

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Chief Rafael Grossi Has Stated Negotiations to Bring Iran and the U.S. Back Into the 2015 Nuclear Deal Are in "Stalemate"

IRAN NEWS

Police Chief of Sistan and Baluchistan Province Said That 13 Arm Smuggling Gangs and War Ammunition Were Destroyed in the Cities of Zahedan, Zabul and Khash With Intelligence Operations

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Iran Exports To EU Up 31% in 8 Months on Year

TEHRAN (MNA) - The value of Iran's export to the European Union (EU)'s member states rose 31 percent in the first eight months of 2022, as compared to the same period in 2021, according to the data released by the European Union's statistics office Eurostat.

The Eurostat's data show that Iran exported commodities worth €727 million to the union in the eight-month period of this year, while the figure was €555 million in the same time span of the previous year, IRNA reported.

The EU's export to Iran has also risen 28 percent to €2.676 billion from €2.094 billion.

According to the Eurostat, the total value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €3.403 billion in January-August 2022, while the figure was €2.649 billion in the same period of 2021.

Among the EU member states, Germany was Iran's top trade partner in the mentioned eight months, accounting for 64 percent of Iran's total trade with the union.

As previously reported by Eurostat, the value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €4.863 billion in 2021, registering a nine-percent growth compared to the previous year. [See Page 7](#)

Iran, Other Caspian States Extend Ban on Sturgeon Fishing

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Caspian Sea littoral states have extended their embargo on sturgeon fishing in the largest inland body of water which produces some 90 percent of the world's caviar, an official says.

Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan which border the Caspian Sea have agreed tight export quotas for wild caviar and other sturgeon products.

"According to the agreement of the five states of the Caspian Sea Aquatic Resources Convention, the ban on commercial fishing of sturgeon has been approved for the 11th year and the embargo will continue for another year," director general of the Sock Enhancement and Conservation of Aquatic Genetic Resources of Iran Nasser Karami Rad said.

The Caspian Sea, the source of four-fifths of the world's black caviar, has been hit by a vast decline in sturgeon stocks due to poaching and illegal trade.

High levels of poaching and illegal trade in the Caspian led to a temporary ban on international trade in wild caviar and other sturgeon products in 2001. At the time the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) estimated that illegal trade was ten times greater than legal trade. [See Page 7](#)

Elites Among Most Important Human Assets of Iran



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution called the elites among the most precious assets of the country. Simultaneously with the holding of the 12th National Elite Foundation Conference in Tehran, some of the Iranian leading elites and scientific talents met with the Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei at Husseiniyah of Imam Khomeini (RA) on Wednesday morning.

Addressing the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei called the elites among the most precious assets of the country. "The presence of the youth, especially talented youth, engenders hope wherever they are. I truly thank God that now after the COVID-19 pandemic has diminished in our country, this lively, energetic, promising meeting is being held in person once again."

"Natural resources are important, geographical locations are important, the climate is important, all of these are important, but one of the most important human assets of the country is the existence of the elite. An elite should be considered as a huge wealth. When we consider elites as huge wealth, we should try to create them."

"Everyone, especially the officials and the most effective figures in the country, should consider the scientific elites as one of the most important assets of the country and support them, and the elites should turn their individual capacities and talents into the capital of the country's progress," he added.

Referring to the bright horizon of the country's future, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "In the last forty-three years, they [enemies] have talked about the collapse of the Islamic Republic several times, but the stability and continuity of the [Islamic] Revolution showed that the analyses were wrong and unrealistic."

Ayatollah Khamenei considered the scientific elites and the universities as important pillars of the country's progress, adding that the enemy benefits from the closure of universities and the suspension of scientific activity, and for this reason, they have always tried for the closure of universities at various times.

The Leader of the Revolution also called the university one of the biggest obstacles to the domination of arrogance, saying, "The bullying world powers use weapons, deception and even science to dominate others and hold nations back, so a university that raises the level of the country's science actually prevents the domination of the enemy."

"After the Islamic Revolution, with the development of universities in all parts of the country, the stunning increase in the number of students and professors and the establishment of numerous research institutes and think tanks, the field for the development of science and elitism has been provided, and the goal of the Islamic Republic, which is the expansion of universities and the promotion of scientific ability, has been achieved," the Leader noted.

Emphasizing that Iranian academics did not allow the country to remain in need of Westerners, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Without any exaggeration, our academic elites are the cause of Iran's reputation, and they aroused the admiration of the scientific societies of the world in every field, so others should appreciate you and I am very grateful to you."

In describing some of the honors of Iranian elites and scientists, he mentioned the research and achievements of Royan Research Institute in fields such as stem cells and cloning of live animals, progress in biochemistry, launching satellites into space, fundamental achievements in the nuclear industry, production of complex vaccines such as Covid-19 vaccine and the stunning developments in the rocket and drone industries.

Israel Persecuting Palestinian People

LONDON (Dispatches) - A United Nations human rights expert has slammed Israel's "apartheid practices" in the occupied Palestinian territories, saying the Tel Aviv regime's actions against Palestinians amount to "persecution." Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories, made the remarks in a report released on Tuesday, which details Israeli efforts to stamp out the Palestinian collective identity and sovereignty.

"Realizing the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination requires dismantling once and for all the Israeli settler-colonial occupation and its apartheid practices," she said.

Albanese also documented the use of lethal force against journalists and humanitarian workers critical of Israel, as she pointed to the recent detention order against French-Palestinian human rights defender Salah Hammouri, who has been held in Israeli jails under the policy of so-called administrative detention since March.

According to the report, almost 4,500 Palestinians are currently detained, 730 under the practice of administrative detention, in which Israel keeps the detainees without charge for up to six months, a period that can be extended an infinite number of times.

Children as young as 12 have been victims of arbitrary arrest and detention, the report said, adding that 500 to 700 minors were arrested by the Israeli regime every year.

Albanese further pointed to the closure of seven Palestinian civil society rights groups' offices by Israeli forces in the West Bank in August, calling the move an abuse of counter-terrorism legislation. [See Page 7](#)

Iran Slams Acts of Violence Against Its Diplomatic Missions

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has denounced acts of violence committed against its diplomatic missions and envoys in certain countries in the wake of nationwide protests that erupted last month following the controversial death of a young woman.

Iran's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations said in a statement on Tuesday that some of the country's diplomatic missions, consular premises, and diplomats have been the target of acts of violence in some European countries, including Norway, Belgium, Greece, Germany, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Italy, United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden.

"My delegation would like to express its condemnation of any acts of violence committed against its missions and representatives, in particular, the significant delays in intervention or failure to take any measures by receiving states' law enforcement forces in some cases," Zahra Ershadi said in a statement before the 6th Committee on protection, security and safety of diplomatic missions and representatives.

"In addition to being exceptional and significant, the scope and scale of this well-organized violence against Iranian diplomatic and consular facilities, as well as their representatives in Europe, are also a part of a larger campaign that some states have been waging against Iran," she said. [See Page 7](#)

Comprehensive Iran-Russia Agreement to Be Signed By Late March

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian spoke in a TV documentary on diplomacy on continuation of consultations in drafting the Tehran-Moscow comprehensive agreement, ensuring that it will be signed by Iranian year-end (March 23, 2023).

Hossein Amirabdollahian spoke on Tuesday evening about the "untold stories during the President Ebrahim Raisi government's foreign diplomacy over last year", saying, "During the first months of the 13th government we faced the COVID-19 disease crisis and the Health Ministry managed to allocate 1.2 billion US dollars for imports of COVID-19 vaccines."

The top Iranian diplomat elsewhere in the interview stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will use its entire potentials and capacities to secure the nation's interests, either in the west, or in the east, and will not abandon any effort.

Turning to the Ukraine war, he said, "In the 2nd month after the outbreak of the in Ukraine both Russia and Ukraine asked Iran to mediate for a ceasefire." [See Page 7](#)

Iran-Russia SWIFT-Like Financial System to Be Launched Soon

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Russian trade representative in Iran says that during the meeting of the Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Russia, the two sides will agree to launch a SWIFT-like system for bilateral banking relations.

With the participation of a business delegation from the Republic of Bashkortostan of the Russian Federation at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, business negotiations between economic activists from the two countries were held with the aim of realizing opportunities for bilateral cooperation and examining the barriers and problems to the development of relations.

In the meeting, Minister of Trade and Services of the Republic of Bashkortostan Alexey Gusev of the Russian Federation announced the six-fold increase in the exchange of goods between the Republic of Bashkortostan and Iran over the last year and reminded that the companies of both sides can exchange products related to the machine industry, chemical industry, rubber, metals from Bashkortostan and steel products and foodstuffs from Iran. [See Page 7](#)

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Iran Sanctions Western Officials, Institutions

TEHRAN (IP) – Foreign Minister announced adding several foreign officials and institutions involved in the country's sanctions to the terrorist blacklist of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

While visiting the house of "Epidermolysis Bullosa" or EB patients in Tehran on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian expressed his regret for the difficulties that have arisen due to the sanction on the sale of special dressings for these diseases.

Amirabdollahian said some foreign officials and institutions that played a role in the sanctions would be added to the terrorist blacklist of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran on Wednesday, and these people and institutions are the terrorist groups.

Gov't Institutions Urged To Focus on Solving People's Problems

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi stated that doing things on time is the most obvious aspect of building authority in the country, adding, "The double work and effort of the officials in their area of responsibility is the best way to deal with the enemy who today is frustrated with disturbing the streets and is looking for an excuse to cause discontent".

Speaking in the meeting of the cabinet, Raisi said that solving the problems and serving the people and trying to double the speed of the country's progress are the most important missions of the government, and emphasized, "No marginal issues should overshadow the main responsibilities and missions of the government institutions".

The President called market control one of the most important tasks of the relevant institutions and stated, "The establishment of intelligent systems for the distribution of goods and monitoring the market are very useful, positive and effective measures, but for a better effect, in addition to the use of professional and skilled monitoring teams, it is necessary for the work to be followed up by the highest official of the relevant departments".

The President stated that doing things on time is the most obvious aspect of building authority in the country, adding, "The double work and effort of the officials in their area of responsibility is the best way to deal with the enemy who today is frustrated with disturbing the streets and is looking for an excuse to cause discontent".

