

Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 141,758 With 41 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

A Delegation of Iranian MPs in Muscat Met with Speaker of Oman's Consultative Assembly Yaqoob bin Mohammed al-Harhi and Discussed Bilateral and Parliamentary Relations Between Iran and Oman

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Tehran Calls on Washington To Leave Blame Game

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has called on the United States to abandon its blame game over the revival of the 2015 nuclear accord, asserting that Tehran remains a member of the deal, unlike Washington which unilaterally withdrew from it four years ago.

In a tweet on Tuesday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kan'ani said the party that needs to prove its "good faith" in the ongoing talks aimed at restoration of the landmark deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and lifting of sanctions, is the US.

"Iran has been and still remains a JCPOA member," he wrote. "The party that needs to prove 'good faith' and 'seriousness' to 're-enter' the deal is the US."

He hastened to add that Iran remains "committed to reach a good, strong and lasting agreement", which "guarantees JCPOA-envisioned benefits" for the country while reiterating that the onus lies on the U.S.

Iran has been & still remains a JCPOA member. The party that needs to prove "good faith" & "seriousness" to "re-enter" the deal is the U.S.

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Iran Oil Revenues Increase by 580%



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The economic spokesperson of the government announced a 580% increase in the income from the exports of oil and in gas condensate in the 4 months of this Iranian calendar year, compared to the same period last year.

Ehsan Khandouzi, Economy Minister and the government's economic spokesperson Ehsan Khandouzi said in his press conference at a presser that the government's performance in the first 4 months of the Persian calendar shows that the government has been successful in reducing the budget deficit to a good extent.

Khandouzi said: "Compared to the first 4 months of the previous year, this year we saw a 48% growth in budget revenue sources."

Emphasizing that the government's focus is on getting more sustainable resources and decreasing the growth of expenses, he stated: "The government's agenda in the first 4 months of 1401 Iranian year was to reduce the budget deficit and as well as reducing inflationary pressure and countering the budget deficit."

Saying that the dollar has been removed from commercial transactions between Iran and Russia, Khandouzi added that the ruble has entered the trade transactions between two countries.

He also touched upon the economic aspects of the recent visit of the presidents of Russia and Turkey to Tehran.

Saying that neighborhood policy is the first priority of Iran's foreign policy, Khandouzi said that President Putin's visit to Tehran was in line with the implementation of the agreements made during president Raisi's visit to Moscow. Referring to the use of the ruble (Russia's currency) in the commercial relations between Iran and Russia's banks, the minister said: "We hope to hear more good news next year."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in his recent meeting with Russian President Putin emphasized the removal of the dollar from the center of global exchange.

In response to a question on the taken actions by the Ministry of Economy in line with the Leader's order, Khandouzi said: "The first step has been taken with Russia and ruble has entered into the trade portal of Iran and Russia."

He added added: "Iran's Central Bank is in charge of following this issue and good plans have been started in this regard."

He also pointed to the recent visit of the presidents of Turkey and Russia to Iran and said: "These trips brought good economic achievements and, as a result, eight cooperation documents were signed with Turkey."

Turkey to Buy More Oil, Gas From Iran

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced that his country would increase its purchases of Iranian oil and gas, a week after meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran.

"Turkey will increase its purchases of oil and natural gas from Iran," Erdogan said in an interview with state broadcaster TRT Haber on Monday.

He noted that the trade volume between Turkey and Iran will reach \$30 billion per year.

Erdogan also referred to the eight important agreements signed with Iranian officials during his recent trip to Iran.

Speaking at a joint conference with Raisi in Tehran on July 19, the Turkish president hoped for the expansion of bilateral ties while regretting that the coronavirus pandemic had been an obstacle in recent years.

Raisi also said that Erdogan's visit would undoubtedly serve as a turning point in the expansion of the bilateral ties, adding that the countries were "serious" regarding the development of their relations.

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FM to Visit Kuwait In Coming Weeks For Talks

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian reportedly plans to travel to Kuwait for talks with the country's officials.

Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Irani made the announcement, saying the visit will probably take place in the coming weeks.

Bilateral ties and regional developments will top the agenda of talks between the Iranian foreign minister and Kuwaiti officials.

Irani further announced that relations with Kuwait will be boosted, adding that Tehran has given the green light to Kuwait to appoint its new ambassador.

The Iranian envoy also said Tehran is looking forward to receiving Badr Abdullah al-Munikh.

Irani said some other Kuwaiti officials will also visit Tehran in the near future, noting that the two sides have had historical relations.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani also noted that Iran's ties with Kuwait are "positive".

He confirmed that Kuwait has named an ambassador to Tehran and expressed hope the Kuwaiti envoy will arrive in the Iranian capital soon.

Germany Seeking Investment in Iran's Industrial Sector

TEHRAN (MNA) - A high-ranking trade delegation from Germany has visited Iran to hold talks with government officials and business executives and to explore opportunities for cooperation.

The delegation, led by Chairman of the Board of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA) Michael Schumann, met with Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Ali Rasoulzadeh and discussed cooperation between the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of the two countries.

In this meeting, Schumann voiced his organization's readiness to promote and facilitate economic relations with Iran, especially in the field of small and medium-sized businesses, saying that BWA will take all the necessary measures to support German SMEs investment in Iran's industrial parks.

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Shia Bloc Announces Nominee for Iraqi PM

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - After months of political stalemate, pro-Iran Shia groups in the Iraqi parliament nominated Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani to be the new Iraqi prime minister.

The Coordination Framework, an umbrella parliamentary bloc including all Iran-backed Shia factions, formally nominated Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani to be the new Iraqi prime minister, Iraqi state media reported.

"Today, the leaders of the Shia framework met in positive conditions and they unanimously agreed to nominate Mr Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani for the [Iraqi] premiership," read a statement released by the Coordination Framework.

Al-Sudani, 52, is a Shia Iraqi lawmaker from the south-eastern Maysan Governorate. He has a Bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences. He has held several posts and ministerial portfolios in the Iraqi government, including the governor of Maysan, the minister of human rights in 2010, and the minister of labor and social affairs in 2014.

Today's announcement came after Iraq's National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji apologised on Sunday for running for the Iraqi PM post.

The nomination will accelerate the efforts in electing a president and forming a new cabinet following more than nine months of political stalemate after the country held an early election on 10 October 2021.

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No Israeli Target Out of Reach of Hezbollah Missiles

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says the resistance movement's precision missiles can hit any Israeli target at sea or on land.

Nasrallah issued the warning on the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Hezbollah, coinciding with Israel's work at maritime oil and gas fields, including Karish, off Lebanon's coast.

"All fields are under threat, not only Karish, and no Israeli target at sea or on land is out of the reach of the resistance's precision missiles," Nasrallah told Al Mayadeen television's Ghassan Ben Jeddou.

Earlier this month, Hezbollah launched three unarmed drones towards a vessel operated by London-based Energean. Nasrallah said then that it was the "first time" such an operation had taken place and that it was meant to alert workers aboard the vessel that it "is not a safe area."

"Our drones entered and returned from the Galilee and occupied Palestine dozens of times over the past years and the enemy failed to shoot them down," Nasrallah said in remarks aired Monday night.

Energean has said it expects first gas from Karish to flow in the third quarter, but Nasrallah has warned that "no one" would be allowed to operate in maritime oil and gas fields if Lebanon was barred from its "rights" in extracting from areas off of its coast.

"If the extraction of oil and gas from Karish begins in September before Lebanon obtains its right, we would be heading to a problem and we'll do anything to achieve our objective," he said on Monday.

"Due to Europe's need to replace Russian oil and gas, Lebanon is facing a historic opportunity," he said.

Nasrallah said, "The Lebanese government is not able to make a proper decision to protect this country and its resources. Therefore, the resistance is forced to make a decision. Our goal is for Lebanon to extract oil and gas, because this is the only way to save Lebanon."

"This is an action that must be taken. We will not accept any deception and we must take back our rights. Our goal is to make Lebanon extract oil and gas and to draw the maritime borders of this country correctly," he added.

He also said, "I'm ready to bring free Iranian fuel for the Lebanese power plants if the Lebanese government agrees to this, but unfortunately there is no political courage in Lebanon for such a step, because they fear US sanctions on individuals and their families."

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IRGC's Speedboats Go Sonar-Evading

TEHRAN (IFP) - The speedboats of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have become sonar-evading. That's according to the commander of the IRGC's Navy.

Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said the body of the IRGC's speedboats cannot be detected by radar systems.

Admiral Tangsiri added that Iran's presence in the Persian Gulf is such in terms of quality and size that has forced the enemies flee the region. The Iranian speedboats are a highly component weapon in the arsenal of the naval forces of both Iranian Army and the IRGC.

