

Government Spokesman Bahador Jahromi Says the Government Agrees Holding of Legal Gathering and Protests and Interior Ministry Has Been Tasked To Table Out Its Proposals for Organizing Legal Gatherings

IRAN NEWS

Stating That Israel Has Prevented Nuclear Disarmament in the Region Iranian Diplomat in the UN Urged the International Community to Put Pressure on the Regime to Join the NPT as a Non-Nuclear-Weapon Party

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IAEA Report Shows Iran Rapidly Expanding Enrichment

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran is rapidly expanding its ability to enrich uranium with advanced centrifuges at its underground plant at Natanz, says Reuters citing what it calls a confidential United Nations nuclear watchdog report it saw.

While indirect talks between Iran and the United States on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal have stalled, Tehran has brought onstream an ever larger number of advanced centrifuges the deal bans it from using to produce enriched uranium.

These machines are far more efficient than the first-generation IR-1, the only centrifuge that the agreement lets Iran use to grow its stock of enriched uranium. Iran has been adding them particularly at two underground sites at Natanz and Fordow that may be designed to withstand potential aerial bombardment.

The third of three cascades, or clusters, of advanced IR-6 centrifuges recently installed at the underground Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP) at Natanz has now come onstream, said the International Atomic Energy Agency report to member states.

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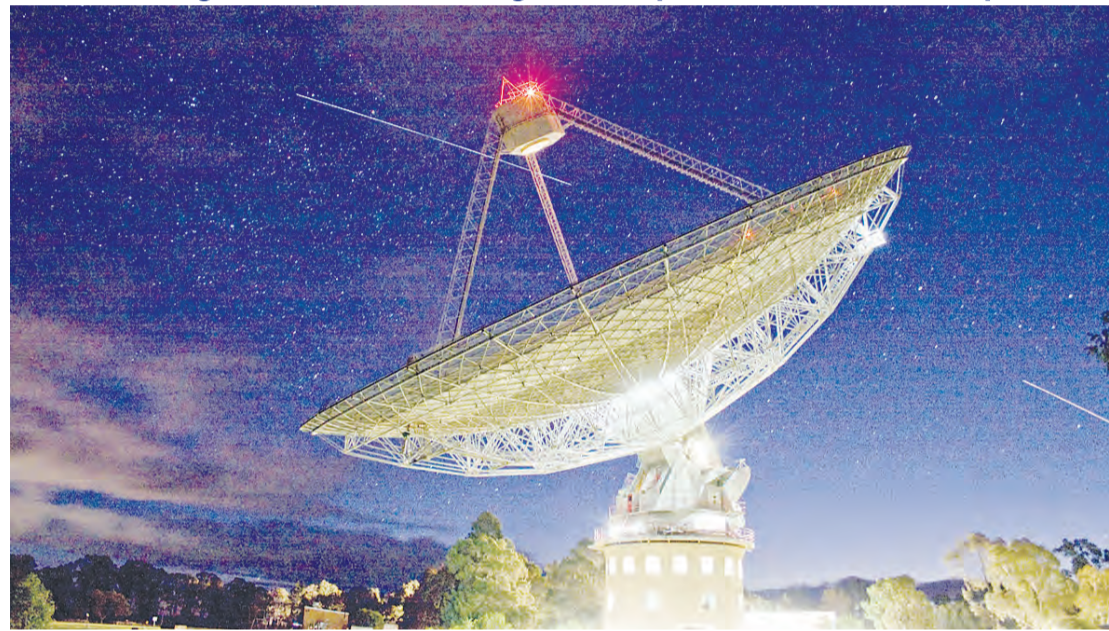
India, Iran Places Digital Tool To Push Trade

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Recently, India and Iran successfully settled the first pilot of a fully Digital Intermodal TIR transport to impetus trade via International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) between India and Russia. The container was released within a day after arriving at Iran's Bandar Abbas port, otherwise taken up to five days. The project was finished in cooperation with the Indian and Iranian customs authorities.

TIR is the only global transit system that enables goods to be shipped from the origin country via transit to a destination country in sealed load compartments controlled by customs with a recognised multilateral system. Considered the easiest, safest, and most reliable way for goods transportation across multiple international borders, it saves time and money for transport operators and customs experts. The pilot project verified the efficiency of a fully intermodal TIR carriage. Electronic security was issued instead of a TIR carnet, and messages of pre-declaration were exchanged electronically with related public and private actors. It included the customs authorities, expediting the customs and port procedures. INSTC has been simplifying a higher trade volume between India and Russia via Iran amid the West's approvals of Moscow after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

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World Urged to Address Worrisome Security Issues in Cyberspace, Outer Space



TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian diplomat has once again warned that weapons of mass destruction are an existential threat to humanity, saying the international community should address traditional and non-traditional security concerns in cyberspace and outer space.

Iran's Representative to the UN General Assembly First Committee Heidar Ali Balouji made the remarks while addressing the 77th session of the committee's meeting on disarmament and international security held in New York.

Outlining Iran's principled stance on disarmament and international security, he said new and unconventional security threats have undermined the peace and deteriorated the security situation in the world.

He warned that increased tensions along with nuclear arms race could lead to a cold, and even nuclear, war in the world. Balouji drew attention to the spike in military expenditures and the all-time high in military transfers in 2021, saying the United States has the highest military spending and nuclear arms in comparison with other countries.

He said the implementation of the binding legal obligations of nuclear powers in accordance with Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has not been realized due to the failure of international nuclear arms control treaties and the unfortunate lack of success of two consecutive NPT review conferences.

Nuclear powers are increasing their stockpile of arsenals, he warned. Besides erosion of the arms control architecture, there was non-compliance with the NPT by nuclear-weapon states, the Iranian envoy said, emphasizing that the international community must hold them accountable.

Balouji added that the Israeli regime is equipped with weapons of mass destruction, has carried out cyber and physical attacks against nuclear facilities, and has also assassinated scientists.

He noted that Israel has prevented nuclear disarmament in the region, urging the international community to put pressure on the regime to join the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon party and subject its activities to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

"We believe that nuclear weapons are not deterrents, but tools of mass murder," he said. Israel, which pursues a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear weapons program, is estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in the Middle East region.

The illegitimate entity has, however, refused to either allow inspections of its military nuclear facilities by the IAEA or sign the NPT.

What has emboldened Tel Aviv to accelerate its nuclear activities, according to observers, is the support that it receives from the United States and Europe, which are both highly critical of Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program.

In his Monday address, the Iranian diplomat further explained that nuclear disarmament through total elimination could be a simple solution, adding that the use of chemical or biological weapons should be rejected and all the conventions in this regard must be implemented.

The United States has blocked the Biological Weapons Convention's strengthening and total elimination of chemical weapons and had reservations about the 1925 Geneva Protocol, he said.

Cyberspace and outer space could only be utilized for peaceful purposes, he said, expressing Iran's opposition to reckless decision-making or unilateral interpretations in reference to two regrettable examples of irresponsible behavior by the US and the Israeli regime.

Over 100,000 Palestinians Under Israeli Siege in Shufat, Anata

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Israeli forces have trapped more than 100,000 Palestinians in the Shufat refugee camp and the nearby Anata town amid an ongoing search for the shooter that killed an Israeli soldier.

According to Palestinian news outlets, the Shufat refugee camp and the town of Anata, northeast of al-Quds, have been besieged by Israeli forces since Saturday night, after an Israeli soldier was killed and two others were injured in a shooting attack at the checkpoint leading to the camp.

Entrances and exits to the camp and town have been closed as Israeli forces began search and arrest raids in the area as part of a large-scale campaign to find the suspect.

Reports from the refugee camp said at least 20 people were arrested since the attack, including, according to what Israeli military claims, members of the family of the alleged attacker.

Anata mayor Taha Rifai told the Palestinian Wafa news agency that Israeli forces continued on Monday to break into homes, terrorize families, stop people in the streets and check their papers while forcing shops to shut down.

Since the beginning of the Israeli blockade, Palestinians have been unable to leave to receive necessary health treatments, and many basic supplies like flour are running low. Education within the camp has been suspended as well.

Thaer al-Fasfos, an activist and member of the camp's popular committee, told Middle East Eye that the situation within Shufat is "tragic" and that many patients need to go to hospitals in al-Quds to receive dialysis or chemotherapy, but have been unable to do so.

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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

When a Violator Defends Violation

On last Thursday, the government of Canada joined the wagon of the Western countries who took a hostile position against the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the recent riots in the country and announced sanctions against some Iranian individuals and organizations.

The government of Canada imposed sanctions on a wide range of Iranian institutions and persons over alleged "rights violations" following the recent foreign-backed riots in the country.

Reacting to this biased decision by a country which itself is a main violator of human rights, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman sharply criticized Western governments for using human rights as a "tool" to exert pressure on other countries, following baseless accusations leveled by the West over the recent foreign-backed riots in Iran.

"When human rights become a plaything and a tool to exert political pressure on others, the media empire of the hegemonic system also helps those accused of systematic human rights violations to stand in the position of plaintiffs," Nasser Kanaani said.

He said the world still has not forgotten the tragic accounts of the forced separation of more than 150,000 Indigenous children from their families and the discovery of mass graves containing the remains of hundreds of these children on the grounds of former residential schools in Canada about a year ago.

"Blurring out words about other countries and hiding behind accusations against others will not change the fact that behind the window of human rights in one of the American government's closest allies, child killing and disregard for humanity is showing," he added.

Everybody is well aware about the hostile attitude of Ottawa against Tehran as this Western country has cut its diplomatic relation with Iran and has continued its hostile acts against Tehran.

Ottawa tries to paint a nice picture of it as a human rights defender but this country has turned into a place for economic corrupts and persons who are active against their governments.

Since the IRGC is the arm of the Islamic Revolution and a thorn in the eyes of the West, it comes under fire from the Western countries and every time something happens in Iran or in the region, the Western countries blames the IRGC and resort to sanctions against protector of the country and its members or designating it as terrorist body while the Western armies are themselves the real examples of terrorists in disguise.

Ottawa has not forgotten that it has not yet returned one of Iran's famous economic corrupt, Mohammad Reza Khavari, who has taken shelter in this country. It seems Canada acts like father and like son and it follows its father the U.S. in imposing sanctions against Iran in order not to fall behind from its father.

Earlier the US Treasury Department imposed sanctions on seven Iranian officials over what it claimed to be the shutdown of internet access and the crackdown on protesters and Canada immediately followed the US.

Of course we are well aware that the bans are the "backbone" of the so-called American human rights regulations. The US and Canada, despite pretending support of human rights, are themselves violators of human rights and the world has realized it and now most countries do not give a damn to the claims of these two countries in supporting human rights.

