

President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday After Return From Turkmenistan and Attending the 6th Caspian Summit Said on Thursday That Iran Will Host the Seventh Summit of the Caspian Sea

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari Predicted That the Volume of Iranian Export Is Going to Reach 45 to 55 Billion Dollars in the Current Iranian Calendar Year

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West Not Committed to Requirements of Serious And Real Negotiation

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi denounces the West's refusal to abandon its constant accusations against Iran amid ongoing negotiations about potential restoration of the Islamic Republic's 2015 agreement with world countries.

"The West's accusation campaign against Iran amid the talks bespeaks their non-commitment to the requirements of serious and real negotiation," the chief executive told Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani during a telephone conversation on Thursday. The United States left the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018. It then returned the sanctions that the accord had lifted.

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Tehran Censures U.S. Over Impasse After Doha Talks



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has censured the United States for refusing to abandon its wrong path after two-day negotiations in the Qatari capital to discuss how to remove sanctions on the Islamic Republic ended Wednesday.

Diplomats spoke at the UN Security Council Thursday, wringing their hands at perceived lack of progress after Iran and the European side said they will keep in touch "about the continuation of the route and the next stage of the talks".

Iran's UN Ambassador Majid Takht-Ravanchi, however, told the council that the latest talks were positive and the Islamic Republic is ready to strike an agreement, but everything depends on the US to make a decision.

"Iran has demanded verifiable and objective guarantees from the U.S. that JCPOA will not be torpedoed again, that the U.S. will not violate its obligations again, and that sanctions will not be re-imposed under other pretexts or designations," he told the council.

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Kyrgios Serves Up Masterclass to Blow Away Krajcinovic
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Caspian States Urged To Step Up Cooperation

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi has told a summit of the Caspian presidents in Ashgabat that cooperation among the littoral states has become increasingly important in light of international developments.

"This interaction will not only lead to economic prosperity and increase the welfare of our nations, but also strengthen regional peace and stability and solving the problems of the Caspian Sea zone merely through its coastal countries," he said in Turkmenistan's capital Wednesday evening.

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Supreme Leader :
In Mining Sector, the Capacity of the Private Sector Should Be Used and Sale of Crude Resources Should Be Prevented

1401
Year of Production Job Creation Knowledge-Based

1 July, National Day

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Iran to Participate in Tourism Exhibition in France

TEHRAN (IP) - The Islamic Republic of Iran will participate in the Top Resa 2022 International Tourism and Travel Exhibition in France, which will be held from September 20 to 22 in Paris.

According to the General Department of Public Relations and Information of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Top Resa is a trade fair for tourism and travel and targets all industry sectors.

IFTM Top Resa 2022 will be held from 20 to 23 September 2022 and will be part of the largest multi-sectoral trade fair. The event promotes tourism destinations in France and worldwide, showcases emerging technological advances, and rewards the sector's innovations and achievements.

Iranian, Qatari FMs Discuss JCPOA on Phone

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his Qatari counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Wednesday evening discussed nuclear talks.

Amirabdollahian held a phone conversation with Qatari foreign minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Thursday.

The two officials also discussed the latest regional and international developments as well as the latest developments in Vienna talks to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

No further details of the telephone conversation have been reported.

Earlier on Wednesday, Iran's Political Deputy for the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani met and held talks with Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and discussed mutual cooperation between the two countries and the regional developments.

During the meeting, Bagheri Kani described the friendship and fraternity between the two countries as a valuable asset for all-out improvement of the ties between Tehran and Doha and underlined the resolve of the



Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen bilateral relations.

The Qatari foreign minister, for his part, talked about the reciprocal visits by the Iranian president and the Qatari Emir and described the implementation of agreements reached during these visits as a show of the serious will of the leaders of both countries to expand relations across all spheres.

Bagheri Kani underlined that Iran supports the constructive role of Qatar in regional and international arenas and described the hosting by the Qatari government of the current round of negotiations for removing of the sanctions as a show of the country's goodwill in promoting dialog and interaction.

Tehran Pushing Strategic Ties With Moscow

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi has told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that Tehran pursues engagement with Moscow within the framework of a strategic relationship.

The two presidents met Wednesday evening in Turkmenistan's capital, Ashgabat, where they had traveled to participate at the sixth summit of the Caspian littoral states.

"Relations between the two countries in the field of trade and energy cooperation are at a high level, but given the existing fields in the two countries, these ties still have great potential for expansion," President Raisi said in remarks quoted by IRNA news agency.

The Iranian president paid a two-day visit to Moscow at the head of a delegation in January and met Putin. He described the visit as a "turning point" in bilateral relations between the two countries, saying they could boost their security and trade through maintaining close dialogue.

"After my visit to Russia, several reciprocal visits have been made by the relevant officials in order to follow up on the agreements between the two countries, and the implementation process of these agreements is at a good pace," President Raisi said on Wednesday.

Last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited Tehran where he met President Raisi, confiding that Moscow was adapting to what he called the West's aggressive policies.

On Wednesday, President Raisi stressed the need for the two countries to support strengthening of the North-South corridor, saying Iran and Russia have also good capacities for cooperation in the field of energy, including swaps.

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multimode network of sea and rail routes that links the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to Iran, India, Russia and North Europe.

The Iranian president also stressed the need for mechanisms to strengthen banking and monetary relations between Iran and Russia, stating that financial exchanges between the two countries should be carried out within an independent framework outside the Western financial exchange system so that no country can manipulate it for pressure.

President Putin expressed his satisfaction with meeting his Iranian counterpart again, saying trade and economic relations between the two countries have increased in recent months, adding the path must continue.

The Russian leader also welcomed President Raisi's proposal to increase energy cooperation between the two countries, including swaps.

Putin also asked the Iranian president to convey his warm greetings to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

The two countries have been working to sign a new and improved long-term bilateral cooperation agreement. Iranian officials have said they have been making headways on banking cooperation, most importantly on foreign currency transfers.

Bilateral trade surged 80 percent last year, hitting a record high of \$4 billion, including \$1 billion in Iranian exports, deputy minister of industry, mining and trade Alireza Peyman-Pak has said.

Israel Jailed in Its Own Made Concrete Walls

TEHRAN (MNA) - The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami has said that the Israeli regime has failed in achieving its state-building dream and is now imprisoned in its own-made concrete walls.

"When the enemy is unable to complete its state-building project, and when the Zionist regime fails in its strategy to build a fake entity from the Nile to the Euphrates while it is trapped in the huge concrete walls around it, this means that the balance of power has changed in favor of Islam and the Islamic Revolution," Major General Salami, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a ceremony held by the IRGC to introduce the new head of the IRGC Counter-Intelligence Unit Brigadier General Khademi, who was appointed to the post by the commander-in-chief of all Iranian armed forces the Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei a few days ago.

The IRGC Commander-in-Chief recalled some IRGV operations against the enemies such as the seizure of the British tanker "Stena Impero", the destruction of the U.S. giant reconnaissance drone, the capture of US marines, the missile attack on the U.S. base of Ain al-Assad in Iraq as few examples in which the IRGC broke the enemy's will and power.

Salami also said that the intelligence war is "the most ongoing, continuous, real, and imminent war we have been in for years", and described the IRGC Counter-Intelligence Unit as being engaged in a direct confrontation with all the Arrogant Powers' experienced and sophisticated intelligence services.

Doha Talks on Revival of Iran to Go on

TEHRAN (IFP) - An advisor to the Iranian negotiating team rejects speculation that the recent round of talks in Qatar on a revival of the 2015 nuclear deal have failed, saying that the negotiations will continue.

"There was never any expectation that these negotiations would culminate in an agreement over a couple of days," Mohammad Marandi made the comments in an interview with the Lebanon-based Al Mayadeen television channel.

Earlier this week, Iran and the US held two days of indirect negotiations coordinated by the European Union in Doha.

European Union envoy Enrique Mora said afterwards that the talks had "not yet" made the progress the EU hoped for, but that work would continue to facilitate the restoration of the Iran deal.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also said, "Iran presented views and practical proposals on the remaining issues, and the other side also submitted its observations,"

and that the relevant parties would remain in contact.

Marandi added that Tehran did not take US officials' media statements seriously.

He reaffirmed Iran's conditions for a revitalization of the nuclear deal, saying the U.S. must lift its anti-Iran sanctions and provide guarantees that "history is not repeated," referring to Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the multi-sided deal in 2018.

"The Americans will have to make some decisions; they have already moved and changed their position in the past few months," Marandi said. "We don't know what will happen in Washington."

"Biden is under a lot of pressure at home ... and so are the Europeans because of the energy crisis," Marandi stated.

He said the Europeans were today "more interested" in doing business with Iran because they were in need of its oil due to the war in Ukraine and the consequent sanctions they have imposed on Russia.