Gov't Determined To Strengthen Livelihood of Retirees

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi praised the high status of retirees in the country as owners of experience and announced the government's serious will to strengthen their livelihood.

Speaking on Sunday night in the meeting of the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Board, while honoring the day of retirees, Raisi announced the government's serious will to support and strengthen the livelihood of the country's retirees.

The President stated that the government considers itself obliged to implement justice by observing rationality in its decisions, and said, "As it has been announced many times before, the government is fully aware of the economic issues of the society and the livelihood of different groups, including retirees, and attention to this vital issue and efforts to improve it have not been out of my priorities for a moment".

He emphasized that looking into the pensioners' rights is being done by experts, and obliged the departments related to this to issue and implement effective decisions as soon as possible, in accordance with the law and in favor of the pensioners' livelihood.

In this meeting, in addition to examining the issue of pensioners' rights, decisions were also made about the requirements for the scrapping of used cars.



Based on this, the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade, while presenting a report on the state of production of cars, motorcycles and trucks in the country, put forward its proposal in the field of solving the problems in the implementation of the plan to scrap and replace worn out cars.

After discussion, the members decided that in line with the implementation of the new law on the organization of the automobile industry, the government should present the implementation requirements, solutions to remove the obstacles and problems, as well as determine the task of this project in the form of an urgent bill to the Islamic Consultative Assembly as soon as possible".

At the end of the meeting, the report of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance regarding the tasks included in the approved law of the entire country's budget in order to implement the law on the transfer of shares based on various priorities was examined.

Gov't Approves Agreement to Exchange Convicts With Belgium

TEHRAN (IFP) – The government has agreed to a proposed 22-point agreement by the Judiciary under which Iran and Belgium will exchange convicts.

The agreement has been signed by President Ebrahim Raisi and will be sent to Parliament in the form of a bill to run its legal course.

The Raisi administration says it agreed to the bill given the need to put in place a judicial cooperation mechanism between Tehran and Brussels and to expand bilateral ties.

Belgian parliament has already approved the prisoner swap treaty with Iran, but a Belgian court put it on hold for the time being.

Under the deal, Iranian diplomat Assadollah Assadi who is under arrest in Belgium for allegedly orchestrating an attack against a gathering of the MKO terrorist group in Belgium will be exchanged with a Belgian national in custody in Iran for espionage.

Iran vehemently denies Assadi planned an attack on Belgian soil.

Majlis Elects 3 New Guardian Council Jurists

TEHRAN (IP) – Majlis lawmakers elected three legal members of the Guardian Council for six years.

The Parliamentarians elected three jurists of the Guardian Council during its open session, so, out of 254 votes, Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei got 182, Siamak Rahe Peik 116, and Khairullah Parveen 149 votes.

The Constitutional Council — also known as the Guardian Council — is a body of Islamic and legal jurists that acts in many ways as a Supreme Court.

Half of the body's 12 members are legal jurists. They are nominated by the head of the Iranian Parliament and put to vote the Parliament, while the rest is specialists in Islamic law, and is appointed by the country's highest-ranking authority, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Membership in the Council is for phased six-year terms, which means half the membership changes every three years at random.

Iran Determined to Develop Cultural Exports

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The head of the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization of Iran stressed the need to develop cultural exports, saying that the organization seeks cultural exports as a strategy to promote culture.

Speaking on the third day of the 10th Summit of cultural Counsellors of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Organization of Islamic Culture and Communications, Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour said: "Many institutions are active in the international arena in fulfilling their cultural obligations. Their number does not hinder the activity, but their incoherence does not have pleasant consequences."

Referring to the new approach of the Organization of Islamic Culture and Communications, he said the organization seeks to develop cultural exports to promote culture.

On the sidelines of the summit, Imanipour, referred to the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to develop ties with

neighboring countries, saying that the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization has a serious plan to develop cultural relations and increase cultural exports by using the capacity of cultural attachés.

He considered the development of border markets as a good opportunity to develop cultural exports with neighboring countries.

More than 80 cultural institutions are present in this exhibition.

As another speaker of this event, Ahmad Vahidi, the Minister of Interior, said: "One of the dimensions of cultural power is cultural penetration. Cultural penetration means creating a persuasion towards our own beliefs and thoughts."

He added: "The development of our security depends on the development of our power, and the development of our power depends on the development of cultural power."

Vahidi stated that Iran's capacity to build cultural power is unique and emphasized: "We are a cultural superpower."

Tehran, Ankara To Modernize Power Transmission

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian has declared that Turkey and Iran have agreed to upgrade the infrastructure of power transmission between the two neighboring states.

Mehrabian told IRNA that Iran gives importance to electricity diplomacy within the framework of economic cooperation with other nations, noting that energy diplomacy is a strategy to help resolve shortages, generate economic profit, and maintain national interests, so the Islamic Republic is keen on developing collaborations with neighboring countries in this respect.

According to international statistics, Iran stands atop among regional states in terms of generating and developing electricity infrastructure, the minister said, adding that the Islamic country's geopolitical situation provides it with the opportunity to turn into a hub for connecting power grids to several states.

The administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has prioritized power diplomacy, Mehrabian said, noting that the recent visit by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Tehran paved the ground for expansion of coordination in this regard and that development of power diplomacy was one of the main topics of negotiations among presidents of Russia, Turkey, and Iran during the Astana peace summit on July 19, 2022.

Upgrading the infrastructure of power transmission between Turkey and Iran was one of the most important agreements, which were achieved during President Erdogan's visit, Mehrabian said.

On the basis of mutual agreement, the power networks will be implemented through three infrastructures, he noted.

The two countries agreed to utilize the modern HVDC Back-to-Back method to connect the Iranian power grid to Turkey's in Khoi-Bash Gala infrastructure with a capacity of 600 megawatts, he said.

The minister underlined that given the fact that a shift in diplomacy has happened in Iran's establishment and the country pursues the increase of cooperation with neighboring states, the Energy Ministry is interested in bolstering cooperation with regional and friendly countries.

Iran-Russia Military Bond Changed Political Equations in World

TEHRAN (IFP) – The expanding military relations between Iran and Russia, especially Iran's defense capabilities in the field of drones, have changed the political equations in the world order, an Iranian member of parliament says.

Hadi Beiginejad, a member of the Energy Committee of the parliament, told IRNA on Tuesday, Iran's military ties with friendly countries could increase their might and would lead to peace and stability in the region.

Saying that bolstering Iran's defense capabilities in various fields is an important factor in deterrence, the lawmaker stressed, the defense power of many countries has moved towards deterrence as "weak nations are doomed to be attacked by imperialist powers."

Russia is reportedly interested in acquiring hundreds of Iranian drones and Russian officials have been eyeing on different models, including the Shahed-191 and Shahed-129.

Beiginejad said U.S. officials have acknowledged Iran's growing capabilities in drone power as the superior country in the region and have warned any confrontation with the Islamic Republic will inflict a heavy cost.

Iran and Russia, both targeted by harsh U.S. sanctions, say they are devising strategies to form a stronger alliance against Washington's hostile policies.

Iran may Open Consulate in Armenia's Syunik Province

TEHRAN (MNA) - Gevorg Parsyan, Mayor of Kapan, capital of Armenia's southern Syunik province, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran may open a consulate in this town in the current year.

Parsyan, along with Syunik Provincial Governor Robert Ghukasyan, met with the Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri in April in Armenia and discussed the possibility of opening a consulate in this province.

"We have offered several places to the ambassador and the consul. It now seems those issues are being clarified. We saw a practical willingness and clarity on their part to have a consulate in Kapan," Parsyan told Hetq. "Judging by their attitude, we are talking about this year."

Armenia and Iran have embassies in the other's country but no consulates.

In the April meeting, the Iranian ambassador reaffirmed his country's position regarding the inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of Armenia and said that all countries should respect it.

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

First Announcement
dated 27/7/2022
شماره 55/01/10625
شناسه آگهی ۱۳۵۶۶۶

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2x40000±5% MTS of Granular Di Ammonium Phosphate (GDAP) through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Wednesday** dated 27/7/2022 until **Saturday** dated 6/8/2022 (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rial 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 35803978226350065000000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Monday** dated 5/9/2022 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Tuesday** dated 6/9/2022 at 15:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- The bid bond value should be at **€ 587648** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on Telegraphic Transfer rate in Sana rate website, www.sanarate.ir. It should be noted that this site lists the Currency Transactions, executed in Integrate Currency Transactions System [Nima website] on 16/7/2022 for each lot of 40000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.

- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 40000 MTS ± 5% will be **IR 156256000000** which must be only submitted by the bidders.

- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Pr&intel affais.dept'of Agricultural Support Servies COMPANY(ASSC)



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:10
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:33
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:31
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:09

44. It is Allah Who alternates the Night and the Day: verily in these things is an instructive example for those who have vision!

45. And Allah has created every animal from water: of them there are some that creep on their bellies; some that walk on two legs; and some that walk on four. Allah creates what He wills for verily Allah has power over all things. Surah 24. Light (44 - 45)

PGPIC Ready to Bolster Ties With German Firms

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) voiced the holding's readiness to cooperate with German companies that excel in chemistry and petrochemical industry and take great steps for the interests of both countries.

According to PGPIC, Iran's largest company hosted a delegation consisting of the president and members of the Federal Association for the Support of German Economy and Foreign Trade, Iran's ambassador to Germany Mahmoud Farazandeh, head of the German desk in Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ehsan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a member of the Islamic Council.

In this meeting, which was held with the aim of cooperation in the production of petrochemical products, facilities and equipment, and the revival and expansion of relations between the two countries in the petrochemical industry, Mahmoud Farazandeh, Iran's ambassador to Germany, referring to the 20-year history of this association with 1,300 companies as members, said: "The Federal Association for the Support of German Economy and Foreign Trade, which is represented in more than 70 countries, is cooperating with the world's largest companies, and this is the first trip of this association to Iran."

Referring to the background of this union in the field of energy, he added: "This union seeks to find new markets for German products and meet the needs of this country from new destinations, and the petrochemical field is one of the attractive fields for this prestigious and long-standing union."



Michael Schoon, the head of the Federal Association for the Support of German Economy and Business, expressed his satisfaction with the trip to Iran, stating: "Preparations for this trip started two years ago; we have come to work with Iranian companies with mutual trust, and the correct the false images that are on both sides. We seek constructive and mutually respectful relationships."

Abdul Ali Askari, CEO of PGPIC, also said in this meeting: "We hope that this trip will create a better impression of Iran as a fertile, young and talented country."

He added: "In a situation where countries like the United States are struggling with several thousand billion dollars in debt, Iran is a country that not only has no debt at the international level, but also has significant demands due to unscrupulous sanctions, and this is a suitable capacity for economic development."

The CEO of the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) emphasized: "Iran, with its remarkable human capacities, is a country that is very prone to grow every economic and technical seed planted in it, given that during the unscrupulous era of the American embargo, its growth continued and we are progressing."

Ali Askari continued: "Sanctions were a threat to our country, but with the efforts of these young people and Iranian scientists, it became an opportunity, and today we have thousands of knowledge-based companies that move at the edge of technology; if until a few years ago we were a dependent country in the petrochemical industry, today we make about 80% of petrochemical industry equipment and catalysts domestically."

IDRO's 1200b-Rial Support of Jask-Gwadar Producers

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) Ali Nabavi says 14 industrial projects with investment of 3,000b rials and creation of 680 jobs have come on stream with support of this organization.

The reproduction unit of larvae and baby shrimp farming in Hormozgan Province with annual capacity of 50m pieces, new phase of increasing the capacity and developing production of different canned tuna in Konarak and the chromite processing factory in Sistan and Baluchestan with annual capacity of 79,000 tons are of the projects which have come on stream with support of IDRO.

Nabavi also announced the start of executive operation for construction of 9 projects with estimated investment over 2,160b rials and creating some 200 direct jobs in shores of Jask to Gwadar. He added that four new projects with estimated investment of 4,200b rials and creating 150 jobs are in the final stage of issuing the approval for taking advantage of these supports.

The project for the launch and developing export-centered production complexes on the shores from Jask to Gwadar has been defined according to the sixth national development plan, and IDRO acts accordingly as the executor of this project which is aimed at creating sustainable and generative jobs, pick-up and improving economic level and creating value-added based on the capacities and existing advantages in the region through reducing the cost of investment with earmarking subsidy for those are willing to invest in the industrial field.



Apple Exports at Nearly 1m Per Year

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran exports around 1 million metric tons (mt) of apple each year as a senior official in the country's agriculture ministry (MAJ) says apple shipments have created a good source of hard currency revenue for the Iranian government.

Head of MAJ's department of orchard farming Mohammad Mehdi Boroumandi said on Monday that Iran's annual apple production has exceeded an average of 4.3 million mt. "We normally export around 1 million mt of this produce and it has become a very good source of earning hard currency for the country," Boroumandi was quoted as saying by the IRIB News.

Media reports suggest Iran has become a major supplier of apple to India in the past years. Trade officials reached agreements with Pakistan earlier this year to significantly increase Iran's apple exports to the country.

Boroumandi said Iran will introduce plans to both diversify its apple production and to increase the yields of the crop. The official said those plans will mainly focus on the province of West Azerbaijan, located on the border with Turkey, where more than 1.3 million mt or 45% of Iran's apple output come from. A main focus of the scheme, he said, would be to introduce new apple varieties that can be picked in the summer instead of the normal harvesting season in autumn. He said the measure would help the farmers and the MAJ have a better management of the huge yields of apple produce in Iran.

That comes as reports in the local media on Sunday said the MAJ had unveiled 91 new varieties of apple for cultivation in various provinces of Iran.

Loading, Unloading of Goods in Ports Up 6%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased six percent in the first four months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) announced.

As the PMO reported, 69,389,799 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the four-month period. The four-month loading and unloading of oil products stood at 34,511,417 tons, with nine percent growth, and that of the non-oil goods stood at 34,878,382 tons, with three percent rise year on year.

As previously announced by the PMO, Loading and unloading of goods in the ports of country increased seven percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

D-8 Members Urged to Expand Trade Ties With World

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei, in a meeting of D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka on Tuesday, emphasized the need for the organization to strengthen presence and influence in global markets through positive interaction with each other and with the world.

"The only way to activate the chambers of commerce and the private sectors of the D-8 member countries is to strengthen the supply chain through promoting joint investment, joint production, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the members of the organization and with other countries," Shafei said in his speech at the meeting.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, Shafei announced the readiness and willingness of Iran's private sector to play an intermediary role among the D-8 member states and emphasized: "Having extensive oil and gas reserves and mineral resources and being located at the east-west, north-south transit crossroads, Iran is ready to play a significant role in connecting the D-8 members and in this regard welcomes investment in different sectors."



He further mentioned the capacities and potentials of the D-8 nations, saying: "D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation benefits from irreplaceable capacities in various economic, geographical, and cultural sectors in addition to great human resources, but these capacities will not be activated without serious cooperation among the members."

This organization is established on solid and reliable foundations, he said, adding that the members of this organization have a population of more than one billion and a gross domestic product of more than four trillion dollars, which, considering the good relations between the members, can become a great power in the global economy.

The ICCIMA head also invited the heads of the D-8 chambers of commerce to visit Iran along with trade delegations to get familiar with the economic capacities of the Islamic Republic and to explore avenues of mutual cooperation.

Established in 1997, D-8, also known as Developing-8, is an organization for development cooperation among a group of developing countries including Iran, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

CEO of Hormozgan Steel Co. Prominent Face in Conference

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company Dr. Ataollah Maroufkhani was chosen as the top personality in observing social responsibility and promoting professional ethics and was honored with plaque of appreciation.

The fifth national conference on promoting professional ethics and social responsibility was held in University of Tehran and in presence of education minister.

Addressing the conference, Chancellor of University of Iran Dr. Moghimi said that in the sustainable development it needs we see the growth and development of financial, economic, social and environmental factors and in this regard, a three-way process should be defined for



materialization of the final progress.

He reiterated that the more the country can boost the

stand of social responsibility of organization, the more it will be able to fill the past vacuums in the field of sustainable development.

At the end of the conference, some organizations and active persons in the field of social responsibility were honored and the CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company Dr. Maroufkhani was one of them who were awarded with plaque of appreciation.

In the plaque of appreciation Mr. Maroufkhani and his company have been hailed in observing their social responsibility which is considered an important and necessary factor in protecting organizational excellence and it is considered as effective strategy.

It also hailed Maroufkhani for observing all of assigned tasks perfectly regarding the social responsibility and promoting the professional ethics.

Call for Participation in Iran's Specialized Exhibition in Russia

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran Chamber of Cooperatives will hold a specialized exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Russia on September 7-10.

According to reports, Iran Chamber of Cooperatives by getting required license is to hold a specialized exhibition on the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow, the capital of Russia, on September 7-10.

The chamber invited all Iranian economic activists for presence in this exhibition which provides a good opportunity for broadening trade with Russia.

