

The Head of the Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO) Hossein Qorbanzadeh Said That by Early October 20 Large Companies Are on the List of Privatizations

# IRAN NEWS

Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Said That the Government's Approach Is Expansion and Diversifying Economic Relations With Iran's Aligned Countries Across the World

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7577 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 2022 - SHAHRIVAR 8, 1401

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## JCPOA Talks Aim at Removing Sanctions, Accusations

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said the goal of the JCPOA negotiations is to remove sanctions and false accusations raised against the country.

The basis of negotiations on Iran's nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was to remove the accusations of the enemies who regularly raise new ones against the country, Eslami told reporters during his visit to Lorestan province, west of Iran.

The sanctions imposed on the country under these pretexts [accusations] should have been removed with JCPOA negotiations, he added. Now, the goal of the [Vienna] negotiations is to remove the sanctions so that the Iranian people can benefit from the economic benefits [of the talks], the AEOI chief underlined.

Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA -- Russia, China, France, Britain, and Germany -- had held several rounds of negotiations in the Austrian capital of Vienna since April last year to restore the agreement, which was abandoned by the former US President Donald Trump in May 2018.

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## Iran, Pakistan, Agree to Resume Talks On Gas Pipeline

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan and Iran have agreed to resume negotiations for implementation of Iran-Pakistan (IP) Gas Pipeline Project, possibility of starting Electronic Financial Messaging System (SEPM) and achieving barter trade target of \$4 billion.

The work on IP gas pipeline was stalled due to US sanctions on Iran as no Pakistani bank was ready to take the risk of financing the project. The project has always been part of discussions at the high-level interactions between both the countries but no progress has been witnessed since years.

Official documents available with Business Recorder reveal that Ministry of Petroleum, Iran has also declared its readiness to discuss exporting oil and petrochemical products and technical services from Iran to Pakistan.

Banking quarters are aimed to enhance and expedite bilateral banking relationship between the two countries; both sides have expressed their willingness to explore correspondence banking relationships.

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## Agreement on Reviving JCPOA Hinges On Settlement of Remaining Issues



### IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says an agreement on the revival of the Iran nuclear deal hinges on the settlement of safeguards issues between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Without settling those issues, reviving the 2015 deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) makes no sense, President Raisi said at a press conference attended by domestic journalists as well as correspondents from foreign media outlets in the capital Tehran.

"Negotiations are underway within the same framework and focused on the removal of sanctions. We insist on verification and confidence-building measures during the course of negotiations. We also emphasize on the full resolution of safeguard issues. This is an important issue, and any talk of an agreement would have not meaning unless issues are resolved."

During the presser, Raisi also dismissed Israeli threats against Tehran, emphasizing that nobody can deprive the Iranian nation of its inalienable right to access peaceful nuclear technology.

"We have stated times and again that nuclear weapons have no place in our nuclear doctrine. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution (Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei) has frequently announced that the acquisition of such armament is religiously forbidden. We also declared in our foreign policy that these munitions have no place in our foreign policy," he underlined.

Raisi added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has made great progress in various sectors of the nuclear industry, namely in the oil and energy fields, and the achievements were recently put on display during an exhibition.

"The Zionist regime has long been opposed to Iran acquiring the right [to nuclear technology]. But this know-how has been indigenized in our country, and cannot be taken from us in any way."

"Their threats will not go anywhere. The assassination of nuclear scientists was aimed at stopping this trend. A lot of sabotage acts were carried out in order to stop us, but we didn't stop. They cannot stop us to assert this definite right," the Iranian president said.

Denouncing the U.S. sanctions as illegal and brutal, Raisi stated that the Iranian negotiating team will not leave the negotiating table in the talks on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal and lifting the bans.

"We are following up on the neutralization of sanctions and have set up a headquarters under the management of First Vice President [Mohammad Mokhber] for that purpose. We are also pursuing the removal of sanctions through the Foreign Ministry and [Vienna] negotiations."

President Raisi also said many of the sanctions that were aimed to restrain Iran fell flat due to the country's resistance.

"We do not recognize any limitations for ourselves in this regard," he asserted. "The level of our interactions with regional countries has increased up to 5 times. Our oil exports are in a state where we feel we should do our best and continue to export oil and non-oil commodities."

Raisi also demanded the release of Iran's assets frozen abroad as a result of Washington's actions, saying, "We did not leave the negotiating table for sanctions removal. Negotiations are for the sake of removing the sanctions. Those who abandoned their commitments should return and fulfill their obligations. Our emphasis in these negotiations is on the removal of sanction."

The Iranian president then went on to stress that there would be no benefit in meeting with his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden on the sidelines of the forthcoming 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

"Earlier, I stated and declared it once again that there will be no benefit for Iran and the Iranian nation in such a meeting with him," Raisi said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi highlighted the Israeli regime's impotence in protecting itself against Palestinian people's stone-throwing, let alone their "precision strike missiles."

The president also emphasized that Israeli officials would not find any opportunity to take an action against Iran. "They should see whether anything of them would be left once they decide to attack Iran," he stated.

Raisi also stressed that Iran-China ties are fully independent of any third-party influence, noting that the relations between Tehran and Beijing are not affected by what is going on in the international arena.

He said that the bilateral ties exist in various areas, especially in commercial and economic areas, and should be further expanded.

The Iranian president also referred to the 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement between the two nations, stressing that Tehran is determined to implement the deal besides the partnership treaties that it has already signed with Beijing.

As for Iran's full membership of in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Raisi said, "Our presence in the SCO and cooperation with its member states are of great importance. It connects us to the economic infrastructure of Asia. It is very important for our country to have its own share of trade and economy in the region."

Raisi also reiterated that Tehran and Moscow enjoy strategic cooperation in various areas, have exchanged documents, and started joint work in the development of energy fields.

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## ViewPoint Iran Target of Disinformation And Misinformation

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Since February 1979 and victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the country has been the target of disinformation and misinformation of the hostile countries, especially the U.S., which is known as the Great Satan in Iran because the victory of revolution and emergence of new type of anti-U.S. ruling was something bitter to swallow by the West and Americans.

So in recent years enemies of the Islamic Revolution have tried to mislead the people either in Iran or abroad and everyday a new TV channel or website emerges to propagate against the Islamic Republic of Iran through disseminating false reports and news or exaggerating any insignificant event in the country.

On Friday the result of a research revealed that Iran has been the target of disinformation for years. Researchers say the U.S. has been running a disinformation campaign through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to propagate pro-Western narratives while trying to discredit Iran, Russia, and China.

Recent research has revealed details of what appears to have been long-running U.S. disinformation campaigns aimed at Iran, Russia, and China on social media platforms, as well as the use of dozens of fake accounts to propagate pro-Western narratives.

According to a study carried out by researchers from the Stanford Internet Observatory and the research company Graphika, the pro-U.S. covert influence operations ran for almost five years and used "deceptive tactics" to shape public opinion in the Middle East and Central Asia.

The accounts behind the operations often posed as news outlets or took on the personas of people who didn't exist, posting content in at least seven languages, including Farsi, Russian, Arabic, and Urdu.

In some cases, the accounts shared news articles from Washington-funded media outlets, including Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, and links to websites run by the US military.

Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, said the "country of origin" of the accounts was the United States, while Twitter said the "presumptive countries of origin" for the accounts were the United States and Britain, according to the report.

The report added that Twitter and Meta removed dozens of fake accounts in July and August as they were pushing the deceptive pro-US influence campaign.

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## Iran Ready to Send 93m Barrels of Oil Into Market Post Sanctions

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran currently holds about 93 million barrels of crude oil and gas condensate stored on vessels in the Persian Gulf, off Singapore and near China ready to be injected into the market if the nuclear deal is revived, Bloomberg reported on Monday citing ship-tracking firm Kpler.

According to the report, Vortexa Ltd. estimates the reserves at 60 to 70 million barrels, saying that there are also some smaller volumes in onshore storage facilities.

"Iran has built up a sizable flotilla of cargoes that could hit the market fairly soon," said John Driscoll, chief strategist at JTD Energy Services Pte.

Iran's comeback to the global crude market would be very significant considering the fact that the European Union is implementing tighter sanctions on Russian crude flows as of December and the Biden administration's mammoth sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve will end in October.

Since former President Trump stopped granting waivers to import Iranian oil following American sanctions, Iran's daily shipments have held at about one million barrels, according to Emma Li, an analyst at Vortexa.

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# Iran Launches New Power Transmission Line to Armenia

TABRIZ (IRNA) - East Azarbaijan Province of Iran inaugurated a power transmission line to Armenia, among over 2,000 electricity-related projects.

The 90-kilometer Heris-Meghri power transmission line can export 400 kilowatts of Iran's electricity to Armenia.

Tabriz Electricity Power Distribution Company and East Azarbaijan Power Distribution Company inaugurated over 2,000 projects, as Iran is celebrating the Government Week.

## Iran Carefully Studying U.S. Response to JCPOA Revival Proposals

**TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran says it is carefully studying the U.S.'s response to its amendments to a draft text proposed by the European Union to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement.**

"The response of the American side is being studied carefully," Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Sunday during a phone conversation with his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi.

He added that the Islamic Republic will announce its opinion once it finishes the review of the US's response.

Iran's top diplomat also reiterated that Tehran seeks to reach "a good, sustainable, and strong agreement."

