

Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 144,527 With 4 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Rezaei Says That The Expansion of Banking and Financial Interactions Between Qatar and Iran Will Pave the Way For Increasing Mutual Trade Ties

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7613 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2022 - MEHR 27, 1401

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Agro Output at 57.5m mt In Year to March
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Iran Warns Against Israeli Nuclear Weapons

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has once again criticized the Israeli regime for refusing to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), saying the complete destruction of nuclear weapons would require the political will of nuclear states and a time-bound action plan.

Iran's Representative to the UN General Assembly First Committee Heidar Ali Balouji made the remarks while addressing the committee's Monday meeting on disarmament and international security held in New York, where he outlined the Islamic Republic's stance on nuclear arms.

He added that unrelated plans proposed by the US or nuclear countries would fail to lead to nuclear disarmament.

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Tehran Slams EU for Imposing Sanctions on Protectors of Security



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's top human rights official has slammed the European Union's double standard toward the issue of human rights, as the bloc slapped new sanctions on the Islamic Republic under the pretext of rights violation.

Secretary General of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi said that the European Union imposes sanctions on protectors of the Iranian people's security and safety in the face of recent Western-backed

riots, but harbors the terrorists who have "murdered 17,000 innocent Iranians," as he referred to the anti-Iran terrorist cult of the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO).

The EU has "violated the rights of millions of Iranian civilians due to implementation of US-orchestrated unilateral and cruel sanctions, and sheltered and provided unwavering support to the terrorists who have murdered 17,000 innocent Iranians," Gharibabadi tweeted.

....., has now once again put up a pathetic charade by claiming to be defending human rights while simultaneously imposing sanctions on those safeguarding the security and safety of Iranian people against western-backed riots. 2/2

The bloc "now once again put up a pathetic charade by claiming to be defending human rights while simultaneously imposing sanctions on those safeguarding the security and safety of Iranian people against western-backed riots," he added, in posts on his Twitter account.

After it was founded more than 50 years ago, the MKO launched a campaign of bombings and assassinations in Iran. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the group's acts of terror. The ill-famed terror group is currently based in Albania, where it enjoys freedom of activity after being delisted by the European Union and the United States in 2009 and 2012 respectively.

Gharibabadi's tweet came after an EU foreign ministerial session on Monday decided to levy sanctions against 11 Iranian individuals and four entities over the country's response to the riots that followed the death of a young Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, in hospital after she collapsed in a police station.

The sanctions targeted a section of Iran's security forces, the Basij volunteer forces, and the cyber division of the country's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The bloc also listed Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Issa Zarepour for an alleged internet shutdown. The coercive measures include travel bans and asset freezes.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian also censured the sanctions, calling them "superfluous" and "an unconstructive act out of miscalculation."

4 INTERNATIONAL

Russia Launches New Attacks On Central Kyiv Using Drones
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Bills Edge Chiefs In AFC Divisional Round Rematch
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Iran Soon to Impose Reciprocal Sanctions On EU Persons, Entities

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has strongly condemned the new sanctions imposed against a number of Iranian persons and entities by the European Union over the country's handling of recent riots, vowing reciprocal sanctions against European persons and entities.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remarks late Monday after an EU foreign ministerial session decided to levy sanctions against 11 Iranian individuals and four entities over the country's response to the riots that followed the death of a young Iranian woman in police custody.

The sanctions targeted a section of Iran's police, the Basij volunteer forces and the cyber division of the country's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The bloc also listed Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Issa Zarepour for the internet shutdown. The coercive measures include travel bans and asset freezes.

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Iran-Africa Trade Up By 27% in Six Months

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Trade volume between African countries and Iran increased 27 percent in the first half of the current Iranian year (March-September 2022), an Iranian official said.

Addressing the second meeting of reviewing trade opportunities of Africa and Iran on Tuesday with emphasis on Senegal, Deputy Chairman of the Iran-Africa Business Club Ruhollah Latifi said that the meeting was intended to pave the ground for promoting private sector to enhance their presence in African markets.

Latifi also said that a new direct flight between an African country and Iran will become operational within one year.

Six-month trade between Africa and Iran reached 1,437,500 tons worth 761.5 million dollars, showing 1 percent growth in terms of weight and 27 percent increase in terms of value of commodities, he said.

Iran's export to Africa stood at 1.382 million tons worth 710 million dollars, indicating 24 percent increase, he added.

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Aron Groups Presence in the Biggest Financial and fintech Event in Dubai



With the presence of the founder of Aron Group Holding, Dr. Farzad Vajih, as one of the top traders in the Middle East, with more than 10 years of continuous and successful presence in the financial markets, to speak at the largest Middle East Expo which will be held in Dubai on October 19-20.

He is the only Iranian trader who has made the official MQL link of his account publicly available to everyone and his trading account information has attracted the attention of many traders these days.

You should not miss the largest specialized Forex seminar in Dubai, hosted by Aron Group Holding.

This seminar is considered a unique opportunity for all interested parties, investors and traders in this field. In this big event, this holding has invited financial market enthusiasts and activists to create growth and prosperity together. 200 companies from the pioneers of the financial markets are present at the Dubai FinTech Exhibition to draw a more detailed vision of financial markets and stock trading, forex and digital currencies and fintechs. Due to the fact that Dubai has recently hosted world expos in the industrial and commercial sectors, the presence of financial and consulting giants can once again draw the world's attention to this city. Aron Group Holding has added another great service to Aron Investment Fund for supporting you, which will be unveiled at the Dubai Exhibition and information about this fund will be made available to everyone. This service allows investors to earn without making direct trades. Investors get profit by investing their balance in this account, and the traders of these funds receive a fee from the income for managing these funds. This investment is considered one of the best investments in the world. This investment method is for people who cannot have enough time to work or participate in the financial markets. Aron Group's investment fund has made nearly 195% profit for its shareholders in 2021.

Russia Denies Using Iranian Drones in Ukraine War

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia has rejected allegations concerning the use of Iranian drones in his country's military campaign in Ukraine, saying Russia is rather using domestically-manufactured drones.

Asked on Tuesday whether Russia had used or purchased Iranian drones, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the hardware that is used in the war is Russian.

"No, we do not have such information. The hardware that is used is Russian. You know that. It has Russian names. You can address all other questions to the Defense Ministry," he said.

US State Department has claimed that Iranian drones were used on a Monday morning attack on the Ukrainian capital Kiev.

Iran has on numerous occasions dismissed as "baseless" the reports about sending combat drones to Russia to be used in the Ukraine war.

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani reiterated that the Islamic Republic "has not provided weaponry to any of the [warring] parties."

He stated that the published news has political motives, adding that Iran continues to support a political solution to the conflict.

Back in July, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan claimed Washington had received "information" indicating that Iran was preparing to provide Russia with "up to several hundred UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), including weapons-capable UAVs on an expedited timeline" for use in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Late last month, Ukraine announced that it would withdraw the accreditation of the Iranian ambassador and significantly reduce the number of diplomatic staff at the country's embassy in Kiev over what it called Tehran's "unfriendly" decision to supply Russian forces with drones.

Iran Seeks to Globalize Paralympic Day

TEHRAN (IP) - The President of the National Olympic Committee of Iran says that for the internationalization of National Paralympic Day in Iran, the participation of many countries is needed, which is possible.

The ceremony of the National Paralympic Day was held on Sunday with the presence of more than 5,000 disabled athletes at Azadi Sports Complex in Tehran.

Also, the National Paralympic Day ceremony was held in different parts of Iran, with more than 70,000 veteran and disabled athletes participating in the event.

Enemies Planning to Attract Iran's Elites, Talents

TEHRAN (MNA) – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said the enemy that used to encroach on the resources and wealth of the country in the past has today focused on attracting elites and top talents from Iran.

Speaking on Tuesday morning at the 12th National Elite Foundation Conference held at the Summit Hall, Raisi stated that today the government's serious will is to support the elites, and added, "The capacity of the country's elites is definitely a very suitable ground for the realization of the idea of the Popular Administration in creating transformation in scientific and functional fields."

Referring to the philosophy of the Elite Foundation, the President stated, "The National Elite Foundation, which was established with the wise idea and opinion of the Leader of the Revolution in order to identify and support the country's elite, has had useful and effective measures in its years of activity."

The President said that using elites to meet the needs of the people and the country is very valuable and emphasized the importance of the role of parents, teachers and professors in the path of the growth and development of the elites.

Raisi stated that there is a big difference between "a university that is a leader and a university that is follower" and said, "Leader universities try to be a symbol of innovation and creativity, to define themselves along with the system of the country's issues and by using the most experienced professors and the best students and scholars".

Stating that "we do not have any restrictions on using science, knowledge, and experience of other countries", the President clarified, "Of course, we will definitely deal with the versions presented by others with caution. Experts, scientists, and researchers carefully examine the versions presented by others to see if it is suitable for the country's environment and issues in different fields or not."

Raisi also explained the difference between "affiliated elite and independent elite" and stated, "The independent elite wants to think freely, be creative, know the needs of its people and use all its knowledge and talent to solve them, and feel dependent on others' power and money."



The President added, "In the past, we witnessed the looting and encroachment of the wealth and resources of our country and land by the enemies, but today we are faced with the strategy of planning to attract the elites and talents of our country."

Raisi listed the financial and legal support as well as facilitating the issuance of licenses, especially for knowledge-based companies, among the government's necessary support for the elites and added, "Today, the presence of the elites is evident everywhere in the country, and definitely providing the ground for them to play a greater role will be the solution to many problems of the country in economic, social and cultural issues."

