

**IRAN NEWS Expresses Condolences To Its Shiite Readers Over the Martyrdom Anniversary of Imam Hassan Askari (AS). The Next Issue Will Hit the News-Stands on Saturday**

# IRAN NEWS

**Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways Said on Monday That Around Five More Trains Have Been Loaded From Russia And Are Traveling Along the Way To Iran, Which Is a Promising Transit Issue for the Country**

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7602 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2022 - MEHR 12, 1401

**2 DOMESTIC**

**Enemies Failed in Their Plot to Isolate Iran**



> SEE PAGE 2

**3 DOMESTIC**

**Iran, S. Africa Urged to Seek Implementation of MoUs**



> SEE PAGE 3

**4 INTERNATIONAL**

**Ukraine Claims Full Control of Key Logistics Hub, Eyes Further Gains**



> SEE PAGE 4

**8 SPORTS**

**Perez Wins in Singapore as Verstappen Title Celebrations on I**



> SEE PAGE 8

**Recent Unrests Have Negative Effect on Capital Market Outlook**

*IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK*

TEHRAN – Finance Minister and Government Economic Spokesman Mr. Ehsan Khandouzi says recent unrests in the country increases negative outlook on the capital market.

Speaking in a presser, Khandouzi said that some rumors on the government's decisions do not come true and the government has tried to make ineffective the impact of rumors but admitted that recent unrests in the country increases this negative outlook on the economy.

He noted that in recent months the growth in the production industries has improved from negative 5.8% to positive 6.7%.

He added that agriculture is in better situation now despite negative economic growth in the sector.

He said: "Although the economic growth of agriculture sector is negative, we are in a better situation compared to what it used to be."

He further added that the monthly inflation of this sector has also decreased.

## Violent Riots Planned By U.S. and Zionist Regime



*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has severely censured the unrest that erupted in some parts of Iran following the death of a young woman, stating that the deadly riots were orchestrated in advance by the United States and the Israeli regime.

Ayatollah Khamenei, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, made the remarks on Monday as he addressed the joint graduation ceremony for the cadets studying in the academies of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

"I state it clearly that these developments were planned by America, the Zionist regime and their acolytes. Their main problem is with a strong and independent Iran and the country's progress. The Iranian nation proved to be fairly strong during recent events and will bravely come onto the scene wherever necessary in the future," the Leader said.

"During the latest developments, injustice was done to the country's law enforcement forces, the Basij and the Iranian nation. Of course, the Iranian nation emerged completely strong as it did before and will do so in the future," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that although Amini's death was heart-breaking, the ensuing riots were not natural as groups of people caused social disturbances on the streets, burnt copies of the Holy Qur'an, harassed veiled women, and set mosques, religious congregational halls and private cars on fire.

"If it were not for the young girl, they would have invented another excuse to create insecurity and trigger riots in the country on the first day of [the Persian calendar month of] Mehr this year," he maintained.

"Many riots broke out across the world, including in Europe. There are riots every now and then in France and Paris in particular. But the question is: Has it ever been the case for the US president and the House of Representatives to support the rioters and make statements? Is there another case where they have sent messages and stated that they are with them? Is there another case where mass media affiliated with American capitalism and their mercenaries in the region, including the Saudis, have supported rioters in other countries? And is there a case where Americans have announced that we will provide certain internet hardware or software to rioters so that they can communicate easily with each other?" the Leader added.

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to say that such support has, on the contrary, happened several times in Iran, and clearly points to the fact that foreign powers are behind recent events in the country.

He underlined that Americans' expression of regret for Amini's death is artificial. "They are happy because of finding an excuse to foment insecurity," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to the country's progress in all sectors, efforts aimed at facilitating domestic production, activation of knowledge-based companies, and the country's ability to neutralize Western sanctions.

"They (enemies) do not want such progress to happen in the country, and have plotted to close universities, create insecurity on the streets, and engage state officials with new issues in the northwestern and southeastern flanks of the country in order to stop the growth," the Leader said.

He emphasized that enemies are gravely mistaken in their calculations, and their plots will not yield anything at all.

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that the U.S. is not only against the Islamic Republic but also against a strong and independent Iran, adding, "They are looking for Iran of the Pahlavi era, which obeyed their orders and was a milking cow to them."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also pointed to the stances of some Iranian sports figures and artists regarding the latest riots in Iran, noting, "In my opinion, these positions are of no importance and one should not be sensitive about them."

**Iran Halts Gas Deliveries to Turkey Due to Maintenance**

*IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK*

TEHRAN - Natural gas deliveries from Iran to Turkey will temporarily be discontinued October 2-9, 2022, due to scheduled maintenance, Turkey's Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAŞ) said.

According to Turkish Daily Sabah newspaper, "Due to the planned inspection and maintenance works to be carried out on the Iran-Türkiye Natural Gas Pipeline between 02-09/10/2022, gas delivery from the Gürbulak entry point to our transmission network will not be possible for 8 days," Turkey's Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAŞ) said in a statement.

Accordingly, the company noted that no problems related to the supply-demand balance in the national transmission network were foreseen during the planned maintenance and repair.

Turkey is almost fully dependent on imported gas from Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran.

Accordingly, energy prices have risen sharply in Turkey driven by global increases and a decline in the lira's value against the dollar last year.

*See Page 7*

**South Koreans Not Interested in Barter Trade With Iran**

*IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK*

TEHRAN - Secretary General of Iran-South Korea Joint Chamber of Commerce Pouya Firouzi says early talks with South Korea have started for imports of cars from this country, admitting that South Koreans are not interested in barter trade with Iran.

Speaking to ILNA, Firouzi said that to form a barter trade, it needs an intermediary that this mechanism is not available for now which does not exist, adding that Iran's private sector several times has tried to activate barter trade with South Korea but South Koreans do not like to ignore the sanctions laws.

He noted that in the first five months of the current year Iran's imports from South Korea have risen and in return its exports have declined. He added that Iran's exports to South Korea in five months have been \$32.5m while at the same time it has imported \$277m of goods from South Korea.

On imports of cars from South Korea, he said that if the condition for financial transactions is facilitated, there will be no problem because the industry ministry has signaled green light. He added that the price of the cars that the ministry has in sight depends on the agreement between the dealing companies.

*See Page 7*

**Iran Inflation Rate Up 0.6%**

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on September 22, which marks the end of the sixth Iranian calendar month Shahrivar, at 42.1 percent, rising 0.6 percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the fifth month.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 49.7 percent in the sixth month, which means families have paid an average of 49.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate was 41.5 percent for urban households, and 45.3 percent for rural households.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, which marks the end of the past Iranian calendar year 1400, at 40.2 percent.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 34.7 percent in the last month of the past year, which means families have paid an average of 34.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

*See Page 7*

**Iran Oil Exports Underway Uninterrupted**

TEHRAN (Shana) – The Iranian Minister of Petroleum said: "Iran's crude oil exports are being carried out without any problems to the target markets."

Javad Owji stated that the sale and export of crude oil is ongoing without any interruption, and stated: "Currently, the export of oil is going on without any problems."

He stated that fortunately, by identifying new markets and customers and new export processes, Iran has been able to find good markets and there has been no stoppage in the export of crude oil.

The petroleum minister stated: "With the new solutions presented by my colleagues in the international affairs department of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), we have been able to obtain good and attractive markets for Iran's crude oil, gas condensate, oil products and petrochemicals."

Owji emphasized: "Today, the issue of energy security is considered one of the most important issues in the world, and this importance gradually doubles as the cold season approaches."

**U.S. Urged to Act Constructively, Drop Its Addiction to Sanctions**

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Ministry spokesman has urged the United States to drop its addiction to sanctions and adopt a constructive approach to restoring the US-abandoned Iran nuclear deal.

Nasser Kanaani said during a Monday press conference that the United States does not seem to have the necessary political will for continuing the negotiations in Vienna to revive the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Imposing new sanctions on Iran shows that the US government" is not following a "constructive" approach, Kanaani said. "It needs to abandon its addiction to sanctions and take on a constructive approach."

Echoing Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian's earlier remarks, Kanaani said Tehran and Washington have exchanged more messages. He also said Iran's final draft, which has been already sent to the European side, was helpful in pushing the talks forward.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Kanaani criticized the role of Persian-language media based outside the country in recent waves of protests in Iran, calling the news outlets "a factory of lies" that promotes murder.

"Persian-language media based outside the country have turned into a factory of lies and a threatening command center that promotes murder, threatens to attack public properties and teaches how to make Molotov cocktail," he said.

*See Page 7*

Sokhan Gostar Institute

**IRAN NEWS**

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department  
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com  
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

# Tehran-Gwangju Flight Landed Safely

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian airliner "Mahan Air" in a statement announced on Monday that the Tehran-Gwangju flight landed safely in the due time.

The statement was released in reaction to the news regarding the bomb threat on Airbus A340 from Tehran to Gwangju. As soon as the pilot was alerted about the possibility of a bomb attack, he informed the control tower and requested an emergency landing in India, it added.

It noted that such reports seem to be aimed at disturbing security and mental peace.

## Enemies Failed in Their Plot to Isolate Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says the enemies have failed to advance their latest conspiracy aimed at blocking the country's progress.

Speaking at a meeting on Sunday, Raisi pointed to the recent Western media hype against the Islamic Republic, saying "the death of Ms. [Mahsa] Amini is being thoroughly investigated" by the relevant state bodies.

"The enemy is trying, through extensive media measures, to divert the public opinion. We see that a group of Afghan girls are killed at an educational facility by terrorists who have the U.S. support, but there is no reaction from those who claim [to be advocating human rights]," Raisi said.

"Under these conditions, does the West's claim of being concerned about human rights and the rights of women seem acceptable?"

According to the UN, at least 35 people were killed and 82 wounded in the bombing that took place at the Kaaj education center in the Afghan capital Kabul's Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood on Friday. The terrorist attack was carried out in the women's section of a gender-segregated study hall where hundreds of students were taking a mock entrance exam for university admission.

Most of the casualties were young women belonging to the historically oppressed Shia Hazara community.

So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack. However, the Daesh terrorist group has previously staged attacks in predominantly Shia areas targeting girls, schools and mosques.



In another part of his remarks, the Iranian president said the country's enemies have plotted in vain to prevent the country's progress.