Tehran, Baku Determine Working Regime of Araz Reservoir

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Discussions were held on the draft protocol of the 51st meeting of the permanent Azerbaijan-Iran Joint Commission for use of water and energy resources of Araz River, in Tabriz city of Iran, Spokesman of Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water Management OJSC Dilgam Sharifov said.

Sharifov said that the meeting of the commission, chaired by the Co-chairman from the Azerbaijani side, Deputy Chairman of Azerbaijan Melioration and Water Management OJCS Zakir Guliyev, was attended by the Head of the department of the company Elchin Mammadov and the Head of the sector Elkhan Huseynov, representatives of Azerbaijani Ministry of Ecology and natural resources and relevant organizations of Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

A number of issues were discussed at the meeting. Therefore, the working regime of the Araz reservoir and water distribution between the two countries were determined.

Appropriate distribution schedules were prepared at the meeting within the framework of the joint use of water and energy resources of Araz River, and a protocol was signed.

Next discussions of the draft protocol of the 52nd meeting of the joint Azerbaijani-Iranian commission will be held in Baku next year.



Pakistan, Iran Enjoy Cordial Ties

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Defense Minister said Pakistan and Iran enjoy cordial and fraternal ties nourished by centuries old religious and cultural affinities.

He stated that Pakistan is grateful for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's strong and unwavering support for the just struggle of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Underlining the importance of Joint Border commission, the Minister said that Pakistan has taken all necessary measures in domain of border management and joint efforts.

He highlighted the importance of regional cooperation to achieve peace in Afghanistan which is inevitable for peace in the region.

On the occasion, the Iranian Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's defense capabilities and said the two countries have potential for extensive collaboration in the field of defense and energy cooperation.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the existing level of bilateral cooperation and committed to further it in areas of common interest, enhancing security, counter terrorism and regional economic connectivity.

Iran Pursuing Iranians' Status Held Hostage by U.S.

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Judiciary Chief and Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi said on Thursday that the Islamic Republic is pursuing the status of those Iranians who have been taken hostage by the U.S.

The U.S. is a major human rights violator, both domestically and internationally, Kazem Gharibabadi told reporters on the sidelines of a conference on revealing the American human rights.

For the United States, human rights are merely tools for exerting political pressure on independent states to advance their foreign policy objectives, he underlined.

He called on the international community to hold the U.S. accountable for its crimes.

In support of Iranian nationals and diplomats affected by the measures of foreign countries, particularly the U.S., a law has been passed by Majlis in 2010.

A number of Iranians have been imprisoned in the U.S. under false pretexts of circumventing unlawful sanctions, he said.

It is our duty to pursue the hostages, he said, noting that some steps have been taken so far, but more needs to be done.

Russia Stresses Ship Construction Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A Russian state ship-constructing company has underlined the need for further cooperation with Iran on the construction of giant ships.

The company plans to cooperate with Iranian, Brazilian and Indian ship-constructing companies for making big vessels, Alexander Babich, an official with the Russian state ship-constructing company was quoted as saying by Tass news agency.

He referred to increasing need of the market for freight ships and tankers, adding that his county is after cooperating with other ship-constructing countries across the world, including those in Iran, Brazil and India.

During a recent visit to Saint Petersburg by Iranian Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Alireza Paymanpak, who also heads the country's Trade Promotion Organization, the two countries agreed for a joint production of ships.

Global Energy Market Needs Iran's Oil

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Oil Minister says the global market needs the increase in oil supply by Iran.

Javad Owji said that despite some tensions in the international sphere for economic growth, the oil global market was going toward stability but there were concerns about the shortage of supply in the months ahead.

Owji made the remarks on Thursday after the end of the 30th round of the ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC Plus).

He referred to the fuel price hikes in various countries due to the recent economic changes in the world and said the global oil market was in such a situation that the return of the Iranian oil could meet the needs of some customers and help create balance in the global markets.

The Islamic Republic of Iran had always emphasized that the disruption of energy security and the intensification of market fluctuations was a lose-lose game for all players in the field.

"As the largest possessor of oil and gas reserves of the world, we are ready to increase crude oil production to the pre-sanctions levels as soon as possible," the oil minister said.



A Glance at Programs of IDRO on the Occasion of National Day of Industry and Mine

Efforts to Knowledge-Based Production and Job Creation



The Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), with its decades-long history in the field of industrial development of the country in the year, named "Production, Knowledge-Based and Job Creating", seeks to play a more effective role in developing the knowledge-based economy. In recent years, IDRO has focused on advanced industries and their commercialization. Now that developmental organizations such as IDRO are considered as effective elements in the law of knowledge-based production leap, of course, the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran seeks the penetration of emerging technologies, connecting knowledge-based and technology companies to the production, using knowledge-based companies in the value chain of big companies and ultimately commercialization of research achievements of knowledge-based companies in the country's industry.

Implementation of industrial development projects in deprived and less privileged areas

Advancing 26 investment projects worth 360 thousand billion rials and creating 11,142 jobs in 16 provinces, mostly deprived and less privileged.

Commissioned projects

- Supplementary plan of Esfarayen Steel Industrial Complex with a capacity of 60,000 tons per year with the aim of increasing the production capacity of the complex from 120 to 180,000 tons per year with an investment of 94 million Euros and 374 billion Rials and employment of 230 people
- Operation of the new spinning line of Baluch Industries Development Company with a total investment value of 5.6 million Euros and 750 billion Rials and employment of 150 people
- The first phase of Garmsar Special Economic Zone with an area of 250 hectares with an investment of 2.860 billion rials

Planning for the operation of 2 projects in 1401

- Production plan for water purification filters (membranes) with a production capacity of 70,000 8-inch membrane modules per year and an investment of 9 million Euros and 1,750 billion rials with the participation of the private sector and the employment of 75 people
- Kermanshah fuel bioethanol production project with a production capacity of 66 million liters of 98% bioethanol and 66 thousand tons of fermented meal with 34% protein as a by-product and investment of 20 million Euros and 3 thousand billion Rials and 152 jobs

Export-oriented industries development plan from Jask to Goatherd beaches

- Measures taken on the basis of credits allocated to pay subsidies for facility interest (until the end of 1400) equal to 1,435 billion rials, leading to the operation of 14 projects with an investment volume of 2,910 billion rials and employment of 679 people and the beginning The executive operation of construction and creation of 7 projects with an investment volume of 1,495 billion rials and job creation for 131 people in the Jask to Goater area has been completed.
- 5 projects with an investment volume of 1,696 billion rials and job creation for 107 people are in the approval stage or in the final stages of approval, and 25 projects with an investment volume of 4,695 billion rials are in the beginning stage of bank acceptance.
- Projects inaugurated in 1400: Shrimp larval reproduction and breeding unit (baby shrimp) in Hormozgan province (with a capacity of 50,000,000 pieces - annual, investment volume of 60 billion rials and employment of 20 people); Product development and increasing the capacity of canned tuna in Sistan and Baluchestan province (with an investment volume of 350 billion rials and employment of 700 people); Chromite processing in Sistan and Baluchestan province (with a capacity of 79,000 tons - annual, investment volume of 1320 billion rials and employment of 65 people).

Implementation of large projects in oil, gas and petrochemical industries

- Advancing the development project of phase 14 of South Pars gas field with the realization of 91.56% progress;
 - 68% localization of special goods for the development of phase 14 of South Pars worth 174 million Euros (for the first time);
 - Completion and commissioning of the first gas line (onshore section) of phase 14 of South Pars gas field in 1400.
- Implementation of transportation industry projects

Automotive industry

- Participate in the preparation of the automotive industry transformation document and the definition and implementation of nine automotive industry transformation projects in coordination with the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade with the aim of organizing the automotive market;
- Supervising the implementation of the modernization plan of the country's worn-out commercial transport fleet
- Production and delivery of 22,104 units of commercial vehicles in and out of the city (657 units in the framework of the presidential plan from the beginning until now and 13,868 units of performance of commercial automakers in 1400 and 7,579 units of performance of commercial automakers in 1399) .

Implementation of new industrial projects

Supporting the penetration of technology created by knowledge-based companies

- In order to implement the domestic manufacturing movement by focusing

on counting the technological needs of the industrial sector and meeting them by taking advantage of the technological capabilities of knowledge-based companies in the form of defining technological projects. From 1398 to the end of 1400, 222 business upgrades have been performed in various industries (68 upgrades in 1400);

Implementation of capacity building plan for the fourth industrial revolution.

