

**IRAN NEWS Expresses Its Condolences to Shiite Readers on The Occasion of the Anniversary of Arbaeen (the 40th Day After the Martyrdom Anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS)). The Next Issue Will Hit the News-Stands on Sunday**



**Health Ministry Announced on Wednesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 144,243 With 22 More Iranians Killed By the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours**

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7591 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 - SHAHRIVAR 24, 1401

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## IAEA Board Ends With Not Anti-Iran Resolution

TEHRAN (MNA) – A senior Russian diplomat announced that the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors on Iran's nuclear program ended without issuing a resolution.

"The discussion of verification and monitoring in #Iran at the current session of the #IAEA Board of Governors is over. No resolution or decision of the Board in this regard. Just exchange of views," the Permanent Representative of Russia to International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov said in a tweet on Wednesday.

Ulyanov said Sunday that the IAEA Board of Governors was expected to discuss Iran's safeguards issue among other topics in its September session.

Before that, the Russian diplomat had warned against an anti-Iran resolution saying that "Such a resolution would be extremely counterproductive."

The western powers approved a resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors in June to which Iran responded by reducing its cooperation with the agency and switching off 27 of the surveillance cameras.

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## President in Samarkand to Strengthen Ties With SCO Members



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi arrived in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, to attend the SCO Summit and was officially welcomed by his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Raisi who left Tehran on Wednesday morning arrived in Samarkand, Uzbekistan to attend the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Before leaving for Samarkand, President Raisi said that the goal of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to strengthen the neighborhood policy.

"Our goal is to strengthen the neighborhood policy and we were able to strengthen mutual political trust in the first step," the Iranian president stressed.

"And in the second step, we follow the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its active presence in the region," he added.

President Raisi went on to say that his government tries to use all the capacities that exist in the region for the benefit of the Iranian nation.

Speaking about Iran-Uzbekistan's bilateral relations, the Iranian president cited, "Currently, our bilateral relations are good, but this amount of relations, especially in the field of commercial and economic exchanges, is not enough."

The volume of trade exchange between Iran and Uzbekistan is currently 500 million dollars, which has perhaps reached its highest level in the last three decades, according to Raisi.

"Our relations with Uzbekistan can be strengthened and formed in the field of commercial and economic issues, transit, transportation and in various cultural fields," President Raisi stressed, adding, "After talking with various cultural, economic and commercial departments, memorandums have been prepared, which, God willing, will be signed by both parties in the bilateral meeting."

Raisi also announced that he will meet with the president of the countries attending the SCO meeting.

He listed commercial and economic exchanges, transit, transportation and cultural cooperation among the capacities and fields of development of Iran-Uzbekistan relations, and clarified, "The common civilizational sphere of the two countries can have a constructive effect in improving the level of bilateral relations. With the negotiations between the authorities of Tehran and Tashkent, memoranda have been prepared to expand cooperation in various economic, commercial and cultural fields, which will be signed by the parties".

The President referred to the approval of the promotion of the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the main members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the previous meeting of this important regional union in Tajikistan, and noted, "In the one year that has passed since the change of membership of Iran in the Shanghai Organisation, it was necessary for the documents of this organization to be reviewed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has been done and the documents have been approved by the government and are currently undergoing legal procedures".

Raisi continued, "One of the important actions in this meeting is to finalize these documents so that they can go through their legal path and be signed by the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of our country and the foreign ministers of the member countries".

The President also stated that on the sidelines of the Shanghai summit, meetings are planned with a number of heads of state participating in this meeting, and said, "Holding these meetings will definitely help in the development of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of the region".

Raisi added, "In these meetings and negotiations, we will definitely have discussions about bilateral issues, regional issues and international issues, and we will try to bring our views closer to each other so that the role of the Islamic Republic in the region and the world is further improved, and the relations with neighboring countries improves as much as possible".

"We will definitely discuss bilateral, regional and international issues in these negotiations and meetings, and we will definitely bring our views together so that the Islamic Republic can be more effective in the region and the world than in the past," he continued.

## Agreement Possible If American Side Applies Realism

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran says the revival of the 2015 nuclear accord is "possible" should the American side adopt a realistic approach towards the negotiations.

"[Conclusion of an] agreement is possible upon the American side's [application of] realism," Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said during a telephone conversation with his Nigerian counterpart Geoffrey Onyeama.

Amirabdollahian highlighted that the Islamic Republic was committed to continuation of negotiations and willing to help formation of a "strong and sustainable" agreement.

The United States, under former president Donald Trump, left the nuclear deal in 2018, returning the sanctions that it had lifted. The Austrian capital of Vienna has been hosting many rounds of talks since last year to examine the prospect of the deal's restoration and fresh removal of the inhumane and illegal economic bans.

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## U.S. Likes to Fan The Flame of War

While the world is eager to see an end to Ukraine-Russia war because of global problems, some countries predominantly the U.S. prefer the war to continue in order to sell their arms to Ukraine or other countries which are afraid of future wars.

According to reports, the U.S. government in recent months by several approvals has eased flooding weapons to Ukraine while the world is waiting for the end of this devastating war which has affected world economy in all aspects.

On Friday a report claimed that the U.S. weapons manufacturers are profiting from the Ukraine war with Russia, with massive increases in procurement orders for U.S. weaponry being earmarked for Ukraine's military.

U.S. military officials said that the Pentagon was getting more requests for weapons, including the high-tech, multiple-launch rocket system that Ukrainian forces have successfully used against Russian ammunition depots and other supplies, The Associated Press reported.

The officials said on Friday U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Dr. William A. LaPlante told reporters that the Pentagon has been working with the defense industry to increase production lines to meet both American and international demands for certain weapons.

LaPlante said some countries have placed buying orders for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, (HIMARS).

He added that the U.S. has to both replace the HIMARS systems it sent to Ukraine and predicted the future demands in foreign sales.

The Pentagon said it is already working to replace about \$7 billion in weapons and equipment that was taken off the shelves so it could be delivered quickly to Ukraine. About \$1.2 billion of that has already been contracted, and roughly half of that was for Stinger missiles.

Congress provided a total of \$12.5 billion for such replacements so far this year, as well as another \$6 billion to buy weapons and equipment directly from industry to send to Ukraine, according to the AP report.

Some of the funds will be spent to invest in the defense industrial base so that companies can either expand or speed up their production.

"We remain committed to getting things on contract as quickly as possible, ultimately to send a clear and persistent demand signal to our partners in industry," said LaPlante. As an example, he said, right now industry is producing about 14,400 rounds of ammunition for the Howitzer artillery gun every month, but the plan is to work up to 36,000 a month in about three years.

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## Unilateral Sanctions Target Welfare Rights of Iranians

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Chief of the Iranian Judiciary and secretary of the High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi said that the unilateral sanctions on Iran have directly targeted the country's main sources of income and the welfare rights of the Iranians.

Addressing the 51st regular session of the UN Human Rights Council, Gharibabadi thanked United Nations Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights Alena Douhan for a report after a visit to Iran.

The Iranian official said that the unilateral sanctions and excessive compliance with them have led to a violation of all the rights of the Iranian people.

Noting that Iran is one of the countries that has invested well in the health of its people and today it produces many medicines and medical equipment, he said that nevertheless, in some cases, the country needs to import the raw materials of medicines and some rare medicines for special patients from other countries, and the refusal the companies to sell them has seriously endangered the right to life and health of these needy Iranians.

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# Iran Reduces 9,800 Tons of Ozone Depleting Substances

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Vice-President and Head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Ali Salajegheh, said here that the Islamic Republic of Iran has reduced 9,800 tons of ozone-destroying emissions as part of its commitment to the Montreal Protocol and has received four international awards from this international Protocol.

On the sideline of Iran's Cabinet session, Salajegheh, pointed to the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (Sept. 16), and said that Iran succeeded in omitting 9,800 tons of ozone-destroying gasses changing the manufacturing processes of 1,378 factories so far. The Montreal Protocol is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.

## Tehran, Damascus Stress Broader Cultural, Artistic Cooperation

**TEHRAN - Culture ministers of Iran and Syria emphasized need for broadening bilateral cultural and artistic cooperation, including producing joint full feature films, and sharing experiences in various fields by holding culture weeks.**

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili in his meeting with visiting Syrian Culture Minister Lubanah Mshaweh at Tehran Vahdat Opera Hall reviewed ways for the two countries' cultural, artistic, media, and joint theatrical and cinematographic cooperation to be expanded, as well as sharing Iranian artists' experiences with the Syrian side.

The Iranian culture minister said on the sidelines of the meeting in a press conference that the two countries have shared cultural and artistic capacities, and Iran and Syria are both ready for cooperation in cinematography, arts, media and information dissemination fields, as there is fortunately strong will for such interactions on both sides.

"We are glad that after passing through many tough years, Syria is today experiencing peace and stability free from war fears and destruction," said Esmaili.



The Syrian culture minister, too, said in the press conference that the Iran-Syria cultural relations date back to remote past in history and describing it is a single night is impossible.

It was agreed in the meeting that Iran Film Week, too, will be held simultaneously with the Iran Culture Week in Syria in near future, and also the Syria Culture Week in Iran after that.

## Gov't Submits SCO Accession Bill to Majlis

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A bill on accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has been verified by the cabinet members and it has been handed over to parliament for ratification, an official said.