The President also emphasized, "The National Elite Foundation has the duty to follow up the government's support for the elites in a practical way."

Raisi considered many of the problems that are happening to humanity as a result of the use of the science and knowledge of elites by the arrogant powers of the world and clarified, "If any of our elites migrates to another country, even if they start working with good conditions, they should ask themselves who will get the product of their activity and knowledge and in what direction will it be used?"

The President described Martyr Chamran and Martyr Soleimani as concrete examples of the real elite for the country and said, "Martyr Qasem Soleimani was an elite who used his abilities and capabilities in the service of providing the country's security, and today he is known as a hero in the fight against terrorism."

EU Sanctions Unconstructive, Says Riots Intolerable Everywhere

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said that rioting and damaging public property are not tolerated in any part of the world, with Iran being no exception.

The top diplomat made the comment in a twitter post in reaction to sanctions imposed by the European Union against Iran over the recent riots in the country. Amirabdollahian said that the EU again resorted to the ineffective tool of sanctions against Iranians, making miscalculations and taking an unconstructive measure based on a bunch of wrong information.

EU foreign ministers on Monday slapped sanctions on 11 Iranian individuals and 4 entities, including the country's Morality Police and Law Enforcement.

The bloc has accused the targeted people and entities of human rights violations over the recent riots that broke out in Iran following the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who died in police custody.

The Iranian government has said it upholds the right to peaceful protests, but rejects any form of rioting and has blamed foreign elements for the recent unrest in different cities. Amirabdollahian, during a previous phone call with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell, had warned of reciprocity should the EU impose sanctions on Iran.

22 Countries Vying for Iranian Drones

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A high-ranking Iranian general highlighted the country's progress in the drone industry, saying 22 foreign states are interested in purchasing Iranian UAVs.

In an address at a military academy in Tehran on Tuesday, Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, the top military adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, said the Iranian armed forces have employed science and technology so masterfully that they have gained deterrent power in various spheres.

Highlighting Iran's progress in manufacturing drones, the general said, "Today we have reached a point that 22 world countries are demanding to purchase unmanned aircraft from Iran."

He also lauded the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Ground Force for its recent successful and precise artillery and missile strikes against terrorist groups stationed in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, saying the operation zones were being monitored online by drones.

Last month, IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami said Iran has sold homegrown military equipment to foreign customers, including some major world powers, and was training them to employ the gear.

Highlighting the "effective and deterrent" power of Iran based upon domestic know-how and products, the IRGC chief said Iran has developed a broad range of equipment employed for air defense in various ranges.

Pakistan After Trading With Russia From Iran Route

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Pakistan's ambassador to Moscow has said that his country is reviewing the possibility of using Iran's route to transit commodities between his country and Russia.

At the present, the transit of goods between Pakistan and Russia is done through Afghanistan, Shafqat Ali Khan told Russian News Agency "TASS" in an interview.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are respectively the eastern and southeastern neighbors of Iran.

In a related development, India's ANI news via its report with the title of "Chabahar Port: Iran's pivot to East" has described Iran's southeastern port as a place with "an ideal strategic location."

Iran, India, and Afghanistan signed a landmark transit trade agreement on Chabahar Port in May 2016.

According to a report released in April 2021, Chabahar Port with over 12 million tons capacity of loading and unloading in a year was an important port in southern Iran and north of the Sea of Oman.

U.S. Calculations in Backing, Intensifying Riots In Iran Were Wrong

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday that the U.S. calculations in backing and intensifying riots in Iran were wrong and Iranians will not be passive towards America's hostile actions.

President Raisi in a telephone conversation with the Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq Al Said on Monday emphasized their determination to improve the level of relations between the two countries in various political and economic fields.

Responding to the telephone call of Sultan of Oman, President Raisi stated that they are witnessing the highest level of trust and cooperation between the two countries in the political field, and described the relations between Tehran and Muscat growing in various fields.

Referring to the determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to diversify and deepen its relations with Oman, the President expressed hope that the process of interactions and exchanges between Iran and Oman will continue to grow, as in the past year.

In another part of his speech, President Raisi referred to America's miscalculation in supporting and escalating the riots and stated that the U.S. mistakenly thought that their sanctions would stop the Iranian nation, but when they saw that the Iranian nation not only did not stop against the sanctions, but continued to grow and progress, they turned to sedition against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Raisi stressed the Iranian nation will not be passive towards America's hostile actions and has the initiative.

Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, for his part, stated that he personally follows up the implementation of the agreements reached between the two countries, stating that bilateral relations are progressing as agreed and both nations are benefiting from it.

Over \$382m of Foreign Investment Approved in Industry, Mining, Trade

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has approved 73 foreign investment projects valued at about \$382.4 million in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

According to the latest data released by the ministry, of the total number of investment projects in the current year's six-month period, 93.8 percent was the share of the industry sector, 2.2 percent was the share of the mining sector, while trade-related projects accounted for four percent of the total figure.

Approved foreign investment includes all applications, including investment to create new projects, purchase of shares of existing companies, as well as foreign investment in the form of contractual arrangements.

Out of the 73 cases of foreign investment in the mentioned sectors, 24 cases had 100 percent foreign investment, 34 cases were joint ventures and 15 cases were in the form of civil partnership, mutual sale, or build-operate-transfer (BOT).

The highest volume of foreign investment approved in the industry, mining, and trade sectors in the period under review was in the categories of wood and wood products, extraction of minerals, manufacture of chemical products, and basic metals.

Afghanistan, China, Turkey, India, the United Arab Emirate were the top five countries with the highest volume of investment, while Fars, South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, Hormozgan, and Tehran were the top five provinces in terms of the volume of approved foreign investment.

Back in April, the Iranian government approved a new resolution to facilitate foreign investment in the country.

According to the Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance Organization of Iran (OIETAI), the main purpose of this resolution was to encourage investors from other countries, especially from neighboring countries, to invest in Iran.

Kish INVEX 2022; Iran's Biggest Economic Event



KISH ISLAND (Dispatches) - The 14th Exhibition of Introducing Investment Opportunities and the 9th International Stock Exchange, Bank, Insurance and Privatization Exhibition (Kish INVEX 2022) is being held in Kish Island, Hormozgan Province, South of Iran.

"Kish INVEX" is one of Iran's most significant economic events.

This specialized event, with the support and participation of ministries, organizations, and economic activists of the public and private sectors in leading economic sectors, is a place for sharing experiences and synergy of diverse actors with the aim of transformation in the path of economic development of Iran.

About 250 private and public companies have showcased their latest financial achievements at the 14th Investment Opportunities Exhibition and the 9th Kish International Stock Exchange, Bank, Insurance and Privatization Exhibition.

This specialized economic event and financial innovations will host economic activists, students, and representatives of various economic and financial companies for four days from October 17 to 20, 2022, at the Kish Island International Convention Center.

VPN Demand in Iran Sees Unprecedented 3,000% Rise

TEHRAN (IFP) - Demand for VPN software to bypass the internet blockage in Iran has witnessed a whopping 3,000-percent increase in recent weeks following the restrictions imposed by the government, a member of the Union of Computer Technicians says.

Saeed Naghavi, a member of the board of directors of the union, said the surge is unprecedented as it was not experienced even after blocking the Telegram messaging service four years ago.

Iranian authorities have limited the internet connection, in some cases to a trickle, and have blocked some social platforms like WhatsApp and Instagram, saying they were used as venues for organizing the recent unrest and deadly riots in the country.

Naghavi said more businesses have left the traditional marketplaces and have become online in recent years, but they received a heavy blow in the recent move by the government.

VPNs, or virtual private networks, encrypt internet traffic and disguise the users' online identity that makes it more difficult for third parties to track their activities online and steal their data.

\$382m Investment in Iran's Industry, Mining, Trade in Six Months

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign investment in Iran in the first half of the Iranian year (March-September 2022) totaled 382.4 million dollars in industry, mining, and trade sectors.

The figure accounts for all types of investment, including investment in new projects, purchase of stocks, and foreign investment in public-private partnership contracts.

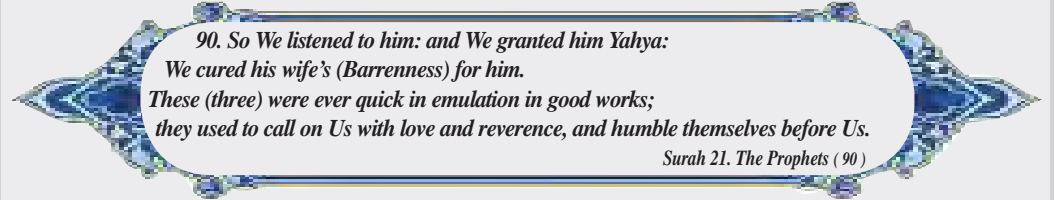
Figures by the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade show that 73 foreign investment contracts have been approved during this period in industry, mining, and trade sectors, from 39 contracts are in implementation and 34 others have been launched.

93.8 percent of the investments has been made in industry sectors and Afghanistan tops the list of foreign investors in Iran.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:49
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:42
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:51
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:15



Agro Output at 57.5m mt In Year to March

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's agricultural output reached a total of 57.5 million metric tons (mt) from some 12 million hectares of farmlands over the calendar year to late March, according to figures by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

SCI figures published on Monday showed that wheat, barley, alfalfa, rice and beans had accounted for 86% of the total output from Iranian arable lands over the past calendar year.

The SCI said in a report that wheat had been the dominant crop grown in the Iranian farms in the year to late March with some 10.4 million mt of output from around six million hectares of lands.

