

**Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 142,564 With 49 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours**

# IRAN NEWS

**Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani Says The Zionist Regime Cannot Escape From Its Inevitable Fate of Failure And Decline by Killing Innocent Palestinian Children**

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## Vienna Deal Must Uphold Iran's Rights

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Monday that a final agreement in the JCPOA revival talks should uphold Iran's rights and guarantee the sustainable removal of the sanctions in place against the country.

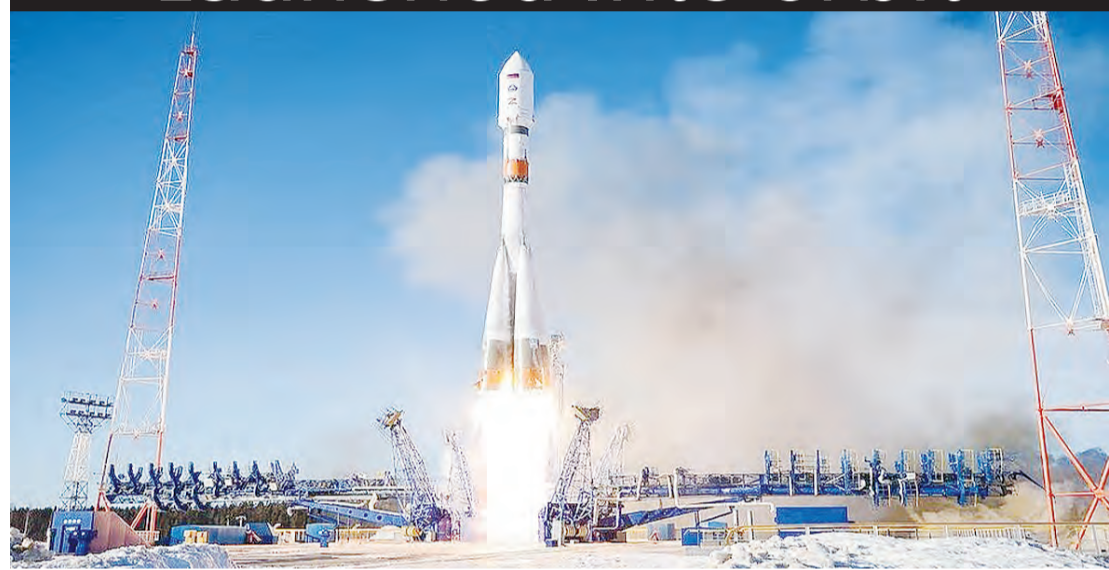
He made the remark during a phone conversation with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell, as the latest round of the talks wrapped up in Vienna.

Amirabdollahian said that the Iranian negotiating team attended the talks with determination and seriousness to reach an agreement, presenting constructive ideas to resolve the remaining issues.

He also said that the Iranian team had informed EU Coordinator Enrique Mora of the Islamic Republic's approaches and considerations regarding the proposals he put forward, adding that all parties are expected to show determination and seriousness to reach a final text of an agreement.

Borrell said that he believed progress had been made in the latest round of the Vienna negotiations, describing them as positive. **See Page 7**

## Iran's "Khayyam" Satellite Launched Into Orbit



TEHRAN - Iranian "Khayyam" satellite was launched into orbit from the Moscow-operated Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, marking what Iran called the beginning of "strategic" aerospace cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

Equipped with a Fregat upper stage, Khayyam satellite was sent into orbit on Tuesday by Soyuz-2.1b rocket, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in neighboring Kazakhstan.

First telemetry data from the Khayyam satellite are reportedly received at the Iranian Space Agency's (ISA) Mahdasht space base.

Telemetry is the collection of measurements and onboard instrument readings required to deduce the health and status of all of the subsystems on the satellite.

Saeed Seddighian, an official with ISA, said that the satellite launch has been successful so far and that researchers in Iran were waiting to receive a signal.

According to the reports, the satellite will be placed in an orbit of 500 kilometers above the Earth's surface. It will send high-resolution images four times a day.

Imagery from Khayyam will be used to monitor Iran's borders and improve the country's capabilities in management and planning in the fields of agriculture, natural resources, environment, mining, and natural disasters.

In a Sunday statement, the ISA rejected recent reports that claimed Moscow might maintain control of the satellite temporally to use it in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The ISA statement dispelled the unfounded suspicions and said that the Khayyam satellite will be fully controlled by Iranian experts and technicians based inside Iran from the very beginning of its launch.

It added that it is impossible for any country or entity to access the satellite other than Iran because it is equipped with encrypted algorithms designed by ISA's researchers.

The statement came after a Thursday report on the website of the American newspaper the Washington Post alleging the Iranian satellite is supposed to aid Russia's own war effort in Ukraine.

The report, citing an unnamed Western security official, claimed that the satellite is aimed to enhance Russia's "surveillance of military targets" in the Ukraine conflict.

Iran has taken giant strides in the field of science of technology in recent years, despite crippling US sanctions, which is evident from its satellite launches.

Earlier this year, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force launched its second homegrown satellite into a low Earth orbit (LEO), nearly two years after the launch of its first military satellite.

The IRGC successfully put Nour-2 (Light-2) into orbit on March 8. The homegrown satellite was launched with a three-stage satellite carrier, dubbed Qased (Messenger), from a launchpad in Dasht-e Kavir, a large desert in central Iran.

## Iran Export to U.S. Rises 16 Folds in H1

TEHRAN (MNA) - The value of Iran's export to the United States increased by 16 folds in the first half of 2022 from the first half of 2021.

Based on the data released by the United States Census Bureau, the U.S. imported commodities worth \$5 million from Iran in the first half of this year, while the figure was \$300,000 in the same period of time in the past year, Tasnim news agency reported.

According to the mentioned data, the two countries traded \$23.8 million worth of goods in the first half of 2022, rising 18 percent from the figure in the first half of 2021.

The United States Census Bureau's data shows that the value of U.S. export to Iran fell five percent to \$18.8 million in the six-month period of this year, from \$19.8 million in the same time span of the previous year.

As previously reported by this bureau, the value of trade between Iran and the United States reached \$15 million in the first three months of 2022, to register a 55-percent rise year on year.

The two countries had traded \$9.7 million worth of goods in the first quarter of 2021. **See Page 7**

## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

### Palestinians Resolved To Bring Down Zionists

In recent days until Sunday evening, the world had been watching another savagery action from the Zionist regime which led to deaths of dozens of civilian Palestinians through the Zionist air raids and this almost five-day war ended with a truce because of resistance from Palestinians and their due responses to the Zionists by firing rockets especially towards Tel Aviv and this once again showed the world that the Zionists need to be tamed and resistance and harsh response is the only solution to stop the Zionists.

Reacting to the Zionists' crimes, once against it was the Islamic Republic of Iran which jumped to defend the Palestinians against this savage attack by the Zionists which led to killing of dozens of civilians.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said the latest bout of Israeli crimes against the oppressed people of Palestine in the besieged Gaza Strip will speed up the final collapse of the occupying regime.

The IRGC made the remarks in a Sunday statement in reference to the ongoing Israeli onslaught on the coastal enclave, which started on Friday and has so far claimed the lives of over 30 Palestinians, including children, leaving more than 200 others injured.

"The new crime committed by the Zionist regime against the oppressed Palestinian nation and the savage attack on Gaza is the outcome of a miscalculation by Zionists and will add further fuel to the flames of the Islamic resistance, speeding up the collapse of the occupying regime," it said.

The IRGC said Israel's latest attacks were the result of a "miscalculation" and a move to test the resistance front's ability to respond to the regime's acts of aggression.

It emphasized that the Israeli regime and its supporters would undoubtedly regret committing this "big crime," which has led to death and injury of "scores of Muslim, oppressed and defenseless people of Palestine in the month of Muharram."

Hezbollah said the Palestinian resistance's successful defensive operations during Israel's recent offensive against the Gaza Strip left Tel Aviv with no other choice than to accept truce.

The remarks by the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah's Secretary-General, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, came on Sunday after Palestine's Islamic Jihad agreed to a truce with Israel following three days of strikes on the Gaza Strip by the Israeli forces. **See Page 7**

## Hezbollah Stands at Forefront of Battle Against Zionist Enemy

BEIRUT (PressTV)- Secretary-General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, peaks in a televised speech broadcast live from the Lebanese capital city of Beirut on August 9, 2022, on the occasion of Ashura, which commemorates the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS).

The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has called his group the frontrunner of the battle against Israel, warning the Tel Aviv regime of tough and crippling retaliatory strikes in case it dares launch an act of aggression against Lebanese territories.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks in a televised speech on Tuesday as he addressed mourners commemorating Ashura, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam and the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

"Hezbollah is at the forefront of battle against the Zionist enemy," Nasrallah said. "The resistance movement is stronger than ever; Israelis should not make the folly of testing the Lebanese nation's resolve to protect its own natural resources."

