

China Southern Airlines Will Resume Service to Iran as of Sunday October 9 by relaunching Flights between Urumqi Diwopu International Airport (URC) and Imam Khomeini International Airport

IRAN NEWS

Health Ministry Announced on Sunday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 144,178 With 24 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

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Iran-EAEU Trade Value Hits Over \$1.3b in 5 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) – President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) put the trade value exchanged between Iran and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in the first five months of the current year at over \$1.3 billion.

Alireza Moghaddasi said that Iran and EAEU value of trade from March 21 to August 21 registered a 30 percent hike as compared to the same period of last year.

He then put the value of trade exchanged between Iran and EAEU member states in the first five months of the current year at \$1,326,394,000.

IRICA president also pointed to the salient measures taken by his administration in line with the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Iran and EAEU to increase the volume of foreign trade among its members, saying that Iran took three measures in three intra-organizational-, national- and international sections which led to the significant 30 percent growth in bilateral trade in this period.

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European Troika Statement Regarding JCPOA Unconstructive, Lacks Goodwill



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman says a statement the European troika regarding the talks over the revival of the Iran nuclear deal is unconstructive and is in breach of goodwill.

Nasser Kanaani said it is surprising and regrettable that under the current circumstances when diplomatic interactions and exchange of messages continue between the negotiating sides and the coordinator of the Vienna talks to finalize the negotiations, the European troika issues such a communiqué in a move that deviates from the path of the fruitful approach during the talks.

France, Britain and Germany on Saturday said they had "serious doubts" about Iran's intentions to revive a nuclear deal. Kanaani warned the European sides against being influenced by propaganda waged by third parties that were against the negotiations from the very beginning and are now making their utmost to cause the talks to fail.

He added that it is unfortunate that with their ill-advised statement, the three European countries are following in the footsteps of the Zionist regime to push the talks toward failure, and obviously, if this approach continues, they should also accept responsibility for its consequences.

Kanaani pointed to the European sides' "improper and politically-motivated" action to pave the way for the anti-Iran resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman advised the European troika to play a more active role in order to resolve the remaining issues instead of trying to scuttle the process of the negotiations.

Kanaani underlined the need to avoid politicizing the nuclear matter and making baseless accusations against Iran, saying it's regrettable that the European troika on the one hand throws their full support behind Israel that possesses hundreds of atomic warheads and is not committed to any non-proliferation regime and on the other hand wages a propaganda against Iran's peaceful nuclear program that has been subject to the most thorough inspections.

He underscored Iran is still ready and resolved to finalize a deal and believes that if the other sides have the required determination and avoid being influenced by outside pressures, it is possible to swiftly reach an agreement.

Meanwhile an advisor to the Iranian negotiating team says European countries are not impartial in the nuclear talks, warning that any delay in an agreement on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal will worsen European countries' problems.

Mohammad Marandi told al-Mayadeen news network that the European troika and the US know that Iran's nuclear program is civilian.

Marandi said they are allies and this is why Iran cannot trust them.

He said France, Germany and the UK "clearly" do not want Iran's case at the International Atomic Energy Agency to be closed down and the IAEA chief is also one of their allies.

Marandi added that Iran wants an agreement that safeguards its interests. He further warned that Europeans need the nuclear agreement more than Iran does, because they need natural gas for fuel.

The advisor warned that Iran will sell its oil and natural gas one way or the other and will also access the relevant funds. His comments come after the European trio in a statement called on Iran to drop its demand for the IAEA to end its investigations into the alleged uranium particles found in three Iranian sites.

The troika said the demand goes against Iran's obligations and endangers the whole process of the nuclear talks.

Iran says the allegations go back before the 2015 nuclear deal and are null and void as it closed the case of the so-called possible military dimensions to the country's nuclear activities.

India, Iran Close to Finalizing a Long-Term Agreement on Chabahar Port

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India and Iran are close to finalizing a long-term agreement and this seems to be taken at a time when China's interest in investing in ports and other coastal infrastructure has increased.

Earlier this year, India, Afghanistan, and Iran had mutually agreed upon a set of trilateral agreements which is known as the Chabahar agreement.

The terms of the agreement would allow India access to Afghanistan via the Iranian port of Chabahar which is on the Gulf of Oman.

India exporting goods directly to Afghanistan without going through Pakistan, thereby making things a lot easier since the relationship between the two countries has been in a fragile state due to territorial disputes.

It could also lessen the time and cost of doing business with Europe and Central Asia.

India and Iran first approached the idea of Indian access to the port in 2003 and had both agreed to develop the port together and co-exist.

The whole agenda came to a standstill because of the western sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program and the friendly relations that developed between India and the United States.

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ViewPoint E3 Needs To Be Independent

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

For more than a decade, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been busy with settling its peaceful nuclear issue with world powers and it seems this story does not want to end and everyday a new pretext or bully is raised by the Western countries and especially in recent months through European countries, remaining in the nuclear deal which has been signed in 2015 and has been actually useless especially from the moment former U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the deal.

Since the day new government in Iran took office, the talks have been resumed for revival of this almost one-sided agreement for return of the U.S. to it under their current President Joe Biden Administration but it seems the talks are reaching a deadlock because of the Zionist regime's influence and lack of independence of 3 European signatories of the JCPOA.

Every day the Western signatories raise some claim and demand which creates hurdle in way of revival of the deal and it is natural that Iran rejects them because Iran will not retreat from its rights and logical demands and therefore Western sides resort to threat for increasing pressure on Tehran to bring it to the negotiation table to sign what the West demands.

On Friday the Western side issued a statement and warned Iran and urged Iran to bow down to their excessive demands.

Reacting to this statement, Iran slammed the latest "unconstructive and ill-considered" statement issued by the three European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal, saying the E3 must accept the consequences if it continues to follow Israel's lead.

"It is regrettable that by [issuing] such an ill-considered statement, the three European countries (France, Britain and Germany) have followed in the footsteps of the Zionist regime down a path that will lead to the failure of negotiations," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

"It is obvious that if such an approach continues, the E3 should also accept responsibility for its consequences," he added.

Kanaani warned the European trio against being swayed by third parties who have been against the negotiations and are now making their utmost effort to derail the talks.

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Iran to Sign SCO Obligations Document Next Week

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Iran is to sign a binding document next week that will put the country on a direct path to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a powerful bloc of countries that include Russia and China, says a Russian official.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the official Tass news agency on Saturday that Iranian delegation attending the SCO summit in the Uzbek city of Samarkand on September 15-16 will sign the organization's Memorandum of Obligations.

The signing of the document will tie Iran to the SCO's international treaties and will kick-start a process that will end in Iran's full SCO membership in April 2023.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi is expected to travel to Samarkand next week where he will be joined by heads of state from 14 other countries and heads of 10 international organizations.

The SCO is comprised of Russia, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Iran, along with Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia, has been an observer state of the bloc.

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Iran, Russia to Develop Cooperation in Manuscripts

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Vice minister of culture and Islamic guidance Yaser Ahmadvand and head of Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in Russia Irina F. Popova stressed developing cooperation in manuscripts. Ahmadvand also met with prominent Iranologists and Islamologists in Russia. Addressing the event, Ahmadvand lauded valuable experiences, especially for the restoration of manuscripts and bibliography in Iran. He noted that the Ministry Culture and Islamic Guidance is ready to provide necessary supports in this regard. Meanwhile, Popova offered readiness to cooperate with Iran.

Speaker Blasts U.S., Israel, Saudi Arabia Over Yemen War

TEHRAN (PressTV) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf says the United States, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, having failed to see the indomitable spirit of the Yemeni people when they launched the ill-considered war on the Arab country, are now resorting to economic pressure to bring down the Yemenis.

In a Saturday meeting with Mohammed Abdul-Salam, spokesman of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement, Qalibaf also drew a comparison between the current situation in Yemen and the developments in Iran following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

"The Zionist regime, the U.S., and the Saudis believed that they would succeed in bringing the Yemeni nation to its knees within three months, but they did not know that the spirit of the Yemeni people is identical to that of the Iranian people during the Islamic Revolution," he said.

He was making a reference to the ongoing Saudi-led war on Yemen, launched in March 2015 with the aim of dismantling the Ansarullah movement and reinstalling Yemen's former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi with full support from the United States, the regime in Tel Aviv, and European powers.

Pointing to Riyadh's tight siege on Yemen, which has accompanied the kingdom's military aggression, Qalibaf said the "enemies are shifting the war toward an economic war" with the goal of disheartening the people.

He then called on the Yemeni people to boost their spirit of courage, patience, and resistance even further in order to overcome the difficulties.

The Iranian parliament speaker said the Resistance Front can defeat the enemies as long as they can increase their power, "since the Zionist regime and the US only understand the language of force."

"I am not just talking about military [power], but rather, what I mean is creating power in all its dimensions so as to force the enemy to retreat," he added.

Qalibaf also reaffirmed Iran's "full support" for Yemen's independence and the intra-Yemeni peace talks as a "religious and humane responsibility."

For his part, Abdul-Salam said the Islamic Republic has held a wise stance toward the



people of Yemen. "Our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are important for us."

He said Yemen is in a better position than the other parties to the war and "even in our conversations with different parties, we feel that they understand that Yemen is progressing and moving forward."

"We are currently in a stronger position than our enemies, both militarily and in terms of the state of organization and administration of government affairs, and it was by God's grace that we were able to achieve good results despite the war," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Yemeni official said Ansarullah agreed to the UN-brokered ceasefire in the midst of a tough war in Ma'rib province and as the Yemeni forces had managed to free 13 towns in the province. This happened while "the Americans and the Saudis considered Ma'rib as a US province," he added.

