

Health Ministry Announced on Sunday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to **144,439** With **10** More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

The Secretary of Iran's Nanotechnology Development Headquarters Saeed Sarkar on Sunday Announced the Production of 1,200 Items of Nano Products in 18 Fields of Industry

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Sales of
40 thousand billion tomans
In the first half of this year
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Enemies Launch All-Out Campaign to Make Up For Defeats, Frustration

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami has warned foreign powers against plotting against the Islamic Republic, stressing that enemies have launched a political and media campaign to make up for their failures.

"I can see with my own eyes and say that [the United States of] America has failed. All evil and wicked parties of the world have, therefore, come together to compensate for their defeats. They have embarked on a political and media campaign [against Iran]," Salami said at a ceremony in the capital Tehran on Sunday as he addressed the root causes of the recent unrest in Iran. *See Page 7*

Russians Seek Investment In Iran's Northern Ports



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Road and Urban Development Minister and managing director of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) says Russians are eager to invest in Iran's northern ports and Tehran has plans for long term cooperation with Russians.

Speaking in a presser, Ali Akbar Safaee said that Iran has signed a MoU with Russia for transit of 10m tons

of goods and it seeks to complete Rasht-Astara railway for increasing the transit between Iran and Russia, adding that Iran is after long term cooperation with Russia and Russians seek investment in northern ports.

He went on to say that in the upcoming months, five new ships will enter the Caspian Sea, adding that Iran is currently working with Russia for entrance of these new ships to Volga River and the purchase of ro-ro ships from the revenues is underway.

Touching upon on the ambiguities of the 177 growth in transit in the northern ports despite negative container operation, he said that he emphasizes the figures regarding the transit from the northern ports are not big and considerable but one should realize that all of transit operation is not merely limited to container transit.

He added that for example last year the amount of transit was 564,000 tons but the figure has increased to 922,000 tons in the first half of the year although this amount is also not big but it can be a good signal.

Safaee added that Russians seek investment in Iran's northern ports and they invest in the logistical sector. He added that Russia due to the Ukraine conflict is unable to transfer its cargos via the Black Sea and Red Sea and it is good opportunity for Iran to offer appropriate services to Russian.

He said that some 53,000 ships have entered Iranian ports or left them so far this year and the load and unload operation has done safely.

He pointed to the shortage of workforce in the marine transportation and noted that country faces shortage of 4500 marine officers for its under-3000-ton ships.

Safaee went on to say that construction of the big Makran Port is underway which will enter the new executive phase after studies and it will turn into the biggest Oceanic and strategic port of the country.

He also reiterated building of 58 vessels in different models are underway as 69,000b rials of projects have been defined for the Ports Organization for this year.

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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Zionist Regime, The Killing Machine

For decades since its illegal birth, Israel, better to say the Zionist regime, has been busy with killing the innocent people and it has turned into a killing machine and the only reaction from the world has been some ineffective statements and verbal condemnation and it has made the Zionists be bold enough to continue its crimes before the eyes of the other countries in the world.

In recent days while the West has been trying to distract the attention of the world towards what is going on in the Islamic Republic, the Zionist regime continues its crimes against the Palestinians and there is no reaction from the international bodies as they have just been focused on Ukraine and Iran as if there is no other country in the world to monitor their events.

On Saturday the Palestinian Foreign Ministry urged international protection for Palestinians following the latest fatal shooting of a young man by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank, slamming the regime's policy of willful killing of Palestinian people.

The official Palestinian Wafa news agency reported the death of the teenager, named as Fayeze Khaled Damdum, on Saturday. It quoted eye witnesses as saying that Israeli forces opened fire on the 18-year-old, while he was driving a motorbike in the town of al-Eizariya in the south-central part of the occupied West Bank.

The shooting marked the latest instance of deadly violence in what has become the deadliest year since 2015 for the Palestinians residing in the West Bank. So far this year, at least 100 Palestinians have died as a result of the fatal violence staged by Israeli forces throughout the occupied territory.

The Palestinian foreign ministry called Damdum's killing "a continuation of the systematic and widespread policies of the occupation represented in field executions, [as well as] willful and extrajudicial killings of our people with the aim of inflaming the situation." *See Page 7*

CEO of NICICO Announced: Sales of 40 Thousand Billion Tomans in the First Half of This Year



The CEO of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) Dr. Ali Rostami stated that the company recorded a 47% increase in sales in the Iranian month of Shahrivar (Mid-August-Mid-September) comparing to the same period last year, and said: "The total income of the company in the first half of current Iranian calendar year reached 39,726 billion tomans, which indicates a growth of more than 14% compared to the same period last year." The CEO of the NICICO announced the news and added: "The revenue of the National Copper Company reached 6,841 billion tomans in Shahrivar which is 47% more than previous month Mordad. Rostami further said: This success has been achieved in a situation while the global price of copper has experienced a 20% decrease compared to the same period last year.

compared to the schedule. Dr. Rostami further stated that the copper anode slime has also increased by 32% compared to the schedule, and said: the amount of anode slime production is 433 tons. He further announced that the company's production of sulfuric acid at 451,135 tons and said: We managed to set a new record in the production of this product. So that compared to the same period last year, we have recorded a 22% growth and a 28% growth compared to the plan. He further pointed to the production records registered in the complexes and said: the amount of copper concentrate production in the Sarcheshme Copper Complex and the Songun Copper Complex in the first half of last year was 354,929 tons and 169,583 tons, respectively, while in the first half of the current year, we managed to produce 359,633 tons of copper concentrate in Sarcheshme Copper Complex and 171,797 tons of concentrate in Songun Copper Complex. Rostami added: "Also, the amount of extraction from Midok Copper Mine in the first half of last year was 30.534m tons, while in the first half of this year it reached 31.468m tons, which shows a growth of 3%." In another part of his speech, referring to the provided infrastructure, he said: God willing, with the hard work of all personnel, we will witness the pass the production schedule in the second half of the year.

An increase of 9,000 tons of copper concentrate production compared to the same period last year

The CEO of Iran National Copper Industry Company announced the total amount of mining production in the first six months of this year as 105.574m tons and said: The company's mining amount has grown by 13 percent ahead of the schedule and compared to the same period last year (103.491m tons) shows an increase of 2%. He also stated that the amount of sulfur ore production was 273.068m tons and stated that the company's production of sulfur ore has grown by 5% in the first six months of this year compared to the schedule. Dr. Rostami stated that the production of copper concentrate has also recorded a 7% growth compared to the plan, and stated: The amount of copper concentrate production since the beginning of the year has been 615,058 tons which shows the growth of 9,000 tons comparing to the same period last year. According to the CEO of the NICICO, copper cathode production in the first half of this year has reached 143,430 tons, which is 8% higher than the schedule. Regarding the production of mineral content copper, he said: With the efforts of all the company's personnel, the amount of production of this product in the first half of the year reached 147,408 tons, which indicates a 6% growth

Iranian-American National Not Barred From Leaving Iran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic has, based on humanitarian considerations, allowed an Iranian-American national named Bagher Namazi to leave Iran anytime he wants, said a high-ranking Iranian official.

Deputy Chief of the Iranian Judiciary and secretary of the High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi pointed to Bagher Namazi and his son (Siamak) on Sunday, adding that the father has been staying at his own home in Tehran for nearly four years because of his health problems, so he has not been in prison for recent years.

According to demands for Bagher's treatment abroad and based on humanitarian considerations, he was given permission to leave Iran last Wednesday; therefore, he can leave the country any time, the deputy noted.

Siamak has also been permitted to visit his parents in a one-week-long furlough, he said, hoping that Iranian prisoners in American jails would be released as soon as possible.

On Saturday, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman of the UN Secretary-General, quoted UNSG as saying that Antonio Guterres has appreciated Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi for accepting his demand to release Bagher Namazi to continue his treatment procedure overseas.

Dujarric also said that Bagher Namazi has been released from prison and left Iran, adding that Siamak Namazi has been also freed, but he is still in Iran.

Meanwhile with the finalization of talks between Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States to free prisoners of the two countries at the same time, the \$7 billion worth of country's blocked assets will be released.

As negotiations on the removal of sanctions has still remained without any result due to the lack of a political decision by the United States, it is pursuing the issue of release of its inmates in Iran independently and also release of Iran's blocked assets in South Korea. *See Page 7*

Terrorist Attack in Iran's Southeastern Zahedan Foiled

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian security forces say they have thwarted a terrorist attack on a police station in southeastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan on Saturday evening, an informed source said.

The unnamed source said the 'thugs' engaged in an armed conflict with security forces in Zahedan for about half an hour, but eventually fled the scene.

The attack came a day after gunmen and separatists attacked a police station in the city near the Makki Mosque. The terrorist attack left at least 19 people dead, including some security forces, and dozens more injured.

Majlis Reacts to Recent Events in Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – The Iranian Parliament on Sunday held two sessions, one open and one close, to discuss the recent riots and incidents inside the country.

The parliamentary session was attended by the Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi and Police Commander Brigadier General Hossein Ashtari.

The recent riots in Iran as well as the terrorist attacks in the city of Zahedan were discussed during the session.

Showing their support for the police' actions in maintaining the security of the country in recent conflicts, the Iranian parliament members chanted slogans against mercenaries. They also called on IRGC to take revenge for recent incidents.

The speaker of the Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf stated that the main issue in the recent tragic events is to find out why and how Ms. Mhasa Amini died.

