

IRAN NEWS Extends Its Condolences Over the Demise Anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Martyrdom of Imam Reza (AS), the Eighth Imam of Shiites. The Next Issue Will Hit the News-Stands on Wednesday, September 28

IRAN NEWS

Minister of Information and Communications Technology Isa Zarepour Says Some Restrictions on The Internet May Be Imposed in Iran By Security Services Due to Recent Incidents in the Country

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7596 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 - SHAHRIVAR 31, 1401

2 DOMESTIC

No Practical Change In U.S. Behavior Toward Iran Under Biden



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Smuggled Home Appliances Taken Into Country With Authorization



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

UN Chief Warns That World Is in Peril



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Lorenzo Sonego Opens With Upset Win in Metz



> SEE PAGE 8

Iran Rightful to Demand Confidence-Building Guarantees

TEHRAN (MNA) – Referring to the issue of nuclear negotiations and the withdrawal of the U.S. from the JCPOA, the Iranian President said that Iran has the right to demand confidence-building guarantees.

Speaking on Tuesday morning local time, on the second day of his trip to New York, Seyed Ebrahim Raisi had a meeting with the President of the European Council Charles Michel.

Enumerating Iran's solutions and proposals to solve the nuclear issue as well as the issues related to Palestine, Afghanistan, Yemen and Ukraine, he said, "Efforts to normalize the relations of the Zionist Regime with some countries cannot bring security for this regime."

The President described sanctions against countries as inhumane and human rights violations, and added, "Sanctions on Iran are an unjust violation of the rights of 80 million Iranians and are serious examples of human rights violations."

Referring to the issue of nuclear negotiations and the need to provide confidence-building guarantees, Raisi stated, "It was the Americans who withdrew from the agreement, and other European countries did not fulfil their obligations towards Iran, so Iran has the right to demand confidence-building guarantees."

See Page 7

U.S. Urged to End Economic Terrorism

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said that the U.S. must end economic terrorism against Iran, instead of shedding crocodile tears.

"An investigation was ordered into tragic death of Mahsa, who, as President said, was just like our own daughters," Amirabdollahian wrote on his Twitter account on Tuesday.

He added that "to Iran, human rights are of inherent value-unlike those who see it a tool against adversaries".

"Instead of shedding crocodile tears, U.S. must end Economic Terrorism," he reiterated.

Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian girl, fainted in police custody in Tehran and died shortly afterwards in a nearby hospital.

The death of Mahsa Amini triggered public anger and sympathy among the Iranian people so President Ebrahim Raisi called her family on Sunday when he said that he had ordered the incident to be investigated carefully so that no right would be violated.

"Your daughter is like my own daughter, and I feel that this incident happened to one of my loved ones. Please accept my condolences," the Iranian president said.

See Page 7

Sacred Defense Proved Resistance Only Way to Protect Iran



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN (Supreme Leader) – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei says the Sacred Defense against the ex-Iraqi regime's eight-year war on Iran proved that protecting the country can be achieved only through resistance.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a speech he delivered during a Wednesday meeting with a group of Iranian war veterans, who defended the homeland against ex-Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's war on Iran in the 1980s, on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week.

"The Sacred Defense proved this fact that protecting the country and [achieving] deterrence can be achieved through resistance, not surrender," he said.

He said resistance raised the morale and self-confidence of the people and, at the same time, taught the enemy to reconsider its calculations and include the Iranian nation's power and resistance.

"The military invasion against the country after the [Islamic] Revolution was not unexpected. It is true that Saddam launched the attack, but behind Saddam was global arrogance," he said.

"The Sacred Defense is an exciting, eventful and fruitful juncture. The era of Sacred Defense is one of the events that have an effect on our yesterday, today and tomorrow," he said. "Therefore, the veterans [of the war] should be given attention and respect."

Iraq waged a war against Iran more than one and a half years after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which toppled the US-backed Pahlavi regime.

During the war, which became the longest armed conflict of the 20th century, Iraq was fully supported by the US and its allies, while the same countries denied Iran access to foreign arms.

According to the Leader, the Iranian nation had a new message for the world during the era of the Islamic Revolution and the imperialist countries did not want anyone to hear that message.

"They wanted to smother the voice of the Iranian nation in the throat," he said. "They wanted teach other nations that if anyone rises against America, they would be suppressed like the Iranian nation, and the ultimate and fundamental goal was to close the door to resistance."

But, the Leader continued, the Iranian nation responded by neutralizing all those goals and make the exact opposite happen.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the enemies were angry because of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which he said was not in line with the policies of Western and Eastern powers.

He recalled that all countries in that era were either pro-West or pro-East and no independent nation existed at the time.

"It was not at all tolerable for a country outside of this [bipolar] system to come and speak its mind. It was unbearable for them that a nation is not afraid of America," he said.

The Leader also noted that the revolution brought about events in the world that "perhaps we were not aware of all of its dimensions at that time, but they knew what had happened."

U.S. Continues Smuggling Syrian Crude Oil

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - Amid Washington's ferocious attempts to further plunder natural resources in war-ravaged Syria, the U.S. military has used dozens of tanker trucks to smuggle crude oil from the country's energy-rich northeastern province of Hasakah to bases in neighboring Iraq, where American forces and trainers are stationed.

Syria's official news agency SANA, citing local sources in al-Ya'rubiyah town, reported that a convoy of 60 tankers left Syria through the illegal Mahmoudiya border crossing on Tuesday, and headed towards Iraqi territories.

The development comes nearly a fortnight after the United States smuggled a batch of stolen Syrian oil into Iraq.

"A convoy of the U.S. occupation forces, consisting of 88 tankers loaded with stolen Syrian oil, left from the illegitimate Mahmoudiya crossing and entered Iraqi territory," SANA cited local sources from Ya'rubiyah town as saying on September 9.

The sources noted that US forces transferred the convoy to their bases in northern Iraq.

According to data released by the Syrian Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, Syria produced a total of 14.5 million barrels of oil in the first half of the current year, and the daily oil production stood at about 80,300 barrels.

American occupation forces and their allied Takfiris plundered 66,000 barrels of crude oil during the mentioned period.

The data further showed that just about 14,200 barrels were available for the Syrian domestic oil refineries.

The U.S. military has stationed forces and equipment in northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, maintains the deployment is meant to plunder the country's rich mineral resources.

Former U.S. president Donald Trump admitted on more than one occasion that American forces were in the Arab country for its oil.

See Page 7

ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian Fight for Right With Full Strength

The Islamic Republic of Iran in recent years has started a brave fight for its rights in all fields from peaceful nuclear right to regional security issues and it has stepped up the fight especially during President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and on Monday it started a legal fight for winning back its frozen money in the U.S.

The government said that the United States has created an "industry of litigation" over terror claims against Tehran in violation of international law.

Lawyers for Iran on Monday opened the country's bid at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague to unfreeze billions of dollars in assets frozen by the U.S. They said Washington has breached a 1955 friendship treaty, signed before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, by allowing American courts to confiscate assets from Iranian companies, including \$1.75 billion from the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2016 ruled that about USD 2 billion in frozen Iranian assets must be turned over to American families of people killed in the 1983 bombing of a US Marine Corps barracks in the Lebanese capital of Beirut and other attacks blamed on Iran. Tehran has long rejected allegations of involvement in the 1983 Beirut bombing.

The money confiscated under the U.S. court ruling belongs to the CBI. The assets were blocked under US sanctions.

Addressing the ICJ judges on Monday, Iran's representative Tavakkol Habibzadeh said the U.S. ruling opened the way for "billions of dollars in compensation and punitive damages through default judgments."

By doing so, the United States has "created an industry of litigation against Iran and Iranian companies," he added.

Another lawyer for Iran, Vaughan Lowe, said Iran "denies that it is responsible for the injuries to those victims."

"United States legislation doesn't bother with proof or with attribution, or with responsibility," Lowe said, adding, "Never mind proving that Iran is guilty in any particular case... Sentence first, verdict afterwards."

Iran urges the U.S. to lift its sanctions on humanitarian goods as per the International Court of Justice ruling as it wins another lawsuit against Washington at the International Maritime Organization.

U.S. representatives were set to respond at the ICJ on Wednesday.

See Page 7

Knowledge-Oriented, Striving Innovations Only Way out of Existing Challenges

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri has underlined that future plans should be based on knowledge-oriented and striving innovations along with observing the spirit of sacred defense era to resolve current challenges of the country.

Bagheri made the remarks in Tehran on Wednesday morning, when Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei received a number of commanders and soldiers of eight-year Iraqi imposed-war on Iran, noting that the war veterans participating in meeting are representing many other individuals, who take part in the event virtually.

The major general said that relying on the great asset of revolutionary and scientific youths in determining future of the country based on innovations derived from know-how, correct understanding and striving efforts along with the spirit of the sacred defense era are the only path to resolve the current and future problems of the Islamic country.

As to the success of Iranians in turning woes into opportunities during the 8-year war, he said that one of the most important hardships was the efforts made by the Iranians to turn standstill and retreatment in the first months of the conflict into next victories in different operation, which ended up in liberation of Khoramshahr city in Beit-ol-Moghaddas operation.

See Page 7

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN

Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Iran Air Force to Open Big Airshow

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The commander of Shahid Lashgari Airbase in Tehran second brigadier general Bahman Behmard said that the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) will open a big Airshow in Shahid Lashgari Airbase in Tehran, Iran.

On the occasion of Holy Defense Week, Second brigadier general Behmard said that the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) will open a big Airshow in Shahid Lashgari Airbase in Tehran, Iran.

Stressing the need for showing Iran's air capabilities, general Behmard added that introducing and displaying the strength and capabilities of the Army Air Force to the people and especially the youth of the country will have a significant impact on the promotion of self-confidence and national dignity.

No Practical Change In U.S. Behavior Toward Iran Under Biden

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says the Biden administration has taken to practical step that would indicate a policy shift toward Iran, despite claiming that it wants to reverse its predecessor's pressure campaign and rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal.

