of western Turkey.



Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian In Occupied West Bank

GAZA (Dispatches) - Israeli forces have shot dead a Palestinian man in confrontations following a military raid in the southern occupied West Bank.

The man, identified as 27-year-old Mahmoud Fayez Abu Ayhour, was killed on Thursday in the town of Halhul, 5km (3 miles) north of Hebron city.

Abu Ayhour arrived at Al-Mizan Hospital in Hebron in critical condition just before 1pm (10:00 GMT). He was announced dead 30 minutes later.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health said Abu Ayhour was shot in the stomach.



Ukraine Says Troops Holding Onto Sievierodonetsk, Advance in South



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian forces claimed to have pushed forward in intense street fighting in the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk, but said their only hope to turn the tide was more artillery to offset Russia’s massive firepower.

In the south, Ukraine’s defense ministry said it had captured new ground in a counter-attack in Kherson province, targeting the biggest swathe of territory Russia has seized since its invasion in February.

The battle amid the ruins of Sievierodonetsk, a small industrial city, has become one of the war’s bloodiest, with Russia concentrating its invasion force there. Both sides say they have inflicted massive casualties.

Sievierodonetsk and its twin city Lysychansk on the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets river are the last Ukrainian-controlled parts of Luhansk province, which Moscow is determined to seize as one of its principal war objectives.

Russian forces are focusing all of their might in the area, Ukraine’s Security Council Secretary Oleksiy Danilov told Reuters in an interview.

“They don’t spare their people, they’re just sending men like cannon fodder,” he said. “They are shelling our military day and night.”

In a rare update from Sievierodonetsk, the commander of Ukraine’s Svoboda National Guard Battalion, Petro Kusyik, said Ukrainians were drawing the Russians into street fighting to neutralise Russia’s artillery advantage.

“Yesterday was successful for us - we launched a counteroffensive and in some areas we managed to push them back one or two blocks. In others they pushed us back, but just by a building or two,” he said in a televised interview. “Yesterday the occupiers suffered serious losses - if every day were like yesterday, this would all be over soon.” But he said his forces were suffering from a “catastrophic” lack of counter-battery artillery to fire back at Russia’s guns, and getting such weapons would transform the battlefield. “Even without these systems, we are holding on fine. There is an order to hold our positions and we are holding them. It is unbelievable what the surgeons are doing without the proper equipment to save soldiers’ lives.”

Sievierodonetsk Mayor Oleksandr Stryuk said on Thursday around 10,000 civilians were still trapped inside the city - around a tenth of its pre-war population.

To the west of Sievierodonetsk, Russia is pushing from the north and south, trying to trap Ukrainian forces in the Donbas region comprising Luhansk and neighbouring Donetsk province, blasting Ukrainian-controlled towns in their path with artillery.

In Soledar, a salt-mining town near Bakhmut close to the front line, buildings had been blasted into craters.

Remaining residents, mostly elderly, were sheltering in a crowded cellar. A woman peeled potatoes and swatted away flies. Men lay asleep on cots. Kateryna, 85, curled up under a blanket, her hair wrapped in a scarf.

“It will be as God shall give,” she said, her voice drowned out by the sound of barking dogs.

Antonina, 65, had ventured out to see her garden. “We are staying. We live here. We were born here.” She sobbed: “When is it all going to end?”

China, Russia Defend N. Korea Vetoes At UN General Assembly

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - China and Russia have accused the United States of stoking tensions on the Korean Peninsula during a landmark meeting held to explain their decisions to veto new global sanctions over Pyongyang’s renewed ballistic missile launches.

Zhang Jun, China’s ambassador to the United Nations, told the General Assembly that tension on the peninsula has “developed to what it is today, primarily due to the flip flop of U.S. policies”.

He pushed Washington to take action and made a plea for the sanctions to be lifted.

“There are many things that the US can do, such as easing sanctions on [North Korea] in certain areas, and ending joint military exercises [with South Korea]. The key is to take actions, not just talk about its readiness for dialogue with no preconditions,” said Zhang. Moscow’s deputy ambassador to the UN, Anna Evstigneeva, also called for sanctions to be lifted.



North Korea needs more humanitarian aid and the West should stop blaming Pyongyang for tensions, she said.

The Wednesday session of the 193-member UN General Assembly was the first at which permanent members of the Security Council had to explain their use of the veto, a step required under a resolution adopted by the global body on April 26.

China and Russia’s vetoes on North Korea last month publicly split the UN Security Council for the first time since it started punishing Pyongyang with sanctions in 2006.

Speaking for the U.S., Deputy Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis dismissed China and Russia’s accusations and questioned whether Beijing and Moscow had elevated their “no limits” strategic partnership above global security by vetoing North Korea sanctions.

“We hope these vetoes are not a reflection of that partnership,” said DeLaurentis, addressing the assembly after China and Russia.

Sri Lanka President’s Brother Resigns From Parliament

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - The brother of Sri Lanka’s president and the country’s former finance minister, Basil Rajapaksa, said he had resigned from parliament, the second from the influential family to step away from government amid a severe economic crisis.

“From today I will not be involved in any government activities but I cannot and will not step away from politics,” Rajapaksa said.

“The aim is to allow someone else to be appointed to parliament in my place from the party,” he told reporters in Colombo, Sri Lanka’s commercial capital.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, resigned as prime minister last month after prolonged protests against the economic crisis turned deadly. Mahinda remains a member of parliament.

