

**Official Data Show the Value of Trade Between Iran and Turkey Increased by 39 Percent to \$2.7 Billion in the First Five Months Of 2022, Up From \$1.9 Billion During The Same Period a Year Earlier**

# IRAN NEWS

**A Member of Iran's National Scientific Committee Against Covid-19 Says the Number of Infections With Two New Sub-Variants of Omicron Variant Are on the Rise in the Country**

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7534 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

MONDAY JULY 4, 2022 - TIR 13, 1401

**2 DOMESTIC**

**Crude Sale Hinders Boosting Industry**



> SEE PAGE 2

**3 DOMESTIC**

**Easing Money Exchange Prerequisite for Boosting Iran-Tanzania Trade Ties**



> SEE PAGE 3

**4 INTERNATIONAL**

**Blasts Rock Ukraine Southern City**



> SEE PAGE 4

**8 SPORTS**

**De Minaur Beats Broady To Reach Last 16**



> SEE PAGE 8

## No Tehran-Cairo Direct Talks Yet

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says Tehran and Cairo have had no direct talks, so far, however, Egypt is "an important country in the Muslim world" and that mutual ties will benefit both nations.

"We had no direct negotiation with the Egyptian side on development of ties but efforts are underway to normalize Tehran-Cairo relations within the framework of cooperation among Islamic countries," Amirabdollahian, who was visiting Syria, said in response to a question on the reports on Iran's talks with Jordan and Egypt to be held in Baghdad.

"Currently, we have an interests section in Cairo and the other [Egyptian] side also has an interests section in Tehran. We consider natural and growing relations between Tehran and Cairo as beneficial to the two countries, the two nations and the region."

Amirabdollahian also talked about the outcome of his visit to Syria. He noted that his meetings focused on getting the agreements, signed between Iran and Syria to promote economic and tourism cooperation, implemented and there was good progress on the matter.

See Page 7

## Iran, Russia, Turkey Have Eye on Joint Auto Production

TEHRAN (MNA)- Head of Iranian Association of Auto Parts Manufacturers Mohammadreza Najafi-Manesh has said industry officials of Iran, Turkey, and Russia have expressed willingness for the joint design and production of automobiles, IRNA reported.

"There is great capacity for tripartite cooperation of automakers and parts manufacturers of the three countries," Najafi-Manesh said.

According to the official, the Automobile and Parts Manufacturing Association of Turkey has proposed the formation of a tripartite consortium with the participation of Iranian, Russian, and Turkish industrialists in order to design and produce passenger cars.

"With a population of about 400 million people, and also a market of at least 800 million in their neighboring region, these three countries can have a suitable market for their product or products, and now with the war between Russia and Ukraine and the greater need of Russia's automotive and parts manufacturing industry for cooperation with Iran, this idea can be realized very soon," Najafi-Manesh said.

See Page 7

## Iran Foreign Debts Down by 5%



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign debts declined to \$8.675b in last Iranian calendar year which ended on March 20 which shows 5.1% fall comparing its preceding year.

The Monetary and Banking Research Institute in a report based on the latest statistics of Iran Central Bank said Iran's foreign debts fell to \$8.675b last year that \$6.174b are mid-term debts and \$2.501b for short term debts.

Iran's foreign debts at the end of the preceding year were \$9.142b and the figure shows the debts have reduced by 5.1%. A short glance at the figure and comparing it with other states, Iran is among the countries with the least foreign debts. Meanwhile the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) confirmed reports it has restricted the access of foreign nationals living in the country to various banking services.

A CBI spokesman said in a tweet that banks in Iran will only process transactions of up to 100 million rials (\$305) per day by foreign nationals, including card transfers and online shopping payments, until further notice.

Mostafa Ghamari Vafa said the access will restore to normal after obtaining and verifying data from competent authorities about the identity of "legal foreign nationals".

The tweet came after a Saturday report by Tasnim News agency said Iran's largest lender Bank Melli had imposed severe restrictions on the access of foreigners to banking services.

The report published a copy of a recent Bank Melli circular that ordered its subsidiaries and branches in Iran to stop offering main services including opening rial or foreign currency accounts or processing money transfers to and from accounts held by foreign nationals.

It also quoted unnamed foreigners as claiming that their mobile banking applications had been blocked since earlier this week.

It said Iranian banks had imposed interim restrictions on foreigners' access to banking services in the past years demanding them to hand over their immigration registration numbers.

The CBI did not elaborate on any reason for limiting access of foreigners to banking services. However, Tasnim said banks had said the measure is aimed at fighting money laundering.

Iran has tightened rules on immigrants and foreign nationals living in the country in recent months.

Majid Mirahmadi, a deputy interior minister, said on Friday that Iran's laws on human trafficking had been tightened while he warned that any Iranian employer recruiting illegal immigrants will face up to six months in jail in addition to hefty fines.

## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

## Coordination Does Not Mean Submission

The two-day talks on the future of the JCPOA and return of the U.S. to the deal held in Doha, the capital city of Qatar, after almost 3 months of hiatus and the talks ended with different interpretation from the outcome.

Following two days of fresh negotiations in Doha aimed at reviving the ailing 2015 deal, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said Tehran will "coordinate" with the European Union on the next stage of the talks.

"Our team is ready to engage constructively to reach a deal," Majid Takht-Ravanchi said in a post on his Twitter account after he delivered a speech at a meeting of the UN Security Council on Thursday.

The top Iranian diplomat added that the sides to the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), can reach a final agreement on the revival of the multilateral agreement in case of the US acts realistically and shows seriousness.

"If US acts realistically & shows serious intention to implement its obligations, agreement is not out of reach," Takht-Ravanchi said.

The Doha talks started on Tuesday, in a high-stakes diplomatic process aimed at breaking the stalemate in efforts to restore the JCPOA, with EU coordinator Enrique Mora shuttling between Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani and Robert Malley, the U.S. special envoy for Iran.

After the talks ended, Western parties expressed their disappointment over the outcome of the Doha talks but at the same time Iranians claimed that talks will go on in the future. As Takht-Ravanchi reiterated Tehran wants talk and will coordinate with European signatories in the JCPOA and it means the talks have not totally failed and the results depend on the U.S. political will to accept or leave it.

The two-day negotiations in the Qatari capital to discuss how to remove sanctions on Iran have ended, with the two sides saying they will keep in touch "about the continuation of the route and the next stage of the talks".

But when Tehran says it will coordinate it does not mean that it will bow down to the West's pressure to accept whatever they put on the table and Iranians sign it. No. They are totally wrong.

Tehran will not retreat from its rights any inch and it will not give in the West's bully and it will fight for its legal right.

On Thursday, China's permanent representative to the United Nations told a Security Council briefing on the Iranian nuclear issue that the United States, whose unilateral withdrawal has caused numerous problems, must respond positively to the reasonable demands of Iran. See Page 7

## Hezbollah Launch Drones Towards Disputed Field With Israel

BEIRUT (PressTV) - Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has confirmed that it has flown three unarmed drones towards the Karish gas field in the country's territorial waters, sending a message to the Israeli regime, which disputes the maritime area.

"On Saturday afternoon, 7/2/2020, three unarmed drones of different sizes were launched towards the disputed area at the Karish field to carry out reconnaissance missions," Hezbollah said in a statement.

"The mission has been accomplished, and the message delivered," the resistance movement added.

This came after earlier on Saturday, the Israeli military alleged that its air defense forces had intercepted "three hostile UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), which approached the airspace over," what it described as, "Israel's economic waters."

An Israeli "security source" also claimed that the regime had shot down three unarmed "hostile drones," which had been flying from the direction of Lebanon towards gas rigs in the disputed field.

Hezbollah had warned in early June that the movement is "ready" to take action if the Lebanese government confirms that Israel is violating the maritime rights of the country, after a gas drilling ship arrived in disputed Mediterranean waters to conduct hydrocarbon exploration for Israel.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem told Reuters at that time that Hezbollah is ready to take action, "including by force," against Israeli gas operations in the disputed waters once Beirut adopts a clearer policy.

"When the Lebanese state says that the Israelis are attacking our waters and our oil, then we are ready to do our part in terms of pressure, deterrence and the use of appropriate means - including force," Qassem said.

The Tel Aviv regime and the international hydrocarbon exploration and production company that operated the vessel equally claimed the field in question falls within Israel's so-called exclusive economic zone. Beirut rejects the claim.

"The issue requires a decisive decision by the Lebanese state," the Hezbollah deputy secretary-general said, adding that the resistance movement has "urged the government to hurry, to set a deadline."

Qassem also noted that Hezbollah would act on this issue "regardless of the responses," that it may elicit from Israel, even if it led to a wider conflict.

See Page 7

## Iran Daily Refining Capacity Exceeds 2.2m Barrels

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC), in its Annual Statistical Bulletin 2022, has put Iran's daily refining capacity in 2021 at 2.202 million barrels, indicating 1,000 barrels per day (bpd) increase compared to 2020.

Iran's refining capacity has increased by more than 480,000 bpd from 2011 to 2021, according to OPEC's Annual Statistical Bulletin. Iran's refining capacity in 2011 was reported to be 1.715 million bpd.

Despite all the external challenges like the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian oil and gas sector has been developing at a fast pace and the country is passing new milestones in this industry every day.

Various sectors of Iran's oil and gas industry including exploration, production, processing, and distribution are all among the world's top charts and the country is taking new steps to develop the industry even further.

Among different sectors of this industry, refining is a major one being seriously paid attention for development.

See Page 7

Sokhan Gostar Institute

# IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department  
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com  
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily



# President Congratulates Belarus on Independence Day

TEHRAN (IRNA) - In a message to Belarusian President Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko on Sunday, President Ebrahim Raisi congratulated on Belarus Independence Day.

Raisi hoped in his message that Iran and Belarus expand cooperation in light of joint efforts and the existing extended capacities of both countries.

# Crude Sale Hinders Boosting Industry

TEHRAN (IP) – crude sales are one of the obstacles facing Iran's industry and trade, Iran's president says.

