

**Iran Censured Albania for Showing Irrespective Behavior Towards Iranian Diplomats in Tirana**  
**Accusing Local Authorities in Tirana Of improper Manners In Dealing With Diplomats Have Caused Concern Among Iranian Officials**

# IRAN NEWS

**Iran Foreign Ministry Has Refuted The Baseless Accusations Levelled By Foreign Ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Stressing that Three Islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb Eternally Belong to Iran.**

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## U.S., UK Have No Right to Accuse Iran of Cyberattack

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Foreign Ministry says the U.S. and the UK are not in a position to accuse Iran of cyberspace violations, given their previous silence and even support in the face of such transgressions against the Islamic Republic.

The United States and the UK lack whatever right "to level such accusations against Iran in light of their silence and even support in the face of numerous previous cyberattacks against Iran's infrastructure," spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in early Thursday.

The official cited the instance of Washington and London's mum on previous cyberattacks and even direct or indirect espousal of them against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Kanaani warned against any "political adventurism" against Iran under such "ridiculous" accusations. He said the Islamic Republic was completely ready to deliver a "decisive, instantaneous, and regret-inducing response" to whatever plot that could start targeting the country.

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## Iran Dismisses Latest IAEA Report as Political

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has slammed the latest report by the UN nuclear agency on the country's nuclear program as politically motivated, saying it contains nothing new expect "a word play serving certain goals."

The AEOI spokesman, Behrouz Kamalvandi, said on Thursday that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s report was "a repetition of the previous baseless issues with political purposes."

The Iranian official said some international media are distorting and sometimes interpreting the phrases, which the IAEA deliberately uses in a vague way and are full of unnecessary details and ambiguities, to fuel a hallow media campaign aimed at insinuating that the country's nuclear program is not peaceful.

"Iran's peaceful nuclear program has been the most transparent so far," Kamalvandi said.

He said Iran will accept verification of its nuclear activities beyond the Safeguards Agreement only if the parties to the 2015 nuclear deal — officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — fulfill their obligations per the agreement and lift the sanctions against Tehran.

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## Iran Army Test-Fires Strategic "Fath 360" Missile



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran Army Ground Force has test-fired a strategic domestically-developed surface-to-surface missile (SSM), which hit the designated target with pinpoint precision

Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force Brigadier General Nozar Ne'mati said the missile, codenamed Fath (Conquest) 360, was launched in the second stage of Eghtedar (Authority) 1401 drills, which are underway in the Nasrabad region of the province.

He added that the Iranian Army units also fired volleys of indigenous Fajr-5 (Dawn-5) missiles. The missile reportedly has a range of 75 kilometers (50 miles) and can carry 175-kilogram fragmentation warheads with 90 kilograms of high explosives.

Ne'mati explained that Fath 360 missile can hit strategic targets at the speed of 3,704 kilometers per hour, and its velocity can be increased to some 5,000 km/h while communicating with satellites for quick navigation and fast strikes against enemy targets.

The high-ranking Iranian military commander went on to say that the missile has enormous destructive power, enjoys high pinpoint accuracy, is fired from a multiple launch rocket system (MLRS), and locks onto the target immediately after its blast-off.

The capabilities of the Iranian Army's armored personnel carriers have also markedly improved in the face of potential threats as twin-tube Dehlavieh anti-tank missile launchers have been installed on them, Ne'mati said.

Chief Commander of Iran Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said that the young and trained personnel of the Army's Ground Force have integrated sophisticated and high-tech military hardware into the force as they take major strides to counter potential threats.

Mousavi added that the Iranian Armed Forces should always upgrade their training and military equipment in accordance with possible threats.

The Iran Army Ground Force started the two-day Authority 1401 exercises on Wednesday.

According to Commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid, the drills have been designed and are being executed according to potential future wars and predicted threats.

The military exercises involve infantry, armored, artillery, air force, drone, engineering, airborne and electronic warfare units and with the support of air force planes, said General Karim Cheshak, spokesman for the drills.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Force successfully performed armored operations and fired upgraded domestically-developed missiles during massive military exercises in the central province of Isfahan.

The exercises were carried out on Thursday in the presence of Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, Commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid, and Chief Commander of Iran Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi.

Military helicopters operated by the force also conducted heliborne operations during the two-day drills, codenamed Eghtedar (Authority) 1401, which are underway in the Nasrabad region of the province.

Speaking on the sidelines of the drills, Bagheri hailed the airborne operations carried out by the Ground Force's helicopters, stating that the exercises showed the high preparedness of the helicopter unit of the Ground Force.

A military helicopter operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Force fires missiles during two-day Eghtedar (Authority) 1401 drills in the Nasrabad region of the central province of Isfahan, on September 8, 2022. (Photo by Defapress)

Moreover, reconnaissance and surveillance missions were conducted by indigenous Mohajer-6 ISTAR unmanned aerial vehicles.

## Moratoria to Stop Nuclear Tests Must Turn Into Legally Binding Obligation

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian envoy to the United Nations says unilateral promises by countries about stopping nuclear tests cannot replace the nuclear disarmament, unless they turn into legally binding obligations.

Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Zahra Ershadi made the remarks while addressing a meeting of the UN General Assembly on the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

"Pending the achievement of this goal [stopping nuclear tests], besides the implementation of these moratoriums by the NWSs (nuclear weapons states), consequently, should be replaced by a legally binding instrument to effectively prevent such tests," she said. She stressed the importance of the immediate implementation of Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a "meaningful" step toward relinquishing the world from any threat of nuclear weapons, reaffirming it as the sole responsibility of the NWSs.

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## Tehran Calls for Annihilation of Entire Chemical Weapons in World

LONDON (IRNA) - Iranian Deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs who is visiting The Hague said in a meeting with Fernando Arias, Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), that Iran favors annihilation of entire chemical weapons in the world.

Reza Najafi in the meeting while exchanging views on expansion of Iran-OPCW cooperation, elaborated on the effects of the unilaterally and unjustly imposed US sanctions on the health and treatment of the Iranian victims of the chemical weapons, asking the OPCW director general to kindly assist Iran in provision of the urgently needed medical aids for them.

He also said it is absolutely necessary to implement the convention on prohibition of chemical weapons use internationally, as well as promotion of usage of the chemical facilities and trade of chemical substances among member countries of the OPCW free from the unilaterally imposed sanctions, if they are not banned in the chemical conventions.

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## Russia-Iran Trade Center Prelude to Reach \$8b Trade

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) considers the establishment of the first Iranian trade center in Russia as an effective step to pave the ground for reaching annual eight-billion-dollar trade within two years.

Chairman of the TPO Alireza Peymanpak said on Thursday that the first Iranian trade center in Russia would facilitate trade exchanges, pave the way for holding meetings between Russian and Iranian merchants, signing memoranda of understanding, preparing required documents, banking, insurance and customs consultations, as well as supporting industrialists and merchants in terms of legal issues.

The first trade center is scheduled to remove obstacles in the way of trade exchanges between Russia and Iran, the official noted, adding that different Iranian entities such as the Iranian Embassy in Moscow, the TPO, the Joint Chamber of Commerce and the parliament helped set up the center.

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## China Backs Iran's Reasonable Demands

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says the U.S. must stay away from the use of ambiguous language in its proposed text on how to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a telephone conversation with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday evening.

"We are still serious about striking a good, strong and lasting agreement. The U.S., however, must refrain from the use of ambiguous language in the text so that the agreement could be reached within the shortest possible time," he said.

Wang, for his part, said Beijing welcomes further expansion of relations with Tehran.

He said that the enhancement of bilateral ties will best serve both sides' interests, calling for the effective implementation of the strategic 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement between the two nations irrespective of international developments.

The Chinese foreign minister went on to say that Beijing and Tehran share common viewpoints on many regional and international issues. He praised Iran's support for China's inclusion in negotiations on the settlement of the Syrian crisis within the framework of the Astana process.

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## Iran's Exclusive Exhibition Inaugurated in Russia

TEHRAN (IP) - The exclusive exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran was inaugurated with the head of the Trade Promotion Organization, the Iranian ambassador to Russia, MPs, and managers of chambers of commerce in Moscow.

At the opening ceremony of the official exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Crocus Expo Center, Moscow, Alireza Peymanpak, Deputy Minister and head of the Trade Promotion Organization, along with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Russia, members of parliament and members of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Russian economic officials, producers, exporters, and economic activists were present.

## Iran Calls for Boosting Bilateral Ties With Indonesia

**TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi said that Tehran and Jakarta's good relations in various fields can lead to the development of constructive cooperation between the two states at regional and international levels.**

President Raisi met and held talks with Indonesia's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Muhammad Syarifuddin here in Tehran.

Describing the relations between Iran and Indonesia as friendly and progressive, President Raisi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran's will to develop relations with Indonesia in all areas is serious and the current level of relations between the two states is not proportional to the capacities in the two countries.

He highlighted that the good relations between Tehran and Jakarta in various fields can lead to the development of constructive cooperation between the two countries at regional and international levels.



Referring to Indonesia's active approach in international organizations, President Raisi emphasized the strengthening of cooperation between the two states in international institutions and forums as one of the areas of cooperation between Iran and Indonesia.

Syarifuddin, for his part, described the relations between the two countries as friendly, cordial, and progressive.

Expressing his country's interest in boosting the level of relations between the two countries in various fields, he urged cooperation and using the experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of legal and judicial technologies.

## Iran Condemns Arab League, Quartet Committee Statement

TEHRAN (MNA) - The spokesperson of Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the statement issued after the 158th meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab League and the Quartet Committee.

"Such statements show the lack of proper understanding of some of those countries of the course of developments in the region and ignoring the realities of the West Asian region," Nasser Kanaani, spokesperson of the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement.

"These countries are advised to focus on the crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the oppressed people of Palestine instead of repeating repetitive and worthless accusations."

Kanaani also called it contradictory to issue these types of statements at the same time as some of these countries are improving their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and once again emphasized Iran's permanent stance in inviting its neighbors to dialogue and resolve misunderstandings through diplomatic channels.

With regard to the three Iranian islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf, the spokesman called all Iran's actions within the framework of exercising sovereignty over the country's territorial integrity and condemned the interference of others in that regard.

He further pointed to the full control and capability of the Iranian armed forces in guarding the safety of navigation in the Persian Gulf region and being vigilant against any maritime acts of mischief and insecurity and emphasized that the security of the region must be maintained by the countries of the region without foreign interference.