He also said Hezbollah is waiting for the Israeli response to the Lebanese government's demands regarding the disputed maritime area in the Mediterranean Sea, which is rich in natural resources like gas and oil, emphasizing that his fellow fighters are nonetheless preparing for all possible scenarios.

"Lebanon and its people will no longer accept the looting of maritime wealth. We are ready to look at any possibility. The hand extended to plunder any of Lebanon's natural wealth will be cut off as was the case when our lands were invaded," Nasrallah noted.

He called for the swift formation of a competent Lebanese government, urging all political factions to join forces in order to overcome existing crises and resolve the sufferings of the nation. **See Page 7**

## Iranian Researchers Discover "High-Density Black Hole"

TEHRAN (IRNA)- The researches in Faculty of Physics of the Sharif University of Technology have managed to discover a super high-density black hole, the weight of which is a million times greater than the sun.

The Public Relations Office of Sharif University announced that in a new research of the astronomers of that university, PhD astronomy student Zeinab Kalantari, in collaboration with Sohrab Rahvar and Dr. Reza Rahimi-Tabar, both physics professors of Sharif University, and Ali Ibrahim, from Sultan Qabus University of Oman, viewed the Gamma-ray burst produced by a super high-density black hole with a weight of some one million times greater than the sun.

The PhD astronomy student Zeinab Kalantari speaking about the discovery of this super-high density black hole said: Using the Fermi Satellite inputs, the researchers of the Faculty of Physics of Sharif University managed to discover a Foreigner Gamma that had passed from a close distance from a super high-density black hole whose germ was a million times greater than the sun.

External Gamma is the Gamma pouring rays that reach is from beyond galaxies. **See Page 7**

Sokhan Gostar Institute

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## President Felicitates Singapore on National Day

TEHRAN (MNA) – President Ebrahim Raisi forwarded a message of congratulations to Singaporean President Halimah Yacob, felicitating the Singaporean National Day.

The Iranian President cabled a message of congratulation on Tuesday, extending greetings to Singaporean President Yacob and the people of Singapore on the advent of the country's National Day on August 9.

Regarding the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, President Raisi expressed hope to witness the development of relations in all fields in the light of a future-oriented approach in favor of securing mutual interests.

## FM Hails Palestinian Resistance's Great Achievement Against Israel

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

**TEHRAN - Foreign minister has lauded the Palestinian resistance's "great achievement" in standing up to Israel's massive assaults and forcing the regime into agreeing to a truce.**

Hossein Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a Monday phone call with Ismail Haniyeh, head of the political bureau of the Gaza-based resistance movement Hamas, according to a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Major flare-ups in the occupied territories led to an Israeli incursion into the besieged Gaza Strip on Friday with the regime hitting what it claimed to be a series of military targets in Gaza.

The Islamic Jihad movement also responded by launching hundreds of rockets toward the occupied territories, sending Israelis in southern occupied territories including Tel Aviv into shelters.

A truce brokered by the Egyptian mediators between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement in Gaza went into effect at 11:30 pm local time (2030 GMT) on Sunday, as the movement said it "reserves the right to respond to any Zionist aggression."

"That once again the resistance was able to withstand the Zionist regime's full-scale military assault and forced them into agreeing to a truce and complying with the resistance's conditions is a great achievement," Amirabdollahian said.

He further explained that what matters is the fact that only a division of resistance confronted the enemy which reveals the Zionist regime's weakness and frailty more than ever.

The senior diplomat lauded Haniyeh's stance in keeping resistance groups



unanimous and described it as a "great success" for the axis of resistance.

Killing women and children demonstrates how desperate and weak the Zionist regime is, Amirabdollahian lamented.

Haniyeh, for his part, appreciated Iran's support for Palestine, saying that Israel had planned to force its will on the Palestinians and resistance in the Gaza Strip but was confronted with the "Palestinian nation's victorious resistance."

"The resistance front's recent victory has opened a new chapter in the Palestinian resistance confrontation with the Zionist regime," the top resistance official stated, adding "we will continue the fight to achieve total victory."

Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, has also criticized the international community's inaction in holding Israel accountable for its crimes.

"Days have passed since the fanatic Israeli regime waged an incessant deadly blitz on innocent Palestinians. The question is, how many children have to die so that the intl. community, UNSC & HRC hold the bloodthirsty regime accountable for its 'unspeakable crimes?'" the top human rights official wrote on his Twitter account on Tuesday.

## President Hails Role of Journalists in Society

TEHRAN - In a message on the occasion of Journalist's Day,

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi wrote, "Journalist's Day, in addition to honoring the responsibility and important position of journalists, is an opportunity to protect truth-seeking, transparency and people's right to know and free access to information".

President sent a message on the occasion of the arrival of the national Journalist's Day, and stated, "By honoring this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to all the frontiersmen of truth and warriors in the field of explanation and awareness, and consider the meaningful symmetry of this year's Journalist's Day with Ashura as an emphasis on the duty of information providing".

He wrote in his message, "Journalist's Day is a great opportunity to appreciate the efforts of those who are tireless in explaining, informing and protecting the truth. At a time when the ill-wishers of the Islamic Revolution have started a serious and continuous battle with the truth with distortions and biased narratives, the role of the media in standing against the waves of destruction, lies and deception is more important than ever."



He added, "The development and excellence of Islamic Iran and the realization of the lofty ideals of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) and the Supreme Leader, will undoubtedly not be achieved except in the shadow of the effective role-playing of precious media writers and fair and responsible information."

Raisi noted, "Journalist's Day, in addition to honoring the responsibility and important position of journalists, is an opportunity to protect truth-seeking, transparency and people's right to know and free access to information."

By honoring this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to all the frontiersmen of truth and warriors in the field of explanation and awareness, and consider the meaningful symmetry of this year's Journalist's Day with Ashura as an emphasis on the duty of information providing, he added.

President concluded his message, "I hope dear journalists, like the great messenger of Ashura, H.H. Zainab (PBUH), will be successful and steadfast in bringing the message of truth to the people."

## Iran Implementing 6t Tomans of Tourism Projects

SEM NAN (IRNA) - A senior Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ministry said that there are tourism projects worth of six trillion tomans under implementation in Iran.

2,500 investment projects are being implemented nationwide, Mohsen Qoreishi said on Tuesday, adding that the projects would have a big share in the job market after implementation.

About 30 tourism projects with over 1.6 trillion tomans are being implemented in Semnan Province alone, providing over 1,300 jobs, Qoreishi noted.

Iran is trying to improve its tourism industry and further attract foreign investment and tourists, as the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has prioritized developing multidimensional relations with neighboring countries.

Iran has also entered visa waiver agreements with some countries in the region to facilitate entry of businesspeople and tourists.

## Petro-Refineries Could Safeguard Iran Against Sanctions

TEHRAN (Shana) -- A member of the Energy Committee of the Islamic Assembly considered the construction of petro-refineries as one of the defense tools to fight the sanctions, and said: "Directing liquidity towards production is achieved by investing in national economic projects."

Hadi Beiginejad stated that construction of refineries and petro-refineries is a very good defense tool to fight against sanctions, and said: "Refinery construction leads to the development of downstream industries and production of petrochemical products and helps to strengthen hard currency resources."

Pointing out that construction of oil and gas projects, especially petro-refineries, is profitable and has a good return on investment, he added: "Construction of refineries and petro-refineries, preventing the sale of crude oil, turning it into valuable products, creating economic value for the country, employment, neutralizing sanctions will result in an increase in hard currency income, reaching customer diversity, etc."

This member of the Energy Committee of the Islamic Assembly stated: "In addition to its advantages, the establishment of petro-refineries also facilitates the entry of the private sector into the refining industry."

## Diplomats Martyred in Mazar-i-Sharif Honored

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Foreign Ministry has issued a statement to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Iranian diplomats and correspondents in Afghanistan's Mazar-i-Sharif.

**The Monday statement goes as follows:**

Mordad 17th (August 8) is a reminder of bitter memories that were imposed on the foreign policy apparatus and nation of Iran in 1998.

24 years ago, amid civil conflicts in Afghanistan and upon Taliban forces' arrival into Mazar-i-Sharif, some Iranian diplomats and a correspondent of IRNA were martyred in contradiction to moral, humanitarian and international commitments.

Vast condemnation by international community as well as the noble people of Afghanistan indicated brilliant instances of unity between Afghan and Iranian nations, promoting the Islamic Republic of Iran to show self-restraint and act based on interests of both nations, standing with Afghan brothers and sisters.

The Iranian government and people have always stood with the oppressed nation of Afghanistan, and supported any solution, which can end up in peace, stability and tranquility in favor of Afghan people, who have fought foreign invasion for years.

