

**Iranian Minister of Culture
Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili Proposed
The UNESCO to Pursue a Sisterhood
Plan Between Border Cities Which
He believed Could Give a Boost to
Cultural and Social Relations**

IRAN NEWS

**The Spokesperson for China's
Foreign Ministry, Mao Ning, Has
Said That China's Cooperation With
Iran Is Under the International Laws,
And Beijing Is Against Illegal and
"Unjustifiable Unilateral" Sanctions**

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President Calls for Closer Iran-China Ties

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi has called for expansion of bilateral relations between Iran and China as two independent countries that oppose unilateralism and interference in internal affairs of other countries.

Raisi in a Saturday message to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping extended his good wishes to the Chinese president and people on the National Day of the People's Republic of China, saying Tehran is ready to strengthen its bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Beijing.

Saturday marks the 73rd Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

"As two independent countries that oppose unilateralism and interference in the internal affairs of other countries, Iran and China share many common grounds for all-out expansion of their relations," he said.

Raisi underlined that the world is facing challenges today which stand in need of cooperation of independent countries and global solutions. He said the Islamic Republic welcomes the Chinese president's global development and global security initiatives as ideas aimed at promoting the collective interests of nations, improving their well-being, and strengthening global peace and stability. **See Page 7**

Commander Vows to Retaliate Any U.S. Action Against Iranian Drones

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces has warned the U.S. forces against cooperation with anti-Iranian terrorists in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, stressing Tehran will retaliate against any U.S.'s hostile action against Iranian drones as the country has carried out missile and drone attacks on terrorist bases in northern Iraq in recent days.

"If Americans carry out any action against Iranian drones, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to their hostile measure," Major General Mohammad Baqeri said.

The remarks come as U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) claimed on Wednesday that it had downed an Iranian military drone near Erbil. The drone "appeared as a threat to CENTCOM forces in the area," it said.

General Baqeri highlighted that Iran is only launching a "harsh" military campaign against "separatist terrorists", adding, "for now, we do not have any action against Americans [on agenda]."

Iranian Armed Forces have "complete and precise" information about US bases in Harir, Erbil, and Duhok, he noted. **See Page 7**

U.S., UK Accused of Direct Involvement in Recent Riots in Iran



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN- Iran's Intelligence Ministry says the United States and the United Kingdom were "directly" involved in the recent riots across the country.

Dozens of terrorists affiliated with the Zionist regime and anti-revolution groups have been detained during the recent days of unrest, the ministry said in a Friday statement.

The ministry underscored the behind-the-scenes circumstances surrounding the foreign-backed riots that followed the death of a 22-year-old woman from Kurdistan, named Mahsa Amini, who collapsed in a police station and died in hospital despite intensive medical care and resuscitation efforts.

Violent protests erupted across the country. Security officers were attacked. Public property as well as police vehicles and ambulances were vandalized.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry said in the statement that the major elements behind the riots were largely foreign citizens, members of the anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) in Albania, and individuals working with other anti-revolution terror outfits.

"In the past days, the forces maintaining the country's order and security have faced a diversity of cult-like groups, agents of foreign spy agencies as well as direct involvement of the American and British governments and their Saudi followers; and fooled agents of rioters on the streets," the statement said.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry underlined that 49 MKO terrorists had been arrested for actively propagating fake news, inciting the rioters to organize acts of terror and destruction, directing slogans and being present on the streets to damage public property.

The ministry said 77 members of anti-Iran terrorist groups had also been arrested in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

The statement pointed to the detention of five members of Takfiri terrorist outfits with 36 kilograms of explosives that were to be used to carry out bombings in gatherings.

The ministry further said 92 people affiliated with the former US-backed Pahlavi regime had been identified and arrested in the riots. It added that nine nationals from Germany, Poland, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden, among others, were arrested during the riots.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry said a significant number of pistols, various types of machine guns and cartridges as well as shotguns and ammunition were seized.

ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

The U.S., Land of Suicide and Frustration

For many people and especially for the young generation, the U.S. is considered as the dream land and utopia, and they seek to take shelter in this country for better life and fulfilling their dreams but they do not know this fact that the U.S. unlike its flamboyant appearance is not a dream land and it is the land of many social maladies.

On Friday a released report showed that the number of suicides in the U.S. is on the rise and Americans are suffering from different psychological and social woes and the country is not like what is tried to be shown.

The U.S. suicide rate rose in 2021, particularly among young men, according to official data out Friday -- an increase that ends a two-year-decline.

The number of suicides rose from around 46,000 in 2020 to 47,650 in 2021, according to preliminary figures released by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The age-adjusted suicide rate per 100,000 people grew from 13.5 in 2020 to 14 last year. The most significant increase was seen among young boys and men between the ages of 15 and 24, where the rate rose eight percent.

In 2000, after a decade of decline, the United States recorded a recent low of 10 deaths by suicide per 100,000 people.

"One of the things that may have contributed to the decrease in the 1990s was the advent of medications that help reduce risk for suicide," Jill Harkavy-Friedman of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, told AFP.

The rate then started growing -- potentially because of new warning labels attached to antidepressants, according to Harkavy-Friedman -- until by 2018 it was 35 percent over 2000 levels.

Then, it fell five percent from 2018 until 2020.

According to Harkavy-Friedman, the recent fluctuations are difficult to interpret.

"We don't really know yet what the full implications of this kind of rise are," she said, adding it was necessary to look at patterns over the long term.

The role of the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular, is complex.

According to the AFSP, research has shown that "people tend to come together during traumatic events initially and this can serve as a protective factor against suicide, though this societal cohesion may not persist as time passes."

Data from 2021 shows that the suicide rate for men is four times higher than for women, which is in line with past trends.

Among the reasons put forward include the idea that men are more likely to use lethal means, and have more difficulty in seeking mental help.

This preliminary data does not yet provide a breakdown by ethnicity or income of the deceased. **See Page 7**

Iran-Pakistan Railway Service Restored After Two Months

CHAGAI (Dispatches) - The railway service between Pakistan and Iran has been completely restored after the repair of track damaged by heavy floods and torrential rains.

The track between Ahmedwall and Quetta section was repaired after almost two months, making the Quetta-Zahedan section fully operational.

A Pakistan Railways official told Dawn that more than one hundred breaches, along with a damaged bridge in Ahmedwall, were repaired.

The service was suspended on July 29 as heavy rains followed by floods damaged the track in Chagai, Noshki, Mastung and Quetta districts.

However, the train service was partially restored till Dalbandin on Aug 18 to allow freight trains carrying relief goods for flood-hit people to proceed, the official added.

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US. Sanctions Indian Company For Iran Oil Deal

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - A day after India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit, the United States sanctioned an Indian company for purchasing Iranian petroleum and petrochemicals.

The India-based petrochemical company, Tibalaji Petrochem Private Limited, is among a group of companies, including some from the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, to be sanctioned by the US. The sanctions have targeted Iranian brokers and several front companies in India, UAE and Hong Kong that have facilitated financial transfers and shipping of Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products.

According to the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Tibalaji Petrochem Pvt Ltd has purchased millions of dollars worth of petrochemical products, including methanol and base oil, from Triliance, an Iranian company that brokers the sale of Iranian products to foreign purchasers, for onward shipment to China.

"Today, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned an international network of companies involved in the sale of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Iranian petrochemicals and petroleum products to end users in South and East Asia," the US Treasury Department said in a statement.

"Today's action targets Iranian brokers and several front companies in the UAE, Hong Kong, and India that have facilitated financial transfers and shipping of Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products," it added.

A statement from the Indian government is awaited.
Post a comment India stopped crude oil imports from Iran in 2019 during Donald Trump's regime after the US did not renew sanction waivers to several countries, including India.

Iran Agrees to Deliver Fertilizer to Sri Lanka

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The government has expressed its willingness to supply Fertilizers to Sri Lanka.

The Ministry of Agriculture has decided to obtain fertilizer from Iran, following a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador recently. However, importing fertilizer from Iran has become an issue given international sanctions imposed on the middle-eastern country.

The Agriculture Minister said the necessary applications will be made via the Foreign Ministry.

FM Calls for Immediate Release of Citizen Arrested In Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has called for the “immediate” release of an Iranian citizen detained in Saudi Arabia during the Hajj pilgrimage.

Amirabdollahian made the call in a phone conversation with his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi on Friday as the two exchanged views on the latest developments in regional issues and Tehran-Muscat relations.

The top Iranian diplomat appreciated the efforts of the Omani and Iraqi foreign ministers in pursuing the case and release of Iranian pilgrim, Khalil Dardmand, and expressed hope for the detainee's imminent return to his homeland.

Back in August, Amirabdollahian demanded the release of the Iranian citizen detained in Saudi Arabia during the Hajj pilgrimage over the phone with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein.

During the conversation, the Iranian foreign minister urged Hussein to follow up on the case of Dardmand and asked him to convey a message for his release, as Iraq has hosted several rounds of talks in Baghdad between representatives from Iran and Saudi Arabia as part of diplomatic rapprochement.

In a meeting in Tehran at that time, Amirabdollahian briefed the father of the



detained Iranian national on the measures taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since he was arrested by Saudi forces in the holy city of Mecca.

Amirabdollahian expressed optimism that Dardmand would be repatriated to Iran with the assistance of Saudi authorities.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations 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.

The kingdom then pursued a confrontational foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic, especially during the administration of former US president Donald Trump, with whom the Saudi rulers shared close ties.

Saudi Arabia have recently shown willingness through diplomatic channels and third parties to mend fences with Tehran and resume bilateral relations.

The two neighbors also remain deeply divided over a set of regional issues, mainly the Saudi war on Yemen.

Senior IRGC Commander Martyred By Terrorists in Zahedan

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN- The commander of the intelligence unit of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan has been martyred in clashes with anti-revolution elements who opened fire near a mosque in the provincial capital Zahedan.

Following a terrorist attack on a police station in Zahedan earlier on Friday, an armed group gathered near the Makki mosque and started shooting, which prompted the security forces to immediately get to the scene.