- Holding the training course "Industry Pioneers / Ambassadors 4.0 in the Silence Sector", with the aim of introducing and exploiting the various dimensions of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including: the basics, components and technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, generations of innovation and the emergence of companies And digital innovation ecosystems, Internet of Things, etc., at the rate of 1400 people per hour with the use of competent teachers, managers of knowledge-based companies and selected university professors for colleagues of the Deputy Headquarters and subordinate organizations of the Ministry;
- Concluding a Memorandum of Understanding between Idro, Saipa Automotive Group and Iran Khodro Industrial Group entitled "Development and Influence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digital Transformation in the Automotive Industry" with the aim of cooperation and participation in the penetration and expansion of related concepts, functions, approaches and technologies With the revolution of industry Fourth T through the creation and management of centers of digital excellence and transformation;

Development and deepening of internal construction

*Establishment of 5 specialized tables for the automotive industry (since July 1998) with a contract volume of 6,670 billion Tomans for the internalization of 168 projects, which leads to the realization of a reduction in value of one year and is equivalent to 38.4 million copies. In this field, 111 projects have been mass-produced so far.

*The performance of the two automotive companies in increasing the depth of in-house manufacturing has led to a reduction in the value of more than € 201 million per year for the parts and assemblies required by the production lines themselves.

Renovation of covered companies and selected industries

Baluch Industries Development Company

- The start of the second phase of the company's modernization through the creation of a weaving line and dyeing unit with an investment of 9.99 million euros and 885 billion rials and employment of 195 people;



Haft Tappeh Sugarcane Cultivation and Industry Company

- Arranging a contract for management, supply and payment of salaries and wages of employees, including other expenses in the total amount of 3,500 billion rials by the Sugarcane Development and Ancillary Industries Company, the start of sugarcane harvesting activity (333 hectares of sugarcane harvesting has been done).

*Tabriz Machine Building Company

- Planning to establish the first machine tool reconstruction center in Iran and negotiate with international companies in the machine tool industry for joint cooperation and production of new products with high added value, which eventually led to the export of 163 machines to Turkey and Germany.

*Tabriz Machine-Building Casting Company

- Provide part of the working capital required by the company and the budget to reform the structure;
- Interacting with Sapco in order to supply the parts required by the company and allocating 400 tons of monthly scrap for one year.

*HEPCO Company

- Pursuing the conclusion of a sales agreement for 112 mining and road construction machines worth 10,022 billion rials.
- Establishment of special economic zones and research towns

Garmsar Special Economic Zone

- Preparation of lands and construction of main and secondary passages, provision of main infrastructure (water, electricity and gas) of the first phase of the project with an area of 250 hectares;
- Commencement of customs of the Islamic Republic in the region and issuance of activity license by the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones;
- Assignment of about 90 hectares of land in the region to investors under 99 contracts worth 2,522 billion rials;
- Exploitation of the first phase of the special economic zone on April 3, 1400.

Jahrom Special Economic Zone

- Preparation of lands and construction of main and secondary passages, provision of main infrastructure (water, electricity and gas) of the first phase of the project with an area of 85 hectares;
- Obtaining a construction permit for a dry port in the Jahrom Special Economic Zone;
- Assignment of 15 hectares of land in the region to investors in two contracts worth 23 billion rials;
- Explore the research town
- Completion of 14 workshop sheds for establishing knowledge-based companies;
- Preparing 85 plots of land for transfer to knowledge-based companies;
- Planning to build an innovation and technology ecosystem.



Leading and monitoring the performance of subsidiaries

Iran Khodro

- Production of 471,400 vehicles (light passenger cars) by Iran Khodro Group in 1400;

- 6.6% decrease in production compared to 1399.

*Saipa Group

- Production of 396,151 vehicles (light passenger cars) by Saipa Group in 1400;

- 5.8% decrease in production compared to 1399.

*Iran Izoiko Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Company

- Repair of 34,919 vessels by the Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex in 1400;

- 12% increase in production compared to 1399.

Baluch Industries Development Company

- Production of 2,975 tons of yarns and printing and completion of 744,000 square meters of fabric in the Baluch Industries Development Company in Sistan and Baluchestan province in 1400;

- 35% increase in the production of yarns compared to 1399.

- 110% increase in printing and completion compared to 1399.

*Esfarayen Pipe Gostar Company

- Production of more than 30,000 tons of pipes in Esfarayen Pipe Gostar Company in North Khorasan Province in 1400;

- 43% increase in production compared to 1399.

- Record the highest production record in 1400 with 30,046 tons;

*Esfarayen Industrial Complex

- Production of 92,000 tons of alloy steel sections and parts in Esfarayen Industrial Complex in North Khorasan Province in 1400.

- 17% increase in production compared to 1399.

- Record production in 1400 with 92,068 tons;

Tabriz Machine-Building Casting Company

- Production of 5,242 tons of various casting and forging parts in Tabriz Machine-Foundry Foundry Company in East Azerbaijan Province in 1400;

- 26% increase in production compared to 1399.

Tabriz Machine Building Company

- Production of one thousand machines (homogeneous with 1.5 meter lathe) in Tabriz Machine-Building Company in East Azerbaijan Province in 1400;

- 33% increase in production compared to 1399.

*Industrial Management Organization

- Launching the management of a virtual training center (holding 400 virtual training courses per month);

- Establishment of Alumni Employment Development Center;

- Launching IMBA industrial courses in the fields of mining management and mining industries, automobile, parts manufacturing, detergent industry, pharmaceutical industry, etc .;

- Holding the first postdoctoral course in small and medium industry management;

- Holding the first period of the pioneers of the fourth industrial revolution.

Information Technology Development Center

- Development, support and operation of e-government systems of the Ministry of Silence such as Inmad system, accreditation and ranking of traders, Tavaniran, Top, Project Monitoring and Control System (PMIS) and BI;

- Development of industrial intelligence projects in order to implement the fourth industrial revolution in interaction and cooperation with various industries such as steel (Hermes steel), water resources (water resources management company), home appliances (SNOWA), copper (Sarcheshmeh copper), Tehran Municipality, Company Sanam and Abbas Abad Industrial Town;

- Development of intelligent and implementation of e-government systems for organizations and organs such as the State Trading Company of Iran, Agricultural Bank, Insurance Company, etc .;



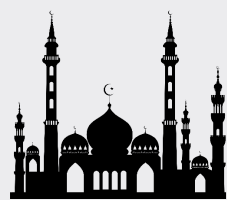
Management training and development

- Holding one million and 736 thousand hours of training courses through the Industrial Management Organization in 1400;

- Launching the management of a virtual training center (holding 400 virtual training courses per month);

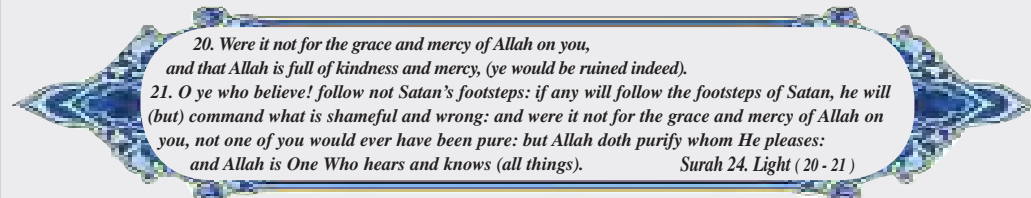
- Establishment of Alumni Employment Development Center;

- Launching industrial IMBA courses in the fields of mining management and mineral industries, automobile, parts manufacturing, detergent industry, pharmaceutical industry and



PRAYER TIME

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| ■ Noon (Zohr) | 13:08 |
| ■ Evening (Maghreb) | 20:45 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr) | 04:07 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Sunrise | 05:53 |



Iran Posts Trade Surplus of \$204m for Month to Late June

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Figures by the Iranian customs office (IRICA) show the country had a trade surplus of \$204 in the in the month to June 21.

IRICA spokesman Rouhollah Latifi said that Iran's total trade in the third month of the current calendar year had amounted to \$8.902 billion.

Latifi said exports from Iran reached \$4.553 billion the month to late June, up from \$4.817 billion reported in the month to late May. IRICA had reported \$3.699 billion worth of exports from Iran in the month to late April.

IRICA figures, covered in a report by the IRIB News, showed that imports into Iran reached \$4.349 billion in the third month of the calendar year, down by \$949 million from the previous month.

Latifi said Iranian exports figure in June was flat against the similar month last year, adding that imports had declined by 6.5% year on year.

IRICA figures show total trade in June was down by \$1.2 billion or nearly



12% against the month to late May.

Iran has reported rising trade figures in recent years despite a series of American sanctions targeting the country's access to the global markets.

Experts say US sanctions on Iran's crude oil exports have caused a surge in activity in the non-oil sector of the economy and has led to more exports from the sector.

Government reports show petrochemical products, minerals and agrifood have accounted for a bulk of Iranian non-oil exports in recent months with countries like China, Iraq and Turkey being the largest customers.

