

Health Ministry Announced on Saturday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to **141,937** with **46** More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Slammed the Zionist Regime's Advanced Atomic Military Program as A Serious Threat to International Security and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7554 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SUNDAY JULY 31, 2022 - MORDAD 9, 1401

2

DOMESTIC

90% of Iran Nuclear Technology Equipment Domestically Produced



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

Brazil Seeks Stronger Tie With Iran Private Sector



> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

German, Turkish Diplomats Spar In Istanbul



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Alcaraz Begins Title Defense in Croatia



> SEE PAGE 8

Iran Fully Backs “One China” Policy

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries is among the fundamental principles of the country's foreign policy, voicing the Islamic Republic's firm support for the One China policy toward Taiwan.

“Support for the One China policy is a definite and principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Raisi said in an hour-long phone conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday. He said the U.S. interference in the internal affairs of countries is a continuation of Washington's destructive policy of unilateralism, which is “now turning into a threat to international peace and security.”

In similar remarks earlier in the day, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said his country fully supports the One China policy, adding, “Our position on the existence of only one China remains unchanged.”

Under the “One China” policy, nearly all countries across the globe recognize Beijing's sovereignty over Chinese Taipei, including the U.S., which has no formal diplomatic ties with the territory but continues to support its anti-China stance and supply it with massive amounts of armaments.

See Page 7

Swedish National Arrested On Espionage Charges

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's Intelligence Ministry says its forces have arrested a Swedish national on charges of espionage, after keeping the individual under surveillance during the foreign citizen's several trips to the Islamic Republic.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the ministry said the Swedish citizen had been placed on its counter-espionage unit's “list of suspects” due to certain “suspicious contacts and behavior” during multiple trips to the country.

The ministry did not identify the detainee.

The foreign citizen's activities, contacts and trips to different Iranian cities (which were generally inconsistent with tourism purposes) had closely been under watch by the ministry's professional counter-espionage agents from the moment of entry into Iranian borders until exit, the statement added.

The statement said the findings revealed that the Swedish citizen used to establish links with a number of European and non-European suspects, who were themselves being monitored in Iran, while adhering to professional safe communication and concealment techniques.

See Page 7

Tehran, Minsk to Boost Ties In Air Transport Sector



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade said that Tehran and Minsk will launch combined flights in short term.

Speaking in his meeting with Belarussian Minister of Transport and Communications Aleksei Avramenko on Saturday, Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin stated that it may be impossible to activate the direct flights between the two countries in the short term but combined flights can be planned in the short term.

In his two-day visit to Belarus, Iranian industry minister met and held talks with Belarussian ministers and managers to broaden bilateral ties.

The two countries of Iran and Belarus enjoy high potentials and capabilities to expand their ties in various fields, Fatemi Amin added.

The Iranian minister added: “There is a possibility of increasing the current exchanges between the two countries, many negotiations were held with large Belarusian companies, which will serve as the infrastructure of all these transportation interactions.”

He also noted: “Different Iranian companies have invested in Belarus in different fields, and this presence of investors in the two countries facilitates trade.”

Belarussian minister of transport, for his part, appreciated Iran's effort to compile proper rules in increasing bilateral trade between the two countries.

Stating that the two countries of Iran and Belarus are negotiating with each other in the fields of construction of roads and railway and also launch of bilateral flights, Avramenko said that that North-South Corridor to access to sea is very important and stable agreements must be compiled in this regard.

The Belarussian transport minister appreciated position of the Islamic Republic of Iran for enacting proper and strategic rules in increasing volume of bilateral trade and emphasized that Belarus intends to active air transportation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this meeting, the Minister of Roads of Belarus stated that cooperation in the field of roads, railways, flights between the two countries and some agreements regarding transportation are already underway, adding that the north-south corridor for access to the sea is very important.

“In this context, we must have stable agreements in the field of transportation,” concluded he.

On Friday and during an interview Fatemi Amin said negotiations have been held between Iran and Belarus to increase the value of annual trade from \$40 million to \$1 billion.

“We have negotiated on the trade volume of \$1 billion. Right now the capacity of ties between the two sides is \$40 million due to lack of good connections,” he told Press TV in a live interview.

Pointing to the capacities of Belarus in manufacturing mineral and agricultural equipment, he said Iran is in need of such machines and that initial agreements have been reached to receive the needed equipment from Belarus.

On the other hand, the minister said, Iran has capacities in manufacturing cars and medicine that can meet the needs of Belarus. According to him, an Iranian medical company started its activities in the European country on Thursday.

Fatemi Amin also said Iran can act as a suitable path for Belarus to access markets of Southeast Asian countries.

The level of ties can be improved in various fields such as industrial and agricultural machinery, which can help the sides reach the defined target, he said. The two countries have achieved a “good understanding” of the capacities of the other side, the minister said.

Elsewhere, answering a question about the effects of sanctions, the Iranian minister said sanctions act as a hindrance but cannot stop the activities; and such embargos will even have positive effects in the long run.

Iran managed to register a \$120-billion trade volume last year under severe economic sanctions, he said, adding that remaining steadfast under pressure will eventually put the country in a better position.

Pointing to the sanctions imposed on Belarus, the minister said Tehran and Minsk can fulfill the needs of one another in a host of areas.

Sadr Supporters Occupy Iraqi Parliament for Second Time in Days

BAGHDAD (Dispatches)- Supporters of Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr have breached Baghdad's heavily fortified “Green Zone” and occupied parliament for the second time in three days.

Brandishing pictures of the firebrand cleric, they occupied the legislative chamber to protest selection of a consensus nominee for prime minister following months of uncertainty.

They initially massed at the end of a bridge leading to the Green Zone before tearing down concrete barriers protecting it and ran inside.

Security forces had fired tear gas near an entrance to the district, home to foreign embassies and other government buildings as well as parliament.

See Page 7

ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian Train of Progress Moves Ahead With Full Speed

While the West and above all the U.S. tries to undermine progresses of the Islamic Republic of Iran or it tries to resort to Iranophobia in order to isolate this powerful regional country, Iran continues its progresses in all fields and everyday some good news is announced which enrages the enemies of the country.

Although in recent days once again Iran's nuclear talks have resurfaced as top news item, Tehran made public another achievement in its peaceful nuclear program which disappointed the West and the IAEA.

On Wednesday Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami said that Iran is building a “completely indigenous” nuclear research reactor in Isfahan.

The research reactor to test fuel for other reactors will be built at the Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center, Mohammad Eslami said during a visit to the Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) in the city.

“We have planned that based on the studies carried out, we will officially start the construction of the research reactor at the Isfahan site in the coming weeks,” the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said.

“It must be said that this project is completely indigenous and Iranian, which will complete the chain of research, evaluation, testing and assurance of our nuclear power production.”

Eslami said the nuclear fuel cycle is the most important part of the nuclear industry.

“It should be noted that until now, all the commotion raised has been for enrichment, and the next station is the fuel cycle industry, which we have already been utilizing at the research semi-industrial stage,” he said in reference to the West's accusations against Iran's nuclear program.

Eslami said foreign countries did not cooperate with Iran on completing the nuclear fuel cycle, adding even some countries came to do the project, but they abandoned the work halfway and left it.

Currently, the domestic industrial capacity and engineering change order at the Atomic Energy Agency of Iran and knowledge-based companies enables the country to move toward industrialization in order to produce fuel for reactors, including at the UCF in Isfahan.

“It should be known that nuclear power is designed and built in an integrated manner only in a few countries of the world and because they do not cooperate with us in this field, we must fully develop capacity and localize it ... so that the people of Iran can benefit from it and receive clean electricity without any fluctuations” from nuclear facilities, the official said.

So once again Iran showed the world that nobody can stop its determination for achieving more progresses or successes.

See Page 7

Iranian, Azerbaijani Warships to Attend Russian Naval Parade

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian and Azerbaijani combat ships will participate in Russia's naval parade on the Caspian Sea for the 1st time.

Russia's Caspian Flotilla is holding a final rehearsal of the naval parade in Kaspiysk on the Caspian Sea and the event that will take place on July 31 will also involve warships of the Azerbaijani and Iranian navies for the first time, a TASS correspondent reported from the scene.

“As a major attraction of this year, the event will bring together ships of the Azerbaijani and Iranian navies, which have arrived for the first time over many years as part of the joint celebrations of Navy Day,” Caspian Flotilla Deputy Commander for Military-Political Work Captain 1st Rank Sergey Rakauskas told reporters.

See Page 7



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Iran New Ambassador Arrives in Beirut

TEHRA (IP) - The new Iranian ambassador Mojtaba Amani arrived in Beirut on Friday.

Upon arrival, Amani was welcomed by the official Lebanese figures, Arab media "Al-Manar" reported. He emphasized making all his efforts to strengthen relations between Iran and Lebanon.

Amani was welcomed by Mahmoud Qamati, the former minister of parliamentary affairs and a senior member of Hezbollah's political council and the Lebanese lawmaker Qabalan Qabalan. He was the former head of the Iran interest section in Cairo.

90% of Iran Nuclear Technology Equipment Domestically Produced

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Pejman Shirmardi said that approval of the Strategic Action Plan by the Iranian Parliament resulted in production of 60% fuel enrichment and the installation of IR6 centrifuges.

Shirmardi pointed out that the AEOI's achievements are the winning card of the negotiating team and the biggest fear of the western negotiator while science and technology used for making the achievements are native.

AEOI deputy chief said that the sanctions resulted in greater self-confidence, the realization of internal capacities, crossing borders of knowledge and actual realization of Imam Khomeini's (RA) commandment who said: "We can do it."

