

The Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic rose in Iran And hit 144,506 with 4 more Iranians Killed by the Deadly Disease Over the Past Between Wednesday and Thursday, Health Ministry Announced

IRAN NEWS

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Reacted To the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Saying That the IAEA's Recent Published Reports Are Derived From the Official and Apparent Actions of the AEOI

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7609 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15, 2022 - MEHR 23, 1401

2 DOMESTIC

NATO Waiting for Shot To Be Fired in World To Intervene



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Iran Exports to Saudi Arabia See 532% Growth



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

Russia Strikes Ukrainian Towns



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Barca on Brink After Inter Draw



> SEE PAGE 8

Iran Stresses Right to Self-Defense Against Terror Attacks From Iraq

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations defends Tehran's resort to military force against separatist terror groups based in Iraqi Kurdistan Region, saying the country reserves the inherent right to self-defense against the security threats posed by the terrorists to the Iranian soil and nation.

In a letter to the UN Security Council, Tehran's mission in New York rejected accusations of Iranian violations of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity at a UN Security Council meeting held on October 4, 2022, under the agenda item "the Situation concerning Iraq."

Recently, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched a series of multi-pronged military attacks on bases of anti-Iran terrorists in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, which were found to have played a role in fueling violent riots across Iran.

The letter said the so-called Democratic Kurdistan Party, Reform Komala, Communist Komala, Pejak, and Pak, holed up in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, have continued to use Iraqi territory to conduct terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and vital infrastructure.

See Page 7

Leader Says Unipolar World Order Losing Legitimacy



Supreme Leader (Dispatches) - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the unipolar world order in which one or two states impose their will on other countries is no longer accepted.

He made the remarks on Friday morning while receiving a host of Iranian officials and guests of the 36th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran.

"The political map of the world is changing," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The issue of being in a unipolar world where "one or two countries forcing other states and nations has lost its legitimacy," he said, adding, "Nations have been awakened. The unipolar world order is no longer accepted and is gradually losing its legitimacy."

In a unipolar system, he maintained, arrogant powers such as the US, would design their own schemes and dictate them to other countries such as Iraq, Syria, Iran, or Lebanon.

The people of the world are awakening to the truth of those powers and are opposed to one or two states bullying others into obedience, he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said Islamic unity means being united in safeguarding the interests of the Islamic Ummah across the world.

"Unity means being united in protecting the interests of the Islamic Ummah (community)," he told Iranian officials and guests of the 36th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran.

It also does not mean geographical unity, he maintained, as some Arab countries tried to get united in the 1960s and 1970s. "This is impossible."

"We should first detect the interests of the Muslim Ummah. Then, nations should come to an agreement on that and see what the Ummah needs at the time; [they should see] to whom they should be foes, [and] with whom friends, and how they should engage in friendship."

Unity means implementing "joint actions against the plots of the Arrogance," he added.

The 36th International Islamic Unity Conference officially opened on Wednesday at Tehran's Summit Hall with the participation of delegates from over 40 countries

See Page 7

Inhumane Sanctions Have Destructive Impact on Iran's Healthcare Sector

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Health minister Behram Einollahi has denounced unilateral US sanctions against the country as "inhumane," noting that the embargos have had a "destructive" impact on the resilience of the country's healthcare sector.

Einollahi made the remarks while addressing the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean currently underway in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.

"Coercive, unilateral and inhumane sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran have had destructive effects on some pillars of the resilience of Iran's health system and, in particular, it has restricted the access to essentials needed to control pandemics," he stressed.

"This is in contravention of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation between countries and also in contrast to the principle which says no one is safe until everyone is safe," he hastened to add.

See Page 7

Kazakh President Stresses Importance of Sustainability in Int'l Relations

BY: F. TAHERPOOR

ASTAN - Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the opening session of the sixth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on Thursday stressed the importance on international relations.

In his opening remarks, he stated that "This year marks the 30th anniversary of an initiative to convene this conference. Over this period, it has become a platform for multilateral cooperation & international institution of modern diplomacy."

"Today we live in the conditions of an unprecedented geopolitical storm and the growing crisis of the world economy. This phenomenon has already been called "global dysfunction."

Since the last CICA summit in 2019, the world community has experienced difficult trials, the negative consequences of which continue to have an impact on global development.

In my view, a particularly important challenge facing us is to achieve sustainability in international relations in the face of emerging unprecedented threats.

It is critically important to give a new impetus to multilateral mechanisms and return to open dialogue, the President of Kazakhstan communicated.

The President of Kazakhstan touched open multifarious issues during his speech, including issues pertaining to the economy, food security, environment, and sustainability.

President Tokayev went on to point out the importance of sustainability in international relations. Along these lines, he said, "important task that we have is to achieve sustainability in international relations in the face of emerging unprecedented threats."

It is critical to give a new impetus to multilateral mechanisms and to return to open dialogue." Moving ahead, he enunciated that, "The forecast that the 21st century will be the century of Asia is now a reality."

See Page 7

Iran Oil Revenues Rose By 11 Times Last Year

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's income from the export of oil and oil products rose by 11 times last year which ended in March and eight times in the five months of this year, government data showed.

The inflation rate leading to the Persian month of Mordad which began on July 23 fell by 3.7% compared to the same period of the previous year, the data cited by Tasnim news agency on Wednesday showed.

The Gini coefficient as a measure of income distribution slightly improved last year, reaching 0.39 percent, and is expected to improve this year as well.

Also, the general revenues of the government in the first five months of the current year of 1401 have grown by 66.5% compared to the same period of the previous year.

The country's non-oil economic growth increased from 3.1% in the spring of 1400 to 4.3% in the spring of 1401, the report said.

With the inauguration of the new Iranian government in August 2021, efforts to ramp up Iran's oil exports and develop the petroleum industry after a period of hibernation gathered momentum. According to oil-tanker tracking companies, Iran's oil exports increased for a third consecutive month in August.

See Page 7

Iran's Initiative Destroys Enemy's Military and Political Credibility

TEHRAN (IP) - The Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps emphasized that the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran was to destroy the credibility of the enemy's military and political power.

Referring to recent riots, Major General Hossein Salami emphasized: "This is a battle that extends from the streets of Iranian cities to Washington, New York, London, Tel Aviv, and Riyadh."

He further added that the recent riots in Iran on the pretext of Mahsa Amini's death once again caused the foreign enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to use it as an opportunity to interfere in Iran's internal affairs and incite more riots.

According to Iran Press, Major General Hossein Salami, the Chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, said today (Thursday) at the national conference: "The credibility of American political power in the world is not recognized as it used to be in the past, and the advocates of this power compared to the past have decreased."

Major General Salami added: "As we move forward, the Americans are facing successive and serial strategic failures in the world in confronting the Islamic Revolution, which will not only change the relationship of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the United States, but also change the relationship of the whole world with the United States."

Resistance Sole Way To Free Palestine, Defeat Enemies of Muslims

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Secretary General of Lebanon's Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says resistance is the sole way to liberate Palestine and defeat the enemies of the Islamic world, calling on Muslim nations to unite around the Palestinian cause against occupation in the face of the enemies.

The Hezbollah chief made the remarks in a message to the 36th International Conference on Islamic Unity in Iran, delivered by Sheikh Nabil Qaouk, the deputy chief of the Lebanese resistance movement's executive council.

Nasrallah emphasized the need for unity in the Islamic Ummah (nation) in line with the ideology of resistance and said the only way to liberate Palestine and al-Quds from the Israeli regime, defeat the enemies, and restore grandeur to the divine mission of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

See Page 7

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Leader Pardons 1862 Convicts on Prophet Birth Anniversary

TEHRAN (MNA) – Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has agreed to pardon or reduce the sentences of as many as 1862 convicts on the occasion of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Imam Sadiq (AS)'s birthday anniversaries.

The list of the convicts had been sent to the Leader by the Judiciary head Mohseni Ejei and the Leader agreed with pardoning or reducing their sentences in accordance with the constitution.

The prisoners were convicted by the public and Revolutionary courts, the judicial organization of the Armed Forces as well as the courts related to government personnel.

NATO Waiting for Shot to Be Fired in World to Intervene

TEHRAN (MNA) – Advisor to Iran's Leader for International Affairs says that NATO is detecting every bullet that is fired anywhere in the world to intervene under the pressure of the US and in a framework outside of international norms.

Speaking in an interview with Sputnik, Velayati pointed out to several international issues including Tehran-Moscow relations, regional cooperation, Iran's trade partnership with China in economic organizations, and NATO military alliance policies.

"Russian-Iranian relations are very good, high-level and strategic, and are heading for expansion in this sensitive period," Velayati stated, adding that the world today is shaped based on regional cooperation, and not based on the international situation that some have always hoped for.

"The Caucasus region has a special sensitivity among the neighboring countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and therefore we have more sensitivity and caution



towards this part of our neighboring regions," he noted.

Referring to the crisis in Syria and Libya, Velayati called for preserving the areas of common influence between Iran, Russia and Turkey, so that the situation does not escalate in some other sensitive points in the region due to negligence.

He also referred to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, saying that the Shanghai Organization, which brings together many countries in Asia and a few of Eastern Europe, is an effective organization from a practical point of view, as it has progressed well in a short time since its founding.

Top Judge Orders Harsh Sentences For Main Riot Elements

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Judiciary chief has ordered judges to issue harsh sentences for the "main elements of riots" as protests continue over the death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman who died in custody nearly a month ago.

"I have instructed our judges to avoid showing unnecessary sympathy to main elements of these riots and issue tough sentences for them while separating the less guilty people," the Iranian Students News Agency quoted Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei as saying on Thursday.

Mohseni-Ejei had previously ordered courts across the country to fast-track the cases of those arrested.

Last week, Majid Mirahmadi, deputy for security and police affairs at the interior ministry, had warned that "anyone who is arrested at the scene of the riots will not be freed under any circumstances until the time of their trial, which will be held quickly and will issue assertive and deterring sentences".