For his part, the Omani minister praised Iran's constructive efforts aimed at



reaching an agreement.

Albusaidi also expressed hope that the talks on the revival of the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), would yield a satisfying outcome.

## Iranian, Iraqi FM's Hold Meeting in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met with his Iraqi counterpart, Fuad Hussein, on Monday.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, who traveled to Tehran on Monday morning, held a meeting with the Iranian foreign minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is the second visit of the Iraqi foreign minister to Iran in the past six months. On April 13, the Iraqi Foreign Minister met with his Iranian counterpart during his trip to Tehran.

Earlier on Monday, the spokesman for Iraq's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Al-Sahaf in a brief statement announced the country's Foreign Minister's travel to Iran.

The developments in Iraq and its mediation on relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia are likely to be addressed in the meetings with Iranian officials during the visit.

## Minister Assures Foreigners Iran Safe for Tourism

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian interior minister swept aside the smear campaign launched against the Islamic Republic's security, saying the country is safe for foreign tourists.

Ahmad Vahidi said the foreign tourists do not need to worry about security issues in Iran, adding the country's tourism infrastructure is designed to make it even safer than Europe.

The remarks come as officials in the Islamic Republic are angry with the Western mainstream media for launching an Iranophobia campaign to show the country in a bad light.

"What others express in the form of Iranophobia to prevent tourists from coming to Iran is irrational and wrong," Vahidi said.

He said problems can happen in any country, but the difference is they put a magnifying glass on the problems that might arise in Iran.

The developments come as a recent report by the Iranian ministry of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts revealed a 40 percent rise in Iran's tourism industry compared to last year, as the country hosted 3 million foreign tourists during the past eleven months.

## Iran Attaching Importance to Expansion of Cooperation With Bolivia

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amirabdollahian has underscored that the Islamic Republic pays heed to the development of cooperation with La Paz.

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Freddy Mamani Machaca and his entourage in Tehran amid the Bolivian delegation's visit to Iran with the aim of participating in the first joint economic commission and the fourth meeting for political consultations.

The Iranian top diplomat pointed to the significance of relationships between the South American countries and Iran, emphasizing that Tehran is determined to expand collaborations with La Paz.

Expressing the Iranian private sector's readiness to boost economic exchanges with Bolivia, the foreign minister noted that they are keen on implementing infrastructure projects in the South American country, exporting engineering and technical services, as well as expanding trade exchanges, including in agricultural products.

The Bolivian deputy FM, for his part, described the visit to Iran as a useful opportunity to become acquainted with vast capacities of the Islamic Republic.

Mamani Machaca also underlined the need for cooperation and solidarity between the two countries in a bid to strengthen multilateralism and enhance international peace and security.

Moreover, he depicted Iran's capabilities and capacities in industrial, scientific, technological and medical sectors as eye-catching, noting that holding the joint economic commission is an important opportunity to expand bilateral interactions.

## Russian Trade Delegation Due In Iran in Late September

TEHRAN (MNA) - Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) announced that a Russian trade delegation is set to travel to Iran to negotiate with private sector companies of the country.

According to an agreement between the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and the Russian Export Center, a 125-member business delegation consisting of representatives of 78 Russian companies will travel to Tehran for negotiations with their counterparts on September 19-21.

Members of the chambers of commerce across the country can attend this event to negotiate with Russian businessmen.

Food and agriculture industries such as meat, macaroni and pasta, mineral water, all kinds of drinks, grains, sweets and chocolate, all kinds of edible oils, aquatics, food and agriculture industry equipment and machinery, packaging, health, medicine and medical equipment, construction materials, glass and crystal, wood industry, auto parts, transportation, industrial equipment, metal industry, telecommunication and radio systems, drilling and mining, energy, recycling, advertising and digital marketing, education, etc. are the fields that the members of the mentioned delegation are active.

## ICC Chief Message on Occasion of Cooperative Week

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) Mr. Bahman Abdollahi in a message felicitated the Cooperative Week by commemorating the memory of Martyr



Beheshti who was promoter of the cooperative spirit.

In the beginning of his message Mr. Abdollahi quoted Verse 2 of Chapter 5 of Holy Quran which says "And cooperate in righteousness and warding off (evil), and do not cooperate in sinfulness and transgression. Have fear of Allah, for Allah is Stern in retribution."

He then said marking the Cooperative Week is an opportunity for all involved in different sectors of cooperative to display some major parts of their capabilities through presenting their developmental programs and showing the stance of the cooperatives as the second economic pillar of the country and promoting the culture of cooperative.

He also emphasized the need for broadening the pattern of cooperative economy and dynamic and effective solutions for undoing the economic ties.

Abdollahi also praised the 13<sup>th</sup> government for paying attention on cooperatives and his emphasis on popularizing economy which manifests itself in the cooperative economy and provides an opportunity for the cooperative community to improve their capacities in order to be a strong arm to help the government.

He expressed hope through consultation and exchange of views between managers of companies and cooperative unions and cooperative chambers of provinces and the government support, the ICC would take a longer step to reach its target of 25% share of the national economy.

Abdollahi then hailed those who are involved in this sector and felicitated the Cooperative Week.

## Iran-Turkmenistan 6-Month Trade Exceeds Last Year's Total

MASHHAD (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador in Ashgabat said that Iran-Turkmenistan trade in the first half of 2022 exceeded their total trade in 2021.

Gholam Abbas Arbab-Khales said in the opening ceremony of Bajgiran border market on Monday that Iran's active economy diplomacy has caused the surge in trade with Turkmenistan.

Arbab-Khales said that the trade between the two countries has reached \$233 million in the first half of 2022, while their trade amounted to 227 million dollars in the whole 2021.

He anticipated that the trade volume between the two countries would reach nearly twice of the volume for the last year by the end of 2022, noting that the surge has been possible due to Iran's new policies in expanding economic ties with neighbors.

The ambassador highlighted Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov's choosing of Iran as his second foreign trip destination at his capacity as president as sign of Iran's significance for Turkmenistan's government.

He also mentioned Turkmenistan's support for Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Tehran's backing Ashgabat's proposal in an international meeting among the two countries political exchanges.

## Iran Trade With Neighbors Rises to \$50b

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's trade with neighboring countries has increased from 20 billion dollars to 50 billion dollars during the current administration tenure, an Iranian lawmaker said.

Asghar Salimi, a member of Iranian Parliament's Economic Commission, said that the rising trend in international transit through Iran has resumed this year after seven years of slowdown.

Salimi highlighted the north-south corridor which connects Russia and Eastern Europe to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, saying that the international pathway has been in the spotlight recently due to Russia's losing access to Europe because of the war in Ukraine.

He said that Iran's oil production has significantly increased despite the persistence of the US sanctions to an unprecedented level since the full resumption of sanction by former US President Donald Trump.

The lawmaker also praised President Ebrahim Raisi's success in collecting Iran's claims regarding some neighboring countries' arrears on gas purchases.

### Khorasan Steel Complex Company

May Memories of Martyrs  
Rajaei and Bahonar Live Long

**We Sincerely Felicitate the Government Week to All Executives, Statesmen and Sincere and Obliging Employees of Our Dear Islamic Homeland**

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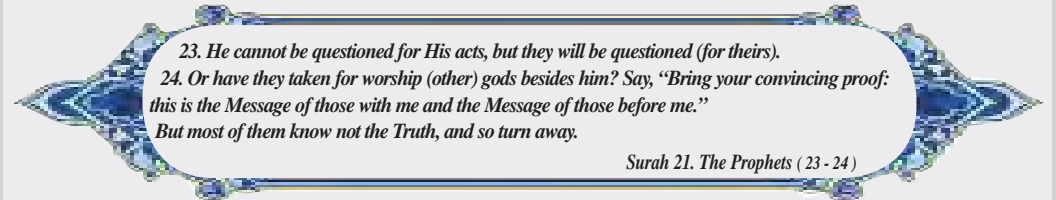
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## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:05
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:53
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:08
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:35



## Tehran, La Paz Seek Agreement On Preferential and Free Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - Deputy Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Selahvarzi in meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia Freddy Mamani Machaca reviewed some agreements between the two countries which are in limbo and called for agreement on free and preferential trade.**

Salahvarzi pointed to good political relation between the two countries and termed the trade tie between the two states unsatisfactory, adding that despite valuable agreements which have been signed between Tehran and La Paz some six years ago, the level of implementation of these agreements is undefendable. He admitted that if there is required will, then both sides can pursue trade relation in higher levels.

He noted that Iran and Bolivia can cooperate in fields of technical and engineering services, medicines, agro machineries and equipment, mines, construction materials and petrochemical products, adding that both countries unable to systemize their relations due to problems for transfer of money and banking transactions. He stated that some political consultation are needed to find economic solution and barter trade is one of them.



He pointed to the capacity of Bolivia in mining sector, noting that this field can be noticed in barter trade as the two countries can focus on tourism.

Then Bolivian official Mamani Machaca, for his part, said that the connection between the private sector is important for broadening trade ties, adding that both countries have problem in trade exchanges and banking transactions and due to unilateral decision of some countries, money has been frozen. He stated Cuba and Venezuela are also suffering such problem and this condition is the outcome of actions of some Western countries.

He added that before departure for Tehran he was warned that he might be put on black list due to visit and ties with Iranian companies and this concern exists among Bolivian companies. He reiterated that therefore both countries need to have a certain financial mechanism for boosting trade.

