

Commander of Army Air Force of The Islamic Republic of Iran General Vahedi Says the Purchase of Sukhoi Su-35 Fighter Jets From Russia Is On the Agenda of the Air Force of The Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAN NEWS

Health Ministry Announced on Sunday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to **143,995** With **48** More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

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Iran Defense Power, Capabilities Non-Negotiable

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A high-ranking military advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has stressed that the Islamic Republic's defensive power is not negotiable, noting that the country's defense industry has significantly advanced in recent decades after the Iran-Iraq war.

"The Sacred Defense [The 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war] taught us that the defense might is non-negotiable. We will promote this [power] as much as needed and will never put it up for negotiations with any party," Brigadier General Amir Hatami said during a ceremony in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

He added that the Islamic Republic moved to sharply strengthen its defense power following the eight-year war, something that prompted the enemies to call for negotiations on the subject.

"All our decision makers know very well what they will face in the future. If we (Iran) possess advanced missiles today, it is because we have realized that we need such weapons," Hatami pointed out.

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U.S. Needs to Listen To EU Energy Demands In Iran Talks

TEHRAN (MNA) - An advisor to the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna talks has urged Washington to understand the European countries' energy crisis and provide credible guarantees to Tehran to reach an agreement in the talks ASAP.

"A senior western nuclear negotiator once said with satisfaction that "words matter." That's why Iran wants no ambiguities to remain in the text. There should be no loopholes that can be used to undermine a deal. There are problems with a few words and the U.S. can easily fix them," wrote Mohammad Marandi in Saturday tweet.

The United States, under former president Donald Trump, abandoned the agreement in May 2018 and reinstated unilateral sanctions that the agreement had lifted.

The talks to salvage the agreement kicked off in the Austrian capital city of Vienna in April last year, months after Joe Biden succeeded Trump, with the intention of examining Washington's seriousness in rejoining the deal and removing anti-Iran sanctions.

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President Urges CBI For Reform In Banking System

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi describes strengthening the value of the national currency, correcting the imbalance of banks, stopping the annual growth of liquidity, correcting the portfolio of foreign exchange reserves in accordance with the country's investment and business needs, expanding the range of collateral and facilitating the collateralization process, activating the commercial account, strengthening the supervisory and supply systems and providing the capital turnover of production units as the central bank's main missions.

Raisi attended the Glass Building of the Central Bank on Sunday morning and first met the Governor of the Central Bank, the deputy heads of information technology and its managers and in the meeting he was informed about the functioning of the monitoring systems and intelligent monitoring of financial transactions.

The President then attended the meeting of senior managers of the Central Bank and after listening to the report of the Governor of the Central Bank, he pointed out the "important position of the Central Bank in the management of monetary and financial resources and the reform of the banking system" and defined the 10 missions for its transformation and improvement.

Raisi called the central bank the think tank and monitoring body of the monetary and financial policies of the country and said, "The central bank should vigorously advance the path of reforming and upgrading the banking system and supervise the implementation of the country's monetary and financial policies".

In this meeting, the President described strengthening the value of the national currency, correcting the imbalance of banks, stopping the annual growth of liquidity, correcting the portfolio of foreign exchange reserves in accordance with the country's investment and business needs, expanding the range of collateral and facilitating the collateralization process, activating the commercial account, strengthening the supervisory and supply systems and providing the capital turnover of production units as the central bank's main missions.

Raisi declared "stopping the growth of liquidity and managing money creation" as an important mission of the Central Bank and added, "The growth of liquidity is not a concern if it is directed towards production by management, but if it moves towards brokering in the market, it will have devastating consequences".

Referring to the praise of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution for the government's action in properly strictness in controlling the growth of the balance sheet, the President obliged the Central Bank to control the growth of the banks' money creation by imposing a ceiling on the growth of the banks' debts (deposits) and to control the annual growth of the country's liquidity until the end of year 1402 to reach below 25%".

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ViewPoint Freedom of Expression In American Style

For decades or better to say centuries the Westerners and mostly Americans have been claiming they are ardent supporters of freedom of expression and when it comes to themselves, they act totally differently which makes the world laugh for their double standard approach regarding the freedom of expression.

Since 2016 when Donald Trump stunned the world and won the U.S. presidential race, the meaning of freedom of expression for two major ruling political parties in this country has changed as they are unable to tolerate each other and they trade barbs and exchange of abusive words especially for supporting Trump or the current President Joe Biden and this American style of freedom of expression has exposed the country's true nature.

On Thursday, U.S. President Joe Biden slammed his predecessor Donald Trump, calling him and his Republican supporters a threat to America's democracy.

In a prime-time speech on Thursday in Philadelphia, Biden said Trump and his "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) supporters had no regard for the rule of law or the Constitution and were undermining democracy by fanning the flames of political violence.

He said a majority of Republicans don't support "extreme ideology," but the party was "dominated, driven, and intimidated by Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans, and that is a threat to this country."

The Democratic president warned that the Republican Party was currently being "dominated, driven, and intimidated by Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans," who he insisted represented an "extreme ideology" that threatened the United States.

The U.S. president also accused Trump and his supporters of disregarding the law, trying to undermine free elections and doing damage to the country in terms of personal rights and freedoms.

"MAGA Republicans do not respect the Constitution. They did not believe in the rule of law. They did not recognize the will of the people," Biden said. "They refused to accept the results of a free election," he added, suggesting that MAGA Republicans will once again "try to steal the elections" in the 2022 midterms and the 2024 presidential election.

Reacting to Biden's remarks Trump called his predecessor Biden "insane, or suffering from late-stage dementia" after the latter accused Trump and his diehard right-wing supporters of being a threat to the United States.

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Iran Export of Technical-Engineering Services Up 31%

TEHRAN (MNA) - The head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said that export of technical and engineering services in the current year registered a 31 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year.

Alireza Payman-Pak said that the country's export of technical and engineering services last year (ended March 20, 2022) increased 39 percent as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

With the coordination made in this regard and the special emphasis of Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the export of technical and engineering services would hit \$70 billion. He went on to say that the country is able to export \$8 billion worth of technical and engineering services to Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) by the end of 2025.

TPOI chief then expounded on the salient measures taken in the past year since the new administration under President Raisi assumed office in August 2021 and stated that spurring export of non-oil commodities was emphasized by the president in his election campaign.

The export of technical and engineering services from June 21 to July 22 registered more than 120 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year.

The country enjoys high potential and capabilities in this field which can boost the export volume of technical and engineering services, he underlined.

1b Tons of New Copper Reserves Discovered in Iran

TEHRAN (IRIB) - The managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) has announced the discovery of one billion tons of new copper reserves in Iran.

NICIC carried out 28,000 meters of deep drilling to identify new copper reserves in East Azarbaijan's Sungun copper mine which resulted in the discovery of one billion tons of new reserves, Ali Rostami said on Sunday.

According to Rostami, with the discovery of the mentioned reserves, the total in-place reserves of the mentioned mine have increased from four billion to over five billion tons.

He put the value of the discovered reserves at over \$50 billion, saying that the company is taking the necessary measures to begin executing development operations in the said mine.

Rostami stated that with the identification of these new reserves, the resources of the Sungun mine have grown by more than 25 percent, adding: "A one-billion-ton increase in resources is unique in its kind and is considered a huge discovery, although estimates show that the mine's reserves maybe even more than what we have already discovered."

Back in April 2021, NICIC's former Managing Director Ardeshtir Sa'd-Mohammadi announced the discovery of yet another one billion of new copper reserves across the country.

The official put the country's total copper reserves at 40 billion tons, saying that Iran currently has the world's seventh-largest copper reserves.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

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Zionist' Bahai Spy Organization Disbanded

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Intelligence Department General of Mazandaran Province announced in a statement that the Zionist's Baha'i spy organization in northern part of the country was dismantled.

The twelve members of the Zionist's Baha'i spy organization were identified and arrested in different cities of the province.

According to the statement, two of the leaders of this spy organization were trained in the Zionist organization of Bayt al-Adl located in the occupied territories and had formed a spy cell with the members of the organization throughout Mazandaran province.

Iran, Russia FMs Agree to Maintain Close Coordination

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The foreign ministers of Iran and Russia have discussed the schedule of future high-level and summit meetings, agreeing to maintain close coordination on regional and international issues, Russia's Foreign Ministry says.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov touched upon "pressing issues of bilateral cooperation in follow-up to the agreements of the talks between the foreign ministers in Moscow on August 31, 2022," Russia's Tass news agency quoted the ministry as saying in a statement.

"The ministers synchronized their schedules of future high-level and summit meeting[s]," it added.

In a joint press conference in Moscow on Wednesday following their delegation-level talks, Amirabdollahian and Lavrov discussed a variety of issues, including the ongoing efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint



Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the issue of Ukraine.

Amirabdollahian said Tehran needs "stronger text and stronger guarantees" to wrap up negotiations underway since April last year to revive the deal and to remove crippling sanctions on Iran.

Iran is serious about the conclusion of a lasting agreement, he said, adding that a deal would not be out of reach if the US acts "realistically" and the present text is reinforced.

"Our purpose is the conclusion of a good, strong, and lasting agreement," Amirabdollahian stressed, urging the opposite side to show realism and pragmatism.

51 Cities Equipped With Civil Defense Systems

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Defense Ministry has equipped 51 cities across the country with civil defense systems to monitor and thwart any threats at the shortest possible time, a senior defense official says.

Deputy Defense Minister Brigadier General Mehdi Farahi said that such civil defense equipment will help Iran's Armed Forces carry out missions such as identifying and monitoring threats through the use and coordination of hardware infrastructure and round-the-clock software support based on the type of threats and risks.

In case of any threat against the country, he added, the Armed Forces would not be caught off guard but would be able to take the "most appropriate action in the shortest possible time in order to identify, repel and respond to threats."

He emphasized that all defense sectors need to draw up plans in proportion to the pace of technological changes and advances in the world.

"Today, the form of battles has become more complicated depending on the power of countries, and in fact hybrid wars," including radioactive, biological, and cyber attacks have replaced classical and traditional wars, Farahi said.

