

**Government Spokesman
Ali Bahadori-Jahromi Stresses That
the Rioters and Those Who
Provoked Them in the Recent Unrest
Must Compensate for the Harm They
Caused to the Iranian Nation**

IRAN NEWS

**Iranian Border Police Commander
Brigadier General Ahmad Ali
Goudarzi Said the Forces Have
Dismantled a Terrorist Team in the
East Azarbaijan Province**

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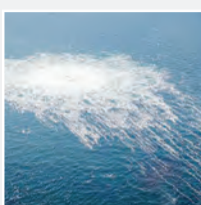


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IRGC Pounds Bases of Terrorists in Northern Iraq

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has once again targeted bases of anti-Iran terrorists in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region using precision-strike missiles and combat drones.

According to a report by Tasnim agency, the IRGC Ground Force pounded the positions of separatist terror groups, including the so-called Komala Party, in the northern Iraqi region on Wednesday morning, inflicting heavy losses on them.

No further detail has been revealed yet.

Since September 24, the IRGC has been launching daily raids on positions of the terrorists holed up in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Following the first of the military attacks, the Iranian military force said in a statement that it gave a decisive response to the terrorists' infiltration of the Iranian border and attacks on a number of security posts there.

It said the IRGC took action after the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) officials failed to adopt an appropriate measure and did not pay due attention to numerous warnings against the deployment and activity of mercenaries and terrorists hostile toward the Islamic Republic.

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Iran Air Force Unveils Homegrown Shahab Drone

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) has put on display a homegrown unmanned aerial vehicle, which has been specifically designed and manufactured for training purposes.

The drone, dubbed Shahab (Meteoroid) was put on display during a ceremony at the Shahid Lashgari Airbase in the Iranian capital of Tehran on Wednesday, with a number of high-ranking military officials, commanders and state officials in attendance.

Shahab reportedly enjoys capabilities suitable for intelligence activities, observation and reconnaissance in various environments, and the maximum altitude it can fly is 11,000 feet (3.35 kilometers) above the ground.

Moreover, the aircraft has a flight endurance of eight hours. Its flight radius for training activities stands at 10 kilometers, but can be elevated to 200 kilometers once dispatched on reconnaissance missions.

The unmanned aerial vehicle also has an inverted V-shaped tail in order to maintain its balance during takeoff, flight and landing.

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Enemy Feels Danger From Islamic Republic Strength



TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi said here on Wednesday that the enemy tries to sow discord in the society as it feels threatened by the power and authority of the Islamic Republic.

The president made the remarks while speaking at the cabinet session this morning.

The country should put on display the Islamic system's strength so that the enemy confesses to such power and also the new generation is informed of it, the president underlined.

President Raisi stressed the importance of preserving the Islamic Republic's strength.

He deplored that the young generation does not know much about the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and called for promoting the achievements of the revolution for the youths.

Further, he elaborated on his talks held in New York on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president talked of the Arbaeen ritual this year which as he said was different from the previous years regarding its quality and number of participants.

Arbaeen which fell on September 17 this year, is a mourning occasion observed by Shia Muslims worldwide, marking the 40th day after the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (PBUH) - the third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Meanwhile earlier in the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Board was held where the participants discussed and made decisions about the most important economic issues of the day.

At the beginning of this meeting, a report on the latest state of the country's economic indicators was presented, and the members of the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Board decided to establish an inflation monitoring unit in order to monitor and control the growth of inflation in one of the Vice-Presidential offices, and to provide the Board with the necessary policies to prevent price increases.

Also, the members approved that in order to increase investment in order to realize the economic growth planned in the budget law, the executive bodies, in coordination with the related private sector, should formulate an investment growth plan in their respective fields and submit it to the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Board.

In another part of this meeting, a report on the stock market was presented and the solutions proposed by the Securities and Exchange Organization for further prosperity of the capital market were presented.

IRGC Not to Hesitate to Target Origin of Any Anti-Iran Operation

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned that the elite force will target the origin of any operation against the country wherever it may be.

Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan, the IRGC's deputy chief for operations, made the remarks in an interview with Iran's Arabic-language television news network Al-Alam TV on Monday evening, after the IRGC pounded positions of terrorists in Iraq's Kurdistan region.

"We will target the counter-revolution [agents] wherever they create a stronghold, become the origin of operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and direct and lead terrorist movements," Nilforooshan said.

He said Iran would never allow the emergence of any threat near its borders, adding that the recent artillery and drone attacks on Iraq's Kurdistan region were carried out as part of the same strategic approach.

According to the general, those bases played the biggest role in the recent riots in Iran, which came after the death of a young Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, after she was taken into a police station.

Nilforooshan added that the IRGC attacks were a "legitimate defense" and that Iran had previously declared that it would respond to such threats decisively.

The IRGC's Ground Force on Monday carried out artillery and drone attacks against terrorist bastions near the country's western borders in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region and destroyed them.

The attacks came after the IRGC said units belonging to the Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada base launched an operation to "destroy the positions of anti-Iran terrorist groups affiliated with global arrogance in northern Iraq who have in recent days trespassed on Iran's northwestern borders and attacked some border bases of our country."

Iran has on countless occasions warned Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region that it will not tolerate the presence and activity of terrorist groups along its northwestern borders, saying the country will give a decisive response should those areas become a hub of anti-Islamic Republic terrorists.

The IRGC commander pointed to global arrogance's failed wars in West Asia and across the world over the past four decades and warned of the enemy's plot to wage a hybrid war in the region which begins with a soft war.

The enemy plans to use cognitive and perceptual tools, including media, the internet and hundreds of satellite networks, in this new hybrid war against all the countries in the region, he said.

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ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Foiled Scenario of Foes of Islamic Revolution

In recent days Iran has been involved with some protests and unrests over the death of a young girl, Mahsa Amini, which is claimed to be killed when she was detained by Tehran Morality Police while this has not been proved yet and it is just a claim and pretext for creating insecurity in the country.

While the high-ranking officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran have promised to probe the case for finding the truth behind this death, enemies have tried to fan the flame of rage among the people especially among the female protesters and the youths, and unfortunately some people have fallen in the trap of the enemies' and they are playing in favor of the enemies.

Everybody knows well that people are struggling with economic problems but it does not mean that they want to topple the establishment and system because Iranians have proved in the past that they will fight for saving the establishment from enemies' harm but enemies mainly the Zionists and the Westerners have this time focused on the youths to drag them to the streets to benefit from the chaos in the country for their own purpose and not for the sake of Iranians.

Unfortunately the youths before giving time for the probe by the officials on the death of Ms. Amini, have been fooled by the West's propagation and this will have heavy damages on the country and the nation and the winner will be the enemies who do not like progress of the country.

The strange thing is that celebrities in the country have followed the enemies' prescriptions in this case and have fanned the flame of the rage among the young generation instead of inviting the people for restraint and giving time for the related officials to find the truth behind the death of Amini.

The Zionists and the West should know this fact that Iranians will never turn their back to their Islamic establishment and they are just wasting their time for such transient rifts and chaos in the country and this may slow down the train of progress in the country for a while but it will be unable to stop it because the Islamic Republic of Iran has plans to be a real model for any Muslim state and such conflicts will not last long.

The West and unfortunately the UN in recent days have issued many statements against Iran to condemn the Islamic establishment for the demise of Amini but they are not ready to give time to the establishment for investigation regarding the accident while they have always remained silent over crimes of the Zionist regimes.

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Iranian Crude, Condensate Reach Venezuela's Main Port

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Two Iranian tankers have arrived in Venezuela with about 1.22 million barrels of Iranian crude and 2 million barrels of condensate, media reports citing documents from state oil company PDVSA say.

They arrived in Venezuelan waters this month and are about to discharge their cargoes at Venezuela's Jose terminal in the coming days, they said.

One of the tankers has been identified as very large crude carrier (VLCC) Huge, operated by National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC).

The two countries have ramped up trade in the face of US sanctions. Earlier this year, the Naftiran Intertrade Company Ltd and other state companies signed a 110-million-euro contract with PDVSA to revamp a Venezuelan refinery and supply oil to the firm.

PDVSA relies on Iran's South Pars condensate to convert its heavy oil to exportable grades. Iranian crude oil is also refined in the South American country to produce motor fuels.

Iran's condensate shipments under a swap deal signed in the second half of last year have helped Venezuelan PDVSA sustain its oil output which had been severely paralyzed under the US sanctions.

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Iran Extends Condolences to Bangladesh

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani has expressed condolences to Bangladesh over the boat tragedy.

Kanaani expressed sympathy with the people and government as well as families of victims of a boat capsized in Bangladesh. The boat carrying tens of Hindu devotees capsized in northern Bangladesh.

The small boat packed with mostly women and children on their way to a popular temple flipped over in the Karatoya river on Sunday as onlookers screamed in horror from the shore near Boda town in the northern Panchagarh district.

Talks on Guarantees Near Mutual Understanding

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has said the Vienna talks on the removal of the sanctions were positive and the American side has taken some steps toward the issue of giving guarantees.

"I think we're near to mutual understanding about the guarantees," Amirabdollahian noted in an interview held in New York with the US National Public Radio (NPR).

If the steps are taken completely, the agreement will be reached, the foreign minister announced adding that the issues on the table are few but important.

He went on to say that Iran believes that diplomacy is the [sole] solution and that Tehran is serious about reaching a strong and sustainable agreement.

Talking about the exchange of prisoners, the Iranian foreign minister said Tehran is ready to do it as the issue is a complete humanitarian case.

Asked about Mahsa Amini, the young Iranian woman who was detained and died recently in the country, Amirabdollahian said all regretted it; but such an issue happens all over the world including in the United States and the UK.

Meanwhile, Iran's Judiciary is seriously following up on the case, he underlined.



The foreign minister further criticized certain satellite networks in London for encouraging people to vandalize.