"At a time that the Islamic Republic is weathering economic problems and is more actively present in the region and the world, the enemies entered the arena to isolate the country, but they failed in this conspiracy," Raisi said.

Protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman who fainted at a police station on September 16 and was later pronounced dead at a hospital, erupted first in her native province of Kurdistan and later spread to other parts of the country, including Tehran.

Despite plausible clarifications provided by authorities on the circumstances surrounding Amini's death, Western media left no stone unturned in resorting to a disinformation campaign and sowing seeds of sedition in Iran.

## Attempts on Life of People, Soldiers Will Not Go Unanswered

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Intelligence Organization has strongly condemned the latest terrorist attack in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan, saying the elite force will deal heavy blows to terrorists threatening the country's security.

The statement, released on Sunday, came two days after the commander of the IRGC's intelligence unit in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan was killed in clashes with armed terrorists near a mosque. Four other members of the IRGC were also killed in the attack.

Before gathering near the Makki mosque on Friday, the armed group involved in the clashes had carried out terrorist attacks on a police station in the provincial capital city of Zahedan. Terrorist elements then started shooting, prompting security forces to immediately arrive at the scene.

"Without a doubt, the ... Iranian nation and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not let attempts against security and life of people and soldiers of the nation go unanswered," the IRGC said in its statement.

It warned Iran's enemies, "especially the ruthless secessionist groups and their accomplices," that the members of the country's intelligence services "are monitoring all their plots and blind acts of sedition, and will deal deadly blows on them by the Grace of God."

Enemies launch media, political campaign to make up for defeats, frustration: IRGC chief

## Tehran, Washington Exchanged More Messages on JCPOA Revival

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says Tehran and Washington have exchanged more messages in order to bring their views closer on the restoration of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and removal of anti-Iran sanctions.

Amir-Abdollahian made the revelation in a phone call with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Sunday night.

The top Iranian diplomat said the messages were exchanged through a mediator while he was in New York to attend the 77th United Nations General Assembly summit.

Amirabdollahian also said Tehran is seriously working to reach a good, strong and sustainable agreement.

He said that his recent trip to New York provided an opportunity to bring closer the two sides' views and that Iran believes negotiations are now on the right path.

The Qatari foreign minister, for his part, said the US believes the exchange of messages and the efforts of the European Union as a coordinator would lead to an agreement on the revival of the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

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

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

## First VP to Take Part in Caspian Economic Forum

TEHRAN (IRNA) - First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber plans to participate in the second Caspian Economic Forum.

President Ebrahim Raisi's deputy chief of staff for political affairs Mohammad Jamshidi said on Monday that the second Caspian Economic Forum is going to be held in Moscow on October 6 and that the first vice president is scheduled to attend the forum at the invitation of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin.

As to the fact that the forum will be held in the presence of the prime ministers of littoral states of the Caspian Sea, he said that Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Iran will negotiate on issues such as oil and gas, energy, transportation, science, environment, and agriculture bilaterally and multilaterally.

He went on to say that Mokhber will preside over the Iranian delegation at the event, adding that some ministers and other officials of the executive branch will accompany the first vice president in order to find ways to expand economic interactions with other member states.

Some 12 specialized round tables are scheduled to be held in the forum in the presence of experts and officials of member states, he said.

Jamshidi noted that exchanging economic and trade data, absorbing investments in oil, gas, petrochemical industries, developing transit routes, improving shipping lines, establishing electricity and gas export lines, enhancing cultural and historical cooperation, creating joint banks and using national currencies, facilitating the issuance of visas for tradesmen and truck drivers, exporting agricultural products, cleaning Caspian Sea environment as well as expanding tourism collaborations are among topics that the Iranian delegation is going to put forward in the forum.

## Iran to Produce 10,000 MW Of Nuclear Power

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The capacity to generate nuclear electricity in Iran is planned to hit 10,000 megawatts, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization said, noting that the target has been set without reliance on international partnership.

In a meeting with university professors in the southern city of Kerman on Sunday, Mohammad Eslami said plans have been devised for the construction of new nuclear power plants in the country in order to increase the nuclear electricity production capacity to 10,000 megawatts with international cooperation.

He explained that international partnership will accelerate the fulfillment of plans to produce 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power, adding though that a lack of cooperation from foreigners would not concern Iran at all, because that target will be achieved with national self-sufficiency and indigenous technologies.

He said there is a firm determination to prevent Iran from gaining access to new technologies.

Eslami blamed big powers for this opposition. Eslami added, "No matter what language or school of thought you use in talks with the other sides, you can tell from their intentions and from what they write and say that they are firmly resolved to prevent us from developing advanced technologies."

He also stated that the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) will recruit 30,000 new employees within the next 15 years.

In June, Eslami unveiled plans for the construction of a fully indigenous nuclear research reactor in the central city of Isfahan.

## Yemen Ceasefire Extension Demanded

TEHRAN (IRNA) - In a phone talk between UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian the two sides agreed on the need for the extension of ceasefire in Yemen.

During the phone talk, Amirabdollahian appreciated the UN secretary general for his contribution to establish peace and stability in the region, emphasizing the great importance of ending the siege of the Yemeni war-stricken nation and the continuation of the ceasefire there.

Saudi Arabia on March 26, 2015, established a coalition of some Arab countries and gained the US green light and the Zionist regime's support for launching a massive invasion against the poorest Arab country, Yemen.

After seven years of aggressive war imposed against Yemen in which thousands of Yemeni civilians have got killed and almost all infrastructures of that country are destroyed, but they have not reached any of their objectives.

Instead, after the missile and done attacks of the Yemeni armed forces against military targets in depth of their soil they have been urged to yield to a ceasefire.

The ceasefire has thus far lasted six months, but has been broken thousands of times by those intruders, who have breached a number of its articles each time.

## Zionists Utilizing Terrorists' Bases in Northern Iraq

TEHRAN (MNA) - Stating that the regime is utilizing terrorists' bases in northern Iraq, the Commander of IRGC Ground Force said that his forces hit 40 targets with dozens of suicide drones in this region.

Speaking about the recent operation of IRGC Ground Force in the destruction of the terrorists' bases in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour said that Iran warned the Iraqi Kurdistan region that the presence and activity of terrorist groups near its western borders will not be tolerated.

About a month and a half ago, the Ministry of Intelligence identified and arrested the terrorist group that planned to conduct acts of sabotage on Isfahan's nuclear facilities, he added, saying that in their confessions, it is stated that the Zionist regime sends trained teams who were selected among these terrorist groups to carry out terrorist activities inside Iran.

After the illegal entry of armed teams linked with the terrorist groups into the Iranian border cities in recent days, he added, "For this purpose, we first started shelling the bases of terrorists on the borders

of our country with artillery and rockets, and then we hit the bases of terrorist elements up to 130 kilometers deep from the borders of our country. In some areas, we hit about 40 targets with more than 70 missiles and dozens of suicide drones

According to reports, the terrorists residing in northern Iraq are largely involved in recent violent riots in Iran by sneaking armed elements and weapons to support groups of foreign-backed rioters.

These thugs and rioters have exploited protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, engaging in acts of vandalism, bloodshed, and even desecration of Islamic sanctities in several Iranian cities.

Since last Saturday, the IRGC ground forces have launched a series of aerial raids on the positions of Iraqi Kurdistan-based terrorist groups.

Urging the Iraqi Kurdistan region to dismantle bases of the terrorist groups that sow sedition against the Islamic Republic of Iran, General Pakpour vowed that the operation will continue until the groups based in northern Iraqi regions are "completely disarmed."

## Iran Hosts Photo Exhibition to Commemorate Diplomatic Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) - A photo exhibition honoring the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic has been held in Iran.

Gorgan city, which is located in the north of Iran, is hosting the cultural event. During the 30 years of diplomatic relations between the two states, the President of Kazakhstan has paid 6 visits to Iran, Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Iran Askhat Orazbay said.

His visits have resulted in inking some important Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), he added.

Trade in animal husbandry, construction materials, and polymer products can be effective in the development of financial interactions between the two countries, he noted.

The rail transit route of Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran is the most significant trade corridor in the region, which can increase the level of financial exchanges between the friendly countries, he pointed out.

## Iran, India Hold Fourth Round of Political Talks in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) - A senior Iranian official at the foreign ministry said that the fourth round of political talks between Iran and India in Tehran, adding that a joint economic commission meeting will be held in New Delhi.

Director General of South Asia Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Seyed Rasoul Mousavi, who is also an assistant to the foreign minister, wrote in Farsi language in a post on Twitter that "Today, Sunday, September 2, the fourth round of political talks between the directors-general (at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) of Iran and India was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran compound."

Mousavi explained that "The two sides exchanged their views on bilateral, regional and international issues."

He added, "Soon, a meeting of the joint economic commission of the two countries will be held in New Delhi."

## MPs Urge Protesters to Distance From Rioters, Thank Police

TEHRAN (IFP) - Lawmakers have defended the country's security forces for dealing with the "riots" over the death of 22-year-old girl Mahsa Amini at the police headquarters in Tehran.

Over 230 MPs issued a statement, calling for protesters to distance themselves from rioters.

The statement also said it is necessary that all measures be put in place to find out the root cause of the recent protests and prevent their repetition.

The lawmakers urged all political analysts to stay away from the enemies' media claims at this critical juncture when "the sworn enemies of Islam and people"

are trying to jump on the issue.

They noted that the hostile media made an attempt to tarnish the image of the Iranian law enforcement but the police managed to alleviate the anger of the protesters and harshly deal with the mercenaries of the enemies.