Every day, a new list of sanctions against Iran is published under some pretext and now Iranians have become immune against these useless sanctions because Iranian officials have no money in Western banks and they are not even eager to visit these two countries and they just travel to those states when there is an international meeting.

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Health Minister in Egypt for WHO Meeting

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's health minister has traveled to Cairo to attend the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (RC69).

In a tweet on Monday afternoon, Mohammad Hossein Soltanifard, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Interest Section in Cairo, said that the Iranian Minister of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in Cairo on October 10, 2022 to take part in the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (RC69.)

The Iranian diplomat added that health minister Bahram Einollahi will hold meetings with his Egyptian counterpart and perhaps with the other 22 health ministers participating in the event.

UK Ambassador Summoned Once Again

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Foreign Ministry has, for the third time in past months, summoned the British ambassador in Tehran, Simon Shercliff, over the UK's intervention in Iran's internal affairs and London's new sanctions against Tehran.

According to a Monday statement, during the meeting, the director general of Western Europe at Iran's Foreign Ministry conveyed the Islamic Republic's vehement protest at Britain's interventions in the country's internal affairs to the British envoy.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official told the British ambassador that Tehran considers the "arbitrary sanctions" imposed by London and their fundamental premises as unacceptable and worthless.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to take reciprocal measures in return for the UK's new sanctions over the so-called human rights issues.

This came after earlier on Monday, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said it had imposed sanctions on Iran's "morality police" in its entirety, as well



as both its chief Mohammad Rostami Cheshmeh Gachi and the head of the Tehran Division Ahmad Mirzaei for their alleged role in suppressing recent riots in the country following the death of Mahsa Amini.

The UK's new sanctions came after the United States Treasury Department on Thursday imposed sanctions on seven Iranian officials accusing them of supporting internet shutdown and suppressing protests over Amini's death.

Air Force Capable of Responding To Any Threat Promptly

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian Army's second-in-command says that the Army Air Force is capable of responding to any threat in the shortest possible time.

Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army Brigadier General Mohammad Hossein Dadras made the remarks during a visit to Shahid Sattari Aeronautical University on Tuesday.

There is a potential capability in the Army Air Force to monitor the threats in the region, provide a solution for them and respond to those threats in the shortest possible time, he said.

"Today, in order to monitor the enemies' military capabilities, it is necessary to analyze the behavior of the enemies in a very precise way and upgrade our capabilities according to the enemy's behavior," Dadras noted.

Raisi to Attend CICA Summit

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Official media in Kazakhstan reported on Tuesday that Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will take part in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) slated for October 12-13 in Astana.

The Sixth CICA Summit will be held with participation of 11 heads of state.

Some member countries will take part in the summit at the level of deputy minister or vice president.

CICA is an international forum for strengthening cooperation in line with peace, security, and tranquility in Asia.

Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, South Korea, China, Russia, India, Palestine, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Thailand are some members of the 27-member forum.

Iran Against Changing Internationally-Recognized Borders

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Vice Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that Islamic Republic of Iran is against changing the internationally-recognized borders.

Speaking in his meeting with the chairman of Iran-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group Gevorg Papoyan in Tehran late on Monday, Ebrahim Azizi said that the two countries of Iran and Armenia enjoy high capacities and potentials to strengthen their bilateral relations.

High-profile discussions between the two parliaments could pave suitable ways for taking advantage of these capacities, he added.

The Iranian lawmaker pointed to the significance of the issue of Caucasus and conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan for the Islamic Republic of Iran and added that military conflict in this region is the major concern of Iranian officials.

Iran invites the two conflicting parties to practice self-restraint, so that resorting to coercion and force is not the possible tool to iron out the differences, rather, negotiations is a fundamental need to restore peace and security in this region, he said.

Emphasizing that regional problems must be solved by the countries of region themselves, Ebrahim Azizi said that extra-regional countries should not be allowed to enter the region under the pretext of solving problem.

The head of Iran-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group, for his turn, said that Armenia considers Iran as a very powerful and important country in the region and extra-regional countries cannot tarnish the amicable and longstanding ties between the two countries.



Some countries of the region have a greedy eye to tarnishing the territorial integrity of Armenia, Papoyan said and expressed his thanks to the explicit position of the Iranian authorities in supporting the territorial integrity of Armenia.

Iran Raps Inattention of Int'l Bodies to Afghan Immigrants



TEHRAN (MNA) - The Director-General of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for Consular Affairs criticized at the inattention of the international institutions to the issue of Afghan immigrants who are living in Iran.

Referring to the high costs that Iran has paid for hosting more than five million Afghan nationals in the last four decades, Alireza Mahmoudi the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry for Consular Affairs reemphasized the inattention of international institutions and the double standards of the Western governments over the issue of Afghan immigrants who live in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mahmoudi made the remarks in a meeting with the Director-General of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) Michael Spindelegger in the Austrian capital of Vienna on Monday evening.

Iran's hosting of five million Afghan people inflicted a huge burden on the economy of the country, he said and stressed the serious determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran and senior officials of the country in looking into the pertinent affairs of Afghan immigrants especially in the healthcare and training sectors.

The Iranian official lashed out at the inattention of the international institutions and exertion of the double standards of the Western governments regarding the Afghan immigrants.

The Director-General of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), for his part, stressed the need for developing cooperation with Iran and paying due attention to the significant position of Iran in handling the situation of migration.

Michael Spindelegger called for the development of joint cooperation and talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed to continue the talks regarding the multifaceted issue of immigration.

Gov't Unveils Farming Roadmap to Boost Output and Efficiency

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Agriculture ministry (MAJ) has unveiled a farming roadmap that it says would lead to a major increase in agriculture output in the country while introducing reform measures that will make farming in Iran more sustainable.

The MAJ's Cultivation Pattern Document was unveiled in a ceremony attended by a number of senior government and parliament officials including Iranian Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and agriculture minister Javad Sadatinejad.

Iran top human rights council releases report on Mahsa Amini

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's High Council for Human Rights released a new report on the death of Mahsa Amini and the ensuing unrest to provide new information on the situation of human rights in the country.

The council said the report has been compiled "with the aim of providing information appertaining to the cause of the death of Mahsa Amini and the facts on the ground regarding the exploitation of the issue in question to spark off riots and insecurity in the society and violate people's right to security."

According to the report, following the transfer of Mahsa Amini to hospital, the Forensic Medicine Organization - on the order of the Tehran Prosecutor - immediately sent a specialized team to handle the case and conduct a detailed examination of her therein.

It added, "Once informed of the death, the body of the deceased was transferred to the Dissection Hall of the Tehran Province Diagnostic and Laboratory Centre where physical examination and autopsy were performed thereon. In dealing with the case, all the criteria and indicators for determining the cause of the death, physical examination and internal organs of the body as well as samples taken from the tissues and internal organs thereof were sent to specialized laboratories so that - as soon as the results of the tests were received and taking into account the results of the examinations and the autopsy, the contents of the hospital file and her medical records, as well as the opinions of experts in related fields, all of which were gathered under the supervision of a special medical commission formed in the Forensic Medicine Organization by the order of the Tehran Prosecutor - the real cause of the death would subsequently be unraveled and reported to the judicial authority."

Citing a coroner's report on the death of Mahsa Amini, the report said that the death was not caused by blows to the head or any vital organs and parts of the body.

The report also drew extensively on the coroner's report, the Supreme Leader's remarks, the president's remarks, and an explanatory statement by the Intelligence Ministry in explaining the human rights situation in the country.

"The Forensic Medicine Organization in any country is considered the most competent and specialized institution to produce opinion on issues such as cause of death. Certain human rights mechanisms and countries have unfortunately been prejudiced and judgmental from the very beginning and talked about blows to the head of the foregoing person and even claimed that she was murdered. Albeit it was crystal clear in the first days that there was no beating, now with the statement of the Forensic Medicine Organization, it is seriously expected that they will immediately rectify their mistake which has been made either on purpose or thoughtlessly," the report said.



It added, "Certain human rights mechanisms and countries have described the riotous gatherings that disrupt security and public order as peaceful and supported the rioters. Of course, their political objectives are no mystery to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Now that more dimensions of the riots and the hands at play have been unraveled - especially following the statement of the Ministry of Intelligence - they are seriously expected to change their positions."

The report continued, "The peaceful gatherings that took place in different parts of the country following the death of the foregoing person have unfortunately morphed into riots and vandalism. In the meantime, certain European countries and the United States started to intervene and support the rioters by openly interfering in Iran's internal affairs in a completely unconventional manner and contrary to international standards. Other external factors such as terrorist groups and foreign-based Persian language networks also directed their agents and capacities in the riots and provided support thereto. During the riots, certain individuals, led by anti-establishment and terrorist

movements, resorted to the worst kind of violence against the people and the police, brandishing combat rifles, arms blanches and incendiaries, while diverting people's requests and demands. The rioters used social media networks to organize the riots and carry out acts of destruction, thereby inciting and provoking everyone to confront the police. During the disruptive riots, many public and private properties were set ablaze or looted; some law enforcement officers and ordinary people were also killed or injured by arms blanches and firearms brandished by the rioters. Defenseless administrative centers and public services such as banks, ATMs, ambulances, public transportation, police vehicles, fire engines and religious places were widely attacked, many of which were destroyed and burned."

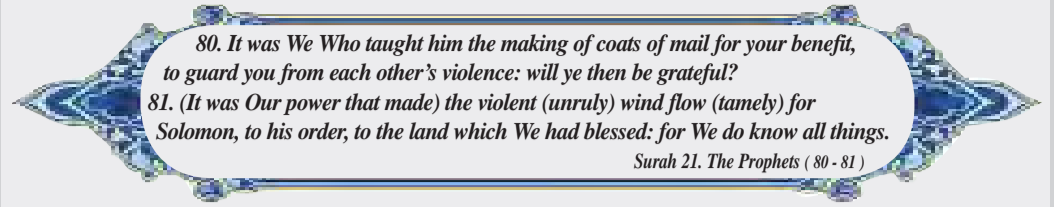
It noted, "The riots have nothing to do with the death of Mahsa Amini, hijab and women's rights. The enemies of Iran used this pretext and sparked chaos and riots with their continuous plans. In the meantime, those who did not commit acts of sabotage and security- disturbing measures are basically separate from those who entered the riots under the command of certain elements. That is why half of the detainees have hitherto been released based upon Islamic leniency."