Shirmardi also said that about 90 percent of the equipment in the field of nuclear technology has been domestically produced which is the result of the efforts of the Iranian scientists, and this would not have been achieved if the country depended on foreign powers.

In explaining the goals set in the electricity generation sector, he said: "According to the comprehensive strategic document of the Atomic Energy Organization in Iran's 1420, the production of 10,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity is envisaged, and the approach of the organization is fully Iranian and indigenous reactor production, along with the use of external capacities; the Arak reactor will be used to produce radioisotopes, and the main goal is to make Iran a hub for the production of radioisotopes with medical use in the region."

Deputy Chairman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said that the AEOI aims to compile a comprehensive strategic document in Iran's 1420 while focusing simultaneously on the hardware sector (power plants, fuel cycle, use of radiation, etc.) and the soft nuclear sector (law, security, economy and nuclear diplomacy),



and added: such an approach will lead to social, cultural and economic attachment; along with strengthening foreign relations and using these capacities, "we are seriously pursuing the localization of nuclear industry equipment".

Regarding new technologies, Shirmardi said: In this field, the goal is to pass the research stage and move towards commercialization and popularization of products.

Quantum technologies and nuclear fusion are examples of this sector, in the field of nuclear fuel cycle, the country has reached maturity and now "we are one of the 13 countries" with a complete nuclear fuel cycle, he added.

Referring to the impact of the approval of the Strategic Action Plan by the Iranian Parliament on the nuclear industry, Shirmardi explained: "This action and its approval was done correctly; This Plan created tasks for the Atomic Energy Organization, which was implemented with the determination and order of the head of the Atomic Energy Organization."

Among the results of the approval of this Plan, we can mention the production of 60% fuel and the launch of IR6 centrifuges, and the opposite front should know that in case of any immature actions on the western side, the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond with a ready answer.

Regarding the role of the Atomic Energy Organization in the JCPOA and support for the negotiating team, Shirmardi said: "The arrogant powers are against the management method of the nuclear issue of the Islamic Republic of Iran, now the achievements and actions taken in the Atomic Energy Organization are a winning card for the team."

Iran Criticizes U.S. Interference in Lebanese Affairs

TEHRAN (MNA) – Director General of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) affairs at the foreign ministry has criticized the U.S. interference in Lebanese internal affairs.

Mohammad-Sadegh Fazli, in a tweet, wrote that "through supporting the Zionist apartheid regime and interfering in regional states, the U.S. has exacerbated the situation in them, including Lebanon."

"How does the White House statement help Lebanon?", he asked.

Stop backing the aggressors and plundering Lebanese land and sea resources, he noted.

Iran will stand with the noble and resilient Lebanese nation in the fight against bullying, he further noted.

Army's Anti-Tank Missiles, Artillery Rounds Upgraded

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force says the anti-tank missiles and artillery munitions used by the ground forces have been upgraded to become smart and precision strike.

Speaking to Fars news agency, Brigadier General Nozar Nemati also underlined the extensive capabilities of the Iranian armed forces in the production of different military equipment.

Nemati said Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Kioumars Haydari has already presented three grandiose plans, dubbed Labaik (Allegiance) 1, 2 and 3, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The first plan, called Labaik 1, was aimed at redesigning the structure and mobilization of the armed forces in proportion to present-day operational needs, he said.

"The Iranian Army's Ground Force is currently implementing Labaik 2 plan, which particularly focuses on arming its troops and involves upgrade of munitions according to the four features of being smart, long-range, precision-strike and uncomplicated for network connectivity," the top commander added.

He went on to say that the artillery units of the Iranian Army's Ground Force are working on the three areas of observation, fire control and fire power, and have made very good progress in all the spheres.

Nemati highlighted that a fire control system specifically designed for the ground forces are now operational in all artillery units across the country.

"The system designates the target in the shortest possible time, with the help of reconnaissance drones and ground surveillance devices. It then provides artillery units with the required coordinates so the latter can determine the direction and range they should fire at," he said.

Brigadier General Nemati stressed that the Iranian Army has retired the old-generation anti-tank missiles, and the new missiles are capable of striking the designated targets within a range of 18 kilometers with pinpoint accuracy.

He also said that the new generation of artillery rounds used by the Ground Force enjoys pinpoint accuracy, stating that the domestically-developed military achievement was initially utilized last year and will be employed in forthcoming military drills.

Iranian military experts and engineers have in recent years made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient.

Exquisite Iranian Carpet Unveiled



TABRIZ (IP) - The special carpet of World Cup Qatar 2022, which is one of the main symbols of the biggest sports event in Qatar in 2022, has been unveiled and made its way to the country.

According to Iran press, in the design of this exquisite Iranian carpet, images of balls from all rounds of the World Cup Qatar 2022, the top figures of world's football, the flags of the teams participating in the 2022 World Cup and information about Qatar, the host of these competitions, have been pictured.

Ismail Shafiei, the creator of this work of art, in an interview with Iran press in Tabriz, said that the design of this carpet, which measures 2 x 1.5 meters and is woven with 350 colors, was done by master Nader Jalali Aqdasian, and 70% of it is silk and The remaining 30% is merino wool with silk.

Shafiei added that the special carpet for World Cup Qatar 2022 was woven in 34 months and will be one of the important symbols of the biggest sporting event of 2022 in the world and is considered as one of the cultural symbols of Iran in the Qatar World Cup.

Ahad Azimzadeh, the head of Tabriz Carpet Sellers' Union and the largest carpet exporter in Iran and the world, in an interview with Iran press, praised the carpet weaving artist couple involved in making the Qatar World Cup 2022 carpet, and said that with the efforts of this young artist couple to weave this beautiful work, the Iranian carpet has become a brand.

The head of Tabriz Carpet Sellers' Union added that considering that different countries are traveling to Qatar to participate in the Qatar World Cup, different works will be exhibited, but the lasting effect of the Tabriz silk carpet will be a permanent work and will be a permanent honor for Iran.

Yerevan Intends to Increase Trade Volume With Tehran to \$1b

TABRIZ (IRNA) - Ambassador of Armenia to Iran emphasizing the need to increase his country's trade volume with Iran, said that efforts are made to increase Iran-Armenia annual trade volume to one billion dollars.

Ambassador Arsen Avagyan in his Friday evening meeting with the governor-general of East Azarbaijan province said that Iran's neighboring provinces with Armenia have great importance for his country, and requested the governor-general for establishment of a consular office in Tabriz.

"We are ready to have face to face meetings between the two countries merchants and businessmen and we invite West Azarbaijan province merchants and officials to visit Armenia's Syunik province," he said.

Ambassador Avagyan further reiterated that Aras border river is of significant importance for both Iran and Armenia and to ease the emerged environmental worries one of the mines has been shut down till required moves will be made to eliminate the environmental hazards.

He said that East Azarbaijan is the closest transit route for Armenia and buying the manufactured goods in that province is among Armenia's priorities.

The governor of East Azarbaijan province, for his part, emphasized that that province is quite ready for boosting



trade with neighboring countries, including Armenia, and said that one of the basic policies of the 13th Government is increasing interactions with neighboring countries, and the provinces have the required authorities for the purpose.

Abedin Khorram added that Tabriz and East Azarbaijan province play major and

particular roles in various economic, cultural, and social scenes in Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said that increased trade and business between the two provinces of East Azarbaijan and Syunik is quite favorable for Iran.

Khorram also referred to the supreme scientific status of East Azarbaijan province in Iran, announcing that province's readiness for establishment of a joint science and technology park, which can be turned into a regional export hub.

He said that the Aras River is of great importance for Iran and therefore, we expect Armenia to take major steps to control the entry of mining sewage water into it.

The governor said that the private sector of that province is active in various fields of foodstuff, industrial products, steel industry, machineries, and high quality technical and engineering services, which can be used in various economic and development projects of Armenia.

Iran's Export Overtakes Import

TEHRAN (IP) - Government Spokesman says that Iran's exports overtake its import policy, which is considered a promising reward.

A two-day Public Relations Conference was held at the Interior Ministry on Saturday with the Interior Minister, Ahmad Vahidi, and Government Spokesman, Ali Bahadori-Jahromi in attendance.

The conference aims to advance trusted communication and the country's ethical practice of public relations.

The Government Spokesman Bahadori-Jahromi stressed: In the last ten years, the country's average economic growth was zero, but now the seasonal economic growth has reached 4.5-5 percent.

He further said that it is the administration's duty to inform the public about the government's achievements, stating: "The government has made perfect achievements in various fields such as foreign trade, neighborhood-centered diplomacy, curbing the coronavirus, etc., so, it is necessary to share these commanding achievements with people.

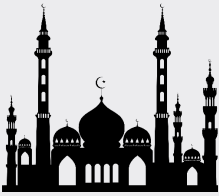
Regarding the country's geographical location, Bahadori-Jahromi said that Raisi's administration had set various transit routes, bringing economic and security benefits for all.

Emphasizing the other aspect of the government's achievements, Iran's Government Spokesman Ali Bahadori-Jahromi also highlighted that Iran is actively exporting its technologies to other countries.

Bahadori-Jahromi said: In addition to pursuing solving the problems, we should

have a competition to spread the good news to make everyone aware of the government's fruitful achievements during its term. He emphasized that public relations are considered the center of consolidating the government's activities.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)

■ Evening (Maghreb)

■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)

■ Tomorrow's Sunrise

13:10

20:29

04:35

06:12

50. Is it that there is a disease in their hearts? or do they doubt, or are they in fear, that Allah and His Messenger will deal unjustly with them? Nay, it is they themselves who do wrong.

51. The answer of the Believers, when summoned to Allah and His Messenger, in order that He may judge between them, is no other than this: they say, "We hear and we obey": it is such as these that will attain felicity.