The Iranian MPs said a number of police forces have been killed during the unrest, calling for those who killed them to be brought to justice.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:53
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:02
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:39
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:02

72. And We bestowed on him Isaac and, as an additional gift, (a grandson), Jacob, and We made righteous men of every one (of them).  
73. And We made them leaders, guiding (men) by Our Command, and We sent them inspiration to do good deeds, to establish regular prayers, and to practise regular charity; and they constantly served Us (and Us only). Surah 21. The Prophets (72 - 73)

## Iran, S. Africa Urged to Seek Implementation of MoUs

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei in meeting with Ambassador of South Africa to Tehran Vika Mazwi Khumalo called for implementation of the MoUs which have been signed between the two countries in the past because they are very important.**

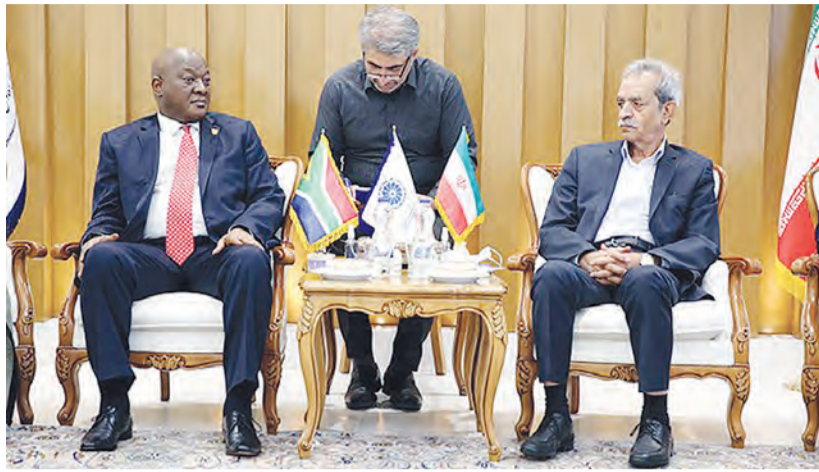
In the meeting, Shafei pointed to the good and strategic position of South Africa and its stance in the region, adding that without any doubt South African traders and investors can create access for Iranians to considerable market in African continent. He then pointed to the good political relation between Iran and South Africa, and said that both sides should try to broaden their economic ties which is not unfortunately satisfactory and defensible.

He then added that one of the priorities of the current government in Iran is to broaden ties, and pointed to the efforts of South African ambassador in recent months for getting acquainted with the provincial capacities of Iran and stipulated that Iran has good capabilities for strengthening the level of ties and both sides should make efforts to take advantage of it.

Shafei then termed as promising meeting of the joint economic commission of Iran and South Africa in near future and added that in the past some good MoUs have been signed between the two states but none of them has been implemented yet and their implementations should be put on the agenda.

He recommended exchange of data and information between the joint committee and the commercial section of the South African Embassy in Tehran before the meeting of the joint economic commission convenes. He also called for prioritization for implementation of the delayed MoUs.

Shafei also called for dispatch of trade delegations between the two countries and announced readiness of the ICCIMA for sending delegation to South Africa.



He also reiterated that concentration on the barter trade between Iran and South Africa is very important, adding that it is possible between the agro sectors of the two countries and called for planning.

Shafei also pointed to some other fields for cooperation between the two states like technical and engineering services, transportation, medicines, medical equipment and metals.

Then South African Ambassador to Tehran Mr. Khumalo, for his part, said that the joint economic commission will be held after Iranian President's visit to South Africa and during the visit the ground for interactions between statesmen of the two countries will be provided.

He admitted that some 23 MoUs have been signed between the two countries and considerable amount of the MoUs has not been implemented and called for immediate implementation of them based on the mutual interests.

He added that former governments of the two countries had set targets to increase their bilateral trade to \$2b by 2022 which has not been materialized and there is a long way to go.

He admitted that the trade balance between Iran and South Africa has grown considerably, adding that small and medium size enterprises in both countries have opportunities to cooperate regardless of the U.S. sanctions. Khumalo called for boosting the level of economic relation through finding new ways for expanding ties, reiterating that exchange of trade delegations is one of the ways for boosting trade and finding the needs of both countries by the traders.

## Iran Becomes World's 14th Biggest Wheat Producer

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's cereal production has increased by 13.5 percent to 20.3 million tons in 2022 making the country the world's 14th biggest wheat producer, figures provided by FAO shows.

The latest report published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) shows that Iran's production of cereal increased from 17.9 million tons in 2021 to 20.3 million tons in 2022, which is indicative of a 2.4-million-ton growth.

The growth in Iran's cereal production comes as FAO has reported a 1.4-percent cut in global production.

According to the FAO report, Iran's wheat production has risen from 10.4 million tons in 2021 to 13 million tons in 2022, making the country the world's 14th biggest wheat producer.

Iran's wheat reserve was 11.5 million tons by the end of 2021, as said by the report. The figure is expected to reach 12.8 million tons by the end of 2022.

## More Than 2m Tons of Steel Products Exported in 5 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) - Over 2.154 million tons of steel products have been exported during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that the export of the mentioned products has fallen 36 percent in the five-month period of this year from that of the previous year.

Iran exported 3.406 million tons of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has announced.

The IMIDRO's data put the country's annual steel products export at 2.832 million tons in year 1399.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA) shows that Iran's crude steel output has increased 64.7 percent in August 2022 from August 2021.

Based on the WSA data, Iran produced about 2.1 tons of crude steel in the mentioned month.

The Islamic Republic produced 19.5 million tons of steel in the first eight months of 2022 to register a 7.8 percent growth compared to the same period in the previous year.

Iran has maintained its place as the world's 10th biggest steel producer during January-August 2022, according to the World Steel Association.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

## Iran Exports Increased by 20%

TEHRAN (IP) - The Head of the Iranian Parliament's Economic Commission reported a 20% increase in the country's exports compared to the last year.

Based on Iran's government policies, balanced foreign policy was manifested in the look-to-East approach and regionalism, and the expansion of cooperation with the neighboring countries was supposed to be a foreign policy priority.

Mohammad-Reza Pour Ebrahimi predicted that by the end of the current year, in March, Iran would have reached a non-negative level of exports.

Pour Ebrahimi reported the ratification of a temporary agreement on creating a free trade zone between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union, which could contribute to improving exports.

He also talked about the increase of Iran's assets in the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and said that the cooperation of Iran and the bank had increased the country's share.

## IRISL to Repeat Last Year's Record for Transporting Goods



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line Group (IRISL) says the group intends to repeat and even improve last year's record of transporting goods.

Speaking on the occasion of World Maritime Day (September 28), Mr. Mohammad Reza Modarres Khiabani said that seafarers as the soldiers of the sacred Islamic Republic of Iran establishment have bravely stood and resisted against the economic war of the enemies and helped national economy to continue its life.

Emphasizing the pick-up and boom for the IRISL in the past year and especially for the sea transportation, he said that last year the Islamic Republic of Iran's shipping fleet transported over 719,000 TEU containers which showed 69% growth comparing to the previous year while the growth in transportation of bulk cargo was 28%.

Modarres Khiabani who was speaking in the annual general assembly of the group said that the IRISL has moved over 26.7m tons of cargo last year which shows 41% growth comparing to the preceding year and it was a new record set by the group.

He went on to say that of the mentioned amount of the transported goods, over 10.3m tons belonged to exporting goods and it was also 9% growth comparing to the preceding year, and transportation of 8.6m tons belonged to the imported goods and it also registered 74% growth comparing the preceding year.

He noted that the rial revenues of the group was 382,000b rials as the operational revenues grew 151% comparing to the preceding year and it was a historic record, and it is expected this trend of success continues this year and the historic record would be repeated and improved this year.

He noted that the dollar revenues of the group this year was \$1.6b while the figure was \$770m in the preceding year, reiterating that the net forex profit of the group was \$470m last year while it was only \$29m in the preceding year and it shows a considerable growth.

Modarres Khiabani added that the profit margin of the group was 28% in the last fiscal year and the group has been able to settle some of its past dues.

He then reiterated that the group is keen to expand its fleet and for this reason it has ordered building of two container ro-ro ships as well as two multi-functional vessels.

## Iran Vehicle Output Rises by 6% in H1 Fiscal Year

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's industry ministry (MIMT) figures show vehicle output in the country rose by 6% in the first half of the year that began in late March compared with the same period in 2021.

The figures covered in a Sunday report by the official IRNA news agency showed that Iranian automotive companies had churned out a total of 516,206 vehicles in the six months to September 22.

Car output was responsible for 87% of total vehicle production in Iran in the April-September period with some 449,564 units, showed the MIMT figures which indicated that car production in Iran had risen by one percentage point compared with the same period last year.

However, the ministry said that finished car sales in Iran had risen by 284% over the two quarters to late September mainly because Iranian automotive companies had managed to meet targets set by the MIMT to complete and deliver pre-ordered cars to the customers.

The figures showed that pickup truck production by Iranian carmakers had surged by 45% year on year in the April-September period to reach 51,340 units.

Van production in Iran saw the biggest surge over the six months to late September with a 583% increase against the same period last year as total production in the vehicle category reached 1,368 units, according to the MIMT data.

That comes as the largest car manufacturer the IKCO reported a 6% decline in vehicle production in the current calendar year's first half as its output reached a total of 228,008 units, according to the same figures.

Rival company Saipa also saw its total vehicle output drop by 1% to 209,310 units in the April-September period, the figures showed.

## Issues Left Unsettled Amid Efforts to Unblock Iranian Funds

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A spokesman of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) says Iran could access billions of dollars worth of its funds that have remained blocked in foreign banks because of US sanctions if some minor problems related to banking transactions are settled in talks with foreign negotiating partners.

In a tweet posted on Sunday, Mostafa Qamarivafa said that "considerable progress" had been made in talks in recent weeks to unblock Iran's funds in other countries but he said that some banking issues needed to be settled first.

"Continuous follow-ups are being conducted in collaboration with the foreign ministry to unblock our country's foreign currency resources," he said.

The official did not elaborate on the name of the country where the funds have been held.

Reports on Saturday had suggested that South Korea would release more than \$7 billion worth of funds that

it has deposited into accounts in two of its banks to settle energy debts to Iran.

The reports indicated that the release would be processed based on an understanding between Iran and the United States under which Tehran would release American prisoners in return for Washington's approval of the banking transactions involving Iranian funds in South Korea.

There has been no official comment from governments involved in the talks which have reportedly been mediated by Qatar.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said in a video report on Sunday that the CBI had rejected a list of bank accounts introduced by the opposite parties for the transfer of the funds from South Korea.

That could clarify Qamarivafa's statement about the banking issues that should be settled before the release of the funds finally takes place.

## Iran-Syria Free Trade Customs Tariff Lowered to Zero

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran government cabinet members agreed with an appendix to Iran-Syria free trade agreement that lowers the customs tariff on goods included in that agreement from 4 percent to zero.