The three Rajapaksa siblings have been key players in Sri Lankan politics for decades, but are blamed by protesters who have taken to the streets in their thousands in recent months for mishandling the island nation’s economy.

Fighting between the brothers has also played a part in Sri Lanka’s slide into turmoil but Basil Rajapaksa is likely to retain influence, Reuters has reported.

The country of 22 million people is suffering its worst economic crisis in seven decades, with shortages of fuel, medicines and cooking gas because a severe lack of foreign exchange has stalled imports.

Sri Lanka’s new prime minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, is now leading efforts to find a way out of the crisis, with negotiations underway with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan program and support from friendly countries, including India and China.

However, with only one seat in parliament, Wickremesinghe is dependent on the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party, which Basil Rajapaksa has helped rebuild into a political force. “BR will continue to remain a force in Sri Lankan politics regardless of not being a MP,” said Bhavani Fonseka, a senior researcher at the Colombo think-tank Centre for Policy Analysis, referring to Basil Rajapaksa by his initials.

German Investigators Question Driver After Dark Day for Berlin

BAD AROlsen (Dispatches) - German investigators are trying to make sense of “confused” statements from a 29-year-old man who rammed his car into a group of schoolchildren and killed a teacher in Berlin, the city’s mayor, Franziska Giffey, said.

The authorities have established that the German-Armenian man was severely mentally ill but had yet to understand any motive for Wednesday’s incident, or any possible connection to posters about Turkey found in the back of his car, she said.

Families were in mourning for the teacher who was killed while taking schoolchildren on a trip to the German capital from the small town of Bad Arolsen, in the state of Hesse.

The crash injured around 30 people, including 14 students, seven of whom were severely hurt and taken to hospital, police said. Another male teacher was also severely injured, and 17 passers-by sustained varying degrees of injuries.

A statement from police said investigations pointed to the “deliberate act of a psychologically ill man”.

The incident took place in a busy shopping district near the site of a fatal attack in 2016, when a truck rammed into a crowded Christmas market.

Investigators, with the help of a translator, were trying to establish more of the “at times confused statements

he was making”, Giffey told RBB inforadio, describing a “dark day in the history of Berlin”.

Germany’s Bild newspaper said the man had lived with his mother and a sister, who described her brother as having “serious problems”.

According to police, the car used in the suspected attack had belonged to the driver’s sister.

Investigators were poring over the phone and computer of the man who was naturalised as a German citizen in 2015, German media reported.

Residents of Bad Arolsen were in shock and fought back tears over an incident that brought back memories of an attack in the Hesse town of Volkmarsen, when a man rammed his car into a carnival parade in 2020.

“It brings back lots of pictures from Volkmarsen,” said Ellen Schreck, 45, whose son went to the school the case was from. She described the situation as an “absolute horror”.

“It’s usually a quiet little town ... you always think you’re in a safe bubble here. But that’s not the case anymore.” People laid flowers and candles at the Kaulbach school, which was closed today. Parents and a team from the school have travelled to Berlin to help look after the children.

“We’re all deeply saddened,” said Almut Will-Olivieri, who owns a pizzeria in front of the school. “The town is simply in shock.”



U.S. Approves \$120m Sale to Maintain Taiwanese Warships

TAIPEI (Dispatches) - The United States has approved a possible \$120 million sale of parts to help Taiwan maintain its warships, which the island’s defense ministry said would help ensure combat readiness in the face of China’s “frequent activities” near the island.

The U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a statement it had delivered the required certification notifying Congress following State Department approval for the sale, which was requested by Taiwan’s de facto embassy in Washington.

It said the sale covered unclassified spare and repair parts for ships and ship systems, logistical technical assistance, U.S. government and contractor representative technical and logistical support.

“The proposed sale will contribute to the sustainment of the recipient’s surface vessel fleet, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats,” it said in the Wednesday statement, adding the parts would be sourced from “approved U.S. Navy vendors and/or U.S. Navy stock”.

Taiwan’s defense ministry said the deal was expected to come into effect within one month, and expressed its thanks to the United States for its support in helping Taiwan be able to protect itself.

“In view of the recent frequent activities of Chinese warships in the sea and airspace around our country, the ship parts that the United States has agreed to sell will help maintain the proper equipment and consumption of our naval ships and meet the actual needs of combat readiness tasks,” it said.

Neither side gave details of what parts Taiwan would be receiving.

Most of Taiwan’s main warships are U.S. made or designed.

The democratically governed island has complained of repeated missions by China’s air force in its air defense zone, part of what Washington sees as Beijing’s effort to pressure Taipei into accepting its sovereignty.





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S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
yard, & pkg
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Shariati Villa (\$3500)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p, S
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Velenjak (\$1400)
2bdrs, S/p, S, F.F

Farmanieh (\$3000)
300sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p
S, J, L.balcony, pkg
Fully Furn

Jordan Villa (\$4000)
700sq.m, 4bdrs, yard

Elahieh (\$1800)
3bdrs, balcony, F.F

Vanak bldg (\$7000)
4storey, 12bdrs, pkg

Darrous Apt (\$2500)
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Harsh, Long Winter Could Trigger European Energy Shortage

COPENHAGEN (Dispatches) - Europe could face energy shortages next winter after Russia's invasion of Ukraine has deepened the region's energy crisis, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA), Fatih Birol, warned.

"I am especially worried about the natural gas markets ... if we have a harsh and long winter we may see very difficult days [ahead]," said Birol at IEA's annual conference on energy efficiency in Sonderborg, Denmark.

