

Spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova Has Announced That the Decision On the Timing for the Visit of Sergey Lavrov to Tehran Is Being Made

# IRAN NEWS

Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic In Iran Reached **141,353** With **One** More Iranian Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

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## Tehran Urges Probe Into Rights Abuses Against Jailed Diplomat

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian official has censured Germany and Belgium over the "illegal" detention and trial of Assadollah Assadi, calling for a probe into human rights abuses against the Iranian diplomat.

In a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kazem Gharibabadi, the judiciary chief's deputy for international affairs and secretary of the High Council for Human Rights, urged the world body to hold the two European countries accountable for gross human rights abuses against Assadi.

Despite enjoying diplomatic immunity, the Iranian diplomat based in the Austrian capital of Vienna was arrested on bogus charges while visiting Germany in July 2018. **See Page 7**

## Tehran, Islamabad Seek Broadening Ties



### IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister said that Iran has never escaped the negotiating table and believes that negotiation and diplomacy are the best way to reach an agreement.

Speaking in a joint press conference with his Pakistani counterpart, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari,

who arrived in the Iranian capital of Tehran on Tuesday, Hossein Amirabdollahian said that the two sides discussed bilateral relations and various fields of cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, including the development of cultural, tourism, political and economic cooperation.

He added that the two sides also discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Yemen and Palestine.

Iran opposes the war in Ukraine and believes that the negotiations and a political solution are the only solutions to the crisis, he said.

Emphasizing the establishment of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan, Amirabdollahian said that Iran has told the governing body of Afghanistan that forming an inclusive government is the way out of the challenges in the country.

He also expressed hope that Afghanistan will be on the path of peace, tranquility and stability.

Referring to the anti-Iranian resolution issued at the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Amirabdollahian said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has never escaped the negotiating table and believes that negotiation and diplomacy are the best way to reach an agreement.

"We have taken important steps in recent months in the negotiations between Mr. Bagheri and Mora and the P4 + 1. The exchange of messages between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States during this period also proved that we emphasize dialogue, logic and reaching a good and lasting agreement," he added.

In recent days, despite the messages exchanged and the progress made in the Vienna talks, the American side suddenly submitted a resolution to the International Atomic Energy Agency to gain more concessions, the Iranian FM noted. "We put a new political package on the table, the Americans accepted the initiative but insisted on passing the resolution. Iran stepped up its nuclear activities, which were notified to the IAEA prior to the resolution."

Pakistani foreign minister, for his part, said that Iran is an important neighbor of Pakistan, adding that his country is seeking to develop relations with Iran.

Pakistan is eager to see the day when the JCPOA is finalized which creates a more favorable atmosphere for interaction with Iran.

Earlier yesterday and during the delegation-level talks, the two sides had extensive talks on a wide range of bilateral issues, with special focus on enhancing trade and commerce, regional connectivity, energy cooperation, prisoners and facilitation of Zaireen.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the regional security situation, particularly on developments in Afghanistan and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. They deliberated on strengthening regional collaboration under the aegis of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Foreign Minister Bhutto's visit to Iran is part of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries. The last meeting between the two Foreign Ministers was held on the sidelines of World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos on 26th May 2022.

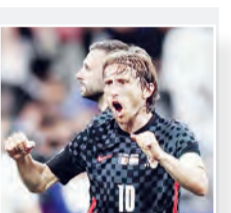
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France's Nations League Final Four Hopes Vanish  
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## Iran Most Transparent Country in Nuclear Field

TEHRAN (IP) - Government Spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi at his weekly news conference, called Iran one of the most transparent countries in the field of nuclear activities.

Responding to a question, Bahadori Jahromi said that Iran has the most IAEA inspections in the nuclear field, which is not comparable to other countries.

He said that the nuclear negotiations have their own process and have nothing to do with the IAEA resolution. Bahadori Jahromi emphasized: "The negotiations have their own process and have nothing to do with the IAEA resolution."

He added: "The government has stated from the very beginning that it seeks to neutralize the sanctions, while it has not disrupted the negotiating table."

He further noted: The IAEA resolution after its Director General's visit to the Zionist regime shows the lack of independence of the IAEA and indicated that the recent resolution was approved under political pressures. **See Page 7**

## Greece Releases Iranian Oil Tanker

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Greek government has overturned its recent decision to confiscate an Iranian oil tanker, dismissing Washington's pressures which were behind the seizure in the first place.

According to a statement issued by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) on Tuesday, the Greek government ordered the release of the ship and its cargo despite sustained US efforts to do otherwise.

"The Greek government has eventually ordered the return of the cargo to its owner and lifted the seizure order thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive and prompt actions, the pursuit of the matter by relevant bodies, and the support from the Minister of Roads and Urban Development [Rostam Qasemi]," read the statement.

Late last month, Reuters quoted an unnamed Greek source as saying that the US Department of Justice had confiscated 700,000 barrels of the Iranian oil cargo. **See Page 7**

## Turkey's Construction of Wall Along Iran Border Nearly Over

ANKARA (Dispatches) - A report presented to the Turkish parliament subcommittee on migration has shown that Turkey has so far constructed a 1,079-kilometer-long wall along its borders with Iran to prevent the illegal entry of migrants and that the entire construction is almost complete.

Mostly Afghans and Pakistanis travel on foot along the borders with Iran and enter Turkey.

According to daily Milliyet, on June 13, the report also highlighted the construction of 1,021 kilometers of roads for patrolling, and some 341 towers have also been completed.

Speaking at the presentation in the sub-commission, Mehmet Emin Bilmez, the former governor of the eastern province of Van, which borders Iran, said, "Keeping the security precautions on a high level, we aim to show the world that Turkish borders cannot be crossed easily." **See Page 7**

## Novin Tejarat Bashmaq Co. Urges Turkmenistan to Resolve Trade Bottlenecks



Novin Tejarat Bashmaq Trading Company, active in the field of foreign trade with neighboring countries, stated in connection with the debt of Turkmen traders affiliated with the Turkmen government to this company: The process of trading with Turkmen traders has faced serious challenges due to non-receipt of receivables. Abdullah Dashti, Chairman of the Board of Directors, added: In March 2015, by attending the Iran Exhibition of Ashgabat-Turkmenistan Project in cooperation with the Trade Development Organization, National Iranian Gas Company and with the presence of Iranian and Turkmen companies, the field of negotiations with Turkmen business parties and government-responsible relations. Supply of raw materials Turkmen ministries and government agencies have been acquainted and we entered into negotiations to supply the materials they need. Dashti added: In December 2015, with the presence of a Turkmen business partner in Tehran, a final agreement was reached that the needs of the Turkmen Ministry of Chemistry and Sombar Company under the Food and Drug Administration of Turkmenistan were met. Unfortunately, we received only \$ 183,335 of this amount and \$ 544,076 remained unpaid. Noting the lack of legal will and power to withdraw claims from Turkmen businessmen, the economic activist continued: "Turkmen parties have always claimed that the Turkmen government has not paid their claims and will be able to pay its debts to the company until the government pays their claims." are not. The economic activist stated that the company's capital was limited and provided by bank facilities, and the non-payment of obligations by the Turkmen side had placed the company in a risky financial situation and was facing bankruptcy. Legal counsel and payment of court fees in foreign currency, final verdicts were issued on the Turkmen party's sentence to pay \$ 598,483 plus court fees, which, despite the certainty of the verdict and the issuance of the executive order, due to the convict's dependence on the Turkmen government, no positive action has been taken in favor of this company. Referring to the follow-up of the issue through Iranian government institutions, Dashti noted: to correspondence with governmental organizations and bodies, including the Presidential Institution, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Minister for International Affairs of the Judiciary and the Embassy of the Government of Turkmenistan in Tehran. We have held a peaceful sit-in in front of the Turkmen Embassy in Tehran and protested against the non-execution of the final court ruling and the desired response to this company, but the above permit was not approved. In Tehran, he promised and emphasized that without the need to sit in front of the embassy, as was done in the

sentence of justice, it will be realized in the implementation and as soon as possible, they will address the above issue and solve the company's problem, but unfortunately, no effective action has been taken so far. Eventually, all of these bodies led us to the State Department. The ministry also says that we have done our best in this regard and we have done what was our duty and we cannot do anything outside of it. Turkmen court offers to pay the debt of the convict: polyethylene pipe, mineral water and manat with government rate instead of dollar. Despite the fact that the costs of litigation in the courts of Turkmenistan were paid in foreign currency during the last reply received from the Turkmen embassy, the repayment of the financial obligation is the subject of a court order explicitly issued in foreign currency. Novin Tejarat Bashmaq Company has been suggested to indicate the utter indifference and intention of this government to trample on the financial rights of the Iranian company, because the repayment of the foreign exchange obligation in manat and at the government rate or in the form of goods will not amount to 10% of the original foreign exchange demand. Due to administrative corruption, lack of transparency and conflict of interests in the structure of this government, the court ruling remained uncollected and even the managers of the Iranian company were repeatedly insulted and ridiculed by the convict and the possibility of traveling to this government to pursue the claims. He has been hardened. Emphasizing the Turkmen government's commitment and support to foreign nationals and businessmen under the international convention, the private-sector activist said: "If our diplomatic apparatus is serious about pursuing the company's claims, this business case will lead to the company's claims." He added that these demands are part of the national capital. It is the duty of government diplomacy to enter into the bureaucracy that prevails in Turkmenistan and the hierarchy that has been set up with a special structure, and to be able to achieve the effective result that Iranian businessmen want, so if the government cannot solve the problems of businessmen and businessmen. How to really expect the development and expansion of production and exports. In addition to the recent visit of the President of Turkmenistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran at the head of the country's high-level economic delegation to sign a joint economic memorandum, what guarantee is there that Iranian businessmen in the Turkmen swamp will not face such a challenge? As a loss-making company from Turkmenistan, we ask our dear Iranian businessmen and businessmen not to have any trust in Turkmen businessmen and government officials, because they do not follow any trade and international law, can one trust a government that supports its citizens in seeking to plunder the capital of Iranian businessmen? This proposal should in fact be considered a kind of mockery of the principles of international trade and in fact cannot be claimed with modern patriarchal rule. In the meantime, the diplomatic apparatus of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be present with an authoritative presence to prevent the plunder of Iranian national capital and the rights of Iranian businessmen. Internal support is being abused. Finally, we urge the President of Turkmenistan and the accompanying delegation to address this issue as soon as possible so that we can reach our legal right after six years and get out of this critical economic situation.