In the Sunday cabinet session, headed by the president, the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Trade was allowed to negotiate, edit and sign the appendix to the additional protocol of Free Trade Agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arabic Republic of Syria.

The appendix to additional protocol of that agreement between the Iranian and Syrian governments to decrease the customs tariff on the goods indicated in that free trade agreement from 4 percent to 0 percent, based on the added value at the origin of the goods, also includes the services and the procurement.

The cabinet members, meanwhile, keeping in mind the huge volume of capacities in Iran's eastern neighbor, Pakistan, for expansion of bilateral trade and turning that country into an important export market for Iran, issued the permit for the Industries, Mines and Trade Ministry to negotiate, revise, and sign a temporary free trade agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

## Bulgaria's GERB Party Seen Winning National Election

SOFIA (Dispatches) - The GERB party of ex-Prime Minister Boyko Borissov looked set to win Sunday's election in Bulgaria, the nation's fourth in under two years, with many voters looking for predictability from a former leader amid steep inflation and energy costs.

Exit polls by Gallup International and Alpha Research showed the centre-right GERB with 24.6%-25.5% of ballots. GERB's main rival, the reformist We Continue the Change party, led by Kiril Petkov, whose coalition government collapsed in June, came second with 18.9-19.9% according to the exit polls. If confirmed, the result would herald tough coalition talks ahead that could still end in a hung parliament or even another ballot.



## Pakistan's Former PM Khan Gets Bail

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - A court in Pakistan's capital Islamabad has approved bail for former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan a day after an arrest warrant was issued against him for remarks against police officials and a female judge made at a public rally last month.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Sunday ordered Khan to appear in court on October 7, local media outlet Dawn reported.

The warrant was issued after the former prime minister failed to appear for a hearing in the case at a sessions court in the capital city.



## Ukraine Claims Full Control of Key Logistics Hub, Eyes Further Gains



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine claimed full control of the eastern logistics hub of Lyman, Kyiv's most significant battlefield gain in weeks, providing a potential staging post for further attacks to the east while heaping further pressure on the Kremlin.

The stinging setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin came after he proclaimed the annexation of four regions covering nearly a fifth of Ukraine on Friday, an area that includes Lyman. Kyiv and the West have condemned the proclamation as an illegitimate farce.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the capture of the town, where Ukrainian flags were raised over civic buildings on Saturday, demonstrated that Ukraine is capable of dislodging Russian forces and showed the impact Ukraine's deployment of advanced Western weapons was having on the conflict.

"As of 1230 (0930 GMT), Lyman is fully cleared," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a short video clip on his Telegram channel. "Thank you to our troops ... Glory to Ukraine!"

"Over the past week, the number of Ukrainian flags in Donbas has increased. There will be even more a week's time," Zelenskyy said in an earlier overnight address, using the name for the combined Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Russia's defence ministry said on Saturday that it was pulling troops out of the Lyman area "in connection with the creation of a threat of encirclement".

It did not mention Lyman in its daily update on fighting in Ukraine on Sunday, although it said Russian forces had destroyed seven artillery and missile depots in the Ukrainian regions of Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and Donetsk.

Russian forces captured Lyman from Ukraine in May and had used it as a logistics and transport hub for its operations in the north of the Donetsk region. Losing it is Russia's largest battlefield loss since Ukraine's lightning counteroffensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region last month.

Control over Lyman could prove a "key factor" in helping Ukraine reclaim lost territory in the neighbouring Luhansk region, whose full capture Moscow announced in early July after weeks of grinding advances, Luhansk governor Serhiy Gaidai said.

Lyman's operational importance was due to its command over a key road crossing over the Siverskyi Donets River, behind which Russia has been attempting to consolidate its defences, Britain's Ministry of Defence said.

Russia likely experienced heavy casualties during the withdrawal, the ministry added. Russia had 5,000 to 5,500 troops in the city before the Ukrainian attack, a Ukrainian military spokesman said on Saturday.

The areas Putin claimed as annexed - the Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk plus Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south - form a swath of territory equal to about 18% of Ukraine's total surface land area.

Russia's parliament is to consider on Monday bills and ratification treaties to absorb the regions, the speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament, Vyacheslav Volodin said.

A pomp-filled Kremlin signing ceremony with the regions' Russian-installed leaders on Friday has failed to stem a wave of criticism within Russia of how its military operation is being handled. Britain's defence ministry said that was likely to intensify with further setbacks.

Putin ally Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of Russia's southern Chechnya region, on Saturday called for a change of strategy "right up to the declaration of martial law in the border areas and the use of low-yield nuclear weapons." Washington says it would respond decisively to any use of nuclear weapons.

Other hawkish Russian figures on Saturday criticized Russian generals and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu on social media for overseeing the setbacks but stopped short of attacking Putin.

## Brazil Votes in Tense Election With Lula da Silva Tipped to Win

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Voting was under way in the most divisive presidential election in Brazil's history with left-wing former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva squaring off against far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro.

The frontrunner da Silva, popularly known as Lula, said he is running for president "to get the country back to normal" after four years under President Bolsonaro's rule.

"We don't want more hate, more discord. We want a country at peace," said the 76-year-old ex-president, who is seeking a comeback after leading Brazil from 2003 to 2010. "This country needs to recover the right to be happy."

About 156 million people are eligible to cast ballots. Recent opinion polls have given Lula a commanding lead. The last Datafolha survey published on Saturday found 50 percent of respondents who intended to vote said they would choose Lula versus 36 percent for Bolsonaro.

The polling institute interviewed 12,800 people with a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points.



## Burkina Faso President Resigns, Army Faction Seeks Russia Support

OUAGADOUGOU (Dispatches) - Burkina Faso's self-declared military leader Captain Ibrahim Traore has accepted a conditional resignation offered by President Paul-Henri Damiba to avoid further violence after Friday's coup, religious and traditional leaders said on Sunday.

Traore said that order was being restored after violent protests against the French embassy and days of fighting as his faction moved to topple the government.

Splits have emerged within the army, with many soldiers appearing to seek Russian support as the influence of former colonial power France wanes.

At least three separate videos shared on online on Saturday and Sunday showed Burkina Faso soldiers atop armoured personnel carriers, waving Russian flags, while the crowd around chanted "Russia! Russia!" Reuters has not verified the videos.

Traore's team urged people to halt attacks on the French embassy, targeted by protesters after an officer said France had sheltered Damiba at a French military base in the West African country and that he was planning a counter-offensive.

The French foreign ministry denied the base had hosted Damiba after his ouster on Friday. Damiba also denied he was at the base, saying the reports were a deliberate manipulation of public opinion. His whereabouts remain unknown.

"We want to inform the population that the situation is under control and order is being restored," an army officer said in a statement broadcast on national television. Traore, an army captain, stood beside the officer and was flanked by other armed and masked soldiers. Another statement said Traore would continue to act as president until the designation of a transitional civilian or military president in coming weeks.

Ouagadougou was mostly calm on Sunday after sporadic gunfire across the capital throughout Saturday between opposing army factions.

## Growing Ethnic Tensions Dominate Bosnian Polls

SARAJEVO (Dispatches) - Bosnia's polls closed in a contest between entrenched nationalists and economy-focused reformists.

Election authorities said 35 percent of nearly 3.4 million people eligible to vote turned out on Sunday to cast their ballots by 3pm (13:00 GMT) with the first official results expected in the coming hours.

Despite reports of irregularities and the detention of some people over ballot fraud, officials said the vote proceeded in a satisfactory manner.

Bosnia is going through its worst political crisis since the end of its war in the 1990s, prompted by separatist policies of the Serb leadership and threats of blockades by Bosnian Croats.

Voters cast ballots for the three members of Bosnia's tripartite presidency, members of parliament, and the president of the country's Republika Srpska.

Some 90 political parties have fielded their candidates with another 17 candidates running as independents.

Nearly three decades after war ravaged the Balkan country, Bosnia continues to be burdened by its ethnic divisions.

It has been governed by a dysfunctional administrative system created by the 1995 Dayton Agreement that succeeded in ending the conflict in the 1990s but has largely failed in providing a

framework for the country's political development.

The peace agreement divided the country into two highly independent governing entities: the Republika Srpska - which has a predominantly Serb population - and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is shared by Bosniaks and Croats.

The two entities have broad autonomy but are linked by shared national institutions. All countrywide actions require consensus from all three ethnic groups.

In the war's wake, ethnic political parties have long exploited the country's divisions in a bid to maintain power.

"People are not being represented equally and our democracy and our sovereignty is always being challenged by the others," Ena Porca, a first-time voter told Al Jazeera.

With little to no polling data available, analysts say incumbents and nationalist parties that have dominated the post-war political scene are likely to win many of the races.

Adnan Huskic, a professor of political science, told Al Jazeera the electoral conditions are a "perfect storm" where nationalist parties represent their own interests rather than that of constituents.

"Raising ethnic tensions and producing problems and conflicts is how they divert the attention of the public from grave socioeconomic conditions," he said.



## Latvia to Remain Russia's Critic as PM

RIGA (Dispatches) - The center-right New Unity party of Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins won Saturday's election, according to provisional results, with its 19% of the vote putting him in a position to head another coalition government.

The results - with 96% of districts counted - mean Latvia should remain a leading voice alongside its Baltic neighbors Lithuania and Estonia in pushing the European Union for a decisive stance against Russia.

Karins' party was again the party with the most support following the election. Members of the current coalition were on track to receive 42 seats in the 100-seat parliament, so Karins needs to draft additional allies to stay as a prime minister.

As many as nine parties could win sufficient votes to secure seats in parliament. After a campaign dominated by security concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Karins told Reuters he will be working to craft a coalition of like-minded parties.

"I am convinced that we will be able find such a solution," he said early on Sunday. "First and foremost on everyone's minds is how we all get through the winter, not only in Latvia but throughout the EU, and that we all remain united behind Ukraine, and do not waiver in the face of difficulties for us."

The first Latvian head of government to serve through a full four-year term, Karins, a 57-year-old dual U.S. and Latvian citizen, has benefited from his Moscow policy, which included restricting the entry of Russian citizens travelling from Russia and Belarus.