Barley output reached 3 million mt from 2.2 million hectares of lands last calendar year while rice production amounted to 1.8 million mt from nearly 0.5 million hectares of paddy fields, said the government statistics agency.



It added that Iran had a bumper harvest of sugarcane over the year to late March with some 7.8 million mt of output from 79,000 hectares of lands. The SCI estimated that the total area of farmlands in Iran over the past calendar year was around 15.7 million hectares.

The data showed, however, that some 11.6 million hectares of those lands along with some 0.4 million hectares of fields scattered around green spaces were cultivated over the year to March as farmers left some 4 million hectares of land fallow.

Some 4.8 million hectares of Iranian farming lands used irrigation methods over the past calendar year while dry-land farming was exercised in 6.8 million hectares across the country, the SCI figures showed.

From Presenting Idea to Commercialization of Products at ESCO

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO), an industry that due to the round-the-clock efforts of its staff and diverse basket of its products has helped a great deal to the developmental and infrastructural projects of the country, has started production of industrial products from the stage of presenting idea to commercialization from the 1380s and based on the project for developing the rolling plant 650 and smart monitoring of the market and devising strategy in accordance with the needs of the final consumers and the company has the family of Hs and rails as the value added products.



In one sentence one can say even sanctions made rolling and made self-sufficient out of it. ESCO produced products based on the latest standards of the word and its quality has never reduced in order to remain a brand in the minds.

ESCO with prioritizing the demands of the domestic needs exports currently its products to over 20 countries in the world and the obtained forex from exports helps the pick-up in the national economy.

Deputy Head ESCO and Head of Rolling of the company Alireza Mehrabi explained some part of history of the company about its productions. Touching upon the condition of the company after developing Rolling 650 in the company concurrent with maximum sanctions against the country, he said that some German experts were present to cooperate for production of U33 and UIC 60 rails but they left the plant after the sanctions and rail is one of the strategic products that in its production observing the EN13674 standard parameters and it should be verified by the international experts.

He reiterated that achievements of the company have been because of the round-the-clock efforts of the personnel, and UIC54 and S49 rails which is used in metro lines of Tehran and Isfahan are the outcomes of these efforts which has cut dependence of the country on foreigners for this strategic rail products and later R18 rail was produced and now do not need imports of it any more.

Mehrabi added that UIC 60 rail is another product from the high-tech rail families of ESCO which is really a symbol of localization in the national rail industry.

SCFTISEZ's Special and Plan-Centered Efforts for Resolving problems

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Caretaker of Supreme Council for Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones (SCFTISEZ) went to Kish Island to attend the inaugural

ceremony of INVEX 2022 on Monday.

Nasrollah Ebrahimi in his first visit to Kish Free Zone and upon his arrival at the international airport of the island told reporters about special and plan-centered efforts of the secretariat of the high council and pursuing cultural issues of Kish Island.

He said that attention to the cultural issues in the free zones is very important and it is of the main priorities of the popular government of President Raisi and the secretariat will have special attention on developing educational and cultural sectors of the islands and the managing directors and board of directors of the zones will pursue the programs based on the approved budget of the year.

Touching upon the most important approach of the secretariat for attracting investment in the free zones, Ebrahimi said that investors should have required incentives for completing projects in the field of infrastructures in the connection sector and regulation



sections, adding that the secretariat will follow these issues through the custodian executive bodies.

He added that if they follow provision of required infrastructures like offshore bank and insurance and the international stock market and provide required bureaucratic grounds in the economic section of the country, then investors will definitely find incentive and interest for investment in these zones.

Anti-Iran Sanctions Prevent Tourism Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA)

- Spain's ambassador to Tehran described on Tuesday that sanctions against Iran are serious hindrances to strengthening cooperation in science and tourism.



Ángel Losada Fernandez made the remarks during his visit to the University of Tehran's Faculty of Entrepreneurship in the Iranian capital.

Also, in the meeting with staff members of the Faculty, the ambassador called for extending the agreement between the University of Valencia and the University of Tehran. Anti-Iran sanctions prevent tourism cooperation: Spanish envoy

In his remarks, the ambassador highlighted the important role entrepreneurship plays in the economy.

For his part, the dean of the Faculty of Entrepreneurship said he was willing to use Spain's experience in tourism. Jahangir Yadollahi expressed readiness to hold joint webinars and conferences on entrepreneurship with Spanish universities.

KSC Enjoys Growth in All Production Chain

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Khorasan Steel Complex Company (KSC) says the company in the current year has witnessed a considerable growth in all of its production chain and hailed the incentives of the staff and full support of managers for this achievement.

Kasara Ghafooris aid that high spirit and organizational commitment of the staff due to the full support of the management in the production front has been the main reason for the considerable production in the four main sections of the company. He added that planning, creating opportunity from the forced halts for principle repair operation as well as timely supply of the raw materials have been of the major reasons of success in the complex.

Ghafoori added that since the beginning of the year, the pellet-manufacture plant of the company has witnessed the biggest growth of 32% growth comparing to the same period last year and his colleagues have produced over 1.277m tons of pellet.

He noted that by early October, the company has seen 8% growth in its direct reduction unit with 8% growth with tonnage over 699,400 tons and at the same time with producing over 509,200 tons of steel ingots and 334,500 tons of final products the company has witnessed 10 and 11 percent growth in the steelmaking and rolling sectors comparing to the same period last year respectively.

Ghafoori stated that so far this year, the company has sold 285,300 tons of final products which shows 16% growth. He went on to say that the company in field of financial affairs has registered the figure around 63,505b rials for selling its products which shows 10% growth while it has seen 34% growth in selling rolling products worth of 43,240b rials.



Official Visits

Makran Shores in Chabahar



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The executive secretary of Council for Developing Makran Coasts Mr. Hossein Dehghan visited the created infrastructures, and inspected the trend of progress of the development and investment projects of Makran Coasts in Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar.

During his visit, Dehghan was informed about the trend of projects of the phase 2 of the development project in Shahid Beheshti Port as well as the project for construction of petrochemical and oil reservoirs, and said that Makran area should be considered as the driving force of national development because Chabahar is connecting point of Iran to many points of the world which improves both the level of marine trade of the country and region.

He reiterated that people's participation in the process of developing Makran is necessary and emphasized using and training the native forces in the current projects and reiterated that a climate should be provided where all people who are living in this geography could see themselves in a joint fate and enter the scene for development and progress of the area for reaching a favorable point.

Dehghan also said that the appropriate ground for investment in the region should be provided and this requires completion and exploitation of the infrastructural and structural projects.

First Announcement

شناسه آگهی: ۱۳۹۱۹۳۹

TENDER NO.:
01-31-9250077



National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	PARTS FOR "DEMAG DELAVAL" CENTRIFUGAL GAS COMP. TYPE 05MV4	NO:2

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 2,527.82 EURO or 670,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL
NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations

www.shana.ir

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Iraq’s New President Calls For Speedy Gov’t Formation

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraq’s newly-elected President Abdul Latif Rashid pledged on taking office to throw his weight behind efforts to rapidly form a strong new government.

“The Iraqi people expect a new government to be formed rapidly, and that it be efficient and united,” Rashid said on his inauguration at the presidential palace in Baghdad.

Rashid, 78, elected last Thursday to the largely ceremonial post reserved for Iraq’s Kurdish minority, swiftly named Mohammed Shia al-Sudani as prime minister-designate. Sudani’s task now is to form a new government that would end a year of political gridlock in the war-scarred nation since general elections were held in October 2021.



Belarus to Hold Live-Fire Exercises With Russia

MINSK (Dispatches) - The Belarusian defense ministry said on Monday it will conduct live fire exercises and anti-aircraft guided missile launches as part of its joint grouping with Russian forces, Interfax reported.

“Military units from the formations are planned to be deployed at four training ranges of the Republic of Belarus in the eastern and central part of the country, after which they will start conducting combat training activities,” Interfax quoted a Minsk defense official as saying. The Belarusian defense ministry said last week that Russian troops would deploy to the country to form a new “regional grouping” amid claims from Minsk that Ukraine is preparing to attack its territory. Belarus has offered no evidence of Ukraine’s aggressive intentions.



Russia Launches New Attacks On Central Kyiv Using Drones



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia attacked Ukrainian cities with drones, killing at least four people in an apartment building in downtown Kyiv during morning rush hour, and targeted infrastructure across the country in the second wave of air strikes in a week.

Ukrainian soldiers fired into the air trying to shoot down the drones after blasts rocked central Kyiv. An anti-aircraft rocket could be seen streaking into the morning sky, followed by an explosion and orange flames, as residents raced for shelter.

A pregnant woman was among four people killed in the attack on the residential building, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Ukraine’s Interior Minister Denys Monastyrskyi said there had been deaths in other cities but did not give a full toll.

Black smoke poured out of the windows of the Kyiv apartment building and emergency service workers toiled to douse flames.

“I have never been so afraid...It is murder, it is simply murder, there are no other words for it,” said Vitalii Dushevskiy, 29, a food delivery courier who rents an apartment in the blasted building.

His flatmate, who gave his name only as Nazar, said they had tried to leave their flat only to find the staircase “all gone”. Nearby, Elena Mazur, 52, was searching for her mother, who had managed to call her to say she was buried under rubble.

“She is not picking up the phone,” Mazur said, hoping she had been rescued and taken to hospital.

Ukraine said the attacks were carried out by “suicide drones”, which fly to their target and detonate. Russia’s defense ministry said it had carried out a “massive” attack on military targets and energy infrastructure across Ukraine using high-precision weapons.

