

Iran's Integrated Forex Market launched the Ruble/Rial Currency Pair in Its Trades in a Ceremony on Tuesday Attended By Governor of Central Bank of Iran Ali Saleh-Abadi, and CBI Deputy Governor Asghar Abolhasani

IRAN NEWS

Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to **141,532** With **19** More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7545 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 2022 - TIR 29, 1401

2

DOMESTIC

Persian Gulf Security Needs No Foreign Powers



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

Talks Underway For Preferential Tariff With Indonesia



> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine Urges EU Not to Fall for Trap of Giving Ground to Putin



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Cressy Wins ATP Hall Of Fame Open Title



> SEE PAGE 8

NIOC, Gazprom Strike \$40b MoU

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Russia's Gazprom signed a memorandum of understanding worth roughly 40 billion dollars.

The document was signed during an online ceremony on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 by NIOC CEO Mohsen Khojastehmehr and Vitaly Markelov, Deputy Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee.

The development of Kish and North Pars gas fields, pressure enhancement of South Pars field, development of 6 oil fields, gas and product swap, completion of LNG projects, construction of gas export pipelines and other scientific and technological cooperation are among the most important highlights of the memorandum.

The relations between Iran and Russia under the 13th administration have been put on a new path with the support of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the two countries want to expand relations at all economic and political grounds.

See Page 7

Leader Tells Erdogan Any Military Action in Syria to Benefit Terrorists



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei says any military action in northern Syria will definitely harm Turkey, Syria and the entire region and will instead benefit terrorists.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a Tuesday meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is in Tehran to take part in a tripartite summit aimed at helping restore peace and stability to war-torn Syria. Ayatollah Khamenei described as “very important” the issue of Syria's territorial integrity.

The Leader stated that fighting terrorism is a must “but a military incursion of Syria will benefit terrorists. Of course, terrorists are not limited to a specific group.”

Referring to the Turkish president's call for Iran's cooperation in fighting terrorist groups, the Leader said, “We will definitely cooperate with you in the battle against terror.”

Ayatollah Khamenei added that Iran regards security in Turkey and its border areas as its own and called on Turkey to pursue a similar approach vis-à-vis its neighbor Syria.

“The Syrian issues must be settled through negotiations, and Iran, Turkey, Syria and Russia must solve this issue through dialog,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader stressed the importance of “useful and necessary” cooperation between Iran and Turkey on all regional issues, saying, “We have always defended your government in internal issues and against [instances of] interference and as you have said, we have been each other's friends in difficult times and we pray for the Muslim nation of Turkey.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to the issue of Palestine and stated that the Israeli regime is one of the main forces driving a wedge among Muslim countries.

The Leader added that the U.S. and Israeli regime cannot stop the Palestinians' deep-rooted movement. Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the U.S. and the Zionist regime should not be relied upon and said, “Today, neither the Zionist regime, nor the U.S. nor others will be able to stop the deep movement of the Palestinians, and the final result will be in the interest of the Palestinian people.”

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that maintenance of the Islamic Ummah's dignity and honor hinges on overcoming differences and remaining vigilant against divisive policies and said the usurping Zionist regime, supported by the United States, is one of the factors that sow discord and hostility in the region. The Leader once again reiterated that Palestine is the first and foremost issue of the Muslim world and emphasized that despite some regional governments' “inclination” toward Israel, Muslims nations are “deeply against” the occupying regime.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said the volume and quality of economic exchanges and cooperation between Iran and Turkey are much less than the existing capacities, adding, “This issue must be settled in the talks between [the two countries'] presidents.”

The Leader also welcomed the return of Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan but emphasized that the Islamic Republic would oppose any policy on closing the border between Iran and Armenia “because this border is a connection route that has existed for thousands of years.”

During the meeting, which was also attended by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the Turkish President stressed the importance of reinforcing unity among Muslim nations and promoting solidarity between Tehran and Ankara. Erdogan said his country has never remained silent in the face of injustice against Iran and stressed the importance of bolstering bilateral relations in all fields.

Turkey has always opposed unilateral sanctions against Iran and would continue to support Tehran's legitimate rights as per the 2015 agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, he added.

The Turkish president noted that Iran and Turkey have been fighting terrorists for many years and said terrorist groups in Syria are supported by the Western countries, including Germany, Britain and particularly the U.S., who are providing them with weapons.

He said Turkey pursues a clear stance on Syria's territorial integrity and expects the Arab country's government to start political approaches.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, the official ceremony of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Turkey and Iran has been held in the presence of both countries' presidents and ministers.

The ceremony of inking the agreement of joint cooperation was held at Sa'dabad Historical Palace in capital Tehran on Tuesday before President Erdogan and his Iranian counterpart President Raisi as well as some ministers from both countries.

The MoU comprises of cooperation in different fields of expansion of transit, cultural, scientific, sports, energy and agriculture exchanges as well as trade and economic interactions.

The document was signed by high-ranking delegations from Turkey and Iran in order to pave the way for expansion of cooperation in various areas.

Speaking in the joint press conference with Erdogan, Raisi said, “Undoubtedly, Mr. Erdogan's visit to Iran is a turning point for improving the level of relations between the two countries. During the talks, the serious will of the two countries to improve the level of economic and commercial relations and other fields was discussed.”

See Page 7

Israel Will Not Dare To Attack Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign ministry spokesman has dismissed the recent Israeli threats against the Islamic Republic as psychological warfare, saying the regime in Tel Aviv will not dare to attack Iran.

“The Zionist regime's recent threats are just psychological warfare and this regime has neither the courage nor the capability to confront Iran militarily,” Nasser Kan'ani said in an interview scheduled to be aired by al-Alam TV channel later on Tuesday.

He stressed that Iran would respond decisively to any Israeli “idiocy.”

“Iran's response to any idiocy committed by the Zionist regime would be destructive,” Kan'ani said.

On Sunday, Israeli army chief Aviv Kohavi said it was Israel's “moral obligation” to prepare a military response against Iran's nuclear program, adding that such preparation is “at the center” of the military's preparations.

His remarks came as U.S. President Joe Biden signed a joint declaration against Iran with Israeli regime's acting premier Yair Lapid in the occupied al-Quds on Thursday.

Biden said the U.S. “will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon.”

See Page 7

U.S. Must Set Aside Excessive Demands

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says the United States must set aside its extravagant demands and instead take realistic steps toward reaching an agreement on the revival of the landmark 2015 Iran deal.

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a telephone conversation with the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, on Monday evening, praising the continuous efforts of the top EU official and those of his deputy Enrique Mora for the restoration of the Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran's top diplomat also briefed the EU foreign policy chief on his recent talks with Italian and French counterparts, Luigi Di Maio and Catherine Colonna respectively, stressing that Washington should abandon the ineffective approach of the past and the sanctions it has slapped against Tehran as part of the so-called “maximum pressure” campaign.

“There is no doubt about the Islamic Republic of Iran's determination to reach a good, strong and lasting agreement,” Amirabdollahian highlighted.

See Page 7

Iran Raises August OSP For Asian Buyers

TEHRAN (MNA) - National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has increased its crude oil selling prices (OSP) for Asian buyers in August amid a global surge in oil prices, Reuters reported citing industry sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

As reported, NIOC's official selling price increase affected four grades of Iranian oil namely Light, Heavy, Soroush and Forouzan.

The NIOC had set the August OSP of Iranian Light grade for Asia at \$8.9 a barrel above the Oman/Dubai average, up \$2.80 from the previous month.

The prices for Iranian Heavy, Forouzan, and Soroush grades are also set to be \$5.6, \$5.65, and \$1.45 above the Oman/Dubai average, respectively.

Iran has been shipping its oil into the global markets successfully despite the U.S. sanctions and over the past year, the export of Iranian crude oil increased significantly.

In late June, Head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) Massoud Mir-Kazemi announced that selling oil was better than before.

See Page 7

Iraqi President Calls Iran Important Regional Player

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iraqi President Barham Salih has stressed the need for the promotion of cordial and amicable relations between Iran and Arab states, saying that the Islamic Republic is a very important player in the Middle East region.

“Iran is a major actor in that part of the world; and ... we (Iraq) have long borders with Iran. We have all kinds of interactions, social, cultural, [as well as] common security interests,” Salih said in an exclusive interview with CNN news network broadcast.

He emphasized that Baghdad and Tehran have vital national interests and are developing good bilateral relations.

“We do not want to go back to the days of [slain Iraqi dictator] Saddam Hussein, when we were at war with our neighbor. We fought eight years...,” he said.

The Iraqi president went on to note that his country plays a very important role in pushing for a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

“There have been a number of conversations that have taken place in Baghdad between [delegations from] Iran and other Arab neighbors,” Salih said, adding that the atmosphere has been improved.

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 Nicaragua Revolution Anniversary

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi, in a message on Tuesday, congratulated Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Nicaraguan Sandinista revolution.

Deep friendship, link between the Iranian, and Nicaraguan nations have provided unique opportunities for improving interactions and cooperation between the two nations, Raisi said in his message.

He expressed hope that both countries would see a new experience of growth and expansion in their ties in all fields thanks to continuous efforts and the strong determination of their governments.

Persian Gulf Security Needs No Foreign Powers

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said that the regional countries have the capabilities to maintain Persian Gulf region’s security.

The Commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri made the comments during an inspection visit to the naval forces stationed in the Nazeat Islands in the Persian Gulf (the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb as well as Siri in the Persian Gulf which are located near the Strait of Hormuz) on Monday, to celebrate Eid Al-Ghadir with the them and their families there.

The IRGC navy commander warned that “If the enemy acts foolishly and wants to commit a move or aggression against the Islamic Establishment, we will act in such a way that it will be a good lesson for it and its allies, and we will destroy the center of that conspiracy at its core.”