# Iran, Turkmenistan FMs Meet in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign ministers of Iran and Turkmenistan met on Tuesday noon here in Tehran ahead of Turkmen President's trip to Iran.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian hosted his Turkmen counterpart Rashit Meredow as Turkmenistan's President Serdar Berdimuhamedow was traveling to Iran late Monday heading a high-ranking delegation.

The Turkmen president will be accorded an official reception in Saadabad Palace in northern Tehran and, then, will meet Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi.

## President Calls for Promoting Status of Elites

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN - Emphasizing the importance of utilizing the expertise of elites and academics in the governing system, President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said, "It is important to provide effective mechanisms to form an effective relationship between the government and the institution of science so that we can fully utilize the scientific potential of academic and elite centers".**

In a meeting chaired by President Raisi, a group of presidents of the country's universities and a number of executive officials discussed ways to make the most of the elite's capacity.

At this meeting, it was decided to form a committee managed by the Presidential Centre for Strategic Studies so that with the participation of academics and executive officials, it can present and pursue appropriate practical and fast-track executive methods to better utilize the scientific and research potential of universities in government.

Emphasizing the importance of attracting and utilizing the expert and scientific potential of elites and academics in the governing system, the President called it necessary to design mechanisms to facilitate and strengthen the government's relationship with the country's elite network and said, "It is important that effective mechanisms are formed to provide an effective relationship between the government and the institution of science so that we can take full advantage of the scientific and research potential of academic and elite centers".



Emphasizing the need to respect the position of elites and academics and pay attention to their concerns, especially in the field of livelihood, Raisi added, "If there is a legal shortcoming on the path of eliminating the concerns of the country's elites, it should be pursued through preparing a bill and presenting it to the parliament".

The President also stressed the importance of preserving the dignity of elites and academics and the need to pay attention to their livelihood, saying, "The relevant executive departments must work in this area and take steps to maintain and strengthen the status and dignity of elites".

He said, "Elites, intellectuals and faculty members should play an important role in educating specialized, committed and efficient human resources without worrying about their livelihood".

In this meeting, a number of university presidents, while expressing concerns and challenges in using the capacities of scientific centers, announced the readiness of universities and faculty members to participate in solving problems and help meet the country's needs in science, research and technology.

## Leader Urges Efforts to Develop Innovative Industries

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Supreme Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei urged the country's officials to double their efforts to develop innovative industries and companies.

Ayatollah Khamenei urged officials to do so on Monday in response to a letter sent to his office by Sorena Sattari, the Vice-president for Science and Technology.

In his letter, Sattari called for alignment between the three branches of the government, the Legislative, the Judiciary and the Executive, in order to accelerate the development of innovative industries and companies.

He made the demand in line with the slogan of the Iranian year 1401 (started on March 21, 2022) that was designated the year of "knowledge-based production and job creation" by the Supreme Leader.

Sattari, in his letter, referred to that designation and highlighted the importance of knowledge-based economy which he said needs to be accompanied by innovative industries and soft technology in order to grow.

He mentioned some of the reasons behind the fast-growing innovative industries in the world and explained how they contribute to job creation.

Sattari said that such industries have not been much developed in Iran despite the vast capacities the country has, and called for alignment between the three branches of the government to speed up the development of these industries.

## Tehran Sees No Limits For Expansion of Cultural Relations With Brazil



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Culture Mohammad Mahdi Esmaeili said on Monday that Iran feels no limits for further promotion of cultural ties with Brazil.

Speaking during a meeting in Tehran with Brazilian Ambassador to Iran Laudemar Goncalves de Aguiar Neto, Esmaeili said that the Iranian Ministry of Culture is ready to help hold joint cultural and artistic events between Iran and Brazil.

He noted that producing joint cinema works or holding film weeks between the two countries can help the two nations get more familiar with each other.

The minister believed that the language of culture and art is the most accessible tool for interacting with different countries.

The Brazilian ambassador, for his part, said that cultural diplomacy can help the Iranian and Brazilian people get more familiar with each other, noting that such a diplomacy can also thwart the Western propaganda against Iran.

He said that a recent act by certain western countries to sanction some Russian artists was a completely unacceptable act as he said culture should only be used as a tool for boosting cultural diplomacy between nations.

## First Group of Iran's Tour Guides Arrives in Venezuela

TEHRAN (MNA) - First group of Iranian tour guides has arrived in Venezuela, Venezuela's Minister of Tourism and Foreign Trade Ali Padron said.

In a tweet, Padron announced the arrival of the first group of Iranian tourist guides to the Latin American country to enhance Venezuela's tourism industry.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, during an official visit to Iran, in a meeting with President Ebrahim Raisi, had called for the will of the two states to bolster bilateral cooperation in different areas related to strategic interests.

Also, Maduro had announced Venezuela and Iran's determination to establish a direct Tehran-Caracas flight to boost tourism for the two countries and announced the timing of the flight from June 18.

## No Proposal on Leaving NPT

TEHRAN (IFP) - The head of the media center of Iran's Expediency Council has denied a report that Saeed Jalili and Ali Larijani, both members of the body, clashed verbally at a session of the council on Saturday over quote Jalili's proposal that Iran should leave the NPT.

Hassan Rahimi said the meeting of the council happened in a peaceful atmosphere and without any tension.

He added that reviewing and deciding the general policies of Iran's Seventh Development Plan topped the agenda of the meeting.

Rahimi noted that in the session, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, gave a report on the latest state of the nuclear deal revival talks following the IAEA's resolution against Tehran as well as Iran's countermeasures.

The head of the Expediency Council's media center noted that all the participants only listened to Shamkhani's report and no dialog happened among them.

He then pointed to the media report that Jalili had proposed that Iran leave the NPT, saying such a proposal was not made in the first place at all.

Earlier, Iran's Sazandegi news website quoted a pro-government Telegram channel as saying that Jalili had caused a controversy at the meeting of the Expediency Council by making that proposal.

## President Accepts Labor Minister's Resignation

TEHRAN (PresSTV) - Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki has resigned from his post after coming under mounting criticism over his job creation record and insufficient rise in retirement pensions.

Abdolmaleki announced his resignation in a letter to President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday, saying he has decided to step down so that the cabinet would become more coordinated.

Abdolmaleki is the first minister in Raisi's administration to leave office. He won the parliament's vote of confidence last August and resigned only 300 days after assuming the post.

Iranian government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi said on Tuesday morning that Raisi has accepted



Abdolmaleki's resignation and has designated Mohammad Hadi Zahedivafa, who is currently deputy first vice president for economic coordination and supervision, as the caretaker labor minister.

"Yesterday, Mr. Abdolmaleki presented his resignation to the President for the second time, and his resignation was approved. We are grateful for his strenuous efforts at the helm of the labor ministry, which were valiant and round-the-clock,"

Bahadori Jahromi said.

"He will of course continue his cooperation with the administration and will serve as an advisor to the president starting today," he added.

According to reports, Zahedivafa holds a doctorate in economics from Ottawa University, Canada.

## Interior Minister Criticizes West on Children's Rights

TEHRAN (IP) - The interior minister called the Western countries' views on children and adolescents 'deceptive', which could be a major scandal for them.

"The children of Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen are being oppressed, but the Western governments are not protesting, and no voice is being heard from them," said Ahmad Vahidi, speaking at the first National Conference for the Protection of Injured Children and Adolescents at Risk.

This is while backed by the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and several other countries invaded Yemen in March 2015. The outbreak of war by Saudi Arabia and its allies in Yemen has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions of Yemenis. Yemen is still under the Saudi attacks and blockade.

The Iranian Interior Minister also said that the United States' criminal act in Afghanistan increased the homelessness and displacement of children there.

Vahidi added: "The mentality of Western countries in the field of children is shaped in the form of the International Convention on the Child, which does not pay so much attention to the moral issues and spiritual development of children."

The Interior Minister pointed out that Iran is trying to educate immigrant children, and this is because of humanitarian aid.