Kazakhstan Ratifies Agreement On FTZ Between EAEU and Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a law on Oct. 12 ratifying the agreement that leads to the formation of a free trade zone between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Iran, reported the Akorda press service.

The interim agreement was signed on May 17, 2018, in the capital of Kazakhstan. It entered into force on October 27, 2019, with a duration of three years. The goal of the agreement is to develop and strengthen trade relations between the EAEU countries and Iran. The trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Iran in January-April 2022 totaled \$253.2 million, which is 43.3 percent higher than in the same period of the previous year (\$176.8 million).

Exports from Kazakhstan to Iran in January-April 2022 increased by 44 percent and measured up to \$175.7 million.

Earlier, the Mazhilis, the lower house of the Kazakh Parliament, endorsed the prolongation of this agreement anticipating the disruption of the preferential trade regime.

Iran Not to Tolerate Border Change

ASTANA (IP) On the sidelines of the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Astana, Kazakhstan, Iranian President in a meeting with his Azeri counterpart said that the Islamic Republic of Iran never tolerate any change in the region's historical and geopolitical borders.

President Ebrahim Raisi met with his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on Thursday.

The President of Iran departed for Astana, Kazakhstan, to participate in the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on Wednesday afternoon.

Deputy Chief of Staff for Political Affairs to the Iranian President said: "Negotiating with Ilham Aliyev, Raisi rejected any changes in the historical borders, geopolitics of the region, and the transit route of Iran and Armenia."

According to Jamshidi, Raisi warned that any change in the borders would receive Iran's tough response and noted that it rejected Europe's military presence in the region in any form.

Tehran, Doha Discuss Enhancing Level of Bilateral Relations

TEHRAN (MNA) - The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Emir of Qatar held a meeting on the sidelines of the 6th CICA Summit.

President Ebrahim Raisi and the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met on the sidelines of the 6th summit of the member states of the CICA in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

Raisi welcomed the 35% growth in trade relations between the two sides in the past one year and described the existing capacities of the two countries as appropriate for developing and expanding relations as much as possible and enhancing the level of cooperation.

The Emir of Qatar, for his part, announced his country's readiness to enhance the relations between the two countries to a strategic level.

Al-Thani considered the establishment of a commercial attache at the Qatar Embassy in Tehran as one of the measures taken to facilitate the trade relations between the two countries and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its cooperation in preparing the best possible conditions for the World Cup.

The Emir further pointed to the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to peaceful use of nuclear energy and blasted the Israeli regime for being a staunch opponent of Iran's right to use nuclear energy while having one of the most dangerous nuclear arsenals and warheads.

Referring to the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to peaceful use of nuclear energy, Emir of Qatar said: One of the wonders of the international scene is that the most stubborn opponent of Iran's use of nuclear energy is the regime that has the most dangerous nuclear weapons and arsenals.

No details have come out of their meeting so far.

French Embassy in Iran Rejects Reports Over Suspension of Visa Applications

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The French Embassy in Tehran has rejected reports that it has suspended processing visa applications for citizens of Iran.

Through a statement published by the embassy on Twitter, it has been emphasized that "France still issues visas in Iran. However, government filtering of the Internet has significantly slowed down our activities. Beware of rumors!" SchengenVisaInfo.com reports.

The French Embassy in Iran's comments came following the claiming of the head of the Association of Iranian Travel Agencies that some European embassies located in Iran's capital are not issuing visas to Iranian nationals.

According to a report provided by Iran Front Page, Hormatollah Rafiei told Entekhab news that the consular affairs of the embassies, the majority of them in the



26 Schengen Zone countries in Europe, have temporarily halted the process for visa applications without giving any details in this regard.

The speculations of the suspension of visa issuance by the German embassy consular services have also been rejected by the Iranian Foreign Minister Nasser Kanaani, while stressing that the European mission continues its normal activities, adding that it is issuing both national and Schengen Visas, according to the regulation.

The restrictions come following protests in Iran due to the death of Kurdish Iranian Mahsa Amini on September 16. She lost her life after being detained.

Due to the death of Amini, the European Union previously said that it would impose a ban on the Iranian officials involved in the crackdown on protests, according to the announcement of the Foreign Minister of France, Catherine Colonna.

Factory Activity Expands in September

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's factory activity rose firmly in September amid better sales reported by metals and vehicle manufacturers.



Results of a study by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines & Agriculture (ICCIMA) published on Thursday pointed to a rise in the purchasing managers' index (PMI) in several key sectors of the Iranian economy.

ICCIMA reported PMIs of above 50% for a bulk of factory activities in Iran in September, as the figures showed that the manufacturing sector and the economy as whole had moved out of a contraction reported in August.

The manufacturing PMI reported by the ICCIMA for Iran in September was 53.25%, up 4.8% from August while the average PMI reading rose 4.02% to 52.08% in September, according to the figures covered in a report by the ISNA news agency.

The highest September PMI within the Iranian manufacturing sector was reported for metals factories at 59.4%, showed the report.

That comes despite a fall reported in the Iranian metals exports in September that was caused by lower global demand and stiff competition from Russia.

The figures showed that automotive sector's PMI rose to 58.5% in September amid reports showing that two largest carmakers the IKCO and Saipa had increased their output over that month.

The ICCIMA compiles its monthly PMIs based on responses to questions sent to purchasing managers in Iran. The 50-point mark in PMI separates contraction from growth on a monthly basis.

IRGC Dismantles Arms Trafficking Gang

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has dismantled an arms trafficking gang in northwest Iran's West Azarbaijan province with links to anti-Iran terrorist groups and foreign spy agencies, foiling their plot to stoke unrest in the country.

In a statement, IRGC's Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada base said the gang was intercepted by the IRGC forces as it was looking to smuggle arms into the country from the northwestern border.

Nine Heckler & Koch G3 rifles and a large cache of ammunition were seized from their possession, according to the statement.

By providing arms to terrorists and separatist agents inside Iran, the statement noted, the enemy aimed to "disrupt public security," disseminate fake news about riots and death toll and use the issue for political gains.

The raid on the arms smuggling group comes as terrorist groups have in recent weeks ramped up their activities to undermine the security of the country by hijacking ongoing protests over the death of Mahsa Amini to foment unrest and chaos.

The foreign-backed violent riots have also claimed dozens of lives from both security forces and ordinary people as the Western media and Persian-language news networks continue to induce riots in Iran.

Enemies Worried About Iran's Progress

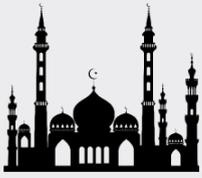
TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Parliament member Ruhollah Izadkhan says that the enemies are worried about Iran's development and want Iran to be an unstable and stagnant country.

"Whenever the Islamic Republic of Iran is on the verge of leapfrogging and progressing rapidly and reaching stability in terms of political and economic status, the US and some European countries seek to interfere in Iran's internal affairs with anger and jealousy," Ruhollah Izadkhan stated.

"On the other hand, whenever our country is in recession and weak statesmen are at work, Westerners have nothing to do with us. How is it that Westerners suddenly remember to talk about women's rights at the time of rising of the progress and rapid growth of Iran?" he noted, adding, "Whenever they witness the progress of Iran, they become greedy to interfere in the internal affairs of our country."

The Iranian parliament member noted that Westerners are definitely worried about the stability, growth, progress and mastery of technology in Iran.

"They like Iran to be unstable, stagnant, and involved in internal issues," he continued.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:50
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:47
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:48
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:11

84. So We listened to him: We removed the distress that was on him, and We restored his people to him, and doubled their number, - as a Grace from Ourselves, and a thing for commemoration, for all who serve Us.
85. And (remember) Isma'il, Idris, and Zul-kifl, all (men) of constancy and patience;
Surah 21. The Prophets (84 - 85)

Iran Exports to Saudi Arabia See 532% Growth

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration says Iran's exports to Saudi Arabia have grown by 532% in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year and by the way imports from Pakistan have grown by 350% in the same period.

Ruhollah Lotfi said that statistics showed that 38,650,000 tons of non-oil goods, valued at \$24.198 billion, were exchanged between Iran and 15 neighboring states in the first half of the current year, showing a seven percent growth.

Iran's trade value with neighboring states registered a seven percent from March 21 to September 23, registering a seven percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

He added that despite 7% growth in the value of the non-oil trade with neighboring countries, the country has faced 18% decline of exports in terms of weight, adding that The Islamic Republic of Iran exported 29,280,000 tons of non-oil goods, valued at \$12,327,304,446, to neighboring countries from Mar. 21 to Sep. 23, showing a 19 and 10 percent growth in weight and value respectively.

Among the neighboring countries, the maximum export growth is related to Saudi Arabia with a 532 percent hike while the least export growth is related to Pakistan with a 350 percent rise.

Although Iran's non-oil trade value has registered a seven percent growth in this period, the country's export volume has shown an 18 percent decline, the report added.



In this period, Iran imported 9,320,000 tons of non-oil goods, valued at \$11,870,567,355, from 15 neighboring countries, registering a 14 percent decline in weight and 4.4 percent growth in value.

Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Afghanistan, and Pakistan were introduced at Iran's export target markets respectively from Mar. 21 to Sep. 23, 2022.

He added that Iran's exports to Iraq in this period are valued at \$3.382b while the country's exports to Turkey stood at \$2.626b.

Oman, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia were the other top destinations for Iran's exports, respectively.

He reiterated that in the first half of the year the UAE has been the top exporter to Iran with exporting goods worth \$7b which shows one percent decline comparing to the same period last year and Russia was the second exporter to Iran with \$876m which shows 37% growth.

He noted that Iran's imports from Turkey were valued at \$2.68b and imports from Pakistan stood at \$494m which shows 350% growth.

Lotfi admitted that imports from Iraq have faced 82% decline while Kazakhstan has increased its exports to Iran by 148% and took it to \$80m.

