

Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 143,820 With 44 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Ambassador to Sweden Decried the Country for Sheltering Members of Mujahideen-e Khalq Terrorist group (MEK) While It Has Failed to Identify Assassin of Former PM Olaf Palme for Over 30 Years

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7578 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 2022 - SHAHRIVAR 9, 1401

2 DOMESTIC

Iran's BRICS+, SCO Presence Promotes Multilateralism In Int'l Relations
> SEE PAGE 2



3 DOMESTIC

Iran LPG Export Grows 20%
> SEE PAGE 3



Iran Begins Uranium Enrichment at Natanz Site to 5%

TEHRAN (MNA) - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) published a report saying Iran commenced enrichment of uranium to 5% in advanced IR-6 centrifuges at the site in Natanz.

"On 28 August 2022, the Agency verified at Fuel Enrichment Plant that Iran was feeding UF6 enriched up to 2% U-235 into the IR-6 cascade ... for the production of UF6 enriched up to 5% U-235," the IAEA report reads.

Earlier on August 4, IAEA said in a report to member states that Iran has completed installing three advanced IR-6 centrifuge cascades at its Natanz fuel enrichment plant (FEP).

See Page 7

Leader Hails Gov't for Reviving Hope and Trust in People



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution said the most important success of this administration was to revive hope and trust in the people, adding that the president and officials gave the people the feeling that the administration was striving.

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday morning in a meeting with President Ebrahim Raisi and the members of the cabinet: "In my opinion, the most important success of this administration is to revive hope and trust in the people, the total performance of the government, both the honorable president and the officials in the departments gave people the feeling that the administration is striving, and busy working and serve the people. This action restored people's hope and confidence to a great extent."

Referring to the one-year achievements of the administration, the Leader gave important recommendations, including the priority of the economic issue, and added: "The people have been the 'main hero of the history of the revolution' in all incidents and events, and this fact is a lesson and shows all officials how to behave with this nation."

Ayatollah Khamenei called the martyrs Rajaei and Bahonar two top managers of the Islamic Revolution and pointed out that martyrdom was the worthy reward of God for these two dear ones, stating: "Negligence and forgetting great events is a dangerous plague that we should all avoid."

The Leader termed "the general excitement of the nation during the revolution," "amaze of arrogance vis-a-vis the greatness of the revolution," "unceasing enmities of the global bullies," and "the defenselessness of the country and the capital against Saddam's air attacks," "the rampage of terrorists throughout the country and insecurity in the first years of the revolution," "the performance of various administrations and parliaments after the revolution," "the decisive presence of the nation in the saga of the sacred defense and other fronts to confront the enemies" and "the unreserved and admirable presence of the people in various rallies and ceremonies" among the issues that their memory should always be alive in the minds of the society.

In this context, Ayatollah Khamenei, recalling the nation's memorable presence at the funeral of martyred general Qasem Soleimani, added: "Similar issues, including the meaningful and extensive presence of people at the funeral of Ayatollah Naseri in Isfahan and the enthusiastic participation of people at the Ghadir celebration, show the general orientations of the nation and it is the right way to continue."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution considered reviewing and propagating the administration's activities as the second function of Government Week, and pointing to some of the administration's successes, he made recommendations to the president and the members of the administration.

Ayatollah Khamenei considered revitalizing the hope and trust of the people as the most important success of the administration and added: "People see that the administration is in the scene and is busy working and trying to solve problems and provide services to them, and this fact greatly increases the public's hope and trust. Of course, these efforts have been successful in some areas, and in some areas, the necessary results have not yet been achieved."

The Leader called the administration's provincial trips a bright and important issue and added: "31 trips in the first year of the administration to all over the country including deprived and remote areas, monitoring the works on the scene and deep empathy with the people have been other successes of the administration."

See Page 7

4 INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine Begins Counter-Offensive to Retake Russian-Held South
> SEE PAGE 4



8 SPORT

East and West Clash in a Proxy Conflict Over Serbia
> SEE PAGE 8



UN Chief Vows to Protect Rights of Iranian Victims, Survivors of Terrorism

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres says the world body is committed to preserving and protecting the rights of the victims and survivors of various acts of terrorism in the country, pledging to further support attempts aimed at justice-seeking for them.

Guterres made the remarks in a message read out by the director of the United Nations Information Center in Tehran, Inger Marie Vennize, as she took part in a conference in the Iranian capital on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

The event was held in coordination with the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, the Human Rights Committee of the Iranian Parliament as well as the UN Information Center in Tehran.

Guterres stated that the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is a day of reflection, recognition, and action.

See Page 7

Tehran Urges Taliban To Heed Calls for Formation of Inclusive Gov't

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian envoy has warned of the "serious threat" of terrorists in Afghanistan, its neighbors, and the entire region, saying the Taliban must heed the international community's repeated calls for the formation of an inclusive government that accurately reflects the country's multi-ethnic society.

"An inclusive government is the only way to ensure and protect the rights of all Afghan people, including women and girls, as well as linguistic, racial, and religious minorities," Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zahra Ershadi said in an address to a Security Council meeting concerning Afghanistan.

She said that just one year after the "irresponsible withdrawal" of foreign forces and the Taliban's takeover, Afghanistan is now dealing with a number of interconnected and overlapping crises.

See Page 7

U.S. Claims Russia Now in Possession of Iranian Drones

TEHRAN (MNA) - The U.S. assesses Russia is now in possession of weapons-capable Iranian drones that they will likely deploy on the battlefield in Ukraine, said a senior US administration official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, claimed the United States assesses Russia has received the delivery of Mohajer-6 and Shahed-series unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) over several days this month. The official said it is likely part of a Russian plan to acquire hundreds of such vehicles.

"We assess that Russia intends to use these Iranian UAVs, which can conduct air-to-surface attacks, electronic warfare, and targeting, on the battlefield in Ukraine," the official claimed, according to Reuters.

Russia has faced "numerous failures" with Iranian-made drones acquired from Tehran this month for use in its war with Ukraine, according to a senior US administration official.

See Page 7

In the transaction of 6 thousand billion tomans ,it is the footprint of the Iranian trader
What does the discovered suspicious account have to do with forex?



Recently ,regulatory agencies receive the financial transactions of people's bank accounts through cooperation with the central bank to calculate taxes .In this way ,people who are tax evaders or who have not provided accurate information in their tax returns are identified .Some time ago ,news leaked unofficially that a person has about 6 thousand billion tomans of bank transactions in his bank accounts .This amount is significant in terms of magnitude and can be as much as 8% of the corruption of Iran's largest company ,steel .For this reason, this news has been of great interest .But since no information has been provided about the account holder ,there is a lot of speculation.

According to Ilna ,many media announced that this account probably belongs to a person who is active in forex transactions and international stock exchanges .In the current situation ,Iran's rich people are mostly active in the industry sector and the transactions are in the name of companies .Mohammad Jabrian is one of the richest Iranians who is currently active in Iran's steel industry .He is the CEO of Arin Sahand Steel Complex and Khorramshahr Smelter .Another of the richest entrepreneurs in Iran is Reza Ebrahimi ,who owns the famous Diety brand .The bank transactions of these people are mostly registered in the name of the company .This raises speculation about Forex traders.Currently ,Farzad Vajihi is one of the most suspected traders .Some authoritative sources have indirectly confirmed that he may be the owner of these transactions .The issue that denies this issue to some extent is that Farzad Vajihi has no economic activity in Iran since .2020 However ,it is said that he owns several large online exchanges in Iran .Although it has never been officially announced ,there are speculations about it.Not long ago ,Mohsen Rezaei ,the economic vice president ,mentioned the big transactions of 100 people in the stock market ,which led to the fall of the index .This issue indicates that there are large traders who play a prominent role in Iran's economic fluctuations .These people may have secretly increased their capital several times in the past few years .As Forbes announced in a report ,about 250,000 people in Iran have" assets "above one million dollars ,which is about 30 billion tomans.

Air Defense Force Inaugurates 135 Projects

TEHRAN (MNA) – Some 135 defense, operational, welfare and sports projects were inaugurated at the threshold of the National Day of Air Defense in the presence of the Commander of Iran's Army Air Defense Force via videoconference.

Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard in the inaugural ceremony of the defense projects first congratulated the National Day of Air Defense and stated that the country managed to achieve

salient progresses and achievements in all sectors especially in the defense industry despite tough and oppressive sanctions as well as economic restrictions imposed against the country.

The Air Defense Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran is growing stronger day by day and the defense industry of the country has been developed significantly in tandem with the world's powers, Brigadier General Sabahifard emphasized.

Iran's BRICS+, SCO Presence Promotes Multilateralism In Int'l Relations

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's presence in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS Plus will promote multilateralism in international relations, says Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani.

He made the remarks in a Monday meeting with Kenneth Nóbrega, Secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, in Tehran.

"Iran's presence in the political and security complex of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and its role in the BRICS Plus economic mechanism have both made Iran a partner in international macro decision-making in the political, security, and economic fields, significantly elevating the position of the multilateralism front in international calculations," Bagheri Kani said.

He reiterated Iran's strong opposition to war, saying that as unilateralism has lost ground, multilateralism can now fill in and determine the necessities and conditions of a new world order.

Iran's relations with emerging powers such as Russia, China, India, and Brazil will not be limited to bilateral ties anymore, Bagheri Kani said, adding, "Iran's ties with Brazil will be defined within the framework of the two countries' responsibility, role, and position in a new world order emerging from multilateralism."

The Iranian diplomat also slammed the United States for using sanctions as a tool



to maximize its own benefits and those of its allies while minimizing the benefits of independent countries, especially in economic, political, and security spheres.