The IRGC commander, Ali Mousavi, was injured by a bullet in the chest and was taken to the hospital. But he succumbed to his wound.

19 killed, 20 injured in attack on police station: Provincial governor

And, Sistan and Baluchestan's Governor Hossein Modarres Khiabani said at least 19 people, including police members, were killed and 20 injured in the terrorist attack at the police station.

He said, “a number of rioters affiliated with terrorist and separatist groups, whose identities are clear” attacked the police station and threw stones and opened fire, provoking a severe reaction by police forces.

The terrorists also set ablaze a fire engine, an emergency station, and a bank, among other places in the city but their attempts to continue rioting failed following the timely presence of security forces.

In a statement, the ‘Jaish al-Zulm’ terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack in Zahedan.

President Calls for Cooperation for Safe Presence Of Students in Classrooms



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi stated that families play a central role in protecting our beloved children against Corona and other seasonal diseases, and said, “All the reassuring measures should be taken into account for the safe presence of students in classrooms and scientific gatherings with the cooperation of home and school”.

Speaking in the meeting of the National Task Force Against Coronavirus on Saturday, Raisi pointed out the significant reduction in the spread of the disease in recent months, and appreciated the services of the medical staff and health workers.

At the same time, referring to the unfavourable situation of the spread of Coronavirus in some countries, the President considered it necessary to continue to fully comply with the health guidelines and inject the reminder dose of the vaccine based on appropriate timing, especially while nearing autumn and winter.

Referring to the reopening of schools and universities after a 2-year hiatus, Raisi emphasized the cooperation of the Ministry of Health with the Ministries of Education and Science, Research and Technology and the necessity of planning to jointly prevent the spread of seasonal influenza and Corona.

The President stated that families play a central role in protecting our beloved children against Corona and other seasonal diseases, and said, “All the reassuring measures should be taken into account for the safe presence of students in classrooms and scientific gatherings with the cooperation of home and school”.

On this basis, Raisi emphasized to the officials of the Ministry of Health and the media, especially the national media, to pay more attention to training, informing and raising awareness in a timely and expert manner.

In another part of his speech, the President referred to the valuable achievements of the implementation of the Martyr Soleimani Scheme during the peak of the Corona pandemic, and considered it a guarantee for the effectiveness of the efforts of the medical staff.

Yerevan Eyes on Deepening Partnership With Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Armenia is taking maximally possible practical steps to deepen partnership with Iran, Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan said during an interview, addressing Iran's statements made in support of Armenia's territorial integrity.

Drawing parallels between the assessments made by the CSTO and Iran regarding the clashes with Azerbaijan, Pashinyan emphasized that in this regard what matters is the formulation of a clear political position because actions stem from that positions, Armen Press reported.

“If there is no clear political position there can't be actions. In this regard we are very closely cooperating with Iran. You saw that I met with the President of Iran in New York City. We had a very long, detailed discussion, we spoke about developing our relations, and we also discussed the regional situation. We are in very intensive relations, mutual visits are taking place, working discussions are taking place, phone conversations, and we, of course, are interested in developing our relations with Iran and we are trying to make maximally possible practical steps in this direction,” Pashinyan said.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi during his visit to New York held a meeting with Pashinyan.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes protecting mutual and international borders and respecting other countries' sovereignty, as well as preventing any kind of change in region's political geography,” Raisi stated.

IRGC to Give Mighty Response to Mercenaries

ZAHEDAN (IP) - The Salman Base of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Southern Sistan and Baluchestan province issued a statement on Saturday, condemning the Friday terrorist operation in Zahedan and vowing a mighty response to the terrorist attack on Iranian forces.

Following a terrorist attack on a police station in Zahedan city, the capital of Sistan and Baluchistan province, Southeast of Iran, on Friday, the Iranian security and law enforcement responded quickly, and the terrorist attack at Friday prayers neutralized.

According to Hussein Modarres Khiabani, the Governor of Sistan and Baluchistan province, the number of casualties in this incident is 21 dead and 20 injured.

In the Friday heavy clashes, Seyyed Ali Mousavi, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) intelligence commander of Sistan and Baluchistan Province, was martyred while on duty to protect people's lives.

IRGC Salman Base, in a statement on Saturday, vowed a solid response to the terrorist attack on Iranian forces.

The noble and martyr-fostering people of Zahedan, after the end of Zahedan Friday prayers, witnessed the

bitter incident of attack of the armed terrorists affiliated with the Global Arrogance and mercenaries of ‘Jaish Al-Noor on several police and military bases and subsequently the terrible shooting to the people on streets and public thoroughfares in the city which led to the killing of several separatist terrorists and the injury of several security, military, and law enforcement forces and several citizens, the statement reads.

Moreover, the Deputy Intelligence of Salman Base of the IRGC in the southern province of Sistan and Baluchestan Brigadier-General Seyyed Hamidreza Hashemi was martyred after sustaining severe injury in a confrontation with the criminal terrorists, according to the statement.

The Salman Base of the IRGC announced that its forces and other powerful intelligence, security, and policy sections would respond strongly against mercenaries who try to sow discord and commit crimes.

Following a terrorist attack on a police station in Zahedan earlier on Friday, an armed group gathered near the Makki mosque and started shooting, prompting security forces to get to the scene immediately.

Over 120,000 Tons of Copper Cathode Produced in 5 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) - According to the data released by Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, 122,600 tons of copper cathode was produced in the country during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

As reported, the five-month output shows 2.2 percent drop as compared to the production in the last year's same period of time. Production of copper cathode in Iran rose 2.8 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has previously reported.

As reported, the country produced 299,000 tons of the product in the past year.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rods for the wire and cable industry.

In May, Head of Iran Copper Association Bahram Shakouri said the country is going to increase its copper cathode production from the current 300,000 tons to one million tons by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts on March 21, 2025).

“Although less than 300,000 tons of copper cathodes are currently produced in the country, with the development of reserves and more exploration and extraction, the production of one million tons of the product is projected by 1404,” Shakouri stated.

“For the 1404 horizon, production of 800,000 tons of copper is targeted, and if we develop mineral reserves and expand exploration operations while creating more processing plants, the production ceiling of one million tons of copper cathode can be considered for the mentioned year,” he explained.

Referring to the global target for copper production in 2050, the official added: “According to forecasts, copper production in the world by 2050 should reach four times the current level which is over 1.8 million tons.”

Being located on the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt, of which about 12.5 percent is located in Iran, the country should contribute greatly to the fourfold increase in the world's copper production by 2050, Shakouri said.

Stressing the need for planning to increase Iran's share in the world's copper production, he added: “To increase our share in the global copper production in the 2050 horizon, we must develop both exploration and extraction and discover new world-class reserves.” According to the official, Iran Copper Association is currently leading the country's copper exploration programs in collaboration with the private sector.

“New copper mines recently discovered in Sistan-Baluchestan Province (in the southeast of the country) have been the result of such efforts,” he said.

Israeli Regime's History Full of Massacres, Child Killings

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has slammed Israel over the fear-induced death of a seven-year-old Palestinian boy in the occupied West Bank, saying the history of the usurping regime is replete with such atrocities, among many the killing of children.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remark in a post on his Twitter account as he pointed to the death of Rayyan Yaser Suleiman, a Palestinian child who lost his life after falling from a high place while running away from Israeli soldiers in the village of Tuqu, southeast of Bethlehem. Palestine's health officials said the child was admitted to hospital due to a heart attack and attempts to revive him had failed.

Kanaani's tweet also coincided with the 22nd martyrdom anniversary of 12-year-old Muhammad al-Durrah, who was killed by Israeli gunfire on his father's lap in the besieged Gaza Strip on September 30, 2000.

“From Muhammad al-Durrah to Rayyan Suleiman, the history of Israel's apartheid regime is full of assassinations, massacres, torture and killing of children,” Kanaani said in a Persian-language tweet.

“Rayyan and other martyred Palestinian children are the victims of ‘silence on normalization’ and ‘false claimants of human rights.’”

Palestine's official Wafa news agency said Rayyan “ran away in fear” from soldiers who chased him and other students after leaving their school, causing him to fall from a considerable height. Rayyan's father, Yaser, said the Israeli soldiers chased his son to their house and because his son was so scared of the troops he tried to run away but his heart stopped and he fell dead.

Tehran Offers Conditions for Soccer Fans To Travel to Qatar for World Cup

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranians can travel to Qatar by cruise ship to visit the soccer games of the World Cup, said the Minister of Road and Urban Development Rostam Ghasemi.

Along with this, Ghasemi reminded that Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism signed an agreement with the Ministry of Road and Urban Development for investment in maritime tourism. The two ministries have also signed agreement to invest in building hotels near airports in Iran to boost tourism.

Ghasemi also pointed to the increase in number of flights between Iran and Qatar to transport the fans, adding that tourism and high-tech industries exhibitions are to be held during this time in the south of Iran.

Previously, chairman of Iran Trade Promotion Organization Alireza Peymanpak said Iran can expand commodity exports to Qatar, especially during the World Cup games. The two countries have solved the issue of money transfer by establishing foreign exchange offices and cooperation of several Qatari banks, he noted.

FIFA World Cup 2022 has rescheduled to kick off one day earlier with host Qatar to play in the opening match. According to the original calendar, the 2022 World Cup would raise the curtain with the opening match between Senegal and the Netherlands at 13:00 on November 21, while the opening ceremony would be held before the clash between Qatar and Ecuador at 19:00.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:53
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:05
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:37
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:01

68. They said, "Burn him and protect your gods,
If ye do (anything at all)!"

69. We said, "O Fire! be thou cool, and (a means of) safety for Abraham!"

Surah 21. The Prophets (68 - 69)

Lira Devaluation Is Not in Iran's Interest

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – A member of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce believes that devaluation of Turkish currency lira is not good for Iran because it causes rise in imports from Turkey and decline in exports to this country.

Speaking to ILNA, Behnam Tajuddin pointed to the recent decrease in the value of lira in Turkey and said that sanctions against Iran helped Turkish businessmen to earn considerable amount of profit because Iran used to circumvent sanctions mostly through Turkey and this country has turned into Iran's gateway to Europe.