As experience shows, formation of a government consisting of all Afghan elite, representing all tribes and ideologies can pave the way for development, progress and improvement of the nation's capability in facing pressures and sanctions imposed by the West.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry recalls the memories of martyrs of the siege of the Iranian consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif, condemning the unforgettable crime, and underlining the need for clarifying aspects of the criminal act.

On August 8, 1998 some Iranian diplomats and Mahmoud Saremi, a correspondent from Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), were attacked at the Iranian consulate and martyred.

## Western Guarantees Needed for a Deal

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran will not surrender to any kind of threats, pressures or sanctions, a prominent lawmaker said while nuclear talks were taking place in Vienna.

Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi, a member of parliament's foreign policy and national security committee, told the government's official news website IRNA that it is the West that should act "rationally" in the nuclear negotiations.

"We hope that the West will understand the Islamic Republic's message," Rahimi a member of the hardliner majority in parliament said, "because [we] will not dismantle our nuclear installations or reduce our [uranium] enrichment." He vowed to keep the uranium, which Iran has enriched to 20 and 60-percent, and not accept international monitoring beyond the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, without the West giving a series of guarantees.

First, the United States and Europe must provide a guarantee not to leave the nuclear deal. They must also guarantee that oil export revenues reach the Iranian government.

Iran has been emphasizing the issue of a guarantee by the U.S. to stay in a new nuclear agreement even before multilateral talks started in April 2021. Tehran's argument is that former US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Iran needs assurance that this will not happen again.

Iranian officials have also demanded a host of other guarantees, including a pledge by the West that Iran would be able to attract foreign investments if it agrees to limit its nuclear program. The United States has promised to lift its oil export and banking sanctions, but no one can guarantee if Iran would receive foreign investments.

Rahimi told IRNA that the West does not realize that the world has changed and countries like China or Iran will not carry out their orders. "Iran, in terms of military, political and economic power is not a weak state to be subservient to the West, but Westerners look at the world as though it is still the 18th or 19th centuries..."

He also said that despite its capabilities in enriching uranium, Tehran is ready for talks to resolve the issue but "the problem Iran has with Western countries is the degree of their understanding of global realities."

## German Envoy Summoned Over Desecration of Quran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned Germany's chargé d'affaires to express the country's strong condemnation of a provocative move by a small number of Islamophobes who desecrated the Holy Quran and Islamic sanctities in the Central European country.

The Director of the First Department for Western Europe at the Foreign Ministry called in the diplomat on Monday to voice Tehran's vehement denunciation of the sacrilege of Islam's holy book in front of the Islamic Center of Hamburg as a clear example of hate-mongering, violence, and extremism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran holds the German government responsible in this case, and demands decisive action against the perpetrators of this offensive action, the senior Iranian diplomat pointed out.

According to reports, a group of ten people committed the sacrilegious move on Tasu'a, which marks the ninth of the lunar calendar month of Muharram, a day before Ashura when Imam Hussein (AS), a grandson of Islam's Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), and his 72 companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala, in southern Iraq, in 680 AD after fighting courageously for justice against the much larger army of the Umayyad caliph, Yazid I.

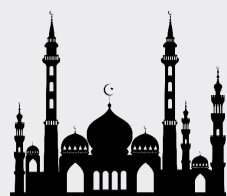
German police forces, who were present in the place, did not take any action to prevent the blasphemous act, which is prohibited under Germany's law, nor reacted to those who committed it, Iran's al-Alam television news network reported.

Earlier on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani slammed the "provocative" move and warned of its "dangerous" consequences and implications.

"This blasphemous act is a clear example of sedition and spreading hatred and is categorically condemned by all Muslims, monotheists ...and those who believe in coexistence and interfaith dialogue," he said.

He noted that such acts are "another aspect of extremism and Takfiri violence" that require a "strong and deterrent response from governments that claim to be supporting human rights, freedom, and democracy."

Kanaani urged Germany to take "an immediate and strong" action over the incident and called for holding the perpetrators to account in order to prevent the repetition of such acts.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:09
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:19
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:47
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:20

59. But when the children among you come of age, let them (also) ask for permission, as do those senior to them (in age): Thus does Allah make clear His Signs to you: for Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.  
60. Such elderly women as are past the prospect of marriage, there is no blame on them if they lay aside their (outer) garments, provided they make not a wanton display of their beauty: but it is best for them to be modest: and Allah is One Who sees and knows all things.

Surah 24. Light (59 - 60)

## Power Plant Repairs Cost Iran \$135m In June Quarter

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - Iran spent more than \$135 million on critical repair work needed in power plants in the country in the three months to late June amid efforts to boost grid reliability and to prevent power cuts in household and manufacturing sectors over the warm summer months.**

A report by the Fars news agency showed that the Iranian Energy Ministry had carried out extensive repair projects in the country's electricity generation sector in the June quarter.

The report cited government figures showing that an entire annual repair budget of more than 42 trillion rials had been spent on 661 repair projects in power plants in Iran in a bid to increase generation capacity by more than 9 gigawatts (GW) before the start of summer.

The projects included nearly 110 cases of power plant overhaul, including a major



project carried out at a hydroelectric dam near Tehran.

Large cities in Iran avoided power cuts this summer despite the fact the demand for electricity in the country reached an all-time high of nearly 69 GW in early July, up by more than 5 GW against the same day last year.

That comes as brief power cuts over past years had caused discontent among households and manufacturers in the country.

Iran plans to increase its total electricity generation capacity by more than 30 GW until 2025 from a current nominal output figure of around 88 GW.

## Studies Show ICC Materialized 21% of Its Goals in 10 Years

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) announced that the first edition of monitoring the development document of the cooperative sector was conducted by the ICC, adding that statistical studies of the first monitoring of the development document of the cooperative sector by the end of last Iranian calendar year shows that almost 21.06% of the executive document goals have been materialized.



Mr. Bahman Abdollahi said that the percentage of materialized goals or effectiveness of implementing the development document of the cooperative sector has been between 15 to 34 percent. He noted that of course this amount of progress after 10 years since the preparation and implementation of the development document of cooperative is not acceptable.

He added that precise implementation of the document by the executive bodies could lead to significant development in the field of cooperative, adding that strong determination of officials and activists in the field of cooperative has become more necessary than ever for creating major development in approach regarding this field and pursuing the demands of the Supreme Leader in implementing the general policies of Article 44 in the cooperative sector.

Abdollahi then pointed to some key points of this screening which can lead to increase the amount of achievements like attracting investment in the field of cooperative which has had the lowest score in this screening which shows lack of success in reaching the set target.

He then pointed to seven major goals cooperatives which have been set in this document.

## Annual Per Capita Meat Consumption Drops to 3kg

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - As inflation has drastically risen in Iran impoverishing millions, annual per capita meat consumption has decreased to three kilograms, or less than 7 pounds.

According to a report on Monday, the Statistical Centre of Iran says per capita meat consumption is about four kilograms but Masoud Rasouli, the head of

the country's meat packaging industry association, has said the number is not more than three kilograms.

The report said if an ordinary family of three wants to eat a meat-based food, they have to spend the whole daily wage of the breadwinner to buy just one kilogram of red meat.

Expressing worries about the trend, Rasouli said the amount of meat consumption is a function of the country's economic growth indicators. "For example, in 1993, per capita meat consumption of the Chinese people was 5 kilograms, but now this number has reached 53 kg," he added.

The CEO of an Iranian livestock union said last year that "per capita meat consumption decreased from

12 kg to 6 kg per year, in other words, consumption has decreased by 50 percent," in three years.

In April, the chairman of the country's livestock supply council, Mansour Pourian, said that a rise in red meat prices had accelerated despite an oversupply in the market.

Soybean meal, barley and corn for livestock and chicken feed are mainly imported from Russia and other countries. Any shortages or higher prices can push up the price of meat in Iran.

The average per capita consumption of meat worldwide is about 34 kilograms, although the figure is about 100 kg for North America, and about 13 in Africa.

### Iran Key Gas Pipeline Near Azerbaijan Near Completion

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) authorities say a major gas pipeline project that is being constructed along the Caspian Sea is near completion amid Iran's plans to increase gas supply to Azerbaijan under a swap deal with Turkmenistan.

NIGC's head of dispatching operations Mohammad Reza Joulayi said on Sunday that the Rasht-Chelavand pipeline will be ready for gas transfer within the next few days.

Joulayi told the Iranian Oil Ministry's news service Shana that the 42-inch, 150-kilometer gas pipeline will play a major part in Iran's gas supply arrangements with Azerbaijan. The NIGC started the construction of Rasht-Chelavand gas pipeline in 2019 with the aim of expanding its gas transfer network in colder regions in north of the country.

However, the project accelerated in November after Iran signed a major deal for swap of gas with Turkmenistan for delivery to Azerbaijan.