He urged the pro-multilateralism front to establish and promote independent financial, economic, political, and cultural mechanisms in order to make a smooth transition from the current oppressive unilateral world order to a just multilateral one.

For his part, the Brazilian diplomat pointed to Iran's political and economic capabilities and said his country seeks to expand international cooperation and interaction and promote multilateralism.

Brazil opposes unilateral approaches such as economic sanctions, Nóbrega added.

He expressed hope that Brasilia would strengthen its all-out cooperation with Tehran, particularly in the political, economic, and cultural fields.

Unilateral Sanctions Amount to Crime Against Humanity, Economic War

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights has strongly slammed unilateral sanctions imposed on countries by world powers as crime against humanity.

Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks in a Monday meeting with Şeref Malkoç, the president of the Organization of Islamic Countries' Ombudsman Association (OIOCA), in Tehran.

Describing unilateral sanctions imposed on countries as "crime against humanity" and a form of "economic war," the Iranian rights official lauded the Turkish government's firm opposition to such bans. He added, "Such sanctions are illegal and contravene [the principles of] human rights and affect Iran's neighbors as well."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Gharibabadi touched on the issue of terrorism, describing Iran as the biggest victim of terrorism.

"It is necessary for those countries who are faced with the phenomenon of terrorism to engage in serious cooperation in order to fight this ominous scourge. Due to common terrorist threats posed to Iran and Turkey, the two countries need to bolster cooperation in fighting terrorism," he said.

Gharibabadi also criticized Western countries' double standards in dealing with terrorism, saying, "On the one hand, they accuse Iran of violating human rights, but on the other, they martyr 17,000 innocent Iranian citizens through terrorism or violate the rights of millions of Iranians through imposition of unilateral sanctions and jeopardize their right to life."

For his part, Malkoç pointed to cordial relations between the Iranian and Turkish nations and governments and said the two countries enjoy numerous commonalities in historical, economic, political and cultural fields.

Iran and Turkey should promote relations in all areas, particularly in human rights, he added.

He said terrorism has been created through the support of certain countries and has plagued Muslim countries, noting that Tehran and Ankara enjoy good level of cooperation to fight the scourge.

The Turkish official said some countries use sanctions as a war weapon, reiterating his country's principled stance on opposing unilateral bans.

Iran and Turkey have both been hit by US sanctions.

Iran Has No Restrictions for Boosting Ties With Brazil

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says that Iran knows no limit to expanding bilateral relations with Brazil.

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in his meeting with the Brazilian deputy Foreign Minister Kenneth Nobrega.

Referring to the long history of Iran-Brazil relations, the Iranian foreign minister stressed that the current Iranian government attaches great importance to developing relations with Latin American countries and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not have any restrictions on the comprehensive development of relations with Brazil.

The top Iranian diplomat also emphasized that it is necessary for the public sector of the two countries to support and help to solve the problems of the private sector in the field of developing commercial and economic relations.

The Brazilian side, for his part, stressed that his country eyes on developing ties with Iran.

He also emphasized the importance of increasing the exchange of political delegations between Tehran and Brasilia.

President Felicitates Malaysia's Independence Day

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi highlighted the existence of various capacities for expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Kuala Lumpur.

President Raisi made the remarks during his telephone conversation with Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Expressing satisfaction over good ties between the two countries, the president hoped that the two sides would witness development of relations in light of interactions and efforts.

Malaysia has a good position in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy, the president noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, President Raisi congratulated the Malaysian premier on Independence Day (August 31).

Malaysian prime minister, too, described the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the most important and effective countries which have always supported the Islamic Ummah.

Sabri Yaakob also said Iran is one of Malaysia's important trade partners in Asia.

He expressed happiness over the eye-catching growth in the Kuala Lumpur-Tehran trade exchange last year.

Condemning unfair sanctions against the Islamic Republic, the Malaysian premier said the present political determination guarantees further development of bilateral ties in various fields.

Netherlands Envoy Announces Cooperation With Iran for Food Safety

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Netherlands ambassador to Tehran says that the Netherlands embassy in Iran does its best to cooperate with Iran's Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences tightly in food science and safety.

Frank Mollen further stressed: Food safety is a worldwide issue that Iran and Netherlands can co-operate reasonably together to tackle it.

On August 30, and in line with the expansion of scientific and research relations between Iran's Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Netherlands' Wageningen University and Research - WUR, and discussing food safety; Netherlands ambassador to Tehran, Frank Mollen, visited the food health research center of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

Meanwhile in the event, Iran Food and Drug Administration's (IFDA) head said that due to the cruel sanctions, some countries refuse to send Iran the shipment of medicines such as dressings for EB patients.

During the visit, Bahram Daraei said: "Good cooperation is being carried out with Wageningen University and Research center (WUR), to study the effect of healthy food in preventing the occurrence of non-communicable diseases, especially infertility, and the causes of cancer in unhealthy foods." He concluded that Iran and Netherlands would ink MoU based on technology.

Also attending the event, the President of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Alireza Zali, stated that the cooperation between Wageningen University & Research - WUR and the Food Health Center is acceptable.

Zali added: Food safety and promoting cooperation with Wageningen University & Research - WUR in technical knowledge, food authentication, and identification of halal meat fields are on the agenda of Iran and the Netherlands.

He said that evaluating the authenticity of pesticides and the healthfulness of milk and saffron are among the joint projects with Wageningen University in the Netherlands and Shahid Beheshti University.

Tehran Observing All Developments in Iraq Carefully

TEHRAN (MNA) - Pursuing the situation of Iranian pilgrims in Iraq, the Iranian Foreign Minister told the Iranian envoy to Baghdad that Tehran is observing all the developments in Iraq carefully.

Speaking in a telephone conversation with the Iranian envoy to Baghdad, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian inquired about the health and safety condition of Iranian pilgrims who are in Iraq for Arbaeen ceremonies.

Referring to the ongoing developments in Iraq, the Iranian diplomat said, "Since the beginning of the events in Iraq, my colleagues and I are following up all the events carefully."

Saying that he is in touch with the Iraqi sides, Amirabdollahian said that all efforts will be made to hold the Arbaeen ceremonies with ensuring the security of Iranian pilgrims.

On Monday, hundreds of supporters of Iraqi politician Muqtada al-Sadr, who announced his decision to quit politics, broke into Baghdad's Green Zone where government buildings and foreign embassies are located, surrounded the Republican Palace, and entered the building.

Despite the nationwide curfew, clashes continue in the capital and a number of regions of Iraq.

President Backs Re-Establishment of Ties With Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says reestablishment and further bolstering of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia will benefit regional security.

Raisi made the remark in a Monday meeting with the visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein in Tehran.

Iran's chief executive lauded Iraq's positive role in regional developments, saying, "The initiatives offered and measures taken by Iraq to improve cooperation among regional countries free from foreign meddling play an effective role in bolstering regional collaboration."

Raisi noted that five rounds of talks between Tehran and Riyadh, which were mediated by Iraq, were positive and useful, emphasizing that implementation of agreements reached in those talks would pave the way for further promotion of the two sides' interactions.

"Reestablishment and further bolstering of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia will be in the interest of the regional security," Iran's president said.

Raisi also emphasized that establishment of security and stability in Iraq would be only possible through dialogue among all political groups on the basis of the country's constitution and with the goal of forming a new government.

Hussein, for his part, commended Iran's uninterrupted support for the establishment of stability and security in Iraq, saying his country will continue efforts to improve Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia.

Iraq has hosted five rounds of talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran at the level of intelligence and security heads since last April, the top Iraqi diplomat added.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters, enraged by the Saudi execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, stormed its embassy in Tehran.

The kingdom then pursued a confrontational foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic, especially during the administration of former US president Donald Trump, with whom the Saudi rulers shared close ties.



Mobarakeh Steel Co.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY

Since ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY intend to purchase 9,000 tons of Medium Carbon Ferro manganese, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP) until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time) Monday 05. Sep.2022 (Monday 14.06.1401).

Contact Details:

Contact Person: Davood Dehghani

Email: d.dehghani@msc.ir

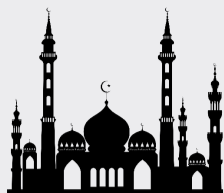
Cell Phone/WhatsApp: 0098 913 267 7093

Note: ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY reserves the right of return or rejection of those tender

documents in which haven't observed at least one of items of covering letter.

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY
PUBLIC RELATONS

1401-34



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:04
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:52
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:09
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:36

25. Not an apostle did We send before thee without this inspiration sent by Us to him: that there is no god but I; therefore worship and serve Me.
26. And they say: "((Allah)) Most Gracious has begotten offspring."
Glory to Him! they are (but) servants raised to honour.

Surah 21. The Prophets (25 - 26)

Iran LPG Export Grows 20%

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil Minister said Iran’s export of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) saw a 20% rise in the first year of President Raisi’s office compared to a year earlier.

Speaking in the southern province of Bushehr on the occasion of the government week, Javad Owji said that the country would also become self-sufficient in the production of propylene from propane in the near future.

After launching 27 social responsibility projects, he said: “We promise that launching of such projects will continue.”

The minister of petroleum further issued an order for the operation of phases 3, 4, and 5 of Iran LNG Company and stated: “The liquefaction and sweetening units of this complex have not yet been completed, but the power generated by it is being injected into the power grid in Assalouyeh and Bushehr Province.”

Referring to the construction of the propylene from propane (PDH/PP) production project of Parsian Sepehr Refining and Pars Petrochemical Company, Owji emphasized: “One of the essential projects of the petrochemical industry is the conversion of propane to propylene, which is also important for the petrochemical supply chain.”