Raisi stated that there have been and will be many ground-breaking and promising actions and efforts in the country.

The President considered it a matter of pride for an Iranian woman to win the world skill medal in the continuation of the achievements of Iranian women in the world arena and emphasized the need to promote skills training among the country's young generation.

In another part of his speech, Raisi also emphasized the need to pay more attention



to the needs of people, especially economic activists, in using internet platforms, and obliged the people at work to make all their efforts to strengthen and improve the efficiency of internal communication platforms in order to meet people's needs.

Meanwhile Raisi emphasized that today's world is in need of everlasting and infinite treasures of Islamic teachings.

On Wednesday, Raisi made the remarks in a message to the International Congress of Strategies for the Expansion of Ghadir Culture and Promotion of Nahjul Balagha, noting that the Islamic tenets can really resolve problems of the contemporary era.

In such a situation that humankind throughout the globe is thirsty for reality because of being subjected to fake media for several years, the international congress seems to be a proper opportunity to introduce the brilliant culture, which has its roots in the teachings of Ghadir (a gathering of Muslims to attend a sermon delivered by the Islamic Prophet Muhammad on March 16 632 CE in order to introduce Imam Ali [PBUH] as his successor) as well as the holy book of Nahjul Balagha (the best-known collection of sermons, letters, and sayings attributed to the first Shia Imam), the message said.

Raisi went on to say that the congress is a kind of good tradition, which can pave the way for scrutinizing the moral, philosophical, social, cultural, and military teachings of the holy Imam.

The International Congress of Strategies for the Expansion of Ghadir Culture and Promotion of Nahjul Balagha kicked off in Sari, the capital city of Mazandaran Province, northern Iran, in the presence of some Iranian and foreign audiences to discuss ways to promote the Islamic culture throughout the world.

Majlis Endorses Mortazavi As Labor Minister

TEHRAN (IFP) - Solat Mortazavi has been appointed as Iran's minister of cooperative, labor and social welfare after securing a vote of confidence from the country's Parliament (Majlis).



During a voting session held on Wednesday morning, 174 lawmakers voted 'yes' to President Ebrahim Raisi's nominee for the labor ministry, 64 legislators voted against Mortazavi, and one abstained.

Mortazavi will thus replace Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, who resigned from the cabinet in mid-June and left the position vacant.

Prior to Mortazavi, Raisi had proposed Mohammad-Mahdi Zahedi-Vafa for the post, but he narrowly failed to win the Parliament's approval.

Born in 1961, Mortazavi holds a PhD in public law. He was appointed last month as vice president for executive affairs. Mortazavi is also a former mayor of the northeastern city of Mashhad.

Iran to Continue Efforts to Improve Condition in Afghanistan

TEHRAN (MNA) - Special envoy of the Iranian President for Afghanistan said that Iran will continue its efforts and interaction with its neighbors and effective countries to improve livelihood and security conditions in Afghanistan.

Hassan Kazemi Qomi made the remarks in a tweet after meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Sadiq Khan.

He termed his meeting with Mohammad Sadiq Khan constructive, adding that they have discussed ways to improve the situation of the Afghan people.

"Undoubtedly, the continuation of regional cooperation will bring positive results. We will continue our efforts and interactions with our neighbors and effective countries in order to establish stability, improve people's living conditions and fight against terrorism in Afghanistan," the Iranian envoy stressed.

Sadiq Khan, the Pakistani prime minister's special envoy for Afghanistan, is visiting Iran with the aim of consulting on the developments in Afghanistan.

Implementing Tehran Meeting Agreements to Ensure Regional Peace



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said here that implementing the ratifications in Tehran Meeting on Afghanistan can ensure peace and stability in region, and development in Afghanistan.

Amirabdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with Mohammad Sadeq Khan, the special envoy of the prime minister of Pakistan on Afghanistan affairs, who is visiting Iran.

Amirabdollahian in the meeting asked Sadeq Khan to convey the warm greetings of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to the Pakistani president and prime minister, noting that the relations between the two Islamic republics is excellent, and yet they need to be further improved between the two brother and neighboring countries to boost regional security.

The Iranian foreign minister said that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers Pakistan's security as its own security, and is ready for boosting security cooperation with Pakistan that will lead to boosting regional security.

He said that 4.5 million refugees from Afghanistan are now residing in Iran, of whom more than 1.5 million have immigrated to Iran after the last year coming to power of Taliban there.

"Restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan will lead to the return of the Afghan refugees to their country, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will use all its capacities for the establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan and the wellbeing of the people in that country," added Amirabdollahian.

Mohammad Sadeq Khan, the special envoy of the Pakistani prime minister, for his part, in the meeting elaborated on Pakistan's views on developments in Afghanistan and the prevailing conditions there that have due to the internal and international pressures led to the deterioration of the people's living conditions, arguing that the constructive roles played by regional countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan are very important.

Iran Diplomat in UK Censures Germany Over Baseless Accusations

LONDON (IRNA) - Iranian Chargé d'Affaires in the UK Mehdi Hosseini Matin has reacted to the unfounded claims leveled against Iran by the German ambassador in London, saying that Berlin officials should be shameful of their hypocritical behavior.

Hosseini-Matin said on his Twitter account on Tuesday night, "Germany with history of aggressions, talking about punishing a civilized nation!"

He also ruled out the "unsubstantiated allegations" made by the German diplomat over arms cooperation between Russia and Iran in the Ukraine war, noting, "Iran's legal foreign relations with others is not subject to interference."

The Iranian diplomat added that Berlin should be shameful for its behavior in neglecting its commitments under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, aka the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The tweet is a reaction to German Ambassador to London Miguel Burger, who tweeted that the Islamic Republic sends drones to Russia and that Iran should be punished with more sanctions because of assisting Russia to create horror by the use of its drones among civilians in Ukraine.

The German diplomat also put forward the allegation that Iran might sell missiles to Russia.

In recent weeks, some unconfirmed reports over Iran-Russia arms cooperation have been circulated, which have been ruled out by the Iranian authorities on several occasions.

Tehran has underlined that it pursues active neutrality in the Ukraine war, calling for resolving the differences between Moscow and Kiev on the basis of a political solution, but the Western powers dispatch numerous destructive weapons to Ukraine, which can only fan the flame of the conflict.

Germany Should Be Embarrassed by Its Past Behavior

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's chargé d'affaires in London reacted to the German envoy's baseless claims about Iran's arms assistance to Russia, saying that Germany should be embarrassed by its past behavior.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini Matin, the chargé d'affaires in the Iranian Embassy in London, who is the deputy head of the Iran mission in the UK, in a tweet on Tuesday reacted to the remarks of the German Ambassador to the United Kingdom about the alleged supply of drones to Russia by Iran.

"Germany with a history of aggression, talking about punishing a civilized nation! Unsubstantiated allegations. Iran's legal foreign relations with others are not subject to interference. Germany should be embarrassed by its past behavior, failure to fulfill its commitments (JCPOA) & hypocrisy," the Iranian diplomat wrote.

His tweet came in response to German envoy Miguel Berger who in a tweet made baseless accusations about Iran's arms assistance to Russia in the Ukraine war, and demanded that Iran should be punished by imposing more sanctions.

"Iran should be punished with further sanctions for helping Russia to terrorize civilians in Ukraine with their kamikaze drones. Worrying reports that Iran might also sell missiles to Russia. Foreign Minister ABAerbock underlines the need to act once we have all evidence," Berger claimed.

These claims came as Nasser Kanaani, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman stated that unfounded accusations that have been leveled against Iran are based on false information and biased assumptions and are part of a targeted and political atmosphere staged by media outlets of some countries against Iran.

Iran Dismisses Accusations It Provided Russia With Weapons

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has once again dismissed accusations by some Western countries and their media outlets that it provided weapons, including drones, to Russia for deployment against Ukraine.

Speaking on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanaani called such allegations "unfounded," which were made on the basis of "misinformation and ill-intentioned presumptions."

The claims, he added, were being disseminated as part of a political and goal-oriented campaign led by some countries' media outlets.

Iran, the official noted, was ready to hold dialog with Ukraine towards nullification of the allegations.

The remarks were made amid Russia's February-present "special military operation" in the ex-Soviet republic.

Moscow says it has launched the mission in order to defend the pro-Russian population in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk against persecution by Kiev.

Back in 2014, the two republics broke away from Ukraine, refusing to recognize a Western-backed Ukrainian government there that had overthrown a democratically-elected Russia-friendly administration.

Since the onset of the conflict, Iran has been observing a policy of "active neutrality," expressing its opposition to continuation of the warfare, and emphasizing the need for peaceful resolution of standing differences between Moscow and Kiev, Kanaani noted.

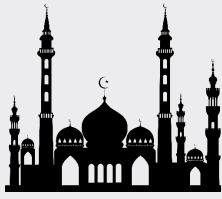
Iran has also invariably stressed the need for respect for various countries' sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, including Ukraine, based on the principles of the United Nation's Charter, the official concluded.

Argentina Releases All Remaining Iranian Crew of Venezuelan Plane

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran says Argentina has released all the five remaining Iranian crew members of a Venezuelan cargo plane, which Buenos Aires seized in June at the request of the U.S.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the announcement in a statement on Tuesday, saying the five Iranian nationals were freed after 129 days of diplomatic efforts as well as joint legal and consular campaigns conducted by Iran and Venezuela. He said the Argentinean investigating judge ultimately ruled that the documents provided by the plaintiffs — namely DAIA, the umbrella organization of the Zionist community in Argentina, as well as two Zionist members of Argentina's parliament — were insufficient and invalid, ordering the release of the plane's Iranian crew members and lifting their travel ban.

Kanaani also noted that the Iranian crew members of the Venezuelan plane were heading back home.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:49
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:41
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:52
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:16

91. And (remember) her who guarded her chastity:
We breathed into her of Our spirit, and We made her and her son a sign for all peoples.
92. Verily, this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood,
and I am your Lord and Cherisher: therefore serve Me (and no other).
Surah 21. The Prophets (91 - 92)

Customs Tariff, Main Barrier for Broadening Iran-Brazil Trade Ties

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Trade (ICCIMA) Mr. Gholam-Hossein Shafei in meeting with Ambassador of Brazil to Tehran Mr. Laudemar Gonsalves de Aguiar Neto said that bilateral trade relation of Iran and Brazil faces two major problems of transportation and Brazil's customs tariff on Iranian products which sometimes it is 100% and it is a big barrier in way of broadening trade ties.