Ebrahimi Appointed as Caretaker of SCFSEZ

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Finance Minister Ehsan Khandouzi in a decree appointed Nasrollah Ebrahimi as the caretaker of Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones (SCFEZ).



According to reports, Ebrahimi replaces Saeed Mohammad as the caretaker of the council. Before this appointment, Ebrahimi was in the past in charge of Chabahar Free Zone Organization, deputy of Tehran Province Plan Planning and Management Organization and director general of logistics of the Judiciary.

Ebrahimi is a Ph.D. holder in the strategic management from the National Defense University.

Doubling Capacity of IASC, a Promising Outlook Ahead of Related Industries

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Dr. Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki, a member of board of directors and vice president for planning and development of Iran's Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) and his accompanying delegation paid a visit to Yazd



1 Project to get acquainted with its progress and also had a meeting with the CEO and senior officials of Iran Alloy Steel Company (IASC) and developmental project of Steel-Making Plant 2 and during the meeting was informed of the latest progress of this project and the latest achievements of this steel company.

According to reports, during this visit and meeting, the CEO of Iran Alloy Steel Company Eng. Alireza Chaychi briefed Mr. Sadeghi Niaraki of the performance and achievements of this company in recent years and said quality and quantity progress of products, the first knowledge-based national steel company, holder of the first IFT vehicle standard certificate, one of the lowest water consuming steel companies of the country, success in the trend for reducing the final cost of product, developing product and expanding market and valuable role in the history of the special mother industries have been some parts of recent achievements of Iran Alloy Steel Company.

Then Sadeghi Niaraki, for his part, expressed his honor for visiting the company and termed the double rise of production capacity of the company as a bright and promising outlook ahead of related industry and in line with providing needs of domestic industries to the alloy products.

IGEDC Planning to Build Mini-LNG Plant

TEHRAN (Shana) - The Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company (IGEDC) announced that it intends to enter the field of mini-LNG and acquire the technology for construction of its production facilities.

Reza Noshadi, the IGEDC CEO, Mohsen Mazloum Farsibaf, Director of Research and Technology of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), and a delegation visited the LNG and Helium production unit of Amin Fanavar Sharif Company and visited the operation process of this plant to examine the capabilities and capacities of this industrial unit.

IGEDC, in line with its mission to obtain the technologies needed by the country's gas industry, intends to enter the field of mini-LNG; therefore, the assessment of the capacity of capable companies in this field has been put on the agenda.

Now, the importance of obtaining LNG technology has increased due to the position of this technology in the field of global gas trade, and in the field of mini-LNG, domestic applications are also considered, so that in the hot seasons of the year when household needs are less, industries using this technology and store the gas to use it in the cold season.

Iran Cuts Back On Grains Imports



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has cut back on imports of grains amid rising inventories that have been boosted by a higher domestic crop, according to figures by Iran's Government Trading Corporation (GTC).

GTC figures cited in a report by the ILNA news agency showed that Iran had imported 3.117 million metric tons (mt) of basic goods, mostly grains, in the six months to September 22.

The report said the imports figure was a fall of 29% compared with the April-September period last year.

It said the decline was mainly due to "the satisfactory status" of grain stocks in Iran, adding that grain purchases from domestic producers had increased significantly this year to cope with a global shortage caused by the war in Ukraine.

Government figures show Iran bought some 7.2 million mt of wheat from domestic farmers in the harvesting season that ended in late July.

The figure was an increase of 60% from GTC's wheat purchases in April-July 2021. That comes as payments to domestic wheat growers reached an all-time high of 870 trillion rials (nearly \$3 billion) this year.

Iran expects even a higher domestic crop in 2023 amid better price incentives offered to farmers and other measures adopted by the government to boost activity in the sector.

Iranian agriculture ministry on Monday unveiled a \$1 billion plan that it said will lead to a major increase in the country's agricultural output in the farming year to September 2023.

EAEU Becomes Sixth Partner of CICA

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

On the sidelines of the Sixth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the CICA Secretariat and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

With this, the EEC became the sixth Partner Organization of CICA. The document was signed by CICA Executive Director Kairat Sarybay and Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikov.

Areas such as regional economic integration, economy and finance, transportation and transport, digitalization and information and communication technology, industry, agribusiness, trade and competition policy were identified as fields of interaction between the two associations.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, the CICA Executive Director pointed out that CICA acted in five



broad dimensions of cooperation - military-political, new challenges and threats, economic, environmental, and human.

That being said, at least 60 percent of the CICA agenda is represented by economic issues, which clearly testifies to the Member States' focus on practical cooperation and opens up broad prospects for interaction with the EAEU. Thus, cooperation

between the CICA Business Council and the EAEU Business Council could become one of the practical forms of this work.

The CICA Executive Director emphasized that the wide range of economic challenges and opportunities, global and regional threats and challenges, the goals of sustainable development and environmental protection were indicative of the need for greater interaction and connectivity on the Asian and - on a broader scale - on the Eurasian continent.

Iran, Kyrgyzstan Call for Introducing Visa-Free Scheme

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kyrgyzstan are interested in implementing visa waiver arrangements for trade and fuel supply.

Tehran and Bishkek are considering introducing a visa-free regime for entrepreneurs from both countries, according to the Kyrgyz Economist Information Base (<https://economist.kg/>).

Referring to the first meeting of the Kyrgyz-Iranian Business Committee at the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of the two countries, the Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce press secretary announced that Iran is ready to create a visa-free scheme for Kyrgyz entrepreneurs for 14 days. Iran is interested in Kyrgyzstan as a partner in the field of investment, agriculture, engineering, metallurgy, mining, provision of engineering, and technical services, the report added.

It further added that Iran is the only option for Kyrgyzstan to enter the markets of Southeast Asia and Arab countries, as well as Pakistan plus Libya.

Earlier, Senior Deputy Chairman of the Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry Roman Kasimov said that the volume of trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran is expected to increase by 2.5 times to above \$200 million per year.

Addressing the Kyrgyzstan-Iran Business Forum, Kasimov highlighted that Iran and Kyrgyzstan are planning to increase trade by 2.5 times to \$200 million. He said the two sides are investigating the issue of registering trusted partners.



Gov't Approves Regulations for Crude Sales to Domestic Buyers

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian government has approved laws and regulations concerning the sale of crude oil to domestic buyers amid efforts to offset the impact of US sanctions on normal oil exports from the country.

Reports published in the local media on Wednesday said that the Iranian Cabinet had approved an executive order to implement a budget law ratified by the parliament in March which allowed the sale of crude oil and condensate to domestic trade firms.

The order stipulates that trade firms designated as domestic purchaser of crude oil should have the financial backing of a major government department, including a ministry or a government-run pension fund, and they must be vetted and approved by the Iranian Oil Ministry.

Crude oil and condensate, which is a very light form of crude, will be delivered

to domestic buyers at official export prices applied on the date of the shipment delivery, said the order.

It indicated that domestic firms will be required to resell the oil shipments to foreign customers within contractual timeframes and pay the proceeds into accounts of the National Iranian Oil Company or the Central Bank of Iran.

Iran has been offering major discounts on oil shipments exported to Asia over the past two years as it seeks to get round American sanctions that have hampered normal crude sales from the country since 2018.

Experts say the new government scheme to deliver oil to domestic buyers can lead to increased crude sales from Iran while it allows trade firms to benefit from the price difference in the destination markets.

Deadly Bus Attack Kills 18 Syrian Soldiers

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - At least 18 soldiers were killed and 20 wounded when an explosive device detonated on a military bus in the Damascus countryside, local outlet Sham FM said.

It represents one of the deadliest attacks in months against Syrian government troops not on an active front line. Bus attacks in particular have been on the rise, including in the Damascus countryside.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's attack and no comment from Syrian authorities. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor that counts casualties and covers military developments in the 11-year-old conflict, said that 17 soldiers were killed in the blast.



India Axes Rule on Kashmir Voting Rights

SRINAGAR (Dispatches) - India scrapped a rule granting voting rights to new residents of its Jammu and Kashmir region after widespread anger among political parties, who labelled it a bid to change the demographics of the country's only Muslim-majority region.

Kashmir is claimed in full but ruled in part by nuclear arch-rivals India and Pakistan, who have fought two of their three wars over control of the Himalayan territory.

In 2019, India stripped its part of the region of its remaining measure of autonomy, reorganising Jammu and Kashmir state into two federally-controlled territories and changing the constitution to let non-Kashmiris vote and own land there.



Russia Strikes Ukrainian Towns



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian missiles have pounded dozens of Ukrainian cities and towns over the past 24 hours, while the head of one of the regions annexed by Russia told residents to leave amid fighting between Russian and advancing Ukrainian forces.

A day after the United Nations Security Council condemned Moscow's incorporation of four partially occupied regions into its territory as illegal, the Russian-installed governor of one of those, Ukraine's southern Kherson region, appealed for residents to take their children and leave.

The official, Vladimir Saldo, asked for Moscow's help in transporting civilians into Russia, saying the cities in the region were subject to missile attacks.

Since August, Kherson has been the centre of a major Ukrainian counter-offensive in which Kyiv says it has retaken more than 1,170 sq km (450 sq miles) of land.

Russian troops were not preparing to leave Kherson, another Russian-installed official said.

After Russia lost ground since early September around Kherson and a large area in the country's northeast, Moscow has intensified its air campaign, prompting Kyiv's allies to pledge more air defense systems and other military aid.

On Thursday NATO allies meeting in Brussels unveiled plans to also jointly beef up Europe's air defenses with Patriot and other missile systems.

"We are living in threatening, dangerous times," said German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht at a signing ceremony where Germany and more than a dozen of European NATO members committed to jointly procuring weapons for a "European Sky Shield" to better protect their territory.

Moscow renewed warnings that more military aid for Kyiv made members of the U.S.-led military alliance "a direct party to the conflict," and said admitting Ukraine to the alliance would trigger a global conflict.