Birol said that while governments and companies were now looking to secure alternative energy supplies, it is equally important for governments to take measures to reduce demand.



OECD Sees Lower World Growth

PARIS (Dispatches) - The OECD warned today that the world economy will pay a "hefty price" for Russia's invasion of Ukraine as it slashed its 2022 growth forecast and projected higher inflation.

The Paris-based organization, which represents 38 mostly developed countries, is the latest institution to predict lower GDP growth due to the conflict, which has sent food and energy prices soaring.

In its latest economic outlook, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said global gross domestic product would grow by three per cent in 2022 — down sharply from the 4.5 per cent estimated in December.

The OECD also doubled its forecast for inflation among its members — which range from the United States to Australia, Japan, and Latin American and European nations — to 8.5 per cent, its highest level since 1988.

"The world is set to pay a hefty price for Russia's war against Ukraine," wrote the OECD's chief economist and deputy secretary-general, Laurence Boone, adding that a "humanitarian crisis is unfolding before our eyes".

"The extent to which growth will be lower and inflation higher will depend on how the war evolves, but it is clear the poorest will be hit hardest," Boone said.

"The price of this war is high and will need to be shared." Before the war broke out, the outlook had appeared "broadly favorable" for 2022-23, with growth and inflation expected to return to normal after the devastating Covid-19 pandemic, said the OECD.

However, "the invasion of Ukraine, along with shutdowns in major cities and ports in China due to the zero-Covid policy, has generated a new set of adverse shocks," it said.

The OECD was supposed to publish its outlook in March, but it delayed its detailed assessment until now due to uncertainty over the war. At the time, it said the conflict could cut global GDP growth by "over one percentage point".

The World Bank revised its own figures yesterday, lowering its global growth forecast from 4.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent. The IMF cut its forecast by nearly one point to 3.6 per cent in April.

The OECD cut its growth forecast for the United States from 3.7 per cent to 2.5 per cent and that of China, the world's second biggest economy, from 5.1 per cent to 4.4 per cent.

The eurozone's GDP is now seen growing by 2.6 per cent instead of 4.3 per cent while Britain's outlook was lowered to 3.6 per cent from 4.7 per cent.

The OECD noted that commodity prices had risen, hitting real income and spending, "particularly for the most vulnerable households".

"In many emerging-market economies the risks of food shortages are high given the reliance on agricultural exports from Russia and Ukraine," it said.

The report warned that the "effects of the war in Ukraine may be even greater than assumed", raising as an example a scenario of Russia cutting gas supplies to Europe.

As central banks tighten their monetary policies to counter inflation, the report said sharp increases of interest rates could also hit growth more than anticipated.

Ukraine Grain Export Plan Reasonable

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Russia and Turkey voiced support for the creation of a safe maritime corridor in the Black Sea so Ukraine can export grain to global markets amid an escalating world food crisis. Turkey's foreign minister said a U.N. plan to ensure the restart of shipments was reasonable and requires more talks with all sides to ensure ships would be safe.

Turkey is involved in efforts for the establishment of the U.N.-led mechanism that would free Ukraine's Black Sea ports and allow as much as 25 million tons of grain sitting in silos to be shipped out. Turkey would facilitate and protect the transport of the grain in the Black Sea, officials have said.

Ankara, which has good relations with both Kyiv and Moscow, had previously said it is ready to take on a role within an "observation mechanism" based in Istanbul if a deal is reached.

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu hosted his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Ankara for discussions focused on the proposal. Çavuşoğlu said their meeting was fruitful, including a will to return to negotiations between Moscow and Kyiv for a possible cease-fire.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but the war and a Russian blockade of its ports have halted much of that flow, endangering food supplies to many developing countries. Many of those ports are now also heavily mined.

Ukraine's government was not represented at the Ankara meeting but has expressed concerns that removing mines from its ports to facilitate grain exports could allow Russia to attack its southern coast.



UK House-Building Slows to Weakest Since May 2020

LONDON (Dispatches) - Construction of new homes in Britain almost ground to a halt last month as builders feared the cost-of-living squeeze and rising interest rates would constrain demand, a closely watched survey showed.

May's S&P Global/CIPS construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 56.4 in May from 58.2 in April, the lowest reading since January and broadly in line with economists' median expectation in a Reuters poll.

The fall was led by a slump in the house-building component to its lowest since May 2020 at 50.7.

"Residential construction activity was close to stagnation in May, which represented its worst performance for two years amid signs of softer demand and a headwind from low consumer confidence," Tim Moore, economics director at S&P Global, said.

Bolstered by surging house prices, Britain's construction industry weathered the pandemic relatively well. Output in March was 3.7% above its pre-COVID level, a better performance than most other sectors.

However, the construction sector is not immune to broader headwinds slowing Britain's economy.

Consumer price inflation hit a 40-year high of 9.0% in April and Britain's most closely watched measure of consumer sentiment, from GfK, sank to its lowest since records began in 1974.

Weak consumer confidence also hit businesses in Britain's much larger services sector, according to PMI figures released on Tuesday.

India Hikes Interest Rates 50 Basis Points to Fight Inflation

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - India's central bank hiked rates for a second time, as Asia's third-largest economy reels from galloping inflation in the wake of the Ukraine war.

The Reserve Bank of India raised its key repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90 per cent, a month after kicking off an aggressive monetary tightening cycle with a surprise 0.4 percentage point lift in May.