The report concluded, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to protecting the basic rights and freedoms of its people according to the accepted laws and obligations; and therefore, it will seriously pursue any restrictions or violations of rights. In this regard, additional reports pertaining the destruction of public and private property and how to deal with judicial cases will be compiled and presented."



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:50
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:51
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:45
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:09



80. It was We Who taught him the making of coats of mail for your benefit, to guard you from each other's violence: will ye then be grateful?
81. (It was Our power that made) the violent (unruly) wind flow (tamely) for Solomon, to his order, to the land which We had blessed: for We do know all things.
Surah 21. The Prophets (80 - 81)

Iran Aviation Industry Under More U.S. Sanctions

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of the Civil Aviation Organization (CAOI) says the U.S. has intensified its sanctions against Iran on its aviation industry through imposing restriction on refueling the passenger planes.

Speaking in a press conference, Mohammad Mohammadi said that the U.S. not only has not removed sanctions but also has increased it on Iran's aviation industry especially restriction on refueling the passenger planes in the international airports.

He noted in recent days, the U.S. has slapped 3 Iran's 747 cargo planes with sanctions and the reason is clear. He added that Iran still has problems in the field of education and purchasing spare parts of the planes due to sanctions and has submitted its complaints to the ICAO.

He said in such a condition and after 10 years, a professional team from the ICAO arrived Iran for monitoring and accessing the safety of Iran's aviation industry and they hailed Iran progress.

Mohammadi then said that currently Iran has 175 active planes in the national aviation industry which are active due to the capabilities of Iranian engineers as the country has reached that level of knowhow that its engineers repair planes of countries in the regions in Iran. He reiterated that 115 planes are active in transporting passengers as the country needs at least 550 planes to meet its demands.

He reiterated that the country is capable enough in repairing the planes but it does not mean that it can provide all of its requirements in the field of maintenance.

Touching upon the lack of safety over Iran's air space, Mohammadi said that everyday thousands of flights fly past Iran's air space and EU has confirmed the safety of Iran air space for the passing flights.

He also predicted that the first domestically-manufactured aircraft will join the country's fleet in the next 3 years.



Mohammadi who is also Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development said, "I predict that the first Iranian passenger plane will enter the passenger air fleet in the next 36 months."

The aviation head added that the 13th government under president Raisi has ordered the three ministries of road, industry, and defense to jointly work and form a tripartite consortium to design and manufacture the Iranian plane.

He added that the necessary budget has been allocated for the project, adding that the knowledge-based companies will be coordinated by the ministry of the industry in doing the project while the defense ministry will be in charge of the production.

He also confirmed that Russians have asked Iran to help them in repairing their planes because of Iran's significant progress in repairing Airbus and Boeing planes.

The official further said that Iran needs "as many as 550 airplanes, which have to become available either through domestic production, or importing new airplanes or buying used airplanes."

On some shooting accident at the plane, he said that the issue is under investigation by the related body and he cannot currently confirm the accident.

He urged the media to follow such news and reports via the official bodies like CAOI and to avoid unreliable sources.

Livelihoods of 9m People in Peril Because of Internet Shutdown

TEHRAN (IFP) - The deputy head of Iran's chamber of commerce says each hour of internet outage is causing a loss of \$1.5 million to the economy. Hossein Salahvarzi, in the meeting of the council of negotiations between the private sector and the government, said this has also put 9 million jobs at peril in Iran.



Referring to the recent limitations to internet access in Iran, Salahvarzi warned that the persistence of the situation will increase the rate of the migration of elite and startups.

He said filtering has increased use of VPN's by 30%, and both small and large businesses have been affected adversely by internet outages because it forced foreign businesspeople to use Iranian messaging apps.

The official maintained that authorities need to acknowledge damage to the economic sectors because it has an impact on the security of business and investment, various economic indices and people's livelihoods.

Meanwhile Ehsan Khandoozi Iran's minister of economy and finance said in the meeting that the Iranian administration seeks to calm the economic situation to redress damage to various sectors due to internet outages.

Khandoozi also said the administration has prepared support packages for economic activists, which will be granted if approved.

Syrians Not Interested in Iranian Companies' Presence In Reconstruction

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Association of Mass Housing Builders of Tehran says since Iran is currently out of the FATF, this issue has created problem even for Syria to cooperate with Iran and it makes difficult cooperation for both sides.



Speaking to ILNA and reacting to Minister of Roads and Urban Development's remarks for readiness to be present in the big housing projects in Syria, Iraj Rahbar said that this is not a new issue and since years ago, Iranian officials have been talking about the presence of Iranian companies for cooperation in reconstruction in Syria and they have also had some meetings with Syrian officials for involvement of Iranian companies in reconstruction projects in Syria.

He added that once the talks for construction of 20,000 housing units in Syria by Iranians became more serious but due to some reasons and several problems, neither Iranian mass housing builders nor Syrians have no interest for cooperation.

Rahbar said that one of the main problems for cooperation on developmental and construction projects in Syria is the issue of issuing and releasing the guarantees by Syrians and Syrians create hurdles and this action shows that Syrians are not interested in the presence of Iranians in their reconstruction.

He added that the other major problem is lack of membership of Iran in the FATF and sanctions on financial transactions because Iran's being out of the FATF has created cooperation for both sides.

Rahbar also said that one of the other problems is transportation of construction material and the only cheapest route for shipping construction material is Latakia Port of Syria and it needs strong talks but this issue in Iran has no custodian to pursue it.

He added that currently transportation of construction material is expensive for builders and they show no interest to involve the projects in Syria.

He reiterated that although statesmen of both countries announce readiness for cooperation but nor proper ground is provided for the presence of Iranian companies in Syria and Damascus due to the existing restrictions and problems shows no interest to cooperate with Iranians, too.

Rahbar went on to say that Turkey and Russia have entered reconstruction projects in Syria and Turkey unlike Iran entered strongly in Syria's reconstruction projects but after a while and implementing some projects, the presence of Turkish companies did not expand. He added that Russians due to their military power and strong capabilities have more dominance on Syrian market and most port, energy and power plant projects in Syria are in hands of Russians but Russians are less interested in housing projects.

Manufactured Items Make Up 67% of Exports to Russia

TEHRAN (MNA) - The head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said that while previously agricultural products accounted for 80% of exports to Russia, now 67% of exports to the neighbor are manufactured commodities.

Alireza Peyman-Pak, the TPOI head made the comments in the 20th annual meeting of Pardis Technology Park held in Tehran.

The high-ranking Iranian business official said that the country's exports of non-oil products exceed \$50 billion today.

Peyman-Pak said that while agricultural products used to make up about 80% of commodities exported to Russia, now manufactured commodities make up about 67% of the total exports to Russia.

"While 80% of the country's exports to Russia were agricultural products, at the end of September this year,



67% of our exports to this country were industrial products, commodities such as catalysts, turbines, household appliances, and biotechnology drugs," the TPOI head said.

He further announced the arrival of a delegation from Russia in the next two weeks to conclude a contract for the imports of anti-cancer drugs and added that the visit of the delegation indicates that Iran has the necessary capacity to produce technological and knowledge-based products.

As many as 12 products of Pardis Technology Park's member companies in the fields of oil, mining, health and energy industries were unveiled during the ceremony. Meanwhile, eight active companies in the innovation complex were introduced to the public as the best in the field.

Astara Crossing Records \$239m Non-Oil Products Exports

TEHRAN (MNA) – An Iranian economic official with Astara customs said on Monday that more than \$239 million worth of non-oil commodities were exported from the Astara crossing in the first six months of the current year (March 21–Sep. 22).

Ali Hossein Zolghadri put the volume of exported non-oil commodities at 402,317 tons and added that exported goods increased by six percent in weight compared to the same period of the previous year and grew by five percent in value.



The exported goods mostly included agricultural products plus petrochemical, minerals, plastic artifacts, tiles, ceramics, building stones, dairy products, aquatics, and plastic artifacts, he noted.

He highlighted that Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine had been the major destinations for goods exported from the Astara's customs.

Astara lies on the border with the Azerbaijan Republic and the Caspian Sea. It is a relatively important border trade center between Iran and the Caucasus.

Iran Space Research Center Ready to Provide Khayyam Satellite Images

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Director of the Iranian Space Research Center, Hassan Salarieh, announced that the center is ready to provide beneficiaries with the high-resolution images taken by the Khayyam satellite.

Salarieh made the announcement at a seminar dubbed "Remote-sensing Khayyam Satellite; Capabilities and Usages" held on the last day of the World Space Week 2022 and attended by academics, experts as well as private and government sectors' managers.

The seminar was held two months after the Iranian-owned satellite was successfully launched into space on August 9

from a base in Kazakhstan and on board a Russian rocket.

Salarieh, who also serves as deputy Iranian minister of communications, described the successful launch of the Khayyam satellite as a turning-point for the Iranian sectors working on remote-sensing.

He said that the country's Space Research Center is ready to provide beneficiaries with the high-resolution images of the Khayyam satellite.

In order to make that happen, the official added, required infrastructure should be created while all experts should cooperate in this regard.

Investment in Iran's Industry, Mining Witnesses 6% Growth

TEHRAN (MNA) - Statistics show that the volume of foreign investment approved in the mining and industrial sector in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2022) has registered a 6% growth as compared to last year.

According to the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, the number of 52 foreign investments, valued at \$131.5 million, has been approved in the mining and industrial sector in the first four months of the current year (from March 21 to July 23), showing a 6.1% growth in weight and 66% decline in value.

In the reported period, the volume of foreign investment approved in the industrial, mineral and trade sectors stood at 84%, 10% and 6% respectively.

Therefore, industrial sector accounted for the maximum volume of foreign investment in the first four months of the current year.

Turkey, India, Afghanistan, China and Germany invested in the Iranian industry and the mining sectors the most, respectively the report added.

Japanese Envoy Talks About Cultural Commonalities With Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Japan's ambassador to Iran said that the two countries have many common cultural properties and some joint cultural projects, including movies.

Japan's ambassador to Iran Aikawa Kazutoshi said that there is a cultural phenomenon in Iran called "Taarof", i.e. compliment, which has an equivalent culture in Japan, according to which people show humbleness when dealing with each other.

Iranians are also known to be hospitable, Kazutoshi said, adding that this is also true about Japanese people who warmly welcome foreigners when they travel to Japan.

The ambassador highlighted joint cultural activities between Iranian and Japanese people, mentioning joint painting exhibitions and cinematic productions.

He said that the celebrated Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami produced one of his films in Japan with the collaboration of a Japanese group.



Lukashenko Warns Ukraine, Deploys Troops

LONDON (Reuters) - Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said he had ordered troops to deploy with Russian forces near Ukraine in response to what he said was a clear threat to Belarus from Kyiv and its backers in the West.