It is worth noting that considering improving recent constructive interactions of Iran with Russia and also emphasis of high-ranking officials of both states for easing bilateral trade and developing it, this exhibition will be a great opportunity for displaying Iranian products in Russia and Eurasian Economic Union markets like products in the fields of construction products, agro and foodstuff, petrochemical downstream industries, iron and steel, minerals, apparel and industrial machineries.



Record Number of Covid-Hit Australians in Hospital

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - The number of Australians admitted to hospitals with Covid-19 hit a record of about 5,450 today, official data showed, as the spread of highly contagious new Omicron sub-variants strains the healthcare system nationwide.

The figure has grown since late June, as the BA.4 and BA.5 strains became dominant since they can evade immune protection, whether from vaccination or prior infection, while some experts say the latter can be as infectious as measles.

The number of those in hospitals is the highest since the emergence of the coronavirus, exceeding January's high of 5,390 during the first wave of Omicron infections. Daily death tolls have also risen, topping 100 on Saturday for the first time.



Singapore Asked to Indict Sri Lanka's Exiled Leader

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - An international human rights group has formally asked Singapore to indict Sri Lanka's deposed president Gotabaya Rajapaksa for crimes against humanity during his country's decades-long civil war, officials said Monday.

Rajapaksa fled his country earlier this month after his official residence was stormed by tens of thousands of protesters infuriated by the island nation's painful economic crisis.

He later escaped to the Maldives in a military plane and travelled on to Singapore, from where he tendered his resignation.



Ukraine Claims It Destroyed 50 Russian Ammunition Depots Using HIMARS



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine said its forces had used U.S.-supplied HIMARS rocket systems to destroy 50 Russian ammunition depots since receiving the weapons last month.

In comments on national television, Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov underlined the growing impact that the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) are having as Ukraine tries to repel Russia's invasion.

"This cuts their (Russian) logistical chains and takes away their ability to conduct active fighting and cover our armed forces with heavy shelling," Reznikov said.

Reuters could not independently verify Reznikov's remarks. Russia did not immediately comment.

Reznikov said Ukrainian artillery crews had conducted "precise" strikes on several bridges. He gave no details but was apparently referring to three river crossings in Russian-occupied Kherson region which local occupation authorities say were attacked by HIMARS over the past week.

Reznikov also said Ukraine had received three Gepard anti-aircraft armoured fighting vehicles, the first of 15 expected, and that Kyiv was expecting to take delivery of several dozen Leopard tanks.

Russia says it has destroyed several of the HIMARS systems though Ukraine has denied this. In the latest such report, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday its forces had destroyed an ammunition depot for HIMARS systems in the Khmelnytsky region in western Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials have said repeatedly that Western supplies of weapons are critical to Ukraine's military effort, and underlined the importance of the HIMARS because of Russia's artillery supremacy in terms of numbers and ammunition.

HIMARS have a longer range and are more precise than the Soviet-era artillery that Ukraine had in its arsenal.

Russia has criticized the United States in particular for providing Ukraine with instructors to help Ukrainian forces use HIMARS.

Russia, which invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, has captured a chunk of territory in southern Ukraine and used its artillery supremacy in the east to make gradual territorial gains.

Meanwhile Ukraine said on Monday it hoped a U.N.-brokered deal aimed at easing global food shortages by resuming grain exports from the Black Sea region would start to be implemented this week.

Moscow brushed aside concerns that the deal could be derailed by a Russian missile strike on Ukraine's port of Odesa on Saturday, saying it targeted only military infrastructure. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has denounced the attack as "barbarism" that shows Moscow cannot be trusted.

A global wheat shortage and soaring European energy prices are some of the most far-reaching effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, threatening millions in poorer countries with hunger and prompting fears in Europe over heating supplies this winter.

Officials from Ukraine, Russia, the United Nations and Turkey agreed on Friday there would be no attacks on merchant ships moving through the Black Sea to Turkey's Bosphorus Strait and on to markets and pledged to set up a monitoring centre.

Murmu Sworn In as India's First Tribal President

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Droupadi Murmu was sworn in as India's president on Monday, making her the first person from one of the country's marginalised tribal communities to serve as head of state.

The former school teacher and state governor was elected to the largely ceremonial position last week with 64 percent of the vote by members of India's parliament and state assemblies.

Murmu, who is from the Santhal tribe and was born in eastern Odisha state, paid her respects before her inauguration at a memorial dedicated to India's independence hero Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi.

"I started my life journey from a small tribal village," Murmu, 64, said after taking the oath of office in parliament.

"From the background I come from, it was like a dream for me to even get elementary education," she added.

"But despite many obstacles, my resolve remained strong and I became the first daughter from my village to go to college."

Murmu's win was considered a certainty because of the strength of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies in the parliament and state assemblies.

Analysts said the move will likely help Prime Minister Narendra Modi extend his base among the poor tribal communities ahead of his re-election bid in 2024.

"Her assuming the Presidency is a watershed moment for India especially for the poor, marginalised and downtrodden," Modi said on Twitter after Murmu's address.

Murmu said her election would give hope to those left behind by India's recent economic growth.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that those who have been deprived for centuries, who have been away from the benefits of development... are seeing their reflection in me," she said.

India's prime minister wields executive power, but the president can send back some parliamentary bills for reconsideration and also plays a guiding role in the process of forming governments.

Murmu is the country's second woman president after Pratibha Patil, who held the position for five years from 2007.



Panama Gov't, Protesters Edge Closer in Talks

PANAMA CITY (Dispatches) - The Panamanian government and protesters edged closer to an agreement to end a weeks-long living cost revolt that has blocked roads, interrupted food supplies and damaged the economy.

Authorities agreed in the early morning hours to reduce the price of 72 basic consumer items by some 30 percent on average.

"The national government has every intention of continuing dialogue and today has shown it also has the will to reach agreements," Labor Minister Doris Zapata said on the fifth day of marathon talks in Penonome, 150 kilometers (93 miles) southwest of the capital Panama City.

"There is already the first step on the road to solving the problems of the social crisis that this country is experiencing," said Fernando Abrego, a spokesman for one of the demonstrators.

For three weeks, amid worsening economic woes for Panama, protesters demanding lower fuel, food and medicine prices have blockaded the crucial Pan-American Highway and other major roads with stalled trucks and burning tires. Some have clashed with police.

Despite its dollarized economy and impressive growth figures, the country of 4.4 million people has one of the world's highest rates of social inequality, with poor access to health services, education and clean drinking water in some areas.

The demonstrations have triggered food and fuel shortages in some parts of the country, and the business sector says some \$500 million has been lost.

Even before the talks started, the government had lowered the price of 18 basic products and that of fuel from \$5.20 per gallon to \$3.25 in an unsuccessful bid to end the standoff.

Protesters had demanded a lowering of the price of 82 products and want a limit to be imposed on company profits, a measure the government has rejected.

Other demands include reducing the price of medicines and electricity, increasing investment in education and the public health system, and measures against government corruption.

Protesters Ransack UN Peacekeepers' Offices in Eastern DR Congo

GOMA (Dispatches) - Hundreds of protesters attacked a United Nations peacekeeping force's warehouse and looted offices in Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, demanding that the mission leave for failing to protect the population.

Protesters blocked roads in the city with rocks and pebbles, ransacked offices and carted off some materials and set fire to a gate of the mission's compound, Reuters reporters said.

"One of our warehouses was attacked by protesters early this morning. They entered one of our bases and looted the equipment. They managed to enter a few offices, we are obviously appalled and shocked by this," said a spokesperson for the peacekeeping mission in Congo, known as MONUSCO.

The mission said in a statement the attack took place a day after hostile remarks and threats made by individuals and groups against the United Nations.

"The incidents in Goma are not only unacceptable but totally counterproductive. MONUSCO is mandated by the Security Council to support the authorities in protecting civilians," said acting head of mission, Khassim Diagne, in the statement.

"It is not in chaos and confusion or division that we

will make progress towards stabilization and peace."

The protest was called by a faction of the youth wing of President Felix Tshisekedi's UDPS ruling party, which said in a statement that it was demanding the immediate withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeepers over what it described as their ineffectiveness.

Another faction of the youth wing, however, disavowed the protest.

The Congolese government was closely monitoring the situation, its spokesman said.

"The government strongly condemns any form of attack against United Nations personnel and facilities," Patric Muyaya said on Twitter. "Those responsible will be prosecuted and severely punished."

Tensions are high in the eastern region where resurgent clashes between Congo's army and the M23 rebel group have displaced thousands. Attacks by militants linked to Islamic State also continue despite a year-long state of emergency and joint operations against them by the Congolese and Ugandan armies.