He added: “According to the planning, we will start construction of propylene production complexes from propane, and in the next few years, we will reach self-sufficiency in this area; with this work, good employment will be provided in this region for the local forces and specialists of Bushehr province.”



The Oil Minister also said: “The Research Institute of Petroleum Industry (RIPI) has also obtained the Polypropylene (PP) technical license and this sector has been completely localized.”

Meanwhile the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said a foreign direct investment (FDI) of 100 million dollars has been allocated for establishment of a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) export terminal in Iran.

Mohsen Khojastehmehr said that liquefaction maximizing LPG export is one of the main priorities of NIOC under the Raisi administration, adding: “In this regard, we found it necessary to strengthen a private company, and the powerful Petrosanat Iranian Company entered this field.”

Acknowledging that NIOC had asked the company to build an LPG export terminal, he said: “This private sector company built a terminal with an investment of about \$100 million, along with other terminals in the region, and according to the directive issued by the Oil Minister, the land that was previously leased to the company was now owned by it.”

Lifting Sanctions Can Revitalize Iran-India Trade Ties

TEHRAN (IFP) - A top Indian political-economic analyst says trade relations between Iran and India were hit hard by U.S.-led sanctions, saying removal of the so-called punitive measures against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear standoff can improve ties between Tehran and New Delhi.

The director of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Manoj Pant, told Iran’s Labor News Agency (ILNA) that trade ties between Iran and India experienced a 56 percent drop in 2022 compared to the \$2.1-billion trade volume in 2018 when the US withdrew from a nuclear agreement with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Pant said Iran’s oil comprised a major chunk of trade ties between the two countries, but added Iran’s transit routes played a pivotal role for India’s exports to Russia.

He expressed optimism that salvaging the nuclear accord can facilitate financial transactions between Iran and India, an indispensable part of their bilateral ties.

Export of Iranian Goods to Russia Hit Over 18k Tons

TEHRAN (MNA) – Over 18 thousand tons of goods have been exported to Russia over the past 50 days, Head of Iranian Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

The mentioned commodities are worth 9.5 million dollars, Alireza Moghadasi said.

This amount of exports has been carried out in line with the implementation of the pilot project of the simplified customs corridor between Iran and Russia, he said.

During this period, approximately 46 percent of the weight and 18.1 percent of the total value of Iranian fruit and vegetable exported in this framework have been shipped to Russia, he noted.

Exploitation and Executive Operation of 7 Projects at Chabahar Port

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Caretaker of Sistan and Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Organization Mr. Naser Ravanbakhsh says in line with increasing marine and port capacity of Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari ports of Chabahar, exploitation of 5 important developmental and investment of private sector worth of 314b tomans in time and also executive operation in two important developmental projects worth of 836b tomans will start in the biggest oceanic port of the country on the occasion of the Government Week.



Ravanbakhsh said that projects for construction and repair of big goods warehouses, infrastructural installations and massages network of Shahid Beheshti Port, increase of demand of power electricity from 2 to 5.6 megawatts in Shahid Beheshti Port and washing and trucks disinfecting site have been of the major projects whose exploitations will start in the Government Week.

The executive operation for construction of 25-megawatt power station and construction of building for the marine search and rescue building in Zarabad are of the projects which are to start in the Government Week.

Small Oil Producing Companies Have Negative Impacts on Int’l Lubricant Market

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Sepahan Refinery Mr. Mohammad Amir Nikoo believes activities of small oil producing companies have negative impact on the international lubricant market.

Nikoo said that Sepahan, Iranol, Pars and Behran are the biggest and top lubricant producing companies in the country, adding that the daily production capacity of Sepahan Oil Company is 720,000 tons and the total production capacities of the four major oil producing companies is 1.8m tons. He added that these refineries get their feeds from oil refineries and then through different technologies turn them into engine oil and paraffin and other oil products.

He added that the main concern of lubricants producers is the price of feed which varies based on the world oil price, adding that the main feed of these refineries is fuel oil.



He then pointed to some problems that these producers are struggling with them, reiterating that Sepahan Oil Company and its refinery has tried to observe its obligations.

He criticized the small oil producing companies whose activities have negative impact on the international market, reiterating that try to sell their products with different price.

He reiterated that offering engine oil should not happen with two different rates and the small oil producing companies do not observe the official rates for their products which have been approved by the regulatory bodies.

Nikoo added that the low quality of production of these companies has affected Iran’s presence in the international market as Iran has lost 17% of its lubricant sales share of the Persian Gulf region in the international lubricant industries.

1st Unit of Combined Cycle Power Plant of South Pars Online

TEHRAN (Shana) - The first unit of the combined cycle project of the South Pars centralized power plant came on stream with a capacity of 160 megawatts and an investment of more than €450 million euros.

A ceremony was held in Bushehr, southern Iran, in the presence of Iranian Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji to launch the project which is built to meet the shortage of electricity generation required by the refineries located in the Kangan region, related to phases 12, 13, 14, 19, 22-24 of South Pars, Siraf Refining Complex, as well as increasing the stability of the power grid of Pars Oil and Gas Company.

This power plant with a capacity of 480 megawatts is implemented in the Ba’sat centralized power plant development department and includes three combined cycle blocks with a power generation capacity of 160 megawatts per block in ISO conditions. The first steam unit of this power plant was put into operation in April this year with a capacity of 160 megawatts.

Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia to Jointly Invest in Rasht-Astara Railroad 40 Science, Technology Parks to Be Established in Iran Within 5 Years

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia are going to jointly invest in the construction of the Rasht-Astara railroad project, which is in line with the implementation of the International North-South Transport Corridor, Iran’s Roads and Urban Development Deputy Minister Shahrar Afandizadeh said.

The minister noted that in the upcoming meeting in Azerbaijan, the process of investment in the construction of the Rasht-Astara railroad project will be discussed.

The foundation of the International North-South Transport Corridor was laid on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement signed between Russia, Iran, and India on September 12, 2000. In total, 13 countries have ratified the agreement, including Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, etc.

The purpose of creating a corridor is to reduce the delivery time of cargo from India to Russia, as well as to North and West Europe. The delivery time on the current route is more than 6 weeks, it is expected to be reduced to 3 weeks via North-South Transport Corridor.

The 175 km long Qazvin-Rasht railway was officially put into operation on March 6, 2019, to connect Azerbaijani railways with the Iranian railway network within the corridor. In addition, the 167-km-long Rasht-Astara railway line must be built in Iran.

TEHRAN (ISNA) - Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has announced the decision for establishing 40 science and technology parks across the country over the next five years.

Ali Rasoulia said the locations for the mentioned parks have been determined in various provinces and the necessary coordination has been done with related government entities in the target cities.

The official also mentioned a plan for establishing new knowledge-based workshop units in technology parks across the country, saying: “The government has also obliged ISIPO to establish 1,000 knowledge-based workshops in the country’s industrial parks and since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21), about 400 workshops have been established and are ready for operation and about 1,500 workshops are also under construction.”

According to Rasoulia, ISIPO is also implementing a program to identify the technological needs of the country’s major industries to introduce them to knowledge-based companies and startups for collaboration.

“We have managed to get in touch with 1,600 companies and identify their needs, for which so far 400 items or equipment have been made by knowledge-based units,” the ISIPO head explained.

Back in July, Rasoulia said his organization was planning to establish 261 knowledge-based workshop units in seven different technology parks across the country.

Creation of 2000 Jobs For Iranians Through 4 Home-Made Ships

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - On the occasion of Government Week, the CEO of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines Group (IRISL) Mr. Mohammad Reza Modarres Khiabani highlighted major performance of the group during the current government and said by manufacture of four ships in the country, some 2,000 jobs were created for Iranians directly and indirectly.



Modarres Khiabani said that IRISL, with considering needs of the fleet, has taken action in ordering manufacture of four ships to the domestic manufactures with using potentials of the domestic producers that accordingly, with manufacture of these four ships in the country, some 2,000 direct and indirect jobs are created.

He explained the performance of IRISL during the current government and announced preparing and implementing a five-year strategic plan in the group in line with all-out development of activities in the group.

Modarres Khiabani further said that expansion of shipping fleet is the priority of the current government, adding that the average age of the IRISL fleet is 18 years and although the international shipping fleet age is around this figure, IRISL is determined to make it younger. He noted that to make the fleet younger, the group needs manufacture and purchase of ships and selling the old ships and this expansion includes containers and technical infrastructures.

He noted that some developmental projects have been activated so far, and said that in terms of manufacture of ships in the country, manufacture of four vessels for joining the shipping fleet of Khazar Sea Shipping Company has started inside the country and with their joining the fleet, 40% is added to the container shipping capacity in the Caspian Sea.

Modarres Khiabani then touched upon joining of Arvandan Shipbuilding Company to IRISL and said that it will complete the value and production chain in IRISL.

He also, said that some 40,000 TEU has been added to the container fleet capacity despite sanctions due to efforts of one of the domestic companies. He went on to say that the company has ordered domestic manufacturers for manufacture of 1000 40-foot containers and related contracts have been signed.

Modarres Khiabani added that 80% of the needs of the shipping fleet is provided domestically through plans which have been made through the years. He reiterated that the group set a record for carrying cargos as it transported some 27m tons of goods last year, adding that this historic record was achieved with using 140 vessels under ownership of the group.

He also said that some 300 containers of Russian goods have been transited by the group so far this year.

10 Yemen Soldiers Killed In Dangerous Escalation

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Ten Yemeni soldiers were killed in an overnight rebel attack near the blockaded city of Taz, Yemen's government said on Monday, calling it a "dangerous escalation" after a months-long ceasefire.

The assault, which also left several soldiers wounded, was aimed at cutting off a key route to the southwestern city of about two million, the government said.

The Huthi forces have blocked main roads into Taz since 2015, the same year that a Saudi-led coalition intervened in the conflict.