He also added that the issue should be followed up seriously and the result should be officially announced.

Referring to Friday's terrorist attack in Zahedan, Qalibaf expressed gratitude to the people of Sistan and Baluchestan who, with wisdom, provided the basis for peace in the region.

He also condoled the martyrdom of the security forces and thanked the security officers who are working to ensure the safety of the people.

He added: Security is the minimum duty that a system must provide for its people. But on the other hand, creating chaos in the streets weakens unity and economic loss.

After the death of Ms. Amini and the protests and street riots, the government restricted



citizens' access to the Internet so that the rebels would not use it for their own purposes.

Referring to the internet restrictions in recent days, he said: This incident has caused many businesses to be damaged, and the enemy, who was ready to lift the sanctions until yesterday, increased his economic pressure.

"Of course, dealing authoritatively with those who endanger people's security does not mean that we are not going to solve the problems and social difficulties, we must modify the structures and methods of implementing the morality police in such a way that such incidents do not happen again," Qalibaf noted.

"Right to protest is one of the achievements that the Islamic Revolution has given to the people. Recently, we have had protests in social media and in the streets that have led to reforms," the parliament spokesman added.

Unfortunately, recently separatist groups have taken advantage of the conditions inside the country and disrupted the security of Zahedan city, but the people of that province rejected them with vigilance," Qalibaf said.

President Calls for Proper Implementation of Article 44

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi described the establishment of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council for the Implementation of the General Policies

of Article 44 of the Constitution in order to realize these policies and the creation of job descriptions for the institutions, the formulation of the pricing mechanism, as well as the formulation of the regulations for eligibility assessment, among the necessary measures to

facilitate and accelerate the privatization process.

Speaking in the first meeting of the Supreme Council for the Implementation of the General Policies of Article 44 of the Constitution in the 13th Administration, Raisi described the important messages and goals of the implementation of these policies to accelerate economic growth, break monopolies, create employment and boost production and said, "The purpose of implementing the policy of handing over government economic enterprises to the private sector was to encourage people to invest and produce".

Emphasizing that it should be checked to what extent the goals of implementing the policies of Article 44 of the Constitution have been achieved in the field of "providing social justice", "expanding public ownership" and "improving the work of economic enterprises", he noted, "If the Supreme Council for the Implementation of the General Policies of Article 44 of the Constitution were formed at the time and fulfilled their duties in the field of explaining policies, annual policies, monitoring the implementation of laws, diagnosing and removing damages in the process of handovers, we might not have been witnessing deviations and creating skepticism and dissatisfaction from supervisors, executives and buyers of enterprises".

Raisi pointed out the shortcomings of the implementation of the policy of Article 44 of the Constitution in the past and clarified, "In this process, the management of the government has not decreased, but the shares have been transferred to another place; although part of the ownership is separated from the government, it is still governmental".

By proposing the establishment of a secretariat for the Supreme Council for the Implementation of the General Policies of Article 44 of the Constitution in order to realize the policy of handing over economic enterprises and creating a description of duties for the institutions in this field, the President stated, "This secretariat can be formed under the supervision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance to improve the process of handing over".

Raisi expressed his displeasure with the fact that when a government enterprise or company is included in the transfer list, it is removed from the list after some time by applying the opinion of that organization or ministry.

Regarding the pricing of economic enterprises and state-owned companies for transfer, the President said, "Regarding the pricing mechanism, considering that experts generally specify a price range and have different opinions in this field, there should be a single mechanism for pricing with the presence of representatives of the institutions".

Iraq, Oman FMs Announce Release of Remaining Hajj pilgrim

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Foreign minister of Iraq and Oman announced the release of the only remaining Iranian Haj pilgrim from Saudi Arabia.

Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi and Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein held separate telephone conversations with Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq and Oman, in this telephone conversation, announced the release of an Iranian arrested in Saudi Arabia during the hajj pilgrimage in July.

Mr. Khalil Dardmand, is an Iranian pilgrim who was detained by the Saudi police after the Hajj ceremony in Makkah for about three months.

He was arrested on Eid al-Adha for taking a photo of Gen. Qassem Soleimani with the Kaaba.

Iranian Art, Music Exhibition in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - On the occasion of Iran's cultural week in Syria, Iranian culture, civilization, crafts, and music have been exhibited in Damascus.

The cultural week of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus, the capital of Syria, kicked off on September 28 and will last until October 3, 2022.

Calligraphy, Iranian hand-woven carpets, other types of handicrafts, and local clothes have been displayed in the exhibition introducing Iranian art and civilization in Syria.

Syrians and tourists have widely welcomed the exhibition, and the Syrian Minister of Culture also visited the exhibition.

The exhibition shows the existence of many cultural commonalities between Iran and Syria, Lubanah Mshaweh, Minister of Culture of Syria, said.

Lubanah Mshaweh stated that cultural commonality is the most important way of communication between the people of Syria and Iran, and these connections should be expanded so that their relations become closer.

Iran Gains Leading Position in GECF

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran has been selected as the head of the Energy Economics and Forecasting Department of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, known as GECF.

Mohammad Amin Naderian has been chosen for the key position in the intergovernmental organization.

The First Ministerial Meeting of GECF, during which Ministers agreed on the aims of the Forum, took place in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on May 19-20, 2001

The full-fledged Members of the GECF are Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

The GECF supports the sovereign rights of its member countries over their natural gas resources and their abilities to independently plan and manage the sustainable, efficient, and environmentally conscious development, use, and conservation of natural gas resources for the benefit of their peoples, the official website of the GECF reports.

IRGC Vows Revenge For Deaths of Members

TEHRAN (IFP) - The commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has vowed that the force will avenge the deaths of the victims of the Friday terrorist attack on the southeastern city of Zahedan, in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Major General Hossein Salami said in a statement that the IRGC will continue to counter the plots of the arrogant powers and terrorists affiliated with foreign intelligence agencies in Sistan and Baluchestan.

Salami also offered his condolences on the deaths of four IRGC members in the attack and thanked the wise people of the province for their unity and cooperation with security forces against such terrorist attacks.

The general blamed the US and Israel for backing the separatist terrorists behind the attack.

He said the IRGC and security, intelligence and law enforcement forces consider security and peace of the people a red line and will work together to give a "firm and decisive" response to any threat to the people.

On Friday, terrorists launched armed attacks on several police stations and public places in Zahedan after congregational prayers in the city, killing 19 people and injuring 20 others.

The IRGC has blamed the attack on the separatist terror cell that styles itself as Jaish ul-Adl – Army of Justice – and operates across the border from Pakistan.

Funeral Procession Held for Iranian Security Forces Martyred in Zahedan

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Thousands of people have attended the funeral processions for a number of Iranian security forces, who lost their lives when a few days ago a group of foreign-sponsored militants launched a terrorist attack in the southeastern city of Zahedan in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

On Sunday, Brigadier General Mohammad Karami, who commands the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Headquarters in Southeastern Iran, Iran's Deputy Police Chief Brigadier General Qassem Rezaei, Chief of Criminal Investigations Department of the Islamic Republic of Iran Police, Brigadier General Mohammad Qanbari, as well as senior local officials took part in the ceremony in the city of Zahedan.

The participants demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

Chief Commander of the IRGC, Major General Hossein Salami, has vowed that the force will avenge the deaths of the victims of Zahedan terrorist attack.

He said in a statement that the IRGC will continue to counter plots hatched by arrogant powers and terrorists affiliated with foreign intelligence agencies in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Salami also offered his condolences on the deaths of four IRGC members in the attack and thanked local people for their unity and cooperation with security forces against such terrorist attacks.

The general blamed the United States and Israel for backing the separatist terrorists behind the attack.



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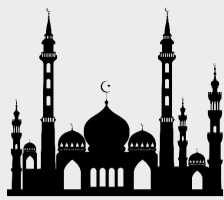


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PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:53
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:03
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:38
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:01

70. Then they sought a stratagem against him:

but We made them the ones that lost most!

71. But We delivered him and (his nephew) Lut (and directed them) to the land which We have blessed for the nations.

Surah 21. The Prophets (70 - 71)

Iran Accounts Only for 0.3% of Lebanon Market

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran's commercial attache to Lebanon says despite good political relation between Iran and Lebanon, the trade between the two countries is not satisfactory and currently Iran accounts for only 0.3% of Lebanon's market.

Speaking to ILNA, Ebrahim Mohammad Rezazadeh touched upon the trade between Iran and Lebanon and said that the highest amount of Lebanon's imports has been between \$19b to \$20b and this amount has fallen sharply after the Covid pandemic.

He added that the latest statistics show that Lebanon's imports were around \$11.3b in 2020. He blamed the pandemic for the sharp decline for Lebanon's imports from Iran and also pointed finger to the economic problems in Lebanon like devaluation of the national currency.

He then pointed to the shares of countries from Lebanon's market in the past 20 years and said that China tops the list with 9.2% and the U.S. trails China with 8.3%. Italy, France, Germany, Turkey, Russia and Greece are the other major trade partners of Lebanon and in the past five years, China, Italy, the U.S., Greece, Germany and Turkey have dominated Lebanon's market.

Rezazadeh noted that shares of countries in Lebanon's market is less than 10% while the figure is usually more than 10% in other countries.

He noted that Lebanon has the highest number of migrants to other countries and according to reports, Lebanese living abroad are four times of the current population in Lebanon, in other words, one-fourths of Lebanese live abroad and most of them are businessmen or they are involved in trade and actually the main exporters to Lebanon are the Lebanese themselves.