In the meeting, Shafei pointed to the favorable ties between Iran and Brazil and added that private sector of Iran has tried to strengthen economic ties on par with economic relations and chambers of commerce function in line with this policy. He stated that Brazil is one of the big economies in the world and it has some advantages geographically which is under special attention everywhere.

He reiterated that despite the big market of Brazil and big population in its surrounding countries, Iran's trade with Brazil is not satisfactory and both countries should take advantage of the existing capacities to increase the trade volume.

Shafei reiterated that trade is a two-way road and this relation will be sustainable when a trade balance is restored in the bilateral trade and both countries can draw up proper solutions for reinforcing economic ties.

He then pointed to the problems on course to boosting trade between Iran and Brazil, adding that the first problem is in the field of transportation and both sides should find proper solutions for it, adding that the next problem is Brazil's customs tariff for Iranian goods which is very high and sometimes it reaches 100% and it is a big barrier in way of broadening trade cooperation.

Shafei stated that he has learned that even there are some problems for refueling Iranian ships in Brazil and the question is why. He went on to say that for ICCIMA Brazil is attractive and for this reason chambers of commerce of both countries have set up special offices in both countries and this shows the importance of Brazil's market.

He noted that Brazil can be a gateway for Iran's entry to the Latin American states and Iran with a 400-million population market including its neighboring countries can pave the ground for economic cooperation of Brazil in the region.

Then Ambassador of Brazil Mr. Aguiar Neto, for his part, said that traveling to different cities of Iran like Isfahan, Arak and Khuzestan can be used as tools for knowing Iran's economy and therefore they can find different ways for broadening cooperation.

He added that currently the trade balance is in favor of Brazil and it is 95% to 5%,



admitting that if Brazil cannot import more goods from Iran, its exports will not increase, either. He confirmed Mr. Shafei's remark that trade is a two-way road but there is no possibility for creating trade balance for each item of goods but both countries can enhance trade volume. He said that he has visited different companies in Iran whose productions have been high quality, admitting that sanctions affect the behaviors of Iran's trade partner.

Aguiar Neto said that despite sanctions Brazil has never turned its back to Iran and it has even increased its trade with Iran after reimposition of sanctions by U.S. President Donald Trump. He stressed that official statistics show that the trade between Iran and Brazil in the first three quarters of 2022 has been the best and in the highest level of their economic ties, adding that if the statistics are compared with the past two years, one can see that Brazil's exports to Iran will hit \$3.6b by the yearend while the figure was \$1.9b in 2021.

He said that Brazil's exports to Iran in terms of weight has been 8m tons so far this year which has been the best ever figure comparing to 2018. He also said that of course some indirect trade between Iran and Brazil is done via Switzerland which is considerable figure. He admitted that the trade between the two countries has grown by 30% in the first three quarters mainly due to the rise in the prices of the goods, and the volume of Iran's exports to Brazil is low but it has been doubled comparing to last year and it shows that Brazil is a trustable partner for Iran which has kept continuing cooperation with Tehran despite sanctions but there are some restrictions in both countries due to financial regulations.

On restrictions for refueling Iranian ships, he said that since Brazilian companies are private and they work with the U.S., they may follow the U.S. sanctions and Brazilian government is unable to interfere or order them to cooperate with any country.

On customs tariff, he reiterated that there is no difference between Iranian and non-Iranian goods and tariffs are levied on goods and the country has also levied preferential tariff for ties with some neighboring countries.

Aguiar Neto also urged Iranian gas and oil companies to attend Brazil's market by attending the exhibitions in Brazil. He said that next year Iran and Brazil will celebrate 120th anniversary of their diplomatic relation and both sides will try to broaden the trade. He admitted that if the JCPOA is revived, both countries can even expand their cooperation in different fields like plane and even the JCPOA is not revived, the current course will be followed.

Iran Exporting 5.5 Tons of Caviar To 33 Foreign Countries

TEHRAN (MNA) - Deputy Minister of Agriculture said that the country currently exports 5.5 tons of caviar to 33 countries of the world, showing a considerable hike as compared to the same period of last year.

The Head of Iranian Fishery Organization Seyyed Hossein Hosseini made the remarks on Tuesday evening and stated that his organization is eyeing new target markets to export more caviar to foreign countries.

It is hoped that Iran's export volume of caviar will double that rate according to the 2025 Outlook Plan, he added.

He emphasized that all Caspian Sea littoral states must specify their share of the reconstruction of reserves of caviar fish at sea.

The deputy minister of agriculture then stated that surgeon (caviar) fish is presently farmed in 22 provinces of the country.

Iran Exporting Saffron To 65 Countries in World

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Vice President of the Association of Saffron Producers and Exporters of South Khorasan said that Iran's high-quality saffron is currently exported to 65 countries in the world.

Iran is the producer of the best and high-quality saffron product in the world, so that Iran's quality saffron is highly welcomed by people in the worldwide, Ali Hosseini stated.

As the cultivation of saffron in Iran dates back to more than 3,000 years ago, the name of Iran in the world markets is intermingled with the name of "saffron", he added.

Turning to the derivatives of saffron, he said that its derivatives are applicable in many industries such as pharmaceutical, food products, beverage, cosmetics industries, etc.

The Vice President of the Association of Saffron Producers and Exporters of South Khorasan pointed to the dispatching of 200 tons of raw saffron product to neighboring Qatar and added that after the conclusion of the trade contract between Iran and Qatar to transfer and process 200 tons of saffron, valued at \$300 million, the first cargo of saffron was loaded and sent to Qatar for processing operations.

Steel Output Increases in First Six Months of Iranian Year

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian Steel Producers Association has announced the steel production data for Iran for the first six months (March 21, 2022-September 22, 2022) of the current Iranian year.

In the given period, Iranian steelmakers produced 25.7 million mt of semi-finished and finished steel products, increasing from 22.2 million mt in the same period of the previous Iranian year.

In particular, Iran's semi-finished steel product output amounted to 15.39 million mt in the first six months, rising by 18.5 percent year on year. The country's billet and bloom output increased by 21 percent year on year to 9.36 million mt, while its slab output totaled 6.03 million mt, up by 14.7 percent year on year.

Meanwhile, Iran's finished steel products output in the given period amounted to 10.32 million mt, up by 11.2 percent year on year. In particular, its long steel products output accounted for 5.79 million mt of the total finished steel volume.

Wheat Import Falls 40%

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's wheat import has dropped 40 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), the managing director of Iran Government Trading Corporation (GTC) announced.

Saeed Rad said that this year, with a 60 percent increase in the purchase of domestic wheat, the import of wheat decreased by 40 percent.

He said that this year 7.2 million tons of wheat was supplied from domestic production, adding that in order to meet the country's needs, 3.8 million tons of wheat has been also imported so far. In this way, the import of this product has decreased by more than 40 percent compared to last year.

Pointing out that in order to meet domestic needs and maintain strategic reserves, a part of the country's wheat needs is supplied from the import, the official said this product entered the country's ports through large ships, is unloaded, loaded and sent to the centers of consumption throughout the country.

Last week, the GTC announced that 3.117 million tons of basic commodities were imported into the country during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

The imports of basic goods declined 29 percent compared to the previous year's same period in which 4.405 million tons of such commodities had been imported.

The basic goods imported into the country are sent to the centers and storage facilities of these products throughout the country according to the transportation plan of the GTC, and then based on the needs of population centers, they are sent for distribution to all parts of the country.

The decrease in the imports of basic goods indicates that the country has performed better in meeting its needs domestically in comparison to the previous year.

Iran Needs \$80b to Solve Natural Gas Shortage

TEHRAN - Oil Minister Javad Owji says the Islamic Republic needs some \$80 billion in domestic and foreign investment to avoid natural gas shortage in winters.

Owji once again warned that the country would face a 200-million cubic meter daily shortage of natural gas this winter.

Speaking at a parliament session he said this amount is needed "in upstream and downstream to resolve the issue within the next three to four years," something which is impossible due to lack of foreign investment.

Iran needs to develop its oil and gas sectors by technology from Western energy giants to boost production which is gradually falling. For instance, as natural pressure in the South Pars gas fields is dropping Tehran needs billions of either partnership deals or cash investments to build larger platforms to extract more gas.

More than 70 percent of Iran's energy is supplied by



natural gas and the South Pars field is responsible to provide around 75 percent of this amount, reiterated the oil minister underlining that the lack of investment to develop gas fields is the main cause of this shortage.

Not only the oil minister but a host of other officials and local experts constantly highlight the need for foreign investments, but they have no say in the country's foreign policy, which is the exclusive domain of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Director of Tehran Chamber of Commerce Investment Services says foreign investors are reluctant to enter a country in which even domestic investors cannot work and capital outflow is on the rise.

Speaking to ILNA News Agency, Faryal Mostofi said on Tuesday that apart from Western sanctions, lack of security in investment and economic freedoms in Iran have also dissipated investors' enthusiasm to release funds, stating that Iran could become a suitable place for foreign investors if conditions were right.

Iran has the second largest natural gas reserves in the world, holding more than 17 percent of global discovered gas fields. However, without foreign investment and technology, it will become a natural gas importer while the US sanctions would not allow Western companies to have any business dealings with the country.

Gov't Cuts Customs Duties on Raw Material, Parts and Machinery

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Guardians Council, a constitutional body that vets parliament legislations, has approved a law that allows reducing tariffs on imports of raw material, parts and machinery needed in the Iranian manufacturing sector.

Guardians Council's spokesman Hadi Tahan Nazif said in a tweet that the body had endorsed a parliament bill ratified earlier this month that will cut from 4% to 1% customs duties on raw material, semi-finished goods, parts, machinery and equipment.

Tahan Nazif said the legislation was not deemed by the Council to be against the Iranian Constitution and religious principles.

He said the administrative government had already reduced an excise tax it charges on imports of the same products.