Iran, Uzbekistan To Boost Cooperation On Technology

TEHRAN (IP) - The Vice President for Science and Technology will head a trade and technology delegation to Uzbekistan to develop technological and scientific cooperation between Tehran and Tashkent.

Iran Press/ Iran news: Sorena Sattari, Vice President for Science and Technology of Iran, will leave for Uzbekistan on July 19-22, 2022, to open a new chapter in bilateral scientific relations between Iran and Uzbekistan.

He will be accompanied on this trip by a group of managers of knowledge-based and creative companies in the fields of "agricultural inputs and machinery," "medicine, vaccines, and feed supplements for livestock, poultry, and aquatic animals," "food industry" and "health and medical equipment."

This trip is organized by the Center for International Interactions of Science and Technology of the Vice President for Science and Technology and by the House of Innovation and Technology of Iran (IHIT).

Before this, on March 2022, signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Vice President for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Innovation Development of Uzbekistan to increase knowledge, technology, and innovation provided a basis for growing scientific relations between the two countries.

During the meetings with Uzbek officials, the Vice President for Science and Technology stressed that Iran is ready to provide indigenous and investment models for its scientific development to Uzbekistan, especially in its priority areas such as agriculture salinity, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, etc.

The Minister of Innovation Development of Uzbekistan, also referring to the tangible development of science and technology in Iran in recent years, called for the use of Iran's experience in creating a technology and innovation ecosystem in Iran.

HOSCO Shines at National Festival of Productivity

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) outshone rivals in the National Festival of Productivity and its project on reducing scrap consumption was elected as one of the top projects of the country and the company received the ward.

According to reports, in the festival Hormozgan Steel Company's project of reducing the scrap consumption during the metal charge of the arc furnaces was elected as one of the top three projects of the country and the CEO of company Mr. Ataollah Maroufkhani was honored and awarded with the prize.

On the sidelines of the festival, Maroufkhani said that increasing production and reducing consumption in the HOSCO is one of the major strategies of the company in the field of productivity, adding that importance of the project for reducing scrap consumption during the metal charge of furnaces is in line with reducing the costs and meeting the needs of the market and increasing the profitability.

He went on to say that considering the developmental programs ahead of the steelmaking unit and increasing the capacity of production, implementation of this project will help the developmental goals a great deal.

Maroufkhani then pointed to the company's support of research projects and knowledge-based programs, adding that in line with the Supreme Leader's remarks regarding reliance on the domestic capabilities, the company will support any research project which helps boosting productivity and production output.

Then manager of planning for production control and transportation of the company Mr. Poyan Bani Assad explained the details of the project which won the top accolade in the festival.



IMIDRO Ready for Implementing Projects for Optimizing Energy Consumption

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iranian Mines, Mining Industries Development and Renovation (IMIDRO) in a meeting with workgroup of optimizing energy and environment in the steel industry said that the organization is in full readiness for cooperation with the related bodies for implementing the projects of optimizing the energy consumption.

Mr. Vajiollah Jaafari in the meeting of the workgroup of optimizing energy consumption of Expediency Council said that steel industry as a strategic industry despite allocating 10% of the national energy consumption faces electricity shortage in the summer, gas in the winter and consequently the decline of the production.

He added that currently steel industry has annual production capacity of 40m tons and developmental programs for 55m tons of steel



will be completed by 2025 but due to energy shortage, the annual production will not exceed 30m tons.

Jafari reiterated that this is while steel industry enjoys good condition in production, occupation and exports and in the sanctions era it has earned the country considerable forex.

Meanwhile in the meeting, head of exploitation of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) Mr. Abbas Akbari

Mohammadi said that 32.9% of total electricity consumption of the country is in the households, 30.3% in the industry, 17.5% in the public sector, 14.7% in agriculture, 2.3% in exports and 2.3% in Mobarakeh Steel Company.

He also said that natural gas consumption in steel industry is between 4 to 6 percent of the total amount of gas consumption in the country and the amount for MSC is just 0.5%.

IDRO Announces Its Support From Innovative Platforms in National Industries

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) in a brainstorming meeting with the knowledge-based companies announced the support of IDRO in deployment of innovative platforms aimed improving technical knowhow and capability for competitiveness of the national production.

In the meeting, Ali Nabavi termed developmental organizations as one of the effective pillars in the law of leap in knowledge-based production, and stipulated that according to this law, developmental organizations like IDRO are allowed to invest in the technological plans either directly via the capital market or indirectly via innovation funds with observing laws and related regulations in the framework of the Article 44 of the Constitutions.

He then said that access to the focal role in balanced development, innovation of the national industries, developing capital investments and organization in the industrial enterprises, accelerating development of the advanced and leading industries are of the macro goals of IDRO, and added that IDRO can take action for operationalization of these goals by using the capabilities of the innovative and knowledge-based companies.

Nabavi also said that launch of research and risk-taking fund is of the other programs of the organization which is in the pipeline and it can provide required incentives and motivations for materializing improvement of knowledge-based product.

He then pointed to the developmental nature and actions taken by the organization so far in the field of the advanced industries, adding that existence of the crippling laws and regulations regarding the investment have caused investment in this field to be almost restricted and this will lead to sluggishness in the knowledge-based industry development.

Nabavi pointed to the fast developments in the field of the advanced industries and said that investment on the advanced industries should have very agile mechanisms and be carried out very fast but the obligatory trends on course of investment of IDRO are time-consuming, expressing hope that with support and special attention of the ruling organs, the organization can ease the trend of investment in the advanced industries.

He reiterated that IDRO through its international reputation and great experience can help the development of the exports by the knowledge-based companies.

Grand Maneuver of Promoters of Efficient Water Consumption Kicks Off in Isfahan

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

ISFAHAN - Concurrent with the Saving Water Consumption Week, the grand maneuver of promoters of efficient water consumption started simultaneously with the code name "Ya Abolfazl" in 38 regions under coverage of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company (ABFA of Isfahan).

In this maneuver some 300 promoters and Basiji forces of ABFA of Isfahan with wearing special uniforms and hats based on the executive directives started the mission and patrolled urban and village areas to monitor any illegal water subscription, irrigating the green space, filling the pools, washing cars or carpets or any action by subscribers which wastes water.

The promoters also, by attending the populated places like bus stations, mosques or parks of 100 cities and 948 villages of the province, advise the people and guide them for efficient water consumption either in face-to-face talks or giving them some educational brochure.

In the inaugural ceremony of the maneuver, director general of the crisis management of Isfahan Governor General Mr. Shishe Foroush said that the amount of rainfall in this year's spring has declined by 95% and constant drought in the province has led to the reduction in the underground water resources, drought of springs and many wells in the province. He then called for separation of drinking water and water which is used for non-drinking affairs like irrigation of the green spaces.

Then the CEO of ABFA of Isfahan Mr. Hossein Akbarian said that promotion of efficient water consumption is the exact sample for practicing "enjoin the goods and forbid the wrong" and this should be used as a pattern for activities of all staff of the water and wastewater industry.

He reiterated that promoters should use soft and polite language during their talks with people for encouraging them for efficient water consumption.

He reiterated with taking cultural ways and promotion, the province should pave the ground for optimal water consumption in the society in order to overcome the consequences of drought and water crisis.

MAPNA Launches First Steam Unit of Chabahar Power Plant

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The first steam unit of the combined cycle of Chabahar Power Plant started its operation by MAPNA Group last Saturday and it joined the national electricity grid as it increased national electricity production by 160 megawatts at the beginning of the consumption peak.

In the opening ceremony, the participants reviewed condition and technical properties of the project regarding its regional expansion and entrepreneurship because of the project.

Construction of steam unit of the combined cycle power plant of Chabahar as well as other common requirements of this section had been handed over to MAPNA Group under two agreements for completing equipment and implementing engineering services.

One of the properties of this project is its steam turbine with 160 megawatts capacity. The employer of the project was Saba Power and Energy Group and its consultant was Niroo Consulting Engineering Company.

It is worth nothing that earlier two gas units of this project had been built and delivered by MAPNA Group.





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The billboard is a large, rectangular structure with a white background. It is mounted on a tall, dark metal pole. The text is arranged in a clear, professional layout. The word 'IRAN' is in large, bold, green and red letters. 'NEWS' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, 'PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS' is in a smaller, black, serif font. 'ADVERTISING' is in large, bold, black letters. To the right of the main text, there is a contact block with 'TEL: 44253448-50', 'FAX: 44253234', and 'ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM' in a black, sans-serif font. A faint, stylized graphic of a newspaper or document is visible in the background of the billboard. The billboard is set against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. In the background, a city skyline is visible, including the Empire State Building.