He went on to say that the climax of Iran's exports to Lebanon was 2016 when Iran exported goods worth \$93m to Lebanon and the amount declined in the past three years and it dropped to one-thirds and Iran's exports declined to \$30m last year which is only 0.3% of Lebanon's market and it not a considerable figure.

Rezazadeh admitted that the trade between Iran and Lebanon is not satisfactory noting that Iran has not penetrated into Lebanon economically and it has focused most on strengthening economic bond while other countries wage war in this country and at the same time they boost their economic penetration.

He noted that having good and strong economic relation does not necessarily mean



having and broadening economic ties and experience has showed us that market is administered by the private sector.

He reiterated that Iranian goods have their own fans in Lebanon because Lebanese are certain Iranian goods are halal but first we need to provide necessary infrastructures like transfer of money.

Rezazadeh also said that Iran and Lebanon should first get acquainted with their capabilities and capacities and Iranians need to change their approach to Lebanon as they look at Lebanon like 20 years ago and Lebanese are not familiar with Iranian products and the number of Lebanese living in Iran is few.

He further said that as long as we do not know the capacities we will be unable to start a joint cooperation. He also said that Lebanese traders should come to Iran and have direct contacts with Iranian producers especially during the exhibitions.

He also said that barter trade is currently the best solution for trade between the two countries due to problems in monetary transactions.

Rezazadeh noted that launch of the exports guarantee fund, direct presence of traders and launch of chain stores are of the capacities which can reinforce trade ties between the two states.

Majlis Speaker Visits Lamerd Special Economic Zone

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf during his one-day trip visited Lamerd Special Economic Zone and toured the big industrial projects in the zone and got acquainted with capabilities of the area.

According to reports, heading a delegation, Qalibaf travelled to the town of Lamerd and during his travel he visited the Lamerz Special Economic Zone and toured the big industries in the zone like South Aluminum Corporation as the most modern and biggest aluminum factory of Iran as well as touring the Ghadir Energy 913-megawatt combined-cycle power plant, and during his visit he talked with experts and personnel of them and hailed economic endeavors of the personnel.

Qalibaf then visited the super project of transmission of water from the Persian Gulf to the Lamerd Special Economic Zone.

It is worth noting that due to efforts of managers and staff of Lamerd Zone, we today witness dynamism in this apt economic and industrial bed and it has shifted the attention of investors to this rising industrial centers through the growth of infrastructures and development with a credit over 50,000b rials.



Iran Tourism Develops Through Knowledge-Based Companies

TEHRAN (IP) - The second conference on the development of Iran's tourism through knowledge-based companies called "Ancient Iran 2" was held in Tehran with the participation of the Ministers of Communication and Cultural Heritage on the occasion Tourism Week in Iran.

Iran, as one of the countries with a high capacity of tourism, is looking ahead and using the capacity of knowledge-based companies to prosper this industry.

In this conference, seven startups presented their newest and most creative ideas in the field of tourism.

Speaking at the conference, the Iranian Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Isa Zare'pour, said: "Today, with the facilities provided by information technology for developing tourism, we can create a change in tourism industry."

"Information technology has doubled the speed of tourism progress, and nowadays with the help of software, you can use all kinds of maps, route guides, hotels and sightseeing in the destination city or country," he stated.

"Facilitating travel is one of the most important achievements of information technology that has led to the development of tourism, and Iran is moving along with other countries in this direction," the minister noted.

Ezzatollah Zarghami, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, also stated in this ceremony: "There are many recommendations for tourism in Quran and God has invited everyone to go around and see everywhere while thinking carefully."

He added: "Digital economy is an important field and will continue to grow. In this regard, the administration intends to support knowledge-based companies and will not hesitate to provide any assistance to them."

"Today, the world is working on Iranophobia project to show that there is no security in Iran, so that the tourism potential of our country is ignored," Zarghami noted.

Zarghami said: "Since the beginning of the tourism week, seven memoranda of understanding have been signed with different organizations, three of them were related to the Ministry of Roads, and one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the post office will be signed today."

In the end of the ceremony, another MOU was signed in the presence of the Ministers of Communications and Cultural Heritage and the Managing Director of the National Post Company, Mahmoud Layali.

Introducing Young Mazandarani Elite

Dr. Yasin Akbari, author of the book "Assistant Executive Engineer"



In order to introduce the young and elite faces of Mazandaran, we have conducted a conversation with Dr. Yasin Akbari, one of the experts in the field of construction and development whose details as follows:

Dr. Akbari, please introduce yourself.

My name is Yasin Akbari, born on May 5, 1368 in Rostam, Noor city, in a cultured and noble family. I am the CEO of Modern Caspian North Mass Builders Company, which has extensive activities in the field of building construction in Mazandaran province. I am a PhD student in construction management from Isfahan. For more than a decade, I have been working in the construction (execution) industry in a real and legal format. Engineers are always ahead in the field of civil engineering in the country. Iran is one of the top 10 countries prone to natural disasters, the quality of construction and correct implementation is undoubtedly the greatest contribution to human life. Monitoring the implementation process of a project is just learning a few units and Acquiring a university degree is not, but a set of skills and training necessary for success in the construction industry.

About the book you wrote

Please explain, focusing on its applicability in the target community

The experiences that I have gained in the years of working as an engineering executive, along with several years of research, a collection has been written, which is in two volumes, named after the executive engineer's assistant.*The points mentioned in this book are very practical and up-to-date and are among the most important issues and problems in the construction workshops of Mazandaran province and sometimes in the country. In some way, observing these small points improves the technical performance of the building and ultimately the useful life of the building. Engineers and graduates of the field of civil engineering and architecture can benefit from this book, may we be able to provide competent services to the construction system of Mazandaran province and the country. The next volume of the book "Assistant Executive Engineer" will come out next year for the enthusiasts.

Iran Ready to Host Qatar World Cup 2022 Commuters

TEHRAN (IP) - The Managing Director of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) says that the construction of suitable berths and large cruises in Bushehr port has been completed and will be put into operation in the coming months to facilitate Qatar World Cup 2022 commuters.

Ali-Akbar Safaei said: The reconstruction of the passenger terminal will be completed in the next few months to facilitate sea tourists for the Qatar World Cup 2022.

He further said: In order to expand maritime tourism, Iran is preparing the infrastructure of Shahid Haqqani, Nakhli-Nakhoda, and Hormuz ports.

Safaei said: Iran's export to Qatar is significant, and currently this is being done through Daer port.

He added that sixteen passenger docks in Hormozgan province and four others in Khuzestan would be prepared soon. The head of PMO said that Iran also has good facilities for sea tourism in other ports, for example, a well-equipped passenger terminal in Chabahar port.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to be the 22nd running of the FIFA World Cup competition, the quadrennial international men's football championship contested by the senior national teams of the member associations of FIFA. It is scheduled to take place in Qatar from 20 November to 18 December 2022.

Aluminum Output Up 25% y/y in 5 Months to Late August

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran saw its aluminum output increase by 25% in the five months to August 22, a new sign that government efforts to boost activity in the Iranian metals and mining sector have paid off.

Iran's state-run metals and mining conglomerate IMIDRO said in a Saturday report that aluminum output in the country had reached a total of 270,000 metric tons (mt) over the April-August period.

Largest aluminum smelter Salco was responsible for 117,475 mt or nearly 47% of Iran's aluminum output in the five months to late August, followed by Iralco and Almahdiat nearly 74,841 mt and 63,625 mt, respectively, showed IMIDRO figures.

The figures showed that Iran's production of alumina powder, a key ingredient in aluminum production process, had reached 98,169 mt in April-March, up 2% against the

same period last year, said IMIDRO, adding that bauxite production had reached 218,067 mt over the same period.

Iran's aluminum production jumped in 2020 with the inauguration of Salco, a massive plant in the southern Iranian province of Fars, which cost IMIDRO and private investors some \$1.2 billion to build.

The project was part of a larger plan by the Iranian government to diversify the country's economy away from crude oil revenues.

Experts say such plans have paid off as Iran has reported successive periods of growth in its metals and mining sector since oil exports came under American sanctions in 2018.

Launching new metals factories and mines has also enabled Iran to create tens of thousands of permanent jobs for its youth population.

Venezuela Has Released 7 Jailed Americans

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Venezuela has released seven jailed Americans, U.S. President Joe Biden said on Saturday.

U.S. officials said the five detained executives of Citgo Petroleum, Marine veteran Matthew Heath and Osman Khan were released in exchange for the United States freeing two relatives of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.



Russia Loses U.N. Aviation Council Seat in Rebuke

MONTREAL (Dispatches) - Russia failed to win enough votes for re-election to the United Nations aviation agency's governing council on Saturday, in a rebuke of Moscow for aviation-related actions taken after its invasion of Ukraine.

Russia fell short of the 86 votes needed to stay on the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) 36-nation governing council, during the agency's assembly which runs through Oct. 7 in Montreal. The voting results set off a procedural review on Saturday, after a challenge by Russia for an additional vote. Poppy Khoza, assembly president and South Africa's director general of civil aviation, called the circumstances "unprecedented."



Russia Abandons Ukrainian Bastion, Eyes on Nuclear Response



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia said on Saturday its troops had abandoned the key bastion of Lyman in occupied eastern Ukraine, a stinging defeat that prompted a close ally of President Vladimir Putin to call for the possible use of low-grade nuclear weapons.