## Future of Vienna Talks Hinges on U.S. Decision Regarding Sanctions

TEHRAN (IFP) - A member of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy commission says the future of the Vienna talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal depends on the U.S. side's approach.

Abolfazl Amouei said if the U.S. seeks to keep in place anti-Iran sanctions, the negotiations will get nowhere.

Amouei however noted that if the other side is ready to lift the bans, the talks will produce results quickly. He also referred to the IAEA's recent resolution against Iran, calling it politically-motivated.

The MP said the resolution also ignored Iran's technical cooperation with the UN atomic agency and judged it in a biased way.

Amouei said the Vienna talks are not directly tied to cooperation with the IAEA but if the ambiguities caused by the agency are not resolved, no lasting deal will be reached in Vienna.

## Exporting Natural Gas to Turkey Rather Than Iraq

TEHRAN (IFP) - The secretary of the Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters Union has proposed replacement of Iraq with Turkey as the destination for Iranian natural gas exports.

"Instead of exporting natural gas to Iraq and not being able to get its money, we can export the gas to other destinations like Turkey," Hamid Hosseini said in an interview with ILNA, the Iranian Labor News Agency.

"I have not information on the process of natural gas export to the country [Iraq] after it was reduced due to non-payment of debts, but past experience has shown that we should insist on our claims after exports to this country."

Hosseini added that Iraqis will continue to hesitate about payment of their debt if Iran ever tries to compromise with them.

"We should not worry about extension of contracts with this country because they have no source to supply them with natural gas other than Iran... Currently, Ankara is ready to import [our] natural gas during summer with a higher price," he said.

The official noted that Iran is under no obligation to export to Iraq while it keeps ignoring payment of its debts.

## Kyrgyzstan Urges Iran To Set Up Hospital

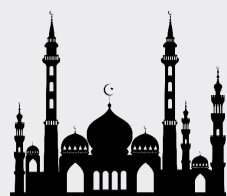
TEHRAN (MNA) - Tordogan Sedigov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Iran said that Kyrgyzstan has called on Iran to express views on the establishment of a hospital.

Sedigov made the remarks in a meeting with Pir-Hossein Koliivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRSC), adding that both sides' Red Crescent Societies have enjoyed a good relationship over the past 20 years.

He called for bolstering mutual ties, referring to Iran's aid in the flood that hit the country 20 years ago.

"We will analyze the conditions and possibility of setting up a Red Crescent Medical Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kyrgyzstan," he underlined.

Iran is rich in human resources and medical personnel, he said, adding that Iran can provide its services in Kyrgyzstan after completing the necessary information and coordination.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:05
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:43
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:01
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:48

72. Those who witness no falsehood, and, if they pass by futility, they pass by it with honourable (avoidance);  
73. Those who, when they are admonished with the Signs of their Lord, droop not down at them as if they were deaf or blind;

Surah 25. The Criterion, The Standard (72 - 73)

## Maduro Discusses Oil Exports in Tehran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - Oil Minister Javad Owji and visiting Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro have exchanged views on bilateral energy cooperation, following the arrival of an Iran-flagged tanker in Venezuelan waters in yet another blow to Washington's tough sanctions against Tehran and Caracas.**

During their meeting on Monday, Owji and Maduro discussed issues related to fuel supplies as well as the export of petroleum products, petrochemical products, and petrochemical catalysts.

They also made decisions on the export of technical and engineering services, the reconstruction and modernization of refineries, and the development of oil and gas fields.

On the same day, an Iran-flagged tanker carrying about 1 million barrels of crude reportedly arrived in Venezuelan waters to deliver its shipment to state-run oil firm PDVSA.

The cargo is the third of Iranian crude supplied by Iran's Naftiran Intertrade Co (NICO) to Venezuela's state-run oil firm PDVSA following a supply contract providing the South American nation with lighter crude, Reuters reported on Monday, citing a shipping document.

In early May, the Suezmax tanker Sonia I departed from Iran's Kharg Island port



and touched waters close to Venezuela's Amuay refinery after a month-long journey, according to an official notice of its arrival and Refinitiv Eikon vessel data.

Two other Iran-flagged tankers, the very large crude carriers (VLCCs) Dino I and Silvia I, had arrived last month at Venezuelan ports carrying the first cargoes of Iranian crude for Venezuela. They later loaded Venezuelan heavy oil and fuel for Iran in exchange, according to the tracking data and PDVSA's schedules.

Iran has sent several cargoes of fuel to Venezuela and helped in refinery repairs since 2020, frustrating Washington's attempt to slap tough sanctions on both nations.

Last month, Venezuela began importing Iranian heavy crude, widening a swap agreement signed last year to exchange Iranian condensate for Venezuelan heavy crude.

The contract signed by Iranian and Venezuelan state companies in May also covers refurbishing and expanding PDVSA's 146,000-barrel-per-day El Palito refinery.

## Steel Alloy Industry Facing With Higher Value Added



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - CEO of Iran Alloy Steel Company says that in the steel alloys, they face higher value added with matrices in bigger sizes with different grades and huge number of customers.

Speaking in the first Steel Price Conference on Advanced High Value Added Steels, Mr. Alireza Chaychi said that improvement of industrial culture is inspired from the industrial infrastructures and one of its most important subcategories is steel alloy.

He noted that they face with higher value added with matrices in bigger sizes with different grades and huge number of customers in the steel alloy sector. He added that over 6m people worldwide directly and over 40m indirectly are working in the steel industry and some 49m people are also involved in the consumer industries.

Chaychi went on to say that they have witnessed some 1.2 trillion dollars of indirect production, some half a trillion dollars of direct production and some 1.2 trillion dollars in the consumption sector. He said that apparent steel use per capita in Iran 217 kilograms and the total amount of apparent steel use in the country is 18.2m tons.

He added that but the apparent steel use per capita in the world is 232 kilograms while the apparent steel use in the world is 1833m tons.

Chaychi went on to say that steel alloy production in Iran was one million tons in 2021 and the production per capita was 12 kilogram while the steel alloy production in the world in 2021 was 234m tons and per capita production was 30 kilograms.

He then pointed to the macro developmental projects of Iran Steel Alloy Company and said the new plant of the company with annual production of 700,000 tons of melt is one of them. He stated the launch of wire production line with dimension of mm 5-25 and mm5-18 for the alloy and carbon grades with the production capacity of 400,000 tons per year.

## Iran Agrees to Boost Transit Tariffs for TRACECA

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Roads and Urban Development Rostam Qasemi referred to Iran's plan to develop transportation cooperation with the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Transport Corridor (TRACECA) and stressed the agreement to increase the volume of transit and adjust transportation tariffs.

Qasemi made the remarks in a meeting with Secretary-General of the PS IGC TRACECA Asset Assavbayev.

He said that TRACECA member states have specific capacities and each enjoys its own geopolitical characteristics.

These roles, including in sea and land transportation, can facilitate regional transportation, he added.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a member of TRACECA, has its own characteristics in the North-South and

East-West corridors, as well as in the maritime sector in the waters of Mazandaran and the southern waters, he noted.

Qasemi went on to say that Iran has no limitation for maintaining cooperation in land and maritime sectors.

He also offered readiness for lifting visa requirements with all TRACECA member states.

Meanwhile, Assavbayev emphasized Iran's role in TRACECA, saying that the connection between the north and south of Iran and taking advantage of this transit route is very important for the member states.

He hoped for finalizing agreements between Iran and Kazakhstan.

He stressed launching a feeder vessel line in Iran's northern ports and adjusting transit tariffs from northern to southern ports.

TRACECA is an international transport program involving the European Union and 12 member states of the Eastern European, Caucasus, and Central Asia. The program's aim is to strengthen economic relations, trade, and transport in the regions of the Black Sea basin, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia.



## Only 37% of Households Are High-Consuming

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN- Manager of the consumption management office of Esfahan Electricity Distribution Company in a press conference said that only 37% of household subscribers are high-consuming and added that consumption pattern in Isfahan in hot months is 300 kilowatts per hour in a month and in the non-hot months is 200 kilowatts per hour.

Morsel Salehi reiterated that all should optimize consumption and service of gas and water coolers and renewing their filters or damaged parts can help efficient electricity consumption and subscribers should use high-consuming appliances in the low load hours.

He went on to say that in the summer, the peak load hours are between 19 to 23p.m. and in the winter it is between 17 to 21 p.m. and subscribers should not use their high-consuming appliances in the peak load hours.

Salehi reiterated that TV sets use high amount of electricity as the TV set creates heat, adding that cleaning the lamps or using sensor lamps in the halls will help electricity to be reduced.

He went on to say that the company is working to slap deterrent plans for reduction of electricity consumption, reiterating that if the household consumption exceeds 300 kilowatts per hour in a month, the company will impose heavy fines for them.

Salehi noted that the company is to reduce the peak load of electricity for 147 megawatts in order to balance the distribution in the summer.



## Tehran, Baghdad Ink MoU on Tourism Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami and Iraq's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Hassan Nazem in a meeting on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on tourism cooperation.

Zarghami met and held talks with Nazem on Monday in Tehran, Iran.

Describing the MoU between Iran and Iraq as facilitating cultural and tourism ties between the two states, Zarghami said that Iran and Iraq relations are deep-rooted and the two nations look forward to removing barriers and facilitating better relations.