Separately, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Monday that the M23 rebel group had summarily killed at least 29 civilians since mid-June in areas under their control.



Sunak Takes Aim At China in Leadership Contest

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former

finance minister Rishi Sunak said China represented the largest threat to Britain and world security this century, setting out his plans to deal with Beijing in the latest front in the battle to become prime minister.

Sunak and foreign secretary Liz Truss are fighting in an increasingly divisive Conservative Party leadership contest to replace Boris Johnson after a revolt against his scandal-ridden administration forced him to say he would stand down.

Truss is ahead in polls among members of the Conservative Party who will choose their new leader and Britain's next prime minister, but Sunak is hoping that weeks of hustings and debates will help his campaign ahead of a vote result due on Sept. 5.

"China is the biggest long term threat to Britain and the world's economic and national security," Sunak said in a statement.

"For too long, politicians in Britain and across the West have rolled out the red carpet and turned a blind eye to China's nefarious activity and ambitions. I will change this on Day 1 as PM." He said he would ban Confucius Institutes, which are funded by the Chinese government, in Britain, and use spy agencies to help British businesses counter Chinese spying. He said he would also examine the case for banning Chinese acquisitions of key British assets, including strategically sensitive tech firms.

A spokesperson for Truss's campaign said the foreign secretary had "strengthened Britain's position on China" and "helped lead the international response to increases Chinese aggression".

"This will only continue when she becomes prime minister and seeks to expand her network of liberty around the world," the spokesperson said.



Wheat Prices Tumble to Level Before Ukraine Invasion

ANKARA (Dispatches) - A day after Turkey and the United Nations mediated the landmark agreement between Russia and Ukraine to unblock grain exports, wheat prices tumbled back to levels last seen before Moscow invaded its neighbor. In Chicago, the price of wheat for delivery in September dropped 5.9% to \$7.59 per bushel, which is equivalent to about 27 kilograms (60 pounds) and the lowest close since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. On Euronext, wheat prices for delivery in September fell 6.4% to \$325.75 per ton. Friday's agreement between Kyiv and Moscow – through United Nations and Turkish mediation – establishes safe corridors for Ukrainian ships to come in and out of three designated Black Sea ports in and around Odessa.



U.S. Economy Slowing, But Recession Not Inevitable

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that U.S. economic growth is slowing and acknowledged there was the risk of a recession, but she said a downturn was not inevitable.

Yellen, speaking on NBC's Meet the Press, said strong U.S. hiring numbers and consumer spending showed the U.S. economy is not currently in recession.

U.S. hiring remained robust in June, with 372,000 jobs created and the unemployment rate holding at 3.6 per cent. It was the fourth straight month of job gains in excess of 350,000.

"This is not an economy that is in recession," said Yellen, who previously chaired the Federal Reserve. "But we're in a period of transition in which growth is slowing and that's necessary and appropriate."

Still, data last week suggested the labour market was softening with new claims for unemployment benefits hitting their highest point in eight months.

Yellen said that inflation "is way too high" and recent Fed rates hikes were helping to bring soaring prices back in check.

In addition, the Biden administration is selling oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which Yellen said had already helped lower gas prices.

"We've seen gas prices just in recent weeks come down by about 50 cents (a gallon) and there should be more in the pipeline," she said.

Yellen, a former Fed chief, hopes the central bank can cool the economy enough to bring down prices without triggering a broad economic downturn.

"I'm not saying that we will definitely avoid a recession," Yellen said. "But I think there is a path that keeps the labour market strong and brings inflation down."

U.S. GDP shrank at a 1.6 per cent annual rate in the first quarter, and a report on Thursday is expected to show a gain of just 0.4 per cent in the second quarter, according to economists polled by Reuters.

Yellen said that even if second quarter figure is negative it would not signal that a recession has taken hold, given the strength in the job market and strong demand.

"Recession is broad-based weakness in the economy. We're not seeing that now," she said.

Economists have traditionally defined a recession as two consecutive quarters of economic contraction, but the private group deemed to be the official arbiter of US recessions looks at a broad range of indicators.

Tunisian Economy in Trouble

TUNIS (Dispatches) - Public finances are under strain and prices are soaring in Tunisia, presenting big economic challenges to President Kais Saied as he planned to overhaul the political system in a constitutional referendum on Monday.

Here are some of the troubles affecting the economy, which was hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic due to its reliance on tourism:

Strains in Tunisia's public finances have led to delays in state salaries and difficulties in paying for wheat imports.

The budget deficit is expected to widen to 9.7% of the country's GDP this year from a previously forecast 6.7%, central bank Governor Marouane Abassi has said. This is due to a stronger dollar and sharp rises in grain and energy prices – knock-on effects of the Ukraine war that Abassi has said have generated an additional \$1.6 billion of financing needs.

State finances were already stretched by one of the highest public sector wage bills in the world compared to the size of the economy, and heavy spending on imported energy and food subsidies.

A weaker Tunisian dinar has added to the pressure. The currency weakened to 3.18 dinars to the dollar in the 12 months to July 14, a 13.2% decline.

The government hopes to secure a \$4 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan in exchange for freezing public sector wages and recruitment and cutting food and energy subsidies. But the powerful UGTT labor union opposes the reforms, a significant obstacle.

The IMF said last year that Tunisia's public debt would become unsustainable unless reforms were enacted with broad support.

Tunisia's outstanding public debt will reach nearly 114.14 billion dinars (\$40 billion) by the end of 2022, accounting for 82.6% of GDP, according to the 2022 state budget, an increase from 81% in 2021.



Reflecting investor concern, spreads on Tunisian public debt – or the premium investors demand to hold it rather than ultra-safe U.S. government bonds – are now some of the highest in the world.

They have risen to over 2,800 basis points, almost three times the 1,000 level that normally sets off the warning sirens.

Along with Ukraine and El Salvador, Tunisia is on Morgan Stanley's top three list of likely defaulters.

Some \$3 billion worth of Tunisian foreign currency debt is set to mature between 2024 and 2027.

Frozen out of international markets, the government hopes an IMF funding agreement would unlock wider financial support.

Kazakhstan Invites Saudi Investors to Boost Economic Ties

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has invited Saudi companies to invest in the central Asian country as it offers a lot of opportunities in the areas of energy, space, recycling, food and agriculture, and construction.

While speaking at the Saudi-Kazakhstan Investment Meeting in Jeddah, Tokayev urged mutual cooperation between the countries to promote investments. He also invited companies like Saudi Basic Industries Corp. to implement joint projects in Kazakhstan.

Tokayev added that Kazakhstan could be the best choice for Saudi Arabia to explore uranium, as the Kingdom has concrete plans to develop nuclear power plants.

"We are very much interested in the technological expertise of Saudi Arabia in green hydrogen production. Given the impressive results of Saudi companies in green energy, I would encourage you to explore similar opportunities in Kazakhstan," he said.

The president further added that Saudi Arabia has supported Kazakhstan by implementing several projects in education, healthcare, culture, and infrastructure, worth more than \$120 million in the country.

Talking about the potential in space exploration, he said, "We also see cooperation in space exploration as a promising area. We are pleased to see the Kingdom's desire to drive the space program as part of Saudi vision 2030. The two countries have a relevant legal framework for cooperation on research and peaceful use of outer space."

While speaking at the same event, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Investment, Khaled Al-Falih called Kazakhstan a "vibrant economy."

"Some of you may know Saudi Arabia was one of the first nations which recognized the independence of Kazakhstan in 1991. And in three decades, Kazakhstan has become one of the most vibrant economies," said Al-Falih.

He added, "I want to emphasize that the trade between Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia has increased significantly, especially the last few years, although there's a lot of room to grow further."

Almassadam Satkaliyev, the CEO of Samruk-Kazyna JSC, said that the mission of Kazakhstan's sovereign wealth fund is to ensure sustainable development of the economy and the creation of a diversified portfolio of assets and business support in the interest of the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Satkaliyev hailed Saudi Arabia's strategy to achieve carbon neutrality which will bring large-scale structural changes to the economy. He added that traditional energy sources will continue to play a crucial role in the energy system.

He further noted that initiatives taken by Saudi Arabia to develop renewable sources of energy are impressive.

The CEO revealed that Kazakhstan is planning to diversify its energy baskets.

Malta's Gender Gap Remains Among Worst in Europe

LONDON (Dispatches) - The disparity between men and women in Malta – specifically regarding economic opportunities, health and leadership – remains glaringly wide, both on a European level and a global level, the latest Global Gender Gap Report published by the World Economic Forum confirms.

On a global level, Malta ranked 85th out of 146 countries, falling one place since 2021 and rising five places since 2020. The main factors contributing to such a wide gap include reproductive autonomy, salary disparity and female representatives in leadership roles.