## IDRO to Revive and Renovate 20 Big Leading Industries

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) Mr. Ali Nabavi and representative of



president on the movement for revival of economic units Mr. Seyed Amir Hossein Madani signed in presence of First Vice-President a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to cooperate on revival and renovation of 20 big leading industries.

The topics of this MoU which was by Nabavi and Madani is cooperation, consultation, synergy and participation of both sides in preparing requirements and required equipment, providing necessary investment, implementing the executive operation related to the revival of empowerment, increase of capacity of 20 big leading and unfinished industrial units, creating the grounds for continuation of production activities of the said units and monitoring in line with continuation of the production activities.

In the ceremony, First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber emphasized that the movement for revival of the economic and production units is one of the biggest capacities for advancing the goals of the government in line with creating jobs. He added that the easiest and fastest way for return of the idle assets in the country is to revive production units and idle and semi-idle units with reliance on the knowledge-based companies.

He noted that there are some 52,000 semi-active and idle economic and production units in the country, stipulating that these economic entrepreneurs are national assets whose activation will help a great deal to job creation and rise in the GDP.

Then Head of IDRO Mr. Nabavi on the sidelines of ceremony of signing the MoU for revival of over 1500 production and economic units pointed to the great experience of IDRO in the field of renovating industries, adding that according to this MoU, IDRO is tasked to identify and revive big industrial units and unfinished projects and it is also tasked to provide all required preparations for revival of these units and continuation of their productions.

Then the CEO of Industrial Management Institute Mr. Abolfazl Kiani Bakhtiari said that the institute will hold some courses for empowerment and revival of the units through identifying the problems.

## Demercaptanization Unit of SP Refinery Phases 2, 3 Online

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil Minister Javad Owji officially launched the demercaptanization unit of South Pars Refinery Phases 2 and 3 which was build with €74 million of investment.

Construction of a demercaptanization (DMC) unit from gas condensates in South Pars Refinery Phases 2 and 3 was done in Assaluyeh, southern Iran, with a daily processing capacity of 80,000 barrels in order to complete the value added chain

of the refinery, reduce the effects of corrosion of harmful compounds on refinery facilities and equipment, reducing environmental pollutants, promoting and improving the quality of gas condensate, ease of marketing, export, etc.

This project was implemented based on the technical knowledge and license of the Research Institute of Petroleum Industry (RIPI), and the stages of purchasing goods, manufacturing, installing and operating it were done under an EPC contract worth 74 million Euros and Rls. 2,610 billion by Khatam Al-Anbiya (PBUH) Construction Headquarters.

The value added resulting from implementation and start-up of this unit is more than \$4 per barrel, which will result in an annual income of more than \$110 million. This project has created jobs for 174 people directly and 129 people indirectly.



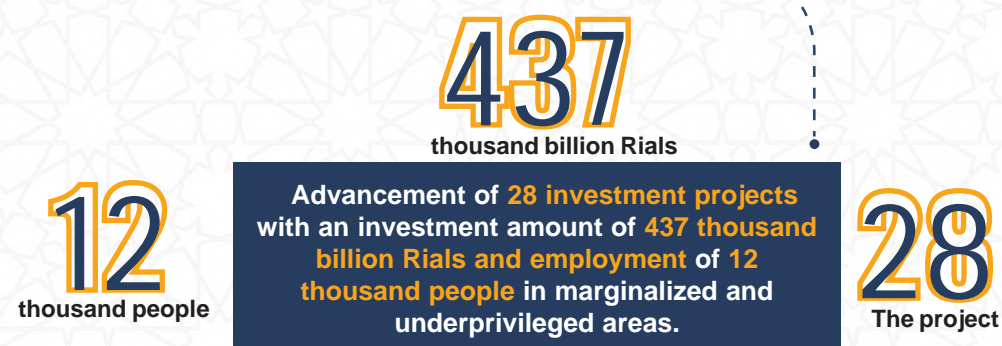
## Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran

A review of Idro's performance on the occasion of celebrating Government Week

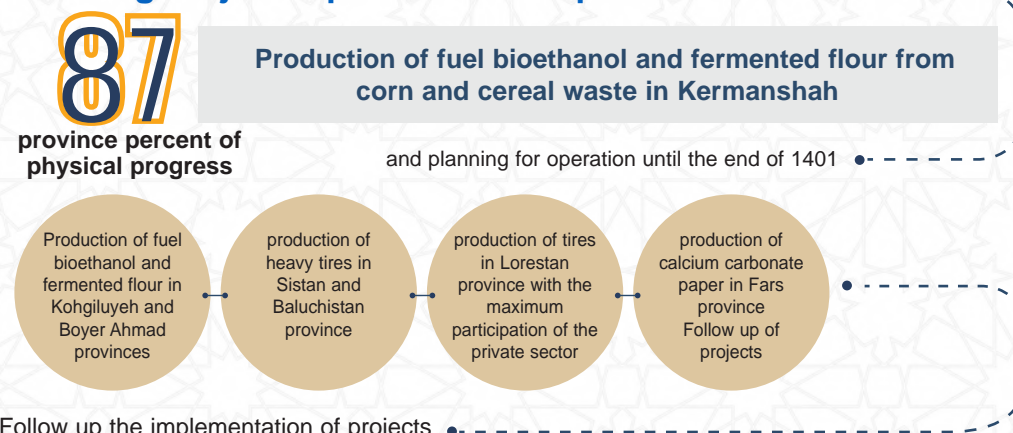
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Implementation of industrial development projects in deprived and less privileged areas



Dvancing Project Implementation Operations



Follow up the implementation of projects

Implementation of large projects of oil, gas and petrochemical industries



The total amount of the project is **5.5 billion dollars** and **monthly employment** of **6 thousand people**

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**Completion and commissioning of the first tier** (land sector) in the 13th government

Development plan for export-oriented industries on the coasts of Jask and Tegwater

Credits allocated for the payment of interest subsidies for facilities (so far): 1,435 billion Rials





## Colombian President Proposes Multilateral Ceasefire

BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Colombian President Gustavo Petro, who took office earlier this month, proposed a multilateral ceasefire to all illegal armed groups operating in the country as part of an effort to promote peace and end decades of internal conflict.

Petro, a former M-19 guerrilla fighter who laid down his arms and returned to civilian life in 1990, announced the initiative during a visit to the municipality of Ituango, in the insurgency plagued northwestern department of Antioquia.

Various irregular armed organizations have shown their intention to seek an end to the confrontation, said Petro, the first leftist president in Colombia's history.



## U.S. Warships Transit Taiwan Strait, First Since Pelosi Visit



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Two U.S. Navy warships sailed through international waters in the Taiwan Strait, the first such operation since a visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China which regards the island as its territory.

The U.S. Navy, confirming a Reuters report, said cruisers Chancellorsville and Antietam were carrying out the ongoing operation. Such operations usually take eight to 12 hours to complete and are closely monitored by China's military.

In recent years, U.S. warships, and on occasion those from allied nations such as Britain and Canada, have routinely sailed through the strait, drawing the ire of China which claims Taiwan against the objections of its democratically elected government.

Pelosi's Taiwan trip in early August infuriated China which saw it as a U.S. attempt to interfere in its internal affairs. China subsequently launched military drills near the island which have since continued.

"These (U.S.) ships transited through a corridor in the strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state," the U.S. Navy said.

The operation demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, and the U.S. military flies, sails and operates anywhere international law allows, the Navy said.

John Kirby, a spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council, echoed that position on CNN, saying the ships' passage was "very consistent" with the U.S. "one-China" policy and of seeking "a free and open Indo-Pacific."

Kirby added that the operation was planned long ago.

The Chinese military's Eastern Theater Command said it was following the ships and warning them.

"Troops in the theater remain on high alert and are ready to thwart any provocation at any time," it added in a statement.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the ships were sailing in a southerly direction and that its forces were observing but that "the situation was as normal".

The narrow Taiwan Strait has been a frequent source of military tension since the defeated Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with the communists, who established the People's Republic of China.

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was followed around a week later by a group of five other U.S. lawmakers, with China's military responding by carrying out more exercises near the island.

Senator Marsha Blackburn, a U.S. lawmaker on the Senate Commerce and Armed Services committees, arrived in Taiwan on Thursday on the third visit by a U.S. dignitary this month, defying pressure from China to halt the trips.

## Kuwait to Hold Parliamentary Election on Sept 29

KUWAIT (Dispatches) - Kuwait will hold a parliamentary election on Sept. 29, state news agency KUNA reported, after the Persian Gulf state's crown prince moved to dissolve parliament in a bid to resolve a political standoff between the government and the elected legislature.

Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who has taken on most of the ruling emir's duties, issued a decree calling on voters to elect a new 50-seat assembly on Sept. 29, KUNA SAID. New districts will be added to the electoral circumscriptions, the decree showed. Sheikh Meshal dissolved parliament earlier this month saying domestic politics were being "torn by disagreement and personal interests" to the detriment of the U.S.-allied country and OPEC oil producer.



## Ukraine on Edge as Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant Shelled

KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian artillery fired at Ukrainian towns across the river from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant overnight, local officials said, adding to residents' anguish as reports of shelling around the plant fuelled fears of a radiation disaster.

Russia's defense ministry said there was more Ukrainian shelling of the plant over the past 24 hours, just a day after Moscow and Kyiv traded accusations of targeting Europe's biggest nuclear plant, which has prompted grave international concern.