President Ebrahim Raisi at the ceremony of the National Industry and Mining Day thanked all the industry and mining activists of the country and said that Iran's officials must be sensitive to the issue of crude sales because creating added value and employment would be possible in the light of preventing crude sales.

The Iranian president continued by emphasizing the importance of increasing the quality and productivity of domestic production and said: "Every producer should redefine the issue of increasing productivity and at the same time find solutions to reduce the production price."

Raisi also considered the effort to achieve production activities by utilizing knowledge and new scientific achievements as much as possible among the other necessities of the production boom.



"If knowledge is not attached to production and industry, it will remain in the form of thesis in the university," Raisi noted.

Moreover, the president highlighted the necessity of much more engagement of the private sector in the economy and production with the government reducing its responsibilities and increasing its monitoring role.

He called on all institutions and bodies to consider making the government agile.

# Iran Supports Lebanon's Right To Exploit Marine Resources

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon said that Iran supported Lebanon's right to exploit its marine resources.

Speaking in a ceremony to commemorate his services, Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon Mohammad-Jalal Firouzniya said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has decisively stood with the nations fighting against the global arrogance and prevented looting of their wealth, confiscating their rights, and destroying their future.

Firouzniya noted that Iran stood up for the Palestinian nation's right to liberate their lands, return their homes, and establish a Palestinian state with Beit-ul-Moqaddas as the capital.

We stand with the Lebanese government, resistance, army, and nation and support their unity, sovereignty, independence, and legitimate right to exploit resources in their territorial waters, the ambassador said.

He also hailed the Lebanese people's victories against the Zionist regime in 2000 and 2006 and also their fight against terrorism.

# Lasting Security in Region Fruit of Efforts By Iran Forces

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's top military commander says the region is currently enjoying lasting security thanks to the efforts made by different units of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces.

Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran Major General Mohammad Bagheri made the comments during an inspection of the military staff based in Iran's western province of Kordestan, which borders Iraq.

"There is lasting security in the region, and that is the fruit of efforts made by the Armed Forces, the Border Guard Force, the Law Enforcement Force, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)," the top general told reporters.

Commenting on the security situation in Kordestan Province, Major General Bagheri said the province's border with Iraq has excellent security despite some "sporadic acts of mischief" there.

The province has, on many occasions, been the scene of clashes between Iranian security forces and terrorist elements, who infiltrate into the country through the borders of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

Iran's Armed forces have disbanded several terror groups, which planned to carry out acts of violence in the country, in Iraqi Kurdistan region.

# Iran Calls for Bolstering Ties With Neighboring State

TEHRAN (MNA) – Vice-Chairman of Iranian Parliament Abdolreza Mesri said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported peace and tranquility in the region and has made its policy of expanding ties with neighboring states.

Mesri met and held talks with parliament members from Algeria, Qatar, and Iraq on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAMPN) conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

In a meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Algeria Ibrahim Boughali, Mesri referred to the deep-rooted relations between Iran and Algeria, adding that the two nation's relations are based on friendship and bilateral cooperation.

Pointing to the readiness of the Iranian Parliament to further expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation and relations in various fields with Algeria, he noted that Algeria has always had good stances on various international issues by choosing principled and logical policies.

Boughali, for his part, expressed his country's readiness to develop parliamentary relations with Iran, noting that friendly and fraternal relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are of great importance to Algeria.

In another meeting with Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti, Mesri pointed to the will of the

Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen relations between the two states, calling long-standing friendship and brotherhood between Iran and Qatar a valuable asset for promoting comprehensive relations and highlighting Qatar's constructive role in regional and international arenas.

He reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran wants to promote regional interactions and Qatar can play a special role in facilitating the talks.

The Qatari side expressed her pleasure in meeting with the parliamentary delegation of Iran, adding that the continuation of parliamentary relations between the two states is important for Qatar in all fields.

Also, in a meeting with Shakhwan Abdullah Ahmed, Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, Mesri pointed to the principle of neighborliness and brotherhood between the two countries, stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported peace and tranquility in the region and has made its policy of expanding relations with neighboring countries.

Abdullah Ahmed, for his part, emphasized Iran's role in confronting Takfiri terrorist groups, adding that Iraq appreciates the good and positive political, security, social as well as humanitarian stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region.



# Iran Showcases Export Capabilities at Almaty Exhibition

TEHRAN (IP) - An extensive exhibition of Iranian goods has kicked off in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

More than 60 Iranian companies from the food, chemical, steel, machinery, road and construction, mining, construction materials, textile and technical and engineering services industries have showcased their latest achievements for economic activists, investors and businessmen at the Almaty exhibition.

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kazakhstan, Majid Saber, in an interview with the Iran Press reporter in Almaty, stated that Iran has good capabilities in various industries and these capabilities were displayed in the Almaty exhibition.

The representative of Shahid Bahonar Copper Industries Co., Alireza Ahmadikhah, told Iran Press about the objectives of attending the Iranian goods exhibition in Almaty, saying: "Kazakhstan has invested in the oil and gas industry, and we hope to export alloy

pipes used in power plants, refineries and desalination plants to Kazakhstan."

Farhad Hosseini, the export expert of an Iranian company that manufactures home and kitchen appliances, which produces more than 500 products and exports its products to more than 15 countries, including Kazakhstan, mentioned the purpose of attending the Almaty exhibition to strengthen customers.

Arak Machine Industry Company, which has 50 years of brilliant history in the field of oil refining, gas, petrochemical, thermal installations, bridges and metal structures and mining equipment, has a prominent presence in the Almaty exhibition.

The representative of Arak Machine Industry Company, Maryam Mehdizadeh, told Iran Press that the company is an industrialist and has participated in the exhibition to export its mining, oil and refining products to Kazakhstan.

The exhibition of Iranian goods, which commenced on Saturday, will be underway for three days in the exhibition center of Almaty, Kazakhstan.

# Western States Have to Account For Sardasht Chemical Attack

TEHRAN (MNA) – Secretary of Iran High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi said that the Western countries that gave the Saddam regime chemical arms have to be held to account for the chemical attacks on innocent Iranian citizens.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is a victim of weapons of mass destruction, more than 13,000 people have been martyred and more than 100,000 injured as a result of the use of chemical weapons against the people of our country, and some of our war veterans which were affected by the Saddam chemical attacks still become

martyrs on a daily basis," the Secretary of Iran High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi, the anniversary of Iraqi Saddam regime bombardment of Sardasht in West Azerbaijan Province with chemical weapons on June 28, 1987, killing over 1,000 and injuring over 8,000 civilians, many of whom were permanently disabled.

He added that according to a report by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), more than 15 mainly European countries, along with the United States, were involved in equipping Saddam's regime with chemical weapons, adding that these countries must now be held to account for arming the Saddam regime.

The Iranian judicial official further called on the relevant international legal organizations to hold these countries to account, noting that complaints have been filed against some European individuals, but that is not enough.

# Gov't Allocates Special Facilities For Knowledge-Based Companies

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade announced the allocation of special facilities for knowledge-based companies, with 1,600 workshop units for them being built in industrial towns.

209 industrial and mining projects with an investment of 43,000,000,000 toman as well as job creation for more than 18,000 people, was launched in the presence of President Ebrahim Raisi, Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Reza Fatemi-Amin, industrialists, miners, and private sector activists.

Fatemi-Amin stated: "Knowledge-based companies are a priority for us, and the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade has considered facilities for knowledge-based companies to boost production."

"Investment means the continuation of production; if we only think about production, assets and investments will naturally be equated, so special measures must be taken in investment," he said. He highlighted that today, more than two hundred plans have been put into operation, which includes 17,000 jobs with 43,000,000,000 toman of investment, which gives a new spirit to the production sector.

**AUCTION**  
**SJSCO. 140104**



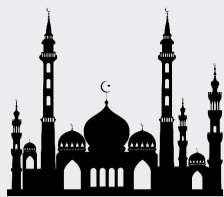
Hereby Sirjan Jahan Steel Complex announces selling and export 30,000 STEEL BILLET (5SP & 3SP Size 150 x 150 mm) on basis of FOB, Interested bidders are invited to get documents with send an email to [sjsco.sales.info@gmail.com](mailto:sjsco.sales.info@gmail.com) All the documents will be sent VIA email. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than 11am, Tuesday, July 12, 2022(2022-07-12)

For more information, please contact us at:

Tel: +2186084642

Sirjan Jahan Steel Complex





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:08
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:09
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:54

23. Those who slander chaste women, indiscreet but believing, are cursed in this life and in the Hereafter: for them is a grievous Penalty.  
24. On the Day when their tongues, their hands, and their feet will bear witness against them as to their actions.

Surah 24. Light (23 - 24)

# Easing Money Exchange Prerequisite for Boosting Iran-Tanzania Trade Ties

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - In a trade webinar between Iran and Tanzania, both countries explored ways to remove hurdles in way of bilateral trade and called for removing banking and transportation hurdles.**

Head of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Mr. Paul Koyi, Iran's charge d'affaires to Tanzania Mr. Hossein Alvandi, Director of Arab-Africa Department of Iran's Chamber of Commerce Shahram Khasipour as well as some economic activists of the two countries were present.

Iran's Charge d'Affaires Mr. Alvandi addressing the webinar pointed to good political relations between the two states and said there are diverse grounds in the field of goods trade and investment for economic activists of the two states. He then pointed to membership of Tanzania in the East African economic community and said this is a good opportunity for Iranian traders for access to the East African markets because Iranians can enter this market through easing tariffs.

Alvandi also pointed to the restrictions in banking relation between the two countries and said Tanzania sets no restriction for trade with Iran and it has never sanctioned Iran but since their banking system is private and mainly foreign banks, they decide based on their own interests and Tanzanian government cannot meddle in, therefore he proposes bartering trade but so far no solution has been found for this mechanism. He reiterated that Iran's trade with Tanzania rose by 120% last year.