The announcement came just a day after Putin proclaimed the annexation of four Ukrainian regions - including Donetsk, where the city of Lyman is located - and placed them under Russia's nuclear umbrella, at a ceremony that was condemned by Kyiv and the West as an illegitimate farce.

"In connection with the creation of a threat of encirclement, allied troops were withdrawn from the settlement of Krasny Liman to more advantageous lines," Russia's defense ministry said, using the Russian name of the town. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later said in a video address that although the Ukrainian flag was flying in the city, "fighting is still going on there".

He also indicated Ukrainian troops had taken the village of Torske, on the main road out of Lyman to the east. The Russian statement ended hours of official silence after Ukraine first said it had surrounded thousands of Russian troops in the area and then that its forces were inside the city.

Ukraine's defense ministry wrote on Twitter that "almost all" the Russian troops in Lyman had either been captured or killed.

Russia has used Lyman as a logistics and transport hub for its operations in the north of the Donetsk region. Its capture would be Ukraine's biggest battlefield gain since a lightning counteroffensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region last month.

Zelenskyy said that in the days to come, Ukrainian forces would liberate more towns.

The recent Ukrainian successes have infuriated Putin allies such as Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of Russia's southern Chechnya region, who said he felt compelled to speak out.

"In my personal opinion, more drastic measures should be taken, right up to the declaration of martial law in the border areas and the use of low-yield nuclear weapons," Kadyrov wrote on Telegram before Zelenskyy spoke.

Other top Putin allies, including former president Dmitry Medvedev, have suggested Russia may need to resort to nuclear weapons, but Kadyrov's call was the most urgent and explicit.

Putin said last week that he was not bluffing when he said he was prepared to defend Russia's "territorial integrity" with all available means, and on Friday made clear this extended to the new regions claimed by Moscow.

Washington says it would respond decisively to any use of nuclear weapons and has spelled out to Moscow the "catastrophic consequences" it would face.

The Russian defense ministry's statement made no mention of its troops being encircled at Lyman.

"The Russian grouping in the area of Lyman is surrounded," Serhii Cherevatyi, spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern forces, said hours earlier.

Thousands of Iraqis Mark 3rd Anniversary of Nationwide Protests



BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Scuffles broke out between protesters and security forces injuring dozens as thousands gathered Saturday in Iraq's capital to mark three years since nationwide demonstrations erupted against endemic corruption.

The latest protests in Baghdad come as Iraq has been mired in political paralysis since elections in October last year that have failed to bring in a new president, prime minister or government.

Protesters were heard chanting "the people demand the fall of the regime" as thousands gathered on Saturday in Baghdad's iconic Tahrir Square, the epicentre of the protest movement, an AFP correspondent said.

Many brandished portraits of the "martyrs" killed in the wave of rallies three years ago.

"Today, it is essential to confront power," activist Ali al-Habib said.

Afghan Women Protest Hazara Genocide After Kabul Bombing

KABUL (Dispatches) - Dozens of women from Afghanistan's minority Hazara community protested in the capital Saturday after a suicide bombing a day earlier killed at least 35 people - mostly young women from the ethnic group.

A bomber blew himself up on Friday at a Kabul study hall as hundreds of pupils were taking tests in preparation for university entrance exams in the city's Dasht-e-Barchi area.

The western neighborhood is a predominantly Shiite Muslim enclave and home to the minority Hazara community - a historically oppressed group that has been targeted in some of Afghanistan's most brutal attacks in recent years.

Police said at least 20 people were killed but the United Nations mission in Afghanistan considers the number to be higher, with at least 35 fatalities and an additional 82 wounded. On Saturday about 50 women chanted, "Stop Hazara genocide, it's not a crime to be a Shiite", as they marched past a hospital in Dasht-e-Barchi where several victims of the attack were being treated.

Dressed in black hijabs and headscarves, angry protesters carried banners that read: "Stop killing Hazaras", an AFP correspondent reported.

Witnesses have told AFP that the suicide attacker detonated in the women's section of the gender-segregated hall.

"Yesterday's attack was against the Hazaras and Hazara girls," protester Farzana Ahmadi, 19, told AFP.

"We demand a stop to this genocide. We staged the protest to demand our rights."

Protesters later gathered in front of the hospital and chanted slogans as dozens of heavily armed Taliban, some carrying rocket-propelled-grenade launchers, kept watch.

Since the hardline Taliban returned to power last August, women's protests have become risky, with numerous demonstrators detained and

rallies broken up by Taliban forces firing shots in the air.

No group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack at the Kaaj Higher Educational Centre.

"All the bridges and roads are blocked because the authorities are afraid of the protesters," he added, condemning "infighting within the political class, which completely ignores the will of the people".

The demonstrations seek to revive the unprecedented protests of October 2019 that condemned rampant unemployment and the country's decaying infrastructure.

Those protests raged for months before winding down under the shadow of coronavirus restrictions and a harsh crackdown that saw at least 600 demonstrators killed and tens of thousands more wounded.

The protesters on Saturday gathered at Al-Jumhuriya Bridge, where they attempted to overcome a series of barriers set up by security forces to block access to the fortified Green Zone that houses government buildings and diplomatic missions.

Protesters threw the iron barriers into the river, according to an interior ministry official who reported 18 minor injuries among riot police resulting from stones and glass bottles being thrown at them.

Cubans Protest Post-Hurricane Ian Blackouts

HAVANA (Aljazeera) - Protests have broken out in Cuba for the second night in a row over power outages in the wake of Hurricane Ian, with the continuing shortages reportedly prompting Havana to make a rare appeal to the United States for emergency assistance.

The unrest on the streets of Havana on Thursday and Friday night represented some of the largest demonstrations in the country since thousands of Cubans took to the streets in virtually unprecedented anti-government protests in July 2021.

In one neighborhood, Playa in the city's west, several hundred people gathered, chanting "turn on the lights" as well as anti-government slogans against President Miguel Diaz-Canel.

The neighborhood, like several others across the Caribbean Island nation, has been without electricity since Hurricane Ian slammed into the island on Tuesday, temporarily knocking out Cuba's entire power grid.

Officials said on Friday that power had been restored to about 60 per cent of Havana's two million people.

At least two people were killed in Cuba when the storm hit. Another 20 people attempting to migrate by boat from Cuba to the US were also still missing after

their vessel sank during the storm, which killed at least 23 people in Florida before making its second US landfall in South Carolina on Friday.

Meanwhile, anxiety has grown in areas in Cuba still in the dark, with social media showing several smaller protests in Havana neighbourhoods beyond Playa on Friday.

"It's like being in hell," protester Carlos Felipe Garcia, who marched shirtless and covered in sweat, told Reuters news agency.

"That's why we're out on the street, and we'll keep coming out."

Protesters in Playa were at one point met with several truckloads of security forces, who blocked them from marching down a main boulevard, according to Reuters, although no clashes were reported.

Officials have said they hoped to restore power to all of Havana by the end of the weekend, although the outlook for large swaths of the country still in the dark outside of the capital remained unclear.

The situation has reportedly prompted Cuba's government to make a rare request for emergency assistance from US President Joe Biden's administration, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.



North Korea Fires Fourth Missile in a Week



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea off its east coast, hours before South Korea staged a large military show, displaying stealth fighters and its own missiles.

Pyongyang's fourth launch in a week comes amid a flurry of military muscle-flexing by countries in the region, including joint anti-submarine exercises on Friday by the navies of South Korea, the United States and Japan.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris visited the region this week, meeting with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol in Seoul on Thursday.

The rival Koreas are in a regional arms race that has seen a major increase of weapons and military spending.

Marking South Korea's 74th Armed Forces Day, Yoon condemned what he called recent military provocations by the North and vowed to strengthen joint military drills with the United States.

"The government will further strengthen the Korea-U.S. joint exercises, will respond strongly to North Korean provocations and threats by showing them the 'Alliance in Action'," Yoon said in a televised speech.

He and military officials observed a major show of advanced weaponry, including multiple rocket launchers, ballistic missiles, main battle tanks, drones and F-35 fighter aircraft, among other systems.

The U.S. military demonstrated fighter jets and attack aircraft. Images of the event showed Yoon saluting from the back of a convertible car while driving by rows of tanks and other weapons.

He has said his country's conventional weapons are key to deterring the North, and Seoul has also been seeking more major arms sales around the world.

Japan's Defense Ministry said in a report in July the North had been launching short-range missiles that fly low and irregular trajectories, characteristics observed since May 2019 that are likely designed for higher war-fighting effectiveness.

The United Nations Security Council has imposed sanctions on the North for its ballistic missile and nuclear tests. Pyongyang rejects such moves as infringement of its sovereign right to self-defence and space exploration.

Fast and Furious No More? Bangkok's Infamous No.8 Bus



BANGKOK (Dispatches) - A "Pink Devil" roars down Bangkok's busy streets, furiously overtaking tuk-tuks, cars and motorbikes, narrowly avoiding a collision as it slows to allow passengers to scramble on before veering back into the capital's hectic traffic. Welcome aboard the No. 8 bus.

Infamous in the Thai capital, the No.8 route has spawned parody songs, viral TikToks, horrified YouTube videos and even a feature-length Fast & Furious-style film. Now the old-fashioned diesel buses are being phased out and replaced with cleaner electric models.

But the hair-raising antics of the "Pink Devils", as Thais call them, mask the tough conditions for overworked drivers incentivized to complete their routes as fast as possible.