He went on to say that sanctions against Iran caused Iran to continue its trade with other countries through Turkish companies and Iranian businessmen have to pay extra cost to keep trade with other countries.

He noted that in recent months the Turks have restricted Iranian traders for ex, adding that it seems Iran needs to have an essential reconsideration in the gradual tariffs and elimination of the goods from the list and in this case one can expect the rise in trade between the two states.

Tajuddin also said that devaluation of lira helps Turkey to export more, adding that the devaluation of lira in terms of trade balance will not be in Iran's favor because Iran's imports increase and in return its exports decline.

He then said that agro products are major Iran's exports to Turkey, adding that these products after entering Turkey are immediately processed and packed and re-exported



to other countries, reiterating that half of Iran's watermelon exports belong to Turkey.

When he was asked Iraq could have access to the Persian Gulf states markets via Iraq and Iran has failed to replace Turkey, he said that quality of Iran's agro, mineral and industrial products is better than Turkey's and by the way Iran is more close to Iraq but lack of good and appropriate management and sanctions helped Turkey to replace Iran in the region.

Tajuddin stated that the number of commercial attaches of Turkey in Iraq is 12 and said that Iran's economic diplomacy in Iraq is weak, adding that Iran has also 12 commercial attaches in Iraq but they have not acted in a way that the country dominate in the Persian Gulf states.

He reiterated that if the government helps the private sector, then it will not let Turkey replace Iran in Iraq market. He said due to relationship between some Iranian families with Iraqis, Iran can boost its economy with Iraq.

He also criticized the country's forex policy and noted that the policy of Turkey is to push aside its rivals in the region and this is the nature of business to defeat rivals and Iran will do the same if it can.

Iran Exports To Turkey Up by 49%

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran's exports to Turkey have witnessed 49% increase in 8 months since the beginning of 2022.



According to a report released by Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), the trade exchange between Iran and Turkey has grown 29% between January and August of 2022.

The trade exchange between the two countries in 8 months of 2022 has hit \$4.332b while the figure was \$3.344b in the same period in 2021.

The report shows that Turkey's exports to Iran in 8 months have increased by 11% comparing to the same period last year and has reached \$1.95. Turkey's exports to Iran were \$1.752b in the same period last year.

The growth of imports from Turkey in 8 months has been more than 4 times of Turkey's exports to Iran in the same period in 2021.

Meanwhile Turkey's imports from Iran in the same period have grown considerably by 49% and have hit \$2.382b. Turkey's imports from Iran in the same period in 2021 were \$1.592.

The trade balance of the two countries in 2022 has been so far \$343m in favor of Iran. The report also shows that Turkey's exports to Iran in August 2022 were \$248m and its imports stood at \$237m and the figure shows 1.2% rise in Turkey's exports to Iran and 10% growth in Iran's exports to Turkey.

Iranian, Russian Auto Parts Manufacturers Make Good Interactions, Contracts

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Although sanctions and the internal rules of companies are obstacles to releasing details of contracts between Iranian and Russian car manufacturing companies, good interactions and contracts have formed between the two countries, said a member of the board of directors of the Iranian Association of Homogeneous Industries in Car Parts making on Saturday.

Ebrahim Doustzadeh said that the MIMS Automobility Moscow 2022 was a very good opportunity for Iranian car manufacturers and auto parts manufacturers, but Iran and Russia businesses are still at the beginning of the journey to increase bilateral ties.

Doustzadeh added that in the company, committees have been formed to follow up on the issues related to the MIMS Automobility Moscow 2022.

He added that although sanctions and the internal rules of companies are obstacles to releasing the details of the memorandums of understanding and contracts between Iranian and Russian auto part manufacturers, the two have had good interactions and contracts.



This Iranian official said that for developing commercial and industrial ties between Iran and Russia, a joint committee consisting of the public and private sectors of Iran, the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade, Iran Trade Promotion Organization, and the Iranian Association of Homogeneous Industries and Russian officials and car parts makers should be formed.

The MIMS Automobility Moscow 2022 was held on August 22-25 at Moscow Expo Center and 600 companies from 18 countries attended the expo.

Iran's pavilion was the biggest in the expo with a space of over 900 square meters of the 1,700-square-meter exhibition space and managed to attract a large number of visitors and manufacturers.

TV Sets Manufacturing Rises 20% in 5 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) - Manufacturing of TV sets in Iran increased 20.7 percent during 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, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that 598,700 TV sets were manufactured in the five-month period of this year.

Manufacturing of TV sets in Iran increased 3.6 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, according to the data previously released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that 1,305,400 TV sets were manufactured in the past year.

Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran rose 7.56 percent during the previous year from its preceding year.

According to the industry ministry's data, over 6,273,600 sets of large home appliances, including TV sets, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines, and air coolers were manufactured in 1400, while the figure was 5,832,400 in 1399.

Among the mentioned products, just air cooler experienced a production drop, and production of the other items increased.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past four years.

Hormozgan Steel Co Sets Record in Slab Production



In a situation where the country's steel industry is facing major challenges due to recession and energy restrictions, Hormozgan's steel men have proven that they do not see any obstacles in front of them and whenever they get a chance, they start making themselves proud and setting stunning records. According to Tasnim news agency, employees of Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO) in the steelmaking and casting department were able to set another golden leaf in the company's activity by registering a record of 151,742 tons in September of this year.

This record has increased by 1248 tons compared to the previous record of this company last April. Meanwhile, the nominal monthly capacity of this company is 125 thousand tons per month. After receiving this honor, Attaullah Maroufkhani, the CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company (HOSCO), while congratulating the beginning of Holy Defense Week and honoring the martyrs of the eight years of imposed war, said: Jihadists of the economic front in Hormozgan Steel Company concurrent with the beginning of Holy Defense Week, achieved the monthly record for production and they created another conquest and honor. The CEO of HOSCO, referring to the Supreme Leader's orders that producers are in the front line of the economic war, said: Hormozgan Steel Company, as the most advanced steel factory in the country, has put all its efforts in the economic front in order to contribute to the development and national economy, especially for the people of Hormozgan province. Congratulating the employees and stakeholders of Hormozgan Steel Company for the breaking a new record for slab production in this company, he said: "Hormozgan Steel Company is always ready to break records, and experience has shown that with the provision of production conditions, it can easily surpass previous records, and achieving the said record happened while the quality has increased along with the quantity." He added, "This means that the amount of production out of the range of the order (analysis) in

September was zero and also the monthly surficial defects of the slabs were the lowest in the past 18 months. It is worth mentioning that the annual repairs of direct regeneration and steelmaking units were carried out opportunistically and at the same time as electricity restrictions were applied, despite the hot weather in the month of August. Maroufkhani considered the most important reason for achieving the record to be the motivated human force and stated: "After going through three consecutive months with energy shortage and reduced production, as soon as electricity was supplied in September, our experts and employees seized the opportunity and showed it if the obstacles are removed, they can shine brightly. Just as they have set various records in different areas of the company in the past two years and have materialized the slogan «we can»." Explaining the technical reasons for obtaining this record, he said: The measures taken to increase the depth of the furnace from 175 cm to 190 cm have caused a sharp reduction in hot repairs of the furnace (floor construction and bank building) and led to the improvement of production parameters such as reducing power on time, reducing the metal charge, increasing the efficiency, reducing the electrode consumption rate and reducing the refractory consumption rate, and the total of these factors together has increased the production capacity. The CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company, referring to the challenges of the country's steel industry, emphasized: "In the current situation, the steel industry is facing relative recession due to price fluctuations and energy restrictions, but we have been able to change the situation in our favor with the right understanding despite the bad water conditions and the summer weather in Hormozgan and its challenges, to achieve the monthly production record of the final product." He considered Hormozgan Steel's record-breaking results as a result of empathy and careful planning, and noted: Also, due to the implementation of electricity restrictions until the end of August, planning to compensate for falling behind the schedule was put on the agenda, and this matter came to fruition in September. In such a way that the production of 663,482 tons of slabs in the first half of 1401 has brought 100.4% materialization of the budget plan. Employees of Hormozgan Steel set this record with empathy and proper planning in the exhausting summer conditions of Bandar Abbas. In the end, the CEO of Hormozgan Steel Company said: "I congratulate all the employees, especially the hard workers of the production line and the beneficiaries of Hormozgan Steel Company, for achieving this record, and I hope that these record breaking events will continue. Currently, in order to achieve the company's goals, a maximum production plan has been made in the second half of 1401, so we hope to surpass the previous record of annual slab production."

Weekly Commodities Traded On IME Exceed 1.9m Tons

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange last week witnessed trade of 1,961,849 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than 394 million USD on its physical market.



According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 1,627,000 tons of commodities valued at almost \$223m.

On this floor the IME sold 924,013 tons of cement, 293,000 tons of iron ore, 256,070 tons of steel, 152,000 tons of sponge iron, 355 tons of zinc, 5,575 tons of aluminum, 1,200 tons of copper, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 7 kg of gold bars and 143 automobiles.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 328,480 tons of commodities worth more than \$167m.

Commodities traded on this floor included 83,893 tons of polymeric products, 103,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 34,000 tons of lube cut, 27,160 tons of chemicals, 36,000 tons of sulfur, 3,135 tons of base oil, 540 tons of insulation and 71,802 tons of bitumen.

The IME also traded within the same week 5,756 tons of commodities on its side market.

22nd Int'l Specialized Industry Expo Opens in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The 22nd International Specialized Industry Exhibition has kicked off in Tehran in the presence of Iran's deputy minister of industry.



Mohammad Mehdi Baradaran, the deputy minister of industry for public resources, opened the exhibition on Saturday.

426 companies from Iran and other countries such as China, Germany, Japan, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, Poland, and Hungary take part in the international event.

The 22nd International Specialized Industry Exhibition is being held in a space more than 31k square meters at the Tehran International Exhibition Center.

The firms active in different industrial sectors, including machinery for manufacturing, cement, steel, automation, equipment, tools, engineering and technical services, investment, security kits and advanced industries showcase their state-of-the-art achievements.