Then Mr. Koyi, for his part, pointed to the historic ties between the two states and termed Iran an important and developed country in the region and announced interest of the TCCIA for broadening economic ties between the private sectors of the two states.

He said that energy, petrochemical, mines and agriculture of the most important fields for cooperation between economic activists of the two states and called for more presence of Iranian companies in the economic projects in Tanzania.

Then Director of Arab-Africa Department of Iran Chamber of Commerce Mr. Khasipour pointed to the significance of Tanzania and called it the gateway for reaching the East Africa.

He called for creating legal infrastructures by governments of the two countries in the customs, investment, transportation and banking services for their support from the private sectors of the two states.

He reiterated that banking and transportation problems are main hurdles in way of broadening economic ties between Tehran and Tanzania and its removal is prerequisite for boosting ties, and said last year the trade volume between Tehran and Dar-es Salaam was only \$70m which is very insignificant regarding their existing capacities.

He also called for exchange of trade delegation or holding joint exhibition for better acquaintance of economic activists of the two sides.

# Support of Company's Plans Starts From Households



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) held a series of ceremonies to honor top and distinguished pupils and students of the great family of the company which were held in the presence of some officials of the company, some top students and pupils and their families at the Mokhaberat Hall of Isfahan.

On the sidelines of the ceremony for honoring the students, the CEO of ESCO Eng. Iraj Rokhsati pointed to the inevitable role of families of ESCO in materialization of the goals of the company and said that support from plans and materialization of goals of ESCO begins from the households. He added that all tireless colleagues who have registered several records in the company are definitely supported by their families.

He announced the programs of the company for informing the big family of ESCO of most of goals of the company and said that it is necessary all families to be aware of achievements and goals of the company in order that synergy and empathy among this big family grows more day in day.

Rokhsati reiterated he is happy that sons of this big family of ESCO have brought great scientific and research achievements with merit.

It is worth noting that these ceremonies are to be held in 11 days where 7200 distinguished pupils and students will be honored in the presence of their families.

# 3rd Smart City Expo Kicks Off in Tehran

TEHRAN – The 3rd Smart City Expo was inaugurated yesterday by Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi at Tehran's Imam Khomeini (R) Mosalla.

The three-day exhibition will be open to the public and 235 knowledge-based and startups companies as well as four municipalities attend in the smart city sector and 20 governor generals attend in the rural brands sector.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Interior Minister Vahidi said that to offer better services, it needs two fields to be connected, adding that these two groups should be tied in order that smart city idea could be formed well. He added that holding this exhibition and exhibitions like this can materialize the smart city.

He went on to say that beside smart city, the idea of smart village should also be pursued. He reiterated that this exhibition is held due to pursuit and efforts of Municipalities and Village Administrations Organization and this organization is some part of the interior ministry and the ministry seeks developing and supporting companies which move in line with smart city.

Vahidi added that all provinces and municipalities have been ordered to make most of capacities in the field of smart city and some competitions are held to choose top knowledge-based companies which are leading ones in this field.

He also called for investment on the smart city and termed the smart city an important issue.

Meanwhile Head of Municipalities and Village Administrations Organization Mr. Mehdi Jamalinejad, for his part, said that the third exhibition is aimed at displaying the different dimensions of smart city and smartization in the cities and 235 organizations and knowledge-based companies will put on display their achievements in this three-day exhibition.

He added that some discussion panels, educational workshops and scientific lectures will be held and delivered on the sidelines of the exhibition and some new systems and products will be unveiled during the event.

Jamali went on to say that in this year's exhibition, for the first time the festival of rural brands is being held with presence of some knowledge-based companies and top rural entrepreneurs and rural brand products will be put on display in different fields.

He noted that the exhibition is being held in collaboration between Municipalities and Village Administrations Organization, Iran National Innovation Fund and Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology. Vice-President on Technology and other bodies.



# Official Hopes No Water Cut Happens This Year



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – The managing director of National Water and Wastewater Company Mr. Atabak Jaafari said that with measures taken, he hopes that there will be no cut in water supply in the country this year.

Speaking at the introduction and farewell ceremony of new CEO of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company (ABFA of Isfahan) said that if water is cut temporarily in some areas it will be because of accidents and problems of the water grid and it will be resolved in the shortest time.

Jaafari went on to say that in recent years, water supplies in different areas like 7,000 villages have been done by using water tankers, adding that with plans conducted and with implementation of water supply jihad project, the project for sustainable drinking water supply for 7,000 villages is underway through cooperation with IRGC as well as 3,000 villages and private sector and the project has progressed over 10%.

He noted that rainfalls this year have declined by 26% in the country comparing to the previous year and it shows that the drought crisis in Iran is not just for one year and it will continue. He reiterated that to pass this condition, the country needs comprehensive plans because in recent 8 years, some projects have been halted.

Meanwhile outgoing CEO of the company Mr. Hashem Amini pointed to the project for smartizing the water distribution and water transmission lines in Isfahan Province and said due to implementation of this project, people of Isfahan Province had access to sustainable drinking water.

He added that ABFA of Isfahan has achieved many considerable successes in many fields in the water and wastewater industry of the country and this shows that ABFA of Isfahan has specialized and committed forces.

# Iran Export of Technical Services Grows by 376%

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Figures show that Iran's export of technical and engineering services increased by 376 percent in the last Iranian calendar year (March 2021-March 2022).

Iran's foreign trade has seen significant growth since President Ebrahim Raisi took office in August last year.

Foreign trade growth, exports in particular, has significant effect on the country's economic growth, the inflow of reserve currencies, and mitigation of the impacts of sanctions.

Figures from Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) show that Iran's exports and imports respectively amounted to 34.8 and 38.9 billion dollars in the Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021). The numbers increased to 48.6 and 53 billion dollars in the next year (March 2021-March 2022).

This indicates that Iran's exports increased by 40 percent and its imports by 36 percent in the March 2021-March 2022 period compared to the year before.

The trend continued in the first quarter of this Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21, 2022) when Iran's exports increased by 21 percent to 13.1 billion dollars and its imports grew by 18 percent to 12.5 billion dollars, compared to 10.8 billion and 10.6 billion dollars in the same period last year.

Among various sections, technical and engineering services exports experienced a significant growth, reaching 2.3 billion dollars in the Iranian calendar year 1400, compared to 493 million dollars the year before. This is indicative of a 367-percent surge this area of exports which saw an even greater increase this spring, stretching from 17 million dollars the last spring to 105 million dollars.

# KSC Begins Payment Adjustment Scheme of Contractor Forces

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Khorasan Steel Complex Company (KSC) began the scheme for adjusting payments for its contractor forces which is aimed at implementing justice in payment and making the payment fair for the qualified personnel.

Head of human resources and social affairs of the company Mr. Sabourian announced the news and said that with order of the CEO of company Dr. Ghafoori for necessity of a fair payment system and adjusting salaries of all staff working in the industrial site of the company, the scheme for adjusting payment for hardship of work and paying hardship allowances was came into effect last month with the approval of the board of directors.

Sabourian said that the difference of payments of previous months was around 2.8b rials per month.

Meanwhile head of organizing formation and classification of jobs in the company Ms. Zahra Koushki said that after thorough studies, 952 contractor forces who work for the contractor company were considered as qualified for rise in their payments and getting hardship allowances.





## Protesters Rally in Spain, Morocco Over Migrant Deaths

MADRID (Dispatches) - Demonstrators held rallies in several Spanish cities and in Rabat to protest over the deaths of 23 African migrants who died in a crush trying to enter the Spanish enclave of Melilla in northern Morocco.

Thousands of protesters gathered in Barcelona, Malaga, Vigo and San Sebastian and in Melilla itself to denounce migration policies and the "militarisation of borders".

In the Moroccan capital, a few dozen representatives of the Collective of Sub-Saharan Communities in Morocco and associations helping migrants demonstrated in front of parliament calling for Rabat to "stop playing the role of EU policeman".



## New York Bans Guns In Many Public Places

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - New York state passed a law on Friday banning guns from many public places, including Times Square, and requiring gun-license applicants to prove their shooting proficiency and submit their social media accounts for review by government officials.

The law, passed in an emergency legislative session, was forced by a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling last week that struck down New York's restrictive gun-license laws. The court's conservative majority ruled for the first time that the U.S. Constitution grants an individual the right to carry weapons in public for self-defense. New York's Democratic leaders have decried the ruling and the court, saying there will be more gun violence if there are more people carrying guns.



## Blasts Rock Ukraine Southern City



KYIV (Dispatches) - Blasts shook Ukraine's southern city of Mykolaiv as Russia's artillery helped grind out gains in the east, after a week when the civilian death toll from Russian missile strikes climbed in urban centers well behind the frontline.

"There are powerful explosions in the city! Stay in shelters!" Oleksandr Senkevych, mayor of the Mykolaiv region which borders the vital Black Sea port of Odesa, wrote on the Telegram messaging app as air raid sirens sounded.

The cause of the blasts was not immediately clear, although Russia later said it had hit army command posts in the area. Reuters could not independently verify the reports.

Kyiv says Moscow has intensified missile attacks on cities far from the main battlefields in the country's east and that it deliberately hit civilian sites. Ukrainian troops on the eastern frontlines meanwhile describe intense artillery barrages that have pummeled residential areas.

Russia says it has targeted military sites and denies aiming at civilians. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said "Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets".

The Chief of General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, inspected Russian troops involved in what Moscow calls its "special military operation", Russia's defence ministry said, although it was not clear if he was in Ukraine. The inspection follows slow but steady gains by Russian forces with the help of relentless artillery in east Ukraine, a focus for Moscow after it narrowed its broader war goals of toppling the government following fierce Ukrainian resistance.

"Definitely they are trying to demoralize us. Maybe some people are affected by that, but for us it only brings more hatred and determination," said a Ukrainian soldier returning from Lysychansk, Ukraine's last bastion in Luhansk province.

