

**Latest Report of Planning and Budget Organization Shows That Government Revenues Have Increased by 63% in the First Four Months of the Current Year Comparing To the Same Period Last Year**

# IRAN NEWS

**Health Ministry Announced on Wednesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 143,160 With 67 More Iranians Killed By the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours**

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7567 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY AUGUST 18, 2022 - MORDAD 27, 1401

**2 DOMESTIC**

**Gen. Bagheri Hails Development of IRGC Navy In Recent Years**



> SEE PAGE 2

**3 DOMESTIC**

**Call for Implementation Of Iran-Bangladesh Preferential Trade**



> SEE PAGE 3

**4 INTERNATIONAL**

**Blasts at Russian Base In Crimea Suggest Ukrainian Fightback**



> SEE PAGE 4

**8 SPORTS**

**Murray Downs Wawrinka in Cincinnati Battle of Veterans**



> SEE PAGE 8

## Iran-EU Trade in H1 Rises 34% yr/yr

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €2.55 billion in the first six months of 2022, registering a 34 percent growth compared to the previous year's same period.

According to the data released by the European Union's statistics office, Eurostat, the trade between Iran and the European Union stood at €1.9 billion in the first half of 2021, IRNA reported.

Iran exported €550 million worth of commodities to the union during January-June 2022 to register a 37 percent rise year on year; the figure stood at €400 million in the previous year's same six months.

Based on the mentioned data, the exports from Europe to the Islamic Republic in the said time span also increased by 33 percent, standing at €2 billion. Iran had imported €1.5 billion worth of commodities from the European Union states in H1 2021.

Among European countries, Germany was Iran's top trading partner in the said six months, accounting for about a third of Iran's trade with the European Union. Germany exported €799 million worth of goods to Iran while importing €151 million worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic. The country's total trade with Iran was €950 million in the first half of the current year.

See Page 7

## Iran Demands Compensation If U.S. Exits JCPOA Again

NEW YORK (IRNA) - The U.S. TV network CNN quoting informed sources in Vienna negotiations as claiming that Iran is asking for compensation from the U.S. if America will once again unilaterally exit the JCPOA.

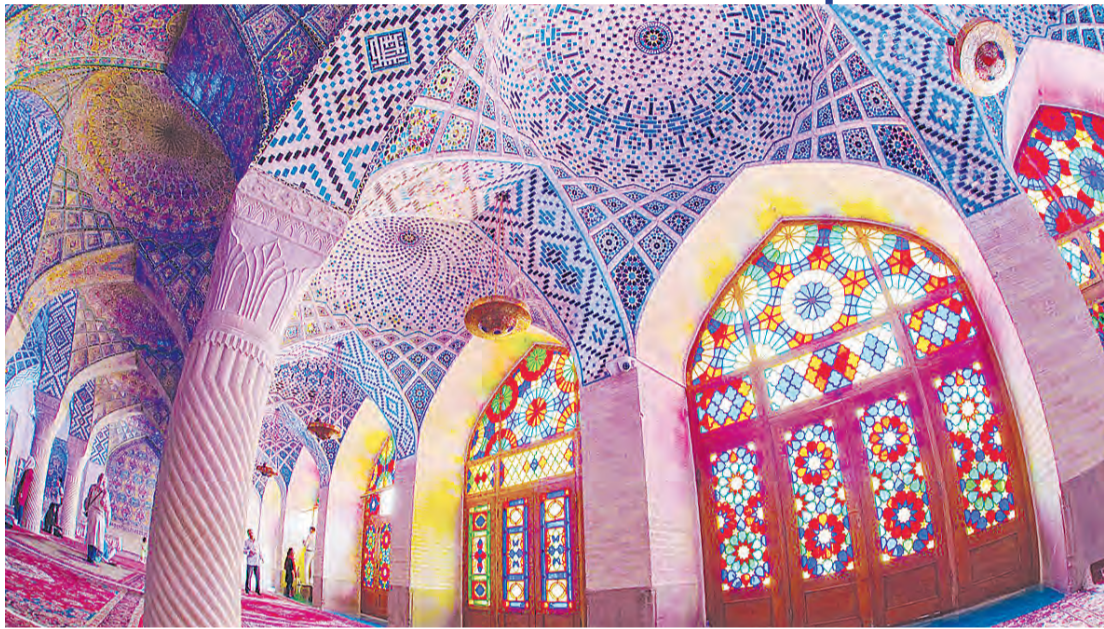
The TV network quoted a diplomat who is familiar with Iran and the Middle East affairs as saying that Iran is after having guarantees that if the next U.S. president will exit the JCPOA unilaterally, as the former U.S. president did, Iran will receive compensation from the U.S.

The CNN has quoted the American diplomat who was speaking on the condition of anonymity as saying that Iran has serious concerns about the possibility of the next U.S. president's exit from the nuclear deal, and the re-imposing of the nuclear sanctions.

The diplomat has said: It seems like progress has been achieved, especially on the issue of indirectly imposed sanctions against the Iranian companies that are active abroad, and the viewpoints have got closer to each other.

See Page 7

## Some 2.9m Foreign Tourists Visit Iran Amid Iranophobia



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami said here that more than 2,900,000 foreign tourists have traveled to Iran in 11 months.

Talking to the Iranian state TV on Tuesday night, Zarghami said that in the last 11 months, especially after the reissuance of visas, more than 2.9 million foreign tourists have traveled to Iran, adding that the number of foreign tourists is increasing rapidly.

Zarghami said that according to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the tourism industry will return to the normal situation before the COVID-19 Pandemic by the end of 2024 and the tourism industry in Iran will progress earlier than this date.

Over 2.9 million foreigners visit Iran in 11 months

He also said, "Iranophobia is one of the main obstacles to tourism development. Both our rivals in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and our enemies in the U.S. and Europe are trying to propagate Iranophobia."

Zarghami pointed out that Qatar has invested 200 billion dollars only in attracting tourists, while none of the countries in our region have the diverse advantages of Iran's tourism, including our historical, natural, cultural, and medical advantages.

Referring to the importance of developing tourism diplomacy, the minister added: "In the development of tourism, we gave priority to neighboring countries. We signed MoCs with 11 neighboring countries and presented a plan for the development of land tourism with Tajikistan, which was welcomed by the president of the country, we offered the land route and cheap tourism to the countries of Central Asia."

"Our cultural attaches have a mission to introduce Iran's tourist attractions and handicrafts all over the world. This is our strategy to deal with the Iran-phobic policy," the Minister of Cultural Heritage noted.

He said that according to the World Tourism Organization estimates, it is expected tourism industry return to its normal condition which has been affected by the COVID pandemic.

Zarghami went on to say that the ministry is pursuing some land travel for neighboring countries in order to attract more tourists from those countries. He admitted that the country despite having many historic monuments and sites has fallen behind in promoting them, adding that despite existence of 800 museums in the country they have been passive and they should show some dynamism in displaying history of the country.

He admitted that recent floods in the country has inflicted damages on the historic places in the country and some 730 places have been damaged which costs over 2,000b tomans and the country needs investment to protect these historic assets.

## Iran in Advanced Talks to Join Russia's Mir Payment System

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian finance ministry (MEFA) official says the country is in very advanced stage of talks to join Russia's Mir payment system.

Qorban Eskandari, who leads MEFA's banking and insurance department, said on Tuesday that Iran could join Mir within months of conclusion of talks between Iran's central bank and Russia, which he suggested would take place in a very near future.

Speaking to the semi-official ILNA news agency, Eskandari said, however, that talks with Russia over the payment system are restricted to bilateral financial ties and access to the banking services in countries that have already joined Mir would take place in the future.

Russia established Mir, which means both "peace" and "world" in Russian, in 2017 as an alternative to international financial services like Visa and Mastercard.

Countries like Cuba and South Korea have joined the payment service while Mir cards work in several former Soviet republics as well as in Turkey. Reports have shown that the United Arab Emirates also plans to join Mir.

Iranian Foreign Ministry authorities announced in July that the country will soon start accepting Mir cards for payments and purchases.

The announcement came amid reports showing that Iran and Russia were expanding their economic and trade ties in a bid to counter the impacts of American sanctions on their economies.

On July 23, Iran's Currency Exchange (ICE) launched a currency pairing system that allowed exporters and importers to settle their payments in Iranian rial and Russia ruble.

Iran and Russia are also in talks to launch a payments messaging service that could rival the SWIFT, a dollar-based international system which has banned the two countries because of U.S. pressure.

## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

## A Highwayman Named The U.S.

Those who like watching movies especially Hollywood ones have definitely watched classic movies which were mostly Western and the theme of the movies were mostly looting the people by highwayman cowboys and now we see the return of those highwaymen in real life as the U.S. tries to plunder the wealth of nations.

In recent decades the U.S. officials have resorted to confiscating the wealth of the nations under any pretext and their weapon against the nations has been "sanctions" and freezing the wealth of the countries by force.

There are several example for such robbery and looting nations and Afghanistan is one of the example whose assets have been frozen by the U.S. Administration and this arrogant country is not ready to unfreeze Afghans' money because of the ruling of Taliban in this country and not obeying Washington.

According to the latest report, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden does not plan to release billions of dollars in Afghan government assets held in the United States anytime soon.

"We do not see recapitalization of the D.A.B. as a near-term option," said Thomas West, the American government's special representative for Afghanistan, referring to the Afghan Central Bank.

"We do not have confidence that that institution has the safeguards and monitoring in place to manage assets responsibly," West said in a statement.

He said American officials had abandoned the idea of releasing the money after it was revealed that al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri had been living in the heart of Kabul apparently with the protection of the Taliban until he was killed in a drone strike last month.

"And needless to say, the Taliban's sheltering of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri reinforces deep concerns we have regarding diversion of funds to terrorist groups," he said.

Ned Price, the U.S. State Department spokesman, earlier said that the U.S. had no plans to release \$3.5 billion in frozen funds to Afghanistan's Taliban-controlled Central Bank. "We don't see recapitalization of the Afghan central bank as a near-term option."

Biden has frozen the assets belonging to the Afghan Central Bank since the withdrawal of its occupation forces from the country in August 2021. Many U.S. allies and Western governments have also largely suspended their financial assistance to Afghanistan since the U.S. troop withdrawal and the Taliban takeover of the country.

See Page 7

## Pakistan-Iran Train Service Partially Restored

CHAGAI (Dispatches) - The train service between Pakistan and Iran, which remain suspended for the last 25 days, has been partially restored.