The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) and Arab Quartet Committee recently reiterated the UAE's claim on the three Iranian islands well as alleged Iran's interference in Yemen and called for participation in the nuclear negotiations and the inclusion of Iran's missile program in those talks.

## Nuclear Talks Outcome Should Serve Nation's Interests

TEHRAN (IFP) - Assembly of Experts issued a final communiqué at the end of its 10th official meeting on Wednesday in which it asked the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure the country's financial interests in process of negotiations to lift US-led sanctions on Iran.

The assembly, Iran's top leadership supervisory body, expressed gratitude to the Iranian Foreign Minister for deepening Iran's cooperation with its neighbors, especially in the economic aspect.

According to a latest report by Iran's customs administration, the Islamic Republic's trade volume with its 15 neighboring countries during the past five months has had a significant 27-percent rise compared to the same period last year. Iranian Foreign Minister also addressed the Assembly of Experts and briefed it on the latest political and international developments and Iran's foreign policy achievements.

He said the Iranian ministry will never cross the country's red lines in the process of negotiations aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The assembly also called on President Ebrahim Raisi's administration to try to reduce inflation, create job opportunities, and solve people's livelihood problems amid harsh sanctions.

## Iran, IAEA Closed Safeguards Issues in 2015

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative at the United Nations Office at Vienna has underlined that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran closed issues related to the safeguards agreement in 2015.

Mohsen Naziri-Asl reacted to a recent report by the IAEA, stating that the new report is in fact the update of the agency on remaining safeguards issues, which are not closed in the eyes of Director General Rafael Grossi.

He further stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always underscored the need for interaction and cooperation, noting that the other side is expected to carry out its inherent duty without paying attention to political pressures and questions, which have their roots in plots hatched by third parties that are not a member of any safeguards mechanisms of the IAEA and have scores of nuclear warheads.

The three unimportant claims made by IAEA on the additional protocol date back to two decades ago; nonetheless, Iran has pursued appropriate and constructive interactions with the agency with the aim of resolving the issues, the Iranian representative added.

Underlining that the IAEA needs to maintain its independence and impartiality, he said that the UN nuclear watchdog's member states should avoid putting pressure on the organization or misusing the entity to reach their political objectives.

The Iranian official went on to say that the IAEA report is one-sided and partial.

Instead of praising Iran for its good faith in temporarily implementing the additional protocol within the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) even one year after the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear deal, the IAEA director general has raised the issue as a demand by the IAEA and highlighted the topic, he criticized.

## Iran Denounces Albania's Move to Sever Ties

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has denounced the Albanian government's decision to sever diplomatic ties with Tehran as "shortsighted", dismissing the allegations of orchestrating the July cyber attack against the south European country as "baseless".

In a statement, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kana'ani condemned Albania's decision to cut ties with Iran and send back Iranian diplomats as "injudicious" and "lacking in foresight".

He also termed allegations leveled against Tehran as "baseless" and "unsubstantiated", blaming it on "third parties".

Earlier on Wednesday, Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama announced the decision in a video message, giving Iranian diplomats and embassy staff 24 hours to leave the country.

"This extreme response...is fully proportionate to the gravity and risk of the cyberattack that threatened to paralyze public services, erase digital systems, and hack into state records, steal government intranet electronic communication, and stir chaos and insecurity in the country," he said.

Refuting the allegation, the foreign ministry spokesman said as one of the victims of rampant cyberattacks, the Islamic Republic condemns any use of cyberspace toward infringement on other countries' vital infrastructures.

He identified the United States, the Israeli regime, and the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), an anti-Iran terrorist group that has been hosted by Albania since 2016, as the "third parties" that have propelled Tirana into taking the decision.

The statement cited the United States' National Security Council and Israeli media outlets' expeditious welcoming of the Albanian government's move, saying this "bespeaks existence of a choreographed plan aimed at political atmosphere against the Islamic Republic."

Albania took in around 3,000 members of the MKO terrorist group in 2016 at the request of Washington, after the group was disowned by Iraq and snubbed by many European countries.

The anti-Iran terrorist group based in Albania has carried out numerous acts of terrorism on Iranian soil since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, killing senior political leaders, clerics and ordinary civilians.

The European Union, Canada, the United States, and Japan had previously listed the MKO as a "terrorist organization".

## Iran Achieves 100% Self-Sufficiency In Drone Technology

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Commander of Army Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the country has reached 100% self-sufficiency in the field of producing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and will continue its path in this field vigorously.

Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi made the remarks on the sidelines of his visit to Shahid Fakouri of Tabriz, East Azarbaijan province, on Thursday and added, that relying upon the assistance of the God Almighty, Iranian Air Force has achieved salient progress in the field of manufacturing two sophisticated drones named "Kaman 12" and "Kaman 22".

He also said that Islamic Republic of Iran is among the top powers in the region in the field of manufacturing advanced UAVs and this ability is increasing day by day.

"We firmly announce to all the neighboring countries that with the country's defense doctrine, we have no expectations of any other country in terms of defense," he said, adding that today, the country is progressing well on the international stage both scientifically and technologically and is ready to give a crushing response to the enemy which stood against the country."

## Iran, India Sign MoU to Preserve 33m Farsi Documents

TEHRAN (IP) - A memorandum of understanding was signed between India and Iran for the restoration, preservation, digitization, and cataloging of 33 million documents in Farsi in the Indian state of Telangana.

The presidents of Noor International Microfilm Center of Iran and the Department of Document Archives and Research Center of Telangana State, India, signed the MoU on Wednesday.

Telangana State Archives Research and Documents Center is one of the important historical centers and resources in terms of politics, culture, history, science, and economy.

The history of more than five hundred years of presence of Iranians in Hyderabad and South India and the Shia rulings, along with the presence of Iranian Muslim scholars and scientists, have been important factors in creating political, economic, and cultural developments in South India.

Having about 44 million documents in Farsi, Arabic, and Urdu belonging to the Islamic era, the center is known as the central archive in India, and many other centers are affiliated with it. Today, no historian and archeologist can present a complete and accurate picture of the past and present in the area without considering the role of Iranians and the Iranian Muslim and Shiite rulers.

The effects of the historical presence can be seen in the architecture, language, culture, art, and other aspects of the life of South Indian people. Speaking to Iran Press in Hyderabad, Mehdi Khajeh Piri, the head of Noor International Microfilm Center of Iran, said that the signing of the MoU to restore Farsi documents between Iran and India is the most important cultural event between the two countries, documents that show the centuries-old and historical relations between Iran and India.

## Iran Newly-Appointed Envoy Submits Credentials to UN Chief

TEHRAN (MNA) - The permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations submitted a copy of his credentials to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



During the meeting, Saeed Iravani, Iran's newly-appointed UN Envoy emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's resolve to continue constructive interaction and close cooperation with the United Nations, especially in line with strengthening multilateralism and confronting unilateralism as well as solving regional crises.

While pointing to the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also the priorities of Iran's foreign policy in developing cooperation with the countries of the Persian Gulf region, he stressed creating regional security with the constructive participation of the countries of the region.

The UN chief, for his turn, pointed to the constructive interaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the United Nations, especially in strengthening multilateralism, and emphasized the continuation of this cooperation.

Saeed Iravani, who has been appointed as Iran's new Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations replacing Majid Takht Ravanchi who was in charge of this position for 4 years, met with Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

Iravani presented a report on his plans during his tenure as the head of Iran's mission at the UN to top Iranian diplomat.

The new Iranian UN envoy has previously served as the head of the Office for the Protection of charge d'affaires of Iran in Iraq, as well as the deputy of international security and foreign policy of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Foreign Relations.

## Tehran, Caracas Stress Boosting Mutual Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani and Venezuela President's Special Envoy and Minister of Transport Ramón Velásquez in a meeting called for strengthening bilateral relations.



Brigadier General Ashtiani met and held talks with Velásquez here in Tehran. Emphasizing political will and a roadmap for economic cooperation, the two sides stressed on strengthening and developing scientific and technological cooperation as well as economic, trade, agriculture, transportation, medical, and energy.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met and held talks with Velásquez here in Tehran.

Stating that Tehran-Caracas ties are rapidly expanding and progressing, President Raisi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a friend of Venezuela in its tough days.

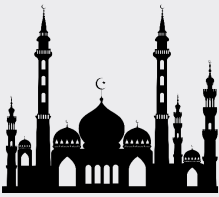
Pointing to the policy of developing trade and economic ties of the Islamic Republic of Iran with friendly states, President Raisi stressed the significance of expanding the level of cooperation among Iran and Latin American states, especially regarding the various capacities available.

He highlighted that Iran is ready to expand relations with Venezuela in all fields, especially in the areas of trade, energy, technology, science, and defense.

Velásquez, for his part, expressed his pleasure at the growing level of relations between the Islamic Republic and his country, stressing Caracas' efforts to boost the level of economic, trade, transit, and political cooperation.

Referring to the technical and engineering capabilities of Iran, he called for expanding the interactions between the two states in this regard. He also delivered President of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro's message to President Raisi in this meeting.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)

■ Evening (Maghreb)

■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)

■ Tomorrow's Sunrise

13:01

19:37

05:18

06:44

41. Mocked were (many) apostle before thee;  
But their scoffers were hemmed in by the thing that they mocked.  
42. Say: "Who can keep you safe by night and by day from (the Wrath of) ((Allah)) Most Gracious?"  
Yet they turn away from the mention of their Lord.

Surah 21. The Prophets ( 41 - 42 )

# Tehran, Abidjan Explore Ways for Broadening Economic Cooperation

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Head of National Development Fund of Iran (NDF) Mr. Mehdi Ghazanfari met Ambassador of Cote D’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) Mr. Tamakulu Vatara and during the meeting both sides explored ways for broadening economic ties.**

In the meeting, Ghazanfari pointed to Iran’s great experience in the field of forex resources reserves resulted from the sales of oil, gas and oil condensate, and noted that National Development Fund of Iran is Iran’s second Central Bank which has forex resources for investment.

He then touched upon investment of national wealth funds of the world inside and outside the countries and said that Iran’s NDF is ready for investment abroad and in case it finds low risks and profitable investment projects, it is ready to enter African countries and this will be done with more ease if it is pursued via unions in those countries.