"Kyiv is well aware that such a step would mean a guaranteed escalation to a World War Three," deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, Alexander Venediktov, told the state TASS news agency on Thursday.

Moscow has repeatedly justified the Feb. 24 invasion that has killed tens of thousands of people, in what it calls a "special operation", by saying Ukraine's ambitions to join the alliance posed a threat to Russia's security.

Ukraine's accession remains a distant prospect, not least because its membership during an ongoing war would put the United States and allies into direct conflict with Russia under the alliance's collective defense clause.

Washington and other NATO members have provided Ukraine with weapons to fight Russia and imposed sweeping economic sanctions but have tried to avoid more direct involvement in the war.

In Brussels for a meeting of NATO's defence ministers, including close-door talks by its nuclear planning group, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin vowed to defend "every inch" of members' territory.

Shortly after Russia's assault began Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy signalled he was willing to consider neutrality, but has since asked for fast-track membership, hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin proclaimed regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia as Russian land on Sept. 30.

In the past 24 hours Russian missiles hit more than 40 settlements, while Ukrainian air force carried out 32 strikes on 25 Russian targets, Ukraine's Armed Forces General Staff said.

North Korea Practiced Firing Nuclear-Capable Cruise Missiles

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the launch of two long-range strategic cruise missiles, state media reported, calling it a test to confirm the reliability and operation of nuclear-capable weapons deployed to military units.

The test firing was conducted on Wednesday, and was aimed at "enhancing the combat efficiency and might" of cruise missiles deployed to the Korean People's Army "for the operation of tactical nukes," state media Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

Stressing that the test launch was another clear warning to its "enemies," leader Kim Jong Un said the country "should continue to expand the operational sphere of the nuclear strategic armed forces to resolutely deter any crucial military crisis and war crisis at any time and completely take the initiative in it," according to KCNA.

On Monday, KCNA said Kim had guided nuclear tactical exercises targeting South Korea over the past two weeks in protest of recent joint naval drills by South Korean and U.S. forces involving an aircraft carrier.

KCNA reported that the two missiles test-fired on Wednesday flew for 10,234 seconds and "clearly hit the target 2,000 km (1,240 miles) away."

A U.S. State Department spokesperson declined to comment on the launches, and said Washington remained focused on coordinating closely with its allies and partners to address the threats posed by North Korea.

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's office said the North's cruise missiles do not pose a threat as they are "slow enough to be intercepted," but Seoul is ready to sternly respond to Pyongyang's provocations with "overwhelming forces."

The South's military also said it had monitored the launch in real time and was continuing to analyse data from the tests.

North Korea first tested a "strategic" cruise missile in September 2021, which was seen by analysts at the time as possibly the country's first such weapon with a nuclear capability.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Diplomats say Moscow's hints at the possible use of a tactical nuclear weapon to defend the annexed territories of Ukraine are aimed at scaring the West into reducing support for Kyiv.

Iraqi Parliament Elects Abdul Latif Rashid as New President

BAGHDAD (Dispatches)- Lawmakers in Iraq have elected Abdul Latif Rashid as the country's new president, breaking a months-long political deadlock hours after nine rockets struck areas near Baghdad's Green Zone, where the parliament is located.

At least 269 of the 329 lawmakers attended the voting session on Thursday afternoon.

Al Jazeera's Mahmoud Abdelwahed, reporting from Baghdad, said that several civilians and members of the security forces were wounded in the rocket attacks, which took place as the parliament was about to begin its session.

A first round of voting on the presidential nomination failed to reach the required two-thirds majority.

Iraq had already made three failed attempts this year to elect a new head of state from February 7 to March 30.

The country has witnessed months of political deadlock after powerful Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr last year emerged as the biggest winner in a parliamentary vote, but failed to rally enough support to form a government.

Al-Sadr has withdrawn his parliamentarians from the assembly and in August announced he would quit politics, prompting the worst violence in Baghdad for years.

While the presidency is a largely ceremonial position, the vote is a key step in Iraq's political process because the president invites the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc to form a government.

Under a power-sharing system designed to avoid sectarian conflict, Iraq's president is Kurdish, its prime minister is Shia and its parliament speaker is Sunni.

At least three rockets hit Baghdad's Green Zone as a parliamentary session was about to meet to elect a new president and break a political gridlock.

The rocket attack came as the crisis-hit country makes its fourth attempt this year to elect a president more than a year after general elections.

This week the United Nations mission warned that "the protracted crisis is breeding further instability" in the war-scarred country, and that the divisive politics are "generating bitter public disillusion".



UN Condemns Russia's Move To Annex Parts of Ukraine

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The United Nations General Assembly has voted to condemn Russia's "attempted illegal annexation" of four partially occupied regions in Ukraine and urged countries not to recognize the move.

In Wednesday's vote, three-quarters of the 193-member General Assembly — 143 countries — backed a resolution that also reaffirmed the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

"It's amazing," Ukraine's UN Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya told reporters after the vote, as he stood next to the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield who said the result showed Russia could not intimidate the world.

Four countries joined Russia in voting against the resolution — Belarus, Nicaragua, North Korea, and Syria. Another 35 countries abstained from the vote, including China, India, Pakistan and South Africa. The rest did not vote.

Moscow in September proclaimed its annexation of four partially occupied regions in Ukraine — Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia — after staging what it called referendums. Ukraine and its allies have denounced the votes as illegal and coercive.

The General Assembly vote followed a veto by Russia last month of a similar resolution in the 15-member Security Council.

The result is the strongest rebuke to Russia from the General Assembly of the four resolutions it has approved since Russian troops invaded Ukraine on February 24.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the General Assembly ahead of the vote that the resolution was "politicised and openly provocative", adding that it "could destroy any and all efforts in favor of a diplomatic solution to the crisis".

The UN move echoes what happened in 2014 after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea. At the time, the General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring the referendum invalid with 100 votes in favor, 11 against and 58 formal abstentions.

China abstained on Wednesday because it did not believe the resolution will be helpful, China's Deputy UN Ambassador Geng Shuang said.



Heatwaves Will Make Regions Uninhabitable Within Decades



GENEVA (Dispatches) - Heatwaves will become so extreme in certain regions of the world within decades that human life there will be unsustainable, the United Nations and the Red Cross said.

Heatwaves are predicted to “exceed human physiological and social limits” in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and south and southwest Asia, with extreme events triggering “large-scale suffering and loss of life”, the organizations said.

Heatwave catastrophes this year in countries like Somalia and Pakistan foreshadow a future with deadlier, more frequent, and more intense heat-related humanitarian emergencies, they warned in a joint report.

The UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released the report in advance of next month’s COP27 climate change summit in Egypt.

“We don’t want to dramatise it, but clearly the data shows that it does lead towards a very bleak future,” said IFRC secretary-general Jagan Chapagain.

They said aggressive steps needed to be taken immediately to avert potentially recurrent heat disasters, listing steps that could mitigate the worst effects of extreme heat.

“There are clear limits beyond which people exposed to extreme heat and humidity cannot survive,” the report said.

“There are also likely to be levels of extreme heat beyond which societies may find it practically impossible to deliver effective adaptation for all.

“On current trajectories, heatwaves could meet and exceed these physiological and social limits in the coming decades, including in regions such as the Sahel and south and southwest Asia.”

It warned that the impact of this would be “large-scale suffering and loss of life, population movements and further entrenched inequality.”

The report said extreme heat was a “silent killer”, claiming thousands of lives each year as the deadliest weather-related hazard -- and the dangers were set to grow at an “alarming rate” due to climate change.

According to a study cited by the report, the number of poor people living in extreme heat conditions in urban areas will jump by 700 percent by 2050, particularly in west Africa and southeast Asia.

“Projected future death rates from extreme heat are staggeringly high -- comparable in magnitude by the end of the century to all cancers or all infectious diseases -- and staggeringly unequal,” the report said.

Agricultural workers, children, the elderly and pregnant and breastfeeding women are at higher risk of illness and death, the report claimed.

The United Nations warned that countries in the horn of Africa more Somalia and similarly Kenya’s arid northern reaches are on the brink of famine for the second time in just over a decade.

“As the climate crisis goes unchecked, extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and floods, are hitting the most vulnerable people the hardest,” said UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths.

“The humanitarian system is not equipped to handle crisis of this scale on our own.”

Chapagain urged countries at COP27 to invest in climate adaptation and mitigation in the regions most at risk.

OCHA and the IFRC suggested five main steps to help combat the impact of extreme heatwaves, including providing early information to help people and authorities react in time, and finding new ways of financing local-level action.

California's Drought Withers Tomatoes, Pushing Grocery Prices Higher



FIREBAUGH (Dispatches) - A lack of rain and snow in central California and restricted water supplies from the Colorado River in the southernmost part of the state have withered summer crops like tomatoes and onions and threatened leafy greens grown in the winter.

That has added pressure to grocery prices, putting a squeeze on wallets with no end in sight.

The rise in food prices this year has helped drive U.S. inflation to its highest levels in 40 years. California’s drought conditions, on top of Hurricane Ian ravaging citrus and tomato crops in Florida, are likely to push food costs even higher. Drought in an area known as the U.S. salad bowl has not only impacted fresh produce, but also pantry staples like pasta sauce and premade dinners.

“There’s just not enough water to grow everything that we normally grow,” said Don Cameron, President of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. Cameron also grows processing tomatoes, onions, garlic and more than a dozen other crops near Fresno, California.

The most recent drought in California began in 2020, worsening when California’s Central Valley faced its driest January and February in recorded history. Snowpack, supplying surface water for much of the Central Valley, reached just 38% of its historic average by April, according to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, a state agency focused on conservation efforts.

Near Firebaugh, California, Aaron Barcellos planted just a quarter of the 2,000 acres of his family’s fourth generation farm. This summer, he harvested tomatoes two weeks early to prevent further drought damage.