Referring to the pivotal role of cultural heritage and tourism among the nations, he noted that it has a high capacity for convergence and unity between the two nations, and added that it can strengthen other areas, including political and economic diplomacy.

Describing pilgrimage tourism as the most significant area of cooperation between the two sides, Zarghami highlighted that Arbaeen is the largest human community and a unique phenomenon in the world that the two sides should cooperate on it.

Pointing to the significance of his trip to Iran, Nazem said that Iraq has planned to operationalize joint projects with Iran following the ease in the COVID-19 restrictions.

Stressing the importance of religious tourism between Iran and Iraq, he called for the importance of bilateral cooperation on this issue after the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the signed MoU, the two sides are ready to provide visa facilities for tourists of both countries, as well as the exchange of laws, guidelines, and banking facilities in the field of tourism investment in infrastructure projects, including hotel building.



## Tehran, Kabul Explore Ways to Cooperate on Railways

TEHRAN (MNA) - The heads of the railways of Iran and Afghanistan met on Monday in Tehran to discuss avenues of mutual cooperation and ways for resuming halted joint projects, the portal of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) reported.

In this meeting, Miad Salehi and Bakht-ur-Rehman Sharafat talked about resuming the reconstruction and the completion of the third section of the Khaf-Herat railway.

Speaking at this gathering, Salehi stressed the Iranian government's policies for expanding cooperation with neighboring countries and said: "Based on the policies of the 13th government administration and the transport diplomacy that is being followed by the government, very good agreements have been reached with neighboring countries in recent months."

"We also welcome cooperation with Afghanistan," Salehi said, adding: "If Afghanistan is ready for long-term cooperation and practical agreements with our

country, we will also declare our readiness in this regard."

The RAI head also expressed Iran's determination to launch the Khaf-Herat railway as soon as possible and stressed the need to take operational steps to determine the requirements and ways to make this route operational.

The official also suggested that Iranian companies can finance the project and in return, Afghanistan can award them the development of the country's mines.

He also called on the Afghan side to ensure the safety and security of Iranian companies that are going to work in the country.

"Iran and Afghanistan have many capacities, but these potential capacities are not used properly and the enemies are happy with the backwardness of our countries," Salehi said.

Sharafat, the head of the Afghan Railways Administration, for his part said: "The Afghan government welcomes cooperation with Iran."

## MAPNA Invited to Start Projects in Venezuela

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's top energy and engineering company MAPNA has been invited by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to start large-scale projects in the country.

MAPNA's CEO Abbas Aliabadi said on Monday that Maduro had invited engineers and experts from the company to attend talks within the next 15 days in his office in Caracas to discuss major energy projects, including the construction of power plants in the South American country. Aliabadi said the invitation was made after Maduro visited MAPNA facilities in Tehran during an official visit to the Iranian capital last week. He said Venezuela has also expressed willingness to award contracts to MAPNA for supply of equipment needed in its petroleum and railway sectors.

Iran and Venezuela have developed close economic and political ties in recent years as they seek to counter American sanctions targeting their energy sectors. The two countries signed a 20-year plan for economic cooperation during Maduro's visit to Iran. Aliabadi said Venezuela can become a major market for Iranian engineering companies because of a pent-up demand for construction of electricity stations in the country.

"With a population of 28 million people, Venezuela has only 12,000 megawatts of power plants and this is a very suitable market for Iranian companies to execute numerous projects there," he was quoted as saying by the IRIB News.



## Bachelet Not to Seek Second Term

GENEVA (Dispatches) - UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet said Monday she will not seek a second term, ending months of speculation amid growing criticism of her lax stance on rights abuses in China.

"As my term as High Commissioner draws to a close, this Council's milestone 50th session will be the last which I brief," Bachelet told the UN Human Rights Council as it opened a four-week sitting.

She provided no explanation for her decision.

The 70-year-old former Chilean president, who will wrap up her four-year mandate at the end of August, had until now remained mum about whether she would seek to stay on for a second term.



## Beijing Tests Millions to Stem Developing COVID Cluster

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Authorities in China's capital Beijing raced on Monday to contain a COVID-19 outbreak traced to a 24-hour bar known for cheap liquor and big crowds, with millions facing mandatory testing and thousands under targeted lockdowns.

The outbreak of 228 cases linked to the Heaven Supermarket Bar, which had just reopened as restrictions in Beijing eased last week, highlights how hard it will be for China to make a success of its "zero COVID" policy as much of the rest of the world opts to learn how to live with the virus.



## Macron Fights to Save His Parliamentary Majority



PARIS (Dispatches) - President Emmanuel Macron could lose his outright majority in France's parliament and the ability to push through his economic reform agenda with a free hand after a strong showing by a new left-wing alliance in the first round of voting.

Macron's centrist alliance and the NUPES coalition led by the hardleft veteran Jean-Luc Melenchon each won 26% of the vote amid record abstentions on Sunday, though it is the June 19 second round alone that will determine the division of seats. Elabe projected Macron's Ensemble! alliance would win between 260-295 National Assembly seats - with the mark for an outright majority set at 289 seats - and that the left would secure 160-210 seats, a big increase from 2017.

"Come out and vote next Sunday to reject the evil politics of Mr Macron," Melenchon tweeted after Sunday's vote. If Macron's centrist alliance loses its outright majority in the run-off round, the president will be forced into making messy pacts with factions of the centre right or centre left who refuse to align with Melenchon on a bill-by-bill basis. It could also trigger a cabinet reshuffle.

At stake is Macron's ability to pass reforms including a contested pension reform that would see the French work longer, a change the former investment banker says is necessary to ensure long-term order to the public finances.

His opponents on the left are pushing to cut the pension age and launch a big spending drive as surging inflation drives the cost of living higher and erodes wages. Melenchon depicts Macron as an economic liberal who protects the rich and not hard-up households. Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne defended the ruling party's performance on Sunday.

"Contrary to the words of Mr Melenchon, who really has a problem with reality, we are the political force that has

the most candidates in the second round, there are candidates from presidential majority in three-quarters of constituencies, and we will mobilise this week to win a clear and strong majority," she told reporters in her Calvados constituency.

However, in a sign of investor unease at the prospect of Macron losing full control of the lower house, French banking stocks fell in Monday trading.

France's third largest listed bank Societe Generale had dropped 3.6%, underperforming the CAC40 index which was down 2.1%. Its two larger peers BNP Paribas (BNPP.PA) and Credit Agricole lost 2.8% and 3.2% respectively.

"A nervy wait ahead of the second round," Deutsche Bank wrote in a client briefing note.

No poll shows NUPES winning a ruling majority - a scenario that would plunge the euro zone's second largest economy into an unstable period of cohabitation, where the president and prime minister come from different political groups.

Ensemble! won 25.75% of the popular vote while the NUPES bloc secured 25.66%, according to the Interior Ministry's final tally.

Several Melenchon allies accused Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin of manipulating the count by not including some candidates who had publicly said they supported the left-wing alliance within the bloc's tally.

The Interior Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Budget Minister Gabriel Attal said: "(The left) always call into question the figures ... it's their speciality."

## Russian Artillery Bombards Sievierodonetsk

KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian forces swarmed into the eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk and pounded a zone where hundreds of civilians were sheltering, a Ukrainian official said - a scene that mirrored Moscow's assault on Mariupol last month.

Pro-Moscow separatists claimed the last bridge out of Sievierodonetsk had been destroyed and Ukrainian defenders there must now surrender or die. Ukraine said there was still another way out, although that route was severely damaged.

Ukraine has issued increasingly urgent calls for more Western weapons to help defend Sievierodonetsk, which Kyiv says could hold the key to the outcome of the battle for control of the eastern Donbas region and the future course of the war.

"The battles are so fierce that fighting for not just a street but for a single high-rise building can last for days," regional governor Sergei Gaidai said on social media.

Russian forces now controlled about 70% of Sievierodonetsk, he said, and were destroying it "quarter by quarter" in one of the bloodiest assaults since they launched their invasion on Feb. 24.

"Russians continue to storm the city, having a significant advantage in artillery they have somewhat pushed back the Ukrainian soldiers," said Gaidai, who is governor of the Luhansk region that includes Sievierodonetsk.

Russian artillery fire pummelled the Azot chemical plant, where hundreds of civilians were sheltering, he said.

"About 500 civilians remain on the grounds of the Azot plant in Sievierodonetsk, 40 of them are children. Sometimes the military manages to evacuate someone," he said, noting the lack of a cease-fire

agreement or agreement on evacuation corridors.

Russia's RIA news agency quoted a pro-Moscow separatist spokesperson, Eduard Basurin, as saying the last bridge over the Siverskyi Donets river linking Sievierodonetsk and its Ukrainian-held twin city Lysychansk had been destroyed on Sunday. Ukrainian troops were effectively blockaded in Sievierodonetsk and should surrender or die, he said.

Gaidai also said one crossing was destroyed on Sunday, but there was still another "half destroyed" bridge remaining, though it could not be used for heavy vehicles.

Ukraine's account of civilians trapped in an industrial plant echoed the fall of Mariupol last month, where hundreds of civilians and badly wounded Ukrainian soldiers were evacuated after being trapped for weeks in the Azovstal steelworks.