The remarks from Lukashenko, who has held power in Belarus since 1994, indicate a potential further escalation of the war in Ukraine, possibly with a combined Russian-Belarus joint force in the north of Ukraine.

"Strikes on the territory of Belarus are not just being discussed in Ukraine today, but are also being planned," Lukashenko said at a meeting on security, without providing evidence for the assertion. "Their owners are pushing them to start a war against Belarus to drag us there."



Nigerian Boat Accident Death Toll Rises to 76

ABUJA (Dispatches) - The death toll from a boat accident in Nigeria's south-eastern state of Anambra has risen to 76, the president has said.

The vessel capsized on Friday amid heavy flooding in the Ogbaru area of Anambra, according to officials on Saturday, when they said at least 10 people had died and 60 were missing.

In a statement posted on Twitter on Sunday, Nigeria's president, Muhammadu Buhari, said that emergency authorities had confirmed the higher death toll.



Russia Launches Biggest Air Strikes Since Start of Ukraine War



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia launched its most widespread air strikes since the start of the Ukraine war on Monday, raining cruise missiles on busy cities during rush hour and knocking out power and heat, in what President Vladimir Putin called revenge for a blown up bridge.

Missiles tore into busy intersections, parks and tourist sites in the center of the capital Kyiv.

Explosions were reported in Lviv, Ternopil and Zhytomyr in western Ukraine, Dnipro and Kremenchuk in central Ukraine, Zaporizhzhia in the south and Kharkiv in the east. Ukrainian officials said at least 10 people were killed and scores injured, and swathes of the country left without power.

Thousands of residents raced to bomb shelters as air raid sirens rang out through the day. The barrage of dozens of cruise missiles fired from air, land and sea was the biggest wave of air strikes to hit locations away from the front line, at least since the initial volleys on the war's first day, Feb. 24.

"The Kyiv regime, with its actions, has put itself on the same level as international terrorist organizations. With the most odious groups. To leave such acts without a response is simply impossible," Putin said in a televised address.

The Russian leader said he had ordered "massive" long range strikes and he threatened more strikes in future if Ukraine hits Russian territory.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the attacks were deliberately timed to kill people, as well as to knock out Ukraine's power grid. His prime minister said 11 major infrastructure targets were hit in eight regions, leaving swathes of the country with no electricity, water or heat.

"They are trying to destroy us and wipe us off the face of the earth," Zelenskiy said.

The body of a man in jeans lay in a street at a major Kyiv intersection, surrounded by flaming cars. In a park, a soldier cut through the clothes of a woman who lay in the grass to try to treat her wounds. Two other women were bleeding nearby.

The Kremlin was humiliated two days ago when a blast damaged Europe's longest bridge, which it had built after it seized and annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in 2014. Ukraine, which views the bridge as a military target sustaining Russia's war effort, celebrated the blast without officially claiming responsibility.

With troops suffering weeks of setbacks on the battlefield, Russian authorities have been facing the first sustained public criticism at home of the war, with commentators on state television demanding ever tougher measures.

Ben Hodges, a former commander of U.S. army forces in Europe, said the scale of the strikes suggested Russia's plan to escalate may have been drawn up before the bridge was attacked.

Monday's strikes tore a huge crater next to a children's playground in one of central Kyiv's busiest parks. The remains of an apparent missile were buried, smoking in the mud.

More volleys of missiles struck the capital again later in the morning. Pedestrians huddled for shelter at the entrance of Metro stations and inside parking garages.

Germany said a building housing its consulate in Kyiv had been hit in Monday's strike, though it had not been used since the war started on Feb. 24. The European Union condemned Monday's "barbaric and cowardly attacks" on Ukraine, among a chorus of denunciations from Western countries.

By mid-morning, Ukraine's defense ministry said Russia had fired 81 cruise missiles, and Ukraine's air defenses had shot down 43 of them. Russia's defense ministry said it had hit all its intended targets.

North Korea Says Tests a Nuclear Warning to South Korea, U.S.

PYONGYANG (Dispatches) - North Korea has said its recent barrage of missile launches were "tactical nuclear" drills personally overseen by leader Kim Jong Un, and a response to joint United States-South Korea naval exercises.

North Korea carried out its seventh launch in two weeks when it fired two ballistic missiles early on Sunday morning. Showing the first pictures from the launches, state broadcaster KCNA reported Kim Jong Un guided the exercises, which involved ballistic missiles with mock nuclear warheads and were led by "tactical nuclear operations units".

The various tests simulated targeting military command facilities, striking main ports, and airports in the South, KCNA added.

"The effectiveness and practical combat capability of our nuclear combat force were fully demonstrated as it stands completely ready to hit and destroy targets at any time from any location," the report said.

"Even though the enemy continues to talk about dialogue and negotiations, we do not have anything to talk about nor do we feel the need to do so," KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

Kim has long wanted to develop tactical nuclear weapons, and made it a priority at a key party congress in January 2021.

The country revised its nuclear laws last month, envisaging a wide array of scenarios in which it could use such weapons, with Kim declaring North Korea an "irreversible" nuclear power.

Since then Seoul, Tokyo and Washington have held combined naval exercises, including deploying the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier the USS Ronald Reagan to the area twice, infuriating Pyongyang, which sees such drills as rehearsals for invasion.

In response, North Korea "decided to organize military drills under the simulation of an actual war ... in order to check and assess the war deterrent and nuclear counterattack capability of the country," KCNA reported.



Bosnian Serb Leader Renews Secession Threat

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Bosnian Serb separatist leader Milorad Dodik renewed his secession threat, a week after the general election in the ethnically-divided country showed his party remained dominant among the Serbs.

Pro-Russian Dodik triggered the gravest political crisis in the postwar Bosnia last December when he tried to pull the Serb Republic out of key state institutions, such as judiciary, tax system and a joint armed forces.

Faced with U.S. and British sanctions and increased international presence in Bosnia caused by fears that Ukrainian war may spill into the Western Balkans, Dodik held back, saying at the time he was delaying, not abandoning the plan. At a news conference in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia which is key ally of the Bosnian Serbs, Dodik renewed his criticism of Bosnia's present setup, saying it was a non-viable state created by foreigners.

Under the Dayton peace agreement that ended its 1992-1995 war, Bosnia was split into two autonomous regions - the Serb Republic and the Federation shared by Croats and Bosniaks - linked by a weak national government.

"We have created Republika Srpska as an independent state, ... , and we have never accepted Bosnia as a joint state," said Dodik, who held the jobs of the region's president and prime minister since 1998, as well as the seat of the Serb member on the country's tripartite inter-ethnic presidency.

"Bosnia needs to be redefined, and returned to (original) constitution. If that is not possible, and it's not possible, it must dissolve," Dodik said.

Dodik, who likes to stress his close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, proclaimed the victory of his SNSD party at all levels of government, including his race for the Serb Republic president.

He said he wanted to address the Serbian media because some have "tried to question his victory." A bloc of opposition parties has accused him of rigging the presidential vote and asked for a recount. They held protests in the region's de facto capital Banja Luka, attended by thousands of supporters.

Bahrain Handing Death Sentences After Sham Trials

MANAMA (Dispatches) - Bahraini courts have run "sham trials" that have led to the convictions and death sentences of eight men, according to a joint report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy.

In a report titled, "The Court is Satisfied with the Confession": Bahrain Death Sentences Follow Torture, Sham Trials, which was released on Monday, the rights groups claimed that the men were convicted based on confessions obtained through torture and coercion.

"The many human rights violations that underlie these death sentences reflect not a justice system but a pattern of injustice," said Michael Page, deputy Middle East director at HRW, in a statement.

The rights groups said some defendants were denied access to evidence used at trial and, in one case, a defendant was not allowed to cross-examine "secret sources". None of the defendants was allowed counsel during their interrogations, the rights groups alleged.

"It is particularly appalling to sentence people to death amid torture allegations and after manifestly unfair trials," said Joshua Colangelo-Bryan, an HRW consultant and primary author of the report.

He called for officials to "commute all death sentences immediately and ... reinstate the de-facto moratorium on executions".

The report identified the men as Maher Abbas al-Khabbaz; Sayed Ahmed al-Abar; Zuhair Ebrahim Jasim Abdullah; Husain Ebrahim Ali Husain Marzooq; Husain Moosa; Mohamed Ramadhan; Husain Ali Mehdi; and Salman Isa Ali Salman. Last year, rights groups claimed that death sentences in Bahrain had "dramatically increased" since the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

Death sentences in the small Persian Gulf archipelago had risen by more than 600 percent, with at least 51 people ordered executed since anti-government protests erupted in 2011, according to a joint report published in July 2021 by anti-death penalty and human rights group Reprieve and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy.

Seven people were sentenced to death in the previous decade, the report found. The joint report noted the use of torture, especially in "terror"-related death penalty cases, was particularly widespread, despite pledges for human rights reform by the government.

Some 88 percent of men executed in Bahrain since 2011 were convicted of "terror" charges, and 100 percent of these individuals alleged torture, the report found.

"Bahraini officials routinely proclaim that the government respects fundamental human rights, but in case after case, courts relied on coerced confessions despite defendants' credible claims of torture and ill-treatment," HRW's Page said.



German Cybersecurity Chief Faces Sack Over Alleged Russia Ties

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's cybersecurity chief is facing the sack over alleged ties with Russian intelligence services, government sources told AFP on Monday, amid heightened vigilance over potential sabotage activities by Moscow.

Arne Schoenbohm, head of the Federal Cyber Security Authority (BSI), was accused in a recent investigation by broadcaster ZDF of contacts with Russia through an association he co-founded in 2012.

The interior ministry said it was "taking the facts that have been reported seriously and investigating them comprehensively" and was "examining all options on how to deal with the situation".

The Handelsblatt daily reported that there was "great annoyance" within the government over the allegations.

A planned joint appearance by Schoenbohm and Interior Minister Nancy Faeser to present a report on German cybersecurity in 2022 has been cancelled as the ministry seeks to clarify the allegations.

Faeser on Monday said her ministry was "examining all necessary steps that may be required" with regard to Schoenbohm.

Germany was "vulnerable" to cyberattacks, "especially due to the threat posed by Russia's war, and we must do everything we can to master this threat", she said.

The association at the centre of the allegations, known as the Cyber Security Council Germany, advises businesses, government agencies and policymakers on cyber security issues.

According to the popular satire programme on ZDF that broke the story, Schoenbohm still maintains contact with the organisation.

The latter denied the allegations, saying in a statement on its website on Monday that the charges were "absurd".