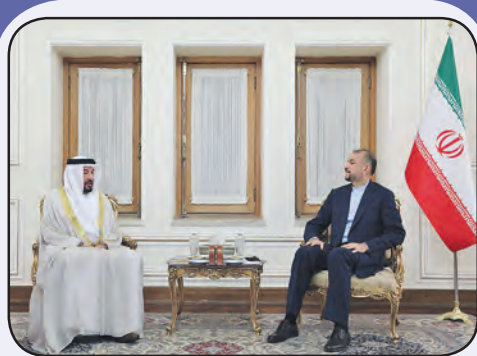
Ali Bahadori Jahromi, spokesman of the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, wrote on his Twitter account on Wednesday that the accession bill has been submitted to parliament for legal process following verification in the cabinet.

Iran's accession to the SCO, which is the biggest regional market in the world, is being pursued by the administration in a bid to guarantee national interests and develop a balanced foreign policy, the spokesman noted.

The SCO established in June 15, 2001 in Shanghai, China, by Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China. Eight states of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan comprise the regional economic organization at present.

Four countries of Afghanistan, Belarus, Mongolia and Iran have received observer status, while six states of Azerbaijan Republic, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka possess dialogue partners status.

## FM Underlies Boost in Ties Will Neighbors



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian met here with Emirati Ambassador in Tehran Saif Mohammed Al Zaabi, highlighting Iran's policy on expansion of relations with all neighbors including UAE.

The meeting was held in Tehran on Tuesday after the return of the Emirati ambassador to the Iranian capital to resume work.

The Iranian foreign minister, in the meeting, stressed the importance of enhancing regional cooperation to stabilize tranquility in the region.

Further, Amirabdollahian called for making use of the current capacities to boost bilateral ties, form a commission to follow cooperation, organize consular relations, and facilitate medical, service, and educational activities.

For his part, the Emirati ambassador expressed satisfaction over his presence in Iran once again.

He referred to trade and economic capacities in both countries as an important factor in fostering bilateral ties.

In the end, the ambassador elaborated on the viewpoints of his country's officials about ties with Iran and exchange of delegations between the two countries.

## President Urges All Executive Bodies to Give More Hope to People

*IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK*

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi stated, "All the executive bodies of the country, especially the advertising and media institutions should disappoint the enemy in achieving their goals and giving the elite society more hope by stating the facts of the country's scientific progress and also introducing successful figures."

In the cabinet meeting, Raisi referred to the great scientific honors in the country's universities, explained these measures and achievements as necessary for creating hope in the society, especially among the elite, and called on all the executive bodies of the country, especially the advertising institutions to state the facts of these developments and introduce successful figures in the country to thwart the enemies goals of disappointing the society and make the elite society more hopeful.

At the same time, the President emphasized on meeting the needs and demands of the elites and academics, and said, "Attention to the elites is not realized only with words and we must also provide their livelihood and job needs to facilitate their service and activities in the country".

In another part of his speech, referring to the importance and educational effects of pilgrimage, Raisi described the Arbaeen pilgrimage as human-building and the basis for the formation of a balanced Islamic society, and once again, he praised the efforts of all those who participated in the grandest celebration of this great global event.

Raisi pointed out the presence of millions of pilgrims in this year's Arbaeen procession ceremony and urged the responsible agencies to consider the necessary arrangements and forecasts to facilitate the traffic and return of pilgrims to the country.

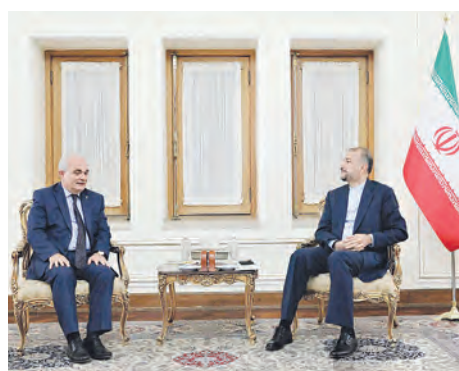
The President also referred to the widespread acceptance of the pilgrimage of Imam Reza (AS) every year during the days of his martyrdom, and gave a mission to the First Vice-President to form a meeting and facilitate the pilgrimage process.

## Tehran Stresses Political Settlement of Yerevan-Baku Disputes

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Jagarian in his farewell meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, thanked MFA's support for his work in recent years and referring to the recent Armenia-Azerbaijan border crisis, emphasized a political settlement of disputes.

Iranian Foreign Minister in the meeting with the Russian envoy thanked him for his efforts during his mission in Tehran and emphasized the role of ambassadors in expanding bilateral ties between countries.

Amirabdollahian in the meeting called for the



finalization of the Iran-Russia long-term cooperation agreement, and referring to the recent Armenia-Azerbaijan border crisis, he emphasized political settlement of disputes.

He also emphasized restoring peace in the region, stating that any region's geopolitical change is a red line and unacceptable.

Jagarian for his part in the meeting emphasized the determination of his country to promote bilateral cooperation.

Recently, Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali announced on his Twitter account that Russia has appointed a new envoy to Iran to replace Dzhagaryan, one of the longest-serving Russian diplomats in Iran.

## Afghan Students in Iran Up by 40% This Year

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The number of Afghan pupils at Iranian schools has increased by 40 percent to 800k from about 500k in previous years, a vice minister said.

Mehdi Fayyazi, the head of the Center for International Affairs and deputy minister of education, told IRNA on Wednesday that following remarks made by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in 2015 about educating all Afghan migrants students living in Iran legally or even illegally, the Ministry of Education has accepted around 800k Afghan pupils at schools throughout the Islamic country.

Pointing to the fact that some of these pupils have not registered their information on the proposed website yet, he said that there are no precise statistics on the students and density in some areas.

The official went on to say that the Ministry of Education is prepared to welcome Afghan pupils despite the fact that schools in some provinces such as Qom, Tehran, and Razavi Khorasan have reached their maximum capacity.

Fayyazi also urged Afghan migrants to receive special cards for education support and avoid trying to enroll at schools directly.

He further referred to schools for foreign nationals, which are non-governmental and are set up by some foreign investors, noting that those who want to establish schools for foreign nationals must go through the official procedures, so Afghan sponsors are expected to respect the law.

Following the change of power in Afghanistan and the re-taking of the helm in Kabul by the Taliban forces, thousands of migrant families poured into Iran; therefore, the number of Afghan refugees in the Islamic country increased.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Education tasked schools to enroll children of foreign nationals living in the country legally; thus, schools in different cities and provinces embark on enrolling foreign national students, especially Afghan pupils.

## Issuing Non-Constructive Statement in Vienna to Bear No Fruit

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and his Omani counterpart held a phone conversation Wednesday to discuss the latest developments regarding Vienna talks on the removal of sanctions.

During the phone conversation with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, Amirabdollahian stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's abidance by process of dialogue for the removal of sanctions and pointed to the efforts of all parties over the past few months.

He said that the key to reaching an agreement in the current situation is that the U.S. adopts realism and shows it has the necessary will in that regard.

Referring to the latest meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors in Vienna, the Iranian foreign minister added that issuing a non-constructive statement at the Vienna meeting will bear no fruits.

The Omani Foreign Minister thanked Tehran's constructive role in the process of the talks and stressed the importance of reaching an agreement and returning all parties to their commitments.

Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi also emphasized the necessity of efforts in order to reach a positive conclusion after months of negotiations.

## Iran Elaborates on Status of 2 Crew Members of Greek Ships

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran (PMOI) in a statement elaborated on the latest status of the crew members of Delta Poseidon and Prudent Warrior Greek oil tankers and their consignments at Iranian ports.

"The governor of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with its humanitarian duties and in full cooperation with those two ships' owners, offers the entire needed technical services to the ships and provides the needed facilities for their staff," reads the statement.

It reiterates that the Greek ships' owners, too, keeping in mind the need to preserve the safety and security of their ships, and in line with the 2006 Maritime Labor Convention (MLC2006) have transferred their staffs to their desired locations in collaboration with the PMOI.

The PMOI clarifies that the ships' staffs had basically never been detained and are in accordance with the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the international shipping conventions working on the decks of their ships, performing their duties.

The statement also notes that the confiscated consignments of the ships, in accordance with the court orders, based on complaint made by the Iranian oil taker, Delta, belongs to the Iranian nation.

## Road Accidents in Tehran Leave 600 Deaths Annually

TEHRAN (IFP) - At least 600 people die and 20 thousand people are injured every year in traffic-related accidents in the Iranian capital Tehran, according to a traffic police official.

Colonel Mohammad Razaqi, deputy head of operations at Tehran Province's Traffic Police, said the notoriously heavy traffic on overburdened streets in Tehran lead to both accidents and air pollution.

More than half of all road traffic deaths are among vulnerable groups including, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists.

Col. Razaqi revealed that the number of vehicles moving in Tehran is almost eight times more than the capacity the streets are designed for.

He also regretted the time squandered to beat traffic in Tehran is way beyond the global average.

According to figures released by Tehran Traffic Control Company, over nine million residents in Tehran waste an average of 31 minutes per day in traffic, amounting to over 1.5 billion hours annually.





## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:59
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:30
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:23
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:47

50. And this is a blessed Message which We have sent down: will ye then reject it?  
51. We bestowed aforetime on Abraham his rectitude of conduct,  
and well were We acquainted with him.

Surah 21. The Prophets ( 50 - 51 )

# SCO, a Key Tool to Counter Sanctions

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

**TEHRAN – Head of Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce announced that Iran's membership in economic organizations would increase its immunity against unilateral Western sanctions.**

: Majidreza Hariri, in an exclusive interview with the Iran Press, stressed the importance of Iran's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Uzbekistan.

This organization was initially formed based on security, but over time and since 2015, most of its activities have shifted towards collective agreements and economic activities.

"Ebrahim Raisi," the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will travel to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Wednesday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit.