“I don’t think farming in California has ever been more complex and more challenging, and the drought is a large part of that,” said Barcellos.

California produces about 30% of the world’s processing tomatoes, but in August the U.S. Department of Agriculture cut its 2022 forecast to 10.5 million tonnes, down 10% from its 12.2 million tonne estimate earlier in the year.

Because of the shortfall, farmers this year negotiated higher prices for tomatoes, as well as onions and garlic used for spices in countless boxed meals and other grocery store staples, Cameron said.

“What you’re seeing harvested this summer, that really hasn’t even hit the grocery shelf, is a 25% increase in the cost of the product to the processors – the canners, the buyers downstream,” he said. “The onions and garlic have already been negotiated for 2023, with another 25% increase in price.”

Cameron said tomato prices face a similar hike, resulting in a 50% increase in cost to canners and processors from 2021 to 2023.

Ketchup and other tomato-based pasta sauce maker Kraft Heinz Co (KHC.O) said it’s sourcing tomatoes from other regions to make up for California’s shortfall. A company spokesperson said Kraft could guarantee tomato supplies in grocery stores, but did not rule out price increases.

In southern California, Imperial Valley farmers are planting hundreds of acres of leafy greens to harvest this winter. The region faces water restrictions due to record low levels on the Colorado River, the source of water for both Imperial and Coachella Valley, the largest producer of dates in the U.S.

Jack Vessey grows lettuce, cabbage and leafy greens on more than 500 acres near Holtville, California, along the Mexico and Arizona borders. He currently has enough water for his crops, but worries that further cuts could leave his crops withering in the field.

Vessey normally plants alfalfa for livestock feed or durum wheat for pasta in January, but said he may fallow the land to save his Colorado River water allotment for higher value crops.

“That’s our only water source. It’s not just about agriculture,” said Vessey. “You’d be killing a community.”



Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

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



U.S. Mortgage Interest Rates Rise to Highest Level Since 2006

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The average interest rate on the most popular U.S. home loan rose to its highest level since 2006 as the housing sector continued to bear the brunt of tightening financial conditions, data from the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) showed.

Mortgage rates have more than doubled since the beginning of the year as the Federal Reserve pursues an aggressive path of interest rate hikes to bring down stubbornly high inflation.

Those actions, designed to cool the economy sufficiently to curb price pressures, have weighed heavily on the interest-rate-sensitive housing sector as expectations for Fed tightening have led to a surge in Treasury yields. The yield on the 10-year note acts as a benchmark for mortgage rates.



Outcomes of Fifth General Assembly of IOFS Highlighted

BY: F. TAHERPOOR

ASTANA – The high ranking officials of the Islamic Organization for Food Security on Wednesday and on the eve of the CICA conference in Astana, the capital of Republic of Kazakhstan in a press conference briefed the reporters on the latest outcomes of the 5th General Assembly that was concluded in an on-line format on October 10-11 in Tunisia under the name the theme of “Partnerships for sustainable Food Security: Africa within OIC Geography.”

The IOFS is a specialized institution of the OIC, which has a mandate to ensure sustainable food security within OIC geography through socio-economic development and the systematic promotion of targeted programs related to agriculture, science and technology, humanitarian aid, food trade and investment among OIC Member States.

The key speakers of the briefing were Dr. Ismail Abdelhamid, Director of Programmes and Projects Office, Ambassador Daulet Yemberdiyev, Director of International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Office, and Ambassador Murat Tashibayev, Advisor to the H.E the Director General of IOFS.

The IOFS proclaimed 2022 as the “IOFS Year of Africa,” with an aim to ensure that the Organization would focus its main attention to the continent by developing and implementing relevant projects with the support of Member States and other stakeholders, including international organizations.

Africa was not on track to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target #2 - to end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round and to end all forms of malnutrition. In this context, the Organization has been continuously working with African governments and relevant development partners in the African agricultural landscape and has launched its activities in different Member States within its strategic framework.

On 10 October 2022, there was a preparatory meeting attended by Senior Officials from various Member States, who had deliberated on all points under Agenda Items, including:

Report of the Director-General, Membership, Report on the Financial Matters, IOFS Strategic Programs: an overview of the implementation, Election of Members of the Executive Board, Afghanistan Food Security Program: a flow review, Year of Africa: a flow review, Other institutional matters and Adoption of Resolutions of the 5th General Assembly

On the 11th of October 2022, the Ministerial Session was held, and coordinated with His Excellency Mr. Yerbol Karashukeev, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in his capacity of Chairman of the 4th IOFS General Assembly, which was held in September 2021. He provided the initial remarks to assure of his country's unwavering support to the IOFS, as the host of the Organization, and to transfer the Chairmanship to His Excellency, Mr. Mahmoud Elies HAMZA, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Tunisia, and Chairman of the 5th IOFS General Assembly.

His Excellency Mr. Yerlan Baidaut, IOFS Director General, provided the Report of all the activities that have been implemented since the 4th General Assembly. The Director General noted that since September of 2021 there have been positive dynamics in the development of IOFS programs and the active involvement of Member States in addressing common food security issues.

At the solemn IOFS gathering, member States were able to adopt important programs to further develop agriculture and address food insecurity particularly in Africa. These included:

a) OIC Food Security Reserve System (FSRs), which has been envisioned by the OIC agenda since 1981.

b) The Grain Fund, which is geared towards increasing intra-OIC economic cooperation, particularly, in the field of agricultural development and food security with emphasis on funding and grain supply.

It should be underscored that the Grain Fund can become an important tool for Member States to avoid

c) The International Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA) is to be given an additional impetus to advance Pillar 4 of the IOFS Strategic Vision 2031 that is devoted to OIC Food Industry Development, basically the foundation of relationship between the IOFS and Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs).

d) The Sheep Farming Fund is an investment project focused on establishing value chains and shall providing sustainable intra-OIC supplies of top-quality meat. IOFS shall facilitate financing from institutional investors of OIC Member States with the support of member countries' IPAs. Upon successful implementation, this commodity fund is to be replicated in other OIC countries, such as Somalia, Sudan, etc.

e) Annual IOFS Civil Society Forum, as the Article 07 of the IOFS Statute provides the mandate of for establishing closer

collaboration with any non-governmental regional and international organizations concerned with agriculture, rural development and food security, the 5GA provided the ground for the IOFS to initiate an Annual Civil Society Forum in close strict collaboration and coordination with the Member States.

f) IOFS Center for Plant and Animal Genetic Resources, bearing in mind that numerous and diverse conflicts around the world are among the main causes for destruction of important food security and agricultural development infrastructures, including the eminent loss of ICARDA's genetic collection stored in Aleppo, Syria, and destruction of the National Gene Bank of Plants in Ukraine, the 5GA invited Member States and relevant Institutions to strengthen the actions at national and local levels for the acquisition, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and improvement of animal genetic resources to enhance food production and agricultural development. In this context, the IOFS is to establish the Center to consolidate joint efforts and the importance of establishing the storage facility of agricultural genetic resources within the OIC geography. The Center is to be established with the kind support of Member States and relevant OIC Institutions and is to be located here in Kazakhstan.

g) The Ministerial Session of the 5th General Assembly welcomed Tajikistan as a full-fledged IOFS Member State and expressed gratitude to the Republic of Chad for signing the IOFS Statute, increasing the number of Member states to 37. During the session, Azerbaijan has stated that all domestic measures are being taken for the country to be a full-fledged IOFS Member States

h) Finally, it is important to note that the 5GA was also instrumental in Electing New Members of the Executive Board. As such, the Board was elected in the following composition: Qatar, The UAE, Republic of Tajikistan, Pakistan, Cameroon, Gambia, Kazakhstan (permanent member), and the Director-General of IOFS (Non-Voting Member)

The State of Qatar was also elected as the Chairman of the Executive Board of IOFS.

The organization estimates that the future plans and activities of the IOFS for 2022-2023 will provide an effective platform for reviewing challenges and providing prospects for various solutions in sustainable food and agriculture development in OIC Member states.

At the end official answered the questions of the reporters.

EU Seeks to Break Impasse Over Gas Price Caps

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The question of how, when and whether to cap gas prices loomed over another meeting of European Union countries today, as they pursue a joint plan to target high gas prices — a compromise that has eluded them for weeks.

The 27-country EU is plotting its next move to tame soaring energy prices and shield consumers from surging bills, as Europe heads into a winter of scarce Russian gas, a cost of living crisis and the looming threat of recession.

EU energy ministers meeting in Prague will attempt to provide clearer instructions on what the European Commission should propose as the bloc's next emergency energy measure.

“We're all agreed we do need to do something further. The exact mechanisms may take some time,” Irish climate minister Eamon Ryan said.

EU energy commissioner Kadri Simson said Brussels would propose fresh measures next week, and any further EU-wide measures should be backed by “broad consensus” among countries.

So far, that has been hard to find.

With gas prices almost 90 per cent higher than a year ago, most EU countries say they want a gas price cap, but disagree on its design — with a price cap on all gas, pipeline gas, or just gas used to produce electricity among the options countries have wrangled over in recent weeks.

“There is much more common ground than we had a few weeks ago,” Dutch climate minister Rob Jetten said.

Jetten said that countries had discussed the risks of decoupling gas and power prices — possibly through a program similar to that of Spain and Portugal's national scheme to cap the price of gas used for power generation — and it was now up to the Commission to find a proposal that all could agree on.

Spain and Portugal implemented their scheme in June, which helped curb local power prices. A senior EU official said support was building among members to roll it out EU-wide — although some warn it could raise gas demand across the bloc, since Spain's gas use increased under the measure.

“Romania supports the decoupling of the price of electricity from the price of gas,” the country's energy minister Virgil-Daniel Popescu said on his arrival to the meeting.

Russia has slashed gas deliveries to Europe since its invasion of Ukraine, blaming the cuts on Western sanctions imposed over the conflict.