The deal allows Iran to receive 5-6 million cubic meters per day of gas from Turkmenistan for use in its northeastern regions while it delivers the same amount of gas to Azerbaijan through its pipeline facilities near Astar.

Oil Minister Javad Owji said in June that he had reached agreements with Turkmen and Azerbaijani officials to double the amount of gas agreed for swap between the three neighbors.

The new gas pipeline from Rasht to Chelavand, which is located near Astar and is home to a major pressure boosting station, will enable the NIGC to significantly increase its gas supply to Azerbaijan.

The pipeline also boosts NIGC's capacity to respond to the gas demand in the Ardabil province where gas consumption reaches record highs during cold winter months.

## ESCO Approach Is to Create Valuable Opportunities Out of Threats

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – The CEO of Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) Mr. Iraj Rokhsati in meeting with advisor to the head of Expediency Council Mr. Seifollahi said the approach of the company is to create valuable opportunities out of threats.

In the meeting, Mr. Rokhsati explained the process of production in Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) and said that this company has overcome major problems with using targeted and knowledge-centered programs, noting that design and production of over 12 new products in recent months for diversifying production basket, various production records and implementation and completing renovation and development projects of ESCO should be evaluated in accordance with the targeted and indicator-centered programs of this company.



He went on to say that ESCO enjoys having modern automation system and all of its production activities are monitored and controlled online; adding that the company has indigenized some 85% of its required equipment and parts and the remaining 15% is supplied with support of strong and knowledge-based companies of the country.

Rokhsati also said that non-specialized meddling in industry leads to serious damages to production and now that ESCO is a company listed in the stock market, everybody should look at it as a private sector and let it advance its production and development with reliance on its strong staff and capacities of the private sector.

Then Mr. Seifollahi, for his part, said that this gigantic industrial complex has been supportive of the fighters during the Sacred Defense era, adding that presence of ESCO staff during the imposed war era bespeaks of sacrifice and martyrdom-seeking spirit of them.

## MSC Investment in Renewable Energies Production a Long Stride for Green Steel

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) says investment of the company in producing renewable solar energies for 540 megawatts and construction of the 1000-megawatt combined-cycle power plant with high output based on the international standards is a long stride on course to the green steel.

Behnam Kaviani emphasized this approach of the company for materializing access to green steel is based on this principle that green steel is only possible through producing steel with the lowest possible trace of carbon.

He went on to say that steel industry today accounts for 7% of carbon emission in the world as it is one of the main reasons for increase of global warming, therefore based on the sustainable development scenario of International Energy Agency, the total direct emission of steel and iron sector by 2050 should be reduced over 50% comparing to the figure in 2019 and the amount of emission from crude steel production should also be reduced by 58%.

Kaviani added that the current mindset of steel industries is to produce with the lowest amount of carbon emission based on renewable energies technology will cost more expensive than producing steel based on the traditional method and the costs may even be 30% higher. He noted that MSC seeks low-carbon steel production through using new technologies based on its own sustainable strategy and it has taken so far effective actions in this regard.

He noted that the process of steel production in MSC based on the direct reduction and electric arc furnaces is itself a great advantage among the existing technologies.



## HOSCO Implemented Ordered Policies Fully, Precisely



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The opening meeting for evaluating the performance of subsidiary companies of Mobarakeh Steel Group was held in presence of CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) Mr. Ataollah Maroufkhani, member of board of directors of the company Mr. Mohsen Tabesh and evaluators of Mobarakeh Steel Group at the conference hall of HOSCO.

The evaluation meeting of subsidiary companies of Mobarakeh Steel Company was held to evaluate strategic goals and the ordered policies, and evaluators expressed their satisfaction about the results of evaluations in the past years and announced Hormozgan Steel Company as the leading company in all items and fields among Mobarakeh Steel Group companies and announced their expectations from officials of HOSCO for more cooperation.

Addressing the meeting, Head of the evaluating team Mr. Majid Mounesan said that HOSCO has always been among the leading companies of Mobarakeh Steel Group and the current evaluation shows it openly, especially in implementing the developmental projects that HOSCO has been resolved and it has taken action to operationalize some big projects in the past year.

Meanwhile in the meeting, Dr. Maroufkhani said that last year, HOSCO had brilliant performance in other fields and set good records, adding that the flag of HOSCO has always been high and it has always shone as one of the biggest companies of Mobarakeh Steel Group among steelmakers.

Then Mounesan reiterated that HOSCO has always been among the leading subsidiary companies of Mobarakeh Steel Group.

## First-Ever Import of Goods Using Cryptocurrency Worth Millions

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - This week, Iran registered its first official order for the importation of goods worth a total of \$10 million paid for in cryptocurrency.

Indeed, an official from Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade, disclosed the information according to a report that was published on Tuesday, by the Iranian news outlet Tasnim agency. Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak stated on Twitter:

"This week, the first official import order registration worth 10 million dollars was successfully completed using cryptocurrency." The official also made the announcement that he anticipates that by the end of September, the usage of cryptocurrencies and smart contracts would be extensively employed in international commerce with the nations that are the focus of the initiative.

## Support for Japan PM's Cabinet Slides to Lowest

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Public support for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida slid to the lowest level since he took office last October, with voters questioning his decision to hold a state funeral for former premier Shinzo Abe, public broadcaster NHK said.

Support for Kishida's cabinet totaled 46 per cent, down from 59 per cent in the previous survey three weeks ago, while the disapproval rating rose to 28 per cent from 21 per cent over the same period, NHK said.

The results of the survey, conducted by phone and involving 1,223 respondents, came just two days ahead of a planned reshuffle of the cabinet and leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).



## Russia Will Achieve Its Aims in Ukraine

LONDON (Dispatches) - One of President Vladimir Putin's closest allies said on Monday that Russia would achieve its aims in the conflict in Ukraine on its own terms, warning that the West had a long-term plan to destroy Russia.

"Russia is conducting a special military operation in Ukraine and is attaining peace on our terms," former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who serves as deputy chairman of Russia's security council, told TASS in an interview.

Medvedev cast the 2008 war in Georgia, the enlargement of the NATO military alliance westwards and the Ukraine war as part of an attempt by the United States and its allies to destroy Russia.



## UN Chief Demands Int'l Access To Ukraine Nuclear Plant



TOKYO (Dispatches) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for international inspectors to be given access to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant after Ukraine and Russia traded accusations over the shelling of Europe's largest atomic plant at the weekend.

"Any attack to a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing," Guterres told a news conference in Japan, where he attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony on Saturday to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing.

Ukraine said renewed Russian shelling on Saturday had damaged three radiation sensors and hurt a worker at the Zaporizhzhia power plant, the second hit in consecutive days on the site.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of waging "nuclear terror" that warranted more international sanctions, this time on Moscow's nuclear sector.

"There is no such nation in the world that could feel safe when a terrorist state fires at a nuclear plant," Zelenskyy said in a televised address on Sunday.

Russian forces captured the plant in southeastern Ukraine in early March but it is still run by Ukrainian technicians.

The Russian-installed authority of the area said Ukrainian forces hit the site with a multiple rocket launcher, damaging administrative buildings and an area near a storage facility. The Russian embassy in Washington also released a statement itemising the damage. "Ukrainian nationalists launched an artillery strike on the territory of the specified object on Aug. 5. Two high-voltage power lines and a water pipeline were damaged as a result of the shelling. Only thanks to the effective and timely actions of the Russian military in covering the nuclear power facility, its critical infrastructure was not affected," the embassy said.

Events at the Zaporizhzhia site — where Kyiv alleged that Russia hit a power line on Friday — have alarmed the world.

Guterres said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) needed access to the plant.

"We fully support the IAEA in all their efforts in relation to create the conditions of stabilization of the plant," Guterres said.

## U.S. Says New Africa Strategy Will Engage Leaders

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The White House unveiled broad new policy goals for sub-Saharan Africa, with administration officials seeking to tie the region's democratic, economic and security progress to U.S. national security.

Officials in President Joe Biden's administration told reporters that the new "U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa" will actively engage the region's leaders on issues from climate change to pandemic recovery to food insecurity, while thinking "more holistically" about military engagement on the continent.

Their comments in a background briefing on Sunday come at the end of an extended policy review by the Biden administration, and as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken undertakes a three-nation African trip. He is set to deliver a major policy speech in Pretoria, South Africa on Monday.

## Lula's Lead Narrows to Single-Digit in Brazil Race in Poll

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's lead over incumbent Jair Bolsonaro has narrowed to 7 percentage points ahead of the October election, according to a new poll published on Monday.

The leftist leader has the support of 41 per cent of voters against 34 per cent for his far-right adversary, compared to 44 per cent and 31 per cent respectively last month, the BTG/FSB telephone poll said.

Lula's lead has dropped steadily to 7 points from 13 last month and 14 in May, the poll said.