The approval could be a major breakthrough for Iranian manufacturers seeking to expand their output and make their prices more competitive in the market.

Iranian manufacturers have complained in recent months that heavy costs of importing raw material and machinery parts have contributed to rising prices of various home-made products.

Exhibition in Doha Opportunity to Expand Exports to Qatar

TEHRAN (MNA) – The managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran International Exhibitions Company said on Tuesday that Iran's Exclusive Exhibition in Doha is a good opportunity to expand exports to Qatar.

Hooman Razdar said that the exclusive exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran-Qatar is being held in Doha from October 17-20 with the presence of prestigious companies and Iranian brands.

On the sidelines of the opening ceremony of Iran's exclusive exhibition in Doha, he noted that Iran's Exclusive Exhibition is being held with the participation of Iranian companies with the approach of a commercial meeting with Qatari delegations and a review of the capability of trade exchanges.

Earlier, the Spokesman for the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade Omid Ghalibaf said that a number of 14 Iranian companies will display their latest products and achievements in the fields of the food industry, handicrafts, saffron, trade and commercial services, insurance, advanced industrial fire extinguishing systems, leather, oil and gas technology.

The Exclusive Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened in the Qatari capital of Doha on Monday evening with the participation of Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Rezaei and Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) Alireza Payman-Pak.

N.Korea Fires Artillery Shells Off East, West

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea fired artillery shells off its east and west coasts on Tuesday, the South Korean military said.

The North fired some 100 shells into the sea off its west coast around 10 p.m. local time (1300 GMT) and shot a further 150 rounds off its east coast, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement on Wednesday.

North Korea's latest military activity came after South Korean troops kicked off their annual Hoguk defence drills on Monday, designed to boost their ability to respond to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.

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.



Four U.N. Peacekeepers Killed in Mali Attack

DAKAR (Dispatches) - A United Nations peacekeeper has succumbed to injuries sustained in an attack in northern Mali on Monday, bringing the death toll to four, the U.N. mission in Mali said on Tuesday.

The United Nations had previously said three peacekeepers were killed and three others seriously injured when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in the northern region of Kidal.

Islamist militants, some with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State, have been waging an insurgency in northern Mali for the last decade.



Russia Destroys Power and Water Infrastructure Across Ukraine



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia has destroyed almost a third of Ukraine's power stations in the past week, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said, as Moscow rained more missiles down on infrastructure in what Kyiv and the West call a campaign to intimidate civilians.

Missiles struck power stations in the capital Kyiv where they killed three people, and in Kharkiv in the east, Dnipro and Kryvyi Rih in the south and Zhytomyr in the west, causing blackouts and knocking out water supplies. One man was killed in his flat that was destroyed in Mykolaiv in the south.

Russia has openly acknowledged targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure with waves of missile and drone strikes since the start of last week, in what President Vladimir Putin said was legitimate retaliation for a blast on a bridge.

Kyiv and the West say intentionally attacking civilian infrastructure is a war crime, and the attacks, aimed at leaving Ukrainians with no heat and power as winter arrives, are Putin's latest tactic to escalate a war his forces are losing.

"The situation is critical now across the country ... The whole country needs to prepare for electricity, water and heating outages," Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian president's office, told Ukrainian television.

In Mykolaiv, Reuters heard three explosions in the early hours of Tuesday. A missile completely destroyed one wing of a building in the downtown area, leaving a massive crater. A fire crew was seen pulling the dead body of a man from the rubble.

The Russians "probably get pleasure from this," said Oleksandr, the owner of a nearby flower shop.

Zelenskiy said Russia was continuing to try to terrorise and kill Ukrainian civilians.

"Since Oct 10, 30% of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed, causing massive blackouts across the country," he wrote on Twitter.

Zelenskiy reiterated his refusal to negotiate with Putin who he says heads a "terrorist state".

Zelenskiy ruled out negotiations with Putin last month after the Russian leader announced the annexation of four Ukrainian provinces. Putin has also called up hundreds of thousands of reservists and repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons since mid-September, after his forces faced humiliating battlefield losses.

There was no immediate word on how many people had been killed in Tuesday's strikes overall. A day earlier, Russia sent swarms of drones to attack infrastructure in Kyiv and other cities, killing at least five people. Moscow denies deliberately targeting civilians, though it has pummeled villages, towns and cities across Ukraine in what it initially called a "special military operation" to disarm its neighbour.

The Russian defence ministry repeated earlier statements that it was carrying out attacks using high precision weapons on what it described as military targets and energy infrastructure across Ukraine.

Tunisians Protest Over Missing Migrants

ZARZIS (Dispatches) - Thousands of Tunisians demonstrated and a general strike shut down the coastal city of Zarzis, to demand a renewed search for relatives who went missing during a September migration attempt.

The city has been rocked by days of protests also fuelled by anger over the burial of four people, suspected of being missing Tunisians, in a nearby cemetery for foreign migrants -- allegedly without efforts to identify them.

"We want to know the truth," local activist Ezzedine Msalem told AFP, denouncing "a state crime perpetrated against the inhabitants of Zarzis".

Tuesday's protests come four weeks after 18 Tunisians boarded a boat headed for Italy, joining tens of thousands of clandestine migrants who have attempted to reach Europe in recent years -- many of them Tunisians exhausted by a chronic economic crisis.

Zarzis residents have been angered by reports that authorities buried four bodies found at sea -- believed to be passengers from the boat -- in a nearby cemetery for foreign migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, whose bodies regularly wash up along the coast after similar tragedies.

Those bodies have since been exhumed for identification, while another two bodies believed to be Tunisians have been found. That would leave 12 passengers from the boat still missing. Media reports said as many as 4,000 protesters, including relatives of the missing, marched along the city's main street.

Many held up pictures of relatives or signs saying "we want the truth". The powerful UGTT trade union federation voiced support for the strike and demanded an inquiry into the rescue effort and how the bodies were buried.

Shops and government offices were closed, along with health services, except for emergency cases.

On Tuesday, President Kais Saied asked Justice Minister Leila Jaffel to open an investigation "so that Tunisians can know the full truth and who was behind these tragedies".



Berlusconi Renews Demands as Italy's Gov't Takes Shape

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy's next cabinet is gradually taking shape as rightist leader Giorgia Meloni, set to be appointed prime minister, negotiates key government jobs with coalition allies.

Meloni's Brothers of Italy party led a right-wing alliance including Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia and Matteo Salvini's League to victory in last month's election, promising political stability in the country after years of short-lived governments.

Disputes between Meloni and Berlusconi over cabinet post appeared to have eased following a meeting on Monday, but Berlusconi on Tuesday reiterated a demand his party should get the justice ministry, potentially reviving tensions.

Senior coalition figures say they hope the new government can be sworn in as early as next week.

Forza Italia is expected to take the foreign ministry with Antonio Tajani, a career politician and close Berlusconi aide who briefly served as president of the European Parliament, a source said. League chief Salvini is expected to be infrastructure minister, sources said, while the interior minister's job he had originally sought could go to a technocrat close to him.

Berlusconi said on Tuesday both Tajani and Salvini will be deputy prime ministers and announced that Elisabetta Casellati, a former head of the Senate and a prominent Forza Italia politician, will be justice minister.

His claim on the justice ministry is contentious. He is currently on trial on charges of bribing witnesses in a previous case, in which he was acquitted in 2014 of paying for sex with an underage prostitute. He denies all wrongdoing.

There was no immediate comment from Meloni who, according to Berlusconi, would prefer to see the job go to former prosecutor Carlo Nordio, a Brothers of Italy lawmaker. Giancarlo Giorgetti, the League party's industry minister in Mario Draghi's outgoing government, looked well placed to become economy minister. He is considered one of the League's most moderate and pro-European figures.

Kuwait Crown Prince Says Petty Political Squabbling Must End

KUWAIT (Dispatches) - Kuwait's crown prince, in a tearful speech at Tuesday's opening of parliament, urged the legislative and executive branches to focus on the country's development and put an end to a prolonged feud and "petty matters" that have wasted time and money.

Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah took over most of the ruling emir's duties late last year and has since largely focused on tackling domestic political bickering that has long plagued the wealthy Persian Gulf Arab state, hampering investment and key reforms.

The standoff between the government and elected parliament has blocked structural and fiscal reforms, including a debt law allowing Kuwait to tap global markets, and delayed approval of the state budget for the fiscal year starting April 2022.

"We hope for an end of the time of tension and escalation in the relationship between members of the legislative and executive authorities... There has been enough waste of painstaking efforts, precious time and squandered money," Sheikh Meshal said in the address, visibly crying at the end.

Kuwait, an OPEC oil producer, bans political parties but has given its legislature more influence than

similar bodies in other Persian Gulf monarchies. Kuwait's political stability has traditionally depended on cooperation between the two branches.

Opposition figures made big gains in legislative polls in September after Sheikh Meshal dissolved parliament in a bid to end the stalemate. Before that he appointed Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah as prime minister at a time opposition lawmakers stepped up pressure for a new premier and parliament speaker.

Sheikh Meshal pledged on Tuesday that the government would not interfere in the selection of the parliament speaker or parliamentary committees.

Later, parliament chose Ahmed al-Saadoun as speaker, a position he held from 1985-1999. His predecessor, Marzouq al-Ghanim, had been criticized as pro-government.

Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad told parliament his government would safeguard public funds and take a tough stand on corruption, a key issue for many citizens along with jobs.

Kuwaitis account for less than a third of the 4.6 million population and enjoy a lavish cradle-to-grave welfare system, reforms to which have been resisted by successive parliaments.



Germany Fires Cybersecurity Chief After Reports of Possible Russia Ties



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's interior ministry fired the country's cybersecurity chief and launched an investigation into his conduct after media allegations that he may have come into contact with Russian security circles through a consultancy he co-founded.

Arne Schoenbohm came under scrutiny in recent weeks after a satire TV show highlighted his ties with a cybersecurity consultancy which counted as a member a German subsidiary of a Russian firm founded by a former KGB employee.

Schoenbohm had co-founded the Cyber Security Council Germany to advise companies and authorities on cybersecurity matters in 2012 before in 2016 being appointed head of BSI, the federal information security agency, by then Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, a conservative.