That has driven up prices and left countries scrambling to secure alternative supplies. Germany and the Netherlands are among the countries opposed to a broad gas price cap, fearing it would leave Europe struggling to attract supplies from price-competitive global markets this winter.

The two countries put forward their own proposals ahead of Wednesday's meeting — suggesting 10 “no-regret” EU measures, including a new benchmark price for liquefied natural gas, tougher gas-saving targets, and negotiating lower prices with suppliers such as Norway.

Norway's energy minister Terje Aasland, who joined today's meeting along with other European non-EU members, said his country “doesn't recommend” a gas price cap.

EU countries have already rushed through emergency energy windfall profit levies, gas storage filling obligations, and electricity demand curbs to address the surge in energy prices driven by Russia slashing gas supplies.

IMF Warns Against Costly Tax Cuts to Fight Inflation

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Soaring food and energy prices are raising the risk of social unrest, but attempting to tame costs through tax cuts, subsidies and price controls would be too costly, the IMF said.

The fund's comments, in its latest Fiscal Monitor report, come as food prices have surged by half since 2019 while energy bills soared in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

“Countries all around the world are facing more pressing and more painful trade offs,” Vitor Gaspar, director of the International Monetary Fund's fiscal affairs department, told AFP as the crisis lender holds its annual meetings in Washington this week.

The combination of inflation along with food and energy price surges point to a cost-of-living crisis, he said.

Countries spent heavily to protect their economies during the pandemic, then faced supply chain issues as they emerged from Covid lockdowns.

Inflation soared further after Russia invaded Ukraine in February, with food and energy costs going through the roof, forcing central banks to raise interest rates aggressively.

“Households are struggling with elevated food and energy prices, raising the risk of social unrest,” the IMF Fiscal Monitor report said.

But, it added, “fiscal policy trade-offs are increasingly difficult, especially for high-debt countries where responses to the Covid-19 pandemic exhausted their fiscal space.”

As governments operate within tighter budgets, prioritizing policies and programs becomes vital, the report said, adding that key goals are ensuring access to affordable food and protecting low-income households from inflation.

There appears to be an “association between social unrest and episodes of spikes in food prices,” while fuel prices are politically sensitive, IMF fiscal affairs department deputy director Paolo Mauro told reporters.

Countries have to be selective in giving support, he said, but the IMF recommends being “more generous” on food as a need for survival.

However, with long-lasting supply shocks and broad-based inflation, attempts to cap surging costs through price controls, subsidies or tax cuts will be “costly to the budget and ultimately ineffective,” the IMF warned.

Officials should instead allow prices to adjust and provide targeted cash transfers to the most vulnerable.

Most countries should continue “tightening” their budgets, the report said.

Asked about Britain's controversial tax-slashing plans, which rocked the pound and raised the country's borrowing costs, Gaspar told reporters that monetary and fiscal policies should be consistent, with markets “looking for certainty in a very uncertain world.”

“The expectation is that the announcement of a full-fledged fiscal plan on October 31 accompanied by a macroeconomic forecast... will contribute to give to the market the certainty that it seeks,” he said.

Countries may need to raise added revenues and contain the growth of other expenditures as they prioritize policies, the IMF report said.

Fiscal costs can be offset by measures like taxes, it added, suggesting that a permanent tax on “windfall profits” from fossil fuel extraction based on excess gains “can be considered” if an adequate instrument is not already in place.

But the report cautioned that low-income countries will need more global humanitarian assistance and emergency financing given their limited resources, adding that the biggest challenge comes from the food price surge.

U.S. Claims Russia Negotiating With Countries Seeking Oil Below Brent Price



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The United States is already starting to see success with discussions of a Russian oil price cap, as Washington has heard countries are negotiating deals with Russia to buy oil far below the benchmark Brent crude price, a top U.S. Treasury official said.

U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo added that Russia is trying to lock in those contracts ahead of a Dec. 5 European Union ban on seaborne shipments of Russian oil.

A price cap on Russian seaborne oil deliveries is being developed by the United States and other G7 countries to cut Russia's oil revenues, while encouraging Moscow to continue to produce oil.

Adeyemo spoke at the Columbia Global Energy Summit in New York.

Governments and companies restricted purchases of Russian oil after Moscow invaded Ukraine in on Feb. 24. The price cap on Russian oil was agreed in principle last month by the Group of Seven rich countries.

The United States will look at historical data for what Russia has earned in the past for their oil to set the price cap, Adeyemo said. He added that the cap will be above the price of production for Russia to encourage it to continue supplying oil to the global market.

Brent crude futures traded above \$95 per barrel on Wednesday. Oil prices tracked higher recently, ahead of a meeting between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and OPEC allies last week. During that meeting, the group agreed to steep oil production cuts that will curb supply in an already tight market.

OPEC+'s plan to cut output was disappointing, Adeyemo said, and it would be negative for producers including OPEC if the move drives inflation higher, hurting the global economy and, therefore, oil demand.

Adeyemo also addressed the Iran nuclear agreement, saying that if Iran goes back to it, the United States would be willing to do the same.

President Urges Independent Asia States to Develop Own Pattern Against Challenges

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi insists the "new Asia" in the modern world requires cooperation to develop an endogenous pattern for independent states in their efforts to overcome security, economic, media and cyber challenges.

Raisi made the remarks in an address to the 6th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on Thursday.

Designing such a pattern "is particularly important in establishing a common financial system and using regional currencies, designing norms and regulations for combating terrorism as well as strengthening media cooperation," he said.

He further emphasized that terrorism-nurtured countries and bullying powers that have taken the global financial system hostage and continue to loot the wealth of other nations cannot serve as trustworthy partners in shaping the emerging order.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns and confronts terrorism in any form, including economic terrorism which seeks to block the economic development of

independent countries," Raisi said, adding that persistent and collective cooperation is required to combat economic terrorism as a threat to the entire world.

The Iranian president stated that the world today "needs a more effective role of regional mechanisms to create more opportunities for the objective interaction of international players and the peaceful settlement of regional and global issues." Definitely, he underlined, Iran will be a steadfast partner in pursuing and strengthening "multilateralism based on justice."

He then reiterated that Tehran believes in securing common interests of independent countries through cooperation and will continue this strategy regardless of international developments. "This approach will increase cooperation among governments, welfare of nations and regional confidence," the president added.

He said CICA, as an effective mechanism, has played an unparalleled role in promoting peace, security and sustainable development among Asian nations since it is based on mutual trust, common interests, equality and respect for cultural diversities.

The Iranian chief executive further warned that unilateralism

continues plotting to destabilize countries, hinder their progress, and block convergence among independent nations.

"This important [issue] indicates that convergence and security in Asia are not compatible with the interests of hegemonic countries and any attempt to destabilize independent nations has goals and consequences beyond national geographies, and in fact, aims to target the stability and prosperity of regional countries," he said.

Speaking to reporters before leaving Tehran, Raisi emphasized that active cooperation with regional and trans-regional organizations is a key part of his administration's foreign policy.

"Cooperation with these organizations is a good opportunity and can strengthen convergence, neighborliness and multilateralism," he said, adding that cooperation with organizations such as CICA can provide an opportunity for Iran to make use of Asia's economic infrastructure.

CICA is defined as a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security, and stability in Asia and is based on the recognition that there is a close link between peace, security, and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world.

Leader Says...

FROM PAGE 1

The annual conference is organized by the Iran-based World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought. The annual event marks Islamic Unity Week which coincides with the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

"Islamic unity, peace and avoiding division and conflict within the Islamic world" has been named as the main theme of the conference. Just war and peace, Islamic brotherhood, countering terrorism, accepting religious consensus, empathy, and sympathy, mutual action among various Islamic schools of thought, and condemning normalization of relations with the Zionist regime are among the other topics of the event.

The Muslim Ummah can attain a "high position" in the new world which is gradually being shaped, he said, adding that the Muslim world can become a "role model" and a "pioneer."

However, he continued, the only condition for realizing this is to have unity and overcome the temptations of enemies, especially the US and Israel.

"Unity among Islamic nations is possible but it needs efforts," he said, adding, most hope on this issue is pinned on elites and thinkers of the Muslim world as they can guide the public opinion toward the issue. "If the public opinion is formed in a country, the administrative policies of that country will forcibly move in that direction."

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to note that the Islamic Republic stood against two major powers of the time, namely the US and the Soviet Union.

"The powers had differences in tens of issues but they were united in one thing: opposing the Islamic Republic," he said, adding, "They imagined that they could uproot this seedling [but] this seedling has now turned into a mighty tree." "They are damn wrong in thinking that they can uproot it," he said.

Iran Stresses Right to...

FROM PAGE 1

Since 2016, it said, they have conducted 49 terrorist attacks inside and near Iran's borders all carried out from terrorist bases within the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

To further their "nefarious terrorist goals," the terrorist groups tried to exploit recent peaceful protests in Iran and caused "unrest and damage to private and public properties," it said. The mission was referring to the deadly riots that erupted in Iran amid protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, who fainted at a police station and was pronounced dead days later at a Tehran hospital on September 16.

What started as peaceful protests took a violent turn after unruly protesters fatally attacked policemen and indulged in vandalism against public property in several cities. The terrorists in northern Iraq are reported to have been largely involved in the deadly riots in Iran by sneaking armed elements and caches of weapons to support groups of thugs behind violence in Iranian cities.

Iran, the letter added, has urged the government of Iraq and officials of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region to take the necessary measures, in accordance with Iraq's obligations under international law, the principles of friendly relations and good neighborliness as well as the Iraqi constitution.

However, despite repeated warnings and objections issued by Iran, neither the Iraqi government nor local Kurdish official took any concrete measures to fulfill their international obligations to refrain from sheltering such terrorist groups, whose activities pose a serious threat to Iran.

"Iran had no choice but to exercise its inherent right to self-defense under international law in order to protect its people, national security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity," the letter said.