"It is a competition," said driver Aphisak Sodmui, who has helmed his "hot" bus -- as the non-air-conditioned, usually open-windowed models are known -- for the past decade.

Roughly 60 such buses work the 30-kilometre (18-mile) route, charging passengers 10 baht (\$0.27) going north-south -- part of Bangkok's wider network that carries roughly 700,000 people a day.

A succession of high-profile No.8 deaths in recent years have raised calls for reform and now new firms are overhauling the system, promising an improved service and replacing the buses with electric vehicles.

But with a global ranking of ninth-highest in road fatalities according to the World Health Organization, Bangkok's new governor Chadchart Sittipunt has a long journey ahead in his attempts to clean up the traffic-choked megalopolis. And it does not look like the No.8 will shake its reputation so easily -- one of the newly inaugurated buses has already crashed, though no one was injured.

The problem, according to Thai transport expert Sumet Ongkittikul, lies with the private firms who lease the route concession from the central Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA).

Under their management, drivers are given a share of the ticket sales for each journey, on top of their salaries. "So it is very logical that each driver tries to rush to get as many passengers as possible," he explained.

"Even within the company the drivers are racing each other to get the passengers."

No.8 driver Aphisak supplements his daily wage of between 150-200 baht (roughly \$5) with 10 percent of the daily ticket sales.

"We have to complete the route at least four times a day for us to have enough money to live," Aphisak said. But Sumet believes this sort of behavior is on the way out with the upgrade.

"What we hope is that the new operator will give more attention to training their drivers... to behave better," he said. Denying the No.8's reputation, Yothin Wuttisakchaikul -- whose family manages one of the routes --

blamed it instead on online commenters who have "never used this bus service before".

"Actual passengers would know the actual service of Bus No.8," he said, adding that while drivers competed, "it is not to a frightening degree".

It's 3:30 am at a bus depot in the city's northeast, and Aphisak and his family are preparing for the day. He starts his shift at 4:00 am, clambering aboard with partner and bus conductor Arunee On-sawats and -- on the day AFP accompanied them -- their two boys, 11-year-old Phan and eight-year-old Mon.

As a No.8 driver he will not finish until 9:00 pm or later if there is rain or heavy traffic -- two near-daily guarantees in Bangkok.

Aphisak -- who like his children grew up on buses with his conductor father -- said he has never collided with cars, but admits that "pick-up trucks mostly crashed the bus I was driving in".

Customer Sai Pin, 47, said she had seen a change since the transition to the new buses -- which now have a slightly higher fare of 15 baht (\$0.39). "With the old buses, you might encounter lots of fast driving. The new buses have definitely improved on that," she told AFP.

Nobel 2022 Prize Season Under Shadow Of War in Ukraine



STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) -- This week the world will celebrate peace and mankind's do-gooders when the winners of the Nobel prizes are revealed in a string of daily announcements -- as war rages in Ukraine.

Not since World War II has a conflict been waged between two countries so close to Stockholm and Oslo, where the prestigious awards for medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace have been announced since 1901, and the newer Economics Prize since 1969.

The highlight of the week's announcements, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will be revealed on October 7 in Oslo and will hold special significance this year, experts say.

"Most likely is a prize in support of some of those institutions that collect information on war crimes," Swedish professor Peter Wallensteen, an expert on international affairs, told AFP.

That could bode well for the International Criminal Court in The Hague, or the sleuths at Netherlands-based investigative journalism group Bellingcat.

The deadline for Peace Prize nominations was on January 31, prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but the five members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee can propose their own choices at their first meeting of the year, held at the end of February after the invasion.

The list of nominations is secret, but it is known that the names of 343 individuals or organizations have been submitted this year.

"Some people think that not handing out a prize at all would be the strongest statement on the state of global affairs", Wallensteen said.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee could decide to not award the Peace Prize if it deems there is no worthy recipient. The last time that happened was 50 years ago.

Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny would also be an anti-Putin choice, as would Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya.

Last year, another thorn in Putin's side, journalist Dmitry Muratov, was honoured together with his Philippine colleague Maria Ressa in the name of freedom of information.

Other possible contenders this year, experts say, are anti-corruption group Transparency International and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, with other environmental activists such as Nisreen Elsaïm of Sudan, Chibeze Ezekiel of Ghana and tireless British campaigner David Attenborough also potentially in the running.

While the world is currently facing a "security crisis" in both Ukraine and Taiwan, it may nonetheless "be time for the committee to turn towards the environmental crisis", suggested Dan Smith, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Typically less political is the Literature Prize -- but could this year's laureate also carry an anti-Kremlin message?

Russian author and outspoken Putin critic Lyudmila Ulitskaya, cited as a possible winner in recent years, could get the nod given the current political context, literary critics interviewed by AFP said.

American writer Joan Didion, British author Hilary Mantel and Spain's Javier Marias have all previously been mentioned as possible winners but they all died over the past year and they won't succeed last year's laureate, Tanzania's Abdulrazak Gurnah.

The Swedish Academy, which selects the literature winner, has often chosen to put the spotlight on little-known authors.



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German Unemployment Rises in September

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German unemployment rose in September, Labor Office figures showed, as Ukrainian refugees continue to enter the system. The Federal Labor Office said the number of people out of work rose by 14,000 in seasonally adjusted terms to 2.510 million, below expectations by analysts polled by Reuters. Without taking into account people with Ukrainian citizenship, the figures would have been significantly better, said the office.



Euro Zone Inflation Hits Record High 10%, Raising Pressure on ECB

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - Euro zone inflation zoomed past forecasts to hit 10.0% in September, a new record high that will reinforce expectations for another jumbo interest rate hike next month from the European Central Bank.

Price growth in the 19 countries sharing the euro accelerated from August's 9.1%, data from Eurostat showed on Friday, beating expectations for a reading of 9.7%, with some euro zone members experiencing the fastest price growth since the time of the Korean War 70 years ago.

Inflation was still driven mainly by volatile energy and food prices but continued to broaden out, with virtually all categories, from services to industrial goods, now showing painfully high readings.

That is likely to make uncomfortable reading for the ECB, which targets price growth of 2%, as it suggests that inflation is increasingly being fuelled by excess demand and is at risk of becoming entrenched.

"The September reading for inflation is ugly across the board with all broad categories experiencing accelerating inflation," ING economist Bert Colijn said. "This seals the deal on another 75 basis point hike from the European Central Bank in October."

Underlying inflation, which filters out volatile food and fuel prices and is closely watched by the ECB, also jumped to a fresh high, adding to the urgency for more rate hikes after oversized moves in July and September.

Excluding food and fuel prices, inflation jumped to 6.1% from 5.5% while an even narrower measure, which also excludes alcohol and tobacco, rose to 4.8% from 4.3%.

Energy prices were meanwhile up 41% compared to a year ago. Unprocessed food was up 13%.

While the ECB's next rate meeting is still almost a month away, a host of policymakers have already made the case for another 75 basis point rate hike on Oct. 27 after a combined 125 basis points of moves in two meetings, the ECB's fastest pace of policy tightening on record.

Markets now see the 0.75% deposit rate rising to around 2% by the end of the year, then to around 3% next spring before levelling off.

"Headline inflation in double digits and an increasingly alarming surge in core rates leaves the ECB no option other than to continue to jack up policy rates despite the dire economic outlook," Ken Wattret at S&P Global Market Intelligence said. "The ECB cannot afford to disappoint."

A key problem is that an inflation peak, predicted many times by the ECB, could still be months away as household energy contracts are repriced and sky-high gas prices filter through.

A devastating drought over the summer will keep food prices under pressure while the fall of the euro to a two-decade low against the dollar will raise imported inflation, particularly since the bloc's energy bill is mostly denominated in dollars.

But price pressures may be tamed by a looming recession. Expensive energy and projected gas shortages are draining savings and are likely to eat deep into growth as consumers will have little spare cash left.

French Inflation Unexpectedly Pulls Back Again in September

PARIS (Dispatches) - French inflation slowed unexpectedly for a second month running in September, bucking the trend in neighbouring Germany and the wider euro zone, helped by decelerating increases in prices of energy and services, data showed.

The INSEE national statistics agency said France's EU-harmonized rate of annual inflation fell to 6.2% in September from 6.6% a month earlier, confounding economists' average forecast for a slight acceleration to 6.7% in a Reuters poll.

Inflation peaked in July at a record 6.8% in the euro zone's second-largest economy, which is faring better than its neighbors in taming price rises although some economists warn France's heavy spending on blanket protection for households is storing up pain for later.

"September's fall in inflation is certainly good news, although it is too early to claim victory as stress in the energy sector is expected to intensify over the coming months," S&P Market Intelligence senior economist Diego Iscarro said.

Data on Friday showed euro zone inflation zoomed past forecasts to hit a new record high of 10.0% in September, reinforcing expectations for another jumbo interest rate hike from the European Central Bank in October.

The acceleration from 9.1% last month was still driven mainly by volatile energy and food prices but continued to broaden out, with virtually all categories, from services to industrial goods, now showing painfully high readings.

German inflation hit 10.9% in September, its highest in more than a quarter of a century, while consumer prices in the Netherlands jumped 17% in September, its highest in decades, due to skyrocketing energy prices.

A breakdown of the French numbers showed the lower headline inflation rate was due primarily to weaker energy price inflation, which at 17.9% was the lowest in a year.

With the government capping French power and gas prices, energy prices eased as crude oil prices fell and car fuel subsidies and discounts from some suppliers took effect at the start of September.