A spokesperson for the interior ministry, now run by the Social Democrats, said Schoenbohm was dismissed because the allegations had "permanently damaged the necessary public confidence in the neutrality and impartiality of his conduct in his office as president of Germany's most important cybersecurity authority".

Schoenbohm said he had himself on Monday asked the ministry to launch an investigation.

"It is not yet clear to me what the ministry has checked and what the concrete accusations against me are," he said.

He told Reuters he was no longer active in the council and had only delivered the keynote speech at its 10th anniversary in September as an exception after receiving the green light from the interior ministry.

Greens lawmaker Konstantin von Notz, who heads the parliamentary committee supervising Germany's intelligence services, called on the ministry to explicitly state the allegations against Schoenbohm and answer other open questions, such as who it would nominate to succeed him.

"We need clarity over the tricky question of whether or not there was Russian spy activity around the BSI," he told Handelsblatt newspaper. "We cannot allow the integrity of this body to be further damaged."

WHO Seeking Quick Bucks From Business via Foundation



GENEVA (Dispatches) - The World Health Organization is sourcing rapid response financing directly from companies to help tackle international crises, through the foundation it set up to bridge the shortfall from member states.

The WHO Foundation -- set up in May 2020 as the UN health agency scrambled for resources to fight the Covid-19 pandemic -- was created to marshal new resources from business and philanthropists.

The foundation, which went live in January 2021, aims to "mobilise more support for the WHO, from the public, from businesses, from philanthropists," its chief executive Anil Soni told AFP.

"No organization, no sector can solve the challenges that the world is facing alone," the 46-year-old American said.

The WHO has a two-year budget of \$5.8 billion but its financial independence has steadily declined. Its 194 member states provide barely 16 percent of the organization's financing through membership fees.

The rest comes from voluntary contributions, of which 88 percent are "specified", meaning the money goes to projects earmarked by the donors.

And with national budgets tightening around the world, governments "are having to make tough decisions about where they give their money", said Soni.

"That's why we should do more with the private sector." The foundation says it exists because the WHO lacks sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate.

The list of health crises currently being combated by the WHO includes Covid-19, the cholera outbreak in Haiti, the war in Ukraine, the devastating floods in Pakistan, monkeypox and attempts to get aid into Ethiopia's besieged Tigray region.

The foundation has raised \$30 million since the start of 2021 -- money which has mainly been focused on supporting the WHO's emergency response to Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine.

"Part of our job is to be a matchmaker, is to make sure that we can facilitate dialogue and share information," said Soni.

"So the WHO sees the benefit of working with the private sector, and the private sector sees the power of the WHO."

The foundation has around 40 staff compared to more than 8,600 for the WHO, which is also based in Geneva. Soni admits that some -- including within the WHO -- fear the risk of private companies holding too much sway over the organisation, which makes decisions on the usage and approval of drugs, vaccines and treatments.

He insisted mechanisms were in place to prevent any company from influencing such decisions. "But to close the door to all of the private sector -- that doesn't work," he said.

On September 19, the WHO Foundation announced that it had partnered with venture capital firm OurCrowd to launch a \$200 million investment fund focused on breakthrough health technologies.

OurCrowd will raise the money and a share of the profits will go to the WHO.

In addition, the companies in which the fund has invested will have to commit to ensuring fair access to their new technologies -- one of the WHO's chief gripes during the pandemic response, as poorer nations went to the back of the queue for Covid vaccines and treatments.

On September 22, the foundation announced the launch of the Health Emergencies Alliance partnership -- a vehicle for companies and philanthropists who want to support the WHO in tackling health emergencies on a regular basis.

Hungry Elephants, Cameroon Farmers Struggle to Coexist



CAMPO (Dispatches) - Banana growers on the edge of a giant national park on Cameroon's Atlantic coast say they can take no more crop destruction from hungry elephants as the conflict between man and animal escalates.

Near the southern border with Equatorial Guinea, eight villages have registered complaints with the Campo Ma'an national park, a vast area of virgin forest from where the animals emerge.

An estimated 500 gorillas and more than 200 elephants -- both endangered species -- roam the reserve's 264,000 hectares (652,000 acres).

A week after elephants flattened his banana plantation close by the park, Simplice Yomen, 47, is struggling to cope.

"We are at the end of our tether," he sighs. The elephants eat the new growth inside the banana tree trunks after splitting them open.

Manioc, maize, sweet potato and peanuts are also favourite snacks, says park administrator Michel Nko'o.

In Cameroon, co-existence between humans and animals on the edge of dense forests is proving increasingly challenging.

Most of the crop destruction is recorded near protected wildlife reserves.

For Nko'o, the elephant raids have become noticeably more frequent since agro-industrialists began setting up by the park.

More 2,000 hectares of forest has been chopped down to grow palm oil trees for Cameroon Vert, an industrial plantation project for which the government first approved a clearing of 60,000 hectares before reducing it to 39,000 hectares after protests.

"The elephants who lived here no longer have any place to go and end up in people's fields," regrets park conservationist Charles Memvi.

Affected villages near the town of Campo have seen "three to four hectares of plantations destroyed, which is a major financial loss for the local people", says Nko'o.

Elephants are blamed for 80-90 percent of the attacks. The rest is accounted for by gorillas, chimpanzees, hedgehogs, pangolins and porcupines.

Nearly all these species are endangered due to habitat loss and/or poaching. Daniel Mengata's two hectares of banana trees were "devastated" in 2020.

"The animals really are discouraging us," the 37-year-old admitted. "I started crying after seeing the damage because in one night a year's work was wiped out. That really hurts."

"I can no longer feed my family," adds Emini Ngono, 57. Hungry elephants have ruined her smallholding, which once produced gourds, manioc and potato.

Ngono says she could make more than 1,000 euros (\$970) from selling seeds for gourds, a traditional stable food across the region.

Not far off, logs of wood extracted from the forest are piling up. The high-pitched noise from a saw masks the birdsong as a group of trackers set off looking for rare gorillas.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) launched a "primate habituation" project a decade ago focused on gorillas in a bid to develop ecotourism in the area.

Part of the income was to go to local communities to encourage them to help protect the animals and reduce the conflict with humans.

Chimene Mando'o is out tracking primates.



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Credit Suisse Pays \$495m to Settle Legacy U.S. Case

ZURICH (Dispatches) - Credit Suisse has agreed to pay \$495 million to settle a case related to mortgage-linked investments in the United States, the latest pay-out related to past blunders that have battered the Swiss bank's reputation. The lender has been paying out billions of dollars to resolve legal cases linked to its residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) business in the run up to the 2008 financial crisis. The decline in mortgage payments reduced the value of the assets, leading to huge losses for investors. Switzerland's second biggest bank is trying to move on from these legacy issues which have dogged its performance and cost it billions of dollars.



Rosneft Moves Into Tanker Chartering as EU Ban Looms

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's biggest oil exporter Rosneft has expanded its tanker chartering business to ease oil shipments for buyers amid looming Western sanctions on insurance of Russian oil shipments, three sources familiar with the matter said.

Previously, state-controlled Rosneft, which produces more than 40% of Russian oil, would sell its oil at the port of loading, meaning the buyer would have to find tankers and handle freight and insurance costs for the voyage.

But with new, tighter Western sanctions looming, Rosneft's customers are asking the company to handle delivery to the final destination by assuming costs of insurance and freight, the three sources familiar with the matter said.

Many of Rosneft's customers do not have trading businesses that handle operations such as shipping. Rosneft's move to offer freight services will help customers which are not based in regions subject to sanctions to avoid delays, traders said.

Russia has increased exports to Asia, Africa and South America following the imposition of Western sanctions for its actions in Ukraine. The West accuses Moscow of invading Ukraine, while Russia calls it a special military operation.

Russia's seaborne Urals crude exports to Asia have jumped six times during January-September this year compared with the same period of 2021, Refinitiv Eikon data and Reuters calculations showed.

Indian imports of Russian oil over the first eight months of 2022 rose by 1,252% year-on-year, based on Reuters calculations using Refinitiv Eikon data and Russia became China's top crude supplier from May to July 2022.

Significant volumes of oil and products still flow from Russia to the European Union but Moscow will have to reroute a quarter of its total oil exports from December, when a full EU embargo comes into effect on Dec. 5.

Some of the G7 countries are working to introduce a price ceiling on Russian oil though it is not yet clear how this will work in practice.

Russia has threatened to cut supply to countries that accept the price cap.

The three sources said Rosneft is using its Rosneftflot subsidiary to handle the shipping costs for buyers. Previously, Rosneftflot was focused on non-chartering activities like towing, refuelling of ships and inspection.

A Rosneft spokesperson said the company "has enough experience and readiness to find effective options for transportation of its cargoes in any, even very turbulent, market conditions."

The spokesperson said, "using resources of Rosneftflot, which is mostly dedicated to port services, is not always necessary," referring to Rosneft's capacity to also provide these services.

Rosneft chartered its first Suezmax ship capable of carrying 140,000 tonnes in June this year, based on Refinitiv Eikon ship tracking data, when it sent a cargo of Urals crude from the Black Sea to India.

Bank of America Beats Profit Estimates as Interest Rates Climb

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Bank of America Corp reported a smaller-than-expected 9% drop in quarterly profit, as its interest income was bolstered by rising interest rates that offset a slump in investment banking.

The U.S. Federal Reserve's aggressive move to tighten monetary policy this year to tame inflation has boosted the amount that banks can earn from charging interest on loans to consumers and businesses.

BofA holds a large base of consumer deposits, compared with its main rivals, making it more sensitive to any changes in interest rates.

Its net interest income jumped 24% in the third quarter, joining JPMorgan Chase & Co Citigroup Inc, and Wells Fargo & Co, which also reported higher net interest income in the same period.

"Consumers remain resilient," Bank of America Chief Executive Officer Brian Moynihan told analysts on a conference call.

"Consumers continue to spend at strong levels," with spending up 10% in October from the previous year, and they are also sitting on a mountain of deposits and repaying their credit cards, he added.

Excluding items, BofA earned 81 cents per share for the quarter ended Sept. 30, beating the average analyst estimate of 77 cents per share, according to Refinitiv IBES data.