Ukrainian nuclear company Energoatom said it had no new information about attacks on the plant. Captured by Russian troops in March, but still run by Ukrainian staff, the complex on the southern front line of the war has been one of the major hotspots in the six-month-old conflict.

Regional governor Oleksandr Starukh said on Telegram on Sunday that Russian forces struck residential buildings in the region's main city of Zaporizhzhia, about a two-hour drive from the plant, and the town of Orikhiv further east.



### Tripoli Calm, Libya Riven After Worst Fighting in Years

TRIPOLI (Dispatches) - Charred cars and buildings pockmarked by bullets scarred Libya's capital, the day after intense fighting killed 32 people yet appeared to leave the Tripoli government more firmly entrenched.

Battles raged across the city throughout Saturday as forces aligned with the parliament-backed administration of Fathi Bashagha failed to take control of the capital and oust the Tripoli-based government of Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah.

On a tour of the city on Sunday, Reuters saw workers clearing glass and debris from streets littered with spent ammunition casings, as fighters aligned with Dbeibah stood in front of bases seized from forces affiliated with Bashagha.

Traffic had returned to many roads as residents inspected damage to their property. The clashes erupted and ended suddenly. But the brief nature of the flare up has not quashed fears of a wider conflict resuming between rivals after months of stalemate in a nation that has endured more than a decade of chaos and violence.

Libya has had little peace since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that ousted longtime autocrat Muammar Gaddafi, splitting the nation in 2014 between rival eastern and western factions and dragging in regional powers. Libyan oil output, a prize for the warring groups, has repeatedly been shut off.

Bashagha's prospects of seizing control in Tripoli, which lies in west Libya, appear badly dented for now but there is no sign of a broader political or diplomatic compromise to end the struggle for power in Libya.

The powerful eastern faction that backed Bashagha, including parliament speaker Aguila Saleh and commander Khalifa Haftar with his Libyan National Army, have given little indication that they are ready to reach an accommodation with Dbeibah.

Saleh's parliament, based in east Libya, said Dbeibah's government had exceeded its term and appointed Bashagha to replace him early this year after the collapse of a political process to prepare for elections. Dbeibah challenged this.

## Argentina VP Asks Demonstrators to Go Home After Unrest

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner asked her supporters to halt a protest, while defending their right to demonstrate, after prosecutors requested a 12-year prison sentence for alleged corruption.

After a tense day in which thousands took to the streets to defend her and two were detained in clashes that injured seven police officers, Fernandez de Kirchner gave a brief evening speech on a makeshift stage in front of her house.

"In a democracy, the right to freedom of expression is fundamental," she said. "I want to say thank you and to ask you to go get some rest. It's been a long day."

Prosecutors on Monday accused Fernandez de Kirchner on Monday of defrauding the state and involvement in a scheme to divert public funds while president between 2007 and 2015.

The largest demonstration of her supporters took place outside the vice president's home in the elegant Buenos Aires neighborhood of Recoleta, where in the early morning hours police had set up fences in an effort to prevent a large gathering.

Supporters gather outside Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's house, in Buenos Aires. In the afternoon, the demonstrators, who claim that

Fernandez de Kirchner is the victim of judicial persecution and that the fences were erected by Buenos Aires' opposition mayor as a provocation, tore down the barriers and clashed with police. Hydrant trucks tried to disperse the crowds with water.

"Today I woke up with the corner of my house literally besieged," Fernandez de Kirchner said in a tweet. "They want to ban demonstrations of love and support that are absolutely peaceful and joyful, which are taking place in the face of the judiciary's already undeniable persecution."

As a sign of support, President Alberto Fernandez later took to Twitter to criticize "the institutional violence unleashed by the city government."

Mayor Horacio Rodriguez Larreta justified the placement of fences and the actions of the police, telling a news conference that "the demonstration turned into a situation of violence."

Fernandez de Kirchner leads the most hardline wing of the center-left Peronist coalition that has governed Argentina since the end of 2019.

The verdict and any potential sentence will be decided by a judge, which could take months, though Fernandez de Kirchner could appeal any decision, possibly delaying a final verdict for years.



## Pakistan Says Help Needed After Overwhelming Floods



ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan needs financial help to deal with "overwhelming" floods, its foreign minister said on Sunday, adding that he hoped financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund would take the economic fallout into account.

Unusually heavy monsoon rains have caused devastating floods in both the north and south of the country, affecting more than 30 million people and killing more than 1,000.

"I haven't seen destruction of this scale, I find it very difficult to put into words ... it is overwhelming," said Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari in an interview with Reuters, adding many crops that provided much of the population's livelihoods had been wiped out.

"Obviously this will have an effect on the overall economic situation," he said. The South Asian nation was already in an economic crisis, facing high inflation, a depreciating currency and a current account deficit.

The IMF board will decide this week on whether to release \$1.2 billion as part of the seventh and eighth tranches of Pakistan's bailout program, which it entered in 2019.

Bhutto-Zardari said the board was expected to approve the release given an agreement between Pakistani officials and IMF staff had already been reached and he hoped in coming months the IMF would recognize the impact of the floods.

"Going forward, I would expect not only the IMF, but the international community and international agencies to truly grasp the level of devastation," he said.

Bhutto-Zardari, the son of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said the economic impact was still being assessed, but that some estimates had put it at \$4 billion. Given the impact on infrastructure and people's livelihoods, he said he expected the total figure would be much higher.

Pakistan's central bank had already flagged the record monsoon rainfall as a threat to economic output given its impact on agriculture.

Pakistan would this week launch an appeal asking United Nations member states to contribute to relief efforts, Bhutto-Zardari said, and the country needed to look at how it would handle the longer term impacts of climate change.



## Energy Crisis Pushes Nuclear Comeback Worldwide

PARIS (Dispatches) - As the costs of importing energy soars worldwide and climate crises wreak havoc, interest in nuclear power is on the rise with nations scrambling to find alternative sources.

Investment in nuclear power declined after Japan's 2011 Fukushima disaster, the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986, as fears over its safety increased and governments ran scared.

But following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February, the subsequent squeeze on energy supplies and Europe's push to wean itself off of Russian oil and gas, the tide is now turning back in favor of nuclear.

Governments face difficult decisions with rising gas and electricity bills and scarce resources threatening to cause widespread suffering this winter.

Some experts argue that nuclear power should not be considered an option, But others argue that, in the face of so many crises, it must remain part of the world's energy mix.

One of the countries reconsidering nuclear energy is Japan, where the 2011 accident led to the suspension of many nuclear reactors over safety fears.

This week Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called for a push to revive the country's nuclear power industry, and build new atomic plants.

Other countries that were looking to move away from nuclear have discarded those plans -- at least in the short term.

Less than a month after Russia's attack on Ukraine, Belgium delayed by a decade its plan to scrap nuclear energy in 2025.

While nuclear power, currently used in 32 countries, supplies 10 percent of the world's electricity production, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) raised its projections in September for the first time since the 2011 disaster.

The IAEA now expects installed capacity to double by 2050 under the most favourable scenario.

Even in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, sticking with nuclear is no longer a taboo subject as the energy crisis rekindles debate on shutting down the country's last three nuclear power plants by the end of 2022.

Berlin said last month it would await the outcome of a "stress test" of the national electric grid before deciding whether to stick with the phaseout.

Greenpeace Germany's climate and energy expert, Gerald Neubauer, said turning to nuclear was "not a solution to the energy crisis".

He said nuclear energy would have "limited" efficacy in replacing Russian gas since it is mainly "used for heating" in Germany not for electricity production.

"The reactors would only save the gas used for electricity, it would save less than one percent of the gas consumption," he added.

But according to Nicolas Berghmans, energy and climate expert at the IDDRI think tank, extending the use of nuclear "can help".

"Europe is in a very different energy situation, with several overlapping crises: the problem of Russian gas supply, the drought that has reduced the capacity of dams, the French nuclear plants' weak output... so all the levers matter," he said.

The pro-nuclear lobby says it is one of the world's best options to avoid climate change since it does not directly emit carbon dioxide.

In fact, nuclear energy accounts for a bigger share of the world power mix in most of the scenarios put forward by the IPCC, the UN's climate experts, to alleviate the global climate crisis.



## UN Session on High Seas Biodiversity Ends Without Agreement

PARIS (Dispatches) - UN member states ended two weeks of negotiations without a treaty to protect biodiversity in the high seas, an agreement that would have addressed growing environmental and economic challenges.

After 15 years, including four prior formal sessions, negotiators have yet to reach a legally binding text to address the multitude of issues facing international waters -- a zone that encompasses almost half the planet.

"Although we did make excellent progress, we still do need a little bit more time to progress towards the finish line," said conference chair Rena Lee.

It will now be up to the UN General Assembly to resume the fifth session at a date still to be determined.

Many had hoped the session, which began on August 15 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, would be the last and yield a final text on "the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction," or BBNJ for short.

"While it's disappointing that the treaty wasn't finalized during the past two weeks of negotiations, we remain encouraged by the progress that was made," said Liz Karan of the NGO Pew Charitable Trusts, calling for a new session by the end of the year.

One of the most sensitive issues in the text revolved around the sharing of possible profits from the development of genetic resources in international waters, where pharmaceutical, chemical and cosmetic companies hope to find miracle drugs, products or cures.