“All night and all morning the enemy terrorizes the civilian population. Kamikaze drones and missiles are attacking all of Ukraine,” President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Telegram. “The occupiers will get only fair punishment and condemnation of future generations. And we will get victory.”

Reuters saw pieces of a drone used in the attack that bore the words: “For Belgorod” - an apparent reference to Ukrainian shelling of a Russian border region.

The strikes took place one week after Russia unleashed its heaviest aerial bombardment of Kyiv and other cities since the start of the war, also during morning rush hour.

“This is already a tradition: to wake Ukrainians with missiles on Mondays,” said Alla Voloshko, a 47-year-old lawyer who took shelter in the basement of her apartment block. Ukraine’s military said it had destroyed 37 Russian drones since Sunday evening, or around 85% of those used in attacks.

A drone attack hit the Everi marine terminal in the southern port city of Mykolaiv on Sunday night, officials said, damaging sunflower storage tanks and setting aflame leaking oil.

“This is an entirely civilian facility. There is no military,” said Andriy, 47, a senior manager who declined to give his last name. He said the attacks were part of a Russian effort to “destroy the economy and to destroy food security”.

The new United Nations human rights chief, Volker Turk of Austria, said drone attacks on civilians must stop.

Russia denies targeting civilians in what it calls its special military operation in Ukraine, launched on Feb. 24 and developing into the biggest annexation of territory in Europe since World War Two.

Sweden’s New PM Kristersson, Locksmith to the Far-Right



STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Sweden’s conservative leader Ulf Kristersson was on Monday elected prime minister in parliament, heading the first government supported by the far-right Sweden Democrats.

With horn-rimmed glasses, clean-cut looks and a trim physique, the 58-year-old leader of the conservative Moderate party campaigned in Sweden’s September general election with pledges to fight crime and soaring electricity prices.

A former gymnast, he is often photographed living an active life, running or walking in nature with his dog Winston, the Welsh springer spaniel he got after losing Sweden’s 2018 election. Back then, Kristersson had vowed he would never negotiate with the nationalist and anti-immigration Sweden Democrats -- then seen as “pariahs” on the country’s political scene -- and subsequently failed to oust the Social Democratic government in power since 2014. Fast forward four years and he has had his revenge -- after a major U-turn.

Kristersson launched exploratory talks with the Sweden Democrats in 2019, a cooperation that has deepened in the years since then, persuading the Moderates’ traditional centre-right allies to follow suit.

His critics have accused him of “selling out” to the far-right. Kristersson has defended the tie-up as “my side of politics”.

Together four right-wing parties won the election, ousting the Social Democrats, who have dominated Swedish politics since the 1930s.

While the new government will be composed of the Moderates, the Christian Democrats and the Liberals, it will be supported in parliament by the Sweden Democrats to give the government a majority.

The four have presented a 62-page roadmap for their cooperation, heavily influenced by the far-right with major crackdowns on crime and immigration and the construction of new nuclear reactors, among other things.

A Tintin fan with a degree in economics, Kristersson had campaigned heavily on issues close to the hearts of right-wing and far-right voters, earning him criticism as a milder version of the Sweden Democrats.

South Korea Kicks Off Military Drills

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea’s troops kicked off their annual Hoguk defense drills, designed to boost their ability to respond to North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats amid simmering tension over both sides’ military activities.

The drills, due to end on Saturday, are the latest in a series of military exercises by South Korea in recent weeks, including joint activities with the United States and Japan.

The latest field training came as North Korea has been carrying out weapons tests at an unprecedented pace this year, firing a short-range ballistic missile and hundreds of artillery rounds near the heavily armed inter-Korean border on Friday.

Pyeongyang has angrily reacted to the South Korean and joint military activities, calling them provocations and threatening countermeasures. Seoul says its exercises are regular and defence-oriented.

Joined by some U.S. forces, the South Korean troops will focus on maintaining readiness and improving the troops’ ability to execute joint operations during the Hoguk drills, the South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

“The forces will conduct real-world day and night manoeuvres simulated to counter North Korea’s nuclear, missile and other various threats, so that they can master wartime and peacetime mission performance capabilities and enhance interoperability with some U.S. forces,” it said in a statement.

Last week, tensions flared after the North fired a missile, shot more than 500 artillery shells and flew a multitude of warplanes near the skirmish-prone sea border.

Seoul condemned Pyongyang and imposed its first unilateral sanctions in nearly five years, describing the moves as a violation of a 2018 bilateral military pact banning “hostile acts” in the border area.

But the North accused the South’s military of escalating tension with its own artillery firing.

Ethiopia Vows to Seize Airports, Other Sites in Tigray

ADDIS ABABA (Dispatches) - Ethiopia’s government vowed to seize control of airports and other federal facilities in war-torn Tigray, a day after the African Union appealed for a ceasefire to the conflict.

AU Commission chair Moussa Faki Mahamat called for an immediate and unconditional truce as combat intensified in northern Ethiopia, where pro-government forces and rebels from the Tigray region have been fighting for nearly two years.

Faki also urged the rivals to “recommit to dialogue” after both sides accepted an AU invitation to peace talks that failed to materialise as violence spiralled.

The authorities in Tigray said Sunday they were “ready to abide by an immediate cessation of hostilities” and called on the international community to press the government to come to the table.

Addis Ababa said in a statement Monday it was “committed to the peaceful resolution of the conflict through the AU-led peace talks”.

But it said it would pursue this along with “defensive measures” to protect Ethiopia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity from internal and external threats.

“It is thus imperative that the Government of Ethiopia assumes immediate control of all airports, other federal facilities, and installations in the region,” the statement from the Government Communication Service said.

UN chief Antonio Guterres, the United States and other Western powers have voiced alarm over the worsening violence in Tigray and called for a peaceful settlement to “this catastrophic conflict”.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government and the Tigrayan authorities were to attend AU-led negotiations in South Africa earlier this month but they did not go ahead, with logistical problems cited as one obstacle.

Ethiopian forces along with troops from neighbouring Eritrea have meanwhile stepped up an offensive near Shire, a city of 100,000 people in northwestern Tigray, where civilian casualties have been reported in heavy shelling.

US aid chief Samantha Power on Sunday warned “the risk of additional atrocities and loss of life is intensifying” around Shire, and accused Ethiopian and Eritrean forces of indiscriminate attacks.

On Friday, an aid worker from the International Rescue Committee was among three civilians killed in an attack in Shire left others injured.

The IRC staffer was distributing food to “vulnerable” civilians including women and children, said the World Food Program (WFP), which condemned the targeting of aid personnel.

Britain’s minister for Africa, Gillian Keegan, said she was “appalled” by the attack.

“This is the 24th aid worker killed in Tigray since the start of the conflict. Civilians and aid workers must be protected and NotATarget,” Keegan wrote on Twitter.

The Ethiopian government said its army strove to “avoid combat operations within urban areas to prevent civilian casualties” but urged aid workers to “distance themselves from TPLF military assets”.

“The Government of Ethiopia deeply regrets any harm that might have been inflicted on civilians, including humanitarian personnel,” the GCS said, adding it would investigate such incidents.

Abiy, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, sent troops into Tigray in November 2020 after accusing the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) of attacking army camps.

The TPLF had dominated Ethiopia’s ruling political alliance for decades before Abiy took power in 2018.

The ensuing conflict has killed an unknown number of civilians and unleashed a massive humanitarian crisis in Tigray and other parts of northern Ethiopia.

Imran Khan Dominates Pakistan By-Elections



ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has continued his dominant electoral streak after being removed from office some six months ago.

With eight National Assembly seats up for grabs in Sunday’s by-elections – three each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces and two in Karachi city – the 70-year-old leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) contested seven and won six. Candidates of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), part of the ruling alliance, won the other two seats.

According to Pakistani laws, a candidate can run for multiple seats. However, if they win more than one, they have to choose one and give up the rest.

The seats Pakistanis voted for on Sunday were vacated when PTI MPs resigned en masse after Khan and his government were removed through a parliamentary vote of no confidence in April.

Since then, Khan has alleged he was the victim of a “foreign conspiracy”, pointing the finger of blame at the United States, charges Washington has denied.

Khan has also alluded, on numerous occasions, to the role of Pakistan’s military establishment in his downfall. The army is considered Pakistan’s primary powerbroker and has ruled the nation of 220 million for more than half of its 75 years of existence.

The military in the past has had to fend off allegations that it was the primary architect of Khan’s rise to power in 2018.

Since his removal, Khan has been holding rallies against the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), the ruling alliance that replaced him, calling its leadership “corrupt” and “absconders”. He has also been demanding fresh elections at the earliest, which are otherwise scheduled for October 2023.

The PTI earlier swept provincial by-polls in Punjab in July, when it won 15 out of 20 seats. While the former prime minister’s party will not take up any of the seats won on Sunday, as the PTI has decided in principle to not be part of the parliament, observers say these electoral victories demonstrate his popularity across the country.

German Tourism Industry Leaps Into The Digital Age

BERLIN (Dispatches) - The COVID pandemic catalyzed a major digitization drive in Germany's tourism industry. But while significant progress has been made, staff shortages pose a major challenge.

Two visitors wear virtual reality goggles at museum in Halle, Germany.

In this day and age, planning and booking a holiday on the internet has become the norm. So is trawling social media platforms like Instagram and YouTube for vacation inspiration.

As a result, to stay competitive, travel companies and hotel chains must keep up with the digital age and ensure prospective holidaymakers can find and book their offerings online. The German tourism industry, however, has been slow to embrace the digital solutions. When the COVID pandemic hit, however, many were left with no choice but to go digital.