The goods trains - which were stopped at Dalbandin area of Chagai district - were allowed to proceed towards Iranian city of Zahedan. However, Ahmedwal Quetta railway station is still completely closed, the officials added. According to the Pakistan Railways officials, the Ahmedwal Pak-Iran railway pill was submerged by rainwater and the track had been badly affected. The goods trains, coming from Iran to Quetta, will be stopped near Ahmedwal railway station, they added. The rehabilitation work of railway track was underway for the last 20 days. "The restoration Ahmedwal Quetta section would take another 15 to 20 days," the officials concluded.

Sibi Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Ahmad Qazi on Tuesday denied the impression that the railway track near Bakhtiarabad area of Sibi has been washed away.

"Pakistan Railways authorities, as part of its preventive measure, temporarily suspended rail traffic on Quetta-Karachi and Quetta-Peshawar route," he said.

See Page 7

Sokhan Gostar Institute

# IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department  
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com  
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

## Raisi Congratulates Indonesia On Independence Day

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi congratulated Indonesia's President Joko Widodo on the country's Independence Day, hoping for the two nation's close ties to be continued.

In his congratulatory message, President Raisi expressed hope that historical and cultural links and common interests would cause the close ties and lasting friendship between Iran and Indonesia to last and their relationship to improve as much as possible.

Raisi said that he believed the expansion of bilateral and multilateral ties in line with common interests and protecting international peace and stability considering the countless cooperation opportunities between the two countries can open a new chapter in expansion of ties between Iran and Indonesia and also the Islamic World.

## Gen. Bagheri Hails Development of IRGC Navy In Recent Years

TEHRAN (MNA) – Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri said that IRGC Navy have made remarkable developments in the last decades, especially in last four years.

In the 22nd biennial conference of IRGC Navy commanders and officials in Holy Mashhad, Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri said that, "During the last four years, we have witnessed extraordinary and astonishing progress and improvement in the capabilities of the IRGC's powerful navy, in a way that the force has strengthened the deterrence power of the Islamic Republic compared to before."

He added that the IRGC Navy had a brilliant record in the fight against the Iraqi Ba'athists and the American aggressors in the Persian Gulf and has had a growing trend during the past decades, especially in the last four years, besides making significant developments in the empowerment of floats, missiles and drones.

Gen. Bagheri further said that IRGC is in the charge of ensuring security in and protection of the country's interests in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and



has established a strong defense in these strategic areas, besides providing the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy with effective assistance in faraway sea patrols.

He added that these two forces are carrying out their assigned missions in unity, brotherhood and cooperation with the army navy.

Major General Mohammad Bagheri emphasized that despite the sanctions and the US Maximum Pressure Campaign imposed by the enemy, the military power of the Islamic Republic is strong, extraordinary and deterrent, adding that security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, the Sea of Oman and the protection of the national interests is maintained at the highest level.

## China Strategic Ally of Iran



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Advisor to Iran's Leader for International Affairs Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with the Chinese envoy to Tehran said that China is a strategic ally of Iran.

Velayati and Chang Hua discussed Iran-China's bilateral relations and several regional and international issues during their meeting.

Emphasizing the need for boosting the strategic ties between Iran and China, Velayati noted, "China is pursuing the development of its communications program, especially in the context of the One Belt, One Road project, and in this regard, using Iran's capacities and passing this route through our country is seriously on the agenda and should be followed."

Turning to the situation in Afghanistan, Velayati said that the consensus of Iran and China regarding the future of Afghanistan will be very important and effective.

He also stressed the importance of the continuation of negotiations between the current rulers of Kabul and the neighbors in order to create an inclusive government.

China is considered a strategic ally of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said, emphasizing supporting the position of One China.

Stressing the need for firmly standing against the conspiracies, attacks, and threats of the enemies, he added, "We also condemn the actions of the United States."

Referring to the long history of ties between Tehran and Beijing, he called for the expansion of these ties.

"The cooperation that Iran, Russia and China have in the region to hold joint maneuvers is undoubtedly very important for the security and destiny of the region," he said elsewhere in his remarks, adding that as the most important country in the Islamic world, Iran is ready to develop the cooperation, especially in the Middle East region, because the Middle East is the political heart of the world and Iran has the most influence in it.

The Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Chang Hua, for his part, praised the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the One China policy and called for pursuing the expansion of Iran-China cooperation more seriously.

## U.S. Still Pursuing Arrogant Policies Towards Iran, Others

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf has underlined that today's United States is the same U.S. of the time of 1953 Iranian coup d'état (28 Mordad coup), because the level and depth of Washington's arrogant view in dealing with other countries, including Iran, has not changed at all.

Qalibaf made the remarks in Wednesday session of the parliament coincident the anniversary of repatriation of Iran's prisoners of war from Iraq on August 17, 1990.

As to the U.S.-led 1953 coup, the speaker noted that the Iranian nation has a long list of animosity, disloyalty, looting, crimes and intervention of foreign powers in particular the U.S. to see them as the document of revealing the nature of arrogant powers.

The 1953 coup is one of the blatant and undeniable examples that shows the hegemonic power does not give a damn to democracy and freedom, whenever the arrogant power sees it is losing its interests; so, it undermines independence of other countries, he added.

Hence, the U.S.'s attitude to other nations such as Iran has not changed and even it has been worsened on a day-by-day basis in order to hatch more sophisticated plots to bring independent nations such as the Iranian nation into their knees, Qalibaf said. According to the official, the U.S. paid certain people to initiate the 1953 coup in Iran and it spared no efforts to overthrow the Islamic Revolution in the first years of the victory of the revolution.

The U.S. aided and abetted the Ba'athist regime during the 8-year Iraq-Iran war, he said, adding that Washington kicked off an all-out economic war on the Islamic Republic.

The White House also is the biggest supporter of the Zionist regime, which is the root cause of crimes in the region, the speaker said, noting that the US equipped Takfiri groups in the Syria and Iraq in a bid to destroy security and sovereignty of regional states such as Iran.

The United States violated all humanitarian and legal principles, when they assassinated the flag-bearer of fighting terrorism in the region Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad, he noted.

## Iran Interaction Policy With Taliban Based on Backing Afghans

TEHRAN (MNA) - Special envoy of the Iranian President for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi said that Iran's interaction policy with the Taliban is based on supporting the Afghan people.

He made the remarks speaking at a press conference on the occasion of the first anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Stating that a year has passed since the U.S. planned escape from Afghanistan and the U.S. definitely failed in this country, Kazemi Ghomi noted that the United States is still pursuing its goals in Afghanistan.

"The military forces are out, but the White House spy and sabotage service is still there," he stressed.

Saying that the interaction policy of Iran with the Taliban is based on supporting Afghan citizens, Kazemi

Qomi said that Iran will not recognize a government until a participatory and inclusive government is formed.

The Islamic Republic of Iran holds interactions with the Taliban but has not recognized it yet, according to the Iranian envoy.

He also considered the issues of water rights, border security, the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism among the considerations of the Islamic Republic in relation to the Taliban, saying, "With the passage of one year, we have overcome a significant part of those goals with these policies."

What is emphasized by the Islamic Republic is the formation of a government that is wished by all the people of Afghanistan, he continued, adding, "Afghanistan is for all the people of this country."

## Iran Records Rise in Cases of Cholera, Crimean-Congo Fever

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iranian health officials have sounded the alarm at a surge in the cases of infection with cholera and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) across the country.

Maryam Massoudifar, who heads the Health Ministry's department tracking diseases caused by contaminated food and water sources, told ISNA that 65 people had been diagnosed with cholera in different provinces.

She said men constitute the majority of cholera patients, and that most of those infected had a history of traveling to neighboring countries.

The official said no death had so far been recorded due to cholera.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal illness caused by infection of the intestine with *Vibrio cholera* bacteria. People can fall sick by having food or water contaminated with the bacteria.

Meanwhile, Behzad Amiri, the head of the ministry's department dealing with the diseases transmitted from animals to humans, said in an interview with ISNA that the cases of infection with the Crimean-Congo fever had soared to 63, out of whom five lost their lives.

The CCHF virus is typically spread by tick bites or close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons or animals.

Farmers and those who work in slaughterhouses face a higher risk of the infection.

Referring to the contracts signed between Iran and Iraq, he urged receiving arrears and Supreme Audit Court of Iraq assistance in this regard.

The implementation of joint projects in the oil field to use reserves and protect joint oil and gas resources and the need for planning to monitor the implementation of projects were other issues raised by Bazrpush.

He also commented on the environmental issues, specifically, the phenomenon of dust and air

pollution caused by dust, and described mismanagement in the use of water resources as one of the most important causes of dust.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Bazrpush suggested establishing Islamic Countries' audit court organization.

Meanwhile, Rafil Yassein welcomed Iran's initiative to form the Islamic Countries' audit court organization.

He called for taking advantage of Iran's experiences.

## Iran-Russia Military Ties Have High Dynamics of Development

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Military and military-technical cooperation between Russia and Iran has a special dynamic, the Russian Deputy Defence Minister said at a meeting with Iran's Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

The meeting between Alexander Fomin and Ali Mohamed Abdullahi took place on the sidelines of the 10th Moscow Conference on International Security on Tuesday.

During the talks, the sides noted the positive dynamics of the development of bilateral relations in the area of military and military-technical cooperation, identified promising areas of cooperation, and outlined ways for their implementation.

"Thank you for being together and together at today's event. I would also like to thank all your military, and political leaders for the special dynamics of the development of relations in the military and military-technical sphere, including in spite of the numerous sanctions that have been in place for many, many decades," said the Russian Deputy Defense Minister.

Colonel-General Alexander Fomin noted the importance of the Russian-Iranian partnership to ensure stability and regional security.

Meanwhile Abdullahi said that Tehran supports the non-nuclear status of the Middle East and will continue to apply efforts in this direction.

"We will continue to apply efforts to create a region free from nuclear weapons," he said, TASS reported.

In turn, Brigadier General Abdullahi noted the commitment of Iran's top leadership to developing comprehensive cooperation with Russia.

## Tehran, Karbala Named Sister Cities



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani and Iraqi holy city of Karbala Governor announced the two cities as sisters.

Karbala governor, Nasif Jassim al-Khattabi held a meeting with Tehran Mayor, Alireza Zakani in Tehran, and the both sides signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for Tehran, Karbala as sister cities.

This MoU aims to develop the bilateral cooperation between the two cities of Karbala and Tehran beyond Arbaeen observance.

Recently, Municipal officials of Iranian city of Tabriz and Iraqi holy city of Karbala announced the two cities as sisters.

## Resistance, Palestinian Nation in Progress

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Representative of Palestine's Islamic Jihad Movement (PIJ) said that the Resistance and the Palestinian nation are progressing continuously.