Such costly research at sea is largely the prerogative of rich nations, but developing countries do not want to be left out of potential windfall profits drawn from marine resources that belong to no one.

Similar issues of equity arise in other international negotiations, such as on climate change, in which developing nations that feel outsized harm from global warming have tried in vain to get wealthier countries to help pay to offset those impacts.

The high seas begin at the border of a nation's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) -- which by international law reaches no more than 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from its coast -- and are under no state's jurisdiction.

Sixty percent of the world's oceans fall under this category.

And while healthy marine ecosystems are crucial to the future of humanity, particularly to limit global warming, only one percent of international waters are protected.

One of the key pillars of an eventual BBNJ treaty is to allow the creation of marine protected areas, which many nations hope will cover 30 percent of the Earth's ocean by 2030.

"Without establishing protections in this vast area, we will not be able to meet our ambitious and necessary 30 by 30 goal," US State Department official Maxine Burkett said at an earlier press conference.

But delegations still disagree on the process for creating these protected areas as well as how required environmental impact assessments will be implemented before new high seas activity begins.

"What a missed opportunity...", tweeted Klaudija Cremers, a researcher at the IDDRI think tank, which, like multiple other NGOs, has a seat with observer status at the negotiations.

The delegate from Samoa, addressing the conference on behalf of the smaller developing island nations of the Pacific, said they were "disappointed."

"We live very far and it is not cheap to travel all this way. This money was not spent on roads, on medicine, schools," she added.



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## Sinopec's Interim Profit Soars on Stronger Oil, Gas Prices

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China Petroleum and Chemical Corp, or Sinopec Corp, reported interim net income surged 10.4% to a record 43.53 billion yuan (\$6.33 billion), thanks to strong oil and gas prices despite weakened domestic fuel sales.

Sinopec, the world's largest refiner by capacity, reported revenues of 1.61 trillion yuan for the six months, up 27.9% from year earlier levels.

During the period, Sinopec processed a total of 120.76 million tons of crude oil, down 4.2% versus a year ago, and its refined fuel sales fell 9.8% to 98.42 million tons, the company said in a stock filing.



## Central Banks to Fail to Tame Inflation Without Better Fiscal Policy

JACKSON HOLE (Dispatches) - Central banks will fail to control inflation and could even push price growth higher unless governments start playing their part with more prudent budget policies, according to a study presented to policymakers at the Jackson Hole conference in the United States.

Governments around the world opened their coffers during the COVID-19 pandemic to prop up economies, but those efforts have helped push inflation rates to their highest levels in nearly half a century, raising the risk that rapid price growth will become entrenched.

Central banks are now raising interest rates, but the new study, presented on Saturday at the Kansas City Federal Reserve's Jackson Hole Economic Symposium argued that a central bank's inflation-fighting reputation is not decisive in such a scenario.

"If the monetary tightening is not supported by the expectation of appropriate fiscal adjustments, the deterioration of fiscal imbalances leads to even higher inflationary pressure," said Francesco Bianchi of Johns Hopkins University and Leonardo Melosi of the Chicago Fed.

"As a result, a vicious circle of rising nominal interest rates, rising inflation, economic stagnation, and increasing debt would arise," the paper argued. "In this pathological situation, monetary tightening would actually spur higher inflation and would spark a pernicious fiscal stagflation."

On track this fiscal year to come in at just over \$1 trillion, the U.S. budget deficit is set to be far smaller than earlier projected, but at 3.9% of GDP, it remains historically high and is seen declining only marginally next year.

The euro zone, which is also struggling with high inflation, is likely to follow a similar path, with its deficit hitting 3.8% this year and staying elevated for years, particularly as the bloc is likely to suffer a recession starting in the fourth quarter.

The study argued that around half of the recent surge in U.S. inflation was due to fiscal policy and an erosion in beliefs that the government would run prudent fiscal policies.

While some central banks have been criticized for recognizing the inflation problem too late, the study argued that even earlier rate hikes would have been futile.

"More hawkish (Fed) policy would have lowered inflation by only 1 percentage point at the cost of reducing output by around 3.4 percentage points," the authors said. "This is a quite large sacrifice ratio."

To control inflation, fiscal policy must work in tandem with monetary policy and reassure people that instead of inflating away debt, the government would raise taxes or cut expenditures.

Central banks will fail to tame inflation without better fiscal policy, study says

## Sri Lanka Increases Water Tariffs Amid Economic Crisis

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lankan Minister of Water Supply said that sewerage charges under domestic tariff, commercial tariff and industrial tariff will depend on total consumption.

In order to tackle the devastating economic crisis, the Sri Lanka Ministry of Water Supply announced on Saturday, that it is increasing the water tariffs that will go into effect from September 1, according to ANI. Sri Lanka's cabinet of ministers had approved a proposal to revise water and sewage charges in order to bring down the Water Supply and Drainage Board's recurring operational costs and working capital loan obligations amid the looming financial woes in the Southeast Asian country. Sri Lanka's information department had announced in a statement that the tariff revision was necessary to ensure an interrupted supply of water across all the towns.

According to a Gazette notification that was issued on August 27, the government announced that it had no option but to hike the water tariffs in order to lower the costs associated with the provision of water for the citizens. Colombo's National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) said that the water tariffs will be increased with effect from September 1, 2022 as approval was received on August 9 from the Cabinet. This would ensure that the recurrent monitoring cost and the capital loan services responsibility of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board are covered.

Sri Lanka's Cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena clarified that the measure was in line with the cost-reflective price formula pondered by the government amid the harrowing monetary situation that the country is facing. The proposal to implement the plan was tabled by the Minister of Water Supply. Any citizen who fails to pay off the bills will have their water supply cut off in accordance with NWSDB law.

## Europe Should Not Shut Its Doors to Russian Tourists

LONDON (Financial Times) - The sight of often well-to-do Russian tourists shopping in Europe's cities or relaxing on its beaches may seem sharply at odds with efforts to isolate the Moscow leadership and weaken Russia's economy over its appalling aggression against Ukraine. Several northern and central European

countries have restricted access to Russians, and are pushing for an EU-wide ban on visas for Russian tourists. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has also called for blocking visas, except on humanitarian grounds. The urge is understandable, but would be a mistake.

Though sanctions aimed at degrading Vladimir Putin's ability to wage his war have inevitably affected ordinary Russian people, they have not targeted them directly. Even bans on Russian planes entering EU airspace and on supplying parts for its aircraft aimed to weaken its economy, not keep Russians out. A visa ban is different, because it specifically targets civilians. It bolsters the false Kremlin narrative that sanctions are not really about Ukraine but are a western plot to bring down Russia and its people. Even moderate Russians might turn against the EU.

As German chancellor Olaf Scholz has stated: "This is not the war of the Russian people, it is Putin's war." Though Russians have repeatedly voted Putin into office, the system he has created bombards them with pro-Kremlin propaganda and offers them few alternatives. Where democracies have tried to isolate other authoritarian regimes they have attempted to retain contacts with civil society, for example through student exchanges — to expose citizens, wherever possible, to an alternative system and worldview.

Many Russians on a two-week package tour will engage little with local people or media. But some will. Every chink of light that penetrates the blackout curtain of Kremlin lies is valuable.

Though reliable statistics are scarce, moreover, several hundred thousand Russians are estimated to have left their country since the war started, in unease or quiet protest over what is happening. Many are young and well-qualified, constituting a brain drain that will amplify the economic hit from sanctions. Some will become part of a growing liberal-minded diaspora that may one day return to try to build a better, post-Putin Russia. Some departed to émigré hotspots such as Armenia, Georgia, Turkey and Dubai, but many set out for the EU, initially on tourist visas, to look for jobs.

## Egypt Dims Lights to Boost Foreign Reserves

CAIRO (Dispatches) - An economic crisis spurred by the Ukraine war is casting darkness upon Egypt's streets, as the government dims lights to free up energy for export and bolster hard currency reserves.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine had an immediate impact on Egypt, the world's biggest wheat importer which has relied on the ex-Soviet states for over 80 percent of its grain.

Egypt, which turned to the International Monetary Fund for a loan after the war erupted, is pumping more natural gas abroad to increase its foreign currency reserves -- a move that has come in for criticism.

And while the government announced electricity rationing this month, signs of wastage elicit scorn. "I see streetlights still working during daylight hours... and we're suffering from high electricity bills," said a disgruntled Cairo resident in his 30s who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The country's vital tourism sector has also been hit by the Ukraine conflict, cutting the flow of holidaymakers to a country still hurting from the 2011 revolution and Covid-19 pandemic.

Economic growth slowed to 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021-22 against 7.7 percent last year, although annual expansion was 6.6 percent.

Despite the better-than-expected annual figure, the government said growth had tapered off in the wake of "global political and economic developments".

Egypt's monetary policy has been caught between a rock and a hard place since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

Inflation hit a three-year high of 14.6 percent in July after Egypt devalued the pound, pushing up the price of imports and depleting forex reserves by \$7.8 billion since February to \$33.1 billion in July.

Egypt is negotiating an IMF loan to help mitigate fallout from the Ukraine war on the country, where 30 percent of the 103 million population lives in poverty.

But the talks have stretched out for six months, raising eyebrows among analysts.

"The fact that talks with the IMF have dragged is probably a sign that some officials are reluctant to follow through on the Fund's demands and would prefer to rely on support from the oil-flush Gulf economies," London's Capital Economics said.