Ghazanfari then expressed hope that the outcome of this meeting would lead to broaden economic relation between Iran and Cote d’Ivoire.

Then Ambassador of Cote d’Ivoire Mr. Vatara, for his part, said that for more than 40 years a good relation has been shaped between Tehran and Abidjan, adding that unfortunately economic relation of the two countries has not reached favorable level.

He then pointed to the first meeting of the joint economic cooperation of both countries in 2007 and said that the second meeting will be held in less than two months in Abidjan. He expressed hope this meeting which will be held in October would strengthen economic ties of both countries and he can proudly express that in this joint commission, Abidjan will host a delegation from Iran’s National Development Fund regarding investment in national development fund of Cote d’Ivoire.

The diplomat also pointed to provision of 40% union capital comprised of 8 African countries and stipulated that investment in Cote d’Ivoire means easy access to all member states of the union which have the same forex.

He also pointed to economic cooperation of 15 Iranian companies in Abidjan and said that due to production of 40% of the world cocoa in this country, there are currently high potentials in the fields of agriculture especially processing and cocoa production industry. He further said that investment in the road infrastructures, railway and airports can be other good grounds for joint economic cooperation.

Vatara also suggested investment in the field of energy and oil industries and added that in this regard, some talks have been held with an Iranian company and this company has showed its interest for cooperation.

He said that Cote d’Ivoire has not achieved any progress in extraction of oil and gas and Iran with investment in this field can achieve great successes. He also pointed to Iran’s capabilities in construction, adding that Cote d’Ivoire needs 30,000 units per year in its housing sector and currently some Iranian companies are busy in his country and this number can increase.

At the end of the meeting, Ghazanfari welcomed the idea of NDF’s arrival for investment in the field of energy in Cote d’Ivoire, adding that if Iranian companies express their interest for entering Cote d’Ivoire market, the fund will have forex support for them.

## Iran Unsanctionable With Using Capacities of Its Free Zones

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Vice-Secretary of Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones believes Iran is unsanctionable with using capacities of its free and special economic zones.

Hamid Broumand in an article highlighted importance of free zones in the national economy specially in making ineffective the sanctions. He wrote in his article that with the establishment of the self-belief policy of the 13th government, the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones in line with complying with the sublime goals of the esteemed government has tried to review models of policy-makings and policies and has introduced free and special economic zones as high-capacity actors of the national economy. He noted that the results of this change in approach has been revealed in the past year and some of the achievements were explained last week and some of them were inaugurated through a videoconference with presence of First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber.

Mr. Boroumand in his article pointed to some of these achievements and said that the trade balance in the free zones last year was positive for the first time in three decades. He reiterated this positive trade balance was the outcome of planning of managers of the zones and respected economic activists and above all improvement of quality and quantity of products of the free zones, encouragement of business community of the zones for purchase and offer of the products produced in the zones as well as easing exports and target-oriented imports. He reiterated that continuation of this successful trend hinges on abiding by law and sticking to macro policies which are announced by the Supreme Council. He added that this issue is very important for the future due to importance of free zones in the national economic fate.

He also invited everybody which can help the zones progress more, adding that the goal of the council is an unsanctionable Iran, and materialization of this goal is possible through smart using of capacities of free zones and observing the policies of the legislation for these regions.

9 Russian Planes In Iran to Receive Maintenance

TEHRAN (PressTV) – Road and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qassemi says Russia has commissioned Iranian aviation companies for maintenance tasks on its airplanes.

Qassemi said that nine Russian passenger planes were in Iran to receive maintenance as he touted the technology existing in the Iranian civil aviation sector to carry out overhaul and inspection works on various types of aircraft.

“We have been in a good position in recent months in terms of aircraft maintenance,” said the minister without elaborating on the types of the Russian planes under repair in Iran.

The announcement comes amid reports of close cooperation between Iran and Russia to minimize the impacts of foreign sanctions on their economies.

Russian authorities have declared on several occasions that Moscow has been using the experience of Iranian companies and government agencies in dealing with foreign sanctions.

Iran and Russia have signed major deals in recent months to boost their economic, trade and energy cooperation.

Iran came under an inclusive regime of American sanctions in 2018 after Washington unilaterally withdrew from an international deal on Iran’s nuclear program.

The United States and allies imposed a raft of similar and even tougher sanctions on Russia in February after Moscow launched a military operation in Ukraine.

## KSC Offers Its Composite Ribbed Rebar to the Market

IRAN MEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Khorasan Steel Complex Company (KSC), upon the needs of its customers and domestic and international markets, has started offering its ribbed rebar 500 product in the market.

Deputy Head on Exploitation of Khorasan Steel Complex Company Mr. Farshid Fazilati broke the news and said that production of composite ribbed rebar (known as ribbed 500) started in accordance with the national standards in the rolling unit of this complex after conducting all technical studies and making preparation of equipment and required conditions.

He noted that this new product has different usage in the construction industry and this achievement is the outcome of his colleagues’ efforts in the rolling and quality control units of the complex.

Meanwhile deputy head on marketing and sales of the company Mr. Hossein Bakhtiari also said that entering the new markets and attracting new domestic and foreign customers requires diversity and developing range of products, adding that this product has been produced based on study on the market and demands of domestic and international customers, and it has added new capability to the list of capabilities of the company in the field of marketing and sales via diversifying the final product basket.

Head of rolling unit of the company Mr. Khani also talked about the new product of the company and said that the ingot used in the production of composite ribbed bar has certain qualitative properties in accordance with the customers’ demands and it has been produced in the steelmaking unit of the complex based on the required properties and coordinates. He then pointed to some properties of this product like its high mechanical property. He added that with using this final product, consumption of rebar in the concrete structures and ultimately the cost, will reduce and it will have positive impact on the environment.

It is worth noting that this product has received INSO 31-32 certificate from Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran and it is ready to be offered in the market based on getting orders from the customers

## New ESCO Products Help Industrialization of Housing Construction

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – In steel industry and in the field of producing construction products, the company should not be content with general steel products and in this line, Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) produces new, special and industrial steel products.

The CEO of Esfahan Steel Company Eng. Iraj Rokhsati believes new products of the company will help industrialization of housing construction.

Speaking in the first conference on Housing and Construction Industry Technology which was held at the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center, Mr. Rokhsati said that fortunately today we all see that the center is after development in construction industry in order to improve architecture of building and reduce costs and increase speed of construction process, and this requires change in the type of construction and industrialization of it.

He noted that industrializing construction process requires using new products to improve quality, speed and safety in construction.

Rokhsati added that Iran with annual production of 30m tons of steel products ranks 10th in the world and it has capacity to produce over 40m tons while before the Islamic revolution there was only a blast furnace with annual production of 500,000 tons. He noted that currently with considering population and steel consumption per capita, the country faces production surplus which should be exported and therefore steel industries’ move towards producing certain products creates no problem for meeting the demands of the country to the general steel products.

Rokhsati then pointed to the necessity in using more steel structures in the national construction industry and said that new products of ESCO help developing construction industry and industrialization and on the whole, national steel industry should move towards producing certain steel products to meet the new demands of the country.

He noted that one of the new approaches of this gigantic industrial complex in the sales of Iran Mercantile Exchange is to define basket of products based on the needs of the projects to reduce the costs of mass house manufacturers and easing construction.

Iran to Reach 10 GW of Electricity Exports by 2026

TEHRAN (PressTV) - CEO of Iran’s state electricity company Tavanir says the country will boost its electricity exports capacity by seven times within the next four years to remain a dominant power supplier in the region.

Arash Kordi said that Iran’s electricity exports are expected to reach 10 gigawatts (GW) by 2026, up from a current capacity of 1.5 GW.

Kordi said Iran’s plans for raising electricity exports capacity had stumbled in recent years because of an unexpected growth in domestic demand.

However, he said Tavanir has robust plans to meet the 10 GW target in exports as he insisted that import of electricity from to Iranian will remain the most preferable option for countries of the region at least for the near term.

“This (target) will definitely be realized and we will execute this projects based on the grid demand in neighboring countries,” the official was quoted as saying by ILNA news agency. Iran is a major supplier of electricity to Iraq and Afghanistan while it exchanges electricity with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkmenistan during peak demand days.

## Ragadid Complex to Host “An Instant” Collective Photo Exhibition

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

TEHRAN – A collective photo exhibition under curatorship of Behdad Najafi Asadollahi will open on Sunday at the Ragadid Complex in Tehran’s Enghelab Club.

According to reports, the exhibition will put on display works of more than 50 masters and photographer artists of the country. According to the curator of the exhibition Mr. Asadollahi, this event will be held under the title of “An Instant” and it will be a follow-up to holding collective exhibitions for different fields of imaginative arts and according to the plans it will turn into an annual event.

Artists like Mohammad Hadi Abri, Mona Adel, Kourosh Adim, Maryam sadat Ahmadi, Hanieh Ahmadi Saeedeh Arian, Amir Asgharzadeh, Mohsen Ashegh, Amirhossein Bahrami, Keivan Behbahani Pejman Dadkhah, Nazgol Dastmalchi, Adnan Delkhasteh, Behzad Firouzi, Esmail Haghparsat Morteza Hassani, Nayereh Hassanpour, Ali Jazaeri, Mahdi Keihoor, Shahriar Khonsari, Ali Mazarei, Yasaman Mirdamadi, Ardeshtir Mirmongereh, Fateme Mirzaee, Sina Mohammadi, Mohammad Reza Mohammadi, Mehrana Mohammadi, Mahnaz Mohammadi, Vida Mohebi, Ghazal Mostafa, Seyedeh Zahra Motahari Kia, Behdad Najafi Asadollahi, Katrin Nazari, Ali

Nejatbakhsh Esfahani, Hamidreza Norouzi, Mani Nouri, Mohsen Rezaei, Bahareh Roohbakhsh, Elham Sadafizadeh, Maryam Saeedpoor, Fereidoon Safavi, Mahnaz Sahaf, Soumaya Saikali, Hossein Saki, Zahra Salehi, Mohammad Samiee Fard, Behzad Sehati, Hossein Seifi, Puriya Senemari, Farzaneh Shahrokhi Dana, Aein Shahroodi, Alireza Vahidi, Somayeh Valiyan, Arash Yadollahi, Mahshid Zare Karizi are to put on display their works.

Asadollahiadded that the theme of the event is free and the event has tried not to restrict the subject and theme for the participating artists to help them to reveal their creativity.