Post-Coup Mali Sets Timetable for Vote

BAMAKO (Dispatches) - Mali's government has adopted a timetable for staging elections, in a move just days ahead of a regional summit to mull the future of sanctions against the junta-dominated country.

Official documents seen by AFP Thursday said presidential elections would be held in February 2024, preceded by a referendum on a revised constitution in March 2023.

Local elections will be held in June 2023 followed by a legislative ballot between October and November the same year, the documents said.



Landslide Kills 14 In Eastern India

GUWAHATI (Dispatches) - At least 14 people have died and another four dozen are feared to have been killed after a massive landslide in a remote area of the northeastern Indian state of Manipur, officials said on Thursday.

Rescue workers battled heavy rains to pull out 19 survivors from the rubble on Thursday morning after the landslide at a railway construction site, where workers were sleeping in a makeshift camp overnight, in the early hours.

The army has been drafted in to join the search, but officials were not optimistic.

The chances of the remaining people surviving are very thin considering the fact that the landslide occurred around 2 a.m., Haulianlal Guite, district magistrate of Noney district in Manipur, told Reuters by telephone.



NATO Chief Avows Need to Defend Alliance Territory



MADRID (Dispatches) - An unstable world could get even more dangerous if NATO does not remain strong and united, the head of the alliance said Thursday at the end of a summit where Western leaders labeled Russia "a direct threat" to the security of their nations.

During their three-day meeting in Madrid, NATO members confronted a geopolitical landscape marked by big-power competition and myriad threats, from cyberattacks to climate change. The leaders cast their sights around the world — drawing a rebuke after accusing China of posing "serious challenges" to global stability. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine dominated the summit. "We live in a more dangerous world and we live in a more unpredictable world, and we live in a world where we have a hot war going on in Europe," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said. "At the same time, we also know that this can get worse."

That is why the Western military alliance has a "core responsibility" to keep the war in Ukraine from spilling into other countries while making clear to Moscow that it would "protect every inch of NATO territory," Stoltenberg said.

That territory is set to grow. At the summit, NATO leaders formally invited Finland and Sweden to join the alliance, after striking an agreement to end opposition from Turkey. However, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he could still block the Nordic countries' membership, if the Nordic pair do not keep their promises.

If the accession is approved by all 30 member nations, it will give NATO a new 800-mile (1,300 kilometer) border with Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned he would respond in kind if Sweden or Finland agreed to host NATO troops and military infrastructure. He said Russia would have to "create the same threats for the territory from which threats against us are created."

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said Putin's threats were "nothing new."

"Of course, we have to expect some kind of surprises from Putin, but I doubt that he is attacking Sweden or Finland directly," Kallas said.

NATO leaders turned their gaze south for a final summit session Thursday focused on Africa's Sahel region and the Middle East, where political instability — aggravated by climate change and food insecurity sparked by the war in Ukraine — is driving large numbers of migrants toward Europe.

The U.S. and other Western nations also are seeking to counterbalance the growing influence of China and Russia in the developing world. Stoltenberg said "Moscow and Beijing are using economic leverage, coercion and hybrid approaches to advance their interests in the region."

The Beijing government called the alliance a "Cold War remnant" and accused it of "maliciously attacking and smearing" China by including it on NATO's list of global challenges.

But Stoltenberg said it was Russia's invasion of Ukraine that had brought "the biggest overhaul of our collective defense since the end of the Cold War." In response, NATO has poured troops and weapons into Eastern Europe on a scale unseen in decades.

The NATO leaders agreed at the Madrid summit to dramatically scale up military force along the alliance's eastern flank, where countries from Romania to the Baltic states worry about Russia's future plans.

NATO announced plans to increase almost eightfold the size of the alliance's rapid reaction force, from 40,000 to 300,000 troops, by next year — though details of specific troop commitments remained vague.

Most of the troops would be based in their home nations but dedicated to specific countries in the east, where the alliance plans to build up stocks of equipment and ammunition.

Russia Abandons Snake Island in Victory for Ukraine

KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian forces abandoned the strategic Black Sea outpost of Snake Island on Thursday in a victory for Ukraine that could loosen the grip of Russia's blockade on Ukrainian ports.

Russia said it had decided to withdraw from the outcrop as a "gesture of goodwill" to show Moscow was not obstructing U.N. efforts to open a humanitarian corridor allowing grains to be shipped from Ukraine.

Ukraine said it had driven the Russian forces out after an artillery and missile assault overnight.

"KABOOM!" tweeted Andriy Yermak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff. "No Russian troops on the Snake Island anymore. Our Armed Forces did a great job."

In another boost for Ukraine's struggle to beat back the Russian invasion, the United States said it would provide another \$800 million in weapons and military aid to Kyiv.

U.S. President Joe Biden, speaking after a NATO summit in Madrid, said Washington and its allies were united in standing up to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I don't know how it's going to end, but it will not end with Russia defeating Ukraine," Biden told a news conference. "We are going to support Ukraine for as long as it takes."

The retaking of Snake Island came after weeks in which momentum in the four-month-old conflict appeared to be shifting in favor of Russia, which has focused its firepower on capturing cities and towns in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.

The Ukrainian military posted an image on Facebook of what appeared to be the island, seen from the air, with several columns of black smoke rising above it.

"The enemy hurriedly evacuated the remains of the garrison with two speed boats and probably left the island. Currently, Snake island is consumed by fire, explosions are bursting," it said.

Ukrainian Brigadier General Oleksii Hromov said Ukrainian forces were not yet occupying the island but would do so.



Libya Talks in Geneva End Without Breakthrough

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Libyan legislative leaders quit talks in Geneva on a constitution and elections without reaching a deal, pausing diplomacy to resolve a standoff that has imperiled a two-year peace process.

The talks between the House of Representatives and High State Council legislative bodies were aimed at agreeing a constitutional basis and interim arrangements for elections that were originally scheduled for December 2021. Many Libyans fear that a failure to set a path to elections and resolve an existing dispute about control of an interim government will thrust the country back towards territorial division or conflict.

Since the planned December election was abandoned, Libya's rival factions have moved to a standoff over control of government with both sides backed by different armed forces. U.N. Libya adviser Stephanie Williams said that while they had made progress in agreeing the role and powers of a future president, parliament and government, they were not able to bridge other differences.

"Disagreement persists on the eligibility requirements for the candidates in the first presidential elections," she said, adding that she would make recommendations on alternative ways forward.

Disputes over the eligibility of several controversial candidates were the trigger for the collapse of December's election.

The House of Representatives in March appointed Fathi Bashagha to take over as prime minister, but Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah who was installed in the role through a U.N.-backed process last year has refused to step down.

Clashes have sporadically broken out in Tripoli between factions that back either camp, with Bashagha having twice failed to enter the capital in the face of armed opposition by groups tied to Dbeibah.

Meanwhile, parallel efforts to resolve disputes over access to state oil revenues are fraying, with the eastern branch of the central bank warning it could start printing its own money again and groups in the east blockading oil facilities.

Several Protesters Killed in Sudan Amid Mass Rallies

KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - At least five Sudanese demonstrators were killed as security forces sought to quash mass rallies of protesters demanding an end to military rule, pro-democracy medics reported.

In one of the most violent days this year amid an ongoing crackdown on the anti-coup movement, AFP correspondents reported security forces firing tear gas and stun grenades to disperse tens of thousands of protesters.

"Even if we die, the military will not rule us," protesters chanted, urging the reversal of an October military coup by army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, that prompted foreign governments to slash aid, deepening a chronic economic crisis.

Two of the four were shot dead by "bullets to the chest", and another by "a bullet to the head", the medics said, reporting the deaths on Thursday took the toll to 108 from months of protest-related violence.

"Down with Burhan's rule," crowds chanted, with protests and violence flaring in both the capital Khartoum and its suburbs, including the twin city of Omdurman.

Medics also reported "several attempts to storm hospitals in Khartoum," with security forces firing tear gas into one hospital, where some of those injured during the protests had been taken.

An AFP correspondent said internet and phone lines had been disrupted since the early hours of Thursday,

a measure the Sudanese authorities often impose to prevent mass gatherings.

Security was tight in Khartoum despite the recent lifting of a state of emergency imposed after the coup. Troops and police blocked roads leading to both army headquarters and the presidential palace, witnesses said. Shops around the capital were largely shuttered.

Activists have been calling for "million-strong" rallies. UN special representative Volker Perthes said Thursday that "violence needs to end", while the US embassy in Khartoum urged restraint and "the protection of civilians so that no more lives are lost".

Sudan's foreign ministry has repeatedly criticised the UN envoy's comments, saying they were built on "assumptions" and "contradict his role as facilitator" in troubled talks on ending Sudan's political crisis.