"We need to speed up negotiations with the IMF," said Hany Genena, an economist and lecturer at American University in Cairo.

"Since last week, there has been a severe shortage of dollars provided to importers by banks in various sectors."

Cairo had previously secured a \$12-billion IMF loan in 2016 that required it to slash subsidies and devalue the pound.

In 2020, Egypt received two more loans, including \$5.4 billion tied to reforms and \$2.8 billion to tackle Covid.

## Thai Property Gains Foreign Popularity



BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Thailand's real estate market has recently been characterized by an oversupply of flats. There were over 90 thousand unsold units of condominiums in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) in Thailand as of 2020.

Thailand has been a popular expatriate destination for investment and retirement for decades. But foreign land ownership has long been restricted.

Foreigners can own no more than 49 per cent of any condominium development and are restricted from owning most freehold estates. Yet Thailand is keen to attract wealthy international investors — particularly those from China.

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-O-Cha proposed a policy that would allow foreigners to own land for residential use on 15 July 2022. Thai officials claim this will boost the economy by luring wealthy foreigners to spend and invest in the country.

Investing 40 million baht in Thai property, securities or funds for a period of at least three years is now one of many preconditions for foreign nationals to own up to 1 rai (approximately 1,600 square metres) of land from September 2022.

Still, there are other ways foreigners can acquire rights to land — including through the ownership of companies, long term leases and other investment schemes available in Special Economic Zones set up by the Thai government.

When deciding to invest in Thai property, most foreign investors invest through companies — allowing a Thai national to arbitrate the property through a business committee on their behalf. Foreign investors can also purchase property through a tax-free scheme set up by the 'Board of Investment' agency administered by the Thai government.

Thailand's real estate market has recently been characterized by an oversupply of flats. There were over 90 thousand unsold units of condominiums in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region (BMR) in Thailand as of 2020.

## Japan, Africa Leaders Vow to Cope With Food Crisis

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Leaders from Japan and African nations wrapped up a two-day meeting in the Tunisian capital Tunis on Sunday, underscoring their commitment to better cope with a food crisis aggravated by Russia's war in Ukraine.

The leaders are believed to have affirmed the importance of fair and transparent financing to spur growth in Africa, where China is increasing its clout through investment and development aid, according to Japanese government sources.

The meeting, the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD 8, came amid rising concerns about stable food supplies and soaring food and energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The food crisis is being felt acutely in some African and Middle Eastern nations that are highly dependent on grain from Ukraine, a major producer.

Besides the Ukraine war, the African economy is still being hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Japan will inject \$30 billion over the next three years into African development, including \$300 million in co-financing with the African Development Bank to boost food production.

Kishida addressed the meeting online due to his infection with COVID-19. Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi is representing Japan in the Tunis meeting.

Japan and other Group of Seven countries -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States, plus the European Union -- have condemned Russia for destroying Ukraine's agricultural infrastructure and imposing a blockade of its Black Sea ports that has prevented shipments of Ukrainian crops.

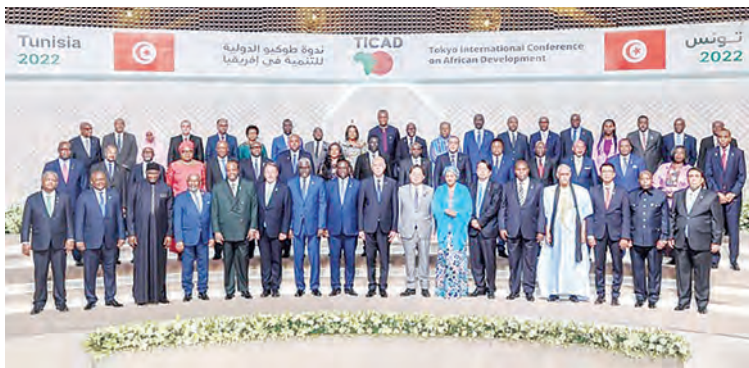
Russia, for its part, has blamed the food shortages on Western economic sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine.

The G-7 members are concerned some African nations are accepting Moscow's claims and even calling for an easing of sanctions. In the address, Kishida said Japan will "grow together" with Africa in what is seen as a veiled attempt to contrast Tokyo's approach to development with that of China.

China has been criticized for using a "debt trap" policy in which it leverages debt to gain concessions from borrowing nations, such as long-term leases of port facilities and other infrastructure in strategically important areas.

Co-hosted by Japan, the United Nations, the World Bank, the U.N. Development Program and the African Union Commission, TICAD has been held every three years since its fifth session in 2013. Before that, it had taken place every five years following its launch in 1993.

On Saturday, representatives from 48 African nations, including 20 leaders and international organizations, attended the Tunis meeting, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.





## “Silenced Tree” Wins Best Film Award at Munich Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Directed by Faysal Soysal and produced by Ali Nouri Oskouei, “Silenced Tree” won the prize of the best film at the Munich Film Awards.

The film was recently selected as the best film at Hamilton New York International Film Festival as well.

Filed in Turkey, it is about a literature teacher who tries helplessly to hold on to his past: his shattering marriage, his sick old mother, a decaying walnut tree, and the memory of his father. The film is co-produced by Iran’s Farabi Cinema Foundation, the film department of TRT Turkey, and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey.



## In Germany, the Stuttering Bid to Jumpstart Coal Plants

HAMBURG (Dispatches) - A year after the last wisps of smoke disappeared into the skies from the imposing chimneys of the Moorburg coal plant, hopes had grown that the mothballed site would see new life as Germany scrambles to secure energy supplies.

Russia’s curtailing of gas exports to Germany in the wake of the Ukraine war has forced Berlin to make the radical decision to restart coal power stations, at least temporarily.

But infrastructure issues, manpower shortages and logistical problems are proving to be major obstacles for the restart.

At Moorburg, operator Vattenfall has dashed hopes of new operations, saying simply that “restarting it would be neither technically, economically nor legally feasible”.

“Many parts have been dismantled and sold,” said Robert Wacker, director of the site.

Even power plants that had not been completely shut, but put in reserve to generate power only occasionally, are struggling with a complete reboot.

Further south from Moorburg, energy group Uniper will on Monday fire up its Heyden 4 site, which had been a reserve plant since mid-2021.

But the company warned that its output would be affected by railway capacity limits in ferrying hard coal to the site.

Germany began winding down its coal-fired power plants in the last few years, in view of meeting a target to end usage of the fossil fuel by 2030.

But Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has upended plans as Moscow reduced energy exports to Germany in what Berlin believes is retaliation for its support for Kyiv.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s government has said it would stick to the 2030 coal exit timetable, but in the meantime, it authorised the restart of 27 mothballed plants or those put in reserve to help fill the energy gap until March 2024.

With a capacity of 875 megawatts (MW), Uniper’s Heyden 4 figures as the largest on the list.

But the Moorburg plant, located in the suburb of Hamburg, had been one of the most modern in the world.



It was shut down in the summer of 2021, just six years after it was put into service, in exchange for a public subsidy programme aimed at cutting coal from Germany’s energy mix.

Since then, the operator has started dismantling and selling the parts that are not necessary for hydrogen -- a priority for Germany’s future energy sources.

Before it closed, the plant churned out around 11 billion kilowatts per year -- the equivalent of the electricity consumption for the city of Hamburg.

But now, the installation is no longer complete.

In the turbines hall, thousands of small components have been packed away into boxes. A rotor, an element that allows the turbine to turn, is packed in aluminium, ready to be sent off.

## ESCO to Complete Modernization With Reliance on Domestic Capabilities

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

ISFAHAN – On the occasion of the Government Week, the CEO of Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) Eng. Iraj Rokhsati felicitated the occasion to all executives and servants of the sacred Islamic Republic establishment and commemorated memories of Martyrs Rajaei and Bahonar and highlighted major achievements of ESCO.



Rokhsati said that some of the projects which are underway in the country today are lasting works that have guaranteed the continuation of production and development of activities of this company and they will preserve it for the future generations.

Pointing to the start of project for replacing bulks of the steelmaking section for the first time in the country, he said that beside the mentioned project which completes modernization of ESCO, the company has projects underway for construction of oxygen plant, cupola furnace No. 3 and reconstruction of cupola furnace No. 1 in line with improving the production capacity. He added that some four projects like construction of wastewater treatment unit based on the BOT method are underway which will provide the water resources for the company.

Rokhsati went on to say that this year due to improvement of the quality and demands of the customers to steel products with different grades, the company has allocated major products to the special and industrial products to meet the domestic and international demands like steel grades of C60, 31Mn4, CK45 as well as export quality ingots in different brands.

He then pointed to some records which were set by the company last year and this year the company has set the record of 260,000 tons for monthly production.

Rokhsati added that ESCO is the first Iranian company which has achieved in getting homologation certificate for exporting its ribbed rebar to Germany, adding that ESCO has also succeeded in getting CARES certificate for exporting its BS4449 ribbed rebar to Britain and the Persian Gulf as well as getting CE certificate for exporting girder based on the EN10025 and DIN 1025 standards for export to EU countries.

He then pointed to other achievements of the company in the past year.

## HOSCO Leader in Observing Social Responsibilities

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN – Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) signed the first contract for buying treated wastewater of city of Bandar Abbas with Persian Gulf Infrastructure Supply and Development Company (PGIDSCO) in line with its social responsibilities, resolving old problem of urban wastewater system and helping environment of Hormozgan Province.