EU to Hold Emergency Talks on Sept 9

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Union's energy ministers will hold emergency talks on Sept.9 to seek response to rocketing gas and electricity prices, Czech industry minister Jozef Sikela said.

"We will meet in Brussels on the 9th September," said Sikela, whose government now holds the EU's rotating presidency and is responsible for organizing EU meetings of EU ministers.

Sikela earlier today said an emergency meeting would discuss proposals such as capping the price of gas used for electricity production, as well as market interventions.



Ukraine Begins Counter-Offensive To Retake Russian-Held South



ZAPORIZHZHIA (Dispatches) - Ukraine announced the start of a long-awaited counter-offensive to retake territory in the south seized by Russian forces since their invasion six months ago, a move reflecting Kyiv's growing confidence as Western military aid flows in.

The news came as a team from the U.N. nuclear watchdog headed to Ukraine to inspect the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant - captured by Russian forces in March but still run by Ukrainian staff - that has become a hotspot in the war. Moscow and Kyiv have traded accusations of shelling in the vicinity of the nuclear plant, Europe's largest and close to front lines, amid fears of a radiation disaster in a country still haunted by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

"Today we started offensive actions in various directions, including in the Kherson region," Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne cited southern command spokeswoman Natalia Humeniuk as saying.

Russia rapidly captured swathes of Ukraine's south near the Black Sea coast, including the city of Kherson, in the early phase of the war in stark contrast to its failed attempt to capture the capital Kyiv.

Ukraine has been using sophisticated Western-supplied weapons to hit Russian ammunition dumps and wreak havoc with supply lines. Humeniuk told a briefing on Monday that Ukraine had struck more than 10 such ammunition dumps in the past week, adding they had "unquestionably weakened the enemy".

She declined to give details of the counter-offensive, saying Russian forces in southern Ukraine remained "quite powerful". The governor of Ukraine's Russian-annexed Crimea Peninsula, Sergei Aksyonov, dismissed her announcement as "another fake of Ukrainian propaganda". Crimea is adjacent to the Kherson region.

Russia's RIA news agency, quoting local official Vladimir Leontiev, reported that people were being evacuated from workplaces in Nova Kahokva, a town 58 km (36 miles) to the east of Kherson, after Ukrainian forces carried out more than 10 missile strikes there.

Earlier, the head of the International Atomic Agency (IAEA) said he would lead a team of inspectors this week to the Zaporizhzhia plant, on the Dnipro river in southern central Ukraine, without specifying the expected day of their arrival.

"We must protect the safety and security of Ukraine's and Europe's biggest nuclear facility," Rafael Grossi said in a post on Twitter.

The IAEA tweeted separately that the mission would assess physical damage, evaluate the conditions in which staff are working at the plant and "determine functionality of safety & security systems". It would also "perform urgent safeguards activities", a reference to keeping track of nuclear material.

On Monday Russian-installed officials said a Ukrainian missile strike had punched a hole in the roof of a fuel depot at the Zaporizhzhia plant.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces had shot down a Ukrainian drone that was trying to attack the nuclear power station, Russian news agencies reported. It said there was no serious damage and radiation levels were normal.

Reuters could not independently verify either report.

The Kremlin said the IAEA mission was "necessary" and urged the international community to pressure Ukraine to reduce military tensions at the plant.

The United Nations, United States and Ukraine have called for a withdrawal of military equipment and personnel from the nuclear complex to ensure it is not a target, read more But the Kremlin again ruled out vacating the site.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the IAEA mission must carry out its work in a politically neutral manner. "They must be objective," she told Rossiya 24 television channel.

Sadr Tells Supporters to Withdraw After Violent Clashes

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr told his followers to leave their protests in central Baghdad on Tuesday and apologized to the Iraqi people after nearly two days of violent clashes between rival Shi'ite Muslim groups.

"This is not a revolutionary (anymore) because it has lost its peaceful character," Sadr said in a televised address. "The spilling of Iraqi blood is forbidden," he added.

Influential Shia leader al-Sadr told his supporters to leave the capital's Green Zone after violence rocked Baghdad for two days. "The party is disciplined and obedient, and I was my hands of those who do not withdraw from parliament building within an hour," he said in a televised speech.

Al-Sadr also apologized to the Iraqi people for the violence, which killed 30 people and wounded hundreds more. Supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr started to leave the Green Zone area, after their leader told them to end protests.



Pakistan Floods a Crisis of Unimaginable Proportions

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - A third of Pakistan is under water as a result of flooding caused by record monsoon rains, Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman said, calling it a "crisis of unimaginable proportions".

Officials say at least 33 million people -- one in every seven Pakistanis -- have been affected by the floods, which have killed 1,136 people since the monsoon began in June.

Vast parts of farmland in southern Sindh and western Balochistan provinces are now just landscapes of water, while in the north, roads and bridges have been washed away by raging mountain rivers.

"To see the devastation on the ground is really mind-boggling," Rehman told AFP in an interview.

"When we send in water pumps, they say 'Where do we pump the water?' It's all one big ocean, there's no dry land to pump the water out."

Rehman said "literally a third" of Pakistan was under water, describing it as akin to a dystopian movie.

She also expected the death toll to rise as many areas in the north of the country, where dozens of rivers are still in full flood, remain cut off.

Rehman renewed the government's appeal for international assistance, while also blaming major industrialised countries for their role in global warming.

Pakistan is responsible for less than one percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but is eighth on a list compiled by the NGO Germanwatch of countries deemed most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change.

"It's time for the big emitters to review their policies. We have crossed what is clearly a threshold," she said.

"The multilateral forum pledges or ambitions voiced by other countries -- the rich countries, that have gotten rich on the back of fossil fuels -- they don't really come through," Rehman said. Pakistan's economy, already in crisis, would be badly hit by the flooding.

Bolsonaro, Lula Face Off in Brazil Presidential Debate

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Brazil's main presidential candidates took their gloves off and laid into each other in the first presidential debate for the October general election with accusations of corruption and threats to democracy.

Incumbent far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who has been heavily criticized for his handling of the COVID-19 crisis and attacks on Brazil's voting system, is running against former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who left office with record popularity but was convicted of bribery in 2017.

Bolsonaro said his leftist challenger led Brazil's most corrupt government ever, citing the scandal over overpriced contracts with state-run oil company Petrobras.

"Why do you want to return to power? To continue doing the same thing at Petrobras?" Bolsonaro said in the debate between six candidates on Band TV.

Lula, the front-runner in the race who was president from 2003 to 2010, said his government should be remembered for doing the most to reduce poverty.

"The country I left is a country that people miss, it's the country of employment, where people had the right to live with dignity, with their heads held high," Lula said. "This is the country that the current president is destroying".

Lula led Brazil during years of fast economic growth, but was convicted of bribery and jailed for 19 months until his convictions were annulled.

Opinion polls say Lula has a double-digit advantage over Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly attacked Brazil's electronic voting system, raising fears that he could contest the result if defeated.

Some of the harshest criticism Bolsonaro faced in the debate came from two women among the six candidates.

"We have a president who threatens democracy. We need to change the president," said Senator Simone Tebet, running for the centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement party when asked how to resolve the current conflict between the Bolsonaro government and the judiciary.

Bolsonaro accused the judiciary of overstepping its bounds when it authorized a police operation targeting several businessmen who backed his re-election after a media report accused them of discussing on social media a coup d'etat if Bolsonaro lost.

Tebet accused Bolsonaro of delaying the purchase of vaccines and spreading fake news about COVID-19, and said she was intimidated by some of his ministers during a Senate investigation into the government response to the virus.

"I am not afraid of you," she said, pointing her finger at the president.

Bolsonaro denied he was against woman's rights and said Brazilian women love him because he defends the family and opposes legalizing drugs.



East and West Clash in a Proxy Conflict Over Serbia

BELGRADE (Dispatches) - Serbia is the stage for a proxy war between East and West, President Aleksandar Vucic said, as Belgrade seeks to maintain a delicate balancing act between its ambition to join the European Union and its ties with Russia and China.

Vucic's remarks to Reuters come a day after protesters at a rally in Belgrade against a gay pride march waved Russian flags and carried posters of Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

"I cannot say that it (the protest) was a proxy attack because there were many ordinary people there...but whether there is a proxy conflict in Serbia...there is one, no doubt about that, East and West," he said, speaking to Reuters at his office in Belgrade.

Serbia is a candidate to join the European Union, its single biggest trade partner and investor. It is militarily neutral but maintains ties with NATO and has purchased weapons from its member states.

However the Balkan nation is almost entirely dependent on Russian gas and has also bought weapons from Russia. China is a major investor, mainly in mining and infrastructure.

Although Serbia has condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine at the United Nations, it refused to join sanctions against Moscow. Both Beijing and Moscow support Serbia's opposition to the independence of Kosovo, Belgrade's former southern province, over which it fought a 1998-99 war.

"We are trying to survive ... with as few wounds and scars as possible," said Vucic, a former nationalist who later embraced pro-European policies. Before it joins the EU, Serbia must mend ties with Kosovo, which declared its independence from Serbia in 2008.

EU-sponsored talks have been slow and often marred by tensions, the latest of which erupted this summer over the issue of car number plates and identity documents for minority Serbs, mainly living in Kosovo's north.

Independent Kosovo is recognized by the United States and all but five EU members, but not by Belgrade and a number of other states, including Serbia's allies Russia and China.

Although Serbia and Kosovo agreed to settle the dispute over identification documents, authorities in Pristina said local Serbs must switch their car number plates from Serbian to Kosovo ones within two months of Sept. 1.