"The war in Europe is lingering and we are facing newer challenges each passing day," Bank governor Shaktikanta Das said in a televised

address, pointing to higher food and fuel prices.

He added that inflation was a global problem but emerging economies were facing "bigger challenges", with market turbulence following monetary policy shifts in advanced economies.

India bounced back strongly from the coronavirus pandemic with one of the world's fastest growth rates, but is now grappling with rising costs as commodity prices skyrocket worldwide.

Consumer inflation has consistently overshot India's two-to-six per cent target range in the first four months of the year, hitting an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April.

"From the policy withdrawal perspective, the RBI in the last two months has moved quite aggressively and swiftly," Upasna Bhardwaj, senior economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank, said in a note.

But despite efforts to curb price pressures, inflation was likely to remain around seven per cent for the foreseeable future, she added.

India's economy has seen sharp price increases across the board, including food and fuel.

Last month the government banned wheat exports to rein them in after a heatwave hit local crop yields.

Officials also capped sugar exports to safeguard supplies, and slashed duties on fuel and edible oils to buffer consumer spending.

India imports more than 80 per cent of its crude oil needs, with its dependence growing as domestic production falls, and the country's 1.4 billion people have been hit with rising petrol costs.

Prices have risen sharply since Russia's invasion of Ukraine earlier this year, and economists estimate that a \$10 per barrel increase in Brent crude increases consumer inflation in India by about 25 basis points.

The governor had extensively signalled Wednesday's move in advance, calling a half-per cent hike a "no brainer" in a television interview on May 23.

India's 0.4 per cent rate rise in May had caught markets by surprise, though economists supported the move as a necessary counterweight to inflation pressures.

China Has Widened Trade Lead in Much of Latin America

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China has widened the gap on the United States in trade terms in large swathes of Latin America since U.S. President Joe Biden came into office early last year, data show, underscoring how Washington is being pushed onto the back foot in the region.

An exclusive Reuters analysis of U.N. trade data from 2015-2021 shows that outside of Mexico, the top U.S. trade partner, China has overtaken the United States in Latin America and widened the gap last year.

The trend, driven by countries in resource-rich South America, hammers home how the United States has lost ground in a region long seen as its backyard, even as Biden aims to reset ties at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles this week.

Mexico and the United States have had a free trade deal since the 1990s and the amount of commerce between the two next-door neighbors alone overshadows Washington's commerce with the rest of Latin America.

But the trade gap with the United States in the rest of the region, which first opened up under former U.S. President Donald Trump in 2018, has grown since Biden took office in January last year, despite a pledge to restore Washington's role as a global leader and to refocus attention on Latin America after years of what he once called "neglect".

On the ground current and former officials told Reuters that the United States had been slow to take concrete action and that China, a major buyer of grains and metals, simply offered more to the region in terms of trade and investment.

Juan Carlos Capunay, Peru's former ambassador to China, said that Mexico aside, "the most important commercial, economic and technological ties for Latin America are definitely with China, which is the top trade partner for the region, well above the United States."

He added though that politically the region still was more aligned with the United States.

When excluding Mexico, total trade flows - imports and exports - between Latin America and China hit nearly \$247 billion last year, according to the latest available data, well above the \$174 billion with the United States. The 2021 data lacks trade numbers from some regional countries but those balance each other out in terms of U.S.-China bias.

The outlier in Latin America, Mexico's trade flows with the United States were \$607 billion last year, up from \$496 billion in 2015. Its trade with China was \$110 billion, up from around \$75 billion six years before.

The White House and U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

U.S. Inflation to Stay High, Biden Likely to Up Forecast



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told senators that she expected inflation to remain high and the Biden administration would likely increase the 4.7% inflation forecast for this year in its budget proposal.

During a Senate Finance Committee hearing, Yellen said that the United States was dealing with "unacceptable levels of inflation," but that she hoped price hikes would soon begin to subside.

U.S. Consumer Price Index inflation has been tracking above 8% in recent months, the highest readings in over 40 years and well above President Joe Biden's administration's forecast for its fiscal 2023 budget.

But another metric, the core Personal Consumption Expenditures price index excluding volatile food and energy costs, has begun to cool, edging down to 4.9% in April read more

"I do expect inflation to remain high although I very much hope that it will be coming down now," she said.

Yellen repeatedly rejected Republican assertions that inflation was being fueled by Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) COVID-19 spending legislation last year.

"We're seeing high inflation in almost all of the developed countries around the world. And they have very different fiscal policies," Yellen said. "So it can't be the case that the bulk of the inflation that we're experiencing reflects the impact of the ARP."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen testifies during a U.S. House Committee on Financial Services hearing on the Annual Report of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, on Capitol Hill in Washington

High Speed, Obstruction Blamed for Train Crash in East

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's railways chief says initial results of an investigation into the June 8 train derailment in east of the country show that high speed and obstruction of the rail had caused the incident which killed 22 people and injured dozens more.

Mi'ad Salehi said on Thursday that the train driver could have prevented the incident if he had not increased the

speed of the train just before the crash.

However, Salehi said investigators have determined that the obstruction on the rail line caused by an excavator had also played a role in the incident.

He said the excavator had been working on the location as part of an overnight operation to replace railroad ties.



Conspiracy Theories Cloud Pandemic Treaty Push

GENEVA (Dispatches) - The World Health Organization is battling a barrage of disinformation alleging it is scheming to take over health policy in sovereign nations, as it tries to chart a way forward towards averting future pandemics.