Among European countries, Malta placed 31st out of 35 countries, above Hungary, Romania, Cyprus and Greece. Malta ranked 31st in Europe out of 35 countries. Source: World Economic Forum report

Globally, the countries that ranked better than Malta include the United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Poland and Botswana.

A deeper dive into the categories contributing to the overall result shows that Malta's weakest spot is in the health and survival category (106th place globally). The report notes that when it comes to reproductive autonomy, men and women have unequal rights. Though it is not stated in the report, this is probably linked to Malta's strict abortion laws, which, just last June, resulted in an American tourist having to be airlifted to Spain to terminate an unviable pregnancy. The country also ranked poorly in economic participation and opportunity (89th) and political empowerment (82nd). In stark contrast, Malta ranked 1st, together with another 20 countries, in the 'educational attainment' category.

Pakistan Economy Not as Vulnerable as People Think

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Acting Governor Dr Murtaza Syed has refuted talk that the country was headed towards an economic catastrophe, saying "Pakistan is not vulnerable as [is] being assumed amid burgeoning global inflation".

Dr Syed made this observation during a podcast conducted by the SBP discussing the overall economic situation. This is the second time within a span of 24 hours that the SBP acting governor addressed the economic situation.

Fears have risen about Pakistan's stuttering economy as the rupee fell nearly eight per cent against the US dollar in the last trading week, while forex reserves stand below \$10 billion with inflation at the highest in more than a decade.

He told Reuters that Pakistan's \$33.5 billion external financing needs were fully met for financial year 2022/23, adding that "unwarranted" market concerns about its financial position will dissipate in weeks.

In the podcast, the SBP governor underlined that Pakistan was not vulnerable "because it has the International Monetary Fund (IMF) cover".

He shared the examples of countries like Ghana, Zambia, Tunisia and Angola, saying they would suffer economically owing to their not being in an IMF program.

"Other countries having no IMF program will suffer badly in the next 12 months due to rising global inflation," he said.

He insisted that the IMF program was "on track" as the staff-level agreement had been received, which according to Dr Syed, was a significant milestone.

"We achieved the agreement on July 13 which means the IMF staff is satisfied with our measures to complete the review."

He added that Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio was 70 per cent, which is lower than Sri Lanka, Ghana and other countries whose comparisons were being drawn with each other.

He explained that short-term debt had to be looked into. "In our case, it is 7pc [of total external debt]."

"It is also important to see on what terms borrowing is made. Mere 20pc of our external debt is based on commercial terms, while the rest is concessional, which is easier to return."

Underlining measures taken by the SBP and the government to streamline the economy, he stressed the need to analyze the adjustment of policies.

"In Pakistan's case, since our growth rate is doing well, we can afford to slow the economy and work is underway [on it]," he added, and mentioned the recent interest-rate hike as one of those measures.

Malaysia-IDB to Expand Islamic Finance Role



KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysia looks forward to the continuing collaboration with member and non-member countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to advance the role of Islamic finance in areas such as the halal industry, new technology, social finance, awqaf, public health and the environment.

Finance Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz commended the instrumental role of the IsDB's Kuala Lumpur Centre of Excellence in facilitating the exchange of Malaysia's knowledge and experience in Islamic finance for the benefit of the 57 member countries.

"Malaysia has established a strong global leadership in Islamic finance, and the IsDB has been instrumental in facilitating the sharing of our expertise with its member countries.

"The tenets of Islamic finance are naturally aligned to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations, and as such, has a key role in advancing sustainable development," Zafrul said in Finance Ministry-IsDB joint statement today in conjunction with the bank's president and group chairman Dr Muhammad Al Jasser first official visit to Malaysia.

The two leaders noted their long-standing cooperation in the areas of education, scholarship, and reverse linkages between the Malaysian government and the IsDB and further agreed to scale up ongoing joint initiatives through the Centre of Excellence, as well as support Malaysia in key priority areas in line with its national development plan.

The two leaders also deliberated on the recent IsDB Strategy Realignment (2022-2025) endorsed by the board of governors as the most responsive and relevant document that espouses the needs and aspirations of the member countries.

"Malaysia is committed to partner with the bank, especially in the key three pillars: boosting recovery, tackling poverty and building resilience, as well as driving green economic growth as identified in the strategy document," Zafrul added.

“Left Handed” Goes to Seoul Int’l Women’s Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) – Directed by Nasrin Mohammadpour, the short film ‘Left Handed’ will take part at the 24th Seoul International Women’s Film Festival in South Korea. Produced by Fariba Arab in Chosen Image Company, the short film will be screened in the competition section of the 24th Seoul International Women’s Film Festival. The short piece will compete with 19 other pieces from other countries. ‘Left Handed’ has been filmed in Mashhad, northeast Iran, for seven days.



China Launches Second of Three Space Station Modules

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China launched on Sunday the second of three modules needed to complete its new space station, state media reported, the latest step in Beijing’s ambitious space program.

The uncrewed craft, named Wentian, was propelled by a Long March 5B rocket at 2:22pm (0622 GMT) from the Wenchang launch centre on China’s tropical island of Hainan.

A quarter of an hour later, an official from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) confirmed the “success” of the launch.

Beijing launched the central module of its space station Tiangong — which means “heavenly palace” — in April 2021.

Almost 18 metres (60 feet) long and weighing 22 tons (48,500 pounds), the new module has three sleeping areas and space for scientific experiments.

It will dock with the existing module in space, a challenging operation that experts said will require several high-precision manipulations and the use of a robotic arm.

“This is the first time China has docked such large vehicles together, which is a delicate operation,” said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

He said until the next module arrives, the space station will have a “rather unusual L-shape” which will take a lot of power to keep stable.

“These are all technical challenges that the USSR pioneered with the Mir station in the late 1980s, but it’s new to China,” he told AFP.

“But it will result in a much more capable station with the space and power to carry out more scientific experiments.”

Wentian will also serve as a backup platform to control the space station in the event of a failure.

The third and final module is scheduled to dock in October, and Tiangong — which should have a lifespan of at least 10 years — is expected to become fully operational by the end of the year.

Under Chinese President Xi Jinping, the country’s plans for its heavily promoted “space dream” have been put into overdrive.

China has made large strides in catching up with the United States and Russia, where astronauts and cosmonauts have decades of experience in space exploration.



“The CSS (Chinese Space Station) will complete its construction... in one and half a year which will be the fastest in history for any modular space station,” said Chen Lan, analyst for the site Go-Taikonauts.com, which specializes in China’s space program.

“In comparison, the constructions of Mir and the International Space Station took 10 and 12 years respectively.”

China’s space programme has already landed a rover on Mars and sent probes to the Moon.

In addition to a space station, Beijing is also planning to build a base on the Moon and send humans there by 2030.

China has been excluded from the International Space Station since 2011, when the United States banned NASA from engaging with the country.

While China does not plan to use its space station for global cooperation on the scale of the ISS, Beijing has said it is open to foreign collaboration.

Tehran Calls on Washington...

FROM PAGE 1

On Monday, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said the initiative lies with Iran to “come forward to make clear” that it is “ready to engage constructively”, “put aside extraneous issues” and “talk in good faith about the deal that has been on the table for some time.”

“If Iran were to re-enter the JCPOA, we would do the same,” he said when asked to comment on statements by Iranian officials that the US has to make a political decision to rejoin the agreement.

In April last year, Tehran and the world powers started negotiations in Vienna to salvage the deal and lift sanctions on Iran. Despite progress, the US indecisiveness and procrastination caused a stalemate in the talks.

Turkey to Buy...

FROM PAGE 1

The level of the countries’ trade ties could reach \$30 billion, namely three times their current level, the Iranian president said.

Earlier during the trip, the two sides signed eight memoranda of cooperation concerning such issues as devising a comprehensive plan for long-term bilateral cooperation, provision of support for small economic agencies, cooperation in the area of radio and television, and cooperation between Iran’s Investment and Economic Assistance Organization and the Turkish Presidency’s Investment Office.

Germany Seeking...

FROM PAGE 1

Emphasizing the necessity of connecting the SMEs of Iran and Germany to promote economic relations between the two countries, Rasoulian for his part, said that the establishment of a technology exchange center between German and Iranian companies can also be very fruitful in order to promote economic cooperation.

He expressed hope for the expansion of trade exchanges between the two countries, adding: “Many production units in Iran need technological development and up-to-date machinery, and German companies can cooperate with us in this field.”

Shia Bloc...