In Risky Recycling Venture, Gazans Burn Plastic for Fuel



JABALIA (Dispatches) - Living in one of the poorest parts of the Middle East and facing some of the region's highest fuel costs, Palestinians in Gaza are burning plastic to make affordable diesel.

It's an economic and practical solution in a territory blockaded by Israel for 15 years, but one which poses serious environmental and health risks, experts say.

Standing before rusty metal machinery and fuel containers, Mahmoud al-Kafarneh described how he and his brothers came up with their plastic recycling project.

"We started experimenting to implement the project in 2018, through searching the internet," he told AFP, at the site in the Jabalia area of northern Gaza.

"We failed a few times; after eight months we succeeded in extracting the fuel." The distilling setup features a series of crude-looking tanks and connecting pipes set up outside on the dirt.

The process starts with the burning of wood in a furnace below a large mud-covered tank holding up to 1.5 tons (tons) of shredded plastic. When the plastic melts, the vapors flow through a pipe into a water tank where they cool and drip as fuel into containers, ready to be sold.

Black-grey smoke pours from several pipes extending above the furnace and the tank holding the plastic.

Only a few of the workers wear face masks and gloves as they melt bagfuls of shredded plastic. Their clothing is stained black.

Kafarneh said no-one has experienced health problems since starting work at the site, which sits beside olive trees and away from residential buildings.

"We follow all safety procedures at work", he said.

But Ahmed Hillis, director of Gaza's National Institute for the Environment and Development, fears an environmental catastrophe from this unregulated industry.

"The method used is rudimentary and very harmful to the workers," mainly because they inhale toxic fumes, he told AFP.

Burning plastic releases dioxins, mercury and other toxic gases which pose "a threat to vegetation, human and animal health", according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

Hillis adds another danger of burning plastic, which is derived from petroleum hydrocarbons.

The tank is "a time bomb because it could explode" from the heat, he says.

In Gaza, where exchanges of fire between Palestinian militants and Israel for three days earlier this month killed at least 49 Palestinians, health risks are outweighed by economic reality.

Kafarneh, 25, said he would ideally upgrade their kit to a safer tank operated by electricity.

"But it's unavailable due to the Israeli blockade," he said.

Since 2007, when the Islamist movement Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip, Israel has severely restricted the flow of people and goods in and out of the coastal enclave where 2.3 million people live.

The territory is increasingly impoverished.

Unemployment has hit 47 per cent and the average daily wage is around 60 shekels (US\$18), according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Petrol delivered from Israel shot up to eight shekels (US\$2.40) a litre in Gaza, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent global fuel prices spiking, before a pullback.

That sent demand soaring for Kafarneh's fuel, with fishermen and farmers among the top customers.

Ivory Coast's "Pearl of Lagoons" Loses Its Luster



YAMOU SSOUKRO (Dispatches) - It was once a jewel of West Africa — the "Pearl of Lagoons," people liked to call it.

Today, the vast Ebrie lagoon which abuts Ivory Coast's economic capital Abidjan is a sick and sorry sight, choked by plastic pollution and ravaged by sand extraction and unbridled development.

Named after an ethnic group that lives on its banks, the lagoon covers 120,000 hectares, mostly separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a strip of land.

Old-timers wax nostalgic about the days when its waters were a pristine aquamarine and mangroves teemed with fish and wildlife.

Today, the shoreside village of Beago exemplifies a nightmarish problem with plastic.

Discarded bottles, wrappers and other plastic rubbish smother the banks for at least a kilometre (more than half a mile).

"The situation is alarming. There are no more fish because of the pollution — fishing has been abandoned," said the village chief Paul Abe Blessoue, 73.

Urban and industrial waste from Yopougon, Abidjan's biggest district, has transformed his village of 3,000 inhabitants into an open dump, he said.

"If we are not careful, Beago could disappear in a few years, abandoned by its inhabitants," he said. Discarded plastic typically enters the marine environment from rivers or drains or by the wind. Once there, it becomes a notorious problem.

Larger pieces can choke seabirds and mammals, and after biodegradation that can take years, tiny fragments may enter the food chain at the smallest level.

Many rich economies are trying to crack down through such measures as banning single-use plastic bags, launching awareness programs and sorting rubbish to encourage recycling.

But in Ivory Coast, as in many developing countries, little such headway has been made.

The country of 26 million produces 460,000 tons of plastic waste each year, said Yaya Kone, CEO of recycling company Coliba Africa.

Of this, 290,000 tons come from Abidjan, where some six million people live.

"Only three per cent is recycled and used again," he said.

The rest "ends up in nature, especially the lagoon and the sea."

One of the biggest expanses of brackish water in Africa, the lagoon stretches far through countryside west of Abidjan to the Azagny National Park.

Its eastern point lies at Grand Bassam — Ivory Coast's first French colonial capital, renowned today for its ocean beach.

"Plastic is the (lagoon's) biggest pollution source," said Ayenon Seka, from the Institute of Tropical Geography at the University of Cocody in Abidjan. But plastic is not the only ill.

Around Bietry Bay, pollution has been compounded by industrial extraction of sand and anarchic development.

"Bietry Bay is a dead bay — it is extremely polluted, a real environmental disaster," said businessman Bernard Derrien, 76, who has lived in the area since 1998.

He said 1.6 million square metres (17.2 million square feet) of the bay had been filled in to build factories there.

Gerard Frere, a Frenchman who has lived in Abidjan for 67 years and owns a hotel in the bay, remembered the old days with nostalgia.



Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

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



Russian Economy to Contract by Less Than 3% in 2022

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's economy will contract by less than 3% this year, First Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov said, as a strong jobs market helps cushion the economy from the fallout from what Moscow calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine. Belousov said Russia's gross domestic product would fall by "a little more than 2%" this year. That will be followed by a decline of "no more than 1%" in 2023, Belousov predicted. Some economists were predicting a 15% collapse in GDP this year in the face of Western sanctions imposed because of the Ukraine crisis and designed to cripple the Russian economy.



China's August Factory Activity Likely Shrank

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's factory activity likely contracted again in August, a Reuters poll showed, as COVID flare-ups and a distressed property sector pummeled demand while a power crunch in southwestern China hit production. The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is expected to have risen to 49.2 in August from 49.0 in July, according to the median forecast of 23 economists polled by Reuters. Reversing previous gains in June, the gauge is expected to stay below the 50-point mark that separates contraction from growth. China's economy narrowly escaped contraction last quarter due to widespread COVID-19 lockdowns, and economists say its nascent recovery is in danger of fizzling out amid fresh virus flare-ups and the embattled property sector.

"High-frequency indicators such as container throughput and steel demand data weakened further in August from July," analysts at Goldman Sachs said in a note on Friday, forecasting the reading to edge down to 48.8.

Tighter COVID restrictions in August as well as the hot weather might have also affected outdoor construction activity due to the extreme heat and dragged down the services PMI, they added.

Searing heatwaves have swept across China's vast Yangtze River basin since mid-July, hammering densely populated cities from Shanghai to Chengdu and causing the southwestern province of Sichuan to suspend industrial production to ensure residential power supply.

According to ING's China economist Iris Pang, the damage caused by the drought's power shortage is around 1% of GDP. The "most worrisome" aspect of the Chinese economy, however, was the deleveraging reform on residential property developers," she said.

The property sector, which accounts for about a quarter of China's economy, has been lurching from crisis to crisis since the summer of 2020 as a result of regulators stepping in to cut excess leverage, which led some developers to default on their debts and struggle to complete projects.

"Potential home buyers are watching to see whether uncompleted homes can be finished quickly and to a good quality. This takes time - at least a couple of quarters," Pang said.

To prop up the ailing economy, the central government offered another package of stimulus, including raising the quota on policy financing tools by 300 billion yuan (\$43.39 billion). The central bank also cut the benchmark lending rate and lowered the mortgage reference by a bigger margin.

The official manufacturing PMI, which largely focuses on big and state-owned firms, and its sibling survey for the services sector, will be released on Wednesday.

The private sector Caixin manufacturing PMI, which focuses more on small firms and coastal regions, will be published on Thursday. Analysts expect a headline reading of 50.2 for that, down from 50.4 for July.

China, S. Korea Agree to Deepen Economic Cooperation

SEOUL (Dispatches) - China and South Korea have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on supply chains and agreed to further strengthen economic cooperation in a ministerial meeting, which experts said benefits steady bilateral relations highlighted in the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties and showed Seoul was keen to maintain mutual trust with Beijing prior to its potential joining of a US-led semiconductor alliance that is believed to target China.

The MOU was signed during the 17th South Korea-China Meeting on Economic Cooperation that was held virtually between He Lifeng, head of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's top economic planner, and Choo Kyung-ho, South Korea's Finance Minister. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to boost cooperation in the industrial chain and supply chain, and strengthen policy exchanges on carbon dioxide emissions peak and carbon neutrality, according to a statement the NDRC issued.

Under the MOU, a new director-level entity on supply chains is expected to be set up between the two countries, with the aim of discussing related issues in the event of any supply disruptions and to enhance policy consultations, reported Yonhap News Agency, citing Seoul's finance ministry.

It is the first MOU of its kind signed by the two countries, it reported.

The two sides also agreed to deepen cooperation on key projects in the third market and vowed to foster new areas of growth in bilateral cooperation and take the strategic cooperative partnership to a new level under the China-Korea economic ministerial meeting mechanism, said the NDRC's statement.

Experts said the fruitful results from Saturday's meeting, especially the signing of the first MOU on supply chain cooperation, benefit the steady development of bilateral economic ties in today's complex international situation and show that Seoul wants to maintain mutual trust with Beijing before its potential joining of a US-led semiconductor alliance known as the "Chip 4," which is widely believed to be another geopolitical gambit from the US against China.