He also criticized the intense pressures inflicted on the Yemeni people by the Saudi-led coalition, saying if the economic siege against Yemen continues, the Arab country may reconsider the truce, which was extended on August 2 until October.

"Our view regarding the ceasefire is that the siege must end and foreign forces must leave Yemen," he said. "Until these goals are achieved, the ceasefire must not be further extended."

"We know that the enemy wants to push us into a state of stagnation in order to defeat us, but our nation will stand against their excessive demands, and we will not allow them to destroy our country," he asserted.

Tanabandeh Wins Best Actor Award At Venice's Horizons Section

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Mohsen Tanabandeh on Saturday won the Orizzonti (Horizons) award for best actor at the 79th Venice International Film Festival in Italy.

Tanabandeh was awarded the prize in the Orizzonti section for performing in the film "World War III" by Houman Seyed.

The film tells the story of a worker named Shakib, and played by Tanabandeh, who loses his wife and child in an earthquake, and then meets a deaf girl called Ladan.

Shakib finds work as a builder on a construction site which is actually the set of a film about the atrocities committed by Hitler.



Brazil Envoy, Qom Governor General Stress Expansion of Ties



QOM (IRNA) - Brazil's Ambassador to Iran and Qom Province governor-general met here on Sunday and emphasized expansion of economic relations. Laudemar Gonsalves de Aguiar Neto Mohammad-Taqi Shahcheraqi met on Sunday in Qom.

Mohammad-Taqi Shahcheraqi highlighted Qom city's status as an intellectual and software center for the Islamic Revolution, saying that the Islam being promulgated in Qom is the original narrative and basically different from extremist perceptions of the faith.

The governor-general called for cooperation with Brazil in agriculture and carpet weaving and other local industries of Qom.

Laudemar Gonsalves de Aguiar Neto endorsed Iran's progress in nanotechnology despite sanctions and underscored the Iran-Brazil commerce chamber's capacity to increase trade between the two countries.

Iran, Venezuela to Hold Industrial Exhibition in Mid-Sept

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Venezuela are to hold an industrial exhibition in Caracas on September 14, Venezuelan Ministry of Communication and Information has announced.

The exhibition will be held in line with strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, Venezuelan news agency "EFE" quoted Sunday the communications minister, Freddy Nanez, as writing on his Twitter.

Following his visit to Iran on June 20, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro called for launch of an industrial and technology park with the help of Tehran.

The first group of Venezuelan experts in the area of stem cells are now in Tehran; while Iran-Venezuela industrial exhibition is slated for the next three days.

The experts are to get familiarized with Iranian research experiences and technical knowledge.

Iran-Venezuela scientific, industrial and technological expo fair will be held in Caracas on September 14-18.



Shahid Soleimani Warship to Bring About Strong Iranian Presence in High Seas

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy says the newly unveiled Shahid Soleimani warship will enable the IRGC Navy to establish a "strong presence" in high seas.

Brigadier General Alireza Tangsiri said in remarks publicized on Saturday that the name of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated by the US military in 2020, will resonate through all seas and oceans across the globe with Shahid (martyr) Soleimani warship joining the IRGC Navy' combat fleets.

Tangsiri explained that the homegrown vessel, which is 67 meters long and 18 meters wide, enjoys various features, including stable balance in international waters, carrying helicopters, electronic warfare systems, air defense systems, and missile launchers of different classes.

"Today, with the addition of Martyr Haj Qassem Soleimani vessel to the IRGC Navy's combat organization, the name of this high-ranking martyr resonates through all seas and oceans. They (enemies) will have to call out the name of Martyr Soleimani whenever it is necessary," he said.

He called Shahid Soleimani warship a source of pride for the country, pointing out that every single component of the vessel has been produced by Iranian scientists and technicians in the IRGC and knowledge-based companies. They intended to materialize Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's order to "neutralize the sanctions," he said.

"Shahid Soleimani vessel is a symbol of national production and a source of pride, and more attention must be paid to its construction and production process, because it has been built by the ideas and hands of the Islamic Revolution's children under the harsh conditions of the cowardly sanctions imposed by the arrogant oppressors of the world," he said.

The IRGC Navy unveiled the patrol-combat vessel last Monday, during a ceremony in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas.

Shahid Soleimani military watercraft is equipped with radar-evading stealth technology and has a much higher maneuverability and a much smaller turning radius compared to vessels of the same size, enabling it to implement various offensive and defensive missions. The vessel runs on four indigenous high-power engines, which give it the chance to be quickly dispatched to the designated zone, and go on long-haul maritime missions without the need for coastal support as it defends the interests of the Islamic Republic in the high seas.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Tangsiri said the IRGC Navy's active presence in the Persian Gulf has increased the security of navigation in the area. He also warned against the presence of outsiders in the region.

"We have frankly told the countries of the region that with the help and will of each other, we can establish security in the Persian Gulf region by ourselves, as we have done so far," he said.

The IRGC Navy chief asserted that no extra-regional country must be allowed to gain a foothold in the region on the pretext of establishing security because "foreigners and violators of the rights of the seas and marine life have done nothing but fomenting sedition, plundering nations' wealth, and looting."

Iran's senior generals have repeatedly warned neighboring Persian Gulf countries against inviting outsiders, particularly the United States and the Israeli regime, to the region.

"The presence of Israel in the region is illegitimate," Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said during Shahid Soleimani vessel's unveiling ceremony last Monday.

"It not only does nothing to help [bolster] regional security but also foments insecurity" in the region, Baqeri warned, referring to normalization of ties between some Arab countries and the regime in Tel Aviv.

Iran Fuel Donation Will Be Vital to Its New Energy Plan

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Lebanon's energy minister Walid Fayad says an Iranian fuel donation planned to reach the Arab country in the near future will be vital to Beirut's plans to reform its electricity supply system.

Fayad said that free fuel deliveries from Iran will enable the Lebanese energy ministry to boost its finances by increasing electricity supply to customers in the country.

Fayad made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani, according to a report by the official NNA news agency.

The meeting came two days after reports suggested that Amani had met Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati to extend Iran's offer of free fuel as a gift to Lebanon at a time of economic hardship in the country.

Lebanon has been beset by a severe fuel crisis that has left many households and businesses struggling with recurrent power outages.

Iran supplied free fuel shipments to Lebanon via Syria last year after the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah asked for Iranian help to ease the energy shortage in the country.

Lebanon will take delivery of the free fuel shipments from Iran without being exposed to US sanctions that ban any financial transaction with the Iranian energy sector.

Reports suggest Iran has also offered to carry out repair and construction works in the Lebanese power plants.

Fayad said during the Saturday meeting with Amani that almost all political groups and factions in Lebanon were united in their appreciation of Iran's initiative to donate fuel to the country.

He admitted, however, that Hezbollah Leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah and leader of the Lebanese Free Patriotic Movement Gebran Bassil had been influential in making the initiative a success.

U.S. Anti-Iran Embargo Sign of Misunderstanding Negotiations Logic

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The United States has never opened an avenue for improving talks on the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal; instead, it has imposed new sanctions on a number of Iranian officials, proving that American authorities are deeply unaware of international interactions, an Iranian lawmaker said.

Abbas Moghtadaei, the deputy chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Iranian parliament, said that the fact that the U.S. statesmen are untrustworthy is now fully proven more than ever.

The Americans violated their obligations once, and now they are showing such behaviors, which indicate that they are still unreliable, the legislator warned.

Pointing to the fact that the US infringes international regulations easily, he said that the American authorities look at other countries the same way certain states used to consider other nations as their subordinates in the 18th and 19th centuries and that such a behavior has its roots in the way of thinking of Niccolò Machiavelli and Thomas Hobbes.

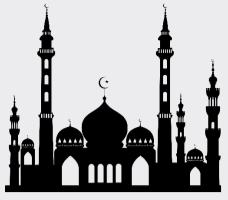
The legislator, who represents Isfahan, noted that Hobbes believes that "man is wolf to man" and Machiavelli also underlined that "The end justifies the means", so the U.S. has resorted to these thinkers' theories in its policies for years.

However, the Islamic Republic of Iran pursues its own path and despite the fact that it has paid a heavy price for the U.S.'s breach of covenant, Tehran has succeeded in achieving a nuclear breakthrough.

The U.S. attempts to utilize international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), entities affiliated with the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and legal associations to maximize its own interests, he argued.

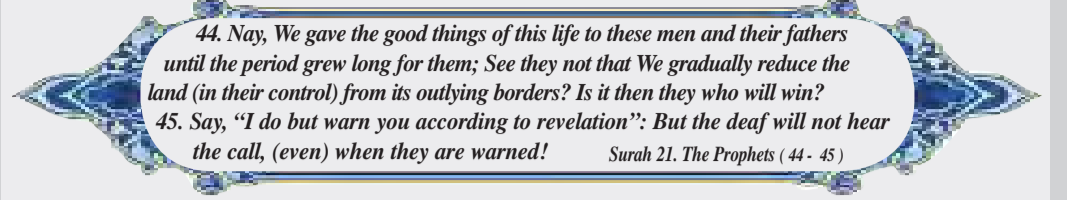
According to the MP, the American officials consider bullying and stealing as parts of their foreign policy, but the Islamic Republic showed that it complies with its commitments under the nuclear deal while it possesses tools to guarantee Iranians' national interests despite the US's violation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The progress of talks in Vienna, Austria, to revive the nuclear accord and lift anti-Iran sanctions has happened because of Iranians' good faith and cooperation up to now, he said, adding that the US understands merely the logic of force, while the Islamic Republic will use its precise tools to make the American authorities find out the changes of time and place.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:00
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:34
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:20
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:45



Iranian Bank Opens Branch in Yerevan

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hervik Yarijanian says an Iranian bank is to open its branch in Yerevan, the capital city of Armenia, and it will boost the trade between the two states.



Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted an Iran-Armenia business forum on Sunday during which the attendees underlined the significant position of Armenia as Iran's only land gateway for entering Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) markets.

Iran's commercial attaché in Yerevan Akbar Godari, Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Yarijanian, and Head of Aras Free Zone Organization Majid Kiani were the key speakers at the mentioned business forum.

Speaking in the forum, Mr. Yarijanian said that 15 countries are neighboring Iran and the trade exchanges between them is around \$1300b while Iran's share of this figure is just 1.4% which is expected the figure to increase.

He pointed to the old and friendly ties of Iran and Armenia and said that there has been the least tension between the two countries and they have enjoyed good coexistence.

He added that good relations of governments have provided good ground for broadening economic relation especially in the private sector, adding that Mellat Bank of Iran has opened its branch in Yerevan two weeks ago and this bank is unique in form and performance.

Elsewhere in the event, Yarijanian pointed to the positive relations between Iran and Armenia and stated: "In the last 30 years, the diplomatic relations between the two countries

and given that Armenia shares Iran's only land border with the Eurasian Economic Union, the development of relations with this country provides enormous economic potential."

Meanwhile Iran's commercial attaché in Yerevan Mr. Godari, for his part, stressed Armenia's unique geopolitical situation among Iran's neighboring countries and said: "Armenia is the only EAEU member with which Iran shares land border, and considering the fact that the country's borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey are currently closed, Armenian market has a lot of potential for Iranian businessmen."

Over the past year since the 13th government has taken office, nine rounds of negotiations have been held between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union, and issues related to the implementation of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two sides have been resolved, Godari said.

"The negotiations are in the legislative stage and will be finalized within the next few months," he announced.

Stating that in the last two years, numerous Iranian company representatives and business delegations have visited Armenia, Godari said: "The market of this country has a big difference with some neighboring countries; in Armenia, products are imported from many countries all around the world, so, Iranian products have to compete with world-class products."

Development Plans Like Repetitive Ceremonies

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Ali Damavand Kenari, a political science educate, believes development plans in the country have become like repetitive ceremonies and they have been unable to put Iran's economy on development track.



In an article Mr. Damavandi Kenari mentioned some points which have caused the development plans not to be effective as they are expected. He wrote one year has passed since the end of the sixth development plan and the custodian bodies like Expediency Council, government and Majlis in a time-consuming process are working on preparation and approval of the seventh development plan. He reiterated that although Iran has more experience in development plans comparing to other Asian countries but its achievements has been insignificant comparing to other states and studies show that the average materialization of development plans from the first to sixth plans has been less than 35% and in other words, the achievements of the development plans has been lower than expectation and these plans have been unable to put Iran's economy on the track of economic development.

He blamed structural problems of economy especially inefficiency in the policymaking in the macro levels as well as massive sanctions as the main reasons for the economic chaos in the country but he reiterated that implementation of development plan has been unable to prevent problems like sanctions and pave the way towards development.

Damavandi Kenari went on to write that some experts believe that one of the important reasons for failure of Iran in planning is lack of a sustainable development-center, adding that in the literature of development, development plan is actually a tool that determines the main economic direction. Weakness in realistic planning and drastic difference between goals and performance of the plan and above all inefficiency in the planning pillars are of the main problems of planning in Iran's economy.

He claimed that the problems of plans in Iran starts from the point where the ambitious and comprehensive plan is written on the paper but no certain method and way for its achievement is defined.

He noted that management system in Iran is challenging with crisis and problems which are the outcomes of bad policy-making and structural problems and this structure and this system of thought should be overhauled.

Damavandi Kenari said that with improving the system of prudence can help Iran's future economy not to be involved in repeating the past unsuccessful experiences of the previous plans.

He reiterated that currently economy and society are both in a critical condition which has been unprecedented in the contemporary history of the country and this condition makes the country choose future policy-makings with smartness and away from repetition of trial of err in order that few existing opportunities would not turn into threat.

He concluded that reform of prudence system and planning needs participation of all experts and elites from all levels of the society which will lead to productivity and constructive interaction with the world and these points should be taken into consideration in preparing the seventh development plan.

Four Developmental Projects of MSC Come on Stream

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – The inauguration ceremony of constructing crushing line and grading as well as primary stone crushing of Mobarakeh Foolad Sang Mining and Industrial Company was held online with presence of the CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) and representative of town of Mobarakeh to Majlis.

According to reports, the project for construction of crushing and grading line with capacity of 350 tons per hour with primary investment of 230b rials came on stream which is aimed at increasing the production capacity of graded limestone. 90% of equipment of this project has been indigenized by the domestic experts and occupation of 85 persons directly or indirectly.

The project for constructing primary stone crushing line with investment around \$900b and capacity with over 700 tons per hour was the other project which came on stream in Mobarakeh Foolad Sang Mining and Industrial Company. The project is aimed at increasing production capacity and sustainable supply of graded limestone and annual production of 5m tons of limestone. Almost 70% of equipment used in the project has been produced by domestic experts and creation of 95 jobs.

Meanwhile simultaneously, the CEO of MSC inaugurated online projects of exploiting silicon iron



ore mine of Davaran of Kerman and red soil iron ore of Koodi in Hormozgan.

The project of Koodi in Hormozgan carried out with investment over 148b tomans on a land around 6 square kilometers. The project for exploiting silicon iron ore mine of Davaran of Kerman was launched with primary investment of 805b rials on an area over 13 kilometers and creating 35 jobs.

All Torches of Isfahan Refinery to Be Shut Down in Next 3 Years

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – The CEO of Isfahan Oil Refinery Company says all torches of Isfahan Refinery will be shut down in the next three years and its gas will be used as fuel inside the refinery and all of ponds in the refinery will be dried in line with protecting environment.

Mohsen Ghadiri pointed to the changes in the fuel-supply system of torches of furnaces in the refinery and said that with the changes in the torches, using gas oil in the



furnaces of refinery is not possible and torches just consume natural gas and in case of need, LPG produced by the refinery is used in the furnaces after turning into natural gas.

He further said that all of these executed projects in Esfahan Oil Refinery Company in the past 43 years have been in line with protecting environment in a way that the company has spent some 1b euros in the mentioned period.

180 Knowledge-Based Companies Ready to Contribute To Fishery Industry

TEHRAN (MNA) - Head of Iran's Fisheries Organization (IFO) Hossein Hosseini said 180 knowledge-based companies have expressed readiness for collaboration with the country's fishery industry, IRIB reported.

Hosseini made the remarks at the inauguration ceremony of the country's first event on innovative, knowledge-based, and job-creating entrepreneurship in the fishery industry on Saturday.

According to the official, the innovative proposals presented by 48 of the mentioned 180 companies are in line with the IFO's development programs so the organization is going to benefit from their capabilities in the near future.

He said the organization is going to provide the said companies with low-interest bank facilities in order to pursue their proposed projects and commercialize their achievements.

As reported, the first event on innovative, knowledge-based, and job-creating entrepreneurship in the fishery industry covered a variety of topics and areas including reproduction and breeding of aquatic species (fish, crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic plants, algae, etc.), marine fish breeding in cages, fishing, resource assessment and management, new fishing technologies and methods, resource protection, processing, packaging and economy of aquatics, new technologies (nanotechnology, biotechnology, etc.) in the fishery industry, trade and export of aquatics, production and trade of ornamental fishes, nutrition, health, and ancillary industries, fishing tourism, as well as research on cosmetic, medicine, and health products that can be obtained from aquatics.

Also, exploring the necessity of innovation in the fishery industry with a focus on the country's current needs, identifying idea makers and innovators, revealing latent and hidden opportunities in the field of fisheries and related industries, facilitating effective communication between knowledge-based companies and fisheries, establishing a data center for collecting applied research achievements in the industry and making the necessary preparations for marketing and promoting such achievements are reported to be among the goals of the mentioned event.

Countdown for Biggest National Economic Event on Kish Island

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - While the countdown has started for the biggest economic event of the country on Kish Island as this beautiful island will hold KishINVEX 2022 in less than one month, over 170 companies and state and private economic organizations have finalized readiness to take part in this event and over 100 companies have also announced readiness to attend and the process is underway.

The 14th Exhibition on Presenting Iran's Investment Opportunities and 9th International Exhibition of Exchange, Banking, Insurance and Privatization as the biggest financial event will be held on Kish Island on October 17-20 with presence of companies, banks, insurance companies and capital market bodies, and currently presence of over 170 organizations and companies has been finalized and over 100 companies are also ready to attend the event.

Due to the special condition dominating the national economy especially the Economic Outlook 2023, KishINVEX 2022 is a good opportunity for coordinating essential flanks and bases of national economy in line with the slogan of the year. Holding the event on the eve of Soccer World



Cup in Qatar is a good opportunity for Kish to present its facilities for foreigners which can attend the KishINVEX without getting visas. The event will be a gateway for linking economic activists of Iran to the world.

KishINVEX will host some specialized panel discussions with presence of senior economic officials and domestic and foreign experts and insiders.

Meanwhile representatives of two giant soccer clubs of Iran, Persepolis and Esteghlal, are among the guests of the event which will talk on presence of the clubs in the stock market.