Sebastian Fiedler, a politician with Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), said the accusations "must be investigated very thoroughly" and had already caused "a great deal of damage to trust in the BSI".



Google Looks to Raise Its Smartphone Game With Latest Pixel 7



BROOKLYN (Dispatches) - Google is looking to up its smartphone game with the Pixel 7, the latest entrant in a competitive corner of personal electronics where it has traditionally been a bit player.

The device was unveiled this week in Brooklyn, where representatives from the Mountain View, California giant highlighted top-flight features that can silence background noise on the phone.

First introduced in 2016, the Pixel was a late-comer to the portable phone trend, arriving nearly a decade after Apple's iPhone and seven years after Samsung's Galaxy model, the two products that dominate today's market.

In 2020, global deliveries of the Google phone were just 2.7 million, next to more than 200 million for both the Apple and Samsung options.

Those paltry sales figures are partly due to the Google phone's limited availability, with the Pixel 5 sold in less than 10 countries as the tech giant has focused its smartphone investment on software rather than its own hardware.

While Google's phones are comparable in terms of quality to the top sellers, the product "has often lacked backing from Google" in terms of marketing, said Runar Bjørhovde, a research analyst at market research firm Canalys.

Google has instead focused on boosting its Android operating system, which was launched in 2008 and included more than 80 percent of the smartphones sold in the first half of 2022, according to Canalys.

Maurice Klaehne of Counterpoint Research said that "Google certainly has the capability and resources to become a major smartphone player, but that is not Pixel's strategy," noting that growing Android remains Google's main objective.

But "Selling more Pixel devices might mean taking away share from other Android players, and this would go against Pixel's goal," he said.

Bjørhovde noted that, with the latest version of the phone, Google has pivoted somewhat, releasing a product that is compatible with wearables, earbuds and other devices produced by the company.

The prior phone version, the Pixel 6, was the first to employ Tensor processing developed by Google to enable more sophisticated artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The Pixel 7 has a second-generation Tensor, the G2, which can make blurry photos more clear, excise distracting extras from photos and remove the background noise on telephone calls.

The upgraded system also can translate language in real-time, including idioms, and transmit more nuanced photos of different skin tones.

At a launch event, Google vice president Rick Osterloh said the new product "represents years of development across Google, and a long-term investment in the Pixel portfolio."

The company has seen an uptick in sales, reaching 6.2 million Pixels in the 12 months ending June 30, 2022, up 129 percent from the prior 12-month stretch, according to figures from Canalys.

This includes a doubling in market share in the United States, where Pixel now only accounts for two percent of smartphone sales.

Priced at \$599 in the United States, the Pixel 7 is being positioned as relatively affordable. The latest versions of the iPhone and Samsung Galaxy are both around \$800.

Google has been bolstering its Pixel marketing, partnering with the NBA professional basketball league. The company also plans to distribute Pixel 7 in 17 countries, compared to 13 markets for the prior version.

Liberation No Holiday for Ukraine Resort Village



SHCHUROVE (Dispatches) - Ukraine's recent rapid advance into Russian-occupied territory liberated the resort village of Shchurove, once a forest haven for families and fishermen taking a break from city life.

But the Russian occupation and the recent fierce battle in the woods around the village have left the once neat little bungalows and country hotels devastated, and the streets silent.

The few civilians around estimate that only between 20 and 30 of the once 200 permanent residents remain, and the only guests are the cheerful Ukrainian soldiers resting among the ruins.

"God only knows how we survived. Only a few of us remain," said Svitlana Borisenko, 65, a widow who has lived in Shchurove all her life, even through the four months of occupation.

"It was miserable when Russia arrived, it was a disaster. They destroyed everything around them. They kicked in our doors and it was really terrifying."

Borisenko was twice forced to cook and clean for the occupiers.

But on Saturday the Ukrainian troops who drove away the last Russians holding out in the village school house last week were enthusiastically taking care of themselves.

In one of the damaged guesthouses, next to a swimming pool half-filled with green-stained water, they have set up a wood-fired grill and have caught and prepared a bucket of pike.

Six of the men are crouched around a water bowl cleaning and slicing a huge pile of forest mushrooms, gathered in a pine wood filled with the carcasses of smashed tanks.

There are occasional dull detonations in the distance, but a mortar crewman assured AFP that Russian forces are now more than five kilometres (three miles) away.

Atop the four-storey school house, now a hollowed ruin surrounded by chipped concrete and spent cartridges, there now flies a blue and yellow Ukrainian banner.

Inside there are hundreds of unused Kalashnikov rounds in Russian ammo boxes, amid the filthy bedding and abandoned clothes left by the sudden retreat.

Nearby live 75-year-old Zynaida Chupryna and her son Ivan Lobachov, 43.

The tail of a mortar shell sticks out from the flower bed by their bungalow, the warhead buried in the sandy earth. Two craters are visible in their back garden.

Shrapnel from one of the blasts pockmarked the back door, and the modest home's asbestos roofing has been partly ripped off -- allowing rainwater to collapse the interior ceilings.

"I'm trying to clean up because... We're not dirty. Look what they've done to us. We're still people," Chupryna told AFP.

"We crawl around in the basement. What else can we do? They shell all the time. If you go upstairs, you're finished. We couldn't go outside."

As much a nature lover as the tourists who came before the war to relax on the banks of the Siversky Donets, Chupryna says she longs to swim in the river once again.

Her son Ivan, a former forest ranger who retired on a disability pension after losing an eye in an accident, said Russian soldiers twice offered the pair food.

But he suspected the offer was a trick: the troops wanted to collect personal data in exchange for aid, perhaps in order to issue Russian papers to the Ukrainian residents.

Now, the pair have received a single World Food Program aid parcel, holding seven kilos (15 pounds) of rice and enough oil and canned meat to see them through two weeks.

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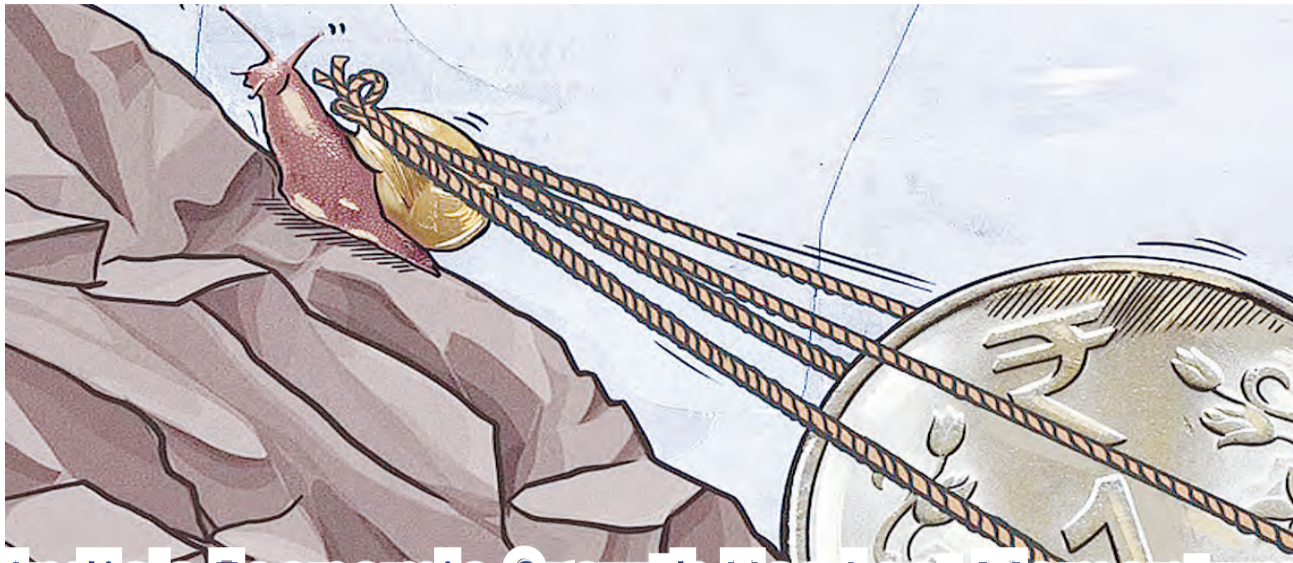
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India's Fuel Demand Slips to 10-Month Low in September

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's monthly fuel demand in September was at the lowest since November 2021, government data released.

Total monthly fuel demand in September fell 3.6% from August, although it was up 8.1% when compared with September 2021.

"When we look at the drop in Indian oil demand, part of it had to do with seasonal maintenance of the refineries, not necessarily a softening of the economy," said Phil Flynn, analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago.



India's Economic Growth Has Lost Momentum

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The signs of an economic slowdown are unmissable. Whether it is industrial production, electricity generation, exports, or revenue from goods and services tax (GST), there is a loss of momentum.

Some indicators flatter to deceive, like bank credit, which is growing at about 14 per cent. But when wholesale price inflation is at 12.4 per cent, much of the growth merely reflects the general price rise.

Take merchandise exports, which had an initial carry-over momentum from last year's surge. But by September they had not only lost that momentum but shrunk — by 3.5 per cent during the month. The details were even more worrying. Engineering goods exports were down in September by 17 per cent, while textiles (yarn, made-ups, garments, etc) were down by 31.5 per cent. The sharp surge in electronic goods exports (up a massive 64 per cent) could not fully make up for the ground lost, and in any case this sector has lower domestic value addition.

Overall result: the merchandise trade deficit for the first six months has nearly doubled. The larger current account deficit (including trade in services) for the full year is forecast to reach by far the highest level in a decade.

The story with electricity generation is the same as with exports. The numbers were up in the initial months of the year, but by August growth had petered out and the numbers were basically flat. This must be viewed against the backdrop of power generation last year (2021-22) having been only 1 per cent more than four years earlier, in 2017-18.

As for the index of industrial production, growth in July was 2.4 per cent, while output growth in the "core sector" (steel, cement, fertiliser and the different energy businesses) during August hit a nine-month low of 3.3 per cent.

The GST numbers are also revealing. After revenue of Rs 1.68 trillion in April (reflecting the annual output surge in March), the figures for subsequent months were Rs 1.41 trillion, Rs 1.44 trillion, Rs 1.49 trillion, and Rs 1.43 trillion. Collection in September is projected at Rs 1.45 trillion. It couldn't get flatter than that.

If the economy is levelling off, how does one explain the sharp surge in direct tax collection? One reason for this bright spot against an otherwise darkening horizon is that corporate profits continue to grow, though cost escalation means that margins have been squeezed to their lowest level in nine quarters.