Russia is seeking to drive Ukrainian forces out of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces in the industrialised eastern Donbas region where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Kyiv since Russia's first military intervention in Ukraine in 2014.

Russia's TASS news agency quoted a source close to Russia-backed forces in Luhansk saying Ukraine's last forces in Lysychansk were under intense attack. "They will be defeated in the near future if they do not surrender," the source said.

It was not possible to independently verify the report. Ukrainian officials did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment.

Russian forces seized Sievierodonetsk, a major city in Luhansk this month, after some of the heaviest fighting of the four-month-old war that pounded whole districts into rubble. Other settlements now face similar bombardment.

"Private houses in attacked villages are burning down one by one," Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on Telegram, adding that shelling stopped Lysychansk residents from dousing fires.

Ukraine has appealed for more weapons from the West, saying its forces are heavily outgunned by the Russian military.

Troops on a break from the fighting and speaking in Konstyantinivka, a market town about 115 km (72 miles) west of Lysychansk, said they had managed to keep the supply road to the embattled city open, for now, despite Russian bombardment.

"We still use the road because we have to, but it's within artillery range of the Russians," said one soldier, who usually lives in Kyiv but asked not to be named, as comrades relaxed nearby, munching on sandwiches or eating ice cream.

"The Russian tactic right now is to just shell any building we could locate ourselves at. When they've destroyed it, they move on to the next one," the soldier said.

Russia has also struck cities well behind the frontline. A missile slammed into an apartment block near the southern port city of Odesa on Friday, which the authorities said killed at least 21 people. A shopping mall was hit on Monday in the central city of Kremenchuk, leaving at least 19 dead.

## Afghan Clerics Vow Loyalty to Taliban

KABUL (Dispatches) - Thousands of Afghan clerics pledged loyalty to the Taliban, but ended a three-day meeting without recommendations on how the hardline Islamist group should govern the crisis-hit country.

The men-only gathering was called to rubber-stamp the Taliban's rule, and ahead of the meeting officials said criticism would be tolerated and they could also discuss thorny issues such as secondary school education for girls.

Media were barred from the event, although speeches were broadcast on state radio including a rare appearance by the Taliban's reclusive supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Taliban officials presented the gathering as an opportunity for clerics to independently say how they wanted the country to be governed, but the meeting's final declaration was mostly a regurgitation of their own doctrine.

It called for allegiance to Akhundzada, loyalty to the Taliban, and the complete acceptance of sharia law as the basic principle of rule.

"By the grace of God, the Islamic system has come to rule in Afghanistan," the declaration read.

"We not only strongly support it, but will also defend it. We consider this to be the national and religious duty of the entire nation."

Since returning to power in August, the Taliban's harsh interpretation of sharia law has imposed severe restrictions on Afghans — particularly women.

Secondary school girls have been barred from education and women dismissed from government jobs, forbidden from travelling alone, and ordered to dress in clothing that covers everything but their faces.

The Taliban have also outlawed playing non-religious music, banned human figures in advertising, ordered TV channels to stop showing movies and soaps featuring uncovered women, and told men they should dress in traditional garb and grow their beards.

The final declaration made no mention of girls' schooling, but called on the government to pay "special attention" to modern education, as well as justice and the rights of minorities "in the light of Islamic law".

It said the new government had brought security to the nation — despite an attack on the meeting Thursday by two gunmen that was claimed by the Islamic State group, which has regularly carried out bomb blasts and ambushes since the Taliban's return.



## Libyan Protesters Storm Parliament Building in Tobruk

TRIPOLI (Dispatches) - Protesters stormed Libya's parliament building in the eastern city of Tobruk, demonstrating against deteriorating living conditions and political deadlock, Libyan media reported.

Several television channels said that protesters had managed to penetrate the building and committed acts of vandalism, while media outlets showed images of thick columns of black smoke coming from its perimeter as angry young demonstrators burned tyres.

Other media reports said part of the building had been burned.

The parliament building was empty, as Friday falls on the weekend in Libya. Libya's parliament, or House of Representatives, has been based in Tobruk, hundreds of kilometres (miles) east of the capital Tripoli, since an east-west schism in 2014 following the revolt that toppled dictator Moamer Kadhafi three years earlier.

A rival body, formally known as the High Council of State, is based in Tripoli. Images Friday showed that a protester driving a bulldozer had managed to smash through part of a gate, allowing other demonstrators to enter more easily, while cars of officials were set on fire.

Later, protesters began to break through the building's walls with construction equipment.

Others, some brandishing the green flags of the Kadhafi regime, threw office documents into the air. While recognising "the right of citizens to demonstrate peacefully", parliament condemned "acts of vandalism and the burning" of its headquarters.

The interim prime minister of the Tripoli-based government, Abdulhamid Dbeibah, said on Twitter that he would add his voice to those of the protesters and called for the holding of elections. Libya has endured several days of power cuts, worsened by the blockade of several oil facilities against the backdrop of political rivalries.

"We want the lights to work," protesters chanted.

Two governments have been vying for power for months: one based in Tripoli, led by Dbeibah, and another headed by former interior minister Fathi Bashagha, appointed by the parliament and supported by eastern-based strongman Khalifa Haftar.

## China Hit by Year's First Typhoon Chaba

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's first typhoon of the year has brought gales and rain to its southern shores, as forecasters warn of record rainfall and high disaster risk in provinces including Guangdong, the country's most populous.

Typhoon Chaba, the Thai name for the hibiscus flower, was moving northwest at 15-20km (10 to 15 miles) per hour after the eye of the storm made landfall in Guangdong's Maoming city on Saturday afternoon, the National Meteorological Center said in a statement.

Chaba, though medium in intensity and expected to lose strength over time, is likely to bring extremely heavy rains and may break the record for cumulative rainfall as it pulls the monsoon rain belt in the region inland, said Gao Shuanzhu, the centre's chief forecaster.

"The abundant monsoon water vapour will lead to intense downpours and huge cumulative rainfall of an extreme nature," Gao said, predicting up to 600mm (24 inches) of cumulative rainfall in some areas.

At risk are the west of Guangdong, where China's typhoons usually linger, the east of Guangxi autonomous region and the island province of Hainan, with rainstorms causing landslides, urban waterlogging and floods, Gao said.

Hainan upgraded its emergency response to Level II, the second-highest, on Saturday. It suspended railway service across the island and cancelled more than 400 flights to and from the cities of Haikou and Sanya.

In Macau, one person was injured due to the wind and rain on Chaba's approach, state televisions reported.

In recent weeks, historic rainfall and flooding in southern China have destroyed property, paralysed traffic and disrupted the daily lives of millions in one of the country's most populous and economically key regions.

Extreme weather including unusually heavy flooding is expected to continue in China through August, forecasters predicted this week, with climate change partly blamed.

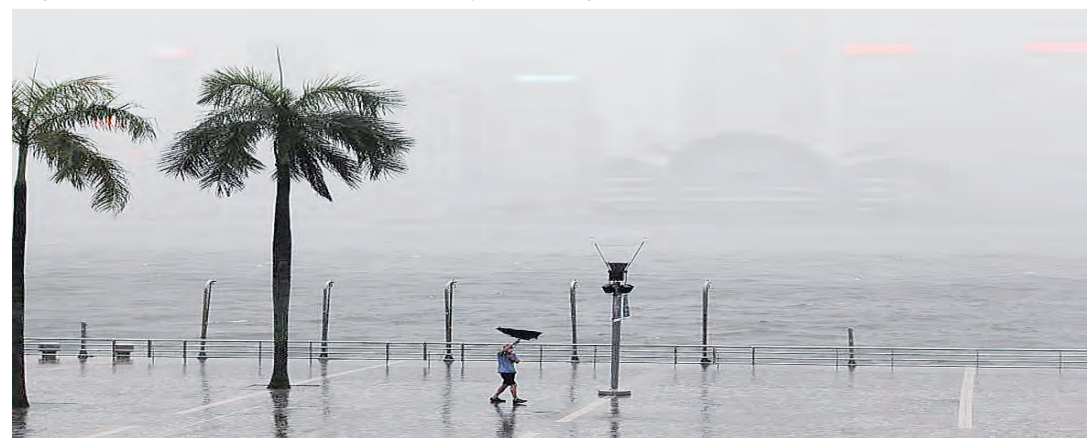
More than two dozen crew members are unaccounted for after an engineering vessel with 30 people on board broke into two in the South China Sea on Saturday, officials said.

Three crew members were rescued as operations to locate the missing crew members continued about 300km (200 miles) southwest of Hong Kong.

The three survivors were found as of 3pm local time (07:00 GMT) and were taken to hospital for treatment, the Hong Kong Government Flying Service said.

Dramatic footage provided by Hong Kong authorities showed a person being airlifted onto a helicopter while waves crashed over the deck of the semi-submerged ship below.

Other crew members may have been swept away by waves before the first helicopter arrived, according to a government statement.



## Tunisian Union Sees Possible Threat to Democracy From Proposed Constitution

TUNIS (Dispatches) - A proposed constitution that includes broad powers for Tunisia's president and a reduced role for other bodies and institutions could threaten democracy, the head of the powerful UGTT union said.

But the union, a major political force with more than 1 million members, said it would allow its members the freedom to vote as they choose on the constitution proposed by President Kais Saied.

Voters will be asked to approve the constitution in a July 25 referendum. Saied has ruled by decree since last summer, when he brushed aside the parliament and the democratic 2014 constitution in a step his foes called a coup, moving towards one-man rule and vowing to remake the political system.

The UGTT said the proposed constitution preserved chapters related to freedoms and rights, but that some restrictions and the absence of guarantees could threaten these freedoms and rights and offer an opportunity to violate them.

The draft constitution published in the official gazette would bring most political power under Saied, give him ultimate authority over the government and judiciary.

Previously, political power was more directly exercised by parliament, which took the lead role in appointing the government and approving legislation.

Under the proposed new constitution, the government would answer to the president and not to parliament though the chamber could withdraw confidence from the government with a two-thirds majority.