Since the issue of knowledge-based economy is important for the country, the event will focus on it and it will be a scene for interactions between knowledge-based economy activists.

KishINVEX 2022 in the 14th year of existence relies on media as over 40 domestic specialized and general media outlets as well as for the first time 10 foreign media outlets are to cover this event. Foreign media outlets like Al-Alam, Anatoly, France 24, RTNEWS, CCTV and FONIX are among the media outlets which are to cover this event.

KishINVEX as the showcase of national economy will be inaugurated on October 17 in presence of some senior officials.

The SCO Samarkand Summit: Dialogue and Cooperation in an Interconnected World



transformation and growth, not only through quantitative replenishment, but also through the opening of new strategic vectors. These are transport and connectivity, energy, food and environmental security, innovations, digital transformation and green economy.

Uzbekistan's Chairmanship: towards Common Success through Joint Development

Accepting responsible mission of Chairmanship in the SCO, the Republic of Uzbekistan has relied on the strategy of advancing the development of the Organization by opening up new horizons for cooperation and launching usage of untapped reserves that each of its members has.

Our slogan is «The SCO is strong if each of us is strong». Implementing this, we have made serious efforts to make the Organization even stronger from the inside and more attractive from the outside to our international partners.

At the platforms of more than eighty major events held during the year, a comprehensive agenda was formed for the SCO – starting from the issues of further expanding cooperation in the security, strengthening transport and economic connectivity and positioning the Organization in the international arena up to the search for new ways and points for development.

All these promising directions of cooperation for the SCO at the new stage of its historical development are reflected in more than thirty conceptual programs, agreements and decisions prepared during our chairmanship period.

I would say even more. Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO is a logical continuation of an active and open foreign policy course that has been pursued by our country in the last six years. This policy is embodied, above all, in Central Asia, the geographical core of SCO, where positive and irreversible processes of strengthening good-neighborliness and cooperation are now taking place.

All SCO member states are our closest neighbors, friends and strategic partners.

The Chairmanship has given us a good opportunity to further strengthen multilateral collaboration and expand bilateral cooperation with each of them, as well as set new targets for even deeper partnership.

I am full of confidence that it is important and necessary for the SCO to share its success story with Afghanistan. This country is an integral part of the larger SCO space. The Afghan people need good neighbors and their support now more than

understand that by implementing joint infrastructure projects such as the Termez – Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railroad we are not just solving socio-economic, transport and communication problems, but also making a significant contribution to ensuring regional security.

By bringing our positions closer to each other, together we can develop a new SCO agenda for a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Only in this way can we create a truly stable and sustainable SCO space with an indivisible security.

«Samarkand Spirit» - the Embodiment of Cooperation, Mutual Understanding and Friendship

After a three-year pandemic pause that has caused serious disruption in trade, economic and industrial ties, the countries and peoples of the SCO need to communicate directly.

The ancient city of Samarkand, the jewel of the Great Silk Road, is ready to welcome the leaders of fourteen countries with new breakthrough proposals and initiatives designed to serve for good and prosperity of the SCO and each of its members.

There is no doubt that this legendary city will open another chapter of the SCO success story. Glorious historical heritage of Samarkand will contribute to this.

For many centuries, this city has been threading together countries from Europe to China, merging North and South, East and West into a single node.

Historically Samarkand has been a melting pot of ideas and knowledge, that was «cooking» a common goal of living better, being more successful and becoming happier. And everybody has known that the friendly neighbors are half of your wealth, you yourself are a blessing for them, because you know that cooperation, trade, oeuvre, science, art and the best ideas do good, enrich and bring nations together.

These unique qualities of Samarkand, which today has a modern and dynamically developing infrastructure, turning it into the most suitable and demanded platform for joint discussions, searching for necessary responses to regional and global challenges.

The integrity and interconnectivity of mankind are such that most challenges require joint work not only at the regional level, but also at the global arena.

Relying on the experience of our many years of joint work, we are confident that the Samarkand SCO summit will set an example of how we can launch a new, inclusive dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, trust and constructive cooperation for the sake of common security and prosperity. Samarkand can become the platform that can unite and reconcile states with different foreign policy priorities.

Historically, the world looked upon from Samarkand has been seen as single and indivisible, rather than fragmented. This is indeed the essence of the unique phenomenon of the «Samarkand spirit», which can serve as the basis for a fundamentally new format of international interaction, including within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The «Samarkand spirit» is designed to naturally complement the very «Shanghai spirit», thanks to which more than 20 years ago our countries decided to create a new and eagerly sought organization.

Therefore, we are confident that in Samarkand we shall witness the birth of a new stage in the life of SCO – the number of its members will grow, and its future agenda will be formed, and this is highly symbolic.

We are full of optimism and are convinced that the decisions of the upcoming summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization will make a feasible contribution to strengthening the dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation both at the regional level and on a global scale.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO has fallen on a dynamic period, fraught with various events and trends – the period of the «historical rift», when one era comes to an end and another begins – thus far unpredictable and unknown.

The modern system of international cooperation, based on the universal principles and norms, begins to falter. One of the main reasons for this is a deep crisis of trust at the global level, which, in turn, provokes a geopolitical confrontation and the risk of reviving the bloc thinking stereotypes. This process of mutual alienation complicates the return of the world economy to its former course of development and the restoration of global supply chains.

The ongoing armed conflicts in different parts of the world destabilize trade and investment flows, exacerbate the problems of ensuring food and energy security. Along with this, global climate shocks, growing scarcity of natural and water resources, decline in biodiversity, spread of dangerous infectious diseases have exposed the vulnerability of our societies as never before. They lead to destruction of existential common goods, threatening the basis of people's life and reducing sources of income.

In these circumstances, it is obvious that no country alone can hope to avoid or cope with these global risks and challenges.

There is only one way out of the dangerous spiral of problems in an interconnected world where we all live today - through a constructive dialogue and multilateral cooperation based on consideration and respect to the interests of everyone. It is exactly at the time of crisis, when all the countries – whether they are large, medium or small by size – must put aside their narrow interests and focus on such mutual interaction, unite and multiply the common efforts and possibilities to counter the threats and challenges to peace, security and sustainable development that are related to each of us.

The effective international cooperation makes the world more stable, predictable and prosperous. This is the most viable, accessible and closest way to solving common problems of our time as well as a universal insurance policy against the future challenges and shocks.

A Model for Successful Regional Cooperation

The international cooperation that lays in the interest of everyone is impossible without multilateral institutions. Despite the certain shortcomings, they continue to serve as the most important agents of interaction between the countries - at the regional and global levels. The international and regional organizations help countries to overcome the differences and strengthen mutual understanding, to develop political and economic cooperation, to expand trade and stimulate cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

These are the goals and objectives that are pursued by one of the youngest multilateral institutions - the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In fact, it is a unique interstate structure that has managed to unite countries with different cultural and civilizational codes, their own foreign policy guidelines and models of national development. In a relatively short historical period, the SCO has come a long way, becoming an integral element of the modern global political and economic world order.

Today, the SCO family is the world's largest regional organization, which has united a huge geographical space and about a half of the population of our planet.

The basis for the SCO's international attractiveness is its non-bloc status, openness, non-targeting against third countries or the international organizations, equality and respect for the sovereignty of all participants, refusal to interfere in the internal affairs, as well as prevention of political confrontation and unhealthy rivalry.

The SCO's success concept is the promotion of multifaceted cooperation through ensuring regional security. In fact, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is called upon to become a pole of attraction without dividing lines, in the name of

peace, cooperation and progress. Therefore, the number of states that are ready to cooperate with the SCO is growing every year, and this is especially noticeable in the context of the transformation of the modern system of international and regional relations.

The economic value of the SCO is enhanced by



the self-sufficiency of its space, where there are dynamically developing economies of the world with huge human, intellectual and technological potential, and the existence of large volumes of unused natural resources.

Today, the total GDP of the SCO member states has reached about a quarter of the global figure. This is already a very solid contribution to the global sustainable development from a regional organization that has just crossed its 20-year threshold. In a world with the new challenges and opportunities, the SCO has excellent prospects for

ever. It is our moral obligation to extend a helping hand, to offer them effective ways of overcoming the years-long crisis by promoting socio-economic growth of the country, its integration into regional and global development processes. Afghanistan that has played for centuries the role of a buffer in the historical confrontations of global and regional powers, should try on a new peaceful mission of connecting Central and South Asia.

The construction of the trans-Afghan corridor could become a symbol of such mutually beneficial inter-regional cooperation. It is also important to

Bolivian Indigenous Women Break Barriers Through Mountaineering



LA PAZ (Dispatches) - A sudden gale drowns out the crunching sound of footsteps on the ice and makes skirts billow in the freezing night.

Ten indigenous Aymara women slowly trek up a Bolivian mountainside in their traditional dress as a statement of their emancipation.

The Climbing Cholitas of Bolivia Warmis is a group dedicated to campaigning for the rights of Indigenous women through mountaineering.

Cecilia Llusco, 36, is the daughter of a mountain guide and dreamt since she was young of climbing the snow-capped Huayna Potosi that rises over 6,000 meters above sea level.

However, for many years she limited herself to cooking for other mountaineers and packing their backpacks. That was until she and several other rural women, including some of her sisters, decided to change their destiny.

"Why can't we climb mountains?" she said they asked themselves, while drawing dismissive reactions from some men.

"What are these women doing here, on the mountain?" Llusco recalls them saying.

Seven years after their initial expedition, and after climbing nearly a dozen peaks in Bolivia, Peru and Argentina, the Cholita Climbers, named after indigenous Bolivian women called "cholas" or "cholitas," are tackling Huayna Potosi again on this austral winter night.