He added that Iran's Defense Ministry has developed necessary infrastructure to identify and thwart all types of biological, radioactive and chemical threats, but he emphasized the need for the Armed Forces to obtain necessary readiness to make decisions in possible battles in the future.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made substantial headway in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the military sphere.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will never stop working to strengthen its military capabilities for defense purposes.

Tehran, Damascus Discuss Expansion of Economic Cooperation

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Finance met with Syria's Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade to discuss the expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries.

After the defeat of the U.S.-backed ISIS, or the so-called Daesh terrorist group, the relations between Syria and Iran moved forward to be expanded, with clear prospects for developing these relations in various fields.

According to a tweet from Iran's Embassy in Syria, Iran's Ehsan Khandouzi met with the Syrian minister of economy Mohammad Samer al-Khalil and the governor of the Syrian central bank Mohammed Issam Hazima, discussing the boosting of financial cooperation and removing the obstacles in this way.

In 2011, Syria was vastly invaded by the terrorist groups supported by the US and its allies, including Saudi Arabia, to change the regional equations in favor of the Israeli regime.

The Syrian government then could finally win over the terrorist groups with the military advisory help of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the support of Russia and Resistance Axis groups.

Iran Ready to Boost Cultural Coop. With Russia

MOSCOW (IP) - Deputy Culture Minister said on Saturday that the Islamic Republic is ready to pave the grounds for cooperation between Iranian and Russian individuals active in the cultural sector.

Iran and Russia share strategic interests in bilateral fields, especially economic, military and cultural relations, as well as regional and international issues such as confronting American unilateralism, and this has been one of the main factors of close cooperation between the two sides in recent years.

Yaser Ahmadvand made the remark in a meeting with

the head of the Russian Book Union in Moscow.

The Iranian ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, vice Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Yasei Ahmadvand, and Hossein Divsalar visited Iran's stall at the 35th Moscow International Book Fair, which kicked off with the participation of Iran Book House and over 300 publishers.



The 35th Moscow International Book Fair is held on September 2-5. Ahmadvand stated

that book-selling is one of the fields that individuals from both countries could work on to exchange experiences.

Tehran, Tokyo to Establish New Prospects for Car Industry Cooperation

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Given the harmonious and pleasant ties ongoing among Iranian and Japanese automakers, Japanese envoy to the Islamic Republic of Iran Kazutoshi Aikawa stated that if restrictions are lifted, new prospects are going to be established for collaboration among Iran and Japan in car sector.

Stating in his trip to the Auto Industry Development Exhibition in the capital of Iran, he noted that he comfortable with the noticeable development and improvements created in Iranian market, mainly in its auto industry.

He then noted to the manufacturing of electric automobiles and new pickups which were presented at the exhibition and appreciated salient measures taken by Iranian automakers in this sector.

Elsewhere in his comments, the Japanese ambassador labelled Iran's market 'profitable and lucrative' and stated that there are several chances for all automakers of the world in the Iranian car market which is very encouraging.

Speaking about the restrictions forced upon Iran, Aikawa stated that if restrictions forced against Iran are lifted, new prospects are going to be opened for the Iranian automakers.

MPs Caution President Against U.S. Deception in JCPOA Revival Process

TEHRAN (IFP) - A group of Iranian lawmakers write to President Ebrahim Raisi to caution his administration against possible U.S. deception as part of a revived nuclear agreement, officially titled the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In a tweet, Nezameddin Mousavi an Iranian MP from Tehran, said he and a group of his colleagues sent a letter to President Raisi and warned him to be "extremely careful about America's legal tricks and unguaranteed pledges under a potential agreement" to avoid a

repetition of the losses inflicted on the country in the wake of Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 accord.

The letter comes as talks on a restoration of the nuclear deal seem close to a finish line.

Earlier this month, the European Union drafted a proposed text for a final agreement as most differences were said to have been narrowed. Iran and the U.S. have been trading responses to the proposed texts over the past days and it remains to be seen if they can hammer out the remaining differences.

Iran to Present Other Options If West Delays Vienna Deal

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to see the conclusion of negotiations on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, but if the Western side refuses to reach an agreement, Iran is not empty-handed and has other options on the table, an Iranian lawmaker said.

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini said that any sort of international agreement without guarantee is worthless, adding that previous experience shows that the Western powers are not reliable when it comes to abiding by their commitments; thus, the Islamic Republic seeks to get required assurances.

Any kind of accord that hinders Iran from its concessions will not be accepted by the Iranian nation; so, the Islamic Republic, which is in power position, can act more powerfully in diplomatic field, Abbaszadeh Meshkini argued.

Iran's winning cards in this round of talks in Vienna, Austria, have assisted the Iranian negotiating team to pursue the Islamic country's national interests powerfully, because there are political unity, intelligent leadership and success in getting round sanctions, which forced the US to retreat from its position, he added.

Describing a win-win agreement as very important for securing Iran's national interests, the legislator said that the Islamic Republic pursues such a logic in the negotiations; although, the Westerners need an agreement more than Iran.

We are seeking the conclusion of negotiations fervently, but if the West does not want to reach a deal, we have other options on the table, he said, adding that Iran is not empty-handed in this respect. Asked about resolving safeguards issues as part of the assurances for the removal of the sanctions, he noted that reaching an agreement on safeguards subjects can be a prelude to restoring confidence between Iran and the West, which should provide Tehran with the opportunity to take action when necessary.

The member of parliament went on to say that the West and relationship with the Western states are not the only way to progress, while in some occasions the connections with them hamper development.

Iran Will Be Tough on Enemies

TEHRAN (IFP) - The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Navy says the country has established security in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said, thanks to the efforts of the brave naval forces of the IRGC and the Army and their round the clock monitoring and intelligence dominance, security has been restored to the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Tangsiri added that the naval forces of both the IRGC and the Army are carrying out their missions forcefully and in full concert.

He noted that only Iran and other regional countries are responsible for providing security in the Persian Gulf and extra-regional countries have no responsibility here.

The commander of the IRGC's Navy also hailed the Iranian forces for their efforts to protect the region, vowing that Iran's naval forces will be tough on the enemies.

Iran Can Increase Oil Sale by Investing in Offshore Refineries

TEHRAN (IRNA) - An Iranian lawmaker said that the country could invest in offshore refineries through exporting technical and engineering services to increase its oil exports, as constructing new refineries is too expensive.

Iran's aspirations to stop selling its oil in the crude form and add value to it through refining the oil requires big investments to construct new refineries which is not an available option in the current conditions. That's why officials have been thinking to find an alternative like using offshore refineries or half-finished refineries in friendly countries.

Ali-Akbar Alizadeh Barami, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources Commission, said that Iran can add value by refining its oil and extracting dozens of derivatives, instead of selling crude and repurchasing derivatives from foreign producers at high costs.

Constructing refineries is costly in the current conditions that Iran is under sanctions, Alizadeh said, adding that Iran could use semi-active refineries in other countries by exporting technical and engineering services.

E. Azarbaijan Governor Calls for Expanding Ties With Armenia

TEHRAN (MNA) - The governor of East Azarbaijan considered the visit of an economic and commercial delegation from the Iranian province to Armenia as implying Iran's seriousness in expanding ties with its neighbors.

Abedin Khorram, the provincial governor of East Azarbaijan made the comments at the Iran-Armenia trade conference in Yerevan on Saturday.

Saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the peace, stability, and security of the neighboring countries as its own, the governor said, "In line with the developments in the region, strengthening the relations with other countries is of great importance to Iran."

He added, "Iran and Armenia are in a good and strategic situation in terms of political and economic relations."

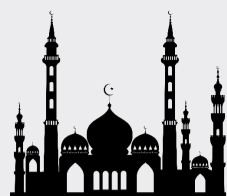
Emphasizing that "We should improve our economic and trade relations on a daily basis", Khorram added, "The serious will of both sides is to remove the obstacles in the way of the development of relations and I hope that after this trip, regardless of formalities, we will be able to see the materialization of the will of the two governments and the two nations."

He also said that "[Iran's] East Azarbaijan and [Armenia's] Syunik province can play an important role in expanding economic exchanges between the two countries."

"The suitable infrastructure of East Azarbaijan, including the Aras Free Zone on the shared border with Armenia and the existence of 50 border towns and industrial zones, can enhance the level of trade between the two countries," the Iranian governor added.

"Our private sector is determined to develop relations with neighboring countries, and we hope that the Armenian private sector will also use this opportunity for cooperation and joint investment."

Khorram further said that building up joint border markets and industrial towns on the shared border of the two countries can be one of the achievements of this trip."



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:03
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:44
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:14
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:40

33. It is He Who created the Night and the Day, and the sun and the moon: all (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course.
34. We granted not to any man before thee permanent life (here): if then thou shouldst die, would they live permanently?

Surah 21. The Prophets (33 - 34)

Iranians Invited to Use Agro, Construction Opportunities in Kenya

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Ambassador of Kenya to Tehran in a meeting at Shiraz Chamber of Commerce invited Iranian companies to use Kenya as a base for production and export of their products to East Africa.

Kenyan Envoy Mr. Jashua Gatimu in meeting with Head of Shiraz Chamber of Commerce in Shiraz, Fars Province, called for boosting economic cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Gatimu pointed to good cooperation of Shiraz citizens with Kenyans which dates back to long time ago and there has always been good cooperation between the two sides through the years. He added that till now the relation between Iran and Kenya has been very good and he is happy that Kenya will celebrate 50th anniversary of diplomatic relation with Iran.

He termed important the exchanges in Shiraz and said that the importance is because Kenya had consulate general in Shiraz in the past but this cooperation was cut and now Kenya is working to launch its consulate general in Shiraz which shows the importance of this city for Kenya.

Gatimu then pointed to opportunities and capacities of Kenya and Shiraz, and said that the only country in Africa which houses Iran's Center for Technology and Innovation is Kenya and this center is almost permanent exhibition and traders can put on display their products in this place and many commercial exchanges are done here and it has been a very good opportunity for Iran and Kenya.