Saied would be allowed to present draft laws, have sole responsibility for proposing treaties and drafting state budgets, appoint or remove government ministers and appoint judges.

The President delivered his draft for a new constitution to the public on Friday after months of political turmoil. A referendum is expected to be held on July 25 to decide the document's fate, and, according to some, the fate of the only democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring uprisings. Tunisia's 2014 constitution established a representative republic based on a parliamentary system, but Saied's draft, if accepted by voters, would derail it.

Tunisia's political crisis started on July 25, 2021, after rampant protests due to a poor coronavirus response, collapsing healthcare, economic decline, high unemployment and fewer state services. In response, Saied invoked emergency powers under article 80 of the constitution to remove the prime minister, and to suspend parliament for 30 days, parliamentary immunity and most of the constitution itself.



## EU Agrees Rules to Tame Wild West Crypto Market



LONDON (Dispatches) - Cryptocurrency companies will need a license and customer safeguards to issue and sell digital tokens in the European Union under groundbreaking new rules agreed by the bloc to tame a volatile "Wild West" market.

Globally, crypto assets are largely unregulated, with national operators in the EU only required to show controls for combating money laundering.

Representatives from the European Parliament and EU states thrashed out a deal late on Thursday on its Markets in Crypto-assets (MiCA) law.

"Today we put order in the Wild West of crypto assets and set clear rules for a harmonised market," said Stefan Berger, a German centre-right lawmaker who led negotiations on behalf of the parliament. "The recent fall in the value of digital currencies shows us how highly risky and speculative they are and that it is fundamental to act," Berger said.

Crypto markets have tumbled this year, pressured by the collapse of the terraUSD stablecoin and the freezing of withdrawals and transfers by major U.S. crypto lender Celsius Network.

Bitcoin, the biggest token, has slumped some 70% since its November record of \$69,000, dragging down the overall market.

The landmark regulation confirms the EU's role as a standard-setter for digital issues, EU states said. "With the new rules, crypto-asset service providers will have to respect strong requirements to protect consumers' wallets and become liable in case they lose investors' crypto-assets," they added.

The deal will need formal rubberstamping by the European Parliament and EU states to become law, followed by an implementation period.

The new law gives issuers of crypto assets and providers of related services a "passport" to serve clients across the EU from a single base.

Holders of stablecoins - a type of crypto designed to hold a steady value - will be offered a claim at any time and free of charge by the issuer, with all stablecoins supervised by the bloc's banking watchdog EBA.

Robert Kopitsch, secretary general of the Blockchain for Europe lobby group that includes the major exchanges Binance and Crypto.com, said the rules were "a mixed bag".

"Thanks to last-minute changes, we also fear that stablecoins will basically have no ways to be profitable," Kopitsch said.

AFME, a financial markets industry body, said the rules would bring certainty, reduce fragmentation and underpin the development of a robust and well-functioning market.

More clarity is needed, however, to ensure that custodians of crypto assets are only on the hook in cases of negligence or misconduct, and not for events beyond a custodian's control, such as a nation state hack, AFME said.

Finance Watch, which promotes the public interest in finance, said the rules will protect consumers, and it welcomed the new role for EBA after the difficulties faced by stablecoins.

Many states, including Ireland, Lithuania and Greece, have long opposed including non-fungible tokens (NFTs), which are digital assets representing objects from art to videos.

But under pressure from EU lawmakers, the compromise reached on Thursday night foresees that "NFTs will be excluded from the scope except if they fall under existing crypto-asset categories".

Brussels will assess within 18 months whether standalone rules are needed for NFTs.

## For Pandas, It's Been Two Thumbs up for Millions of Years



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Fossils unearthed in China are helping scientists get a better grasp on one of the marvels of evolution: the giant panda's false thumb, which helps this veggie-loving bear munch the bamboo that makes up most of its diet.

Researchers said they discovered near the city of Zhaotong in northern Yunnan Province fossils about 6 million years old of an extinct panda called Ailurarctos that bore the oldest-known evidence of this improvised extra digit - actually a greatly enlarged wrist bone called the radial sesamoid.

It closely resembled the false thumb of modern pandas, but is a bit longer and lacks the inward hook present on the end in the extant species that provides even greater ability to manipulate bamboo stalks, shoots and roots while eating.

The false thumb is an evolutionary adaptation to augment the existing five actual digits of the panda's hand. A bear's hand lacks the opposable thumb possessed by humans and various primates that enables the grasping and handling of objects using the fingers. The false thumb serves a similar function.

"It uses the false thumb as a very crude opposable thumb to grasp bamboos, sort of like our own thumbs except it is located at the wrist and is much shorter than human thumbs," said Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County paleontologist Xiaoming Wang, lead author of the research published in the journal Scientific Reports.

Ailurarctos was an evolutionary forerunner of the modern panda, smaller but with anatomical traits signaling a similar lifestyle including a bamboo diet. The modern panda's false thumb has some advantages over the earlier version.

"The hooked false thumb offers a tighter grasp of the bamboo and, at the same time, its less-protruded tip - because of the bended hook - makes it easier for the panda to walk. Think of the false thumb as being stepped on every time the panda walks. And therefore, we think that is the reason that the false thumb in modern pandas has become shorter, not longer," Wang said.

The panda's tight grip on bamboo acts against the jerking action of the mouth in order to quickly break food into bite-size chunks, Wang added.

The researchers initially found an Ailurarctos arm bone in 2010, then discovered teeth and the false thumb in 2015, giving them a much better understanding of the animal. Until now, the oldest-known evidence of this thumb-like structure dated to fossils from about 102,000-49,000 years ago in the same panda species alive today.

The false thumb lets pandas hold bamboo to eat but not rotate the food as a true thumb would allow.

"One of the most important features of human beings and their primate relatives is the evolution of a thumb that can be held against other fingers for precise grasping. The panda's false thumb is far less effective than the human thumb, but it is enough to provide the giant panda with the grasping ability to eat bamboo," said paleontologist and study co-author Tao Deng of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Pandas, one of the world's eight bear species, once inhabited large swathes of Asia. They now live primarily in temperate forests in the mountains of southwestern China, with a wild population estimated under 2,000.

A panda's diet is 99% vegetarian, though they do sometimes eat small animals and carrion. Because of their inefficient digestive system, pandas consume large amounts to meet their nutritional needs - 26-84 pounds (12-38 kg) of bamboo while eating up to 14 hours a day.



**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

**HOME**  
Real Estate

Member of **DELTA** Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865





## Turkey Announces 30% Raise in Midyear Minimum Wage Hike

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey has decided to raise the minimum wage in the country by 30%, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced Friday, in an effort to safeguard households from soaring inflation. Effective as of July 1, the new minimum wage has been set as TL 5,500 (around \$330) per month, Erdoğan told a televised address in Istanbul. The increase follows a 50% hike as of January, which had lifted the minimum wage to TL 4,250. Fueled by soaring food and energy prices, Turkey's annual inflation rate rose at a lower-than-expected pace last month but still jumped to a 24-year high of 73.5%.



## Russia Seizes Control of Sakhalin Gas Project, Raises Stakes With West

LONDON (Dispatches) - President Vladimir Putin has raised the stakes in an economic war with the West and its allies with a decree that seizes full control of the Sakhalin-2 gas and oil project in Russia's Far East, a move that could force out Shell and Japanese investors.

The order, signed on Thursday, creates a new firm to take over all rights and obligations of Sakhalin Energy Investment Co, in which Shell and two Japanese trading companies Mitsui and Mitsubishi hold just under 50%.

The five-page decree, which follows Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine, indicates the Kremlin will now decide whether the foreign partners can stay.

State-run Gazprom already has a 50% plus one share stake in Sakhalin-2, which accounts for about 4% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) production.

The move threatens to unsettle an already tight LNG market, although Moscow said it saw no reason for Sakhalin-2 deliveries to stop. Japan imports 10% of its LNG each year from Russia, mainly under long-term contract from Sakhalin-2. The action also raises the risks facing Western companies still in Russia.

"Russia's decree effectively expropriates foreign stakes in the Sakhalin Energy Investment Company, marking a further escalation in ongoing tensions," said Lucy Cullen, a principal analyst from consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

Many Western firms have already packed up, while others have said they would quit, but Putin's move adds complications to an already complex process for those looking for the exit. Moscow has been preparing a law, expected to pass soon, to allow the state to seize assets of Western firms which decide to go.

Shell, which has already written off the value of its Russian assets, made clear months ago it intended to quit Sakhalin-2 and has been in talks with potential buyers. It said on Friday it was assessing the Russian decree.

Sources have said Shell believed there was a risk Russia would nationalize foreign-held assets, while Putin has repeatedly said Moscow would retaliate against the United States and its allies for freezing Russian assets and other sanctions.

Sakhalin-2, in which Shell has a 27.5% minus one share stake, is one of the world's largest LNG projects with output of 12 million tons. Its cargoes mainly head to Japan, South Korea, China, India and other Asian countries.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia saw no grounds for halting LNG deliveries from Sakhalin-2 and said the future of other projects or investments would be determined case by case.

"There can be no general rule here," he said.

Japan, which depends heavily on imported energy, has said it would not give up its interests in Sakhalin-2, in which Japan's Mitsui has a 12.5% stake and Mitsubishi holds 10%. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday that Russia's decision would not immediately stop LNG imports from the development, while Japan's Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda said the government did not consider the decree a requisition.

## Germany's Plans to Spread Gas Price Risk

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - Germany has prepared a facility to impose a levy on all gas consumers to help suppliers grappling with soaring gas import prices, according to a draft law amendment seen by Reuters.

In late May Germany passed a law to enable the state to ensure energy supply in the event of market failure because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and reductions to the Russian gas exports on which it relies heavily.

The additional clause to be considered by parliament on July 8 is aimed at helping German distributors that have had to contend with sharply higher prices as Russian exports have dwindled after Western sanctions over the war in Ukraine while keeping to rules designed to protect consumer price guarantees.