"I see no chance that any government in Latvia will stop supporting Ukraine - this is not a view of a small group of politicians, this is the view of our society," said Karins. But his victory could widen a rift between the country's Latvian majority and its Russian-speaking minority over their place in society. The election results show falling support for parties popular with Latvia's Russian-speaking minority, which make up about a quarter of the country's population of 1.9 million.

The left-leaning Harmony party saw its support drop to 5% after securing the largest share of the vote in the 2018 election, with observers pointing to ethnic Latvian voters turning away and disappointment among Russian speakers over the party leadership's criticism of the Kremlin over Ukraine.



# Superyacht Linked To Sanctioned Russian On Sale for 29.5m Euros



LONDON (Dispatches) - A U.S.-based luxury yacht broker is advertising for sale a 168-foot superyacht linked to sanctioned Russian billionaire Igor Kesaev for 29.5 million euros, according to an email seen by Reuters.

The proposed sale of the MySky yacht, which was disclosed in an advertisement emailed from the brokerage firm to undisclosed recipients on Sept. 14, comes amid concerns from Western governments and campaigners that billionaires like Kesaev have been able to work around a patchwork of international sanctions targeting their luxury assets such as yachts.

The EU and UK sanctioned Kesaev in April in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with the EU citing his involvement in military weapons production and tobacco distribution in Russia, as well as links to the Russian government "and its security forces." The United States has not sanctioned Kesaev, and the U.S. Treasury did not respond to requests for comment.

Sara Gioanola, a spokesperson for Heesen Yachts, the Netherlands-based firm that built MySky, confirmed that Kesaev commissioned it and another yacht, called Sky.

Reuters was unable to independently confirm that Kesaev still has direct ownership in the MySky. An article about Kesaev's daughter and her art gallery in the spring 2021 edition of Heesen's magazine noted that "the Kesaev family is well known to Heesen, having commissioned Sky and MySky over the past decade."

A spokesman for Kesaev declined to address questions about the ownership of the yacht or its imminent sale. The advertisement seen by Reuters was sent from an email address at Fort Lauderdale, Florida firm Merle Wood & Associates, which calls itself "one of the premier yacht brokerage firms worldwide." It was circulated privately with a warning not to post the advertisement publicly. Reuters was unable to determine the recipients.

The yacht named MySky features "ultra-modern sophisticated interiors" by a well-known Dutch architect, an "indoor climate controlled gymnasium" and a deck that can be used for landing helicopters, according to the advertisement.

Merle A. Wood, who is listed as the point of contact on the MySky advertisement, told Reuters by phone he knows nothing about the yacht's owner and directed Reuters to a different broker, Burgess, which he described as the primary broker in the proposed sale. Wood referred all questions to Burgess, which has offices in London, Monaco and other major markets.

A Burgess company spokesperson, Nicci Perides, said in a WhatsApp message that she "can't answer questions about the yacht" and referred questions to Wood, who did not respond to additional requests for comment.

Clara Portela, a sanctions expert at the University of Valencia, said that because there are no U.S. sanctions on Kesaev, American businesses or buyers could be involved in the yacht sale without running afoul of sanctions.

A check by Reuters of the Burgess website on Wednesday found the MySky listed as available for charter bookings. As of Thursday, Burgess had removed the MySky charter listing after Reuters inquired about it.

The Merle Wood ad said that the yacht was in the Maldives. Reuters photographed the vessel in waters off the Indian Ocean island republic in early March, in the days after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Yachts linked to sanctioned Russians have appeared in destinations such as the Maldives and Turkey in recent months as authorities in the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom levied sanctions and sought to seize such assets. Authorities in the Maldives did not respond to requests for comment.

# Drone Delivery Lands in America



TEXAS (Dispatches) - The little aircraft appeared out of the blue sky above a Texas home, deposited its payload of a mid-morning snack in the yard and zoomed off, as deliveries by drone start becoming a reality in America.

Flying shipments of pizzas and birthday gifts have still not become the norm that tech leaders predicted, but the service is available in parts of the United States and government regulation is catching up.

Skeptics question whether drone drop-offs can ever work on a large scale, but backers argue they are safer and better for the planet than hulking, greenhouse-gas-spewing delivery trucks — and faster.

The parcel lowered to the ground from an electric drone hovering above Tiffany Bokhari's Frisco, Texas, house was in her hands minutes after she placed an order on a smartphone app.

"On the soda, you can even see the condensation on it because it's still cold," she told AFP after the drone from Alphabet-owned Wing had flown off.

Service was new in the area and remained small-scale, but Wing offered the comparison of the up to 1,000 deliveries per day it's doing in just one part of the Brisbane metro area in Australia.

A handful of firms already have operations running or will by year's end in parts of Texas, North Carolina or California, with providers including Israeli startup Flytrex, Wing and e-commerce behemoth Amazon.

In fact, it was Amazon founder Jeff Bezos who in 2013 unveiled a delivery drone in a CBS interview, predicting that within five years airborne shipments would be routinely zipping from fulfillment centers to customers' doorsteps.

Things haven't quite gone that way for the company that has otherwise seeped ubiquitously into aspects of modern life, from streaming and food shopping to health care.

When an Amazon delivery drone crashed during a test last year and started a brush fire, it was another setback for the company's stumbling drone ambitions.

The work has advanced more steadily for others, and in April, Wing announced what it calls "the first commercial drone delivery service" in a major US metro area: Texas's Dallas-Fort Worth.

Wing, which also offers deliveries to some areas in Australia and Finland, has a weight limit of 2.5-3 pounds (just over one kilo).

"An entire roasted chicken... that's actually a good visual for the size of what fits," said Jonathan Bass, who heads marketing and communications for Wing.

Take-out food, prescriptions and household items like toothbrushes are the type of small and light products that have worked for airborne drop-offs, though drones have for years delivered essential items like medical goods in parts of Africa.

Drone drop-offs of perishable substances like blood make sense in places where infrastructure is lacking and air transport is the best option, yet some experts are skeptical of whether it works everywhere.

For example, a drone can carry one delivery from a warehouse or store to generally one place, which means a steep drop in efficiency in comparison with an old-fashioned parcel delivery driver.

"It would take a small army of drones to service the 150-200 packages that just one truck normally takes on a route," wrote Bloomberg Opinion columnist Thomas Black, who still saw potential for "premium" emergency deliveries.

But Flytrex CEO Yariv Bash asserted that electric drones, in addition to being more efficient than take-out food deliveries done by a fossil fuel-powered car, were safer.



**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

**HOME**  
Real Estate

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

**IRAN NEWS**  
PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS  
**ADVERTISING**

TEL: 44253448-50  
FAX: 44253234  
ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM

## OPEC+ to Hold Oct. 5 Meeting in Person in Vienna

DUBA (Dispatches) - OPEC+ will hold its meeting on Oct. 5 in person in Vienna, an OPEC source told Reuters. A virtual option will also be available for some delegations due to the short notice if they are unable to. OPEC+, which combines OPEC countries with allies such as Russia, is meeting against a backdrop of falling prices from multi-year highs hit in March and severe market volatility.

Sources have told Reuters talks on an oil output cut are focussing on a potential reduction of 500,000 barrels per day to 1 million bpd to support the market. Earlier this week, a source familiar with Russian thinking said Moscow could suggest a cut of up to 1 million bpd, while an OPEC source put the likely figure closer to 500,000 bpd. Talks are expected to continue ahead of the meeting.



## Lebanon Will Gradually Phase In New Official FX Rate

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon will roll out a new official exchange rate of 15,000 pounds per dollar gradually, with initial exceptions to include banks' balance sheets and housing loan repayments to which the old rate will still apply, the prime minister said.

In a Reuters interview, Najib Mikati sought to clear up confusion caused on Wednesday when the finance ministry said the 1,507 rate would end on Nov. 1, part of efforts to unify numerous exchange rates that have emerged during the country's financial crisis.

Mikati said the gap between the market rate of 38,000 and other rates must close "sooner or later" - an IMF demand included in a draft funding agreement inked in April - but this would take time.

"The finance minister's statement portrayed things as if things will change all at once - no, there will be exceptions and things will be done in certain phases," Mikati said.

The pound has crashed by more than 95% from the official rate since Lebanon's financial system collapsed three years ago, plunging swathes of the population into poverty in the worst crisis since the 1975-90 civil war.

Mikati said the 15,000 rate would initially apply to customs duties on imports and to VAT on goods priced in dollars. The central bank would issue circulars and decisions determining the wider applications, he said, with elaborating.

"It won't happen overnight," he said.

Lebanon's crisis erupted in 2019 after decades of profligate spending by a state riddled with corruption and waste, together with unsustainable financial policies.

But ruling politicians have made scant progress in addressing the crisis, which the World Bank in a January report described as a deliberate depression orchestrated by the elite.

After the IMF criticised Lebanon last week for "very slow" progress towards reforms, Mikati said the government was committed to a deal and was on the cusp of finalising two steps sought by donors.

He said the government was set to hike the tariff charged by the state-owned power firm - a big drain on state coffers - for the first time since the 1990s.

He added this would lead to the provision of more than 10 hours of power a day to homes that currently barely get any, and which depend on expensive privately-owned generators to keep the lights on.

The government would also submit to parliament next week a law setting the framework for restructuring the banking sector, which has been paralysed by the crisis, trapping savers' dollar deposits.

With no sign of action to resolve the situation, some depositors resorted to extreme measures this month, demanding their deposits by force in a spate of bank holdups that have led banks to close.

Mikati, a billionaire tycoon, said he "understood" such actions "but the money won't come back this way".

"I know their pain," he said, while warning such actions would lead to "the law of the jungle".

## S&P Cuts UK Rating Outlook After Tax Cut Plan

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ratings agency Standard & Poor's cut the outlook for its AA credit rating for British sovereign debt to "negative" from "stable" as it judged Prime Minister Liz Truss's tax cut plans would cause debt to keep rising.

Finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng announced around 45 billion pounds (\$50 billion) of permanent, unfunded tax cuts on Sept. 23 as well as costly temporary subsidies to household and business energy bills, sending sterling and bond markets into a tailspin.

While sterling has since recovered, the Bank of England was forced to launch an emergency bond purchase program to stabilize markets and has warned it would probably need to raise interest rates significantly in November.