On Friday, with presence of Vice President and Head of Environment Department Ali Salajeghe, Governor General of Hormozgan Province Mr. Mehdi Doosti, the CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company Mr. Ataollah Maroufkhani, the CEO of Setareh Simin Hormoz Mining and Steel Industries Company, the first phase project for transfer of treated wastewater of Bandar Abbas to the industries in the western part of the city started and contracts for purchase of treated wastewater were signed by officials of HOSCO and Setareh Simin Hormoz Company.

In line with social responsibilities and providing



sustainable water of industries, HOSCO was the first company which took lead in this mega project of transferring treated wastewater to the industries in the west of the province, and it is the major shareholder of this project and it will implement the project in eight phases in collaboration with other companies in the special zone.

Since the beginning of the project, two phases have been implemented and the third phase has entered the operational phase. HOSCO and its affiliate Setareh Simin Hormoz Company has each bought 125m cubic meters of the treated wastewater which can improve the marine environment of Bandar Abbas and completion of the project.

At the end of the ceremony, the CEO of HOSCO Mr. Maroufkhani hailed the support of provincial officials especially the governor general and said that the project is in line with observing social responsibilities of the company.

## No Connivance in Fighting Corruption

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

ISFAHAN – The CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) says the company will not have any connivance in fighting corruption and it will be committed to the ethics.

Speaking among the personnel of the company, the CEO of the company Mr. Mohammad Yaser Tayyebnia said that the company is to divide its path from the enemies’ path, adding that as the Supreme Leader has warned their demands and solutions should not be aligned with enemies.

He went on to say that all live in a system which is fighting with corruption and for this reason they have been tasked with responsibilities.

He pointed to the recent corruption report in MSC and said such corruptions have happened in other big companies in the world, adding that MSC does not belong to an individual or a shareholder and it is a symbol of national power. He added that the goal of the current government is to serve the people and fight with corruption and one of the main missions of the staff in MSC is this.

He noted that since the first days in the company he has had close relation with the screening bodies to identify the corruption loopholes and to be pioneer in implementing the structural changes. He reiterated that this is for return of MSC to its main goal and rail which is growth and non-stop development.

Tayyebnia also called for trust of staff to the managers of the company, reiterating that the company will stick to the ethics and will have no connivance in confronting with corruption and offenders.



### Iran Target of...

**FROM PAGE 1**

The other platforms that were used in the operations were Telegram, Google’s YouTube, and the Russian social media networks VKontakte and Odnoklassniki.

YouTube said it had terminated several channels posting in Arabic, Farsi, and Russian to promote U.S. foreign affairs, including channels linked to a US consulting firm.

The New York Times -- the “Typhoid Mary of American journalism” -- rages against nations on the U.S. target list for regime change, writes Stephen Lendman.

A set of 21 Twitter accounts, six Instagram accounts, five Facebook profiles, and two Facebook pages targeted Iranian audiences between November 2020 and June 2022, according to the report.

It disclosed that some of the personas used profile pictures that were likely created using artificial intelligence.

Many tried to present themselves as real people by interspersing Iranian poetry and photos of Persian food between political messages.

On Facebook and Instagram, dozens of posts also negatively compared opportunities for Iranian women with those for women abroad.

Moreover, 12 Twitter accounts, 10 Facebook pages, 15 Facebook profiles, and 10 Instagram accounts were created between June 2020 and March 2022 to focus on Central Asia.

Those accounts then published posts in bitter criticism of Russia’s military campaign in Ukraine and cheered on pro-Ukrainian protests in Central Asian countries.

This report is an endorsement to Tehran’s claim that the West still continues its hostility against Iran and it has turned into the den of anti-revolutionaries and anti-Iran grouplets.

The interesting thing is that the U.S. jumps to defend anyone who is arrested in countries for violating citizenship rights under the name of freedom of speech but it does not tolerate websites or media outlets which criticize them in other countries.

Americans through the years have tried to change the truths through their media network and have tried to paint picture of them as savior and paint picture of Iran as terrorist and uncivilized nation while the truth is something else and people in the world is gradually is waking up and realizing who is right and who is wrong and rain of disinformation and negative propaganda against the freedom-seeking countries is losing its effect.

But some people who are still interested in the West and think the West is always right by reading such reports which come from Western countries themselves are gradually realizing what is going around them and how the American officials tell lies and try to paint negative pictures of other countries in order to justify their presence and occupation of those countries.

Unfortunately the owners and companies which run the social media platforms all play in the team of the American officials and they cannot claim that they are supporter of freedom of expression because they are not even able to tolerate any simple criticism or claim by their opponents, and therefore world people are better not to expect too much of these platforms which all try to please the U.S. officials and the Zionists and all these platforms are to shape the public opinion in favor of the West and making money and not for the sake of dissemination of truths.

### Agreement...

**FROM PAGE 1**

“Iran has been pursuing the policy of good neighborliness... Foreign presence in the region creates problems, and does not provide security for regional states,” he said.

Raisi also noted that fence-mending negotiations between senior representatives from Iran and Saudi Arabia are ongoing in the Iraqi capital Baghdad in order to resolve differences between the two countries and restore diplomatic relations.

The Iranian president finally stated that Tehran and Ankara enjoy good bilateral ties and closely cooperate with each other concerning regional issues and developments. “Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has promised to pursue joint water diplomacy with neighbors,” Raisi said.



### JCPOA Talks Aim at...

**FROM PAGE 1**

In quitting the agreement, Trump restored sanctions on Iran as part of what he called the “maximum pressure” campaign against the country. Those sanctions are being enforced to this day by the Joe Biden administration, even though it has repeatedly acknowledged that the policy has been a mistake and a failure.

Despite notable progress, the US indecisiveness and procrastination caused multiple interruptions in the marathon talks.

Four days of intense talks between representatives of Iran and the five remaining parties to the JCPOA ended on August 8 with a modified text proposed by the EU on the table.

Iran submitted its response to the EU draft proposal on August 15, a week after the latest round of talks wrapped up. After submitting its response, Tehran urged Washington to show “realism and flexibility” in order to reach an agreement.

### Iran, Pakistan...

**FROM PAGE 1**

Pakistani side agreed to share its opinion regarding SEPAM with Iranian side. In addition, the Iranian side will share the details of block chain-based financial messaging system through diplomatic channel. The Pakistani side will share its views within two months after receipt of the model.

Regarding the previous submission of the proposed draft of “Banking Payment Arrangement (BPA) for bilateral trade between Iran and Pakistan” to the Pakistani authorities to develop trade relations between the two countries, Iranian side has already proposed an alternative proposal to address the Pakistani concerns and reservations on BPA. Hence, the Pakistani side agreed to expedite the process of reviewing the new proposal within two months.

With respect to power in order to develop existing cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and to increase the electricity export capacity, Iranian side shared a draft MoU for purchase of additional power from Iran on a long-term basis (15-20 years). It was decided that the Pakistani side would announce its views through diplomatic channels after completion of technical and commercial evaluation of the proposed MoU. The two sides expressed their desire to complete the 230 kV Plan (Iran)-Gwadar (Pakistan). According to the Pakistani side’s request from Iran to supply 100 MW of electricity through the Polan-Gabd transmission line with a voltage level of 132 kV, it has been agreed for the Pakistani side to take all measures related to construction of the transmission line in its territory as soon as possible.

### Iran Ready to...

**FROM PAGE 1**

The current volume of crude and condensate in onshore storages within Iran is estimated at about 48 million barrels, Kpler data showed, adding that the producer could be holding even more oil in some land storages around China.

Longer term after any deal is struck and the offshore cache is drained, Iran would seek to rebuild production and step-up overseas sales.

While Iran may aim to fill the void left by Russia in Europe, namely in Spain, Italy, Greece and even Turkey, Tehran would also attempt to reclaim share in the prized Asian market, even if it takes a sweetening of terms.

In 2017 and 2018, Europe consumed an average of 748,000 barrels and 528,000 barrels a day of Iranian oil, respectively, while Asia took 1.2 million and close to 1 million barrels a day, Kpler data showed.



## Smith Among PGA Players Set for LIV Golf Jump

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - British Open champion Cameron Smith of Australia is among several US PGA Tour players who will defect to the Saudi-backed rival LIV Golf Series, according to multiple reports. World number two Smith had been the subject of several reports about joining LIV Golf shortly after lifting the Claret Jug last month, but has avoided discussion of the subject while playing in this month's PGA FedEx Cup playoffs.

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

## Scheffler Stretches Lead to Six at Tour Championship

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Top-ranked Scottie Scheffler, the reigning Masters champion, made four birdies in six holes to seize a six-stroke lead after Sunday's completion of the third round of the PGA's Tour Championship. Lightning halted play Saturday with 14 golfers still on the course at East Lake in Atlanta, adding to the last-day drama at the season-ending FedEx Cup playoff showdown. Scheffler made brilliant approaches to set up his sizzling effort Sunday morning to complete a four-under par 66 and stand on 23-under par.

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SPORTS

TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 2022

# Dominant Verstappen Goes From 14th to Win Belgian GP

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS (Dispatches) - Red Bull's Max Verstappen went from 14th to first to take a dominant one-two win in the Belgian Grand Prix and accelerate his run towards a second Formula One title.