## Sweden Has Taken "Important Steps" to Meet Turkey's Demands

STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Sweden has taken important steps to meet Turkey's demands for approving Stockholm's NATO membership application, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Monday during a visit to Sweden.

Sweden and Finland applied to join the alliance last month, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Their applications have faced unexpected opposition from Turkey, which has been angered by what it deems is Swedish support of Kurdish militants and by a previous decision to withdraw arms export licenses to Turkey.

"I welcome that Sweden has already started to change its counter-terrorism legislation and that Sweden will ensure that the legal framework for arms export will reflect the future status as a NATO member with new commitments to allies," Stoltenberg said during a press conference with Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson.

"These are two important steps to address concerns that Turkey has raised." Andersson said Sweden had changed its terrorism laws and was in the process of further tightening.

"From the first of July we will also have even stronger legislation when it comes to the fight against terrorism. So here there are no questions about how strongly Sweden sees (on) terrorism and that we are willing to contribute to the fight against terrorism," she said.

Stoltenberg also said the aim was to have Sweden and Finland join NATO "as soon as possible" and that it was inconceivable that NATO allies would not come to Sweden's defense if it were attacked.

## Indian Muslim Groups Urge Followers to Avoid Protests

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - Leaders of prominent Islamic groups and mosques in India appealed to fellow Muslims on Monday to suspend plans for protests against derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) made by two members of the ruling Hindu nationalist party.

The message to eschew big gatherings was circulated after demonstrations took a violent turn last week, leading to the death of two Muslim teenagers and injuries to more than 30 people, including police.

"It is the duty of every Muslim to stand together when anyone belittles Islam but at the same time it is critical to maintain peace," said Malik Aslam, a senior member of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, a Muslim organization that operates in several Indian states.

In late May and early this month, two senior spokespersons for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made remarks that offended Muslims, in one case in a television debate and in the other on social media.

The party suspended both of them and said it condemned any insult towards any religion. Indian police have also filed official complaints against the

two, a step that can lead to a formal investigation, but that did not stop angry Muslims taking to the streets in protest over the remarks.

Police said they arrested at least 400 suspected rioters during unrest in several states, curfews were imposed and internet services were suspended in some places.

Modi has not commented on the anti-Islam remarks even as condemnation grew abroad. Countries including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Iran - all important trade partners for India - have lodged diplomatic protests.

Modi has played down his roots in a powerful Hindu nationalist group to which his party is affiliated since he came to power in 2014, but many minority Muslims in India have been questioning their place in society under BJP rule.

Critics say his BJP has pursued a confrontational line, promoting the idea that India is a Hindu nation and rounding on "anti-national" opponents. Many Muslims see as this as an attempt to marginalize their community, which comprises 13% of India's 1.35 billion population.



## Referendum Flop For Salvini; Right Eyes Local Gains



ROME (Dispatches) - Italian voters snubbed a weekend referendum on changes to the justice system, dealing a blow to Matteo Salvini, the leader of the rightist League party, who had championed the plebiscite.

Results released showed just 20.9% of people cast a ballot, the lowest ever for a referendum in Italy and well below the 50% threshold needed for the result to be valid.

The five questions related to a reform of Italy's notoriously inefficient judiciary, but critics said the issues were too technical for many voters.

"We have lost. It is pointless trying to deny it," said Roberto Calderoli, a League veteran and member of the Senate.

The national referendum was held alongside local votes for mayors in almost 1,000 towns and cities, testing the strength of parties ahead of next year's parliamentary elections.

The formal count does not begin until 2.00 p.m. (1200 GMT) but exit polls for the six major cities up for grabs showed center-right groups leading four of the races and the center-left ahead in two.

The center-right looked on course to take charge of the northern port city of Genoa and the Sicilian capital Palermo straight from the first round of voting, while run-off ballots looked likely in the other big centers.

In a surprise, the center-left was ahead in the northern city of Verona, traditionally a right-wing bastion, but where the conservatives failed to rally behind a joint candidate.

A total of 26 provincial and regional capitals were contested on Sunday, 18 of which are currently held by the center-right bloc made up of the League, Brothers of Italy and Forza Italia, led by former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.

The center-left alliance of the Democratic Party (PD) and the 5-Star Movement will claim progress if it increases its tally of five cities, while the PD will be hoping to top Brothers of Italy as the party with most support.

Brothers of Italy, which is the only major party not to be part of Prime Minister Mario Draghi's broad unity government, took just 4% of the vote at the last national election in 2018, but is now running at around 22% in the polls.

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## Bitcoin Dips to Lowest Levels Since 2020

LONDON (Dispatches) - Bitcoin tumbled Monday to an 18-month low under \$25,000 as investors shunned risky assets in the face of a global markets selloff.

The world's most popular cryptocurrency dived about 10 percent to hit \$24,692 in morning London deals, striking a level last seen in December 2020.

World stock markets have plunged since Friday when data showed US inflation at a fresh four-decade high, increasing recession fears.

"The correlation between the equity markets and bitcoin continues to" gain strength, said AvaTrade analyst Naeem Aslam.



## UK Economy Shrinks for Second Month in a Row

LONDON (Dispatches) - British economic output declined for a second month in a row in April, weighed down by decades-high inflation, official data showed.

Gross domestic product fell 0.3 per cent in April after a drop of 0.1 per cent in March, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. Output in the services, production and construction sectors fell — "the first time that all main sectors have contributed negatively to a monthly GDP estimate since January 2021", the ONS said, as the data added to fears of recession.

The ONS noted that "businesses continued to report the impact of price increases and supply chain shortages".

The data comes as the Bank of England is set to raise its main interest rate at a fifth straight meeting Thursday in a bid to cool the pace of price rises.

"Despite weakening economic growth, the Bank of England this week is expected to raise rates further as it seeks to get inflation under control," said Paul Craig, portfolio manager at Quilter Investors.

"While a recession is still a while away, it is looming on the horizon and its effects will begin to be felt in the UK well before we are officially in one." Inflation is being fuelled by soaring food and energy prices as economies reopen from pandemic lockdowns and following the invasion of Ukraine by major oil and gas producer Russia.

"Businesses from all sectors are facing unprecedented rises in raw material costs, soaring energy bills, and wage pressures," David Bharier, head of research at the British Chambers of Commerce, said following Monday's GDP data.

UK annual inflation stands at nine per cent, the highest level in 40 years, causing a cost-of-living crisis for millions of Britons.

In the United States meanwhile, Friday's forecast-beating inflation print has triggered expectations that the Federal Reserve will ramp up the pace of its interest-rate increases. That has sent investors running for cover, with world stock markets tumbling since Friday.

## Russia Earns \$98b From Fuel Exports in 100 Days of Ukraine War

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia earned 93 billion euros (\$98 billion) from fossil fuel exports during the first 100 days of its war in Ukraine, with the most sent to the European Union, according to research published Monday.

The report from the independent, Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) comes as Kyiv urges the West to sever all trade with Russia in the hopes of cutting off the Kremlin's financial lifeline.

Earlier this month, the EU agreed to halt most Russian oil imports, on which the continent is heavily dependent. Though the bloc aims to reduce gas shipments by two-thirds this year, an embargo is not in the cards at present.

According to the report, the EU took 61% of Russia's fossil fuel exports during the war's first 100 days, worth about 57 billion euros. The top importers were China at 12.6 billion euros, Germany at 12.1 billion euros and Italy at 7.8 billion euros.

The majority of Russia's fossil fuel revenues come from the sale of crude oil at 46 billion euros, followed by pipeline gas, oil products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and coal.

Even as Russia's exports plummeted in May, with countries and companies shunning its supplies over the Ukraine invasion, the global rise in fossil fuel prices continued to fill the Kremlin's coffers, with export revenues reaching record highs.

Russia's average export prices were about 60% higher than last year, according to the CREA.

Some countries have upped their purchases from Moscow, including China, India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and France, the report added.

"As the EU is considering stricter sanctions against Russia, France has increased its imports to become the largest buyer of LNG in the world," said CREA analyst Lauri Myllyvirta.

Since most of these are spot purchases rather than long-term contracts, France is consciously deciding to use Russian energy in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Myllyvirta added.

He called for an embargo on Russian fossil fuels to "align actions with words."



## Japan Gov't, BOJ Reiterate Concern Over Sharp Falls in Yen

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Tokyo is concerned about sharp falls in the yen currency and stands ready to "respond appropriately" if needed, Japan's top government spokesperson said on Monday, issuing a fresh warning to markets.

The remark echoed Friday's joint statement by the government and central bank, but failed to avert a plunge in the yen to 135.22 against the dollar, the currency's lowest level since October 1998.

"It's important that currency rates move in a stable way, reflecting fundamentals. But there have recently been sharp yen declines, which we are concerned about," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a regular news conference.

"We are ready to respond appropriately as needed, while communicating closely with each country's currency authorities."

Matsuno declined to comment on whether Tokyo would intervene to curb the sharp slump in the yen, however.

Unlike other major central banks, which are flagging aggressive interest rate hikes to tackle inflation, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) has repeatedly committed to keeping rates low, making Japanese assets less attractive for investors.

That increasing policy divergence has sent the yen down more than 15% against the dollar since early March.

Central bank chief Haruhiko Kuroda also warned of the disadvantages of yen declines, shifting away from his long-held stance that the currency's weakness was generally good for the export-reliant economy.