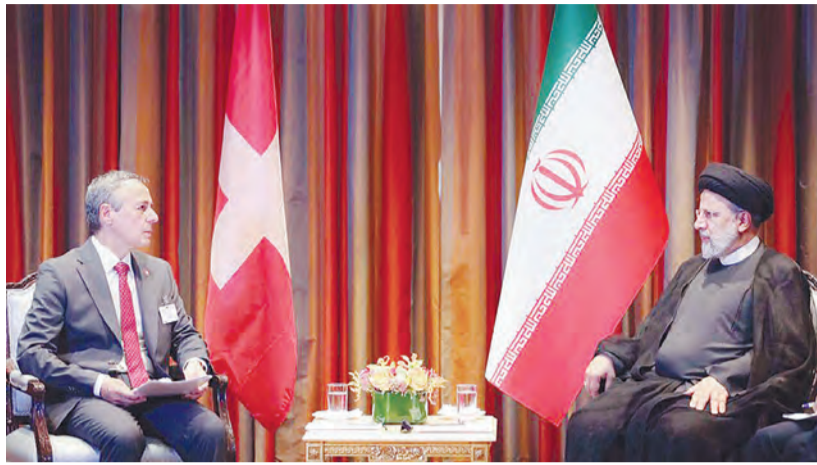
Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with his Swiss counterpart, Ignazio Cassis, on Tuesday in New York on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly session.

"We have so far not observed a practical and serious step that would illustrate a shift in the US behavior and removal of cruel sanctions [against Iran]," despite the fact that the incumbent US administration claims it is opposed to ex-President Donald Trump's policies.

Raisi blamed Washington's indecisiveness for the deadlock in the talks over revival of the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"It was America which withdrew from the JCPOA, not Iran. Even though Iran has stood committed to its obligations, the Western parties to the accord have failed to honor theirs," the Iranian president pointed out.

Raisi underscored that Tehran's demands for guarantees from the US before the



2015 deal is restored are absolutely logical given Washington's track record.

He said the Islamic Republic has kept progressing despite 40 years of pressure and sanctions, proving that the coercive measures are totally ineffective.

Raisi also hailed the friendly relations between Iran and Switzerland, calling for expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, particularly in banking and financial sectors.

For his part, Cassis emphasized that Iran's and the Middle East region's security guarantees that of Europe.

He also welcomed further development of monetary and banking cooperation between Bern and Tehran.

"In 2016, a road map was drawn to improve trade relations between the two countries, which we still adhere to. We believe that political and geopolitical hurdles should be overcome in order for cooperation between the two countries to advance," the Swiss president said.

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

Bagheri Kani, Mora Meet in NY

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iran's Top Nuclear Negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani met and held talks with the European Union's Coordinator of the JCPOA revival talks, Enrique Mora in New York, U.S., on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the negotiation process of removing sanctions.

The latest round of talks in Vienna, which aims to remove the anti-Iran sanctions reinstated after the U.S. withdrawal in 2018, began on Thursday.

As the negotiations in which the US took part indirectly wrapped up, Western media reported that the European Union had put forward a "final text" which they said is non-negotiable and is regarded as a basis for decision-making by the parties to the talks.

However, the so-called "final" text contains



proposals by the EU Coordinator of the Vienna talks, Enrique Mora, which cannot be considered as the final text and non-negotiable.

During the latest round of the negotiations, the Iranian team presented the Islamic Republic's basic stance on issues such as the sustainable lifting of the sanctions, the required guarantees for the sanctions removal, and issues alleged by the UN nuclear watchdog. The Iranian negotiators informed Mora of Tehran's stance and he put forward his proposals on the disputed issues on Monday.

Although Mora has described his proposals as a "final text", a decision on it lies within the authority of the parties to the talks, and there will be no talk of a final text and agreement until everything is agreed upon.

Iran, Tatarstan Stress Facilitating Bilateral Economic Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) - Commenting on the historical and cultural commonalities between Iran and Tatarstan, Iran's First Vice President emphasized the need for developing joint cooperation between Tehran and Kazan in various areas.

Speaking in his meeting with the visiting President of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov in Tehran on Tuesday evening, Mohammad Mokhber First Vice President stated that Iran and Tatarstan enjoy high capabilities and potential to develop bilateral relations in the trade, industrial scientific and cultural fields.

Referring to the cordial and amicable relations between Iran and Russia, Mokhber noted that Tehran and Moscow have compiled joint plans for the development of cooperation in the transit sector, so that Tatarstan can establish a joint cooperation with Iran in this sector.

The First Vice President termed the construction of joint commercial centers between Iran and Tatarstan "as a step towards facilitating commercial and economic relations.

With the construction of these commercial centers, the necessary grounds would be paved for the expansion of private sectors' cooperation more than before, he continued.

President of Tatarstan, for his part, pointed to his visit of MAPNA and Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) and stated that his country is interested in taking advantage of Iran's capabilities in various fields of cooperation.

During the meeting, Minnikhanov called for exchanging university professors and students between the two countries of Iran and Tatarstan.

Heading a high-ranking delegation consisting of 60 officials, the president of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov paid a visit to the Iranian capital, Tehran on Tuesday.

Iran Slams West's Opportunism, Instrumentalization of Human Rights

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Ministry condemns Western countries and their allies for their interventionist attitude towards the Islamic Republic following the "lamentable" recent death of a young Iranian woman.

Spokesman Nasser Kanaani condoled with the family of the deceased woman, Mahsa Amini, who died at the hospital a few days after collapsing at a police station in Tehran. Following her death, President Ebrahim Raisi immediately ordered relevant Iranian officials to conduct a thorough probe into the incident, demanding that they treat it as "a special case."

Kanaani advised the U.S. and its allies against "opportunism and instrumentalization of the issue of human rights" by misusing the incident. He reminded that the countries, which, themselves, towed a "long history of warmongering and violence" throughout the world, lacked the legitimacy that could authorize them to "moralize others" concerning the human rights.

He said the United States, with its defeated policy of "maximum pressure" and economic terrorism, was, itself, the "biggest violator" of the Iranian nation's rights, adding, Washington, therefore, cannot masquerade as a sympathizer and supporter of the Iranian people by assuming dishonest stances and facing the Islamic Republic with unproven claims.

Based on religious and historical beliefs and values, the human rights is of an "inherent" position for the Islamic Republic, the official asserted.

He denounced the accusing countries for trying to "politicize and objectify" the human rights and for their use of the incident, which is still under investigation, noting, they aim to pursue their political goals and desires against the Iranian government and nation.

Kanaani noted that the Islamic Republic's highest executive, judicial, and legislative authorities had ordered a rigorous and transparent investigation into the poignant incident.

President Slams Europe's Unconstructive Anti-Iran Approach at IAEA

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Meeting his French counterpart, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hits out at the European countries for having pursued a resolution against Tehran's nuclear program at the UN nuclear watchdog amid diplomatic efforts aimed at reviving the 2015 agreement.

Raisi sat down for talks on Tuesday with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

During the talks, the Iranian president described the outstanding issues between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a "serious obstacle" to a final agreement on the restoration of the 2015 deal.

"The Agency's approach to issues should be technical and free from the other parties' pressures and influence. We believe it is not possible to reach an agreement without the closure of Iran's dossiers" at the IAEA, Raisi added.

He criticized a move by France, Germany and the UK — the three European signatories to the Iran deal — for having called for the adoption of a resolution at the

latest meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors earlier this month, describing it as an "unconstructive" approach that further complicates the matters. The Europe-sought resolution, however, did not garner enough support at the meeting. The Board instead passed a statement critical of what it called Tehran's lack of cooperation with the Agency.

"With its inspection and supervision, the IAEA officially admitted 15 times that Iran's activities lie within the commitments and far from any diversion," he said.

The Iranian president further noted that the agency's dual approach to the destructive nuclear activities of the Israeli regime is a sign of a "politicization" of matters.

In a phone conversation with Macron, Raisi had already criticized the U.S. for abandoning the accord and re-imposing sweeping sanctions against the country, saying Washington has clearly violated its commitments under the nuclear deal.

He also emphasized that the U.S. and European countries must implement their commitments under the JCPOA, stressing that "In any negotiation, the rights of the Iranian nation should be secured and guaranteed."

Iran-Bolivia

Relations Friendly, Developing

TEHRAN (MNA) - Stating that relations between Iran and Bolivia is friendly and expanding, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that relations between the two countries are not ordinary and this amicable ties should be developed day by day.

Speaking with the President of Bolivia Luis Arce on the sidelines of the 77th meeting of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Tuesday evening, President Raisi stated that the two countries of Iran and Bolivia enjoy high potentials to expand their relations in all fields.

Iranian Foreign Minister is obliged to activate the Joint Economic Cooperation between the two countries, he said, adding that the result of these cooperation must be tangible and operational for the two countries.

Bolivian president, for his turn, pointed to the longstanding history of friendship between Iran and Bolivia and expressed hope that cooperation between the two countries will lead to the favorable results with the depending of bilateral cooperation.

Gharibabadi Criticizes EU Stances On Mahsa Amini's Death

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary of Iran Human Rights Headquarters in a meeting with Ambassador of Denmark in Iran criticized EU Foreign Service statement on death of late Iranian citizen Mahsa Amini.

Kazem Gharibabadi said in his Tuesday evening meeting with Ambassador Jesper Vahr that the EU and some European countries' double-standards in dealing with the human rights issue is condemned, arguing, "When the terrorist groups Pezhak or Komeleh commit horrendous crimes against the human rights the EU never condemns those moves, for instance."

Gharibabadi said following the sorrowful event occurred for the Iranian girl, inspection teams began working on various aspects of the event and the Human Rights Headquarters is in touch with them.

Iran Ready to Host Dialogue Meeting Between Divine Religions

TEHRAN (MNA) - President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi in a meeting with religious leaders announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic to host a meeting of dialogue between divine religions.

Speaking on Tuesday evening in New York, Ebrahim Raisi had a meeting with the leaders of the divine religions.

Stating that the common point of all of the followers of the divine religions is worshipping God, he said, "Let's put attention to God as a common principle of divine religions".

Noting that all believers in divine religions agree on the point that a society without God and belief in the origin and resurrection creates destruction for mankind, not growth and prosperity, he added, "Humanity faces two bloody and catastrophic world wars and 70 years of oppression of the Palestinian people as a part of the examples of excluding God from the field of society administration, so it is necessary to consider the belief in God alongside all decision-making."

Pointing out that the unity of divine religions does not mean that people give up their religion, Raisi said, "Unity does not mean that the followers of different religions give up their religion, but it means we should emphasize the points of commonality, especially worshipping God, and put aside differences."