He said that it is the people’s support and resistance that has preserved the



Islamic Establishment for the past 44 years since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Rear Admiral Tangsiri also said that “We are Muslims and we are religious brothers with the neighboring countries, all of whom are also Muslims, and we help each other in dealing with all problems and troubles, and to ensure the security of the important region of the Persian Gulf, this power and capacity exists in the neighboring countries, and there is no need for the presence of the countries from outside the region.”

Major Events Expected In Russian-Iranian Relations Soon



TEHRAN (MNA) – Russia and Iran are actively developing bilateral cooperation and major events are expected to take place in their relations, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said.

“Since the beginning of 2022, the two countries have been extensively exchanging political and economic delegations. Over this period, the two countries’ presidents have had numerous contacts, both personal and over the phone and they will have a meeting and talks in the near future,” Jalali said in an interview with TASS. “It demonstrates the closeness of the comprehensive relations between our countries. In the future, we will witness major events in bilateral ties.”

According to the Iranian diplomat, Moscow and Tehran are actively cooperating within multilateral formats. “As for multilateral formats, Iran and Russia are seriously cooperating with each other too. Iran’s membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its talks with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) toward the signing of permanent agreements on free trade, as well as the Iranian president’s participation in the BRICS summit, show that the countries have close positions and a lot of areas for cooperation,” he said.

“The Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran plans to invest \$145 billion over the next 4-8 years in the development of oil production and refining. Therefore, we welcome foreign investors, especially from friendly countries such as Russia, to implement relevant projects. Apart from the development of oil and gas deposits in Iran, the petrochemical industry, being the leading industry, is also ready to attract investments and implement joint projects with Russian companies,” the ambassador said.

“Negotiations have been held at the level of the heads of the two states, and if certain conditions are met, it will be possible to increase the import of grain, animal feed and oil from Russia to Iran,” he said.

The diplomat also noted that Russia is now the main supplier of grain and animal feed to Iran.

“In the past, Iran received a significant part of the grain it needed from South American countries and other countries, and Russia was considered a secondary source. From 2021, we have changed this process and Russia has become Iran’s main source of grain and animal feed supplies. Last year Iran imported more than 8 million tons of grain and animal feed from Russia,” he said.

Jalali also noted that Iran has not experienced a food shortage so far, because the republic has stable strategic reserves, and the process of food imports is constantly maintained.

Annual Rice Production Seen to Rise 20%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian farmers are expected to produce 2.2 million tons of rice during the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) to register a 20-percent increase year on year, Deputy Agriculture Minister Alireza Mohajer said.

“With this increase in production, more than 70 percent of the country’s rice demand can be supplied by domestic farmers,” Tasnim news agency quoted Mohajer as saying.

According to the official, the country’s current annual demand for rice is about three million tons.

Based on official statistics, over 620,000 hectares of Iran’s agricultural lands are under rice cultivation, of which 520,000 hectares are in Mazandaran, Gilan and Golestan provinces.

3 Popular Cars Not to Be Produced

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Ministry of industries (MIMT) says domestic car manufacturers will discontinue three popular models in August in line with government directives to modernize their production platforms.

MIMT spokesman Omid Qalibaf said the three models will include Samand by Iran’s largest carmaker IKCO and Tiba Basic and Saina by second largest company Saipa.

Qalibaf said the two companies will introduce five new cars, including new models of Shahin, Aria and Runna, to replace the discontinued models.

He said the IKCO and Saipa will discontinue the models after finishing nearly 50,000 orders they have received in recent months.

The announcement comes months after Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi issued orders that were meant to trigger major reforms in Iran’s home-grown automotive industry.

Among the orders was a requirement for largest carmakers to discontinue old models and introduce new cars that could suit the demands of the Iranian motorists.

“This (automotive) industry is transitioning from traditional to modern platforms in line with presidential directives,” Qalibaf said, adding that reforms in the sector will accelerate in the calendar year starting in late March 2023.

He said that the Iranian carmakers had outperformed other manufacturers in Iran in the month to late June with an 18% increase in their output.

MIMT figures show the IKCO produced more than 50,000 Samands in the year to late March, down 9% against the previous year.

Saipa’s production of various models of the Tiba family, including Tiba Basic and Saina, reached nearly 237,000 units, according to the same figures.

Baghdad to Mark Iranian Cinema Week

TEHRAN (IP) - Iranian cinema week is scheduled to be commemorated in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Iran’s ambassador to Baghdad has announced commemorating the Iranian cinema week in Iraq on July 23-26, 2022, at Iraq’s national theater center.

Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadeq, Iran’s ambassador to Iraq, emphasizing the deep and shared historical and cultural relations between the two countries, said: “The Islamic Republic of Iran has a special and high concern for cooperation with Iraq in all fields and appreciated the efforts of the Iraqi delegation in the recent trip to Iran that led to signing a memorandum of understanding on cultural cooperation between two sides.”

Iran’s ambassador to Iraq also met with the Iraqi Minister of Culture and Tourism Hassan Nazem on Monday and exchanged views on expanding cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Cultural cooperation between Iraq and Iran extended to the fields of religious tourism, antiquities, literature, exchange of experiences in various artistic areas, and transformative collaboration in the restoration and maintenance of ancient works and manuscripts.

Among the Arab countries of West Asia, Iraq has the most cultural and religious affinities with Iran.

Having the longest border among the neighbors (about 1258 km land border and 351 km water border), as well as racial, historical, linguistic ties, religious commonalities, and the existence of threats and the common security and economic interests are considered essential points in Iran-Iraq relations.

Expanding relations between Iran and Iraq in recent years has always been on the agenda of the authorities of the two countries due to the many cultural, political, and religious commonalities.

Tehran Hosts 8th International Shahr Film Festival

TEHRAN (IP) - The 8th International Shahr Film Festival kicked off at Mellat Cineplex in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, with the participation of 78 artworks in the international section and a total of 290 works in the national section.

The eighth edition of the International Shahr Film Festival for five days (July 18-22, 2022) will host people, artists, actors, and art lovers at Mellat Cineplex.

Several Iranian and international actors were honored at the opening ceremony of this festival.

“Majid Akbarshahi,” the secretary of the 8th edition of the International Shahr Film Festival, said that this festival is being held with the slogan “Tehran metropolis, the model for the Islamic world” and various cinematographic and animation works from Iran and

112 countries of the world participated in the 8th International Shahr Film Festival.

The secretary of the 8th International Shahr Film Festival has stated that the significant presence of different countries in this festival shows that the 8th International Shahr Film Festival is well known.

According to Majid Akbarshahi, a total of 290 works in the national section and 78 works in the international team of this festival have been selected for competition.

The nominees for three of six festival sections were announced at the ceremony, and Iran’s actor Jafar Dehqan was also honored. A total of 1,871 works from 112 countries were submitted to the secretariat of the 8th edition of the festival.

Swedish Verdict Against Nouri; Scandalous, Subject to Objection

TEHRAN (IP) - Judiciary Spokesman at his presser called the verdict issued by the Swedish court against Hamid Nouri a scandal and subject to vehement objection.

Massoud Setayeshi while answering the questions on Hamid Nouris’ case, slammed the verdict issued by the Swedish court and the Swedish government’s stance against the Iranian citizen.

Speaking at his weekly presser on Tuesday, he called the move a scandal, saying that the verdict was subject to vehement objection.

Setayeshi stressed that the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran will support the Iranian government’s decisive measures to pursue Nouri’s case while using all of its legal capacities.

Sweden has been running an anti-Iran show, accusing Hamid Nouri, a former Iranian judiciary official, of mistreating prisoners in 1988.

Tehran, however, says the case against him stems from accusations leveled by the MKO terrorist organization.

Nouri, who was arrested upon arrival at the Stockholm Airport in November 2019, has been held in solitary confinement for over two years.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment by a court in Sweden on Thursday.

Persian Language School To Be Reopened in Almaty

ALMATY (IP) - Iran’s first international school for Persian speakers will be reopened in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Mahmoud Hemmati, the founder and managing director of Iran International School in Almaty, told Iran Press on Monday that the educational complex of Iranians will be reopened for Persian speakers in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in the new academic year.

Hemmati stated that the lack of a Persian language school in the city of Almaty, Kazakhstan, and the lack of access for students coming from Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan to Persian language courses in Kazakhstan, was the motivation for reopening this school.

The founder of the International School of Iran stated on the sidelines of the gathering of Iranian businessmen and economic activists living in Kazakhstan that the educational system of the International School of Iran in Almaty is TIS which stands for Teaching International Students and the curriculum is based on the two international systems of Cambridge and Lamington.

Mohsen Faghani, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Almaty city, also praised the growing economic relations between Iran and Kazakhstan at the gathering of Iranian businessmen and economic activists living in Kazakhstan.

Referring to the spread of the coronavirus and the critical situation of the world’s economy due to this virus, the Consul General of Iran in Almaty said that the volume of economic relations between Iran and Kazakhstan in 2020 reached the lowest level of 168 million dollars.

Faghani added that with the efforts made, the value of economic and commercial exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan reached 440 million dollars in 2021.

He announced that the amount of economic relations between the two countries in the fourth month of 2022 has reached 252 million dollars.

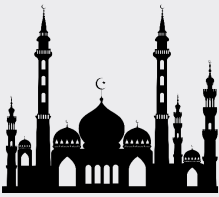
The presidents of the Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan agreed in June 2022 in Tehran to increase the value of trade and economic exchanges between the two countries to 3 billion dollars per year.

Iran Center of Dynamic Diplomacy

TEHRAN (MNA) – Referring to the tripartite meeting of the heads of the guarantors’ states of peace in Syria in Tehran, the Iranian Foreign Minister said that Iran is center of dynamic diplomacy.

“Upcoming meetings between Presidents of Iran, Russia, Turkey in Tehran will provide opportunity to further boost relations and develop economic cooperation; focus on security of the region via political solution and not to resort to war; and to ensure food security,” Hossein Amirabdollahian wrote in a tweet on Monday.