S&P - which ranks British government debt one notch higher than rivals Moody's and Fitch - said it saw British public debt on an upward trajectory, in contrast to a previous forecast that it would fall as a share of gross domestic product from 2023.

"Our updated fiscal forecast is subject to additional risks, for instance, if the UK's economic growth turns out weaker due to further deterioration of the economic environment, or if the government's borrowing costs increase more than expected, driven by market forces and monetary policy tightening," it added.

S&P forecast Britain would enter a technical recession in the coming quarters and its GDP would shrink by 0.5% in 2023.

Truss and Kwarteng met top officials from Britain's Office for Budget Responsibility on Friday, but have so far rejected calls from some investors and political rivals that they ask the independent OBR to publish new forecasts sooner than Nov. 23, when Kwarteng intends to set out a debt-reduction plan.

Moody's said on Wednesday that Kwarteng's tax cuts were "credit negative", and has flagged Oct. 21 as the most likely next date for a more formal review.

Britain's government has said that tax cuts and longer-term structural reforms to areas such as immigration and planning permits should boost growth, but S&P said the benefit was likely to be modest, especially in the short term.

"For now it is unclear whether the government plans to ultimately introduce fiscal consolidation measures to bring debt back on a downward path and we assume that the package will be funded by debt," it said.

Britain's public borrowing was likely to average 5.5% of GDP a year from 2023 to 2025, compared with a previous forecast of 3%, while general government debt would rise to 97% of GDP by 2025, S&P forecast.

## Japan Spends Record of Nearly \$20b on Intervention to Support the Yen

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan spent up to a record 2.8 trillion yen (\$19.7 billion) intervening in the foreign exchange market last week to prop up the yen, Ministry of Finance data showed on Friday, draining nearly 15% of funds it has readily available for intervention.

The figure was less than the 3.6 trillion yen estimated by Tokyo money market brokers for Japan's first dollar-selling, yen-buying intervention in 24 years to stem the currency's sharp weakening.

The ministry's figure, indicating total spending on currency intervention from Aug. 30 to Sept. 28, is widely believed to have been used entirely for the Sept. 22 intervention. It would surpass the previous record for dollar-selling, yen-buying intervention in 1998 of 2.62 trillion yen. Confirmation on the dates of the spending will be released in November.

"This was a big burst of intervention, if it had happened on a single day, underscoring Japanese authorities' determination to defend the yen," said Daisaku Ueno, chief forex strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities.

"But the impact of further intervention will diminish as long as Japan continues to intervene solo," he said.

The intervention, conducted after the yen slumped to a 24-year low of nearly 146 to the dollar, triggered a sharp bounce of more than 5 yen per dollar from that low, although the currency has since drifted down again to around 144.25. "Recent sharp, one-sided yen declines heighten uncertainty by making it difficult for companies to set business plans. It's therefore undesirable and bad for the economy," Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda was quoted as saying at a meeting with cabinet ministers on Friday.

## American Consumers Spent More in August, as Prices Rose

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Consumers spent a bit more in August than the previous month, a sign the economy is holding up even as inflation lifts prices for food, rent, and other essentials.

Americans boosted their spending at stores and for services, such as haircuts, by 0.4 percent in August, after it fell 0.2 percent in July, the Department of Commerce said Friday. Yet much of that increase reflected higher prices, with an inflation gauge closely monitored by the Federal Reserve rising 0.3 percent in August,

the government's report showed.

The figures suggested that the economy is showing some resilience despite sharply rising interest rates, violent swings in the stock market, and high inflation.

Still, there were signs that rising prices are weighing on shoppers. Consumer spending, adjusted for inflation, is growing at a weaker pace. It increased at an annual rate of 2 percent in the April-June quarter. Yet July and August data indicate that spending growth is on track to slow to an annual rate of just 0.5 percent in the July-September quarter, economists said.

The economy is expected to grow in the third quarter, after shrinking in the first six months of this year. But many economists lowered their forecasts after the spending report and now expect growth will be just 1 percent or so at an annual rate.

Americans are also saving less in order to keep up with higher prices. The US saving rate was just 3.5 percent in August, far below pre-pandemic levels of about 8 percent, Friday's report said.

There have been other signs of consumer weakness recently, with used car seller Carmax reporting sharply lower sales in the three months ending in August. The company attributed the decline to "affordability challenges" for consumers amid high inflation and rising interest rates.

Compared with a year ago, prices jumped 6.2 percent, down from a 6.4 percent annual gain in July but not far from June's four-decade high of 7 percent. The figure is lower than the more widely-known consumer price index, released earlier this month, which reported an 8.3 percent price gain in August from a year earlier.

The two indexes differ for several reasons. For example, the consumer price index puts much greater weight on rents and housing costs, which have been rising steadily, than the measure released Friday, known as the price index for personal consumption expenditures.

## IMF Board Approves New Food Shock Financing Window to Ease War Shortages

WASHINGTON (Dispatches)- The International Monetary Fund said its executive board approved a new mechanism for low-condition emergency loans to help vulnerable countries cope with food shortages and rising costs stemming from Russia's war in Ukraine.

The IMF said its new Food Shock Window will be open for one year through its existing Rapid Credit Facility and Rapid Financing Instrument programs for countries with urgent balance of payment needs that "are suffering from acute food insecurity, a sharp food imports shock, or from a cereals export shock."

The IMF's announcement did not mention any specific countries that would be eligible for low-condition emergency loans under the new window.

Two people familiar with the new mechanism said it would allow countries to borrow up to half of their quota, or shareholding, in the fund -- similar to the emergency Rapid Financing Instrument and Rapid Credit Facility, which were used to rush billions of dollars worth of financial assistance to IMF member countries struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among eligibility criteria, countries would have to show that the food import price shocks are creating a negative balance of payments impact of 0.3% of GDP. New IMF research identifies at least 48 countries in this category, including many of the world's poorest, most vulnerable and conflict-affected states.

Negative cereals export shocks would have to reach 0.8% of GDP for eligibility, and borrowers with unsustainable debt would be denied -- a rule that would cause difficulties for countries such as Lebanon or Sri Lanka.



IMF European Department director Alfred Kammer said last week that Ukraine could receive another \$1.3 billion in emergency financing from the new food shock window after its approval. He said the Fund was discussing with Ukrainian authorities a new macroeconomic stabilization framework that would help the war torn country identify external financing needs.

Ukraine has said that it needs \$5 billion a month in external financing to keep its economy functioning. The IMF provided \$1.4 billion in emergency financing to Ukraine in March and has helped, along with the World Bank, to facilitate billions more in donor funding.

## South Korea, U.S. Agree to Implement Liquidity Measures If Needed



SEOUL (Dispatches) - The United States and South Korea agreed to implement liquidity facilities to stabilize financial markets if needed, Korea's finance ministry said after a teleconference between finance chiefs of the two countries.

The won is near its lowest level since March 2009, and has weakened 17% against the surging U.S. dollar so far in 2022, amid a broad sell-off in emerging market currencies as the Federal Reserve aggressively raises interest rates.

"The two countries are ready to work closely together to implement liquidity facilities when necessary, such as when financial instability is aggravated by the spread of (a) liquidity crunch in major economies, including Korea," the ministry said in a statement after the call between the U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and South Korea finance minister Choo Kyung-ho.

The agreement reached on Saturday repeats the U.S. statement made when Yellen last visited Seoul in July, amid growing calls for the Bank of Korea to arrange a currency swap with the Federal Reserve to stabilize the dollar-won market.

However, the statement released on Saturday did not elaborate on whether the facilities that may be deployed referred to a currency swap and South Korea's finance ministry did not give further details.

A \$60-billion currency swap pact set up in March 2020 between the central banks of the two countries as an emergency step to stabilize markets expired at the end of last year. Such a swap would allow South Korea to borrow a certain amount of U.S. dollars for a pre-set period and rate, in exchange for won, so as to resolve difficulties in dollar liquidity.

To help protect one of the world's worst performing currencies, South Korean authorities has recently arranged a \$10 billion currency swap program with the country's state-run pension fund, a tool that allows the fund to finance its overseas investment with the central bank's FX reserves, instead of buying dollars in the spot market.

## Iranian Vessel Not Confiscated in Baku

TEHRAN, Oct. 03 (MNA) – Rejecting the seizure of Iranian vessel in Baku, Khazar Sea Shipping Lines Company (KSSSLCO) said that the bad weather conditions on way to destination is the main reason for temporary stay of the vessel in Baku.

The Iranian vessel belonging to Khazar Sea Shipping Lines Company, headed from Bandar Anzali to Aktau port in Kazakhstan,

was forced to stop temporarily in one of the ports of Baku in Azerbaijan due to bad weather conditions on the way to the destination, the company announced in a statement on Monday.

The vessel will continue on its way to the port of Aktau in Kazakhstan as soon as the weather conditions are favorable, the statement added.



## EU Watchdog Says Banks Need \$1.2b to Meet Capital Rules in Full

LONDON (Dispatches) -Banks in the European Union will collectively need a further 1.2 billion euros (\$1.18 billion) to meet a set of global capital rules in full by 2028, the bloc's banking watchdog said.

In the latest sign of how well capitalised lenders in the bloc have become in broad terms, the European Banking Authority said on Friday that implementing the Basel III global accord in full would result in an average increase of 15% in current core 'Tier 1' capital buffers, with much of the shortfall among smaller, domestic-focused lenders.

Banks have faced far tougher capital requirements since taxpayers bailed out many of them during the global financial crisis more than a decade ago.

The requirements under Basel III have largely been rolled out, but some remaining elements are due to be fully implemented by 2028 in the EU, Britain, the United States and other jurisdictions.

The EU plans to delay by two years until January 2025 when banks should start to implement the remaining Basel III rules.

The bloc's member states and European Parliament are also negotiating whether to introduce temporary or permanent waivers from some rules as banks say that applying them in full and on time would bump up capital requirements significantly.

EBA said that if proposed EU 'adjustments' to Basel were factored in, the shortfall would fall to 400 million euros, but if planned additional EU buffers were added, the shortfall rises to 1.4 billion euros.

Ana Botin, president of the European Banking Federation and chair of Banco Santander, told an EBF conference on Thursday that reliance on banks will increase as EU states and companies borrow more to revive growth and transition to net zero.