Surah 24. Light (50 - 51)

Brazil Seeks Stronger Tie With Iran Private Sector

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Ambassador of Brazil to Tehran Mr. Laudemar Gonsalves de Aguiar Neto says private sector in Brazil is very active in trade and the government seeks to restore stronger relation between private sector of his country and Iran because Iran is very important for Brazil as it is a big country.

Speaking during his visit to Kashan Chamber of Province, Aguiar Neto pointed to the diplomatic ties between Iran and Brazil which dates back to some 120 years ago and next June both countries will celebrate 120th anniversary of their relations.

He went on to say that during these years the ties between the two states have faced ups and downs but they have never cut and they have continued. He noted that Iran is Brazil's biggest trade partner in the Middle East and Asia, and Brazil is keen to broaden its trade relation with Iran.

Aguiar Neto added that currently the trade balance is in favor of Brazil, reiterating that if Iran's exports increase, Brazil's imports and exports will also broaden. He stressed that there are some problems because of sanctions but Brazil has tried to resolve them and the trade between the two countries go on.

The Brazilian diplomat stressed that sanctions have been unable to create obstacle in way of trade between the two countries, and not only has Brazil's export not declined but also it has increased and Brazil has been a good partner for Iran and it wants to broaden it. He stated that Brazil has developed well in industry, trade and agriculture and it can share its experiences with Iran.

Aguiar Neto also congratulated Iran which has developed trade, economy and



industry in the hard times of sanctions and shown good creativity and it has grown well. He said that of course sanctions have hurt broadening trade ties between the two states but sanction is not the only hurdle and the main hurdle is lack of enough information on the trade condition of both states for business activists. He went on to say that distance has not been able to create hurdle in way of trade between Iran and Brazil and there are also other countries which are far from Iran but they have good trade with Iran.

He reiterated that both sides should promote information on their capacities and their required goods and called for boosting ties between Iran with Brazil through exhibitions and webinars. He admitted that Brazil has no good information on Iran and this is also for Iran which lacks information on trade condition in Brazil and one of his efforts in Iran is to boost this cognition and promotion.

Meanwhile in the meeting, Head of Kashan Chamber of Commerce Mr. Mahmoud Tavalaee pointed to the economic capacities of Iran and Brazil, and said that Brazil is a big economic power in Latin America with its special position in industry which controls massive amount of natural resources, and on the other side Iran is one of the top countries in terms of industry, natural resources, energy and skillful workforce, reiterating that what caused that no deep tie between Iran and Brazil happens, is the distance and costs for transportation which have affected the trade exchanges between the two states.

Tavalee said that Iran's industry has reached a level that it can restore good ties with Brazil but any action requires capacities of the two states to be identified and solutions are found for problems.

He also called for identifying the trade capacities for trade exchanges and both sides to have plans and to implement them.

Iran Seeks Using Big Capacities of Muslims Unity in Economic Activities

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Advisor to President and Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones Mr. Saeed Mohammad says the zone seeks revival and using the big capacity of Muslims unity in the economic activities.

Addressing the 10th Summit of the Cultural Counsellors of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mohammad said that the council is keen to take advantage of the big capacity of Muslims unity in the economic activities, and stated that the council wants to host an international conference for Muslim cultural and economic activists.

He added that unlike the recommendations of the late Imam Khomeini (R) and Supreme Leader, the slogan of Muslims unity in the field of economy has been left completely unnoticed and one of the main reasons behind this big negligence is reliance of some officials on Western countries' assistance but this incorrect approach towards foreign policy has been totally changed during the current revolutionary government and it seems this solution can turn into one of the foreign policies' priorities and national economic strategies.

Mohammad went on to say that many Muslims live worldwide and they believe in pure Islam and are interested in the Islamic Revolution and they are looking for a proper ground to prove this interest in different fields like cultural and economic but this concern has not been the priority of the officials and the grounds for its materialization have not been provided.

He reiterated that since free zones are considered as leader of national economy, Iran's free zones can be leader in materialization of this unnoticed capacity.



German Companies Ready to Work With Iranian Automakers



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Chairman of the Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA) said that German companies were ready to work with Iranian automakers to improve quality and throughput.

In a meeting with officials of Iran's ministry of industry, mine and trade on Thursday, Michael Schumann said that German companies were fully prepared to expand and deepen economic ties with Iran, especially in transportation industries.

Schumann expressed regret that the general German perception of Iran was created by media misrepresentation rather than direct experience and that they were in Iran to correct this.

He said that the BWA wished to host, among other countries, Iranian business in the Caspian Europe Forum to be held October 10-11 and invited Iran to attend a car industry expo at around that time.

Iran's Deputy Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Manouchehr Manteqi and Iran's Ambassador to Germany Mahmoud Farazandeh gave an explanation of Iran's capacity in the industry, human resources and market and called for expansion of cooperation between Iranian and German business.

Iran Exported Commodities Worth \$2.2b to UAE in 4 Months

Quarterly Coal Concentrate Output Rises 44%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran exported non-oil products valued at \$2.264 billion to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, the UAE was Iran's third main export destination in the four-month period. Iran has also imported goods worth with \$4.875 billion from the UAE in the first four months of this year.

The UAE was Iran's top source of imports in the mentioned time span.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

TEHRAN (MNA) - Production of coal concentrate in Iran reached 184,587 tons during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 21), which was 44 percent more than the output in the first quarter of the previous year, according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As reported, IMIDRO's two major subsidiaries namely Tabas Parvadeh Coal Processing Company and Central Alborz Coal Company (CACC) had produced 128,475 tons of coal concentrate in the first quarter of the previous year, IRIB reported.

Of the total produced coal concentrate, 162,748 tons was produced by Tabas Parvadeh Coal Processing Company while Central Alborz Coal Company managed to produce 21,839 tons.

The IMIDRO data show that coal extraction by the said companies also increased by 53 percent in the first three months of the current year.

The mentioned companies extracted about 525,144 tons of coal ore in the said quarter, of which 450,967 tons was extracted by Tabas Parvadeh Coal Processing Company, 44,481 tons was extracted by Tabas Coal Complex, and Central Alborz Coal Company extracted 29,746 tons.

Due to the special conditions of coal mines in Iran, these mines are subject to tax exemption and any miners who need mining machinery can use the facilities and tax exemption in this sector to import their necessary machinery.

The country's average annual coal concentrate production is about 1.5 million tons, while the country's current demand has exceeded two million tons.

Currently, Iran's coal sector provides employment for 17,000 people, however, the capacity of the country's coal mines is much more than this figure, and the development of the mining sector and modernization projects can play an effective role in increasing employment in this sector.

Alumina Powder Production Up

TEHRAN (MNA) - Production of alumina power in Iran rose 11 percent in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 62,291 tons in the three-month period of this year, while the figure was about 55,974 tons in the same time span of the previous year.

Based on the data previously released by IMIDRO, Iran has produced 230,682 tons of alumina powder in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 231,612 tons in year 1399.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.



Esfahan Holds "Campaign of Supporters of Water Special for Mother and Child"

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ESFAHAN – The cultural house of Esfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company (ABFA of Isfahan) for the first time in the country held the campaign of supporters of water special for mother and child.

Touching upon this event and the goal behind its holding, Head of the culture house of ABFA of Esfahan Ms. Zohreh Tashiee said that women who are actually main managers of families can plan to manage water consumption to meet their family demands through their prudence.

She went on to say that reforming consumption pattern is a national task and said that women's understanding from consumption and the way for reforming consumption pattern can be effective in all families, adding that if the sense of duty for protecting national assets is created among the women, this can automatically be a factor for creating proper consumption pattern for the next generations.

She then pointed to the jihadi role of women in the in families in the field of optimizing the consumption pattern and offering suitable solutions is one of the main reasons for the launch of this even in the provincial level in Esfahan.

She added that this is the first campaign which was held for mothers and their children to promote efficient water consumption in their families.

Tashiee stated several various programs in the field of education have been planned for the event which will be in forms of poem, story, music and animation.



Unseasonable Rains Leave Seven Dead in UAE

DUBAI (Dispatches) - At least seven people have been killed in the United Arab Emirates after unseasonable downpours triggered flash flooding in eastern districts of the normally parched Gulf state, authorities said.

“We regret to announce that six people of Asian nationalities have been found dead as a result of the floods,” the interior ministry’s chief of central operations, Ali al-Tunaiji, said.

The ministry later announced the death of a seventh Asian migrant.

July temperatures in the UAE regularly hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) but its east coast can also be affected by the Indian Ocean monsoon.



Palestinian Teen Shot Dead by Israeli Army

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) - A Palestinian teenager was killed on Friday in clashes with the Israeli army in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Amjad Nashaat Abu Alia, 16, “died of critical wounds sustained by live bullets in the chest”, during clashes near the village of Al-Mughayer, close to Ramallah, the ministry said in a statement.

An AFP photographer at the scene reported 300 to 400 Palestinians had gathered for a protest march, to demonstrate against Israeli settlement expansion in the area.



German, Turkish Diplomats Spar in Istanbul



ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock urged Turkey to respect human rights during a testy visit at which she sparred openly with counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu.

The former German Green party co-leader also rejected Turkey’s territorial claims to Greek islands in the Aegean and urged Ankara not to stage a mooted military incursion into northern Syria.

Baerbock was paying her first visit to Turkey after holding talks in Greece that came with old rivalries between the two NATO defense alliance neighbors rising once again.

Turkey accuses Greece of illegally arming its web of islands -- some of them visible from the Turkish shore.

Greece counters that Turkey is staging provocative military sorties over the region and threatening to go to war.