Lower services prices also contributed to weaker inflation in September after the crunch tourist season subsided for many service businesses.

Despite the lower inflation and the government's measures to keep a lid on it, French consumer morale remains fragile, falling more than expected in September as concerns about inflation deepened, according to INSEE's monthly survey earlier this week.

Separately, INSEE said on Friday that consumer spending was unchanged in August after falling in July.



China's Factory, Services Surveys Suggest Economy Struggling to Rebound

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's factory activity eked out growth in September, but a slowdown in services sector growth and a downbeat private manufacturing survey pointed to further cooling as the economy grapples with COVID-19 curbs and softening global demand.

China's official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 50.1 in September from 49.4 in August, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Friday, beating expectations.

The index's return to growth, after two months of contraction, was helped by recent easing measures, but the private Caixin survey showed factory activity slumped more quickly in September and the official survey showed a sharp slowdown in services sector activity growth.

Signs that the world's second-largest economy is struggling to regain traction after narrowly avoiding contraction in the second quarter, could add to concerns about a global recession, as major central banks embark on the most aggressive round of rate rises in decades.

"The surveys suggest that China's economy continued to lose momentum in September, with the global downturn weighing on exports and virus disruptions dealing a fresh blow to services activity," Zichun Huang, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note.

Elsewhere in Asia, data showed South Korea's factory production shrinking for a second month in August, but a separate release showed Japan's factories ramping up output again last month.

China's official manufacturing survey showed factory activity grew marginally in September, beating expectations for a reading of 49.6 in a Reuters poll of economists, and coming in above the 50-point mark that separates contraction from growth. China's government has rolled out more than 50 policy measures since late May.

Erdogan Advises Central Bank to Cut Rates at Upcoming Meetings

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said he had advised the central bank to lower its policy rate at its upcoming meetings, a day after saying he expects interest rates to come down to single digits by year-end.

Turkey's central bank cut its policy rate by 200 basis points to 12% in the last two

months, delivering shocks to markets after inflation surged to 80% in August.

The rate cuts are part of Erdogan's unorthodox policy of lowering rates to lower inflation. An easing cycle at the end of last year sparked a currency crisis stoking inflation, which is now at 24-year highs.

Speaking at the general assembly of a merchants' confederation, Erdogan repeated his unorthodox view that lower rates will lead to lower inflation.

"My biggest battle is against interest. My biggest enemy is interest. We lowered the interest rate to 12%. Is that enough? It is not enough. This needs to come down further," he said.

"We have discussed, are discussing this with our central bank. I suggested the need for this to come down further in upcoming monetary policy committee meetings," Erdogan added.

On Wednesday, Erdogan said interest rates will come down to single digits by year-end, despite a global tightening cycle, an ailing currency and soaring energy prices.

Turkey's lira, which hit its record low of 18.55 against the dollar on Thursday, fell some 29% this year on top of a 44% fall last year on concerns over unorthodox economic policies.

The currency has been less reactive to similar comments from Erdogan than in the past, largely due to the central bank adopting a more dominant role in the forex market since December.

Ipek Ozkardeska, senior analyst at Swissquote, said the lira is not as weak as it should be thanks to the central bank's role in the forex market.

"The Turkish central bank is trying to weather the sell-off and the downside pressure but obviously there is only so much that they can do when the global winds are flowing so violently against the lira," she said.

"This whole thing is a time bomb."

UK Economy Still Below Pre-Pandemic Size, Underscoring Challenge for Truss

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's economy remained below its pre-pandemic peak, according to data published on Friday that left the country further adrift of other Group of Seven nations and underscored the challenge facing new Prime Minister Liz Truss.

The Office for National Statistics said economic output unexpectedly rose by 0.2% in April through June, revised up from a previous reading of a 0.1% contraction, meaning the British economy has not yet fallen into a recession.

But the ONS revised down its estimate for Britain's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting a bigger hit to the economy than first thought in 2020 when health lockdowns shut down businesses across the country.

It said gross domestic product in the second quarter remained 0.2% below where it was at the end of 2019, a cut to its previous estimate of 0.6%.

"Despite the better news on the performance of the economy in Q2, the overall picture is that the economy is in worse shape than we previously thought," Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said.

"And that's before the full drag from the surge in inflation and leap in borrowing costs have been felt."

Separate data showed British house prices failed to rise in monthly terms for the first time since July 2021, a latest sign of the slowdown in the market caused by the cost-of-living squeeze and rising interest rates.

New British finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng last week published an economic plan that he said would spur growth by cutting taxes.

But investors responded by selling the pound and British government bonds. Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said the figures



suggested that the damage inflicted to the economy's ability to grow by COVID-19 and Brexit was even larger than previously thought.

"These revisions will compel the Office for Budget Responsibility to revise down further its estimates for future potential GDP," he said.

The recent turmoil in British financial markets has put the country's large current account deficit into new focus.

Friday's data showed current account gap in the April-June period shrank to 33.8 billion pounds (\$37.60 billion). Economists polled by Reuters had pointed to a deficit of roughly 44 billion pounds. (\$1 = 0.8990 pounds)

The shortfall was smaller than a 43.9 billion deficit in the first quarter which was revised down from an earlier estimate in part due to energy companies, buoyed by surging prices, making more profit abroad than initially thought.

The January-March deficit remained the biggest on record, the ONS said.

Truss and Kwarteng were due to meet the head of Britain's independent fiscal watchdog on Friday as the government looks to reassure investors.

Kazakhstan Replaces Ex-Leader With Eagle on Banknote



ALMATY (Dispatches) - Kazakhstan's central bank presented a new banknote design on Friday, identical to an older one with one major exception - ex-president Nursultan Nazarbayev's portrait has been replaced with an eagle silhouette.

The move is the latest step taken by the oil-rich Central Asian nation to dismantle the personality cult of its former leader whose era ended with violent unrest this year.

Nazarbayev, who had run the former Soviet republic for three decades, resigned in 2019 and backed career diplomat Kassym-Jomart Tokayev as successor while retaining sweeping powers as the head of the Security Council.

Tokayev and Nazarbayev fell out in January when anti-government protests escalated into the deadliest bout of political violence seen by Kazakhstan since it gained independence in 1991.

Tokayev took over as security council chairman and a number of Nazarbayev's relatives and affiliates left senior public sector positions; Nazarbayev's nephew was this month sentenced to six years in prison for embezzlement.

The new 20,000 tenge (\$42) banknote reuses a design that went into print last year. However it no longer features Nazarbayev's portrait alongside the image of the presidential residence.

The bank said in a statement the new banknote would gradually replace earlier designs, which would remain legal tender in the meantime.

In another symbolic move, Kazakhstan's parliament this month changed the capital city's name to Astana from Nur-Sultan.

Five Russian Trains Crossing Iran as New Transit Route Blooms

TEHRAN (MNA) - The CEO of the railway company said that two Russian freight trains have already crossed Iran as a transit road while 5 more trains have been loaded from Russia and are crossing Iran en route. Referring to the arrival of two freight trains from Russia to Iran, Seyed Miad Salehi, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) said about 5 other trains departed

from Russia are now crossing Iran.

Salehi said that the first Russian freighter traveled about 3,800 kilometers from Moscow to Sarkhes in the northeast Iran border crossing and after crossing the country it departed for India.

He added that the new freighters that arrived in Iran's territory on Friday are carrying chemical fertilizer.



Europe Makes Sharp U-Turn From Green Energy

DOHA (Dispatches) - QatarEnergy CEO and state minister for energy Saad al-Kaabi said that skyrocketing energy prices are "weighing painfully" on the global economy, dampening support for the transition to green energy.

"Sadly, the growing economic burden has fizzled the euphoria over the series of energy transition plans, causing severe erosion in public support for reducing carbon emissions," Kaabi told a liquefied natural gas (LNG) conference in Japan.

"Many countries particularly in Europe which had been strong advocates of green energy and carbon-free future have made a sudden and sharp U-turn. Today, coal burning is once again on the rise reaching its highest levels since 2014."

Governments across Europe have ploughed hundreds of billions of euros into tax cuts, handouts and subsidies to tackle the continent's worst energy crisis in decades that is driving up inflation, forcing industries to shut production and hiking bills ahead of winter.

Analysts estimate Europe will need to import around 200 million tons of LNG over the next decade to phase out Russian gas. Germany, Europe's biggest importer of Russian gas, would need around 40 million tons of LNG alone to replace the 50 billion cubic meters (bcm) of pipeline gas it used to get from Moscow.

Kaabi stressed the need to invest in cleaner and renewable energies, including natural gas, to drive capacity and baseload capabilities.

"The lack of such investment is putting a heavy burden on both producers and consumers. Producers must find supplies that may not exist due to the lack of investment," he said at the online LNG Producer-Consumer Conference 2022 being hosted in Tokyo.

Earlier this month, the head of Saudi oil giant Aramco echoed the same view, saying that continuing underinvestment in hydrocarbons at a time when fossil fuel alternatives were still not readily available was the root cause of the problem.

QatarEnergy, one of the world's largest LNG producers, is investing nearly \$30 billion



on the Persian Gulf state's North Field East expansion, which will increase Qatar's liquefaction capacity to 126 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) from 77 mtpa by 2027.

The chief executive of Germany's largest power producer RWE (RWE.G) said earlier this month that Europe needed more investment in LNG terminals on land to secure shipped fuel supplies from global gas producers in the long term.