When pandemic-related travel restrictions made it difficult to travel abroad in 2020 and 2021, many Germans opted to spend their vacations within Germany. During the warmer months, German beaches were packed with holidaymakers, and many campsites and hotels were booked out for weeks. On top of that, many companies working in the tourist sector began advertising their services online. "The coronavirus pandemic forced and convinced small companies in particular to embrace digitization," a spokesperson for the Federal Association of the German Tourism Industry (BTW) tells DW.

Pandemic-related restrictions compelled many hotels to adopt touch-free and contactless technologies. Hotels and restaurants introduced a spate of innovations, such as virtual menus, online reservation and booking systems, as well as contact-less check-in options. A 2021 survey by the German Tourism Association (DTV) found that 84% of businesses said the pandemic had spurred digital transformation in the industry.

Tourists visiting Germany's East Frisian Islands can now, for example, use a special app to check-in and out of hotels, or book restaurant tables. Guests wishing to book and pay for a beach chair along Germany's popular North Sea or Baltic Sea coast can do so online. And vacationers heading for spa towns can now buy virtual visitors' cards, entitling them various discounts and free beach access.

While progress has been made in some areas, Germany still lags behind in others. Take cashless payments, for instance. While card payments are widely accepted in Denmark, Poland and Lithuania, many German businesses still run on cash.

When out and about in rural Germany, you are also likely experience poor phone reception, slow internet, and a dearth of public wifi.

Overall, however, Germany's tourism sector seems to have awoken from its analog slumber and is embracing the digital age. Almost overnight, many business have begun advertising their services online, investing in mobile-first and social media platforms, and using Instagram as a marketing tool. Some are even developing new gadgets and technologies to pull in new clients.

City marketing agencies in Munich, Bamberg and Wolfenbuttel, for instance, now offer virtual tours to attract prospective tourists. The city of Essen, in Germany's far-west, began running hybrid tours that combine virtual and analog elements in 2021. Visitors don virtual reality goggles, which track their GPS location, showing them what Essen city life was like in the late 19th century.

Other companies offer similar history tours of Cologne. Sign up with TimeRide Go!, and you can experience certain parts of Cologne as they were decades ago thanks to special virtual reality glasses.



Study Reveals Staggering Scale of Lost Fishing Gear Drifting in Earth's Oceans

LONDON (Dispatches) - Enough commercial fishing line is left in the ocean each year to stretch to the moon and back, according to the most comprehensive study ever completed of lost fishing equipment.

The staggering amounts of lost gear, which includes 25 million pots and traps and 14 billion hooks, was likely having deadly consequences for marine life, one of the study's authors said.

Enough nets were lost or discarded each year to cover Scotland. If all types of lost line was tied together, it would be able to stretch round the Earth 18 times.

"This is super confronting," said Dr Denise Hardesty, of the Australian government's CSIRO science agency, and one of the study's authors.

"This is having an unimaginable toll of unknown deaths that could result in population level effects for marine wildlife."

Published in the journal Science Advances, researchers from CSIRO and the University of Tasmania used standardised interviews with 451 commercial fishers in seven countries to ask what was being lost.

Researchers matched those interviews with data on the amount of commercial fishing globally to estimate what was lost. Annual losses included:

Fishers in the United States, Morocco, Indonesia, Belize, Peru, Iceland and New Zealand were interviewed. The countries were chosen because they had a fishing industry using most fishing methods.

Smaller boats lost more gear than larger boats, and bottom-trawl fishers lost more nets than midwater trawlers.

A previous estimate put the percentage of gear lost at a higher level, but that research relied on a range of studies, rather than a standardised estimation based on interviews.

Hardesty said fishers often lost nets due to bad weather where equipment wasn't properly secured or floated away, or gear became entangled with equipment from other vessels competing for the same fish.

But she said because nets were designed to catch and kill animals, lost gear would continue to entrap wildlife for years as it either floated in the ocean, sank to the bottom or washed ashore.

"That's birds, turtles, whales, sharks, dolphins, dugongs," she said.

"You are then also catching a whole bunch of fish but then not eating them. That becomes a food security problem because that's protein that's not feeding people around the world."

Kelsey Richardson, a lead author from the University of Tasmania, said the detailed estimates should help fisheries managers, the commercial fishing sector, and conservationists to better target solutions.

The nets were adding to the global problem of marine plastic pollution, she said

Hardesty said there were solutions, such as local governments introducing buy-backs of older fishing gear which tended to get lost more often than new equipment. Tags or labels could be attached to gear, and free facilities could be introduced at harbours to allow fishers to discard unusable nets safely.

Richard Leck, head of oceans at WWF Australia, said: "These figures are breathtaking. This gives us a sense of the horrendous scale of the problem and the urgent need to tackle it.

"Ghost nets – as they're known – are a particularly lethal form of plastic pollution for all the marine life we care about. Once these nets are lost from a fishing vessel, they don't stop fishing."

Leck said a global plastic pollution treaty currently being negotiated through the United Nations needed to address the problem of ghost nets "at a global level to make sure countries are accountable" through transparent reporting and labelling of fishing gear.



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Tunisia, IMF Reach Agreement on \$1.9b Loan

TUNIS (Dispatches) - Tunisia has struck a preliminary agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$1.9 billion loan to shore up its economy. “IMF staff and the Tunisian authorities have reached a staff-level agreement to support Tunisia’s economic policies with a 48-month arrangement,” the IMF said in a statement. The statement, however, said a final agreement for the loan “is subject to the approval of the IMF’s Executive Board, which is scheduled to discuss Tunisia’s program request in December.”



Brazil's Economy Seen in Soft Landing As Private Spending Cools

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Brazil’s economy is undergoing a soft landing as consumers tighten their purse strings to cope with high indebtedness on post-pandemic purchases and increasing financial costs, a Reuters poll of economists showed.

Economic activity got a boost this year from President Jair Bolsonaro’s extra public spending measures aimed at improving his reelection chances before a final runoff vote on Oct. 30 that will decide who wins the top job.

However, Brazilians are now hitting the brakes in the face of rising interest rates on piles of outstanding personal debt, a side effect of the central bank’s tough anti-inflation policy stance.

Gross domestic product is set to increase just 0.8% next year compared with 2.7% in 2022, according to median estimates in a sample of 39 economists polled Oct. 4-13. In July, analysts had forecast growth of 0.8% in 2023 and 1.4% this year.

“As monetary policy is kept tight, we see more constrained consumption and investment, combined with weaker external demand, especially in 2023,” said Lucas Costa, Latin America economist at Continuum.

Bolsonaro has launched a debt pardon for consumers who splurged when activity normalized after the coronavirus pandemic. His challenger, former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, has also proposed debt forgiveness.

Around 68 million Brazilians were blacklisted by credit score agencies in August due to debt in arrears. State bank Caixa Economica Federal expects to restructure around 1 billion reais (\$190 million) in overdue credits.

With prospects for capital spending and foreign trade also under a question mark amid challenging international conditions, investors hope the next administration will renew Brazil’s vow of fiscal restraint that Bolsonaro breached ahead of the vote.

Earlier this month Lula came close to winning in the initial vote, but Bolsonaro outperformed expectations. The former president is currently leading voter preferences for the Oct. 30 runoff by a margin of between 4.6% and 8%, according to two polls.

“Lula’s mandate for leftist policies decreased with the closer-than-expected first-round results, while his views will have to moderate further if he wants to attract centrist voters,” Amundi analysts wrote in a report.

Elsewhere in the region, Mexico’s economy will likely slow next year as well, expanding only 1.2% versus 2.0% in 2022. Yet, contrary to Brazil, where consumer prices are already receding, inflation remains unanchored.

“Weaker growth prospects, gradual normalization of supply chains and lower commodity prices should prove supportive for price dynamics in 2023,” said Jose Sanchez, Mexico economist and vice president at HSBC Global Research.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is implementing some unorthodox steps to help lower food costs through “collaborative efforts” with companies, an approach based partly on voluntary compliance rather than strict intervention.

Turkey’s Exports to Middle East, Persian Gulf States Reach \$25B

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey’s exports to the Middle East and Persian Gulf countries increased by 24.8% in the first nine months of this year, with the highest exports to Iraq at \$7.5 billion.

Exports to the countries, including Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Qatar, Kuwait, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Oman, reached \$24.6 billion in the period, according to a report released by Anadolu Agency (AA) Sunday that compiled data from the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM).

This figure was \$19.7 billion in the same period of last year.

In the nine-month period, Iraq took the lion’s share in Türkiye’s exports to the region with \$7.5 billion. Iraq was followed by Israel with \$5.1 billion, the UAE with \$2.5 billion, Iran with \$1.7 billion and Lebanon with \$1.7 billion.

During this period, some \$1.8 billion worth of sales were made to Qatar, \$1.7 billion to Syria, \$985.8 million to the TRNC, \$776.1 million to Yemen, \$647.2 million to Jordan, \$489.4 million to Kuwait, \$420.8 million to Saudi Arabia, \$306.9 million to Oman, \$142.4 million to Bahrain and \$92.2 million to Palestine.

Exports to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region increased in 13 countries in the January-September period of this year compared to the same period of 2021, but decreased in two countries.

In this period, the highest increase in exports was to Saudi Arabia with 180%.

A rise of 91.4% was seen in exports to Lebanon while a rise of 58.7% was seen in exports to Qatar, 48.9% in TRNC exports, 33.1% in UAE exports and 30.3% in Palestine exports. Exports to Bahrain increased by 21.8% while they saw a 19.3% rise to Israel, an 18.8% rise to Jordan, a 9.1% to Kuwait, a 7% to Iran and a 0.6% to Syria.