Dong Xiangrong, a senior fellow at the National Institute of International Strategy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Sunday that the agreements signify that both China and South Korea have a high expectation for steady supply chains - South Korea needs a stable Chinese market to export its key products and China also needs South Korea for industrial development.



Saudi Arabia May Cut October Crude Prices for Asia

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia could slash October prices for most crude grades it sells to Asia after a plunge in spot premiums as tepid fuel demand and increasing arbitrage cargoes put pressure on oil prices in the region.



State oil giant Saudi Aramco could cut the official selling price (OSP) for its flagship Arab Light crude by about \$4.50 a barrel in October, according to five refining sources surveyed by Reuters on August 29.

That would mark the first Saudi price reduction in four months after the country raised September OSPs to record high levels of \$10.95 a barrel for Arab Extra Light against the Oman/Dubai average and \$9.80 a barrel for Arab Light.

Spot premiums for regional benchmarks Dubai, Oman and Murban plummeted in August as fears over a global recession and the narrowing spread between Dubai- and Brent-linked grades dented demand for Middle Eastern crude oil.

Saudi Arabia typically takes cues from Dubai's market structure, which reflects the first- and third-month price spread, when setting the prices. In August, the spread slid about \$4.26 a barrel.

"The overall demand in Asia is not very strong. As more arbitrage cargoes from the United States and West Africa flow into Asia, supply tightness concerns have mostly eased," said one respondent.

Despite expectations of recovering demand from India and Indonesia when the monsoon season passes in late September, fuel consumption in China, the world's top oil importer, could still be gloomy as the country continues to grapple with COVID-19 restrictions.

Sinopec, Asia's No.1 oil refiner, forecasts its second-half refinery throughput to plunge 8% from a year ago and the annual processing volume for 2022 to fall by 6% versus 2021. [nLIN305052]

"Some Saudi cargoes that were shipped to the west are now flowing back to Asia because of sluggish demand in Europe, which would also depress prices," said another respondent.

Some major oil producers, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have flagged the possibility of introducing production cuts to balance the oil market.

Saudi crude OSPs are usually released around the fifth of each month, and set the trend for Iranian, Kuwaiti and Iraqi prices, affecting more than 9 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude bound for Asia.

Saudi Aramco sets its crude prices based on recommendations from customers and after calculating the change in the value of its oil over the past month, based on yields and product prices.

Saudi Aramco officials as a matter of policy do not comment on the kingdom's monthly OSPs.

Floods Inflict \$10b Loss on Pakistan's Economy

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - The devastating flash floods in Pakistan have inflicted a loss of at least \$10 billion on different sectors of the country's struggling economy, according to Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail.

Miftah said these were the initial assessments that might escalate after conducting surveys on the ground, The News reported.

The Minister however, did not have the details of the losses faced by each sector of the economy at the moment. Asked whether the country had taken the donors into confidence on the initial assessment of damage, he replied in the negative.

Top official sources said Islamabad would first seek financial assistance from the international community and then it might assess the damages separately or jointly with the donors to work out the exact figures, but first of all the government would focus on all-out relief efforts in order to rescue the victims.

In the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods, Pakistan and donors assessed the losses caused to different sectors of economy and then the donors helped Islamabad during the reconstruction phase after relief and rehabilitation, The News reported.

Now the same strategy would be adopted.

Initial assessments show that more than 1,000 people and millions of livestock have died in different parts of the country besides damage to an untold number of houses, hotels and roads in major flood-hit areas of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Floods, Other Water-Related Disasters Could Cost Economy \$5.6 Trillion by 2050

LONDON (Dispatches) - Worsening droughts, storms and torrential rain in some of the world's largest economies could cause \$5.6 trillion in losses to GDP by 2050, according to a report released.

This year heavy rains have triggered floods that inundated cities in China and South Korea and disrupted water and electricity supply in India, while drought has put farmers' harvests at risk across Europe.

Such disasters are costing the global economy hundreds of billions of dollars. Last year's extreme droughts, floods and storms led to global losses of more than \$224 billion, according to the Emergency Events Database maintained by the Brussels-based Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters.

But as climate change fuels more intense rainfall, flooding and drought in coming decades, these costs are set to soar, warns the report by engineering and environmental consultancy firm GHD.

Water - when there's too much or too little - can "be the most destructive force that a community can experience," said Don Holland, who leads GHD's Canadian water market program.

GHD assessed the water risks in seven countries representing varied economic and climatic conditions: the United States, China, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates and Australia. Using global insurance data and scientific studies on how extreme events can affect different sectors, the team estimated the amount of losses countries face in terms of immediate costs as well as to the overall economy.

In the United States, the world's biggest economy, losses could total \$3.7 trillion by 2050, with U.S. gross domestic product shrinking by about 0.5% each year up until then. China, the world's No. 2 economy, faces cumulative losses of around \$1.1 trillion by mid-century.

Of the five business sectors most vital to the global economy, manufacturing and distribution would be hit hardest by disasters costing \$4.2 trillion as water scarcity disrupts production while storms and floods destroy infrastructure and inventory.

The agricultural sector, vulnerable to both drought and extreme rainfall, could see \$332 billion in losses by 2050. Other sectors facing major challenges are retail, banking and energy.

India's Status as World's Fastest Growing Major Economy to Be Short-Lived



BENGALURU (Dispatches) - India likely recorded strong double-digit economic growth in the last quarter but economists polled by Reuters expected the pace to more than halve this quarter and slow further toward the end of the year as interest rates rise.

Asia's third-largest economy is grappling with persistently high unemployment and inflation, which has been running above the top of the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance band all year and is set to do so for the rest of 2022.

Growth this quarter is predicted to slow sharply to an annual 6.2% from a median forecast of 15.2% in Q2, supported mainly by statistical comparisons with a year ago rather than new momentum, before decelerating further to 4.5% in October-December.

The median expectation for 2022 growth was 7.2%, according to an Aug. 22-26 Reuters poll, but economists said that the solid growth rate masks how rapidly the economy was expected to slow in coming months.

"Even as India remains the fastest-growing major economy, domestic consumption will perhaps not be strong enough to drive growth further as unemployment remains high and real wages are at a record low level," said Kunal Kundu, India economist at Societe Generale.

"By supporting growth through investment, the government has only fired on one engine while forgetting about the impetus which domestic consumption provides. This is why India's growth is still below its pre-pandemic trend."

The economy has not grown fast enough to accommodate some 12 million people joining the labor force each year.

Meanwhile the RBI, a relative laggard in the global tightening cycle, is set to raise its key repo rate by another 60 basis points by the end of March to try to bring inflation within the tolerance limit.

That follows three interest rate rises this year totalling 140 basis points, and would take the repo rate to 6.00% by end-Q1 2023.

Mehdi Taj Elected as Iran Football Federation President

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Mehdi Taj was elected as the President of Iran Football Federation for a four-year term on Tuesday with the majority of votes. Three nominees were introduced for the seat of Iran Football Federation named Mehdi Taj, Mirshad Majedi and Azizollah Mohammadi, in which, Mehdi Taj was elected as the next president of the Iran Football Federation with the majority of votes counted.

At the General Assembly of the Football Federation, 80 nominees were introduced with the right of voting, of whom, three nominees were qualified for the post of president of the Federation.

From among these three qualified nominees, Mehdi Taj was elected at I.R. Iran Football Federation Chief with garnering 51 votes, followed by Mirshad Majedi with 25 votes and Azizollah Mohammadi with 4 votes respectively.



The 23 Films Competing at the Venice Film Festival

ROME (Dispatches) - The 79th edition of the Venice Film Festival will run from August 31 to September 10. These are the 23 films in the running for the top prize Golden Lion, to be chosen by a jury led by actor Julianne Moore.

Opening film: *White Noise* by Noah Baumbach (US) with Adam Driver, Greta Gerwig, Don Cheadle.

The Whale by Darren Aronofsky (US) with Brendan Fraser, Sadie Sink, Samantha Morton

Blonde by Andrew Dominik (US) with Ana de Armas, Adrien Brody, Bobby Cannavale

Tar by Todd Field (US) with Cate Blanchett

Bardo by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (Mexico)

Bones and All by Luca Guadagnino (US) with Taylor Russell, Timothee Chalamet, Mark Rylance

The Son by Florian Zeller (Britain) with Hugh Jackman, Laura Dern, Vanessa Kirby, Anthony Hopkins

The Eternal Daughter by Joanna Hogg (US/Britain) with Tilda Swinton

Beyond the Wall by Vahid Jililvand (Iran) with Navid Mohammadzadeh, Diana Habibi, Amir Aghaee

The Banshees of Inisherin by Martin McDonagh (Ireland/Britain/US) with Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson

No Bears by Jafar Panahi (Iran) with Jafar Panahi, Naser Hashemi, Vahid Mobaseri

All the Beauty and the Bloodshed by Laura Poitras (US)

L'Immensita by Emanuele Crialese (Italy) with Penelope Cruz

Saint Omer by Alice Diop (France) with Kayije Kagame, Guslagie Malanda

Love Life by Koji Fukuda (Japan/France) with Fumino Kimura, Kento Nagayama

Athena by Romain Gavras (France) with Dali Benssalah, Sami Slimane

Argentina, 1985 by Santiago Mitre (Argentina) with Ricardo Darin, Peter Lanzani

Chiara by Susanna Nicchiarelli (Italy/Belgium) with Margherita Mazzucco, Andrea Carpenzano



Monica by Andrea Pallaoro (US/Italy) with Trace Lysette, Patricia Clarkson, Adriana Barraza

A Couple de Frederick Wiseman (France/US) with Nathalie Boutefeu

Les Miens by Roschdy Zem (France) with Sami Bouajila, Roschdy Zem, Maiwenn

Other People's Children by Rebecca Zlotowski (France) with Virginie Efira, Roschdy Zem

The Lord of the Ants by Gianni Amelio (Italy) with Luigi Lo Cascio, Elio Germano

Iran Begins Uranium...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran has also informed the agency it plans to install an additional six IR-2m cascades at the FEP in a new operating unit as top Iranian and US officials headed to Vienna for talks this week on reviving the 2015 nuclear pact, Reuters news agency reported.