The April-June numbers for nearly 3,000 listed companies showed net profit growth of 22.4 per cent, but this was boosted by the financial sector's improved health. Exclude that and the figure was down to 16.3 per cent. Further, the profit growth was concentrated in half a dozen large companies which accounted for the bulk of the increase. Note that the key stock market indices are lower today than a year ago, while the rupee may weaken further.

Much (not all) of the bad news is on account of external factors: high oil prices, supply disruptions, a flight to the dollar, and the global economic slowdown. But we are in a difficult world, and expectations of growth have to be tempered.

It is hard to square the picture painted by the different numbers with the Reserve Bank of India's (marginally lowered) forecast of 7 per cent growth for the full year. The World Bank will be closer to the mark with its revised forecast of 6.5 per cent.

Canada's Economy Has Scope to Slow With Vacant Jobs

TORONTO (Dispatches) - Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem said there is scope to slow the economy based on an "exceptionally high number" of job vacancies in the labor market.

In an interview aired on CBC Radio on Sunday, Macklem said the current inflation fight is the biggest test the central bank has faced since it started targeting inflation 30 years ago.

But he assured Canadians that monetary policy is working and he expected inflation to return to the central bank's 2% target by 2024. Canada's headline inflation rate dropped to 7.0% in August, with core inflation running at about 5%.

"We need to cool the economy, (but) we don't want to over-cool the economy," Macklem said.

"When we look at the economy right now, there is an exceptionally high number of vacant jobs ... that's a clear signal that there is scope to slow the economy, without a lot of people put out of work," he added.

Canadian employers were actively looking to fill nearly 1 million jobs as of July, data released on Friday showed, while the job vacancy rate dropped to 5.4% in July, from a peak 6.0% in April 2022.

The Bank of Canada has raised its benchmark interest rate by 300 basis points since March, one of its steepest and fastest tightening cycles ever. Economists and money markets are leaning toward a 50-basis-point increase on Oct. 26.

Macklem said parts of the economy that are sensitive to interest rate increases are starting to slow.

"Let me be clear, what we don't want is ... inflation and wages to become unmoored to our 2% objective, because if that happens, then we are actually going to need to slow the economy a lot more to get the inflation back to 2%. That's what we have been what we call front-loading our interest rate increases," Macklem added.



Indonesia Is the Best-Performing Asia-Pacific Market So Far This Year

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia's Jakarta Composite index may have faced a couple of bumps in the road in 2022, but it was the best-performing major Asia-Pacific index for the year.

The index is up 6.51% since the start of the year.

In contrast, the Hang Seng index in Hong Kong, South Korea's Kospi, and Taiwan's Taiex have plunged more than 25% this year.

Mainland China's Shanghai Composite and Shenzhen Component have also been hammered, slumping by nearly 17% and 27% respectively.

The Nikkei 225 in Japan, India's Nifty 50 and the SET index in Thailand fared better — notching single digit losses.

Singapore's Straits Times index was the second-best performer in the region, falling just 0.53%.

The Jakarta Composite index fell sharply in May and July before playing catch-up, and has stayed above the 7,000 level since early August.

Foreign investment into stocks has driven the index higher, and Indonesia is benefiting from higher commodity prices, according to Maynard Arif, head of Indonesia equities at DBS Group Research. The Southeast Asian country is a commodity exporter.

Economic recovery there has been on the uptrend after Covid restrictions were lifted, though developed economies experienced this boost earlier on, he added.

"2022 earnings growth on [the] Indonesia market remain robust, even after a big recovery in 2021 from a low base," Maynard told CNBC in an email.

The valuation may look expensive [compared with] other countries but it can be justified given Indonesia's outlook and growth.

He added that DBS remains optimistic on Indonesia, though it faces headwinds from interest rate hikes from the U.S. Federal Reserve and a strong dollar — which have led to outflows for government bonds this year.

"The valuation may look expensive [compared with] other countries but it can be justified given Indonesia's outlook and growth," he said.

However, falling commodity prices are a source of uncertainty for Indonesia, said Manishi Raychaudhuri, BNP Paribas' head of Asia-Pacific equity research.

"Given the decline in energy prices ... we advise caution and a nimble-footed approach to the energy sector in particular, and to Indonesia in general," he wrote in a report dated Sept. 28.

Elsewhere in Southeast Asia, Singapore has a "large representation" of companies — such as banks — that benefit from rising yields, said Raychaudhuri, adding that the country and India, Indonesia and Malaysia are "pockets of safety."

EBRD Head Raises Question Marks Over Turkey's Rate-Cutting Policy



ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - The head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development raised some concerns with Turkish authorities over their "outlier" policy of seeking to drive economic growth with low interest rates, she told Reuters.

Odile Renaud-Basso, president of the EBRD, was in Istanbul after meetings that she called "frank and transparent" with Turkey's Finance Minister Nureddin Nebati and Sahap Kavcioglu, the central bank governor.

"I expressed some question marks about the fact that it (the policy) creates inflation, with the high level, and it is not necessarily the best environment for long-term investment," she said in an interview at the bank's Turkey headquarters.

Since 2009, the EBRD has invested 16.9 billion euros (\$16.5 billion) in hospitals, roads, green projects and other efforts in Turkey, its largest market.

A year ago President Tayyip Erdogan's government adopted an aggressive and unorthodox policy of monetary stimulus meant to stoke exports and economic growth with the aim of flipping chronic current account deficits to surpluses.

While growth has been strong, the central bank's 700 cumulative basis points in rate cuts since last September sparked a currency crisis in December and sent inflation soaring to a 24-year high of 83% last month.

"It's quite an outlier strategy," Renaud-Basso said. "I don't know whether it can work or not. But it creates some challenges in anchoring inflation expectations and creating a secure and stable environment."

The economic program, adopted in September last year, risks further lira depreciation and further depletion of forex reserves, leaving the country to find a way to finance its current account, she said.

Yellen Says OPEC Output Cut Unhelpful and Unwise

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The oil cartel OPEC's choice to pare back oil supply will harm the global economy and especially developing countries, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told the Financial Times in an interview published Sunday.

"I think OPEC's decision is unhelpful and unwise — it's uncertain what impact it will end up having, but certainly, it's something that, to me, did not seem appropriate, under the circumstances we face," Yellen said, adding that "we're very worried about developing countries and the problems they face."

The cartel of 13 oil-producing countries on Wednesday agreed to reduce production by 2 million barrels a day as of November, in the context of an already tight market and rising world inflation in part caused by high energy prices.

OPEC's move marks a victory for Russia against the EU and the U.S. — Russia's a major oil producer and an OPEC+ country that cooperates with the cartel. Ever since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, the West has been imposing economic sanctions against Russia, including on its oil sector, and encouraging other countries around the world to follow suit. Despite this effort, Moscow continues to sell its oil to countries like India, China and Turkey.

OPEC took the decision despite a flurry of trips by EU and U.S. leaders to Saudi Arabia in recent weeks to try to convince the country's crown prince and new Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman to ramp up oil production to fight inflation.

The world oil price already started to rise after the announcement on Wednesday, moving from around \$86 to over \$93 per barrel.

Meanwhile, Moscow congratulated "the truly balanced, thoughtful and planned work" of OPEC countries which served to "oppose the actions of the United States," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in a TV interview.

Caspian Sea Has Great Trade and Transit Potential

ASTANA (Dispatches) - With its unique transit potential, the Caspian Sea region plays an integral part in the development of international trade, said Kazakh Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov at the second Caspian Economic Forum (CEF) held in Moscow on October 6.

Alikhan Smailov at the second Caspian Economic Forum in Moscow. Photo credit: primeminister.kz

"Kazakhstan plans to establish cross-border hubs to increase the potential of the

North-South and East-West transport corridors. These are the seaports of Aktau and Kuryk, the Khorgos dry port, the Central Asia International Industrial Cooperation Center, and others," Smailov said.

According to him, these hubs, including the Caspian food hub proposed by President Tokayev, will expand trade flows into the Caspian countries and the international market. The countries need to improve the region's transport connectivity to achieve this.

Smailov suggested that the Aktau port serve as a center on the India-Gulf countries-Iran-Kazakhstan-Russia route.

Kazakh PM also mentioned the creation of a roadmap to eliminate "bottlenecks" on the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route that will lead to the expansion of freight flow between Europe, Central Asia, and China.

Smailov stressed that raw material extraction, depletion of biological resources in the sea, and freight transit have negatively impacted the environment. He called on the forum participants to back the resumption of the Caspian Environmental Program.

The Caspian Economic Forum (CEF) is the largest platform for discussing cooperation among the countries of the Caspian region, primarily Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia, and Turkmenistan, otherwise known as the Caspian five, and representatives of Belarus, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The forum focuses on the development of trade and economic ties and transport and logistics infrastructure.

The delegations were headed by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ali Asadov, First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokher, and Deputy Chair of the Turkmen Cabinet of Ministers Hojamyrat Geldimyradow.

“Graveyard” to Vie at IndieCork Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Directed by Iranian filmmaker Ali Daraee, the short film ‘Graveyard’ is set to vie at the 2022 edition of the Irish IndieCork Film Festival.

Written by Majid Halvayi, “Graveyard” narrates the story of Reyhaneh, who was the reason for her baby’s death. Now, in the absence of her runaway husband, she is looking for a way to bury the baby. She deals with various hardships but finally finds a way to get

what she wants. Daraee’s short film won the best film award at the 25th edition of the Religion Today Festival in Italy before.

IndieCork is Ireland’s premiere festival of independent film and the largest festival for short films - also screening features, documentaries and special focus programs.

IndieCork 2022 Film Festival is running October 2nd-9th (2nd-16th Online).



France's Fuel Shortage Causes Frustration for Motorists, Anxiety for Gov't

PARIS (Dispatches) - Petrol pumps have been running dry in France as striking energy workers disrupt deliveries. As frustration mounts among motorists, businesses and beyond, President Emmanuel Macron has called for calm.

Last Friday morning a queue hundreds of meters long snaked out from a petrol station in the suburbs of Paris.

“We’ve been waiting for an hour,” said one motorist, whose car was already running on empty. “The queue hasn’t moved at all. I don’t know what we are supposed to do.”

Another driver joined the line of vehicles after trying two other stations, one of them just across the street. “I got there at the same time as everyone else, then the signs showed there was no more petrol left,” she said.

Fuel shortages are hitting petrol stations across France, causing frustration and long waits for motorists, as a strike by workers at TotalEnergies and Esso-ExxonMobil enters its 12th day.