The Head of the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce emphasized that due to the membership of countries like China and India in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iran's presence in this organization will provide good economic and political opportunities.

Hariri added that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization provides countless opportunities for its members, including Iran, in terms of the market, the number of people, the size of the economy in the world, the amount of income, and the role of the member states in international trade.



Hariri stated that in the future, the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization would have more economic flavor, the capacities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization provide potential opportunities for Iran, and efforts should be made to make good use of these opportunities with a more active presence in this organization.

The President of the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce stated that experts believe that the future of the world economy is in Asia, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia, and said that East Asia and South Asia have a communication border with West Asia and West, which is the country of Iran.

He further stated that due to its position, Iran could be the gateway to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and connect the western world to the dynamic economy of East Asia.

## Iran Exports to ECO States Grow by 40%

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The value of Iran's exports to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member countries grew by 40% YOY during the first five months of the fiscal year (March 21 – August 22), according to the spokesman of Iran Customs Administration.

Rouhollah Latifi said that Iran exported some 7.3 million tons of goods worth \$4.1 billion to the nine-member bloc in the period under review.

The official put Iran's total trade with ECO member countries at 9.1 million tons (\$6.89 billion), which he said is up 39% compared to figures from the corresponding period of the preceding year without mentioning whether this growth was in terms of weight or value.

According to Latifi, Iran's imports from the organization member countries stood at 1.79 tons. Despite a 2% fall in terms of weight, Iran's imports register a 38% hike in value terms.

Turkey, Afghanistan, and Pakistan were the top three destinations for Iranian commodities among ECO member countries during the five-month period with Turkey, Pakistan and Kazakhstan being the main importers to Iran during the time span, the spokesman said.

## Over 50,000b Rials of Investment For Developing LSEZ Infrastructures

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

The CEO of Lamerd Special Economic Zone (LSEZ) says the amount of investment for the development of infrastructures of Lamerd Special Economic Zone of Fars is 50,000b rials.



Ehsan Ansari in a webinar on introducing potentials of special economic zones of IMIDRO highlighted advantages and potentials of investment in the Lamerd Special Economic Zone. He termed required infrastructure for attracting investment as essential prerequisite for investment in the zone and added that Lamerd Special Economic Zone enjoys general infrastructures for attracting investment but some different infrastructural projects are underway in the zone for developing and accelerating attraction of investment.

He added that these projects are in different fields like road construction, water and wastewater network, organizing managing surficial water and controlling the floods, electricity supply, distribution network and some other construction projects.

Ansari reiterated in the next two years water from the Persian Gulf will be transferred to the town of Lamerd in order to have one of the major infrastructures of the zone substantially.

He reiterated that LSEZ is an advantage for the downstream industries of steel and aluminum.

Ansari then pointed to some other projects underway in the zone through investments of the private sector.

## Venezuela, Uruguay to Host Iranian Refineries

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A lawmaker disclosed more details of contracts to build Iranian oil refineries in foreign countries, saying two of such plants will be constructed in Venezuela and Uruguay.

MP Mohammad Reza Mirtajeddini told Tasnim that the Iranian Oil Ministry has signed contracts with Venezuela and Uruguay to build refineries in the two Latin American states.

He said Iran will deliver input to those refineries, hold a stake in the plants, and provide technical and engineering services for running them.

A few days ago, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Energy Commission said Tehran has signed two contracts to build oil refineries for itself in foreign countries after the MPs recommended that the Oil Ministry should take swift action to attract foreign investment and construct "extraterritorial refineries".

Parviz Mohammadnejad said that constructing refineries outside Iran will improve the country's international relations in the energy sector, help Tehran generate a high and sustainable currency income, and allow for easier access to customers without any barriers.

"Venezuela has many refineries which require our country's up-to-date knowhow and technology. We can take advantage of such a capacity to achieve our purposes in and outside the region. We can have access to the customers without paying additional costs in this way, because the extra and additional expenses for the export of oil are very high at present," he added.

During a visit to Tehran in June, President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro and the oil minister of Iran weighed plans to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in various fields relating to the energy, oil and petrochemical industries.

## Iran, Brazil Take 1st Step to Strengthen Mineral, Economic Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The first step to foster Tehran- Brasilia ties in mineral and economic fields has been taken as this year is named year of development of bilateral mineral cooperation, Iran's Ambassador to Brazil Hossein Qaribi has said.

Qaribi made the remarks at Brazil's mining congress, aka EXPOSIBRAM, in Belo Horizonte in southeast Brazil. The first step to develop mineral cooperation is taken and "we will be close to the goals gradually," the ambassador underlined.

Qaribi went on to say that the two countries are to enhance bilateral ties which had decreased in recent years due to the coronavirus pandemic which has killed over 6,520,000 worldwide since its outbreak in December, 2019.

Both countries enjoy rich mines and mining capacities, he noted.

"I'm sure that a very good and constructive prospect awaits the two sides."

An Iranian delegation attended IBRAM 2022 in which more than 200 reputable Brazilian and foreign companies have participated to show their latest achievements from September 12 to 15.

## Home-Grown Nanobubble System for Water, Sewage Treatment Unveiled

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - Iranian scientists have developed a system to treat water and sewage using nanobubbles, a technology that authorities say is unique and has been used only in a handful of advanced countries.

The home-grown nanobubble system was unveiled in a sewage treatment plant in northern Tehran on Tuesday, according to a report by Tasnim news agency.

Iran's vice president for scientific and technology affairs Sorena Sattari, whose department has sponsored the development of the technology, as well as CEO of the Iranian water and sewage treatment company Atabak Jafari attended the ceremony to unveil the nanobubble system, said the report.

Jafari said using the nanobubble technology would revolutionize Iran's water and sewage treatment systems.

He said the technology will also lead to a 50% reduction in the use of electricity in the Iranian water treatment plants.

The technology uses generators and pumps to send cleansing nanobubbles into water to oxygenate it and remove its pollutants.

It helps reduce investment and equipment needed to create oxygen in water and sewage treatment plants while it leads to lower maintenance costs and reduced greenhouse emissions.

Authorities said the system had been applied to water treatment plants in Japan and the United States where the technology has matured.

However, media reports suggest scientists in several other countries have developed similar systems, including in Mexico where it is used to improve water quality in the canals of Mexico City.

# MAPNA's Software Wins LG Innovative Ideas Award

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN -The software of managing the electric vehicles fleet developed by MAPNA Electric and Control Engineering and Manufacturing (MECO) won the innovative idea award during the annual festival of LG.

The annual festival of top innovative awards of LG Company in 2022 started with presence of 1500 companies and after the organizing headquarters of the festival reviewed the applications of the companies chose top 50 companies and in the next step the number of participating companies was trimmed to 20 companies.

In the final stage, top ten companies reached the finale and in a four-month span for manufacture and testing the innovative ideas, the top companies were elected. The elected companies were in the fields of Metaverse, digital medical and electric transportation.

MECO in cooperation with IEMS Company of Canada with the idea of integrated platform and smart management (E-mobility) attended this event and won the award of LG on innovative ideas.

MECO's project was tested and evaluated in the company and during the testing period it was developed. This project of managing the fleet EV was developed G2V and V2G through mixing EV-One integrated software by MAPNA.

LG Company holds this annual festival for top and innovative ideas in the fields of electrifying and digitalizing vehicles. The support of this activity has been located in a new center in Silicon Valley which has been allocated for innovations for better life of people.



## Iranian Cars Exported to Armenia

TEHRAN (MNA) – With the re-entry of Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO)'s products to the Armenian market, suitable ways have been provided for the Group to export its products to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Following the visit of the Chief Executive of Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) to the Republic of Armenia and signing a contract for the distribution of IKCO's products in that country, the first shipment of the Group's products named "Tara" and "Dena" passenger cars was exported to the Armenian market.

With the coordination made and implementation of the processes of ordering and manufacturing the cars requested by Armenian side, the first shipment of products consisting of eight "Tara and Dena" automatic cars, along with the spare parts needed for after-sales service, was sent to the Armenian market.

Concurrent with the export of products, IKCO's representative office in Armenia has been equipped with the necessary facilities in order to offer quality after-sales services to the customers in accordance with the IKCO's standards.



## Pope in Kazakhstan To Promote Dialogue

NUR-SULTAN (Dispatches) - Pope Francis, warned by doctors not to travel to Ukraine, arrived in Kazakhstan in Central Asia for a three-day visit to promote dialogue and peace in the ex-Soviet region.

The Argentine pope, who is forced by knee pain to use a wheelchair and has admitted he must slow down or consider retirement, will take part in an inter-religious summit in the capital, Nur-Sultan.

His plane landed shortly after 5:15 pm (1115 GMT), an AFP journalist onboard said, and the 85-year-old pontiff was already meeting shortly after with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev before giving a first speech to the authorities and the diplomatic corps.



## Ukraine's FM Slams Germany Over Arms

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba accused Germany of ignoring Kyiv's pleas for Leopard tanks and Marder infantry fighting vehicles, saying Berlin offered only "abstract fears and excuses" for not providing such military hardware.

"Disappointing signals from Germany while Ukraine needs Leopards and Marders now - to liberate people and save them from genocide," Kuleba tweeted, as Ukraine presses a counter-offensive to retake land in the east and south from Russian forces.

"Not a single rational argument on why these weapons cannot be supplied, only abstract fears and excuses. What is Berlin afraid of that Kyiv is not?" he wrote, in unusually blunt language. —



## Ukraine Pushes to Liberate All Land From Russia



BALAKLIYA (Dispatches) - Ukraine handed out aid in a battle-scarred town after driving back Russian forces in the northeast and vowed to liberate all of its territory, calling on the West to speed up deliveries of weapons to back the dramatic advance.