Although used to being in the crosshairs of conspiracy theorists especially over Covid-19, high-profile attempts in countries around the world to discredit the WHO's efforts are casting a shadow over talks in Geneva this week.

Country representatives are discussing how to pave the way for a global agreement that could eventually regulate how nations prepare for and respond to future pandemic threats.

"We may face more severe pandemics in the future and we need to be a hell of a lot better prepared than we are now," the WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters recently.

"That's going to require countries to work together."

It is still far from clear what any future agreement would contain and whether countries will decide they want it to be a treaty or some other "legal instrument".

The negotiations -- involving member states, not the WHO -- are set to last at least two years.

However, that has not stopped conspiracy theories suggesting that the UN health body is out for a power-grab.

Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson, in a segment last month on the pandemic treaty, warned his millions of viewers that US President Joe Biden's administration was close to "handing the World Health Organization power over every aspect, the intimate aspects of your life."

Christine Anderson, a German member of the European Parliament, has warned that the agreement would grant "the WHO de facto governing power over member states".

British comedian-turned-YouTuber Russell Brand, meanwhile, told his more than 5.5 million subscribers that the future treaty meant "your democracy is... finished".

The WHO and experts say such theories, which have also popped up in Germany, Australia, Russia and other countries, have nothing to do with what is being discussed.

"I am frankly baffled by the degree of disinformation," Suerie Moon, co-director of the Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute, told AFP, stressing that the agreement "is really in the embryonic stage."

Many of the claims, she said, are "completely disconnected from the reality of what is being proposed and potentially negotiated".

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also recently lamented that "unfortunately, there has been a small minority of groups making misleading statements and purposefully distorting facts".

He stressed that the "WHO's agenda is public, open and transparent".

The pandemic agreement is solely about establishing "the playbook for how we're going to prepare together" for future pandemic threats, Ryan said.

"That's not about sovereignty. That's about responsibility."

But they are struggling to make such arguments heard over the din of disinformation.

The WHO is used to being the focus of conspiracy theorists, even coining the term



"infodemic" amid the deluge of disinformation surrounding its efforts to rein in the coronavirus pandemic, and especially on the Covid-19 vaccines.

And now observers suggest the WHO and the pandemic agreement it is pushing for have become targets of a well-organized disinformation campaign across multiple countries, although the exact goal and who is behind it remain unclear.

Just the name WHO "is like a trigger", Tristan Mendes France, a French conspiracy theory expert, told AFP, suggesting it was easy to "reactivate" the "huge conspiracy theory audience that has been growing during Covid."

Sebastian Dieguez, a neuroscientist and disinformation expert at Switzerland's University of Fribourg, pointed to how social media groups dedicated to one form of extremist thought or conspiracy theory often switch names and topics, bringing hundreds of thousands of followers along.

"When you have a solid network on something, it can be used for other things," he said.

But the most outlandish disinformation can still negatively impact efforts to deal with real-world issues.

"Even though some of it is absurd, you still have to deal with it, you still have to explain, and this cuts out resources," Dieguez said.

Moon acknowledged there "are limits to what WHO can do", pointing to rampant misinformation -- when faulty information is shared due to honest misunderstandings -- and mistrust in authorities across the board in "this post-truth era, where people live in different information universes."

"Can WHO change that? Can anybody?"

Moderna Announces Positive Results for Omicron Vaccine



NEW YORK (Dispatches) – U.S. biotech company Moderna announced positive results for a new vaccine that targets both the original Covid strain and Omicron.

This so-called "bivalent" vaccine was tested in a trial of more 850 adults, who had all received their first three doses of Moderna's original Spikevax vaccine.

Around half the group then received a fourth dose of Spikevax, while the rest received the bivalent vaccine.

Those who received the bivalent vaccine had significantly higher levels of neutralizing antibodies -- Y-shaped immune system proteins that block the virus -- against Omicron.

On average, these levels were around 75 percent higher in the group who got the bivalent vaccine as a fourth dose compared to those who got the original vaccine as a fourth dose. They also received slightly superior protection to the ancestral strain of Covid compared to Spikevax.

"We are thrilled," said Stephane Bancel, CEO of Moderna in a statement, adding he anticipated this vaccine would be the company's lead candidate for authorization as a booster this fall.

"We want to be as ready as early as August for shipping," he told investors in a call.

Stephen Hoge, the company's president, did concede that antibody levels would be lower against Omicron's sub variants that are now in circulation, but said he believed it was still a superior booster than repeating Spikevax.

The company doesn't yet have data on durability -- how the new vaccine booster will fare three months and six months out.

A panel of Food and Drug Administration experts will meet June 28 to discuss considerations and strategies for boosters in fall and winter.

ASEAN Continues to Be Attractive for Long-Term Investment

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - The ASEAN region will continue to be a supportive and attractive investment destination in the long term as its young population promises a vibrant economy, backed by primary economic sectors that include commodities, plantations as well as oil and gas.

UOB Asset Management Malaysia chief executive officer Lim Suet Ling said that being the fourth largest economy with over 600 million people, ASEAN has grown to be more educated and has an advantage as one of the biggest manufacturers in the global supply chain.

"And with the Covid-19 lockdowns in China, there is diversification (in supply chain) and I think Malaysia is benefitting from it especially on the electronic and electrical (E&E) side.