Other polls show Lula's strong lead slipping but maintaining a double-digit advantage: Datafolha saw his advantage at 18-points and a Genial/Quaest poll last week said his lead had fallen to 12 points from 14 points.

Lula would still win a second-round runoff against Bolsonaro by 51 per cent to 39 per cent if the vote

were today, a 12-point lead that has narrowed from 18 points last month, the BTG/FSB poll said.

Bolsonaro has stepped up social welfare spending, with pay-out of increased monthly stipends to low-income families starting on Tuesday, and he has worked to reduce fuel costs that have spurred inflation, the major complaint from voters.

His negative numbers have come down, with 44 per cent of those surveyed seeing his government as bad or terrible, down from 50 per cent in early June, while 53 per cent say they would never vote for him, compared to 59 per cent in June, the new poll said. Lula's rejection rate has risen marginally to 45 per cent of voters, it said.

The survey by pollster FSB commissioned by investment bank BTG Pactual polled 2,000 people between Aug. 5 and 7 and has a margin of error of 2 percentage points up or down.



## China Stages Fresh Military Drills Around Taiwan

TAIPEI (Dispatches) - China's military announced fresh military drills in the seas and airspace around Taiwan, a day after the scheduled end of its largest ever exercises to protest against last week's visit to the island by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

China's Eastern Theatre Command said it would conduct joint drills focusing on anti-submarine and sea assault operations - confirming the fears of some security analysts and diplomats that Beijing would continue to maintain pressure on Taiwan's defenses.

Taiwan's foreign ministry condemned the move, saying China, which claims the self-ruled island as its own, was deliberately creating crises. It demanded Beijing stop its military actions and "pull back from the edge".

"In the face of military intimidation created by China, Taiwan will not be afraid nor back down, and will more firmly defend its sovereignty, national security, and free and democratic way of life," the ministry said in a statement.

Pelosi's visit infuriated China, which responded with test launches of ballistic missiles over Taipei for the first time, as well as ditching some lines of dialogue with Washington.

The duration and precise location of the latest drills is not yet known, but Taiwan has already eased flight restrictions near the six earlier Chinese exercise areas surrounding the island.

Taiwan's defense ministry later said it had detected 39 Chinese air force planes and 13 navy ships in and around the Taiwan Strait on Monday. Twenty-one Chinese air force planes had entered Taiwan's air defense zone, including fighter jets that crossed the median line in the northern part of the Taiwan Strait, the ministry said.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong warned of the potential for miscalculation over tensions in the Taiwan Strait, which he said were unlikely to ease soon amid deep suspicion and limited engagement between the United States and China.

He said the interim government was currently holding about 400 FACT prisoners and would not release them without guarantees that they would not rejoin the fighting.

Most of the armed groups signed this agreement and they will take part in the national dialogue. And this national, inclusive dialogue is a forum for all Chadian people," he told reporters in Doha.

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## Top Pakistan Taliban Leader Killed In Afghanistan Roadside Attack

KABUL (Dispatches) - A late night roadside bombing in eastern Afghanistan has struck a vehicle carrying members of the Pakistan Taliban, killing a senior leader and three other members of the group, several Pakistani officials and the group said.

Abdul Wali, also known as Omar Khalid Khorasani, was a top commander of the Pakistan Taliban and was allegedly behind some of the deadliest attacks in recent years.

Wali's vehicle was struck on Sunday night by a roadside bomb in the Afghan province of Paktika, along the border with Pakistan, according to Pakistani officials and the TTP members who spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press news agency.

The three other men who were killed included his driver and two of his close aides, they said.

Wali's death delivers a big blow to the armed group, known formally as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and comes a week after a US drone raid in Kabul killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the Sunday night killing of Wali, who was on the US State Department's most-wanted list and carried a reward of up to \$3m for information on his whereabouts.

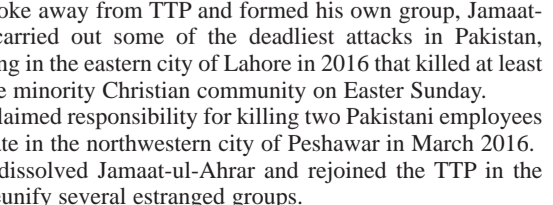
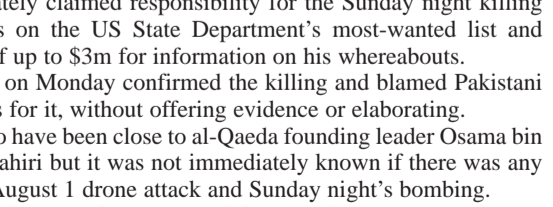
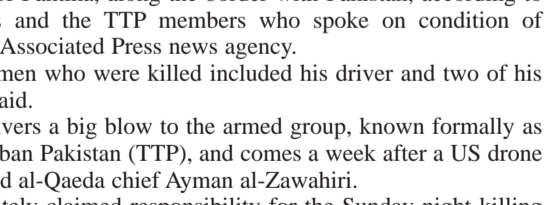
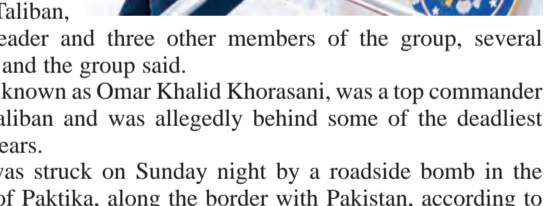
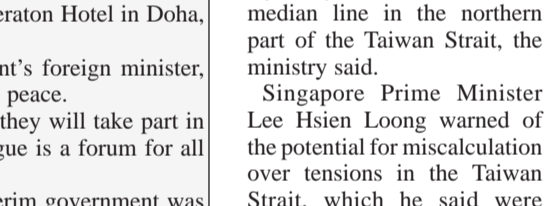
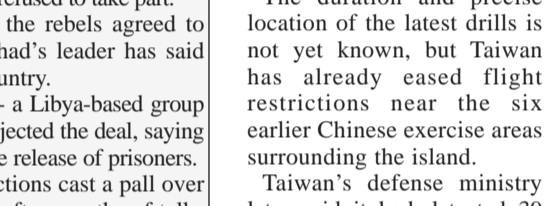
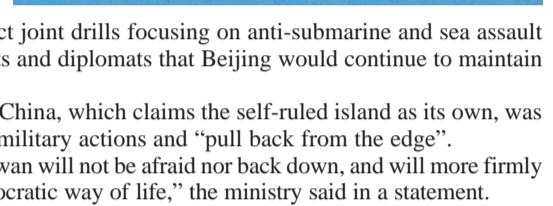
Pakistan Taliban on Monday confirmed the killing and blamed Pakistani intelligence agents for it, without offering evidence or elaborating.

Wali is thought to have been close to al-Qaeda founding leader Osama bin Laden and al-Zawahiri but it was not immediately known if there was any link between the August 1 drone attack and Sunday night's bombing.

In 2014, Wali broke away from TTP and formed his own group, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, which carried out some of the deadliest attacks in Pakistan, including a bombing in the eastern city of Lahore in 2016 that killed at least 75 people from the minority Christian community on Easter Sunday.

The group also claimed responsibility for killing two Pakistani employees of the US Consulate in the northwestern city of Peshawar in March 2016.

Khorasani later dissolved Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and rejoined the TTP in the group's drive to reunify several estranged groups.



## Global Energy Crisis Drives Rethink of Nuclear Power Projects



MANILA (Dispatches) - The Philippines' Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) has not produced any electricity since it was finished in 1984, despite its \$2.3 billion price tag and its promise of energy security during the 1970s oil crisis.

Approved by former dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr., his son and new President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has revived discussions on proposals to rehabilitate the site amid the current energy crisis that has pushed prices for traditional power generating fuels coal and natural gas to records.

The BNPP's potential revival is one sign of the renewed interest in nuclear power. Governments across Europe and Asia are extending their aging fleet of nuclear plants, restarting reactors and dusting off plans to resume projects shelved after the 2011 nuclear crisis in Fukushima, Japan.

Both the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden and the International Energy Agency have said nuclear power is critical for countries to meet global net-zero carbon emissions goals and ensuring energy security, as fossil fuel prices have surged after Russia cut natural gas supplies to Europe since the Ukraine war started in February.

As a result, nuclear power may be on the cusp of a revival of the golden age seen after the 1970s oil crisis that led to a flurry of projects, although opposition from politicians and non-governmental organizations, funding issues and safety concerns will have to be overcome.

"If fossil fuel prices remain high for a period of three to four years, I think that would be enough to launch a golden age of nuclear development especially in Asia because that's where they are the most price sensitive and because there's most need," said Alex Whitworth, head of Asia power and renewable research at consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

"About 80% of power demand growth in the next few years is going to be in Asia given the economic deterioration in Europe and the U.S."