Since Moscow abandoned its main bastion in northeastern Ukraine on Saturday, marking its worst defeat since the early days of the war, Ukrainian troops have recaptured dozens of towns in a stunning shift in battleground momentum.

Speaking in the central square of Balakliya, a crucial military supply hub taken by Ukrainian forces late last week, Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said 150,000 people had been liberated from Russian rule in the area.

Ukrainian flags had been raised and a large crowd gathered to receive bundles of humanitarian aid. A shopping center had been destroyed but many buildings remained intact, with shops closed and boarded up.

Maria Tymofeeva, 43, said fighting had raged for three days last week before going quiet.

"A lot of people have disappeared," she said. Asked if there were many collaborators in the town, she said, "I think so, yes", before adding, with a laugh, "I think they have fled!"

Fighting was continuing elsewhere in the northeastern Kharkiv region, Malyar earlier told Reuters, saying Ukraine's forces were making good progress because they were highly motivated and their operation well planned.

"The aim is to liberate the Kharkiv region and beyond - all the territories occupied by the Russian Federation," she said on the road to Balakliya, which lies 74 km (46 miles) southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city.

In Verbivka, a village northwest of Balakliya, Nadia Khvostok, 76, described the traumatic occupation and the arrival of Ukrainian troops.

"(We greeted them) with tears in our eyes. We could not have been happier. My grandchildren spent two and a half months in the cellar. When the corner of the house was torn off, the children began to shudder and stutter," she said, adding that they and her daughter had left - she did not know where.

The village school, where the Russians were based, was destroyed and trees on the road to the village and a cement factory showed battle scars. Elsewhere were abandoned Russian vehicles, including a military truck with a smashed windscreen. Ukrainians distributed aid in Verbivka on Monday, locals said.

In a video address, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the West must speed up deliveries of weapons systems, calling on Ukraine's allies to "strengthen cooperation to defeat Russian terror".

His foreign ministry singled out Germany, saying in unusually blunt language that it was disappointing that Berlin had not provided Leopard tanks and Marder infantry fighting vehicles.

On Monday, German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht rejected sending tanks "unilaterally". Some saw the remarks as leaving open the possibility that Berlin could do so as part of a pan-European consortium. The German foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion, Washington and its allies have provided Ukraine with billions of dollars in weapons that Kyiv says have helped limit Moscow's gains. Russian forces control around a fifth of the country in the south and east. Ukraine is now on the offensive in both areas.

Malyar said Ukrainian forces were consolidating their gains by checking for sabotage groups. The military said Russian forces were shelling parts of Kharkiv region retaken by Ukraine and attacking further south in Donetsk region, which Moscow is trying to seize for separatist proxies.

Reuters could not immediately verify the battlefield reports.

## Nearly 50 Armenian Soldiers Killed In Fierce Clashes With Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (Dispatches) - Azerbaijan said its military succeeded in preventing attacks by Armenian troops in the wake of the worst fighting between the arch-foes since their brief but brutal war in 2020.

Armenia announced that nearly 50 of its soldiers had been killed in the fighting overnight, which Russia said it had halted by brokering a ceasefire between the historic rivals.

"Provocations committed by Armenian forces on the border have been prevented and all necessary objectives were fulfilled," President Ilham Aliyev's office said in a statement after his meeting with the military leadership.

Armenia appealed to world leaders for help after the fighting broke out, accusing Azerbaijan of trying to advance on its territory.

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday called the leaders of both protagonists, with his spokesman saying Washington would "push for an immediate halt to fighting and a peace settlement" between the neighbors.

The fighting was the worst since the end of a 2020 war between the ex-Soviet republics over the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region that left more than 6,500 killed on both sides.

It came with Yerevan's closest ally Moscow -- which deployed thousands of peacekeepers in the region after the war -- distracted by its six-month invasion of Ukraine.

Russia said it had brought the clashes to a halt, with the foreign ministry saying a ceasefire was agreed from 9:00 am Moscow time (0600 GMT).

Armenia's defence ministry said later that clashes had subsided but that the situation on the border "remains extremely tense".

After fighting broke out, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called French President Emmanuel Macron, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Blinken to demand "an adequate reaction" to "Azerbaijan's aggressive acts".

Later, addressing lawmakers, he said at least 49 Armenian soldiers had been killed in the flare-up.

Azerbaijan said it had also suffered casualties but did not specify the number killed.



## Britons Back New King Charles

LONDON (Dispatches) - King Charles has enjoyed a surge in support since he succeeded Queen Elizabeth as Britain's new monarch, a poll has shown, but some of those mourning his late mother warn he must follow her example and keep his views to himself.

A YouGov survey for the Times newspaper found backing for Charles, 73, had dramatically risen since he became king when compared with polls earlier this year. There was a similar increase in backing for his wife Camilla, the Queen Consort.

Now 63% think he will be a good king, a rise of 24 percentage points since March, while 15% believe he will do a bad job, compared with 31% six months ago, the poll published on Tuesday found.

The findings echoed the views of Britons Reuters spoke to who had come out to mourn Queen Elizabeth.

"I have every expectation that he will do extremely well," said Patrick Thompson, 61, who was among the thousands who queued to see the late queen's coffin at Edinburgh's St Giles Cathedral.

"But he will have to adapt and stay quiet about his political views. He was ahead of his time on things like climate. But he will have to be much more careful now in what he says."

Having waited longer than any other heir to become king, Charles carved out a role for himself speaking out on issues from climate change to architecture and alternative medicine.

To critics, he was interfering in political issues that were not matters for the royals, a contrast to his mother who kept her personal opinions hidden throughout her 70-year reign and never gave an interview.

But supporters say some of his views have been visionary, calling for action on the environment and sustainability decades before they became frontline issues for governments.

## New N.Korea Propaganda Posters Highlight Nuclear-Tipped Missiles

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea has released new propaganda posters featuring its nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, state media reported today, doing so for the first time in years and after the country codified its nuclear policy in law last week.

Two posters featuring the missiles were among those in a series released to encourage North Koreans to implement goals outlined by leader Kim Jong Un in a policy speech last week, state news agency KCNA reported.

North Korea has enshrined the right to use preemptive nuclear strikes to protect itself in a new law Kim said makes its nuclear status "irreversible" and bars denuclearisation talks, KCNA reported.

The posters underscored the need to "make the armed forces of the Republic more powerful by giving top priority to the building of the national defense capacity," KCNA said.

It was the first time in about five years that new posters have featured nuclear weapons, according to

the website NK News, which tracks North Korea.

In 2018, North Korea removed many anti-American and military themed posters as Kim engaged in summits with then-US President Donald Trump and other world leaders.

Since diplomacy stalled in 2019, historical anti-American themes have crept back into public displays.

Photos released by KCNA show the posters do not mention the United States, but display a number of North Korea's latest missiles, including its Hwasong-15 and Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

The posters include slogans calling for national defense to be a top national priority, and that missiles show the country's prosperity.

This year North Korea resumed testing ICBMs for the first time since 2017, and international observers say it appears to be readying for a nuclear test.

Other posters featured a range of economic sectors including forestry, fishing, construction and consumer goods.



## Philippines President Defends Father's Martial Law Legacy

MANILA (Dispatches) - Philippines leader Ferdinand Marcos Jr defended his late father's imposition of martial law when in power, saying it was necessary because he was simultaneously fighting communist and separatist rebellions at that time.

Marcos, son of Ferdinand Marcos Sr who was overthrown in a 1986 popular uprising, said his father declared martial law not to stay in power but because the "government had to defend itself." "Martial law was declared because of the wars, the two wars we were fighting on two fronts," Marcos said in his first interview since his landslide victory in a May election.

"Those were the dangers, the perils the country was facing," Marcos said, as various groups including victims of human rights abuses, prepare to mark the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21.

His remarks are likely to bolster the concerns of critics that Marcos Jr has no intention of distancing himself from the tenure of his father and that this could pose risks to democracy in the Philippines.

In his televised interview, Marcos Jr denied accusations that he and his family were distorting history.

During the campaign, critics said his presidential bid was an attempt to rewrite history by whitewashing corruption and authoritarianism associated with his father's 20-year rule. The elder Marcos and his family fled the uprising against his rule after he had overseen what many historians have described as one of the worst examples of a kleptocracy in Asia.

Marcos Sr died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, but his family later returned to launch a comeback that culminated in his son's election victory in May.

Decades later, more than 11,000 victims of martial law have received reparations from Philippines authorities paid for using billions of dollars of recovered wealth plundered by Marcos Sr.

Wiping away tears as he spoke, Marcos recalled visiting his father's grave a day after winning the election and calling on him for help. "I will use everything I learned from you to continue your work," Marcos recounted telling his late father.

Bonifacio Ilagan, who was jailed and tortured during martial law, said the late leader stayed in power for 14 years after imposing martial law, dismissing any suggestion it was due to an emergency situation.

"Marcos Jr became president on the wings of false narratives and negative historical revisionism," Ilagan said.





## EU Eyes Levy on Fossil Fuel Firms to Help Consumers Survive Energy Crisis

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - Fossil fuel firms may have to share their excess profits to help European households and industries cope with red-hot energy bills, a draft European Union plan showed as the cost of the West's "energy war" with Russia took a growing toll.

Energy prices and inflation have surged as Moscow slashed gas supplies in response to Western sanctions imposed over its actions in Ukraine, prompting France to tell consumers they would have to share some of the pain while Britain is among countries facing the threat of recession.

The draft European Commission proposal, which is expected to be unveiled this week, would see the 27 EU countries introduce a 'solidarity contribution' for the fossil fuel industry.