Speaking in a press conference in the Islamic Republic News Agency, Nasser Abu Sharif said that the PIJ's goal is to liberate Palestine and it has transitioned the performance of the Resistance and the Palestinian nation after countless fights with the Zionist regime.

Abu Sharif said that the path of resistance will continue and the Palestinians make sacrifices on a daily basis.

On the martyrdom of two senior commanders of the PIJ, he said that Palestine is a nation of resistance and has the ability to substitute commanders.

He said that martyrdom of fighters doesn't undermine the Resistance's determination and that it's not an obstacle to the broader goal of liberating Palestine.

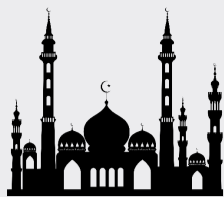
He said that the Zionist regime carried out the recent Gaza strike with election-related incentives, adding that the destroying of the Islamic Jihad Movement is not possible.

Abu Sharif noted that Palestinians don't trust the Zionist regime's commitment and that they are ready to resist because the Zionist regime has been based on lies.

## Iran, Iraq Supreme Audit Courts Sign MoU on Joint Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of Supreme Audit Court of Iran Mehrdad Bazrpush and his visiting Iraqi counterpart Rafil Yassein sign MoU on joint cooperation.

Bazrpush presented a report on the developments in the Supreme Audit Court of Iran.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:08
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:09
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:55
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:26

3. Their hearts toying as with trifles. The wrong-doers conceal their private counsels, (saying), "Is this (one) more than a man like yourselves? Will ye go to witchcraft with your eyes open?"  
4. Say: "My Lord knoweth (every) word (spoken) in the heavens and on earth: He is the One that heareth and knoweth (all things)." Surah 21. The Prophets (3-4)

## Call for Implementation Of Iran-Bangladesh Preferential Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Head of Iran, Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei in meeting with Iran's new Ambassador to Bangladesh Mansour Chavoshi called for implementation of Iran-Bangladesh preferential trade agreement and reiterated it would pave the ground for boosting trade between the two countries.**

In the meeting, Shafei and Chavoshi explored ways for reinforcing trade and increasing bilateral trade volume between Iran and Bangladesh. In the meeting, Shafei pointed to the high economic growth of Bangladesh and start of new development-centered approaches of the country in recent years and he termed the prospect of Bangladesh economy as positive and emphasized reinforcing trade infrastructures of Iran with Bangladesh for broadening bilateral cooperation.

He said that considering developmental plans in Bangladesh, there are many capacities for cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh like in construction materials and road-construction technologies, bitumen, cement, fuel, transportation fleet, manufacture of bus, investment and broadening co-operations in different industries like apparel, agro sector, herbal medicines, medical equipment and other grounds.

Shafei also emphasized that in the field of trade with Bangladesh, two hurdles of tariff and transportation require to be removed and these challenges are eased. He added that Bangladesh has started tariff exemption deals with some countries especially European ones and therefore Iran needs to implement preferential trade agreement with Bangladesh for paving the ground for the bilateral trade.

He then pointed to recent delegation of ICCIMA to Bangladesh to attend the D8 Chambers of Commerce Meeting where the delegation consulted with Bangladeshi officials over reducing trade tariffs and revoking visas for traders of the D8 members and it announced readiness of ICCIMA to host the next meeting of the group in Tehran.

Shafei also said that currently Bushehr Chamber of Commerce is in charge of coordinating trade cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh, adding that ICCIMA has approved to launch the Iran-Bangladesh



Joint Commercial Committee which will be soon formed.

He also said that it needs business activists of Iran and Bangladesh to know the economic capacities both sides, adding that preparations are underway for dispatching or hosting trade delegation through cooperation of embassies of Iran and Bangladesh and with activating the joint commercial committee, these programs will be reinforced.

Then Mr. Chavoshi, for his part, emphasized the importance of Iran-Bangladesh ties and pointed to the capacities and broad advantages that Iran can take advantage of it through cooperation with Bangladesh. He said that one of the positive points is that Bangladeshi people have good view regarding Iran and its economic activists and goods and this attitude can be used for broadening ties and cooperation between the two states and should be reinforced, adding that there are grounds for cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh like construction, construction materials, handicrafts, IT and other grounds.

He also emphasized necessity for acquaintance of Iranian economic activists with Bangladesh market and field knowledge and in-person meetings of traders, active presence of Iranian activists in annual exhibitions of Bangladesh and dispatch of trade delegation to Bangladesh are two important issues for boosting cooperation and enhancing trade volume.

## Iran-Pakistan Trade to Develop Via Barter

**TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Iranian minister of roads and urban development said that the barter exchange is among the important issues to be discussed in his negotiations in Pakistan.**

Rostan Ghasemi made the remarks while speaking to IRNA in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Wednesday.

Ghasemi arrived in the Pakistani capital on Wednesday morning to take part in the 21st meeting of the joint economic commission slated for Wednesday and Thursday.

As the Iranian minister announced, his talks with Pakistani officials are to concentrate on industry, energy, and transportation. The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to enhance cooperation with the eastern neighbor in the areas of energy, banking, and barter trade, the minister noted.

He went on to say that holding joint commission meetings is an important way to widen cooperation among countries and follow up mutual agreements.

About the two-day Iran-Islamabad joint economic commission, the minister said that the two sides are to sign different agreements on the second day.

He further referred to the development of border markets as an effective way to improve and secure people's livelihood in the border cities. It was over five years ago that the two held their latest joint economic commission meeting in Tehran and now Islamabad is hosting the fresh round of the event.

## Expansion of Regional Transit Routes Tops Iran's Agenda

**TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said on Tuesday that the expansion of regional transit routes is the main agenda of Iranian economic diplomacy.**

Safari made the remarks addressing a Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

He elaborated on Iran's effective presence in regional transit corridors, and said that corridor is not merely a tool for transportation; it is rather a tool for enhancement of trade and promotion of national, regional, and global economy.

Iranian Minister of Road and Urban Development Rostan Ghassemi was another Iranian official who addressed the conference earlier in the day where he expressed hope that the conference would help the fulfillment of the developmental goals of the landlocked countries.

The minister stressed that Iran's economic diplomacy is focused on further deepening relations with developing countries and neighboring ones.



Many regional and international transit corridors make use of Iran's transit routes, Ghassemi noted.

Iran's maritime routes in the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, Indian Sea, and the Caspian Sea play a key role in the transit of goods from and to the landlocked countries of the region, the minister added.

He said that Iran's approach to regional and international transit cooperation is to avoid any kind of rivalry.

One-fourth of the total 32 landlocked developing countries of the world, which is comprised of eight countries of Armenia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, has close bilateral and multilateral transit cooperation with Iran, the minister said, adding that Iran has shouldered part of the commitments of the international community to reduce the vulnerability of the landlocked countries by helping reduce their trade costs and accelerating easier access for them to the global markets.

## Iran, Russia Ink Cinematic MoU

**TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the expansion of cinematic relations on Tuesday.**

The Memorandum of Understanding on the expansion of cinematic ties between the Ministry of Culture of Iran and Russia was signed by Director of the Cinema Organization of Iran Mohammad Khazaei and Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Alla Manilova on Tuesday.

Referring to the signing of the MoU for the expansion of cinematic ties between Iran and Russia, Iran's cultural attaché to Russia Masoud Ahmadvand said that with the coordination made, in today's meeting on Tuesday, August 16, deputy ministers of culture of Iran and Russia inked a memorandum of understanding on the development of cinematic relations, co-production and screening of cinematic works.

He noted that in an official invitation of Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Alla Manilova, a delegation from Iran's cinema organization will discuss the expansion of the two countries' interactions in the field of film and cinema with the government institutions and the Russian private sector during a three-day visit to Moscow.

Signing the MoU between the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in the field of expanding the relations between the two countries in the field of cinema, signing the MoU between the Iranian Cinema Organization and Moscow Cinema University, as well as signing MoU between the Farabi Cinema Foundation and the Russian Kino Institute are among the plans for this trip.



## Gas Production Unaffected By Sanctions

**BUSHEHR (Shana) - Iran's gas production is not affected by the sanctions and National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) is committed to curb gas flaring pollution, said the director of production coordination and supervision of NIGC.**

Ahmad Zamani told the market development meeting of the country's manufacturing and knowledge-based companies at Fajr Jam Gas Refining Company, Bushehr province, on Monday: "With the actions taken by some knowledge-based companies, we complete the sulfur value chain for which we prepared a knowledge-based map of refining companies, and this meeting is part of those actions and results."

He said that now the production stage is the stage of Jihad, and continued: "A large part of the country's energy mix depends on gas, and all parts of our life and livelihood are somehow dependent on the hard work of the gas industry employees, and any action in this area helps the national economy."

The NIGC official further stated: "All the performance results of the gas industry in the field of production are directly related to the country's economy and industry, and we are proud to serve this industry."

He went on to add: "One of our goals is to prevent the sanctions to impact the gas production industry in Iran, and I say with confidence that if the sanctions continue for many years Iran's gas production will not be affected by them."

## More Than 30% of Iranians Do Not Have Houses

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - Iran's Statistics Center said in a report that 32 percent of Iran's population lacks personal housing, of which 23.2 percent are tenants and 8.5 percent live in organizational, endowed or free homes.**

Previous statistics show that in 2016, about 65 percent of Iran's population owned housing, comparing it to 1400 statistics showing that less than 2.5 percent of the homeowner population in Iran has been added in six years.

According to the Statistical Center, 36 percent of urban households' income was spent on housing in 1400, compared to the year before, urban household expenditures grew by 49 percent and rural household expenditures grew by more than 52 percent.

But in the summer of 1400, the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development announced in a report that more than 60 percent of the income of urban Iranians would be allocated to the housing sector.

The Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare also said in a report that on average, about 41 percent of Iranian households are denied access to affordable housing, and 94 percent of tenants in Iranian cities face severe problems with their own expenses and lack of access to affordable housing.

This comes after the Real Estate Association announced a 300 percent increase in rent rates over the past three years in late June 1401.

## Iranian Tourists Flock to Turkey's Eastern Van

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**Iranian tourists reportedly flocked to the eastern Turkish province of Van during the days of Ashura, which is a public holiday in Iran, supporting shop owners and the province's economy amidst the financial crisis. Van is located at a close distance to the Iranian border.**

Iranian tourists especially bought clothing and make-up in Van. Some of them say that they sell clothes when they return. "Every time I come to Turkey, I buy especially women's and children's clothes. I sell these in Iran. Textile products are not preferred in Iran because they are made in China, but the clothes we bring from Turkey are valuable," Iranian tourist Rezza Mohammedzadeh said.