Meanwhile the art manager of the exhibition Ms. Saeideh Arian said that today and due to smart cellphones everybody can take good photos if they find good subject and if they are placed in right time, they can have good photos but art of photography is the good son of good subject in due time and extraordinary photo is the outcome of this mixture of great subject and certain time and position.

The exhibition, which is held by Contemporary Khanesh Cultural Institute in collaboration with Faradid Honar Farda Cultural Institute, will open on Sunday, September 11, and will run until the end of September.



# Russian Strikes on Syria’s Idlib Province Kill 7

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Russian airstrikes on Syria’s last major rebel bastion in the northwestern province of Idlib killed seven people and wounded 15 on Thursday, a war monitoring group said.

At least four of those killed in the strikes that hit a stone quarry and a nearby home west of Idlib city were civilians, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor that relies on an extensive network of sources on the ground. The observatory said it was seeking to identify the other three casualties.

An AFP correspondent in the area saw ambulances ferrying victims from the site of the strikes, as large plumes of smoke rose overhead.



# UN Chief Taps Turk As Next Rights Chief

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has tapped the Austrian diplomat Volker Turk to be the next High Commissioner for Human Rights, according to a document sent Thursday to the General Assembly, which must approve the choice.

The UN veteran would replace Michelle Bachelet, the former Chilean president who was appointed four years ago with the specific intent of having a powerful female politician in the role. “The secretary-general proposes to appoint Mr. Volker Turk (Austria) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,” Guterres wrote, in a letter seen by AFP. “The secretary-general trusts that the General Assembly will approve this appointment.”



# Ukraine Claims Huge Gains In Lightning Counteroffensive



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine has recaptured more than 700 sq km (270 sq miles) of its territory in the east and south during a lightning counteroffensive, a Ukrainian general said on Thursday, offering the first official assessment of the operation.

The gains, if confirmed and held, would be a serious blow for Russia, which Western intelligence services say has suffered huge casualties. They would also represent a big boost for Kyiv, which is keen to show its Western backers that it can change the facts on the ground by force and deserves continued support.

Some of the biggest gains appear to have been made this week during a surprise Ukrainian counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine, which saw Kyiv’s forces make a sudden and deep thrust behind Russian lines.

Brigadier General Oleksiy Gromov told a news briefing that Ukrainian forces had advanced up to 50 kilometres (30 miles) behind Russian lines and recaptured more than 20 villages in the Kharkiv region.

He singled out the role of Turkish-made Bayraktar drones.

“Enemy infantry and motorized artillery units unprotected by air defence systems become easy prey for our Bayraktars, the quantity of which is always increasing, thanks to our volunteers,” said Gromov.

A Russian official said Moscow’s forces had put up stiff resistance and prevented Kyiv’s forces from taking at least one key town in the Kharkiv region.

Reuters could not independently confirm the battlefield accounts.

Gromov broke the news as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Ukraine. Blinken was expected to announce \$2 billion in new foreign military financing to Ukraine and 18 other countries at risk of future Russian aggression. Roughly half the money will go to Kyiv. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said earlier on Thursday that President Joe Biden had also approved an additional and separate \$675 million in weapons to Ukraine as he and other defense ministers met in Germany to discuss how to continue supporting Ukraine in the long-term.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy had spoken of “good news” on the battlefields of eastern Ukraine the night before and had thanked three brigades for what he called their bravery.

In a late night address to the nation, Zelenskiy had said: “This week we have good news from Kharkiv Oblast. All of you have most likely seen reports about the recent activities of Ukrainian defenders. And I think every citizen feels proud of our warriors.” Kharkiv region borders Russia and its main city, Kharkiv, has for months been struck by Russian missiles after Moscow failed to take it in the early stages of its Feb. 24 invasion.

There is pressure on Kyiv to demonstrate progress on the ground before winter sets in, amid threats by Russian President Vladimir Putin to halt all energy shipments to Europe if Brussels goes ahead with a proposal to cap the price of Russian gas.

Russia has confirmed fighting in the Kharkiv region area but has not confirmed any territorial losses, though unverified social media accounts run by Russian military experts have suggested Moscow did suffer setbacks and will need to urgently reinforce.

# S. Korea Offers Talks With North On Reunion of War-Torn Families

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea offered to hold talks with North Korea on reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, in its first direct overture under President Yoon Suk-yeol despite strained cross-border ties.

The surprise proposal came days before the thanksgiving holiday of Chuseok, when the two Koreas have in the past held family reunions. But prospects are not good, with North Korea racing to improve its weapons and refusing to deal with Yoon’s administration.

South Korean Unification Minister Kwon Young-se, who is in charge of inter-Korean affairs, urged a swift, positive response, saying Seoul would consider Pyongyang’s preferences on a date, venue, agenda and format of any talks.

“We hope that responsible officials of the two sides will meet in person as soon as possible for a candid discussion on humanitarian matters including the issue of separated families,” Kwon told a news conference.

Hours after the proposal, South Korea’s foreign ministry announced a revival of high-level talks with the United States, designed to boost deterrence against the North, which includes a U.S. nuclear umbrella.

The conservative Yoon took office in May vowing to bolster South Korea’s military capabilities and strengthen so-called extended deterrence, which refers to the ability of the U.S. military, particularly its nuclear forces, to deter attacks on U.S. allies.

Hong Min, a senior fellow at the South’s Korea Institute for National Unification, said North Korea might see South Korea’s offer of dialogue and deterrence efforts as a sign of what it has called double standards.

The two Koreas have in the past held family reunions around the time of major holidays, mostly under liberal governments in the South that have tried to engage with the North.

But cross-border ties have soured. The North has conducted an unprecedented number of missile tests this year and is believed to have made preparations for its first nuclear test since 2017.



## Memphis Shooting Spree Leaves Four People Dead

MEMPHIS (Dispatches) - A suspected attacker has been arrested after he killed four people and wounded three others firing at multiple locations in Memphis, United States.

Local reports said the shooting spree started as early as 12:56pm (17:56 GMT) on Wednesday and continued till late evening. Those wounded were taken to hospital.

Police described the rampage as a “mobile mass shooting” that triggered a shelter-in-place order for the area as officers searched for the suspect, identified as Ezekiel D Kelly.

According to the police, there were at least eight crime scenes, seven shootings and the carjacking of a Dodge Challenger in Southaven, south of Memphis. The suspect, who broadcast his actions on Facebook Live, was arrested when he crashed during a high-speed chase.

One brief video posted on Facebook showed a man saying, “This is for real”, as he opened the door of a shop and fired twice at the first person to come into view, according to a report by Reuters news agency, which could not verify the video’s authenticity.

Facebook said it was working with authorities on the case, CNN reported.

According to past court records, Kelly was charged as an adult with attempted first-degree murder in 2020. He was released from prison in March, 11 months after he was sentenced, authorities said.

As the attacker terrorised Memphis, public bus service was suspended and a minor-league baseball game was placed on lockdown.

Local television stations cut into regular coverage to keep viewers updated.

The University of Memphis sent a message to students saying a shooting had been reported near the campus. Rhodes College, which is a few kilometres away from the university, advised students on and off campus to shelter in place.

Police did not discuss a motive or release the identities of those killed or wounded.

# Queen Elizabeth II Dies Aged 96

LONDON (Dispatches) - Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-serving monarch in British history and an icon instantly recognizable to billions of people around the world, died on Thursday. She was 96.

Buckingham Palace announced her death in a short statement, triggering 10 days of national mourning and an outpouring of tributes to her long life and record-breaking reign.

“The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon,” Buckingham Palace said in a statement at 6:30 pm (1730 GMT).

The eldest of her four children, Charles, Prince of Wales, who at 73 is the oldest heir apparent in British history, becomes king immediately.

The queen’s death came after the palace announced on Thursday that doctors were “concerned” for her health and recommended she stayed under medical supervision.

All her children -- Charles, Princess Anne, 72, Prince Andrew, 62, and Prince Edward, 58, flocked to her Scottish Highland retreat, Balmoral.

They were joined by Charles’s sons, Prince William, and his estranged brother Prince Harry.

Two days earlier the queen appointed Liz Truss as the 15th prime minister of her reign and was seen smiling in photographs but looking frail and using a walking stick.

One photograph of the meeting sparked alarm, showing a deep purple bruise on the monarch’s right hand.

Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne aged just 25 in 1952 in the aftermath of World War II, joining a world stage dominated by political figures from China’s Mao Zedong to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and US president Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Her 70-year reign straddled two centuries of seismic social, political and technological upheaval.

The last vestiges of Britain’s vast empire crumbled. At home, Brexit shook the foundations of her kingdom, and her family endured a series of scandals.

But throughout, she remained consistently popular



and was queen and head of state not just of the United Kingdom but 14 former British colonies, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

She was also head of the 56-nation Commonwealth, which takes in a quarter of humanity, and supreme governor of the Church of England, the mother church of the worldwide Anglican communion.

But questions will be asked about whether the golden age of the British monarchy has now passed, how an ancient institution can remain viable in the modern era and whether Charles will command the same respect or reign in his mother’s shadow.

Television and radio stations interrupted regular programming to broadcast the news, with long-rehearsed special schedules set in place to remember her long life and reign.

The national anthem, “God Save the Queen”, was played. Flags were lowered and church bells tolled to remember a woman once described as the “last global monarch”.

The national mourning period will culminate in a final public farewell at Westminster Abbey in central London.

Charles’ coronation, an elaborate ritual steeped in tradition and history, will take place in the same historic surroundings, as it has for centuries, on a date to be fixed.

-Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was for most of her subjects the only monarch they have ever known -- an immutable figurehead on stamps, banknotes and coins.

Diminutive in stature yet an icon of popular culture, she was instantly recognisable in her brightly coloured suits and matching hat, with pearls, gloves and a handbag.

During her reign, the royals went from stiff, remote figures to tabloid fodder and were then popularised anew in television dramas such as “The Crown,” watched by tens of millions worldwide.

# India, Japan Plan More Military Drills To Strengthen Ties

TOKYO (Dispatches) - India and Japan said today they would deepen defense cooperation, with New Delhi inviting investment by Japanese industries and both countries planning a joint military drill involving their air force fighters.

India’s Defense Minister Rajnath Singh held talks in Tokyo with his Japanese counterpart Yasukazu Hamada, and both will join their respective foreign ministers later in the day for “two-plus-two” talks.