Oil, gas, coal and refining companies would have to make a financial contribution based on taxable surplus profits made in the 2022 fiscal year, according to the draft, which could still change and will then need to be approved by EU governments.

"Those profits do not correspond to any regular profit that these entities would or could have expected to obtain in normal circumstances," the draft EU plan, seen by Reuters, said.

BP and Shell had no immediate comment. TotalEnergies did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The proposals are also expected to include a life-raft for power firms facing a liquidity crunch. But countries are split over the details and whether to impose a cap on the price they pay for gas, diplomats said. Russia has said it would cut all supplies if a cap on its gas was introduced.

Meanwhile, across Europe companies and governments scrambled for ways to tackle the crisis.

In France, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said consumers would be protected by new caps on energy prices when current ones run out this winter although there would be some increases as it would be "completely irresponsible to put the burden ... solely on the state budget".

In neighboring Spain, Iberdrola (IBE.MC) said it would guarantee gas and power supply for five months to customers deemed vulnerable by the Red Cross, after which all outstanding bills must be paid.

Italy's main business lobby group Confindustria said it was in talks with the government about how any potential gas rationing would take place.

With the EU seeking to diversify its energy supply Finland's Gasgrid said it aimed to begin importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) via a planned floating terminal in January.

Separately, the EU's securities watchdog said it was "actively considering" potential measures to ease strains in energy markets where some participants face difficulties in finding enough cash to cover positions.

In Britain, where inflation has hit a 40-year high of more than 10%, the economy expanded by 0.2% in July compared to June, less than the 0.4% expected. The sharp climb in energy costs hurt demand for electricity and a leap in the cost of materials hit the construction sector.

A "disappointingly small rebound in real GDP in July suggests that the economy has little momentum and is probably already in recession," said Paul Dales at Capital Economics.

As the European Commission drafts the new series of EU measures, Norway warned against gas price caps.

"A maximum price would not solve the fundamental problem, which is that there is too little gas in Europe," Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said after a call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Norway, which is a close ally of the EU, has become the bloc's largest supplier of gas after Russia cut back exports in the wake of the Ukraine war, giving it record income from its petroleum industry as prices soared.



## Winds of Change Shift Germany's Economic Power Northwards

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's wet and windswept north has long lacked the economic appeal of the industrial south but the green transition and an energy crisis sparked by war in Ukraine is shifting the balance.

When Northvolt sought a German site to build its first battery plant outside Sweden, it didn't pick the southern industrial heartlands, instead it chose to be near the blustery North Sea coast where the wind power industry has taken off.

"Battery manufacturing is tremendously energy-intensive," said Jesper Wigardt, Northvolt's head of public affairs. "If you look at this part of Germany, it's interesting in terms of energy, but also the type of energy in the grid."

Northvolt's decision was announced on March 15, just as an energy crisis was unfolding, sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the West has ratcheted up sanctions on Moscow, Russia has steadily reduced pipeline gas supplies to Europe.

"In reality we never got cheap gas from Russia," said Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock. "We paid for each cubic meter of Russian gas twice or three times over in costs to our national security."

Germany, heavily reliant on Russian gas in the past, is racing to wean itself off Russian supplies. The north coast will be at the heart of those efforts, both for generating more renewable energy and importing gas as fuel in the transition away from nuclear power and heavily polluting coal-fired plants.

Two floating terminals to receive liquefied natural gas (LNG) will be up and running on the North Sea coast within months, stopgaps until permanent ones are built there.

The northern states of Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern already produce half of Germany's 64 gigawatts (GW) of wind energy, now mostly land based. But these coastal states will play an even bigger role as Germany expands offshore wind generation to 70 GW by 2040 from 7.7 GW now.

The south, which powered Germany's economic revival after World War Two and which is home to industrial giants like BMW and Siemens in Bavaria and Mercedes in Baden-Wuerttemberg, now faces a rival in the north.

It is shifting the compass on Germany's traditional tussle between the wealthy West and poorer, post-Communist East.

"There is a huge, silent power struggle underway between north and south," said the premier of one German state, who asked not to be identified.

And the north is gaining traction.

Tesla opened a factory in the northern state of Brandenburg in March, while Volkswagen - Germany's only carmaker based in the north - is building a new battery factory to equip its electric vehicles in Lower Saxony.

Also in Lower Saxony, Belgium's Tree Energy Solutions (TES) is planning to build a plant to produce hydrogen, initially making it from methane generated from food and other waste, and later splitting water via electrolysis powered by offshore wind.

Although Germany's most prosperous districts remain in the south, the fastest developing ones are in the north and west, according to the IW economic research institute which ranks the country's 400 districts based on factors ranging from tax returns to share of skilled workers.

"After decades of dominance by first the west then the south, now the north is getting going," said IW's Hanno Kempermann.



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## German Economy To Contract in 2023

BERLIN (Dispatches) - The German economy is expected to contract in 2023, according to a forecast from the Ifo Institute in Munich, due mainly to spiking inflation eating away at private consumer spending.

Europe's largest economy is now seen declining by 0.3% next year, paring back an estimated expansion of 1.6% in 2022, the research group said in a statement Monday. Inflation is predicted to rise to 9.3% in 2023, with the figure peaking at around 11% in

the first quarter in particular, as energy suppliers ratchet up prices to offset soaring procurement costs spurred on by dwindling Russian gas supplies.

"This will result in a sharp drop in real household incomes and a noticeable decline in purchasing power," Ifo said in a statement, adding that government measures to limit the impact of inflation and stem sliding growth will "fall far short" of these objectives.



## IMF Eyes Expanded Access to Emergency Aid for Food Shocks

LONDON (Dispatches) - The International Monetary Fund is looking for ways to provide emergency funding to countries facing war-induced food price shocks and will discuss measures at an executive board meeting, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The plan, which has not previously been reported, will be presented at an informal board session. It would allow the IMF to help Ukraine and other countries hit hard by Russia's war in Ukraine without imposing conditions required in a regular fund program, said the sources, who asked not to be named since the matter is still under review. The size and scope of the measures was not yet clear.

A formal vote backing the measure - which has been developed by the IMF staff in recent months - is expected before the Fund's annual meetings in October, the sources said.

If approved, it would temporarily increase existing access limits and allow all member countries to borrow up to an additional 50% of their IMF quota under the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument, and the Rapid Credit Instrument that serves low-income countries, the sources said.

"The concept is simple, but it could help many countries," said one of the sources.

Food prices surged worldwide after the start of the war given blocked supply routes, sanctions and other trade restrictions, although a UN-brokered deal that allowed resumed exports of grain from Ukrainian ports last month has begun to help improve trade flows and lower prices in recent weeks.

The Washington-based lender projected in July that inflation will reach 6.6% in advanced economies this year, and 9.5% in emerging market and developing economies, posing a "clear risk" to current and future macroeconomic stability.

Many African countries and other poor nations suffering food shortages and acute hunger have clamored for increased funds, but it was not immediately clear how many countries would seek the additional financing aid.

The IMF proposal would offer some limited help to Ukraine, but its officials say they need a "full-fledged" financing package as they scramble to keep the government running while fighting the first major war in Europe since World War Two.

An IMF spokesperson last week told Reuters the global lender "continues to closely engage with the Ukrainian authorities and is currently exploring all feasible options to provide further support to Ukraine in these challenging circumstances."

Ukraine's overseas creditors have backed a two-year freeze in payments on almost \$20 billion in international bonds, but the country must make \$635 million in principal payments on prior IMF loans beginning in mid-September.

The IMF in March approved \$1.4 billion in emergency funding for Ukraine under the RFI instrument to help meet urgent spending needs and mitigate the impact of the war. Its economy is expected to contract by 35% this year.

## Russia Seen Cutting Benchmark Interest Rate by 50 bps to 7.5%

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The Russian central bank is expected to cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points to 7.5% on Friday to encourage lending as inflation continues to slow, a Reuters poll suggested on Monday.

The bank has been gradually reversing an emergency rate hike to 20% in late February that followed Russia's Feb. 24 move to send tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine and the imposition of increasingly wide-ranging Western sanctions in response.

Since then, the central bank made three 300 basis-point cuts in a row followed by a 150 bps reduction to 9.5% in June, before surprising analysts with another 150 bps cut to 8% at its last meeting, on July 22. At that meeting, the bank said it would study the need for more cuts.

Twenty of 23 analysts and economists polled by Reuters on Monday predicted that Russia would cut its benchmark rate by a further 50 bps on Friday. "The fast slowdown in inflation and the need to support the structural transformation of the Russian economy in the face of sanctions plays in favour of further monetary policy easing," said Mikhail Vasilyev, chief analyst at Sovcombank.

BCS Global Markets said a 50 basis-point cut was already largely embedded in bond and share prices. "The regulator's comments on future prospects are important," BCS said. "It is likely that the central bank could take a pause in its monetary policy easing cycle in the future."

Russia's annual inflation slowed further in August to 14.3%, data showed last week, while consumer prices fell for a ninth straight week, thanks in part to a seasonal drop in fruit and vegetable prices.

## Flurry of New Rules Leave Turkish Banks Struggling to Lend

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Some Turkish banks are curtailing corporate lending after the government's latest raft of regulations raised their costs and forced many to cut their balance sheet risks, five banking and private sector sources told Reuters.

The new rules, part of President Tayyip Erdogan's unorthodox management of the economy, have especially depressed longer-term lending. The owner of one mid-sized manufacturer said it was "harder and harder every day" to access needed credit.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the credit and collateral regulations rolled out in recent months have caused confusion and raised many questions from banks.