“The Greek islands of Lesbos, Chios, Rhodes and many others are Greek territories and nobody has the right to question them,” Baerbock said alongside Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias in Athens.

“We cannot solve the problems of the east Mediterranean by escalating tensions,” she added during a joint media appearance with Cavusoglu.

Cavusoglu retorted: “Why are you closing your Greece’s unlawful actions.”

Turkey and Germany developed a warm friendship in the era of former chancellor Angela Merkel.

Germany accepted millions of Turkish workers and pushed for broader EU assistance to Ankara aimed at rewarding it for hosting people fleeing the war in Syria and other conflicts.

But Baerbock was more critical of Turkey as leader of the leftist Green party and raised a number of what she called “difficult” issues in Istanbul.

Baerbock warned that Turkey’s threat to launch a new offensive against Kurdish military in northern Syria “will only cause more pain for people” and help jihadists from the Islamic State group.

She called for the release of civil society leader Osman Kavala -- jailed for life this year on what most Western governments believe are trumped-up charges -- and stressed that “persecuted people’s rights should be protected”.

Cavusoglu turned and looked directly at Baerbock during some of his firmest remarks.

“Why are you mentioning Kavala?” Cavusoglu demanded. “Because you used him. We know that you funded Gezi events.”

Kavala was convicted of organising and funding so-called “Gezi park” protests against then-prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2013.

“When Merkel was there, Germany’s position was balanced,” Cavusoglu said. “It could do mediation.”

German played a central role in helping calm another spike in tensions between Ankara and Athens in 2020.

Baerbock’s visit to Athens saw Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias call on Germany to suspend a joint venture under which Turkey is producing a modern new class of submarines.

These submarines “threaten to shift the balance of forces in the Eastern Mediterranean,” Dendias said.

“The paradigm of revisionism must not succeed.”

Berlin has previously argued that it cannot suspend a commercial agreement signed by Germany’s Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems.

Ukraine Targets Supply Routes to Weaken Russian Troops in Kherson

KIYV (Dispatches) - Ukraine bombed a bridge this week that is vital to Russian soldiers occupying the town of Kherson, part of an apparent strategy to cut off the supply lines sustaining Russian troops.

Ukrainian forces shelled the Antonovskiy Bridge overnight from Tuesday to Wednesday with U.S.-supplied rockets, targeting a main crossing linking Kherson to the Dnipro River’s southern bank and the rest of the region, which is now almost entirely controlled by Russia.

British defense officials said the city is now “virtually cut off from other occupied territories”, the BBC reported.

Ukrainian forces used the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), supplied by the United States and remarkable for their precision strikes, to target the bridge.

To counter the effects of the Ukrainian strikes on supply chain problems, Russia has been using and floating bridges, said Huseyn Aliyev, a specialist in Ukraine-Russia conflict at Glasgow University. However, these structures are much more fragile



and narrower than traditional bridges, which slows down the arrival of supplies, he said.

Strategically located between the Dnipro River and the Black Sea to the west, Kherson became the first Ukrainian city to fall under Russian control back in March.

While the Antonovskiy bridge is the main gateway to Kherson from the south, Ukrainian forces also shelled a smaller bridge 70km to the northeast of the city. According to Sim Tack, an analyst at conflict-monitoring firm Force Analysis, this second bridge is an important access route that allows the transit of Russian troops and supplies from Nova Kakhovka, another city in Kherson Oblast in southern Ukraine.

Although the Ukrainian strikes did not destroy the bridge, Tack said the damage caused will limit transit to light vehicles and heavier supply trucks will be cut off from Russian forces on the ground.

Some analysts have described the bridge strikes as a possible prelude to a larger Ukrainian counter-offensive against Russian troops that have been weakened by the lack of supplies.

Maduro Gov’t Loses Latest Step of UK Gold Case

LONDON (Dispatches) - Opposition leader Juan Guaido’s rival Venezuelan government said it was a step closer to taking control of the oil-rich country’s gold reserves, after the latest judgment by a UK court.

High Court judge Sara Cockerill ruled against President Nicolas Maduro’s regime in a technical ruling concerning appointments made to the Banco Central de Venezuela (BCV) by Guaido.

She found that rulings by Venezuela’s supreme court, blocking the appointments, could not be recognized in English law.

One factor cited by Cockerill was “clear evidence” that the Supreme Tribunal of Justice had been stacked with Maduro-supporting judges.

“This is an unfortunate ruling that ultimately rests on a narrow issue of law about the recognition of foreign judgments,” said Sarosh Zaiwalla of the law firm Zaiwalla and Co, representing the Maduro-backed BCV.

“The BCV is considering an appeal,” he added.

But in a statement, Guaido expressed gratitude for Britain’s “honest and transparent judicial process”, contrasting it with the Maduro government’s focus on “power and money”.

“This decision represents another step in the process of protecting Venezuela’s international gold reserves and preserving them for the Venezuelan people and their future,” he said.

The ultimate thrust of the case remains to be decided, after the UK Supreme Court last year ruled that the dispute should be heard again by the lower Commercial Court in London.

Cockerill’s ruling put the value of the 31 tonnes of Venezuelan gold deposited with the Bank of England at about \$1.95 billion. Maduro wants to recover the gold.

But access has so far been denied as Britain, in line with other countries including the United States, acknowledges Guaido as interim president.

China Warns Against Challenge Over Taiwan

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - China accused the United States of double standards at the United Nations for challenging Beijing’s sovereignty over Taiwan while emphasizing the principle of sovereignty for Ukraine after Russian forces invaded.

A day after Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned U.S. President Joe Biden in a phone call against playing with fire over Taiwan, deputy U.N. Ambassador Geng Shuang reinforced the message during a meeting on Ukraine at the 15-member U.N. Security Council.

“While some country has repeatedly emphasized the principle of sovereignty over the issue of Ukraine, it has incessantly challenged the sovereignty of China over Taiwan, and even deliberately created tension in the Taiwan Strait,” Geng said, a clear reference to the United States without naming it.

Russia describes its Feb. 24 invasion of neighboring Ukraine as a “special military operation” to root out dangerous nationalists, but Kyiv and the West say it is an unprovoked war of aggression.

The determination of China to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity should not be underestimated, Geng said. “I hope the country concerned will see this clearly and not play with fire.”

Beijing is concerned about a possible visit to the Chinese-claimed island of Taiwan by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Such a visit would be a dramatic, though not unprecedented, show of U.S. support for Taiwan.

A spokesperson for the U.S. mission to the United Nations dismissed China’s comment as “an attempt to distract and deflect blame from the reality: that Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is unacceptable under any circumstance.”

“China’s failure to highlight Russia’s role as the clear aggressor in its conflict with Ukraine call into question its commitment to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity,” the spokesperson said.

Geng told the council China had always maintained that all countries sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected and legitimate security concerns be taken seriously.

The U.S. mission to the United Nations spokesperson said China’s “misleading” argument that Russia has “legitimate” security concerns “appears to justify aggression by larger powers against smaller ones rather than a genuine commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes.”



Brazil Federal Police Warned Against Bolsonaro Arms Agenda



RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - As President Jair Bolsonaro has aggressively sought to boost gun ownership in Brazil, documents obtained by Reuters reveal one key source of resistance to his agenda: his own federal police.

Nearly two decades after Brazil passed a landmark firearms control law, Bolsonaro has used dozens of executive orders to weaken such restrictions, turning the right to bear arms into a symbol of his right-wing movement. A major liberalization bill, under discussion in the Senate, could enshrine in law his push to make Brazil a gun-toting nation like the United States.

Yet previously unreported documents show Brazil’s federal police have long opposed the president’s vision, issuing stark warnings about two Bolsonaro-backed bills to weaken gun control, including the one now awaiting a Senate vote.

In at least eight formal institutional positions, delivered to Congress from 2018 until earlier this year, Brazil’s top cops said the proposals would make it harder to police the country with the world’s most murders.

“We consider all these changes a setback in public gun control policy,” the federal police wrote in December 2019 to lawmakers after the most recent measure passed the lower house.

If approved by senators, police wrote, the law would “without doubt, result in a return to the chaotic situation in the country of excessive gun supply in circulation, including illegal ones, which could make crime rates much worse.”

Still, the federal police eventually gave qualified support - with strongly worded “reservations” - to the measure, which came with the president’s backing.

According to a senior officer with knowledge of the documents, that conditional endorsement was a sign of Bolsonaro’s influence over a force that critics allege he has staffed with allies while sidelining voices of dissent.

“There’s a current, and if you don’t follow the current, you’re no longer part of the government,” said the officer.

The federal police did not respond to requests for comment. Neither did Bolsonaro’s office.

W. Mediterranean Hit by Exceptional Heatwave

AJACCIO (Dispatches) - An "exceptional" marine heatwave is gripping the western Mediterranean with surface temperatures up to five degrees Celsius (41 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than average, according to experts contacted by AFP.

Although the record-breaking heatwave that baked northern Europe and Britain this month has subsided, the experts said the persistently hotter-than-normal temperatures in the Mediterranean posed a threat to the entire marine ecosystem.

"This huge marine heatwave began in May in the Ligurian sea" between Corsica and Italy, said Karina von Schuckmann, an oceanographer at the non-profit research group Mercator Ocean International.

It then spread to the Gulf of Taranto in the Ionian Sea, she said.

By July, the heatwave had engulfed the Balearic Islands, Sardinia, and the Tyrrhenian Sea.

"The surface temperature anomaly map shows higher than normal values, in the order of +4 to +5C from the east of the Balearic Islands to the east of Corsica," Mercator said in a statement.