The mission also reiterated the Islamic Republic's "unwavering commitment" to Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and called on the government of Iraq to "exercise and extend its effective control" over its entire territory and avoid harboring such terrorist and armed groups.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated its genuine commitment to Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity by positively responding to and supporting the Iraqi government's request to assist in the fight against the Daesh terror group, it said.

Resistance Sole Way...

FROM PAGE 1

"If there is any weakness (in the Muslim world), it stems from divisions," said the Lebanese resistance leader. "If the enemy's power lies in rifts among us, we should therefore unite, since our unity will serve as a firm fortress for us and will guarantee our progress toward prosperity."

He urged the Islamic countries' legislative bodies and Muslim scholars to boycott and criminalize any normalization with the Israeli regime, which he said would lead to the Judaization of the occupied city of al-Qud and would deal a blow to the Palestinian cause.

"We press the hands of the oppressed Bahraini people who are supporting the resistance and are objecting to the normalization projects with the Zionist regime," he said.

Nasrallah likewise voiced support for the Iraqi people, who have been dealing with US and Takfiri terrorism, and for the Yemeni nation's demands for an end to the siege and war by the US-backed Saudi regime and the coalition of its allies.

He added that the axis of resistance is stretching over 2.5 million kilometers, with its member nations enjoying rich oil resources and scientific and economic capabilities.

"We are facing the same enemy and moving toward the same fate," he noted.

Commenting on relations with Iran, Nasrallah stressed that Hezbollah would always defend the Islamic Republic in its confrontation with the enemies.

"The US is attempting to create division, ignite flames of war, and exploit Takfiri terrorist groups to weaken the Islamic nations, plunder their resources and ruin our countries," he said.

Treachorous governments in the region have turned into tools in the hands of enemies and aggressors to press ahead with their agendas, he said.

He pointed to Washington's defeats in its policies for the region, namely in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the world, saying that it is now "drowning in the quagmire of the Ukraine war."

The US ploys, he said, have backfired today and they are in the worst economic situation. Speaking at the same conference, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi similarly described resistance as the only viable path to confronting the Israeli regime, saying those who assumed that negotiations with illogical parties would save Palestine have been proven wrong.

Raisi said the US and Israel seek to provoke divisions in countries, create an arms market, take over the interests of the countries, and marginalize the issue of Palestine and al-Quds as the top priority of the Muslim world.

Inhumane Sanctions Have...

FROM PAGE 1

The United States under former president Donald Trump reinstated crippling sanctions on Iran after unilaterally walking out of the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018, despite Iran's full compliance with the terms of the agreement.

The sanctions have been choking up the financial channels that could be used towards providing Iran with essential medicine, material, or medical equipment.

Although Washington and its Western allies claim that humanitarian goods are exempted from sanctions, tens of thousands of patients in Iran have over the years died or developed critical ailments due to the non-availability of essential drugs over the years.

The blanket ban on banking transactions involving Iran have made it impossible for the country to access life-saving medicine and medical equipment.

"Blocking financial transactions between Iranian and international banks has led to a dangerous delay in procuring medicines, vaccines, equipment, and required material for diagnostic and treatment procedures as well as materials needed for domestic vaccine producers," Einollahi noted.

Iranian authorities say the US has been bullying companies in Europe and other parts of the world to make them stop trading with Iran.

The issue became more acute during the spread of the coronavirus in Iran in 2020 when the country was forced to delay a nationwide vaccination program against the disease because sanctions made it impossible to pay for vaccine supplies ordered from other countries.

Iran's then-foreign minister Javad Zarif even tweeted items required to contain the outbreak, which included ventilators, electroshock devices, nebulizer devices, infusion pumps, CT Scan 16 Slice machines, eco-sonography devices, digital x-ray machines, diagnostic test kits, protective masks, disposable gloves etc, to gain the attention of the international community.

Iran Oil...

FROM PAGE 1

Last week, Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji said Iran's crude oil and petrochemical exports continue without disruption after the Biden administration announced a new round of sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

"With the new procedures presented by my colleagues in the international affairs of the National Iranian Oil Company, we have been able to find good and attractive markets for Iran's crude oil, gas condensate, oil products and petrochemical products," he said. Owji said his ministry had found new markets and export processes through which, "we have been able to transform the export of crude oil and gas condensate compared to the last few years".

His remarks came after the US Treasury on Thursday announced new measures, targeting several firms based in China, the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and India that the United States accuses of involvement in the sale of Iranian petroleum

and petrochemical products.

Owji said "the sanctions of Western countries have not had any effect on our country's oil exports".

While part of Iran's oil has been available to the market, its petrochemical exports have been crucial to the country's sanction-busting effort. Iranian officials say the wide variety of petrochemical products and huge international demand for them because of their quality and price make the industry unsanctionable.

Last month, Owji indicated that Tehran would boost energy relations with friendly nations, such as China and Russia. Iran, he said, was working to attract investment from overseas without waiting for the deal to be restored.

In July, the Islamic Republic signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia's state energy giant Gazprom for cooperation in the oil and gas industry.

Kazakh President...

FROM PAGE 1

"Asia has become a recognized world economic leader in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity. The region has significant human and natural resources. Asia is home to 21 of the world's 30 largest cities.

Of the estimated growth of \$30 trillion in middle-class consumption by 2030, only \$1 trillion is expected to come from Western economies.

However, the future of Asia itself depends on our collective willingness to strengthen dialogue among cultures, traditions, and worldviews. I am sure that the steps taken for the development of CICA correspond to this goal," Tokayev highlighted.

Tokayev further outlined the priorities of Kazakhstan for its upcoming chairpersonship at CICA by saying, "First, the economic dimension. Disruptions in global supply chains force us to take a revised look at the formation of efficient transit-transport corridors."

In this context, he shared that "The CICA Forum of Analytical Centers will serve as a universal platform for experts and specialists from all over Asia to exchange experience and ideas and implement joint research projects.

This year, Astana hosted the CICA Business Council and Business Forum, as well as the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council.

The CICA Foundation will be established today. Its purpose is to create a special mechanism for the selection of CICA projects and the collection of voluntary funds for their implementation. The number of observers and partners is also growing.

Turkmenistan joined CICA as an observer. Decisions were made to establish cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)," the Head of State said.

President Tokayev emphasized that "The maturity and effectiveness of CICA as a regional platform for political dialogue serves as a starting point for its further transformation. Member States have repeatedly discussed and agreed in principle that CICA is already functioning de facto as an organization.

I want to emphasize that we are not creating a new organization, but moving to a new stage of institutional development, he added.

Raising the status of the Conference will strengthen the increased role of Asia in world affairs and bring the interaction of the member states to a new level," the President of Kazakhstan noted. About the environment, he stated that "Environment is becoming increasingly important. Climate change is leading to natural disasters that became more unpredictable & catastrophic. In 2021, 57 million people in Asia were affected by them."

"Decarbonization of the economy is extremely urgent for Asia. To address this problem, we need investments in unprecedented amounts.

In a month, Egypt will host COP27P. I propose to hold a High-Level Conference in 2024 in Astana on environmental issues in CICA," the President of Kazakhstan said. He reiterated that "We need a working mechanism for food security in CICA space. Asia produces two-thirds of the world's agricultural products but remains vulnerable in this area.

It seems promising to establish cooperation between CICA & IOFS, headquartered in Astana." Aside from that regarding economic measures he proposed people-centric policies. He said, "People must always be at the center of our efforts. Economic measures can be considered effective only if they are focused on the human dimension, saving and developing human resources."

Meanwhile the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Antonio Guterres video addressed the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) participants.

While addressing the event, Guterres stressed that "Over the last 30 years, CICA has grown into a vital platform for dialogue between countries across Asia."

The leaders from Palestine, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are

attending the summit. Among the other guests are Belarus's President as well as the Vice Presidents from Vietnam and China. The agenda of the Summit is to deliberate on key issues pertaining to CICA's objectives.

Meanwhile Kuwait has officially joined the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) as a member state and it was decided Kazakhstan to be chairperson of the summit for two more years and the Executive Director of the CICA Kairat Sarybay was elected as the first secretary general of the CICA. The participants of the conference also adopted the Astana Statement during their plenary session on Oct. 13.

This milestone decision has been a key priority of Kazakhstan's chairpersonship in CICA in 2020-2022. The transformation into an organization will affect development priorities as Kazakhstan renews its chairpersonship for the next two years. "Are there any objections to the adoption of documents on the transformation of the CICA? There are no objections. The Astana statement on the transformation of CICA is considered to be accepted," said President Tokayev during the summit.

The importance of this transformation was first raised by Tokayev in October 2021 during his meeting with the delegations participating in the sixth meeting of CICA foreign ministers. He said back then that CICA possessed all the elements of an international organization, including fundamental documents, governing and working bodies, an operating budget, a permanent secretariat, and its transformation will "emphasize Asia's new role in global affairs."

The sixth CICA summit, which continues today in Astana, also adopted a draft statement by CICA leaders on cooperation, on security and the use of information and communications technology, a document to establish the CICA Fund and CICA action plan on the implementation of the United Nations resolution on counterterrorism.

Argentine Super Cup to Be Played in Abu Dhabi

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - The Argentine Super Cup will be played in Abu Dhabi in January after the country's football association (AFA) signed a partnership with the Abu Dhabi Sports Council (ADSC), which announced the deal.

The Super Cup, contested between the winner of Argentina's Primera Division and the winner of the Argentine Cup, will be played outside Argentina for the first time as part of a four-year agreement.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:

(+98) (21) 44253448

Public Relations Tel:

(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

Public Relations Fax:

(+98)(21) 44253395

Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax: (+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234

Website:

http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:

info@irannewsdaily.com

ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St. Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Germany Retain Women's Sprint Title

PARIS (Dispatches) - Germany strengthened their grip on the women's team sprint event as they set a new world record to claim the world title by beating China in the final at the St Quentin en Yvelines velodrome.