He went on to say that currently 20 Iranian companies are active in this center and Kenya seeks to increase the number because it is useful for trade relation of both states. He then pointed to the important role of Nairobi for progress in trade exchanges between the two states, adding that Iranian ambassador in Nairobi is working hard for the launch of a permanent exhibition in Nairobi for offering construction materials coming from Iran, and Iranian companies can offer their products and exchange with Kenya.



He said that since Kenya is the big gateway to enter East Africa, he recommended Iranians to produce their products in Kenya and sell and export them because it will cost cheaper.

On agriculture and food security, Gatimu said that Kenya is a rich country in terms of land and water and Iran can be active in this field due to having technology. He also said that Iranians can build cheap price houses in Kenya because construction market is one of the good markets in his country and Kenya welcomes investment in this regard.

He then pointed to the launch of direct flights between Tehran and Nairobi and said that with the launch of direct flight, the distance will shorten and time of flight will reduce by four hours and it can reinforce and broaden trade between the two states.

Meanwhile Head of Shiraz Chamber of Commerce Mr. Jamal Razzaqi, for his part, pointed to the good relation of Fars Province with African states like Kenya and said that broadening economic ties of Fars Province and Africa can be a new chapter in economic development of Fars Province.

He then pointed to the capacities and potentials of Fars Province and said that the province has good capacities in fields of agriculture, tourism and medical sector and it can broaden its relation with other countries based on those capacities. He then pointed to the historic and cultural capacities of the province.

Razzaqi added that Fars with annual production of 14m tons of agro products plays an important role for meeting the needs of the country and exports to other countries and Fars Province is eager to broaden its trade ties in those fields.

He stated that Iran is one of the importing banana countries and Kenya can be a suitable destination for exchange of banana with better prices.

OGTIP Signs MoU With Uzbek Firm



TEHRAN (Shana) - Oil and Gas Technology and Innovation Park (OGTIP) and Mr-Fish Fergana Oil and Gas Holding of Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of energy.

OGTIP and the Uzbek holding company signed the deal in Tehran in a ceremony held in the presence of Mohammad Ismail Kefayati, Head of OGTIP, and Mohammad Ali Satvaldeo, CEO of Oil and Gas Holding of Mr. Fish Fergana.

The document is signed for launching Fergana Techno Park, cooperation in launching the Tashkent Oil Industry Innovation Center, allocating space and setting up the international office of OGTIP at the location of Fergana Techno Park and the Tashkent Oil Industry Innovation Center, and at the same time financing establishment of the international office of OGTIP in Uzbekistan.

Using the capabilities of OGTIP for implementation and construction of a refinery in Uzbekistan, using the capabilities of the Fergana company in reviewing and identifying oil technology development plans in Uzbekistan, reviewing the needs and capacities announced by the Fergana company and cooperating to identify and introduce knowledge-based and technological companies in order to be present in Uzbekistan and cooperate in holding joint communication events, workshops and scientific and specialized conferences are other areas considered in the MoU.

Iran, Mongolia Set to Expand Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - An Iranian delegation led by Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Mehdi Baradaran met with Mongolian Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh in Ulaanbaatar on Saturday.

The top Mongolian diplomat said that the visit of the Iranian delegation to her country marks the highest level of ties between the two sides over the past 40 years.

She expressed hope that trade relations will be expanded between the two countries.

The Iranian delegation conveyed the message of Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian inviting his Mongolian counterpart to visit Tehran.

Exploring Ways of Expanding Trade With Africa

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held a workshop on the expansion of economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Africa, on Saturday, during which the attendees explored ways of expanding economic cooperation between Iran and East African countries especially Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya.

The event was attended by senior officials from Iran and the mentioned African countries, including Director-General of TPO's Africa Office Mohammad-Sadeq Qanadzadeh, Uganda's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Tezikuba Kisambira, Kenya's Ambassador to Tehran Joshua Gatimu, and Iran's Ambassador to Nairobi Jafar Barmaki.

Speaking at the workshop, Qanadzadeh stated that promoting cultural awareness, informing, and creating infrastructure are among the main missions of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran to establish more economic and trade interactions between Iran and the target countries in Africa.

"In order to better inform the businessmen of our country about the trade situation in target countries, we have already held several conferences," Qanadzadeh said. Further in the meeting, Uganda's Ambassador to Tehran Kisambira underlined his country's free trade status, saying that Uganda has important advantages for investors.

The ambassador pointed out that his country has wide access to international markets and commercial companies can benefit from this advantage to expand their imports and exports. "Companies that are eager to invest in the field of agriculture can also use suitable and cheap farmland to produce and export all kinds of fruits and foodstuff," he said.

The official suggested establishing a barter trade mechanism between Iran and Uganda to facilitate trade transactions and to remove potential banking barriers. "To solve the currency problems, the two countries can benefit from a barter trade mechanism in their trade exchanges," Kisambira said.

He also emphasized Iran's advantages in the field of pharmaceuticals and medical services, saying: "Iran is considered one of the region's top drug-producing countries in terms of quality, and in Uganda, only Indian companies can compete with Iranian products, so Iranian companies can easily take over the pharmaceutical market."

The official further stressed the strategic location of Uganda in the African continent as a gateway to enter the entire East African market, as an important advantage for investors and emphasized: "investment in the field of tourism, due to the presence of protected parks and beautiful tourist areas, can also be an interesting area for Iranian companies. Also, investing in the construction sector is considered a suitable investment in Uganda for Iranian companies."

High-Ranking Iran Oil Ministry Delegation to Visit Uzbekistan

TEHRAN (MNA) - A high-ranking delegation of the Iranian Oil Ministry will travel to Uzbekistan to prepare the first oil memorandum of understanding with the country for signing at the upcoming Shanghai summit.

Headed by the Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs and Trade Ahmad Asadzadeh, representatives from the international affairs of the National Iranian Oil Company, the international affairs and production of the National Petrochemical Company, PetroIran, Tappico, Energy Gostar Sina and other private companies active in

the field of energy will pay a four-day visit to Uzbekistan.

The visit is made for the purpose of technical negotiations and setting up a memorandum of understanding on oil, gas, and petrochemical cooperation before the President's trip to attend the Shanghai Summit in Uzbekistan.

The summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be held in Uzbekistan on September 15 and 16, and President Ebrahim Raisi will have a bilateral meeting with Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Implementing Knowledge-Based Projects, New Approach in MSC

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN - The CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) during the inaugural ceremony of projects of Mobarakeh Foolad Sang Mining and Industrial Company said that Mobarakeh Foolad Sang Company as one of the subsidiaries of Mobarakeh Steel Company group has after five years reached a point that it enjoys having knowhow for exploiting lime kilns with new technology and overhaul without using any foreign expert while this was done in the past by the foreign experts.

Dr. Mohammad Yaser Tayyebnia said that there are only two similar lime kilns in the world, adding that self-confidence and risk-taking beside knowledge and expertise in using these kilns are very valuable, adding that many developments like mine extraction, crushing equipment and gradation are done in this area and recent projects have had considerable job creation.

He reiterated that he has this honor to proudly announce that the company has entered

10 mining and exploration fields, noting that today MSC has shifted from being only an extractor company of minerals to a knowledge-centered group because exploration is a field of knowledge. He added that some good actions are being shaped and done in any part of the country with the support of Mobarakeh Stone Steel.

Tayyebnia added that domestic iron ore supplying companies have inclined to steelmaking and MSC has started seriously its mining activities in the field of iron ore but due to lack of access to big mines, the company has a tough road ahead of it.

He said that today two mines started their works at Mobarakeh Foolad Sang although they are not big ones, adding that he hopes centralizing such mining capacities would supply up to 30% of needs of Mobarakeh Steel Company group and this is the mission of the affiliate companies of MSC.

Tayyebnia reiterated that implementation of knowledge-based mining and industrial projects is the new approach of Mobarakeh Steel Company Group.

Iranian Scientist Wins Int'l Ophthalmological Fellowship Foundation Award

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Fatemeh Heidary MD, MPH, Ph.D., FAAO, FICO has recently been awarded with a prize by International Ophthalmological Fellowship Foundation (IOFF).

The IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowship Program is a European initiative for ophthalmologists from developing countries with three-months duration and with one-year duration. Female Ophthalmologists are strongly encouraged to apply to enrich the diversity of the program and remove the gender inequality.

The award includes a grant amounting to \$6,000, which will help covering the expenses for this program.

IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowships are offered in Cataract Surgery, Community Eye Health, Cornea and External Diseases, Glaucoma, Laboratory Microbiology/Ocular Pathology/Ocular Oncology, Low Vision and Rehabilitation, Medical Retina, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Ocular Oncology, Oculoplastic, Ophthalmic-Genetic, Pediatric Ophthalmology, Strabismus and Pediatric Ophthalmology, Retinoblastoma, ROP and Pediatric Retina, Uveitis and Vitreoretina.

A/Prof. Heidary is a consultant eye surgeon, ocular immunopathologist, and clinician-scientist. She has made an academic contribution to literature in ocular immunology, ophthalmology, and COVID-19 research as a leading clinician-scientist in her field. She has extensive experience in academic research and more than twenty years of experience in research and clinic and is Editor-in-Chief of two intentional peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Heidari has published several articles in peer-reviewed academic journals. She had an active contribution to more than 70 national and international congresses and has also organized over 40 workshops and webinars in the field of medical journalism and research integrity.



Head of Chadormalu Co. Explains Planned Developmental Projects



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company Eng. Seyed Hossein Taherzadeh during the visit of Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Dr. Seyed Reza Fatemi-Amin accompanied by his deputy on parliamentary affairs Eng. Haji Hosseini, governor general of Yazd Province, Head of IMIDRO Eng. Vajjollah Jaafari, and some provincial officials, explained the planned developmental projects of the company.

During the visit to Chadormalu Industrial Complex, Eng. Taherzadeh briefed the minister of major activities of the units of this complex which include pelletizing, direct reduction of sponge iron and steel ingot production plant and explained the activities of these units in the past five months and explained other plans of the company for the current year and explained planned developmental projects.