The President described worshipping God and attention to divine laws as the biggest obstacle in the path of arrogance, self-centeredness, and desire to dominate others, and clarified, "The basis of oppression in the world is due to arrogance and self-aggrandizement, and the way to refrain from it is to pay attention to divine laws."

Raisi stated that the right to social life does not mean that someone has the right to impose his personal wishes and perceptions on others, and pointed out, "Domination is one of the manifestations of atheism, which deprives other people of the opportunity to think."

The President described monotheism and justice as two pillars emphasized and accepted by all divine religions, and said, "It is in the light of justice that man can live a healthy, safe and easy life. According to Imam Muhammad Baqir (PBUH), when a person has correctly adjusted his relationship with himself, with God, with others, with existence and nature, he can be on the path to perfection."

The President stated that today, along with the spread of atheism, the tendency towards religion has also spread a lot, especially among young people, and clarified, "The spread of spirituality among societies is a responsibility for the leaders of the divine religions, and the leaders of the divine religions should be careful and serious about the occurrence of any conflict between divine religions".



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:57
■ Evening (Maghreb)	19:19
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:29
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:53

60. They said, "We heard a youth talk of them: He is called Abraham."
61. They said, "Then bring him before the eyes of the people, that they may bear witness."

Surah 21. The Prophets (60 - 61)

Smuggled Home Appliances Taken Into Country With Authorization

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The chairman of the Iranian Home Appliances Trade Union Mr. Akbar Pazouki believes the purchasing power of the people has diminished and for this reason they make mistakes in purchase and they buy the second-hand goods which are repaired and it is some sort of waste of money.

Speaking to ILNA, Mr. Pazouki pointed to the dominating recession in the domestic home appliances market and stipulated that people's weak financial affordability has led to the decline in demands for purchase.

He reiterated that in the current condition, imports of home appliances is a mere mistake, adding that imports should be smart and issuing license for imports of goods that the country itself can produce them is a mistake and the license should be given to imports of goods that the country does not produce them.

Pazouki reiterated that smuggled goods enter the country with the government's authorization, adding that if the government sets condition for imports it can itself get its rights and tariffs in the Customs Office and it will also help people not to buy low quality goods.

He went on to say that smugglers try to bring in some home appliances which they can make most money out of them and these goods lack after-sale services most of the time.



He admitted that most people can't afford to buy new and first hand goods and they have to buy the second-hand goods and it is just waste of money.

Pazouki pointed to people's strictness in buying home appliances and stipulated that domestic producing companies have favorable market and the quality of their products has increased but the financial condition of the people has forced them not to buy any good and the after-sale services are important for them.

He said that the country faces shortage in small home appliance products and said that LED TVs, side-by-side refrigerators, rice cooker, electric mixer, food-makers and fans are mostly smuggled into the country with different brands because the country faces shortage of them.

Pazouki reiterated that producing factories of small home appliances should increase production of these types of goods. He noted that he does not have exact figure about the amount of smuggled home appliance products, stressing that and the related officials should give the data.

He went on to say that launch of new production lines for home appliances does not seem logical, adding that the current production units should be organized and production should be directed towards exports.

Pazouki then pointed to exports of home appliances and said that Iran exports refrigerators, washing machines, water heater, heater and freezer, and Iraq and Afghanistan are the major destinations for the exports of home appliances.

He admitted that countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia do not buy Iranian produced home appliances because the final cost of Iranian products is high and those countries can buy similar products from Europe with a suitable and cheaper price.

NIDC Bracing for Stronger Presence in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN (Shana) - The CEO of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) said: With the provision of three offshore drilling rigs, the company's presence in the Persian Gulf waters will become stronger in the near future.

According to NIDC, Hamidreza Golpaigani in a meeting with the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on Monday said that NIDC is operating three drilling rigs, including Shahid Rajaei, Shahid Modares and a diagonal drilling rigs in the Persian Gulf, adding: "Shahid Rajaei and Shahid Modares rigs have become ineffective due to wear and tear of equipment, and according to the approval of NIOC, three new rigs will replace them."

He stated: "Changing the structure and reforming the processes, rebuilding and modernizing drilling machines and technical service equipment, timely supply of goods and functional items, reforming the daily rig rate, manpower training and foresight in the issue of human resources are among the highlights that can be used in improving the agility and productivity of the company."

The NIDC CEO said under the 13th administration, with the special attention of the NIOC CEO and the support provided, the NIDC management, with the double efforts of its hardworking employees, was able to increase the number of active drilling rigs from 56 in the calendar year of 1400 which ended on March 20 to 64, which will reach 66 by the end of this calendar year.

Iran, India Carry out Digital TIR Transport

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The first-ever international digital TIR pilot transport was carried out between Iran and India which facilitates the transfer of shipments from India to Russia via INSTC corridor.

As the Indian cargo arrived in the Iranian southern port of Shahid Rajaei, Hossein Saedi, the director of Shahid Rajaei Customs, said that the TIR mechanism actually facilitates transit of goods between countries as it removes the need for paper documents.

The documents are now received electronically and so the cargo will travel the route in the shortest possible time, Saedi said.

He said that the measure is taking place with the help of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) as the Chamber of Commerce receives the necessary guarantees in the first country and in the case of any misconduct, the Iran Chamber of Commerce and the first country will pursue the issue.

Speaking to reporters, Chairman of Bandar Abbas Chamber of Commerce Mohammad-Reza Safa elaborated on the TIR mechanism noting that under this system the cargo is sealed upon departure in the first country and remains sealed until it reaches the destination.

The ICCIMA is an IRU member and Iran's TIR issuing and guaranteeing association.

Last year, the ICCIMA became the biggest issuer of TIR carnets, with over 125,000 carnets, closely followed by Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Oil Ministry Enters Into Talks With China's Sinopec

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Iranian oil minister said that he held talks with the head of China energy company Sinopec office in Tehran to attract their investment to develop the Iranian Yadavan oil field.

The Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji announced plans to attract 145 billion dollars in the oil industry between the next four and eight years and said, the 13th government under President Ebrahim Raisi is resolved to expand cooperation with Chinese companies.

"Last week, during my visit to the operational areas of Khuzestan province, I visited the Yadavaran field, the first phase of which was developed by this company (Sinopec), and I was informed about the details of the development of the first phase of the field."

He emphasized the importance of completing the development of the Yadavaran field as a joint field between Iran and Iraq and said, "Fortunately, the Sinopec company is very familiar with Iran and its oil and gas fields and took part in the first phase of the development of the Yadavaran field."

Tehran, Beijing Reach \$11b in Bilateral Trade In January-August



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Bilateral trade between Iran and China reached over \$11 billion in the eight months to August, according to figures by China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) reported in the Iranian media.

A report by the official IRNA news agency cited GAC figures showing that trade between Iran and China had risen 19% year on year in January-August to reach a total of \$11.16 billion.

The report said China's imports from Iran had amounted to \$4.946 billion in the eight months to August, up 14% from the same period last year.

Chinese exports to Iran rose 24% year on year in January-August to reach a total of \$6.214 billion, showed the Chinese customs figures.

The figures showed that Iranian exports to China dropped 33% in August from the same last year to stand at \$0.476 billion while imports from China rose 36% to \$1.014 billion over the same month.

The figures cover non-oil trade between Iran and China over the January-August period.

That comes as Iran has supplied increased volumes of crude oil to China since the second half of last year.

The GAC does not normally release data related to oil imports from Iran because a bulk of the shipments are delivered to private buyers in the country.

Iran has relied on increased economic and energy ties with China to offset the impacts of American sanctions on its crude oil exports since 2018.

Chinese authorities have defended Beijing's growing ties with Tehran while criticizing the US government's unjustified use of domestic sanctions to target normal trade ties between other countries.

Over 11,000 Iranians Migrated to Canada Last Year

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Legal and Anti-Economic Corruption Commission of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) says financial and human resources of the country leave the country every year with faster pace.

Speaking to ILNA, Hassan Forouzanfar said that bureaucratic corruption has darkened the climate of the business in the country, adding that every year the amount of bureaucratic corruption in the countries are announced officially and based on standards, and governments try to minimize the items of the corruption. He admitted that in the past two decades, bureaucratic corruption in the country has been on the rise and the way of informing the society has been controversial and it has been politically motivated just for condemning the rival political front.

He noted that today this method of informing the society about the corruption causes concerns and makes the amount of the corruption in the country unrealistic.

Forouzanfar then criticized ways of informing corruption in Iran and called it unprofessional and politically-motivated. He noted that political motivation in revealing the bureaucratic corruption has increased its negative impact on the businesses and it has negative impacts on the mindsets of economic activists.

He further said that continuation of the economic corruption current in the country will definitely make economic development of the country very difficult, adding that corruption has impacts on people and economic activists of the country for short time and its impact on the national economy in the long term.

He blamed decline in the economic growth and economic development as the main impact of economic corruption in the country, adding that this

feeling of insecurity has made domestic and foreign investors show no interest for investment in the country and they feel Iran is not a favorable place for investment.

On the decline in interests of foreign investors for investing in Iran, Forouzanfar said that the condition is in a way that they do not try to attract foreign investments but they try to prevent flight of domestic capitals to foreign countries.

He noted that according to the statistics of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, every year \$9b of capital is taken out of the country and he believes this figure is not real and it is more than the mentioned figure because the announced amount is just for the flight of cash capitals.

He questioned: Which body has monitored migration of 11,000 people and their capitals to Canada? He reiterated that cash and human capitals leave the country every year with faster pace.

He blamed bureaucratic corruption as the main reason for the flight of capitals from the country, adding that the government has said foreigners can get citizenship with \$100,000 investment but the question is why the government does not try to prevent the flight of domestic human and financial capitals from the country.

He also blamed the sanctions as a main reason for lack of foreign investment, adding that banking system is not active and transferring money is impossible or difficult and it does not provide the ground for arrival of foreign investment and any foreign investment in the country is state-run or with the government support, and currently the major concern of economic activists is an action to stop accelerating in flight of capitals from the country.



Valfajr Shipping Co., Custodian of Container Transportation in Chabahar Port

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - With the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line (IRISL) Group decision, Valfajr Shipping Company was missioned to develop the operation of container transportation in Chabahar Port.