Three out of six refineries are currently shut down in France due to worker strikes that have cut production by 60%, equivalent to 740,000 barrels of petrol per day. The majority of TotalEnergies’ network of around 3,500 petrol stations – nearly a third of all stations in the country – are running low on fuel.

Government figures estimate that just 19% of petrol stations are affected, with particular shortages in the north. But president of the Système U retail chain, Dominique Schelcher, told FranceInfo radio that the government figure underestimated the disruption.

“Only the west [of France] will have fuel stocks,” he said, adding that “it was impossible to order” fuel in the north, east, and south of France for this weekend.

As well as causing frustration for individual drivers, the shortages have thrown businesses – including delivery services, medical assistance, logistics chains and taxi companies – into chaos.

“What worries me is [what will happen to] disabled people, because we risk not being there for them if this continues,” said one taxi driver, waiting at a petrol pump in Paris. “I’ve only got half of my reserve tank left.”

French union CGT called for strike action against TotalEnergies over a week ago as part of a broader action across the French energy sector.

Workers are demanding salary increases against a backdrop of a cost-of-living crisis and soaring profits in the energy industry.

In the second trimester of 2022, TotalEnergies recorded profits of \$5.7 billion compared with \$2.2 billion during the same period in 2021.

CGT has called for a tax on these profits and a 10% salary increase – 7% to counter inflation and 3% “profit sharing”, demands that have been largely supported by energy workers.

At the TotalEnergies refinery in Feyzin near Lyon, production work was continuing but deliveries had stalled.

CGT representative Pedro Afonso told AFP that “100% of dispatch workers were on strike for the 6am shift”, adding: “Normally there are 250 to 300 trucks every day and 30 to 50 rail carriages. Now nothing can get out.”

Some 70% of ExxonMobil workers were also on strike, said CGT representative Christophe Aubert. “It’s the same workforce on shift all weekend, so nothing’s going to move and nothing is getting out.”

The strikes were originally intended to last three days, but almost two weeks later TotalEnergies is still insisting that wage negotiations begin in mid-November, as planned, with an expected average salary increase of 3.5%.

TotalEnergies has downplayed the impact of its worker strike, instead maintaining that supplies are under pressure due to the popularity of the company’s discount fuel prices over the past few months.



Demand at TotalEnergies petrol stations has increased by an estimated 30 percent as customers have taken advantage of discounts offered by the company amid rising fuel costs.

As frustrations mount for striking energy workers and motorists, the stakes are also rising for the French government.

“Let’s not panic,” said President Emmanuel Macron on Friday, as he called for calm on all sides. Yet even as the president appealed for an end to the strikes, he agreed that executives at Total should take into account the “legitimate salary demands” of its workers.

Their demands come amid a worsening cost-of-living crisis. In the same press conference, the president warned of difficult months ahead for gas prices, as food costs are expected to continue soaring.

Negotiations between the French government and unions, including CGT, over pension reforms are also expected to cause tension in coming months.

Yet petrol, especially, holds a place of special significance in the French psyche. “Fuel prices are synonymous with the gilets jaunes (Yellow Vest protesters),” said Paul Smith, associate professor of French politics at the University of Nottingham.

“The current situation troubles [the government] as a foretaste of problems to come – a potential winter of discontent.”

The Yellow Vest protest movement, sparked in the winter of 2018 by rising petrol prices, saw thousands take to the streets for weeks on end as a gesture of defiance against the authorities and President Macron.

As government spokesperson Olivier Véran sidestepped referring to a petrol shortage on Wednesday, instead citing “temporary tensions” affecting supply, the government is taking extra measures to ensure petrol reaches the pumps.

Fuel tanker trucks will exceptionally be allowed to operate on Sundays to make deliveries and the government has dipped into its strategic fuel reserves to supplement available stocks.

Currently, 90 days’ worth of fuel stocks remain, the minister for energy transition, Agnès Pannier-Runacher, has said.

In the meantime, efforts are also being made to open discussions between CGT and TotalEnergies – so far without success.

Further strike action is expected in the coming days.

Toyota Restarts Output of First EV After Fixing Safety Issues

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Toyota Motor Corp said it would restart production of its first electric vehicle, the bZ4X, after fixing potential safety problems that had halted sales of the new battery-powered model for more than three months.



Japan’s largest automaker, a laggard in the EV market, recalled 2,700 bZ4Xs globally in June after discovering that there was a risk the car’s wheels could come loose.

Subaru Corp, a fifth owned by Toyota, also had to recall units of the related Solterra model that it jointly developed with Toyota.

A recall notice submitted to Japan’s transport ministry by Toyota in June said that sharp turns and sudden braking could cause a hub bolt to loosen, raising the risk of a wheel coming off the vehicle.

The automaker on Thursday said in a filing to the ministry that it would make sure hub bolts were replaced and properly tightened in new versions of the bZ4X.

In addition, Toyota said it had identified and fixed a potential problem with airbags in the car. Some airbags had been improperly installed at the factory and were at risk to fail or cause injury because of the placement of a strap inside the airbag assembly. Toyota had not previously disclosed that problem.

Masahiko Maeda, Toyota’s chief technology officer, told a briefing the automaker only became aware of the airbag issue in the last month or two.

“We apologize again for the concern, anxiety, and inconvenience we have caused to our customers, our dealers and our stakeholders,” Maeda said.

He declined to comment on how much the recall had cost.

Toyota has faced criticism from environmental groups and investors who want the company to expand faster into battery EVs. Toyota has pushed back, saying it needs to offer car choices to suit different markets and customers.

Hybrids such as the Prius remain far more popular in Toyota’s home market. Pure battery-electric vehicles accounted for just 1% of the passenger cars sold in Japan last year, according to industry data.

The bZ4X is available for lease only in Japan - a service which will resume on Oct. 26, Maeda said. He did not specify when U.S. sales would recommence.

Only 232 units of crossover, pitched as Toyota’s answer to Tesla’s Model Y and the Volkswagen’s ID.4, have been sold this year in the United States.

Last year, the Japanese automaker committed about \$30 billion to develop battery electric vehicles. It expects the company’s annual sales of such cars to reach only 3.5 million vehicles by the end of the decade, about one-third of current annual sales of its gasoline-powered cars.

Deputy FM Calls for Boosting Iran-Poland Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Mehdi Safari, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy on Monday called for the removal of obstacles in the way of cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Poland.

The Iranian official held talks with Pawel Jablonski, the Polish Undersecretary of State for Economic and Development Cooperation, Africa and the Middle East during his visit to Tehran at the head of a delegation.

The two officials discussed bilateral economic issues and ways to enhance cooperation in different areas. Safari said that representatives from the Iranian and Polish private sectors need to have more contacts, and that, efforts should be made in order to remove obstacles in the way of cooperation between the two countries.

The administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has put on its agenda the expansion of Iran’s ties with countries in different parts of the world.

To that aim, officials of different Iranian ministries have either been on foreign visits or hosted dignitaries from other countries since Raisi took office in August 2021.



Over 100,000 Palestinians...

FROM PAGE 1

Shawan Jabarin, chair of Alhaq, a Palestinian human rights group, described the siege as a “collective punishment” in which Israeli authorities “feel they are immune from accountability.”

“The life of a Palestinian has no sanctity to them, as well as their livelihoods and dignity. This is embedded in the [Israeli] occupation’s mindset,” he said, adding that “from a legal point of view, this collective punishment amounts to a war crime and violates the Geneva Convention.” Ziyad al-Nakhalah, Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, described the recent shooting operations in the West bank as a case of “resistance” that is “not spontaneous.”

This is a case of “resistance, an armed uprising, and a true and serious revolution against the occupation. We are doing all that we can in order to escalate this intifada,” al-Nakhalah said in an interview with Lebanon’s al-Mayadeen television network on Monday. He also said there are efforts to “develop the capabilities of the resistance in the West Bank and spread this into [19]48-occupied territories.” Palestinian resistance movements say armed operations will continue unabated in occupied al-Quds and West Bank and target the Tel Aviv regime’s security apparatus. Israeli forces have been recently conducting near-nightly raids and killings in the northern occupied West Bank, mainly in the cities of Jenin and Nablus, where new groups of Palestinian resistance fighters have been formed.

More than 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the Israeli-occupied territories since the beginning of the year, including 51 in the besieged Gaza Strip during Israel’s three-day assault in August.

More than 30 of those killed were either from Jenin or were killed in the Jenin region.

When a Violator...

FROM PAGE 1

The whole Iranian people, without any distinction and discrimination, have been struggling for many years with the brutal sanctions of the United States, which have targeted their livelihood, jobs, health and normal life but no Western country like Canada has tried to at least pretend support of human rights and to condemn the U.S. sanctions which hurt the people but they have even jumped to defend the US sanctions and they have followed Washington.

Canada is better to mind its own business and observe human rights issues in its own country rather than meddle in other countries’ domestic affairs because it itself needs more than other countries observance of human rights issues.

Almost more than one year after discovery of mass graves containing the remains of hundreds of the children on the grounds of former residential schools in Canada, the Ottawa government has not taken any action and has tried to silence the society and closing the case by resorting to other issues and distracting the public opinion.

So the Islamic Republic of Iran gives no damn to any sanctions and threat from countries like Canada which are themselves violators of international laws and human rights and the country has found its path and will resist and fight against such inhuman sanctions and threats, and the government of Canada is better to resort to other pretexts for condemning Tehran rather than human rights.



IAEA Report...

FROM PAGE 1

Diplomats say the IR-6 is Iran’s most advanced centrifuge.

Iran has also quickly completed the installation of seven cascades that were either not finished or at a very early stage of installation on Aug. 31, Monday’s ad hoc report showed. End-August marked the last visit by inspectors mentioned in the IAEA’s most recent quarterly report.

Those seven cascades, one of IR-4 centrifuges and six of IR-2m machines, were fully installed but not yet enriching, Monday’s report added.

Iran has also informed the IAEA it plans to add an extra three cascades of IR-2m machines at the FEP, on top of the 12 already announced and now installed, the report showed.

Of those three extra IR-2m cascades, installation has already started on two of them, according to the report.

The report also showed that all the centrifuges enriching at Natanz were still producing uranium hexafluoride (UF6) gas enriched to up to 5% but now they were being fed with natural UF6. That contrasted to the quarterly report issued in September that announced on Aug. 31 the centrifuges were being fed with UF6 enriched to up to 2%. It did not explain the change.

Iran has rejected claims of undeclared nuclear activity in its sites. Tehran also denies seeking nuclear weapons, stressing it wants to master nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

India, Iran Places Digital Tool...