The four-day specialized exhibition started work on October 1 and will come to an end on October 4. The exhibition is open to the public from 8 am to 3 pm.

U.S. Congress Signs off on \$12b for War-Torn Ukraine

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The U.S. Congress approved \$12.3 billion in aid Friday to help Ukraine battle its invasion by Russia as part of a stopgap spending bill that averts a chaotic government shutdown ahead of a midnight deadline.

The package includes \$3 billion for arms, supplies and salaries for Ukraine's military and authorizes President Joe Biden to direct the Pentagon to transfer \$3.7 billion in weapons and other hardware to Ukraine.

The so-called "continuing resolution" -- passed by 230 votes to 201, with 10 Republicans joining the Democrats -- also provides \$4.5 billion for Kyiv to keep the country's finances stable and keep the government running.



Cyberattack Reveals Mexico President's Health Score

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Hackers have stolen sensitive Mexican files including previously undisclosed information that President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador was taken to hospital by air ambulance in January with a heart problem, the government said.

"It's true, there was a cyberattack," Lopez Obrador said at his daily news conference.

"I understand that this same group has already done the same thing in other countries," he added.

On Thursday, prominent journalist Carlos Loret de Mola reported that a hacker group called Guacamaya had obtained tens of thousands of emails dating from 2016 to September 2022 from the defense



Putin Proclaims Ukrainian Annexation As Military Setback Looms



ZAPORIZHZHIA (Dispatches) - A defiant Vladimir Putin proclaimed Russia's annexation of a swathe of Ukraine in a pomp-filled Kremlin ceremony, promising Moscow would triumph in its "special military operation" even as he faced a potentially serious new military reversal.

The Russian president's proclamation of Russian rule over 15% of Ukraine - the biggest annexation in Europe since World War Two - was roundly rejected by Ukraine and Western countries, with the United States and Britain announcing new sanctions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said his country had submitted a fast track application to join the NATO military alliance and that he would not hold peace talks with Russia while Putin was still president.

Putin's proclamation came as Russian forces in one of the four regions being annexed face being encircled by Ukrainian troops, showing how tenuous Russia's grip is on some of territory it is claiming.

In one of his toughest anti-American speeches in more than two decades in power, Putin signalled he was ready to continue what he called a battle for a "greater historical Russia", slammed the West as out to destroy his country and, without evidence, accused Washington and its allies of blowing up the Nord Stream gas pipelines.

The four Ukrainian regions that he said Russia was absorbing had made a historic choice, he said.

"They have made a choice to be with their people, their motherland, to live with its fate, and to triumph with it. Truth is on our side. Russia is with us!" Putin told his country's political elite, who had gathered in one of the Kremlin's grandest halls to watch him sign the annexation documents.

"People living in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson region and Zaporizhzhia region are becoming our compatriots forever."

"We will defend our land with all our strength and all our means," he added, calling on "the Kyiv regime to immediately cease hostilities and return to the negotiation table".

In Ukraine, President Zelenskiy said he was only ready for peace talks if and when Russia got a new president.

He also announced that Ukraine was formally applying for fast-track membership of NATO, something Moscow fiercely opposes, and accused Russia of redrawing borders "using murder, blackmail, mistreatment and lies".

He said, however, that Kyiv remained committed to the idea of co-existence with Russia "on equal, honest, dignified and fair conditions".

"Clearly, with this Russian president it is impossible. He does not know what dignity and honesty are. Therefore, we are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but with another president of Russia," Zelenskiy said.

Putin said the United States had set a precedent when it had dropped two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945, while stopping short of issuing new nuclear warnings against Ukraine himself, something he has done more than once in recent weeks.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States had not yet seen Russia take any action that suggested it was contemplating the use of nuclear weapons, despite what he called Putin's "loose talk."

The annexation ceremony culminated in Putin, 69, chanting "Russia! Russia!" as he clasped the hands of the Russian-backed officials he wants to run the annexed regions, which Ukraine is fighting to win back.

Thousands of people, some of them clutching Russian flags, then packed into Moscow's Red Square to hear celebratory pop music. Putin told the crowd: "Victory will be ours!"

South Korea, U.S., Japan Stage Anti-Submarine Drills

SEOUL (Dispatches) - The navies of South Korea, the United States and Japan staged trilateral anti-submarine exercises for the first time in five years, amid tension over North Korea's series of missile tests.

The drills were held in international waters off the Korean peninsula's east coast, just a day after North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the sea off its east coast and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris visited Seoul and the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas. Thursday's test was the third such launch in five days by the North, which has fired an unprecedented number of missiles this year.

"The exercises are designed to improve their capability to respond to increasing North Korean submarine threats, including its submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) at a time when it consistently poses nuclear and missile threats with a series of ballistic missile tests," the South Korean navy said in a statement.

The U.S. navy said the drills will enhance inter-operability and tactical and technical coordination between the three countries.

The U.S. and Japanese navies also said the exercises are expected to promote "a free and open Indo-Pacific," amid tension over China's actions in the Taiwan Strait.

The anti-submarine drills have not been conducted since 2017 because the former progressive South Korean government sought to improve inter-Korean relations and facilitate denuclearisation talks between Pyongyang and Washington, which have stalled since 2019.

South Korea's new President Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office in May, has vowed to boost trilateral security cooperation with the United States and Japan to better counter the North's evolving weapons threats.

The exercises brought together the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, the 9,800-ton guided missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, the 6,900-ton Aegis-equipped destroyer USS Barry, South Korea's 4,400-ton destroyer Munmu the Great and Japan's 5,100-ton tanker Asahi, among other warships, the three navies said.

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Sweden Resumes Arms Exports to Turkey

OSLO (Dispatches) - Sweden's Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP) said reversed a ban against exporting military equipment to Turkey, following the Nordic country's decision to join the NATO military alliance and agreement to overcome Turkish objections.

The Sweden and Finland sought membership to NATO earlier this year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but faced a hurdle as its application needs the approval of all 30 current members, with Turkey raising objections.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan had threatened to block their bids over Ankara's accusations they supported the YPG in northern Syria, which it views as an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which is also deemed a terrorist group by the United States and European Union.

Sweden and Finland effectively banned arms exports to Turkey in 2019 after its incursion into Syria against the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, with ISP revoking existing permits and granting no new ones since then though no formal embargo existed.

The three countries reached a breakthrough agreement on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Madrid in June, where Sweden and Finland agreed on a set of steps to be taken to address Turkey's concerns about the candidacies.

The ISP said in a statement it began giving export permits during the third quarter but did not reveal which companies or products had been given the go-ahead, citing confidentiality.

"Taking into account the altered defence and security policy conditions, ISP has after a full review decided to grant a permit for follow-up deliveries from Swedish defence industry to Turkey," the authority said.

Turkey in May this year said it had received positive signals with regards to a lifting of the embargo.

Thousands of UK's Royal Mail Workers Launch 48-Hour Strike

LONDON (Dispatches) - Picket lines have been mounted outside Royal Mail delivery and sorting offices in the United Kingdom after workers launched a 48-hour strike in a worsening dispute over pay.

Members of the Communication Workers Union (CWU) walked out on Friday, hitting postal deliveries across the country.

Talks between the two sides were held on Thursday, but there was no sign of any progress being made and the union is planning to step up industrial action in the coming weeks.

The union said the walkout by about 115,000 of its members is the biggest strike of the year amid long-running disputes in other sectors.

A further 19 days of strikes have been announced on different days throughout October and November in a significant escalation of the dispute.

Dave Ward, the CWU's general secretary, said "this is a significant announcement, but it is one which matches the level of anger our members feel at the way Royal Mail Group has treated them".

"The chief executive of Royal Mail Group is treating postal workers as if they are stupid. These are the same people that have kept the country connected and

returned Royal Mail Group to record profit," he said.

"Postal workers across the UK now face the fight of their lives to save their jobs and the service they provide to every household and business in the UK. We call on everyone to stand with their local postal worker," Ward added.

Meanwhile, a Royal Mail spokesman said "the CWU can be in no doubt of the impact its reckless pursuit of 19 days of industrial action has on our weakened financial position and the job security of its members".

"Royal Mail is losing 1 million pounds (\$1.1m) a day. We operate in a competitive market, and our customers have choices. Continued strike action will force our customers to make those choices sooner rather than later," the spokesman said. "Our invitation to enter into talks through Acas remains open. Our people need the CWU leadership to recognize the reality of the situation Royal Mail faces as a business, and to engage urgently on the changes required to adapt to customer demands in a highly competitive market," he added.

"We apologize to our customers for the inconvenience the CWU's continued strike action will cause. We are doing all we can to minimize any delays and keep people, businesses and the country connected."



Lula Vows Peace and Love for Polarized Brazil in Comeback Attempt

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Brazilian leftist Luis Inacio Lula da Silva is within reach of a dramatic comeback in tpday's election, four years after the popular two-term president watched from a jail cell as his party was trounced in the last presidential campaign.

Graft convictions barred him from running for president in 2018, when far-right President Jair Bolsonaro rode into office on a wave of antipathy towards Lula's Workers Party.

Last year Brazil's Supreme Court annulled those convictions. Now Lula is leading the presidential race by a comfortable margin, according to most polls, with some showing he could win the election outright, without a second-round vote on Oct. 30.

With a gravelly voice and grandfatherly charm, the 76-year-old former union leader, who led strikes against a military dictatorship in the 1970s, is now promising to restore political calm in a country polarized by Bolsonaro's right-wing populism. "Little Lula, peace and love, is back," Lula has said in interviews during an election campaign unsettled by rising political violence and even killings of his supporters.

Lula led Brazil from 2003-2010 during a commodities boom driving robust economic growth, which helped him reduce the country's deep social inequalities, lift millions from extreme poverty and expand access to education and healthcare.

He left office with an unprecedented 87% approval rating. But his legacy was tarnished by a deep recession overseen by his hand-picked successor and former chief of staff, Dilma Rousseff, who was impeached for breaking budget rules.

Brazil's largest-ever corruption investigation also caught dozens of business figures and politicians skimming billions from overpriced contracts with state companies. Lula was put on trial for receiving real estate and other gifts.