According to reports, Valfajr Shipping Company as one of the affiliate companies of IRISL Group which is active in the fields of container transportation, offshore and passengers in a communique announced its acceptance of the assigned mission by the IRISL for developing the container shipping the framework of North-South Corridor and stipulated that this mission has been given



to Valfajr Company in line with more pick-up of the corridor with Chabahar Port as the focal point.

Accordingly, it is predicted with the arrival of Valfajr in the container operation, the final fare of transiting goods from the Chabahar Port route from India to the CIS states and Afghanistan will reduce.

The transit of goods via Chabahar Port by the IRISL Group network will be based on the door to door system. In the current condition, the IRISL Group and also Valfajr Company do not seek profit and they seek boom in the transit of goods in Chabahar Port and revival of the North-South Corridor. Of course the operation will be carried out in a way that the company does not suffer losses.

Powerful Earthquake Hits Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - A magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck western Mexico on the anniversary of two devastating temblors, killing at least two people, damaging buildings, knocking out power and sending residents of Mexico City scrambling outside for safety.

Two died in the Pacific port of Manzanillo, authorities said, one crushed by the facade of a department store while another was found dead at a mall. Videos on social media showed the roof of the mall collapsed into the top floor, a gym, as people yelled for help.

Authorities also reported damage to several hospitals in the western state of Michoacan near the epicenter, which was in a sparsely populated part of Mexico. One person was injured by falling glass at one of the hospitals, the government said.



Italy's Frontrunner Party Suspends Candidate Over Hitler Praise

ROME (Dispatches) - The Brothers of Italy party, which is tipped to win national elections at the weekend, suspended one of its candidates on Tuesday after he was found to have praised Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler in online posts.

Brothers of Italy traces its roots back to a neo-fascist group set up after World War Two, but its leader Giorgia Meloni, expected to be Italy's next prime minister, has looked to distance herself from the far-right and says her party is mainstream conservative.

Critics, however, say fascist sympathisers still flourish in its ranks and La Repubblica newspaper published this week a social media comment posted eight years ago by party candidate Calogero Pisano, hailing Hitler as a "great statesman".



UN Chief Warns That World Is in Peril



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The head of the UN has warned world leaders that nations are "gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction" and are not ready or willing to tackle the challenges that threaten the future of humanity — and the planet. "Our world is in peril — and paralyzed," said United Nations secretary general Antonio Guterres.

Speaking at the opening of the General Assembly's annual high-level meeting, he emphasised that hope remained, but his remarks reflected a tense and worried world.

He cited the war in Ukraine and multiplying conflicts around the world, the climate emergency, the dire financial situation of developing countries and setbacks in UN goals for 2030 including an end to extreme poverty and quality education for all children.

The divergence between developed and developing countries, between North and South, between the privileged and the rest, is becoming more dangerous by the day.

He also warned of what he called "a forest of red flags" around new technologies despite promising advances to heal diseases and connect people.

Mr Guterres said social media platforms are based on a model "that monetizes outrage, anger and negativity", and artificial intelligence "is compromising the integrity of information systems, the media, and indeed democracy itself".

The world lacks even the beginning of "a global architecture" to deal with the ripples caused by these new technologies because of "geopolitical tensions", he added.

His opening remarks came as leaders from around the planet reconvened at UN headquarters in New York after three years of pandemic interruptions, including an entirely virtual meeting in 2020 and a hybrid one last year.

This week, the halls of the UN are filled once more with delegates reflecting the world's cultures. Many faces were visible, though all delegates are required to wear masks except when speaking to ward off coronavirus.

Mr Guterres started on a note of hope, showing a video of the first UN-chartered ship carrying grain from Ukraine — part of the deal between Ukraine and Russia that the United Nations and Turkey helped broker — to the Horn of Africa, where millions of people are on the edge of famine.

He stressed that co-operation and dialogue are the only path forward, and warned that "no power or group alone can call the shots".

"Let's work as one, as a coalition of the world, as united nations," he urged leaders gathered in the General Assembly hall.

"Lofty ideals must be made real in people's lives.

So let's develop common solutions to common problems - grounded in goodwill, trust & the rights shared by every human being."

Geopolitical divisions are undermining the work of the UN Security Council, international law, people's trust in democratic institutions and most forms of international co-operation, Mr Guterres said.

Russia Triggers Plan to Formally Annex Occupied Ukrainian Regions

LONDON (Dispatches) - Two Russian-controlled regions in eastern Ukraine announced plans to hold referendums on joining Russia later this week and an ally of President Vladimir Putin said the votes would alter the geopolitical landscape in Moscow's favor forever.

The move, which seriously escalates Moscow's standoff with the West, comes after Russia suffered a battlefield reversal in northeast Ukraine and as Putin ponders his next steps in a nearly seven-month-old conflict that has caused the most serious East-West rift since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Russian-backed, self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) and the neighboring Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) said the planned referendums would be held from Sept. 23-27.

In a post on social media addressed to Putin, DPR head Denis Pushilin wrote: "I ask you, as soon as possible, in the event of a positive decision in the referendum - which we have no doubt about - to consider the DPR becoming a part of Russia."

Earlier on Tuesday, Russian-installed officials in the southern Kherson region, where Moscow's forces control around 95% of the territory, said they had also decided to hold a referendum.

Pro-Russian authorities in part of Ukraine's Zaporizhia region were expected to follow suit.

Ukraine and the United States have said such referendums would be an illegal sham and have made clear that they and many other countries would not recognize the results.

Dmitry Medvedev, a former president who is currently deputy chairman of the Security Council, suggested before the announcements that the outcome of such votes would be irreversible and give Moscow - which has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world - carte blanche to defend what it would regard as legally its own territory.

"Encroachment onto Russian territory is a crime which allows you to use all the forces of self-defense," Medvedev said in a post on Telegram. "This is why these referendums are so feared in Kyiv and the West."

Mr Guterres said social media platforms are based on a model "that monetizes outrage, anger and negativity", and artificial intelligence "is compromising the integrity of information systems, the media, and indeed democracy itself".

The world lacks even the beginning of "a global architecture" to deal with the ripples caused by these new technologies because of "geopolitical tensions", he added.

His opening remarks came as leaders from around the planet reconvened at UN headquarters in New York after three years of pandemic interruptions, including an entirely virtual meeting in 2020 and a hybrid one last year.

This week, the halls of the UN are filled once more with delegates reflecting the world's cultures. Many faces were visible, though all delegates are required to wear masks except when speaking to ward off coronavirus.

Mr Guterres started on a note of hope, showing a video of the first UN-chartered ship carrying grain from Ukraine — part of the deal between Ukraine and Russia that the United Nations and Turkey helped broker — to the Horn of Africa, where millions of people are on the edge of famine.

He stressed that co-operation and dialogue are the only path forward, and warned that "no power or group alone can call the shots".

"Let's work as one, as a coalition of the world, as united nations," he urged leaders gathered in the General Assembly hall.

"Lofty ideals must be made real in people's lives.

So let's develop common solutions to common problems - grounded in goodwill, trust & the rights shared by every human being."

Geopolitical divisions are undermining the work of the UN Security Council, international law, people's trust in democratic institutions and most forms of international co-operation, Mr Guterres said.

The world lacks even the beginning of "a global architecture" to deal with the ripples caused by these new technologies because of "geopolitical tensions", he added.

His opening remarks came as leaders from around the planet reconvened at UN headquarters in New York after three years of pandemic interruptions, including an entirely virtual meeting in 2020 and a hybrid one last year.

This week, the halls of the UN are filled once more with delegates reflecting the world's cultures. Many faces were visible, though all delegates are required to wear masks except when speaking to ward off coronavirus.

Mr Guterres started on a note of hope, showing a video of the first UN-chartered ship carrying grain from Ukraine — part of the deal between Ukraine and Russia that the United Nations and Turkey helped broker — to the Horn of Africa, where millions of people are on the edge of famine.

He stressed that co-operation and dialogue are the only path forward, and warned that "no power or group alone can call the shots".

"Let's work as one, as a coalition of the world, as united nations," he urged leaders gathered in the General Assembly hall.

"Lofty ideals must be made real in people's lives.

So let's develop common solutions to common problems - grounded in goodwill, trust & the rights shared by every human being."

Geopolitical divisions are undermining the work of the UN Security Council, international law, people's trust in democratic institutions and most forms of international co-operation, Mr Guterres said.

The world lacks even the beginning of "a global architecture" to deal with the ripples caused by these new technologies because of "geopolitical tensions", he added.

His opening remarks came as leaders from around the planet reconvened at UN headquarters in New York after three years of pandemic interruptions, including an entirely virtual meeting in 2020 and a hybrid one last year.

This week, the halls of the UN are filled once more with delegates reflecting the world's cultures. Many faces were visible, though all delegates are required to wear masks except when speaking to ward off coronavirus.

Clashes With Palestinian Security Forces In Nablus Leave One Dead

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) - A Palestinian man has been killed during ongoing clashes between Palestinian fighters and Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces in the Israeli-occupied West Bank city of Nablus.

Local media identified the man as 53-year-old Firas Yaesh. His death was announced at dawn on Tuesday.

Witnesses, as well as local journalists, have said that Yaesh was killed by PA police fire, but this has not yet been confirmed.

"Armed men had been shooting at the Nablus police centre, then the police began shooting indiscriminately — a bullet from the police hit him and killed him in front of his home," Nablus-based journalist Hazem Nasser told Al Jazeera, citing witnesses.

The spokesperson for the PA's security services, Talal Dweikat, said in a statement on Tuesday afternoon that "the death of citizen Firas Yaesh came as a result of an injury, the nature of which has not yet

been determined," adding that they "are waiting for the medical report".

Dweikat added that "no security personnel were present" at the scene where Yaesh was killed, and said "there are testimonies of eyewitnesses who were in the area of the unfortunate accident confirming the authenticity of this story."

Another Palestinian man Anas Abdelfattah, who is said to be a student at An-Najah National University in Nablus, sustained serious wounds from a bullet to the stomach and is in a critical condition.

Clashes and confrontations unfolded in Nablus shortly after midnight following the PA's arrest of two Palestinian fighters, including 30-year-old Musab Shtayyeh, who is high on Israel's wanted list.

Shtayyeh is a commander with the al-Qassam brigades, the armed wing of the Gaza-based Hamas's armed resistance movement.