Exports to Yemen decreased by 2.9% as did exports to Oman by 7.3%.

When the distribution of exports to the Middle East and Persian Gulf countries in the nine months of the year is analyzed by provinces, exports from Istanbul amounted to some 43.5% of overall sales to the region with \$10.7 billion. On a sectoral basis, the chemical substances and products sector made the largest exports to the region with \$3.9 billion. After the chemicals and products industry, the highest export volume came from cereals, pulses, oilseeds and products with \$3.2 billion.

These sectors were followed by steel with \$2.8 billion, furniture, paper and forestry products with \$1.8 billion, and electricity and electronics with \$1.4 billion.



India Should Pause Rate Hikes as Growth Fears Loom

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - India’s central bank should pause interest rate hikes, despite unacceptably high inflation, to avoid stalling a recovery in economic growth, monetary policy committee member Jayant Varma told Reuters.

The Reserve Bank of India’s monetary policy committee has raised its key repo rate by 190 basis points since the start of its tightening cycle in May, with net impact of all steps taken resulting in a close to 250 basis points increase, Varma said.

“There is no denying that inflation is unacceptably high but the thing is that we have given a strong dose of medicine and the time has come to wait and see if that medicine works or if we need something even more potent,” he said.

“It might conceivably be adequate. We don’t know because we started acting in April, the effects of which will be seen only in early to mid-2023.”

“So we need to let another quarter pass before we know whether our medicine is working.”

Varma, in his written MPC minutes, had said the country’s economic growth outlook is “very fragile” and warned it could be “dangerous” to push the policy rate much higher.

“I am really worried about the export engine stalling completely.”

With private investments slackening over the last decade, the latest recovery in growth is being fuelled by government expenditure and retail consumer spending.

“Out of four engines, two are gone and we are running on two. And there is a limit to how far the government can keep that engine running because there are fiscal constraints,” Varma said.

Having raised rates aggressively to tackle inflation that has remained well above the mandated 2%-6% target band, further tightening could pose risks to economic growth, particularly given the lags with which monetary policy acts, Varma warned.

“So the urgency to bring inflation down to 5% or below is pretty high and you cannot take two years to do that. That has to happen pretty quickly,” Varma said, adding that he hoped that the tightening already underway would be adequate.

“But once it has come down below 5%, then how quickly you bring it further down to below 4% is really a question of risk-reward.”

“We should accept the growth sacrifice to bring it down to below 5%, but we should be wary of excessive growth sacrifice to do the next round of 5% to 4%,” he said.

Varma said he would prefer the repo rate being held close to 6% for several quarters until inflation is stamped out.

In his minutes, Varma had warned against using monetary policy to manage the fall in the currency, saying the external sector should be managed by other instruments.

China’s State Banks Seen Acquiring Dollars in Swaps Market to Stabilize Yuan



SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - China’s state banks stepped up their intervention to defend a weakening yuan on Monday, with banking sources telling Reuters these banks sold a high volume of U.S. dollars and used a combination of swaps and spot trades.

Six banking sources told Reuters the country’s major state-owned banks were spotted swapping yuan for U.S. dollars in the forwards market and selling those dollars in the spot market, a playbook move used by China in 2018 and 2019 as well.

The selling seemed to be aimed at stabilising the yuan , with the swaps helping procure dollars as well as anchoring the price of yuan in forwards, said the sources, who have direct knowledge of market trades.

The yuan is down 11.6% versus the dollar this year. It was trading around 7.1980 per dollar on Monday.

One-year dollar/yuan forwards fell rapidly following the state bank actions, pushing the yuan to 6.95 per dollar. One of the sources noted the size of the dollar selling operation was “rather huge”.

“The big banks want to acquire dollar positions from the swap market to stabilise the spot market,” said another source.

State banks usually trade on behalf of the central bank in China’s FX market, but they can also trade for their own purposes or execute orders for their corporate clients.

A third source noted that the state banks’ trades appeared to be managed so that the country’s closely-watched \$3 trillion foreign exchange reserves will not be tapped for intervention.

At the same time, the move helps state banks to procure dollars at a time when rising U.S. yields have made dollars scarce and expensive.

China burned through \$1 trillion of reserves supporting the yuan during the economic downturn in 2015, and the sharp reduction in the official reserves attracted much criticism.

Exxon’s Russian Oil Output Collapsed After Rejecting Local Tanker Insurance

HOUSTON (Dispatches) - Oil output at the giant Exxon-led Sakhalin-1 Russian Pacific project collapsed following the U.S. major’s refusal to accept local insurance for tankers after Western insurers pulled out due to sanctions, several industry sources told Reuters.

Western insurers withdrew cover from tankers operated by state-run Sovcomflot, Russia’s biggest shipping group, which was sanctioned following Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine.

“Exxon has refused to take Sovcomflot’s tankers,” one industry source said. Some cargoes meant for supplies to Indian refiners were also hit as Exxon did not recognize the alternative cover Sovcomflot had arranged from Russian insurers, according to the sources.

Sovcomflot and Exxon did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The developments have unfolded as the European Union is due to impose a ban on Russian oil tanker insurance and shows the major impact ship insurance and re-insurance guarantees can have on operations.

Russia’s state oil champion Rosneft, a partner in the Sakhalin-1 project, has blamed Exxon for falling output, saying that since mid-May the project produced hardly any oil.

Exxon’s Russian unit, Exxon Neftegas Ltd, has cited difficulty chartering tankers due to sanctions.

Russian newspaper Kommersant was first to report on Monday that production at Sakhalin-1 collapsed following Exxon’s refusal to work with Sovcomflot. Oil output at the Sakhalin-1 project fell to just 10,000 barrels per day (bpd) earlier this year from 220,000 bpd before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Japan Not Ruling Out Corporate, Income Tax Hikes

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan has not ruled out raising corporate and household income taxes to fund a planned increase to its defense budget in the next fiscal year, the head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s (LDP) tax policy panel said.

The government is set to boost its military spending in the face of rising China’s might and geopolitical uncertainty involving Taiwan and North Korea’s missile developments.

With public debt at more than double the

size of its economy, Japan has little room left to increase the funding, leaving the country with options such as spending cuts, tax hikes and additional debt issuance.

Given Japan’s severe fiscal position, Japan must first calculate how much will be needed for the military outlay, and then look into how it could curb spending in areas with lower priority, said Yoichi Miyazawa, the chairman of the LDP’s influential tax commission.

“After making all those efforts, we may finally tap tax revenue” for securing funding sources, Miyazawa said, adding that he did not have any specific items in mind for tax hikes.

“I’ve heard various rumors about tax items but I haven’t made any suggestions ... We must consider from scratch, including raising income and corporate taxes.”

Miyazawa ruled out a hike in sales tax - the equivalent of value added tax in other advanced nations - to fund defense spending, saying that tax is aimed at financing social security spending.

Confidence in Japan’s fiscal situation accounts for a big factor in determining exchange rates, Miyazawa said, urging Japan to strive to maintain fiscal health to prevent financial failure.

The tax panels from the LDP and its small coalition ally Komeito are kicking off debates on annual tax-code revision, with the focus on realizing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s “new capitalism” program through R&D related taxation and human capital investment aimed at doubling household assets. Miyazawa also vowed to proceed with debating capital gains tax reform.

Japan’s defense ministry has asked for a 3.6% rise in spending to 5.6 trillion yen (\$37.67 billion) for the next fiscal year starting in April, as Kishida’s government seeks to build up military capacity. That equals about 1% of Japan’s gross domestic product of 544 trillion yen.

Kishida’s LDP has pledged to double defense spending to 2% of GDP over five years, which would imply raising it by about 5 trillion yen.

Tehran to Host Expo, Conference on Bitumen, Asphalt

TEHRAN (MNA) - The 14th Bitumen, Asphalt, and Machinery Conference and Exhibition is slated to be held during November 1-3 in Tehran, IRIB reported.

Organized by Transport and Urban Development Ministry in collaboration with the Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC), Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (IRMTO), and Technical and Soil Mechanics Lab Company (TSML), the event will be held with the participation of companies, experts and scholars active in the industry.



Vaccines to Treat Cancer Possible by 2030

LONDON (Dispatches) - Vaccines that target cancer could be available before the end of the decade, according to the husband and wife team behind one of the most successful Covid vaccines of the pandemic.

Uğur Şahin and Özlem Türeci, who co-founded BioNTech, the German firm that partnered with Pfizer to manufacture a revolutionary mRNA Covid vaccine, said they had made breakthroughs that fuelled their optimism for cancer vaccines in the coming years.

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Speaking on the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, Prof Türeci described how the mRNA technology at the heart of BioNTech's Covid vaccine could be repurposed so that it primed the immune system to attack cancer cells instead of invading coronaviruses.

Asked when cancer vaccines based on mRNA might be ready to use in patients, Prof Sahin said they could be available "before 2030".

An mRNA Covid vaccine works by ferrying the genetic instructions for harmless spike proteins on the Covid virus into the body. The instructions are taken up by cells which churn out the spike protein. These proteins, or antigens, are then used as "wanted posters" – telling the immune system's antibodies and other defences what to search for and attack.

The same approach can be taken to prime the immune system to seek out and destroy cancer cells, said Türeci, BioNTech's chief medical officer. Rather than carrying code that identifies viruses, the vaccine contains genetic instructions for cancer antigens – proteins that stud the surfaces of tumour cells.