"These are very difficult items to manage for a bank," one banking source said. "Each bank is trying to manage its own balance sheet against the extra liabilities that may come after the government's regulations and this frightens the banks."

The rules mean cheaper credit will continue to be pushed to sometimes riskier smaller borrowers preferred by the government, while overall credit in the major emerging economy is likely to cool, said the sources.

Overall credit growth, based on a 13-week foreign exchange -adjusted measure, was up 20% from a year ago at the end of August, compared to 50% when the slew of regulations began in April, data show.

The stakes are high for Erdogan and his conservative AK Party ahead of tight elections next year, which polls show he could lose due primarily to soaring living costs and other economic strains.

His economic program prioritizes growth, employment, investment and exports, driven by a series of interest rate cuts that sparked a currency crisis and inflationary spiral late last year.

The central bank has continued cutting interest rates despite inflation hitting 80%. It adopted several new rules to direct cheap loans toward net-exporting companies and sectors in recent months, aiming to ease Turkey's big current account deficits.

Last month, the bank mandated lenders to hold long-term fixed-coupon bonds as collateral for some loans that are not seen to boost investment or exports.

But some lenders say holding longer-term illiquid bonds to back short-term loans is too risky. Others asked clients to close out some loans instead of renewing them, leaving the companies to use their own equity, another banking source told Reuters.

## U.S. Consumers' Inflation Expectations Fall Again

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - U.S. consumers' inflation expectations slid further in August as gasoline prices extended their steep decline from June's record high, a development likely to be welcomed by Federal Reserve policymakers weighing how big an interest rate hike to deliver next week.

Consumers in August saw inflation at 5.75% over the next 12 months, down from 6.2% in July and the lowest rate since October 2021, the New York Fed's monthly consumer expectations survey showed on Monday. They also foresaw price increases averaging 2.8% over the next three years - the lowest pace since late 2020 - after pegging inflation over that horizon at 3.2% in July.

Moreover, consumers last month saw price increases running at 2% over the next five years, matching the Fed's own targeted inflation level. That was down from 2.35% in July and 3% at the start of the year when the New York Fed first started asking about inflation expectations over that time frame.

Those outcomes may bring some relief to U.S. central bank officials who have been fretting that the highest inflation in 40 years might alter consumers' perceptions of how sticky the current price shocks may be, which would make policymakers' job of containing inflation all the more difficult. The Federal Open Market Committee - the Fed's policy-setting arm - is expected at its Sept. 20-21 meeting to raise the central bank's benchmark overnight lending rate again from the current range of 2.25%-2.50%.

Futures contracts tied to the Fed policy rate this month barely budged after the release of the New York Fed survey, as traders continued to overwhelmingly price in a third consecutive

75-basis-point hike from the central bank next week.

A week before the Fed's June 14-15 policy meeting, elevated readings of consumer inflation expectations in the New York Fed's survey results contributed to a last-minute decision to ramp up the size of the rate hike. Up to that point, most forecasters had expected only a 50-basis-point increase.

The New York Fed's survey for August was released a day before the U.S. Labor Department was due to issue consumer price index data for that month. Economists polled by Reuters forecast the CPI would rise 8.1% in the 12 months through August. The CPI jumped 8.5% in the 12 months through July.

The New York Fed's survey also brought some optimistic news for the labor market, which Fed officials are expecting to weaken somewhat as they raise interest rates to lower overall activity and demand.

## India's Aug Retail Inflation Accelerates As Central Bank Struggles to Tame Prices



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's annual retail inflation rate accelerated to 7% in August, driven by a surge in food prices, putting more pressure on the central bank to hike interest rates again later this month.

The monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the benchmark repo rate by 140 basis points since May to 5.4%, including 50 basis points last month, aiming to curb consumer demand.

The government imposed curbs on rice exports last week after restricting exports of wheat and sugar earlier, to cool local prices as it is worried that the shortage of rainfall in some parts of the country could drive up food prices.

The annual consumer price index-based inflation rate of 7.00% in August snapped a three-month downward trend, data released by National Statistics Office showed, and came in above both the 6.9% forecast in a Reuters poll of economists and July's 6.71%.

Food inflation, which accounts for nearly 40% of the CPI basket, rose 7.62% year on year in August, compared to a revised 6.69% in July.

The MPC will hold its next monetary policy meeting on Sept. 30 and is widely expected to raise the repo rate by 25-50 basis points despite growing fears of its impact on economic growth, economists said.

Sakshi Gupta, principal economist at private lender HDFC Bank, said rising cereal prices continued to be a concern and could add pressure on headline inflation in September as well.

"The RBI is likely to raise rates by 50 basis points at the upcoming policy as inflationary pressures continue to linger."

Last week, India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India's inflation management was driven by many factors, most of which were outside the purview of monetary policy.

## Biden to Hit China With Broader Curbs on U.S. Chip, Tool Exports

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Biden administration plans next month to broaden curbs on U.S. shipments to China of semiconductors used for artificial intelligence and chipmaking tools, several people familiar with the matter said.



The Commerce Department intends to publish new regulations based on restrictions communicated in letters earlier this year to three U.S. companies -- KLA Corp, Lam Research Corp and Applied Materials Inc, the people said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. The plan for new rules has not been previously reported.

The letters, which the companies publicly acknowledged, forbade them from exporting chipmaking equipment to Chinese factories that produce advanced semiconductors with sub-14 nanometer processes unless the sellers obtain Commerce Department licenses.

The rules would also codify restrictions in Commerce Department letters sent to Nvidia Corp and Advanced Micro Devices last month instructing them to halt shipments of

several artificial intelligence computing chips to China unless they obtain licenses.

Some of the sources said the regulations would likely include additional actions against China. The restrictions could also be changed and the rules published later than expected.

So-called "is informed" letters allow the Commerce Department to bypass lengthy rule-writing processes to put controls in place quickly, but the letters only apply to the companies that receive them.

Turning the letters into rules would broaden their reach and could subject other U.S. companies producing similar technology to the restrictions. The regulations could potentially apply to companies trying to challenge Nvidia and AMD's dominance in artificial intelligence chips.

Intel Corp and startups like Cerebras Systems are targeting the same advanced computing markets. Intel said it is closely monitoring the situation, while Cerebras declined to comment.

One source said the rules could also impose license requirements on shipments to China of products that contain the targeted chips. Dell Technologies, Hewlett Packard Enterprise (NYSE:HPE) and Super Micro Computer make data center servers that contain Nvidia's A100 chip.

Dell and HPE said they were monitoring the situation, while Super Micro Computer did not respond to a request for comment.

A senior Commerce official declined to comment on the upcoming action, but said: "As a general rule, we look to codify any restrictions that are in is-informed letters with a regulatory change."

A spokesperson for the Commerce Department on Friday declined to comment on specific regulations but reiterated that it is "taking a comprehensive approach to implement additional actions...to protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests," including to keep China from acquiring U.S. technology applicable to military modernization.



## Iranian Businesses in Venezuela to Display Products

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A delegation of 82 Iranian knowledge-based companies have traveled to Venezuela for an Iran-made products exhibition to boost technological interactions between Tehran-Caracas.

The exclusive exhibition is intended to showcase Iranian products and prepare a ground for vis-à-vis meetings between

Iranian knowledge enterprises and Venezuelan businesses.

The Iranian companies are active in such fields as health, medication and medical equipment, agriculture, biotechnology, innovative industries, ICT, industrial machinery, and petrochemicals and are slated to attend over 500 specialized meetings with Venezuelan businesses.



## Ageing Berlusconi Seeks Lead Role at Italy's Election

ROME (Dispatches) - Shrugging off old age, ill-health, sex scandals and a criminal conviction, Silvio Berlusconi is in the thick of yet another Italian election campaign as the four-times prime minister battles for a central role after the vote.

Berlusconi, who will turn 86 four days after the Sept. 25 ballot, looks sure to be on the winning side, even if he is now the junior partner in the rightist alliance he used to dominate.

Opinion polls give his conservative Forza Italia party around 8 per cent of the vote. That compares with 12 per cent for Matteo Salvini's League and 24 per cent for Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy, its two hard-right allies.

Together, the bloc should easily prevail over its divided leftist and centrist opponents, the polls suggest.

Meloni looks set to carry most clout in a future coalition, but she will probably still need Berlusconi's support to get it off the ground, allowing him to punch above his weight in terms of policy decisions and government posts.

Berlusconi, who first ruled Italy in 1994, was widely written off after his last government was sunk 11 years ago by a debt crisis and scandal over his "bunga bunga" sex parties at his villa outside Milan.

He was convicted of tax fraud in 2013, had major heart surgery in 2016, became badly ill with Covid in 2020 and has been in and out of hospital over the last year with various ailments. He often slurs his words and is prone to confusion, yet retirement seems the last thing on the billionaire media magnate's mind.

"He wants to stay alive in a political sense, with things to do, things to offer, he wants to 'be there' for as long as possible," said Giovanni Orsina, a politics professor at Rome's Luiss university who has closely followed Berlusconi's career.

Big promises Berlusconi unsuccessfully bid to become head of state in January and could be in the running for Senate speaker in the new parliament. Even without a formal role, he will be active behind the scenes to try to influence government policy.

He has cultivated an image as the more moderate leader in the rightist bloc, but his election pledges are as generous as ever, including minimum pensions of at least €1,000 (RM4,590) per month and a single income tax rate of 23 per cent.

Most analysts say these are unsustainable for Italy's fragile public finances.

He also contributed to the downfall of outgoing premier Mario Draghi, joining forces with the League and the 5-Star Movement, another ruling party, in refusing to back the former European Central Bank chief in a parliamentary confidence vote.