While humans might find the warmer water temperatures pleasant in the tourist hotspots of the western Mediterranean, the group warned that "ocean warming impacts the entire ecosystem."

"It is important to be aware of the possible consequences for local fauna and flora, as well as the occurrence of extreme weather events that could result in natural disasters," it said.

Von Schuckmann said that unusually warm temperatures could cause irreversible migration for some species and "mass die-offs" for others.

She noted knock-on effects for industries such as tourism and fishing which rely on favourable water conditions.

According to the UN's climate science body, marine heatwaves have already doubled in frequency globally since 1980.

Although the Mediterranean only counts for one percent of Earth's ocean surface area, it contains nearly 20 percent of all known marine species.

A study published this month in the journal Global Change Biology found that the Mediterranean had experienced five consecutive years of mass mortality events between 2015-2019.

France's CNRS research centre has noted that marine heatwaves in 1999, 2003 and 2006 caused mass die-offs for some species, notably the posidonia, a genus of flowering plants.

"We can predict the main impact will be on fixed organisms such as plants or corals," said Charles-Francois Boudouresque, a marine ecologist at Aix-Marseille University.

Some species of fish such as the barracuda could become more abundant in warming northern Mediterranean waters, however.

Boudouresque said some species coming through the Suez Canal from the Red Sea could become problematic "within five to 10 years".

These include the rhopilema, a herbivore jellyfish Boudouresque described as "extremely greedy", and which could disrupt marine food chains.

Already abundant in the eastern Mediterranean, its appearance in western waters would threaten the algae forests that serve as nurseries for myriad varieties of fish.

Rhopilema can also sting swimmers with enough severity to require hospital treatment.

Another invasive species is the rabbit fish, which is native to the Red Sea but is increasingly found in the Mediterranean.

As there is little governments can do once a marine heatwave takes hold, Von Schuckmann said the best course of action is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to warming.



India's Solar Skills Training Falls Flat

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - When Sukhwinder Singh, Mitali Singh and Raman Sorout signed up to train as solar technicians, they had hoped to find jobs in India's growing solar-energy sector. But none of them did. Trained under the Suryamitra program, a flagship project of India's Skill Council for Green Jobs, all three spent months looking for work in the solar industry but drew a blank.

The program's main objective is to train high-school leavers and vocational diploma holders as field technicians to operate and manage solar energy projects that are key to meeting India's renewable energy goal of 500 gigawatts by 2030. Six years since its inception, the skills programme has trained 78,000 people around the country to install solar panels, connect them to grids and maintain batteries.

But government data shows that less than a third of participants have found jobs in the solar industry. Solar capacity mushroomed from 2,632 megawatts in 2014 to nearly 51 gigawatts by February this year - enough to power more than 1.5 million homes, besides street lighting and water pumps.

Yet there has been slow uptake of rooftop solar schemes in cities while many big solar parks are yet to take off, delayed by challenges in acquiring large tracts of land. Jobs in the sector, meanwhile, are hard to come by, say energy experts.

"Solar technicians have the potential to become indispensable, just like car mechanics," said Chetan Singh Solanki, founder of the Energy Swaraj Foundation, a non-profit that works on ways to reduce climate-heating emissions. "But policies have become bottlenecks, slowing down growth in the sector and reducing job opportunities for thousands who are being trained."

Data for 2019-2020, analysed by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, shows that of the 16,074 people who were trained and received government certificates, just over two-thirds - 11,025 - did not get jobs in the solar sector. Trainers said success varied according to the location of large solar projects, tie-ups between some training centres and private firms, and students' willingness to move to remote areas for work, with the states of West Bengal, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh seeing the highest levels of job placement.

But Singh, Singh and Sorout were not among the lucky ones. Singh now works in the gardening section of a horticulture department, while Singh is an assistant forest guard and Sorout is unemployed.

"I heard about the training from a friend and was quite excited because I know the use of solar is increasing," said Sorout, 23, who lives in Palwal in northern Haryana state with his parents. "In farms around us, solar pumps are being used for irrigation. I thought after doing the course, I will easily find a job maintaining solar units. It's been two years and all I am doing is helping with household chores," he added.

Activist Solanki has spent more than 600 days on a solar bus, away from his career as an academic, travelling across India to raise awareness and create a public movement to push for solar energy.

He underlines the fact that the number of jobs created in the renewable power sector will greatly depend on annual additions to capacity, particularly decentralised small grids and rooftop solar systems, where employment is higher. But the pandemic has put a brake on new renewables projects.

A report by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water found that the COVID-19 pandemic saw a sharp decline in hiring workforce in the renewable energy sector, with 48% fewer jobs created in 2021 compared to 2019. In the financial year 2021, the clean energy workforce expanded by only 6,400, compared to more than 12,000 in 2019.



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



German Inflation Rises Unexpectedly

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German inflation edged up unexpectedly in July, driven by an energy supply crisis as a further reduction in gas flows from Russia prompted concerns about even higher energy bills. Consumer prices, harmonized to make them comparable with inflation data from other European Union countries (HICP), increased by 8.5% on the year, the federal statistics office said, citing preliminary data.

"The increase in HICP inflation is a warning sign for the European Central Bank," ING economist Carsten Brzeski. The ECB uses this figure to measure consumer price inflation.



China Drops Mention of GDP Growth Target

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China will try hard to achieve the best possible results for the economy this year, state media said after a high-level meeting of the ruling Communist Party, dropping previous calls that it will strive to meet its 2022 growth target.

In the second half, China should "stabilize employment and prices, maintain economic operations within a reasonable range, and strive to achieve the best possible results," Xinhua news agency reported, after the 25-member Politburo chaired by President Xi Jinping met to assess the economy.

The world's second-largest economy narrowly avoided contracting in the second quarter due to widespread COVID-19 lockdowns and analysts said Beijing's full-year growth target of around 5.5% had been looking increasingly unattainable.

Chinese leaders "have signaled that they won't embark on massive stimulus just to hit the national target," Capital Economics said, while noting

Beijing said it would work to stabilize the distressed property market, which has been dragging heavily on activity for the past year.

"We expect official 2022 GDP growth of at most 4% and think that, in reality, the economy may not grow at all this year."

Gross domestic product in the first half grew only 2.5% from a year earlier, pointing to huge pressure in the second half, amid fears of a global recession, uncertainties from the Ukraine war and worries of recurring COVID lockdowns. While much of the rest of the world has been trying to live with the virus, China shown no sign of backing off from its tough zero-COVID policy.

After an April Politburo meeting, Xinhua reported China will "work hard to realize the annual economic and social development targets."

On June 22, Xi, at the opening of a BRICS forum, said China would take more measures to achieve its annual economic goals while minimizing the impact of its COVID-19 prevention and control measures as much as possible.

But during an inspection tour in the central city of Wuhan on June 28, Xi said China will "strive to reach a relatively good level of the economic development this year".

Similarly, last week, Premier Li Keqiang said at the World Economic Forum that China will "strive for relatively good results in economic development for the whole year".

Xinhua said that large provinces must take lead in growing China's economy, and those in a position to achieve their economic goals should do so.

"The government did not say what the relationship between the 'best possible' results and the around 5.5% GDP target is," said Qu Qing, head of investment consulting at Huachuang Securities.

"Instead, the 'best possible' results mean local economies should do their utmost to hit their economic goals."

Qu does not expect massive new policies in the second half of the year, saying the focus will be on the implementation of previous measures.

So far, authorities have deepened tax credit rebates, accelerated local government special bond issuances to buoy infrastructure investments, and lowered car purchase taxes.

China drops mention of GDP growth target, aims for 'best possible' results instead

Germany Set to Impose Gas Levy on Consumers to Support Ailing Importers

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany is set to impose a levy on all gas consumers from Oct. 1 aimed at helping suppliers struggling with soaring gas import prices, a draft law showed.

The levy aims to share the additional costs for replacing gas from Russia among all users, and prevent insolvencies among gas traders.

Households and industrial consumers with long-term contracts will be hit by the charge, which will be valid until the end of September 2024, the document showed. Gas importers will have to bear rising costs by themselves until the levy kicks in.

The levy is a boon for ailing importers, most notably Uniper, Germany's largest recipient of Russian gas, which received a state bail-out last week, and EnBW's gas division VNG, the second-biggest.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said the levy would amount to between 1.5 euro cents and 5 euro cents per kilowatt hour (Kwh), with the proceeds available to all companies that need to replace Russian gas.

This means that a four-person household could face additional costs of up to 1,000 euros (\$1,014) per year.

Habeck said the measure was a difficult but important one to stabilize the energy market.

"One doesn't know exactly how much (gas) will cost in November, but the bitter news is that it's definitely a few hundred euros per household," he said.

More details about the levy will be announced in August, the document showed.

Local utility association VKU welcomed the measure, adding the levy should be raised or extended if high prices persist.

A prerequisite to the government triggering the mechanism is significant disruption to gas flows into Germany. Russia's Gazprom cut flows through the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline to just 20% of capacity this week.

Germany moved to the second of three stages of its supply emergency plan last month, allowing the government to trigger a price adjustment clause so suppliers can pass price increases on to their customers, although it has yet to do so.

A general levy that would increase gas prices for everyone, regardless of their supplier, is considered fairer, however.

The government has meanwhile appealed to citizens and industry to save energy now so it can fill gas storage facilities before winter - aiming for 95% of capacity by November from 67.2% currently.

Firms are weighing their options, while Berlin has already said it will switch off lights at 200 public buildings and landmarks at night.



U.S. Economy Is Shrinking

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The U.S. economy contracted for a second straight quarter, the Commerce Department reported on Thursday, a day after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by three quarters of a percentage point to a range of 2.25%-2.50% in an effort to slow growth and ease price pressures.