And they did not compromise on their style.

"We wanted to show that women are strong and brave, that we can do it with our clothing," said Llusco, who wears her hair in long braids decorated with brown wool.

Whenever they can, and often helped by funding from NGOs and private businesses, they hire a minivan to drive two hours from their homes in El Alto -- the satellite overlooking La Paz, to the wall of ice they plan to scale.

There are 14 members and every time they climb they share an 'aptapi' -- a banquet in which every person brings some food to share.

After resting for a couple of hours in a refuge, the Cholitas get up at 11:00 pm and start dressing in their traditional colored pleated skirts, called polleras.

A ragbag of home-makers, carriers and tourist guides, they start climbing the glacier at midnight so as to reach the summit at sunrise.

Over their woollen clothing they carry typical mountaineering equipment: helmets, crampons, ice axes, boots and leggings.

But instead of a backpack, they carry their equipment in a traditional cloth sack slung over their shoulders and tied around the neck.

Indigenous people, who make up almost half of Bolivia's population, have long been marginalized.

In the dark of night, all that is visible is an ant-like line of lanterns lighting up the ice on either side. One by one the Cholitas cling to a safety harness and carefully dig their crampons into the ice to avoid tumbling 30 meters into an abyss.

The oxygen levels drop and temperatures plunge to minus 10 degrees Celsius.

In the distance, 30 kilometers away, the lights of El Alto are visible.

With the first light of the day, the coppery faces of these women -- aged between 18 and 42 -- become visible. As a couple of snowy peaks poke through the low-lying cloud, several Cholitas stop to take photos of the dawn sun poking out from spectacular landscapes with their mobile phones.

Countries Growing 70% of World's Food Face Extreme Heat Risk by 2045



PARIS (Dispatches) - Blistering crop-withering temperatures that also risk the health of agricultural workers could threaten swathes of global food production by 2045 as the world warms, an industry analysis warned.

Climate change is already stoking heatwaves and other extreme weather events across the world, with hot spells from India to Europe this year expected to hit crop yields.

Temperature spikes are causing mounting concern for health, particularly for those working outside in sweltering conditions, which is especially dangerous when humidity levels are high.

The latest assessment by risk company Verisk Maplecroft brings those two threats together to calculate that heat stress already poses an "extreme risk" to agriculture in 20 countries, including agricultural giant India.

But the coming decades are expected to expand the threat to 64 nations by 2045 -- representing 71 percent of current global food production -- including major economies China, India, Brazil and the United States.

"With the rise in global temperatures and rise in global heat stress, we're going to see crops in more temperate countries as well start being affected by this," said Will Nichols, head of climate and resilience at Verisk Maplecroft.

Rice is particularly at risk, the assessment said, with other crops like cocoa and even tomatoes also singled out as of concern.

Maplecroft's new heat stress dataset, using global temperature data from the UK Met Office, feeds into its wider risk assessments of countries around the world.

It is based on a worst-case emissions scenario leading to around 2 degrees Celsius of warming above pre-industrial levels as soon as 2045.

However, the authors stress that in projections to mid-century, even scenarios that assume higher levels of carbon-cutting action could still result in temperatures nearing 2C.

India -- responsible for 12 percent of global food production in 2020 and heavily reliant on outdoor labour productivity -- is already rated as at extreme risk, the only major agricultural nation in that category at current temperatures.

"There's a very real worry that people in rural areas, which are obviously highly dependent on agriculture, are going to be much more vulnerable to these kinds of heat events going forward," Nichols told AFP.

That could impact productivity and in turn exports -- and have potentially "cascading" knock-on effects on issues such as the country's credit rating and even political stability, he said.

By 2045, the list grows much longer.

Nine of the top ten countries affected in 2045 are in Africa, with the world's second largest cocoa producer Ghana, as well as Togo and Central African Republic receiving the worst possible risk score.

The top 20 at-risk countries in the coming decades include key Southeast Asian rice exporters Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, the authors said, noting that rice farmers in central Vietnam have already taken to working at night to avoid the high temperatures.

The assessment highlights that major economies like the US and China could also see extreme risk to agriculture in 2045, although in these large countries the impacts vary by region.

Meanwhile, Europe accounts for seven of the 10 countries set to see the largest increase in risk by 2045.

"I think what it reinforces is that, even though a lot of us are sort of sitting in sort of Western countries, where we might think we're a bit more insulated from some of these threats, actually we are not necessarily," Nichols said.

"Both in terms of the sort of physical risks that we're facing, but also in terms of the kind of knock on effects down the supply chain."



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China's Communist Party To Amend Its Constitution

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's ruling Communist Party will amend its constitution next month during a leadership reshuffle held over five years, a move that some analysts said could consolidate President Xi Jinping's authority and stature within the party.

State news agency Xinhua said on Friday that the Politburo discussed a draft amendment to the party constitution in a meeting chaired by Xi, without specifying the changes.

Xi is widely expected to break with precedent at the congress that starts on Oct. 16 and secure a third five-year leadership term, cementing his status as China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, founder of the People's Republic.



Islamic State Affiliate Kills 30 Civilians in Mali Raid

BAMAKO (Dispatches) - Members of an Islamic State affiliate in Mali killed about 30 civilians in an attack this week on a town in a violence-plagued area bordering Burkina Faso and Niger, a coalition of pro-government militia said late on Friday.

Mali has faced instability since 2012, when Islamists hijacked an ethnic Tuareg rebellion in the north. Since then they have spread across West Africa's Sahel, killing thousands and displacing more than 2 million people in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

The coalition, known as the Platform, said several hundred militants attacked its fighters and forced them to retreat on Tuesday near Talataye in the Gao region - long a hotspot for jihadist and militia violence.



Ukraine Troops Reach Railway Hub



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian officials shared photos showing troops raising the nation's flag over the main railway city that has supplied Russian forces in northeastern Ukraine, as a collapse in Russia's frontline threatened to turn into a rout.

A Reuters journalist inside a vast area recaptured in recent days by the advancing Ukrainian forces saw Ukrainian police patrolling towns and boxes of ammunition lying in heaps at positions abandoned by fleeing Russian soldiers.

With Ukrainians now having reached the city of Kupiansk, where rail lines linking Russia to eastern Ukraine converge, the advance had penetrated all the way to Moscow's main logistics route, potentially trapping thousands of Russian troops.

Natalia Popova, adviser to the head of the Kharkiv regional council, shared photos on Facebook of troops holding up a Ukrainian flag in front of Kupiansk city hall. A Russian flag lay at their feet. "Kupiansk is Ukraine. Glory to the armed forces of Ukraine," she wrote.

Ukraine's security service confirmed Kyiv had forces inside Kupiansk.

In Hrakove, one of dozens of recaptured villages, Reuters saw burnt out vehicles bearing the "Z" symbol of Russia's invasion, and piles of rubbish and ammunition in positions the Russians had abandoned in evident haste. "Hello everyone, we are from Russia," was spraypainted on a wall.

Three bodies lay in white body bags in a yard.

The regional chief of police, Volodymyr Tymoshenko, said Ukrainian police had moved in the previous day, and had checked the identities of local residents who had lived under Russian occupation since the invasion's second day.

"The first function is to provide help that they need. The next job is to document the crimes committed by Russian invaders on the territories which they temporarily occupied."

The capture of at least part of Kupiansk, if confirmed, potentially leaves thousands of Russian soldiers trapped at the frontline and cut off from supplies, including in Izium, Russia's main stronghold and logistics hub in the northeast.

Reuters could not independently verify the situation in either Kupiansk or Izium. Moscow has acknowledged that its frontline has buckled in Kharkiv but has said it is rushing extra troops to reinforce the area. Russian-installed regional officials have called for civilians to evacuate both cities.

Britain's Ministry of Defence in an intelligence update said: "A Russian force around Izium is likely increasingly isolated."

"Ukrainian units are now threatening the town of Kupiansk; its capture would be a significant blow to Russia because it sits on supply routes to the Donbas front line."

Mark Hertling, a retired four-star general and former commander of U.S. ground forces in Europe, tweeted: "Make no mistake, (Ukraine) is executing a brilliant maneuver focused on terrain objectives to 'bag' Russians. But the Russians are helping them -- by doing very little to counter."

In an overnight video address, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at least 30 settlements had been liberated in Kharkiv region during the advance of recent days.

"Our army, intelligence units and the security services are carrying out active engagements in several operational areas. They are doing so successfully," he said in a video address.

Ukrainian officials have released a barrage of images of troops sweeping into previously Russian-held towns and being embraced by local residents who had been under Russian military occupation for six months.

King Charles Vows to Follow Queen's Example

LONDON (Dispatches) - King Charles pledged to follow the example of his late mother as he was officially proclaimed Britain's new monarch in a historic ceremony featuring pageantry, centuries-old tradition, and cries of "God Save the King".

The death of 96-year-old Queen Elizabeth on Thursday after 70 years on the throne set in train long-established and highly choreographed plans for days of national mourning and a state funeral that will be held in just over a week.

Charles, 73, immediately succeeded his mother but an Accession Council met at St James's - the most senior royal palace in the United Kingdom which was built by order of Henry VIII in the 1530s - on Saturday to proclaim him as king.

The council - formed of Privy Counsellors whose centuries-old role has been to advise the monarch - included his son and heir William, wife Camilla and Britain's new prime minister, Liz Truss, who signed the proclamation of his accession.