FROM PAGE 1

The powerful Shia cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr won a majority with 73 seats in the election and vowed to form a “national majority” government with several Sunni and Kurdish blocs, signalling against pro-Iran Shia blocs. Frustrated in his efforts to fulfil his promise to his supporters, however, Sadr ordered lawmakers from his bloc to resign, which all his MPs did on 12 June.

The Coordination Framework replaced Sadr’s MPs with their own, becoming the biggest bloc in the Iraqi parliament. They vowed to form a consensus government that would include all the Sunni and Kurdish blocs.

No Israeli...

FROM PAGE 1

Nasrallah detailed Hezbollah’s capabilities, saying the resistance movement has built a significant deterrent power.

“I tell the Lebanese people that they should be confident in the resistance’s capabilities,” he said. “There has been safety and security in Lebanon since 2006 due to the balance of deterrence,” he added.

Nasrallah said prior to 1982, nothing deterred the Israeli enemy from invading Lebanon.

“The beginnings of deterrence started in 1985, when the enemy withdrew from several Lebanese regions due to a host of military operations. “High deterrence occurred between 1993 and 1996.”

Zimbabwe Braces for New Gold Coin as Hedge Against Inflation



HARARE (Dispatches) - Zimbabwe will this week introduce a gold coin aimed at battling a resurgence in inflation and easing the public’s thirst for US dollars.

The 22-carat coins, each weighing one Troy ounce (31.1 grammes) and individually numbered, have been named Mosi-oa-Tunya (“the smoke that thunders”) after the country’s world-famous Victoria Falls.

They will be sold through banks from tomorrow at the prevailing international price for gold.

The coin — whose market value on Friday was US\$1,725 — will be convertible to cash and be tradeable locally and internationally.

Buyers will take physical possession of the coin and be issued with a certificate of ownership, with the option of placing the asset in the safety of a bank vault.

The government says the innovation aims at shoring up the economy at a time of galloping inflation and depreciation of the Zimbabwean dollar.

Instead of people “going to the parallel market to look for a store value (in the US dollar), we are giving them an alternative product they can invest in,” the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, John Mangudya, said this month.

He told lawmakers that if the parallel currency market steadied, “money will have value and result in stable prices.”

The number of coins that will be minted has not been disclosed. Zimbabwe is a major source of gold, and they will be made from locally mined ore.

Inflation rose to 191.60 percent in June, the highest official rate in the world, according to Steve Hanke, a professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland.

Confidence in the local dollar is so low that goods and services are mostly priced in greenbacks.

The US dollar has been the currency of choice since 2008, when inflation spiralled so far out of control that the central bank issued a 100-trillion-dollar note, which has now become a collectors’ item.

Economists and opposition are sceptical about the new coin’s impact.

“The coin is not going to have a significant effect in terms of stabilising the macro economy,” economist Prosper Chitambaro told AFP, adding that most Zimbabweans were too poor to afford the coin.

Takavafira Zhou, a political scientist at Masvingo State University, scoffed at the idea that the coin could fix the economy.

Why Is the World Worried About China’s Property Crisis?



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China’s troubled property sector suffered another blow this month when frustrated homebuyers stopped making mortgage payments on units in unfinished projects.

The boycott came with many developers struggling to manage mountains of debt, and fears swirling that the crisis could spread to the rest of the Chinese — and global — economy.

Colossal. Property and related industries are estimated to contribute as much as a quarter of China’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The sector took off after market reforms in 1998. There was a breathtaking construction boom on the back of demand from a growing middle class that saw property as a key family asset and status symbol.

The bonanza was fuelled by easy access to loans, with banks willing to lend as much as possible to both developers and buyers.

Mortgages make up almost 20 percent of all outstanding loans in China’s entire banking system, according to a report by ANZ Research this month.

Many developments rely on “pre-sales”, with buyers paying mortgages on units in projects yet to be built. Unfinished homes in China amount to 225 million square metres (2.4 billion square feet) of space, Bloomberg News reported.

As property developers flourished, housing prices also soared.

That worried the government, which was already concerned about the risk posed by debt-laden developers.

It launched a crackdown last year, with the central bank capping the proportion of outstanding property loans to total lending by banks to try to limit the threat to the entire financial system.

This squeezed sources of financing for developers already struggling to handle their debts.

A wave of defaults ensued, most notably by China’s biggest developer, Evergrande, which is drowning in liabilities of more than \$300 billion.

On top of the regulatory clampdown, Chinese property firms were also hit by the Covid crisis — the economic uncertainty forced many would-be homebuyers to rethink their purchase plans.

Evergrande’s decline had sparked protests from homebuyers and contractors at its Shenzhen headquarters in September last year.

In June this year, a new form of protest emerged: the mortgage boycott.

People who had bought units in still-unfinished projects announced they would stop making payments until construction resumed.

Within a month, the boycott spread to homebuyers in more than 300 projects in 50 cities across China.

Many of the unfinished projects were concentrated in Henan province, where mass protests in response to rural bank fraud broke out and were suppressed.

Chinese lenders said last week that the affected mortgages account for less than 0.01 percent of outstanding residential mortgages, but analysts say the fear is how far the boycotts will spread.

China is the world’s second-largest economy, with deep global trade and finance links.

If the property crisis spreads to China’s financial system, the shock would be felt far beyond its borders, analysts say.

“Should defaults escalate, there could be broad and serious economic and social implications,” Fitch Ratings wrote in a note on Monday.

This echoed a warning by the US Federal Reserve, which said in May that while China has managed to contain the fallout so far, a worsening property crisis could impact the country’s financial system too. The crisis could spread and impact global trade and risk sentiment, the Fed said in its May 2022 Financial Stability Report.

A bailout or rescue fund for the entire property sector is unlikely, even as mortgage boycotts mount, analysts say, as those would mean the government is admitting to the scale of the crisis.

A major bailout may also encourage developers and home buyers to continue with risky decisions as they would see the government and banks taking on responsibility.

But pressure has been building on Chinese banks to help ease the situation. China’s banking regulator said Thursday that it would help ensure that projects are completed and units handed over to buyers.

Some intervention has happened at the local level in Henan province, where a bailout fund was set up in collaboration with a state-backed developer to help stressed projects.

Alves Joins Pumas On Free Transfer

LONDON (Dispatches) - Brazil defender Dani Alves has joined Mexican side Pumas UNAM on a free transfer, the Liga MX club said, a month after he ended his second stint with Barcelona. Alves won six LaLiga titles and three Champions League trophies among other major honours in his first spell at Barcelona from 2008-16. "DaniAlvesD2 we are waiting for you," Pumas wrote on Twitter. Alves helped Brazil win Olympic gold at last year's Tokyo Games, adding to two Copa America titles and two Confederations Cup trophies with the national team.

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

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info@irannewsdaily.com
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Juve Complete Deal for Torino Defender Bremer

TURIN (Dispatches) - Torino defender Gleison Bremer has joined Juventus on a five-year deal, the 36-times Serie A champions said. Juventus agreed to pay Torino 41 million euros (\$41.73 million) for the Brazilian, as well as up to eight million euros in add-ons, the club said in a statement. The 25-year-old, who joined Torino in 2018 from Brazil's Atletico Mineiro, made 110 appearances for the Italian side. He started 33 of Torino's 38 league games last season and was named Serie A's best defender for the 2021-22 campaign.

Vingegaard Wins Maiden Tour de France

PARIS (Dispatches) - Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard won the Tour de France, ending the reign of two-time defending champion Tadej Pogacar after a gruelling three weeks and 3,350km of relentless struggle.

The 25-year-old former fish-market worker claimed his first Tour de France title, a year after his break-out performance when he came second to Pogacar.

"This victory is huge for me, it's incredible," said Vingegaard as he stood on top of the podium on a sun-kissed Champs Elysees.

"There are so many people I want to thank but I don't know where to start," he added, reserving particular praise for organizers who started the race in his native Denmark.

Vingegaard also hailed teammate Wout van Aert as "phenomenal" and "the best rider in the world", as he was flanked by second-placed Pogacar and 2018 champion Geraint Thomas, who was third. "We had a plan and we followed it to the letter, all my teammates outdid themselves," added the champion.

Packed ranks of Danes in front of the podium began to chant his name as he thanked "the two girls in my life", a reference to his partner and daughter.

"Without them, I couldn't have done this." Runner-up Pogacar won three stages along the way and also took the white jersey for best under-25 rider for a third straight year.

He was thanked by Vingegaard for this "formidable battle".

"The white jersey wasn't really what I was after, but I'm happy with how I raced and am proud to be second," said Pogacar. "We all dream when we are children of one day being on the Tour de France, of becoming a professional cyclist."

