

**Iranian Foreign Minister on Thursday Categorically Rejected Drone Deliveries to Russia to Use In the Ukraine War, Adding That The Islamic Republic of Iran Is Trying to Stop the Conflict in Ukraine Through Diplomacy**

# IRAN NEWS

**Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi Said on Friday That the Enemies' Plan and Strategy Are To Halt or Delay the Islamic Republic of Iran's Progress**

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## U.S., UK, Saudi Arabia Warned Against Interfering in Iran Domestic Affairs



**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has strongly warned against any foreign interference in the country's domestic affairs, saying the enemies will receive a severe blow should they make any move against the Iranian nation.

Major General Hossein Salami raised the alarm as he

addressed a gathering of scholars, instructors and students of the Qom Islamic Seminary in the holy city on Thursday, which was held in condemnation of recent riots in Iran.

Violent protests broke out across the country following the death of a 22-year-old woman of Kurdish descent, named Mahsa Amini, in hospital three days after she collapsed at a police station in Tehran despite resuscitation efforts and intensive medical care.

Amini's death on September 16 was swiftly exploited by Western-based media outlets and Saudi-backed television networks, which claimed that she had been "murdered" by police forces without providing any convincing evidence.

"Stop meddling in our country's internal affairs," Salami said in a stern warning to Iran's enemies.

"I say to the Saudi regime to take refuge in [your] glass palaces. This is our warning. Your house is made of a spider web. You have relied on Israel, which is collapsing, and this is your fate," the chief commander of the IRGC said in reference to Saudi Arabia's anti-Iran campaign during the recent riots.

Salami warned the U.S. and the UK against any anti-Iran moves, saying, "Americans and the British should also know and stop doing this. You have not been able to implement the sanctions, you hit the ships, we also hit them, whatever move you make against the Iranian nation, you will receive blows several times."

The top general pointed to the enemies' back-to-back defeats in the face of the Iranian people and said they failed to achieve their goals in their latest attempts as well.

He added that the foes' attempts to close the universities are aimed at preventing Iran's scientific momentum.

Referring to the recent unrest in Iran, General Salaami said that the enemies want to stop Iran's growing movement, hence they tried to close the universities to constitute a halt to the country's scientific momentum.

He highlighted that closing universities and schools is what the U.S. wants because they know knowledge has grown from these places and Iran is underway of achieving great human accomplishments.

This time, the arrogance put its target in the highest position and tried to bring down the Islamic System, but they once again experienced a massive failure, he underlined.

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### Tehran Slams West's Politicizing of Women's Right

**IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK**

TEHRAN - Iranian envoy to the UN has condemned certain Western states for politicizing the issue of women's rights, stressing that Iranian women know how to peacefully engage with government and are in no need of caretaker.

Speaking at Thursday's UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security, Iran's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations Zahra Ershadi slammed West's efforts to politicize the issue of women's rights in Iran.

"I would like to respond to certain Western countries that have misused this chamber to make unfounded allegation against my country while claiming the support the right of Iranian women," she said. **See Page 7**

### ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

### Double Standard In EU Style

In recent days European Union members with some remarks and decisions have awakened independent minds and consciences and these countries have revealed their interventionist and meddling approaches regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran and they once again displayed the European way of double standard.

On Monday, EU slapped new sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran under the pretext of rights violation. The sanctions targeted a section of Iran's security forces, the Basij volunteer forces, and the cyber division of the country's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The bloc also listed Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Issa Zarepour for an alleged internet shutdown. The coercive measures include travel bans and asset freezes. All these sanctions are because of recent riots and clashes in Iran.

Reacting to this unfair and absurd sanctions, Iran's top human rights official slammed the European Union's double standard toward the issue of human rights, as the bloc slapped new sanctions on the Islamic Republic under the pretext of rights violation.

Secretary General of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi said that the European Union imposes sanctions on protectors of the Iranian people's security and safety in the face of recent Western-backed riots, but harbors the terrorists who have "murdered 17,000 innocent Iranians," as he referred to the anti-Iran terrorist cult of the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO).