He then stressed that the organized networks are after creating insecurity and violating public order.

No regime change will occur in Iran, Amirabdollahian underlined.

In his remarks, the foreign minister said there is a difference between protest and riot.

The U.S. and the West had better be concerned about the situation of Iranian patients instead of the Internet, Amirabdollahian said while referring to the sanctions on Iran that have led to a lack of access to medicines.

The U.S. officials should be patient and not haste; Iran does not trust the US and such behaviors weaken even that, he said.

Iran Ready to Help Establish Peace in Caucasus

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's ambassador to the Azerbaijan Republic expressed Tehran's readiness to help Baku and Yerevan reach a lasting peace.

Iran's Ambassador in Baku Abbas Mousavi met with Azerbaijan's First Vice-President Assistant Elçin Emirbeyov in Baku on Tuesday.

The two discussed the latest developments regarding bilateral ties, the situation in the Caucasus, and Iran's principal stances on issues related to that region.

Ambassador Mousavi reiterated Iran's positions regarding the immutability of internationally recognized



borders and stated that there should not be any geopolitical changes inconsistent with Iran's vital and long-term interests in the region.

He said that Iran was ready to help its northern neighbors, i.e. Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia, to achieve lasting peace in the framework of bilateral and trilateral meetings and the regional initiative 3+3 in Tehran.

Azerbaijan and Armenia began fresh round of escalation earlier this month after a few months of fragile ceasefire.

Oil Minister Holds Talks With Major Japan Oil, Gas Firms

TEHRAN (MNA) - Oil Minister Javad Owji held meetings with the executives of top Japanese oil and gas firms in Tokyo.

Owji, who left Tehran for Tokyo on Saturday at the head of a delegation to attend several meetings and consult with Japanese energy heavyweights, has had intensive meetings in Japan.

He met with CEOs of major oil and gas companies in Japan, including Toshiaki Kitamura, CEO of Inpex, Takeshi Saito, CEO of Eneos, Yamamoto, CEO of Fuji Oil, Tramura, member of the board of directors of Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), Haba, the CEO of Mitsubishi Oil and Gas, and the CEO of Maroubani Company.

Owji talked about investment opportunities in the upstream and downstream sectors of Iran's oil industry, as well as cooperation and trade in energy carriers and technology.

During this visit, the Oil Minister also attended the memorial ceremony of the late Japanese President Shinzo Abe on behalf of the administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, in an interview with the Japanese state network (NHK), he said, "Iran does not wait for the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and is trying to attract foreign investment and is 100% ready to accept investment from Japanese companies."



Over \$254m Paid to SMEs, Semi-Finished Projects in 5 Months

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade's data show that 73.025 trillion rials (about \$254.4 million) has been paid to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and semi-finished industrial projects with an over 60 percent physical progress during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

The mentioned facilities, which are provided for renewing machinery, equipping production units, or completing semi-finished projects, have been paid in the form of bank loans to 1,206 projects and production units, IRNA reported.

The program for offering bank facilities to SMEs and semi-finished projects was kicked off in February 2019 by the Industry Ministry in collaboration with the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), and since then over 7,542 production units and SMEs have registered for receiving the mentioned loans.

Based on the said program, 201.299 trillion rials of facilities (about \$701.39 million) were set to be paid to SMEs and semi-finished projects to support domestic production and maintain or create job opportunities of which so far 110.4 trillion rials (about \$384.6 million) has been paid.

In total, the Iranian banking system provided 240.314 trillion rials (about \$837.3 million) of financial facilities to various production units over the previous Iranian calendar year.

The number of loans paid in the previous year increased by 13 percent compared to the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) while the value of the paid facilities also increased by 7.3 percent.

Over the past three years, CBI has been collaborating with the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry for implementing a program based on which bank facilities are provided to SMEs and semi-finished projects.



Terrorism, Extremism Still Main Challenges in ME

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has warned that terrorism and extremism are still the main challenges in the Middle East.

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with Csaba Körösi, the president of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, on Tuesday.

The Iranian FM pointed to the fact that the Islamic Republic attaches great importance to the UN General Assembly, expressing hope that the current session will provide an opportunity to exchange views on international challenges concerning peace and security.

He further emphasized that the Middle East is still grappling with terrorism and extremism as the main challenge, which has been exacerbated following the developments in Afghanistan, adding that the country has turned into a source of concern among regional nations.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the top diplomat referred to Iran's initiatives in containing dust storms, promoting neighboring states to cooperate in this respect, because it is a phenomenon, which threatens the health of millions of people. He also expressed hope that the UN General Assembly can highlight the dust storms as an international issue.

Körösi, for his part, welcomed Iran's approach in this year's session, hoping that the Islamic Republic can play a key role in promoting coordination among member states of the UNGA.

As to the incapability of the UN Security Council in reviewing many international issues, he emphasized that the member states of the UNGA expect the global entity to play a more active role, in particular, in dealing with security issues.

The president of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly also pointed to the international concern about water management and water shortages, expressing hope that Iran can have an active presence in the coming International Conference on Water Resources Management slated for March 2023.

66% Growth in Petchem Exports to Uzbekistan

TEHRAN (Shana) - The head of international affairs of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) announced a 66% rise in the export of Iranian petrochemicals to Uzbekistan in 2021 compared to the previous year.

According to NPC, speaking on the sidelines of the visit of Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Energy, Abdijamil Imiaminovitch, to the 16th Iran Plast International Exhibition on Saturday, Hossein Alimurad stated that the cooperation capacities between Iran and Uzbekistan are very high, adding: "Based on the talks I had in Uzbekistan earlier, a joint working group is supposed to be established between the two countries to develop relations between the two countries in the field of petrochemicals as well as oil and gas."

Stating that daily equivalent to 1.1 million barrels of crude oil feedstock is converted into petrochemicals in Iran's petrochemical complexes, he said: "Currently, the nominal capacity of petrochemical complexes in Iran is about 91 million tons per year, of which 65 million tons are produced practically."

The head of international affairs of NPC added: "Iran currently has 41 active petrochemical complexes and 38 projects under construction in its two petrochemical hubs, namely, Mahshahr and Asalouyeh, and in the next 10 years, four new petrochemical hubs with 30 new projects will be added to this figure."

No Certain Time to Open Blocked Platforms

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) said it is unknown when the filtered platforms will be reopened.

The social networks have been filtered in Iran, Tehran in particular, to mitigate the spread of the unrest that broken out recently under the pretext of a 22-year-old girl's death, Mahsa Amini, who died out of a heart attack at a police center in Tehran.

On the sidelines of the cabinet session on Wednesday, September 28, Isa Zarepour told the reporters that those platforms the access to, which was limited, played a crucial role in organizing the riots in the country.

"The restricted platforms turned in to a facilitative tool for the rioters," Zarepour added.

He stressed that the competent departments decided to filter the social network platforms, and they should announce when the apps will be reopened.

Still, the ICT minister said that the grounds would be prepared for the national platform to provide the people with services so that their business would not be hindered.

The rioters guided by the opposition groups outside Iran are destroying the public properties of the Iranian nation, injuring police officers, and even attacking the hospitals' vehicles, the ambulances.

The rioters even desecrated the Islamic sanctities, including the Holy Quran; they burnt Quran, set fire to the martyrs' pictures, and insulted Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Faezeh Hashemi Arrested Over Ties to Deadly Protests

TEHRAN (IFP) - Political activist Faezeh Hashemi has been arrested by Iranian security forces for alleged involvement in the protests triggered after the death of a young woman in police custody two weeks ago, according to Tasnim News Agency.

Hashemi, the daughter of former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, is accused of 'instigating the riots' in the country and 'provoking' people to take to the streets.

"Faezeh Hashemi has been arrested in the east of Tehran by a security agency for inciting rioters to street protests," Tasnim reported, without elaborating.

She has a history of locking horns with officials over her anti-government stances and has spent six months in jail for "propaganda activities against the Islamic Republic."

Several Iranian cities have been rocked by violent protests since Mahsa Amini's death in police custody after she was detained by the morality police for her "inappropriate dressing."

Iranian officials say foreign agents are pulling the protesters' strings in the unrest that has so far left scores dead and hundreds more injured or arrested.

Tehran-Riyadh Reconciliation Talks Continue

TEHRAN (IFP) - Talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic ties after a years-long rift continue, the Iraqi foreign minister, whose country hosts the negotiations, has announced.

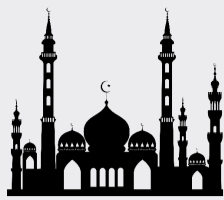
In an interview with Rudaw media network, Fuad Hussein said, "I had a meeting with the Iranian and Saudi sides and we are trying to upgrade the negotiations to the level of foreign ministers."

Saudi Arabia cut off diplomatic ties with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters, enraged by the Saudi execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr, stormed its embassy in Tehran.

Meanwhile, Iran criticizes the kingdom for pursuing what it calls a confrontational foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic.

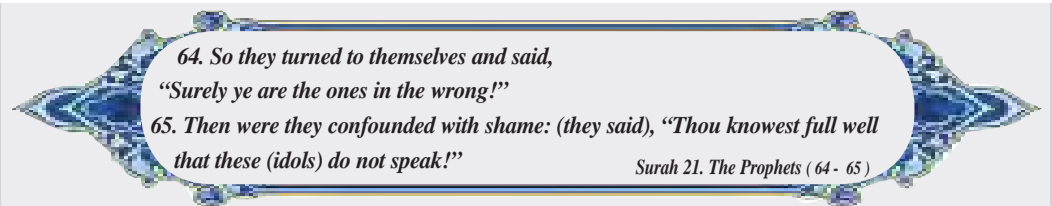
The Iraqi foreign minister said the Iran-Saudi talks could indirectly be affected by other developments, including Riyadh's ties with Washington and negotiations to restore a 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers.