He also expressed hope that with implementation of development projects in question, the company would witness more value added in the national economy.

Meanwhile Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mr. Fatemi-Amin expressed his gratitude regarding endeavors of managers of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company.



Thousands of Russians Bid Farewell to Gorbachev

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Thousands of Russians filed past the open casket of Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, with many saying they wanted to honor his memory as "a peacemaker" who dismantled totalitarianism and gave them their freedom.

Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union from 1985-1991, died on Tuesday aged 91. His body lay in state in the grand Hall of Columns in central Moscow in the tradition of previous Soviet leaders, including Vladimir Lenin and Josef Stalin.

The man affectionately known as 'Gorby' in the West and who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990 for his role in ending the Cold War was then buried at Moscow's famous Novodevichy cemetery alongside his wife Raisa, who died in 1999.



NASA Calls Off Second Launch Retry for Artemis

CAPE CANAVERAL (Dispatches) - For the second time in five days, NASA halted a countdown in progress and postponed a planned attempt to launch the debut test flight of its giant, next-generation rocket, the first mission of the agency's moon-to-Mars Artemis program.

The latest attempt to launch the 32-story-tall Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and its Orion capsule was scrubbed after repeated attempts by technicians to correct a leak of super-cooled liquid hydrogen propellant being pumped into the vehicle's core-stage fuel tanks.



Moscow Accuses Ukraine of Attacking Nuclear Plant



KYIV (Dispatches) - Stepping up an energy war between Russia and the West, Moscow has announced it will keep its main gas pipeline to Germany shut and G7 countries said they planned a price cap on Russian oil exports.

The standoff over Russian gas and oil exports is a fallout from President Vladimir Putin's six-month invasion of Ukraine, underscoring the deep rift it has caused between Moscow and Western nations.

Russia's defense ministry meanwhile accused Ukrainian forces on Saturday of mounting a failed attempt to capture the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant that has been a center of international concern in recent weeks. The ministry said a Ukrainian naval force of more than 250 troops attempted to land on the coast of a lake near the plant, which is Europe's largest nuclear energy station.

"Despite the presence of representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the Kyiv regime once again attempted to seize the plant," the defense ministry said.

Reuters was unable to verify the report.

Kyiv and Moscow have traded accusations about attacks on the power plant, which was captured by Russian forces in March but is connected to the Ukrainian power grid and still operated by Ukrainian staff.

A team of IAEA inspectors arrived at the plant on Thursday to assess its safety. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi, after returning to Ukrainian-held territory, said the physical integrity of the plant had been violated several times.

On Friday Grossi said he expects to produce a report on the safety of the plant early next week, and two experts from the IAEA inspections team would stay on at the plant for the longer term.

A reactor at the site was reconnected to Ukraine's grid on Friday, a day after it shut down due to shelling nearby, Ukraine's state nuclear company Energoatom said.

Ukraine and the West have said Russia is using the site as a base for heavy weapons in a move to discourage Ukraine from firing on it. Russia has so far resisted international calls to pull troops out of the plant and demilitarize the area.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu on Friday denied Russia had heavy weapons at or near the power plant and accused Ukraine of committing "nuclear terrorism" through its attacks on the facility.

Turkey offered on Saturday to facilitate the Zaporizhzhia situation. In its announcement on Friday that it would not resume shipments through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline as had been expected, Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom blamed a technical fault.

Gazprom said on Saturday that Siemens Energy was ready to help repair broken equipment but that there was nowhere available to carry out the work. Siemens said it has not been commissioned to carry out maintenance work for the pipeline but it is available.

U.S. Approves \$1.1b in Arms For Taiwan, Angering China

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States on Friday announced a \$1.1 billion arms package for Taiwan, vowing to keep boosting the island's defenses as tensions soar with Beijing, which warned Washington of "counter-measures."

The sale comes a month after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi defiantly visited the self-governing democracy, prompting mainland China to launch a show of force that could be a trial run for a future invasion.

The package -- the largest for Taiwan approved under President Joe Biden's administration -- includes \$665 million for contractor support to maintain and upgrade a Raytheon early radar warning system in operation since 2013 that would warn Taiwan about an incoming attack.

Taiwan will also spend some \$355 million to buy 60 Harpoon Block II missiles which can track and sink incoming vessels if China launches an assault by water.

The arms also include \$85.6 million for more than 100 Sidewinder missiles, a mainstay of Western militaries for their air-to-air firepower.

The announcement comes one day after Taiwanese forces shot down an unidentified commercial drone amid a sudden spate of mysterious incursions that have unnerved the island following the earlier show of force by Beijing, which said it fired ballistic missiles over the capital Taipei.

China, calling Taiwan an "inalienable" part of its territory, called on the United States to "immediately revoke" the arms sales. "It sends wrong signals to 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces and severely jeopardizes China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," said Liu Pengyu, spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington.

"China will resolutely take legitimate and necessary counter-measures in light of the development of the situation," he said. A spokesperson for the State Department, which approved the sale, said the package was "essential for Taiwan's security" and stressed that the United States still recognized only Beijing and not Taipei.

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Ousted Sri Lanka Leader Faces Arrest Calls

Rajapaksa faced calls for his arrest after returning home from self-imposed exile under the protection of his successor's government.

Rajapaksa fled the island nation under military escort in July after a huge crowd stormed his official residence following months of demonstrations sparked by an unprecedented economic crisis.

The 73-year-old announced his resignation from Singapore and spent weeks under virtual house arrest at a Bangkok hotel before his return late on Friday.

Leaders of the protest campaign that toppled his government said Rajapaksa, who lost his presidential immunity after leaving office, should now be brought to justice. "Gotabaya returned because no country is willing to accept him, he has no place to hide," Joseph Stalin, the leader of a teachers' trade union that helped mobilise demonstrators, told AFP.

"He should be arrested immediately for causing such misery for the 22 million people of Sri Lanka," he added. "He can't live freely as if nothing has happened."

Rajapaksa's government was accused of chaotic mismanagement as the Sri Lankan economy spiralled into a blistering downturn. The crisis saw acute shortages of food, lengthy blackouts and long queues at gas stations for scarce fuel supplies after the country ran out of foreign currency to pay for vital imports.

Sri Lanka's main opposition alliance, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), has yet to comment on Rajapaksa's return, but a former minister from the bloc said the ousted leader needed to be prosecuted.

"Gotabaya must be held to account for his crimes before and during his presidency," Ajith Perera told reporters in Colombo.

Rajapaksa was garlanded with flowers by ministers and senior politicians after disembarking from his flight in Colombo.

He was driven in a security convoy to a new official residence in the capital provided to him by the government of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, his successor.

Pakistan Flood Toll Rises With 25 Children Among 57 More Deaths

KARACHI (Dispatches) - The toll from cataclysmic floods in Pakistan continued to climb with 57 more deaths, 25 of them children, as the country grapples with a relief and rescue operation of near unprecedented scale.

A high-level body set up to coordinate the relief effort met in Islamabad on Saturday for the first time, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to take stock of the disaster.

Record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains brought floods that have affected 33 million people and killed at least 1,265 people, including 441 children. The inundation, blamed on climate change, is still spreading.

The proportion of children's deaths has raised concern. On Friday, the United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) said there was a risk of "many more" child deaths from disease after floods.

The floods that have inundated a third of the country were preceded by four heatwaves and multiple raging forest fires, the disaster management chief told the high-level meeting, highlighting the effects of climate change in the South Asian nation.

"The year 2022 brought some harsh realities of climate change for Pakistan," the chief of the National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant-General Akhtar Nawaz told a briefing for the country's top leadership.

"This year we did not witness a spring season — we faced four heatwaves which caused large-scale forest fires across the country," he said.

The fires were particularly severe in the southwestern province of Balochistan, destroying swaths of pine-nut forests and other vegetation, not far from areas now underwater.

Balochistan has received 436 per cent more rain than the 30-year average this monsoon.

The province has seen widespread devastation, including a washing away of key rail and road networks as well as breakdowns in telecommunications and power infrastructure, the meeting was told.

The country has received nearly 190 per cent more rain than the 30-year average in the quarter through August, totaling 390.7 millimeters (15.38 inches). Sindh province, with a population of 50 million, was hardest hit, getting 464 per cent more rain than the 30-year average.

Aid has flowed in from a number of countries, with the first humanitarian assistance flight from France landing on Saturday morning in Islamabad. But Pakistan's largest charity group has said there were still millions who had not been reached by aid and relief efforts.

Initial estimates of the damage have been put at US\$10 billion, but surveys are still being conducted along with international organizations.



Erdogan Challenges Greece Over Airspace Violations

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Greece it would pay a "heavy price" if it kept on harassing Turkish fighter jets over the Aegean and hinted at military action.

The two uneasy NATO neighbors have long-standing sea and air boundary disputes which lead to near-daily air force patrols and interception missions mostly around Greek islands near Turkey's coastline.

"Hey Greece, take a look at history. If you go further, you will pay a heavy price," Erdogan told a packed rally in the Black Sea city of Samsun.

Greece and Turkey have a fraught history going back centuries with disputes over maritime borders and the 1974 division of Cyprus.

Turkey has in recent months complained of what it calls provocative actions by Athens, saying such moves undermine peace efforts.

In one such incident, Ankara said last weekend Greece had used a Russian-made air defence system to harass Turkish jets on a reconnaissance mission in what it termed a "hostile action".

In his address, Erdogan accused Greece of "attempting to threaten us with S-300s". Athens has dismissed the allegations and often accuses Ankara of overflying Greek islands.

Turkey says Greece is stationing troops on islands in the Aegean Sea in violation of peace treaties signed after World Wars I and II.

An infuriated Erdogan accused Greece of "occupying" the islands. "We have only one word to tell Greece: Do not forget Izmir (Smyrna in Greek)," Erdogan said, referring to the end of the Greek occupation after Turkish forces entered the city in the Aegean coast in 1922.

"Your occupation of the islands does not bind us," Erdogan said.

"When the time comes, we will do what's necessary. As we say, we may come suddenly one night", using his often-repeated words when he threatens to launch an operation into neighbouring Syria.