Pacific Islands a Key U.S. Military Buffer to China's Ambitions

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - China sees the Pacific islands as an area of significant strategic interest and the United States should strengthen its commitment to north Pacific island states, now in talks to renew a defense compact, to maintain a vital military buffer, a report released Tuesday by a U.S. Congress-funded think tank said.

China had made progress in the Pacific on geostrategic goals it has been unable to achieve elsewhere, said the report for the United States Institute for Peace, whose co-authors include former senior military officials.

This was cause for concern but not alarm, the report added, saying the U.S. should bolster support for island states in the north Pacific where it had the strongest historical ties. The report comes ahead of a meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and a dozen Pacific island leaders next week, as Washington seeks to compete for influence with Beijing.

The Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Palau are sovereign nations known as Freely Associated States (FAS), after signing compacts in the late 1980s that give the U.S. defense responsibility and the right to military bases.

The compacts, which expire in 2023 and 2024, are being renegotiated, and the report warned that these states could look to China for funding if negotiations fail.

"The vast FAS territorial seas, which span much of the northern Pacific, are an important strategic buffer between U.S. defense assets in Guam and Hawaii and East Asian littoral waters," said the report, whose authors include Philip Davidson, a former commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and David Stilwell, a former U.S. assistant secretary of state.

If Beijing were to succeed in bringing one of these states into its sphere, "it would imperil U.S. military capabilities in a strategically vital geographic command area and open the door to a broader reordering of regional architecture with implications well beyond the Pacific region," it said.

A U.S. missile defense test range in the Marshall Islands is critical to U.S. space and missile-defense capabilities, it added.

Across the Pacific region, China is seeking to enhance its access to ports and Exclusive Economic Zones, frustrate efforts by the United States to project military power, increase intelligence gathering and surveillance capabilities, reduce Taiwan's diplomatic partners, and promote the Chinese model of political and economic development, the report said.



Google Faces Pressure In India to Help Curb Illegal Lending Apps



MUMBAI (Dispatches) - Alphabet Inc's Google has been asked by the Indian government and the central bank to introduce more stringent checks to help curb the use of illegal digital lending applications in India, according to sources.

Even though Google doesn't fall under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ambit, the U.S. tech giant has been called several times in the last few months to meetings by the central bank and the Indian government and urged to introduce tougher checks and balances that can help in weeding out such apps, according to four sources.

Indian regulators have already asked lenders to step up checks against illegal lending apps, which became popular during the pandemic. Regulators seek to control the proliferation of such apps that engage in unscrupulous activities such as charging excessive interest rates and fees or in recovery practices which are not authorised by the central bank or violate money laundering and other government guidelines.

Google said that last year it revised its Play Store developer program policy for financial services apps, including requiring additional requirements for personal loan apps in India effective September 2021.

"We have removed over 2,000 personal loan apps targeting India from the Play Store for violation of the Play policy requirements," a Google spokesperson said, adding that such steps are taken if its policies are violated.

"We will continue to engage with law enforcement agencies and industry bodies to help address this issue," the spokesperson added.

While India's central bank requires that any lending apps listed on app stores be backed by regulated entities, it is up to Google to enforce this and monitor compliance.

Google has also been asked to look at curtailing the rise of such apps via other distribution channels such as websites and other means of downloads, according to another industry source who is directly involved.

Google is also starting to act on complaints received from industry bodies.

"Earlier Google would not respond to complaints on individual apps. Now they are more proactive and do look into it when a complaint is flagged to them," said one of the four industry sources directly involved in the matter and who has been briefed about discussions with Google.

The government and the RBI are in the process of preparing a white list of approved lending applications. The central bank has also laid down norms to ensure that a borrower must deal directly with a bank for lending and recovery which can help to keep the third-party recovery agents away.

Google dominates India's app market with 95% of smartphones using its Android platform.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the RBI did not immediately respond to an email request seeking comment.

India's digital lending market has grown quickly and facilitated \$2.2 billion in digital loans in 2021-22. It is not clear how much of that is via apps engaging in illegal practices.

These lenders often reach customers via advertisements on platforms like Facebook and Google.

Starting from next month, Google will roll out a new advertising policy for financial services in India, a blog post on its website shows.

The policy says that in order to show financial services ads in India, advertisers need to be verified in the country. As part of the verification, advertisers must demonstrate that they are licensed with the relevant financial services regulator, the blog says.

India's Top Lender Asks Exporters to Trade With Bangladesh in Rupee, Taka



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Top lender State Bank of India (SBI.NS) has asked exporters to avoid settling deals with Bangladesh in the dollar and other major currencies as it looks to curb exposure to Dhaka's falling reserves, according to an internal document and a source.

Bangladesh's \$416-billion economy is battling rising prices of energy and food as the Russia-Ukraine conflict widens its current account deficit, and dwindling foreign exchange forces it to turn to global lenders such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The country is facing a shortage of foreign currency due to higher import bills and weaknesses of Bangladeshi taka against dollar in recent times," the SBI said in an Aug. 24 letter sent to its branches and seen by Reuters.

The letter and its contents have not previously been reported.

The SBI did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

The decision not to increase exposure to the dollar and other foreign currencies in relation to Bangladesh stemmed from the current economic situation and the neighbouring nation's shortage of foreign currency, the bank said in its circular.

"However exposure in Indian rupee (INR) and taka will continue," it added.

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves declined to \$37 billion by Friday from \$48 billion a year earlier, according to data from the central bank, which provides import cover of just five months.

Finance ministry officials have said Bangladesh is seeking a \$4.5 billion loan from the IMF, in excess of its maximum entitlement of \$1 billion under the IMF Resilience and Sustainability Trust.

A source familiar with the matter said SBI did not want to increase its exposure to Bangladesh.

"We have an approximate exposure of \$500 million to Bangladesh and have taken the decision not to grow it further aggressively, and maybe, even reduce it as needed, with the news surrounding the economy," added the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bangladesh is just one of India's neighbors in financial distress.

The island nation of Sri Lanka is grappling with a financial crisis as its central bank reserves stand at just \$1.7 billion at a time of galloping inflation and severe shortages of food and fuel that sparked protests and a change of government.

And Pakistan's central bank reserves of \$8.6 billion are sufficient for just about a month of imports.

Bangladesh wants to cut dependency on the dollar, commerce minister Tipu Munshi said last week, and it does not see a problem in dealing in local currencies.

Speaking at an event in Dhaka, he was responding to a query on the growing focus on local currency trade, and added that the finance ministry was looking at ways to do this.

However, the Bangladesh central bank's executive director, Serajul Islam, told Reuters, "No such decision has been taken yet," in reference to trade in local currencies with India.

Last week, the Bangladesh central bank freed up banks to do transactions in Chinese yuan, so as to enable trade with China.

Last month, rating agency Standard & Poors affirmed its stable outlook rating for Bangladesh, saying it expected its external position to stabilise within a year.

However, the agency said it might lower the ratings on Bangladesh if net external debt or financing metrics worsen further as higher commodity prices and strong imports could add to weakening in the taka and drain foreign exchange reserves.



Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

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



Turkish Lender Isbank Suspends Use of Mir Payment System

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkish lender Isbank said on Monday it had suspended use of Russian payment system Mir following U.S. sanctions targeting people and entities accused of helping Moscow skirt financial sanctions. Last week, the United States sanctioned the chief executive of the Bank of Russia's National Card Payment System (NSPK), which runs Mir, saying it was seeking to hold the Russian government accountable for its Feb. 24 invasion and continuing war against Ukraine. The shares of the lender traded down around 10% while banking index of Istanbul stock exchange was down more than 9% on Monday session triggering indexwide circuit breakers which temporarily halt trading.



German Utilities Close to Long-Term LNG Deals With Qatar

LONDON (Dispatches) - German utilities RWE and Uniper are close to striking long-term deals to buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar's North Field Expansion project to help replace Russian gas, three sources familiar with the matter said.

Talks between Germany and Qatar have been fraught with differences over key conditions such as the length of contracts and pricing but the industry sources, who declined to be named, said the parties were expected to reach a compromise soon.

Europe's biggest economy aims to replace all Russian energy imports by as soon as mid-2024, a Herculean effort for a country that mainly relies on natural gas to power its industry.

While supply deals with Qatar would be positive for Germany, they would not offer an imminent solution to Berlin's energy crisis as the vast North Field Expansion project is not expected to come online before 2026. Reuters reported in May that the talks had run into difficulties because Germany was reluctant to commit to deals for at least 20 years and also wanted prices linked to Dutch benchmark gas prices, rather than oil.

One of the sources said the talks were now more constructive than a few months ago. Another source said the utilities were likely to agree 15-year deals, while a third source said a deal could be reached within weeks.

Qatar Energy did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Uniper told Reuters on Monday that it remained in talks with Qatar but had not reached a deal. "Uniper is currently working hard to diversify its sources of gas supply. Qatar also plays an important role in this," it said. RWE told Reuters it was in "good and constructive" talks with Qatar, without being more specific.

At the moment, the two utilities buy LNG from Qatar on the spot market. RWE signed a deal with Qatar in 2016 for up to 1.1 million tons of LNG a year, but that expires next year.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will travel to Saudi Arabia on Saturday for a two-day visit to the Persian Gulf region that will also take him to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Scholz is expected to sign LNG contracts during his visit to the UAE, Economy Minister Robert Habeck said. RWE and Uniper are unlikely to sign agreements with Qatar during Scholz's visit as government representatives typically strike broader agreements first, which then lay the ground for commercial sides to finalize details, one of the sources said.

Uniper said it would not be taking part in Scholz's trip.

The North Field Expansion project includes six LNG trains that will ramp up Qatar's liquefaction capacity from 77 million tons per annum (mtpa) to 126 mtpa by 2027. Qatar is partnering with international companies in the first and largest phase of the nearly \$30 billion expansion that will reinforce its position as the world's top LNG exporter.

Qatar has signed agreements with TotalEnergies, Eni, Shell, Exxon Mobil Corp and ConocoPhillips for stakes in the project.

BIS Backs "Forceful" Rate Hikes Despite Rising Recession Risk

LONDON (Dispatches) - The world's central bank umbrella body, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), has urged major economies to forge ahead with forceful interest rate hikes despite the growing threat of recessions and currency market volatility.