Fuad Hussein also confirmed that Iraq acts as a conduit for the United States' message to Iran to help salvage the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), after Washington withdrew from the accord in 2018.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:54
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:09
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:35
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:58



Tehran Voices Readiness For 10th Joint Economic Commission With Bangkok

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mr. Alireza Payman-Pak in meeting with Ambassador of Thailand to Iran Mr. Worawoot Pongrapapant announced Tehran's readiness for holding the meeting of Iran-Thailand joint economic commission.

In the meeting Payman-Pak announced the readiness of the organization for holding the joint economic commission and emphasized that the meeting can revive and resolve some economic issues between the two countries and broaden economic ties.

He expressed hope that the cooperation between Iran and Thailand would enhance in different fields especially in the economic and trade fields. He reiterated that planning for dispatch of trade delegations as well as forming workgroup for pursuing issues related to broadening trade between the two states should be put on the agenda of both sides.

In a suggestion to Thai Ambassador, Payman-Pak said that for colorful presence of Iranian companies in the Southeast Asian exhibitions, six or seven important exhibitions in this region are better to be chosen and introduced to Iranians which will help boosting relations between the economic sectors of both states.

He also said that the launch of workgroups on the occasion of the exhibitions will help both countries to strengthen their economic ties. Touching upon banking and logistic issues related to the trade between Iran and Thailand, he said that Iran has used some models which are not affected by the sanctions and they can be used in trade with Thailand and it will reduce the risk of investment for countries.

He added that one of the appropriate ways for financial exchanges is the connection between Iran's Export Guarantee Fund with insurances and similar funds in the target countries because these funds are not under sanctions, adding that the issue of insuring trade contracts is considered as the most important trade tools for replacing LCs.



He added that one of the ways for broadening trade between the two countries is barter and currently Iran is working on barter base with countries like Russia, India, Bulgaria, Oman and Pakistan and this method does not need financial exchanges and both countries can pursue their trade ties easily without any sanctions problem.

Payman-Pak also hailed the invitation of Thailand Chamber of Commerce from Iran for sending a big trade delegation and called it a great opportunity for dispatch of representatives of the Exports Guarantee Fund for reviewing the grounds for barter trade.

Then Thai Ambassador Mr. Pongrapapant, for his part, pointed to this method of performance of these funds and said that Iran has experienced this type of cooperation with some African states but it needs some specialized meetings between experts of both countries in this field and exchange views on ways of cooperation.

He went on to say that Thai trade minister is keen to visit Iran and it is better before this visit, specialized committees are formed to work on the issues related to the economic cooperation between the two states because some issues need to be revised and settling the differences before the Thai minister's visit to Tehran is important for both sides.

Then Payman-Pak welcomed the visit of Thai Minister to Tehran and said that soon the organization will send the invitation, reiterating that holding of the 10th joint economic commission of Iran and Thailand will help both countries to broaden their economic trade and revive some important economic issues between the two states.

Over 9m Tons of Commodities Traded on IME Last Month

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the last Iranian calander month of Shahrivar ending on September 22 witnessed trade of 9,857,062 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than 2.4 billion USD on its physical market, as compared to the month before.



According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor, trade of 1,616,000 tons of commodities valued at more than \$882m.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 428,010 tons of vacuum bottom, 437,720 tons of bitumen, 424,602 tons of polymeric products, 142,900 tons of lube cut, 138,754 tons of chemicals, 25,900 tons of sulfur, 18,692 tons of oil and 1,980 tons of insulation.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of more than 8,187,000 tons of commodities worth more than \$1.5b on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 4,362,000 tons of cement, 1,727,000 tons of steel, 1,541,000 tons of iron ore, 458,500 tons of sponge iron, 36,000 tons of aluminum, 74,400 tons of zinc, 24,980 tons of copper, 790 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 200 tons of coke, 72 tons of precious metals concentrate and 92 kg of gold bars.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 52,986 tons commodities

Knowledge-Sharing Sessions Held in Urmia to Transfer Int'l Experiences to Farmers

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - To acquire the knowledge of new farming methods and grasping proven agricultural practices intended to increase water productivity, knowledge-sharing sessions are conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in Urmia, in close collaboration with government of Iran and the support from the government of Japan.



Eying to increase resilience in agriculture sector, the sessions include presenting successful international experiences in agriculture in similar climate conditions of the pilot site. These experiences could be used by farmers, assisting them to comprehend how to improve climate-resilient practices in agriculture.

Benefiting from the shared different experiences of other farmers, local farmers will be equipped with different scenarios for improving the cultivation system, irrigation, and value chain. Based in Balanej Dehestan in Urmia, the initiative provides on the ground and feasible alternatives for the current farming methods in the region.

"Since 2016, FAO has supported the Urmia Lake Restoration Programme (ULRP) agency with technical advice and sharing of international best practices in water accounting, drought management, and socio-economic analyses." Said Aziz Elbehri, senior economist at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the project lead technical officer.

Mentioning the focus of the project on farmer level technologies that leads to improve water productivity, increase yields, and sustain farmers income, Elbehri underscored that learning from different countries experiences will "enable Iran farmers to adapt these technologies to their local conditions, speed up their mastery, and facilitate acceptance."

"Agricultural education and extension are the best way leading to empowering stakeholders. Benefiting from the agricultural extension, the farmers will be equipped with modern technologies and scientific methods." Said Ms Bita Ahmadian, Coordination Manager of Agricultural Extension Management.

She believed that "the farmers who adopt and manage their farms based on the new findings, certainly will have higher performance rather than those who farm in demonstration site."

"Sharing different experiences by leading farmers to improve other colleagues' development skills is One of the focuses of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad. Benefiting from the lessons learned from other farmers, this method becomes much more effective rather than a theoretical alternative," Ahmadian highlighted.

FAO, as the lead UN agency dedicated to increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods and food systems, will continue to work closely with partners to build inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies.

Iran Boosts Wheat Stocks With Local Buys

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's wheat purchases from local farmers rose 55.2% from the prior year's total procurement, boosting stocks at government granaries at a time of surging prices that have sent flour costs sharply higher.



country had to import 5-6 million tons of wheat, according to officials.

To put this into perspective, the government bought 11.5 million tons of wheat from local farmers in 2019 when the country celebrated self-sufficiency in the food

for the fourth year in a row.

Wheat is Iran's most important crop, accounting for about half of its cultivated acreage and 70 percent of its grain output.

The country is estimated to consume around 15.5 million tons of wheat a year, but supplies have varied over years due to erratic domestic production.

The bulk of the crop depends on seasonal precipitation, where irrigated wheat covers only one-third of the total area of 6.5 million hectares used for harvest, making yields subject to cycles of boom and bust.

The global food market is facing a serious challenge from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine which is the fifth largest exporter of wheat. Russia is the world's largest wheat exporter, accounting for 18% of global shipments.

Russia and Ukraine which respectively produced 38 million tones and 22 million tones of global wheat supply last year have reduced their wheat supply by 30 million tons this year.

Economists say the West's imposition of more sanctions on Russia has intensified the rise in prices for energy and food products, especially wheat.

Iran to Start Working in Afghan Mining Sector Within a Month

TEHRAN (MNA) – Taliban has said that Iran will start mining in Afghanistan within a month.

The Public Relations Department of the Governorship of Ghor announced that a contract has been signed with an Iranian company for the extraction of minerals in the Afghan province and the practical work will begin in a month.

According to the announcement by the governor of Ghor, which is located in the western Hindu Kush in central Afghanistan, a coal mine in the province signed a contract with a domestic company named (Roshan Qadri) which is supposed to extract 100,000 tons of coal, but the extraction process has not officially started yet.

Also, Jest and Sorab mines in the province have also signed a contract with an Iranian company and this company is supposed to start mining in a month.

The announcement further said that a five-member delegation from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum of the Taliban government is supposed to go to the province with the aim of monitoring and improving the work of Ghor mines. This is while the local authorities of Badghis province announced the extraction process of a semi-precious stone mine.

According to the authorities, this mine has fluoride rock and its extraction is carried out by a domestic company.

Officials of the Badghis Mines and Petroleum Administration say that these semi-precious stones used to be smuggled in this province, but now the ruling Taliban receives a good monthly income from the mining of the discovered mine.

Iran Gas Supply to Industries Up 13% y/y in March-August

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran increased its supply of natural gas to its major industries by a significant amount in the five months to late August as the country moves ahead with plans to boost efficiency and to cut carbon emissions in its manufacturing sector.

Figures by the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) published on Tuesday showed that natural gas supply to energy-intensive industries in Iran had reached 145 million cubic meters (5.12 billion cubic feet) over the five calendar months to August 22. The figure is an increase of 13% compared with the March-August period last year, said NIGC's CEO Majid Chegeni, who added that the supply had helped steel and cement manufacturers as well as petrochemical companies in Iran to boost their output.

U.S. Pushes for Constructive India-Pakistan Relations

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said late on Monday he had discussed with his Pakistani counterpart what he called managing a responsible relationship with neighbouring India.

Blinken’s comments came after India’s defense and foreign ministers opposed a U.S. decision to provide a support package of about \$450 million for Pakistan’s fleet of U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets.

“In our discussions today, we talked about the importance of managing a responsible relationship with India,” Blinken said after meeting Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, without elaborating. Asked about the F-16 deal, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said that the United States had independent relations with India and Pakistan.



China’s Xi Makes First Public Appearance in Beijing

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Chinese President Xi Jinping visited an exhibition in Beijing on Tuesday, according to state television, in his first public appearance since returning to China from an official trip to Central Asia in mid-September.

Xi is widely expected to secure a precedent-breaking third term as leader at the Communist Party’s once-in-five-years congress next month.



Gas Leaks From Russian Pipelines To Europe Raise Sabotage Fears



STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Europe was investigating leaks in two Russian gas pipelines that churned up the Baltic Sea on Tuesday and raised concerns from Copenhagen to Moscow about sabotage on infrastructure at the heart of an energy standoff.