Germany has leased four floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) that are capable of importing at least 5 billion cubic metres (bcm) of seaborne gas per year. It will also charter a fifth floating LNG terminal for winter 2023/24.

The European Parliament in July backed EU rules labelling investments in gas and nuclear power plants as climate-friendly.

IRIAF Played Key Role In Bombing Enemy Positions During War

TEHRAN (MNA) - Commander of Army Air Force praised the role the army air force played during the eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war on Iran between 1980-88).

Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi made the remarks in a specialized conference of status of the science and technology during the eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988), held at the venue of Martyr Soleimani Research Center in Tehran on Saturday.

In the beginning, the chief commander of Iran's Air Force pointed to the outstanding role of science and technology during the eight years of the Sacred Defense and stated that, in addition to relocating the troops, equipment, ammunition and reconnaissance, the Air Force of the country had a leading and prominent role in the conflict and destruction of the enemy's equipment.

He further pointed out that the Air Force of the country shined brilliantly in the Operation Valfajr-8.

Extensive support of the Air Force for the Ground Forces, bombing of the enemies' vital centers and enemy equipment, and continuous aerial surveillance and air fight with the enemy's fighter jets were among the other outstanding measures taken by the Air Force during the eight years of the Sacred Defense, Brigadier General Vahedi underlined.

Media, Elites Urged To Clarify Plots of Enemies Against Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) - In a session held between heads of the three branches of the government, media outlets and elites were asked to explain the recent conspiracies orchestrated by enemies against the country.

In a session held at the venue of the Presidential Office on Saturday evening, President Ebrahim Raisi, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Judiciary Chief Mohseni Eje'ei emphasized the need for recognizing and explaining the conspiracies waged by enemies against the Islamic Establishment. While examining the recent events happened in the country, the heads of three branches of the government called for the intelligent and serious role of the responsible organizations and institutions in line with restoration of calm and taciturnity in the country, confront riots and protect public order and security.

Rich Nations to Face Climate Pressure at Pre-COP27 Talks in DR Congo

Qatari, Iranian FMs Discuss JCPOA

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amiabdollahian and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani held a phone call on mutual relations and the talks in Vienna on the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

According to Qatar News Agency (QNA), the two foreign ministers had the phone conversation on Saturday night, when they discussed bilateral ties as well as the latest developments regarding negotiations to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Qatari FM expressed hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States can reach a consensus to revive the nuclear deal, which should be a fair agreement to help remove concerns from all parties.

The Arab official also noted that the agreement will be in favor of security and stability in West Asia.

Following several months of negotiations, the talks in Vienna, Austria, to lift anti-Iran sanctions have reached a point where the US's acceptance of the requirements of a stable and reliable agreement will pave the way for achieving a final deal in the shortest time possible.

Iran emphasizes that the condition to reach an effective deal is that it should protect economic profit for the Iranian nation, while the economic issues are being used as leverage to put pressure on the Iranians.

However, the weak administration of President Joe Biden, which cannot make a decision because of domestic woes and pressures from the Zionist regime, is not capable of deciding to return to the nuclear deal, so Washington resorts to determining fake deadlines and putting the blame of prolongation of talks on Iran's shoulder.

Enemies Launch...

FROM PAGE 1

"One could see the manifestation of enemies' onslaught aimed at making up for their humiliating defeats. They do not want to allow the existence of a powerful, influential, and sovereign country ruled by Islam.

"Americans view our regional clout as a major obstacle to their political, security, economic and cultural hegemony in the Muslim world, which is the most important part of the world," the IRGC chief commander pointed out.

He added that the US statesmen are trying to stop Iran's influence in the Middle East because they want to prolong their stay in the region, induce the nations, impose their diktats on them and advance their agendas.

"Americans want to mobilize our youths against the Islamic establishment by means of trickery and deception. This is the last policy of enemies. They are betting on a combination of anything employed before. But, we have the experience and that would be enough to know enemies. Lack of knowledge is the cause of failure, while knowledge always ensures victory," Salami said.

"The few number of Iranian youths wreaking havoc on streets across the country has actually been

deceived," Salami said, noting that Iranians know how to defeat their enemies.

"We warn our enemies, America, England, Saudi Arabia, and those who are trying to harm our country through destructive and vicious media outlets that we will trounce you. There is no way to infiltrate into this land," the general said.

The IRGC chief commander underlined that Iranians from all strata of the society are strong, prudent, and against foreign powers' conspiracies.

He vowed revenge and massive retaliation against enemy actions, whether it be the downing of an unmanned aerial vehicle or a terrorist attack on a police station in the southeastern city of Zahedan in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Protests have broken out in several Iranian cities over the September 16 death of Mahsa Amini, a young Iranian woman who died at the hospital a few days after collapsing at a police station in the capital Tehran, where she and a group of others were receiving educational training on dress code rules.

Zionist Regime...

FROM PAGE 1

It held the occupying regime fully and directly responsible for "this heinous crime and other crimes of the Israeli occupation," stressing that it would work with all international organizations, including the United Nations, so it can hold the occupation accountable for all of its crimes.



The ministry also urged the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to enable international protection for "our defenseless people" in the face of Tel Aviv's atrocities.

In a separate development, the Gaza Strip-based Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, issued a strongly-worded statement aimed at Israel, warning the regime against continued violations of the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied city of al-Quds' Old City.

The violations have seen the apartheid regime repeatedly preventing Muslim prayers at the site. The regime's forces also recurrently provide protection for highly provocative tours of the compound by Israeli settlers.

Rawhi Mushtaha, a member of Hamas leadership, served the warning in an address to a huge gathering of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip that had been organized by the movement under the title "the Al-Aqsa is in Danger."

Such infringements upon the holy site could lead to "explosions" in the region, the Hamas official said, condemning the Israeli regime for its reported "excavations" at the compound and its plans to impose spatial and temporal divisions there.

Mushtaha noted that Palestinians in Gaza held the Saturday march to draw Arab and Muslim leaders' attention to the imminent danger threatening al-Aqsa.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the only real supporter of Palestinians and several times it has rushed to help them but it is the duty of the United Nations to protect countries against atrocities of other states through punitive measures but unfortunately it has turned into a tool in hands of the world powers and even when it wants to issue a strong resolution against the Zionist regime, it is vetoed mostly by the West or other Western veto-right power holders.

Palestinians need to be united against the Zionist regime to fight with its atrocities otherwise they will have to suffer more atrocities and bloodshed from this killing machine which continues its crimes in cold blood without any resistance from the international bodies.

The United Nations should know this point that there are other countries except Ukraine and Iran to pay attention to them but unfortunately currently, Ukraine and now Iran have turned into major issues on its agenda and all decisions and meetings are predominantly about Ukraine and it has left alone other states like Palestine.

Palestinians are subject to long-standing gross violations of human rights under the rule of a military apartheid system and they need more attention and support from the human rights bodies and the United Nations because the Zionists think of ethnic cleansing or making the Palestinians as their slaves and this should be stopped if those bodies real supporters of the human rights otherwise the killing machine will shed more blood and those bodies will be accountable for the crimes.

Iranian-American National...

FROM PAGE 1

The available news indicate that intensive negotiations have been held with the mediation of one of the regional countries regarding the simultaneous release of Iranian and American prisoners and also release of \$7 billion worth of the blocked foreign exchange resources of the country.

Accordingly, Iran has not yet accepted the declared accounts for the transfer of the mentioned resources due to banking considerations and has introduced new accounts for this purpose.

AUCTION SJSCO. 140110



Hereby Sirjan Jahan Steel Complex announces selling and export 5,000 tons of Rebar AJ400 (sizes 12mm 14mm 16mm 18mm 20mm 22mm 25mm 28mm) on ex-work, Interested bidders are invited to get documents with send an email to sjsco.sales.info@gmail.com All the documents will be sent VIA email. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than 12am, Tuesday, October 11, 2022(2022-10-11) For more information, please contact us at: Tel: +2186084642

Sirjan Jahan Steel Complex



Notice of tender for export sale No. 16/1401/Z

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 60,000 metric tons of Iron Ore Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaee Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.ggg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 17th Oct. 2022 to the Golgohar complex in Sirjan. (50 km in Shiraz road) Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 18th Oct. 2022 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %		
Min	65.00	Fe
Ave	1.2	FeO
Max	0.05	P
Max	0.01	S
Max	3.5	SiO2
Max	0.7	Al2O3
Max	0.9	CaO
Max	2.5	MgO
Ave 250		CCS(kg/p)
Min 90		8-16 mm%
-6mm		Ave 5
Max 4.0		A.1%
Min 94		T.1%
19-24		Prosity%
Min 90		Reducibility%

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Japanese Quartet Bid to Land Arc "Holy Grail"

PARIS (Dispatches) - A record four Japanese horses will line up for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe with one of the quartet's jockeys Christophe Lemaire saying Japan winning the race widely regarded as the greatest in Europe would be the "Holy Grail".

The 43-year-old Frenchman, who has been crowned Japan's champion jockey on multiple occasions since moving there in 2015, rides the outsider of the four in veteran Stay Foolish.

Leclerc Puts Ferrari On Pole in Singapore

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Charles Leclerc will start the Singapore Grand Prix from pole position after Red Bull rival Max Verstappen was asked to abort his final fastest effort in qualifying at the city-state's Marina Bay street track.