In June, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Ankara would challenge Greece's sovereignty over the islands if it continued to send troops there.

The Aegean Sea has a complex geography with over 2,000 islands, most of them Greek.

The two countries came to the brink of a war in the 1990s over a pair of small uninhabited islets known collectively as Kardak in Turkish and Imia in Greek.

Strong Brazil GDP Boosts Bolsonaro's Re-Election Efforts



BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Brazil's economy picked up more than expected in the second quarter, as a boost in consumer spending offered a tailwind for President Jair Bolsonaro's re-election campaign.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 1.2% in the three months to June, official statistics agency IBGE said, above the 0.9% growth forecast of economists in a Reuters poll.

It was the fourth straight quarter of sequential growth, lifting economic activity 3% above its pre-pandemic level and prompting several banks to raise their 2022 growth forecasts.

An improving economy has revived the election hopes of Bolsonaro, who trails former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in opinion polls but has lifted his popularity with an expanded welfare program and short-term tax measures to curb inflation.

Second-quarter GDP was bolstered by 1.3% growth in the dominant services sector, along with a 2.2% gain for industry and a 0.5% expansion for agriculture. On the demand side, investment jumped 4.8% and consumer spending rose 2.6%, while government expenditure declined 0.9%.

Brazil's jobless rate dropped to 9.1% in the quarter through July, the lowest in nearly seven years.

Thursday's GDP data led to a wave of upward revisions for growth this year. Bank of America now forecasts 3.25% expansion, up from 2.5% before. Goldman Sachs raised its 2022 growth forecast to 2.9% from 2.2% previously.

William Jackson, chief emerging markets economist at Capital Economics, improved his outlook for this year to 2.5% growth from 2%, but stressed that "the economy is likely to soften over the second half of the year".

Brazil's central bank has pushed interest rates to 13.75% from a record low of 2% in March 2021 in an effort to battle high inflation. But the brunt of that tightening may not be felt until the October election has passed.

Rogério Boueri, head of the Economic Studies Advisory at the Economy Ministry, played down the impact of higher rates on activity this year. He suggested the official 2% growth forecast for 2022 is "dated," as carry-over effects alone now point to a 2.4% expansion.

Activity in the second quarter grew 3.2% from the same period of 2021, beating a 2.8% forecast in the Reuters poll. IBGE also revised first-quarter growth to a 1.1% expansion from the end of 2020, from 1.0% growth reported previously.

According to reports Lula da Silva has a 13-percentage-point lead over President Bolsonaro, but the far-right incumbent has narrowed his leftist rival's advantage ahead of the October election, according to a poll published on Friday.

The survey by Datafolha showed Lula with 45% of voter support against 32% for Bolsonaro in the first round of the election scheduled for Oct. 2, compared with 47% and 32% respectively in the previous poll.

In an expected second-round run-off, Lula would get elected by 53% of the votes versus 38% for Bolsonaro, a 15 percentage point advantage, down from 17 points two weeks ago, the poll showed.

Bolsonaro has also posted slow but steady growth in his approval rate, which reached 31%, from 30% two weeks ago and 22% in December, as he gained popularity after passing welfare programs and measures to tackle inflation.

His disapproval rate came in at 42%, according to the poll, down from 43% two weeks ago and 53% from December. Datafolha interviewed 5,734 people in person between August 30 and Sept. 1. The poll has a margin of error of 2 percentage points up or down.

An Economic Perfect Storm Battering Emerging Markets



LONDON (Dispatches) - The U.S. dollar strengthened to a 20-year high against a collection of foreign currencies this week, spelling more trouble for heavily indebted smaller nations around the world. The stronger dollar makes payments on loans owed in U.S. currency more expensive. This comes as some lower-income countries face mounting economic problems and others — including Sri Lanka, Lebanon and Zambia — have already defaulted on their international debts.

Last week, Argentina slapped sweeping new restrictions on imports of everything from whiskey to software to consulting services to try to contain inflation that's running at over 70%. The South American nation has been hemorrhaging foreign currency and the strengthening U.S. dollar threatens to make that worse. In July, the value of the Argentine peso fell to a record low against the dollar on the black market.

Francesc Balcells, who manages emerging market debt at the Dubai-based Frontier Investment Management Partners, says U.S. interest rate hikes like we are seeing often spawn disaster for lower-income countries.

"If you look at the history of emerging markets from the Latin American debt crisis in the 1980s, the Mexican peso crisis in 1994, to the different Argentine defaults, to the Brazilian crisis in the early 2000," Balcells ticks through a list of the most recent emerging market meltdowns, including the Asian financial crisis in the late '90s. "All of those periods always coincide with periods of interest rate hikes in the U.S."

Not only do poorer countries have larger debts in U.S. currency, now they are having to pay even more for imports bought in dollars as the currency strengthens. And this time around, global prices for fuel and food were already surging, due to currency fluctuations and significant supply shortfalls caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

One of three ports on the Danube River on the border between Ukraine and Romania in May. These three ports are the only Ukrainian-run ports still operating in the country. The Russian invasion mainly halted exports shipped from Ukraine, until a U.N.-brokered deal to ship grain and other food items this summer.

"Not to overuse the term, but it's been pretty much a perfect storm for emerging markets," Balcells says of the current situation.

According to the business news service Bloomberg, the number of emerging market borrowers that have debt trading at distressed levels has doubled over the last six months. The pandemic played a hand in that, as many governments took on additional debt to subsidize idled workers and keep social services functioning.

An investment analysis by Barclays Corporate and Investment Bank called the second quarter of 2022 an "unmitigated disaster" for the global economy and warned that the third quarter is "shaping up to be the summer of discontent."

Balcells says many of the larger middle-income countries can weather that storm. But others are getting battered. For instance, in May, Sri Lanka had a political and economic meltdown and was unable to pay its foreign debts. The default makes it nearly impossible for Sri Lanka to buy food and fuel on international markets.

Other nations facing financial distress are spread around the world, including El Salvador, Pakistan and Ghana. In Nigeria, the largest economy in Africa, inflation has hit a 20-year high driven almost entirely by skyrocketing food prices.



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Aramco May Take Stake in Renault's Future Thermal Engine Business

PARIS (Dispatches) - Saudi Aramco could take a stake in the future thermal engine business that Renault plans to separate from its electric vehicle (EV) division, a source familiar with the matter said. Reuters reported on Tuesday that China's Geely Automobile Holdings and an oil group were in talks over taking stakes in the fossil-fuel engine business. Renault's alliance partner, Japanese carmaker Nissan (7201.T), does not plan to take a stake in the combustion engine business, two sources said. The Saudi state oil company declined to comment.



U.S. Job Growth Solid In August

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. employers hired more workers than expected in August, but moderate wage growth and a rise in the unemployment rate to 3.7% could ease pressure on the Federal Reserve to deliver a third 75 basis point interest rate hike this month.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report also showed a dip in the average workweek. The increase in the unemployment rate came as more than 700,000 entered the labor market, pushing the size of the labor force to a record high. The overall strength in the labor market underscores the economy's resilience, despite the front-loading of rate hikes by the U.S. central bank that have raised the risk of a recession.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell last week warned Americans of a painful period of slow economic growth and possibly rising unemployment as the central bank aggressively tightens monetary policy to quell inflation.

"This gradual cooling off of the overheated labor market may be just what the U.S. economy needs to help ease inflation pressure," said Eric Merlis, managing director, co-head of global markets at Citizens. "The Fed should be encouraged by the increased labor force participation rate and the one-tenth drop in hourly earnings."

The survey of establishments showed nonfarm payrolls increased by 315,000 jobs last month. Data for July was revised slightly down to show payrolls surging 526,000 instead of 528,000 as previously reported.

August marked the 20th straight month of job growth. Employment is now 240,000 jobs above its pre-pandemic level.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls increasing 300,000, with estimates ranging from as low as 75,000 to as high as 450,000.

The broad increase in hiring last month was led by the professional and business services industry, which added 68,000 jobs. Healthcare payrolls increased by 48,000 jobs.

Employment in the retail trade sector rose by 44,000 jobs, while manufacturing added 22,000 positions. Leisure and hospitality payrolls increased by 31,000, slowing sharply from an average of 90,000 per month in the first seven months of the year.

Employment in the leisure and hospitality industry remains 1.2 million jobs below its pre-pandemic level.

U.S. stocks opened higher. The dollar slipped against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices were mixed.

Details of the household survey from which the unemployment rate is derived were strong. While the unemployment rate increased to 3.7% from a pre-pandemic low of 3.5% in July, that was because 786,000 people entered the labor force. The biggest increase since January put the workforce back at record size, topping the previous high in December 2019.

As a result, the labor force participation rate, or the proportion of working-age Americans who have a job or are looking for one increased to 62.4% from 62.1% in July. It remains one percentage point below its pre-pandemic level.

German Economy Likely Already in a Recession

BENGALURU (Dispatches) - The German economy is on track to contract for three consecutive quarters starting from this one, according to a Reuters poll of economists, following a dramatic spike in gas prices after Russia slashed deliveries to Europe.

Europe's largest economy and manufacturing powerhouse is among the most vulnerable to any cut-off in energy supplies or rising costs as its industrial sector relies heavily on Russian gas.

The Aug. 29-Sept. 1 Reuters poll showed Germany would see three consecutive quarters of negative growth, surpassing the definition of a technical recession which only requires two.

As most of the euro zone grapples with the energy crisis, medians in the poll suggested the German economy would shrink 0.1% and 0.3% in the third and fourth quarters this year, and 0.2% in the first quarter of next year.

That is a sharp turnaround from expectations of 0.2%, 0.3% and 0.4% quarterly growth as recently as July.

"Gas prices are moving from one astronomical high to the other and will lead to unprecedentedly high energy bills over the winter," noted Carsten Brzeski of ING.

"Even without a complete stop to Russian gas, high energy and food prices will weigh heavily on consumers and industry, making a technical recession - at least - inevitable."

The economy was then forecast to grow 0.4% in the second quarter followed by 0.6% and 0.5% growth in the following quarters next year.