“I.R.Iran is center of dynamic diplomacy,” he added.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)

■ Evening (Maghreb)

■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)

■ Tomorrow's Sunrise

13:10

20:38

04:23

06:04

35. Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The Parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche and within it a Lamp: the Lamp enclosed in Glass: the glass as it were a brilliant star: Lit from a blessed Tree, an Olive, neither of the east nor of the west, whose oil is well-nigh luminous, though fire scarce touched it: Light upon Light! Allah doth guide whom He will to His Light: Allah doth set forth Parables for men: and Allah doth know all things.

Surah 24, Light (35)

Talks Underway
For Preferential Tariff
With Indonesia

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced beginning of talks for creating preferential tariff with Indonesia as well as free trade with Serbia.

Speaking in the 36th meeting of representatives of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Alireza Payman-Pak said that the organization's plans regarding promotion of trade are divided into two parts, adding that one part is related to broadening market and the other one is to remove problems in way of the trade.

He went on to say that so far there has been no macro plan for promoting foreign trade but regarding the remarks of President Raisi in his election campaign for doubling the non-oil exports, targets have been set eastbound and the TPO has set the least target to increase the non-oil exports to \$75b in the 2025 Outlook Plan.

He said that therefore it was decided the interactions with the neighboring countries to be put on the agenda and promoting trade diplomacy is the priority of the organization in the non-oil exports.

Payman-Pak went on to say that there is a change in the approaches regarding the exports in the country and the country is shifting from traditional exports to the technology-centered exports.

He noted that the organization has prioritized exports and the first priority for export is the neighboring states or some other strategic countries and this process has been focused on some axes that one of the main axes is the issue of broadening market and the issue of logistic.

Pointing to the international trade agreements with other countries, he said that the issue of agreements on the free trade has begun with some countries that free trade with Serbia is one of them and the organization has also started the talks on preferential tariff with Indonesia.

Payman-Pak stated that the issue of free trade with Eurasia is pursued seriously and by December both parties will reach agreement regarding the goods.

He also said that the organization has also taken some actions regarding financial and monetary issues and it has tried to bring sanctions management networks to the help of the non-oil trade.

Payman-Pak also said that efforts for deployment of commercial attaches are pursued strongly and currently the number of Iran's commercial attaches has been increased from 5 to 12. He added that some 7 trade centers have been launched in countries, adding that one of them is in the UAE and the TPO is working to turn these centers into trade embassies in order that they can offer trade services.

Payman-Pak also said that expansion of exporting technical and engineering services and knowledge-based products are of the main priorities of the organization and some measures have been taken and the organization has tried to resolve the issue of the guarantee letter for exports of engineering and technical services.

South Pars 9th Refinery Yields 7 mb of
Gas Condensate in Q1

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The head of operation at the 9th refinery of South Pars gas complex (phase 12) said the refinery has produced more than 7.517 million barrels of gas condensate since the beginning of the current calendar year, which began on March 21 year to the end of June 21.

Alireza Houghoughi described the conditions of production in the 9th refinery as favorable, and added: "By relying on local power and knowledge, 84 million standard cubic meters of gas is produced daily in the 9th refinery of South Pars."

He said: "Relying on the ability of domestic manufacturing and innovative measures in the 9th refinery, we have been able to produce 100,000 barrels of gas condensate per day and play a very effective role in the country's economy."

According to the head of operation of the 9th refinery of the South Pars gas complex, more than 7.517 million barrels of gas condensate has been produced in this refinery in the first quarter of the current calendar year.

Tehran, Baghdad
Sign First Long-Term
Electricity Contract

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of energy announced the signing of a long-term strategic electricity contract with Iraq.

According to international reports, Iran has the largest electricity production and distribution capacity among West Asian countries, said the Iranian Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian.

Referring to Iran's superiority in the field of electricity among West Asian countries, he stressed the importance of expansion of energy diplomacy based on electricity with other neighboring countries in order to resolve the neighboring countries' problems in this matter.

He further said that signing long-term strategic electricity contracts play an important role in the government's dynamic regional diplomacy, which has brought brilliant results for the country.

In this regard, Iran has recently prepared the ground for the first long-term cooperation in the electricity sector with Iraq, he noted, adding that the two countries have signed an important and strategic contract in the electricity field.

There have been many areas of cooperation between Iran and Iraq among which the contracts for the construction and development of power plants and the maintenance of existing electricity production units can be mentioned, Mehrabian said.

Mehrabian said Iran relies on its high electricity production capacity as well as its indigenous technical know-how for exports, construction, upgrading, repairing and maintenance of power grids.

He said Iran pursues an 'electricity diplomacy' so, "in addition to solving the problems of the neighboring countries in this sector, the grounds would be prepared for generating a steady flow of income and using the maximum capacity of the country's electricity grid."

The minister also said Iran has signed its first long-term electricity contract with Iraq in line with this policy, explaining, "There have been several fields of cooperation between Iran and Iraq, including the numerous contracts for construction and development of power plants and maintenance of the existing electricity production units."

Despite US sanctions, Iran is an indispensable source of energy for Iraq as it relies on the Islamic Republic for 45 percent of its 14,000 megawatts of electricity consumed daily.

Iran's electricity grid is currently connected to several neighboring countries and it is implementing plans to link up its grid to neighboring Qatar for exports.

Iran-Russia Trade Grows by Over 81% in 2021

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The chairman of the Iran-Russia chamber of commerce says trade between the tow countries grew by 81.7 percent and reached \$4.03 billion in 2021.

Hadi Tizhoush said correct implementation of the financial and banking memorandum of understanding between Moscow and Tehran will facilitate the exchange of trade figures.

Tizhoush also referred to the Russian president's extension of preferred trade with Eurasian countries, saying such moves can pave the way for increased trade between the two sides and leave a positive impact on the volume of trade between Iran and the Russian Federation too.

He however noted there is a need to change in the view about exports in order to transform on-oil exports.

The chairman of the Iran-Russia chamber of commerce blamed sanctions on Iran's banking sector for lack of expected growth in trade.

Tizhoush said the removal of this obstacle can create a favorable condition for importers and exporters.

Meanwhile Kremlin Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov announced on Monday that Moscow and Tehran would gradually abandon the use of the dollar in bilateral relations.

Peskov addressed President Vladimir Putin's visit to Iran, stating that Moscow and Tehran are reliable friends and partners.

He also stressed that the two nations will gradually abandon the practice of using US dollars to assess the scope of bilateral trade.

"We all know that trade and economic relations between the two countries slightly exceeded four billion US dollars last year, although it may be wrong to count it in US dollars, and over time, we will probably move away from this practice as we develop our cooperation in the banking financial sector," Peskov told the Iranian state broadcaster in an interview, which was also aired by Rossiya 24 TV.

The official also noted that net trade between Russia and Iran grew 31 percent just over the last few months, adding that the trend is positive.

According to him, Russia and Iran have an opportunity to build cooperation to mitigate the effect of sanctions.

Iran has been under sanctions for more than a decade and has adapted well to developing and improving the well-being of its people, despite the restrictions, the official said, noting that Russia is also accustomed to sanctions.

"I think that we have an opportunity to build bilateral cooperation that will allow us to minimize the damage from these bilateral sanctions," Peskov continued.

Iran Export to Armenia Increases 21% in Q1

TEHRAN (MNA) - The value of Iran's export to Armenia increased 21 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), from the first quarter of the previous year, the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said that Iran exported commodities worth \$74 million to Armenia in the three-month period.

Iran and Armenia signed a memorandum of understanding at the end of the two countries' 17th meeting of Joint Economic Committee in Yerevan in mid-May.

The MOU, which covers cooperation in areas of transit, transportation, facilitation of exchange of goods, energy, development of environmental cooperation in Aras area and removal of pollution from border rivers, as well as medical tourism, was signed by Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, who are the chairmen of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee.

In that meeting, which was attended by a large number of deputy ministers, senior officials, ambassadors, and members of parliament of the two countries, the main issues that play a key role in the development of relations between the two countries were discussed.

According to the officials, the purpose of holding the 17th meeting of Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee was the real and tangible development of relations between the two countries.

In late April, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi headed a delegation on a visit to Armenia to hold talks with the country's senior officials with the aim of expanding economic ties between the two nations.

Chadormalu Co. On Verge of
New Development

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Financial Affairs and Human Capitals of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company says the company is on the verge of development and changes in recent years in the world have pushed industrial enterprises towards new approach.

Eng. Farhad Azarinfar pointed to the necessity in structural development for attaining development goals and added that the recent changes and developments that have happened in the world in recent years have made industrial enterprises face new approach whose definite result will be relative change in the position of the enterprises comparing to the past.

He added that currently it has been accepted as a postulate that successful organizations are those which use change and development for reaching sustainable development in their goals and programs.

He reiterated that the new approach in Chadormalu Company believes that traditional planning based on the existing condition should turn into a strategic planning based on cognition and welcoming the future happenings, reiterating that without attention to the strategic issues the company will be unable to fulfill its mission and responsibilities.

Azarinfar noted that therefore change in the change and sharing the responsibilities and rationalizing and making fit the tasks in the new structure and strategic plan, including outlook, mission, values, strategic goals, strategies and operational plan, has been concentrated as necessity and strong determination. He noted therefore re-engineering organizational investment and descriptive charts related to the development goals of Chadormalu Company has been prepared, approved and carried out.

He reiterated that the company has tried to implement its developmental projects in accordance with the national developmental programs and upstream documents.

Natural Gas Supply to Power Plants at 294 mcm Per Day

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) says its supply of natural gas to power plants in the country has reached 294 million cubic meters (mcm) per day as warm weather increases electricity demand for cooling.

NIGC's head of dispatching operations Mohammad Reza Joulayi said on Monday that the current gas supply to power plants in Iran is 13% higher than a quota agreed between the country's ministries of oil and energy before summer.

Iran has reported an all-time record consumption of electricity of more than 68 gigawatts for peak hours this summer amid rising temperatures that has increased demand for cooling.