However, it remained far from clear who might be behind any foul play, if proven, on the Nord Stream pipelines that Russia and European partners spent billions of dollars building.

Poland’s prime minister blamed sabotage for the leaks, without citing evidence, while the Danish premier said it could not be ruled out.

Russia, which slashed gas deliveries to Europe after the West imposed sanctions over Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, said sabotage was a possibility and that the incident undermined the continent’s energy security. A senior Ukrainian official called it a Russian attack to destabilize Europe, without giving proof.

The Nord Stream pipelines have been flashpoints in an escalating energy war between European capitals and Moscow that has pummeled major Western economies, sent gas prices soaring and sparked a hunt for alternative energy supplies.

Sweden’s Maritime Authority issued a warning about two leaks in the Nord Stream 1 pipeline the day after a leak on the nearby Nord Stream 2 pipeline was discovered that prompted Denmark to restrict shipping and impose a small no fly zone.

Denmark’s armed forces released a video showing bubbles boiling up to the surface of the sea. The largest gas leak had caused a surface disturbance of well over 1 km (0.6 mile) in diameter, the armed forces said.

“Today we faced an act of sabotage, we don’t know all the details of what happened, but we see clearly that it’s an act of sabotage, related to the next step of escalation of the situation in Ukraine,” Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said at the opening of a new pipeline between Norway and Poland.

Seismologists in Denmark and Sweden registered powerful blasts in the areas of the leaks on Monday, Sweden’s National Seismology Centre told public broadcaster SVT. German geological research center GFZ also said a seismograph on the Danish island of Bornholm had twice recorded spikes on Monday.

The leaks were very large and it could take perhaps a week for gas to stop draining out of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, the head of Denmark’s Energy Agency Kristoffer Bottzauw said.

Ships could lose buoyancy if they entered the area.

“The sea surface is full of methane, which means there is an increased risk of explosions in the area,” Bottzauw said.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said sabotage could not be ruled out. “We are talking about three leaks with some distance between them, and that’s why it is hard to imagine that it is a coincidence,” she said.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov called it “very concerning news. Indeed, we are talking about some damage of an unclear nature to the pipeline in Denmark’s economic zone.” He said it affected the continent’s energy security.

Neither pipeline was pumping gas to Europe at the time the leaks were found amid the dispute over the war in Ukraine, but the incidents will scupper any remaining expectations that Europe could receive gas via Nord Stream 1 before winter.

Operator Nord Stream said the damage was “unprecedented”.

Both pipelines contained gas although they were not in operation. Gazprom, the Kremlin-controlled company with a monopoly on Russian gas exports by pipeline, declined comment.

“There are some indications that it is deliberate damage,” said a European security source, while adding it was still too early to draw conclusions. “You have to ask: Who would profit?”

Qatar Conscripts Civilians For World Cup Security

DOHA (Dispatches) - Qatar has called up hundreds of civilians, including diplomats summoned back from overseas, for mandatory military service operating security checkpoints at World Cup stadiums, according to a source and documents seen by Reuters.

The deployment of conscripts, some of whom would normally defer national service because their work is considered vital, highlights the logistical challenge faced by the tiny Persian Gulf Arab state hosting one of the world’s biggest sports tournaments.

The conscripts are training to manage stadium security queues, frisk fans and detect contraband like alcohol, drugs or weapons concealed in ponytails, jacket linings or even false bellies, according to training materials seen by Reuters.

Qatar has a population of 2.8 million - of which barely 380,000 are Qatari nationals - and expects an unprecedented influx of 1.2 million visitors for the tournament. It already has an agreement with Turkey which is supplying 3,000 riot police.

In early September the civilians were ordered to report for pre-dawn duty at the national service camp north of the Qatari capital Doha, according to order papers seen by Reuters, less than three months before the 29-day tournament kicks off.

The civilians were told they had been called up to assist with the World Cup and that it was their “patriotic duty” to do so, the source said. “Most people are there because they have to be - they don’t want to get in trouble,” the source said.

Some volunteers are also training alongside the conscripted force, according to the source, who has direct knowledge of the plan and the training.

Asked for comment, a Qatari government official said in a statement that Qatar’s national service program would continue as normal during the World Cup.

“Recruits will provide additional support during the tournament as part of the regular program, just as they do every year at major public events, such as the National Day celebrations,” the statement added.



Border-Crossing Asylum-Seekers Hit Six-Year High in Canada

TORONTO (Dispatches) - The number of asylum-seekers entering Canada between formal border crossings has surged to the highest point since the government started tracking them in 2017, as dropped pandemic restrictions enable more travel and conflict and catastrophe displace people in many parts of the world.

In the first eight months of 2022, Royal Canadian Mounted Police intercepted 23,358 asylum-seekers crossing into the country at unofficial entry points, 13% more than all of 2017, when an influx of border-crossers at Roxham Road, near the Quebec-New York border, made international headlines.

The surge in irregular entries comes as Canada prepares to defend at the Supreme Court the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States under which it turns back asylum-seekers trying to cross at regular ports of entry.

Because of this agreement asylum-seekers cross between ports of entry and turn themselves in to police to pursue refugee claims. Canada is trying to extend the agreement so it applies across the entire land border.

The influx could be as simple as pent-up demand following pandemic border restrictions Canada lifted last fall, said University of Ottawa immigration law professor Jamie Chai-Yun Liew.

“I think it’s like any travel: People are just on the move again.”

But immigration experts say the rise is another sign that when countries like Canada and the U.S erect barriers to orderly entry, displaced people will turn to other modes.

If Canada does not want to deal with irregular crossers, it should scrap the agreement that bars them from crossing at regular entry points, said Janet Dench, executive director at Canadian Council for Refugees, which is taking the Canadian government to court.

“The Safe Third Country Agreement violates people’s rights and needs to be torn up because of that. But also, from a very practical perspective, tearing up the Safe Third Country Agreement would mean that Roxham Road would be closed down.”

Kazakhstan to Ensure Safety of Russians Fleeing Draft

ASTANA (Dispatches) - Kazakhstan will guarantee the safety of Russians fleeing their country as Russia moves to conscript hundreds of thousands of army reserves to fight in Ukraine, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has said.

“A lot of people from Russia have come here over the last few days,” Tokayev said in a speech on Tuesday.

“Most of them are forced to leave because of the hopeless situation. We must take care of them and ensure their safety.”

Tokayev’s remarks came as Kazakhstan’s interior ministry said nearly 100,000 Russians had crossed the two countries’ shared border measuring 7,644 kilometers (4,762 miles) – the world’s second-longest land border – since Russia issued what it called a “partial mobilization” order last week.

Russians do not need a visa or even a passport to enter Kazakhstan, just their Russian identity papers. The Russian language is also widely spoken in the vast but sparsely populated country, which is home to a large ethnic Russian minority.

Tokayev said his government, which has refused to support what Russia calls a “special military operation” in Ukraine, will discuss the growing crisis directly with Moscow, a traditional ally.

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan’s interior ministry has published a proposal to change immigration rules that

would limit to three months the time Russians can stay in Kazakhstan unless they have a passport.

While some Kazakhs have already called for border closures or restrictions on Russians’ entry, others have arranged meeting points for arriving Russians and set up volunteer networks to help them find shelter amid reports of limited availability at hotels and hostels.

A resident in the country’s largest city, Almaty, told the Reuters news agency she had taken in three young men from Russia on Monday who were preparing to spend the night on the street.

Others who fled Russia were staying with friends, and expressed certainty they would not return home, come what may.

“I am crashing on my friends’ couch right now,” a 32-year-old Russian IT professional, who had moved to Almaty, told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

“I do not have a clear plan on what to do next, but I am definitely not going back to Russia. I hope to find work here.”

Authorities in Georgia, which also shares a border with Russia, have reported a rise in crossings from its neighbor as well.

“Four to five days ago 5,000 to 6,000 [Russians] were arriving in Georgia daily. The number has grown to some 10,000 per day,” Vakhtang Gomelauri, the country’s interior minister, told reporters on Tuesday.



U.S. Patrol Spots Chinese, Russian Naval Ships Off Alaskan Island



ALASKA (Dispatches) - A U.S. Coast Guard vessel on routine patrol in the Bering Sea off Alaska has reported an encounter with a Chinese guided missile cruiser which was later discovered to be travelling with two other Chinese naval vessels and four Russian Navy ships.

The Renhai CG 101 missile cruiser was observed some 138km (86 miles) north of Alaska’s Kiska Island by the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Kimball while on a routine patrol on September 19, the coast guard said in a statement.

Two other Chinese naval vessels and four Russian ships, including a destroyer, were later observed moving “in a single formation with the Renhai as a combined surface action group operating in the US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)”, the Coast Guard said. The Hawaii-based Kimball, a 127-metre (418-foot) vessel, said the Chinese and Russian ships later broke their action group formation – which is an arrangement for tactical missions – and dispersed.

The U.S. Coast Guard said in the statement that the Kimball was now operating under the guidelines of Operation Frontier Sentinel, which designates matching “presence with presence” when it comes to “strategic competitors” who are operating in and around US waters.

A U.S. C-130 Hercules aircraft had provided air support for the Kimball from the Coast Guard station in Kodiak, Alaska.

“While the formation has operated in accordance with international rules and norms,” said Rear Admiral Nathan Moore, Seventeenth Coast Guard District commander, “we will meet presence-with-presence to ensure there are no disruptions to US interests in the maritime environment around Alaska.”

The Chinese and Russian naval encounter with the US coast guard vessel comes a month after NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned of China’s growing interest in the Arctic and Russia’s military build-up there.

Stoltenberg said Russia has set up a new Arctic Command and opened hundreds of new and former Soviet-era Arctic military sites, including deep-water ports and airfields.