The Monegasque set a time of one minute, 49.412 seconds and looked set to be usurped by the championship-leading Dutchman. But the 25-year-old will line up only eighth, limiting his chances of wrapping up a second successive title with five races to go, after he was called into the pits for running low on fuel.

Arsenal Show Title Mettle, Chelsea Win

LONDON (Dispatches) - Arsenal underlined their credentials as genuine Premier League title contenders with a 3-1 win over arch rivals Tottenham, while Chelsea's dramatic 2-1 victory at Crystal Palace gave Graham Potter his first success as Blues boss.

As the Premier League returned with a bang after the international break, Liverpool were rocked by Brighton forward Leandro Trossard's hat-trick in a 3-3 draw at Anfield.

But it was Arsenal who stole the spotlight as Mikel Arteta's side made it seven wins from eight league games, moving them four points clear at the top of the table. Thomas Partey put Arsenal ahead early in the first half of the north London derby at the Emirates Stadium.

Harry Kane equalised with a penalty but third-placed Tottenham imploded after the interval as Hugo Lloris's mistake allowed Gabriel Jesus to restore Arsenal's lead.

Tottenham defender Emerson Royal was sent off for an ugly foul on Gabriel Martinelli before Granit Xhaka's goal ensured Arsenal would avenge the 3-0 defeat against their hated neighbours last season that cost them a Champions League place.

Ending Tottenham's 13-match unbeaten run in the league was a significant statement of intent from Arsenal.

"They were phenomenal. We went from it and we created great energy in the stadium and deserved to win the game," Arteta said.

"We were free, courageous and brave. This is what we demand from the players."

At Selhurst Park, Chelsea left it late to give Potter his first win in his second match since arriving from Brighton to replace the sacked Thomas Tuchel.

Chelsea, who drew 1-1 with RB Salzburg in the Champions League in Potter's first game, suffered a nightmare start on seven minutes as Wesley Fofana squandered possession and Jordan Ayew fed Odsonne Edouard to fire into the top corner.

Chelsea defender Thiago Silva escaped a red card when he was only booked for stopping Ayew's attack by deliberately handling.

Silva made the most of that escape as he provided the assist for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's 38th minute equaliser.



Conor Gallagher, who spent last season on loan at Palace, won it for Chelsea in stoppage-time when the substitute curled a fine finish into the top corner.

Potter's replacement at Brighton, former Shakhtar Donetsk boss Roberto De Zerbi, enjoyed a memorable introduction to the Premier League.

Trossard fired Brighton ahead inside four minutes after punishing sloppy Liverpool defending. With Liverpool in disarray, the Belgian forward struck again in the 18th minute.

Roberto Firmino gave Liverpool a 33rd minute lifeline when he turned in Mohamed Salah's flick.

And Firmino grabbed Liverpool's leveller with a 54th minute equaliser as the Brazilian side-stepped his marker to convert Luis Diaz's pass.

Jurgen Klopp's men looked to have completed an epic comeback in the 63rd minute when Albion keeper Robert Sanchez punched a corner that hit Adam Webster and deflected into his own net.

But Trossard sealed his treble with a close-range finish from Kaoru Mitoma's cross to silence Anfield with seven minutes left.

Newcastle ended their six-match winless run in the league as Eddie Howe's men swept to a 4-1 rout of 10-man Fulham at Craven Cottage.



Maradona's "Hand of God" Shirt Headlines Qatar Exhibit

DOHA (Dispatches) - The shirt worn by Diego Maradona when he scored his famous "Hand of God" goal will be on display as part of an exhibit that will open ahead of this year's World Cup, the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum said.

The blue jersey, which sold at auction in May for a then-record US\$8.93 million (RM41.40 million), is on loan to the Doha-based museum where it will headline the World of Football exhibit opening on Sunday and running until April 1, 2023.

Maradona wore Argentina's No. 10 shirt in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final against England in Mexico. Six minutes into the second half he put his team ahead by punching the ball into the net for what became known as the "Hand of God" goal.

Four minutes later Maradona dribbled from his own half to score a goal widely considered one of the greatest in World Cup history.

Maradona, regarded as one of the world's best ever footballers, died in November 2020 aged 60.

Mueller, Kimmich Covid Positive Ahead of Dortmund Showdown

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich and Thomas Mueller have tested positive for Covid-19, just a week before they travel to face Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga.

The German champions confirmed the news late on Saturday afternoon, with the statement saying both players have "no symptoms" and are currently in home isolation.

Both will miss the side's upcoming Champions League game against Viktoria Pilsen, but may still be able to play in Saturday's game against Dortmund.

They took part in Bayern's dominant 4-0 home win over Bayer Leverkusen on Friday night.

Bayern on Friday welcomed back captain Manuel Neuer and midfielder Leon Goretzka, who had been in Covid isolation for a week after testing positive while on Germany duty.

Kimmich and Mueller were also in Germany's Nations League camp.

Kimmich, who had previously remained unvaccinated due to "fears and concerns" with the vaccine, was vaccinated early in 2022.

Mansell Extends Dunhill Links Lead to Four Shots

LONDON (Dispatches) - Richard Mansell will take a four-shot lead into the final round of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship following an excellent five-under-par 67 at Carnoustie.

England's Daniel Gavins, Sweden's Alex Noren and New Zealander Ryan Fox are Mansell's closest challengers.

But on this form they will do well to catch the 27-year-old Englishman at a tournament staged at three Scottish venues, including the Old Course at St Andrews and Kingsbarns.

Mansell was already two shots in front following a fine 68 in atrocious conditions on the nearby Old Course on Friday and so it was no surprise when his good scoring continued on a bright, if breezy, day at the nearby Carnoustie.

The Brazilian headed the ball towards Aubameyang and he let it bounce across his body before swivelling to fire a half-volley into the bottom corner from just inside the area.

It was Aubameyang's first Chelsea goal since signing from Barcelona on transfer deadline day.



Valverde Can Surpass Gerrard



MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said he believes midfielder Fede Valverde could surpass former Liverpool great Steven Gerrard as a player.

The Italian was asked about the comparison between the Uruguayan and the current Aston Villa manager, who was a similar dynamic midfielder in his playing days, made by former Liverpool and Barcelona striker Luis Suarez.

The striker spoke to Spanish newspaper Marca and said he noticed Valverde's

characteristics, including the ability to go box to box and arrive in dangerous positions, reminded him of his former Anfield team-mate.

"I agree, he has a lot of the same talents as Gerrard," Ancelotti told reporters.

"It's very good that they are comparing him with a player that has had this success.

"I think that Federico has everything he needs to reach Gerrard's level and go even further still."

Valverde has played an important role for Real Madrid this season, frequently operating on the right flank as part of a forward line missing French striker Karim Benzema due to injury.

Ancelotti confirmed Benzema is set to start for Madrid on Sunday when they welcome Osasuna to the Santiago Bernabeu, recovering from the thigh problem he sustained against Celtic on September 6.

"We'll see that after this period where he has not played, we'll be speaking about the same Karim as ever, which is that he's spectacular," Ancelotti said.

Napoli Strengthen Serie A lead

NAPLES (Dispatches) - Napoli strengthened their hold on the Serie A summit with the 3-1 win over Torino which put them three points clear of their title rivals. An early brace from Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa, his first goals in Serie A, and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's fifth of his first Serie A season will keep Napoli in first place unless Atalanta beat Fiorentina by five goals.

"I'm very happy, I don't want to lie, it's the first time for me in Serie A," Anguissa told DAZN.

"It's important to score but I just want to do my job. If the goals come I'm happy but the first thing for me is my team, for my team to win."

"So if we can win all the games, even if I don't score I don't care. I just want to win." Napoli have won six on the bounce between Italy's top flight and the Champions League and go into Tuesday's trip to Ajax in high spirits, knowing they could take a big step towards the knockout stage of Europe's top competition.

Luciano Spalletti's side have also netted 18 times in their eight league fixtures despite having to do without starting centre-forward Victor Osimhen for their last three matches.

Torino, who scored through Antonio Sanabria just before the break, stay ninth after losing their third straight game and are level on 10 points with local rivals Juventus who host Bologna on Sunday night.

Ivan Juric's side have been unlucky to collect no points from their last three fixtures, with their previous two defeats coming late and after decent performances.



Russia Slams Idea of Making Athletes Condemn War

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia accused the head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of violating Olympic principles by suggesting that its athletes might be allowed to return to competition provided they did not support the invasion of Ukraine.

Responding to the idea from IOC President Thomas Bach, one sports federation chief said Olympic participation should not require athletes to become traitors.

Russian news agencies quoted Sports Minister Oleg Matytsin as saying: "The main task of the international Olympic movement is to provide athletes with equal access to participation in the Olympic Games, regardless of their views and religions, traditions and citizenship."

Matytsin said Russia would keep talking to the IOC and hoped it would change its stance. "Bach's latest statement goes against Olympic principles," he said.

The head of the Russian Wrestling Federation, Mikhail Mamiashvili, told RIA news agency the Olympics "do not have a principled position that one must be a traitor to the Motherland."

He added: "What do these words of Bach mean - that we must now condemn our people, our president, our country? What is the meaning of his words? What kind of choice is this?"

The IOC issued guidance to sports governing bodies in February to remove from competition athletes from Russia and Belarus, which let Moscow use its territory as a launchpad for the Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Bach, explaining the IOC's thinking, told Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera: "It is not about necessarily having Russia back. It's about having athletes with a Russian passport who do not support the war back in competition... This war has not been started by the Russian athletes."