He spent 580 days in jail until his November 2019 release.

The Lula that reemerged is a pragmatic politician vowing to fight rising hunger and unemployment, while channeling credit into key industries to create jobs and restore solid growth.



New Asteroid Strike Images Show Impact a Lot Bigger Than Expected

PARIS (Dispatches) - The James Webb and Hubble telescopes revealed their first images of a spacecraft deliberately smashing into an asteroid, as astronomers indicated that the impact looks to have been much greater than expected.

The world's telescopes turned their gaze towards the space rock Dimorphos earlier this week for a historic test of Earth's ability to defend itself against a potential life-threatening asteroid in the future.

Astronomers rejoiced as NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) impactor slammed into its pyramid-sized, rugby ball-shaped target 11 million kilometers (6.8 million miles) from Earth on Monday night.

Images taken by Earth-bound telescopes showed a vast cloud of dust expanding out of Dimorphos -- and its big brother Didymos which it orbits -- after the spaceship hit.

While those images showed matter spraying out over thousands of kilometres, the James Webb and Hubble images "zoom in much closer", said Alan Fitzsimmons, an astronomer at Queen's University Belfast involved in observations with the ATLAS project.

James Webb and Hubble can offer a view "within just a few kilometres of the asteroids and you can really clearly see how the material is flying out from that explosive impact by DART", Fitzsimmons told AFP.

"It really is quite spectacular," he said.

An image taken by James Webb's Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) four hours after impact shows "plumes of material appearing as wisps streaming away from the centre of where the impact took place", according to a joint statement from the European Space Agency, James Webb and Hubble.

Hubble images from 22 minutes, five hours and eight hours after impact show the expanding spray of matter from where DART hit.

Ian Carnelli of the European Space Agency said that the "really impressive" Webb and Hubble images were remarkably similar to those taken by the toaster-sized satellite LICIACube, which was just 50 kilometers from the asteroid after separating from the DART spacecraft a few weeks ago.

The images depict an impact that looks "a lot bigger than we expected," said Carnelli, the manager of the ESA's Hera mission which intends to inspect the damage in four years.

"I was really worried there was nothing left of Dimorphos" at first, Carnelli told AFP.

The Hera mission, which is scheduled to launch in October 2024 and arrive at the asteroid in 2026, had expected to survey a crater around 10 metres (33 feet) in diameter. It now looks like it will be far bigger, Carnelli said, "if there is a crater at all, maybe a piece of Dimorphos was just chunked off."

The true measure of DART's success will be exactly how much it diverted the asteroid's trajectory, so the world can start preparing to defend itself against bigger asteroids that could head our way in the future.

It will likely take Earth-bound telescopes and radars at least a week for a first estimate of how much the asteroid's orbit has been altered, and three or four weeks before there is a precise measurement, Carnelli said.

"I am expecting a much bigger deflection than we had planned," he said.

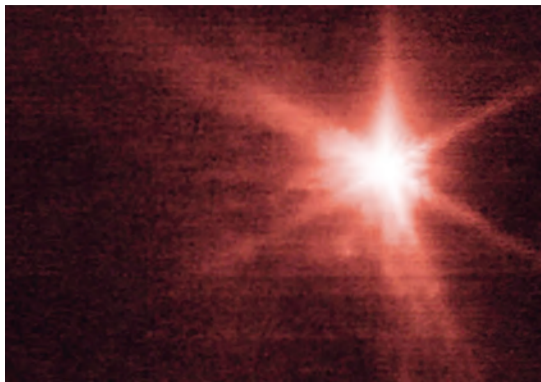
That would have "huge implications in planetary defence because it means that this technique could be used for much larger asteroids", Carnelli added.

"Until today, we thought that the only deflection technique would be to send a nuclear device."

Fitzsimmons said that even if no material had been "flung off" Dimorphos, DART still would still have slightly affected its orbit.

"But the more material and the faster it's moving, the more of a deflection there will have been," he said.

The observations from James Webb and Hubble will help reveal how much -- and how quickly -- matter sprayed from the asteroid, as well as the nature of its surface.



China Certifies C919 Jet To Compete With Airbus and Boeing

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China held a ceremony to certify its C919 narrowbody passenger jet, photos on social media showed, representing a major milestone in the country's ambitions to challenge Airbus and Boeing in commercial aerospace.

The plane, produced by state-owned manufacturer Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC), had been widely expected to be certified by the end of the month after two aircraft flew to Beijing on Sept. 13. A sign in one of the photos said "C919 aircraft type certificate issuance ceremony" in Chinese. COMAC did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

The C919, launched 14 years ago and designed to carry up to 168 passengers, will compete against the popular Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX families in the world's second-biggest aviation market as China looks to boost its technological self-reliance amid trade tensions.

Although the plane is assembled in China, it relies heavily on Western components, including engines and avionics, from companies including GE, Safran and Honeywell International.

Tough U.S. export licensing rules have led to delays in sourcing parts and remain a key risk to ramp up production until China replaces foreign engines and components with homegrown technology.

Richard Aboulafia, U.S.-based managing director of AeroDynamic Advisory, said the plane seems like a relic of a bygone era of increasing integration between China and the West.

"Thus, we have an aircraft that is only superficially Chinese but is actually powered by Western technologies and systems," he said. "Turning it into a genuine Chinese aircraft would take well over a decade and many billions of dollars."

The type of certificate granted on Thursday means it can be delivered to the first customer, China Eastern Airlines Corp Ltd, though local media have reported the plane is unlikely to enter commercial service with passengers until next year.

The C919 has never made an appearance at the country's premier aviation event, Airshow China and it is unclear whether it will be on display or flown at the show in November.

COMAC will also need a separate production certificate before it can ramp up mass production of the plane, meaning its impact on the global aircraft market could remain limited given Airbus and Boeing produce dozens of narrowbodies a month.

"The C919 will gradually begin to replace single-aisle aircraft made by Boeing and Airbus," in China, a research note by Huaxi Securities said this month. "In the next 20 years, China's demand for narrowbody passenger aircraft like the C919 will be on average 300 per year."

The C919's regional jet predecessor, the ARJ21, faced a 2.5-year gap between obtaining the type certificate and the production certificate, slowing production. That contrasts with the West, where both certificates are typically granted around the same time.

Like the ARJ21, the C919 lacks certification validation by U.S. and European regulators, limiting flights to the domestic market and possibly countries with close ties to China.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has been working for years on a certification validation process on the C919 with COMAC in parallel to CAAC's work, an EASA spokesperson said.

"We cannot comment on the date when this validation would be completed," the spokesperson said.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration did not respond to a request for comment on a potential C919 certification validation.



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Porsche Races Higher After Landmark \$72b Listing

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - Porsche AG shares made a strong start today after Volkswagen defied volatile markets to list the sports car brand at a valuation of €75 billion in Germany's second-biggest market debut.

Volkswagen priced Porsche AG shares at the top end of the indicated range and raised €19.5 billion via the listing to fund the group's electrification drive. The shares traded at €82.90 (US\$80.66), close to the issue price of €82.50, after peaking earlier at €86.54.



Kazakhstan to Host Sixth CICA Summit

NUR-SULTAN (Dispatches) - As the sixth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit draws near, Kairat Sarybay, executive director of CICA shared the details on the preparation for the summit and the results of Kazakhstan's chairpersonship of CICA from 2020 to 2022 during his meeting with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Sept. 7, reported the Akorda press service.

In an interview, Sarybay spoke about major milestones over the 30 years since the establishment of CICA, the importance of CICA for the cause of international security and cooperation, major achievements during Kazakhstan's chairpersonship and the plans ahead of the sixth CICA Summit in October 2022.

Back in 1992, during the 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev announced an initiative to create a mechanism for interaction and cooperation to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in Asia in light of the emergence of newly independent states in Central Asia and Eurasia. This served as a foundation for the establishment of CICA, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Oct. 5, 2022.

Today, CICA is a multilateral platform for pan-Asian dialogue and cooperation, uniting 27 member states, nine observer states, five observer international organizations and five partner organizations.

"Before becoming such a recognizable and reputable forum, the conference went through several stages of its institutional evolution," said Sarybay, outlining major milestones in the history of the conference over the last 30 years.

One of the first important milestones in the institutional transformation was the adoption of the foundational documents of CICA – the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations of 1999 and the Almaty Act of 2002.

"These two documents explicitly declared the determination of the CICA member states to create a common and indivisible security area in Asia and commitment to take necessary steps towards institutional development of CICA," said Sarybay.

Approval of the CICA catalog of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in 2004 and the establishment of the CICA secretariat in 2006 were also important stages that formed the basis for the operational activities of CICA.

According to Sarybay, the successful institutional development of CICA would not have been possible without the valuable contribution of its rotating chairpersonships, held consecutively by Kazakhstan, Türkiye, China and Tajikistan, which were "driving forces behind the CICA process."

Kazakhstan's latest chairmanship in 2020-2022 was recognized as a period where several important milestones were reached.

"At Kazakhstan's initiative two new institutions of CICA have been created in 2021 – the renewed and institutionalized CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF) and CICA Council of Eminent Persons (CEP)," said Sarybay.

CEP is meant to become a high-level advisory body of CICA on interaction and development, on the promotion of peace and security and on the implementation of CBMs.

The TTF has been transformed into a permanent platform for dialogue with the objective to provide informational and analytical support to CICA and to develop interaction between the member states' think tanks and research institutions. The TTF is currently chaired by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.

Another major accomplishment of CICA during Kazakhstan's chairmanship was updating the CICA catalog of CBMs in 2021, which is the key document of CICA for practical implementation and the adoption of the general guidelines for conducting events related to CBM implementation.

Sarybay said that the updated catalog has been adapted to new realities which include 18 priority areas within five dimensions of interaction. New priority areas of cooperation include epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals, security of and in the use of information, and communication technologies.

The transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization was declared the strategic goal of Kazakhstan. "Systematic work was done by the chairmanship and the secretariat in the development of the concept of transformation on the basis of broad consultations with all member states," said Sarybay.