The Switzerland-based BIS' quarterly report acknowledged that both recession and debt risks were rising, but said that bringing soaring global inflation back down remained paramount.

"It is important to act in a timely and forceful way," the head of the BIS' Monetary and Economic Department, Claudio Borio, said. "Front-loading (of rate hikes) tends to reduce the likelihood of a hard landing."

This week is expected to see another super-sized rate hike from the U.S. Federal Reserve, whose sharp moves this year have, alongside Russia's invasion of Ukraine, already triggered widespread financial market turbulence.

Asked if there was a point at which central banks might go too far, Borio said that is the "1 billion, 3 billion, whatever number of billions you want to say, dollar question".

What makes it particularly complex, he added, is that this is the first time since at least World War II when policymakers are trying to tackle soaring inflation at a time when debt crises are already breaking out and when serious worries exist about overpriced property markets.

On top of that, growth forecasts have continued to be revised down whereas inflation forecasts have continued to rise.

"We know that the path is quite narrow," Borio said. "Clearly if there was a risk of a recession before, the risk has increased".

This year's rapid rise in inflation, interest rates and energy prices has triggered one of the biggest ever sell-offs on financial markets.

Global stocks indices are down more than 16% since January. The yen, the euro and most emerging economy currencies have been hammered, and yields on U.S. Treasury bonds, the benchmark of world borrowing markets, have surged to the highest since 2011.

A special section of the BIS' report also pointed to the potential for further trouble ahead.

It warned that replacing Russian oil would be difficult given the limited spare capacity of other major producers and subdued investment in new projects.

That could lead to persistent price rises in oil-related goods while the leap in natural gas prices could have a large and protracted impact on electricity prices and provide a major headwind to industrial production.



Norway to Hike Rates by 50 Basis Points

OSLO (Reuters) - Norway's central bank is expected to raise its benchmark interest rate again this week and signal a continued rise in the cost of borrowing in the fourth quarter to combat inflation, a Reuters poll showed.

Of the 30 economists surveyed, 28 predicted Norges Bank will hike by 50 basis points (bps) on Sept. 22 to a rate of 2.25%, the highest level since 2011.

One forecaster said a 25 bps increase to 2.0% was the most likely outcome, while another predicted a rise of 75 bps to 2.50%.

Central banks globally are struggling to contain inflation in the wake of the pandemic and the Ukraine war, leading to sharp rate hikes.

Norway's August consumer prices rose 6.5% year-on-year even though the government has partly capped soaring electricity bills. Core inflation, which excludes energy, meanwhile stood at 4.7%, exceeding the central bank's goal of 2.0%.

A majority of participants in the Reuters poll now say rates will likely hit 2.75% by the end of the year, well above the 2.25% projected by the central bank in June.

Norges Bank last raised rates in August, by 50 basis points, and said it would likely hike again in September without indicating how big that increase would be.

Handelsbanken Capital Markets predicted that the monetary policy committee this week would deliver another 50-point hike, but said the market was pricing in a high probability of 75 points.

"Further ahead, we believe that Norges Bank will fully indicate that the policy rate will be hiked to 2.75% by the end of this year, although there is a significant chance that it will rise to 3.0%," Handelsbanken said.

The central bank last week released a businesses survey indicating a weaker outlook for companies.

The Reuters poll predicted that Norges Bank could begin cutting its policy rate in 2024.

IMF Staff Back \$4b Tranche for Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reached a staff-level agreement on Argentina's \$44 billion extended fund facility arrangement, which should unlock nearly \$4 billion in funds for the country, the lender said.

The approval, which needs to be ratified by the IMF executive board, would unlock \$3.9

billion for the embattled South American nation, which is looking to rebuild reserves and tamp down spiraling inflation.

Argentina, a major grains producer, struck a new IMF deal earlier this year to replace a huge failed program from 2018. The new program was critical to being able to meet the country's obligations to the IMF that it was otherwise unable to pay.

That deal came with economic targets, including rebuilding depleted international reserves and reducing a deep primary fiscal deficit to improve the country's finances.

"Most of the revised quantitative program targets through end-June 2022 were met, with the exception of the floor of net international reserves, mainly on account of higher-than-programmed import volume growth," the IMF said in a statement.

"A subsequent period of FX and bond market volatility has been arrested following decisive policy steps to correct earlier setbacks and rebuild credibility."

The IMF has praised steps by Argentina's Economy Minister Sergio Massa, who took over the role in August after a volatile period that saw long-term minister Martin Guzman quit and his replacement Silvina Batakis only last a few weeks.

On Argentina's reserves, which have proven hard to rebuild, the IMF said that they should still rise by some \$9.8 billion in the 2022-23 period, in line with program targets. The global economic environment, however, has weighed on growth and stoked inflation.

"Notwithstanding this, against the backdrop of resolute actions by the new economic team, market pressures are dissipating, and the growth outlook remains unchanged at 4% for this year, before moderating to the potential rate of 2% in 2023 and beyond," the IMF added.

Lebanon Currency Hits New Low, Sparking Protests



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The Lebanese pound fell to a new low against the US dollar on the black market Monday as a severe economic downturn has sparked bank hold-ups by angry depositors and anti-government protests.

Recent weeks have seen a spate of incidents in which people armed with real or toy guns held up banks to demand access to their frozen savings, only to be celebrated as folk heroes.

Amid the turmoil, the pound plunged to 38,600 against the greenback on Monday, according to websites monitoring the exchange rate, a record low for the beleaguered currency.

For decades, the Lebanese pound was pegged at 1,507 to the dollar, meaning that it has lost around 95 percent of its black market value since 2019.

At the Justice Palace in Beirut on Monday, dozens stormed through a metal gate outside to protest the detention of two people over last week's bank hold-ups.

Elsewhere, activists angered by Lebanon's deep economic crash blockaded roads in the capital and in the northern port city of Tripoli.

A financial crash widely blamed on government corruption and mismanagement has caused the worst economic crisis in Lebanon's history.

Lebanese banker Saeb El-Zein said the pound's decline was due to a rising demand for dollars on the black market following the government's decision to lift state subsidies, including on fuel.

With four out of five Lebanese now living in poverty according to the United Nations, the country has been desperately seeking a bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

An IMF delegation arrived in Lebanon on Monday to follow up on the implementation of the reforms it demands, following a staff-level agreement in April on a \$3 billion loan programme.

"There's been slow progress in implementing some of the critical actions that we think are required to move forward with a programme," IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said last week.

Amid the painful crisis, Lebanese depositors have been locked out of their foreign currency savings by banking controls that have gradually tightened since 2019.

Banks have in the past been targeted in street protests, often leaving their windows and ATMs smashed.

Now, many frustrated depositors, unable to transfer or withdraw their dollar deposits, have resorted to desperate bank heists to free their money.

Lebanon saw at least seven such hold-ups last week, five of them on a single day.

Saudi Arabia's July Crude Oil Exports Rise to Over 2-Year Peak



RIYADH (Dispatches) - Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia's July crude oil exports gained for a second-straight month to their highest in more than two years, data from the Joint Organization Data Initiative (JODI) showed.

Saudi Arabia's exports rose 2.5% to 7.38 million barrels per day (bpd) in July - highest since April 2020 - from 7.20 million bpd in June.

The country had raised its July crude prices for Asian buyers to higher-than-expected levels amid concerns about tight supply and expectations of strong demand in summer. It had also raised its OSP for European and Mediterranean buyers, but kept U.S. differentials unchanged.

Saudi Arabia was India's No. 3 supplier in July, and also retained its spot as the biggest exporter to China during the first half of the year.

Saudi production also climbed to its highest in more than two years to 10.815 million bpd from 10.646 million bpd in the previous month.

Saudi's domestic crude refinery throughput fell about 3% to 2.763 mln bpd in July, while oil products exports stood at 1.429 mln bpd.

Meanwhile, an internal document showed, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies (OPEC+) fell short of its oil production target by 2.892 million bpd in July.

Earlier this month, OPEC and its allies led by Russia agreed on a small oil production cut to bolster prices that have slid on fears of an economic slowdown.

Monthly export figures are provided by Riyadh and other OPEC members to JODI, which publishes them on its website.

Japan Cultural Month Kicks Off in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Japan Cultural Month organized by the Embassy of Japan in Tehran kicked off on Wednesday and will continue for one month in four locations in Iran.

The themes of the event include clothes, fabric, silk thread, cinema, food, and anime.

Addressing the event, Japanese Ambassador in Tehran

Kazutoshi Aikawa said that the program is intended to introduce Japanese culture to Iranians and bring these two nations closer to each other.

Eight Iranian and Japanese cultural activists and citizens were awarded by the Japanese ambassador during the opening ceremony.



Ukraine Conflict May Hike Long-Term Grain Prices 7%

PARIS (Dispatches) - Russia's invasion of Ukraine may cause long-term grain prices to rise seven percent, according to a study on Monday showing how expanded production elsewhere to compensate would lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions.

Russia and Ukraine are global breadbaskets, together exporting about 28 percent of the world's wheat supply.

Russia's blockade of Black Sea ports and sanctions on Moscow have caused short-term price surges and triggered fears of an acute hunger crisis.

Researchers in the United States and Uruguay modelled the likely impact of the conflict on wheat and maize prices over the coming 12 months, looking at a variety of scenarios.

One model found that if Russian grain exports were halved and Ukrainian exports significantly reduced during that time, maize would be 4.6 percent more expensive and wheat 7.2 percent more expensive -- even assuming that other exporters could step in and fill the shortfall.

They said the price increase would persist as long as exports remained restricted.

To close the supply gap, the study found that other major producers would need to expand their grain growing areas significantly.

Were all grain exports from Ukraine to cease, Australia would need to expand its wheat area by 1 percent, China by 1.5 percent, the European Union by 1.9 percent and India by 1.2 percent, according to the model.

This land-use change would lead to just over a billion tonnes of additional carbon dioxide equivalent added to the atmosphere, according to the study published in Nature Food.

"The cropland expansion resulting from the war in Ukraine is occurring at the expense of more carbon emissions," said lead author Jerome Dumortier, a researcher at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Indianapolis, US.



United Nations chief Antonio Guterres warned in July that Russia's invasion of Ukraine had combined with the lingering trade impacts of Covid-19 to create an "unprecedented global hunger crisis".