That has pushed the power plants to the brink and caused a major increase in their overall consumption of fuels.

"The NIGC has done its utmost to supply the gas needed in power plants given that power usage broke a record this summer," Joulayi said.

A bulk of Iranian power plants have been connected to the country's nationwide gas pipeline network in recent years as the country has managed to boost its natural gas production from southern gas fields.

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said recently that that total fuel supply delivered to power plants in the country had reached the equivalent of 309 mcm per day.

Turkey to Freeze Finland, Sweden's NATO Bids If Promises Not Kept

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey will freeze Finland and Sweden's NATO membership bids if the Nordic countries do not keep promises on counter-terrorism made last month, President Tayyip Erdogan said today, adding he believed Sweden was "not showing a good image" for now.

Finland and Sweden applied for membership of the defense alliance in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but were met with opposition from Turkey, which accused the Nordic countries of supporting groups it deems terrorists.



China Demands U.S. Cancel Potential Arms Sale to Taiwan

HONG KONG (Dispatches) - China has demanded that the United States immediately cancel its latest arms sale to Taiwan, the Chinese state broadcaster reported on Monday, citing the country's Ministry of National Defense.

The Pentagon said on Friday that the U.S. State Department had approved the potential sale of military technical assistance to Taiwan worth an estimated \$108 million.



Ukraine Urges EU Not to Fall for Trap of Giving Ground to Putin



LONDON (Dispatches) - Ukraine's foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba has warned his European Union counterparts against any temptation to loosen their sanctions on Russia or give in to the demands of President Vladimir Putin.

"Backing down and bowing to his demands will not work, it has never worked. This is a trap," Kuleba told a meeting of the EU's 27 foreign ministers on Monday, according to remarks shared with reporters.

"I am sure that in the following weeks there will be more Kremlin-leaning voices nudging the public opinion into giving Putin what he wants so that he leaves Europe alone. We should actively counter these narratives," he added.

Kuleba's comments came as the European foreign ministers said sanctions imposed on Russia to punish it for invading Ukraine are working – despite the threat to the EU's own energy supplies.

Last week, one EU leader, Hungary's nationalist premier Viktor Orban, denounced the bloc's sanctions policy and claimed that Brussels was doing more harm to Europe's own economy than it was to Moscow.

Arriving at EU headquarters for talks on how to close loopholes in the sanctions regime and increase pressure on Russia, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell rejected Orban's claim.

"Some European leaders have been saying that the sanctions were an error, were a mistake," he told reporters. "Well, I do not think it was a mistake. It is what we had to do and we will continue doing."

EU officials say the sanctions being drawn up will see some 90 percent of Russian oil exports to the EU halted by the end of the year as the bloc tries to halt funds flowing to Moscow's coffers.

Luxembourg's foreign minister Jean Asselborn dismissed the idea of dropping the sanctions: "That would be fatal if we did that. It is our credibility that is at stake."

"Normally we would have to use diplomacy, the UN, to try to get this right. But we are not in a normal time. We are in a time where the laws of the jungle count."

Since February, when Russia invaded its neighbor Ukraine, which it already partially occupies, the EU has deployed an escalating series of six sanctions packages against Moscow.

Most oil imports have been banned since June, and diplomats are discussing a gold embargo, but many European countries remain dependent on Russian gas for their energy supplies.

Borrell and most Western leaders insist that the sanctions have damaged Russia's economy and will only get tighter if Putin fails to withdraw his forces from Ukraine.

But on Friday, Orban – the closest EU leader to the Kremlin and a frequent critic of Brussels – slammed the measures, arguing that Europe had "shot itself in the lungs" by hurting energy supplies.

"Brussels thought that the sanctions policy would hurt the Russians, but it hurts us more," he said.

Borrell and the EU ministers held talks over video link with Kuleba, before discussing among themselves how to tighten existing sanctions.

Borrell noted that EU officials are drawing up plans to ban imports of Russian gold, but added: "We do not say 'new package', but improving the implementation of the already existing sanctions."

In the meantime, Russia has begun to disrupt gas supplies to Europe, threatening the energy security of countries like EU industrial powerhouse Germany.

"Russia is trying to demoralize us," Germany's Minister of State for European Affairs Anna Luehrmann said.

"We will continue to support Ukraine, both economically, politically, but also with military means," she said. "It is very important that the sanctions are maintained."

Khan Calls for Early Election After State Assembly Victory

LAHORE (Dispatches) - Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan called again for an early national election after his party seized control of the state assembly in Punjab, the country's most populous province.

Twenty seats were up for grabs in the Punjab by-election, which was seen as a popularity test for the former international cricket star dismissed by a no-confidence vote in April.

His Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party won 15, with the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) of current Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif taking four, and one going to an independent.

Sunday's vote was also seen as a bellwether for national elections that must be held by October next year, although Khan has campaigned across the country for an earlier poll since being dismissed.

"The only way forward from here is to hold free and transparent elections," Khan tweeted early Monday after the Punjab votes were tallied.

"Any other way will only lead to increased political uncertainty and further economic chaos."



Tensions Spread in Sudan as Tribal Clashes Rage on

KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - The death toll from tribal clashes triggered by land disputes in southeastern Sudan's Blue Nile State has risen to at least 64, medical sources said, with the long festering tensions spreading into some other states.

A curfew was imposed in two major towns of Blue Nile State and security forces deployed following fighting between the Hausa and Funj tribes that began last week.

Medical sources in the state capital Damazine said that at least 64 people had been killed and hundreds injured, amid a severe shortage in emergency medical supplies.

In the city of Roseires, also in Blue Nile, clashes continued on Monday with several houses burned, witnesses told Reuters. Others said that large groups of people had begun moving in cars and on foot to neighboring Sennar state.

Members of the Hausa tribe, whose members inhabit farming areas across the country, staged protests that turned violent in two other states, witnesses said.

The witnesses said protesters in Kassala set fire to several government buildings, and security forces fired in the air to break up the crowd.

Meanwhile in Madani, capital of Gezira state, protesters blocked a main road and bridge and also clashed with other protesters, a witness said.

Funj-Hausa tensions boiled over following accusations from the Funj, who have long inhabited Blue Nile state, that the Hausa were trying to lay claim to parts of their land.

There has also been sporadic violence in eastern coastal regions and western Darfur despite a nationwide peace deal signed by some rebel groups in Juba in 2020.

Military leaders, who seized power in October 2021 saying they wanted to preserve the country's stability, have said they are working to shore up the peace deal.

Protesters have accused military rulers of failing to protect civilians and stoking tribal conflict.

Ruling Sovereign Council member Malik Agar said yesterday the priority was to restore stability and security in strife-torn areas and there was no wish to alter the demographic makeup or "deprive...original residents of their historical rights".

Gunman Kills 3 in U.S. State of Indiana

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - A gunman has killed three people at a shopping center in the U.S. state of Indiana in the latest mass shooting in the country.

Two others were also wounded when the attacker, carrying a rifle along with several magazines of ammunition, opened fire at 6pm at the Greenwood Park Mall, which is located about 16km (10 miles) from the state capital, Indianapolis, authorities said.

The attacker's identity and a motive for the attack, which took place in the shopping center's food court, were not immediately released.

Police said the attack ended when a 22-year-old "good Samaritan" who was legally carrying a gun fatally shot the attacker.

Those injured included a 12-year-old girl, Greenwood Police Department chief Jim Ison said.

"This has shaken us to our core. This isn't something we have seen in Greenwood before," he said. "It's absolutely horrendous."

"The real hero of the day is the citizen that was lawfully carrying a firearm in that food court and was able to stop this shooter almost as soon as he began," he added.

Gun violence remains common in the United States, with the Gun Violence Archive recording 352 mass shootings so far in 2022. The tracker recorded 611 mass

shootings in 2021, up from 417 the previous year.

Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has recorded an increase in recent years in so-called "active shooter" incidents, which it defines as a gunman killing or attempting to kill people in a public space in a seemingly random fashion.

The agency recorded 61 such incidents in 2021, a more than 50 percent increase over those recorded in the three previous years.

The latest attack comes just weeks after an attacker opened fire on a July 4 parade in an affluent Chicago suburb, killing seven people and injuring at least three dozen. That followed two attacks in May that saw 10 Black people shot dead in a racist attack at a Buffalo, New York supermarket; and 19 children and two teachers fatally shot at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

The recent high-profile shootings have prompted the US legislature in June to pass the first – albeit modest – gun control legislation in decades.

A US House of Representatives committee is set this week to discuss a bill that would ban assault weapons for the first time in nearly 20 years, although such a measure is all but assured to face Republican opposition in the US Senate. A previous 10-year federal assault weapons ban expired in 2004.



Gas Supplies From Algeria to Italy to Increase in Coming Years



ROME (Dispatches) - Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi visited Algeria to sign several agreements, including an energy deal to boost gas supplies and reduce his country's reliance on Russian gas.

Draghi was received by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, ahead of the two leaders chairing a ministerial meeting at which several deals are expected to be signed.

"Tomorrow, an important agreement between (US energy firm) Occidental (Petroleum), (Italian energy giant) Eni and (French oil company) Total providing significant volumes of natural gas" to Italy will be signed, Tebboune told reporters at a joint news conference with Draghi.

He was referring to a deal reported on Friday by Algeria's APS news agency to raise gas deliveries to Italy by an extra four billion cubic meters this year.

Italy buys the majority of its natural gas from abroad, with some 45 percent of its imports historically coming from Russia.

But Rome has increasingly looked to Algeria, historically its second biggest supplier, to reduce that dependence after the war in Ukraine sparked sanctions against Moscow and sent energy prices soaring.

Algeria has therefore supplanted Russia to "become in recent months the biggest supplier of gas" to Italy, Draghi told reporters on Monday.

The two countries also expect to sign accords to bolster judicial, industrial and cultural cooperation, according to Draghi's office.