Talking about the main added value of CICA in terms of its contribution to international security and cooperation, Sarybay stressed that "threats and challenges to security do not recognize borders, whether this is about terrorism, poverty, pandemic or natural disasters."

"Such a comprehensive approach to security determines the unique feature of CICA – its broad agenda and holistic approach to promoting peace, security, stability and prosperity in Asia," he added.

According to Sarybay, the main added value of CICA is "its consensus-based multilateral approach to security, broad geography with the potential to cover the entire Asian continent, comprehensive agenda, and rich toolkit."

Sarybay also spoke about the preparatory work for the upcoming Sixth CICA Summit which is planned to be held in October in Nur-Sultan.

He also added that he hoped that the process for the transformation of CICA into an organization would be launched at the upcoming summit and would "contribute to strengthening the global role of Asia and the transition to a new level of cooperation among the member states."

Global Investor Confidence Index Rises For September 2022, Led by Asia

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - State Street Global Markets has released the results of its Investor Confidence Index (ICI) for September 2022, which saw Asia leading the rise.

The Global ICI increased to 108.8, up 1.5 points from August's revised reading of 107.3, led by a 7.7-point jump in Asian ICI to 100.1 followed by North American ICI, which was up 2.4 points to 109. However, European ICI fell 5.5 points to 100.1.

In a statement issued on Friday, Macro Strategist with State Street Global Market's Multi-Asset Strategy Team Cayla Seder said risk sentiment expressed by institutional investors remained steady in September despite heightened equity market volatility experienced globally.

"As anticipated, European investors were rattled by a continued energy crisis, diminishing growth prospects and hawkish global central banks. As a result, Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) ICI tumbled 5.9 points," said Seder.

Going forward, Seder said it will be important to monitor whether the dip in European investor confidence persists given the market's negative reaction to the United Kingdom's recent fiscal plans.

"Overall, the increase in the September Global ICI can be largely attributed to Asia-Pacific investors as risk appetite grew in tandem with the reopening of borders and easing of restrictions in Macau and Chengdu, China," the strategist said.

The ICI was developed at State Street Associates, State Street Global Markets research and advisory services business.

It measures investor confidence or risk appetite quantitatively by analysing the actual buying and selling patterns of institutional investors.

The index assigns a precise meaning to changes in investor risk appetite: the greater the percentage allocation to equities, the higher risk appetite or confidence.

A reading of 100 is neutral, where investors are neither increasing nor decreasing their long-term allocations to risky assets.

The index differs from survey-based measures in that it is based on the actual trades, as opposed to opinions, of institutional investors.

State Street Global Markets is the securities business of State Street Corp, one of the world's leading providers of financial services to institutional investors including investment servicing, investment management and investment research and trading.

With US\$38.2 trillion (RM177 trillion) in assets under custody and/or administration and US\$3.5 trillion in assets under management (AUM) as of June 30, 2022, State Street operates globally in more than 100 geographic markets and employs about 40,000 worldwide.

World Bank Flags Risk of Stagflation, Likely Recession in Europe

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - World Bank warned that it could take years for global energy production to diversify away from Russia after its invasion of Ukraine, prolonging the risk of stagflation, or a period of low growth and high inflation.

World Bank President David Malpass said there was an increased likelihood of a recession in Europe, while China's growth was slowing sharply and U.S. economic output had contracted in the first half of the year.

Those developments would have grave consequences for developing countries, Malpass said in a speech at Stanford University, citing what he called "consequential" and "worsening" challenges facing development.

Addressing the current "perfect storm" of rising interest rates, high inflation and slowing growth required new macro- and microeconomic approaches, including better targeted spending and clearly messaged efforts to increase supplies, Malpass said.

Malpass said the bank's upcoming "Poverty and Shared Prosperity" report showed that decades of progress in reducing poverty had slowed by 2015, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, which sent an additional 70 million people into extreme poverty.

The report, due out next week, also showed a 4% decline in the global median income, the first decline since the bank began measuring that indicator in 1990, he said. "The developing world is facing an extremely challenging near-term outlook shaped by sharply higher food fertilizer and energy prices, rising interest rates and credit spreads, currency depreciation and capital outflows," Malpass said.

Germany Agrees 200b Euro Package to Shield Against Surging Energy Prices



BERLIN (Dispatches) - German Chancellor Olaf Scholz set out a 200 billion euro (\$194 billion) "defensive shield", including a gas price brake and a cut in sales tax for the fuel, to protect companies and households from the impact of soaring energy prices.

Europe's biggest economy is trying to cope with surging gas and electricity costs caused largely by a collapse in Russian gas supplies to Europe, which Moscow has blamed on Western sanctions following its invasion of Ukraine in February.

"Prices have to come down, so the government will do everything it can. To this end, we are setting up a large defensive shield," said Scholz.

Under the plans, to run until spring 2024, the government will introduce an emergency price brake on gas, the details of which will be announced next month. It is scrapping a planned gas levy meant to help firms struggling with high spot market prices.

A temporary electricity price brake will subsidize basic consumption for consumers and small and medium-sized companies. Sales tax on gas will fall to 7% from 19%.

In its efforts to cut its dependence on Russian energy, Germany is also promoting the expansion of renewable energy and developing liquefied gas terminals.

To help households and companies weather any winter supply disruption, especially in

southern Germany, two nuclear plants previously due to close by the end of this year will be able to keep running until spring 2023.

Industry groups welcomed the package.

"This is important relief," said Wolfgang Grosse Entrup, head of the VCI chemicals association. "Now we need details quickly, as firms increasingly have their backs to the wall."

The package will be financed with new borrowing this year, as Berlin makes use of the suspension of a constitutionally enshrined limit on new debt of 0.35% of gross domestic product.

Finance Minister Christian Lindner has said he wants to comply with the limit again next year.

Lindner, of the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) who share power with Scholz's Social Democrats and the Greens, said on Thursday the country's public finances were stable.

"We can put it no other way: we find ourselves in an energy war," said Lindner. "We want to clearly separate crisis expenditure from our regular budget management, we want to send a very clear signal to the capital markets."

He also said the steps would act as a brake on inflation, which hit its highest level in more than a quarter of century in September.

Opposition conservative Markus Soeder, premier of the southern state of Bavaria, said the steps gave the right signal.

"It gives industry and citizens confidence that we can get through the winter," he said.

India Cuts its 2022/23 Planned Borrowing Marginally



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The Indian government cut its 2022/23 planned borrowing marginally despite higher spending on food and fertilizer due to the Ukraine crisis, partly helped by buoyant tax collections.

The government cut its 2022/23 gross borrowing plan to 14.21 trillion rupees (\$173.91 billion) from 14.31 trillion rupees, it said in a statement.

The government plans to borrow 5.92 trillion rupees in October-March period, compared with 8.29 trillion rupees of borrowing in the first half of the fiscal year that will end on September 30.

The government said the October-March borrowing will be done through 2, 5, 7, 10, 14, 30 and 40 years tenure bonds.

The government cut the full year borrowing as it expects current trends of tax collections will help it surpass the budgeted projections by the end of the fiscal year.

In the last few months India's direct and indirect tax collection have grown nearly 30% on year.

The cut was undertaken despite additional expenses.

On Wednesday, India extended the world's biggest free food program by another three months that will cost \$5.46 billion more, adding to fiscal worries weighed down by inflation-fighting expenses of over \$20 billion.

The government plans to borrow between 260 billion rupees to 300 billion a week in the second half of the fiscal. The government also plans to issue 160 billion rupees of green bonds, for the first time, to fund clean projects.

In the quarter ending December the government plans to raise 2.86 trillion rupees via treasury bills, the statement said.

Turkmenistan Exempts Iran From Heavy Tariffs on Transit of Goods

TEHRAN (IFP) - An Iranian official says Turkmenistan has cancelled heavy tariffs for Iranian transit of goods using the country's borders and territory as of October 1.

Following contacts between officials and experts of the states, "Turkmenistan reopened its borders for the passage of international transit convoys and cut down the heavy tariffs placed on the

Iranian transit," said Mohsen Rokni, manager of the Lotfabad border terminal in northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province.

As per agreements between the two sides, Turkmenistan agreed to exclusively exempt Iran from the tariffs, under which convoys were charged 1.5 dollar per each kilometer traveled on Turkmen soil.



BBC to Cut Hundreds of Jobs at World Service

LONDON (Dispatches) - Nearly 400 staff at BBC World Service will lose their jobs as part of a cost-cutting programme and move to digital platforms, the broadcaster announced on Thursday, paring down its Iranian-language service among others.

The BBC, which marks its centenary next month, said its international services needed to make savings of £28.5 million (\$31 million) as part of wider reductions of £500 million, which unions blamed on the UK government.

In July the broadcaster detailed plans to merge BBC World News television and its domestic UK equivalent into a single channel to launch in April next year.

BBC World Service -- one of the UK's most recognisable global brands -- currently operates in 41 languages around the world with a weekly audience of some 364 million people.

But the corporation said audience habits were changing and more people were accessing news online, which along with a freeze on BBC funding and increased operating costs meant a move to "digital-first" made financial sense.

"Today's proposals entail a net total of around 382 post closures," the public service broadcaster said in an online statement.

Eleven language services -- Azerbaijani, Brasil, Marathi, Mundo, Punjabi, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Thai, Turkish, and Vietnamese -- are already digital only.

Under the restructuring plans they will be joined by seven more: Chinese, Gujarati, Igbo, Indonesian, Pidgin, Urdu and Yoruba.

Radio services in Arabic, Persian, Kyrgyz, Hindi, Bengali, Chinese, Indonesian, Tamil and Urdu will stop, if the proposals are approved by staff and unions.

No language services will close, the broadcaster insisted, although some production will move out of London and schedules would change.

The Thai service will move to Bangkok, the Korean service to Seoul and the Bangla service to Dhaka.

The "Focus on Africa" television bulletin will be broadcast from Nairobi, it added.

BBC World Service director Liliane Landor said there was a "compelling case" for expanding digital services, as audiences had more than doubled since 2018.