Cevdet Özgökçe, head of the Eastern Anatolia Regional Executive Board of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB), noted that an average of 3,000 Iranian tourists are hosted in Van daily and they stay for a minimum of three days, as they spend an average of 1000 dollars per person.

The shop owners of Van make a living only thanks to the Iranians, he added.

A local official in Van, Turkey's border province with Iran, announced the arrival of 226,435 Iranian citizens during the seven months of this year.

Errol Oslov, director of the Culture and Tourism Department of Van Province, told the Anadolu News Agency: In the past seven months, a total of 317,292 foreign tourists entered Van province, more than 70% of whom were Iranians.

## Cuban Ambassador Thanks Iran for Helping Contain Cuba Oil Fire

**TEHRAN (Shana) -- The Cuban ambassador in Tehran announced Iran's help in controlling the fire in the Cuba's oil tanks and appreciated the cooperation of the Iranian Oil Ministry in the operation.**

Alberto González Casals told reporters the fact that on August 5, Cuba's oil facilities caught fire in the city of Matanzas which was followed by several explosions.

He stated that due to the explosion in the facility, unfortunately, two people lost their lives and more than 100 people were injured and several people went missing, adding: "Unfortunately, this incident has also affected the environment."

The ambassador of Cuba in Tehran, recalling that at the same time as this incident happened, the countries of Iran, Mexico and Venezuela announced their readiness to help control the fire, and stated: "Iran has a lot of experience in controlling the fire of oil facilities, including extinguishing Kuwait's oil wells, and therefore Iran has sent a group of experts to Cuba to help contain the blaze."

González Casals thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ministry of Petroleum, Javad Owji, the Minister of Petroleum, Bahram Einollahi, the Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, the Red Crescent Society and the people of Iran who always stood by the Cuban people in difficult situations.

With the activation of energy diplomacy in the Oil Ministry, providing technical and engineering services and consultations to friendly and cooperating countries is followed as one of the policies of the Ministry.

Iran has a significant history in providing such services. As earlier during the fire of Kuwait oil facilities during the Iraq-Kuwait war, Iranian experts played a prominent role in controlling the fire of Kuwait oil wells.

The Iranian group also plans to provide technical advice in order to secure the scene for the start of post-accident activities and to rebuild the facilities, and for this purpose, it is necessary to carry out necessary assessments of Cuban oil facilities for recovery and rehabilitation activities, especially for firefighters involved in extinguishing operations.



## Sri Lanka to End State of Emergency

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka will not extend a state of emergency imposed to control anti-government protests as the situation in the impoverished nation has "stabilized", the president's office said.

Ranil Wickremesinghe invoked the tough laws four days after his predecessor fled the country and resigned on July 14 after months of protests over acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines. The emergency imposed by Wickremesinghe is due to lapse on Thursday and he has the power to renew it every month thereafter.

"The situation in the country has stabilised, there is no need to reimpose the state of emergency when it lapses this week," Wickremesinghe's office quoted him as saying.



## Lula Has 12% Lead Over Bolsonaro

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has a 12-percentage-point lead over far-right incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro ahead of the October election, according to a new poll published.

The survey by IPEC, formerly known as IBOPE, showed Lula with 44% of voter support against 32% for Bolsonaro in the first round of the election scheduled for Oct. 2.

In an expected run-off between the two men on Oct. 30, should no candidate win 50% plus one of the valid votes, Lula would get elected by 51% of the votes versus 35% for Bolsonaro, a 16-point gap, the poll showed.



## Blasts at Russian Base in Crimea Suggest Ukrainian Fightback



KYIV (Dispatches) - Moscow denounced sabotage and Ukraine hinted at responsibility for new explosions at a military base in Russian-annexed Crimea that is an important supply line for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The blasts engulfed an ammunition depot at a military base in the north of the Crimean peninsula, disrupting trains and forcing the evacuation of 2,000 people from a nearby village, according to Russian officials and news agencies.

Plumes of smoke were later seen at a second Russian military base in central Crimea, Russia's Kommersant newspaper said, while blasts hit another facility in the west last week.

The explosions raised the prospect of new dynamics in the six-month-old war if Ukraine now has capability to strike deeper into Russian territory or pro-Kyiv groups are having success with guerrilla-style attacks.

Russia has used Crimea, which it annexed from Ukraine in 2014, to reinforce its troops fighting in other parts of Ukraine with military hardware, a process Ukraine is keen to disrupt ahead of a potential counter-offensive in the south.

Crimea is the base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet and also popular in the summer as a holiday resort.

In Tuesday's blasts, an electricity substation also caught fire, according to footage on Russian state TV. Seven trains were delayed and rail traffic on part of the line in northern Crimea had been suspended, Russia's RIA news agency said.

Ukraine has not officially confirmed or denied responsibility for explosions in Crimea, though its officials have openly cheered incidents in territory that, until last week, appeared safe in Moscow's grip beyond range of attack.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak and chief of staff Andriy Yermak both exulted on social media at "demilitarisation": an apparent mocking reference to the word Russia uses to justify its invasion.

"Operation 'demilitarisation' in the precise style of the Armed Forces of Ukraine will continue until the complete de-occupation of Ukraine's territories," Yermak wrote on Telegram.

Podolyak told Britain's Guardian newspaper later that Ukraine's strategy was to destroy Russian "logistics, supply lines and ammunition depots and other objects of military infrastructure. It's creating a chaos within their own forces."

"I certainly agree with the Russian ministry for defense, which is predicting more incidents of this kind in the next two, three months," Podolyak was quoted by the Guardian as saying.

Russia's defense ministry said the explosions at the ammunition depot were "a result of sabotage".

With the war raging since Feb. 24, attention has also focused in recent days on shelling in the vicinity of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear reactor complex, Europe's largest, in a Russian-occupied area of southeastern Ukraine.

## Kenya's Odinga Says Presidential Election Result a "Travesty"

NAIROBI (Dispatches) - Kenyan politician Raila Odinga rejected as a "travesty" the result of an Aug. 9 presidential election he was declared to have lost to Deputy President William Ruto and warned on Tuesday of a long legal crisis facing Kenya's democracy.

His first comments on the result came after four of the seven election commissioners said they stood by their decision a day earlier to disown figures announced by electoral commission chairman Wafula Chebukati.

The dramatic series of events has raised fears of violence similar to what followed disputed polls in East Africa's richest country in 2007 when more than 1,200 people were killed and again in 2017 when more than 100 people died.

Overnight, Odinga's supporters battled police and burned tyres in the western city of Kisumu and the capital Nairobi's huge Kibera slum, but calm had returned to the streets by Tuesday morning.



## Iraq's Sadr Backtracks on Call for Huge Protest

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraq's firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr backtracked after earlier urging his supporters to join a massive rally as a standoff with his political rivals appeared to be getting worse.

The populist cleric's announcement came amid behind-the-scenes talks aimed at steering Iraq out of crisis, with the country's two branches of Shiite Islam jockeying for supremacy.

More than 10 months on from elections, Iraq still has no government, new prime minister or new president, because of disagreement between factions over forming a coalition.

Sadr wants parliament dissolved to pave the way for new legislative elections, but his rivals the pro-Iran Coordination Framework want to set conditions and are demanding a transitional government before new polls.

The cleric's bloc emerged from last October's elections as parliament's biggest, but still far short of a majority.

Sadr, whose supporters have been staging a sit-in protest outside parliament in Baghdad's high security Green Zone for more than two weeks, had called for a "million-man demonstration" in the capital on Saturday.

But on Tuesday he announced on Twitter "the indefinite postponement of Saturday's protest".

"If you had been betting on a civil war, I am betting on preserving social peace. The blood of Iraqis is more precious than anything else," Sadr said.

Late on Monday, a committee organizing demonstrations in support of the Coordination Framework also announced new gatherings, but without setting a date.

The Coordination Framework launched their own Baghdad sit-in on Friday, camping out on an avenue in the capital.

The Coordination Framework comprises former paramilitaries of the Tehran-backed Hashed al-Shaabi network and the party of former premier Nuri al-Maliki, a longtime Sadr foe.

## Chinese Military Ship Docks at Sri Lanka Port Despite Indian Concern

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - A Chinese military survey ship docked at Sri Lanka's Chinese-built port of Hambantota on Tuesday after a delay of several days because of opposition to the visit from India, which vies with China for influence in crisis-hit Sri Lanka.

India had opposed the docking of the Yuan Wang 5, which analysts describe as a high-tech ship for tracking objects in space, as it fears China could use the port, near the main Asia-Europe shipping route, as a military base.

Sri Lanka, which needs the support of both India and China as it struggles with its worst economic crisis in decades, initially granted the ship permission for a five-day replenishment stay in Hambantota, from Aug. 11.

It later asked China to delay the vessel's arrival, citing the need for more consultations.

Yuan Wang 5 will now berth for only three days to stock up on fuel, food and other essentials, said an official at the port who declined to be identified as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

A Sri Lankan government minister said the island nation was working to ensure there was no friction between friendly countries.

"India had raised concerns and Sri Lanka requested a delay in the ship's docking until discussions could be had to resolve these issues," Media Minister

Bandula Gunawardana told reporters.

"Even before this there have been ships from the U.S., India and other countries coming to Sri Lanka. We have allowed these ships to come. In the same way we have allowed the Chinese ship to dock."

China Merchants Port Holdings (0144.HK) signed a 99-year lease in 2017 to operate the deep-sea Hambantota port.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the Chinese ship was not interfering with any other country.

"Yuan Wang 5 conducting maritime research activities ... does not affect any country's security or economic interests and third-parties should not interfere with it," he said in Beijing.

Foreign security analysts say the Yuan Wang 5 is one of China's latest-generation space-tracking ships, used to monitor satellite, rocket and intercontinental ballistic missile launches. The Pentagon says the Yuan Wang ships are operated by the Strategic Support Force of the People's Liberation Army.

Before the arrival of the ship, India gave Sri Lanka's air force a Dornier 228 aircraft for maritime surveillance.

At a handover ceremony, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe called it the start of cooperation in maritime surveillance between his country's navy and air force and India's navy.



## U.S. States Hit by Extreme Drought Face More Water Cuts



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - For the second year in a row, the U.S. states of Arizona and Nevada will face cuts in the amount of water they can draw from the Colorado River as the Western United States endures an extreme drought, federal officials have announced.

The cuts planned for next year will force states to make critical decisions about where to reduce consumption and whether to prioritize growing cities or agricultural areas.