The latest protests come on the anniversary of a previous coup in 1989, that toppled the country's last elected civilian government and ushered in three decades of iron-fisted rule by Islamist-backed general Omar al-Bashir.

They also come on the anniversary of 2019 protests demanding that the generals, who had ousted Bashir in a palace coup earlier that year, cede power to civilians.

Those protests led to the formation of the mixed civilian-military transitional government which was toppled in last year's coup.



Qatar Gives Cash-Strapped Lebanese Army \$60m



DOHA (Dispatches) - Energy-rich Qatar has given Lebanon's cash-strapped armed forces \$60 million, the foreign ministry in Doha announced.

"The announcement comes within the framework of the State of Qatar's firm commitment to support the Republic of Lebanon," the ministry said in a statement. Lebanon is grappling with an unprecedented financial crisis, branded by the World Bank as one of the planet's worst since the 1850s.

The small Mediterranean country defaulted on its debt in 2020, the local currency has lost around 90 percent of its value on the black market, and the UN now considers four in five Lebanese to be poor.

The economic crisis has eaten away at the value of soldiers' salaries and slashed the military's budget for maintenance and equipment.

At one point in 2020, Lebanon's army said it had scrapped meat from the meals offered to on-duty soldiers due to rising food prices.

And in June last year, it said it would offer tourists helicopter rides in a bid to boost its coffers.

On Thursday, a Lebanese military source told AFP that financial assistance from Qatar would help pay the salaries of Lebanese soldiers.

The Qatari announcement came as the Persian Gulf state's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani was visiting Lebanon.

Sheikh Mohammed, in Beirut to attend an Arab foreign ministers' meeting, had talks during the visit with Lebanon's army chief General Joseph Aoun.

During the meeting, Aoun "thanked" Qatar for the funds, the Qatari news agency reported, while Sheikh Mohammed said the aid reflects Doha's support for the "brotherly Lebanese people and its firm belief in the importance and necessity of joint Arab action".

His advisor Majed al-Ansari told AFP the aid was aimed at conveying two things. "The first is our commitment to supporting the people and state institutions in Lebanon. Second... to show the Lebanese people that the Arab world has not forgotten them."

West Brought Up PMD Issue Again in Recent Doha Talks

TEHRAN (MNA) – The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that the Western side brought up the previously resolved Possible Military Dimensions (PMDs) in the recent Doha talks.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that “The terrible thing we face today in nuclear energy has its roots in the Hypocrites (terrorist MkO organization) and their propaganda. The

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also has a procedure that it should review whenever any news arrives.”

The head of AEOI wished success for the strong argument for the Iranian nuclear negotiating team in the lifting of sanctions talks and said that “About 20 years ago, Iran was forced to relinquish its inalienable rights and allow the IAEA’s monitoring to intensify and go beyond what was necessary in order to build trust.”



Singapore's \$40b Mega-Port Takes Aim at Shipping Chaos



SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - As the world’s economies struggle to untangle unprecedented congestion in global supply chains, one of the world’s busiest ports is backing an ambitious modernization plan to provide solutions.

Singapore is forging ahead with a US\$40 billion project to build the world’s biggest automated port by 2040 — one that will double the existing space and feature drones and driverless vehicles. The city state started operations at two new berths last year, and construction work is continuing on the next phase.

It’s becoming more urgent for ports to add capacity and speed as the pandemic has changed the nature of global supply chains. The just-in-time system for shipping has broken down as exporters in Asia face obstacles getting goods transported to customers in the US and Europe, and the situation has only worsened this year with Covid lockdowns in China and the war in Ukraine.

Ports are the most visible choke points in the US\$22 trillion arena for merchant trade, and a long-overdue transformation will require tackling a host of problems. Terminals are constrained by fading technology and limited space, while inefficiencies are compounded by containers piling up at yards and a short supply of workers and trucks.

Located in the Strait of Malacca, Singapore is a regular pit stop on container routes that connect Asian factories to consumers in Europe. The port, which handled the most trans-shipped cargo in the world in 2020, has come through the pandemic in better shape than most of its peers.

“Singapore is the world’s biggest trans-shipment hub, a position it will hold for years to come,” said Choi Na Young Hwan, head of the international logistics analysis team at think tank the Korea Maritime Institute. “Singapore is setting itself as a benchmark for other ports.”

Here’s a look at Singapore’s vision for its mega-port:

Space presents a significant limitation for ports handling tens of thousands of containers a day, especially when trucking and shipping schedules are disrupted. The need for more room became clear during the pandemic, as docks overflowed with containers, and some ports had to place boxes along roadsides to await transport.

Singapore, a densely populated island slightly smaller than New York City, would seem a difficult place for expansion. But the city state, facing rising competition from rivals such as Shanghai, began allocating funds in 2013 to reclaim land needed to build a new port, Tuas, on the country’s west coast. The port eventually will double its capacity to 65 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) by 2040.

The plan, set in place long before the onset of supply-chain upheaval, now appears prescient. The expansion has provided much-needed space to run operations efficiently and carry the city beyond the current pandemic, said Ley Hoon Quah, chief executive officer at the Maritime and Port Authority.

The major investment has also taken place as other governments and companies have held back from expenditure on ports. Shipping consultancy Drewry expects about 30 million TEU of capacity will be added per year from 2021-2026, down 25% from 40 million TEU added each year during the decade to 2020.

“Tuas capacity comes online while the industry is still challenged by shortages of port capacity,” said Jeremy Nixon, CEO of Ocean Network Express. “Singapore will be able to look after its existing business and be able to further grow in 2022 and 2023 because of that.”

Once Tuas is completed, Singapore will shut all its existing capacity and relocate everything to the larger space there. The three city terminals at Tanjong Pagar, Keppel and Brani will all shut and move to Tuas by 2027, while Pasir Panjang terminal will be consolidated by 2040.

The Brani container terminal, foreground, and the Keppel container terminal in the background. Photographer: Darren Soh/Bloomberg

That will help consolidate operations into a more logical structure, allowing for faster handling of containers, which reached a record 37.5 million last year. The new arrangement will reduce the need for trucks to traverse downtown traffic while transporting cargo from one terminal to another.

Shortening the lines of trucks waiting at terminals is crucial for all ports.

That’s a major reason for bottlenecks, holding up the movement of goods during Covid lockdowns in Shanghai and causing significant delays in clearing boxes at California ports. The risks tied to trucking were also highlighted earlier this month when striking drivers in South Korea wreaked havoc on supply chains.

Investment in ports isn’t just about building more roads and trucks. It’s also about improving the port’s ability to track and coordinate what’s happening at sea with all the moving parts needed to transport containers on land.

Singapore will operate automated guided vehicles to move more containers between the yards and berths where ships wait. A human driving a truck will use sensors and wireless communications to lead a convoy of driver-less vehicles in and out of the port. Drones will be used for shore-to-ship deliveries, and aid security guards with checks.

The upgraded technology will save on manpower in the global labor crunch. But the Singapore port wants to take a further step by integrating information systems, enabling it to track cargo and communicate surges in demand to all supply-chain players.

Singapore is among a growing trend of seaports cutting down on paperwork processes. It is one of seven jurisdictions globally that accepts electronic bills of lading, a key supply-chain document that must be submitted or collected from ship captains before cargoes can offload from vessels.

The shift is a major leap from the decades-old practice of submitting physical papers to verify cargoes. The process became a major headache during Shanghai’s lockdown, as there were fewer people at the ports for delivering documents, bringing a halt to activity.

Singapore’s strategy is to set itself apart from the competition, as global delays are forcing ships to rethink where along their route to stop, said the MPA’s Quah. The port’s goal is to make itself more efficient for ships to carry out all their needs: from banking to refueling to unloading container cargo and storing it there until the next ships become available, she said.

To be sure, Singapore has several things going for it that are difficult to copy elsewhere. As a trans-shipper, it doesn’t have some of the burdens faced by major end-destinations such as China, the UK and California. Those ports face more congestion because of the imports that need to be transported from the ships to places across country and the stream of exports being trucked into the ports.

The government’s influence over imported labour and trade unions also allows for smoother operations. For example, it’s more difficult for workers in Singapore to strike than at many other ports, limiting the risk of pushback from unions that have complicated efforts to automate.

Still, Singapore’s plans offer a possible way forward for other ports.

“There is clearly a strategic requirement for every country to look at its supply chain and ensure it has a smooth container operation taking place, because if it doesn’t, that is a cost to the economy,” said ONE’s Nixon.

Tehran Censures U.S...

FROM PAGE 1

“We were sincere in the Doha talks that were serious and positive,” he said. “Our negotiating team is ready to engage constructively again to conclude and reach a deal.”