"The way audiences are accessing news and content is changing and the challenge of reaching and engaging people around the world with quality, trusted journalism is growing," she added.

The head of the broadcasting union Bectu, Philippa Childs, said they were disappointed at the proposed changes.

"While we recognize the BBC must adapt to meet the challenges of a changing media landscape, once again it is workers who are hit by the government's poorly judged political decisions," she said.



The government's freezing of the license fee which pays for BBC World Service had created the funding squeeze and the need for cuts, she added.

Bectu will push for staff to be redeployed where possible and to ensure it "mitigates the needs for any compulsory redundancies", Childs said.

BBC World Service is funded out of the UK license fee -- currently £159 for a color TV and payable by every household with a television set.

The BBC has faced repeated claims from right-wingers since the UK's divisive Brexit referendum in 2016 of political bias, and pushing a "woke", London-centric liberal agenda.

But it has faced similar accusations of political bias in favor of the right from the left.

The government announced a freeze on the license fee in January, in what was seen by critics as an attempt to save the then-prime minister Boris Johnson's job.

At the time Johnson was facing mounting claims of wrongdoing in office, which ultimately forced him to resign.

Ministers claimed the funding model needed to be revised because of technological changes, including the uptake of streaming services, as well as increases in the cost of living.

Opposition parties however said the monthly payments -- equivalent to some £13.13 -- were small change compared to energy bill increases totalling thousands of pounds a year.

The culture secretary at the time, Johnson loyalist Nadine Dorries, had previously accused the BBC of "tokenism" in diversity hiring and elitist "group think" but denied wanting to dismantle the corporation.

Latin America Bears Brunt of Land Activist Murders



MEXICO (Dispatches) - More than three-quarters of the world's murders of environmental activists took place in Latin America last year, an annual review by watchdog Global Witness showed.

The group said a total of 200 land and environmental defenders -- whom it named individually -- were killed in 2021, down from a record 227 in 2020.

These killings came "in the context of a wider range of threats against defenders who are being targeted by government, business and other non-state actors with violence, intimidation, smear campaigns and criminalization," the London-based group said.

"Over three-quarters of the attacks recorded took place in Latin America," said Global Witness, which has issued such reports since 2012.

It maintains a database of the killings based on reviews of "reliable sources of publicly available online information," the report said.

Mexico had the highest recorded number of killings at 54 in 2021, Global Witness found. That figure was up from 30 the previous year, and more than 40 percent of the victims were Indigenous people, it said.

Global Witness reported that heavy Latin American tolls also occurred in Colombia, with 33 killings, Brazil where there were 26 and Nicaragua, which had 15.

While in most cases the killings could not be connected to a specific industry, the report identified 27 tied to mining and extractive industries.

Among the Mexican victims identified by Global Witness was Jose Santos Isaac Chavez, an Indigenous leader and lawyer in Ayotitlan in Jalisco state who opposed the local Pena Colorada mine.

Chavez was murdered in April last year. "He was found dead in his car, which had been driven off a cliff. His body showed evidence of torture," Global Witness said.

No one has been brought to justice for this and other killings linked to opponents of the mine, it added.

"The mines destroy and pollute the environment," said Ayotitlan community activist Jose Santos Rosales, whose 17-year-old son Rogelio Rosales Ramos was murdered in 2020.

Severe Economic Slowdown Awaits Europe

LONDON (Dispatches) - The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published a gloomy economic forecast for 2023 on September 26 -- suggesting that Europe faces a very difficult economic climate if the current energy crisis worsens, with winter temperatures likely to be a decisive factor.

Across the globe, the OECD projects GDP to be \$2.8 trillion lower than the Paris-based forum expected before Russia invaded Ukraine -- a diminishing of expectations equivalent in size to the entire French economy.

"The global economy has lost momentum in the wake of Russia's unprovoked, unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said in a statement. "GDP growth has stalled in many economies and economic indicators point to an extended slowdown."

This chimes with the projections of other international economic bodies -- notably the International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva's warning in July, even before Russia cut off gas flows through the Nord Stream pipeline, that disruption to gas supplies risked plunging European economies into recession.

The eurozone faces the largest downward revision in the world -- with overall growth expected at 0.3 percent as opposed to the 1.6 percent forecast in June. The OECD also anticipates Europe's largest economy Germany suffering a recession in 2023, defined as at least two consecutive quarters of falling GDP. German output is expected to fall by 0.7 percent next year, compared to a previous forecast of 1.7 percent growth.

"It's a realistic forecast, Germany probably will suffer most this winter from the energy shock," said Gustavo Horenstein, an economist and fund manager at Dorval Asset Management. "A German recession is expected because of its dependence on Russian gas and the size of manufacturing -- a sector sensitive to energy supply problems -- as a proportion of its economy."

The eurozone's other biggest economies are expected to escape recession, with growth of 0.6 percent expected in France, 0.4 percent in Italy and 1.5 percent in Spain while for its part the French finance ministry plans for 1 percent growth for its 2023 budget calculations.

But the OECD's forecasts could well be revised downwards depending on how the energy crisis develops this winter. There is "substantial uncertainty about the economic outlook, with significant downside risks", the OECD warned, notably the "possibility of gas shortages as winter progresses". In the worst-case scenario, eurozone growth -- currently forecast at 0.3 percent -- could undershoot this projection by 1.25 percent, well into recession territory.

Riot; Best Opportunity for Terrorist Mercenaries

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's government spokesman called riots and unrest as bet opportunity for terrorist mercenaries to endanger the security and unity of the Iranian nation.

The government spokesman expressed his condolences for the martyrdom of police forces and the people of Zahedan and considered the disturbances the best opportunity for terrorist mercenaries who want to endanger the security, unity, lives, and property of Iranians.

According to the Iran Press on Saturday, Ali Bahadari Jahormi wrote on his Twitter account: "The prosperity of dear Iran is realized in the shadow of security."

He continued: "Riot is the best opportunity for terrorist mercenaries to endanger the security, unity, life and property of Iranians. I offer my condolences for the martyrdom of a number of law and security forces and the death of a number of Zahedan people following the terrorist attack on the police station and hospital."

Iranian Nanotech Market Blooms in Six Countries

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology has paved the way for Iranian nanotechnology products to go to market in six countries.

International brokers for Iran's Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology are marketing Iran-made nanotechnology products in different countries.

The brokers have been active in Italy, Turkey, Thailand, the Philippines, Armenia, and Syria thanks to the support from Nanotechnology Headquarters in Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology.

The activities have resulted in negotiations to register an electrospinning company in Italy and negotiations to export a diagnostic kit to Syria.

Other brokers, too, have taken similar measures in other countries to sell Iranian products and broker cooperation agreements between Iranian and foreign companies.

The U.S., Land of...

FROM PAGE 1

According to the CDC, suicides are the second leading cause of death among those aged 10-34.

Recently, the United States introduced a simpler three-digit helpline (988) for people in distress, replacing the previous 10-digit number.

"We're very happy about 988, which is the new mental health crisis line, and the accompanying crisis services that goes with it, because this is going to bring options to people who feel so desperate and in such pain," said Harkavy-Friedman.

This report just reveals small part of social ills of the U.S. which considers itself as the Super Power and dream land for people in other countries and it reminds us of the proverb "a picture is worth a thousand words" and this is just one simple picture which reveals the genuine nature and reality of this country.

Nowadays because of inflation and other economic problems, the U.S. is suffering and poverty will definitely in the country is rising and soon such a report on the suicide will be released on the economic condition of the people and it will expose more truth about this war-mongering and interventionist country and the U.S. will gradually turn from a dream land into a normal and even unpleasant country and it is a matter of time as the U.S. is moving towards collapse and losing its fake grandeur.

The report on the suicide should be a lesson for Iranian youths which think the U.S. is the best place for living and everything in the country is in its own place while the reality is different and all countries have their own problems and even a country like the U.S. has more problems than other countries and it just pretends to be the best haven for the people who rush to this country for digging gold but in practice they only dig social problems and challenge with problems more than they had in their own lands.

So if you like more social headaches and ills, you are most welcomed to the U.S.



President Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

"Undoubtedly, the serious will of the two sides to implement the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership draws a clear perspective for strengthening ties and realizing the common goals and interests of the two countries," the Iranian president maintained.

"Therefore, I would like to underscore the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to strengthen as much as possible full-scale cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the form of bilateral mechanisms and within the framework of multilateral arrangements and institutions," he added.

Back in March 2021, Iran and China signed a 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership deal to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance. The partnership was first announced in 2016, when Xi visited Iran to strengthen Tehran-Beijing ties. It aims to boost economic cooperation between the two countries and paves the way for Iran's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, a massive infrastructure project stretching from East Asia to Europe.

Iran and China have enjoyed close ties in recent years, particularly after the United States reinstated sanctions on the Iranian economy in 2018 after unilaterally withdrawing from the Iran nuclear agreement.

Commander Vows to...

FROM PAGE 1

The Americans' claim of downing an Iranian military drone proves that the US is cooperating with anti-Iranian terrorists and separatists, said the general, adding they should know that Iran reserves the right to retaliate over their recent action. "We will deal with it at a proper time and place."

Since last Saturday, the IRGC ground forces have launched a series of aerial raids on the positions of Iraqi Kurdistan-based terrorist groups, including the so-called Komala Party, which has gained a strong foothold in the region bordering Iran. Addressing a number of neighboring states which host U.S. military bases, the commander said, "If any hostile measure against the Islamic Republic of Iran, its national security, and its national interests are adopted by American bases in these neighboring states, we will certainly respond to these bases."

Iran's friendship with neighboring states has its own rules and if they are not abided by, these neighbors should expect Iran's logical response, warned the commander.

"We deem confronting any hostile act as our legitimate right," he said, adding that Iran will have a "timely" use of the right. In a statement on Thursday, the IRGC Ground Force said that the operations against terror bases will continue until all anti-Iran separatist and terrorist outfits holed up in the rugged mountainous area lay down their arms and surrender.