Six former prime ministers, senior bishops and a swathe of politicians cried out "God Save The King" as the announcement was approved. "I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of Sovereignty which have now passed to me," Charles said.

"In taking up these responsibilities, I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set in upholding constitutional government and to seek the peace, harmony and prosperity of the peoples of these islands and of the Commonwealth realms and territories throughout the world."

Later, on the Proclamation Gallery, a balcony above Friary Court of St James's Palace, the Garter King of Arms, David White, accompanied by others in gold and red heraldic outfits read out the Principal Proclamation, as trumpeters sounded.



U.N. Chief Visits Areas of Pakistan Devastated by Floods

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - United Nations chief Antonio Guterres visited several areas of Pakistan ravaged by floods, as he rounded off a two-day trip aimed at raising awareness of the disaster.

Record monsoon rains and glacier melt in northern mountains have triggered floods that have killed more than 1,391 people, sweeping away houses, roads, railway tracks, bridges, livestock and crops.

Huge areas of the country are inundated, and hundreds of thousands of people have been forced from their homes. The government says the lives of nearly 33 million have been disrupted. Pakistan estimates the damage at \$30 billion, and both the government and Guterres have blamed the flooding on climate change.

The U.N. secretary-general landed in Sindh province on Saturday, before flying over some of the worst-affected areas en route to Balochistan, another badly hit province.

"It is difficult not to feel deeply moved to hear such detailed descriptions of tragedy," Guterres said after landing in Sindh, according to a video released by the office of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"Pakistan needs massive financial support. This is not a matter of generosity, it is a matter of justice."

A video released by Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb showed Guterres seated next to Sharif viewing flood-damaged areas from an aircraft window. "Unimaginable," Guterres said, surveying the damage. In July and August, Pakistan got 391 mm (15.4 inches) of rain, or nearly 190% more than the 30-year average. The southern province of Sindh has seen 466% more rain than average.

Guterres said on Saturday the world needed to understand the impact of climate change on low-income countries.

"Humanity has been waging war on nature and nature strikes back," he said.

"Nature strikes back in Sindh, but it was not Sindh that has made the emissions of greenhouse gases that have accelerated climate change so dramatically," Guterres said. "There is a very unfair situation relative to the level of destruction."

Colombia, Venezuela to Reopen Shared Border

BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Easing of restrictions comes as neighboring countries seek to normalize relations after years of tension.

The presidents of Colombia and Venezuela have announced that commercial flights will resume between the two nations and cargo transport will be allowed across their shared border on September 26 after a years-long closure.

The announcement on Friday marks the latest example of increased cooperation between the neighboring countries since left-wing Colombian President Gustavo Petro took office in August on a promise to re-establish formal relations with Venezuela.

The 2,200km (1,370-mile) shared border between Colombia and Venezuela is currently open to pedestrian traffic, but only limited cargo transport.

"We confirm the government's commitment to restore brotherly relations," Petro said on Twitter on Friday. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro also tweeted that "the exchange and cooperation between our peoples are starting off on the right foot".

"In addition, we will resume flights between Caracas-Bogota and Valencia-Bogota," Maduro added.

Last month, the two countries restored full diplomatic relations after a three-year break. Both countries have now accepted each other's ambassadors, but the two heads of state have yet to announce a state visit.

Under Petro's right-wing predecessor Ivan Duque, Colombia refused to recognise Maduro as Venezuela's leader after his 2018 re-election, which Duque said was fraudulent.

Colombia's ambassador arrived in Venezuela last month and was welcomed by Venezuela's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Rander Pena Ramirez, who tweeted that "our historical ties summon us to work together for the happiness of our peoples".

Caracas broke off ties with Bogota in 2019 after members of the Venezuelan opposition tried to cross from Colombian territory with trucks loaded with food and medicine.

It also closed the border, saying the aid masked an attempted coup by the opposition with support from the United States. Embassies and consulates in both countries were shut down, and flights between the neighbors were grounded.

US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—we bring you the stories that matter.

Maduro had ordered the closure of legal crossing points in 2015 after an incident during an anti-smuggling operation along the border. Foot traffic eventually resumed, and some cargo continued to move through a bridge in the north.

The closures have not ended the transportation of various goods, some of them over dirt roads by armed groups, into Venezuela. Criminal groups have also used the roads for trafficking operations.



Turkey, U.S. in Contact Over Erdogan-Biden Meeting



ANKARA (Dispatches) - A meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan later this month is under discussion, a senior Turkish official said on Friday, with Turkey-Russia relations, U.S. weapons and conflicts in Ukraine and Syria on the agenda.

NATO-member Turkey has sought to strike a balance between Moscow and Kyiv by criticizing Russia's invasion and sending arms to Ukraine, while opposing the Western sanctions and continuing trade, tourism and investment with Russia.

Erdogan, who on Wednesday criticised what he called "provocative" Western energy policy towards Ukraine, is expected to visit Washington later in September, according to the official.

Biden and Erdogan last met in late June on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Madrid, where Turkey lifted its veto on Finland and Sweden joining the pact despite fierce opposition to their membership from Russia.

At the end of that summit Biden said the United States supported the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey, and that he was confident the congressional approval needed for the sale can be obtained.

"After the last meeting with Biden, the U.S. administration took steps as we demanded on some important issues such as the F-16s. I think there will be similar things," the senior Turkish official said.

Sentiment toward Turkey in the U.S. Congress has turned sour over the past few years after Ankara acquired Russian-made defense missile systems, triggering U.S. sanctions as well as Turkey's removal from the F-35 fighter jet program.

Discussions between the two leaders would include the war in Ukraine, relations between Turkey and Russia, and the Ukraine grain export deal, the Turkish official said.

The two countries are at odds over U.S. support for the Syrian Kurdish YPG - a U.S. ally in the fight against Islamic State in northeast Syria but deemed a terrorist group by Ankara.

"A new page can be opened in Syria now, and the United States needs to take steps in this context. Likewise, the YPG threat needs to be well evaluated. Some US officials are aware of this," the official said.

Relations between Turkey and Greece, which have led to chronically strained relations in the eastern Mediterranean, are also likely to come up for discussion, the official said.

Iran's "Voice" Goes to U.S., Italy

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Iranian short film 'Voice' is slated to be screened at the two international film festivals in the U.S. and Italy. Directed, written by Ali Abdollahi, and produced by Hamed Gharib, the Iranian short film 'Voice' will take part in the 18th edition of the Utopia Film Festival in the U.S. which will be held on November 18-21. 'Voice' also has made it to the 7th edition of the Italian Soundscreen Film Festival. The seventh edition of this festival, which is a prestigious event related to groundbreaking films about sound, music or music-based, is scheduled to be held from September 27th until October 2nd in Ravenna, Italy.



Turkey Wants Russian Grain Exported, to Channel It to Africa

ANKARA (Dispatches) - President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will urge Moscow to send goods through the Black Sea corridor established under a U.N.-backed grain deal when he meets his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin next week, the Turkish leader said Friday, seeking to keep Russia engaged in the arrangement.

The landmark grain deal aimed to avert a global food crisis by guaranteeing the safe passage of ships in and out of Ukrainian ports, allowing them to export tens of millions of tons of grain that Russia's invasion had blockaded.

The deal - signed by Ukraine, Russia, Türkiye and the United Nations - also facilitates Russian exports. But Moscow says Western countries are not doing enough to ease logistical difficulties faced by Russian ships due to their sanctions.

Putin on Wednesday triggered fears that Moscow could withdraw support for the accord after he said Russia and the developing world had been "cheated" by its terms, floating the idea of limiting the countries that can receive shipments before the deal, which expires in November, is extended.

"As Mr. Putin said, those ships (using the corridor) are going to either developed or developing countries. Maybe that's why Mr. Putin doesn't ship Russian products. Of course, in our meeting in Samarkand, we will now ask him to send Russian products through the corridor with ships," Erdoğan told reporters on his plane returning from a trip to the Balkans.

The export of Russian grain and other goods will help poor countries in a difficult situation, he said. A system will be established to ship grain and other products to African countries in need once Russian grain also starts to arrive, he added.

"If Russian grain starts to arrive, we will send this grain, other products, all of them, until they reach these poor African countries."

Putin and Erdoğan are set to discuss the implementation of the deal when they meet on the sidelines of a summit of leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan next week.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Friday that a meeting between the leaders over the deal was "possible and necessary."

"A conversation between Putin and Erdoğan is already being prepared and, as we are hoping, will take place in Samarkand," Peskov said. "This conversation is much needed."

The July deal to unlock Ukrainian grain exports from its Black Sea ports was brokered by Türkiye and the United Nations. It remains the only significant diplomatic breakthrough in the six-month-old conflict.

The Turkish leader has said Putin was right to complain that grain was going mostly to wealthy countries.

"There are many countries in a difficult situation, especially in Africa, which we need to embrace and send these goods to as soon as possible," Erdoğan said.

Peskov on Friday repeated Putin's assertions that the grain deal was unfair on the poorest countries because most shipments were being sent to Europe and other rich countries.

"The agreements are being implemented, but the way they are being implemented does not give any specific benefits to poor countries," Peskov said.

Separately, Russia's Foreign Ministry said the deal was being fulfilled "badly" and its extension will depend on how it is implemented, RIA reported on Friday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko told reporters that any extension of the deal would depend on "how all aspects are implemented."

"Unfortunately, it's not being implemented quite as planned," he said.

"The second part of the deal, namely exports of Russian grains and fertilizers, unfortunately still faces difficulties," Rudenko said, according to comments carried by Russian news agencies.

Meanwhile, the United States said it sees no indication that the deal is unraveling.