“He invited Japanese industries to invest in India’s defense corridors,” India’s defense ministry said in a statement, referring to Singh.

“The two ministers agreed that the early conduct of the inaugural fighter exercise will pave the way for much greater cooperation and inter-operability between the air forces of the two countries.” India, like Japan, is bolstering its military to tackle what it sees as increased security threats, including from neighboring China.

In Japan, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has promised a “substantial” defense spending increase. His ruling Liberal Democratic Party wants to double Japan’s military budget to 2 per cent of gross domestic product over the next five years amid worry Russia’s invasion of Ukraine could embolden China to act against neighboring Taiwan.

Delhi, which last week commissioned its first home-built aircraft carrier, is expanding its security ties with Tokyo as both Asian nations grow wary of China’s growing military might in the region.

The two countries, along with Australia and the United States are members of the Quad group of nations and hold annual naval exercises across the Indo-Pacific to demonstrate inter-operability.

The last leaders gathering in May in Japan was dominated by discussion about Taiwan after US President Joe Biden angered China a day earlier by saying he would be willing to use force to defend the democratic island. As they met, Russian and Chinese warplanes conducted a joint patrol in the region.

Kishida and India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a separate bilateral meeting agreed to work closely together to promote a “free and open Indo-Pacific.”





## China's Drought Intensifies Global Coal Shortage

LONDON (Dispatches) - China's drought has sent coal prices surging as traders anticipate the lack of hydroelectric generation will force it to burn more coal to meet electricity demand this winter.

China's rising coal consumption threatens to worsen a worldwide shortage as power producers in Europe and the United States also turn back to solid fuel in the face of soaring gas prices.

It marks a significant turn-around from the first half of the year when heavy rainfall and plentiful hydro generation enabled China to reduce coal use and rebuild depleted inventories.

During the first six months of the year, southern China, where most hydro generation is concentrated, received the highest rainfall since 2016, as monsoon rains arrived early and the region was hit by a series of massive floods.

Total precipitation at Yibin on the border between Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, close the massive Xiangjiaba hydro dam, amounted to 688 millimeters between Jan 1 and June 30.

Precipitation was almost 50% higher than the seasonal average of 460 millimeters recorded between 2014 and 2021.

In response, the central government issued flood alerts and despatched officials to help manage high water levels impounded behind dams across the region.

As a result, China generated a record 729 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of hydroelectricity in the first seven months of the year, easily surpassing the previous peak of 651 billion kWh in 2019.

Massively increased hydro generation (+104 billion kWh) supplied almost all the increase in total electricity demand (+128 billion kWh) compared with last year.

There were also significant increases in generation from wind (+61 billion kWh) and solar (+28 billion kWh) and a slight rise in nuclear output (+3 billion kWh).

With more electricity from other sources, generation from thermal power plants, essentially coal, declined (-68 billion kWh), according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Reduced coal combustion combined with a government campaign to increase mine output and to prioritize coal movements on the railways rebuilt power station stocks that were badly depleted a year ago.

In the last two months, however, low rainfall has sent the entire process into reverse and threatens renewed coal shortages later this year.

Late July and early August should be the wettest period in southern China but this year rainfall was well below normal.

Precipitation at Yibin since the start of July has been just 135 millimeters compared with an average of 464 millimeters in 2014-2021.

Hydroelectric power generation has fallen sharply and likely to remain depressed throughout the remainder of 2022 and into 2023.

Increased coal combustion will have to cover the shortfall, putting more pressure on stocks and requiring long rail journeys from the northern coal fields in Shanxi, Inner Mongolia and Shaanxi to generators in the south.

Domestic coal prices are rising sharply as traders have started to anticipate pressure on inventories and possible shortages.

The most actively traded domestic futures contract on the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange has climbed to \$148 per ton, the highest for 10 months, up from around \$125 at the end of June.



## Chimpanzees Drum To Their Own Signature Beats

PARIS (Dispatches) - The drummers puff out their chests, let out a guttural yell, then step up to their kits and furiously pound out their signature beat so that everyone within earshot can tell who is playing.

The drum kit is the giant gnarled root of a tree in the Ugandan rainforest -- and the drummer is a chimpanzee.

A new study published last week found that not only do chimpanzees have their own styles -- some preferring straightforward rock beats while others groove to more freeform jazz -- they can also hide their signature sound if they do not want to reveal their location.

The researchers followed the Waibira chimpanzee group in western Uganda's Budongo Forest, recording the drum sessions of seven male chimps and analyzing the intervals between beats.

The chimps mostly use their feet, but also their hands to make the sound, which carries more than a kilometer through the dense rainforest.

The drumming serves as a kind of social media, allowing travelling chimpanzees to communicate with each other, said Vesta Eleuteri, the lead author of the study published in the journal Animal Behavior.

The PhD student said that after just a few weeks in the rainforest she was able to recognise exactly who was drumming.

"Tristan -- the John Bonham of the forest -- makes very fast drums with many evenly separated beats," she said, referring to the legendarily hard-hitting drummer of rock band Led Zeppelin.

Tristan's drumming "is so fast that you can barely see his hands", Eleuteri said.

But other chimps like Alf or Ila make a more syncopated rhythm using a technique in which both their feet hit a root at almost the same time, said British primatologist Catherine Hobaiter, the study's senior author.

The research team was led by scientists from Scotland's University of St Andrews, and several of the chimpanzees are named after Scottish single malt whiskies, including Ila -- for Caol Ila -- and fellow chimp Talisker.

Hobaiter, who started the habituation of the Waibira group in 2011, said it long been known that chimpanzees drummed.

"But it wasn't until this study that we understood they're using these signature styles when they're potentially looking for other individuals -- when they're travelling, when they're on their own or in a small group," she told AFP.

The researchers also discovered that the chimps sometimes choose not to drum in their signature beat, to avoid revealing their location or identity.

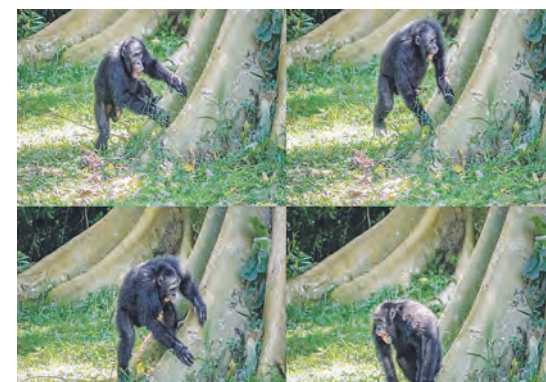
"They have this wonderful flexibility to express their identity and their style, but also to sometimes keep that hidden," Hobaiter said.

While plenty of animals produce sounds we think of as music -- such as birdsong -- the research could open the door to the possibility that chimpanzees enjoy music on a level generally thought to only be possible for humans.

"I do think that chimpanzees, like us, potentially have a sense of rhythmicity, a sense of music, something that touches them on an almost emotional level, in the way that we might have a sense of awe when we hear an amazing drum solo or another kind of dramatic musical sound," Hobaiter said.

Most research on the culture of chimpanzees has looked at their tools or food, she said.

"But if we think about human culture we don't think about the tools we use -- we think about how we dress, the music we listen to," she added.



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## Women's Pay in Switzerland Lags That of Men by 43%

ZURICH (Reuters) - Women in Switzerland earn more than 40% less than men and draw less pension money, a gender pay gap report the government adopted on Wednesday showed, citing the high proportion of women working part-time.

The government's Gender Overall Earnings Gap (GOEG) study, requested by parliament in 2019, showed Switzerland performed relatively poorly in a European context.

"In 2018, the GOEG for Switzerland was 43.2%. This means that women's earnings are 43.2% lower than men's for all hours worked between the ages of 15 and 64," the national statistics office said in a statement.



## China's Trade Falters as Demand Wanes at Home and Abroad

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's exports and imports lost momentum in August with growth significantly missing forecasts as surging inflation crippled overseas demand and fresh COVID curbs and heatwaves disrupted output, reviving downside risks for the shaky economy.

Exports rose 7.1% in August from a year earlier, slowing from an 18.0% gain in July and marking the first slowdown since April, official data showed on Wednesday, well below analysts' expectations for a 12.8% increase.

Outbound shipments have outperformed other economic drivers this year but now face growing challenges as rising interest rates, inflation and geopolitical tensions pummel external demand.

The disappointing August trade figures rattled global financial markets, which have already been buckling under a surging dollar and the prospect of much higher U.S. interest rates.

"It seems the export softness arrived in earlier than expected, as recent shipping data suggests that demand from the U.S. and EU has already slowed as shipping prices have been falling significantly," said Zhou Hao, chief economist at Guotai Junan International.

He expects pricing effects will continue to disrupt trade and said import growth in real terms had already turned negative since the late first quarter, suggesting more headwinds for demand.

Responding to the disappointing data, China's yuan extended losses, losing 0.36% to 6.98 per dollar and approaching the psychologically crucial 7 mark.

Despite languishing around two-year lows, the weakening yuan has failed to give China's exports the competitive edge they need to make up for softening external demand.

The slower growth is also in part due to unflattering comparisons with strong exports last year, but also worsened by more COVID restrictions as infections spiked and heatwaves disrupted factory output in southwestern areas.

Export hub Yiwu imposed a three-day lockdown in early August to contain a COVID outbreak, disrupting local shipments and delivery of Christmas goods amid the peak season.

Bucking the broader trend, auto exports remained robust in August, jumping 47% from a year earlier, according to Reuters calculations based on customs data.

In the first eight months, China exported 1.9 million units of cars, up 44.5%, supported by strong demand for new energy vehicles in Southeast Asia.

Weak domestic demand, weighed by the worst heatwaves in decades, a property crisis and sluggish consumption, crippled imports.

Inbound shipments rose just 0.3% in August from 2.3% in the month prior, well below a forecast 1.1% increase. Both imports and exports grew at their slowest pace in four months.

China's imports of crude oil, iron ore and soybeans all fell, as the strict COVID curbs and extreme heat disrupted domestic output.

Baking temperatures, however, led to the fastest increase in coal imports this year as power generators scrambled for additional fuel to meet surging electricity demand.

"The remarkably slower imports growth indicated the sector has faced a wave of headwinds in recent months, which is not expected to ease anytime soon," said Bruce Pang, a chief economist at Jones Lang Lasalle.