Uniper became the first major victim this week. The company, which was Russian supplier Gazprom's biggest German customer, on Thursday asked for government help as it buckles under heavy losses.

The government has stopped short of allowing sellers to pass on prices through the supply chain, citing fears of inflation and a cost of living crisis for consumers. Below is how the amended law might be implemented and how it could prevent company defaults and spread the burden fairly for consumers.

The energy security law has the facility to pass on prices once the state declares a gas emergency, but the provisions needed fine-tuning because the law had been drawn up quickly in response to unprecedented events.

Lawmakers need to identify who can claim and how much they can claim, as well as establishing what mechanism could be used to pass on costs to consumers.

The proposal on Friday showed that Trading Hub Europe could be engaged to manage such a scheme. The gas zone operator already handles billing and balancing services for transport companies and has been enlisted by the government to buy LNG and pipeline gas for storage.

A Trading Hub Europe spokeswoman confirmed options have been discussed but said political processes need to be finalized before it can release further information.

Trading Hub Europe, which is experienced in auctioning and surcharging processes, could be a legally safe choice in that it could negate the need for customers to turn to the courts to try to force companies to honor prewar price guarantees.

It could also vet the accuracy of companies' cost calculations.



## U.S. Factory Activity Slows To Two-Year Low

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. manufacturing activity slowed more than expected in June, with a measure of new orders contracting for the first time in two years, signs that the economy was cooling amid aggressive monetary policy tightening by the Federal Reserve.

The survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) also showed a gauge of factory employment contracting for a second straight month, though an "overwhelming majority" of companies indicated they were hiring.

The slowdown in manufacturing followed moderate consumer spending growth in May along with weak housing starts, building permits and factory production, which left some economists anticipating that the economy contracted again in the second quarter following a slump in gross domestic product in the first three months of the year. Another decline in GDP would not necessarily indicate a recession unless the economy suffers deep job losses.

"This does not suggest that a recession is on the way yet, but growth conditions continue to decelerate broadly in response to Fed tightening and extended cost pressures for consumers and businesses," said Ben Ayers, a senior economist at Nationwide in Columbus, Ohio.

The ISM survey's index of national factory activity dropped to 53.0 last month, the lowest reading since June 2020, when the sector was rebounding from a COVID-19 slump. That followed a reading of 56.1 in May. The index would need to decline to 43.1 to signal a recession.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion in manufacturing, which accounts for 11.8% of the U.S. economy. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the index would fall to 54.9.

U.S. manufacturing is on better footing than factories in the euro zone and Asia. Some of the moderation in activity reflects a shift in spending back to services from goods.



## Indian Rupee Hits Record Low

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - The Indian rupee plunged to mark the fourth straight session of record lows, breaking below the 79-per-dollar mark, weighed down by broad strength in the greenback and as investors retreated from the domestic share markets.

The U.S. dollar remained strong against major peers due to the prospects of aggressive U.S. interest rates and fears of a widespread recession.

The partially convertible rupee was trading at 79.10/11 per dollar, after touching a record low of 79.1150. The unit had ended at 78.9675 on Thursday.

"The rupee-dollar exchange rate will remain volatile with a depreciation bias in near term due to a widening trade deficit, foreign portfolio investment outflows and strengthening of the U.S. dollar index," economists at rating agency CRISIL wrote in a note on Friday.

"We expect the exchange rate to settle at 78/\$ by March 2023, compared with 76.2/\$ in March 2022," the economists added.

Traders said there was sporadic dollar-selling intervention seen in the market, but the depreciation pressure on the rupee was large.

"Central bank currency support might continue given that imported inflation remains elevated and the rupee does not seem significantly overvalued on an REER (real effective exchange rate) basis," said Rahul Bajoria, an economist with Barclays.

## Eurozone Inflation Hits Record 8.6%

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - Inflation in the eurozone hit yet another record high in June as price pressures broadened, with its peak potentially still months away, firming the case for rapid European Central Bank (ECB) rate hikes starting this month.

Consumer price growth in the 19 countries that use the euro currency accelerated to 8.6% in June, surging past the 8.1% recorded in May, the European Union statistics agency, Eurostat said.

The reading came in higher than expectations for 8.4% and was driven primarily by energy prices, fueled partly by Russia's war in Ukraine, even as food and services also made a marked contribution.

Inflation is now at its highest level since recordkeeping for the euro began in 1997.

Inflation has risen steadily for more than a year now, initially fuelled by post-pandemic supply shocks and now by energy prices on the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

At more than four times the ECB's 2% target, inflation is so high it is at risk of getting stuck at uncomfortable levels as businesses and workers adjust their pricing and wage behaviors to the new reality.

Indeed, even if volatile food and fuel prices are filtered out, "core" inflation remained well above the ECB's target, a distressing reading for policymakers as it suggests perpetuating price growth via so-called second-round effects.

Inflation excluding food and fuel prices accelerated to 4.6% from 4.4%, although an even narrower measure, which also excludes alcohol and tobacco, slowed to 3.7% from 3.8%.

Fuel prices rose by 41.9% in June while food costs increased by 11.1%, a particular concern for governments because lower income families spend a disproportionate portion of their cash on these items.

Demand for energy has risen as the global economy bounced back from the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine made things worse.

European Union leaders agreed to ban most Russian oil imports by the year's end, driving a price spike. The 27-nation bloc wants to punish Moscow and reduce its reliance on Russian energy, but it's also adding to financial pain for people and businesses as utility bills and prices at the pump soar.

Russia also reduced deliveries of natural gas used to power industry and generate electricity last month to several EU countries like Germany, Italy and Austria, on top of cutting off gas to France, Poland, Bulgaria and others.

## Turkey Can Re-Export Black Sea Grains



ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey could re-export grain products like wheat, oat and barley from the Black Sea to countries in need after talks with Russia and Ukraine, the country's president said.

Speaking after Friday prayers in Istanbul, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said he would discuss the matter with both Russia and Ukraine in the coming days.

Ukraine is one of the top global wheat suppliers, but shipments have been halted by Russia's invasion, causing global food shortages. The United Nations has appealed to both sides, as well as maritime neighbor Turkey, to agree to a corridor.

Erdoğan said his office was working with Kyiv and Moscow to set up calls with his counterparts and that 20 Turkish vessels were ready to take part in the potential shipments.

After talks with the leaders of Ukraine and Russia, "we can send wheat, barley, oat, sunflower oil and all to countries in need by carrying out a re-export through us," he said.

Turkey has played a central role in negotiations with Russia and Ukraine to try to reach an agreement that would allow for an increase in the amount of grain that can get out of Ukraine amid the conflict.

Some grain was transported west by rail out of Ukraine, but experts say restoring Ukraine's ability to export grain through the Black Sea is necessary to have a significant effect on easing global food shortages.

Turkey has held direct talks with Moscow and the United Nations on the plan and Erdoğan said from Madrid on Wednesday that he hoped diplomacy would help solve the issues around Ukraine's grain exports.



# COVID-19 Kills 6 More Iranians Over Past 24 Hours

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The number of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic in Iran increased to 141,396 with six more Iranians killed by the deadly disease over the past 24 hours, Iran's Health Ministry announced on Sunday. Six more Iranians have died from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths to 141,396, Iran's Health Ministry said on Sunday. 717 new cases of infection with COVID-19 were found over the past 24 hours, 104 of whom were hospitalized, it said.



# Factory Data Dampen Global Hopes for Soft Landing

LONDON (Dispatches) - Global manufacturing struggled in June as higher prices and a darker economic outlook left consumers wary of making purchases, while China's strict COVID-19 lockdowns and Russia's invasion of Ukraine added to supply chain disruptions, surveys showed.

From the United States to the euro zone, activity at factories slowed to levels last seen during the initial wave of the pandemic. They were the latest signs pointing to the risk of all-out recession in the global economy, coming after the world's top chipmakers said they were facing waning demand and as central bankers warned of painful interest rate hikes ahead.

"Between central banks digging their heels in to counter inflation and growing fears there is absolutely no path to a soft landing for the global economy, there are few, if any, places to hide," said Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

The slowdown in the United States was accompanied by declines in new orders and employment. The Institute for Supply Management's index of national factory activity dropped to 53.0 last month, the lowest reading since June 2020, from 56.1 in May. Its measure of new orders contracted for the first time in two years, while employment remained weak.

The picture was equally gloomy in the euro zone, where manufacturing output also slowed. S&P Global's manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 52.1 in June from May's 54.6, its lowest level since August 2020.

"We doubt the outlook for manufacturing will improve any time soon," said Andrew Hunter, a senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "While the latest PMI surveys from China suggest manufacturing activity there is rebounding rapidly as lockdowns are lifted, that acceleration is unlikely to be sustained."

Earlier, surveys showed China's factory activity recovering in June, though a slowdown in Japan and South Korea, as well as a contraction in Taiwan, highlighted the strain from supply disruptions, rising costs and persistent material shortages.

At a meeting of central bank chiefs in Portugal this week, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde made it clear that bringing down high inflation could hurt badly but must be done quickly to prevent rapid price growth from becoming entrenched.

Evidence from the real economy suggests that higher prices are already biting into consumer and corporate demand.

Micron Technology Inc sounded the latest warning from the world's chipmakers, forecasting worse-than-expected revenue for the current quarter, noting that the market had "weakened considerably in a very short period of time." read more

Facebook-owner Meta Platforms Inc has cut plans to hire engineers by at least 30% this year, CEO Mark Zuckerberg told employees on Thursday.

"If I had to bet, I'd say that this might be one of the worst downturns that we've seen in recent history," Zuckerberg told workers in a weekly employee Q&A session, audio of which was heard by Reuters.



A Reuters poll of economists last month found there is a 40% chance of a recession in the United States over the next two years, with a 25% chance of it happening in the coming year.