China has declared itself a “near Arctic” state and now plans to build the world’s largest icebreaker, he said.

Shifting Demographics Stirs debate on Northern Ireland's Future

BELFAST (Dispatches) - For the first time in Northern Ireland's history, new census figures show that Catholics outnumber Protestants.

The results have been described as "a seminal moment" by leaders of Irish republican parties – who favor the reunification of Ireland and draw most of their votes from the Catholic population, and have caused disquiet in unionist camps – who want to remain in the United Kingdom and are supported mostly by Protestants.

While most of the island of Ireland gained independence from the UK a century ago, Northern Ireland was carved out in a way which explicitly aimed to maintain a permanent majority of pro-British Protestants. For some, the new figures are thus another sign on the pathway to a united Ireland.

John Finucane, a prominent member of the leading republican party Sinn Féin, called for preparations for the "possibility of a unity referendum".

"The partition of Ireland has been a failure. We can build a better future together, for every person who lives on this island," the MP said upon the announcement of the results.

However, caution is required when interpreting the results and their political applications, Peter McLoughlin, a senior lecturer in political history at Queens University Belfast, told Al Jazeera.

People from a Catholic background are not a majority of the total population, and nor do they all necessarily support a united Ireland.

"While we can say there is a very strong link between religion and political orientation, there are exceptions to the rule on both sides," McLoughlin said.

Nonetheless, Northern Ireland's history means that the fact that Catholics are now the larger group is clearly "symbolically and historically important" and will add to unrest among unionist political parties who have seen their position change in years.

In 2017, unionist parties lost their majority for the first time in the local legislature.

Earlier this year, Sinn Féin gained the largest number of seats in the May elections, the first time a republican party has managed to do so.

Another worrying trend for unionists is that the number of people who defined their identity as "British only" dropped by 8 percent since the last poll in 2011.

It was noticeable that both main unionist parties briefed the media to downplay the significance of the results before they were even announced.

What is clear is that unionists – or indeed, Irish republicans – will need to reach beyond those who identify as Catholic or British, Irish or British, in order to have enough support for their cause.

Leader of the Alliance party.

About one in five people identify as "Northern Irish" and may well support parties like Alliance, who do not take a stance on reunification and made significant gains in elections this May.

Kellie Armstrong, a representative of the Alliance party in the local legislature, told Al Jazeera that the census figures demonstrate that many people like her do not want to be "pigeonholed" as British or Irish.

"It just shows that we're no longer a place of two parts, that we are actually a more pluralist and a much more diverse Northern Ireland," she said.

Any referendum on Irish unity "will be a lot more nuanced and it will be people like myself, people who are Northern Irish, the people who have not defined themselves by religious terms, that will actually decide whether there should be a border poll [referendum], and what that border poll like outcome will be", Armstrong said.



Porsche, Luxury Carmaker With Storied History

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - Germany luxury carmaker Porsche is gunning for a blockbuster IPO on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange this week.

Here are five facts about the automobile giant:

Porsche made waves at the Frankfurt international motor show in 1963 when it unveiled a new car with a six-cylinder engine designed to succeed its 356 model.

The manufacturer originally intended to call it the 901 — but Peugeot had already laid claim to all the three-digit numbers with a zero in the middle, prompting Porsche to settle for 911.

The number is now strongly linked to the brand — to call the company, 911 is on every phone number after the local dial code. The company's capital amounts to 911 million shares, and its shares will be traded under the code P911.

Volkswagen, the parent company of Porsche, has launched a well-publicised drive to dump combustion engines — but in fact, it produced its first electric vehicles over a century ago.

At the Porsche museum in Zuffenhausen, southern Germany, a kind of old stage coach described as the first Porsche in history is on display.

Built in 1898 by the company's founder Ferdinand Porsche, the "Egger-Lohner C.2 Phaeton" ran on electric power.

Two years later, Porsche unveiled a new model the "Lohner-Porsche", a petrol-electric hybrid.

Porsches have made regular appearances on the silver screen over the years. One of the best-known instances is the 1971 movie Le Mans, starring Steve McQueen as Michael Delaney, an American driving a Porsche 917 against a German rival in a Ferrari at the famous 24-hour race in France.

In the 1995 cop film Bad Boys, Will Smith's character drives a 911 Turbo, as he and a fellow detective investigate the theft of a massive haul of heroin from a police vault.

One of Hollywood star Tom Cruise's earliest hits, 1983 teen comedy Risky Business, features a Porsche 928. Cruise's character is forbidden from driving the car while his parents are away — but he does just that, and it ends up sinking into a lake.

In Scarface, Al Pacino — playing a Cuban immigrant who becomes a powerful drug lord in Miami — also drives a Porsche 928.

Porsche is one of the world's biggest race car manufacturers. After enjoying moderate success with early models on long-distance races in the 1950s and 60s, the 917 drove the manufacturer to a coveted first victory at the Le Mans 24 Hour Race in 1970, an event it has triumphed in repeatedly since.

The iconic 911 has done particularly well in rallies, including the Monte Carlo rally.

The manufacturer has also raced in Formula One. They had a team from 1957-62, although they only raced in two complete seasons 1961/62, with their only victory Dan Gurney's in the 1962 French Grand Prix.

They returned to the circuit in 1983 providing the engines for the McLaren team and enjoyed great success — McLaren won two successive constructors championships in 1984 and 1985.

However, its negotiations with Red Bull for a partnership that would have allowed them to return to F1 failed earlier this month.

The Porsche-Piech family are the main shareholders of the Volkswagen group, and have roots in Germany's auto industry stretching back decades.

An Austrian-born engineer, Ferdinand Porsche was founder of the luxury car brand that bears his name. In addition, he created the Volkswagen Beetle and designed the iconic, open-top Mercedes-Benz SSK sports car.



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UK Housing Index at 11-Year Low on Rate-Hike Fears

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's homebuilders index hit a more than 11-year low on concerns that a weaker pound could lead to more rate hikes by the Bank of England, potentially hurting house prices and demand. The pound plunged to a record low against the dollar early on Monday and British bonds were slammed on concerns over the government's fiscal plan, unleashing calls for the Bank of England to deliver an immediate rate hike to restore investor confidence. "(It's) more to do with massive rate hikes killing the sector," Markets.com analyst Neil Wilson said. The housebuilders index fell 6% to hit its lowest level since March 2013.



Oil Stocks to Rise on Slower Demand

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Global oil stocks are set to rise next year amid weakening demand and a stronger U.S. dollar, executives at an oil conference said, adding that OPEC will have to cut output to reduce supply if they want prices to remain supported.

Oil prices climbed past \$100 a barrel after Russia, the world's largest exporter of crude and fuels, invaded Ukraine in February. But prices have come off their peaks by nearly 40% amid fears that an economic slowdown would weaken demand.

Brent crude and U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) prices slid to eight-month lows, last trading around \$85 and \$78, respectively, weighed by a stronger U.S. dollar and concerns that rising interest rates will tip major economies into recession and cut demand for oil.

OPEC would need to make oil cuts of 0.5-1 million barrels per day to keep Brent prices above \$90, said Gary Ross, chief executive of Black Gold Investors LLC, who also expects oil inventories to continue building in the first quarter despite Russia's declining oil output.

"We could be in contango in the first quarter if OPEC doesn't cut, so if they want to see prices at \$90 on their balance, they're going to have to cut," Ross said.

Others agreed that stockpiles will cap prices though fears will rise when European sanctions go into effect on Dec. 5.

A European Union embargo on Russian crude and oil products over the next few months could also tighten supplies and drive prices higher, although G7 nations are hoping to minimize supply disruption by implementing a price cap mechanism.

"I think inventories will rise next year as demand slows down and more production comes in ... but it all depends on whether Russian oil flows or not. That's the elephant in the room," Fereidun Fesharaki, founder and chairman of energy consultancy FGE, told Reuters on the sidelines of the conference, as bans on Russian oil loom.

A successful revival of the Iran nuclear deal will also lead to an inventory build-up "in a big way," he added, which will lead to production cuts by OPEC+, or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies.

"Oil's near-term price outlook all (has) to do with sentiment, signals from China and fear about the future. But when we get to Dec. 5, if Russian oil gets shut in, prices will be \$120 or more." Refiners in China, the world's largest crude importer, however, expect Beijing to release up to 15 million tons worth of oil product export quotas for the rest of the year to support sagging exports. Such a move would add to global supplies and depress fuel prices but could support China's crude demand.

At least three Chinese state oil refineries and a privately run mega refiner are considering increasing runs by up to 10% in October from September, eyeing stronger demand and a possible surge in fourth-quarter fuel exports.

"There's been a push by the refiners, the state-owned companies to export more products ... in an effort I think to try and increase exports and help support the yuan and trade balance," said Black Gold Investors' Ross.

He added, however, that it would be difficult for Chinese refiners to achieve 15 million tons of exports by the year-end "because it's right around the corner".

China Acts to Rein in Yuan Slump

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - China's central bank announced fresh steps to slow the pace of the yuan's recent depreciation by making it more expensive to bet against the currency, as global policymakers grappled with the economic effects of a broad dollar rally.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it would raise the foreign exchange risk reserves for financial institutions when purchasing FX through currency forwards to 20% from the current zero, starting on Sept. 28, to "stabilize FX market expectations and strengthen macro prudential management."

China has adjusted the FX risk reserve ratio multiple times over the past few years before last scrapping it in October 2020, when the yuan rose sharply.

The latest move to resume FX risk reserves would effectively raise the cost of shorting the yuan at a time the local currency is facing renewed depreciation pressure, traders and analysts said. They estimate the cost of forward dollar buying could be raised by 500 to 700 pips.

"So, the effect of the policy move may be more powerful than verbal guidance and signal through midpoint fixing settings," said a trader at a foreign bank.