BioNTech was working on mRNA cancer vaccines before the pandemic struck but the firm pivoted to produce Covid vaccines in the face of the global emergency. The firm now has several cancer vaccines in clinical trials. Türeci said the development and success of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, which is similar to the Moderna Covid shot, "gives back to our cancer work".

The German firm hopes to develop treatments for bowel cancer, melanoma and other cancer types, but substantial hurdles lie ahead. The cancer cells that make up



tumours can be studded with a wide variety of different proteins, making it extremely difficult to make a vaccine that targets all of the cancer cells and no healthy tissues.

Türeci told Kuenssberg that BioNTech had learned how to manufacture mRNA vaccines faster during the pandemic, and had a better understanding of how people's immune systems responded to mRNA. The intense development and rapid rollout of the Covid shot had also helped medicines regulators work out how to approve the vaccines. "This will definitely accelerate also our cancer vaccine," she added.

But Türeci remained cautious about the work. "As scientists we are always hesitant to say we will have a cure for cancer," she said. "We have a number of breakthroughs and we will continue to work on them."

In August, Moderna said it was suing BioNTech and its partner, the US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, for patent infringement over the company's Covid-19 vaccine.

Asked about that, Sahin said: "Our innovations are original. We have spent 20 years of research in developing this type of treatment and of course we will fight for our intellectual property."

Australia’s Economic Outlook to Be Downgraded in Budget

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Increasingly dire forecasts for the global economy will see last-minute downgrades to Australia’s economic figures in next week’s federal budget, with the treasurer, Jim Chalmers, warning of “an increasingly perilous path” for world markets and key trading partners.

The budget will forecast the UK economy to contract by 0.25% in 2023 and the US to grow by an anaemic 1%, with the government warning Australia would not escape a world slowdown.

“The budget will confirm the stark deterioration in the outlook for global growth and in several major economies, with some at risk of falling into recession,” Chalmers said.

The treasurer travelled to Washington last week for meetings with the G20 finance ministers and the International Monetary Fund. He said the trip, coming less than a fortnight before his first budget, would help inform his understanding of looming economic trends.

Upon his return, Chalmers said his budget would revise down expectations of economic growth among key trading partners China, US, UK, India and Japan.

“The global economy is treading an increasingly perilous path and downside risks loom large – this was a clear message from meetings with my counterparts in Washington DC,” he said.

“The budget will confirm the stark deterioration in the outlook for global growth and in several major economies, with some at risk of falling into recession.”

In March, the federal Treasury expected China’s economy to grow by 4.75% in 2022, 5.25% in 2023 and 5% in 2024. The latest figures, which will be factored into the budget, put those annual growth figures at 3%, 4.5% and 4.5% respectively.


The US was expected to grow by 3.5% in 2022, 2.5% in 2023 and 2% in 2024. They too have been revised down to 1.75%, 1% and 1.75%. The UK’s 2023 projection will be sharply downgraded from 2% growth to a 0.25% contraction. The eurozone’s growth will be revised down from 2.25% to 0.5% in 2023.

Chalmers said the national economy was shielded from some of the pressures contributing to the sharp decline of growth worldwide, but next week’s budget is expected to see downgrades to domestic growth forecasts on the basis of international uncertainty.

“Here in Australia we have some things going for us, including plenty of people in work and decent demand for our exports, but we will not be spared from the consequences of a global slowdown,” Chalmers said.

“A weaker global economy with higher inflation and heightened risks makes it even more important we deliver a responsible budget here at home, which is exactly what we will do next week.”

The finance minister, Katy Gallagher, also gave a grim warning in a Sky News interview on Sunday.



To Improve Your Mental Health, Don’t Read This

LONDON (Dispatches) - A constant influx of bad news — pandemic, shootings, inflation, natural disasters, political turmoil — can feel, at best, soul-crushing. Now, a new study from Spain confirms the negative toll constantly being plugged into the news cycle can take.

The researchers looked at how people were best able to manage feelings of anxiety and depression at the height of the pandemic, finding that one of the most effective methods was to take breaks from the barrage of bad news.

“The best predictor for having lower anxiety and depressive symptoms,” said lead study author Dr. Joaquim Radua, a psychiatrist in Barcelona, was to “avoid watching too much news.” Radua is also affiliated with King’s College London and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

The research will be presented this weekend at a meeting of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology in Vienna. It has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Radua cautioned that because the research was conducted in 2020 and 2021, it was unclear how the results would apply as coronavirus cases continue to decline.

Others note that there’s only so much negative news coverage a person can take before it affects their mental health.



“There’s an endless availability of information,” said Lindsey McKernan, an associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville who was not involved with the new study. “Without putting the brakes on it yourself, you can just keep going and keep reading and become more stressed.”

Radua’s research looked at 942 adults in Spain who filled out an online questionnaire every two weeks for a year during the pandemic. The participants reported whether they were feeling despondent, and if so, how they were coping with such feelings. The analysis factored in whether participants had been previously diagnosed with anxiety or depression.

The study found that those who avoided “too much stressful news” had fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Also key to feeling better? Maintaining a healthy diet.

“Taking care of our body is something we can control,” McKernan said. “That develops a sense of what’s predictable and can help with stress.”

Time outdoors, getting exercise and drinking enough water were also found to be linked with lower levels of stress, anxiety and feelings of depression.

The research also tracked whether the participants got Covid during the study period. Nearly all did, Radua said.

But unlike watching too much news, he said, getting Covid didn’t affect the results.

Astronomers Captivated by Brightest Flash Ever Seen

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Astronomers have observed the brightest flash of light ever seen, from an event that occurred 2.4 billion light years from Earth and was likely triggered by the formation of a black hole.

The burst of gamma-rays — the most intense form of electromagnetic radiation — was first detected by orbiting telescopes on October 9, and its afterglow is still being watched by scientists across the world.

Astrophysicist Brendan O’Connor told AFP that gamma-ray bursts that last hundreds of seconds, as occurred on Sunday, are thought to be caused by dying massive stars, greater than 30 times bigger than our Sun.

The star explodes in a supernova, collapses into a black hole, then matter forms in a disk around the black hole, falls inside, and is spewed out in a jet of energy that travels at 99.99 per cent the speed of light.

The flash released photons carrying a record 18 teraelectronvolts of energy — that’s 18 with 12 zeros behind it — and it has impacted long wave radio communications in Earth’s ionosphere.

Iran Soon to...

FROM PAGE 1

Kanaani said the EU decision amounted to violation of international law and constituted a brazen example of interference in the Islamic Republic’s internal affairs.

“It is profoundly regrettable that special political motivations as well as reliance on unfounded and distorted information and allegations cooked up by enemies of the Iranian nation and infamous media outlets affiliated with them have been taken as the basis for such a wrong and unconstructive decision,” the Iranian diplomat said.

The bloc adopted the coercive economic measures over the Islamic Republic’s response to the foreign-backed riots that followed the death of a young Iranian woman in police custody.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the new EU sanctions indicate “continuation of [the bloc’s] ill-intentioned approach” towards the Islamic Republic and its instrumental use of human rights to achieve certain political goals. The decision, he added, was therefore fundamentally “flawed and null and void.”

Iran Warns Against...

FROM PAGE 1

Given the lack of success of consecutive NPT review conferences, he said, there is no prospect for the annihilation of nuclear weapons.

He also said nuclear disarmament has been on the agenda of the international community since 1946 when the UN issued its first resolution in this regard, adding that the world took a step to achieve that goal when the NPT entered into force in 1972.

The Iranian envoy further said nuclear states have failed to fulfill their obligations as per the NPT and have been strengthening their nuclear arsenals quantitatively and qualitatively, adding that their lack of adherence to the treaty is quite evident.

“While all nuclear-weapon states were actively modernizing their arsenals and delivery systems, none were engaged in disarmament negotiations, all explicitly or implicitly justifying that inaction by the doctrine of nuclear deterrence,” Balouji said.

He went on to say that nuclear-weapon states are still breaching their NPT obligations and maintaining their nuclear arsenals, with the United States and the United Kingdom topping the list.

The Middle East has faced a serious impediment, he said, adding that with the support of the United States, the Israeli regime not only defied international calls to accede to the NPT, but it also refused to join regional countries in the elaboration of a treaty establishing the Middle East zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

“Those weapons, in the possession of that aggressor, occupier, apartheid regime, and violator of international law, were increasingly harrowing,” the Iranian diplomat asserted.

He noted that the Tel Aviv regime has consistently threatened other countries with nuclear annihilation.

Balouji also threw Iran’s weight behind a proposal by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to conclude a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

He rejected all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, saying it served no purpose to reiterate that Iran should not develop them.

Iran knows that the use of weapons of mass destruction is a violation of international law and a crime against humanity, he clarified.

Israel, which pursues a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear weapons program, is estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in the Middle East region.

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

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

Iran-Africa...

FROM PAGE 1

According to the official, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Congo, Seychelles, and Egypt are the first seven countries exporting goods to Iran, while South Africa, Mozambique, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Tanzania are the first seven countries importing Iranian commodities, Latifi noted.

He went on to say that the Islamic Republic is paving the way for participation of Iranian companies in Senegal’s FIDAK International Fair, which is scheduled for December 16 to 31 in Dakar.

Other participants in the Tuesday meeting in Tehran such as Senegalese envoy to Iran, Iranian ambassador to Senegal and the head of the Iran-Africa Business Club spoke about expansion of cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the African nation.

Mohammad-Reza Dehshiri, Iran’s ambassador to Dakar, emphasized that Senegal, with an average economic growth rate of 5 percent in last 7 years, is one of the most stable economies in Africa; therefore, it can turn into the gate for export of Iranian goods to other African nations.