"There's hope China's economy will pick up after a period of some weakness. But now there's a risk of slowdown in the U.S. and European economies," said Yoshiaki Shinke, chief economist at Japan's Dai-ichi Life Research Institute.

"It will be a tug of war between the two, though there's a lot of uncertainty over the global economic outlook."

China's Caixin/Markit manufacturing PMI rose to 51.7, marking the first expansion in four months and well above analysts' expectations for a reading of 50.1.

The Caixin survey, which focused on export-oriented and small firms in coastal regions, follows official data showing the country's factory and service sectors snapped three months of activity decline in June.

China's economy has started to chart a recovery path out of the supply shocks caused by its strict lockdowns, though risks remain such as diminished consumer spending and fear of a further wave of infections.

Meanwhile, the final au Jibun Bank Japan Manufacturing PMI slipped to 52.7 in June from 53.3 in the previous month.

South Korea's S&P Global PMI fell to 51.3, dropping for a second straight month, reflecting supply constraints and a truckers' strike.

Separate data showed South Korean exports, seen as a proxy for global trade because its manufacturers are positioned in many parts of the world supply chain, growing at their slowest pace in 19 months.

India's PMI showed factory output expanded at its slowest pace in nine months, as elevated price pressures restricted demand and output.

# China Takes Fresh Steps to Open Bond Market to Foreigners



SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - China took fresh steps to facilitate foreign investment in its \$20 trillion bond market, saying it would cut service fees, improve overseas access to foreign exchange hedging, and streamline the process of opening accounts.

China will also facilitate cross-border bond subscriptions, and make it easier for foreign passive funds to trade Chinese bonds, the China Foreign Exchange Trade System (CFETS), affiliated to China's central bank, said in a statement.

Passive funds track indexes, as opposed to active funds where managers pick assets to invest in.

Overseas investors reduced holdings of Chinese bonds for a fourth consecutive month in May, as diverging monetary policies kept Chinese yields pinned below their U.S. counterparts.

The move is aimed at "promoting further opening of China's bond market", and deepen capital market reforms, said the CFETS, which operates the platform for China's interbank and forex trading.

To reduce foreign investors' trading cost, service fees under the Bond Connect scheme, a major cross-border channel for bond investors, will be slashed by 25% starting July 11, according to the CFETS.

And on Monday, the CFETS will roll out a service for cross-border bond subscriptions, making it easier for overseas investors to participate in the primary market of Chinese bonds.

In addition, CFETS will make it easier for foreign investors to conduct forex hedging business in China, and will further extend trading hours in the onshore forex market.

China will also improve a mechanism for trading based on closing prices to better meet the needs of foreign passive bond investors.

Global index publishers including FTSE Russell and JPMorgan have added Chinese bonds to their indexes, channeling passive money inflows into China.

# Berlin Designs Huge Thermos to Keep Homes Warm in Winter

BERLIN (Dispatches) - With the energy crunch putting extra pressure on Europe's plans for heating homes this winter, Berlin has taken a big step to both use extra electricity and keep its citizens warm: a huge insulated hot water tower.

The rust-colored tower rising from an industrial site near the banks of Berlin's Spree River looks nothing like the sleek flasks Germans use for coffee, yet its purpose of providing some warmth throughout the day, especially when it's cold outside, is very similar to its tiny counterpart.

With a height of 45 meters (almost 150 feet) and holding up to 56 million liters (14.8 million gallons) of hot water, utility company Vattenfall says the tower will help heat Berlin homes this winter even if Russian gas supplies dry up.

"It's a huge thermos that helps us to store the heat when we don't need it," said Tanja Wielgoss, who heads the Sweden-based company's heat unit in Germany. "And then we can release it when we need to use it."

While district heating systems fueled by coal, gas or waste have been around for more than a century, most aren't designed to store significant amounts of heat.

By contrast, the new facility unveiled Thursday at Vattenfall's Reuter power station will hold water brought to almost boiling temperature with excess electricity from solar and wind power plants across Germany.

"Sometimes you have an abundance of electricity in the grids that you cannot use anymore, and then you need to turn off the wind turbines," said Wielgoss. "Where we are standing we can take in this electricity."

The 50 million euro (\$52 million) facility will have a thermal capacity of 200 megawatts - enough to meet



much of Berlin's hot water needs during the summer and about 10% of what it requires in the winter. The vast, insulated tank can keep water hot for up to 13 hours, helping bridge short periods when there's little wind or sun.

It will also be able to use other sources of heat - such as that extracted from wastewater, said Wielgoss.

While it will be Europe's biggest heat storage facility when it's completed at the end of this year, an even bigger one is already being planned in the Netherlands.

Berlin's top climate official, Bettina Jarasch, said the faster such heat storage systems are built, the better.

"Due to its geographic location the Berlin region is even more dependent on Russian fossil fuels than other parts of Germany," she told The Associated Press (AP). "That's why we're really in a hurry here."

"The war in Ukraine and the energy crisis teach us that we need to be faster," said Jarasch.

# Iran Daily Refining...

FROM PAGE 1

Back in September 2021, Oil Minister Javad Oji had said that the country's oil refining capacity will be increased by 1.5 folds by the end of the current government's incumbency (in four years).

He mentioned promoting the quantity and quality of the current refineries' products and the construction of new refineries as some major plans of the Oil Ministry in the new government.

# Iran, Russia, Turkey...

FROM PAGE 1

The supply of all the parts needed for the production of automobiles by the three countries, not needing to exchange any currency to supply parts and the existence of suitable export markets are among the advantages of such a project, the official stated.

Having an annual export of more than \$12 billion worth of auto parts, Turkey has a very good potential in the parts manufacturing industry, the Russians also have high technical and technological capability, especially in heavy vehicles, and the existence of factories and production lines for the assembly of various cars in Iran, along with the ability to design are among the factors that can be encouraging to turn this idea into an executive project, he added.

Iran has been ranked the world's 19th biggest automaker in 2021, according to the latest report released by the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA). Based on the OICA data, Iranian automakers produced 894,298 vehicles in 2021 to register a two percent increase compared to 2020, IRNA reported.

# Coordination...

FROM PAGE 1

"As the initiator of the Iranian nuclear crisis, the United States should face up to its responsibility, correct its mistake once and for all, make a political decision as soon as possible, and take concrete measures to respond positively to the reasonable demands of Iran," Zhang Jun said.



This point is very crucial for advancing the talks and as long as Iran's rights are not observed by the West, signing any deal or observing the JCPOA obligations would be meaningless.

Pointing to Washington's double standards on Iran, Zhang said the U.S. has repeatedly expressed its readiness to return to compliance as per the JCPOA but it is nevertheless ramping up sanctions against Tehran and third parties even during the process of talks.

"Doing so is obviously detrimental to any positive progress in the talks. The United States should live up to its words and lift all relevant unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction measures against Iran, so that Iran can fully partake of the economic dividends of the JCPOA," the Chinese diplomat said.

The Islamic Republic welcomes talks for resolving the issue but it does not mean it is ready to accept unilateral and excessive demands of the U.S. and this is Washington which should be blamed for the current saga. Iranian negotiating team will fight for the rights of the nation and will not give any concession under excessive demands of the U.S.

So once for all, the West and above all the U.S. should wisely decide and take a logical and fair decision for continuing the talks otherwise it will be waste of time and prolongation of the talks that none of the negotiating parties would benefit it. The U.S. should stop blaming Tehran for prolongation of talks and it is better to blame itself for unilateral withdrawal from the deal and decision for return to it. Americans are not in a position to impose their excessive demands on Iranians because now the game and condition has changed and the Islamic Republic has upper hand in the talks and it seeks a win-win deal not a mere victory for the West. We Iranians say no pain no gains and we are ready to gain more scientific achievements although we may suffer a bit but as we are the final winners and bright future is ahead.

# No Tehran-Cairo...

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile he and his Syrian counterpart, Faisal Mikdad, on Saturday reiterated their countries' absolute determination to resolve the problems in the region, vowing to respond to Israel's threats and confront the regime's aggression.

"We discussed issues of common interest between the two countries and ways of enhancing permanent and long-term cooperation to serve the people of the two countries," Amirabdollahian said.

Underlining Syria's territorial integrity, Amirabdollahian said Syria is at the forefront of the fight against the fake and occupying Israeli regime, adding that the Syrian government, leadership, and people will not allow the Zionists to compromise the regional security as well as the security of their country. "We continue to offer unwavering support for the resistance to ensure lasting security in the region against the threats posed by the fake Israeli regime," the top Iranian diplomat added.

Amirabdollahian condemned the Israeli aggression against Syria and stressed that "Iran will continue supporting Syria to counter the terrorist war it has been facing," vowing the Islamic Republic's support for the unity, integrity, and safety of the Syrian territory.

"There is no doubt that the relations between Iran and Syria are strategic," Amirabdollahian said. "We proudly announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran has never and will never leave its friends and allies alone in difficult times."

# Hezbollah...

FROM PAGE 1

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun also condemned the move by Israel, warning that any activity in the disputed waters would amount to an act of aggression and a provocation.

Hezbollah's Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah had, in the past, asserted clearly that all options were on the table to protect Lebanon's soil and resources from Israeli infringement.

"The resistance cannot stay silent in the face of plunder of Lebanon's resources. The resistance's essential duty is to protect Lebanon's land, waters, oil, gas and dignity," Nasrallah said during an address last month.

Lebanon and the Israeli regime are technically at war due to the latter's 1967-present occupation of the country's Shebaa Farms.

The occupying regime launched two wars against Lebanon in the 2000s. In both cases, it was forced to retreat after suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of Hezbollah.



## LIV Golf Plans 14 Events in 2 Years

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - The Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series has accelerated growth plans for 2023 with 14 events rather than 10 and firmer teams with permanent captains, Golf Digest reported.