"The yen's recent sharp declines are negative for Japan's economy and therefore undesirable, as they make it hard for companies to set business plans," Kuroda, the bank's governor, told parliament on Monday.

"The BOJ will communicate closely with the government, and scrutinise the impact currency moves have on the economy and prices."

Kuroda repeated his pledge to keep monetary policy ultra-loose to support an economy yet to fully recover from the blow dealt by the coronavirus pandemic.

The yen briefly rallied late on Friday after the rare joint statement, seen as the strongest warning to date that Tokyo could intervene to support the currency.

But the currency lost momentum as the dollar strengthened after Friday's U.S. inflation data reinforced market expectations for the Federal Reserve to aggressively raise interest rates in the fight on surging inflation.

## Paris Snaps at Heels of London in Overseas Finance Investment Ranks

LONDON (Dispatches) - France made up more ground on Britain in attracting overseas direct investment into financial services last year, according to research by accountancy firm EY published on Monday.

Britain still retained top spot in the European

rankings - attracting 63 projects in 2021 - but the gap with second-placed France narrowed, with its neighbor recording 60, its highest number in the last decade.

Both nations enticed a higher number of projects in 2021 than in the previous year - up seven for Britain and 11 for France - bucking the trend for a contraction in Europe overall.

Foreign direct investment into financial services across Europe overall fell 2.8% last year, EY said.

London stayed top of the city table, with 39 projects in 2021, but this was less than half the 86 projects it chalked up in 2018. Paris recorded 38, just one project behind London.

Britain's top spot showed it retained its appeal for international investors after Brexit, EY's researchers said, but they said France was catching up.

"France in particular is growing quickly, closing the gap with the UK, and even overtaking it in attracting the highest number of investment projects from the U.S. for the first time," said Omar Ali, a financial services managing partner at EY.

Spain, Germany and Ireland rounded out the top five countries in EY's rankings, while Madrid, Dublin and Berlin completed the top five cities.

Britain continued to attract proportionally more new projects than France - which tend to generate more jobs - rather than expansions to existing projects, EY said.

Britain was also seen as the most attractive European country for future financial services investment, ahead of Germany in second and France in third, an EY survey of global investors found.

## WB Says GST Better Than SST

KOTA KINABALU (Dispatches) - The goods and services tax (GST) is better than the sales and services tax (SST) because the GST widens a country's tax base and brings in more revenue, said the World Bank Group lead economist Dr Apurva Sanghi.

More than 170 countries around the world have adopted some kind of value-added tax (VAT) or GST system, and that is one reason why the GST is more efficient than the SST, he said.

"GST is a regressive system because it is based on a tax on consumption and 60 per cent of the economy depends on consumption.

"Early analysis shows that GST provides nearly twice as much tax revenue (compared) to SST. It is also self-billing because businesses must issue invoices to claim a refund," he said in an online press conference today.

The press conference was held in conjunction with the launch of the Malaysia Economic Monitor report, entitled "Catching Up: Inclusive Recovery and Growth for Lagging States", scheduled for June 16, 2022, in Kota Kinabalu.

Also present at the press conference was World Bank country manager for Malaysia Dr Yasuhiko Matsuda.

Apurva said the GST is not without its shortcomings, one of which is that the lower-income households consume more than the regular households which would affect them if a regressive tax system based on consumption like GST were implemented.

"Some countries use tax exemptions to address the regressiveness of the GST but in our view, tax exemptions may not be the best option.

"Instead, the government should increase the targeted spending to those affected," he said. Meanwhile, a report released today by the World Bank Group stated that the Malaysian economy is projected to expand by 5.5 per cent in 2022, driven mainly by a strong rebound in consumption.

The World Bank also projected Malaysia's economy to grow by 4.5 per cent in 2023 and 4.4 per cent in 2024.

It noted that the country's economic recovery is expected to continue this year, following a healthy 5 per cent growth in the first quarter of 2022.

The bank said the full withdrawal of movement restrictions and the reopening of the economy will reposition Malaysia on a quicker recovery path, while fiscal consolidation to support inclusive recovery across the country should remain a key priority but needs to be implemented gradually.

"As recovery becomes more entrenched, fiscal policy needs to refocus on addressing the fiscal impact of the Covid-19 crisis through increased revenue collection and greater spending efficiency.

"Beyond rebuilding fiscal buffers, new growth opportunities could be seized in the post-pandemic world," said the report.

## China Unveils Steps to Ease Fiscal Strains on Local Gov'ts



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's cabinet unveiled some steps on Monday to improve the allocation of resources among local governments to help ease their growing fiscal strains and debt risks, amid efforts to support the slowing economy.

In a document on fiscal reform below the provincial level, the State Council laid out steps to divide fiscal revenues and spending obligations among local governments, and transfer payments allocations.

China has in recent years taken measures to shore up finances of debt-laden local governments, partly via increased transfer payments from the central government.

But local governments still faced problems such as "unreasonable division" of fiscal revenues and spending responsibilities, the cabinet said.

The cabinet has pledged to increase annual tax cuts to 2.64 trillion yuan (\$392.09 billion), from an initial 2.5 trillion yuan, in a bid to support the slowing economy.

The central government would boost its transfer payments to local governments to nearly 9.8 trillion yuan this year to help offset any hit on local revenues, the finance ministry has said.

City and county-level authorities would have more stable sources of tax revenue, including those from finance, electric power, petroleum, railway, highways, the cabinet said.

China would establish a reasonable mechanism for transfer payments, and gradually increase the scale of general transfer payments, prioritising underdeveloped areas, the cabinet said.

Local governments would increase spending on education, scientific and technology research, social security, food security, as well as construction of major infrastructure projects, it said.

Local governments needed to step up the management of their debts through increasing revenues, cutting costs and selling assets, the cabinet said.

## Two Iranian Oil Tankers Dock at Syrian Shores

TEHRAN (MNA) – A Syrian newspaper reported on Tuesday that two Iranian oil tankers docked at the Syrian waters on Monday after agreements reached between Iran and Syria during the Syrian president's recent trip to Tehran.

The Syrian daily Al-Watan quoted informed sources as saying that two Iranian tankers docked off the Syrian coast on Monday, June 13th and wrote that this was the first sign of a new credit line between Iran and Syria has become operational. The newspaper said on Tuesday that "the tankers will be received according to pre-planned timetables and without any delays."



## Pakistan's Political Parties Blame Each Other for Economic Crisis

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan's political parties, the incumbent Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government and the ousted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government led by Imran Khan on Sunday blamed each other for the economic mess in the country.

Two days after the budget was formally presented in the National Assembly, the PML-N and the PTI continued to butt heads over each other's economic performance and the state of Pakistan's external debt, reported Dawn.

Earlier, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb took to Twitter to share a video clip of a news package featuring former finance minister Shaukat Tarin.

The clip was of a press conference Tarin held yesterday, in which he had said, "They (government) say ever since Pakistan was formed they (PTI) have raised the debt by 80 per cent. It did not increase by 80 per cent in the (four) years (of the PTI rule). It grew by 76 per cent."

Referring to those remarks, Aurangzeb said, "At last, Shaukat Tarin has admitted that Imran Khan took out loans worth Rs 20 thousand billion during his four-year tenure, which is 76 per cent of the loans taken out in Pakistan's history." She added that more such "admissions" would follow, reported Dawn.

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail then said, "Total public debt under PTI went from Rs 24,953 billion to Rs 44,366 billion, an increase of 78 pc. And total debt plus liabilities went from Rs 29,879 billion to Rs 53,544 billion, an increase of 79 pc. The PTI has added 79 pc in 3.75 years of all debt + liabilities added in the previous 71 years."

PTI's Fawad Chaudhry, meanwhile, said their government took out loans of USD 52 billion of which USD 38 billion was to pay back the loans taken out by the previous governments. "If you do not like the agreements made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), then why does the poor government go to the board?" he asked.

Responding to Aurangzeb, Chaudhry said she was bound to make such uninformed remarks when she spent all her time "playing Candy Crush" -- a mobile phone game. Yesterday, he claimed the government was not serious because Aurangzeb was "playing video games" during the post-budget press conference, reported Dawn.

Meanwhile, Tarin said that the PTI's economic performance over the last two years was the best in 30 years. "Stop deceiving people, they know the truth. Your performance is evident in the last eight weeks, pathetic," he said.

In a later tweet, Tarin claimed that while PTI's debt increased by 76 per cent "despite Covid when tax burdens increased the world over", the PML-N increased debt by 79 per cent during their time.



The economic survey of Pakistan revealed that total external debt had touched \$88.8 billion (Rs 16.29 trillion) by the end of March 2022, having increased by around \$2.3 billion over the first nine months of the outgoing fiscal year.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the budget represented "significant improvement" in several ways, reported Dawn.

"It has provided more educational opportunities for our youth, particularly from Balochistan and targeted subsidies for financially weaker people. More importantly, it has taxed non-productive assets of the rich," he said.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan, on the other hand, was still not convinced. "Given the special needs of tribal districts, my government had increased their funding by three times to Rs 131 billion. The imported government has budgeted only Rs 110 billion, reduced development funding, zero allocation for displaced persons and zero increase in the current budget. Shows incompetence and ill-intent of the government of crooks," he said.