On average, the German economy was expected to grow 1.5% this year and then slow to 0.1% next, median forecasts from 34 economists showed. The energy crisis has already triggered a 400% surge in wholesale gas prices over the last year,

hurting energy intensive sectors from metal output to fertilizer production.

With inflation rising to a near 50-year high of 8.8% in August and soaring energy bills eroding the purchasing power of households, pressure is building on the European Central Bank to go for bigger interest rate hikes.

Indeed, the latest Reuters poll showed economists were split between a 50 basis point or a jumbo 75 basis hike from the ECB at the Sept. 8 policy meeting. However, expectations were now rapidly shifting towards a larger move.

Rising energy bills, devastating droughts and low water levels have worsened the cost of living crisis in the euro zone, signalling a painful recession during the winter.



OPEC+ to Weigh Rollover or Cut at Sept. 5 Meeting

LONDON (Dispatches) - OPEC+ is likely to keep oil output quotas unchanged for October at a meeting on Monday, three OPEC+ sources said, although some sources would not rule out a production cut to bolster prices that have slid from sky-high levels hit earlier this year.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, known as OPEC+, meets as demand faces headwinds and supply could be boosted by returning Iranian crude if Tehran secures a deal with world powers on its nuclear work.

Brent crude has dropped to about \$95 a barrel from \$120 in June on fears of an economic slowdown and recession in the West. Iran is expected to add 1 million barrels per day to supply or 1% of global demand if sanctions are eased.

Last month, top OPEC producer Saudi Arabia flagged the possibility of output cuts to balance the market.

"This is a reminder to the market that OPEC is still here and a cut is not ruled out," an OPEC+ source said of comments on Aug. 22 by Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman.

Signals from the physical market suggest supply remains tight, with many OPEC states producing below targets and fresh Western sanctions threatening Russian exports.

Russia repeated on Friday that it would stop supplying oil to countries which support the idea of capping the price of Russian energy supplies amid a military conflict in Ukraine.

Three other OPEC+ sources said the Sept. 5 meeting was unlikely to reduce production in October, citing factors such as tight supply and the political backlash from such a move at a time of soaring energy prices.



Goldman Sachs, Moody's Hike Turkey 2022 GDP Growth Forecasts

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Goldman Sachs and Moody's have raised their forecast for Turkey's 2022 economic growth, after the data showed the country extended a hot streak and grew more than expected in the second quarter.

Goldman Sachs said it revised upward its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for Turkey for this year to 5.5% from 3.5%, while lifting its 2022 current account deficit forecast to \$45 billion from \$36 billion. Moody's said in a report on Wednesday it raised its 2022 growth estimate to 4.5%, up from 3.5%.

Goldman Sachs said the Turkish central bank's foreign exchange reserves had risen sharply since the third week of June and that, with less of an external funding constraint, it was updating its macro forecasts and market views.

"The additional funding implies that the need to tighten policy to avoid an external funding gap has declined substantially, and we think policy-makers will use this space to support growth," it said in a note. Data on Wednesday showed that Turkey's economy grew 7.6% year-over-year in the second quarter on strong domestic demand and exports.

The growth rate made Turkey the second-fastest growing economy in the G-20 after Saudi Arabia, whose GDP expanded 11.8% in the second quarter.

Moody's report said "strong credit impulse, policies supporting upward minimum wage adjustments and loose monetary policy have supported domestic consumption, while demand from trading partners and a weak lira have bolstered exports and tourism recoveries."

Japan Warns of Action as Yen Slides to 24-Year Low

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said that Tokyo will take "appropriate" action as needed on the yen's slide to a fresh 24-year low against the dollar, signaling the chance of intervention to address market volatility. "My impression is that currency market volatility has become somewhat high recently," Suzuki told a news conference.

"Excessive, disorderly currency moves could have a negative impact on the economy and financial conditions," he said. "We will

respond appropriately as needed, working closely with authorities of other countries."

The remarks came after Japan's top government spokesperson warned again on Friday that the authorities were watching currency moves with a high sense of urgency.

"It's important for currencies to move stably reflecting fundamentals. Sharp volatility is undesirable," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a news conference.

"Currency market volatility is heightening recently, so the government will closely watch exchange-rate moves with a high sense of urgency," he said, repeating comments he made on Thursday.

The dollar hit a new 24-year high of 140.23 yen in overnight trading on Thursday, breaking above the psychologically-important 140 threshold on prospects of aggressive U.S. interest rate hikes. The dollar stood at 140.02 yen in early Asia trade on Friday.

Still, investors took the government's verbal warnings in stride as the yen's current weakness is in line with economic fundamentals driven by divergence in monetary policy and interest rate differentials between Japan and the United States.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is expected to continue large-scale rate hikes this month to temper price pressures while the Bank of Japan sticks to powerful monetary easing to support a fragile economy with still low inflation.

"The yen weakening has been in line with fundamentals, caused by rapid U.S. rate hikes, which is hard to resist," said Masafumi Yamamoto, chief FX strategist at Mizuho Securities.

"The yen will likely weaken further to 142 yen. At this stage, dollar-selling intervention or BOJ rate hikes would be nothing but a drop in the bucket in shifting the tide."

Dollar-selling intervention is historically rare in Japan as the authorities tend to warn against a strong yen whenever investors rush into the safe-haven currency. A strong yen hurts export competitiveness for Japan's trade-reliant economy.

World Food Price Index Falls For 5th Month in August



ROME (Dispatches) - The United Nations food agency's world price index fell for the fifth month in a row in August, further from all-time highs hit earlier this year, as a resumption of grain exports from Ukrainian ports contributed to improving supply prospects.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said that its price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 138.0 points last month versus a revised 140.7 for July.

The July figure was previously put at 140.9.

The index has fallen from a record of 159.7 in March, hit after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The August reading was, however, 7.9% higher than a year earlier.

FAO's cereal price index fell 1.4% month-on-month in August, with the reopening of Ukrainian Black Sea ports under a diplomatic deal as well as favorable wheat harvest prospects in North America and Russia weighing on prices, the agency said.

But the maize price index rose 1.5% last month as hot, dry weather reduced the outlook for production in Europe and the United States, it said.

The vegetable oil, sugar, dairy and meat price indices all fell, partly reflecting improved supplies.

In separate cereal supply and demand, FAO lowered its forecast for global cereal production in 2022 to 2.774 billion tons from a previous projection of 2.792 billion in early July.

That is 1.4% below the estimated output for 2021.

The cut to its prediction for 2022 cereal production was due to the weather-reduced corn prospects in the northern hemisphere, with European Union yields notably seen falling 16% below their five-year average, FAO said.

World cereal use in 2022/23 is expected to surpass production at 2.792 million tons, leading to a projected 2.1% fall in global stocks compared with 2021/22 to 845 million tons.

That would represent a stocks-to-use ratio of 29.5%, down from 30.9% in 2021/22 but still relatively high historically, FAO said.

Joint Aerial Drills Discussed With Pakistani Air Force Chief

TEHRAN (MNA) – Commander of the Iranian Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi has said they had discussed holding joint aerial drills in a recent meeting with the commander of the Pakistani air force.

“We have good relations and educational interactions with the Pakistanis in the sea, air and some land fields, and good relations are underway between the two countries,” the Commander of the Iranian

Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi on Sunday in a ceremony held to commemorate the start of the new academic year for military students at AJA University of Command and Staff in Tehran.

He referred to his recent meeting with Chief of Air Staff of the Pakistan Air Force Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu and said, “The aerial exercises were also discussed and the good conversation we had with the Pakistani commander.”



Sweden's Cost of Living Crisis Spooks Voters Ahead of Election

STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - With its robust welfare provisions and green energy mix, wealthy Sweden should be better placed than most countries in Europe to withstand the energy-driven cost of living crisis battering the continent.

But consumer worries over soaring electricity bills, rising interest rates and stalling economic growth mean the campaign for the general election on Sept. 11 has turned into something of a bidding war between the centre-left and right-wing blocs over which can do more to ease the short-term pain. That could entail long-term costs for the economy.

“There is a risk that there will be a compensation economy rather than a focus on long-term structural reform,” said Sven-Olov Daunfeldt, chief economist at the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise.

Swedes are among Europe’s most well-off. The welfare system - though much less generous than it used to be - means poverty rates are well below the European average. But in recent decades, the gap between rich and poor has been growing, leaving many vulnerable to inflation that is currently at around 8%.

Eva Lindman Marko, a 59-year-old educational psychologist, said she got a monthly electricity bill for over 19,000 Swedish crowns (\$1,765) in January - two or three times what she pays in a normal winter.

Prices could be even higher this coming season - not least because of problems at the Ringhals nuclear plant.

Sweden’s electricity comes mainly from hydro-power, nuclear and wind, with only a tiny fraction from gas. But with prices set on international markets, it has not escaped the continent-wide effects of the war in Ukraine on energy prices.

“A rise of over 100% feels brutal in itself. But the cost may be three or four times as high,” Lindman Marko said, adding that this winter she plans to lower the thermostat at home, wear thermal clothes and go to the sauna at a local swimming pool to warm up.

“Clearly the more worried you are over, for example electricity prices, the more it will affect how you vote,” she said.

Petrol and food prices have also soared. The cost of butter is up by around 25%, meat 24% and cheese around 22% this year, according to consumer price comparison site Matpriskollen.

Stockholm’s Stadsmission, a non-profit organization, said it had seen its membership of its Matmissionen subsidized foodshops nearly double in the first half of the year.

“It’s a broad group - maybe you are a pensioner, maybe you are unemployed or perhaps have not lived for a long time in Sweden,” said Johan Rindell, who heads up the Matmissionen shops.

“Forty percent of our new members this year have been families with children.”

Matmissionen sells food donated by major chains to members with monthly incomes below 11,200 crowns at around 30% of the prices seen in high-street shops.

The two major political blocs are rushing out promises to help consumers fight the effects of inflation.

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson’s Social Democrat government has promised up to 90 billion Swedish crowns (\$8.36 billion) in subsidies to ease the pain of rising electricity bills for households and businesses, on top of billions in subsidies paid last winter.