Newly elected leaders of the Philippines, Japan and South Korea, empowered by shifting public opinion because of high energy prices and the need to cut emissions, are pushing ahead plans to restart reactors and build new plants to ease power shortages. Vietnam may also revisit two projects shelved in 2016 because of safety concerns and budget constraints.

In Europe, Britain gave consent in July for what will be its second new nuclear project in two decades. Funding discussions for the Sizewell C project are ongoing and a final investment decision is expected in 2023. Asia will drive construction of new reactors as the world's manufacturing hubs seek baseload electricity to complement renewables and replace fossil fuels, industry experts said.

Global nuclear capacity will need to double by 2050 to achieve net-zero targets, the IEA said last month, to power electric vehicles and produce non-fossil fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia to cut heavy industry emissions.

New technologies such as small modular reactors (SMR), quicker to build and less costly than conventional units, are being discussed in Singapore, the Philippines and Japan, Paul Stein, chairman of Rolls-Royce SMR, a unit of Rolls-Royce (RR.L), said last month.

The average cost of electricity generated by a conventional nuclear power plant over its lifetime is less than half that of a gas-fired plant at current prices, and is in the same range as coal power, Woodmac's Whitworth said, spurring governments to revive projects.

Nuclear provides about 5% of Asia Pacific's power supplies and this is expected to rise to 8% in 2030 based on projects that have been announced, he said.

## Hindu Nationalists Push Boycott of Bollywood "Forrest Gump" Remake



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - According to Forrest Gump, life is like a box of chocolates because "you never know what you're going to get". Now, an Indian remake of the movie has been hit by boycott calls over years-old comments by its Muslim star Aamir Khan.

It is the latest example of how Bollywood actors, particularly minority Muslims like Khan, are feeling increased pressure under Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Modi.

"Laal Singh Chaddha", an Indian spin on the 1994 Hollywood hit with Tom Hanks, is expected to be one of India's biggest films of 2022.

This is due in large part to its main star, 57-year-old Khan, one of the Indian industry's most bankable actors with past blockbusters like "3 Idiots" (2009) and "Dangal" (2016).

But ahead of the August 11 release, the internet is awash with clips from a 2015 interview when Khan expressed a growing "sense of fear" and that he and his then-wife discussed leaving India.

"She fears for her child. She fears about what the atmosphere around us will be. She feels scared to open the newspapers every day," he said.

More than 200,000 tweets, many from supporters of Modi's BJP party, have been shared since last month calling for people to spurn the movie with the hashtag #BoycottLaalSinghChaddha.

"Aamir Khan married two Hindu Women, yet named his kids Junaid, Azad & Ira. (Hindu co-star) Kareena (Kapoor) married a Muslim & promptly named her kids Taimur & Jehangir," said one tweet, referring to the children's typical Muslim names.

"That's enough reasons to boycott Lal Singh Chaddha, basically a production from Bollywood's Love Jihad club. #BoycottLaalSinghChaddha," it added, using a derogatory term coined by Hindu nationalists who accuse Muslim men of marrying Hindu women and forcing them to convert.

Nicknamed "Mr Perfectionist", Khan has been credited with pushing films beyond Bollywood's traditional fare of song and dance into social and cultural issues.

He also hosted a TV chat show -- "Satyamev Jayate" -- that discussed touchy themes like rape, domestic violence and corruption.

The furore over his new film -- which adapts Hanks' famous line to say that "life is like a golgappa", an Indian snack -- is such that this week Khan stressed his patriotism, a key tenet of the Modi government.

"I feel sad that some of the people... believe that I am someone who doesn't like India," he told local media. "That's not the case. Please don't boycott my film. Please watch my film."

Films have long sparked controversy -- as well as violence -- in the movie-mad country of 1.4 billion people. But the heat being felt by Khan, one of a clutch of Muslim megastars in the industry along with Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan, mirrors growing intolerance, marginalisation and vilification of the minority, commentators say.

"There is no doubt that Aamir is being targeted by those spreading hatred towards Muslims," one commentator, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of becoming a target himself, told AFP.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) owes its origins to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a militaristic group espousing "Hindutva", or making India an exclusively Hindu state.

Critics say that the world's most prolific film industry and its stars have been gradually changing their output to fit the government narrative since Modi came to power in 2014.

In 2019, the hagiographic "PM Narendra Modi" was too much even for the Election Commission, which delayed its release until after a vote that year.



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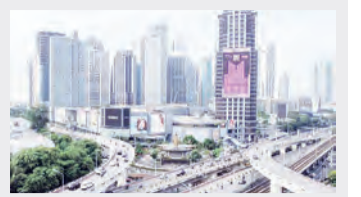
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## Philippine July Inflation Highest Since 2018

MANILA (Dispatches) - Philippine inflation accelerated to its fastest pace in nearly four years in July, government data showed on Friday, maintaining pressure on the central bank to further tighten monetary policy at its Aug. 18 meeting. The consumer price index rose 6.4% in July from a year earlier, driven by higher transport and food prices, the Philippine Statistics Authority said. The headline figure, the highest since October 2018, was above the 6.2% median forecast in a Reuters poll and at the top end of the 5.6%-6.4% range projected by the central bank. Inflation in January-July averaged 4.7%, versus the central bank's 2%-4% target band.



## U.S. Job Growth Seen Slowing in July

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. job growth likely slowed in July, but the pace was probably strong enough to keep the unemployment rate at 3.6% for a fifth straight month, offering the strongest evidence yet that the economy was not in recession.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday is expected to paint a picture of an economy muddling through despite back-to-back quarters of contraction in gross domestic product, the broadest measure of U.S. economic activity. Though demand for labor has eased in sectors like housing and retail that are sensitive to the higher interest rates being engineered by the Federal Reserve in its battle against inflation, industries like airlines and restaurants cannot find enough workers.

"The labor market is no longer tinder box hot," said Sung Won Sohn, professor of finance and economics at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. "But it remains pretty healthy and does not meet the National Bureau of Economic Research's broad definition of a contraction in the economy."

The NBER, the official arbiter of recessions in the United States defines a recession as "a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in production, employment, real income, and other indicators."

Still, government data last week showing a second straight quarter of negative GDP - which meets a popular rule-of-thumb definition for recessions - has fanned widespread debate over whether the U.S. economy is in fact in a downturn and has brought the employment report for July into even sharper relief for consumers, investors and policymakers.

Nonfarm payrolls likely increased by 250,000 jobs last month after rising by 372,000 in June, according to a Reuters survey of economists. That would mark the 19th straight month of payrolls expansion but would be the smallest increase in that span and below the first half monthly average of 457,000 jobs. Estimates ranged from as low as 75,000 to as high 325,000.

The cooling in job growth could ease pressure on the Fed to deliver a third straight three-quarters of a percentage point interest rate increase at its next meeting in September, though much depends on inflation and employment readings in the run up to that gathering.

The U.S. central bank last week raised its policy rate by 75 basis points and officials have pledged more hikes are coming as it tries to rein in inflation running at four-decade highs. Since March, it has lifted rates from near zero to their current range of 2.25% to 2.50%.

"A slowdown in job growth should be welcome news for Fed officials, but a more material loosening of labor market conditions will be needed to take the heat off wage inflation," said Lydia Boussour, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics in New York.

The economy contracted 1.3% in the first half of 2022, largely because of big swings in inventories and the trade deficit tied to snarled global supply chains. Still, momentum has cooled.

## Malaysia's Economic Recovery Continues in H1 of 2022

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) found in its Malaysia's Business and Economic Conditions Survey (M-BECS) that economic recovery continues in 1H 2022, although this is seen unevenly among economic sectors.

The survey, conducted between April and June this year, found that expectations for 2H (second half) 2022 indicated that while economic recovery continues in 1H (first half) 2022 albeit unevenly among the sectors, the business community is generally taking a neutral view of both economic and business conditions, ACCCIM president Tan Sri Low Kian Chuan said.

"The survey findings also indicated that most respondents remain concerned both external headwinds and domestic issues will impact the pace of economic and business recovery in 2H 2022 and in 2023. "Briefly, the external headwinds are the risks of global stagflation due to soaring consumer inflation and increased cost of raw materials, the war in Ukraine, rising recession risks in the global and US economy, as well as higher US interest rates," Tan told reporters during a press briefing today.

With lingering concerns about both external and domestic headwinds still dominating, the survey found a high percentage (70.4 per cent) of total respondents were "neutral" about economic conditions in 1H 2022; while only 14.7 per cent indicated "better".

The ACCCIM survey polled 860 respondents who are from various business sectors.

Present also at the briefing, ACCCIM Socio Economic Research Centre (SERC) executive director Lee Heng Guie said expectations have improved in 2H 2022, where 25 per cent of respondents expect "better" economic outlook amid "neutral" still high at 56.5 per cent. "Overall, a majority of respondents (65 per cent) are neutral about the economic outlook in 2022; 20.5 per cent expect a 'better' economic outlook, and 14.5 per cent perceive a 'worse' outlook," he said during the press briefing.