## Malaysia Firms Turn Down Orders as Migrant Labor Shortage Hits



KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysian companies from palm oil plantations to semiconductor makers are refusing orders and forgoing billions in sales, hampered by a shortage of more than a million workers that threatens the country's economic recovery.

Despite lifting a COVID-19 freeze on recruiting foreign workers in February, Malaysia has not seen a significant return of migrant workers due to slow government approvals and protracted negotiations with Indonesia and Bangladesh over worker protections, say industry groups, companies and diplomats.

The export-reliant Southeast Asian nation, a key link in the global supply chain, relies on millions of foreigners for factory, plantation and service sector jobs shunned by locals as dirty, dangerous and difficult.

Manufacturers, who make up nearly one-fourth of the economy, fear losing customers to other countries as growth picks up.

"Despite the greater optimism in outlook and increase in sales, some companies are gravely hampered in their ability to fulfil orders," said Soh Thian Lai, president of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, which represents over 3,500 companies.

Palm oil growers are at breaking point, said Carl Bek-Nielsen, chief executive director of oil palm grower United Plantations.

"The situation is dire and very much like having to play a game of football against 11 men but only being allowed to field seven," he said.

Malaysia lacks at least 1.2 million workers across manufacturing, plantation and construction, a shortage worsening daily as demand grows with an easing of the pandemic, industry and government data show.

Manufacturers say they are short 600,000 workers, construction needs 550,000, the palm oil industry reports a shortage of 120,000 workers, chipmakers lack 15,000 and cannot meet demand despite a global chip shortage, and medical glovemakers say they require 12,000 workers.

Malaysia's manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index dropped to 50.1 in May from 51.6 in April, barely remaining in expansion, as the sector shed the most jobs since August 2020, according to data from S&P Global.

## Chilean Lake Turns to Desert, Sounding Climate Change Alarm

PENUELAS (Dispatches) - The Penuelas reservoir in central Chile was until twenty years ago the main source of water for the city of Valparaiso, holding enough water for 38,000 Olympic-size swimming pools. Water for only two pools now remains.

A huge expanse of dried and cracked earth that was once the lake bed is littered with fish skeletons and desperate animals searching for water.

Amid an historic 13-year drought, rainfall levels have slumped in this South American nation that hugs the continent's Pacific coast. Higher air temperatures have meant snow in the Andes, once a key store of meltwater for spring and summer, is not compacting, melts faster, or turns straight to vapor.

The drought has hit mine output in the world's largest copper producer, stoked tensions over water use for lithium and farming, and led capital Santiago to make unprecedented plans for potential water rationing.

## Iran Starts Pilot Transit Between Russia and India Through INSTC

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line Group (IRISL) has accommodated a pilot transit of cargo between Russia and India via a major international corridor that passes through Iran.

An Iranian official based in the Russia's Astrakhan said on Monday that the cargo that contained two 40-foot containers of wood products have started their journey from Russia's Saint Petersburg and will unload at India's Nhava Sheva port within less than 25 days.

Darius Jamali, who leads an Iranian-Russian port in Astrakhan, said the Russian cargo will travel through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) by arriving in the Caspian port of Anzali in Iran and passing through the southern port of Bandar Abbas to Nhava Sheva.

Jamali said it is a first time a cargo travels between

Russia and India through Iran and the INSTC with a single through bill of lading (TBL) document which allows the transportation of goods both within domestic borders and through international shipment.

He said IRISL's regional bureau in Russia and its subsidiary firms in India have accommodated the pilot transit of cargo.

Iran hopes it can benefit from a growing trade between Russia and India that has been caused by the war in Ukraine and the subsequent Western sanctions on Moscow.

Iranian officials say integrated transportation of cargo from Russia and Belarus to India will boost shipments through the INSTC and will increase Iran's transit revenues.

Experts say the completion of two missing rail links along the INSTC route in the Iranian territory will hugely boost transit through the corridor within the next few years.

## No Undeclared Nuclear Material

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has reiterated that Iran has no undeclared nuclear material, saying the claim made by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is based on forged and fabricated information by the "illegitimate Zionist regime" that is in possession of nuclear weapons.

Iran's atomic organization has translated the full text of its response to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s allegation to Persian to shed light on Iran's activities at three locations, singled out by the IAEA, for the public.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi in a report accused Iran of withholding information regarding the storage of nuclear material at the locations. In response, Iran provided technically credible explanations regarding the alleged presence of uranium particles in Turqz Abad, Varamin, and Marivan.

Grossi's report and his controversial visit to Israel to meet the regime's authorities ahead of the recent meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors triggered Iran's outcry. The UN nuclear watchdog approved an anti-Iran resolution during the meeting of the board of governors. Iran slammed the body for adopting the hostile resolution and warned the move will have serious consequences.

## Turkey's Construction...

FROM PAGE 1

Bilmez remarked that some three projects are still ongoing.

"The construction of a 560-kilometer modular wall and towers from [the eastern province of] Ağrı to [the southeastern province of] Hakkari is continuing," he said. "The construction of 103 kilometers of razor wires and the digging of 182 kilometers of ditches is nearly over."

Bilmez also said that some 34 out of the 64-kilometer-long wall along the Çaldıran borderline has been erected.

## Tehran Urges Probe...

FROM PAGE 1

Nearly three months after his arrest, Assadi was extradited to Belgium where he is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence.

In the letter, Gharibabadi condemned the actions taken by the authorities in Germany and Belgium against Assadi and his family as a "flagrant violation" of the country's international obligations.

The top rights official said Assadi had faced various forms of torture during his detention in Germany, including being kept in cold cells with insufficient clothing, deprived of proper food, as well as being incarcerated with dangerous criminals, and subjected to mistreatment by prison authorities.

The diplomat, he asserted, had been banned from contacting his family for 53 days during his incarceration in Germany in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Gharibabadi, who previously served as Iran's envoy to the Vienna-based organizations, termed the Belgian court's arrest warrant against Assadi baseless, adding that the Belgian authorities had subjected Assadi to "inhuman, humiliating and cruel" treatment.

Assadi, he hastened to add, has been denied the right of access to his children, and other relatives, amid wider restrictions, during his detention in Belgium.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, the foreign ministry spokesman, addressing a weekly press conference in Tehran on Monday called for the immediate release of Assadi.

Assadi's case, according to legal experts, is based on sham and unsubstantiated charges and smacks of political propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

Belgian authorities in June 2018 said the country's police had intercepted a car carrying homemade explosives, claiming that the Iranian diplomat handed the material to two people in Belgium.

He was accused of plotting an attack against the anti-Iran MKO terrorist outfit, a claim that has been strongly rejected by Iranian authorities.

## Iran Most Transparent...

FROM PAGE 1

A government spokesman further stated that the political resolutions of the Board of Governors are not new to the Iranian people. Iran has seen similar resolutions by the Board of Governors of the IAEA in previous governments.

Bahadori Jahromi noted that international institutions should act independently in accordance with international regulations, adding: "Iran has the most transparent nuclear activities."

He said that international institutions like IAEA should act independently and in accordance with international regulations.

He added: "The government has stated from the beginning that it seeks to neutralize the sanctions, while it has not disrupted the negotiating table. The issuance of the IAEA resolution after its Director General's visit to the occupied territories shows the lack of independence of the IAEA and the orderliness of the recent resolution."

Bahadori Jahromi said that international institutions should act independently and in accordance with international regulations, stating Iran has the most transparent nuclear activities in the world.

He highlighted: that Iran has not withdrawn from the JCPOA negotiating table, and the policy of the US' maximum pressure will have no effect on the negotiations.

He underlined that Iran is honorably continuing the negotiations with wisdom and expediency, and expects to be heard.

## Greece...

FROM PAGE 1

The source said that the oil cargo had been transferred to another ship hired by Washington and will be sent to the US.

At the time, the PMO described the US seizure of the Iranian oil cargo as an "act of piracy" that was "in violation of international standards."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also condemned the unacceptable surrender of Greece to illegal US pressures and reiterated that the seizure was an example of international piracy.

The seizure of the Iranian oil tanker took place at a time when the US administration claims that it seeks the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran deal. So far, talks for the revival of the 2015 deal have come to a standstill.

Days after the seizure, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) seized two Greek oil tankers in the Persian Gulf over violations.

Tehran and Athens had friendly relations before the unilateral US imposition of sanctions against Iran and countries working with it. The export of Iran's oil to Greece was halted as a result of the bans.

## Pirlo Named Coach of Fatih Karagumruk

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Former Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo has been appointed as manager of Turkey's top-tier side Fatih Karagumruk SK, the club said.

Juve sacked Pirlo in May 2021 following one season after he could only lead the reigning Serie A champions to fourth place in the 2020-21 campaign, his debut in a senior team manager role.

The 43-year-old has signed a one-year contract with the Istanbul-based Super Lig club, starting on July 1.

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## Chiellini Signs For Los Angeles FC

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini has joined Major League Soccer (MLS) side Los Angeles FC following his departure from Juventus, the centre back announced on Monday.

Chiellini left Serie A side Juventus at the end of the season after a 17-year career with the Turin club where he finished third on the club's all-time appearances list behind Alessandro Del Piero and Gianluigi Buffon.