The claim of Reuters about the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) came two days after Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said that the order of commissioning and injecting gas into hundreds of centrifuge machines, including advanced machines, has been issued in line with the implementation of Strategic Action Plan to Counter US Sanctions and Protect Rights of Iranian People and this issue has already been informed to the IAEA.

As one of the signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran emphasizes that it has the right to access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Tehran Urges Taliban...

FROM PAGE 1

"Despite repeated international calls, the Taliban has failed to make significant efforts to ensure that the government is truly, ethnically, and politically inclusive," she noted, calling the formation of an inclusive government a "prerequisite and critical" component for international recognition.

The Iranian envoy also warned about the "dire" humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, where around 25 million people are living in poverty, with "many who go hungry."

Ershadi then raised the alarm about the resurgence of Daesh, al-Qaeda, and their affiliated groups in Afghanistan, particularly in light of the recent spate of terrorist attacks across the country that have killed and injured more than 250 people this month.

"The emergence of terrorist groups could pose a serious threat to Afghanistan, its neighbors, the region, and beyond," she said. "This trend highlights the international community's ongoing demand that the Taliban must commit to fighting terrorism and ensure that Afghanistan no longer serves as a safe haven for terrorist organizations such as Daesh and al-Qaeda."

"This catastrophic situation entails responsibility and obligations for those foreign forces that illegally invaded and occupied Afghanistan under the guise of fighting terrorism and left nothing but devastation in their wake," she said.

She further said that the security, stability, and prosperity of Afghanistan are intertwined with those of its neighbors, urging the United Nations, particularly the Security Council to use its capacities to improve the country's deteriorating humanitarian situation and ensure its long-term peace and development.

Ershadi said, "It also serves as a reminder that military intervention in other countries under the pretext of combating terrorism while claiming to bring democracy, peace, and prosperity not only degrades those common values but also harms those states and their people."

She called on the international community to continue to support Afghanistan, particularly in terms of the provision of humanitarian and development assistance that has been critical in keeping the Afghan people alive, maintaining basic services, and bolstering the economy.

The Iranian envoy reiterated Tehran's support for efforts by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to promote peace and stability in the war-ravaged country in accordance with its mandate, saying the UN can play a vital role, both in addressing Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis and facilitating the intra-Afghan political process.

She also said Iran would continue its efforts to assist the Afghan people and work with Afghanistan's neighbors and other partners to "ensure durable peace and sustainable development in Afghanistan."

"We believe that an Afghanistan that is democratic, prosperous, stable, and free of war, terrorism, and drugs benefits its people and is in the best interests of all of its neighbors, the region, and the world. We must all work tirelessly and collectively to help achieve this goal, while fully respecting Afghanistan's territorial integrity, unity, and political independence," the Iranian envoy noted.

Elsewhere in her remarks, Ershadi called once more for the release of frozen assets belonging to the Afghan people which is "critical in assisting the Afghan economy and saving lives and should not be politicized or conditional."

The Taliban, who had previously ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, took power again on August 15 last year as the US was in the middle of a chaotic troop withdrawal. The group announced the formation of a caretaker government weeks later.

Ethereum Crypto Overhaul Targets Environmental Impact

LONDON (Dispatches) - The world's second biggest cryptocurrency after bitcoin, ethereum, will soon overhaul its blockchain technology to curb the network's much-criticized environmental impact.

Ethereum, whose digital unit ether tumbled in a crypto crash earlier this year, will in September undergo a major technical revolution.

So what is the backdrop for the looming reset -- known as the Merge -- and how will it calm prices and cut electricity usage?

Bitcoin, ethereum and other such currencies are "mined" by solving complex puzzles using powerful computers that consume enormous amounts of energy in vast warehouses, often near cheap electricity sources.

A blockchain is the decentralised and secure ledger for recording those transactions, which occur when encrypted codes are passed across a computer network.

Users validate their success via a so-called "proof of work" mechanism that rewards them with cyber currency -- but only after they have proved their participation in such energy-intensive mining.

The lucrative crypto industry is worth about \$1.0 trillion, despite crashing in the first half of 2022.

However, ethereum is still down by a hefty 55 percent in value so far this year.

Ethereum is nevertheless regarded as vital because it is where most virtual assets, including headline-grabbing non-fungible tokens (NFTs), are bought and sold.

Leader...

FROM PAGE 1

"The speedy action and presence at the place of natural and unforeseen events as a sign of the administration's sympathy with the people," "the removal of negative and controversial rivalries in the relations between the powers that caused confusion in the minds of the people," "emphasis on the serious care of the three branches of the administration in the continuation of this soothing effort" and "using youth" were among the other successes of the administration that the leader of the revolution addressed.

Ayatollah Khamenei said: "Of course, managers and young officials also make mistakes in some cases, but in general, using young managers and officials in the administration and parliament and nurturing strong managers is worth being patient in the face of these mistakes and gradually eliminating them."

He called "taking the society out of waiting for others' decisions and actions," "avoiding conditioning

the country," and "giving importance to internal capacities" other successes of the executive branch.

The Leader considered the Raisi administration "accountable" and said: "In the last year, the administration neither made excuses nor said "we don't have the authority" or "others don't allow us to work."

"Good approaches in the field of foreign policy and culture" and "highlighting the slogans of the revolution, including seeking justice, supporting the oppressed, avoiding aristocracy and anti-arrogance" were other prominent points of the administration that the leader of the revolution pointed to.

Emphasizing that in the current situation, the main priority is still the economic issues, the Leader noted: "Of course, this does not mean ignoring other topics such as science, security, social damage and culture, but the priority should be economy along with cultural attachment."

UN...

FROM PAGE 1

"We reflect on the pain and suffering of those who lost loved ones. We commit to support survivors scarred by heinous acts of terrorism by amplifying their voices, protecting their rights, and seeking justice," the message also read.

The UN chief went on to say that he looks forward to learning and hearing directly from survivors about their needs and challenges at the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism next month.

The chairwoman of the Human Rights Committee at the Iranian parliament Zohreh Elahian, for her part, called on parliamentary friendship groups worldwide to work together to pass a comprehensive act, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, to support victims of terrorism in their respective countries.

Also in the conference, family members of Iranian victims of terrorism delivered speeches on how their loved ones were murdered by terrorists. They also called on national and international authorities to combat terrorism.

U.S. Claims Russia...

FROM PAGE 1

In July, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan claimed that Iran was planning to hand over to Russia up to several hundreds of unmanned aerial vehicles, including those capable of carrying armaments. He also claimed that Iran was planning to train Russian forces to use these drones with the first stages of training beginning as early as July while he did not provide any proof for his assertions.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani has rejected the allegations against Iran by US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. "National Security Adviser Sullivan accompanied Biden to Tel

Aviv to reinforce America's commitment to unconditionally support the world's most murderous child-killing regime. At the beginning of the trip, he accused Iran of supporting the killing of Ukrainians! Lies are a thriving coin among American politicians! Overturning the truth for evil purposes."

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian stated that Iran refrains from taking any steps that may result in an escalation in Ukraine, adding that the country is not helping either side involved in the conflict because it is certain that it should be ended.

Malaysia's Inflation Up 4.4% yoy in July 2022



KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 4.4 per cent year-on-year (yoy) to 127.9 in July 2022 compared to 122.5 in the same month of the preceding year.

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM) chief statistician Datuk Sri Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the food index increased 6.9 per cent and remained as the main contributor to the rise in inflation during the month.

"The increase in Malaysia's inflation this month was also due to the lower base effect last year as a result of the electricity bill discount from five to 40 per cent according to total usage given to domestic consumers under the National People's Well-Being and Economic Recovery Package (Pemulihan) from July to September 2021," he said in a statement.

He said there are food items that showed a slower growth momentum in July 2022 compared to June 2022. Among the subgroups were fish and seafood (4.2 per cent) and vegetables (7.1 per cent).

Apart from the food group, Mohd Uzir said all other groups also continued to record increases except for communication which remained unchanged compared to the same month of the previous year.

Restaurants and hotels increased 5.8 per cent followed by transport (5.6 per cent); furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance (4.0 per cent) and housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels (3.8 per cent).

Meanwhile, recreation services and culture also registered an increase of 2.5 per cent, miscellaneous goods & services (2.1 per cent) and education (1.2 per cent).

The DoSM statement said inflation for January to July 2022 increased 2.8 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year.

On a monthly basis, inflation increased 0.4 per cent compared to June 2022.

The increase was mainly attributed by restaurants & hotels (0.8 per cent) and food & non-alcoholic beverages (0.7 per cent). This was followed by furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance (0.6 per cent) and transport (0.5 per cent).

The core inflation and inflation without fuel registered an increase of 3.4 per cent and 4.2 per cent respectively in July compared to the same month of the preceding year.

Inflation for all states rose with three states showing increases above the national level of 4.4 per cent.

McIlroy Wins FedExCup Title

ATLANTA (Dispatches) - Rory McIlroy produced the largest final-round comeback in Tour Championship history to beat world number one Scottie Scheffler by one stroke in Atlanta on Sunday and then used the moment to sing the praises of the PGA Tour.