They will also place state officials under renewed pressure to plan for a hotter, drier future and a growing population. Mexico will face cuts, as well.

"We are taking steps to protect the 40 million people who depend on the Colorado River for their lives and livelihoods," said Camille Touton, U.S. commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

The river provides water across seven states and in Mexico and helps feed an agricultural industry valued at \$15bn a year. Cities and farms are anxiously awaiting official estimates of the river's future water levels that will determine the extent and scope of cuts to their water supply.

That's not all. In addition to those already-agreed-to cuts, the Bureau of Reclamation said on Tuesday that states had missed a deadline to propose at least 15 percent more cuts needed to keep water levels at the river's storage reservoirs from dropping even more.

For example, officials have predicted that water levels at Lake Mead, the nation's largest manmade reservoir, will plummet further. The lake is currently less than a quarter full. "The states collectively have not identified and adopted specific actions of sufficient magnitude that would stabilize the system," Touton said.

After putting last year's burden on the agricultural industry, Arizona officials will have to decide whether to spread additional pain to growing cities that rely on the river. The cuts are not expected to have a tangible effect on Nevada, which has already implemented the region's most aggressive conservation policies, including grass bans and rebate programs.

While the Bureau of Reclamation is "very focused on just getting through this to next year", any cutbacks will likely need to be in place far longer, said University of Oxford hydrologist Kevin Wheeler.

## E-Cigarette Use to Reduce Cigarette Smoking May Not Increase Nicotine Dependence



LONDON (Dispatches) - Electronic cigarettes have attracted media and consumer attention for claims of their addictive nature, variety of flavors and increased use among teens, sparking regulatory oversight and policies. A Penn State College of Medicine study suggests that these devices may help people decrease their dependence on combustible cigarettes – which contain an array of harmful chemicals called toxicants – without increasing their overall nicotine dependence.

Smoking is a leading cause of death in the U.S., and despite interest in quitting and the availability of FDA-approved cessation methods, smokers still struggle to quit. Some public health experts have proposed e-cigarettes as a ‘reduced harm’ alternative to cigarettes for those not interested or able to quit, citing reports like one from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, which found that substitution of e-cigarettes for combustible cigarettes reduced users’ exposures to carcinogens and other harmful toxicants.

Jessica Yingst, assistant professor of public health sciences and Penn State Cancer Institute researcher, and colleagues at the Penn State Center for Research on Tobacco and Health study e-cigarettes and whether they can help nicotine users stop smoking or reduce their exposure to harmful toxicants found in cigarettes. Their latest study investigated a common question — whether initiation of electronic cigarette use to reduce cigarette smoking could potentially increase nicotine dependence.

“Research on this topic is conflicted because, in prior studies, participants used their own devices with unknown nicotine delivery profiles,” Yingst said. “Our study used devices with known nicotine delivery profiles, which allowed us to effectively compare how the varying levels of nicotine in a device might affect user nicotine dependence and ability to reduce cigarette consumption.”

The researchers enrolled 520 participants interested in reducing their cigarette intake but with no plans or interest to quit smoking and instructed them to reduce their cigarette consumption over the six-month study period. Participants randomly received an e-cigarette that delivered 36, 8 or 0 mg/mL of nicotine, or a cigarette substitute that contained no tobacco, as an aid in their efforts to reduce their cigarette consumption.

Participants self-reported their cigarette and e-cigarette dependence at one, three and six months using validated measures of dependence, including a Penn State-developed questionnaire that ranges from 0 (not at all dependent) to 20 (highly dependent). Urine samples were also collected throughout the study to measure cotinine, a biomarker for nicotine exposure.

At six months, all participants in the e-cigarette groups reported significant, decreased cigarette consumption, with those in the 36 mg/mL group smoking the least number of cigarettes per day. Those in the e-cigarette groups reported significantly lower dependence on the Penn State Cigarette Dependence Index than those in the cigarette substitute group.

Participants also reported their e-cigarette dependence using the Penn State E-Cigarette Dependence Index. E-cigarette dependence did not significantly change throughout the study, with the exception of participants in the 36 mg/mL group who saw significant, increased dependence over the course of the study, yet still much lower when compared with cigarette dependence. Urine cotinine levels remained consistent across all groups for the duration of the study, suggesting that there was no increase in overall exposure to nicotine during the study. The results were published in the journal *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*.



## Technology Wins The Race for the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team

LONDON (Dispatches) - In a sport where every tenth of a second counts, the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team dominated Season 8 of the ABB FIA Formula E series – on and off the track – by optimizing performance and driving efficient business operations with innovative technologies and sustainable solutions from SAP.

To be successful in the world’s fastest growing motorsport is no small feat. Since 2018, SAP and the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team have worked to bring our shared values to the electric-race scene. Together, we jointly developed and implemented new technologies which enabled the team to not only win championships, but run like a sustainable, intelligent enterprise.

On the tail of the series, SAP wishes a huge congratulations the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team on winning the Season 8 ABB FIA Formula E World Teams’ Championship and to Stoffel Vandoorne, SAP brand ambassador, on securing the Season 8 ABB FIA Formula E World Drivers’ Champion title!

Sustainability is the cornerstone of the ABB FIA Formula E series, and it was founded on the premise of showcasing what the future of mobility is capable of. For the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team, sustainability goals and objectives extend beyond fully electric vehicles and into the back-office. The team is dedicated to advancing technologies that support its ability to manage and impact its carbon footprint.

Together with SAP, the team has developed and implemented a reporting tool that measures and accounts for progress against UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SAP Analytics Cloud, which combines business intelligence (BI), augmented and predictive analytics, and planning capabilities, creates an accessible central dashboard that helps the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team easily visualize data from various facets of the business – including supply chain and travel.

The Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team runs like a business, requiring insight and speed across all areas and functions. From precise and coordinated system processes to car development, the team leverages SAP S/4HANA Cloud for real-time business intelligence that helps them make informed, data-driven decisions and stay one step ahead of the competition.

Whether on-site at the factory or traveling worldwide to races throughout the season, an optimized, intelligent solution is vital to drive efficiencies such as ensuring cars and spare parts are at the right place at the right time and getting full financial insights to optimize control.

To easily manage its travel costs, the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team leverages SAP Concur solutions. By using this portfolio, the team streamlines tedious processes to save valuable time and resources.

The path to clinching a double World Championship involved 16 races around the globe, each one with its own characteristics and challenges. In Formula E, the entire team plays a critical part in making it to the podium. Along with good equipment and a well-designed car, team performance among drivers, mechanics, engineers, and the team principal is pivotal in securing a win.

SAP Sports One helps the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team monitor, understand, and act on human performance data collected from a variety of inputs, visualized for easy on-the-go convenience. The solution also enables greater visibility into drivers’ health to help ensure the team is operating at the highest possible level.

With innovative technologies and solutions from SAP, the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team can focus on what matters most – racing! SAP is proud to enable the team over the course of a thrilling season.



**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

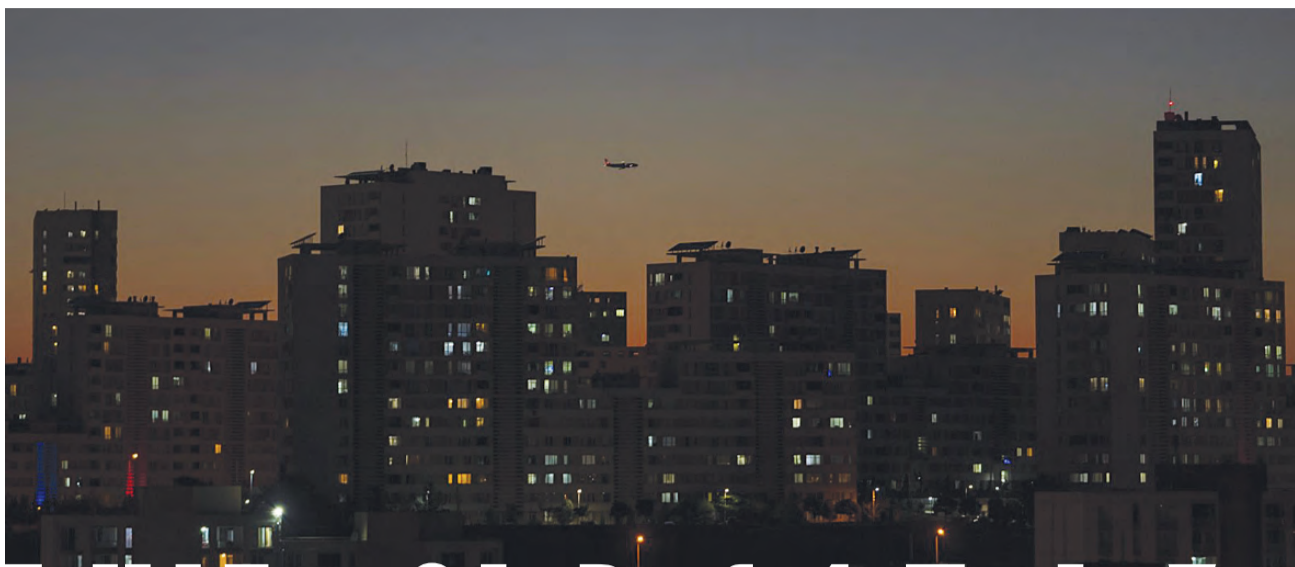
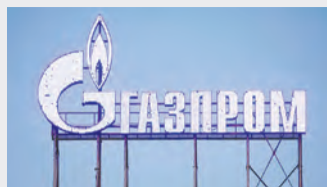
Member of **DELTA** Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865



## Gazprom Warns European Gas Prices Could Climb a Further 60%

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian state gas company Gazprom said that European gas prices could spike by 60% to more than \$4,000 per 1,000 cubic meters this winter, as the company's own export and production continues to fall amid Western sanctions.

Gas flows from Russia, Europe's top supplier, are running at reduced levels this year, after one route was shut when Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February and after sanctions triggered a dispute about the Nord Stream 1 pipeline's equipment. Gas prices have surged as a result. "European spot gas prices have reached \$2,500 (per 1,000 cubic meters). According to conservative estimates, if such a tendency persists, prices will exceed \$4,000 per 1,000 cubic meters this winter," Gazprom said.



## Turkish House Sales Drop for 1st Time in a Year

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Sales of residential properties in Türkiye registered their first fall in a year in July, official data showed Tuesday, with Russians still leading foreign buyers – who also eased their purchases after a months long spree.

Home sales fell 12.9% year-over-year to 93,902 houses in July, data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) showed. It marks the first annual drop since August 2021. Month-over-month, the figure was down 38% from 150,509 in June.