Figures from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization show food prices are currently more than 10 percent higher than they were a year ago.

Although Moscow and Kyiv reached an agreement in July to resume some grain exports, there are fears that the conflict could lead to years of elevated food prices.

Dumortier said that it was not currently clear whether other grain producers were able to meet global demand, meaning prices could rise even further than predicted in the models.

"There are drought conditions in South America, Europe, and China, and export restrictions from various countries," he told AFP.

"Given those hindrances to full adjustment, commodity prices may be higher than what is estimated in the paper."

Chinese Buyers Snap Up Luxury Homes



BEIJING (Reuters) - In the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where the real estate sector has slowed, luxury property is bucking the downtrend, the official Securities Times reported on Monday, as wealthy buyers seek a safe haven amid a weak market.

In the southern tech hub, a total of 604 units in a luxury development that has not yet been built have been presold for up to 162,000 yuan (\$23,087) per square meter, it said.

With the units ranging in size to up to 425 square meters, that suggests some could have reached values of \$9.8 million.

In May, units at a project going for at least 18 million yuan each were sold out on the first day they were launched, the newspaper said.

China's property market has slowed sharply in recent months, with prices and sales both falling after authorities stepped in to cut excessive debt held by property developers, triggering a liquidity crunch and hitting buyer sentiment.

But new luxury homes are still popular with buyers, who see them as "hard currency" in a feeble property market, the newspaper cited industry insiders as saying.

Demand has remained bleak despite a slew of stimulus measures imposed by over 200 cities to stoke buyers' interest, with property sales by floor area falling 48% on year in August.

In contrast, in the first half of this year, the average selling price of luxury properties valued at 10 million yuan and above rose 11% from a year earlier, according to China Real Estate Information Corp (CRIC), an independent property consultancy service.

UN Chief Warns Education Becoming Great Divider

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that unequal education was quickly dividing the planet as he sought to keep development on the agenda ahead of a week of diplomacy focused on global crises.

The UN chief called a special summit on education a day before world leaders meet for the annual General Assembly, although a number of key officials including US President Joe Biden delayed their arrivals in New York due to Queen Elizabeth II's funeral.

"Education is in a deep crisis. Instead of being the great enabler, education is fast becoming the great divide," Guterres told the summit.

He warned that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a "devastating impact" on learning, with poor students lacking technology at a particular disadvantage, and conflicts further disrupting schools.

Guterres appealed to all countries to prioritize increasing spending per student even amid question marks over the global economy.

In a report earlier this month, the UN Development Program said Covid has set back humanity's progress by five years. Guterres also called out Afghanistan's Taliban, who have deprived more than one million teenage girls of education since the Islamist militants returned to power in August 2021.

"I appeal to the authorities in Afghanistan: Lift all restrictions on girls' access to secondary education immediately," he said.

Addressing the summit, Somaya Faruqi, who was part of Afghanistan's celebrated girl's robotics team, said the Taliban are "slowly erasing our existence in society."

"Thousands of girls may never return back to school. Many have been married off. The promises of reopening schools came and went," she said.

Appealing to world leaders, she said, "You must not forget those who are left behind, those not lucky enough to be at school." "Show your solidarity with me and millions of Afghan girls."

The UN General Assembly -- with its epic traffic and demonstrations jamming Midtown Manhattan -- is back in person after two years of the pandemic, with leaders required to show up if they wish to speak.

The General Assembly voted to make just one exception -- for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is leading resistance to a Russian invasion.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov headed to New York for the summit, where he heard an appeal Monday from his French counterpart, Catherine Colonna, to allow a security zone outside the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, whose occupation by Moscow has raised mounting concerns.

Iran and Pakistan Are Members of One Family

TEHRAN (IP) - On the second day of his trip to New York, Ebrahim Raisi met with Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and said, "Iran-Pakistan relations are not normal interaction between two neighbors, but deep relations based on cultural closeness and shared belief for thousands of years."

Raisi expressed his sympathy to the people of Pakistan for the losses caused by the recent flood in this country and said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate to provide what it can to help the Pakistani flood victims."

Referring to the meeting with the Pakistani Prime Minister 5 days ago on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Samarkand, the President stated, "Increasing the meetings and

consultations between the officials of the two countries will have a constructive effect on expanding cooperation and improving the level of relations between the two countries."

In the meeting, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, also expressed happiness over meeting with Raisi twice in five days and said, "This is a sign that Iran and Pakistan are members of the same family. We are interested in developing relations as much as possible, especially in the economic and commercial fields, with our friendly and brotherly country, Iran".

Pakistani PM Prime appreciated the support of the government and people of Iran to his country, especially during the recent flood.

Fight for Right...

FROM PAGE 1

The U.S. formally withdrew from the 1955 treaty in 2018 after Iran filed two claims based on the accord.

U.S. representatives were set to respond at the ICJ on Wednesday. Washington had previously unsuccessfully sought to have the lawsuit thrown out.



Also known as the World Court, the ICJ is the United Nations' top court dealing with disputes between countries. Although the ICJ's rulings are binding, it has no power to enforce them.

This is not the first time that the U.S. resorts to stealing the wealth of the nations as the country froze Iran's wealth after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The U.S. administration through the years have used freezing the assets as a tool to increase pressure on the independent and anti-imperialist nations and Iran has been one of the victims of this inhuman policy whose assets have been frozen for several times.

The U.S. loots the wealth of the countries either directly like freezing assets or stealing their oils and wealth or indirectly through bringing puppet regimes in the countries.

But the Islamic Republic has shown the world that it will fight for its rights with tooth and nail and Americans cannot steal Iran's fund and they have to pay back it.

Now a legal procedure for getting back the frozen money in the ICJ and against the U.S. has started and it is expected Iran to win the case like previous efforts that the International Court of Justice issued a verdict in favor of Iran in fight against the U.S.

The U.S. Administrations should quit this habit of stealing the wealth of the nations because the era of pirates has come to its end and nations have woken up and ready to fight for their rights and protecting their wealth.

We hope the ICJ would do its job fairly and remain away from the U.S. hype because the U.S. has always tried to influence the international tribunal bodies through creating phobia or pressure by its media, and unfortunately sometimes its efforts bear fruit, and might turns to be right and the rights of the weaker side is ignored and this makes shaky the position of International Court of Justice and therefore the court issues verdicts which are not expected.

Iran Rightful to...

FROM PAGE 1

The President stated that the resolution of safeguards issues is one of the prerequisites for reaching an agreement on nuclear issues, and clarified, "If the safeguards issues are not resolved, what guarantee will there be that the day after the agreement, the three European countries will again propose and pursue the issuance of a resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran? Therefore, Iran's demands to resolve safeguard issues are completely reasonable."

Raisi emphasized, "Sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran have not and will not stop us and we will continue the growth and progress of our country with strength."

The President described the solution to the problems of the Palestinians as the implementation of the Islamic Republic's proposal to hold a referendum with the presence of all Palestinians, and said, "Just as various efforts and agreements such as Sharm el-Sheikh, Camp David and Oslo failed to secure the rights of the Palestinian people, the efforts to normalize relations of the Zionist regime with some countries cannot be a security provider for this regime, and only a fair and logical comprehensive solution can secure the rights of the Palestinians and establish peace."

Raisi also stated that the solution to the problem of Afghanistan is to help the formation of an inclusive government with the presence of all groups and ethnic groups in this country, and the problems of Yemen can only be solved by stopping the invasion of this country and breaking the siege as a prelude to the start of Yemeni-Yemeni dialogues.

In this meeting, the President of the European Council Charles Michel thanked for the opportunity to personally meet with Ayatollah Raisi, and said, "My telephone conversation with your Excellency inspired the approach of the European Union towards Afghanistan to find a window for dialogue."

The President of the European Council emphasized that he fully agrees with the opinion of Raisi about not using the issue of human rights as a political tool, adding, "The European Union has made efforts to lay the ground for the restoration of the nuclear deal through bringing opinions closer together, and in this regard, the issue of sanctions against Iran, as one of the serious concerns of the Islamic Republic, has always been considered."

He stated, "The European Union hopes to benefit from the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the matter of stopping the conflicts and the establishment of peace in Yemen, forming a new government and establishing stability in Iraq, establishing peace in Palestine, stopping the war in Ukraine and forming a comprehensive government in Afghanistan."

Knowledge-Oriented...

FROM PAGE 1

In today's situation, paying attention to national capabilities and relying on huge asset of youths can pave the way for future triumph just like what happened in Khorramshahr, the commander said.

He went on to say that the armed forces of the Islamic Republic will do all-out efforts in order to preserve values of the sacred defense, and that we believe that we are tasked with the improvement and maintenance of deterrent power, dignity, security, independence, freedom as well as the tranquility of the great nation of the country.

U.S. Urged to...

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile Deputy Foreign Minister for the Economic Diplomacy Affairs said that Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making its utmost efforts to enhance country's foreign policy in the international arenas.

The 2nd Meeting of the Economic Diplomacy Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entitled "Reviewing Production Barriers and Exporting Medical Equipment, Medicines" was held in Tehran on Wednesday with the participation of concerned companies and guild associations. Mehdi Safari expounded on the opportunities and capacities available in the field of export of medical equipment, medicines, and technical know-how of producing medicines to different African and European countries and stated that the private sector can have a key role in this regard.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is focusing on promoting foreign trade, especially products in the field of medical equipment through its embassies overseas with utmost power, Safari emphasized.

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken giant strides over the past two years in such a way that the export of pharmaceutical and medical equipment to various countries including the Middle East, Latin America, Central and Southeast Asian, and African countries is solid evidence for the salient achievements of the ministry, the Deputy Foreign Minister underlined.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Safari called on both public and private sector activists to cooperate with each other in line with spurring exports and export activities.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:
(+98) (21) 44253448
Public Relations Tel:
(+98)(21) 44253450
Editorial Board: 44253449
Public Relations Fax:
(+98)(21) 44253395
Advertising Department:
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
Website:
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:
info@irannewsdaily.com
ISSN 1024-6053
P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St.,
Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran
Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed by:Honar Sarzmin Sabz
Distributed by:
Cities of Iran Cultural and
Artistic Institute
Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Henderson Added To England Squad

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson has been added to the England squad for their upcoming Nations League matches against Italy and Germany, the FA said. Henderson was not part of manager Gareth Southgate's initial squad after missing Liverpool's last three games in all competitions due to a hamstring injury but the club said he was recovering well. "Henderson has made good progress in his recovery from a hamstring problem and is set to return to full training this week," Liverpool said in a statement.