McIlroy, who began the final round at East Lake six shots back of Scheffler, carded a four-under-par 66 to reach 21 under on the week at the PGA Tour's season-ending event to capture his third FedExCup title and an US\$18 million first-place prize.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:
(+98) (21) 44253448

Public Relations Tel:
(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

Public Relations Fax:
(+98)(21) 44253395

Advertising Department:
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234

Website:
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:
info@irannewsdaily.com

ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:
Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Lodi Joins Nottingham Forest on Season-Long Loan

LONDON (Dispatches) - Atletico Madrid left back Renan Lodi has joined promoted Premier League side Nottingham Forest on a season-long loan deal, both clubs said on Monday.

Forest will reportedly pay an initial five million euros loan fee for the 24-year-old Brazil international, with an option to make the move permanent for 30 million euros at the end of the season.

Lodi has also agreed to renew his contract with Atletico until 2026.

Hamilton, Alonso Back Off in War of Words Over Spa Crash

LONDON (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso eased off to avoid a prolonged war of words on Monday following their acrimonious collision in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

Mercedes' seven-time world champion and his one-time McLaren team-mate crashed on the opening lap with Hamilton forced to retire after an airborne ride over his rival's Alpine car.

In the heat of the moment the veteran Spaniard blasted the British driver as "an idiot".

Hamilton revisited the incident on social media, writing: "First I want to apologise to my fans and especially those who came out to support me.

"After almost 30 years of racing, the feeling left from a mistake cuts just as deep as the first. "My team, who work so hard, deserved more."

Alonso, 41, was also more composed in his comments after the race and distanced himself from the impact of his original outburst on team radio when he said: "What an idiot! Closing the door from the outside.

"I mean, we had a mega-start, but this guy only knows how to drive and start in first."

Hamilton accepted full blame for the collision but was clearly put out by Alonso's initial fury.

He suggested he had intended to speak to the Spaniard until he "heard what he said. I know that's how things feel in the heat of the moment, but it's nice to know how he feels about me".

Alonso admitted "I was angry", adding: "The radio, anyway, when you talk, you talk to your engineer and to your team.



"I was frustrated there, for sure," he continued.

"Every time we started in the first couple of rows of the grid there is something going on, unfortunately, and I felt that way.

"But, you know, it was a normal incident, and unfortunately Lewis had to retire the car after the incident."

Alonso was seen wagging a finger at Hamilton on lap two before he settled down and finished fifth in the race.

The two have had a colourful history since being team-mates at McLaren in 2007, Hamilton's rookie season, when they fell out. Alonso left the team after one year of a three-year contract.

The crash capped a disappointing weekend for the 37-year-old Hamilton who had qualified 1.8 seconds adrift of pace-setting world champion Max Verstappen who won the race from 14th on the grid, after taking a penalty, for Red Bull.

"We're not where we want to be," the British driver, still searching for his first win of the season, said.

"But we won't stop pushing until we get to where we know where we belong. Sometimes this is life, it happens, but it's not how we fall, it's how we get up.

"I will be working as hard as I can to come back stronger."

Alonso meanwhile also enjoyed poking fun at Ferrari, with whom he experienced strategy errors, notably when bidding to win his third drivers' title in 2010.

Asked about the Italian team's curious strategy in Belgium, which saw Charles Leclerc finish sixth, he said he was not surprised.

"No, not so much. Ferrari has been doing strange things -- and that was just another strange thing."

Aubameyang Assaulted In Armed Robbery at His Home in Barcelona

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Armed robbers broke into the home of Barcelona striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang early on Monday morning, police said, and physically assaulted the player and his wife as they forced them to open a safe to steal jewellery, according to media reports.

Spanish newspaper El Pais said both the player and his wife Alysha Behague suffered minor injuries. Aubameyang, 33, has not confirmed any details of the robbery.

It is the second time in the last two months that Aubameyang's home in Castelldefels, a suburb in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, has been burgled, although the player and his family were not at home during the first break-in, police said.

According to media reports, four hooded men broke into his home on Monday and threatened the player and his family with firearms. They struck Aubameyang and his wife and forced them to open a safe in order to steal jewelry.

Man United Agree Deal With Antony

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United have agreed a deal to sign Brazil winger Antony from Dutch side Ajax Amsterdam, the BBC and Sky Sports reported.

The deal is reported to be worth an initial £80.75 million, with a further £4.25 million in add-ons, the BBC said.

The 22-year-old is set to complete a medical within the next two days.

Antony joined Ajax in February 2020 from Brazilian Serie A side Sao Paulo, making more than 80 appearances for the Dutch side in all competitions and scoring 25 goals. He made his Brazil debut in October 2021, in a 3-1 World Cup qualifying win over Venezuela.

AS Roma Sign Italy Striker Belotti

ROME (Dispatches) - AS Roma have signed Italy striker Andrea Belotti as a free agent on a one-year contract with the option to extend it for two more years, the Serie A club said.

The 28-year-old joins AS Roma after seven seasons at Torino, where he made a total of 251 appearances and scored 113 goals in all competitions.

"Roma's progress and ambition in recent times has been clear for all to see, and both elements have had a big influence on me," Belotti said in a statement on AS Roma's website. Belotti has also made 44 appearances and scored 12 goals for Italy and was part of the team who won the European Championship in 2021.

Reto Wins in Canada For First LPGA Title

OTTAWA (Dispatches) - South Africa's Paula Reto captured the first title of her nine-year LPGA career, holding on down the stretch to win the Canadian Women's Open by one stroke.

The 32-year-old from Cape Town made five birdies on the front nine on her way to firing a four-under-par 67 and finishing on 19-under 265 for 72 holes at Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club.

Chelsea Could Sign Players Before Deadline



"Right now we could need more players in some positions but it's close to the end of the transfer window and when Sept. 1 comes I will be a happy coach no matter what happens," Tuchel told a news conference.

LONDON (Dispatches) - Chelsea will look to bring in new recruits before the transfer window closes on Sept. 1 but will make do with the existing squad if they have to, manager Thomas Tuchel said.

Speaking ahead of trip to Southampton, Tuchel said he was fully focused on their opponents as they look to make it three victories from five games after beating Leicester City 2-1 last time out.

"I will try to find solutions and not think about what could have happened."

Chelsea have been linked with Leicester defender Wesley Fofana and Barcelona striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

"All that matters is the reality and the moment now... and what will matter at Southampton is to find a way to win, step up individually and push the team. This is what we will do whether players come or not," Tuchel added.

Chelsea cruised to a 6-0 win over Southampton last season, but Tuchel said his team cannot take their 13th-placed opponents lightly at St Mary's.

"What you can always expect at Southampton is a physical game, a running game and a high-intensity game," Tuchel said. "So we need to recover well and be well prepared to have a chance to repeat what we did last season."

Kane Targeting Shearer's All-Time Goalscoring Record

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane has set his sights on chasing down Alan Shearer's all-time Premier League goalscoring record after his two goals against Nottingham Forest moved him up to joint-third in the scoring charts.

Kane missed a penalty but netted twice to surpass 200 league goals in his career as Spurs maintained their unbeaten start to the season with a 2-0 victory at the City Ground on Sunday.

The England captain, 29, joined Andy Cole on 187 Premier League goals. Only Shearer (260) and Wayne Rooney (208) have scored more goals in the competition's history.

"It's still a long way away, for sure, but I still feel fit, I feel I have many more years left in the locker," Kane told media.

"Every season I want to score goals, I want to be amongst those names, and I'm excited for the challenge.

"Alan and Wayne are two of the best strikers England have ever had so to even be in that category is nice for me. But I want to keep pushing myself, see how far I can go. So far, it's been a good start to the season." Tottenham's third victory in four games left them third in the league standings on 10 points, two behind north London rivals Arsenal.

Kane has scored four goals this season and his form has been key to Tottenham's best start to a Premier League campaign since 2009-10, when they opened with four straight wins.

Last week, Kane set a Premier League record for the most goals for a single club, moving clear of Sergio Aguero's tally for Manchester City.

"Harry has to be our point of reference on the pitch at every moment, he has to be the leader for this team and I think he is working very well," Spurs manager Antonio Conte told reporters.

"He's totally involved in this project, and I am really happy for him."



Pandya's All-Round Show Seals India's Victory Over Pakistan

DUBAI (Dispatches) - India all-rounder Hardik Pandya picked up three wickets and then smashed an unbeaten 33 to seal a five-wicket victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in a low-scoring thriller in the Asia Cup Twenty20 tournament in Dubai.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar picked up four wickets, including the prized scalp of Babar Azam, while Pandya expertly used short-pitched deliveries in India's inspired fast-bowling display to help them skittle out Pakistan for 147.

All Pakistan wickets fell to India's fast bowlers with Arshdeep Singh taking two and Avesh Khan picking up the remaining one.

In reply, the Pakistan bowlers fought hard and took the match to the final over when Pandya hit a massive six to seal the victory with two balls to spare.

With bilateral cricket remaining suspended between the bitter neighbours, India and Pakistan play each other only in multi-team tournaments with their rivalry now a rare but enticing occasion for fans worldwide.

Pakistan came into the contest having mauled India by 10 wickets in a Twenty20 World Cup match at the same venue in October in their last meeting.

It was India who landed the first blow when Bhuvneshwar dismissed Pakistan batting mainstay Babar for 10 in the third over with a sharp rising delivery after captain Rohit Sharma won the toss and opted to field.

Pandya dismissed the big-hitting Iftikhar Ahmed for 28 and also sent back well-set opener Mohammad Rizwan, who made 43, and Khushdil Shah in the same over -- all through short-pitched deliveries.

After Pandya scythed through the middle order, Bhuvneshwar returned for his second spell to clean up the Pakistan tail by dismissing Asif Ali, Shadab Khan and Naseem Shah.