# France's Nations League Final Four Hopes Vanish

PARIS (Dispatches) - Holders France failed to qualify for the final four of the Nations League when they slumped to a 1-0 defeat at home to Croatia as they stayed winless in the competition. The world champions, who have now lost two and drawn two, are bottom of Group 1 on two points, five adrift of Croatia who prevailed thanks to an early Luka Modric penalty.

Denmark beat Austria 2-0 to stay top on nine points and cannot be caught by France, who are in danger of being relegated, with two games left in the group.

Austria are third on four points. France coach Didier Deschamps reshuffled his team again as he looked to rest players at the end of the season and in all four matches this month never fielded the best possible lineup.

Les Bleus looked short of ideas in a defeat to Denmark plus draws against Croatia and Austria before Monday's loss to the team they beat in the World Cup final four years ago.

Croatia grabbed the early lead after five minutes when Modric converted a penalty after Ibrahima Konate fouled Ante Budimir. It was Modric's 22nd goal in 152 games for Croatia. Kylian Mbappe had two opportunities but it was the visitors who threatened most in the 17th minute through Josip Brekalo.

Deschamps made two changes at halftime, bringing in Aurelien Tchouameni for Boubacar Kamara in midfield and Benjamin Pavard for Jules Kounde on the right flank of the defence. Mbappe had another couple of chances but Ivica Ivusic saved comfortably as Croatia controlled the pace of the game.

Antoine Griezmann replaced Matteo Guendouzi with 10 minutes left in a last-ditch attempt by Deschamps to salvage a point. But it proved in vain as France failed to score for the first time after netting in their 23 previous games.

"It was a difficult month of June in terms of results. We did not have the energy and the strength against teams who had more than us," said Deschamps.

"We lost a bit of self-confidence along the way but it's mostly freshness that we lacked. When you play so many games it is very very hard."



Meanwhile Denmark breezed past a lacklustre Austria side with a 2-0 win in Copenhagen to stay top of Nations League Group A1.

The win moves Denmark five points ahead of third-placed Austria and two clear of second-placed Croatia, who beat France 1-0.

Denmark have now won their last five games in a row against Austria, as they responded well to the 1-0 loss to Croatia on Friday with a relentless display.

Christian Eriksen started on the bench for Kasper Hjulmand's side, but came on in the second half in the same stadium where he suffered a cardiac arrest a year ago yesterday at Euro 2020.

Denmark's first-half dominance took the game away from the Austrian, who never really presented any real danger throughout the contest. The hosts took the lead after 20 minutes as defender Joachim Andersen found wing-back Joakim Maehle behind the defence, who pulled the ball back for Jonas Wind to place the ball into the back of the net.

Denmark then doubled their lead 10 minutes before half-time, as the impressive Andreas Olsen was played into the box by a through pass, where he just had to open up his body and score with his left foot into the far corner.



## Medvedev Tops ATP Rankings

PARIS (Dispatches) - Daniil Medvedev returned to the top of the ATP rankings on Monday, ahead of Alexander Zverev, with Novak Djokovic slipping out of the top two for the first time in nearly four years.

The 26-year-old Russian, who was surprisingly beaten by Tim van Rijthoven in the final at 's-Hertogenbosch on Sunday, briefly occupied the number one spot for two weeks at the end of February and the beginning of March.

But with Djokovic losing in the quarter-finals at the French Open, where he was defending champion, the door opened for Medvedev to rise again to top spot.

Medvedev is unable to compete at Wimbledon as Russian and Belarusian players have been barred following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Rankings points, however, will not be awarded.

Zverev climbs to number two for the first time having spent a total of 56 weeks since November 2017 at number three. The German, however, is facing a spell on the sidelines after tearing ligaments in his right ankle during his French Open semi-final with Nadal.

## Liverpool Agree £75m Deal for Nunez

LISBON (Dispatches) - Liverpool have reached a deal with Benfica to buy the Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez for an initial £75 million, the Portuguese club said.

The transfer could eventually rise to €100 million, Benfica said in a statement, eclipsing Liverpool's club-record £75 million paid to Southampton for Dutch center-back Virgil van Dijk in 2018.

Nunez scored 26 goals in 28 league appearances last season in Portugal.

The 22-year-old, who was left out of Uruguay's squad for Saturday's 5-0 friendly victory over Panama, was expected to begin a medical on Monday which could take two days to complete.

Personal terms are not anticipated to be a problem, with the player having expressed his desire to play for Reds manager Jurgen Klopp despite interest from Manchester United.

Nunez is set to sign a reported six-year contract with Premier League and Champions League runners-up Liverpool, who have been in talks with Benfica for several weeks.

He netted in both legs of Benfica's Champions League quarter-final defeat against Liverpool in April, earning praise from Klopp. Nunez is likely to arrive at Anfield as a direct replacement for Sadio Mane after Bayern Munich stepped up their pursuit of the Senegal forward.

## Kane Welcomes Challenge For Golden Boot

WOLVERHAMPTON (Dispatches) - Tottenham striker Harry Kane is welcoming the challenge he faces to win the Golden Boot next season from the arrival of Erling Haaland and Darwin Nunez to the Premier League.

Norwegian superstar Haaland completed his move to Manchester City on Monday, while Uruguayan international Nunez is expected to finalise a move to Liverpool from Benfica in the coming days for a fee that could rise to £100 million (RM464.1 million).

Kane was keen for a move to City himself last summer, but now looks committed to another season at Spurs after they secured a return to the Champions League.

# Dokic Says She Came Close to Suicide



Dokic, who sprang to prominence at Wimbledon in 1999 when she stunned world number one Martina Hingis in the first round, said she has been suffering with mental illness and nearly resorted to suicide on April 28.

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australian former tennis star Jelena Dokic revealed on Monday that she came close to taking her own life just a few weeks ago.

The 39-year-old, who rose to a career-high world ranking of four in 2002, wrote a lengthy and heartfelt message on Instagram along with a picture of herself in tears.

Dokic won six WTA singles titles during her career and reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon in 2000.

"I almost jumped off my 26th floor balcony and took my own life. Will never forget the day," she wrote on Instagram.

"Everything is blurry. Everything is dark. No tone, no picture, nothing makes sense... just tears, sadness, depression, anxiety and pain.

"The last six months have been tough. It's been constant crying everywhere."

"Will never forget the day, I just wanted the pain and the suffering to stop," she added.

"I pulled myself off the edge, don't even know how I managed to do it."

Dokic won six WTA singles titles during her career and reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon in 2000.

But she struggled for years to escape the influence of her volatile father Damir, tumbling down the rankings into the 600s during her well-documented split from him.

## Football Guardians Approve Permanent Use of Five Substitutes

DOHA (Dispatches) - Football's rules body on Monday said that five substitutes would be permanently introduced for all top games and that an automatic offside detector is closer to being introduced for this year's World Cup.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the substitute change, which was started after the coronavirus pandemic, followed "strong support from the entire football community".

He said after the annual meeting of the International Football Associations Board that experts would decide on whether semi-automatic offside detection would be used for the World Cup that starts November 21.

FIFA's referees chief Pierluigi Collina said he was "confident" that the system would be introduced in time for the 32-nation tournament.

The system monitors 29 data points on the limbs of players to create a skeletal, three-dimensional model that is reviewed pitchside by the referee.

It has been tested at the FIFA Arab Cup last year in Doha and the Club World Cup in February.

"We are very satisfied so far and our experts are looking into it before deciding whether it will be introduced for the World Cup," Infantino told a press conference.

It is officially known as "semi-automatic" as it will still be the referee that makes a final decision on an offside ruling.

As well as making the five substitutes permanent, IFAB said that teams can now name 15 substitutes on a team sheet instead of 12.

IFAB said that trials with body cameras on referees may be started in a bid to counter a growing number of attacks on match officials.

"Lack of respect for referees and their safety were identified as global problems," said an IFAB statement.



## Haaland Proud to Make Man City Move

LONDON (Dispatches) - Erling Haaland said his transfer to Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund is a "great move" for his career as the Norwegian aims to fire the Premier League champions to more silverware.

City announced last month they had beaten off competition from Europe's top clubs to agree a deal with the German giants after triggering Haaland's reported £51 million (\$63 million) release clause.

The 21-year-old's move was officially completed on Monday with Haaland penning a five-year contract to follow in the footsteps of his father Alfie Inge Haaland, who played for City between 2000 and 2003.

"This is a proud day for me and my family. I have always watched City and have loved doing so in recent seasons," said Haaland.

"I want to score goals, win trophies, and improve as a footballer and I am confident I can do that here. This is a great move for me, and I can't wait to get started in pre-season."

The arrival of one of world football's biggest talents end City's search for a specialist striker to succeed Sergio Aguero, who left the club last year.

City's attempt to sign England captain Harry Kane from Tottenham fell short last summer, but Pep Guardiola's men still had enough to pip Liverpool by a point to win a fourth Premier League title in five seasons.

However, the English champions again failed in their bid to win the Champions League for the first time, losing a dramatic semi-final to Real Madrid 6-5 on aggregate.

Haaland has scored 23 goals in 19 Champions League appearances for Dortmund and RB Salzburg and will be expected to get City over the line when it matters most in Europe.

"There are so many world-class players in this squad and Pep is one of the greatest managers of all time, so I believe I am in the right place to fulfil my ambitions," he added.