The earnings were a "nice beat," wrote Chris Kotowski, an analyst at Oppenheimer. "The results demonstrate the power of having a strong U.S. branch network."

Shares of BofA, down about 29% so far this year, rose nearly 6% to \$33.59 alongside a broader market rally.

"BofA benefited from a higher interest rate environment in both the yields on the newly issued loans and just the growth of number of depositors," said Siddharth Singhai, chief investment officer of New York-based investment firm Ironhold Capital.

The second-largest U.S. bank's consumer business reported a 12% jump in revenue, helped by higher balances and a rise in interest rates and a 9% jump in combined credit and debit card spend.

The bank, however, added \$378 million to its loan-loss reserves as it braces for a weakening economy. That compares with a reserve release of \$1.1 billion a year earlier.

Its global wealth and investment management segment reported a 2% rise in revenue as average loans and leases grew in the quarter.



ONGC Eyes Stake In Russian Entity Managing Sakhalin 1

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp plans to take a stake in the new Russian entity that will manage the Sakhalin 1 project in the far east as it seeks to retain a 20% share in the asset, three sources familiar with the matter said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this month issued a decree to establish a new operator for the ExxonMobil-led project and authorized the Kremlin to decide whether foreign shareholders could retain stakes in Sakhalin 1.

"ONGC Videsh will protect its share in the project, which means it will take a stake in the new entity," said one of the sources.

ONGC holds a stake in the project through its overseas investment arm ONGC Videsh. The new Russian entity, managed by Rosneft subsidiary Sakhalinmorneftegaz-shelf, will own investors' rights in Sakhalin 1. Foreign shareholders have one month to decide on retaining stakes in the project.

Exxon has fully exited Russia after Moscow after Moscow this month "unilaterally terminated" its interests in the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project.

Output of Sakhalin 1 collapsed after Exxon declared force majeure in April and refused to accept Russian insurance cover for the tankers as western insurers pulled out due to the sanctions, sources said.

Sakhalin 1 was producing 220,000 bpd before Russia launched its so-called "special military operations" in Ukraine.

Operatorship of the project by a Russian entity will lead to smooth functioning of Sakhalin 1 and would ensure shipping of oil, the sources said.

Two Indian refiners could not lift oil cargoes, sold by ONGC Videsh, due to insurance problems. The Sakhalin 1 project has turned out to be a money spinner for ONGC Videsh, and



Goldman Sachs Expects Worse UK Recession in 2023

LONDON (Dispatches) - The UK is likely to enter a deeper recession than previously expected next year, while interest rates and inflation will be lower than forecast, according to revised analysis from Goldman Sachs.

The US investment bank downgraded its outlook for Britain, in analysis released on Sunday, forecasting the UK economy would shrink by 1% next year, down from its previous estimate for a 0.4% contraction.

Goldman Sachs said that the increase in corporation tax to 25% in April - after Truss U-turned on one of her key Conservative leadership campaign commitments - was one factor. Its report said: "Folding in weaker growth momentum, significantly tighter financial conditions, and the higher corporation tax from next April, we downgrade our UK growth outlook further and now expect a more significant recession."

Analysts said that Truss backtracking on her corporation tax plans could help to ease pressure on the Bank of England for a tougher rise in interest rates. Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank and Barclays said a 0.75 percentage point increase in rates to 3% was now more likely at the Bank's next meeting in November, down from previous estimates for a rise of one percentage point made immediately after the mini-budget.

Goldman analysts believe UK interest rates will now peak at 4.75%, slightly lower than the 5% previously factored in. A separate business survey by the accountants Deloitte found that UK companies are expecting the rise in interest rates will make it more difficult to cope with a slump in sales and recession over the next year.

Finance directors at some of Britain's largest firms said that borrowing was more costly than at any time since 2010, making investments harder to justify.

Turkey Marches Toward \$600m in Worldwide TV Series Sales

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Full of action, drama, romance and history, Turkish TV series, films, productions and shows are currently being presented to buyers from hundreds of countries, seeking to clinch new deals that will further boost already buoyant sales around the world.

Ranked second just after the United States in global TV series sales, Turkish content producers have made a significant leap over the last decade.

Currently aired in at least 150 countries, led by Latin America, Turkish TV series are due to exceed \$600 million in sales this year, officials have said.

Seeking to add new deals, some 20 Turkish firms are attending MIPCOM, the world's greatest gathering of television entertainment content makers, with national participation led by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ITO) in France's Cannes.

Thousands of delegates and content buyers from some 100 countries have filled the corridors of the Palais des Festivals for the 38th edition of the event dubbed "the mother of all entertainment content markets" that runs from Oct. 17 through 20.

About 13 other Turkish companies are attending the fair with individual booths.

"Since there is no export linked to the declaration, appropriate statistics are not kept," said ITO chair Şekib Avdagiç. "However, looking at the feedback we have received from our producer companies, we predict that we will exceed \$600 million in series exports this year," he told reporters in Cannes.

As in most other industries, the coronavirus pandemic has impacted series prices, Avdagiç said. "Before the pandemic, the total worldwide sales of one episode of a good Turkish TV series amounted to \$650,000, while now the total gross per episode is at the level of \$350,000-\$400,000," he added.

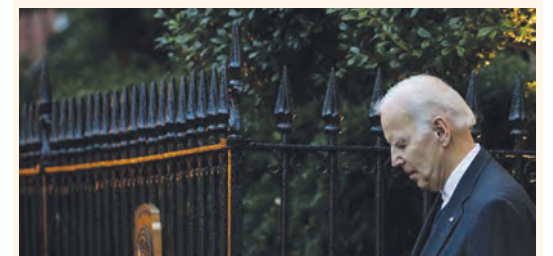
Still, Avdagiç said that "our sales volumes are increasing rapidly."

Turkey has been among the rare countries that saw only a slight disruption in the production of TV series and films due to the pandemic, he noted.

Avdagiç said Latin America has become the "second homeland" of Turkish TV series, he said: "We are going fast, especially in Germany and Spain in Western Europe. The Turkish TV series have made their mark in Latin America for five years from 2018 to 2022."

Citing the added value of series and film exports, Avdagiç said a series that cost about TL 5 million per episode can be sold for around \$400,000, depending on its success.

Forecast for U.S. Recession Within Year Hits 100% in Blow to Biden



NEW YORK (Bloomberg) -- A US recession is effectively certain in the next 12 months in new Bloomberg Economics model projections, a blow to President Joe Biden's economic messaging ahead of the November midterms.

The latest recession probability models by Bloomberg economists Anna Wong and Eliza Winger forecast a higher recession probability across all timeframes, with the 12-month estimate of a downturn by October 2023 hitting 100%, up from 65% for the comparable period in the previous update.

The forecast will be unwelcome news for Biden, who has repeatedly said the US will avoid a recession and that any downturn would be "very slight," as he seeks to reassure Americans the economy is on solid footing under his administration.

But tightening financial conditions, persistent inflation and expectations of a hawkish Federal Reserve pressing ahead with rate hikes are raising the risk of a contraction.

The model is more certain of a recession than other forecasts. A separate Bloomberg survey of 42 economists predicts the probability of a recession over the next 12 months now stands at 60%, up from 50% a month earlier.

The forecasts provide a sharp contrast to Biden's upbeat tone. The president has focused on strong job growth as he campaigns to help Democrats retain their House and Senate majorities in elections three weeks from now.

But inflation, which has hovered near a four-decade high, has been a drag on Democrats' prospects in an election where polls indicate the economy is voters' top issue.

The Bloomberg Economics model uses 13 macroeconomic and financial indicators to predict the chance of a downturn at horizons of one month to two years.

Iran in Dire Need of Dressings Produced in Sweden for EB Patients

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Founder of the specialized health center for EB (Epidermolysis bullosa) patients Hamid-Reza Hashemi has said that Iran has serious problems in procuring dressings required for EB care.

Hashemi made the remarks on Wednesday, when Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amirabdollahian paid a visit to the health center, expressing gratitude for efforts made by the Foreign Ministry to pave the way for procuring dressings for these patients.

Unfortunately, the disease was not identified in Iran for years; so, we did not know if there are other patients than my own daughter, but now the illness is well known in the country, the founder added.



Lula, Bolsonaro and Market Look to Cure Brazil Consumer Debt Hangover

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Both candidates in Brazil's presidential runoff election this month have offered relief for unpaid debts weighing on family finances and hurting economic growth.

But economists and bankers say their solutions are minor band-aids compared to the impact of overextended consumers on Brazil's economy – and lenders themselves are finding new ways to renegotiate delinquent debts and lift that overhang from credit markets.

With nearly 70 million Brazilians blacklisted by credit agency Serasa, owing 290 billion reais (\$54.4 billion), debt relief is smart politics in a closely fought presidential campaign, ahead of an Oct. 30 runoff vote. Once a customer is behind on any loan or payment, creditors can request restrictions on their credit profile if efforts to get payment failed.

Leftist former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who narrowly led the first-round vote, is proposing government-backed renegotiation of consumer debts. Advisers say he would focus first on 95 billion reais of unpaid bills accumulated by families earning up to 3,600 reais (\$676) per month. Later steps would focus on incentives to restructure bank debt, for this population.

Looking to steal his thunder, right-wing incumbent Jair Bolsonaro announced a program offering a sharp discount on bank debts. But the scope is far more modest, applying to some 4 million borrowers from state bank Caixa Economica Federal, which estimated about 1 billion reais of restructuring.

"It will not change much," said Eduardo Martins, partner at consumer credit restructuring firm MGC Crediativos, which estimates Brazil's total volume of non-performing loans around 1 trillion reais, including bank debt, retail credit, telecom bills and utilities.

Martins was also skeptical of how easily Lula could get lenders to the negotiating table: "Any plan should take into consideration that 60% of the debt was already sold onto other investors, so incentives given to banks would be useless."

Brazil's secondary market for non-performing loans has grown dramatically in recent years, as the central bank has changed how it requires that lenders' provision for losses and asset managers have grown more interested in the segment.

They have also had more to work with, as a downturn during the pandemic, followed by high inflation and aggressive interest rate hikes have begun to push up delinquency rates and put more families on Serasa's blacklist.