"COVID outbreaks disrupted supply chains and demand, while the power rationing measures hurt production. The broad dollar strength also brings pressure on imports."

## U.S. Power Use to Reach Record High in 2022 as Economy Grows

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - U.S. power consumption will rise to a record high in 2022 due to rising economic activity and hotter summer weather, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO).

EIA projected power demand will climb to 4,029 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) in 2022, from 3,930 billion kWh in 2021, then slide to 4,013 billion kWh in 2023 as temperatures moderate.

That compares with an eight-year low of 3,856 billion kWh in 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic depressed demand, and an all-time high of 4,003 billion kWh in 2018.

EIA projected 2022 power sales would rise to 1,498 billion kWh for residential consumers, 1,370 billion kWh for commercial customers as more people return to work in offices and 1,019 billion kWh for the industrial sector.

That compares with all-time highs of 1,477 billion kWh in 2021 for residential consumers, 1,382 billion kWh in 2018 for commercial customers and 1,064 billion kWh in 2000 for industrial customers.

EIA said natural gas' share of power generation hold at 37% in 2022, the same as 2021, before sliding to 36% in 2023.

Coal's share will drop from 23% in 2021 to 21% in 2022 and 19% in 2023 as renewable output rises.

The percentage of renewable generation will rise from 20% in 2021 to 22% in 2022 and 24% in 2023.

Nuclear power's share will slide to 19% in 2022, from 20% in 2021, before rising back to 20% in 2023.

The agency projected 2022 gas sales would rise to 13.64 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) for residential consumers, 9.69 bcfd for commercial customers, 22.86 bcfd for industrial customers and 32.09 bcfd for power generation.

That compares with all-time highs of 14.32 bcfd in 1996 for residential consumers, 9.63 bcfd in 2019 for commercial customers, 23.80 bcfd in 1973 for industrial customers and 31.75 bcfd in 2020 for power generation.



## Russia Ups Economic Forecasts

KOSCOV (Dispatches) - Russia's economy will post a shallower economic contraction than expected over the coming years and could return to growth on a quarterly basis from as early as the end of 2022, a top government official said.

Economy Minister Maxim Reshetnikov said the government was now forecasting a 2.9% contraction in Russia's GDP for 2022, Russian news agencies reported – an improvement on its August prediction of a 4.2% annual decline.

The Russian economy is set to return to growth on a quarterly basis in late 2022 or 2023, Reshetnikov said. But across the full year of 2023 the economy would still post a slight contraction of 0.9% due to the "high base effect" of Russia's strong growth of 3.5% in the first quarter of this year.

The new forecasts mark a significant improvement from the predictions made just last month when the Economy Ministry forecast a 2.7% fall in gross domestic product in 2023.

Russian officials have heralded the economy's performance in recent months, saying it is holding up much better than expected in the face of Western sanctions imposed over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Some analysts question Russian officials' newly optimistic assessment of the economy in the medium-term, pointing to the slow-burn effects of sanctions and mounting costs from measures such as the European Union's energy embargo and restrictions on Western technology exports to Russia.

The Economy Ministry on Tuesday also downgraded its forecast for 2024, Reshetnikov said as it predicted shallower declines in 2022 and 2023 followed by a smoother recovery. It now expects 2.6% growth in 2024 instead of 3.7%.

## Brazil's Currency Seen Trading in Tight Range Ahead of Election

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Brazil's currency is forecast to hover in a tight range in dollar-dominated trading this month as Brazilians prepare to vote in the Oct. 2 presidential election, a Reuters poll showed.

The dollar index reached a two-decade high on Tuesday and is expected to remain strong on expectations of continued hikes in U.S. interest rates and the outperformance of the American economy relative to its peers.

In the coming weeks, the real is expected to be rangebound and trade just 0.15% higher at 5.24 per U.S. dollar, according to the poll. But it was set to slip into negative territory and lose 0.8% in three months, according to the poll.

"We do not anticipate big swings in the short term since we believe it is going to be a peaceful election. We do not see any risks of institutional crisis or violence, as happened in the United States when Biden started his term," said Ronaldo Patah, chief investment officer at UBS Wealth Management Brazil.

Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a leftist, is seen winning 44% in a first-round vote against incumbent far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's 34%, a Genial/Quaest poll published on Wednesday showed.

Almost all emerging markets currencies were expected to weaken or at best stay at their current levels in the next three months, as the U.S. central bank's monetary policy tightening enhances the dollar's position as a safe-haven asset.

But a relatively stable outlook for the Brazilian currency could change after January 2023, when the winner of the presidential election is due to present a new fiscal framework for the country, Patah added.

In one year, the real was forecast to trade 0.9% higher at 5.20 per U.S. dollar, according to the median estimate of 28 foreign-exchange strategists who were polled Sept. 1-6.

Reflecting nervousness over the real's future path, seven of 14 respondents who answered a separate question on the currency's risks said they were tilted to expect further weakness. Five saw upside risks and two considered them balanced.

"Brazil's central bank seems done with monetary tightening, so further Fed fund rate hikes will reduce faster the gap and in the short run may start to affect foreign currency inflows," noted Mauricio Nakahodo, senior economist at MUFG.

Analysts expect further Fed rate hikes and see the U.S. central bank's benchmark overnight interest rate to be in the 3.25%-3.50% range by the end of this year, one percentage point higher than the current rate.

Mexico's peso was expected to drop 3.9% to 20.85 per U.S. dollar in one year, despite analysts persistently raising inflation forecasts and reinforcing bets that policymakers would keep raising the central bank's key policy rate.

## EU, U.S. Step Up Russian Aluminium, Nickel Imports Since Ukraine War

LONDON (Dispatches) - The European Union and United States have ramped up buying key industrial metals from Russia, data showed, despite logistical problems spurred by the war in Ukraine and tough talk about starving Moscow of foreign exchange revenue.

The metal shipments highlight the West's difficulty in pressuring Russia's economy, which has performed better than expected and seen its rouble currency surge as buoyant oil revenue has helped offset the impact of sanctions.

EU and U.S. imports of Russia's main base metal products aluminium and nickel during March-June increased by as much as 70%, official trade data compiled by Reuters from the United Nations Comtrade database show.

The total value of EU and U.S. imports of the two metals from March to June were \$1.98 billion, the data showed.

The West has imposed repeated waves of sanctions on a wide range of Russian products, people and institutions, but has largely spared the industrial metals sector.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson said in response to a query from Reuters: "Although we don't preview our sanctions actions, nothing is off the table to increase the price on Putin's unjustified war against Ukraine."

The European Commission did not provide a comment after a request.

Analysts said the United States and Europe have learned lessons after huge disruption on construction, auto and power sectors caused by sanctions imposed by former U.S. President Donald Trump on Russian aluminium 2018.

Those sanctions were lifted the following year.



Prices of both metals surged to record peaks shortly after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 on fears that sanctions or difficult logistics would block shipments.

But those fears were unfounded, since the data show Russian exports during March to June were relatively strong.

"Market mechanisms are working," said Julius Baer analyst Carsten Menke, referring to Russian metals shipments.

"We know from commodity traders it's mainly a question of the price. It's not so much about some politician not wanting you to buy, but is there a deal here."

Russia's Rusal is the world's largest aluminium producer outside China and accounts for about 6% of estimated world production.

During the four months following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the EU was the biggest importer of unwrought aluminium from Russia, pulling in an average of 78,207 tonnes a month in March-June, 13% more than the same period last year.

Rotterdam, Europe's largest port, said in a report total volumes rose 0.8% in the first half of 2022, but "break bulk" - cargo that does not fit in containers -- rose sharply by 17.7%, driven by higher imports of metals.

A port spokesperson told Reuters that shipments of aluminium and nickel were still arriving in the port since they are not sanctioned, but declined to give any figures.

## India's Future Crude Oil Supplies To Mostly Come From PG



MILAN (Dispatches) - India's minister of petroleum and natural gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, said most of his country's crude oil supplies in the near future will come from the Persian Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iraq, as it seeks a secure and affordable energy base.

Indian refiners have been snapping up relatively cheap Russian oil, shunned by Western companies and countries since sanctions were imposed against Moscow for what it calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine.

India's imports from Russian oil rose by 4.7 times, or more than 400,000 barrels per day, in April-May, but fell in July.

Crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia by the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer rose in July by more than 25% after Saudi Arabia lowered the official selling price in June and July compared with May. Saudi Arabia stayed at the No. 3 spot among India's suppliers.

"As far as India is concerned, I see for the foreseeable future much of our crude oil supplies will be coming from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, among others," Puri told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of the Gastech conference in Milan.

Although oil imports from Russia declined by 7.3% in July from the June levels, Moscow remained the country's second biggest oil supplier after Iraq.

Puri said that by the end of the fiscal year on March 31, 2022, India's purchases from Russia represented only 0.2%, but rose later as the global situation became "problematic".



## Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia To Hold Trilateral Meeting

TEHRAN (IP) - The Minister of Roads and Urban Development of Iran, at the head of a delegation, traveled to Baku to attend the tripartite meeting of Iran, Azerbaijan Republic, and Russia regarding the North-South Corridor and the completion of the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway.

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is considered one of the essential transit routes connecting western and southern Asia regions. The

INSTC was set up by three states of Russia, India, and Iran in September 2000 to promote transportation cooperation. Rostam Ghasemi, Minister of Roads and Urban Development of Iran, said: Iran has a railway from Shahid Rajaei port, the southernmost point of the country, to Rasht in the north of the country, and now there are 162 kilometers of the railway from Rasht to Astara left, the completion and construction of which is one of the most critical issues in a 3-way meeting.



## G7 Company Emissions Falling Short of Global Climate Goal

LONDON 9Dispatches) - Companies in the Group of Seven (G7) economies are failing to meet Paris Climate Agreement objectives, non-profit disclosure platform CDP and global management consultancy Oliver Wyman said, based on current corporate pledges to cut emissions.

Under the global 2015 Paris deal, countries agreed to cut greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (°C) and aim to keep the rise below 1.5°C, which scientists say would avert some of its worst effects.

Across the G7, which consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, corporate emissions targets are overall on a 2.7°C warming trajectory, CDP and Oliver Wyman analysis showed.