"In recent years, European banks have built up more capital than our U.S. counterparts, more than 250 billion euros since 2014 in a period when CET1 ratios remained stable in the U.S.," Botin said.

At the same time, Europe must continue to push for a regulatory framework that can deliver a competitive, profitable and strong banking sector to serve the economy, the EBF said.

## Immigration, Identity Shape Election in French-Speaking Quebec



MONTREAL (Dispatches) - Does immigration threaten the unique culture of French-speaking Quebec? However controversial, the claim is being pushed hard by the Canadian province's ruling party, whose brand of identity politics looks set to deliver them a win at the ballot box next week.

A French-speaking bastion in mostly English-speaking North America, Quebec has long defended tooth and nail the language of Moliere. It's a fight taken up by the governing party since coming to power four years ago, the conservative Coalition Avenir Quebec (CAQ) -- but with an added focus on immigration.

Incumbent Quebec Premier Francois Legault made his views clear at the outset of the campaign: unchecked immigration by non-French speakers risks undermining social cohesion in the province.

It would be "a bit suicidal" to take in more newcomers given the decline of French, Legault -- whose party is leading in the polls ahead of Monday's provincial election -- argued again this week.

During a debate, his immigration minister, Jean Boulet, went further -- and provoked an uproar -- with the baseless claim that "80 percent of immigrants do not work, do not speak French or do not adhere to the values of Quebec society."

His comments are also glaringly at odds with the economic reality in the province of nearly 8.5 million inhabitants facing a severe labor shortage -- one that could be remedied through increased immigration.

With an ageing population retiring en masse and an unemployment rate at a historic low, Quebec is looking to fill more than 250,000 jobs. And the government anticipates that number will keep rising -- reaching some 1.4 million by 2030.

If reelected, Legault, a 65-year-old multi-millionaire businessman, plans to keep annual immigration capped at 50,000 people.

But some observers, like the sociologist Jean-Pierre Corbeil, are ringing alarm bells over the growing political conversation in Quebec linking language and immigration.

"We tend to put all the responsibility (for the decline of French) on the backs of immigrants," he told AFP. "And that's where it's dangerous, there is a discourse of exclusion that is taking shape."

"I find that it is extremely, I would almost say, unhealthy," echoed linguistics expert Richard Marcoux. "We will really have to resume the discussion after the elections to be able to address immigration issues in a different way."

Although views diverge on the question of immigration, all major parties vying for seats in Quebec's national assembly agree on the need to preserve the French language.

"We are in a critical situation. There is a real linguistic emergency in Quebec," said Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, leader of the separatist Parti Quebecois.

## Germany Builds New Gas Terminals to Succeed Russian Pipelines

WILHELMSHAVEN (Dispatches) - Germany's most strategically important building site is at the end of a windswept pier on the North Sea coast, where workers are assembling the country's first terminal for the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Starting this winter, the rig, close to the port of Wilhelmshaven, will be able to supply the equivalent of 20 percent of the gas that was until recently imported from Russia.

Since its invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has throttled gas supplies to Germany, while the Nord Stream pipelines which carried huge volumes under the Baltic Sea to Europe were damaged last week in what a Danish-Swedish report called "a deliberate act."

In the search for alternative sources, the German government has splashed billions on five projects like the one in Wilhelmshaven.

Altogether the new fleet should be able to handle around 25 billion cubic metres of gas per year, roughly equivalent to half the capacity of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline.

At the site in Wilhelmshaven, the half-finished concrete platform emerging from the sea sprays workers in fluorescent yellow vests with a fine mist.

Back on solid land, a constant stream of lorries delivers sections of grey pipe, which should relay the terminal to the gas network. LNG terminals allow for the import by sea of natural gas which has been chilled and turned into a liquid to make it easier to transport.

A specialist vessel, known as an FSRU, which can stock

the fuel and turn LNG back into a ready-to-use gas, is also hooked up to the platform to complete the installation.

Unlike other countries in Europe, Germany until now did not have an LNG terminal, instead relying on relatively cheap pipeline supplies from Russia.

But since the invasion of Ukraine, Germany has set about weaning itself off Moscow's gas exports, which previously represented 55 percent of its supplies.

To diversify its sources, secure enough supplies of the fuel and keep its factories working, Berlin has bet massively on LNG to fill the gap left by Russian imports.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz last week signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates for the supply of LNG, while touring Persian Gulf states in search of new sources.

Renting five FSRU ships to plug into the new terminals has also set Berlin back three billion euros (\$2.9 billion).

Following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, Germany passed a law to drastically speed up the approval process for LNG terminals.

In Wilhelmshaven, the work is coming along rapidly. The terminal should be finished "this winter", says Holger Kreetz, who heads the project for German energy company Uniper.

The strategic importance of the terminal has seen building work advance surprisingly quickly. "Normally, a project like this takes us five to six years," Kreetz tells AFP.

The arrival of the new terminal has been welcomed by many residents in Wilhelmshaven, where deindustrialisation has pushed the unemployment rate up to 10 percent, almost twice the national average.

## Iran Inflation Rate...

FROM PAGE 1

The inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20 was 39.7 percent for urban households, and 42.8 percent for rural households.

The point-to-point inflation rate was reported to be 34.5 percent for urban households and 35.8 percent for rural ones, according to the SCI. The Statistical Center of Iran had put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, 2021 (the end of the Iranian calendar year 1399) at 36.4 percent, rising 2.2 percent from the figure for the twelve-month period ended on the last day of the preceding year.

## Heavy Battery Production Line in Khansar

Tender no: FBNP 1401-33

Faraz Battery Co. intended to open a tender with the following conditions for develop its products by assembling heavy truck SMF, MF and LM types batteries from 100 to 250 Ah.

Scope of the works: ASSEMBLY LINE including loading and unloading of plates, plate stacks, c.o.s, enveloping machines, COMBI (intercell welding machine), post burning machine, pneumatic conveyor, laser printing machine.

**Formation dept.:** Complete Finishing line and Formation Rectifiers

The machines in the assembly line and finishing line should be capable for producing both 3\*2 and 6\*1 layouts from 100 to 250 Ah. Capacity acc. to EN and JIS standards.

-The production speed in formation dept. and acid filling machines and finishing line should be at least 500 batteries in 22 hours.

\* Other conditions shall be considered in the tender documents.

\*Bidders who have ability and experience in this filed are requested to send the primary P/I included some technological information about all product line machines within 15 days from this announcement.

**Address for willing to participate and submission : Third floor , No.38, Esfandyar**

**Blvd. Vali-e-asr Street, Tehran-Iran**

**Tel:+982188651741 Fax:+982188650859**

**E-mail:info@farazbattery.ir**

## Recent Unrests Have...

FROM PAGE 1

He also stated: "In recent months, there was an inappropriate trend in the growth of the country's large industries. The growth of these industries have now improved and reached plus 6.7 percent. The largest increase in production is related to the automotive parts industry."

Speaking about the formation of the inflation monitoring committee, Iranian Economic Affairs and Finance Minister stressed: "Controlling inflation is the government's priority in the country because we had 4 years of inflation and that is why the existence of this committee is the right thing."

Khandouzi stated: "President Raisi will be also provided with a report in this regard on a weekly basis."

He went on to say: "The stability and prospects of the capital market have always been important for the government."

## South Koreans...

FROM PAGE 1

Firouzi reiterated that South Korea once was Iran's fifth trade partner but after the sanctions, the trade between them has declined and now South Korea ranks 38<sup>th</sup> among Iran's trade partners and it is because of sanctions because South Koreans do not risk sanctions punishment.

He once again reiterated that South Koreans prefer direct trade rather than barter, noting that South Korean national currency could not replace dollar in trade with Iran.

## Iran Halts Gas...

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian has announced that Turkey and Iran have succeeded in paving the ground for the exchange of electricity with the capacity of 600 megawatts.

Mehrabian made the remarks on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the first specialized exhibition of innovative and technological products of the electric power industry in the capital Tehran on Monday.

Energy ministries of the two countries agreed upon upgrading the infrastructure of power transmission between the two neighboring states, the minister noted, adding that a back-to-back system has been set up in recent days; so, the power exchange takes place with the use of this method.

In July, he said that the two countries agreed to utilize the modern HVDC Back-to-Back method to connect the Iranian power grid to Turkey in Khoy-Bash Gala infrastructure with a capacity of 600 megawatts.

The administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has prioritized power diplomacy, Mehrabian said, noting that the recent visit by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Tehran paved the ground for expansion of coordination in this regard and that development of power diplomacy was one of the main topics of negotiations among presidents of Russia, Turkey, and Iran during the Astana peace summit on July 19, 2022.

## U.S. Urged to...

FROM PAGE 1

"Are these called media? They are command centers that provoke violence and what they do is not acceptable by any international standards and conventions," he added.

He further explained that Iran has warned the countries hosting the media outlets and has taken some measures in this regard. Violent protests have also targeted Iran's diplomatic missions in other countries. On that, Kanaani said all countries are bound by law to provide security for other countries' diplomatic missions.

"Some of our missions have been targeted by the rioters, some of whom claim to be human rights activists," he said. "Therefore, we have underscored the importance of ensuring the security of the embassies in phone calls and now the embassies have resumed their activities."

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said Tehran has officially warned the Iraqi government against terrorists' infiltration into the Iranian borders and the importance of clearing Iraq of the terrorists.

He made the remarks in response to a question about Iran's recent strikes on bases of anti-Iran terrorists in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran respects Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity, but unfortunately terrorist groups have set up bases in neighboring countries across Iran's borders, compromising the country's security and resulting in civil and military casualties," he added.

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

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

## Oliveira Wins Rain-Hit Thai MotoGP

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Miguel Oliveira delivered a wet-weather masterclass to win the Thai MotoGP on Sunday, but world champion Fabio Quartararo finished 17th and saw his lead at the top slashed to two points. Portugal's KTM rider Oliveira took the chequered flag ahead of Australia's Jack Miller, with title contender Francesco Bagnaia of Italy third. He is now just two points behind Yamaha's Quartararo in the standings with three races left.