Fabio Mentone, formerly an executive at bank deposit guarantor FGC, said restructuring consumer debt is important, but will have limited effect if Brazil cannot improve the underlying economic conditions, including high inflation, unemployment and borrowing costs.

"If you just solve the credit problem now but interest rates stay high, you will have the same problem in a short period of time," he said.

For its part, the private sector is already divvying up and discounting the bulge of bad credit portfolios with specialized firms offering discounts of more than 90% for the older credit in arrears. The original creditors, which frequently write off the debts entirely, are wary of offering such terms directly to borrowers for fear that other clients stop paying.

Restructuring firm Pantalica Partners estimates that about 115 billion reais in non-performing loans have been sold on Brazil's secondary market this year alone - up nearly five-fold from 2019.

Most of the volume is related to loan portfolio sales by Brazil's largest retail banks, utilities and retailers. Around 37 billion are sales of defaulted corporate debt of single companies, such as bonds.



Among the largest acquirers of portfolios this year are asset managers and credit management companies such as Jive, SPC, Cerberus, BRD, Quimera and Quadra. Intrum, one of Europe's largest credit managers, also opened a subsidiary in Brazil in 2020. Higher interest rates are expected to increase delinquency in loans and grow the total pool of distressed assets.

The largest banks also own credit management companies to restructure overdue debt, such as Recovery (owned by Itau Unibanco Holding), Return (Banco Santander Brasil) and RCB Investimentos (controlled by Banco Bradesco SA).

Since the pandemic, many overburdened borrowers have been using dedicated websites to pay their debts off at a discount without needing to negotiate with representatives of the creditors. All companies specialized in credit recovery such as Crediativos, have their websites with offerings to borrowers.

Of total debt renegotiations in Crediativos since the pandemic, for example, around 70% have been made through the website. A smaller portion of clients use call centers.

Most of the debts that lead Serasa to "blacklist" Brazilian consumers are relatively small - the average value at Serasa is 1,215 reais (\$228) and are usually not refinanced, but paid off with a steep one-time discount. Delinquencies in larger loans such as mortgages is dealt with in a different way, since these loans usually have collateral.

One large non-performing loan auction is slated to be held in the coming weeks by Emgea, a non-financial company controlled by Caixa Economica Federal that owns around 60 billion reais in credit with individuals and companies, usually with some collateral. Most of the credit is long overdue, with some in arrears for more than 20 years. The sale is unrelated to the Caixa program announced for small borrowers by Bolsonaro.

Samuel Oliveira, founder at advisory firm Northstone, said large international investors in distressed credit are looking at Emgea assets and increasing purchases of Brazilian portfolios. Unlike previous cycles of high interest rates, Brazilian families have higher debt. Debt levels reached records in August, with around 80% of families using credit, according to industry data. Debt volume also increased. Mortgages, for example, that represented 4% of GDP in 2010, reached 10% of GDP last year.

India Has Sufficient Stocks of Grains



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India has sufficient stocks of rice and wheat and the government will sell wheat in the open market if needed to control prices, the most senior civil servant at the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, said.

"We've enough stocks of rice and wheat and there's nothing to worry," Sudhanshu Pandey told a press conference.

"We'll intervene if needed," he said, replying to a query on whether the government would sell food stocks in the open market to keep a lid on local prices.

Food inflation, which accounts for nearly 40% of the consumer price index basket, rose 8.60% in September, compared to 7.62% in August.

Retail food prices accelerated due to a rise in the prices of cereals and vegetables.

Pandey said the rates of staples have risen only at a moderate pace, and the steps initiated by the government have helped keep a lid on grain prices.

After a sudden rise in temperatures in mid-March shrivelled the wheat crop, India, the world's second-biggest producer of the grain, banned overseas sales of the staple to secure supplies for its 1.4 billion people.

Wheat exports from India, also the world's second biggest consumer of the staple, surged after Russia's invasion of Ukraine hit supplies from the Black Sea region, resulting in a jump in global prices.

Close on the heels of the ban on overseas sales of wheat, India restricted rice exports as scant rains in the country's east affected planting of the most water-thirsty crop.

Comprehensive Iran-Russia...

FROM PAGE 1

He referred to Iran's peace-making efforts, brokering for a ceasefire, and bringing the two sides of the war to peace table, adding, "Yet the western side by keeping on forwarding arms to the region prolongs the war."

The foreign minister also referred to the trilateral summit meeting of Iran, Russia and Turkey in Tehran to harbinging peace in Syria, saying, "Definitely it was not accidental that that meeting in continuation of the Astana Peace Process was held in Tehran, carrying messages both for the regional countries and the world, and have bilateral achievements for all three participating countries." Focusing on the latest status of the nuclear talks to remove the sanctions, Amirabdollahian said that Iran's objective is reaching a good and sustainable agreement, but reliable guarantees, too are needed.

He said that Iran has not left the negotiation table, but is not ready for accepting imposed losses instead of securing "our national interests". "One of the problems is that the guarantees are clearly defined, but the details about lifting the sanctions are not clearly defined yet," he added.

Israel Persecuting...

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"This appears to be an attempt to further shrink, if not outright ban, space for human rights monitoring and legal opposition to the Israeli occupation in the Palestinian territory," she said, arguing that it was time for a "paradigm shift" in Israel's relations with the international community.

The UN special rapporteur also criticized efforts by some regional states to normalize ties with Israel, calling the peacemaking attempts "ineffective" due to the fact that "they have not focused their approaches on human rights, particularly the right to self-determination, and have overlooked the settler-colonial underpinnings of the Israeli occupation." She also called on the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to release an updated database of businesses involved in Israeli settlements. Albanese further urged all countries to demand an immediate end to Israel's illegal occupation of the West Bank and a return of all land and resources from and of which the Palestinian people have been displaced and dispossessed, independent of any negotiations between Israel and Palestine to settle the conflict.

Iran-Russia SWIFT-Like...

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Also in the meeting, Rostam Zhiganshin, Russia's commercial representative in Iran referred to the meeting of the Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Russia in the next two weeks in Russia, and reminded that in that meeting, which will be held between the cabinet members of the governments of the two countries, important decisions will be made to establish SWIFT-like system between Iran and Russia will be made and if the two countries reach a final agreement, this financial exchange system between Iran and Russia will be launched and start working in the next two or three months.

Iran Slams Acts of...

FROM PAGE 1

Ershadi further said that acts of violence conducted against Iran's diplomatic and consular premises and their representatives also include the provocations among local populations in some of our neighboring countries, such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

She noted that such acts are conducted by the diplomatic missions of a number of specific countries accredited to those countries.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran invites the respective states to engage in a constructive dialog with the diplomatic missions in their territories with a view to examining the most effective ways to ensure the full protection of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives," she added.

The Iranian envoy also raised concerns over the "unlawful attempts" made by certain states to misuse diplomatic immunities and privileges to "conceal

operations that would ultimately undermine the sanctity of the functions of diplomatic envoys."

"Members of the missions and the sending States are expected to fully respect Iran's laws and regulations as the receiving state, including refraining from meddling in its internal affairs."

"Iran remains willing to resolve any disputes in this respect peacefully and strongly urges other states to uphold their obligations under the two Vienna Conventions," she added.

Elsewhere in her remarks, Ershadi said Iran also objects to the "forceful intrusion of our diplomatic and consular premises in Tirana on 8 September 2022 by Albanian police forces after the unilateral severance of bilateral relations by the government of Albania."

Iran Exports to EU...

FROM PAGE 1

The trade between Iran and the European Union in 2020 stood at €4.458 billion.

Iran exported €922 million worth of commodities to the union during January-December 2021 to register a 29-percent rise year on year.

Based on the mentioned data, the exports from Europe to the Islamic Republic in the said year also increased by five percent, standing at €3.941 billion.

Iran imported €3.745 billion worth of commodities from the European Union states in 2020, while exporting €713 million to the region.

Among European countries, Germany was Iran's top trading partner in 2021, accounting for about a third of Iran's trade with the European Union. Germany exported €1.449 billion worth of goods to Iran while importing €274 million worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic. The country's total trade with Iran was 1.723 billion euros.

Italy was Iran's second-biggest trading partner with €628 million euros of commodity exchanges. The country exported €450 million worth of goods to Iran while importing €178 million worth of products from the country.

The Netherlands stood in third place with a trade of €481 million. The country exported €443 million euros worth of goods to Iran and imported €38 million.

Iran mainly exports foodstuff and livestock, beverages and tobacco, raw materials, mineral fuels, and vegetable oils to European countries, while foodstuff, beverages and tobacco, mineral fuels, vegetable oils, and chemicals are also the main products imported from the union.

Iran, Other Caspian States...

FROM PAGE 1

To have their proposed quotas published, countries with shared sturgeon stocks must agree amongst themselves on catch and export quotas based on scientific surveys of the stocks, according to CITES, a Swiss-based treaty body which regulates international trade in wildlife.

The agreement covers six wild sturgeon species, including huso huso which produces beluga caviar, the most expensive luxury food item, which can cost up to 600 euros per 100 grams.

Karami Rad said Iranian caviar is one of the best types of the delicacy. He also touched on the long history of the sturgeon stocks enhancement in Iran, "which even reaches up to a hundred years".

"Iran is one of the leading countries in the field of sturgeon stocks enhancement, which we want to develop along with the ban on commercial fishing," he said.

Karami Rad said all sturgeon fish caught in the Caspian Sea by Iran are delivered to stock restoration centers. Each year, millions of fingerlings are released into the Caspian Sea from hatcheries in Iran as part of the country's conservation plan.

"We have four sturgeon stock restoration centers in the three northern provinces of the country - two strategic fish stock restoration centers in Gilan province, one in Mazandaran and one in Golestan, which reproduce and release productive sturgeon fish caught from the sea," he said.

"Due to the drastic reduction of sturgeon species that are on the brink of extinction, we reproduce about 2 to 3 million pieces in high weights and release them in the sea," he added.

Sturgeon farming includes protecting females which take up to 18 years to become mature to produce eggs. Poachers usually leave those females to die along with the rest of their catch.

According to Karami Rad, Iran is ranked 14th in the whole sturgeon business. Last year, 16 tons of farmed caviar were produced in the country, of which about 5.5 tons were exported and about 11 tonnes consumed domestically, he said.