According to APS, Algeria was set to furnish Italy with a total of around 20 billion cubic metres of gas in 2022 as a whole, before the latest deal.

Draghi previously visited Algeria in April, when he concluded a deal increasing Algerian deliveries to Italy through the Transmed pipeline by up to nine billion cubic metres per year in 2023-24.

In May, Eni signed a memorandum of understanding with Algeria's Sonatrach to boost gas exploration in the North African country.

The MoU "will allow Sonatrach and Eni to evaluate the gas potential and opportunities for accelerated development at specific fields already discovered by Sonatrach in Algeria", Eni said at the time.

Algeria is Africa's biggest gas exporter and supplies around 11 percent of the natural gas consumed in Europe

Climate Change's Fingerprints on Ever Hotter Heatwaves

PARIS (Dispatches) - Hotter, longer, more frequent. Heatwaves such as the one currently roasting much of Europe, or the record-shattering hot spell endured by India and Pakistan in March, are an unmistakable sign of climate change, experts said.

"Every heatwave that we are experiencing today has been made hotter and more frequent because of human induced climate change," said Friederike Otto, senior lecturer at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute for Climate Change.

"It's pure physics, we know how greenhouse gas molecules behave, we know there are more in the atmosphere, the atmosphere is getting warmer and that means we are expecting to see more frequent heatwaves and hotter heatwaves."

In recent years, advances in the discipline known as attribution science have allowed climatologists to calculate how much global heating contributes to individual extreme weather events.

The India-Pakistan heatwave, for example, was calculated to have been 30 times more likely with the more than 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming that human activity has caused since the mid-nineteenth century.

The heatwave that shattered records in North America in June 2021, leaving hundreds dead as temperatures soared to 50C in places, would have been virtually impossible without global heating.

And the last major European heatwave, in 2019, was made 3C hotter by climate change.

"The increase in the frequency, duration, and intensity of these events over recent decades is clearly linked to the observed warming of the planet and can be attributed to human activity," the World Meteorological Organisation said in a Monday statement.

However unbearable temperatures get this week, scientists are unanimous: there is worse to come.

At 1.5C of warming -- the most ambitious Paris climate agreement goal -- UN climate scientists calculate that heatwaves will be more than four times more likely than the pre-industrial baseline.

At 2C or warming, that figure reaches 5.6 times more likely, and at 4C heatwaves will be nearly 10 times more likely to occur.

Despite three decades of UN-led negotiations, countries' climate plans currently put Earth on course to warm a "catastrophic" 2.7C, according to the UN.

Matthieu Sorel, a climatologist at Meteo-France, said that climate change was already influencing the frequency and severity of heatwaves.

"We're on the way to hotter and hotter summers, where 35C becomes the norm and 40C will be reached regularly," he said.

The heatwaves of the future depend largely on how rapidly the global economy can decarbonise.

The UN's climate science panel has calculated that 14 percent of humanity will be hit with dangerous heat every five years on average with 1.5C of warming, compared with 37 percent at 2C.

"In all of places in the world where we have data there is an increase in mortality risk when we are exposed to high temperatures," said Eunice Lo, a climate scientist at the University of Bristol's Cabot Institute for the Environment.

It's not only the most vulnerable people who are at risk of health impacts from heat, it's even the fit and healthy people who will be at risk."

There is a real risk in future of so-called "wet bulb" temperatures -- where heat combines with humidity to create conditions where the human body cannot cool itself via perspiration -- breaching lethal levels in many parts of the world.



Iraq's Date Palms: Rescuing a National Icon

KARBALA (Dispatches) - Thousands of young date palms, Iraq's national symbol, form lines that extend from the edge of the desert near the central city of Karbala and into the horizon.

Iraq's prized trees are central to a push aimed to preserve a long-threatened ancestral culture, whose fruit historically presented prosperity across the Arab world.

"The date palm is the symbol and pride of Iraq," says Mohamed Abul-Maali, commercial director at the Fadak date plantation.

Once known as the "country of 30 million palm trees", and home to 600 varieties of the fruit, Iraq's date production has been blighted by decades of conflict and environmental challenges, including drought, desertification and salinisation.

The Fadak plantation, taking its name from a date-filled oasis central to Islam's origins, is a 500-hectare (1,235 acres) farm operated by the Imam Hussein Shrine in the nearby holy city of Karbala. He expects this year's harvest to reach 60 tonnes, a threefold increase on 2021.

The grove is a repository for "more than 90 date varieties, Iraqi but also Arab species", from the Gulf and North Africa, he adds.

The Iraqi varieties are among "the rarest and best" and were collected from across the country.

Of the 30,000 trees planted at Fadak, more than 6,000 are already producing fruit, according to Abul-Maali. He expects this year's harvest to reach 60 tonnes, a threefold increase on 2021.

The rows of new trees at the Fadak farm stand in stark contrast to the state of plantations in other parts of the country. The scene at Fadak with well-watered trees is far removed from the Basra region, once a centre of date production in southern Iraq.

Here the landscape is scarred with the slender trunks of decapitated palm trees.

In the Shatt al-Arab area, where the Euphrates and Tigris rivers meet, Baghdad razed entire tracts during its 1980-88 war with Iran.

Often the trunks of felled date palms were used to fill and bury irrigation canals that had dried up and become unused.

"It looks like a cemetery," says agricultural engineer Alaa al-Badran.

According to him, the number of palm trees in the area has fallen from six million, before the Iraq-Iran war, to less than three million today.

Now "the salinisation of the waters of the Shatt al-Arab and of the land" poses an even greater challenge, Badran says.

"The solution would be drip irrigation and desalination systems. But that can be expensive," says Ahmed al-Awad, whose family once owned 200 date palms in the area but only have 50 trees remaining.

Iraq's agriculture ministry claims some progress in addressing declining date palm production.

"In the last 10 years we have gone from 11 million palm trees to 17 million," says Hadi al-Yasseri, a spokesman for the minister.

A government program to rescue the date palms was launched in 2010, but eight years later it was shelved due to a lack of funds, says Yasseri.

But he expects it to be relaunched, as new funds are due to be included in the next government budget. According to official figures, Iraq exported almost 600,000 tons of dates in 2021.

The fruit is the country's second largest export commodity after oil, according to the World Bank.



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



Russia Fines Google 21b Roubles Over Ukraine Content

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - A Moscow court has fined Google 21 billion roubles for failing to remove content concerning Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, the nation's telecommunications regulator said today.

Roskomnadzor said the Google-owned video platform YouTube had failed to block "false information" on the offensive in Ukraine, "extremist and terrorist propaganda" and content "calling on minors to participate in unauthorized demonstrations".

The regulator said that as this was a repeat conviction for Google the fine was based on its annual revenue in Russia.



EU to Double Gas Imports From Azerbaijan Within Few Years

BAKU (Dispatches) - The European Union and Azerbaijan signed an agreement to double gas imports from the energy-rich Caspian nation to Europe which seeks non-Russian suppliers after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Natural gas supplies have emerged as a weapon between Russia and Europe since President Vladimir Putin sent troops to Ukraine on February 24.

On a visit to Baku, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen signed with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev a memorandum on "a strategic partnership in the field of energy."

In a few years, "we will double the supply of gas from Azerbaijan to the EU" to compensate for cuts in supplies of Russian gas, von der Leyen told a news conference alongside Aliyev.

"From next year on, we should already reach 12 billion cubic meters" per year, she said.

The agreement also provides for the expansion of the Southern Gas Corridor running through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and Greece — "to 20 billion cubic metres per year in a few years."

Last year, Azerbaijan sent to Europe 8.1 billion cubic metres of natural gas.

Von der Leyen said Russian gas supplies to Europe were not "reliable" even before the start of Russia's war on Ukraine and the EU was turning to "more reliable suppliers".

"I'm glad to count Azerbaijan among them." Aliyev praised the deal as a "road map for the future," saying the EU-Azerbaijan energy cooperation has already "changed the energy map of Europe."

Ahead of von der Leyen's visit, the European Commission said: "Amid Russia's continued weaponisation of its energy supplies, diversification of our energy imports is a priority for the EU."

In May, EU leaders agreed to stop most Russian oil imports by the end of the year, as part of unprecedented sanctions they slapped on Moscow over the military action in Ukraine.

But the bloc put off an outright ban on Russian gas, which in 2021 amounted to 155 billion cubic metres — nearly 40 per cent of EU's needs.

Russia has already begun reducing its gas deliveries to prevent EU countries from replenishing reserves, prompting the European Commission to prepare "a gas demand reduction plan" to get through the next winter.

Under the deal, Azerbaijan will also tap into its vast potential in renewable energy — such as offshore wind and green hydrogen — to move away from overdependence on its role as a fossil fuel supplier.

Von der Leyen also called on Azerbaijan to join the Global Methane Pledge — currently supported by 119 countries — "to be consistent with our responsibilities on climate."

Sri Lanka Says IMF Talks Near End

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka's acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe said that the country had almost concluded negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a day after he declared a state of emergency in the island nation.

"The acting president further explained that negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were nearing conclusion, and discussions for assistance with foreign countries were also progressing," Wickremesinghe's office said in a statement.

The statement came after Wickremesinghe gazetted orders late on Sunday for a state of emergency in the crisis-hit country, in an effort to head off unrest ahead of a vote in parliament later this week to elect a new president.

Sri Lanka's beleaguered leaders have imposed a state of emergency several times since April, when public protests took hold against the government's handling of a deepening economic crisis and a persistent shortage of essentials.

"It is expedient, so to do, in the interests of public security, the protection of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community," the notification stated.

Wickremesinghe had announced a state of emergency last week, after president Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country to escape a popular uprising against his government, but it had not been officially notified or gazetted.

Late on Sunday, Wickremesinghe - who was sworn in on July 15 as acting president - declared a fresh state of emergency, the specific legal provisions of which are yet to be announced by the government.