The Dutch driver took the chequered flag 17.8 seconds ahead of his Mexican team mate Sergio Perez, with Spaniard Carlos Sainz a distant third in his Ferrari after starting on pole position.

"Max was on another planet today, he was flying, he was untouchable," said Perez.

The win was Verstappen's ninth from 14 races so far this season and put him a massive 93 points clear of Perez, who moves into second place overall behind his team mate with eight rounds remaining.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who started one place behind Verstappen in 15th after collecting similar engine and gearbox-related grid drops, finished fifth on the road but was demoted to sixth after a penalty for speeding in the pitlane.

The Monegasque is now third overall, 98 points behind Verstappen who also took a bonus point for the fastest lap.

Verstappen's home Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort follows next weekend.

"The car was a rocket ship all weekend," he said after his second successive win at Spa, although last year's victory was after just three laps splashing through the rain behind the safety car.

"It was quite a hectic first lap to try and stay out of trouble, so many things were happening in front of me, but once we settled in... yeah, the car was really on rails," added Verstappen.

"Once we were in the lead, it was all about managing everything and this whole weekend has been incredible."

Verstappen had been comfortably quickest in Saturday's qualifying but grid penalties meant Sainz inherited pole position.

The Spaniard kept the lead at the start, with Perez slow in getting away alongside as Alpine's Fernando Alonso and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton slotted into second and third.

The former McLaren team mates then



made contact as seven-times world champion Hamilton tried to overtake around the outside into the Les Combes chicane.

Hamilton, who drew a rebuke from Alonso, accepted responsibility for the collision and retired due to damage from the incident.

Further behind, Valtteri Bottas beached his Alfa Romeo in the gravel while trying to avoid the spinning Williams of Nicholas Latifi in an incident that brought out the safety car.

Verstappen, meanwhile, rocketed off the line and was 10th shortly after the start.

He was eighth by the second lap when the safety car came out and swept past Perez to lead after 12 of 44 laps.

"It's been a weekend I couldn't imagine before," said Verstappen. "But we want more of them... we'll see next weekend what we can do."

George Russell was fourth for Mercedes, with Alonso fifth.

Esteban Ocon took seventh for Alpine, ahead of Aston Martin's Sebastian Vettel and AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly with Alex Albon securing the final point for Williams in a race he ranked as one of his toughest.

Meanwhile Hamilton took the blame for a first-lap collision of champions with Alonso that ended the Briton's Belgian Grand Prix, and was also given a warning for refusing to go to the medical center.

Alpine's Alonso had called the most successful F1 driver of all time an "idiot" who "only knows how to drive and start in first (place)" after the pair made contact while fighting for second. Hamilton told Sky Sports television he did not care what the Spaniard had said.

"Looking back at the footage, he was in my blind spot and I didn't leave him enough space so it was my fault today," he said, apologising to the team.



## Mannarino Wins Winston-Salem Title

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Adrian Mannarino entered the Winston-Salem Open simply to gain some match practice before the U.S. Open, but the Frenchman pulled off what he called an "unexpected" achievement by winning the ATP 250 tournament on Saturday.

Mannarino had a tough start in the tournament when he saved four match points in his opening match but bounced back in fashion by beating four seeded players en route to his first tour-level final since 2020.

The 34-year-old then finished the job by beating Laslo Djere 7-6(1) 6-4 in the final, picking up his second tour-level title.

"That was not expected after the first match because I had such a long one, and I knew if I wanted to go through the entire tournament, I would have to play every day for another five matches," Mannarino told reporters.

"I just came here with the ambition to play some matches before the U.S. Open, and I am really happy that I was actually able to do more than that by winning the tournament. It's unexpected but it's good news."

At 34, Mannarino became the oldest winner in the tournament's history and also its first French champion.

"This is not such an important thing to me. I am just happy I won the tournament - no matter who won before or who's going to win after," Mannarino added.

## Kasatkina Bags Second Title

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Russian Daria Kasatkina will go into the U.S. Open brimming with confidence after winning her second title on Saturday in the hardcourt swing leading up to the Grand Slam in New York.

Top seed Kasatkina defeated Daria Saville 6-4 6-4 in the final at the inaugural Championnats Banque Nationale de Granby, with the contest lasting nearly two hours.

It was Kasatkina's second singles title of the season after she won the Silicon Valley Classic crown in San Jose earlier this month.

The world number nine will face Britain's Harriet Dart in the opening round of the U.S. Open, the year's final Grand Slam.

Kasatkina's best performance at the U.S. Open came in 2017 when she reached the round of 16.

## Samsonova Ready For U.S. Open

LONDON (Dispatches) - Russian Liudmila Samsonova said winning the Tennis in the Land tournament in Cleveland has helped her prepare for the U.S. Open, though she expects different conditions at the year's final Grand Slam in New York.

Big-hitting Samsonova secured her 10th straight win with a 6-1 6-3 victory over Belarusian Aliaksandra Sasnovich in the final.

The 23-year-old will begin her U.S. Open campaign against 16-year-old qualifier Sara Bejlek of the Czech Republic.

The U.S. Open will likely "be a different tournament because the conditions are different there," said Samsonova, who was knocked out in the second round of the hardcourt major last year.

"But of course, I played five matches here, so I think they helped me."

Samsonova's title victory in Cleveland was her second in a row, after she won the Citi Open in Washington D.C. this month.

"It's unbelievable to win two titles in a row for me here in the United States, I didn't expect it," she said. "I like so much to play here because the surface is pretty fast, I love it. It was helping me in tough situations."



# Pogba Says Targeted by Gangs

ROME (Dispatches) - Paul Pogba revealed that he is being threatened and targeted for extortion by gangsters after his brother Mathias published a bizarre video online promising "big revelations" about the World Cup winner.

A statement signed by his lawyers, his mother Yeo Moriba and current agent Rafaela Pimenta said that the videos published on Saturday night "are unfortunately no surprise".

"They are in addition to threats and extortion attempts by an organised gang against Paul Pogba," read the statement.

"The competent bodies in Italy and France were informed a month ago and there will be no further comments in relation to the ongoing investigation."

Mathias Pogba, 32, published videos in four languages promising "great revelations about (his) brother Paul Pogba and his agent Rafaela Pimenta", who took over as head of the company of former agent Mino Raiola who died in April.

He said the "whole world, as well as my brother's fans, and even more so the French team and Juventus, my brother's team-mates and his sponsors deserve to know certain things".

Also a professional footballer, Mathias Pogba said people needed to know what he knew in order to judge whether his brother "deserves his place in the French team and the honour of playing in the World Cup. If he deserves to be a starter at Juventus."

"All this is likely to be explosive," he concluded without adding any substance to his "revelations".

According to two sources close to the Pogba family contacted by AFP, large sums of money are being demanded from Paul Pogba if he wants to avoid the dissemination of the allegedly compromising videos.

## Ten Hag Hopes Unsettled Ronaldo Stays at Man Utd

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag insists he wants Cristiano Ronaldo to stay at Old Trafford despite leaving out the unsettled star for a second successive Premier League game.

Ronaldo started on the bench for United's 1-0 win at Southampton on Saturday before making a largely anonymous substitute appearance in the second half.

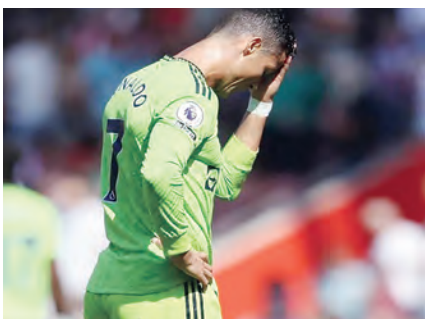
The Portugal striker has been pushing for a transfer since the end of last term after United's failure to qualify for this season's Champions League.

But Ronaldo has found it impossible to attract one of Europe's top clubs, with the latest reports linking him with the likes of his former team Sporting Lisbon, as well as Napoli and Marseille.

With Thursday's transfer deadline looming, United remain adamant the five-time Ballon d'Or winner is not for sale in the second season of his second spell with the club.

But the sight of Ronaldo stopping to salute the United fans after the final whistle at St Mary's convinced some observers that the 37-year-old was preparing to say farewell.

The former Real Madrid and Juventus star finished as United's top scorer last season, but Ten Hag's team have looked more threatening with him, beating both Liverpool and Southampton since he was dropped after starting in the humiliating 4-0 loss at Brentford.



## West Ham Win Piles Pressure On Gerrard

LONDON (Dispatches) - West Ham won for the first time in the Premier League this season as their 1-0 victory piled fresh pressure on Aston Villa boss Steven Gerrard, while Newcastle's Allan Saint-Maximin rescued a 1-1 draw at Wolves.

David Moyes' side arrived at Villa Park sitting bottom of the table after losing their first three games without scoring a single goal.

Pablo Fornals' goal late in the second half ended West Ham's wait to get off the mark as they climbed out of the relegation zone.

Fornals' shot deflected off Villa defender Ezri Konsa and looped over keeper Emiliano Martinez to break the deadlock with 15 minutes left.

The Hammers, beaten by Manchester City, Nottingham Forest and Brighton, are now level on points with Villa, who have lost three of their first four matches.

Villa's latest setback will only add to the scrutiny on Gerrard amid talk of dressing room unrest with the former Liverpool and England midfielder.

A midweek League Cup second round win at third-tier Bolton had given Gerrard a little breathing space.