"On foreign direct investments (FDIs), we are relatively cheaper than China, thus we believe the FDIs will continue to come in for diversification," she said in a panel session at the Invest ASEAN 2022 titled 'Markets and Smart Money: Fight or Flight' today.

However, to enhance Malaysia's position as a preferred investment destination, Lim hopes to see more Internet unicorns appearing or being listed. She stressed that trade agreements among ASEAN countries could also be strengthened by forging deeper collaboration to create better investment opportunities.

Retaliatory Measure...

FROM PAGE 1

"The action for the reversal of the ruling was accepted by the court," a source familiar with the matter said on Wednesday, Reuters reported. "It will be hard to overrule that (the appeal court's ruling)."

The change in Greece's behavior came after Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) retaliated Athens' measure by seizing two Greek ships in the Persian Gulf for violations of rules and regulations. Tehran had already announced that it was going to take "punitive action" against Athens.

Reacting to the Greek court's verdict, Shamkhani said, "The change in Greece's behavior following Iran's proportionate and powerful reaction to illegal seizure of its tanker on the US' order, along with scores of other experiences, proves that the sole way to defend the country's rights in the face of bullying, both

in the case of JCPOA and in the [International Atomic Energy] Agency is retaliatory measure."

Iran's embassy in Athens on Thursday confirmed that the Greek Appeals court has overturned the initial ruling on the confiscation of Iranian oil following intensive follow-up.

"With God's grace, the entire oil shipment will be returned [to Iran]," the embassy tweeted.

It added that the issue will remain on the agenda of "intensive consultations" between Iran and Greece to "ensure full implementation of the ruling."

The embassy emphasized that preserving the Iranian nation's rights is a red line.

The ministry official condemned Greece's "unacceptable" surrender to "illegal" US pressures and said the "seizure of the cargo of the ship" with the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran was "an example of international piracy."

Iraq Approves...

FROM PAGE 1

Despite its immense oil and gas reserves, Iraq remains dependent on imports to meet energy needs.

Neighboring Iran currently provides a third of Iraq's gas and electricity requirements, but supplies are regularly cut or reduced, aggravating shortages caused by daily load shedding.

Iran had demanded Iraq pay \$1.6 billion it owes for gas imports by the start of June to guarantee further supplies.

Payment of the debt is a key condition to ensure energy supplies for power plants as Iraq enters the intense heat of the summer, when temperatures soar to over 50 degrees Celsius.

Electricity demand surges as people seek to keep cool. But in recent days, Iran has sharply reduced its gas exports.

The debt dates back to 2020, but payment was stalled amid sanctions against Iran by the United States, which mean that Baghdad cannot pay directly for energy imports in cash.

Iran has "promised to restore the needed supply of gas in the coming days", Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi said on Tuesday.

Iraq's parliament has been in deadlock since elections in October.

IAEA...

FROM PAGE 1

The agency has based its resolutions on Iran's nuclear activities primarily on documents supplied by Israel, which Tehran has repeatedly rejected as fake and fabricated.

In its statement, Iran's Foreign Ministry denounced the resolution as a "political, wrongful and unconstructive act" against a country that "currently has one of the most transparent peaceful nuclear programs among the IAEA members."

Grossi's remarks came despite earlier warnings by Iran against drifting away from the agency's technical approach and adopting political stances on Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

Earlier on Wednesday, Iran switched off two of the IAEA surveillance cameras that it had voluntarily allowed in a "goodwill gesture."

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said the cameras functioned outside the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Agreement, and the gesture was not "appreciated" by the UN agency, which saw it as Iran's "obligation."

The spokesman of Iran's nuclear agency, Behrouz Kamalvandi, said the country plans to take additional measures, after turning the cameras offline.

"Other measures are being considered and we hope that they will come to their senses and respond to Iran's cooperation with cooperation," he said.

The footage of the moment when the cameras were disconnected by cutting off electricity was also released by Iran's nuclear agency.

At a press briefing in the Austrian capital of Vienna on Thursday, Grossi said Iran had informed the United Nations nuclear watchdog that it was removing 27 surveillance cameras at its nuclear facilities following the recent Western-drafted resolution.

Iran has on numerous occasions announced that it has no hidden or undocumented nuclear activities, and trust-building steps by Tehran have only been taken to ensure the UN nuclear watchdog and the international community of its nuclear program's peaceful nature.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's envoy to the IAEA and representative in the Vienna talks, on Friday censured as "stupid" the anti-Tehran resolution adopted by the IAEA's board of governors, saying the West has no understanding of the ongoing situation.

"Have you got the latest news from Iran? Do you understand now why Russia voted against the stupid Western resolution of the IAEA BoG on Iran yesterday? Regrettably our Western counterparts demonstrate total lack of understanding of where we are," Ulyanov wrote in a Twitter post.

Iran Criticizes UN for...

FROM PAGE 1

Mr. President,

As one of the original signatories of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been and continues to be a staunch supporter of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In 1974, Iran proposed the idea of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and since then, has worked hard to realize this noble initiative. Furthermore, as the major victim of the most systematic use of chemical weapons in the contemporary history, Iran has demonstrated its full commitment to the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons.

The Security Council has not taken a balanced approach to the North Korea's nuclear issue as it has solely focused on the concerns of Western countries. The Council has imposed the toughest and most comprehensive sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea without duly considering the detrimental implications of its decisions on political, humanitarian, and international security issues.

The imposition of sanctions against the DPRK has not only failed to serve international peace and security, but has also exacerbated and complicated the security arrangements in the Korean Peninsula.