The report likely won't change Fed Chair Jerome Powell's view that an economy that is adding hundreds of thousands of jobs a month is not in recession, and won't deter him from raising borrowing costs further.

But he and colleagues will be parsing it carefully for clues on where their policy tightening to bring down decades-high inflation is already having an effect, where it may yet begin to bite, and whether they are on track for the soft landing they aim for or the harder crash that analysts increasingly fear.

"We do want to see demand running below potential for a sustained period to create slack and give inflation a chance to come down," Powell said on Wednesday. "It's also worth noting that these rate hikes have been large and they've come quickly, and it's likely that their full effect has not been felt by the economy. So there's probably some additional tightening - significant additional tightening in the pipeline."

The GDP adds to evidence that the aimed-for slowdown is already happening, although only part of that is due to the Fed. Here's a partial breakdown:

Of all the categories in GDP, the interest-rate sensitive housing sector is where the effects of the Fed's actions to tighten financial conditions are the most obvious. Even before the Fed began raising rates in March, mortgage rates began rising in anticipation, nearly doubling since late last year to nearly 6% and making already pricey houses even less affordable.

The second quarter's 14% decline in residential investment was the largest in 12 years aside from the stall in housing during the initial lockdowns to stem COVID-19 infections in the second quarter of 2020.

It is unusual for this large of a housing subtraction from economic growth to occur outside of a recession.

Other recent data shows homes sales are declining with sales of previously owned homes falling for a fifth straight month in June, and housing starts and building permits also declining further.

And with the Fed still raising rates - perhaps another full percentage point this year, Powell suggested on Wednesday - the worst may still be to come.

Consumer spending, accounting for roughly two-thirds of the U.S. economy, slowed to a 1% annualized growth rate in the second quarter, from a 1.8% pace in the first, the report showed.

Asian Firms' Capex to Shrink in 2023, First Since '15



SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - (Reuters) - Asian companies will slow investment sharply this year, deterred by soaring interest rates and fears of deepening recession, and budgets will on average fall next year, the first contraction since 2015, data showed.

Capital spending at large and mid-cap Asian companies is expected to grow 6.4% in 2022 and slip 0.7% in 2023, compared with a 13% rise last year, according to Refinitiv data.

Companies globally are grappling with rising costs of raw material, labour and logistics as China's COVID-19 related lockdowns have further strained supply chains and the Ukraine war has pushed up energy prices. Businesses have sounded caution over slowing consumer demand.

Some sectors are expected to cut spending more aggressively.

Capital expenditure (capex) for Asian autos and their component suppliers is expected to plunge 16.5% this year although it may rise 2.1% in the next.

The region's tech firms, which will still spend 8% more than they did last year to catch the last of the demand generated by the pandemic, are expected to cut spending by 3% next year.

Spending by consumer discretionary firms is expected to fall 7.8% in 2022 and rise 3.3% in 2023.

"There are increases in parts of Asia tech hardware - especially mature foundries - and capex is high for utilities or manufacturing firms that invest in changing their businesses," said Herald van der Linde, head of HSBC's Asia Pacific equity strategy.

Utilities and industrial firms are expected to boost capex this year by 18% and 17% respectively.

Budget cuts will also vary by country, with data showing Malaysia and China making the deepest cuts at 12.1% and 4.68% respectively.

OPEC+ to Weigh Holding Oil Output Steady or Small Hike

LONDON (Dispatches) - OPEC and its allies will consider keeping oil output unchanged for September when they meet next week, despite calls from the United States for more supply, although a modest output increase is also likely to be discussed, eight sources said.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies led by Russia, collectively known as OPEC+, will by August have fully unwound record output cuts in place since the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in 2020.

Oil has soared in 2022 to its highest since 2008, climbing above \$139 a barrel in March, after the United States and Europe imposed sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. Prices have since eased to around \$108, as soaring inflation and higher interest rates raise fears of a recession that would erode demand.

Of eight OPEC+ sources spoken to by Reuters, two said a modest increase for September will be discussed at the Aug. 3 meeting and five said output would likely be held steady.

"There are various talks ranging from a small increase to a freeze on current levels," one of the OPEC+ sources said. A lack of an output increase would disappoint the United States, whose President Joe Biden visited Saudi Arabia this month, hoping to strike a deal on oil production. A senior U.S. administration official said on Thursday extra supply would help to stabilize the market.

Given the easing in oil prices since this year's March peak, some in OPEC+ do not believe there is a strong argument for a further hike in supply.

French Gov't Too Optimistic on Economic Outlook

PARIS (Dispatches) - French President Emmanuel Macron's government is too optimistic about the economic outlook and its plans for reducing public debt and the deficit are based on reforms that have yet to be implemented, the head of the top public audit body said.

In an interview with Le Figaro newspaper, Pierre Moscovici said a note that France is due to send to the European Commission on the country's economic outlook already

factors in the positive effects of reforms of pensions and unemployment benefits.

"Neither the form nor the effect of these reforms have been quantified, and the forecast is based on the idea that the results of these reforms will be major and virtually immediate, which is far from certain," Moscovici was quoted as saying.

On Friday, the High Council on Public Finances (HCFP) published its opinion on the state budget programme that France will send to the European Commission. The note was due in spring, but the government preferred to wait for the presidential and legislative election results in April and June, Le Figaro reported.

Moscovici is also the president of the HCFP and is a former French finance minister, who served under socialist President Francois Hollande.

Moscovici told Le Figaro that the government's forecast for 2.5% growth in 2022 is not out of reach but seems on the high side, while the 1.4% forecast for 2023 is too optimistic.

He also said that the 2023-2027 forecast for average growth of 1.35% per year is "optimistic and higher than the consensus forecasts".

He said the government forecasts already factor in higher employment levels due to the pension and unemployment benefit reforms, but that this is far from certain.

"In the past, we have seen that reforms are hard to implement and take a long time to have an impact," Moscovici said.

He said that with a forecast for a state deficit of 2.9% of GDP - barely below 3% - in 2027 and a forecast for a state debt stable at about 112.5% of GDP, the French debt reduction trajectory is "not very ambitious".

"By 2025, France might be among the few nations not to have brought its deficit below 3% of GDP. If France is the EU country that makes the least effort on the debt front, people will notice in the end," he said.

People Have Right to Be Informed

TEHRAN (IP) - Interior Minister said that people have the right to be fully aware of what the government does and its decisions. Ahmad Vahidi said that public relations should establish communication with people via speech, images, interaction, and explanation to facilitate people-government interactions. A two-day Public Relations Conference was held at the Interior Ministry on July 30, 2022, with the Interior Minister, Ahmad Vahidi, and Government Spokesman Ali Bahadori-Jahromi in attendance. The conference aims to advance trusted communication with people through public relations.



Egypt Cancels Contracts for 240,000 T of Stranded Ukrainian Wheat

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Egypt has cancelled contracts for a total of 240,000 tons of Ukrainian wheat that were booked by its state grains buyer for February and March delivery but never loaded due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, two people with knowledge of the matter said. Reuters reported in May that about 300,000 tons of Ukrainian wheat bought by Egypt were stranded in Ukraine, with one cargo stuck in port and four others still to be loaded. Egypt's General Authority For Supply Commodities (GASC) has released the trading companies supplying the four unloaded cargoes, Nibulon and Inerco, from their contractual obligations, the two sources said, despite there not being a force majeure clause in GASC's contracts. Force majeure is a clause in contracts that frees parties from liability due to uncontrollable events. GASC had previously granted the trading houses an extension to provide the cargoes, if necessary from other origins. Russia and Ukraine signed a deal last week to restart Black Sea grain and fertiliser exports blocked by the war. It was unclear whether the GASC contracts had been cancelled before the deal to resume shipping was agreed. Egypt, typically the world's largest wheat importer, depended heavily on shipments of Black Sea wheat that were disrupted by Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. It has since sought to diversify wheat supplies, buying more than a million tons in July through tenders and direct purchases in an effort to boost its strategic reserves. The four cancelled cargoes were bought in December at prices ranging between \$346 and \$360 per ton, including shipping costs, traders had said at the time. After the war sped up rises in global grain prices, GASC paid as much as \$494.25 per ton of wheat in April.



The fifth loaded cargo is stuck at Ukraine's Chornomorsk Port but is expected to sail once it has the green light from port officials, according to traders. Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar unveiled a centre in Istanbul on Wednesday that would oversee the export of Ukrainian grains, with the first shipment expected to depart from Black Sea ports within days.

Iran, Moscow to Take Initiative in Global Oil Market

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The signing of a cooperation agreement between the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran as two big energy producers can pave the way for both nations to take initiative in the global oil market, an Iranian legislator said. Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini said that Russia and Iran are important hubs in producing oil and gas in the world in a situation where all states are in dire need of energy resources; therefore, signing of a memorandum of understanding between Moscow and Tehran on collaborations on oil and gas can affect developments in the region. If the strategic accord between Moscow and Tehran is implemented, the two nations would be able to play the leading role in determining energy prices and managing the market at the global level, the member of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission in Iran's parliament said, adding that this would be beneficial for both countries. A big share of the world's energy demand is produced by Russia and Iran and the West is seriously dependent on energy, he said, noting that imposition of sanctions on energy sector is not in the interest of the European countries. Noticeably, the US sanctions could not get in the way of signing MoUs and agreements between Russia and Iran, he noted, arguing that Moscow and Tehran have defined their relationship as strategic partnership and both nations are keen on cooperation in this framework. The developments in the international arena have encouraged Russia and Iran to enter the deepest strategic partnership, which embraces also economic exchanges in addition to political and security cooperation, the lawmaker said, adding that such a partnership is expected to end up in a positive outlook for both nations. The signing of a MoU on oil and gas sectors with a 40-billion-dollar investment is considered as a great transition in Iran's oil industry, which can ensure positive achievements and economic prosperity for the Islamic country, the MP concluded.