Sales still rose by 24.2% from January through July, versus the same period a year ago, with around 820,300 houses exchanging hands. Industry officials had expected to end the year with more than 1.5 million house sales.

The rise came amid declining supply and soaring prices, with households viewing real estate as an attractive investment tool to shield themselves from inflation that runs at nearly 80%.

Istanbul had the highest share with 15.3% and 14,350 house sales in July, followed by the capital Ankara with 7,417 and the Aegean province of Izmir with 4,868, with shares of 7.9% and 5.2%, respectively.

The data showed July mortgaged sales fell 6.8% from a year earlier to 19,146 units, accounting for 20.4% of the total sales in the period.

Mortgaged sales in the January-July period jumped nearly 52% to 189,463 houses, the data showed.

Sales to foreigners dropped 12.4% on the year to 3,939 units, the institute said. They accounted for 4.2% of all house sales in July.

Sales were still nearly 57.5% higher from a year ago in the January-July period, when foreigners purchased some 39,322 houses.

Russians topped the list of foreign nationals with 1,028 houses purchased last month, reflecting how many have sought a financial haven in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and the fallout of Western sanctions.

Wealthy Russians have been pouring money into real estate in Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) amid stifling Western sanctions, many property companies say.

They were followed by Iranians with 431 house purchases and Iraqis with 380 last month, the data showed.

The Mediterranean holiday resort city of Antalya was the favorite spot with 1,421 sales to foreign nationals, unseating Istanbul for the first time in more than five-and-a-half years. Sales in Antalya jumped 129% year-over-year in the first seven months to 11,257 units.

The Turkish metropolis ranked second last month with 1,154 house sales to foreigners and the southern province of Mersin came in third with 289.

Russians boosted their purchases by a whopping 223.4% year-over-year in the first seven months. They bought some 6,877 houses, the data showed.

Iranians and Iraqis followed with 5,315 and 4,405 purchases. Among others, Germans bought 1,577 houses while Ukrainians purchased 1,352 residential properties.

## Germans Face Nearly \$500 Rise in Gas Bills Under New Levy

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German households will have to pay several extra hundred euros a year after a new levy was set to help utilities cover the cost of replacing Russian supplies, piling pressure on Berlin to come up with further relief measures for the public.

Trading Hub Europe, the German gas market operator, said it had set the charge at 2.4 euro cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) under legislation passed by the German parliament, which had an expected range of 1 to 5 cents.

The levy on gas that is used to heat homes in winter and generate electricity will be imposed from Oct. 1 and will remain in place until April 2024 in a bid to help Uniper – the country's largest importer of Russian gas – and other importers cope with soaring prices. It will not show up in utility bills until November or December.

Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Robert Habeck has said the tax will mean added costs of several hundred euros per year for an average household.

The government is seeking ways to soften the blow through financial assistance for poorer households and a proposed break on value-added tax. Chancellor Olaf Scholz tweeted Monday that "we will leave no one behind" amid the higher costs.

For an average family of four, the charge will amount to an additional annual cost of around 480 euros, or an increase of about 13% on the Verivox price comparison platform's calculation of an average gas bill of 3,568 euros based on usage of 20,000 kWh/year.

"The alternative would have been the collapse of the German energy market, and with it large parts of the European energy market," Habeck said of the levy.

Germany's Russia-dependent energy model had failed and would not be returning, he told reporters.

"We need to change in a hurry ... In doing so, we sometimes have to take bitter medicine," Habeck said, arguing for targeted relief to help households.

Utility EnBW, which is also exposed via its VNG gas division and took a 545-million-euro profit hit in the first half of 2022 as a result of lower Russian supplies, said it would take advantage of the levy, unlike RWE.

The industry will also be subject to the charge, with the German Steel Federation saying it would add around another 500 million euros a year to the sector's energy bills, on top of 7 billion euros in extra costs already attributed to high energy prices.

"The gas surcharge significantly increases the cost pressure already exerted on the steel industry by the extreme price increases on the energy markets," its President Hans Juergen Kerkhoff said.



## Venezuela Inflation Slows To 7.5% m/m In July

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuela's inflation slowed to 7.5% month-over-month in July, from 11.4% recorded in June, according to data released on Monday by the country's central bank.

Inflation in June caused worry when it topped double digits after nine months under that threshold, prompting President Nicolas Maduro's administration to implement policies to curb rising prices.

The government's strategy has depended on exchange rate stabilization by increasing foreign currency supply in local banks, while also limiting credit growth, cutting public spending and upping taxes, analysts say.

Annual inflation in the year through July hit 137%, according to Reuters calculations using central bank data, the highest rate in the region.

High prices and the country's de facto dollarization have widened the wage gap between workers in the public and private sectors. Venezuela's minimum salary is equivalent to about \$22 a month.

The South American country's inflation year-to-date was 48.4% in July, according to the central bank.

Prices in education services jumped 12% while leisure and culture rose 10.8% in July compared with June.

Meanwhile the Venezuelan central bank's gold reserves dropped by six tonnes as of June 2022, according to the bank's first-half balance sheet published in a local media outlet last week and seen by Reuters.

The quantity of gold bars in the bank's vaults at the end of the first half of the year was equivalent to 73 tons, the lowest in 50 years, according to notes on the bank's financial statements. In the second half of 2021, the central bank had about 79 tons in its vaults.

The value of gold reserves as of June this year was \$4.329 billion, \$231 million less than in December 2021, when they were valued at \$4.56 billion.

The central bank did not give details of the reasons for the fall in its assets and did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The average gold price estimated by the Venezuelan central bank in its balance sheet for the first half of 2022 was \$1,847.48 per troy ounce. In the second half of 2021 the average value was \$1,799.48 per troy ounce.

Last July, the UK Supreme Court rejected an effort by the government of President Nicolas Maduro to seize control of more than \$1 billion in Venezuela's gold reserves, which are held in the vaults of the Bank of England.



## China to Boost Economic Demand, Speed Up Infrastructure

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China will boost economic demand in a strong, reasonable and moderate manner and accelerate infrastructure construction in the third quarter of the year, officials from the state planner said.

The comments came after bleak data for July, which showed the world's second-biggest economy unexpectedly slowed and property investment falling at the fastest clip this year.

"China will optimize policies for sustained economic recovery, macro policies should expand demand actively in a strong, reasonable and moderate manner," Yuan Da, a spokesperson at the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), told a news conference.

China will step up the use of special local government bonds and new credit granted by policy banks, Yuan added. NDRC in July approved eight fixed-asset investment projects worth 236.8 billion yuan (\$34.89 billion).

As of July 31, China had issued most of the 3.45 trillion yuan in special bonds earmarked for infrastructure, Luo Guosan, an official at the NDRC's infrastructure development department told the same news conference. That was part of the 2022 annual special bond quota of 3.65 trillion yuan.

China is stepping up spending on infrastructure projects to prop up the flagging economy, which has been hobbled by strict COVID-19 restrictions, a troubled property market and weak consumption.

Infrastructure investment grew 7.4% in the first seven months of the year from the same period a year earlier, data from the statistics bureau showed on Monday.

"Youth employment has been under greater pressure this year due to overlap of structural, cyclical and seasonal factors," Yuan also said.

"China will roll out practical measures to support youth start-up businesses and job employment."

The employment situation remained fragile. Official data on Monday showed that the nationwide survey-based jobless rate eased slightly in July from June, while youth unemployment stayed stubbornly high, reaching a record 19.9% in July.

## Brazil Economic Activity Much Brisker Than Expected in June

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Economic activity in Brazil rose more than expected in June, a central bank index showed, contributing to a second-quarter rally helped by a service sector rebound following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IBC-Br economic activity index, a leading indicator of gross domestic product, rose a seasonally adjusted 0.69% in June from May, much higher than the 0.25% growth expected by economists, according to a Reuters poll.

In the second quarter, activity increased 0.57% over the previous quarter.

The IBC-Br index was up 3.09% on a non-seasonally adjusted basis from June 2021, while in the 12 months through June it grew 2.18%, the central bank said.

Official GDP figures will be released by the statistics agency IBGE on Sept. 1.

Economy Minister Paulo Guedes recently estimated that the economy will grow above 2% this year, driven by the strength of the labor market and the normalization of economic activities that have suffered during the pandemic, with an emphasis on the services sector.

Meanwhile, private economists who started the year projecting a 0.3% rise in GDP in 2022 are now expecting 2% growth, according to a weekly central bank survey.

After the IBC-Br figures, Bank of America revised its GDP growth forecast to 2.5% from 1.5% previously, saying activity data was surprising on the upside as the service sector remained strong.

"Increase in social transfers and tax cuts should cushion the slowdown in the second half," wrote David Beker, head of Brazil Economics at BofA.

For the second half, analysts had expected a slowdown amid aggressive monetary tightening led by the central bank to tame inflation, which has already pushed interest rates to 13.75% from a record low of 2% in March 2021.

## India Inflation May Remain Elevated Despite July Dip



MUMBAI (Dispatches) - India's headline retail inflation that eased for the third straight month in July is expected to remain above the central bank's upper tolerance range in the near term, necessitating more rate hikes in coming months, analysts said.

"High frequency price data suggest that headline inflation is likely to remain around July levels in August...We expect headline inflation to remain above 6% until February 2023, and core CPI inflation to remain sticky at a shade under 6% in the remaining months of FY2023," Nomura economists Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi said in a note.

India's consumer inflation dipped to 6.71% in July, helped by a slower increase in food and fuel prices. The year-on-year figure, published on Aug. 12 by the National Statistics Office, was marginally lower than the 6.78% forecast by economists in a Reuters poll, but it remained above the central bank's tolerance band for a seventh month in a row.

The Reserve Bank of India aims to maintain inflation at 4.00% in the medium term, with a tolerance range of 200 basis points on either side.

"The outlook on food inflation still faces uncertainties given the uneven rainfall. For the first two weeks of August prices of vegetables, cereals (rice and wheat) and pulses are tracking higher. Rice sowing has been impacted by deficient rainfall in key producer states," said Gaura Sen Gupta, India economist at IDFC First Bank.

Even as inflation eases, economists believe the RBI's monetary policy committee will continue to hike policy rates though the quantum of such moves may come down as compared to the previous three actions.

The MPC has raised key policy rate by 140 basis points to 5.40% since May as stubborn inflation continues to remain a major concern. The next policy decision is due on Sep. 30 with most market participants expecting another hike.

## Tehran Hosts Int'l Event on New Agricultural Technologies

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's first international exhibition of new agricultural technologies kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Wednesday, IRIB reported.