La Liga Condemns Hate Speech

MADRID (Dispatches) - La Liga has condemned hate speech after Atletico Madrid fans were filmed racially abusing Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr outside their Metropolitan Stadium ahead of Sunday's match. Hundreds of Atletico supporters could be heard singing, "Vinicius, you are a monkey, you are monkey" in a video published on social media by radio station Cope in the build-up to the Madrid derby, which Real won 2-1. Local media also reported that monkey noises and chants of "Vinicius, die" were heard throughout the game.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Lorenzo Sonego Opens With Upset Win in Metz

METZ (Dispatches) - Italy's Lorenzo Sonego upset sixth-seeded Aslan Karatsev of Russia 7-5, 6-3 in the opening round of the Moselle Open in Metz, France. Karatsev contributed to his own downfall by committing six double faults to Sonego's none. Sonego saved six of the eight break points he faced while also taking advantage of four of his five break opportunities.

In the day's only other main-draw match, the United States' Sebastian Korda defeated France's Hugo Gaston 6-3, 7-6 (2). In the 1-hour, 37-minute match, Korda picked on Gaston's second serve, winning 15 of 29 points, while Gaston managed to take just 8 of 21 points while facing Korda's second serve.

Seventh-seeded James Duckworth needed 2 hours, 19 minutes to hold off Australian countryman Alexei Popyrin 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 in the first round at San Diego.

Duckworth finished with a 14-7 edge in aces while Popyrin mixed in five double faults to Duckworth's one. Duckworth was also particularly effective with his first serve, winning 40 of 47 points (85 percent).

Eighth-seeded J.J. Wolf also got a first-round win, topping Stefan Kozlov 6-2, 7-6 (6) in an all-U.S. showdown.

And in an all-Argentine matchup, Tomas Martin Etcheverry defeated qualifier Facundo Mena 7-6 (6), 6-3. Mena staved off two set points in the first-set tiebreaker but couldn't complete the comeback. Etcheverry got the only service break of the second set for a 5-3 lead, then served out the match.

The first match of the night featured wild card Brandon Holt of the United States and France's Constant Lestienne.

Meanwhile host country favorite Naomi Osaka advanced to the second round of the Toray Pan Pacific Open on Tuesday as her Australian opponent Daria Saville had to retire early in the first set with a knee injury.

Saville fell to the court in pain after hitting a forehand in her first service game



at Tokyo's Ariake tennis park. It happened after defending champion but unseeded Osaka, ranked 48th in the world, held her serve in the opening game.

The former world No. 1 and winner of four Grand Slam singles titles will next face fifth-seeded Brazilian Beatriz Haddad Maia, the 6-4, 6-2 winner over Yuki Naito of Japan. "I feel really bad right now because obviously how it ended," Osaka said. "I've been injured for most of the year, so I know how it feels. I just want to clap for her because she is a really amazing player."

The tournament has been held for the first time since 2019 following a two-year COVID-19 hiatus.

In other first-round matches, sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic cruised to a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Isabella Shinikova of Bulgaria.

Meanwhile Swiss Simona Waltert moved into the second round of the Budapest Open when Spaniard Cristina Bucsa retired at Római Tennis Academy on Tuesday night.

Waltert, ranked No 119, led 4-0 when Bucsa, ranked No 112, pulled out at Római Tennis Academy on Tuesday night.

The 21-year-old Swiss will face the winner of the match between Italian Elisabetta Cocciaretto and Hungarian Anna Bondar, the second seed, next.

French Football Federation To Review Image Rights Agreement

PARIS (Dispatches) - The French Football Federation said it will review its agreement on players' image rights following media reports that striker Kylian Mbappe had refused to take part in sponsor activities.

ESPN reported Mbappe refused to participate in a team photo and sponsor activities scheduled for Tuesday because he does not want to endorse some brands, including fast food chains and betting companies, that are under contract with the national team.

"I have decided to not take part in the photo shoot after the French federation's refusal to change the image rights agreement with the players," Mbappe said in a statement, according to ESPN.

The French federation said on Twitter that it held discussions with the team's executives, the president, the coach and a marketing manager.

"... The French Football Federation undertakes to review, as soon as possible, the image rights agreement between it and its selected players," the statement added.

"The FFF is looking forward to working on the outlines of a new agreement that will allow it to secure its interests while taking into account the legitimate concerns and convictions unanimously expressed by its players."

Global Golfers Try To Shock the World At Presidents Cup

CHARLOTTE (Dispatches) - An American squad with 11 of the world's 18 top-ranked players arrived yesterday at the Presidents Cup as huge favorites for a ninth consecutive victory over a depleted Internationals lineup.

Top-ranked Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, No. 4 Patrick Cantlay, fifth-ranked Tokyo Olympic champion Xander Schauffele and multiple major winners Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth and Collin Morikawa lead the 12-man US team into Quail Hollow.

"I'm excited about this 12 and ready to get going," US captain Davis Love said. "It will be a great show once Thursday starts."

The Americans, who feature six rookies including Scheffler, own an 11-1-1 edge in the all-time rivalry, taking the past eight from the global squad. Their only loss came at Melbourne in 1998.

They face an Internationals team with a record eight rookies, their youngest-ever lineup averaging 28.8 years after defections to the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Series denied them British Open winner Cam Smith of Australia and top-25 players Joaquin Niemann of Chile and Abraham Ancer of Mexico.

Still, a lineup with seven newcomers tested a Tiger Woods-led US team in 2019 at Melbourne before losing 16-14.

"That fun vibe will continue with all the fresh blood in the team this time around," Internationals veteran Adam Scott of Australia said.

"And if we can get the momentum going, we might just shock the world."

It would be a huge upset if the decimated global team downed one of the most formidable American sides ever, a group to rival the one that ripped Europe 19-9 in last year's Ryder Cup.

Love's lineup has 12 of the world's top 25 even without injured No. 8 Will Zalatoris and several LIV Golf defectors, including Dustin Johnson.

The Internationals boast five of the top 30, led by 2021 Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama of Japan at 17th, but US talent and depth make them an overwhelming favorite despite the tight fight in their last meeting.

Pellegrini and Politano Leave Italy Camp



Politano was substituted with a sprained ankle shortly after scoring in Napoli's win over title rivals AC Milan on Sunday and coach Roberto Mancini decided not

MILAN (Dispatches) - Lorenzo Pellegrini and Matteo Politano left the Italy camp with injuries ahead of the European champions' Nations League match with England.

Midfielder Pellegrini played on with thigh pain during Roma's 1-0 home loss to Atalanta at the weekend and he was sent home after tests at Italy's Coverciano training centre.

to risk further aggravating the injury.

The pair drop out a day after Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti was forced out of contention with a calf injury.

Mancini has called up Sassuolo's Davide Frattesi, Sampdoria forward Manolo Gabbiadini and youngster Salvatore Esposito, who plays for SPAL in Serie B.

Mancini's team host England at the San Siro on Friday and then travel to League A, Group C leaders Hungary three days later with a chance of qualifying for the finals in March.

Italy sit third on five points, two behind Hungary and three ahead of winless England with two matches remaining. Whoever wins the group makes it through to the final four, while the bottom team will be relegated to League B.

Recovering Barca Predict 1.3b Euro Revenue

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Barcelona have forecast revenue of 1.255 billion euros (\$1.254 billion) for the 2022-23 season, with a predicted profit of 274 million euros.

The Spanish side have been under great economic stress in recent years but gained financial leverage this summer with a string of operations which allowed them to strengthen the team.

Barca signed Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, Sevilla defender Jules Kounde, Leeds United winger Raphinha and various other players on free transfers.

They were able to do this after selling 25 percent of their television rights to investment firm Sixth Street for the next 25 years, raising over 500 million euros.

Barcelona also sold 24.5 percent of their Barca Studios production company to fan token firm Socios.com and the same amount again to Orpheus Media, for around 100 million euros each.

These deals, plus the return of supporters in droves after low attendances last season, mean their expected income for next season has risen from last year's revenue of 1.017 billion euros and a profit of 98 million euros.

In the 2020-21 season Barcelona posted losses of 481 million euros and blamed them for not being able to renew their all-time record scorer Lionel Messi's contract, leading him to sign for Paris Saint-Germain on a free transfer.

The club spent heavily for several years, bringing in Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho from Liverpool in a club record deal worth up to 160 million euros in 2018, before later selling him to Aston Villa for around 20 million euros, among other ill-fated operations.

Along with income being severely hit by the pandemic, it drove the team to the brink of crisis, with president Joan Laporta saying when he took over in March 2021 the team was "dead".

"We restructured the debt, we controlled the bills, we reduced the sporting salary a bit but not enough yet, we found new income and sponsors," Laporta told club members in June. "We went from being dead to being in intensive care."



Alonso Will Challenge Aston Martin

LONDON (Dispatches) - Fernando Alonso has the "speed, hunger, motivation and experience" to help Aston Martin take the next step but things could get difficult if they do not deliver a fast enough car for the former world champion, team boss Mike Krack said.

Alonso is set to make the move from Renault-owned Alpine to Aston Martin in 2023 as a replacement for four-times world champion Sebastian Vettel, who is retiring at the end of the current season.

"It will be challenging for us. Normally, drivers with this experience, they do not have this desire to win ... especially if they have won already," Krack told the BBC in an interview published on Tuesday.

"Fernando has this unique combination of speed, hunger, motivation and experience. For us, it makes the perfect candidate. The downside could be that if the car we deliver is just not good enough, then we know it gets difficult."

"We think having someone like Fernando is really, really important to make the next step as a team," Krack added.

Aston Martin have had 11 top 10 finishes this season, with Vettel's sixth place at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix their best result. They are ninth of 10 teams in the constructors' standings with six races left on the calendar.

"You need to learn to manage champions, which we already did with Sebastian," Krack added. "Because these drivers are very demanding, they are quite difficult to manage."

"I would not even say Sebastian is that difficult to manage if you are transparent, honest and straight. And I think the same goes for Fernando."

"He knows very well when he comes here that we will probably not win the first race together. But he can be assured we give it everything and we will listen to what he has to say..."