As for 2023, Lee said a high percentage of respondents (47.7 per cent) hold a "neutral" view of economic prospects while 39.8 per cent expect "better" prospects. "It is encouraging that 69.5 per cent of respondents across most sectors reported that their sales have recovered or even been higher compared to pre-pandemic level (vs. 56.5 per cent surveyed previously).

"Moving into 2H 2022, a majority of them (respondents) are cautious about business, cash flows and debtors' conditions," he said, adding that an increase in the price of raw materials (61.6 per cent) remained as the top factor that impacted business performance in 1H 2022, followed by a shortage of workers (53.8 per cent); high operating cost and cash flow problems (43.5 per cent); the ringgit's fluctuation (40 per cent); and shortage of raw materials (32.6 per cent).



## Japan's Households Increase Spending for First Time in 4 Months

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's households increased spending for the first time in four months in June, as demand for travel services rose in a positive sign for broader recovery prospects.

Spending jumped 3.5% in June from a year earlier, government data showed on Friday, posting its first year-on-year rise since January as households opened their purse strings for overnight stays, package tours and outdoor goods.

The data, which was stronger than the median estimate for a 1.5% rise in a Reuters poll, showed people spent less on fish and vegetables, while also spending more on transportation.

While the rise was larger than expected, it was unlikely to dispel worries that Japan's recovery will lag those seen in other major economies such as the United States, especially after COVID-19 infections saw a record surge in recent weeks.

There will be cases where people give up travelling given the pandemic's rapid spread, even without new restrictions in place against it, said Atsushi Takeda, chief economist at Itochu Economic Research Institute. "The momentum driving the recovery in travel will slow for the moment," Takeda added.

Spending on overnight stays in June topped levels seen before the pandemic three years earlier by 4.5%, data showed. Separate data on Friday showed Japan's real wages extended declines for a third straight month in June, as consumer prices rose faster than nominal wages, which saw their strongest growth in four years, in a worrying sign for households' purchasing power.

## Italy Unveils New \$17.4b Package Against Inflation

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy approved a new aid package worth around 17 billion euros (\$17.4 billion) to help shield firms and families from surging energy costs and rising consumer prices.

The scheme, one of the last major acts by outgoing Prime Minister Mario Draghi before a national election next month, comes on top of some 35 billion euros budgeted since January to soften the impact of sky-high electricity, gas and petrol costs.

"This package is aimed at protecting Italy's economic recovery in the face of a worsening international environment," Draghi told reporters during a news conference after a cabinet meeting to approve the measures.

"We are ready to adopt further measures if needed," he added.

Under the package, Rome extended to the fourth-quarter of this year existing measures aimed at cutting electricity and gas bills for low-income families as well as reducing so-called "system-cost" levies.

Designed to help finance initiatives ranging from solar power subsidies to nuclear decommissioning, the levies typically accounted for more than 20% of Italian energy bills before the government started to act.

A draft seen by Reuters also showed the government would extend a 200 euro bonus paid in July to low and middle-income Italians to workers who did not previously receive it. A cut in excise duties on fuel at the pump scheduled to expire on Aug. 21 is set to be extended to Sept. 20.

Rome is also considering preventing energy companies from making unilateral changes to electricity and gas supply contracts until April 2023, according to the draft.

With tax revenues doing better than forecast, funding for the package will not drive up the public deficit target, which Economy Minister Daniele Franco confirmed at 5.6% of national output this year.

Some 1.2 billion euros will go to reducing in the second half of this year the so-called tax wedge, the difference between the salary an employer pays and what a worker takes home, with the benefit going to employees with an annual income worth less than 35,000 euros.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimated that in 2021 the average single worker in Italy lost 46.5% of his gross salary in taxes and social contributions, the fifth-highest ratio out of a group of 38 advanced nations.

An additional 1.5 billion euros will go to increase pensions to support the purchasing power of elderly people.

## Turkish Exports Inch Closer to Annual Goal After Record July

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish exporters have left behind yet another month on a high note, reaffirming the views that the annual target would be achieved even before the year-end.

Yet, industry representatives are said to be revising their targets as new orders drop amid signs of a global slowdown and inflationary pressure.

Turkey's foreign sales jumped 13.4% year-over-year last month to \$18.6 billion (TL 334.13 billion), marking the best July exports ever, Trade Minister Mehmet Mus said. Imports rose at a much faster pace, jumping 40.8% to \$29.1 billion.

Exporters have managed to achieve record sales in each month so far this year and in 21 of the last 23 months.

Sales rose more than 19% year-over-year in the first seven months of 2022 to \$144.4 billion, Mus said, while imports were up 40.7% to \$206.4 billion.

But deteriorating global conditions, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, have raised concerns for the rest of the year. Russia's invasion of its neighbor has sent global commodity prices soaring, endangering Turkey's economic program that aims to tackle high inflation with a current account surplus.

The trade deficit surged by 144.5% to \$10.6 billion in July, data from the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM) showed. The shortfall in the first seven months jumped by 143% to \$61.9 billion, mainly due to rising energy import costs.

Exports had ended 2021 at \$225.4 billion, a figure that government and economists expected to reach \$250 billion this year.

The 12-month rolling exports have topped \$248 billion as of July, said Mustafa Gültepe, head of TIM. "At the point where we are now, we see that we will exceed our annual export target of \$250 billion and leave behind a very important threshold in 2022," Gültepe said.

The chemicals industry topped the list among sectors with \$2.9 billion worth of sales in July, the data showed, a 54% year-over-year increase. Automotive followed with \$2 billion, while ready-to-wear and steel industries reported \$1.6 billion of exports.

Germany remained the top buyer of Turkish goods with nearly \$1.49 billion, a 3% year-over-year rise. Sales to the United States, the second largest market in July, rose 24.8% to \$1.32 billion, while exports to the U.K. jumped 3.6% to just over \$1 billion. Most imports came in from Russia, with purchases soaring by 78.1% to \$4.37 billion, the data showed. Imports from the other two import sources, China and Germany were up 43.2% and 9.3% to \$3.81 billion and \$1.78 billion, respectively.

## Indonesian GDP Growth Accelerates in Q2, Beats Forecast



JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia's economic growth accelerated in the April-June quarter amid an export boom driven by rising commodity prices, official data showed on Friday, but monetary tightening, rising inflation and a global recession risk threaten the outlook.

Second-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) was up 5.44% on a year earlier, showing the fastest growth rate in a year, according to Statistics Indonesia data. That beat the median forecast for a 5.17% rise in a Reuters poll and the first quarter's 5.01% annual growth.

Exports expanded nearly 20% from a year before, a performance that the statistics bureau called "impressive". This compared with 16.22% seen in the previous quarter.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, is a major exporter of palm oil, coal, nickel and tin. With the war in Ukraine fuelling an upward cycle in commodity prices this year, the country has seen exports soaring, shoring up its economic resilience.

Household consumption, which accounts for more than half of GDP, recovered further after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, with the Eid al-Fitr celebration in May providing a further boost. However, investment slowed.

By sector, food and beverages, mining, construction and transport and warehousing saw faster expansion than in the previous period.

It is "strong growth but it won't last as headwinds mount," Gareth Leather, an analyst with Capital Economics, said in a note, predicting exports would be affected by declining commodity prices and a global growth slowdown.

Prices of palm oil have plunged in recent months, but Indonesian coal prices are still hovering around record highs due to strong demand from such markets as Europe.



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## Tanak Wins Rally of Finland

PARIS (Dispatches) - Hyundai's Ott Tanak hung on to his slender lead to win the Rally of Finland, seeing off the challenge of world championship leader Kalle Rovanpera.  
Tanak, who led from the second stage of the rally, went into the final day with an 8.4sec lead over his Finnish rival.  
He won just one of Sunday's four special stages but that was enough to give the Estonian victory by 6.8 seconds ahead of Toyota driver Rovanpera who won the other three.

## Dixon Wins IndyCar Music City Grand Prix

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - New Zealand's Scott Dixon outraced countryman Scott McLaughlin to the checkered flag to win the Music City Grand Prix for his 53rd career IndyCar triumph.  
Dixon, who jumped into second place in the hunt for his seventh career season title, edged McLaughlin by a car length after 80 laps over a 2.1-mile, 11-turn temporary street course in Nashville, Tennessee.  
"Oh man, Nashville is so awesome," Dixon said. "He was super fast and he had fresh tires, too. Was a bit of a sitting duck. If there was a lap or two more it would have been really tough to do."