Chinese and Russian diplomats also faulted the United States, with Beijing’s representative urging Washington to remove unilateral U.S. sanctions on Iran.

“It is indeed the (Trump) policy of maximum pressure on Iran, which the U.S. administration continues to embrace, that this is the main cause of all of the current problems plaguing the JCPOA,” Russia’s Deputy UN Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy said.

China said the U.S. must respond to Iran’s legitimate concerns and redress it past mistakes.

“We hope relevant parties will step up diplomatic efforts, find common ground on the outstanding issues at an early date and remove the obstacles to resuming full compliance,” China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in Beijing on Thursday.

“As the one who created the Iranian nuclear issue, the US needs to redress its mistakes, actively respond to the legitimate concerns of the Iranian side and work to achieve outcomes from negotiations on resuming compliance with the JCPOA at an early date,” he added.

The talks in Doha followed several rounds of negotiations in the Austrian capital of Vienna since April last year. They had stalled since March, chiefly over Washington’s insistence to maintain some key elements of the sanctions intact.

“The U.S. is responsible for the current hiatus in Iran’s nuclear case, must fulfill its obligations to return to the nuclear agreement, respond to Iran’s legitimate concerns and take measures to resume negotiations as early as possible to help things move forward,” Zhao said.

A fresh round of negotiations over the removal of anti-Iran sanctions starts in the Qatari capital of Doha, in a high-stakes diplomatic process aimed at breaking the stalemate in the revival of the 2015 Iran deal.

On Thursday, the UN Security Council met to discuss the latest report by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the implementation of the 2015 council resolution that enshrines the nuclear deal.

Richard Mills, Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, told the meeting, “Iran has yet to demonstrate any real urgency to conclude a deal, end the current nuclear crisis and achieve important sanctions lifting.”

EU Ambassador to the United Nations Olof Skoog said, “I am concerned that we might not make it over the finishing line.”

“My message is: Seize this opportunity to conclude the deal, based on the text that is on the table. The time to overcome the last outstanding issues, conclude the deal, and fully restore the (agreement) is now.”

Iran has demanded that the U.S. should provide guarantees a future administration would not withdraw from a restored deal again, something the Biden administration has not been able to do.

The new round of talks was held in Doha just a few days after European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, visited Tehran seeking to break the impasse.

European diplomats and former U.S. officials have told NBC News that the US is likely to introduce new sanctions against Iran and seek to further enforce existing sanctions.

They said the possible options include persuading China to shut off oil imports from Iran, ramping up sanctions, including targeting oil sales to China, and pursuing a less ambitious interim nuclear deal.

Potential sabotage operations against the civilian nuclear program could also be on the table, they said.

According to the European diplomats, former U.S. officials and experts, among the possible options is ordering military strikes against Iran’s nuclear facilities or supporting Israeli military action.

Caspian States...

FROM PAGE 1

Raisi welcomed initiatives presented by the presidents of the Caspian Sea to develop economic cooperation in various fields.

Iran, he said, considers the Caspian as a sea of peace and friendship and declares its readiness for comprehensive cooperation based on mutual respect and interests.

“The Caspian Sea, our common heritage and capital, the axis of bonds and friendship, and the source of blessings for more than the 270 million people of its coastal countries, which reflects the five countries in the mirror of a single water area.

“Just as our civilizing fathers and cultured mothers have enjoyed peace and prosperity on these shores and in the region for thousands of years, so our nations, as permanent seaside neighbors, must have a long-term approach towards the Caspian Sea as a sea of friendship and cooperation so that we have fulfilled our responsibility towards the current and future generations.”

Raisi said the cultural convergence of the Caspian Sea littoral states is one of the main priorities that guarantees cooperation and friendship in the long run and strengthens it in the hearts of nations.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran proposes that this spiritual heritage be preserved and strengthened by institutionalizing and holding joint socio-cultural programs.”

Raisi said as countries are interconnected through the Caspian Sea, they have many obligations towards this body of water.

“Protection of the fragile environment, reasonable use of living resources, responsible activities for the exploitation of the mineral resources of the Caspian Sea with the aim of economic development and promoting the welfare and security of our peoples and respect for each other’s sovereignty, rights and competence in this water area are part of these rights and responsibilities.”

Raisi said the littoral states’ consensus on the key principle of their competence to resolve Caspian issues

is a beacon that guides cooperation among them and ensures their mutual benefits.

This “closes the way for third and non-Caspian parties to intervene in issues related to the Caspian Sea or to commit aggression and other actions against any of the littoral states, and can prevent possible unpleasant incidents,” he said.

“Therefore, it is necessary for us, as the Caspian littoral states, to preserve the Caspian Sea region as a ‘region of peace and friendship’ by emphasizing five-sided cooperation and avoiding unilateral actions, relying on existing capacities and expanding cooperation, and pay serious attention to the long-term interests of the region and its coastal countries and observing the ‘principle of unanimity’ in all decisions related to the Caspian Sea.”

Raisi touched on the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea signed in Aktau, Kazakhstan in 2018 after two decades of negotiations, saying its implementation can pave the way for more cooperation between the littoral states as well as wider activities in the Caspian Sea.

This requires delineating borders, and specifying the rights of the littoral states with respect to the seabed and under seabed as well as water levels in different parts of the sea.

“In this regard, the finalization of the agreement on how to draw the lines of origin is important, and the Islamic Republic of Iran has always stated, including in the interpretative declaration after the signing of the convention, that this is a significant and decisive importance for Iran as a country with “a clear unfavorable coastline,” President Raeisi said.

The president said with the easing of the coronavirus restrictions, Iran has seen a significant increase in political and economic interactions with the Caspian Sea littoral states.

“Due to its geographical location and suitable infrastructure, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to provide transit and access to the Caspian Sea littoral states to other countries and regions, especially Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman through its territory.

“Also, cooperation in the field of export and swap of oil and gas, electricity, minerals and agricultural products is one of the items on the agenda of our negotiations with neighboring countries in the Caspian Sea in recent months, and good agreements have been reached in these areas, which promises a new era of strategic cooperation,” he said.

West Not Committed to...

FROM PAGE 1

Since last year, Vienna has been hosting many rounds of talks among the JCPOA’s remaining parties to examine the prospect of the deal’s revival.

Raisi’s remarks came right after the Qatari capital of Doha finished hosting two days of follow-up negotiations.

A fresh round of negotiations over the removal of anti-Iran sanctions starts in the Qatari capital of Doha, in a high-stakes diplomatic process aimed at breaking the stalemate in the revival of the 2015 Iran deal.

The Western side has almost never either stopped or toned down its unconstructive claims against the Islamic Republic’s peaceful nuclear energy program and the quality of the country’s cooperation with the United Nations’ nuclear agency.

The latest of the accusations came on Thursday as the United Nations Security Council met to discuss the latest report by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the implementation of the Council’s Resolution 2231 that endorses the 2015 nuclear deal.

Raisi reminded that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has, on many occasions, verified the peaceful and transparent nature of Iran’s nuclear work, saying the West’s continued way of leveling accusations against Iran during the negotiations showed that they were trying to abuse “the negotiation process towards realizing their political goals.”

“A sustainable agreement,” he said, “entails removal of the oppressive and illegal sanctions and [the West’s] unconditional abandonment of its baseless and unfounded accusations.”

The Qatari official, for his part, said Doha backed Tehran’s position of seeking to restore its rights and enable advancement of the talks.

Olympic Champion Vleuten To Retire at End of 2023 Season

LONDON (Dispatches) - Olympic champion Annemiek van Vleuten will retire from professional cycling after the 2023 season, the Dutchwoman announced.

The 39-year-old, who races for Movistar, won Olympic gold in the time trial and silver in the road race at the Tokyo Games last year.

“The main reason, as I explained, to retire in 2023 is to do so while on top of my game, to round out that improvement process we and the team took up in 2021, and look for new challenges in life,” Van Vleuten said in a statement.

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AFC Extends Deadline For 2023 Asian Cup Bids

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches)- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has extended its deadline to receive bids for staging the 2023 Asian Cup following China's decision to relinquish its hosting rights, the governing body said.

China was set to host the 24-team tournament in June and July next year but the country's strict COVID-19 policy resulted in the event being moved. Interested parties must confirm their bid by July 15, the AFC said in a statement, having previously set a June 30 deadline after inviting bids for the championship last month.

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SPORTS

SATURDAY JULY 2, 2022

Kyrgios Serves Masterclass to Away Krajinovic

LONDON (Dispatches) - Australian Nick Kyrgios delivered a devastating serving masterclass at Wimbledon as he blasted past Serbia's Filip Krajinovic 6-2 6-3 6-1 in 85 minutes to charge into the third round almost without breaking sweat.