The Moderates, the leading centre-right opposition party, have promised income tax cuts and lower fuel prices, which they say would mean 24,000 crowns extra for working families each year.

They intend to pay for measures by cutting back on overseas aid and benefits like unemployment and sickness insurance.

As a longer term solution to the energy crisis, the center-right plans loan guarantees of up to 400 billion crowns to support building new nuclear power stations. Like Germany, Sweden has been shutting reactors in recent years.

The Left Party, loosely part of the center-left bloc, wants to halt electricity exports.



Opinion polls don’t give a clear answer as to which policy promises have caught voters’ eyes, but the ruling Social Democrats have at least avoided blame for the gloomy economic outlook.

The two main blocs are running neck-and-neck though the Social Democrats are easily the largest party.

Whoever wins may find it hard to live up to all their promises.

The NIER, a government think-tank, reckons the next administration will have around 120 billion crowns to play with in terms of extra spending.

A chunk of that is already earmarked for defense spending as Sweden raises its allocation to 2% of GDP from the current 1% to support its bid to join NATO, and for other measures like boosting healthcare and employing more police to deal with gang crime.

At the same time, GDP growth is expected to slow to around 0.4% next year, according to a government forecast, and even grind to a halt completely if inflation worsens and rates rise more than currently expected.

Increasing public debt would “add fuel to inflation and further raise interest rates and could also threaten public finances, threaten welfare and pensions,” Finance Minister Mikael Damberg warned last month.

Diverting cash to support households will leave less for structural reforms needed to support the shift to a “green” economy, to rebuild the welfare state and to meet a skills shortage in the labour market.

The Social Democrats’ plan to subsidize energy bills will be paid from a fund that is supposed to be used, in part, for expanding transmission capacity - one of the major causes of record domestic electricity prices in Sweden.

Plans by the right to decrease the amount of biofuel in petrol and diesel, making them cheaper, will also make it harder to reach the country’s target of zero net emissions by 2045.

It is also uncertain which policies will get approval from the next parliament, given that even within the center-left and right blocs there is much disagreement about what to do and how to pay for it.

“No responsible politician can say that they will compensate for every price rise,” Andersson said last month.

Freedom of Expression...

FROM PAGE 1

On Friday, the former president responded claiming the mental health of 79-year-old Biden was in decline and he should not be in the post of the president of the United States.

Trump wrote in a disparaging post on his Truth Social account, “Someone should explain to Joe Biden, slowly but passionately, that MAGA means, as powerfully as mere words can get, MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! If he doesn’t want to Make America Great Again, which through words, action, and thought, he doesn’t, then he certainly should not be representing the United States of America.”

Trump described Biden’s speech to the nation as “awkward and angry”, adding that Biden “must be insane, or suffering from late stage dementia!”

The war of words between the current and former presidents have pushed the country towards division and collapse as well as undermining the so-called freedom of expression because politicians do not tolerate remarks of other sides whether they are right or wrong.

Trump has claimed vote rigging in the 2020 presidential election something which made angry Biden and his party, and since then Biden and his party by the support of big social media and technology companies have tried to silence Trump and his fans through filtering him, attacking him or calling them fascist. No one confirms or defends Trump’s remarks, claims and behaviors but if we talk about freedom of expression, Biden and his team should convince the Americans practically rather than verbal attack because what Biden does helps Trump and his fans to revive and re-emerge as a contender with more support in the next presidential election. The Democrat-oriented technology companies first suspended Trump’s account in Twitter under pretext of spreading violence and now it is reported that Google has blocked Trump’s own social media app Truth from App Store again under the same pretext. So it seems freedom of expression turns into a laughing matter in this country.

Biden and mainly the Democrats have always claimed supporting human rights issues and freedom of expression but practically they act otherwise and the Democrat rulers have had the worst performance in both issues. When it comes to other countries, they attack rulers of other countries for not observing freedom of expression or human rights issues but they themselves ignore all the principles that they claim following them.

For example Americans raised a cry and hue when the Indian-born author Salman Rushdie was attacked by someone in recent weeks. They condemned the attacker and mostly Iran and Muslims under pretext of defending freedom of expression but Americans themselves ignore any human right or freedom of expression on their own soil and remain silent or interpret the act differently.

It seems freedom of expression in the U.S. is running out of steam and this country unlike its claim is declining in observing human rights issues and it seems the country is on course to decline as Biden has mentioned, the country is divided and any moment we can see such laughing stuff from any American official.

So people in the world are recommended not to set the West and mainly the U.S. as their model for their countries because the West is more bark than action.

Iran Defense Power...

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The senior Iranian military advisor went on to say that the Islamic Republic is now in possession of a wide array of unmanned aerial vehicles, stressing that the country appreciated the significant role that drones can play in an armed conflict long before the world came to recognize the fact in the 2020 Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region and Ukraine crisis.

“Today, the Western countries have rushed to the aid of Ukraine [against Russia] with short-range and anti-armor munitions. We possess anti-tank and anti-helicopter arms, among other things, which can serve as a game-changer in case of a confrontation,” Hatami noted.

Meanwhile, the head of Iran’s Passive Defense Organization says the country’s deterrent military prowess has forced enemies to alter their strategies, and they now pursue the campaign of maximum and comprehensive pressure, especially in the economic and cyber fields, against Tehran.

Gholamreza Jalali emphasized that enemies are now waging a multi-layered combined war against Iran, admitting the abject failure of their so-called “maximum pressure” campaign.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made substantial headway in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the weaponry sphere.

Egypt Shifts From Wheat Tenders to Direct Deals

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Egypt is in its latest round of talks to buy wheat by direct purchase, traders said, a system the government has said can provide more attractive prices since the Ukraine war disrupted grain markets.



Egypt’s state grains buyer, the General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC), held private talks with at least three suppliers on Wednesday, the traders said.

On Thursday they said Egypt was believed to have bought 120,000 tons of Russian wheat via direct talks.

Egypt, one of the world’s biggest wheat importers, has not issued international purchasing tenders since it cancelled one in mid-July.

The country has opted instead to buy around 1.5 million tons of wheat through private direct talks with global companies.

Egypt’s government has sought to diversify both origins for wheat supplies and purchasing options following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February, which disrupted grain markets and cast uncertainty over exports via the Black Sea.

In May, the cabinet approved purchases of global wheat supplies through direct offers from companies or governments sent to its state grains buyer GASC, in an effort to boost its wheat reserves.

Those include an outstanding agreement to purchase wheat from India.

Egypt’s current wheat reserves stand at around seven months, according to the supply ministry.

In times of uncertainty “we can obtain better prices and conditions compared to when there are global tenders,” Supply Minister Ali Mosehly told Reuters at a news conference on Wednesday.

Private talks allow for price negotiations to go on for days instead of hours, he said. “When the markets are stable, there’s no difference,” adding that price trends would not determine whether the government used tenders or direct talks.

President...

FROM PAGE 1

Expressing his satisfaction with the state of the Central Bank’s monitoring and supervisory systems, the President said, “Thank God, we are in good condition in the field of collecting and monitoring data and information, and this information can help financial transparency in the country”.

Raisi described the timely action to prevent violations of rules as one of the important examples of using the information collected by these systems and stated, “All those who are active in the economic system of the country should come to the realization with the timely monitoring and action of the central bank, there is no basis for any violation in this system”.

He stressed that the central bank should act decisively and without compromise in relation to banking violations, and stated, “The quick and decisive action of the central bank violations committee against the violators is a great service to the country and the banking system, because it will prevent the offense from becoming a crime”.

The President described the central bank as the eye of the banking and monetary system of the country and said, “Today, the salvation of the country lies in production and the implementation of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution’s emphasis regarding supporting production saves Iran’s economy”.

Dr Raisi further called “resolving the problem of working capital of production units” as an important action of the central bank, and added, “Part of the reason for the closure of production units is the problem of working capital, which if solved, will lead to an increase in production and employment”.

The President also urged the Governor of the Central Bank to use his efforts so that the principles of Islamic banking are implemented carefully and with full supervision in banking contracts.

The President emphasized “special attention to the sovereignty of the Rial” and said, “We must avoid dollarization of the economy because the influence of the dollar on the economy has had harmful consequences in the country”.

Raisi also emphasized the necessity of reforming the country’s currency basket and using different currencies, especially in exchanges with neighboring countries and bilateral monetary agreements, and said, “This measure can help the stable supply of goods and increase exchanges and protect the country against the shocks of the dollar”.

Ayatollah Raisi obliged the Central Bank to provide the possibility of various types of collateral to obtain loans, including the collateralization of valid financial deeds and the difference in the value of gold and machinery collateral.

U.S. Needs to Listen...

FROM PAGE 1

Despite notable progress, the US indecisiveness and procrastination caused multiple interruptions in the marathon talks. Four days of intense talks between representatives of Iran and the five remaining parties to the JCPOA ended on August 8 with a modified text proposed by the EU on the table.

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

The United States, for its part, took several weeks to offer its response to Iran’s comments. On Friday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani

said Tehran has offered its opinion on the US response to the EU draft text for the JCPOA revival.

Marandi further added, “The U.S. domestic situation is a key reason why a nuclear deal has been allusive. While some EU governments have already asked Iran about oil as well as natural gas exports, Biden is fearful that foes will depict him and certain allies as weak.”

“Iran will be patient. The U.S. under Obama systematically violated the deal & under Trump/Biden it imposed maximum pressure on innocent citizens. Hence, Iran won’t accept ambiguities or loopholes in the text. Winter is approaching & the EU is facing a crippling energy crisis,” Marandi said.

Jabeur Pushes Past Rogers

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Tunisian fifth seed Ons Jabeur survived a thrilling duel to down home hope Shelby Rogers 4-6 6-4 6-3 at the US Open, making the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the first time.

The Wimbledon finalist squandered six of the eight break points she earned in the opening set but hit her stride in the second as she dropped just two first-serve points. Rogers called on the trainer to receive some treatment on her right arm before the start of the third set. With Jabeur sprinting through the first four games it seemed all over.