## Mohoric Pips Vingegaard To Win Tour of Croatia

OSIJEK (Dispatches) - Slovenian rider Matej Mohoric won the Tour of Croatia on Sunday finishing just one second ahead of Tour de France champion Jonas Vingegaard after the sixth and final stage. Competing in his first race since winning the Tour in July, Vingegaard had gone into the final stage in the leader's red jersey. But the Jumbo Visma rider was unable to position himself in the final sprint won by Italian Elia Viviani.

# Perez Wins in Singapore as Verstappen Title Celebrations on I

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Mexican Sergio Perez put in the drive of his life to take victory ahead of Charles Leclerc in Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix as Formula One title favorite Max Verstappen had to put his championship celebrations on hold after finishing seventh.

The Red Bull driver took the chequered flag 7.5 seconds ahead of his Monegasque rival after a slow burner, rain-delayed race interrupted by two safety car and five virtual safety car periods and called at its two-hour time limit after 59 of 61 laps. Carlos Sainz in the other Ferrari was third.

Perez is, however, under investigation for a safety car infringement. "I controlled the race," said the 32-year-old, who started alongside pole-sitter Leclerc on the front row and snatched the lead from him off the line on a wet track.

"The last three laps were so intense. "I gave everything for the win today," added Perez who pushed hard in the closing stages to open up enough of a gap to Leclerc to cover off a potential penalty.

The drive, which Perez hailed as his best performance yet, earned him his fourth career win and second this season, with the Mexican also victorious at Monaco in May. But it also forced team mate Verstappen to delay his title celebrations.

The Dutchman, who had started a furious eighth after being forced to abort his fastest qualifying lap due to a lack of fuel, needed to leave Singapore with a 138 point margin to his closest challenger.

Instead, he now holds a 104 point lead over Leclerc and a 106 point advantage against Perez in the overall standings, with next week's race in Japan allowing him another shot at clinching a second title.

His seventh place, only his second finish outside the top-three this season, snapped a five-race winning streak for the 25-year-old.

It came after an uncharacteristically scrappy race that saw him drop positions off the line and make an extra pitstop after locking up and running wide while challenging McLaren's Lando Norris for fourth at the second safety car restart.



"It's just a very frustrating weekend," said Verstappen. "We have five races left and we have a big lead but I want to have a good weekend every single time."

Leclerc, who had also started on pole but finished second the last time F1 visited Singapore in 2019, was keen to move on to Japan.

"The bad start put us on the back foot and after that it was a really difficult race," he said. Norris finished fourth ahead of team mate Daniel Ricciardo.

The pair handed McLaren their best result of the season, which moved them ahead of Alpine into fourth in the constructors' standings.

Lance Stroll took sixth ahead of Verstappen, with Sebastian Vettel making it two Aston Martin cars in the points with eighth.

Lewis Hamilton, one of the favourites for victory, was only ninth. The Briton, starting third, made contact with Sainz at the start and was forced wide.

He slotted into fourth but then locked up on fading intermediate tyres and thumped into the barriers.

"The problems that we have with this car are magnified in the rain," he said.



Norrie out of Japan Open With Covid

SEOUL (Dispatches) - Britain's world number eight Cameron Norrie said on Sunday that he caught Covid while in Seoul, forcing him to withdraw from both the Korea and Japan Opens.

The 27-year-old, who was pushing for a spot in the season-ending ATP Finals, pulled out less than an hour before the quarter-finals of the Korea Open on Friday. The ATP said he was ill, but gave no more details.

"Unfortunately, I had a positive Covid test in Korea and wasn't able to compete in the rest of my matches," Norrie wrote on Instagram.

The Briton said that he has not experienced any symptoms and was feeling fine, but will be unable to compete at this week's Japan Open because of quarantine requirements.

Norrie, who was second seed at the Korea Open, had been scheduled to face Jenson Brooksby of the United States in the last eight in Seoul.

## Curry Hails Productive Warriors Pre-Season Japan Trip

SAITAMA (Dispatches) - Stephen Curry said the Golden State Warriors had enjoyed a "productive" pre-season trip to Japan after the reigning NBA champions beat the Washington Wizards on Sunday for a second time.

Curry scored a team-high 17 points in almost 17 minutes on the court as the Warriors downed the Wizards 104-95 in front of a packed crowd in Saitama, north of Tokyo, in the second of two exhibition games between the teams.

The Warriors will attempt to win their fifth NBA title in nine years when the season begins later this month and Curry believes they will be ready for the opener.

"I think we made it productive and I think we got a little bit better as a team, got to know each other a little better," said the sharp-shooting Curry, last season's NBA Finals Most Valuable Player.

"I think the bigger thing is the next two weeks that we have back at home. "We have three more pre-season games, a lot of good practice time, and that's going to be a big chance for us to fine-tune a lot of things to get ready for the start of the season."

The Wizards led 85-74 heading into the final quarter but the Warriors came roaring back thanks to a strong performance from rookie Patrick Baldwin Jr.

Curry and forward Draymond Green started for the Warriors but Klay Thompson again played no part, with head coach Steve Kerr leaving him out as a precaution against injury.

Curry said the trip to Japan had been an "amazing experience" off the court as well as on it, with the star player even "squaring up in the ring" against sumo wrestlers during a visit to a training session.

"I've been looking forward to this trip for a while now," he said.

"Love Japan, love Tokyo, love this whole area. It was an amazing four days. I wish it was a little longer."



# Perez Insisting on European Super League

Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus stayed on board while other clubs abandoned ship and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (CJEU) is to rule over whether European football governing body UEFA is acting as a monopoly by blocking the project.

"The Super League has never been closed off with a concrete format," Perez told Madrid members. "We think that it could change depending on different contexts."

"The objective of the Super League is to modernise football. It is essential to offer fans games of great quality. UEFA, with their changing and remodelling of the Champions League is mistakenly going the other way."

MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid president Florentino Perez again insisted on the idea of a European Super League when speaking at a club members assembly.

In April 2021 a dozen of Europe's biggest clubs signed up to a controversial new project but it crumbled after a strong backlash from supporters and football's governing bodies.

Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus stayed on board while other clubs abandoned ship and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (CJEU) is to rule over whether European football governing body UEFA is acting as a monopoly by blocking the project.

"The Super League has never been closed off with a concrete format," Perez told Madrid members. "We think that it could change depending on different contexts."

"The objective of the Super League is to modernise football. It is essential to offer fans games of great quality. UEFA, with their changing and remodelling of the Champions League is mistakenly going the other way."

The Real Madrid chief compared football to tennis, where the top players usually face each other multiple times a year.

"What sense does it have depriving fans of big games?" he asked. "(Rafa) Nadal and (Roger) Federer have met over 40 times. Nadal and (Novak) Djokovic have played 59 times, is this boring?"

"Liverpool and Real Madrid have only met nine times in 67 years."

Perez also took aim at Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi, who is also the president of the European Club Association (ECA).

"The president of the ECA said that Real Madrid launched the Super League because they feared competition," he added.

"Maybe we have to remind him who Real Madrid are, the most decorated club in history."

Perez's comments were met with contempt in some quarters, with La Liga president Javier Tebas taking to Twitter to criticize the Madrid chief.

"History will recognize Florentino Perez as one of the best runners of a club, but to be someone who can run a club well does not imply they will be good at running competitions," wrote Tebas.

"Without knowing, Perez is saying things that could kill the rest of the clubs, including Real Madrid."

## Haaland, Foden Hat-Tricks Help Man City Thrash Man Utd

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Erling Haaland and Phil Foden scored hat-tricks as Manchester City thrashed Manchester United 6-3 to move to within a point of Premier League leaders Arsenal.

Haaland has scored hat-tricks in each of his last three Premier League home games to take his tally as a City player to 17 in 10 competitive games for the English champions.

Antony's strike and Anthony Martial's late double ensured United avoided a record defeat in the Manchester derby as they remain in sixth, nine points off the top.

Since also conceding four times inside the first 45 minutes at Brentford in August, United had bounced back with four consecutive Premier League wins to offer hope they are heading in the right direction under Erik ten Hag.

But the Red Devils were given a rude awakening of the gulf that still exists between the Manchester giants.

City could have scored many more than the four they managed in a blistering first half performance that swept away any doubts caused by an inconsistent start to the season from Pep Guardiola's men.

Within four minutes it took two goal-line clearances and a fine save from David de Gea to deny Haaland, Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva the opening goal.

Four minutes later, City did open the floodgates when Foden swept home Silva's cross for the Manchester native's first derby goal.

Ilkay Gundogan's free-kick hit the post and Foden blasted another big chance wide before Haaland inevitably made his mark.

United were left to bemoan the absence of Raphael Varane to defend a De Bruyne corner as he received treatment on an ankle injury that forced him off at half-time.



## Indonesia Soccer Stampede Kills 125

MALANG (Dispatches) - A stampede at a soccer stadium in Indonesia has killed 125 people and injured more than 320 after police used tear gas to quell a pitch invasion, authorities said on Sunday, in one of the world's worst stadium disasters.

Officers fired tear gas in an attempt to disperse agitated supporters of the losing home side who had invaded the pitch after the final whistle in Malang, East Java, on Saturday night, the region's police chief Nico Afinta told reporters.

"It had gotten anarchic. They started attacking officers, they damaged cars," Nico said, adding that the crush occurred when fans fled for an exit gate.

World soccer's governing body FIFA specifies in its safety regulations that no firearms or "crowd control gas" should be carried or used by stewards or police.

East Java police did not respond to a request for comment on whether they were aware of the regulations against using gas in stadiums.

"Many of our friends lost their lives because of the officers who dehumanised us," said Muhammad Rian Dwicahyono, 22, crying as he nursed a broken arm at the local Kanjuruhan hospital. "Many lives have been wasted."

The stadium disaster appeared to be the world's worst in decades. Wiyanto Wijoyo, the head of Malang's health agency, put the final death toll at 125, and injuries at 323.

Video footage from local news channels showed fans streaming onto the pitch after Arema FC lost 3-2 to Persebaya Surabaya around 10 p.m. (1500 GMT), followed by scuffles, and what appeared to be clouds of tear gas and unconscious fans being carried out of the venue.

Many victims at the nearby Kanjuruhan hospital suffered from trauma, shortness of breath and a lack of oxygen due to the large number of people at the scene affected by the gas, said hospital head Bobi Prabowo. Bobi told Metro TV that some victims had sustained brain injuries and that the fatalities included a 5-year-old.