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

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

After it was founded more than 50 years ago, the MKO launched a campaign of bombings and assassinations in Iran. Out of the nearly 17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks over the past four decades, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the group's acts of terror. The ill-famed terror group is currently based in Albania, where it enjoys freedom of activity after being delisted by the European Union and the United States in 2009 and 2012 respectively. **See Page 7**



**Iran Alloy Steel Company**  
An exemplary exporter of the country's steel industry

**Exports of more than 46 thousand tons of products in 1400**

45 percent increase in exports in 1400 compared to the previous year. The company's products are exported in heat-treatable steel groups, spring, microalloy, well-turned, stainless, etc., in addition to covering the needs of the market. Domestic, to European countries and it is exported to Asian countries such as Belgium, Holland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, Russia, etc.

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### Iran, Russia Reject Claims on Using Iran Drones in Ukraine

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran and Russia have rejected baseless allegations that Tehran supplied Moscow with a fleet of drones for use in the war in Ukraine.

Speaking to reporters after a Security Council closed-door meeting on Wednesday, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Amir Saeed Iravani categorically rejected "unfounded and unsubstantiated" claims that Tehran has transferred UAVs to Moscow for use in the war in Ukraine.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a clear and consistent position on the situation in Ukraine which has been pronounced since the start of the conflict," he said.

The Islamic Republic, he added, has always emphasized that all UN members must fully respect the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter as well as applicable international law, including sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity.

As a country that has experienced eight years of imposed war and aggression, Iran has "consistently advocated for peace and the immediate end to the conflict in Ukraine," urging the engaged parties to exercise restraint, avoid escalation of tension and engage in a meaningful process for settling the dispute through peaceful means while also addressing the root causes of the situation, the diplomat said. **See Page 7**

## Tehran Condemns French Police Use of Violence

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has condemned the use of violence by the French police against peaceful protests across the country amid a wave of nationwide strikes over low wages and inappropriate working conditions.

"We are closely monitoring the popular protests and widespread strikes in France, which are based on the peaceful demands of the citizens of the country," Nasser Kanaani said.

"We condemn the use of force and violence for returning the strikers to work with no regard for their demands as well as the violent confrontation of the French police with the protesters," he added.

## FM Reaffirms Opposition To Any Changes in Regional Borders

**TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian reaffirms Iran's opposition to implementation of any changes to the regional countries' internationally-recognized contours.**

Amirabdollahian made the remarks to his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan in Yerevan on Thursday. The Iranian top diplomat has travelled to the Armenian capital at the head of a political delegation at Mirzoyan's invitation.

Discussing regional developments with Mirzoyan, the Iranian official said the Islamic Republic was "unequivocally opposed" to any violation of the regional states' official borders.

He termed Iran's objection to transgression of the regional borders as the country's "principled perspective."

The remarks were made against the backdrop of another deadly flare-up between Armenia and its estranged neighbor Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but has been populated by ethnic Armenians.

Last month, simmering tensions between the neighbors caused a fresh escalation over the region, leaving nearly 100 soldiers dead on both sides. This was the most recent conflict between the Caucasus' countries since thousands were killed in a



44-day war over the territory that ended in November 2020.

Amirabdollahian had likewise underlined the stance during a meeting with Georg Papuyan, the visiting head of the Iran-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group, in Tehran earlier this month.

During the Thursday meeting, the Iranian and Armenian officials also discussed the issue of the bilateral ties.

Amirabdollahian pointed to the countries' age-old relations, underlining the need for the ties' enhancement as well as their "redefinition" across various scopes, especially in the area of "economic and transit cooperation."

The official said the current \$700-million level of the bilateral trade could be elevated to \$1 billion given the capacities that are available to either country.

The Armenian official, for his part, expressed gratitude towards the Islamic Republic over its stances concerning various regional subject matters.

He also laid emphasis on the need for continuation and further development of the mutual relations, especially regarding transit cooperation through the north-south corridor.