Sadr Supporters...
FROM PAGE 1

State-run news agency INA said Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi had called on the protesters to adhere to peacefulness demonstration, not to escalate the situation, and to abide by the orders of the security forces. "Continuing the political escalation increases the tension and does not serve the public interests," INA quoted a statement by al-Kadhimi's media office as saying. "The security forces have a duty to protect official institutions and need to take all legal measures to maintain order." Sadr's supporters, opposing the recently-announced nomination of Mohammed al-Sudani for premier, occupied the parliament building on Wednesday and left the area two hours later upon the cleric's orders. Analysts say through protests, Sadr wants to demonstrate he's still politically relevant. The strategy, however, is a very dangerous game which can plunge the country into civil strife, they have warned. In 2016, his supporters stormed the parliament in a similar fashion. They staged a sit-in after then-prime minister Haider al-Abadi sought to reshuffle the cabinet. After the Sadr bloc exited government formation talks, al-Sudani was selected by consensus to face parliament for vote. However, parties must first select a president. Sadr resigned from political activity after he was not able to persuade enough legislators to choose him as Iraq's next president.

Dubai Real Estate Sales Surge 60%

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Dubai's red-hot property market surged in the first half of the year as investors piled in, while Russians were among the top five buyers as the emirate benefits from an influx of wealth in the wake of Western sanctions. The first half saw residential real estate transaction volumes up 60% with an 85% rise in the value of property sold, property consultancy Betterhomes said in a report. The top buyers were from India, the United Kingdom, Italy, Russia and France, in that order, followed by Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Egypt tied in eighth place, Lebanon and China.

Iran Fully Backs...
FROM PAGE 1

Also during the Friday phone conversation, Raisi told his Chinese counterpart that Tehran is resolved to expand relations with Beijing in all fields regardless of the existing international developments and said any U.S. effort to repeat the Cold War era in the world would indicate its weakness and decline. He said Iran's policy on the improvement of ties with its neighboring states has "prepared the necessary ground for collective security and development in West Asia and can serve as a model for strengthening political confidence and economic development in the region." The Iranian chief executive also reiterated the country's efforts to provide maritime security and transfer of energy. Pointing to the talks between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries on possible ways to revive the 2015 agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Raeisi said as the party that breached the agreement, the United States should make a "political decision" and adopt all the necessary measures to remove illegal sanctions against Tehran and the third parties. The Iranian president welcomed the promotion of multilateral economic cooperation in line with regional and extra-regional arrangements such as the powerful group of the world's emerging economies, known as BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Raisi and Xi hailed increasing mutual ties and trade exchanges over the past year and agreed on ways to speed up the implementation of the 25-year strategic partnership agreement between Tehran and Beijing. Xi said Iran plays a constructive role in maintaining stability in the region and voiced his country's opposition to the policy of pressure and unilateralism. He said in face of the complex international situation, China and Iran have strengthened solidarity and cooperation, enhanced their common interests, and safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries. He underscored the importance of strategic relations between Tehran and Beijing and said China stands ready to work with Iran to push for new progress in the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries. The Chinese president urged the two countries to continue to firmly support one another on issues concerning their core interests and issues of major concerns, saying Tehran and Beijing need to maintain close communication on the implementation of their comprehensive cooperation plans.

Swedish National...
FROM PAGE 1

The individual once again entered Iran a few months ago, following the arrest of another European spy, on a mission to find out how the identity of the detained spy had been revealed and how much data had been collected from the arrestee by the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, the statement added. During that trip as well, Iranian intelligence forces monitored the Swedish citizen's contacts during the entire mission. The foreign national was eventually taken into custody upon a judicial order when the process of gathering evidence was completed as the individual was trying to leave the country. The suspect in question has a history of travelling to the Israeli-occupied territories prior to visits to Iran, the statement added. "As repeatedly stated before, the Intelligence Ministry views the country's security and the people's calm as a red line for itself and responds to even the slightest violation of the country's security borders firmly" and regardless of any hype. The ministry said Sweden had so far supported several spies operating by proxy for the Israeli regime and had provided a safe haven for anti-Iran terrorists, and warned the European country that it would receive "a proportionate response" if it continued the practice of "providing proxy spies" and "sponsoring persistent-offense murderers."

Iranian, Azerbaijani...
FROM PAGE 1

This year, the naval parade in Kaspysk on the Caspian Sea will bring together 26 combat ships and gunboats, 15 support vessels, over 900 personnel and four aircraft. The parade formation will include the missile ships Tatarstan and Dagestan, the small artillery ships Grad Sviyazhsk, Uglich and Stupinets, the hydrographic survey boat Nikolay Ivashintsov, the harbor minesweepers Magomed Gadzhiev and Herman Ugryumov and the anti-saboteur boat Yunarmeyets Dagestana, the Caspian Flotilla's press office reported. As the press office of Russia's Southern Military District earlier reported, the Caspian Flotilla will demonstrate its combat capabilities at sea and on the shore during the naval parade. Naval sailors will demonstrate about 10 combat episodes, among them thwarting an attempt to violate the state border, breaching a minefield and conducting a naval battle with a simulated enemy. In addition, the mariners will demonstrate delivering a missile strike against a notional enemy's key facilities, rendering assistance to a ship in distress, conducting anti-amphibious assault defense, landing an amphibious assault force and battling for landing on the shore. Kaspysk residents and guests will be able to view a static exposition of the Caspian Flotilla's armaments and military hardware. The naval celebrations will be concluded by festive fireworks.

Train of Progress Moves... FROM PAGE 1

Eslami stressed that the main issue regarding the advancement of Iran's nuclear program is to increase the capacity of domestic power plants. So far, Iran has built 1,000 megawatts of sustainable nuclear power capacity and is building another 2,000 megawatts of nuclear power plants, he said. "We have also planned to produce 10,000 megawatts of new nuclear power, with the scheme included in the current budget law," Eslami added. He explained that his agency is locating sites, especially in Iran's south to find suitable places compatible with the requirements of nuclear power plants before launching study and design operations. "All the same, we will use international partnerships, but we will not wait for anyone, because Iran has sufficient scientific, industrial and technological capacities," he said. "Fortunately, there are large companies in the country that can support the 10,000 megawatt nuclear power production program, but we also welcome any company and institution that participates in the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran's projects." Eslami said the clean and sustainable electricity produced at Iran's first nuclear power plant in Bushehr is equal to about 85 million barrels of oil, which has a great impact on the reduction of pollutants and the health of society. This is just a small example of Iran's capabilities for achieving any success no matter how the success is difficult to be attained. Days before Mr. Eslami's announcement of this progress, a top commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the country will launch a new satellite into orbit by the year-end. Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the IRGC's aerospace division, made the announcement on the sidelines of the 12th Malek Ashtar Festival in Tehran. He said the new home-grown satellite will be launched into space using the country's Qa'em satellite carrier. "By God's will, we will launch the new satellite carrier Qa'em into space by the year-end," Hajizadeh said, hailing it as a "continuation of [the country's] achievements" in the field of aerospace technology. He noted that the enemy today admits to Iran's military capabilities while asserting that the Islamic Republic, its armed forces, and the IRGC have a "valuable position and real superiority". At the same time, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said speedboats operated by the force have been equipped with radar-evading stealth technology, which can greatly reduce the distances at which they can be detected. "As you know, the IRGC Navy is a completely strategic force and is in possession of all types of ammunition, ranging from tanks for naval battles to fixed-wing aircraft and drones," Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said on the sidelines of a ceremony in the Iranian capital Tehran. "Therefore, it has always been in contact and close cooperation with other forces and military organizations like the Ministry of Defense to produce various military systems and equipment," Tangsiri said. Later another important achievement was unveiled when the deputy commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force said the anti-tank missiles and artillery munitions used by the ground forces have been upgraded to become smart and precision strike. Brigadier General Nozar Nemati also underlined the extensive capabilities of the Iranian armed forces in the production of different military equipment. Nemati said Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Kioumars Haydari has already presented three grandiose plans, dubbed Labaik (Allegiance) 1, 2 and 3, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. These are just few examples of Iran's progresses in recent years and if we want to name all of them, it will take long time to name them. So for this reason the West or any hostile country tries to undermine these achievements and since they are unable to do so at least in the region and inside Iran, they resort to state terrorism or instigating domestic unrests. Whether the West likes or dislikes, it has to recognize Iran's power as a major regional or even global actor, and it cannot be able to rob the right of the country through threats or any other unilateral pressures because Iran is not a weak country to collapse with any bully or even attack of them and the Islamic Republic is marching ahead strongly for achieving more progress and prosperity.



Pakistan Pull out of India Chess Event

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan have withdrawn from the world's biggest international chess tournament in protest at hosts India holding a torch relay for the event through disputed Kashmir, officials said.

The 44th Chess Olympiad will see over 1,700 players from 188 nations compete in Chennai from now until August 10.

The last two competitions were played virtually because of the pandemic.

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

Laporte out Until September Following Knee Surgery

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City defender Aymeric Laporte has undergone surgery for a knee injury and could be out until September, manager Pep Guardiola said ahead of the Premier League champions' Community Shield clash with FA Cup winners Liverpool.