Spot yuan hardly budged on the announcement. The onshore yuan traded at 7.1503 per dollar as of 0720 GMT, versus the previous late night close of 7.1298 on Friday.

Earlier on Monday, the PBOC again set firmer-than-expected official guidance for the 23rd straight trading session, at 7.0298 per dollar - the weakest level since July 7, 2020.



Japan Warns Against Speculative Yen Moves

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said authorities stood ready to respond to speculative currency moves, a fresh warning that comes days after Tokyo intervened in the foreign exchange market to stem yen falls for the first time in more than two decades.

Suzuki also told a news conference the government and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) were on the same page in sharing concerns about the currency's sharp declines.

"We are deeply concerned about recent rapid and one-sided market moves driven in part by speculative trading," Suzuki told the news conference. "There's no change to our stance of being ready to respond as needed" to such moves, he added.

Japan likely spent a record around 3.6 trillion yen (\$25 billion) last Thursday in its first dollar-selling, yen-buying intervention in 24 years to stem the currency's sharp weakening, according to estimates by Tokyo money market brokerage firms.

BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said on Monday the central bank was likely to retain its ultra-loose monetary policy for the time being, but added that its commitment to keep interest rates at "present or lower levels" may not necessary stay unchanged for years.

At last week's news conference, Kuroda had said the BOJ was unlikely to change its guidance on interest rates for "two to three years".

But on Monday he retracted that.

Germany Secures LNG Deal From UAE

DUBAI (Dispatches) - German utility RWE has signed a deal with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to deliver liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe's largest economy by the end of December, RWE announced.

Though the initial amount to be delivered is relatively small, it's a politically significant deal to shore up supplies of gas from outside of Russia as Chancellor Olaf Scholz seeks to deepen ties with the Gulf and find alternative energy sources.

The deal, which includes a memorandum of understanding for multi-year supplies of LNG, came on the second day of a two-day trip to the Gulf region by Scholz.

"We need to make sure that the production of LNG in the world is advanced to the point where the high demand that exists can be met without having to resort to the production capacity that exists in Russia," Scholz told journalists before the deal was announced.

The cargo to be delivered this year by ADNOC will be for 137,000 cubic meters of LNG and will be the first LNG to be supplied to the German gas market via the floating LNG import terminal at Brunsbüttel near Hamburg, RWE said.

ADNOC further reserved an unspecified number of LNG cargoes for Germany in 2023.

Germany's two new planned floating LNG terminals will eventually be able to receive up to 12.5 billion cubic meters of LNG a year, equivalent to about 13% of the country's gas consumption in 2021, according to data from research firm Enerdata.

"This marks an important milestone in building up an LNG supply infrastructure in Germany and setting up a more diversified gas supply," RWE said in a statement.

German officials hope an array of deals, like the one struck with Abu Dhabi for LNG, will help take the edge off skyrocketing energy prices.

Meanwhile, frustrated Germans protested on Sunday, calling to put into service the halted Nord Stream 2 pipeline project that was designed to transport fuel from Russia to Germany but was put on ice after the war in Ukraine broke out.

"Immediately open Nord Stream 2," read one placard. "Opening Nord Stream 2 = Prevention," read another. Organizers expected some 5,000 protesters in the city of Lubmin, where the pipeline lands in Germany.

In addition to supplying RWE, ADNOC has also agreed to sell ammonia to German companies, including Steag and Aurubis. It will also provide 250,000 tons of diesel a month to German firm Hoyer.

World Economy to Slow, Paying the Price of War

PARIS (Dispatches) - The world economy will take a bigger hit than previously forecast next year due to the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine, the OECD said.

In a bleak report titled "paying the price of war", the Paris-based organisation noted that the conflict aggravated inflationary pressure when the cost of living was already rising quickly.

Covid outbreaks are still having an impact on the global economy while growth has also been affected by rising interest rates as central banks scramble to cool red-hot prices, the OECD said.

"A number of indicators have taken a turn for the worse, and the global growth outlook has darkened," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in the report.

Global growth stalled in the second quarter of this year and data in many economies "now point to an extended period of subdued growth", the OECD said.

The organisation slashed its 2023 growth forecast for the global economy to 2.2 percent, down from 2.8 percent in its previous estimate in June.

The outlook for nearly all nations in the Group of 20 top economies was cut, except for Turkey, Indonesia and Britain, though the latter is forecast to have zero growth.

Growth in the United States -- the world's biggest economy -- is forecast to slow to 0.5 percent in 2023. The growth forecast for China, whose economy has been hit by strict Covid lockdowns, was cut sharply for this year to 3.2 percent while it was slightly lower to 4.7 percent for 2023.

Germany is now expected to go into recession next year with Europe's biggest economy now seen shrinking by 0.7 percent -- a 2.4-percentage-point drop from the previous forecast. The country's economy has been hit the hardest in Europe as it has relied heavily on Russian supplies of natural gas, which Moscow has cut significantly in suspected retaliation to Western sanctions.

The eurozone as a whole will post meagre growth of 0.3 percent, a sharp downgrade from 1.6 percent. The OECD kept its 2022 global growth forecast unchanged at three percent after previously lowering it.

To highlight the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the OECD said global output in 2023 is now projected to be \$2.8 trillion lower than previously estimated before the conflict in December 2021.

The war has sent energy and food prices soaring over concerns about supply as Russia is a major oil and gas producer while Ukraine is a key exporter of grains to countries across the world.

Inflation had already been on the rise before the conflict due to bottlenecks in the global supply chain after countries emerged from Covid lockdowns.

"The effects of the war and the continuing impacts of Covid-19 outbreaks in some parts of the world have dented growth and put additional upward pressure on prices," the OECD said.

Turkey's Inflation to Fall to Reasonable Levels as of February



ANKARA (Dispatches) - President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan reiterated his government's determination to tame inflation, which he said would fall to "reasonable" levels as of February next year.

Turkey's annual inflation topped 80% in August, a fresh 24-year high, driven mainly by soaring food and energy prices, which rocketed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Yet the increase turned out to be smaller than in previous months, signaling that price pressure might be slowing.

"We will reduce inflation to reasonable levels in February, and then we are determined to bring it down to single digits," Erdoğan told an event attended by businesspeople in Istanbul.

"We've done that in the past. We had reduced the interest rates to 4.6% and inflation to 6.2%."

The government says inflation will fall with its economic program prioritizing low-interest rates to boost exports, production and investments, aiming to lower the increase in consumer prices by flipping Turkey's chronic current account deficits to a surplus.

"The goal of the Turkish economic model has been to grow our country through investment, employment and current account surplus. Those who criticize our country because of the economic model have come to the same line as us," Erdoğan said.

"Turkey is no longer the old Turkey. It turned out that the inflation, interest rate and exchange rate balance imposed for years has been of no use."

Erdoğan is known for opposing higher borrowing costs, which he says only makes "the rich richer and the poor poorer." He often calls high-interest rates the "mother of all evil."

Higher interest rates make it more expensive for households and businesses to borrow money. Yet the government has sought to boost production, exports and employment with a low-rates policy.

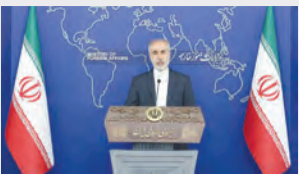
U.S. Sanctions Iranians, Sympathizes With Them

TEHRAN (IP) - The Spokesman of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that those pursuing the maximum pressure policy against the Iranian nation are now sympathizing with them.

In a tweet, Nasser Kanaani noted: “It is a shameful paradox that the official spokespersons and high-ranking officials of

an administration, who wanted to bring the Iranian people to their knees through the “maximum pressure” policy and crushing sanctions are now advocating the people of Iran.”

“More paradoxical is that their media encourage street clashes and destruction, and provoke ethnic motives, but trumpet ‘life’ motto for the Iranian people,” he underlined.



Auto Suppliers Feel the Green Squeeze as Carmakers Get Clean

TAMWORTH (Dispatches) - The auto industry’s drive to a greener and cleaner future is a treacherous road for companies in its beleaguered supply chain. Only the strong and the shrewd may survive.

Many auto suppliers, already squeezed by rampant inflation and energy prices, say they have little choice but to shoulder the extra costs of making their components sustainable to meet carmakers’ environmental targets.

“If you don’t, you’re not going to have a business in five or six years supplying major carmakers,” said Shane Kirrane, commercial director at Autins Group, which has plants in Britain, Sweden and Germany that make acoustic and thermal insulation for cars.

All major carmakers have committed to green targets, seeking to purge dirtier materials from their supply chains to satisfy regulators and investors as they transition to electric vehicles (EVs).

BMW, for instance, expects all of its battery and many of its steel and aluminum providers to produce materials made using renewable energy, while Volvo is targeting 25% recyclable plastic in its cars by 2025.

Many suppliers are consequently making large investments to green up their acts, from developing recyclable parts to hooking up their businesses to renewable energy, according to interviews with more than a dozen industry players.

At the same time, many say they have little leeway to raise the prices they charge big automakers, which are themselves laser-focused on costs as they shell out tens of billions of dollars to reinvent themselves for a lower-carbon era.

“We use the term disruptive all the time, but it’s much more than just disruptive,” said Joe McCabe, CEO of researcher AutoForecast Solutions. “We’re going to see a real big shakeout the next five, 10 years in the auto supply chain.”

Philadelphia-based AutoForecast compiles auto industry production estimates and advises suppliers on whether the requests-for-quotes (RFQs) they receive from carmakers are based on realistic assumptions for vehicle production volumes.

“Suppliers are being asked to develop new technologies to support EVs and invest in a greener supply chain with (high) volumes we don’t believe are obtainable based on the actual RFQs,” McCabe added. “But carmakers are also telling suppliers: ‘If you want to be part of this new green revolution, give me the best price possible so



I don’t go to your competition’.”