Pauline Grabosch, Emma Hinze and Lea Sophie Friedrich clocked 45.967 seconds to improve the mark they set at last year's world championships, where they won the title, by 0.097 seconds.

Britain took third place against the Netherlands in the race for bronze.

Barca on Brink After Inter Draw

PARIS (Dispatches) - Barcelona slipped closer to a second straight Champions League group-stage exit despite Robert Lewandowski's double in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Inter Milan, while Mohamed Salah scored the fastest hat-trick in the competition's history as Liverpool hammered Rangers.

Bayern Munich, Napoli and Club Brugge — for the first time since the inaugural group stage in 1991-92 — all booked places in the last 16.

Xavi Hernandez's Barca needed a victory at the Camp Nou to keep their fate in their own hands and Ousmane Dembele's goal after a cleverly-worked short corner gave the hosts a half-time lead.

But Inter turned the match on its head early in the second half, as Gerard Pique left a cross into the box and Nicolo Barella stole in unmarked to equalise.

Lautaro Martinez took advantage of more weak defending to put the Italians in front just after the hour mark, drilling in a low strike which went in off both posts.

Lewandowski equalised with eight minutes remaining as his deflected effort wrong-footed goalkeeper Andre Onana, but Inter substitute Robin Gosens looked to have knocked out the five-time champions with his 89th-minute effort.

Polish star Lewandowski's towering header in injury time gave Barca four minutes to find a winner, but it was Gosens who almost won it for Inter only to be denied by Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

La Liga leaders Barca now trail second-placed Inter by three points in Group C, but with a stronger head-to-head record, Simone Inzaghi's side will qualify with Bayern if they beat pointless Viktoria Plzen at home in two weeks.

"We had an enormous opportunity and we didn't take it," said Barcelona defender Eric Garcia. "We made errors that at this level, you cannot make."

Bayern reached the knockout phase for a 15th consecutive season with a 4-2 victory at Plzen.

The German champions romped into a 4-0 half-time advantage through goals from Sadio Mane and Thomas Mueller and Leon Goretzka's brace.

Adam Vlkanova and Jan Kliment gave the home fans two goals to cheer, but the Czechs bowed out of the competition.

Liverpool arrived at Ibrox under pressure



after a weekend loss to Arsenal saw Jurgen Klopp's men slip to 10th in the Premier League table.

Rangers stunned their visitors in the 17th minute as Scott Arfield slotted in, before Roberto Firmino levelled.

The Scots caved in the second half, though, as Firmino's second and Darwin Nunez's first Champions League goal for Liverpool put the game to bed for last season's losing finalists.

Salah came off the bench and wasted no time in scoring a six-minute treble, breaking Bafetimbi Gomis' record from 2011.

Harvey Elliott wrapped up a 7-1 victory late on as Liverpool moved within a point of the next round.

"From the outside everyone expected us to win but we take it a game at a time," Virgil van Dijk told BT Sport. "We know we're in a tough period."

Earlier, Group A leaders Napoli progressed as they extended their unbeaten start to the season with a 4-2 home victory over Ajax.

Hirving Lozano and Giacomo Raspadori scored inside the first 16 minutes as the hosts made a flying start against opponents they thrashed 6-1 last week.

Davy Klaassen and Steven Bergwijn both netted for Ajax in the second period, but further Napoli goals from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Victor Osimhen made it four wins from four for the Serie A pace-setters.

Ajax will have to beat Liverpool next time out in Amsterdam to keep their hopes of going through alive.

Unfancied Belgians Club Brugge booked a ticket to the knockouts with a gutsy goalless draw at Atletico Madrid.

"I have already done a lot of things in my career, but this was a very big moment," Brugge goalkeeper Simon Mignolet told RTL Belgium.



Vekic, Collins Reach San Diego Quarters

SAN DIEGO (Dispatches) - Croatia's Donna Vekic and the United States' Danielle Collins became the first two players to reach the quarterfinals of the San Diego Open by winning their second-round matches.

Vekic crushed the Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-2, and Collins ousted Italy's Martina Trevisan 6-2, 6-4.

While Vekic won 70 percent of her first-serve points, Pliskova wound up at 48 percent in that category. Collins finished with a 4-0 edge in aces and with seven service breaks to Trevisan's four.

In the last match of the night, fourth-seeded Jessica Pegula crushed Coco Vandeweghe 6-3, 6-1 in an all-American, second-round matchup.

The day's other match was the completion of a first-round encounter that was suspended due to rain Tuesday night. Sixth-seeded Coco Gauff completed a 6-3, 6-3 victory over qualifier Robin Montgomery in an all-U.S. showdown.

Eighth-seeded Anna Bondar of Hungary beat Great Britain's Harriet Dart 7-6 (3), 6-4 in second-round play, earning a quarterfinal berth at Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Bondar jumped ahead 4-0 in the first-set tiebreaker, lost the next three points, the won the last three. Bondar scored the only service break of the second set to go up 2-1, then served out the match, though she had to save four break points in the final game to hold on.

Vietnam's F1 Track Abandoned

HANOI (Dispatches) - Fenced off to the public and dotted with plastic waste, Hanoi's motor race circuit lies largely abandoned while hopes fade that Vietnam's capital will ever host a Formula One grand prix.

The city was set to make its F1 debut in 2020 but the inaugural Vietnamese Grand Prix was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and Hanoi has not appeared on the race calendar since.

Now, the spectator stands have been removed and most of the circuit sits empty — save a few hobby cyclists who sneak in, lured by the open space in the traffic-clogged city.

They race past yellowing grass, weeds and trash blown in by the wind, but the track itself appears like new, with "Vietnam" still clearly visible where it was painted on the tarmac.

Outside the surrounding metal fence, Hanoi's ubiquitous motorbikes have already reclaimed the roads once earmarked to form part of the 5.6-kilometre (3.5-mile) track.

Vietnam inked a 10-year deal with Formula One in 2018, betting that the glamour of the sport could reshape Hanoi's staid image, and reflect the country's economic liftoff.

Costing Vietnam US\$60 million a year, the fee was to be picked up in full by the country's largest private conglomerate, VinGroup, which had been hoping to dazzle with a night race.

But after the 2020 cancellation, the race was dropped from the 2021 global calendar when city mayor Nguyen Duc Chung, a major supporter of the grand prix, was arrested.

Chung was sentenced to 10 years in jail on corruption charges.

"Without Chung, the future of the race in Hanoi is gloomy," a source close to the race told AFP on condition of anonymity in 2020.

State media said city authorities in June last year ruled out hosting the race between 2022 and 2029.

Authorities, however, refused to confirm the news to AFP.

Hanoi was absent again from the 2023 race schedule announced last month.

Quartararo Unfazed by Poor Form



SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Reigning MotoGP world champion Fabio Quartararo insisted he remained calm and unfazed by a string of a poor results that has thrown the title race wide open.

The Frenchman has taken just eight points on his Yamaha in the last three races, allowing Italy's Francesco Bagnaia on a Ducati to close within two points of at the top of the standings with three grands prix left.

After 17 races, five riders are within 40 points and all in contention, with 75 still up for grabs. Quartararo finished a disastrous 17th at a wet Thailand a fortnight ago and was so frustrated he refused to speak to the media, for which he apologised on Thursday.

"I expected a much better race of course," he said. "We made a mistake from the beginning, starting with a really high (tyre) pressure."

"At the end of the race it was tough. I took the decision not to talk to the media. I apologize to all the people who were in Thailand. It was especially tough, I had no feeling."

With Bagnaia finishing third, both riders agreed the title fight was "just beginning" at Phillip Island in Australia this weekend.

"We have to think about the championship now, but actually I want to take it race by race because it might be the end (of the season), but it is like the beginning of the championship," said the Frenchman.

After challenging for the world title in 2020 and winning it last year, Quartararo said the experience could prove invaluable as the season races to a finale.

"Having the title from last year brings me a lot of confidence and much more experience," he said.

Ronaldo to Reject Improper Conduct Charge

LONDON (Dispatches) - Erik ten Hag said today that Cristiano Ronaldo will reject an improper conduct charge from the Football Association after the Manchester United star was involved in an altercation with an Everton fan last season.

Video footage showed Ronaldo appearing to knock a young boy's mobile phone to the ground after United's 1-0 defeat at Goodison Park on April 9.

The 37-year-old was cautioned by Merseyside Police and the FA last month charged Ronaldo over the incident.

United manager Ten Hag has spoken to Ronaldo and said the Portugal striker will contest the FA charge.

"We talked about that and he will not accept it," Ten Hag told reporters.

The incident with the Everton fan occurred when Ronaldo was making his way towards the tunnel and the former Real Madrid and Juventus star later issued an apology for his actions.

"It's never easy to deal with emotions in difficult moments such as the one we are facing," Ronaldo said on Instagram.

"Nevertheless, we always have to be respectful, patient and set the example for all the youngsters who love the beautiful game."



Conte Urges Players To Focus Until the Final Whistle

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham Hotspur coach Antonio Conte said his side needed to do better to keep their focus after almost letting 10-man Eintracht Frankfurt get a draw in the closing stages of their 3-2 win in the Champions League.

Frankfurt had taken an early lead but Spurs came back through two goals from Son Heung-min either side of a Harry Kane penalty before halftime.

Frankfurt had defender Tuta sent off after 60 minutes but pulled back a goal late on as the game looked to be petering out and they pressed for a dramatic equaliser after Kane had missed another spot kick.

Conte was screaming at his players to make their extra-man advantage count in the nervy closing stages at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium as his side held on for the win which takes them one victory away from the last 16.

"Honestly, I felt a danger (in the final minutes)... I tried to be involved, to shout at the players to be focused and to protect the result because for us the win was really, really important," a breathless Conte told a news conference.

"It's a pity because to consider what we did during the game, I think we played a really good game with a lot of good combinations and we created a lot of chances," he added.

"(But) In the final part anything could have happened and for this reason, it has to be a big (lesson) for us to avoid next time and to be focused until the end."