Representatives of 40 companies active in various agricultural fields showcased their latest products and achievements in this one-day exhibition.

The opening ceremony of the event was attended by senior officials including the ambassadors of Russia, Iraq, Armenia, and Turkmenistan.



## Greek Phone-Hacking Scandal: Investigative Media's Key Role

ATHENS (Dispatches) - Investigative journalism has emerged as a powerful force during Greece's phone-hacking scandal, rocking a government that tries to "control" the media landscape, experts say.

The long-rumbling "Predatorgate" affair reignited at the end of July when Nikos Androulakis, leader of the opposition Socialists, told journalists about the attempted surveillance of his mobile phone via spyware Predator, having filed a legal complaint.

The spyware can hack into a target's phone and access messages and conversations.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis acknowledged last week that the intelligence service's surveillance had been "politically unacceptable", claiming he had not been informed.

He was speaking three days after two key members of his conservative government resigned over the matter.

Earlier this year two Greek journalists launched legal action, saying they had fallen prey to similar attacks on their phones.

Months-long probes by Greek investigative media have played a crucial part in shedding light on the phone-hacking.

Eliza Triantafyllou, a journalist with the Inside Story website, began investigating the case in January after the publication of two reports by the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab and Meta (Facebook) referring to a new spyware, Predator, with clients and targets in Greece.

"These reports went unnoticed by the (mainstream) Greek media at the time, though they revealed that the Greek government had probably bought Predator," she wrote in a recent article.

Last April, Inside Story published "the first confirmed case of Predator use in 2021 against a European citizen" -- Greek journalist Thanasis Koukakis, who specialises in reporting on corruption.

Online investigative news site Reporters United followed up by reporting that the journalist's phone was monitored by the Greek intelligence service, EYP, in 2020.

Stories first published online by investigative journalists are now making headlines in Greek newspapers.

The country's media landscape is marked by the connivance of traditional media groups with public authorities in line with political and financial interests.



The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) non-profit gives Greece the lowest press freedom rank in Europe.

RSF and the Media Freedom Rapid Response NGO have said the ruling party is "obsessed with controlling the message" and "minimizing critical and dissenting voices".

But investigative outlets are "a hope for freedom of expression" in Greece, according to Katerina Batzeli, a member of the Pasok-Kinal central committee, former minister and MEP.

"These innovative media have taken risks and done an extraordinary job" she said.

Greek investigative media, including Inside Story, Solomon and Reporters United, have been on the rise in recent years, using subscriptions to promote "independent and analytical information".

With disinformation rife, "investigative media dare to control the power", said media analyst Georges Tzopopoulos.

He said investigative sites had played a "key role" and called for support through crowdfunding.

## A Highwayman Named...

FROM PAGE 1

The most interesting thing is the U.S. is so bold that it openly says it will not release the Afghans' fund and it does not worry about world reaction because it knows well that due to the Western media propagation, the world does not stand behind



Afghan government and this helps the Americans to continue their cowboy style of robbing the Afghans.

Afghanistan's Taliban administration has repeatedly called on foreign governments to roll back the sanctions imposed on Kabul and unfreeze the country's central bank assets.

Afghan health experts have issued a stern warning about the dire healthcare situation in the country, exacerbated by a medicine shortage linked to the nation's frozen assets in the United States. They say urgent action was needed to contain the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and a measles outbreak in the country while citing acute malnutrition as another health problem requiring swift action.

Even according to reports, Afghanistan is currently suffering from drought and many economic problems and it is in dire need of unfreezing its funds by the U.S. but unfortunately there is no mercy among the Americans despite their claim of supporting human rights or humanitarian actions.

This style of looting nations through freezing the assets and even swallowing the assets has become something normal for the U.S. as this country has frozen many assets of Iran's money in the banks worldwide and unfortunately the international bodies do not dare to even condemn this inhuman behavior of the U.S. and many nations in the world are suffering from this malady of the U.S. but they still sit and watch Americans continue it.

As long as the world does not rise against this inhuman action of the West and especially the American cowboys, this habit will be never given up and every day and in any dispute, the U.S. officials will resort to confiscating wealth of the nations without any concern and facing possible consequences, and this is the people in those countries who will suffer and one can see no sign of humanity and human-rights support in the arrogant American officials.

So it is the major task of the United Nations to rush to assistance of the countries against excessive demands of the arrogant powers because countries look at the UN as a savior but it seems this savior is a toothless one which is unable to fight with offenders and big powers, and the U.S. acts like a highwayman in a world whose sheriff is useless and a looker-on.

## Iran-EU...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran mainly exports foodstuff and livestock, beverages and tobacco, raw materials, mineral fuels, and vegetable oils to the European countries, while foodstuff, beverages and tobacco, mineral fuels, vegetable oils, and chemicals are also the main products imported from the union.

According to Eurostat, the value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €2.075 billion in January-May 2022, while the figure was €1.845 billion in the same period of time in 2021.

Iran exported commodities worth €465 million to the union in the five-month period of this year, to register a 33 percent rise year on year.

The EU's export to Iran rose six percent to €1.61 billion from €1.512 billion.

## Pakistan-Iran...

FROM PAGE 1

The decision, apparently, was made to avert any untoward incident. The DC noted that water coming towards the railway track had been diverted to the other side to avoid damage to the railway track.

The district administration was also taking urgent steps to drain the water on the railway track. Once the water was drained out from the railway track, the traffic would positively be restored, he added. He further said that the district administration was providing food, water and other facilities to the affected passengers.

Sibi is one of the worst flood affected districts where the catastrophe caused massive loss in terms of human lives and property.

On the directives of the Chief Minister Balochistan the district administration was using all available resources to provide relief to the people.

"Speedy measures are being taken to help out the flood affected people of Sibi district," DC Sibi added while highlighting the administration's resolve to help the calamity-stricken people of the district.

## German Fighter Jets en Route to Australia



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany is sending 13 military aircraft to joint exercises in Australia, the air force's largest peacetime deployment, underlining Berlin's increased focus on the Indo-Pacific amid rising tensions with China in the region.

Last year, a German warship sailed into the South China Sea for the first time in almost 20 years, a move that saw Berlin joining other Western nations in expanding its military presence in the region amid growing alarm over Beijing's territorial ambitions.

Tensions have also risen over Taiwan since China - which claims Taiwan as its own territory - kicked off military drills around the democratically governed island after U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei at the start of August.

On Monday, six Eurofighter jets took off from a base in Neuburg an der Donau in southern Germany and three A330 tankers from Cologne for the three-day flight to Australia where they will, together with four German A400M transporters that have already left, join 16 other nations in the biennial exercise Pitch Black.

During the deployment, which includes detours to Japan and South Korea, the pilots will conduct almost 200 mid-air refuellings of the fighter jets, German air force chief Ingo Gerhartz told reporters ahead of the mission.

Asked whether the war planes will pass the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait, two flashpoints of tensions with China in the region, Gerhartz said the aircraft would use civilian air traffic routes and that no passage of the Taiwan Strait was planned.

"The South China Sea, Taiwan - these are obviously the sticking points in the region," he told reporters. "We will fly at an altitude of more than 10 km and barely touch the South China Sea, and we will move on international routes."

Gerhartz said that, with the deployment, he was rather aiming to send a signal to Germany's partners than China: "I don't think we are sending any threatening message towards China by flying to an exercise in Australia."

The general was echoed by Australia's ambassador to Germany, Philip Green, who stressed there was no reason why Beijing should see a regular exercise as destabilising to the region.

"We are seeking a region which will be stable, peaceful and prosperous, strategic equilibrium where each country can take their own sovereign choices," Green said when asked about the message for China.

## Philippines in Talks to Buy U.S. Helicopters

MANILA (Dispatches) - The Philippines is looking to buy heavy-lift Chinook helicopters from the United States, after scrapping a deal with Russia worth 12.7 billion pesos (\$227.35 million) in order to avoid sanctions, Manila's ambassador to Washington said.

In June, days before President Rodrigo Duterte ended his six-year term, the Philippines scrapped a deal

to buy 16 Mi-17 Russian military transport helicopters because of fears of U.S. sanctions linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"This cancellation of this contract is precipitated mainly by the war in Ukraine. While there are sanctions expected to come our way, from the United States and western countries, obviously it is not in our interest to continue and pursue this contract," ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez told journalists in a virtual forum.

Moscow says it is conducting a "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Romualdez said the Chinooks would replace existing hardware used for the movement of troops and in disaster preparedness in the Southeast Asian country.



The United States is willing to strike a deal for the amount the Philippines was set to spend on the Russian helicopters, Romualdez said, adding the deal with Washington will likely include maintenance, service and parts.

The Philippines is pursuing discussions with Russia to recover its \$38 million down payment for

the helicopters, the delivery of which was supposed to start in November next year, or 24 months after the contract was signed.

The Philippines is at the tail-end of a five-year, 300 billion-pesos modernisation of its outdated military hardware that includes warships from World War Two and helicopters used by the United States in the Vietnam War.

Aside from military deals, the Philippines, under new President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, also wants increased economic exchanges with the United States including in fields of manufacturing, digital infrastructure and clean energy, including modular nuclear power, Romualdez said.

## South Africa's Silent Revolution as Those With Cash Go Solar

JOHANNESBURG (Dispatches) - Thanks to his rooftop solar panels, Pierre Moureau only notices the blackouts that regularly plunge South Africans into darkness when complaints pop up on his Johannesburg neighbourhood's WhatsApp group.

"I have a certain standard of living," said the 68-year-old financial planner, who likes to unwind in his home sauna. "I want to be able to live according to the way I am."

As a worsening power crisis hobbles Africa's most industrialized economy, provoking public ire, President Cyril Ramaphosa has promised to cut through red tape to boost coal-addicted South Africa's use of renewable energy.

But many South Africans are not waiting for government action and their impatience has driven a boom in small-scale solar installations.

"I cannot be without power. It's as simple as that," said Moureau, whose panels power his home as well as his adjoining office. "Every minute I'm down costs me money."

In the first five months of this year alone, South Africa imported solar PV panels worth nearly 2.2 billion rand (\$135 million), a Reuters analysis of customs data found. That amounts to over 500 megawatts of peak generating capacity, analysts say.

Once installed, the panels will increase the 2.1 gigawatts of estimated existing small-scale solar generating capacity by some 24%, surpassing what the government has managed to procure in a decade of its utility-scale solar strategy.

"It's completely unrecognised by the government as to how big an industry it's become," said Frank Spencer, spokesman for the South African Photovoltaic Industry Association. "It's a silent revolution."