Moreover, such measures have stymied the delivery of life-saving humanitarian supplies where it is needed most, wreaking havoc on vulnerable populations.

It is deeply regrettable that the authority and powers of the Security Council have been abused repeatedly by certain States who, in pursuance of their illegitimate and political objectives, particularly against developing countries, regard sanctions as their preferred tool to exert maximum pressure on targeted countries.

As a country that has been negatively affected by illegal unilateral coercive measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran is well aware of the devastating humanitarian consequences of such sanctions on ordinary people. Specifically, we would like to highlight the destructive impacts of sanctions on the effective and timely procurement of medical equipment and supplies particularly during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the sanctions have detrimental effects on, among other things, basic human rights including the rights to life, health, and food.

We believe that imposition of new sanctions on the DPRK by the Security Council will not help resolve the current situation in the Korean Peninsula. To the contrary, it will have harmful implications on the people and escalate tensions in the region. We emphasize on the resolution of the issues through dialogue and to that end, we stand ready to engage in any initiative that could fairly lead to a peaceful resolution of the ongoing situation in the Korean Peninsula.

Lacazette Returns To Lyon on Free

LYON (Dispatches) - Former France international Alexandre Lacazette returned to Ligue 1 side Lyon on a free transfer five years after he joined Arsenal for a then club record fee of £46.5 million. The 31-year-old striker underwent a medical yesterday before signing a three year contract with the club where he made his name after coming through the youth system. Lyon said in a statement Lacazette's return had been a priority for several months so as to "infuse a new dynamic" into the team which finished a disappointing eighth in last season's championship.

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Miller Moves to KTM MotoGP Team

LONDON (Dispatches) - Australian Jack Miller will leave L'ucati and race for the KTM factory team in MotoGP next season after they announced a two-year deal. The 27-year-old will join South African Brad Binder at the Red Bull-backed outfit, replacing Portuguese rider Miguel Oliveira. Miller was Moto3 championship runner-up with KTM in 2014 and has more than a decade of grand prix experience including three wins in the top category.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2022

Celtics Outmuscle Warriors to Take 2-1 Finals Lead

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart combined for 77 points as the Boston Celtics beat the Golden State Warriors 116-100 to take a 2-1 lead in the NBA Finals. Brown scored 17 points in the first quarter and the Celtics shot 57% from the floor in the first half to go into the halftime break up by 12. The Warriors came out firing in the third quarter and briefly took the lead on a three-pointer by Stephen Curry, who had a game high 31 points. But the Celtics used their superior size to dominate the glass while their smothering defense led to 16 Golden State turnovers. "I wanted to impose my will on the game and be aggressive," said Tatum, who finished with 26 points and nine assists. "Whether I miss shots or not, I'm going to keep playing. My team mates believe in me to make the right play to get the best shot. All that matters is that we got the win." The Warriors, who suffered a fourth quarter collapse in Game One before responding with a blowout win in Game Two, struggled to match Boston's physicality throughout. One positive sign for the Warriors was that Klay Thompson, who had poor shooting performances in the first two games of the series, came alive on Wednesday, scoring 25 points. But the Warriors had no answer to Boston center Robert Williams, who grabbed 10 rebounds and helped the Celtics outscore the Warriors 52-26 in the paint.



"We're going to watch film, build off this, and get ready for the next one because we know they are going to come out extra aggressive and more prepared," he said. The Celtics are now two wins away from a record 18th NBA Championship, with Game Four set for in Boston. Meanwhile Curry injured his foot late in Game Three of the NBA Finals but said he does not expect to miss Friday's contest. Celtics forward Al Horford ended up on top of Curry during a scramble for a loose ball in the fourth quarter, leaving the Warriors guard writhing in pain on the floor but he was able to keep playing. "Obviously will be in some pain, but I'll be alright. See how I feel tomorrow and get ready for Friday," Curry said after the game, a 116-100 Celtics win that put Boston up 2-1 in the best-of-seven series. "I don't feel like I'll miss a game. I'll take advantage of these next 48 hours to get ready." Curry said the injury was similar to but not as bad as the foot strain he suffered in a game against the Celtics in March, which kept him sidelined for a month. The three-time NBA champion scored a game-high 31 points on Wednesday and called Game Four a "must win." "We still feel like we can win the series. Got to come out with the right intensity and focus in Game Four," he said. Curry's team mates did not sugarcoat what it would mean if they had to play without him. "We need him if we want to win this thing," Klay Thompson said. "He's our identity."

Modric Extends Real Madrid Contract

MADRID (Dispatches) - Luka Modric has signed a new deal to keep him at Real Madrid until the end of next season, the European champions said. The Croatia midfielder, who turns 37 in September, played a key role in Carlo Ancelotti's side last term as they won the La Liga and Champions League titles. "Real Madrid C. F. and Luka Modric have reached an agreement to extend the player's contract until 30 June 2023," the club said in a statement. Modric, who won his 150th international cap in Croatia's 1-1 draw with France on Monday, also signed a one-year deal 12 months ago. He joined Real from Tottenham in 2012 and has gone on to make 436 appearances for the Spanish giants, winning the Champions League five times and three La Liga titles. "Modric is going to end his career with Real Madrid," Real coach Ancelotti said in April. "I don't know when, but that's everyone's idea. There's no problem for the club or the management to extend his contract, that's clear." Modric has continued to regularly start in midfield alongside fellow club stalwarts Casemiro and Toni Kroos. Eduardo Camavinga has impressed in his first season, often as a substitute, while Madrid have reportedly agreed a deal to sign his fellow French youngster Aurelien Tchouameni from Monaco.