Carmakers are often reluctant to discuss contractual relationships with suppliers. Mercedes-Benz, which aims to extensively use recyclable material and “green” steel made using renewable energy in its cars, told Reuters it was fully aware that going to zero emissions was “a monumental task” for suppliers.

It said that it planned to reach this goal collaboratively, including providing training to suppliers or shared research and development.

Volkswagen, targeting a 30% reduction in CO2 emissions for its vehicles including their supply chain, said it has a collaborative relationship with suppliers, citing a joint program it created to tackle rising energy prices, without providing details.

Going green is costly for even the biggest suppliers, such as American Swiss connector maker TE Connectivity, according to its chief technology officer Ralf Klaedtke. The company, which is worth about \$39 billion, launched its own sustainability drive in 2020 and is working on recyclable products with carmakers including Volkswagen, Volvo and BMW.

Iran’s Oil Exports Fall as Competition From Russia in Asia Grows

LONDON (Dispatches) - Iran’s oil exports have fallen in recent months amid increased competition from Russia in the key market of Asia, according to people with direct knowledge of the Islamic republic’s sales.

Tehran’s daily crude exports have dipped from a peak of 1 million barrels to an average of 750,000 barrels, according to the people, who asked not to be named as the information is private.

Iranian shipments are going head to head with those from Russia in countries such as China, prompting Tehran to regularly review and adjust its prices to stay attractive, they said.

The United States has placed heavy sanctions on Iran and its oil sector. That and the extra Russian barrels have forced Tehran to offer buyers discounts. Its cargoes - most of which go to China - are often disguised as coming from other nations. Moscow is trying to ramp up sales to Asia after Europe retaliated against its invasion of Ukraine with sanctions. Chinese private refiners, or teapots, have increased purchases of Russian grades such as ESPO and Urals, which are also sold with discounts.

Iran is supplying its local refineries with 2.1 million barrels a day of crude oil, meaning the country’s total production is roughly 2.8 million barrels a day, the people said. It will be ready to raise exports if and when its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers including the United States is revived, they said. Negotiations over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which eased sanctions on Iran in return for it curbing nuclear activities, have stalled in recent weeks. Most analysts doubt it will be restored before the U.S. midterm elections in November.

Tehran has a production capacity of 4 million barrels a day and would like to lift that to 5.7 million, Oil Minister Javad Owji said to Nikkei in an interview on Sunday.

UN Chief Hails Iran’s Significant Contribution to Peace, Stability ME

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres has hailed Iran’s significant contribution to the establishment of peace and security in the Middle East region, voicing support for a revival of the 2015 multilateral Iran deal.

Guterres held a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Tuesday in New York on the sidelines of the 77th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.

The UN chief thanked Iran for greatly contributing to peace and security in the troubled Middle East region.

The UN chief said, “We have always supported the return of all parties to the Iran nuclear agreement, and hope to see its realization soon.”

Amirabdollahian, for his part, stated that a lot of progress has been achieved in the course of negotiations on the removal of anti-Iranian sanctions.

“We believe that an agreement can be within reach if the American side shows realism,” the top Iranian diplomat underscored.

The United States, under former president Donald Trump, abandoned the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and reinstated unilateral sanctions that the agreement had lifted.

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

Despite notable progress, the US indecisiveness and procrastination caused multiple interruptions in the marathon talks.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Amirabdollahian commented on recent desecration of Islamic sanctities and acts of vandalism by rioters, who exploited a series of protests in several Iranian cities over the death of a young woman.

“We consider peaceful protest to be the right of all people. However, peaceful protests differ from chaos and disruption of national order and stability,” he said.

Exports to Caspian Sea Littoral States Rise 45%

TEHRAN (MNA) - The value of Iran’s export to the Caspian Sea littoral states increased 45 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, an official with Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

Rahmatollah Khormali, the director-general of the TPO’s office of Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia, put Iran’s value of five-month export to the mentioned countries at \$814 million.

According to the official, among the mentioned countries, Azerbaijan accounted for the highest growth of import from Iran (84 percent), followed by Turkmenistan (40 percent), and Russia (31 percent).

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran’s non-oil exports reached \$20.924 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 21 percent compared to the last year’s same period.

According to Alireza Moghadasi, Iran exported 44 million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned five months which was 3.5 percent less than the figure for the previous year’s same period.

Meanwhile, some 14 million tons of goods valued at \$21.665 billion were imported into the country, indicating a 19-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year’s same time span, he said.

The weight of the imported goods declined by 8.5 percent, year on year, the official added.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded about 58 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$42.589 billion with its trade partners in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, up about 23 percent in terms of value.

Iran’s top export destinations during this period were China, Iraq, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, and India, according to Moghadasi.

Liquid propane, methanol, liquefied natural gas, polyethylene, iron, and steel ingots were among the top exported items in the said five months.

The country’s top five sources of imports during these five months were the UAE, China, Turkey, India, and Russia.

Iran Air Force...

FROM PAGE 1

Shahab drone is an upgraded and advanced version of its predecessor Safir (Envoy), and is significantly lighter.

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

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, saying the Islamic Republic’s defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

Meanwhile a high-ranking Iranian military Commander said a homegrown over-the-horizon (OTH) radar with a range of 3,000 km will soon become operational in the country.

Dubbed Sepehr (Sky), the radar is capable of

monitoring all kinds of commercial, fighter and command and control military aircraft as well as airplanes fitted with radio relay stations and unmanned aerial vehicles, Alireza Elhami, Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army’s Air Defense Force, was quoted as saying.

The radar also enables the Iranian armed forces to detect all aerial threats and transmits the required data for decision-making and counter measures, he added.

In addition, a domestically-developed surface-to-air missile system dubbed Bavar-373 (Belief-373) with a range of more than 300 km will come into operation in Iranian Air Defence Force soon, he said.

Iranian experts are also working to increase the range of the Sayyad (Hunter) tactical surface-to-air missile system to 120 km, the Iranian Deputy Commander added.

Iranian Crude...

FROM PAGE 1

PDVSA’s swap contract with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) provides it with a steady supply of condensate, a high-value light crude, as a diluent.

The bituminous crude from the Orinoco Belt, Venezuela’s largest producing region, requires mixing before it can be transported and exported.

Venezuela imported 2 million barrels of Iranian condensate in 2020 and 4.6 million barrels in 2021, snubbing US oil sanctions on the country.

The two countries have also exchanged Iranian gasoline for Venezuelan jet fuel under an agreement signed in 2020 which marked thousands of Venezuelans queuing up in miles-long lines to try to fill their cars with motor fuel.

Iran’s supply of condensate helps Venezuela stabilize exports of the Orinoco’s crude blends and allows its own lighter oil to be refined in the country to produce badly needed motor fuel.

In the face of the sanctions, the Islamic Republic has stepped in to help its South American ally with engineers, refined products and spare parts for its oil industry.

Last year, Venezuela began receiving a shipment of catalysts from Iran to help it produce fuel. It came after Iran sent more than a dozen flights to Venezuela to help restart Cardon refinery and alleviate acute gasoline shortages.

Foiled Scenario of...

FROM PAGE 1

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always reiterated that the country is a genuine supporter of the human rights but not in the Western sense of the word and the West has tried to dictate its own style human rights on the countries which do not follow the Western style of human rights.

In recent days many people have poured into streets in Iran in support of establishment and in condemnation of those who bring insecurity to the country under different pretexts but unfortunately the Westerners have closed their eyes on these rallies and they just focus on the anti-establishment protests and it is just a sign of double-standard policy of the West regarding human rights and democracy because for them protesters are just nation and pro-establishment people are not people.

The meaning of democracy even in the Western definition says minority should respect the majority and supporters of the establishment and hijab (Islamic dress code) are in majority in the country and it is natural hijab to be respected in the society as we see anti-hijab rules in Western countries which are accepted by the minorities in those countries.

We have not yet forgotten what happened in the 2020 U.S. presidential election when the people stormed the Capitol Hill and several people were killed and the then President Donald Trump accused the rivals of vote rigging. Where was the UN to condemn the U.S. Administration for killing of the protesters? Joe Biden and officials defended killing the rioters and called it as an anti-democracy riot rather than calling it protests.

Now those countries and above all the U.S. have blamed Tehran for violence against protesters which is a funny thing which should be shunned.

The young Iranian generation is recommended to be vigilant and aware that they are the new target and weapon of the enemies against the Islamic Revolution and they should not be fooled by the void promises of the West because the Westerners are unreliable and it has been proved through the history and the youths are just better to have a glance at recent events in the world and the West’s promises which have been void and they can see better days ahead through patience and defending their establishment and the country. What the West and its elements inside the country use as the slogan for anti-establishment protests is “Woman, Life and Liberty” which is a totally fake and deceptive as none of them is not observed in the West and with a fake but attractive slogan, the West wants to dominate Iran and this domination will never ever happen in the country and definitely the enemies will seek another pretext for chaos in the country and the question is what will be the next scenario.



IRGC Pounds Bases of...

FROM PAGE 1

The terrorists in northern Iraq are reported to have been largely involved in a series of deadly riots in Iran by sneaking armed elements and caches of weapons to support groups of thugs behind violence in Iranian cities.

Exploiting protests over the death of an Iranian woman in police custody, thugs and rioters engaged in bloodshed, acts of vandalism, and desecration of Islamic sanctities inside Iran.

Iran has on countless occasions warned Iraq’s Kurdistan that it will not tolerate the presence and activity of terrorist groups along its northwestern borders, saying the country will give a decisive response should those areas become a hub of anti-Islamic Republic terrorists.

IRGC Not to Hesitate...

FROM PAGE 1

Nilforooshan said the IRGC has managed to make good progress in the field of naval drones which are only parts of the IRGC Navy’s advancement displayed in the past year.

He added that the IRGC seeks to improve its power every day, saying, “The creation of power means the development and increase of what we have in our hands and we are looking for access to modern products in accordance with new technologies.”