Berlusconi has strengthened his ties with League leader Salvini in an attempt to curb Meloni's dominance over the rightist bloc, but polls suggest she has continued to advance at her allies' expense.

"Forza Italia is slipping, I have it on 6-7 per cent," pollster Antonio Noto said on Friday, the last day before a blackout on publishing new opinion polls kicked in ahead of the vote.

Forza Italia's support is now concentrated in Italy's under-developed south among low or middle-earners with strong personal allegiance to the leader rather than the party, said Noto.

"Berlusconi's voters are people who have stuck with him over the years, people



who still believe his promises, he doesn't get any new voters," he added.

Tiktok champion Berlusconi has largely limited his media appearances ahead of the election to pre-recorded speeches and unchallenging interviews with the three national television channels he owns, yet these precautions are still not enough to avoid slip-ups.

In recent campaigning he has said he was the last Italian premier who actually ran for the job "in 208" (instead of 2008), and has promised to "abolish" the tax wedge, which would require completely scrapping income tax and welfare contributions.

This month he joined a rush of Italian politicians taking to TikTok to court younger voters, kicking off his short video with a typically cheery "hi guys, here I am", and admitting he was "a little envious" that most of his viewers would be under 30.

He later said the video had "beaten all previous world records" in terms of the number of viewers.

He has also used his huge financial resources to plaster railway and underground stations with youthful-looking photos of himself alongside the slogan "now more than ever, pick a side".

Despite Berlusconi's inevitable decline in power and popularity, politics professor Orsina said his achievements over almost 30 years still made him "a giant" compared with his rivals.

"For better or worse, in future history books about Europe Berlusconi will get four or five pages. Most of the others running in this election will hardly get a mention," he said.

## U.S. Likes to Fan... FROM PAGE 1

A senior Pentagon official revealed last month that the U.S. military had quietly been supplying the Ukrainian forces with High-speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM) for some time to target Russian radar systems, Politico reported.

"When we first announced the initial provision of HARM missiles, the way that we characterized it in the announcement was not specific. We described that we were providing a counter-radar capability," the official was quoted as saying.

It seems the U.S. does not like the war to end especially now that Ukrainian forces have taken back some areas from Russian forces.

Ukraine is using HARM missiles to take out Russian weapons systems, according to a report published last month by The Hill.

The Pentagon has supplied large amounts of weaponry and ammunition to Ukraine. The U.S. military has also confirmed the delivery of American anti-radar missiles to Ukraine in a bid to facilitate the targeting of Russian radar systems by Ukrainian warplanes.



This has been the habit of the U.S. to fan the flame of war or conflicts in any part of the world and it is not a new matter that it wants Ukraine to fight till the victory which seems difficult and time-consuming.

Americans have always tried to sell their weapons through waging wars or encouraging the nations to start wars because the big arms manufacturers are in the U.S. and they make billions of dollars per year through selling their weapons and the war between Ukraine and Russia is a good opportunity for the American arms manufacturers to sell more weapons even to some countries which do not have strong army and fear of future wars.

The war has frightened and encouraged countries like Germany, Sweden and Norway to strengthen their military powers for possible future invasions to their countries.

In recent days we have seen the tension between China and Taiwan has escalated and the U.S. government has decided to sell billions of dollars of weapons to this tiny country which is a mere profit for the U.S. and a possible war between these two countries, although Taiwan is legally part of China.

The United States has reportedly approved the potential sale of \$1.1bn in weapons to Taiwan in a move likely worsen already heightened tensions between Washington and Beijing.

The announcement came as two Chinese fighter jets crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, which normally serves as an unofficial barrier between the two sides, Taiwan's defense ministry said.

So we cannot expect any end to war in Ukraine because of the financial and even political gains of this war and unfortunately Ukrainians have fallen in the trap of the U.S. and blindly follow what the U.S. and its allies say because even Ukraine wins the war, it is the real loser because they have to repay the for the purchased arms as we know a cat does not catch mouse for the sake of God and the U.S. is seeking profit from this war like what the Associated Press report has revealed the greed of the U.S. and even other European states for taking advantage of this war.

## IAEA... FROM PAGE 1

Earlier and referring to the Vienna talks situation, Ulyanov said that the anti-Iran resolution at the June Board brought negative consequences.

In his twitter accund he wrote, "Poorly thought-through anti-Iran resolution at the June Board brought its negative consequences. Not only has it complicated Vienna talks situation but also created extra challenge for IAEA in terms of JCPOA-related verification measures."

"We clearly remember warning our Western colleagues about consequences of their rash actions & called to forego this resolution scheme. Iran's decision to remove cameras & monitoring equipment was a direct reaction to the resolution," it added.

"Russia supports successful conclusion of Vienna talks. All the conditions are there already. All parties worked equally hard. But we need to take into account political complexity & sensitivity of issues to be solved in CPOA restoration context," it noted.

## Modern Slavery On the Rise as Crises Fuel Poverty



GENEVA (Dispatches) - The number of people forced to work or in a marriage against their will has surged in recent years to around 50 million on any given day, the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) said upon releasing its modern slavery report.

Crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and climate change have led to unprecedented disruption to employment and education while exacerbating extreme poverty and forced migration, the agency said.

Compared to the last count for the year 2016, the number of people in modern slavery has risen by around 9.3 million.

According to the latest figures, forced labour accounted for 27.6 million of those in modern slavery in 2021, more than 3.3 million of whom are children, and forced marriage for 22 million.

The ILO found that more than half of all forced labour occurred in either upper-middle income or high-income countries, with migrant workers more than three times as likely to be affected.

The report made mention of Qatar, which has faced widespread allegations of labor rights violations relating to migrants working there in the run up to the FIFA football World Cup, starting in November.

But since the ILO opened an office in the capital Doha in April 2018, there had been "significant progress" regarding the living and working conditions for hundreds of thousands of migrant workers in the country, even as problems remained with implementing new labor rules, the report said.

Qatar 2022 Chief Executive Nasser Al Khater Qatar said on Thursday the country had faced a lot of unfair criticism over its hosting the World Cup that was not based on facts but it that it had responded to any fair criticism.

The ILO report also pointed to concern about forced labour in parts of China.

## Indonesia, Norway Ink Deal to Reward Rainforest Protection

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia and Norway signed a deal Monday to reward deforestation reduction months after the collapse of a similar \$1-billion agreement that was part of a UN-backed global initiative criticized for its ineffectiveness.

Protecting trees is key to meeting climate goals but environmentalists blame Indonesia -- home to the world's third-largest rainforest area -- for a deforestation free-for-all by allowing companies to clear land for new plantations.

Jakarta claims it has made progress by reducing the rate of primary forest loss for five straight years and Oslo will now reward it with "results-based contributions" for cutting emissions, Norway's ministry of climate and environment said in a statement.

"Today we are proud to embark on a new partnership to support the Indonesian government's impressive results and ambitious plans," said Norwegian Minister for Climate and Environment Espen Barth Eide in a statement.

But environmental activists say the deal will not change the situation in Indonesia with vast swathes of rainforest still being destroyed to make way for palm and timber plantations that threaten endangered species and push indigenous people off their lands.

"The agreement does not solve existing problems, including recognition of indigenous people," Greenpeace Indonesia forest campaigner Iqbal Damanik told AFP.

"The point made is 'successfully reducing deforestation', not zero deforestation. It means there is still deforestation in Indonesia going forward."

## Albania's Cyberattack... FROM PAGE 1

The Iranian foreign minister also hoped that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resort to performing its technical duty concerning the Islamic Republic and avoid adopting a politically-charged approach towards the country.

The UN nuclear watchdog has, time and again, accused Iran of partially withholding cooperation with it, something that Tehran strongly rejects and denounces as the body's politicization of its attitude towards the country.

## Unilateral Sanctions... FROM PAGE 1

Gharibabadi said that America's claim about the humanitarian exception of the food and medicine fields from the inclusion of sanctions is a big lie that does not match the existing facts.

Sanctions are a major obstacle to international cooperation, particularly in the field of refugees and the fight against drugs, the official said, also elaborating on the impact of the unilateral sanctions on inflation, employment and infrastructural sectors.

"Unilateral coercive measures are an example of a crime against humanity because many people lose their lives as a result. This issue will definitely bring the international responsibility of the drafters and implementers of sanctions."

The two foreign ministers, meanwhile, addressed the latest status of Tehran and Abuja's bilateral ties as well as various international developments.

Amirabdollahian considered the half-a-century-long history of the countries' relations to be a "great and strong asset" that could be used towards expansion of their political, economic, and cultural ties on the basis of their "common interests."

For his part, Onyeama laid emphasis on the "good will" that Iran had displayed throughout the course of the negotiations, hoping that the United States' would resume complying with the agreement.

He also identified the historical ties and the amicable relations that the two countries have have had as a proper basis for further development of the mutual relations.

## Albania's Cyberattack... FROM PAGE 1

That is while they have themselves launched a huge eavesdropping espionage program empire that is quite aggressive, inclusive of hacking, penetration into most secret national projects, and... whose first cyberattack was launched against Iran's peaceful nuclear program during the course of the previous years in several phases.

The National Center for Cyberspace argued that this act is in the framework of scenario-writing to ruin the international reputation of our country, imposing international pressure, and trying to justify the unilateral and illegal acts, which are all politically motivated, are seriously condemned. It says that the challenges launched against Iran in IT and cyber field baselessly have aftermaths, that the scenario-makers in this plot should beware of, since the long chain of criminals involved in this plot are all identified and are in need of thorough consideration before making baseless judgments.