Saliou Niang Dieng, ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to Iran, said that his country enjoys free economy, which can provide foreign investments and pave the ground for setting up businesses.

Abdollah Hosseini, chairman of the Iran-Africa Business Club, called for knowing economic infrastructure of Senegal in order to become familiar with the capacities of the African country and improve cooperation in the future.

Head of the Trade Unions of Senegal Republic expressed hope in a video conference that the expansion of mutual ties will help achieve joint objectives.

Bremer out for Three Weeks With Hamstring Injury

MILAN (Dispatches) - Juventus defender Gleison Bremer will be out for about three weeks with a hamstring injury, the Serie A club said.

In a statement, Juve said that Bremer underwent tests today "which revealed a low-grade lesion to the hamstring of the left thigh".

"It will take around 20 days for the player to make a full recovery," Juve added.

The 25-year-old picked up the injury during Saturday's 1-0 win over his old club Torino.

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

World Cup Qatar Ticket Sales Near Three Million

DOHA (Dispatches) - Ticket sales for the World Cup are approaching the three-million mark ahead of the tournament kicking off in Qatar on November 20, Fifa's president Gianni Infantino and event organizers said.

The top three purchasing countries of the 2.89 million tickets sold to date are Qatar, the United States and Saudi Arabia, World Cup chief operating officer Colin Smith told a news conference in Doha.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2022

Bills Edge Chiefs in AFC Divisional Round Rematch

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Josh Allen threw the decisive 14-yard touchdown pass to Dawson Knox with 1:04 remaining and Taron Johnson sealed the contest with an interception 13 seconds later as the Buffalo Bills notched a 24-20 victory over the host Kansas City Chiefs.

Allen passed for 329 yards and three touchdowns for the Bills, who have the best record in the AFC. Stefon Diggs had 10 receptions for 148 yards and one touchdown, Gabe Davis had a scoring catch and Kaiir Elam also had an interception for Buffalo.

Patrick Mahomes passed for 338 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Chiefs (4-2). JuJu Smith-Schuster caught five passes for 113 yards and one touchdown, and Travis Kelce had eight catches for 108 yards. Kelce caught a pass for the 132nd consecutive regular-season game, breaking a tie with Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Gonzalez for the longest streak in Chiefs' history. Harrison Butker kicked a franchise-record 62-yard field goal for the Chiefs.

Eagles 26, Cowboys 17

Unbeaten host Philadelphia capped an electric sports weekend by ending NFC East rival Dallas' four-game winning streak.

The Eagles (6-0) soared to a 20-0 lead late in the first half and held on. Dallas (4-2) slipped to third place in the division behind the New York Giants (5-1). Across the street, the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the defending World Series champion Atlanta Braves on Friday and Saturday to advance to the National League Championship Series.

Jalen Hurts passed for 155 yards and two touchdowns as the Eagles matched the 1981 team for the second-best start in franchise history. Hurts' 7-yard touchdown pass to DeVonta Smith with 7:02 remaining capped the scoring and helped to thwart a Cowboys comeback bid. Momentum shifted in the third quarter, as the Cowboys got within 20-10 on Ezekiel Elliott's 14-yard run. Cooper Rush's 7-yard touchdown pass to Jake Ferguson trimmed the Dallas deficit to 20-17 with 14:39 left in the game.



Falcons outrush the visitors 168-50 en route to a third win in their last four outings.

Jimmy Garoppolo threw two first-half touchdown passes to Brandon Aiyuk, but also mixed in a pair of interceptions on a 29-for-41, 296-yard day. George Kittle and Aiyuk each finished with eight catches for 83 yards for the 49ers.

Patriots 38, Browns 15

Bailey Zappe completed 24 of 34 passes for a career-high 309 yards and two touchdowns and visiting New England held on to a late lead to defeat Cleveland.

Rhamondre Stevenson finished with 76 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries, and four receivers eclipsed the 60-yard mark for the Patriots. Rookie wide receiver Tyquan Thornton had a receiving touchdown and a 19-yard rushing score.

The Browns pulled within 24-15 thanks to a 51-yard field goal from Cade York and Amari Cooper's 15-yard touchdown reception from Jacoby Brissett. The Browns then attempted an onside kick and recovered, but the call was overturned upon review. Brissett threw for 266 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions on 21-of-45 passing.

Jets 27, Packers 10

Rookie running back Breece Hall ran for 116 yards and a touchdown as New York toppled host Green Bay.

The Jets moved ahead with 8:11 remaining in the third quarter on a sweep to wide receiver Braxton Berrios for a 20-yard touchdown. Less than three minutes later, Jets defensive lineman Micheal Clemons blocked Pat O'Donnell's punt. It was recovered by safety Will Parks, who ran 20 yards for a touchdown and a 17-3 lead.

Greenwood Remanded In Custody

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United footballer Mason Greenwood was today remanded in custody after appearing at Manchester Magistrates' Court charged with attempted rape, controlling and coercive behavior and assault.

The 21-year-old forward was first held in January over allegations relating to a young woman after images and videos were posted online. He had been on bail since but was arrested on Saturday for an alleged breach of conditions.

Within hours of the allegations surfacing at the beginning of the year Greenwood, who has made one appearance for England, was suspended from playing or training with United.

The footballer will spend more than a month on remand after a judge elected not to be granted him bail. He will appear before Manchester Minshull Street Crown Court on November 21.

Wearing a grey hooded top and grey jogging bottoms, Greenwood spoke only to confirm his name, date of birth and address in court today.

A product of the United academy, he has played 129 times for the club, scoring 35 goals and signed a new deal in February 2021, keeping him at Old Trafford until at least 2025.

IOC Suspends Guatemala's Olympic Committee

BERLIN (Dispatches) - The International Olympic Committee banned Guatemala's Olympic Committee following the country's failure to solve a domestic legal dispute, it said.

The IOC had warned last month that should the issue not be resolved by Oct. 15 the country's national Olympic Committee would be banned.

"No solution could be found between the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Guatemala and the relevant authorities in Guatemala within the prescribed deadlines," the IOC said in a statement.

The NOC has been at odds with the country's Constitutional Court over some provisions in the Olympic body's regulations.



Neymar Appears in Spanish Court in Barcelona Transfer Trial

PARIS 9 (Dispatches) - A few hours after scoring the winning goal in Paris Saint-Germain's victory over Marseille in the French league, Neymar arrived in court in Spain on Monday to face a trial for alleged irregularities involving his transfer to Barcelona in 2013.

Neymar's parents, former Barcelona president Sandro Rosell and representatives for both the Spanish club and Brazilian team Santos also appeared in court after a complaint brought by Brazilian investment group DIS regarding the amount of the player's transfer.

The Brazil forward arrived at the court in Barcelona wearing sunglasses and a black suit and tie. Neymar's mother and father, who also is his agent, were among those arriving alongside the player.

The defendants, who have denied wrongdoing, sat near each other to hear the opening arguments in the trial that comes nearly a month before the World Cup opens on Nov. 20 in Qatar, and is expected to last until the end of the month.

Benzema, Putellas Win 2022 Ballon d'Or Awards

PARIS (Dispatches) - Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema won the men's Ballon d'Or on Monday, becoming the first Frenchman to claim the most prestigious individual prize in football since Zinedine Zidane almost a quarter of a century ago. In the women's Ballon d'Or contest, Alexia Putellas of Spain saw off stiff competition to win the award for the second year running.

Benzema, 34, was the overwhelming favourite after his remarkable performances last season helped his club win the Champions League and La Liga. He scored an astonishing 44 goals in 46 games for his club including 15 in the Champions League.

Monday's award means he is now only the fifth French player to win the coveted Ballon d'Or, following in the footsteps of Raymond Kopa (1958), Michel Platini (1983, 1984 and 1985), Jean-Pierre Papin (1991) and Zinedine Zidane (1998).

Benzema was also named the UEFA player of the year in August. He is living a marvellous twilight to his career with the 2022 World Cup, in which France go in as the defending champions, yet to come.

Benzema is the second oldest Ballon d'Or winner after Stanley Matthews, who was 41 when he picked up the very first Ballon d'Or award in 1956. He succeeds Lionel Messi, who did not even rank among the nominees this year after a disappointing season at Paris Saint-Germain.



Rockets, Kevin Porter Jr Agree to \$82.5m Extension

HOUSTON (Dispatches) - Rockets guard Kevin Porter Jr agreed to a four-year, US\$82.5 million (RM389 million) extension with Houston, ESPN reported.

Porter and the 2019 draft class faced a deadline of today at 6pm ET to sign a contract extension.

"He's been our most consistent guy in terms of getting in the gym every day," general manager Rafael Stone said of Porter last month. "He's really built really good habits. I'm happy for him. A good three months isn't what he's looking to have — he's looking at the rest of his life. He's had a really, really good summer." Other members of the draft class to already sign contract extensions and avoid restricted free agency next summer include No. 1 pick Zion Williamson (Pelicans), second overall pick Ja Morant (Grizzlies) and 30th pick Jordan Poole (Warriors).

The 22-year-old Porter is entering the final year of his rookie contract. The extension goes into effect at the start of the 2023-24 season.

Porter averaged 15.6 points, 6.2 assists and 4.4 rebounds per game last season.

A first-round pick of the Bucks in 2019, Porter was involved in a draft-night trade to the Detroit Pistons, who then traded him to Cleveland six days later. Porter was acquired by the Rockets after he played in 50 games in Cleveland. He started just three games with the Cavaliers.