FROM PAGE 1

The 7,200-km-long grid of highways, sea, and rail routes under INSTC offers a direct connectivity route between Russia and India. Most commodities transported through Iran along this route are deliveries between Russia and India. Iran shipping lines formed an active working group for transportation development along INSTC in early April.

INSTC connects the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea thru the Persian Gulf onwards into Russia and Northern Europe, offering a nonstop connectivity route for them. There are also plans to link the northern route through the Russian Arctic with INSTC for goods transportation. The north-south transport corridor foundation was laid on 12th September 2000, concerning an intergovernmental agreement signed between Russia, Iran, and India. Azerbaijan linked this agreement in 2005.

This agreement was sanctioned by 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Ukraine. The project has several workings for Northern and Western Europe-Russian Federation, Caucasus-Persian Gulf (western route), Central Asia-Persian Gulf (eastern route), and Caspian Sea-Iran-Persian Gulf (central route).

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Johnson Scoops \$18m Prize

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Two-time major winner Dustin Johnson has pocketed \$18 million after securing the inaugural LIV Golf individual championship, organizers of the breakaway tour announced today.
The American has had five top-10 finishes in the opening six events of the Saudi-backed series including a dramatic win at the LIV Golf Invitational Boston. Johnson, 38, finished 16th at the Bangkok tournament, which ended yesterday, and now has an insurmountable lead in the individual standings with one regular season event remaining.

Kim Wins Second PGA Title

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - South Korea's LKim Joo-hyung became the second-youngest player in PGA Tour history to capture multiple titles by winning the Shriners Children's Open after a last-hole disaster Sunday by Patrick Cantlay.
Kim, nicknamed Tom after his boyhood love of Thomas the Tank Engine, fired a five-under par 66 to finish 72 bogey-free holes at TPC Summerlin on 24-under 260.

Cowboys Win 4th Straight, Defeat Rams

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - DeMarcus Lawrence returned a fumble for a touchdown as the Dallas Cowboys' defense led the way in a 22-10 victory against the host Los Angeles Rams.
Running backs Tony Pollard, who gained 86 yards on eight carries, and Ezekiel Elliott, who added 78 yards on 22 attempts, did their parts. That ground attack supported quarterback Cooper Rush, who was 10 of 16 for 102 yards in the air.
Los Angeles quarterback Matthew Stafford was 28 of 42 for 308 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He also lost two fumbles. The Rams went ahead 10-9 in the second quarter by taking advantage of a rare defensive breakdown by Dallas. Receiver Cooper Kupp turned Stafford's pass into a 75-yard touchdown play. Brett Maher made field goals of 33, 40 and 36 yards for the Cowboys. Dallas scored the game's first nine points off Rams miscues. Lawrence had the fumble return after Stafford was sacked. The next Los Angeles possession ended in a blocked punt, with the Cowboys converting that into the first Maher field goal.

Giants 27, Packers 22

Saquon Barkley rushed for a 2-yard touchdown with 6:08 to play in the fourth quarter as visiting New York rallied to a victory over Green Bay in London.
The Giants, who trailed 20-10 at the half, went in front 27-20 after Barkley took a direct snap and went over to the right end. Barkley set up the score by turning a short swing pass into a 41-yard gain to Packers 19-yard line. Green Bay then drove to the Giants 6-yard line, but Aaron Rodgers' fourth-down pass attempt was batted at the line with just over a minute remaining.
Barkley finished with 70 yards on 13 carries. Daniel Jones, limited all week in practice with a sprained ankle, completed 21 of 27 passes for 217 yards. Rodgers completed 25 of 39 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns.

Bills 38, Steelers 3

Quarterback Josh Allen threw for a career-best 424 yards as Buffalo routed Pittsburgh.



Allen completed 20 of 31 passes. Buffalo had immediate control over Pittsburgh as it held a 28-point lead in the first half and didn't punt until the fourth quarter. Allen's day included a 98-yard touchdown pass to Gabe Davis, which tied a franchise record for the longest completion.
Pittsburgh quarterback Kenny Pickett completed 34 of 52 passes for 327 yards. Chris Boswell provided the Steelers' only points with a 29-yard field goal in the first quarter.

Vikings 29, Bears 22

Kirk Cousins set a franchise record with 17 straight completions to start the game and scored the winning touchdown -- a goal-line sneak with 2:27 left -- to lead Minnesota over Chicago in Minneapolis.
Cousins finished 32 of 41 for 296 yards, one touchdown and an interception. Vikings wideout Justin Jefferson caught a career-high 12 passes for 154 yards. Cameron Dantzler secured the win for Minnesota by recovering a fumble from Chicago's Ihmir Smith-Marsette with 1:01 left to play.
Justin Fields completed 15 of 21 passes for 208 yards with a touchdown for Chicago.

West Brom Sack Manager Steve Bruce

LONDON (Dispatches) - Championship club West Brom sacked manager Steve Bruce after just eight months in charge with the club in the relegation zone.
The former Newcastle boss, 61, signed an 18-month contract at the Hawthorns in February but won just eight of his 32 games in charge.
"West Bromwich Albion have today parted company with manager Steve Bruce," the club said in a statement.
"Backroom staff Steve Agnew, Stephen Clemence and Alex Bruce (Bruce's son) have also left the Hawthorns."
"The club would like to place on record its thanks to Steve Bruce and his coaching staff for their efforts since arriving in February."
The club said the process of appointing a new manager was under way.
The former Manchester United defender has enjoyed four promotions to the Premier League during his long managerial career but leaves with West Brom 22nd in the Championship after just one win in their first 13 league games.

Mwepu Ends Career Due To Heart Condition

LONDON (Dispatches) - Brighton and Hove Albion's Zambian midfielder Enock Mwepu has been forced to end his playing career aged 24 after being diagnosed with a hereditary heart condition, the Premier League club said in a statement.
Brighton said Mwepu's condition, which was not previously evident on regular cardiac screening, puts him at an extremely high risk of suffering a potentially fatal cardiac event if he were to continue playing the game competitively.
Mwepu fell ill during the recent international break while on a flight to join up with the Zambian team which he captains. After a period in a hospital in Mali, he returned to Brighton for further tests which revealed his condition.
"It is a terrible blow for Enock, but he has to put his health and his family first and this is the right choice, however difficult it is to quit the game he loves," said Adam Brett, Brighton's Head of Medicine and Performance.
Brett added the club would help Mwepu get the treatment needed to manage his condition.

Atletico Confirm Griezmann Signing From Barcelona

MADRID (Dispatches) - Atletico Madrid confirmed they have agreed a deal to sign French striker Antoine Griezmann permanently from Barcelona, on a contract until 2026.
Griezmann has been on loan at Atletico since August 2021 after a difficult spell at Camp Nou, following his 120 million euro (116.5 million dollar) move in 2019.
"Griezmann has signed a deal that links him to our club until June 30, 2026," said Atletico in a statement on Monday.
The 2018 World Cup winner was a key figure in coach Diego Simeone's plans last season but has largely been reduced to substitute appearances in the current campaign as Atletico tried to escape paying a reported obligatory 40 million euro purchase fee if he played over a certain number of games.



Krejčíková Back in Business With Victory Over Swiatek

The 26-year-old climbed to a career-high ranking of two in February before being sidelined for months due to an elbow injury. She failed to make another semi-final until

OSTRAVA (Dispatches) - Czech Barbora Krejčíková edged world number one Iga Swiatek in the duel between French Open champions in Ostrava to continue her late flourish in an injury-hit season.
The 2021 Roland Garros winner reached the final of a WTA 500 event in Sydney at the start of the year and then carried on her strong form to make the quarter-final of the Australian Open.

winning two titles in consecutive weeks in Tallinn, Estonia, and at home in Ostrava.
Krejčíková's 5-7 7-6(4) 6-3 win handed twice French Open winner Swiatek her first defeat in a final since 2019.
"It was difficult because I think the beginning of the season was great," Krejčíková told the WTA following her win that took three hours and 16 minutes.
"Then the injury and being out for so long, more than three or four months, it was difficult to come back. It was the middle of the season and I was trying to find my form. I'm just happy that I found it and I'm back right now."
Krejčíková was unsure what exactly clicked for her but credited "a lot of work" for finding her top form again, having defeated Swiatek, Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina and world number three Anett Kontaveit in the past two weeks.
"I always felt like it's there, it's just hiding. I didn't just forget all that I did last year. I still felt like it's there," she said.
"I'm really pleased that everything that I went through and everything that happened, it changed me and gave me extra energy. I think I'm a different player, a different person. I'm really happy to be part of the big game again."

Allegri Demands More From His Juventus Side

TURIN (Dispatches) - Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri said that his side are still a work in progress but his players must not use that as an excuse for their recent struggles as they prepare to face Maccabi Haifa in the Champions League.
Juve snapped a five-match winless streak against Bologna in Serie A earlier this month and followed that up with victory against Maccabi at home last week, before being brought down to earth with a 2-0 defeat by AC Milan on Saturday.
Allegri's team have picked up one win from their opening three games in Group H and must beat Maccabi tomorrow to stay in contention for a place in the Champions League last 16.
"I believe there is a growth path. Experience is gained by playing important games," Allegri told reporters.
"However, we must not use it as an alibi because we have to give everything on the pitch. Indeed, we must do much more to start a new cycle."
Juve emerged as comfortable 3-1 winners against the Israeli side last time but Allegri added they would need to raise their game to get a similar result away from home.
"We have the opportunity to take the field and get back on our feet straight away... we must be aware of the importance of this game and go out on the pitch and do our best from every point of view," he added.



Confidence Waning But Liverpool Will Recover

LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk believes his team's confidence has been "creeping away", after they dropped to 10th in the Premier League table following Sunday's 3-2 defeat at Arsenal, but the Dutch defender backed them to rediscover their belief.
Arsenal winger Bukayo Saka scored twice, including a late winning penalty, to hand the visitors their second loss of the campaign and help the Gunners back to the top of the standings.
Liverpool have 10 points from eight games and are enduring their worst start in manager Jurgen Klopp's seven-year reign.
Van Dijk said a lack of confidence had affected them in recent matches.
"We're all human beings and sometimes you need confidence in certain moments ... if your confidence isn't as high, it isn't helping in certain situations," Van Dijk told Sky Sports.
"Every human being whatever job, whatever situation, you need a little bit of confidence to perform in the highest level. If you're not winning like we are used to then confidence is creeping away, but we know that it can turn around."
"We know we have to work and we have to work hard. That's the only thing to do and the only way forward."
Klopp's side visit Rangers in the Champions League in midweek before welcoming Manchester City to Merseyside in the Premier League.
"The only thing we can do is try to win the next game," Van Dijk said.