"We see no indication that it's falling apart now and it is in fact having the intended effect," White House national security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters on Thursday.

A U.N. spokesperson for the Black Sea Grain Initiative said on Wednesday that 30% of the grain and other foodstuffs that had left Ukraine had gone to low and lower-middle income countries.

But the United Nations has also said the export deal is a commercial - not humanitarian - operation, driven by the market.

Many of the 100 or so ships that have left Ukraine had been stranded for months by the blockade, unable to move their contracted cargoes. Most were laden with corn and booked by developed countries to be used for animal feed or biofuels.

Peskov also said further steps needed to be taken to help Russia export its own agricultural products.

The West has not imposed sanctions on Russian foodstuffs or fertilizers, but Moscow says logistical sanctions and restrictions on Russian ships entering Western ports or securing insurance restrict Russia's access to world markets.

Moscow says easing these restrictions was a key part of the Black Sea deal.

"This issue has not been resolved. It will be the topic for a specific conversation," Peskov said.

Meanwhile, Erdoğan also said he had discussed natural gas prices with Putin and said he aims to secure a positive outcome for the well-being of the Turkish public.

The two leaders had met early in August and agreed to boost business cooperation.

This winter will not be easy for Europe and will be very problematic, with financially heavy pay, Erdoğan stressed.

Energy bills, already surging as demand for gas recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, rocketed higher after Russia invaded Ukraine and the West imposed sanctions on Moscow. Governments have been scrambling to limit the price shock.

Fears in Europe have increased over a potentially bleak winter after Russia announced it was keeping its main gas pipeline to Germany shut.

Erdoğan on Tuesday said Russia was cutting natural gas flows to Europe in retaliation for sanctions, adding that the continent was "reaping what it sowed."

E3 Needs...

FROM PAGE 1

He emphasized that at a time that diplomatic efforts and interactions are underway between the negotiating parties and the coordinator of the talks to revive the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), it is surprising that the E3 has issued such a statement regardless of a result-oriented approach sought in the negotiations.



The Iranian spokesperson once again reaffirmed the country's goodwill and serious intention to reach a final agreement on the removal of sanctions and said the negotiating sides have managed to achieve success at several junctures because of the Islamic Republic's initiatives and plans.

Pointing to the E3's inaction in recent months and its politically-motivated move to propose a resolution against Iran, which was passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors in June, the official advised the three countries "to play a more active role in providing a solution to end a few remaining points of disagreement instead of entering the phase of destroying the diplomatic process."

Kanaani said Iran, as a responsible signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has had constructive cooperation with the IAEA and once again stressed the importance of avoiding politically-motivated moves and leveling baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic.

"It is unfortunate that European countries, on the one hand, fully support a regime that has hundreds of nuclear warheads and does not adhere to any of international non-proliferation mechanisms, and on the other hand, opposes the completely peaceful nuclear program of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been under the most extensive [IAEA] inspections," the spokesman added.

He advised the Europeans to make up for their failure to fulfill their obligations vis-à-vis the Iranian nation and to avoid the language of threat.

"The U.S.' maximum failure in the maximum pressure campaign should be a lesson for all parties who unwittingly think that threats and sanctions can prevent the Iranian people from pursuing their maximum rights and securing their interests," Kan'ani said.

He once again expressed Iran's readiness to finalize an agreement on the JCPOA revival and said if there is the necessary will and resistance to foreign pressure, it is possible to reach an agreement quickly.

In a press release on Saturday, France, Britain and Germany raised serious doubts as to Iran's intentions and commitment to a successful outcome on the JCPOA, claiming that Tehran's position contradicts its legally binding obligations and jeopardizes prospects of restoring the nuclear deal.

The European trio said they have "negotiated with Iran, in good faith, since April 2021, to restore and fully implement" the JCPOA, along with other participants to the deal and the United States.

The interesting point is that the U.S. has withdrawn from the deal and EU has not observed its obligations regarding the JCPOA but they try to censure or blame Tehran for the current chaos rather than blaming the main culprit of this chaos, the U.S.

The West should know this that Tehran will not retreat from its redlines and its rights, and the West is better not to waste its time for threatening Tehran because the Islamic Republic is determined to defend its logical rights and President Raisi's government unlike President Hassan Rouhani's government is not to retreat even one inch from the nation's right and now the ball is in the West's court whether to accept Iran's logical rights or wait to see Iran progress for producing more enriched uranium and advancing its nuclear program.

India, Iran...

FROM PAGE 1

The long-term agreement which is valid for a period of 10 years is to be extended and replace the already existing pact which covered India's operations at Shahid Beheshti terminal in Chabahar port. The decision to form a long-term agreement comes at a time when China is looking to invest in Iranian ports and other infrastructure in Iran.

Iran has constantly been pressuring New Delhi to step up developments of the terminal which is operated by IPGL. The agreement came to action last month activated by the visit of shipping and waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to Iran which also included a meeting with Iran's urban development Minister, Rostam Ghasemi.

The reason for the holding up of the agreement is related to issues of arbitration and as per the Iranian Constitution, it would require a

constitutional amendment. Matters such as these can only be dealt with among their own countries and due to this reason, there's been a delay in enforcing the agreement.

Some efforts are being taken to ensure the speedy resolution of this matter. Iran has been pressuring India to speed up the development of the port and also complete the 700 km Chabahar- Zahedan railway line. The link remains to have been completed because of fear to deal with a company related to the US-sanctioned Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

There have been significant benefits with the introduction of the IPGL in 2018. It has handled bulks of cargo from multiple countries which include Russia, Berlin, Bangladesh, etc and if the port is linked to the rail network it will only increase efficiency.

Afghanistan is currently not a part of the trilateral agreement since the Taliban took over the country. India has promised to invest over \$85 million in the terminal and has supplied goods worth \$24 million.

The need to speed up the supply of goods and equipment is necessary. In 2016, the two countries decided to join their technical committee for the smooth functioning of the port and India also promised full support and showed complete dedication to developing the port.

To encourage use and proper development of the port, India is planning to host a conference of a joint working group on Chabahar with Central Asian states in October. Another initiative is to incorporate the port with the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

Iran-EAEU...

FROM PAGE 1

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed out that the total of necessary measures taken by IRICA caused a reduction of fulfilling customs formalities between EAEU member states and also an acceleration of activities in the field of customs clearance.

Moghaddasi said that the country exported non-oil products to EAEU member states, valued at about \$522,141,000, from March 21 to August 21, 2022, showing a 15 percent hike as compared to the same period of last year.

In this period, Iran's maximum products were exported to the EAEU member states including Russian Federation, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Belarus, the IRICA president added.

Iran to Sign SCO...

FROM PAGE 1

Experts says Iran's accession to the SCO will be a major boost to the bloc's influence in the region mainly because of the fact that Iran's massive transportation network can facilitate regional and international trade. Iran is also expected to benefit economically from membership in the SCO. Government figures show trade between Iran and SCO members have surged significantly since the bloc started to consider Tehran's accession bid last year.

Raisi has reiterated on several occasions that his administration's foreign policy focus is to expand relations with neighboring and regional countries rather than to seek warmer ties with the Western world.

Russia's Zakharova said in her Saturday remarks that Belarus will formally apply for SCO membership during the bloc's mid-September summit in Uzbekistan.

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Pedersen Wins Vuelta 19th Stage

PIORNAL (Dispatches) - Mads Pedersen surged away from his sprint rivals to take the 19th stage, his third victory in the last seven Vuelta a Espana stages, while race leader Remco Evenepoel finished comfortably in the pack.
Pedersen, a Dane who rides for Trek, powered away from Fred Wright and Belgian Gianni Vermeersch, to take the 138.3km stage that began and ended in Talavera de la Reina.

Motta to Succeed Mihajlovic As Bologna Head Coach

BOLOGNA (Dispatches) - Bologna have appointed former Barcelona midfielder Thiago Motta as their head coach to replace the sacked Sinisa Mihajlovic, the Serie A team's CEO Claudio Fenucci said.
Former Genoa boss Motta was most recently in charge of Spezia and will officially take charge of Bologna next week following the team's clash with Fiorentina.
"The coach of the first team will be Thiago Motta from Monday," Fenucci told reporters. "We are finalising details but it can be considered official. Now it is important to think about tomorrow's game."

Alcaraz to Face Ruud For US Open Title

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz defeated Frances Tiafoe in a gladiatorial US Open semi-final, setting up a showdown for the title and world number one ranking against Casper Ruud.

The 19-year-old Spaniard triumphed 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 to become the youngest men's Grand Slam finalist since compatriot Rafael Nadal captured the first of his 22 Slams at the 2005 French Open.

Norway's seventh-ranked Ruud earlier defeated Russia's Karen Khachanov 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 to also reach his first Grand Slam final.

Tiafoe went down fighting, however, saving three match points and retrieving breaks in both of the last two sets.

"We are in the semi-final of a Grand Slam, we have to give everything we have inside, we have to fight until the last ball," said Alcaraz, the youngest US Open finalist since Pete Sampras in 1990.

"It doesn't matter if you're fighting for five hours or six hours. It doesn't matter, you have to give everything on court." For Alcaraz, who unleashed 59 winners, it was his third successive five-setter as he closes in on a maiden Slam and becoming the youngest ever world number one.