It's also a missed opportunity.

## Iran Demands...

FROM PAGE 1

The Islamic Republic of Iran has presented its written response to the latest EU draft on JCPOA revival and announced that if the U.S. reaction to it will be realistic and flexible, the final agreement will be reached.

Apparently, the United States has shown its flexibility about two of the three remaining points of difference orally, but Iran wants inclusion of them in the text of the agreement.

Meanwhile, the third issue is about the guarantee for sustainability of the revived JCPOA, which depends on U.S. rationalism and the extent it will meet Iran's demand in that respect.

**Switchboard:**  
(+98) (21) 44253448  
**Public Relations Tel:**  
(+98)(21) 44253450  
Editorial Board: 44253449  
**Public Relations Fax:**  
(+98)(21) 44253395  
**Advertising Department:**  
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234  
**Website:**  
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

**E-Mail Address:**  
info@irannewsdaily.com  
**ISSN 1024-6053**  
**P.O. Box:** 15875-8551  
**Address:** No 13, Pajouhesh St.,  
Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran  
Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Printed by:**Honar Sarzmin Sabz  
**Distributed by:**  
Cities of Iran Cultural and  
Artistic Institute  
**Managing Director:** Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

## Bernal to Return to Racing Seven Months After Crash

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former Tour de France winner Egan Bernal will return to racing at the Tour of Denmark on Tuesday, seven months after he "almost died" in a serious training accident in Colombia, his Ineos Grenadiers team said.

The 25-year-old specialist climber suffered multiple broken bones when he hit a stationary bus at speed in January.

Bernal needed five surgeries in 10 days after the crash, saying at the time: "I almost died but I thank God for this test."

## Lo Celso Joins Villarreal on Loan

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso has joined Spanish side Villarreal on loan for the rest of the season.

Lo Celso spent the second half of last season on loan at Villarreal and has returned after failing to win a place in Antonio Conte's side at the start of the new Premier League campaign.

Tottenham have inserted a break clause into the loan deal that allows them to listen to permanent offers for Lo Celso if they want to sell the 26-year-old in January.

# Murray Downs Wawrinka in Cincinnati Battle of Veterans

CINCINNATI (Dispatches) - Andy Murray won his first hardcourt match of the summer, defeating Stan Wawrinka 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 7-5 in the opening round of the ATP/WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The 35-year-old Scot was facing his 37-year-old Swiss rival for the 22nd time with both treble Grand Slam champions still coming back to full form after long-term injuries over the past few seasons.

Murray lost in the first round at Washington and last week in Montreal while Wawrinka's last win came on grass two months ago at Queen's Club, London; he has not won on cement since the Australian Open last year.

Murray needed four match points to advance at a tournament he has won twice, in 2008 and 2011.

The veteran was competing here for the 17th time.

Compatriot Cameron Norrie joined Murray in the second round with his 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 6-4 defeat of Dane Holger Rune.

Murray claimed the opening set in the tiebreaker as he faced his longtime rival.

The Scot went down a break in the second set but got it back before finding himself at a set apiece after being broken in the final game.

The third set featured another pair of early service breaks; but Murray brought an end to hostilities with a break for 6-5 followed by a laboured concluding hold of serve.

In the closing stages, Murray loudly chastised himself as his grip on the set threatened to slip away against the Swiss whose best showing here was a semi-final a decade ago.

The contest was punctuated repeatedly by visits from the trainer for both men.

Other winners on opening day included 2016 champion Marin Cilic, who defeated Spain's Jaume Munar 6-3, 6-3, and American John Isner, the 2013 finalist against Rafael Nadal, who advanced past France's Benjamin Bonzi 7-6 (13/11), 3-6, 7-6 (7/4).



In the WTA draw, Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina defeated Egyptian Mayar Sherif 6-3, 6-2.

The world number 25 set up a second-round clash with eighth seed Garbine Muguruza, title-winner here in 2017.

The 23-year-old Kazakh lifted her game in the second set to end with five aces and 13 winners against Sharif.

"I was slow at the beginning but I got my rhythm and served well," Rybakina said. "But my serve always helps me." The newest Grand Slam champion said she is trying to look ahead in her career as she adjusts to her status.

"Wimbledon gave me confidence but now I'm focusing on my other tournaments and trying not to think of the past," she said.

American Amanda Anisimova beat ninth seed Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile Naomi Osaka's summer form slump deepened as the four-time Grand Slam winner lost 6-4, 7-5 to Zhang Shuai at the ATP/WTA Cincinnati Masters.



ROME (Dispatches) - Argentina winger Angel Di Maria faces a spell on the sidelines after picking up a thigh injury on his Juventus debut, the Serie A club said.

Di Maria scored the opening goal in yesterday's 3-0 win over Sassuolo in his first game for his new club after his move from Paris Saint-Germain.

The 34-year-old also set up Dusan Vlahovic for the second of his two goals but was substituted midway through the second half.

Juventus said scans showed Di Maria had suffered a "low-grade lesion" to his left thigh, adding that the injury would be re-evaluated in 10 days.

He will miss at least the next two league games against Sampdoria and Roma.

Juventus were already without Paul Pogba, who hurt his knee on a pre-season trip to the US after rejoining the Turin club following six years with Manchester United.

The France midfielder is undergoing a course of "conservative therapy" and could return in mid-September.

## Man City Complete Signing of Gomez

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City today confirmed the signing of Spanish left-back Sergio Gomez from Anderlecht on a four-year deal for a reported fee of £11 million.

The Under-21 international becomes the Premier League champions' fourth signing of the transfer window following the arrivals of Erling Haaland, Kalvin Phillips and Stefan Ortega Moreno.

"City are the best team in England and in Pep Guardiola I have a chance to learn and develop under the most outstanding manager in world football," said the 21-year-old, who was previously a Barcelona youth player.

"To be able to be part of this club is a dream come true for me and something any young player would aspire to." City's director of football Txiki Begiristain said Gomez was an "exciting young talent".

"We're sure that he will bring additional quality to our squad both in defence and going forward and that he will only continue to develop and improve playing under Pep and his coaches," he said.

Guardiola last week confirmed the impending arrival of Gomez, dismissing the suggestion he would be sent out on loan this season.

## Joshua to Use Lessons From Usyk Defeat in Rematch

LONDON (Dispatches) - A "re-invented" Anthony Joshua said he is well aware of Oleksandr Usyk's tricks and knows what he must do to defeat the Ukrainian when they meet in their rematch in Jeddah on Aug. 20.

Usyk beat Joshua in front of a sell-out crowd at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium last September to take the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts.

The 32-year-old Briton, who now has a new trainer in American former super-featherweight world champion Robert Garcia, said he learned a lot from his first meeting with Usyk.

"I know what he's going to do, I know what I've got to do," Joshua told the BBC. "I've been in there before, I know his tricks. I've got to go change the narrative. I'm the author of my own movie."

# Kyrgios Opts out of Australia's Davis Cup Team



MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Nick Kyrgios has again opted out of Australia's Davis Cup team for next month's finals, leaving Alex de Minaur to lead the nation's charge in Germany.

Kyrgios has skipped the team event since 2019 but would have been a strong addition given his career-best form in recent weeks which included a run to a maiden Grand

Slam final at Wimbledon.

"It would have been great to have Nick Kyrgios in the team but unfortunately he was unavailable for this tie," team captain Lleyton Hewitt said in a media release.

Australia is drawn in Pool C with Germany, France and Belgium for the Sept. 13-18 finals in Hamburg.

Thanasi Kokkinakis, Alexei Popyrin, Jason Kubler and Wimbledon men's doubles champions Matt Ebden and Max Purcell were also included in Australia's six-man team.

Eliminated at the group stage last year, Australia are bidding for their 29th Davis Cup title and first since 2003.

## Palace Defender Andersen Receives Death Threats

LONDON (Dispatches) - Crystal Palace defender Joachim Andersen said he has received death threats directed at him and his family after he was head-butted by Liverpool's Darwin Nunez in yesterday's Premier League draw which resulted in the striker being sent off at Anfield.

Liverpool were held to a 1-1 draw after their new signing Nunez was shown a straight red card just before the hour mark when he squared up with Andersen and appeared to head-butt the Danish defender.

The result leaves Liverpool winless after two games — down in 12th place — and fans vented their frustration by contacting Andersen on Instagram, where he highlighted the abusive messages he had received.

"Got maybe 3-400 of these messages last night. I understand you support a team but have some respect and stop (acting) tough online," Andersen said before sharing screenshots of abuse and death threats in his inbox.

"Hope Instagram and the Premier League do something about this." Reuters has contacted Instagram for comment.

Nunez's red card will result in a three-match ban and Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp — who is left facing a striker crisis with Roberto Firmino and Diogo Jota injured — said he hoped the Uruguayan would learn from his mistake.



## Pakistan Beat Netherlands by 16 Runs in First ODI

ROTTERDAM (Dispatches) - Opener Fakhar Zaman hit his seventh one-day international century to steer Pakistan to a 16-run victory in the first of a three-match series against the Netherlands in Rotterdam.

Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat in warm and humid conditions on a day where big scores were expected on a sluggish pitch at the VOC Cricket Club outside the Dutch harbour city.

The tourists however got off to a slow start before posting a commanding 314-6 after 50 overs.

Despite a valiant run chase, the Dutch finished on 298-8 against a spirited Pakistani team, backed by a myriad of vocal supporters.

Zaman carved out a run-a-ball 109 while captain Babar Azam hit 74 before being caught after mistiming a delivery from Dutch paceman Logan van Beek.

The home bowlers initially contained Pakistan's batting, with the visitors losing their first wicket, that of dangerman Imam-ul-Haq, lbw to paceman Vivian Kingma in the sixth over for a painstaking two off 19 balls.

But Zaman and Azam eventually let loose and put on a partnership of 168 off 170 balls before Azam was caught in a soft dismissal when he mistimed a shot into the waiting hands of Tom Cooper at mid-off.

Zaman was dismissed two overs later when he was brilliantly run out by Dutch captain and wicketkeeper Scott Edwards off a pin-point accurate throw by Bas de Leede at deep mid-wicket.

Pakistan looked set for a larger total but the Dutch bowlers did well to restrict them, with the spin bowling of youngsters Aryan Dutt and Tim Pringle causing problems.

The Dutch let themselves though down in the field and dropped several catches, Kingma notably fumbling a crucial high ball to hand Zaman a lifeline when he was on 43.

Batting second, the Dutch lost hard-hitting Max O'Dowd in the second over lbw to ODI debutant Naseem Shah (3-51), with a fast ball nipping back onto his pads.