Previous emergency regulations have been used to deploy the military to arrest and detain people, search private property and dampen public protests.

Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena officially announced the resignation of president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in Colombo



Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena officially announced the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in Colombo

The country's commercial capital Colombo remained calm on Monday morning, with traffic and pedestrians out on the streets.

Bhavani Fonseka, senior researcher at the Centre for Policy Alternatives, said declaring a state of emergency was becoming the government's default response.

"This has proven ineffective in the past," Fonseka told Reuters.

Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives and then Singapore last week after hundreds of thousands of anti-government protesters came out onto the streets of Colombo a week ago and occupied his official residence and office.

Indonesia Removes Palm Oil Export Levy Until Aug. 31

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia has scrapped its export levy for all palm oil products until Aug. 31 in a fresh attempt to boost exports and ease high inventories, finance ministry officials said, adding the move would not disrupt government revenues.

The decision by the world's biggest palm oil exporter could further depress prices, which have fallen by about 50% since late April to their lowest in over a year.

Indonesian palm oil producers have been struggling with high inventories since the country imposed a three-week export ban through to May 23 to reduce domestic cooking oil prices.

Since lifting the ban, Jakarta has implemented rules on mandatory local sales - known as the domestic market obligation (DMO) - to keep produce at home to be made into cooking oil.

At the same time, it has tried to clear up storage tanks by cutting export taxes and launching a shipment acceleration program, but exports remained slow and companies have blamed the DMO rules, as well as problems with securing cargo vessels.

The levy removal is intended to further support exports, Febrio Kacaribu, the ministry's head of fiscal policy agency, told reporters on the sideline of a G20 finance meeting in Bali.

"In the context of government revenues, (the impact) won't be too big," he said.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said a progressive palm oil export levy would be applied starting Sept. 1, with the rate set between \$55 and \$240 per ton for crude palm oil, depending on prices.

Goldman Warns It may Slow Hiring, Cut Expenses as Deals Slump

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Goldman Sachs Group Inc reported a smaller-than-expected 48% slump in quarterly profit, buffered by the strength in fixed-income trading, but warned it may slow hiring and cut expenses as the economic outlook worsens.

U.S. Federal Reserve interest rate hikes, aimed at taming runaway inflation, have rattled global financial markets, curbing companies' appetite for deals and making them wary of stock and debt offerings.

Goldman's investment banking revenue fell 41% to \$2.14 billion in the second quarter, as fees from both equity and debt underwriting fell along with those from advising on stock listings and mergers and acquisitions.

"Given the challenging operating environment, we are closely re-examining all of our forward spending and investment plans to ensure the best use of our resources," Chief Financial Officer Denis Coleman told analysts on an earnings' call.

"Specifically, we have made the decision to slow hiring velocity and reduce certain professional fees going forward, though these actions will take some time to be reflected in our results."

Goldman's quarterly report caps big bank earnings and mirrors peers JPMorgan Chase & Co and Morgan Stanley, both of which reported that revenues from investment banking more than halved. However, Goldman's trading unit outperformed JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup, which last week reported jumps in market revenue of 15% and 25% respectively.

"Goldman once again showed that it can excel in challenging markets given a top-line beat in each of its four business lines," Mike Mayo, a banking analyst at Wells Fargo, wrote in a note.

Despite the slump in deals, Goldman's shares rose 3% as revenue at the global markets unit, which houses its trading desks, jumped 32% to \$6.47 billion, with fixed income, commodities and trading revenue surging 55% and equities revenue adding 11%.

Goldman's quarterly report caps big bank earnings and mirrors peers JPMorgan Chase & Co and Morgan Stanley, both of which reported that revenues from investment banking more than halved. However, Goldman's trading unit outperformed JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup, which last week reported jumps in market revenue of 15% and 25% respectively.

"Goldman once again showed that it can excel in challenging markets given a top-line beat in each of its four business lines," Mike Mayo, a banking analyst at Wells Fargo, wrote in a note.

Russia Seeking Oil Payments From India in Dirhams

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Russia is seeking payment in United Arab Emirates dirhams for oil exports to some Indian customers, three sources said and a document showed, as Moscow moves away from the U.S. dollar to insulate itself from the effects of Western sanctions.

Russia has been hit by a slew of sanctions from the United States and its allies over its invasion of Ukraine in late February, which it terms a "special military operation".

An invoice seen by Reuters shows the bill for supplying oil to one refiner is calculated in dollars while payment is requested in dirhams.

Russian oil major Rosneft is pushing crude through trading firms including Everest Energy and Coral Energy into India, now its second biggest oil buyer after China.

Western sanctions have prompted many oil importers to shun Moscow, pushing spot prices for Russian crude to record discounts against other grades.

That provided Indian refiners, which rarely bought Russian oil due to high freight costs, an opportunity to snap up exports at hefty discounts to Brent and Middle East staples.

Moscow replaced Saudi Arabia as the second biggest oil supplier to India after Iraq for the second month in a row in June.

At least two Indian refiners have already settled some payments in dirhams, the sources said, adding more would make such payments in coming days.

The invoice showed payments to be made to Gazprombank via Mashreq Bank, its correspondent bank in Dubai.

The United Arab Emirates, seeking to maintain what it says is a neutral position, has not imposed sanctions on Moscow, and the payments could add to the frustration of some in the West, who privately say the UAE's position is untenable and siding with Russia.

The trading firms used by Rosneft have started asking for the dollar equivalent payment in dirhams from this month, the sources said.

Rosneft, Coral Energy and Everest Energy did not respond to Reuters emails seeking comment.

Russia wants to increase its use of non-Western currencies for trade with countries such as India, its foreign minister Sergi Lavrov said in April.

The country's finance minister last month also said Moscow may start buying currencies of "friendly" countries, using such holdings to influence the exchange rate of the dollar and euro as a means of countering sharp gains in the rouble.

The Moscow currency exchange is preparing to launch trading in the Uzbek sum and the dirham.

Dubai, the Gulf's financial and business center, has emerged as a refuge for Russian wealth.

Canada Inflation Likely to Tip 8% as Soon as Next Week



OTTAWA (Dispatches) - The Bank of Canada expects inflation to go "a little over" 8%, as soon as next week when June's data is released, and stay in that range for a few more months, Governor Tiff Macklem told a business group in a webcast transcript released late Friday.

Macklem, who spoke to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business the day after Wednesday's shock 100-basis-point interest rate hike, also urged small business owners to avoid building the current pace of price increases into their contracts.

"Inflation is high seven. It's probably going to go a little over eight (8%). We have the next CPI next week. We know oil prices were very high in June, so I wouldn't be surprised to see it move up," Macklem said.

Canadian inflation was 7.7% in May, the highest since January 1983. Analysts surveyed by Reuters expect June inflation to hit 8.3%, which would be the highest since 1982. The data will be released on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. ET (1230 GMT).

Macklem reiterated the Bank of Canada now expects inflation to average around 8% for the next few months, then fall to around 3% by the end of 2023 and to the 2% target in 2024.

Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who also serves as finance minister, on Saturday said the federal government was responding by "not pouring fuel on the flames" through its budget and by tackling some of the drivers of inflation as well as labor and housing policies.

"We are confident that the Bank of Canada has the tools and the expertise to do this job," she told reporters in a telephone briefing, noting the bank's independent role.

Macklem also made clear the bank is very concerned about a wage-price spiral, where businesses raise wages to keep workers and then pass the higher costs on to households, who then want higher wages to compensate for inflation.

Iranian Students Win 4 Medals In Chemistry Olympiad

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran’s National Chemistry Olympiad team won 2 gold and 2 silver medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad. The competition was held virtually in China with the participation of 84 countries. According to the Iranian National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents, Mohammad Hossein Barakati, Ilia Kahvand won gold medals and Seyed Amir Hossein Razavi, and Amir Mohammad Hosseini each won silver medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad.



Europe’s Hottest Summers

PARIS (Dispatches) - Europe’s increasingly frequent heatwaves are back under the spotlight over devastating wildfires and with sweltering temperatures forecast to hit record highs in Britain and France this week. In just over two decades, the continent has experienced its five hottest summers since 1500.

2022: Double trouble
A heatwave engulfing Western Europe, the second in a month, sparks huge wildfires and threatens to smash records in Britain and France. Fires in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain force thousands of residents and tourists to flee and kill several people, including a Spanish shepherd and a firefighter. Britain braces for an all-time high of 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) or more. Brittany in France could also register similar temperatures in what would be a regional record. The weather warnings come hot on the heels of a scorching spell in June, where parts of Europe, from Spain to Germany, sizzled at unseasonal highs of between 40C to 43C.

2021: Hottest ever
Last year is Europe’s hottest summer on record, according to the European climate change monitoring service Copernicus. Between late July and early August 2021, Greece endures what Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis calls the country’s worst heatwave in over 30 years, with temperatures hitting 45C in some regions. In Spain, temperatures reach 47C in parts of the south, according to national weather agency AEMET. The heat and drought spark large wildfires along the Mediterranean, from Turkey and Greece to Italy and Spain.

2019: Northern Europe swelters
The summer of 2019 brings two heatwaves, which leave around 2,500 people dead, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters of Belgium’s Louvain University. In France, temperatures hit a record 46C on June 28 in the southern town of Verargues. Thousands of schools are closed. On July 24 and 25, northern Europe fries in record heat. Temperatures of 42.6C are recorded at Lingen in northwestern Germany, 41.8C in Begijnendijk in northern Belgium and 38.7C in the eastern English city of Cambridge.

2018: Drought drains the Danube
The second half of July and beginning of August 2018 sees very high temperatures across much of Europe and rivers running dry due to drought. The Danube falls to its lowest level in 100 years in some areas, notably exposing World War II tanks in Serbia that were submerged since the conflict. Portugal and Spain suffer hugely destructive forest fires.