"The simple fact of participating in the Tour is incredible, especially when you come from a country like Slovenia. So to finish second is still exceptional." Belgium's Jasper Philipsen won the dash for the line on the cobbled Champs Elysees to take the iconic final stage victory, his second of this Tour, turning the page on his embarrassment at mistakenly celebrating on stage four, when he had in fact finished second.

"This is the nicest win for any sprinter, it buries the end of the Tour, this one counts," said Philipsen.

Jumbo-Visma produced a brilliant collective effort with six stage wins, the green sprint jersey and the red combativity jersey for van Aert and the polka dot



mountains jersey for Vingegaard as well as the overall title and yellow jersey.

After a relentless struggle over peaks and plains in a crushing heatwave, Vingegaard assured his win on Saturday's time-trial having taken the lead in the Alps and extended it in the Pyrenees.

Geraint Thomas, the 2018 champion, was third after the veteran raced largely at his own pace, silencing doubters who thought that at 36, the affable Welshman was past his best.

The 21st stage was a largely ceremonial run as Vingegaard and others sipped champagne while rolling past sights of Paris including the Jardin du Luxembourg, through Saint Michel and past the Louvre before a sprint over eight laps of the Champs Elysees.

The Jumbo team had celebrated Saturday at their stop-over in Limoges but the triumph came after a long, collective effort that nearly fell flat at the last minute.

Vingegaard survived the "heart attack" of a near fall on Saturday's individual time-trial to virtually wrap up the Tour.

The two main protagonists had fought each other from start to finish, with Vingegaard dethroning Slovenian Pogacar with a pair of soaring performances in the high mountains.

Pogacar made all the early running with his lone wolf attacking mentality, gradually clawing his way into top spot on stage six with an air of invincibility.

But the stars aligned Pogacar when he lost teammates to Covid and injury. He is also a man known to dislike intense heat and temperatures hit 40 degrees during the final week of the race.

Vingegaard took the yellow jersey from Pogacar on stage 11 and while the UAE man refused stubbornly to give up, he lost further ground on stage 18.

Their epic struggle was highlighted by a moment of sportsmanship when Pogacar fell at high speed and Vingegaard waited for him to catch up, the pair clasping hands briefly in a memorable image from one of the best modern editions of the Tour.

Duplantis Soars at Eugene Worlds

EUGENE (Dispatches) - Armand Duplantis wrapped up the World Athletics Championships in Eugene in stunning fashion on Sunday, setting a new world record in the pole vault as the curtain came down on the 10-day global track and field extravaganza.

The gripping finale could not have been any better scripted for the first world championships ever to be held on American soil -- apart from the fact maybe that the US-born and raised Duplantis was wearing the yellow and blue of Sweden and not representing the Stars and Stripes.

As the furious hullaboo of the frenzied 4x400m relays won by the U.S. men and women died down, all eyes turned on Duplantis.

And the 22-year-old Swede did not disappoint, sailing with ease over 6.21 meters at the second time of asking.

The packed, raucous crowd at Hayward Field went wild as Duplantis sprinted to see his father and coach Greg and plant a kiss on girlfriend Desire Inglander.

"It is great, I cannot complain!" said Duplantis, whose new mark bettered by 1cm his previous best set when winning gold at the World Indoor Championships in Belgrade in March.

It was his fifth world record, and third this year. "Actually, I did not think about the record that much today," he said.

"Usually, it is always somewhere in the back of my mind but today, I was really focused on the win and I really wanted to win the gold so badly. It was the medal I was missing.

Sri Lankan Spinners rattle Pakistan In second Test

GALLE (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka's spinners struck three times in the second session on day two against Pakistan, including taking the scalp of skipper Babar Azam, to leave the tourists reeling.

Pakistan, who lead the two-match Test series 1-0, were 111 for four at tea in response to Sri Lanka's first-innings 378 and still trail by 267 runs in Galle.

Fawad Alam, on 18, and Agha Salman, on 13, were batting at the break. Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya bowled Azam for 16 on a turning delivery that got the edge of the dangerman's bat to crash onto the stumps.

Imam-ul-Haq attempted to rebuild the innings with Mohammad Rizwan but Dhananjaya de Silva broke through with his off-spin to send back Imam on 32.

De Silva is standing in as captain in place of Dimuth Karunaratne, who did not take the field in the Pakistan innings because of back pain.

Rizwan hit a few boundaries to counterattack but Ramesh Mendis trapped him lbw for 24 and a review did not help the wicketkeeper-batsman, with replays showing the ball would have hit leg stump.

Pakistan had lost opening batsman and first-match hero Abdullah Shafique for a duck before lunch when he inside-edged a delivery from Asitha Fernando onto his stumps.

Sri Lanka had resumed the day on 315-6 in former captain Angelo Mathews' landmark 100th Test, with overnight batsman Niroshan Dickwella making 51 and a useful cameo of 35 by number nine Ramesh.

Ferrari Seek Silver Linings After Title Blow

PARIS (Dispatches) - Ferrari searched for silver linings after yesterday's French Grand Prix left them licking self-inflicted wounds, with fans fearing Formula One's oldest and most glamorous team had blown their title chances yet again.

Charles Leclerc remained Max Verstappen's closest challenger but the Ferrari driver is now 63 points behind his Red Bull rival, with 10 races remaining, thanks to a mistake of his own making.

Bayern Agree Deal for Rennes Teenager Tel



"I have a vision that he'll one day score 40 goals a season," Nagelsmann said during the Bundesliga champions' pre-season tour of the United States.

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich have agreed a deal in principle to sign 17-year-old Rennes forward Mathys Tel, who coach Julian Nagelsmann hopes will "one day score 40 goals a season".

Tel, who has played for France's under-18 team, made seven brief substitute appearances for Rennes in Ligue 1 last season.

The Bavarian giants face RB Leipzig in the German Super Cup next weekend before opening their Bundesliga title defence at Eintracht Frankfurt on August 5.

"But if he scores 10 goals this season, we'll be very happy." The clubs have not yet officially announced the transfer, which media reports suggest could be worth up to €28.5 million (RM129.5 million) after add-ons.

"We're looking for young players that we can develop into world-class players, and he could be one of those," Nagelsmann added.

Bayern have already signed Sadio Mane from Liverpool, Dutch centre-back Matthijs de Ligt from Juventus and Ajax pair Ryan Gravenberch and Noussair Mazraoui in the close season.

Rampant PSG End Japan Tour In Style

OSAKA (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi and Neymar combined to devastating effect as Paris Saint-Germain thrashed Gamba Osaka 6-2 today to finish their pre-season Japan tour with three wins out of three.

The star forwards both played the opening 70 minutes in Osaka and Neymar scored a first-half penalty before setting up a goal for Messi.

Messi then returned the favor in the second half, releasing Neymar for the Brazilian to notch his second goal of the game.

Kylian Mbappe got his name on the scoresheet with a late penalty after coming on for the final 30 minutes.

Pablo Sarabia and Nuno Mendes also scored for PSG, who now head to Israel to play Nantes in the French Super Cup in Tel Aviv on July 31.

Gamba goalkeeper Masaaki Higashiguchi frustrated PSG's stars early in the game, first denying Messi and then keeping out Neymar with the Brazilian clean through on goal.

The French champions found a way through in the 28th minute after a defensive mistake gave the ball to Messi, whose saved shot fell nicely for Sarabia to slam home.

Neymar made it two just minutes later, rolling his penalty to the goalkeeper's left after the Brazilian forward had been brought down in the box.

Gamba hit straight back when Keisuke Kurokawa bundled the ball home after Gianluigi Donnarumma had initially kept out the Japanese side with a sharp reflex save.



English Leagues Announce Tougher Sanctions On Smoke Bombs, Invasions

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - England's Premier League and Football League have announced tough new sanctions for pitch invasions and the use of smoke bombs and pyrotechnics.

Last season saw an increasing number of pitch invasions at the end of the season with fans celebrating titles, promotion or survival.

Several altercations took place on the field, including one involving Crystal Palace manager Patrick Vieira, while Sheffield United's Billy Sharp was attacked by a fan after a playoff defeat at Nottingham Forest.

Smoke bombs and pyrotechnics, which have long been used at games in continental Europe and elsewhere in the world, used to be relatively rare in England but their use has become a more regular occurrence.

The leagues and the Football Association said that from the start of the new season "all identified offenders will be reported by clubs to the police and prosecution could result in a permanent criminal record, which may affect their employment and education, and could result in a prison sentence."

"Furthermore, anyone who enters the pitch and those identified carrying or using pyrotechnics or smoke bombs will now receive an automatic club ban. These bans could also be extended to accompanying parents or guardians of children who take part in these activities," the statement said.