The controversial upstart group fighting for talent with the US PGA Tour and DP World Tour plans a name change to the LIV Golf League next year, according to the report, which cites an unnamed LIV Golf official.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

**Switchboard:**

(+98) (21) 44253448

**Public Relations Tel:**

(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

**Public Relations Fax:**

(+98)(21) 44253395

**Advertising Department:**

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

**Website:**

http://www.irannewsdaily.com

**E-Mail Address:**

info@irannewsdaily.com

**ISSN 1024-6053**

**P.O. Box:** 15875-8551

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

**Printed by:**Honar Sarzmin Sabz

**Distributed by:**

Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

**Managing Director:** Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

## Red Bull Chief Opposed to Mid-Season Porpoising Solutions

LONDON (Dispatches) - Red Bull team chief Christian Horner on Saturday called on Formula One's ruling body not to change any technical regulations mid-season to solve the sport's 'porpoising' problems.

Horner, whose team lead both F1 world championships, told a news conference at the British Grand Prix it was already too late in the current season to intervene and make changes.

# De Minaur Beats Broady To Reach Last 16

LONDON (Dispatches) - Alex De Minaur proved rock solid as he ended British wildcard Liam Broady's Wimbledon run in the third round, winning 6-3 6-4 7-5 to reach the last 16 for the first time.

For the second match in succession, the 23-year-old was up against a British left-hander, and as against Jack Draper the 19th seed gave a masterclass of precision hitting.

Broady, playing in the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time after knocking out seeded Argentine Diego Schwartzman in five sets, threw everything in his arsenal at De Minaur.

But finding a way past one of the quickest players in men's tennis was exhausting with De Minaur picking up balls that he had no right to get back.

De Minaur, whose British girlfriend Katie Boulter had earlier lost her third-round match, dominated the first set, striking 12 winners to Broady's one as he subdued the Court One crowd, most of whom were cheering the home favourite.

World number 132 Broady played more aggressively after that but dropped serve at 2-2 and De Minaur grabbed a two-set lead.

To his credit, Broady refused to go quietly and cupped his ear to the crowd after winning one point, and they responded to try to roar him back into contention.

De Minaur served for the match at 5-4 in the third but Broady broke for the first time as the Australian wavered for the first time in an increasingly nerve-jangling contest.

De Minaur hit straight back to take the Broady serve and again Broady fought tooth and nail to stay alive, engineering three break points to force a tiebreak.

He could not convert those but Broady saved three match points before a relieved De Minaur secured victory at the fourth attempt with a first serve.

Meanwhile Iga Swiatek was dumped out of Wimbledon in straight sets by French veteran Alize Cornet, ending the world



number one's 37-match winning streak.

Cornet, ranked 37, took advantage of an error-strewn performance from her Polish opponent to win 6-4, 6-2 on Court 1 in their third-round tie.

The top seed was on the back foot right from the start of the match, broken in her first two service games, and could not get back on level terms.

The 20-year-old broke at her first opportunity in the second set but Cornet broke back immediately, repeating the feat twice more as Swiatek's game fell apart.

Swiatek made a total of 33 unforced errors in an uncharacteristically sloppy display. She had not lost a match since her defeat to Jelena Ostapenko in February at Dubai, winning her past six tournaments, including the French Open.

Cornet is contesting her 62nd consecutive Slam, matching Ai Sugiyama's record. In reaching the fourth round, the French player matches her run at Wimbledon in 2014, when she beat Serena Williams in the third round.

"It reminds me of the time I beat Serena Williams on the same court eight years ago," she said.



MADRID (Dispatches) - Ernesto Valverde will take over as head coach of Athletic Bilbao for a third time as the club's longest serving manager signed a one-year contract, the LaLiga club said.

Valverde, who last coached Barcelona and guided them to two league titles and the Copa del Rey, had been out of a job since he was sacked in January 2020.

"It's always an honor to coach Athletic," Valverde said. "This club means a lot to me. And I know what it means not just to Bilbao, but to a lot of other places around the world too."

"I made the decision to return because I believe this is a challenge which is exciting and demanding enough to make it worth a go."

"The main objective is that the fans feel proud and can identify with the team. We've got a good team to work with and that's what we're going to set about doing."

The 58-year-old had previously coached Athletic between 2003-2005 and 2013-2017, helping them win the Supercopa de Espana in 2015.

It was the first trophy the club -- which only selects players who are from or grew up in the Basque Country -- had won in the 21st century.

## FIFA Lifts Suspension of Pakistan Football Federation

ZURICH (Dispatches) - FIFA has lifted the suspension of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) which was imposed due to undue third-party interference, world soccer's governing body said.

A group of officials led by Ashfaq Hussain Shah, which was elected by the Supreme Court in 2018 to run the PFF but was not recognised by FIFA, took over the headquarters in March last year. read more

They had seized control from FIFA's normalisation committee headed by Haroon Malik, with Shah saying the committee had not conducted elections for the body in the 18 months since it took charge.

FIFA suspended the PFF due to the "hostile takeover" but said it now had confirmation the committee had regained full control of the PFF's premises and was in a position to manage its finances. read more

"The PFF was also informed that any undue interference in its affairs or action that could hinder the fulfilment of the mandate of the normalisation committee might lead to the PFF being suspended again and/or the imposition of other sanctions provided for in the FIFA Statutes," FIFA added in a statement.

"As the deadline by which the normalisation committee was required to fulfil its mandate (30 June 2022) is now no longer realistic, the Bureau (of the FIFA Council) has also decided to extend the committee's mandate until 30 June 2023 at the latest."

Pakistan was also suspended by FIFA for third party interference in 2017.

## Lampaert Shocks Big Guys In Tour de France Opener

COPENHAGEN (Dispatches) - Belgian Yves Lampaert won the first stage of the Tour de France, gate-crashing the opening day individual time-trial as crowds defied the rain along the 13.2km route in downtown Copenhagen.

Quick-Step rider Lampaert suffered less from the rain with a later start than the pre-race favourites, finishing five seconds ahead of compatriot Wout van Aert, with defending champion Tadej Pogacar third best seven seconds off the pace.



He penned a new contract last October and his current deal expires in 2025. The 24-year-old has attracted interest from Manchester United and Arsenal after a superb 2021/22 campaign in which he was named the club's player of the year.

# Man United Battle to Sign Ajax Star

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United are in 'advanced negotiations' with Ajax over a deal to sign Arsenal target Lisandro Martinez, according to reports.

The Argentine has been in the Dutch capital since joining from Defensa for around £6m in 2019.

Erik Ten Hag and his hardcore, drastic, intense instructions at Manchester United training

The 24-year-old has attracted interest from Manchester United and Arsenal after a superb 2021/22 campaign in which he was named the club's player of the year.

The Gunners have already lodged two bids but it is believed Ajax are holding out for €50m. Speaking this week De Telegraaf journalist Marcel van der Kraan said there will be "big developments in the 24 or 48 hours".

"Martinez is very high on Erik ten Hag's wishlist, so I expect big developments in the 24 or 48 hours," he said. "Martinez will also have his hopes pinned on United, who are an absolute top club for him."

"Ajax will really cash out for Martinez and go to €45-50m (£39-43m), but that is the advantage if two clubs bid, as we saw with Lyon and Manchester United, then it suddenly goes higher."

And now David Ornstein has claimed that United 'have established themselves as favorites' to land Martinez.

Erik ten Hag - who left Ajax at the end of last season - is believed to be very keen on a reunion with the Argentina international.

## Semi-Automated Offside Technology Approved by FIFA

LONDON (Dispatches) - Semi-automated offside technology will be used at this year's World Cup, promising decisions that are more accurate and a lot quicker, world soccer's governing body FIFA said.

In what can be considered an extraordinary development in the officiating of the game, technology will be able to resolve contentious offside calls with a speed and accuracy unimaginable less than a decade ago.

Using cameras strategically positioned around the stadiums, and a chip in the match ball, FIFA said the technology will go a long way to cutting down on continuous Video Assistant Referee (VAR) decisions on marginal offside calls and reduce the time needed to check.

"We have been working on a more consistent use of VAR, in particular concerning the line of intervention," said Pierluigi Collina, chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee, at a news briefing.

"We are aware that sometimes the length of checks or reviews is too long, in particular, concerning offside." The solution, FIFA unveiled, is the so-called SAOT, which will bring a futuristic, space age feel to the game, with spectators able to see some of the 3D animation when the VAR decisions are explained on a stadium's giant screen.

The technology has already been tested at two tournaments over the last seven months and had been expected to be approved for the World Cup in Qatar from Nov. 21-Dec. 18. It will be used at all the venues at the tournament.

It uses 12 dedicated tracking cameras mounted under the roof of a stadium to track the ball and up to 29 data points of each individual player, 50 times per second, calculating their exact position on the pitch.

The 29 collected data points include all limbs and extremities relevant for making offside calls.



## Maldini Signs New Two-Year Director Deal With AC Milan

MILAN (Dispatches) - Paolo Maldini will stay on as AC Milan's technical director after signing a new two-year contract, the Serie A champions announced. Milan icon Maldini's new deal means that the seven-time European champions will keep the duo who built their Scudetto-winning side.

Maldini worked alongside sporting director Frederic Massara, who has also signed a two-year extension, to take Milan from the doldrums to the top of the Italian game.

"This deal highlights the importance of continuity we see throughout the club as we continue to strengthen and grow," Milan said in a statement.

The 54-year-old confirmed late last night that he had signed an extension after weeks of delays which almost led to Milan starting the summer transfer window -- which opened in Italy on Friday -- without their key men.

He has been critical in Milan signing some of their most important players, one such example being a now-famous meeting in Ibiza which was crucial to bringing Theo Hernandez to the club in 2019.

France left-back Hernandez was a stand-out player in last season's surprise title win. Maldini is one of the greatest players in Milan's history, winning a raft of trophies over a quarter of a century passed entirely with his boyhood club.

He played over 900 times for Milan, winning the European Cup or Champions League five times and claiming seven Serie A titles before retiring in 2009.

That success was not replicated in an Italy jersey despite earning 126 caps, losing in the 1994 World Cup and Euro 2000 finals.