“It is not acceptable for any country, let alone the world’s most advanced economies, to have industries displaying so little collective ambition,” Laurent Babikian, Global Director of Capital Markets at CDP, said in a statement.

“Momentum is growing, but as we approach COP27, we must get our 1.5°C goal off life support,” he added.

Collective emissions of U.S. and Canadian firms are seen matching the pace of decarbonisation required to restrict global warming to 2.8°C and 3.1°C, respectively, with the study stating that it is “largely the result of companies completely lacking targets, rather than targets that lack ambition”.

The study revealed that firms in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands had the most ambitious targets to lower emissions in the G7, as they align with 2.2°C on average, while France is at 2.3°C and the United Kingdom at 2.6°C.

“The analysis highlights big differences in ambition and willingness across companies to take a lead with their targets, and the urgent need to spread best practices



further and faster,” Partner, Financial Services at Oliver Wyman James Davis said.

Nearly 200 countries will convene at COP27 climate summit in Egypt next November, after what has been for many a devastating summer of drought, heatwaves and other climate-linked extremes.

## Climate Change Could Devastate Mideast, East Mediterranean

NICOSIA (Dispatches) - Climate change could have a devastating effect on the lives of millions in the East Mediterranean and Middle East, where temperatures are rising nearly twice as fast as the global average, an international team of scientists warned.

The region could see an overall warming of up to 5 degrees Celsius or more by the end of the century on a business-as-usual scenario, a report prepared by the Cyprus Institute said.

That temperature spike was almost twice that anticipated in other areas of the planet, and faster than any other inhabited parts of the world, it said.

The report, prepared under the auspices of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and the Climate and Atmosphere Research Center of The Cyprus Institute, will be submitted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) taking place in Egypt in November.

A combination of reduced rainfall and weather warming will contribute to severe droughts, compromising water and food security, with many countries unprepared for rising sea levels, one expert said.

“This (scenario) would imply severe challenges for coastal infrastructure and agriculture, and can lead to the salinization of coastal aquifers, including the densely populated and cultivated Nile Delta,” said Dr. George Zittis of the Cyprus Institute, an author of the report.

Meeting the main targets of the Paris Agreement, a global pact of countries to cut emissions, could stabilize the annual temperature increase to about 2 degrees Celsius.

Scientists recommend rapid implementation of decarbonization actions with a particular emphasis on the energy and transportation sectors.

“Since many of the regional outcomes of climate change are transboundary, stronger collaboration among the countries is indispensable to cope with the expected adverse impacts,” said Jos Lelieveld, director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, institute professor at the Cyprus Institute, and coordinator of the assessment.

## Iran Continues Efforts to Establish Ceasefire in Ukraine

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran’s top diplomat told his South African counterpart that Iran continues efforts to establish a ceasefire in Ukraine.

In a phone call, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor discussed bilateral relations and several regional and international issues.

Stressing the importance of the African continent in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Amirabdollahian emphasized the Iranian government’s resolve to develop relations with this continent, especially with South Africa.

Referring to the preparations for holding the 15th Joint Economic Commission of the two countries, Amirabdollahian expressed hope that the many opportunities and capacities of the two countries will be exploited more.

He also added that Iran is ready to strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest to both Iranian and South African parties.

Turning to the issue of Palestine, the top Iranian diplomat appreciated South Africa’s stance on the Palestinian issue and its policy of supporting the oppressed Palestinian people.

Regarding the ongoing war in Ukraine, Amirabdollahian stated, “We continue our efforts to establish a ceasefire in Ukraine, and our principled position is to oppose war and end the crisis in Ukraine through political means.”

Naledi Pandor, for her part, pointed to the important position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its important capacities and appreciated the efforts to hold the new round of the Joint Economic Commission of the two countries.

She also emphasized the importance of implementing the agreements of the Joint Commission.

While pointing to the important role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in mediating the Ukraine crisis, South Africa’s foreign minister stressed, “The ceasefire is important for all parties and the international community, because the consequences of this war have caused a food and energy crisis in some countries, and we hope that the concerns of Russia and Ukraine will be resolved through negotiations.”

She also expressed hope that Iran’s nuclear negotiations will be concluded at the earliest time.

The top South African diplomat also invited the Iranian President to visit her country on behalf of the President of South Africa.

## Farabi Int’l Award Calls for Research Works

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is going to hold the 14th edition of Farabi International Award (FIA) on Humanities and Islamic Studies and called on researchers around the world to submit their research pieces to the secretariat of the event.

FIA is held annually by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with Iran’s National Elite Foundation and the Institute for Social and Cultural Studies of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in two national and international sections.

The international section is aimed at encouraging and introducing top researches to the international community to identify top talents, top scientific works and theories, new methods, and projects in three fields of “Iranian Studies”, “Islamic Studies” and “Theistic Sciences,” according to the announcement.

Eligible researchers will be awarded in two categories of “Leading Figure” and “Top Research”.

## Gov’t Announces Conditional Rise in Guaranteed Purchase Price of Wheat

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran’s agriculture minister has announced a conditional increase in the annual guaranteed purchase price (GPP) of domestically-supplied wheat.

Seyyed Javad Sadatinejad said on Thursday that the government will purchase wheat from local farmers at a GPP of 130,000 rials (\$0.43) per kilogram in the harvesting season that will begin in early April 2022.

He said the price will include a sum of 115,000 rials per kg for the wheat purchased from the farmers in addition to a payment of 15,000 per kg in “cultivation subsidy” paid for the crop harvested from each hectare of land.

Iran’s GPP for wheat is normally announced in September to encourage farmers to allocate more lands to wheat cultivation. However, the government decided to double the price in March this year to 105,000 rials plus 10,000 rials per kg in supportive payment after international grain prices soared because of a war between Russia and Ukraine.

That comes as global prices dropped in July after Ukraine and Russia reached an agreement to allow grain shipments to sail from several Black Sea ports.

Sadatinejad said the Iranian government had spent 820 trillion rials (\$2.73 billion) on purchase of more than 7 million metric tons (mt) of wheat from Iranian farmers over the four months to late July. He said major increase in wheat GPP this year had caused the dry-land farming area allocated to the crop in the Iran to increase by 1.5 million hectares, as he estimated that some five million hectares of dry-land fields will be cultivated with wheat for the next harvesting season.

The minister said wheat crop purchase from domestic famers in Iran is expected to increase to nearly 9 million mt next year, adding that current Iranian wheat inventories are at more than 11 million mt.

Moratoria to Stop...  
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“The international community must hold the NWSs responsible and accountable by implementing this legal obligation and refrain from any activity inconsistent with that obligation,” she added.

The Iranian diplomat stressed the need to apply the approach to the Middle East “where the Israeli regime, as the sole possessor of all types of WMDs, poses the most serious threat to regional peace, security and stability.”

She criticized lack of implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the world 26 years after its signature.

Ershadi said the international community has been and continues to be adamant about ending nuclear tests, adding that achieving this noble goal relies on the political will of the nuclear weapon states.

She noted that Iran regrets the delay in halting nuclear tests and considers it a major reason for the failure of the 10th NPT review conference.

“Should these calls be effective, these ominous tests would not have been utilized for the production, proliferation and even use of nuclear weapons. After all, the world, including the NWSs, should have taken note of the devastating consequences of nuclear tests that are nearly identical to the actual use of nuclear weapons,” the Iranian envoy said.

She highlighted the importance and necessity of “putting an end to all nuclear tests for not only the sake of humanity and its future generations but also mother Earth.”

She said the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was a “right step in the right direction” and the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

U.S., UK...  
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The remarks came after the United States’ National Security Council and the British Foreign Office echoed accusations thrown earlier by Albania against Iran of conducting cyberattacks against the southern European country’s infrastructures.

Tirana said it was cutting its diplomatic relations with Iran based on the baseless claim. Tehran has denounced the Albanian government’s decision as “shortsighted, injudicious, and lacking in foresight”.

The Islamic Republic has identified the US, the Israeli regime, and the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), an anti-Iran terrorist group that has been hosted by Albania since 2016, as the “third parties” that have propelled Tirana into taking the decision.

Iran Dismisses...  
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“They should not expect Iran to be open to inspections beyond the Safeguards Agreement when they do not fulfill their obligations and while their oppressive sanctions against the Iranian nation continue,” the AEOI spokesman pointed out.

In its latest report, the IAEA said on Wednesday that Iran’s stock of uranium enriched to up to 60 percent purity has grown to well above the amount that is enough for a nuclear bomb, if enriched further.

Tehran’s measures come in response to the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA in 2018. Pulling out Washington from the 2015 deal, then-president Donald Trump imposed severe economic sanctions against Iran in what he called “maximum pressure policy” in a bid to reach a “better deal.”

Iran says it has enriched uranium to a purity of 20-percent, using a cascade of advanced centrifuges it launched two weeks ago.

Iran waited for a year to see if the other signatories to the deal can safeguard its economic interests. Seeing no practical measure, Iran started reducing commitments to the JCPOA in May 2019 in clear and pre-announced steps and under the supervision of the IAEA.

Tehran Calls for...  
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Najafi reminded the UN official that Iran is one of the greatest victims of the chemical weapons usage in contemporary history, reiterating that the objectives of the convention to ban the usage of chemical weapons cannot be achieved unless the entire stockpiles of the chemical weapons will be annihilated and those countries that are outside that convention will also join it.

Russia-Iran...  
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According to the Iranian official, the establishment of the first trade center of Iran in Russia is expected to be an important step towards materializing the outlook of eight billion dollars trade in the next two years.

He further said that the two countries are determined to increase the volume of economic ties, so the trade center can organize coordination and cooperation concerning the expansion of connections and the set-up of several exhibitions.

For his part, Chairman of the Central Union of Consumer Societies of the Russian Federation Dmitry Zubov said that the trade center can pave the way for signing contracts and procuring documents as well as providing legal support when it comes to mutual economic cooperation between Russians and Iranians.

China...  
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Wang also rejected unilateralism in the international arena, voiced support for Iran’s reasonable demands within the course of nuclear negotiations, and stressed that Iran is entitled to enjoy its legal rights.

On Wednesday, Amirabdollahian said Iran would not budge even “an iota” on its red lines during the ongoing talks in Vienna.

The top diplomat assured that while partaking in the talks, the Iranian government was carefully observing the lines that have been drawn by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei towards neutralization of the sanctions in parallel with the negotiation process.