On Monday, fishery science researcher Mohammad Pour-Kazemi said the population of sturgeon fish on the Iranian shores of the Caspian Sea has reached the lowest level in its history.

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Injured Isak out Until After World Cup

NEWCASTLE (Dispatches) - Newcastle United striker Alexander Isak will not play again until after the World Cup finals after suffering an injury setback, manager Eddie Howe said. The Swedish forward, signed in a deal reported to be worth up to 60 million pounds (\$67.82 million) from Real Sociedad in August, has made only three appearances because of a thigh injury. "We don't think we will see him again before the World Cup. He has had a setback on his thigh," Howe told reporters ahead of Wednesday's Premier League clash with Everton.

Cressy Fires 22 Aces In Stockholm Win

STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - American Maxime Cressy served up 22 aces and rallied for a 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory over Ilya Ivashka of Belarus in first-round action at the Stockholm Open in Sweden. Cressy also had to overcome 11 double faults, but did so easily by hitting 56 total winners and saving eight of nine break points. The only seeded player in action was No. 7 seed Holger Rune of Denmark, who defeated Thiago Monteiro of Brazil 7-5, 6-2. Chile's Cristian Garin and Russia's Aslan Karatsev were also winners.

Injured Hopkins Kicks OT Game-Winner

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Dustin Hopkins kicked four field goals, including a 39-yarder with 2:38 remaining in overtime, and the Los Angeles Chargers rallied for a 19-16 victory over the Denver Broncos on Monday night.

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Hopkins, who injured a hamstring during the first half, grimaced as he kicked the ball and fell to the ground before being picked up by teammates. The ninth-year kicker was inactive for last week's game against Cleveland due to a quadriceps injury.

Hopkins said he "felt a pop" when he made an extra-point in the second quarter. "I was hurting pretty bad," he said after the game.

The Chargers have won three straight to improve to 4-2. They are tied with Kansas City atop the AFC West.

The game appeared to be headed toward a tie until Denver's Montrell Washington muffed JK Scott's punt at the Broncos 32-yard line. It was recovered by Deane Leonard at the Denver 28-yard line. Justin Herbert, who completed 37 of 57 for 238 yards and an interception, passed to Mike Williams for nine yards to get Hopkins closer for what proved to be the game winner.

Russell Wilson was 15 of 28 for 188 yards and a touchdown for the Broncos (2-4), who dropped a game in overtime for the second straight week.

Denver jumped out to a 10-0 lead with scores on the first two drives. Brandon McManus was good from 51 yards midway through the first, and Wilson found a wide-open Greg Dulcich for a 39-yard touchdown with 1:49 remaining in the quarter. The touchdown was the Broncos' first in nearly 88 minutes of play. They produced very little after that on offense as Wilson failed to spark his offense once again.

Azarenka, Andreescu Advance to Second Round at Guadalajara

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Twice major winner Victoria Azarenka downed Russian Elina Avanesyan 6-4 6-2 and former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu cruised past Swiss Jil Teichmann 6-2 6-4 in the first round as the Guadalajara Open main draw kicked off.

Six of the world's top 10 are expected to play in the hard-court tournament, the final WTA 1000-level event this season before the WTA Finals, with Polish world number one and US Open winner Iga Swiatek absent after winning in San Diego on Sunday.

Azarenka, who reached the last 16 in New York but lost in her Ostrava opener earlier this month, dropped only three first-serve points in the first set and broke in the seventh game.

The Belarussian's serve deteriorated in a choppy second set but her 20-year-old opponent could not derail the experienced Azarenka who set up a second-round meeting with Spanish top seed Paula Badosa in a repeat of the Indian Wells final last year.

Canadian Andreescu had no problem overcoming Teichmann, winning the first three games of the first set and cruising through the second as the Swiss served three double faults.

Russian Liudmila Samsonova, who won in Cleveland and Tokyo this year but lost her first-round match in San Diego, beat Estonian Kaia Kanepi 6-1 7-5 and China's Zhu Lin defeated Frenchwoman Alize Cornet 3-6 6-3 6-4.

Sri Lanka, Netherlands Win at T20 World Cup

GEELONG (Dispatches) - Karthik Meiyappan lit up the Twenty20 World Cup with a hat-trick Tuesday but it was in vain as Sri Lanka crushed the United Arab Emirates to get their campaign back on track, while the Netherlands toppled Namibia.

The Asian champions were stunned by Namibia in the tournament's opening game on Sunday, a crushing 55-run defeat that left no room for error against the UAE.



The Chargers answered on their ensuing possession, putting together a 15-play, 82-yard drive that was capped by Austin Ekeler's six-yard run up the middle with the Los Angeles linemen helping him get across the goalline. The Chargers converted all four of their third-down opportunities including Ekeler's TD on the drive, which took 7:40 off the clock.

Following a Denver three-and-out, Los Angeles evened it at 10-10 on Hopkins' 37-yard field goal with 53 seconds remaining in the half. The Broncos were not content to run out the clock though. KJ Hamler hauled in a 47-yard pass to the LA 28. Denver got to the Chargers' nine-yard line before McManus was good from 27 yards.

The Chargers tied it on their first drive of the third quarter when Hopkins split the uprights from 31 yards.

The teams traded field goals in the fourth quarter. McManus was good from 48 yards after Baron Browning picked off Herbert. The Chargers answered with Hopkins making it from 35.



Benzema Is More of A Leader

MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema feels like he has grown into a team leader.

The striker, who joined Real Madrid in 2009, has developed into the side's figurehead since Cristiano Ronaldo left for Juventus in 2018.

Benzema won his first Ballon d'Or trophy on Monday night, celebrating his performances as he fired Madrid to a La Liga and Champions League double with 44 goals in 46 games.

"He's a player who has a lot more responsibility, he feels much more of a leader," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"His quality has not changed, it's the same as it was eight years ago. But his responsibility to the team has changed, and his attitude. He's much more of a leader."

Portugal striker Ronaldo won the trophy four times while at Real Madrid, becoming the club's all-time top goalscorer, with Benzema feeding him in a secondary role.

Manchester City, whom Real Madrid beat in the Champions League semi-finals, were given an award for being club of the year.



Klopp Charged After Red Card Against Man City

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has been charged with improper conduct following his outburst at the assistant referee during his side's 1-0 Premier League win against Manchester City at the weekend, the Football Association (FA) said.

Klopp was sent to the stands for confronting the official after Liverpool's Mohamed Salah was denied a free kick late in the second half at Anfield.

"Jurgen Klopp has been charged with a breach of FA Rule E3 following the Premier League game between Liverpool FC and Manchester City FC on Sunday 16/10/22," the FA said in a statement.

"It is alleged that the Liverpool FC manager's behaviour during the 86th minute of this game was improper, and he has until Friday 21/10/22 to provide a response."

The decision means that the German is free to take charge of his side when they host West Ham United.

Liverpool are eighth in the league standings with 13 points from nine games, two points ahead of 12th-placed West Ham.

Messi Names France And Brazil as Favorites To Win World Cup

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Argentina captain Lionel Messi has said defending champions France and Brazil are the favorites to win the World Cup in Qatar as they have a core group of players who have played together for a long time.

Messi said Brazil, Germany, France, England and Spain are always labelled favourites to win but the 35-year-old forward feels France and Brazil are the best two teams going into the Nov. 20-Dec. 18 tournament.

"We always say the same great teams ... but, if I have to choose, Brazil and France are the two great candidates to win the World Cup," Messi told DIRECTV Sports.

"They've had the same group (of players) for a long time, working well. France, aside from the last Euros when they were eliminated (in the last 16) and did badly, they have some impressive players.

"They have a clear idea and the same coach (Didier Deschamps). Brazil is a bit the same (under Tite)."

Messi did not mention Argentina, who are unbeaten in 35 matches, among the favourites even though Lionel Scaloni's side won the Copa America last year by beating Brazil in the final.

But Argentina have been recently hampered by injuries to key players Paulo Dybala and Angel Di Maria.

Scaloni described club football's fixture congestion in October as "terrible" but urged his players not to hold back to avoid the risk of injury ahead of the World Cup.

"We are in quite a difficult stage. The players are playing a lot of games," Scaloni told AFAestudio. "There can be problems as there are injuries (and) suspensions. It's part of being an elite player and a national team player.

"I worry, but there is little you can do. I believe that the player has to go out on the pitch to play and not think about what's coming - it can be detrimental. Let them play naturally."

Argentina face the United Arab Emirates in November in their final warm-up match before heading to the World Cup where they play their opening Group C game against Saudi Arabia on Nov. 22. Mexico and Poland are the other teams in the group.



Ten Hag Understanding Of Ronaldo Reaction To Substitution

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said he has no problem with Cristiano Ronaldo's protests at being substituted during the Red Devils' 0-0 draw with Newcastle.

Ronaldo was handed his first Premier League start since an embarrassing 4-0 thrashing by Brentford in August, but was hauled off on Sunday with United chasing a winner 18 minutes from time.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner showed his disgust with the decision as he trudged off the field shaking his head.

"I think no player is happy when he comes off and especially not Ronaldo. I understand that," said Ten Hag at his pre-match press conference ahead of Tottenham's visit to Old Trafford.

"As long as it's a quiet normal way, no problem with that. Of course he is convinced he should stay on and he should score a goal. That's why he is that good."

The decision to withdraw Ronaldo was questioned by some United fans after his replacement, Marcus Rashford, headed wide a glorious chance to win the game in stoppage time.

But Ten Hag believes his side should have already been in front when Ronaldo had a goal ruled out early in the second half.

The Portuguese believed he was entitled to roll the ball into an unguarded net after Fabian Schar appeared to play a free-kick back towards Newcastle goalkeeper Nick Pope.

However, referee Craig Pawson was still indicating for an indirect free-kick to be taken by Pope. United have been charged by the Football Association after a number of players surrounded Pawson in protest, with Ronaldo shown a yellow card.

"I must say, I don't think it was too strong," Ten Hag added on the charge.

"It wasn't really aggressive but I don't know what's happening exactly on the pitch because I was too far away.

"I've seen it back on the video. There was a touch from the Newcastle player, that was quite clear and they went to go to the ref to ask about (it)."