Riley, Gordon Lead by One At Sanderson Farms PGA

MIAMI (AFP) - Davis Riley and Will Gordon took a one-shot lead after the first round of the PGA Tour's Sanderson Farms Championship in Jackson, Mississippi. Riley fired a bogey-free six-under-par 66 while Gordon made seven birdies and one bogey as he moved to the top of the leaderboard at the Country Club of Jackson. Gordon and Riley, who have yet to win on the PGA Tour, are one ahead of seven players tied for third on five under.

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Lin, Athaya Shine at LPGA Volunteers Classic

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - China's Lin Xiyu grabbed a one-shot lead from in-form Thai teenager Athaya Thitikul in the opening round of the LPGA Tour's Volunteers of America Classic in Texas. Lin fired a six-under-par 65 to head the field at The Colony Golf Club, north of Dallas, in a low-scoring first round. The 26-year-old from Guangzhou, chasing her first win on the US LPGA Tour, vaulted into the lead with a brilliant eagle on the par-five 17th hole that took her to six under.

Warriors Beat Wizards in Japan To Open Pre-Season

SAITAMA (Dispatches) - Golden State Warriors head coach Steve Kerr said it was "fun to be part of" Friday's pre-season opening win over the Washington Wizards in Japan, despite a rusty performance from the NBA champions.

The Warriors beat the Wizards 96-87 in front of a packed arena in Saitama, north of Tokyo, in the NBA's first overseas game since the pandemic began.

The reigning champions missed more than two-thirds of their attempted three-point shots but Kerr said he saw "a lot of good stuff" from his team, who will attempt to win their fifth title in nine years when the new season begins next month.

"It looked like a game where both teams had had three or four practices -- it was a typical first game of pre-season," said Kerr.

"The players don't have their legs underneath them yet but there's a lot of good stuff that happened for us."

Last season's NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry and forward Draymond Green both started for the Warriors but managed only 10 points between them.

Klay Thompson, who missed more than two years through injury and returned to action in January this year, did not play.

Kerr said Thompson would also take no part in Sunday's second game against the Wizards as a precaution against further injury.

"It's just common sense, coming off the two years with the injuries," said Kerr.

"This is really unique to play a game after three and a half practices, so we're just being cautious and trying to do the smart thing."

The Wizards started with Japanese star Rui Hachimura in their line-up and he was given a rapturous welcome by the home crowd.

Hachimura scored a team-high 13 points and he said it "meant a lot" to play in front of a crowd after competing at last year's



pandemic-affected Tokyo Olympics in an empty arena.

"I was dreaming about it since I was a kid," said the 24-year-old.

"I was so happy and it was a big moment for me and for this country."

Kerr, who was a coach on the United States team that won Olympic gold at the same venue last year, also enjoyed the occasion.

"It was beautiful -- every seat was packed and the crowd was so into it," he said.

"Before the game, when the players went out onto the floor, seeing all the flashbulbs and the people so excited was a great moment."

Before Stephen Curry makes a single 3-pointer, before Hachimura gets his first ovation from Japanese fans who came to cheer one of their own, the NBA Japan Games are already a huge win in one regard.

The money.

Big money is riding on - and getting spent on - the NBA's most recent foray into Japan, which has the reigning champion Golden State Warriors and Washington Wizards set to play a pair of preseason games there on Friday and Sunday. Every seat inside Saitama Super Arena has been sold, and the league has more marketing partners for games in Japan than ever before.

The financial rewards are as clear as the patch of Japanese online retailer Rakuten on the jerseys that Curry and the Warriors will wear.

"These are the Japanese people who grew up on Michael Jordan," said Junya Ogura, senior manager at Japanese automaker Nissan's brand and media strategy department. "We are banking on a return that will come in the future."

Nissan Motor Co., which sponsors Japanese professional baseball and soccer, had a high-profile deal with tennis superstar Naomi Osaka which recently ended. It is sponsoring NBA games for the first time.

Bielsa Wants 3m Euros Compensation From Marseille

MARSEILLE (Dispatches) - Argentine coach Marcelo Bielsa is seeking three million euros (\$2.93 million) in compensation from Marseille, the club he left in 2015, his lawyers told a French court.

Bielsa quit Marseille in August 2015. Since then he spent two days at Lazio, 13 games in charge at Lille and almost four years at Leeds. He led the English giants back to the Premier League and then to a ninth place finish, but was fired in February with his team on the edge of the relegation zone.

In Bielsa's first season at Marseille, the club was top at the halfway point before finishing fourth.

He quit one game into the following season blaming a disagreement with the club over his contract.

On Friday, his lawyers Benjamin Cabagno and Arnaud Ibanez, denounced "wrongdoing" and an "unfair strategy" of Marseille in renegeing on a promise of a 25% pay rise.

"OM manipulated the system," said the lawyers.

Bielsa is seeking the extra 25%, worth 2,775,000 euros plus other damages including 180,000 euros for the damage to his image.

"For the general public, he is the one responsible. By resigning in the middle of the season, he has taken a lot of blame," said Cabagno.

Frappart Among Trio of Women Referees at World Cup in Qatar

PARIS (Dispatches) - The presence of women referees at the 2022 World Cup will send "a strong sign", said trailblazing French referee Stéphanie Frappart, one of three women officials selected for the tournament in Qatar.

"It's a strong sign from FIFA and the authorities to have women referees in that country. I'm not a feminist spokesperson, but if this can make things happen..." said Frappart.

The 38-year-old is one of 36 referees selected for the November 20-December 18 tournament being staged in the conservative Gulf state.

Rwandan Salima Mukansanga and Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan are the other two women officials to be chosen.

Frappart has set numerous landmarks in her career - she was the first woman referee to officiate the men's UEFA Super Cup (August 2019), in the Champions League (December 2020), and at the French Cup final (May 2022).

Asked about the choice of energy-rich Qatar to host the World Cup despite it being regularly criticised over human rights and the place of women in its society, Frappart acknowledged that "sport often plays a role".

"I am not the decision-maker of the host of the World Cup. The authorities have made their choice," she said during a press briefing at the French national football centre.

"You are always aware when you are a woman in the country. I was there three to four weeks ago and I was well received," she added.

The population of Qatar is 80-percent expatriate but a policy of 'Qatarisation' has included allowing women wide access to higher education and the job market.

Nevertheless, under the region's common guardianship system, women remain tied to a male guardian, usually their father, brother, grandfather, uncle, or husband.

They need his authorisation to make a number of decisions such as getting married, studying or travelling abroad and taking up certain jobs.



Ruud Follows Ill Norrie out of Korea Open

SEOUL (Dispatches) - World number two Casper Ruud crashed out of the Korea Open quarter-finals today to 56th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka, while Britain's Cameron Norrie pulled out ill.

Japan's Nishioka had the top seed and US Open finalist on the back foot from the start, breaking his first service game without allowing the Norwegian to take a point before powering to the first set 6-2.

Ruud rallied to take the second set 6-3 but was outclassed in the third set as Nishioka won it 6-2 to take a shock victory in just under two hours in Seoul.

Nishioka will face either Mackenzie McDonald of the United States or Aleksandar

Kovacevic from Serbia in the semi-finals.

"It was an unfortunate result but that's how it is sometimes," said the 23-year-old Ruud, who was also the runner-up at the French Open.

"I was trying to improve some things and step further into the court but, in the end, it led to too many mistakes.

"Even though it didn't go well I still like to think it's going to help improve my game in the future."

Ruud had beaten Nicolas Jarry of Chile in the last 16 to secure his spot in the ATP Finals.

Also out is eighth-ranked Norrie, who withdrew less than an hour before he was due on centre court to face Jenson Brooksby in the quarter-finals.

Fourth seed Denis Shapovalov is the highest-ranked player left in the Korea Open.

Stones Injury Not Long-Term

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City defender John Stones could return from injury in two weeks and be available for the World Cup while midfielder Calvin Phillips could also make it to Qatar following shoulder surgery, manager Pep Guardiola said.

Stones went off after hurting his hamstring in England's Nations League draw against Germany on Monday, casting doubt over his participation in the November 20-December 18 World Cup.

"It won't be 4-6 weeks, it might be less. I don't know when he will be back but two weeks, 10 days hopefully," Guardiola told reporters ahead of Sunday's derby clash at home to Manchester United.

Phillips withdrew from the England squad for games against Italy and Germany this month to undergo surgery and Guardiola said the player was recovering well.

"He took the right decision (to have surgery), otherwise he couldn't move forward. Every training session he was out. Hopefully he can be back in time to go to World Cup," he added.

Champions City, who head into the derby one point behind leaders Arsenal, will face a resurgent United who have won their last four league games after a torrid start to the season.

"We have to play a perfect game. They have the qualities up front, physicality and quality in the middle with Eriksen, Fernandes, physicality with Casemiro and McTominay," said Guardiola.

"I always expect the best, they have it for many years, they come with a resolve. Top side, against Southampton, Liverpool and Arsenal at home. The momentum is there."

United will have the formidable task of containing Erling Haaland, who has made a blistering start to his City career with 11 league goals in seven games.



Criticism of England Boss Southgate "Harsh"

LONDON (Dispatches) - Everton manager Frank Lampard said some of the criticism directed towards England boss Gareth Southgate has been harsh and called on fans to throw their support behind the team in the build-up to the World Cup.

England were relegated from the Nations League top tier this month after a six-match winless run, with Southgate drawing flak for their performances.

"I think it's in some parts harsh. And when I say some parts, it's something that we all sign up to in our own ways, and the England job is right up there for the pressure," Lampard told reporters ahead of Everton's league trip to Southampton.

"I'm not going to sit here and say that people can't criticize. I think if things are constructive and people have opinions, great."

"But once this World Cup comes in and, in the build-up to it, it'll be great if everyone can really get behind the team and Gareth ..."

Much of the criticism directed towards Southgate has focused on his "cautious" approach. "I remember the fantastic French team that won the last World Cup without really playing beautiful football," said Lampard. "(In) modern-day football, there are lots of different styles and little ways to win a game."

"I think it would be absolutely Gareth's decision about how to approach an Iran or USA compared to how they approach another type of team further into the competition if we get there."

England begin their Group B campaign in Qatar against Iran on Nov. 21.