There were none of the chuntering umpire complaints or run-ins with fans that were a feature of his first-round match – Kyrgios barely had time – as he pounded down 24 aces, with only one double fault overall. He took the first set without dropping a point before many fans had even taken their seats.

Krajinovic, ranked 31st but seen as a dangerous floater on grass after reaching the Queen's Club final earlier this month, could do nothing in the face of the barrage as Kyrgios did not let up from start to finish. In all he dropped just nine points on serve and smoothly mixed up power and finesse to hit 50 winners - a stark contrast to his five-set struggle to overcome British wild card Paul Jubb in the first round.

“I think just getting over the line in that first round was massive,” Kyrgios said. “I’ve been playing some really good tennis in the last month so I was really surprised the way I played the other day. But I was in my zone today, great body language.

“It’s nice to remind everyone that I’m pretty good,” he added, raising a laugh from the fans on Number Two Court. “I’ve been preparing for this tournament, it’s been circled on my calendar pretty much all year and I’m so excited to be here again. It’s genuinely a tournament I think is my best chance to win a Grand Slam, but I’ll take it match-by-match.

“Obviously I’ve got an incredibly tough draw but today I couldn’t play better and now I can just recover and get ready.”

Kyrgios, who has reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals only once, on his debut in 2014, will face fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas



in the next round, with a potential semi-final against Rafael Nadal on the distant horizon.

Meanwhile world number one Iga Swiatek struggled with unforced errors but found her composure when it mattered most to see off Dutch lucky loser Lesley Pattinama Kerkhove 6-4 4-6 6-3 to reach the third round at Wimbledon and extend her winning run to 37 matches.

With Thursday's victory, Swiatek went past Monica Seles and matched Martina Hingis' run in the 1997 season. The all-time longest winning streak is held by Martina Navratilova, who had 74 successive victories in 1984.

“I mean adding another match to this number is pretty special for me but when I’m out there I’m not really thinking about that,” Swiatek said on court.

“I’m just trying to play the best tennis possible on grass and the result is going to come. I’m pretty happy that it’s 37 now. I’m going to do my best to get even more.”

Pattinama Kerkhove lost in the final round of qualifying at the grasscourt Grand Slam but was granted a berth in the main draw when Danka Kovinic withdrew with injury.

Playing against an opponent ranked in the top-10 for the first time in her career, the 30-year-old Dutchwoman came out swinging freely to put Swiatek under pressure on a sun-bathed Court One, as the Pole fell 4-2 behind.

The 2018 junior Wimbledon champion smiled in frustration at her errors as the crowd wondered if this could be the end of her incredible winning run which began in February on hardcourts, continued on clay and has reached the All England Club lawns.

Joshua Hungry to Regain World Title

JEDDAH (Dispatches) - Anthony Joshua insists he is “hungry” to regain the world heavyweight title as the dethroned champion sets his sights on knocking out Oleksandr Usyk in their rematch in Saudi Arabia.

Joshua suffered a shock defeat against Usyk last September as the Ukrainian took the WBA, IBF and WBO titles from the British star after a unanimous decision victory.

Joshua has a chance to avenge that painful loss when he faces Usyk again on August 20, with boxing pundits claiming he must use his physical superiority to disrupt his opponent's rhythm this time.

Having linked up with new trainer Robert Garcia, Joshua hinted that is the game-plan as he allayed concerns he might have lost his appetite for the sport.

“What happened then is in the past, I don’t really live in the past, I’m just present,” he told reporters in London on Wednesday.

“I’ll be looking to be competing round-by-round and if I follow my As, Bs and Cs, it should lead me to KO.

“Someone said to me ‘you’ve got a chance to become three-time heavyweight champion of the world’. I said ‘it’s not where you want to be, I wouldn’t advise anyone young to go down that route’.

“You want to stay there and keep it, so I’m definitely desperate to get my hands on it. But there’s too much talking. Less talk, more action. I’m not a comedian, I’m not someone who likes big speeches.

“Let me get in there and do my job, that’s my priority. I’m definitely hungry, definitely desperate but how I perform will speak volumes to the masses.” While this will be Joshua's second fight in Saudi Arabia, it will be a first in the country for Usyk, who has won all 19 of his professional contests.

Saudi Arabia has been routinely accused of human rights violations and has faced claims of attempting to ‘sportswash’ its reputation.



Verstappen Returns to the Scene of the Crash

SILVERSTONE (Dispatches) - One year on from a painful crash, Max Verstappen returns to Silverstone as clear favorite to register his first British Grand Prix win and increase his lead in the title race.

The 24-year-old Dutchman and his Red Bull team are on the crest of a wave after six consecutive victories; one from team-mate Sergio Perez in Monaco and the rest by the world champion.

But he may be wary of home hero and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton mounting more of a challenge at the open and high-speed track in central England.

After 10 races without a win, the 37-year-old Mercedes driver is seeking to avoid the longest winless sequence in his Formula One career.

Despite the shortcomings of his capricious bouncing Mercedes, Hamilton finished third in Canada two weekends ago. On Sunday, Hamilton will have a partisan crowd, expected to top 140,000 behind him.

In last year's contest, the pair tangled on the opening lap in a controversial and

spectacular collision that stoked ill-feeling between them, and their teams, in a season that ended with the acrimonious finale in Abu Dhabi.

After crashing at Silverstone, Verstappen was taken to hospital with severe bruising as Hamilton raced on to claim a record eighth home triumph. Red Bull complained that his post-race celebrations were unsporting.

“Hopefully we can be competitive and gain some form of redemption for last year,” said Red Bull team chief Christian Horner.

Verstappen may not have won a British Grand Prix, but he won the ‘Anniversary’ event held at Silverstone in 2020 and last year's sprint race.

Calmer and more calculating than early in his career, he will try to avoid further trouble and win without fuss.

His team's main challenge this weekend is likely to come from Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, who were faster in Montreal but unable to make it pay.

Leclerc, who has 126 points after nine of this year's 22 races, is third behind Verstappen on 175 and Perez on 129.

Mercedes' George Russell is on 111 followed by Sainz, 102, and Hamilton, 77.

Murray Has No Plans To Retire

LONDON (Dispatches) - Andy Murray plans to be back at Wimbledon next year despite suffering a second-round defeat to John Isner -- his earliest-ever loss at the All England Club.

The two-time champion, 35, struggled to tame the giant American's serve, failing to break once in the match on Centre Court and going down 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (3/7), 6-4.

The British star has a stellar record at his home Grand Slam, winning the trophy in 2013 and 2016 — his previous earliest exits came in the third round in 2005 and 2021.

But the 52nd-ranked Scot said he had no plans to hang up his racquet and was in better shape than last year.

“My game was certainly in a better place,” he said. “Physically I felt good, barring the sort of 10 days post-Stuttgart (earlier this month), which was frustrating.

“I could have had a good run here. One of the reasons why improving your ranking and trying to get seeded is important, avoid playing top players and dangerous guys like that early in tournaments.” Murray said his future plans would depend on how his body holds up.

Murray had been dogged by a catalogue of injuries in recent years, undergoing two hip operations.

“If physically I’m in a good place, yeah, I will continue to play,” he said. “But it’s not easy to keep my body in optimal condition to compete at the highest level.”

The former world number one looked to be heading out in straight sets against Isner but clawed his way back into the contest by taking the third-set tie-break, celebrating wildly in front of his passionate fans.



Djokovic Could Play At Laver Cup

LONDON (Dispatches) - Watching the “Big Four” of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray playing together for the same team could be possible at the fifth Laver Cup in London this year.

Earlier on Wednesday, Britain's Murray was named as the third member of six-man Team Europe along with Federer and Nadal, leaving tennis fans relishing the prospect of Djokovic joining his long-time rivals at the ATP-sanctioned event.

Named after Australian great Rod Laver, the three-day team event pits six of Europe's top players against six from the rest of the world. “It would be very unique. It is a possibility,” Djokovic told reporters after booking his spot in the third round of Wimbledon.

“My agent has communication with the Laver Cup team. We have an agreement that there will be a decision after Wimbledon is finished.” Nadal, Djokovic, Federer and Murray have dominated men's tennis in the last two decades having won 65 Grand Slam titles between them.

London's O2 Arena, which hosted the men's season-ending ATP Finals from 2009 to 2020, will stage the Laver Cup from Sept. 23-25 with Team Europe, captained by Bjorn Borg, having won all the previous editions. Team World captain John McEnroe has named Felix Auger-Aliassime, Taylor Fritz and Diego Schwartzman as three members of his team.

Djokovic played in the second edition of the tournament in 2018.

“Laver Cup is the only competition where you can have all the big rivals, the big three, big four players joining in the same team,” Djokovic said. “Of course, it is very different and exciting concept for us players, but also for the fans around the world.