2017: Months of mugginess
Much of Europe, but especially the south, sweats from late June to well into August. Spain set a record of 47.3C on July 13 in the southern town of Montoro. Persistent drought sparks forest fires in Portugal.

2015: Back-to-back heatwaves
It’s heatwave after heatwave throughout the summer of 2015 which leaves an estimated 1,700 people dead in France. In Britain, roads melt and trains are delayed in the hottest July on record, with temperatures reaching 36.7C at Heathrow airport.

2007: Greek forests ablaze
Central and southern Europe are parched by drought throughout June and July, provoking a spate of forest fires in Italy, North Macedonia and Serbia. In Hungary, 500 people die as a result of the heat.

2003: 70,000 dead
Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal all experience exceptional heat in the first half of August, with Portugal suffering a record 47.3C at Amareleja in the south. An EU study of 16 nations puts the number of excess deaths across the bloc during the heatwave as high as 70,000, with France and Italy each seeing between 15,000 and 20,000 fatalities, according to various reports since. In France, most of the victims are elderly people in an episode that traumatises the country and leads to the implementation of new systems of protection during heatwaves.

Leader Tells Erdogan...

FROM PAGE 1

Stating that the trade relations between Iran and Turkey are not enough and the existing capacities of the two countries should be used, he added that trade relations between the two countries can be reached \$30 billion. The cooperation between the two countries is very important in the security area, he noted, adding that the security of the borders of the two countries is very important and the cooperation of the security agencies of the two countries can play an effective role in the security of the borders. Stating that the fight against terrorism, drugs and organized crime was one of the most important issues discussed in the meeting, Raisi said that the two sides emphasized that any form of terrorism must be fought to maintain the security of the borders. He went on to say that the cooperation of the two countries on regional issues was also discussed by the two countries, and both countries have a special emphasis on the security of Syria. The good relations between Iran and Turkey can lead to regional and international relations between the two countries, and both countries can play a role in the security

of the region, the Iranian President said. The Turkish President, for his part, stated, “Our goal is to reach a trade volume of \$30 billion. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the volume of trade decreased significantly, and it has now reached \$7 billion, therefore, I believe that with the determination of the two countries, we will be able to reach the volume of trade of \$30 billion. Also, by taking steps in the field of oil and natural gas, we can speed up this matter.” “As you know, we have taken drastic measures in the field of defense industry in recent years and we attach great importance to our solidarity in this matter,” Erdogan added. Stating that according to the emphasis of President Raisi, the fight against terrorist organizations is of special importance for both countries, Edogan cited. “We included them, which are a scourge for both countries, in the list of terrorist organizations of NATO, because these organizations cause disruption of stability and peace in any country where they exist, so we must deal with these terrorist organizations in full solidarity.”

Israel Will...

FROM PAGE 1

Kan’ani also said U.S. President Joe Biden failed to form an anti-Iran coalition in his recent visit to the Middle East as regional countries do not trust the US. Biden and other U.S. officials traveled to Saudi Arabia last week to attend a regional summit, which was ostensibly aimed to build an anti-Iran front, with Biden accusing Iran of “destabilizing activities” in West Asia. The summit was held on Friday with the participation of all Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries plus Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq – also known as GCC+3. The much-hyped event, however, failed to garner much support from the Arab states against the Islamic Republic. A day before the summit, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi stressed that Iraq will not be part of any camp or military alliance, and “will not be a base for threatening any neighboring countries.” The UAE, a close ally of both Saudi Arabia and the US, also dismissed the idea of forming a NATO-like military alliance in the region. Touching upon the diplomatic efforts to revive the 2015 Iran deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the foreign ministry spokesman said the US has not accepted all of Iran’s demands, which must be implemented under the JCPOA. “Washington must give a real guarantee to Iran,” he said, hinting at the possibility of yet another US withdrawal from the JCPOA once the deal is restored. “Prolonging the negotiations is not in the interest of any party, especially the United States,” he added. Iran and the U.S. concluded two days of indirect talks, mediated by the European Union, in the Qatari capital of Doha, late last month in an attempt to break the stalemate in reviving the JCPOA. At the end of the talks, Iran and the EU said they would keep in touch “about the continuation of the route and the next stage of the talks.” Elsewhere in his remarks, Kan’ani said while Tehran understands Ankara’s security concerns about its southern borders, it opposes the idea of establishing a “safe zone” inside Syria.

Iran Raises...

FROM PAGE 1

“The price of oil and its export has increased and selling oil has become better,” Mir-Kazemi told reporters on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting on June 22. Considering the increase in exports, NIOC has also been ramping up production so that according to Oil Minister Javad Owji, the country’s oil production has increased almost to the pre-sanctions level. In April, Oji said that the country’s crude oil production reached the pre-sanction level. Saying that the current capacity of Iran’s oil production is more than 3.8 million bpd, the minister said, “We hope that through the efforts of all those active in this sector, we will reach higher figures in the exports of crude oil, gas condensate, oil products, and petrochemicals.” “By taking effective measures in onshore and offshore oil fields, drilling new wells, repairing wells, rebuilding and modernizing facilities, and oil collection centers, the current oil production capacity has reached before the sanctions, and we have no problem in performance and this amount of production”, Oji added.

Iraqi President...

FROM PAGE 1

He underlined the need for resolving issues through diplomacy, saying, “At the end of the day, we need to sit down at the same table and talk the problems.” The Iraqi leader also touched on the negotiations to revive the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), saying, There should be a nuclear agreement with Iran, just as it is necessary to establish some kind of reconciliation between Iran and Arab countries. He added that the Middle East region needs a security order that can bring countries together to fight terrorism, which remains a huge problem. The remarks come days after Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ayman Safadi said all Arab countries are seeking to improve diplomatic relations with Iran on the basis of mutual respect as well as the principle of good neighborliness. “Jordan and other Arab countries affirm that they want healthy relations with Iran, which are anchored in mutual respect, non-interference in each other’s domestic

affairs and the principle of good neighborliness,” Safadi said. “Dialogue is the best policy to address the existing tensions,” he told the Saudi-owned Arabic-language Asharq News television station, adding, “the region has enough crises and we do not need more tensions.” “There must be real solutions to the causes of tensions in order to develop healthy relations that we all want with Iran.” Safadi also dismissed the existence of any talks on the formation of an anti-Iran Middle Eastern military alliance similar to NATO, which would include Israel. “However, all of us in the region feel that we need to strengthen Arab cooperation mechanisms, and institutions that are capable of serving our interests and attaining the best for our nations and countries,” he added. The top diplomat went on to say that Amman would welcome any proposal that can serve common Arab interests.

NIOC...

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Khojasteh-Mehr said signing the memorandum with Gazprom can be considered one of the biggest foreign investments in the history of Iran’s oil industry. “The National Iranian Oil Company does not ignore any investment opportunity,” the NIOC head said. He noted that Iran and the Russian Federation are determined to secure and increase strategic cooperation in various fields, saying: “Promotion of economic relations and attracting investment in oil and gas industries is emphasized by President Ebrahim Raisi and fully supported by Oil Minister Javad Owji.” Referring to the meeting with the senior managers of Gazprom during his recent trip to St. Petersburg, Khojasteh-Mehr said: “Following that visit, Gazprom managers also visited Tehran last week at the order of Russian President Vladimir Putin and we had some constructive negotiations.” “We hope that after signing this memorandum, technical and economic negotiations will start in the shortest possible time under the framework of the mechanism considered by both sides,” the official added. The NIOC head further mentioned his company’s plans for attracting \$160 billion of investment in the country’s oil and gas industries, saying that this investment is going to be used to increase the country’s oil and gas production. Currently, we have implemented projects worth four billion dollars with various Russian companies, he said. Elsewhere in the online ceremony, Markelov pointed to the NIOC as one of the key companies in Iran and said: “The areas of cooperation between us are very broad, and today we are signing a memorandum of understanding for the development of oil and gas fields, gas pipelines, technology development, and transfer, etc.” The relations between Iran and Russia have been put on a new path with the support of President Raisi and Putin, and the two countries are taking new strategic measures to expand relations at all economic and political levels.

U.S. Must...

FROM PAGE 1

Elsewhere in the telephone conversation, the Iranian foreign minister elaborated on Tehran’s approach to food and energy security and pointed to the tripartite meeting between the presidents of Iran, Russia, and Turkey in Tehran. Amir-abdollahian also referred to his recent conversation with Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, and noted that it is of great importance to facilitate the unhindered export of grain from Ukrainian ports. Borrell, for his part, appreciated the positive and serious will of the Iranian side during the JCPOA revival talks and underlined the need for collective proposals to break the impasse. The EU foreign policy chief also lauded Iran’s initiatives to overcome the remaining obstacles and disputes to reach a final agreement, emphasizing that he and Mora would spare no efforts to facilitate and accelerate the process through communication and consultation with all parties involved. Iran and the US concluded two days of indirect talks, mediated by the European Union, in the Qatari capital of Doha, late last month in an attempt to break the stalemate in reviving the JCPOA. At the end of the talks, Iran and the EU said they would keep in touch “about the continuation of the route and the next stage of the talks.” Meanwhile, the United States on Monday threatened Iran with fresh sets of sanctions if Tehran does not succumb to its excessive demands. Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby alleged in an exclusive interview with CBS News television station that U.S. President Joe Biden believes the best way to resolve Iran’s nuclear case is through diplomacy and a negotiated settlement. However, he claimed that it’s up to Iran to decide whether it wants to have the sanctions removed or not.

Garcia Set to Quit DP World Tour

ST ANDREWS (Dispatches) - Sergio Garcia said he is set to quit the DP World Tour amid the fallout over the Spaniard's decision to join the controversial rebel series LIV Golf.

Garcia, who holds the record for the number of points won at Ryder Cups, would also be forfeiting his chance to participate in the biennial clash between Europe and the USA should he resign from the tour. "The truth is I am quite sure about what I am going to do with the DP World Tour, I will probably leave it," said Garcia after finishing the British Open on two-under-par on.