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Miller Takes First Pole In Four Years

ROME (Dispatches) - Jack Miller claimed pole position at the San Marino MotoGP to give the Australian his second premier class start at the head of the grid.

Ducati rider Miller, who last took pole in Argentina in 2018, posted a best time of one minute and 31.899 seconds on his eighth lap of an exciting, if damp qualifying charge at Misano. It capped a perfect day for Miller who had also come out on top of the practice times earlier on Saturday and best handled the intermittent rain which led to riders quickly beating each other's lap times as the track slowly dried up.

Medvedev Into Fourth Round of US Open

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Defending champion Daniil Medvedev cruised into the fourth round of the US Open with a straightforward 6-4 6-2 6-2 victory over Chinese qualifier Wu Yibing to set up a blockbuster clash with Australia's Nick Kyrgios.

The Russian blazed past Stefan Kozlov and Arthur Rinderknech in the last two rounds and looked every bit the champion again, as he fired 12 aces and converted six of 12 break points to comfortably dispatch his 22-year-old opponent.

"If you ask me what I could improve, I don't see many things," Medvedev said of his title defence. "Maybe a little bit less double-faults, but that's if we're trying to dig somewhere. If not, high-level match.

"If I continue this way, have good opportunities to do something big. But the next match is not easy. Going to try to recover well and be 100% for the next one." Medvedev's win in front of an emotional Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd following Serena Williams' loss to Ajla Tomljanovic meant he has reached the round of 16 at Flushing Meadows for the fourth straight year.

Wu, who became the first Chinese man in US Open history to reach the third round, was plagued by several unforced errors in the clash as Medvedev prevailed in an hour and 55 minutes. After sealing a closely contested first set, Medvedev broke early to race ahead 5-1 in the next and closed it out in style to take full control of the contest.

The third set followed a similar pattern as Wu crumbled under the relentless pressure, with Medvedev staying on course to become the first player to win consecutive US Open titles since Roger Federer's run of five between 2004 and 2008.

But a defeat to Kyrgios in the next round would see Medvedev lose his number one ranking to Rafa Nadal after the tournament.

"We've played great matches. All have been quite tight on the scoreboard," said Medvedev, who has lost three of his four previous meetings with Kyrgios, including the last one in Montreal less than a month ago.



"It's 3-1 to him but I'll try to do better this time and it'll be a great match for people to watch." Medvedev said he was aware of what he needed to do on Sunday against the temperamental Australian, who is playing the best tennis of his career, having finished runner-up at Wimbledon and winning in Washington, DC in the lead-up to US Open.

"I don't think we are friends. When I say 'friends', we haven't been to the bar together," Medvedev said with a smile.

"I feel like we respect each other a lot. On the court also we never really had any fight or anything, which can change any moment. We are both quite electric. You never know what's going to happen in the future.

"Nick is a little bit different from other tennis players sometimes on the court. That's his choice. That's his life. I'm not the one to judge."

Meanwhile Britain's Andy Murray said he was encouraged after taking a set off Italian 13th seed Matteo Berrettini in a 6-4 6-4 6-7(1) 6-3 defeat after competing in the US Open third round for the first time since 2016.

The 35-year-old twice Wimbledon champion saved eight break points in the third to keep the contest alive on the same court where he collected his maiden major title a decade ago.

While he could not hold off his 26-year-old opponent's offensive onslaught in the fourth, the performance nonetheless gave him hope after hip surgeries in 2018 and 2019.

"I've got a metal hip. It's not easy playing with that. It's really difficult. I'm surprised I'm still able to compete with guys that are right up at the top of the game," he told reporters.



Mick Schumacher Shuts Down Speculation About His F1 future

LONDON (Dispatches) - Mick Schumacher shut out speculation about his Formula One future as his friend Esteban Ocon continued to push for the German to join him at Renault-owned Alpine as replacement for Fernando Alonso.

Schumacher, son of seven-time world champion Michael, is out of contract with the Ferrari-powered Haas team at the end of the season when he could also leave the Ferrari Driver Academy (FDA).

"What is being discussed behind the scenes between us is something I'd rather keep between us," the German said at the Dutch Grand Prix in Zandvoort when asked about his future at Haas and FDA.

"That's contractual matters which I can't go into detail with," he added.

The Formula One rumor mill has gone into overdrive since Spain's double world champion Alonso announced a month ago that he would be leaving Alpine for Aston Martin at the end of the year.

Alpine announced reserve driver Oscar Piastri as his replacement but the Australian said he would not be racing for them.

McLaren — linked to Piastri — have meanwhile announced a split with Australian Daniel Ricciardo, who joined them from Renault, at the end of 2022.

New Appointment In Ski Federation

IRAN NEWS SPORTS DESK

TEHRAN - Veteran journalist Majid Talimi was appointed as the secretary of Supreme Council of Strategy and caretaker of public relations of international ski league of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ski Federation.



Head of ski league organization Dr. Mehdi Azadvari in a decree appointed Mr. Talimi as the secretary of the Supreme Council of Strategy and caretaker of ski league organization.

In his decree, Mr. Azadvari pointed to the valuable experience of Mr. Talimi and urged him to pursue his managerial responsibilities seriously to materialize the goals of the organization and wished him success.

Talimi is one of the prominent media activists and public relations with more than 20 years of experiences in journalism and different fields of journalism. He is currently head of public relations and media of Asian Dodgeball Federation (DBFA).

Serena Retirement Heralds Sunset of Sport's Golden Era

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The likely end of Serena Williams' tennis career has left the game staring at the beginning of the end of the sport's golden era, a dreaded prospect that has long been on the horizon.

The American, who will turn 41 this month, bid an emotional goodbye to the US Open with a third-round loss to Australian Ajla Tomljanovic on Friday, in what may have been the last singles match of her glittering career.

Although Williams left the door slightly open on an unlikely comeback, her apparent departure — not unexpected, given Williams' struggles with form and injury in the past 12 months - would have sent shivers down the spines of tennis administrators and organisers.

Zimbabwe Stun Australia in Historic Third ODI Win



TOWNSVILLE (Dispatches) - Zimbabwe stunned a nearly full-strength Australia by three wickets to claim a historic victory in the third one-day international in Townsville.

After leg-spinner Ryan Burl (5-10) played a starring role in dismissing the hosts for a lowly 141, Zimbabwe overcame a wobbly chase to beat the cricket powerhouse for the first time in Australia when they hauled in the target in the 39th over, triggering scenes of celebration.

It was a consolation victory for Zimbabwe to conclude the three-match series. "We showed a whole lot of fight... it was a testament to the work the boys put in," said Zimbabwe skipper Regis Chakabva, who top-scored with a composed 37 not out.

The tourists started the chase impressively, with Takudzwanashe Kaitano and Tadiwanashe Marumani posting a 38-run opening stand.

But Australia quick Josh Hazlewood turned the game on its head with the wicket of

Kaitano (19) in the ninth over, and soon after dismissed Wessly Madhevere and Sean Williams on consecutive deliveries. A nervous Zimbabwe, seeking just their third victory against Australia from 32 ODIs, batted defensively and slumped to 77-5 after Murumani (35) fell to towering all-rounder Cameron Green.

Chakabva calmed the nerves and was joined by an inspired Burl, who hit a six off player-of-the-series Adam Zampa to get Zimbabwe within sight of a famous victory.

He fell with five runs needed but there was no late twist. "You turn up to international sport and you can get beaten on any day, and we saw that today," said Australia captain Aaron Finch.

"They were relentless with the ball early on." In their first series in Australia since 2004, Zimbabwe struggled to be competitive in the opening two matches at the same venue and were routed for just 96 on Wednesday.

In a confidence boost, Chakabva won the toss for the first time in the series and his accurate attack claimed regular wickets against Australia's misfiring batting order.

VAR Denies Everton Winner in Feisty Derby Draw

LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Everton were denied a second-half winner following a lengthy VAR review in a feisty 0-0 draw with Merseyside rivals Liverpool in the Premier League.

Both sides hit the woodwork in the first half at Goodison Park, with Tom Davies denied by the upright for Everton, before Darwin Nunez and Luiz Diaz both saw efforts come out of the frame of the goal for the visitors.

The game opened up after the break, with Jordan Pickford forced into several fine stops in the home goal, while Neal Maupay, making his Everton debut after signing from Brighton & Hove Albion in midweek, should have scored from close range.

Then came the moment Everton fans had been waiting for after Conor Coady tapped home at the far post but with pandemonium ensuing at Goodison, the goal was ruled out for offside after a lengthy VAR review. Both sides pressed for a winner, with Everton substitute Dwight McNeil's deflected shot almost catching Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson out and Mohamed Salah firing against the post in stoppage time, but the rivals had to settle for a point each.

But even with big-money close season signing Nunez back up front, Liverpool struggled to get going at Goodison.

When they did create an opening, Liverpool found England goalkeeper Pickford in inspired form, with his save to tip Nunez's effort onto the crossbar the pick of his first half stops.



Top Clubs Among Clubs Fined Over Fair Play Rule Breaches

NYON (Dispatches) - Paris St Germain, AC Milan, Juventus and Inter Milan are among eight clubs who have agreed settlements with UEFA after failing to comply with break-even requirements last season, European soccer's governing body said.

The eight clubs have agreed to fines totalling 172 million euros (\$172.50 million) of which 26 million euros must be paid in full with the balance conditional on compliance with targets laid out in their respective settlement agreements.

PSG, AS Monaco and Olympique de Marseille of France, Italy's champions Milan and Juve plus Turkey's Besiktas have reached settlements covering the next three years, while Inter and AS Roma agreed four-year settlements, UEFA said in a statement.

Of the eight, French champions PSG are liable for the biggest fine of 65 million euros, of which 10 million euros must be paid in full, followed by Roma, who are liable for a penalty of 35 million euros, five million of which must be paid in full.

UEFA announced new sustainability regulations earlier this year to replace the previous Financial Fair Play (FFP) system.

The new stability requirements, known as the football earnings rule, came into effect from June 1. Under the new rules, acceptable losses have doubled from 30 million euros to 60 million euros over three years.