The 28-year-old France-born Spain center back missed City's pre-season tour of the United States this month during which they beat Club America and Bayern Munich.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

SUNDAY JULY 31, 2022

Alcaraz Begins Title Defense in Croatia

ZAGREB (Dispatches) - No. 1 seed Carlos Alcaraz of Spain made quick work of Slovakia's Norbert Gombos, winning 6-2, 6-3 in the second round of the Croatia Open Umag in Umag, Croatia.

The 19-year-old won his maiden ATP title at Umag last year. Earlier this week, he became the youngest player to earn a top-five ATP Tour ranking since countryman Rafael Nadal.

Alcaraz will face Argentina's Facundo Bagnis in the quarterfinals after Bagnis swept past France's Corentin Moutet 6-3, 6-1.

A pair of seeded players fell to Italian qualifiers Thursday. Franco Agamenone rallied to defeat Argentine fourth seed Sebastian Baez 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, and Marco Cecchinato defeated fellow Italian Lorenzo Musetti, the eighth seed, 6-4, 6-3.

No. 3 seed Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain dropped his first set before pushing through for a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 victory over Jiri Lehecka of the Czech Republic in the quarterfinals in Kitzbuhel, Austria.

Bautista Agut trailed 5-3 in the second set before winning four straight games to extend the match. He put the two-hour, 56-minute match to bed on his third match point in the deciding set.

In an all-Spanish duel, fifth seed Albert Ramos-Vinolas took down seventh seed Pedro Martinez 6-4, 6-2, and Germany's Yannick Hanfmann ended the run of former world No. 3 Dominic Thiem of Austria with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 win.

Second-seeded John Isner -- a six-time Atlanta champion -- was pushed to the limit before advancing to the quarterfinals in his latest title defense.

Isner edged fellow American Ben Shelton 7-6 (8), 4-6, 7-6 (3). Shelton got the only service break of the match in the first game of the second set. Each player had just two break points overall.

In other second-round action, third-seeded Alex de Minaur beat fellow Australian James Duckworth 6-4, 6-4. Sixth-seeded Jenson Brooksby defeated Mackenzie McDonald 6-3, 6-4 in an all-United States affair, and France's



Adrian Mannarino was a 7-5, 6-3 winner over the United States' Andres Martin.

Meanwhile Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios withdrew from the Atlanta Open before his scheduled first-round singles match.

Kyrgios, who won an opening-round doubles match with fellow Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis, sustained a knee injury that caused him to exit the singles draw.

Kyrgios went on the court to address the Atlanta crowd, saying, "I just want to say that I'm extremely shattered that I'm not able to compete tonight. I've won this tournament (in 2016) and, you know, I'm playing some of the best tennis of my career."

"All I wanted to do was come out there and give you guys a show and obviously see what I'm capable of, but I'm unable to give out my best performance today."

France's Adrian Mannarino, a lucky loser from qualifying, took Kyrgios' spot and beat German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk 6-3, 7-6 (7).

No. 5 seed Tommy Paul and No. 6 seed Jenson Brooksby were among the several Americans who won their respective first-round matches.

Paul breezed past countryman and wild card Jack Sock 6-1, 6-1, while Brooksby eliminated France's Benoit Paire 6-3, 6-1. In another all-American match, Mackenzie McDonald outlasted Denis Kudla 6-2, 7-6 (8) after Kudla fumbled away a 5-1 lead in the second-set tiebreak.

Other winners were Americans Ben Shelton and Andres Martin, Ilya Ivashka of Belarus and James Duckworth of Australia.

Vettel To Retire From F1

BUDAPEST (Dispatches) - Four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel will retire at the end of the 2022 season, he announced.

"The decision to retire has been a difficult one for me to take, and I have spent a lot of time thinking about it," Vettel, 35, said in an Aston Martin team statement.

"At the end of the year I want to take some more time to reflect on what I will focus on next; it is very clear to me that, being a father, I want to spend more time with my family. But today is not about saying goodbye."

"Rather, it is about saying thank you - to everyone - not least to the fans, without whose passionate support Formula One could not exist."

Vettel won four successive championships with Red Bull from 2010 to 2013, but struggled to reproduce his best results after moving to Ferrari before joining Aston Martin last year.

His 53 Grand Prix victories place him third on the all-time list behind Lewis Hamilton (103) and Michael Schumacher (91). Vettel last won a race in Singapore in 2019.

"He is one of the all-time greats of Formula One, and it has been a privilege to have been able to work with him," said Aston Martin executive chairman Lawrence Stroll, whose son Lance is the team's other driver.

Bayern Could Still Sign Replacement For Lewandowski

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich kick off their season against RB Leipzig in tomorrow's German Super Cup without a center forward following the departure of Robert Lewandowski, but they have not yet ruled out signing a replacement, coach Julian Nagelsmann said.

Lewandowski, who was named FIFA Best Men's Player for the second straight year in January, joined Barcelona earlier this month, leaving a gaping hole in the German club's attack.

The Bavarians travel to German Cup winners Leipzig to compete for the first trophy of the season, a week before the Bundesliga starts on August 5. "We had discussed all those possibilities beforehand," Nagelsmann told a news conference today. "We had discussed the Lewandowski situation and played out the different scenarios."

"It's not that we are now sitting here all disappointed that we did not find a one-on-one replacement," said Nagelsmann, in his second season at Bayern.

"There are still four weeks that the transfer window is open so something could still happen. We are keeping our eyes on the market." Bayern, who last season won their 10th straight league title, have already brought in French teenager Mathys Tel, Dutch defender Matthijs de Ligt, striker Sadio Mane as well as Ajax Amsterdam duo Ryan Gravenberch and Noussair Mazraoui.

Nagelsmann said the arrival of Mane from Liverpool and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting's expected return from injury in the near future were further options in attack for the season.

South Korea Midfielder Hwang Joins Olympiakos

ATHENS (Dispatches) - South Korean international midfielder Hwang In-beom said it was "a dream come true" after signing a three-year contract with Greek champions Olympiakos.

"Playing in Europe has been my dream since I started playing football," the 25-year-old told the club's website.

"I'm really happy to be joining this great club. It's the best club in Greece and also one of the best in Europe."

Hwang has played 34 matches for the South Korean national team, scoring four goals.



Laporta Hopes Messi Finishes Career at Barcelona

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona president Joan Laporta has said that he hopes Lionel Messi will end his career "in a Barca shirt".

Messi left the Camp Nou for Paris Saint-Germain last summer, after 17 years in the Barcelona first team, as the Catalan giants struggled with financial problems.

But Laporta is hopeful that the 35-year-old will be able to return to Barca before he hangs up his boots.

"Messi's time at Barca didn't end as we all would've liked," he told Spanish press during the club's pre-season tour of the United States.

"I believe that Barca have a moral debt towards Leo Messi. We would like the end of his career to come in a Barca shirt, being applauded at all the grounds, wherever he goes."

Laporta clarified that "nothing has been discussed" with Messi, who has one season left on his PSG contract with an option for an extra year.

"It was a temporary end (to his Barca career) because I believe that we will make this wish a reality," he added.

Messi scored only 11 goals in all competitions in his debut PSG campaign, the first time he had scored fewer than 30 in a season since 2007-08.

Alfa Romeo Renews F1 Partnership With Sauber for 2023

MILAN (Dispatches) - Alfa Romeo has renewed its Formula One partnership with Swiss-based Sauber for next season, Alfa Chief Executive Jean-Philippe Imparato said.

"I have signed the renewal for 2023 this morning," Imparato said.

He said Formula One was a "school of excellence" and part of its DNA for Alfa Romeo, a brand of Stellantis, the world's fourth largest carmaker.

"Every year in July we assess the situation. If in the future we realise we are not interested any more (in Formula One) or we don't have returns on our investments, we'll see what to do, but everything will be done in an orderly way," Imparato said.

Sauber, who own and run the team under the Alfa name, are controlled by Islero Investments who are in turn linked to Swedish billionaire Finn Rausing.

U.S. motor racing entrepreneur Michael Andretti, who is looking to enter Formula One, last year held takeover talks with Sauber but said "control issues" had led to their collapse.

The team have more recently been linked with Audi, a Volkswagen Group brand seeking to come in when new engine rules apply from 2026.

"For the moment it (the Sauber partnership) is a fantastic, common vision," Imparato told www.the-race.com this month. "If one day something else occurs, it will not be a problem."

"We will develop ourselves in another way, in another world, always based in motorsport, for Alfa Romeo."

Alfa Romeo's current drivers are Finland's Valtteri Bottas and China's Guanyu Zhou.



New Zealand Thrash Scotland by 102 Runs To Seal T20 Series

EDINBURGH (Dispatches) - New Zealand posted their highest Twenty20 international total of 254 as they hammered Scotland by 102 runs in Edinburgh on Friday to complete a 2-0 series win.

Test world champions New Zealand, who only two days earlier defeated Scotland, a team outside the global elite, by 68 runs again proved too strong for their hosts.

Mark Chapman and Michael Bracewell both enjoyed career-best scores at this level on Friday, making 83 and 61 not out respectively in a total of 254-5.

Chapman's 44-ball knock featured seven sixes, the first getting him off the mark, while Bracewell faced 25 balls for his runs.

The 28-year-old Chapman's innings was all the more creditable as it was his first professional knock since mid-April.

"It's just the nature of international cricket," Chapman told the ESPNcricinfo website. "It took a bit to get going, but once you get one out of the middle of the bat, things come back pretty quickly."

"We've been talking about taking the game on, and being really positive in the way we play. It came off today, and the boys are pretty happy."

Scotland never looked like chasing down a huge target and in the end did well to avoid being bowled out as they finished on 152-9.

Chris Greaves top-scored with 37, while New Zealand all-rounder James Neesham took two wickets in an over and spinner Michael Rippon 2-37.