Usyk-Joshua Rematch Most Likely on August 20

LONDON (Dispatches) - Reigning world heavyweight champion Oleksandr Usyk will "most likely" face off in a rematch with Britain's Anthony Joshua on August 20, Usyk's promoter told AFP. "This date is the most likely," Oleksandr Krasyuk said of the potential date for the much-anticipated bout. Usyk defeated then WBA, IBF and WBO champion Joshua last September by a unanimous decision in London. Joshua immediately voiced his readiness to face Usyk again. Krasyuk said the fight would most likely be somewhere in "the Middle East" without elaborating. He added that an official announcement on the bout was due next week by boxing organizations whose belts are at stake. Usyk, 35, returned to Ukraine to "defend my home" when Russia invaded on February 24. He left the war-torn country again in March to begin preparations for the rematch. Usyk was one of several top Ukrainian sports personalities who said they would resist Russia's invasion. Former world lightweight champion and two-time Olympic gold medallist Vasiliy Lomachenko also returned to help defend his hometown near the southern port city of Odessa.

Alcaraz to Miss Wimbledon Tune-Up Event

LONDON (Dispatches) - Spain's Carlos Alcaraz will miss next week's Wimbledon tune-up event at Queen's Club in London due to a slight elbow issue, the 19-year-old said. Alcaraz, who has taken the tennis world by storm this year, reached the quarter-finals at the French Open last month, becoming the youngest player in 29 years to reach two Grand Slam quarter-finals after also making the U.S. Open last eight. "As u all know, I was super excited to play at @QueensTennis but a slight elbow issue means I can't! I hope to be there in 2023... see u all in the UK in a few days!" the world number seven tweeted.

Nadal Undergoes Foot Treatment Ahead of Wimbledon



The 36-year-old said his foot was "asleep" due to injections during his victory over Casper Ruud in the final at Roland Garros on Sunday, a win that secured Nadal his 22nd Grand Slam title. Nadal then travelled to Barcelona to begin "pulsed radiofrequency stimulation"

LONDON (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal is recovering at home after he underwent treatment on his injured left foot on Tuesday, as the French Open champion battles to be fit for Wimbledon. Nadal has returned to his house in Mallorca, less than three weeks before the start of Wimbledon on June 27. "We need him if we want to win this thing," Klay Thompson said. "He's our identity."

treatment, a spokesman for the Spaniard said on Wednesday, which is aimed at reducing nerve pain. The treatment means the nerves around the area of Nadal's injury will be "temporarily numb". "Rafa is already at home and will spend three or four days doing normal, maintaining, physical activity. Depending on the effect of the treatment, and as long as it's positive, he will later return to training on the court," the spokesman said. "We don't rule out a second treatment being carried out in the next week." Nadal has for years suffered from a problem in his foot called Muller-Weiss syndrome, a rare and degenerative condition affecting bones in the feet. "I will be there if my body allows it. Wimbledon is a priority, the Grand Slams are a priority," Nadal said on Sunday, when asked about Wimbledon. "Playing it with anti-inflammatories, yes; with anaesthesia injections, no."

Platini Was Worth a Million

BELLINZONA (Dispatches) - Michel Platini "was worth his million" Swiss francs a year, former FIFA president Sepp Blatter insisted, telling a Swiss court he could not understand why the pair were answering fraud charges. The former world football chief and French football legend Platini are being tried at Switzerland's Federal Criminal Court in the southern city of Bellinzona, following an investigation that began in 2015 and lasted six years. The pair are being tried over a two million Swiss franc (RM9.1 million) payment in 2011 to Platini, who was then in charge of European football's governing body UEFA. Blatter spoke for the first time in the two-week trial, which opened Wednesday. "I just had this man on my team and he was worth his million," said the 86-year-old retired Swiss football administrator. Platini was employed as an adviser to Blatter between 1998 and 2002. They signed a contract in 1999 for an annual remuneration of 300,000 Swiss francs, which was paid in full by FIFA. The men insist that they had, from the outset, orally agreed to an annual salary of one million francs. Blatter joined FIFA in 1975 and became the president of world football's governing body in 1998. He told the court he turned to former France captain Platini for advice.



Wales Must Learn Dark Arts Ahead of World Cup

CARDIFF (Dispatches) - Gareth Bale said Wales must learn the "dark arts" to break up play when necessary after his side conceded a late winner at home to the Netherlands in the Nations League. Wales, who secured their spot at the World Cup with a playoff win against Ukraine, equalised in the second minute of stoppage time but failed to see the game out as Wout Weghorst snatched a 2-1 win with a diving header moments later. Weghorst's goal came after Frenkie de Jong had cut through several Welsh challenges in midfield and Bale said one of his team mates should have fouled the Dutch player to stop him. "To get the equaliser and to then concede was gutting but we have to learn the dark arts to take him down," Bale, who came on in the 77th minute, told broadcaster S4C. "We need to use this as a learning experience. If that happens again in the World Cup, we need to do what we need to do ... when you play the top teams and don't do the things you need to do you get punished." Interim manager Page said Wales were not "streetwise enough" to get the result. "It was a great opportunity but we showed naivety in seeing the game out. That's a valuable lesson to learn," he added.