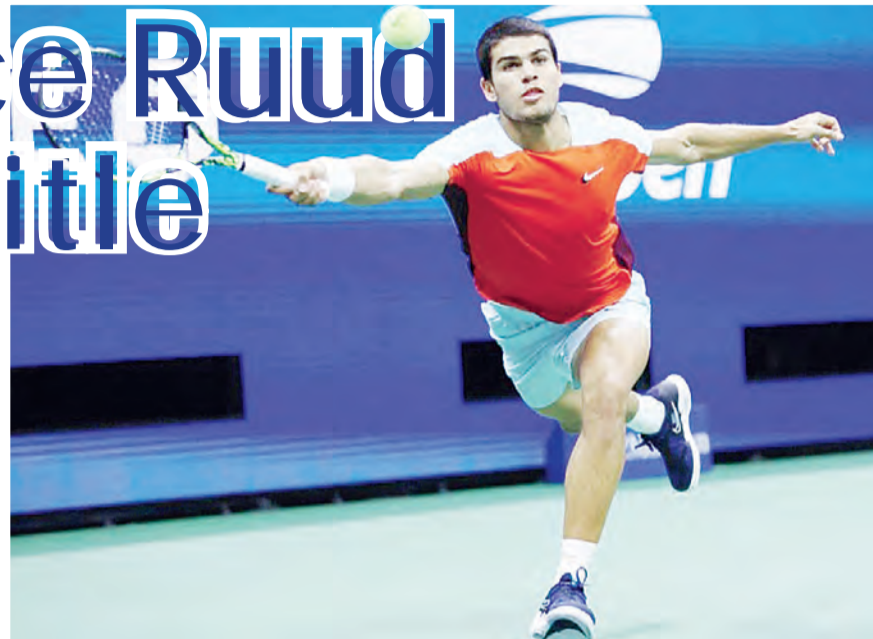
"It's my first time in a final of a Grand Slam. I can see the number one in the world, but at the same time it's so far away," he added.

Alcaraz saw two break points come and go in the seventh game of the opener before needing to save a set point in the 12th which featured a breathtaking rally that the Spaniard claimed from two seemingly losing positions.

The teenager saved three more set points in the tiebreak but Tiafoe converted his fifth when Alcaraz served up his third double fault of the 64-minute opener.

Alcaraz saved a break point in the third game of the second set, at one stage stretching for a winning point with his back facing Tiafoe to win another memorable rally.

His flamboyance was rewarded when he broke for 4-2 on his way to levelling the semi-final thanks to Tiafoe burying a return in the net.



Alcaraz had needed nine hours and 10 sets in his last two rounds, including a quarter-final which finished at 2:50am Thursday, to reach the semi-final.

However, he looked the fresher of the two men when he raced to a double break, 4-0 lead in the third set, allowing Tiafoe just three points.

For good measure, Alcaraz broke the American a third time in the seventh game.

World number 26 Tiafoe, who knocked Nadal out of the tournament in the last-16, was hoping to become the first American man in a major final since Andy Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009.

He gamely retrieved two breaks in the fourth set, saved a match point in the 10th game with a nerveless drop shot before claiming the tiebreak to send the clash into a decider.

It was an eighth successful tiebreak out of eight for the American.

Alcaraz broke for 2-0 in the fifth set only for Tiafoe to again claw his way back to 2-2. The American, however, double-faulted to hand the advantage back in the fifth game.

Tiafoe saved two more match points in the ninth game before Alcaraz went on to seal victory in four hours and 19 minutes when his opponent netted a weary backhand.

Ruud will be appearing in his second Grand Slam final of the season after finishing runner-up to Nadal at the French Open in June.

Brazil Call Up New Faces Before World Cup



SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Brazil have left in-form striker Gabriel Jesus out of a 26-man squad for this month's friendlies against Ghana and Tunisia but Gleison Bremer and Roger Ibanez are included for the first time.

Coach Tite named his last squad before the World Cup in Qatar with players given their final chance to make the cut for the finals that kick off on Nov. 20.

"These are opportunities to have peace and a sense of justice further ahead (in the final list)," Tite told a news conference.

"I can't close the national team list now, and then another player may emerge (before the World Cup)." Jesus' Arsenal team mates Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Magalhaes also miss out along with Philippe Coutinho and Dani Alves, while Juventus' Bremer and AS Roma's Ibanez could get the chance to make their debuts in defence.

Brazil will play Ghana on Sept. 23 in Le Havre, France and Tunisia in Paris three days later. Brazil are in Group G with Cameroon, Serbia and Switzerland at the World Cup.

Ferrari President Backs Binotto

MONZA (Dispatches) - Ferrari are making too many mistakes but have 'great faith' in team boss Mattia Binotto and will be Formula One champions again by 2026, company president John Elkann said.

The sport's oldest and most successful team, the only ones present since the championship started in 1950, have not won a title since 2008.

They made a strong start this season, with Charles Leclerc winning two of the first three races, but have since suffered a string of strategic errors, driver mistakes and mechanical failures.

Leclerc is second but 109 points behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen with seven races remaining. Team mate Carlos Sainz is fifth and 26 adrift of the Monegasque.

Binotto has been under fire in the media, with some questioning his position but Elkann defended him.

"We have great faith in Mattia Binotto and appreciate everything he and all our engineers have done," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport ahead of Ferrari's home Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

"But there is no doubt that the work in Maranello, in the garage, on the pit wall and at the wheel needs to improve.

"We must continue to make progress and that goes for the mechanics, the engineers, the drivers and obviously, the entire management team, including the team principal.

"Putting our trust in Binotto and his team was the right decision and it has paid off. Thanks to them we are competitive and winning again. But I am not satisfied because I think we can always do better."

Elkann said reliability could be improved and he was optimistic for the future.

"That's why I believe that before 2026 Ferrari will once again win the constructors' and drivers' titles, with Charles Leclerc in pole position," he said.



Juventus Need to Reach November to Break on a High Note

Allegri is missing several important players due to injury, with Paul Pogba having surgery for a knee injury, Federico Chiesa out with a knee ligament injury and Angel Di Maria suffering a muscle injury.

TURIN (Dispatches) - Juventus have made an unconvincing start in their quest to regain the Serie A title, but coach Massimiliano Allegri said on Saturday his injury-hit squad must persevere and stay in touch with the leaders.

Juventus have two wins and three draws in their opening five matches and are in seventh place, though only four points behind surprise leaders Atalanta ahead of the clash with Salernitana.

"We are missing players from the beginning of the season. Right now with the numerical difficulties, we need to get to November in the best possible condition in the standings," said Allegri, referring to the mid-season break for the World Cup in Qatar.

Allegri said Di Maria could return for the Champions League match against Benfica on Wednesday with Chiesa expected to be out for a little longer.

"I hope to have him (Chiesa) ready before the World Cup break. He will be 100 per cent ready in January but now he is training alone," Allegri said, adding that keeper Wojciech Szczesny is also out due to an ankle injury.

Salernitana, who currently sit in 10th place, will come to Allianz Stadium on Sunday for the sixth-round game in Serie A.

"Nicola (Davide) did an extraordinary job last year and they have worked well in the market this year too," Allegri said about the Salernitana coach.

"We have to play a tough game because we need the three points.
"This is one of the best teams among those fighting to avoid relegation."

Barcelona Transform Finances Despite Spree

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona's summer asset sale allowed them to lift their salary cap from minus 144.3 million euros (\$144.8 million) in March to a positive balance of 656.4 million by September, La Liga reported.

The Spanish league made public the salary limits available to teams after the summer transfer window.

The figures reveal the complete transformation of Barcelona's finances and the huge divide between the richest clubs and the rest.

Barcelona spent some 153 million euros on transfer fees alone as they splurged on a platoon of stars including Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Jules Kounde and free agents Andreas Christensen and Franck Kessie, but took in far more by selling future rights.

The club sold 25 percent of their domestic television rights for the next quarter of a century to US investment firm Sixth Street for around 400 million euros and just under 50 percent of Barca Studios, which manages the club's digital business and audiovisual productions, to two investors for 200 million euros.

La Liga updates the salary cap, based on the difference between revenue and costs, several times each season. The cap specifies the amount clubs can spend on players, head coach, assistant coach and the first-team fitness coach as well as subsidiaries and youth academies.

Real Madrid continue to lead with a cap of 683.4 million euros, down from 739 million euros last March.

Barcelona are now just behind. There is a significant gap to Atletico Madrid, who are third, on 341 million euros with Sevilla next on almost 200 million euros. Eight clubs have caps of 52 million euros or less.



Tiafoe Vows After US Open Defeat

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - An emotional Frances Tiafoe promised to one day hoist the U.S. Open trophy after his Cinderella story came to a premature end with a semi-final loss to Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz.

Tiafoe's compelling back story and sensational run in New York, including his fourth-round upset of 23-time Grand Slam champion Rafa Nadal, made him the talk of the tournament.

"I gave everything I had these past two weeks," he told a supportive sold-out crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I came here wanting to win a U.S. Open and I feel like I let you guys down. This one really, really hurts. Too good from Carlos.

"I am going to come back and I will win this thing one day."

Despite the disappointment, Tiafoe said he will walk away from Flushing Meadows with a new sense of confidence.

"I proved that I can play with the best and I'm capable of winning Grand Slams," he told reporters.

The 24-year-old has carried the weight of enormous expectations throughout his career, winning his sole ATP title in Delray in early 2018 before stunning the Australian Open field to reach the quarter-finals roughly a year later.

He then struggled for a while but bounced back to reach the U.S. Open fourth round in 2020 and made his deepest run at a Grand Slam yet this year.

"Through my career I've been pretty sporadic. Playing well, veering off for a while," he said.

"I've always backed myself against the best players in the world. I'm doing it on a consistent basis, starting to beat guys more readily.
"Ready to take the next step."