## Pickford Faces Four Weeks Out With Thigh Injury

LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford has been ruled out for up to four weeks after a suffering a thigh injury during the Merseyside derby against Liverpool at the weekend, the Premier League club said.

Pickford, 28, will miss league games against Arsenal on Saturday and West Ham United next week, as well as England's Nations League fixtures against Italy and Germany.

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## UEFA Investigate Behavior of Juventus Fans

PARIS (Dispatches) - UEFA has opened an investigation into alleged discriminatory behavior by Juventus fans in their 2-1 Champions League defeat by Paris St Germain at the Parc des Princes, European football's governing body said.

Footage on social media appeared to show travelling supporters of the Italian side making Nazi salutes and monkey gestures during their Group H opener, which PSG won thanks to a first-half double from Kylian Mbappe.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

# Liverpool Trounced By Napoli in Champions League

PARIS (Dispatches) - Last season's beaten finalists Liverpool got their Champions League campaign off to a disastrous start in a 4-1 defeat away to Napoli on Wednesday, while Robert Lewandowski hit a hat-trick in a big win for Barcelona.

Tottenham Hotspur and Bayern Munich also got their campaigns underway with victories, but Rangers were crushed 4-0 by Ajax in the Netherlands on their return to the group phase of Europe's elite club competition.

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool have won just two of their first six Premier League games this season and there was to be no improvement on their trip to Italy as Napoli raced into an early lead and never looked back.

Piotr Zielinski converted a fifth-minute penalty, and Victor Osimhen then had a second Napoli spot-kick saved by Alisson Becker.

Yet Napoli — who had defeated Liverpool in their own stadium in the group stage in 2018 and in 2019 — were 3-0 up at the break as Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa's fine finish was followed by a tap-in from substitute Giovanni Simeone.

Liverpool fell further behind two minutes into the second half as Zielinski followed up to score after his initial effort was saved, but Luis Diaz did pull a goal back.

"We were miles too open. You can't come to a place like this and not be compact. They were by miles the better team," Liverpool left-back Andy Robertson told BT Sport.

The six-time European Cup winners' next Group A outing is at home to Ajax, who could have won by more than four at home to Rangers, last season's Europa League finalists playing in the Champions League group stage for the first time since 2010.

Edson Alvarez headed Ajax in front before a Steven Berghuis shot deflected in and a superb individual strike from Mohammed Kudus made it 3-0 to Ajax by half-time.

Steven Bergwijn pounced on a poor backpass to seal the victory late on in Amsterdam, leaving Rangers manager Giovanni van Bronckhorst to give a bleak assessment of his side's prospects.

Lewandowski became the first player to score a Champions League hat-trick for three different clubs as the ex-Borussia Dortmund



and Bayern star marked his first appearance in the competition with Barcelona in style.

The Catalans crushed Czech champions Viktoria Plzen 5-1 in Group C, with Franck Kessie heading in the opener before Lewandowski made it 2-0.

Jan Sykora pulled one back only for Lewandowski to score again before half-time and then fire in his third goal midway through the second half.

The Pole now has 89 Champions League goals, three more than Karim Benzema, with only Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi ahead of him.

Ferran Torres scored the fifth for Barca, whose next game will be away to Lewandowski's old side Bayern.

The Germans claimed an impressive 2-0 win away to Inter Milan on Wednesday, with Leroy Sane rounding Andre Onana for the first-half opener and then forcing Danilo D'Ambrosio into a 66th-minute own goal.

Antonio Conte's Tottenham struggled to break down Marseille in north London until the French side had Chancel Mbemba sent off just after half-time.

Richarlison scored the opener in the 76th minute, heading in Ivan Perisic's cross, and the Brazilian headed in again soon after to make it 2-0.

Also in Group D, Sporting Lisbon scored three second-half goals to win 3-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt, with former Spurs youngster Marcus Edwards, Francisco Trincao and Nuno Santos all on target.

In Group B, Antoine Griezmann headed the winner in the 11th minute of injury time as Atletico Madrid beat Porto 2-1.

In an incredible finish, Porto had Mehdi Taremi sent off late on before Mario Hermoso put Atletico ahead with a deflected 92nd-minute strike.

Hermoso then conceded a penalty for handball, allowing Matheus Uribe to equalise in the 96th minute, only for Griezmann to have the last laugh.

The only other game in Champions League history to feature three goals scored in stoppage time was Porto's meeting with Atletico in December last year.

In the same group Abakar Sylla's header was spilled over the line by the goalkeeper to give Club Brugge a 1-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen.

## Benzema Facing Weeks out After Injury At Celtic

MADRID (Dispatches) - Karim Benzema is facing weeks sidelined with a right thigh injury suffered in Real Madrid's winning start to the defence of their Champions League crown at Celtic.

The France striker hobbled off after half an hour of Tuesday's game at Parkhead with Real running out the impressive 3-0 winners.

Real manager Carlo Ancelotti initially downplayed the seriousness of Benzema's injury after the game in Glasgow.

But after medical tests back in Madrid on Wednesday the club released a statement diagnosing "an injury to the semitendinosus tendon and a strain to the quadriceps muscle in his right thigh".

"His recovery will continue to be assessed," the statement added.

Spanish sports daily Marca predicted Benzema would be out of action for up to three weeks.

That means the favourite to win next month's Ballon d'Or will miss the La Liga clash with Real Mallorca, the Champions League home game against Leipzig, the capital derby with Atletico and teaming up with his French World Cup winning teammates in the international window at the end of this month.

Marca suggest he is setting his sights on a return against Osasuna on October 2.

France are due to face Austria on September 22 and Denmark three days later in the Nations League as part of their preparations for the 2022 World Cup kicking off in Qatar in November.

## Pegula Deflated After Losing Third Grand Slam Quarters

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Jessica Pegula's U.S. Open run was halted by Iga Swiatek, marking the third time this year the American lost in the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam to a world number one.

Pegula, 28, reached the last eight of the Australian Open at the start of the year where she went down in straight sets to top-ranked Ash Barty.

She then lost at the same stage of the French Open to Swiatek, who had inherited the world number one ranking from Barty following the Australian's retirement.

Pegula said her 6-3 7-6(4) defeat by Swiatek on Wednesday "sucks" and that she was unsure if she should be happy with her deep runs at the Grand Slam events.

"Honestly, I don't know. I go back and forth. Oh, I should be positive. At the same time I'm like, three quarter-finals," said Pegula, the daughter of billionaire Terry Pegula, who owns the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres.

"I wish I could have done it here at my home Slam, but I guess not," Pegula told reporters, sipping from a can of beer.

"I wish I didn't have to play Iga every quarter-final or Ash Barty, which seem to be the two people that don't really lose that often."

## Mercedes Expect Monza To Be Better for Than Spa

LONDON (Dispatches) - Mercedes expect to fare better at Italy's high-speed Monza circuit this weekend than at Spa-Francorchamps in August, but not as strongly as in last Sunday's Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort.

Seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton described qualifying for the high-speed Belgian Grand Prix as a 'kick in the teeth' after a lap 1.8 seconds slower than Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen.

Reigning champions Mercedes, yet to win this season, were much more competitive at tighter Zandvoort, with Hamilton leading for a while and George Russell finishing second to Verstappen.

## Kyrgios Fined \$14,000 for US Open Racquet Meltdown



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Nick Kyrgios was fined \$14,000 for his spectacular double racquet smashing tantrum at the end of his US Open defeat to Karen Khachanov.

The Australian violently crushed two racquets into the surface of the Arthur Ashe Stadium after his five-set quarter-final loss on Tuesday.

It was Kyrgios's fifth sanction of the tournament after he was earlier punished for bad language and spitting.

His fines totalled US\$32,500 although the sum will only cause a small dent in his total prize money of \$445,000.

Wimbledon runner-up Kyrgios was seen as a potential champion in New York but his 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 loss to Russia's Khachanov left him "devastated".

"Just feel like it was either winning it all or nothing at all, to be honest," said Kyrgios. "I feel like I've just failed at this event right now. That's what it feels like."

## Chelsea Appoint Graham Potter as New Manager

LONDON (Dispatches)- Graham Potter was appointed as Chelsea's new manager on Thursday after leaving Brighton to replace the sacked Thomas Tuchel at Stamford Bridge.

Potter has agreed a five-year contract to take charge of the Premier League club, who praised his "progressive football and innovative coaching".

The 47-year-old earned widespread admiration for his work at Brighton.

He led Brighton to a ninth-place finish last season and took them up to fourth in the table this term, while demanding entertaining and tactically astute performances from his players.

Potter's first game as Chelsea boss will be a derby at west London neighbours Fulham on Saturday. "I am incredibly proud and excited to represent Chelsea FC, this fantastic football club," said the Englishman.

"I am very excited to partner with Chelsea's new ownership group and look forward to meeting and working with the exciting group of players and to develop a team and culture that our amazing fans can be proud of.

"I would also like to place my sincere thanks to Brighton and Hove Albion for allowing me this opportunity."

Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly, who axed Tuchel just seven games into the new season, believes Potter will fit perfectly with his vision for the future at Stamford Bridge.



## Tiafoe Reaches US Open Semis

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Frances Tiafoe of the United States defeated Andrey Rublev in straight sets to power into the semi-finals of the US Open.

Tiafoe, aiming to become the first African-American man to win the US Open since Arthur Ashe in 1968, put on a scintillating performance to defeat Russian ninth seed Rublev 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/0), 6-4 in 2hr 36min. It was another superb giant-killing performance from the 24-year-old Tiafoe, who had eliminated Spanish legend Rafael Nadal in the fourth round on Tuesday.

Tiafoe, seeded 22nd, will face either Spanish third seed Carlos Alcaraz or Jannik Sinner in the last four on Friday.

"Man this is wild, this is crazy," Tiafoe said after his victory at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. "Having the biggest win of my life 24 hours ago and coming out and getting another big win. Andrey's a hell of a player, so to back it up is huge growth.

"Tough to turn the page but I did and now I'm in the semis...I always find a way somehow on this court. Let's enjoy this one — we've got two more guys, two more." Tiafoe's victory was founded on a rock-solid service game and a mastery of the key moments.

The American hammered down 18 aces and was never broken once against Rublev, who was aiming to reach his first Grand Slam semi-final after five previous quarter-final exits.

Crucially, Rublev was unable to take any of four break points that came his way during a high-quality contest settled by fine margins.