# Kyrgios Claims ATP Washington Title



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios won his seventh ATP title and first in three years by defeating Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in the men's final at the ATP and WTA Washington Open.  
The 27-year-old Australian downed 96th-ranked left-hander Nishioka 6-4, 6-3 for his first ATP title since capturing the 2019 Washington crown.  
"It's emotional for me to be back here again and claim another title," Kyrgios said.  
Kyrgios, who lost to Novak Djokovic last month in his first Grand Slam final, made back-to-back tour-level finals for the first time in his career and didn't allow a service break all week.  
"It's just very emotional for me to see where I was at last year to now. It's just an incredible transformation," Kyrgios said. "I've been in some really dark places.  
"There are so many people who have helped me get there but myself, I've shown some serious strength to just continue and just persevere and get through all those times and be able to still perform and win tournaments like this one."  
World number 63 Kyrgios fired 12 aces and 32 winners against four double faults and 20 unforced errors while taking 22 of 25 first-serve points to defeat Nishioka in 81 minutes.  
"I came out with great energy," Kyrgios said. "I knew I had experience on my side. I'm really happy with myself."

Kyrgios improved to 4-0 against Nishioka, the most recent prior win coming in the third round of his 2019 Washington title run.  
In the women's final, Liudmila Samsonova won her second career WTA title by beating Estonia's Kaia Kanepi 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Her first title came at last year's German Open on Berlin grass.  
Kyrgios was set to join American Jack Sock in the later doubles final, trying to become the first man to sweep singles and doubles titles in the US capital event's 53-year history.  
Nishioka netted a backhand to surrender

a break in the opening game and Kyrgios denied the Asian southpaw's lone break chance with a backhand winner in the sixth game, holding out to claim the first set with his seventh ace.

Kyrgios broke in the first game of the second set when Nishioka sent a forehand long and again in the final game when Nishioka netted a backhand on the Aussie's third match point.  
Nishioka, who captured his only ATP crown in 2018 at Shenzhen, hadn't won a tour-level match since March until this week, when he upset eighth-ranked Andrey Rublev in the semi-finals. He will jump 42 spots to 54th in Monday's world rankings.  
"At the beginning of the year I had a nightmare," Nishioka said. "I thought if I can't make the top 50 again I will retire. Now I think maybe I can play a few more years."

Kyrgios will leap to 37th in the world rankings. He would have been 15th had world ranking points been awarded at Wimbledon.  
World number 60 Samsonova fired 10 aces and 27 winners to beat Kanepi. The 23-year-old Russian had a six-week layoff before Washington after Russian and Belarus players were not allowed at Wimbledon due to the invasion of Ukraine.

Kanepi, ranked 37th at age 37, was foiled in her bid to end a nine-year WTA title drought. She last won a WTA crown at the 2013 Brussels Open.  
"Overall the week was very good," Kanepi said. "She served better than me and maybe that was the key."

Samsonova dispatched three of the top six seeds, ousting reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu and fifth seed Elise Mertens before eliminating sixth seed Kanepi.

## Isco Agrees Sevilla Move



MADRID (Dispatches) - Spanish midfielder Isco, out of contract with Real Madrid since June, has agreed a two-year deal with Liga rivals Sevilla, his new club announced.

"We have reached an agreement in principle with Isco to become our third signing of the window," the Andalusian side said in a statement.

"He has already arrived in Sevilla ahead of undergoing his medical tomorrow (Monday) and, should all go well, sign a two-year contract."

Sevilla have recruited defenders Marcao from Galatasaray and Alex Telles on loan from Manchester United this summer.

Capped 38-times for Spain, Isco links up again with former Spain and Real Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui as he bids to reboot his career.

Isco joined Real Madrid from Malaga nine years ago for 30 million euros (\$30.5m) and went on to win five Champions Leagues, three La Ligas and one Copa del Rey.

The 30-year-old made 353 appearances and played in four Champions League finals, including two as a starter, against Juventus in 2017 and Liverpool in 2018.

But Isco has been a fringe player in recent seasons and was not picked by Carlo Ancelotti to play a single minute of Real Madrid's triumphant Champions League campaign last season.

Hampered by back problems he played just 17 games, three as a starter last season.

## Azarenka out of Toronto WTA Event

TORONTO (Dispatches) - Belarusian star Victoria Azarenka, a former world number one and two-time Grand Slam title winner, withdrew from the Toronto WTA event on Sunday after being unable to obtain a visa to enter Canada.  
"I have had to withdraw due to my visa not being approved," the 33-year-old wrote on Twitter.

"It's truly disappointing. It's very sad to miss one of my favorite tournaments. I love to play in Canada with great fans and a place where I made many friends over the years."

Along with other Belarusian and Russian players, Azarenka was banned from this year's Wimbledon due to the invasion of Ukraine.

Players from the two countries are allowed to compete at other tournaments but not under the name or flag of their countries.

Tennis Canada told AFP that Azarenka's visa situation was over a processing issue and had nothing to do with her nationality.

"Tennis Canada confirms that Victoria Azarenka has been unable to secure a visa in time to compete," a statement from the sport governing body said.

"Tennis Canada has been working hard on the application with Vika and her team for several weeks and have done everything we can to help with this active application, but unfortunately the processing turnaround time has proved too challenging."

## Kasatkina Rallies to Beat Rogers in WTA San Jose Final

SAN FRANCISCO (Dispatches) - Daria Kasatkina rallied to beat Shelby Rogers in three sets, capturing her fifth WTA title at the hardcourt tournament in San Jose, California.

Kasatkina, ranked 12th in the world and seeded seventh, triumphed 6-7 (2/7), 6-1, 6-2 as she went one better than her runner-up finish to Danielle Collins in San Jose last year, lifting her first WTA trophy since St. Petersburg last year.

The victory will move the 25-year-old back into the top 10 in the tennis world rankings.

# Swiatek Returns to WTA Hardcourts at Toronto



TORONTO (Dispatches) - Iga Swiatek will set foot on a hardcourt for the first time in more than four months at next week's WTA Toronto Masters.

The Polish world number one, who collected six titles this season before her 37-match win streak was ended by Alize Cornet at Wimbledon, has a limited history at the Canadian event.

She previously played in 2019, losing as a qualifier in the third round to Naomi Osaka.  
Swiatek last competed on cement on April 4 when she won the Miami Masters title.  
The first of back-to-back pre-US Open tests

in August for two-time Roland Garros champion Swiatek will be followed by the Cincinnati Masters with a preparation week to spare before the August 29 start of the Grand Slam in New York.

She will play her first match against the winner from American Shelby Rogers and 19th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova.

Second in the field will be Estonian Anett Kontaveit, beaten in the first round here last season.

Reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu, seeded ninth, begins against tournament holder Camila Giorgi, who won the title a year ago over Czech Karolina Pliskova.

Raducanu this week reached the Washington quarter-finals and has been controversially engaged in a coaching trial with former Russian player Dmitry Tursunov.

The top quarter of the draw could be a minefield for Swiatek, with potential rivals including fifth-seeded Wimbledon finalist Ons Jabeur.

The Tunisian is one of a group of other threats in the quarter.

## Russian Re-Elected Head of Chess Body FIDE

CHENNAI (Dispatches) - A Russian former deputy premier was re-elected as head of international chess body FIDE by a landslide, seeing off a Ukrainian challenger who said the incumbent was part of Moscow's "war machine".

A total of 157 out of 179 national chess associations voted in India for Arkady Dvorkovich as president, while Ukrainian grandmaster Andrii Baryshpolets won just 16 votes, the federation said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Peskov called it "clearly very good news and a very significant victory", Russia's TASS news agency reported.

A number of Russian officials have been hit with sanctions since the invasion of Ukraine in February, and Russian competitors have been banned by numerous international sports governing bodies.

But Dvorkovich, 50, who served under President Vladimir Putin as deputy prime minister from 2012-2018 when he was elected FIDE president, has retained his position.

Baryshpolets had said before the vote at the FIDE general assembly in Chennai -- held alongside the Chess Olympiad where Russian, Belarussian and Chinese players were absent -- that Dvorkovich has "tremendous ties to the Russian government".



## Lack of Self-Belief Cost Man United

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said a lack of self-belief cost his side on Sunday as they slumped to a 2-1 home defeat by Brighton and Hove Albion in their Premier League opener.

Brighton's Pascal Gross scored twice in the first half before an Alexis Mac Allister own goal gave United a glimmer of hope in the 68th minute, but Brighton held on for their first ever win at Old Trafford.

"I think it was a good start and then after (the first goal) we dropped down a level, dropped down in belief and we made mistakes and the opponent punished us," Ten Hag told reporters.

"We dropped down in belief in the first half and that cannot happen, you always have to believe in yourself and stick together as a team."

"We came back in the second half and we had to believe on the pitch and that was good to see. They have to deal with those setbacks and give themselves belief because they are really good players." Ten Hag defended his decision to start with Cristiano Ronaldo on the bench, saying the Portugal international was not ready to play a full match after skipping United's pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia.