Referring to the recent riots across Iran, the IRGC commander said all those who played an effective role in igniting insecurity, inciting people and damaging people’s property have been identified.

The instigators of these riots, both outside and inside the country, would pay the price, Nilforooshan said, lauding people’s role in putting an end to the unrest.

Zhou Extends Contract With Alfa Romeo

PARIS (Dispatches) - Chinese driver Zhou Guanyu has extended his contract with Alfa Romeo until the end of 2023, the Formula One team announced today before this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix.

"Having made history as the first driver from China to compete in Formula One, Zhou announced himself on the biggest stage in motorsport by scoring points on his debut at the Bahrain Grand Prix," the team said in a statement.

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Brazil Midfielder Allan Leaves Everton for Al Wahda

LONDON (Dispatches) - Brazil midfielder Allan left Everton to join Abu Dhabi-based side Al Wahda for an undisclosed fee on Tuesday.

Allan was allowed to move to the United Arab Emirates Pro League club after falling out of favour with Everton boss Frank Lampard. The 31-year-old did not play a single minute for the Premier League team this season.

Lampard signed Idrissa Gueye and Amadou Onana in the close season to fill Everton's central midfield roles.

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SPORTS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Packers Top Bucs in Possible Final Rodgers-Brady Matchup

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Aaron Rodgers won what might be his final matchup with fellow legendary quarterback Tom Brady, throwing for 255 yards and a pair of first-half touchdowns as the Green Bay Packers handed the Tampa Bay Buccaneers a 14-12 loss in Tampa, Fla.

Rodgers completed 27 of 35 pass attempts with an interception as Green Bay (2-1) won its second straight game after opening with a loss at Minnesota. The Packers' defense made Rodgers' scoring strikes stand up.

Green Bay shut down a short-handed opponent playing without three of its top receivers. Mike Evans was suspended for a game by the NFL after being ejected from last week's 20-10 win in New Orleans, while Chris Godwin and Julio Jones were out with injuries.

Brady connected on 31 of 42 throws for 271 yards and gave Tampa Bay (2-1) a chance to force overtime when he led an 89-yard touchdown drive from the Buccaneers' 11 in the game's last three minutes. Russell Gage caught a 1-yard score from Brady with 14 seconds left; however, a delay-of-game call pushed the Buccaneers back to the 7 for the two-point conversion. Brady rolled right and threw for Gage, but the pass was knocked away.

The Packers' Allen Lazard recovered an onside kick to seal the outcome.

Dolphins 21, Bills 19

Tua Tagovailoa returned from a second-quarter injury scare, and Miami used a late goal-line stand to hold off Buffalo in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Tagovailoa left the game with 2:19 left in the second quarter as the back of his head hit the turf on a shove from Bills linebacker Matt Milano. However, Tagovailoa returned for Miami's first third-quarter possession. He finished 13-of-18 passing for 186 yards with one TD and no picks to lead the Dolphins (3-0).

Josh Allen completed 42 of 63 passes for 400 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions for the Bills (2-1). Allen threw incomplete on fourth-and-goal with 1:49 left in the game from the Miami 2.

Ravens 37, Patriots 26

Lamar Jackson threw for four touchdowns and rushed for another as Baltimore held off a late comeback attempt to defeat New England at Foxborough, Mass.

Jackson completed 18 of 29 passes for 218 yards and had 107 yards on the ground on just 11 carries. Mark Andrews had eight receptions for 89 yards and two touchdowns for Baltimore (2-1).



New England (1-2) cut its deficit to 31-26 on Rhamondre Stevenson's 1-yard rushing touchdown with 12:39 left, but the Patriots failed to convert a two-point conversion. They then turned the ball over on their next three possessions. After throwing an interception on the last drive of the game, Patriots quarterback Mac Jones (321 yards, three interceptions, rushing touchdown) limped off the field with a left-ankle injury.

Eagles 24, Commanders 8

Philadelphia played stifling defense and recorded six first-half sacks on Washington quarterback Carson Wentz en route to a blowout win. Visiting Philadelphia (3-0) remained unbeaten and gained sole possession of first place in the NFC East.

Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts threw for 340 yards and led a second-quarter surge with three touchdown passes. DeVonta Smith finished with a career-best eight catches for 169 yards. Washington (1-2) avoided a shutout by tackling Boston Scott in the end zone and recording a safety. Antonio Gibson later scored on a 1-yard touchdown run.

Bears 23, Texans 20

Cairo Santos kicked a game-winning, 30-yard field goal as time expired, and Khalil Herbert rushed for 157 yards and two touchdowns to boost host Chicago to a victory against Houston.

A Roquan Smith interception of Texans quarterback Davis Mills with 1:05 to play set Chicago up at the Houston 12-yard line. Smith had 16 tackles, including two for loss, to go with his interception.

Chicago (2-1) ran for 281 yards while limiting Houston to 92 on the ground. Ka'imi Fairbairn kicked a pair of field goals for the Texans (0-2-1), while Santos had three for the Bears.

FIA Approves Three More Sprint Sessions In F1 From 2023

PARIS (Dispatches) - Six Formula One grands prix from the 2023 season onwards will have sprint sessions after the governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), approved an increase from three events this year.

Sprint sessions have become highly popular with fans since it was introduced last year with qualifying taking place on Fridays and Saturday's short sprint race deciding the grid for Sunday's main race as well as awarding additional points.

The 2022 season has had sprint sessions at the Emilia Romagna and Austrian Grands Prix, with the Sao Paulo Grand Prix set to host the final one. The FIA added next year's additions will be confirmed in due course.

"The Sprint provides action across three days with the drivers all fighting for something right from the start on Friday through to the main event on Sunday — adding more drama and excitement to the weekend," F1 president and CEO Stefano Domenicali said.

"The feedback from the fans, teams, promoters, and partners has been very positive and the format is adding a new dimension to Formula 1, and we all want to ensure its success in the future."

Earlier this year, Formula One teams had agreed to double the number of sprint events to six in 2023 at a meeting in April before it was sent for approval by the FIA who sought to evaluate the proposal.

Azerbaijan's promoter also said they want its Grand Prix in Baku to be one of six proposed Sprint weekends next season.

Kazakhstan Set to Host MotoGP Race in 2023

PARIS (Dispatches) - Kazakhstan will join the MotoGP calendar in 2023, promoters Dorna announced today, as the premier category of the motorcycle world championship arrives in Central Asia for the first time.

"2023 marks the start of a new five-year deal that sees MotoGP touch down in a new region of the world," Dorna said in a statement.



Bellerin Calf Issue Adds to Barca Injury Worries

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Barcelona's injury problems worsened after defender Hector Bellerin suffered a calf problem in training.

The club said in a statement they would examine the injury tomorrow, with Bellerin potentially joining several other players on the sidelines.

During the international break Barcelona have lost Ronald Araujo, Jules Kounde,

Memphis Depay and Frenkie de Jong with thigh and hamstring injuries.

Uruguayan defender Araujo faces the longest absence after deciding to undergo surgery on a torn thigh muscle tomorrow. He is poised to miss the World Cup and could be out for up to three months.

Bellerin joined in the summer from Arsenal on a one-year deal and is the only natural right-back at the club. If his injury causes him to miss Saturday's clash with Real Mallorca then Barca may be short of cover.

Injured duo Kounde and Araujo have both been used there often this season, while converted midfielder Sergi Roberto is also an option, but is not fully fit himself.

Carlsen Alleges Niemann Has Cheated More Than He Admits

LONDON (Dispatches) - World chess champion Magnus Carlsen said he believed Hans Niemann had "cheated more - and more recently - than he has publicly admitted", adding he no longer wanted to play against the American and any rivals who repeatedly cheated in the past.

The 31-year-old Norwegian resigned at the Julius Baer Generation Cup last week after one move against Niemann, who lags him by almost 200 Elo points - the rating system used to calculate the relative skill levels of players.

"So far I have only been able to speak with my actions, and those actions have stated clearly that I am not willing to play chess with Niemann," Carlsen said in a statement on Twitter.

Carlsen, world champion since 2013, also withdrew from the Sinquefeld Cup in St Louis, Missouri earlier this month after unexpectedly losing to the 19-year-old, sparking a furore of comments and allegations that Niemann had cheated.

Niemann has denied any wrongdoing in over-the-board games.

"When Niemann was invited last minute to the 2022 Sinquefeld Cup, I strongly considered withdrawing prior to the event. I ultimately chose to play," Carlsen said.

Niemann has previously been banned from chess.com for cheating online after admitting he had not played fairly in non-competitive games on the website in his youth.

"I believe that Niemann has cheated more - and more recently - than he has publicly admitted," Carlsen said on Monday.



Fury Says Joshua Fight Is Off

LONDON (Dispatches) - WBC world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has called off his proposed 'Battle of Britain' bout with Anthony Joshua, saying his compatriot had not signed the contract before Monday's deadline.

Fury had challenged Joshua earlier this month, saying he would come out of retirement to defend his title in December, a challenge Joshua accepted.

Joshua's 258 Management and promoter Matchroom Boxing had said that they had "accepted all terms presented to us by Fury's team" but agreed to halt all communication due to the death of Queen Elizabeth.

"It's official, D-Day has come and gone," Fury said on Instagram on Monday. "No contract has been signed. It's officially over for Joshua. He's now out in the cold... Forget about it."

"I always knew it. Regardless of what... you say now, I don't really care. Good luck with your career and your life. End of." Joshua, 32, suffered a second straight loss to Ukraine's WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO champion Oleksandr Usyk in a title rematch in Saudi Arabia last month and said he wanted to return to the ring before the end of the year.

When Fury challenged Joshua the champion also said he would select another opponent if his fellow Briton was not interested in the bout.

Usyk said after the fight in Jeddah that he was only interested in fighting Fury but media reports have said he will not fight again this year in order to rest and spend time with his family.