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.Marzdaran 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

Reavie Wins PGA Barracuda Championship

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Chez Reavie carded four birdies and two bogeys to earn six points and hold off hard-charging Alex Noren by one point to win the US PGA Tour Barracuda Championship in Truckee, California.

Reavie, who started the day with a six-point lead, had Noren breathing down his neck on the back nine at Tahoe Mountain Club after the Swede's run of four straight birdies from the sixth through the ninth.

Cressy Wins ATP Hall Of Fame Open Title

NEWPORT (Dispatches) - American Maxime Cressy won his first career ATP title by rallying to defeat Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) in the Hall of Fame Open final.

French-born Cressy, who competed for his homeland until becoming an American in 2018, reached his first two ATP finals earlier this year, losing to Rafael Nadal at Melbourne in January and Taylor Fritz at Eastbourne last month.

But the third time proved charmed as Cressy outlasted Bublik at the grass-court event to win after two hours and 23 minutes, firing 14 aces against 13 double faults and hoisting the trophy after falling behind by a set and a break.

"It's an incredible feeling to win my first title," Cressy said. "I never thought I would win my first title this way. I stuck with it and I got lucky."

"I look forward to more titles. It's a very special feeling," Bublik, who won his first ATP crown in February at Montpellier, failed to become the first Kazak player to own multiple ATP titles.

"I'm very upset with the outcome but I'd like to congratulate Max on his first title," Bublik said. "He had great luck." Russian-born Bublik, who began playing for Kazakhstan in 2016, lost his first four ATP finals — the first of those at Newport in 2019 to American John Isner — before his breakthrough title in France.

World number 42 Bublik and 41st-ranked Cressy, both 25, met for the first time in Sunday's final.

In the tie-breaker, Cressy took the lead for good on 2-1 when Bublik double faulted. Cressy followed with a backhand winner and took the last three points for the victory.

Bublik took a 2-0 lead after Cressy surrendered a break on an errant backhand and broke again with a backhand winner in the final game to capture the first set in 37 minutes.

Another Bublik backhand winner broke



Cressy in the second game of the second set on the way to a 3-0 lead, but the American swept the next six games, breaking for the third time in a row when Bublik netted a backhand to surrender the set.

Cressy won a seventh consecutive game to open the final set and Bublik saved three break points in the sixth game before holding to 3-3 as they stayed on serve into the decisive tie-breaker.

Cressy will jump to a career-high 32nd in Monday's new rankings while Bublik is expected to rise to 39th.

Meanwhile William Blumberg and Steve Johnson capped a dream debut tournament as a team on Sunday at the Infosys Hall of Fame Open in Newport, where the home favorites upset Raven Klaasen and Marcelo Melo to lift the trophy at the ATP 250 event.

Blumberg and Johnson triumphed 6-4, 7-5 in the championship match against the top-seeded South African-Brazilian duo on the grass in Rhode Island.

"It's a great event to win. It's fun to win here at the Hall of Fame, and I've got one of each here," said 2018 singles champion Johnson. "I'm pretty happy about it."

"I've wanted to play with Will [before], and it just hasn't worked out in the past. This year it worked out. It's a good run, 4-0, and we'll try and keep it going."

Dybala Set to Join AS Roma on Free Transfer

LONDON (Dispatches) - Argentina international forward Paulo Dybala has agreed a deal in principle to sign for Serie A side AS Roma on a free transfer following his departure from Juventus, a source close to the club told Reuters.

Dybala, who was linked with a transfer to Inter Milan after his deal with Juventus expired, will sign a three-year contract with Roma worth €6 million (RM27 million), Italian news agency ANSA said.

The 28-year-old won five league titles and four Coppa Italia trophies with Juventus after joining the Turin-based club from Palermo in 2015, scoring 115 goals in 293 appearances across all competitions.

Dybala will become Roma's fourth signing of the transfer window after the arrivals of midfielder Nemanja Matic, goalkeeper Mile Svilar and defender Zeki Celik.

Roma finished sixth in Serie A last season and won the Europa Conference League under Jose Mourinho.



Messi, Mbappe and Other PSG Stars Draw Thousands At Tokyo Training

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe drew gasps from a crowd of thousands in Tokyo today as Paris Saint-Germain held the first training session of their Japanese tour. About 13,000 fans turned up at Tokyo's Chichibunomiya rugby ground to watch an open session and were treated to an hour and a half of tricks and flicks from PSG's star attacking trio.

The crowd erupted in cheers as the team trotted out to jog around the pitch and the players' every touch was greeted with loud squeals.

Security guards were even called into action when several fans invaded the pitch once the session was over.

Masayuki Yoshizawa, a 38-year-old office worker who arrived at the stadium wearing a 1990s-era PSG shirt, told AFP he was looking forward to watching star striker Mbappe.

"Ligue 1 teams don't usually come to Japan — they usually go to China," he said, adding that he had been a fan of PSG since Brazilian Leonardo joined them from Japanese club Kashima Antlers in 1996.

"It's great that they have come here after the pandemic — I think it might be the first and last time," he said.

Nine-year-old Aoma Oura said he could not decide whether Messi or Mbappe was his favourite player.

"My son plays football and we've been fans for a while," said his 36-year-old father Kazuya.

PSG will play three local teams during their 10-day visit to Japan, starting with Wednesday's game against J-League champions Kawasaki Frontale at Tokyo's National Stadium.

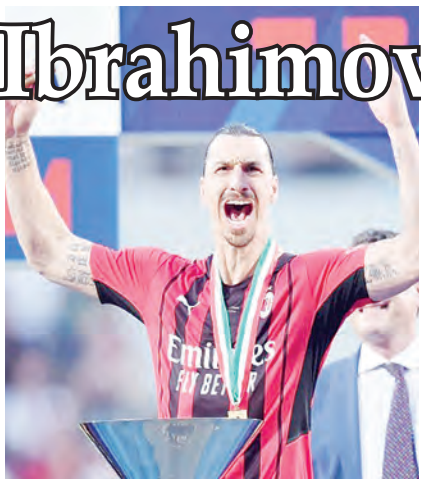
They will also play Urawa Reds in Saitama on July 23 and Gamba Osaka in Osaka on July 25.

PSG held a football clinic for children in Tokyo this morning, with Sergio Ramos and Marquinhos joining Mbappe, Neymar and Messi on the pitch.

Some of the children asked the players questions after the session had finished, with one asking Messi what skills it was important to learn as a child.

"First of all, the most important thing at that age is to enjoy yourself," said the Argentine.

Ibrahimovic Extends Stay With AC Milan



MILAN (Dispatches) - Zlatan Ibrahimovic will stay at AC Milan for at least one more year after the veteran striker signed a new one-year contract with the Italian champions.

"AC Milan is pleased to announce the renewal of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's contract until June 30, 2023. The Swedish forward will continue to wear the number 11 shirt," the team said in a statement.

Ibrahimovic, who turns 41 in October, has signed a deal which will net him

around €1 million (RM4.5 million) in fixed salary, with large bonuses linked to appearances and achievements.

The Swede is out of action until at least early next year after having had the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee reconstructed in May.

The former Inter Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United forward said in May he endured six months of sleepless nights due to the pain in his knee because he was determined to fulfil his promise to AC Milan of delivering their first Serie A crown in 11 years.

He had already missed Euro 2020 after surgery on his left knee last year before an Achilles tendon problem which cost him his starting position up front for Milan.

Ibrahimovic returned to Milan in January 2020 eight years after leaving and his arrival kick-started the rise of Stefano Pioli's team to the top of the Italian game.

Lewandowski Promises To Help Barcelona Return to the Top



MADRID (Dispatches) - Polish striker Robert Lewandowski said he was raring to go at new club Barcelona and determined to help them "return to the top and win as many titles as possible".

"I'm finally here. I'm delighted to be at Barca," the former Bayern Munich star told Barca TV after joining his new teammates in Miami where Barcelona are starting a four-match U.S. tour this week.

"The last few days have been long, but finally an agreement has been reached. I'm ready to take on this new challenge," continued the 33-year-old.

"I've always wanted to play in La Liga and in the big teams, so Barca is a great opportunity for me."

"I'm here to help Barca get back to the top and win as many titles as possible."

Barcelona's last domestic title was in 2019 and their last Champions League trophy in 2015.

On Saturday, Bayern Munich announced that they had reached an agreement with Barcelona for Lewandowski after two months of endless negotiations between the clubs.

The two-time FIFA men's player of the year has reportedly agreed a four-year deal worth €50 million, including five million in potential add-ons.

He is the club's fourth summer transfer after Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie from AC Milan and Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen on a free transfer, and Brazil winger Raphinha, recruited for €70 million from Leeds.

The club has also extended the contract of French winger Ousmane Dembele, who is committed until 2024.

Man United Agree €67m Deal To Sign Martinez



MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United have agreed a deal with Ajax Amsterdam to sign defender Lisandro Martinez for an initial fee of €57.37 million, with 10 million euros of potential add-ons included, both clubs confirmed.

The deal is subject to a medical examination and a visa being granted, with completion expected in the coming days.

The length of the contract was not announced, but a source with knowledge of the agreement told Reuters that Martinez would sign a five-year deal with the Premier League club, with an option for a further 12 months included.

The 24-year-old, who can also play in midfield, will be manager Erik ten Hag's third signing following the arrivals of Dutch left back Tyrell Malacia and Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen.

Ten Hag coached Martinez for three seasons at Ajax after the player moved to the Netherlands from Argentine side Defensa y Justicia in May 2019. Martinez made 118 appearances for the Dutch club.

A new defender was seen as priority for United after their struggles at the back last season. They conceded 57 goals last term, the most among the Premier League's top six and 31 more than champions Manchester City.

The deal comes too late for Martinez to join up with his United team mates on their pre-season tour in Australia. They open the new league campaign at home to Brighton & Hove Albion on Aug. 7.