## Leipzig Midfielder Laimer out for Weeks

BERLIN (Dispatches) - RB Leipzig midfielder Konrad Laimer will be out for several weeks following an ankle ligament injury, the German club said.

The Austria international, who had been close to a deal with Bayern Munich a few weeks ago and had also been linked with a move to Liverpool, was injured in Leipzig's 3-0 victory over Borussia Dortmund on Saturday. "Konrad Laimer injured his left ligament in the 3-0 home win against Borussia Dortmund last Saturday and will be sidelined for several weeks," the club said in a statement.

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ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St.,

Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzdaran

Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and

Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

## Nakagami Extends Contract With Honda-LCR

PARIS (Dispatches) - Japanese MotoGP rider Takaaki Nakagami has extended his contract with Honda-LCR for a year until the end of 2023, the Japanese team announced.

The 30-year-old has raced for the team firstly in Moto2 from 2012 and then moved up to the premier class in 2018 recording six top-five placings. "We are very pleased with this announcement," said Honda team manager Lucio Cecchinello. "Since 2020 Taka has proved to be a very fast rider able to fight for podium positions and this year he has consistently fought to finish as the top Honda rider."

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

# Bayern Beat Barcelona, Liverpool Grab Late Winner

PARIS (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich got the better of Barcelona as Robert Lewandowski returned to face his former club on Tuesday, while a late Joel Matip goal allowed Liverpool to beat Ajax and get their Champions League campaign up and running.

There was also a surprise defeat for Tottenham Hotspur at Sporting Lisbon, and Atletico Madrid were beaten on their trip to play Bayer Leverkusen.

Both Spanish visitors to Germany came away on the losing side, with Barcelona going down 2-0 at the Allianz Arena in Group C as Lewandowski came back to the club he left in the summer after eight prolific seasons in Bavaria.

The Pole scored a hat-trick on his Champions League debut for Barca as the Catalans beat Viktoria Plzen 5-1 last week.

He was desperately close to opening the scoring in the first half in Munich, but it was Bayern who went in front five minutes into the second half when Lucas Hernandez headed in from a corner.

Leroy Sane burst through four minutes later to make it 2-0 as Julian Nagelsmann's Bayern made it two wins out of two in the group.

They have now won their last five meetings with Barcelona, including two in last season's group stage and their 8-2 victory in the 2020 quarter-finals.

"I think for 'Lewy' it was really an emotional game to come back -- a little bit like coming home, because he was so successful here," Bayern captain Manuel Neuer told Amazon Prime of his old teammate.

"The luck in the decisive moments wasn't on his side -- and that became our luck."

Barcelona next face Inter Milan, who got their first points with a 2-0 win away to Plzen in the Czech Republic.

Edin Dzeko and Denzel Dumfries got the goals for Inter while the home side had Pavel

Bucha sent off in the second half.

Liverpool got off to a disastrous start in Group A when they lost 4-1 to Napoli in Italy, but they bounced back from that to beat Ajax 2-1 at Anfield.

Mohamed Salah shook off a poor run of form to put Jurgen Klopp's side ahead in the 17th minute, only for the Dutch champions to equalize before the half-hour courtesy of an emphatic finish from their



thrilling Ghanaian talent Mohammed Kudus.

Liverpool were heading for a third game without a win in all competitions until Matip rose in front of the Kop to head in from a corner in the 89th minute, the ball crossing the line before it could be cleared out.

That match was preceded by a minute's silence to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The other game in Group A, between Rangers and Napoli, was postponed until Wednesday due to severe limitations on police resources in Scotland as a result of the Queen's death.

Meanwhile Antonio Conte's Spurs slumped to a 2-0 defeat against Sporting in Portugal in Group D, with the home side scoring both goals late on at the Jose Alvalade stadium.

It looked like the English side would escape with a point after Hugo Lloris produced a stunning late save to deny Pedro Porro.

But Paulinho headed in from the resulting 90th-minute corner, and Brazilian Arthur Gomes came off the bench to make it 2-0 with a superb solo strike in injury time.

Sporting top the group with six points, while Eintracht Frankfurt joined Spurs on three points thanks to a 1-0 win in Marseille, with Jesper Lindstrom scoring in the first half.

Leverkusen claimed their first points in Group B as they beat Atletico 2-0 with two late goals, Robert Andrich and Moussa Diaby both finding the net.

Belgian champions Club Brugge top the section with six points after a stunning 4-0 win at FC Porto.

Former Barcelona striker Ferran Jutgla opened the scoring with a penalty before Kamal Sowah, Andreas Skov Olsen and Norwegian teenager Antonio Nusa all netted in the second half.

## Vinicius, Rodrygo Making Real Madrid Dream

MADRID (Dispatches) - Carlo Ancelotti praised Brazilian pair Rodrygo and Vinicius for "making Real Madrid dream" in the absence of injured centre forward Karim Benzema.

Eden Hazard has also "done his part of the job", Ancelotti said on the eve of holders Real's Champions League home game against Leipzig, their second Group F match after a 3-0 win over Celtic.

"We are enthusiastic about our attack, about our young people. Karim makes us dream, but you end up getting used to what he does. So, when a young player comes on, it makes you dream even more," said Ancelotti.

"What Vini and Rodrygo do make us dream."

Ancelotti said Benzema, carrying a right thigh injury, "has a chance of playing" in the La Liga derby against Atletico on Sunday.

But against Leipzig, the 34-year-old French player will have to give way to the Brazilians or 31-year-old Belgian Hazard.

"During the two matches without Karim, Hazard did what we asked of him," said Ancelotti, who has won the Champions League trophy a record four times as a coach.

"But above all, the team reacted well, because we scored seven goals," he added of the three against Celtic and four against Mallorca.

In Benzema's absence, the player who shone the most was 22-year-old Vinicius, who was the scorer of the winning goal in last year's Champions League final against Liverpool.

"I don't even need to talk about his qualities," said Real's German rookie Antonio Rudiger of the Brazilian.

"He's a huge player, everyone knows that. He's a calm boy in the dressing room, who likes to have fun on the pitch.

"He dribbles a lot, and it's normal that the opponents want to hurt him when they have the chance. I too have tried... We all try to stop him."

# Marquez to Return After Long Absence



the fourth time he has gone under the knife for the injury.

"Having completed a fruitful two-day test in Misano and continued intensive training at home, Marquez and the Honda Team have set a date for his return: the

PARIS (Dispatches) - Six-time world champion Marc Marquez will return to action after a three-and-a-half month hiatus at this weekend's Aragon MotoGP, his Honda team announced.

The 29-year-old Spaniard has been on the sidelines since June when he underwent an operation in the United States on his right arm, fractured in a crash in July 2020,

Aragon Grand Prix," read a team statement on their website.

"110 days after he last raced a MotoGP machine at the Italian Grand Prix on May 29, Marc Marquez will return to competition at the Aragon Grand Prix.

"Since undergoing a successful fourth operation on his right humerus, the eight-time world champion (he has won a 125cc and a Moto2 title to go with his six MotoGP crowns) has followed the strict guidance of his medical team in order to facilitate a full recovery.

"After numerous check-ups, consultations and tests, all involved are satisfied with the recovery made and the #93 will now take the next step in his rehabilitation — returning to competition."

Marquez broke his arm in a crash at the Spanish Grand Prix in 2020 and while he returned to racing in April last year, and won three races, his injury continued to cause him problems.

## Spurs' Players Have to Accept Rotation

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham Hotspur manager Antonio Conte said his players will have to accept squad rotation this season and even the likes of Son Heung-min, who finished the last campaign as the Premier League's joint-top scorer, will not play every game.

Son scored 23 league goals last season but has yet to find the net in the current campaign, and with Harry Kane, Richarlison and Dejan Kulusevski competing for places Conte said attacking players would spend time on the sidelines. Conte had previously said he would be "crazy" to drop Son but when asked on Monday if the South Korean could be subject to rotation he said: "I think when you try to build something important ... you have to change old habits.

"Otherwise it means you want to stay in balance and it means you don't want to have ambition. For this reason all the players have to accept the rotation, especially up front, we have four players.

"The old habit was that the players were used to playing in every game," added Conte ahead of Champions League game at Sporting Lisbon.

"What happened in this type of situation is that you don't have great possibilities to win. You try to make the players happy, but big clubs have a big squad, a deep squad." The Premier League postponed last weekend's fixtures as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth and while Conte said it had given his team the chance to rest there could be issues in rescheduling matches due to the World Cup.



## Joshua Accepts Terms For Dec. 3 Title Fight With Fury

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's Anthony Joshua has accepted terms for a December 3 fight with Tyson Fury and is waiting for the WBC world heavyweight champion to respond, his management said. Joshua's 258 Management and promoter Matchroom Boxing said they had "accepted all terms presented to us by Fury's team" last Friday but agreed to halt all communication due to the death of Queen Elizabeth.

"We are awaiting a response," they added.

Fury's promoter Frank Warren replied to 258's message on Twitter: "Contract will be with you very soon." Former world champion Joshua, 32, suffered a second straight loss to Ukraine's WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO champion Oleksandr Usyk in a title rematch in Saudi Arabia last month.

Fury said last April he was retiring but the unbeaten heavyweight this month challenged Joshua directly to a "Battle of Britain" title fight.

"Anthony Joshua, I know you've just lost a fight to Usyk and you're bout-less at the moment, and I'd like to give you an opportunity to fight me for the WBC heavyweight championship of the world and the lineal championship in the next few months," he said.

"You're coming off a 12-round fight, so you're match fit, you're ready. I'm giving you a few months' notice," added the 34-year-old.