## Canada Imposes

### New Anti-Iran Sanctions in Support of Rioters

TEHRAN (MNA) - Canada imposed illegal sanctions on six Iranian individuals and four entities for alleged defending human rights.

In continuation of the western countries' hostile and futile moves against Iran, Canada announced new sanctions on 10 Iranian individuals and entities.

The move came after similar moves by other western countries including the EU member states, the UK and the United States which seems to be a part of a scenario with the aim of putting more pressure on Iran to give in to their demands in the talks on removing the sanctions.

The list of 6 individuals sanctioned by the Canada foreign ministry includes Iran's Deputy Interior Minister Seyed Majid Mirahmadi; Mohammad Karami, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Operational Base in Sistan and Baluchistan; Ezzatollah Zarghami, former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Corporation; Heshmatollah Falahatpishheh, former head of the Iranian National Security and Foreign Policy Commission; Soghra Khodadadi Taghanaki, current director of Qarchak Women's Prison; and Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei, former speaker of the Constitutional Council.

The Guardian Council, Assembly of Experts, Expediency Discernment Council, and Fars News Agency are also the sanctioned entities.

## Iran Ready to Use All Its Capacities to Bring an End to War in Europe

### IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ibrahim Raisi says the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes war and conflict in Europe and is ready to use all its capacities, including in the diplomatic sphere, in bringing an end to it.

In a phone call with his Polish counterpart on Wednesday in which the two discussed strengthening bilateral relations and the Ukraine conflict, President Raisi dismissed accusations leveled against Iran by the Western countries regarding the Ukraine conflict, and said that the Islamic Republic is ready to use all its means to play a role in ending the war in Europe through diplomacy.

President Raisi assured Andrzej Duda that "the Islamic Republic of Iran will use all its capacity and potential to end the war."

"In light of the current circumstances, both Tehran and Warsaw should seek to improve economic and trade relations by providing appropriate solutions," Raisi added.

For his part, Duda stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought to expand and promote peace and stability in the world and called for enhancing the level of cooperation between the two countries on both bilateral and international stages.

The US and the European Union have repeatedly made allegations that Iran has been providing weapons and drones to Russia for deployment against Ukraine.

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

On Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said such allegations against Iran were made on the basis of "misinformation and ill-intentioned presumptions."

He pointed out that these claims were being circulated as part of a political and goal-oriented campaign led by some countries' media outlets.

Kanaani assured that Iran was ready to hold dialog with Ukraine towards nullification of the allegations.

## Iran Envoy Dismisses Ukraine's Accusations Tehran Violated UN Resolution

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations refutes Ukraine's allegation that the Islamic Republic violated a UN resolution by, what Kiev calls, providing Russia with drones.

Amir-Saeid Irvani made the remarks in a letter to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the world body's Security Council (UNSC) on Thursday.

The envoy submitted the letter after Ukraine's UN Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya wrote to Guterres and Security Council members, alleging that the Islamic Republic had "violated" the UNSC Resolution 2231 by allegedly transferring unmanned aerial vehicles to Russia, which is conducting a military operation in the ex-Soviet republic.

The letter obtained by the Associated Press alleges that Iran had violated the resolution by breaching the Paragraph 6 of its Annex B that used to ban Tehran from selling "uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) systems having a range equal to or greater than 300 kilometers (186 miles)." Kyslytsya also invited UN experts to visit his country to ascertain, what he called, Iran-built drones being used by Russia in the military operation.

Responding to Kiev's allegations, Irvani noted that the restrictions mentioned in the Annex B of the UNSC resolution had "ended in October 2020." "Since then, none of Iran's actions towards provision, selling or transfer of weapons or related materials to other countries has been subject to the resolution," he added.

The Ukrainian official also accused Iran of breaching the Paragraph 4 of Annex B, which bans development of nuclear-capable missile systems.

Irvani also condemned the Ukrainian official's latter claim as "wrongful and arbitrary interpretation" of the resolution and Paragraph 4's "spirit."

The Islamic Republic "has neither provided, nor intends to provide [any foreign party] with items, materials, equipment, commodities, and technology that contribute to development of nuclear weapons."

Ukraine's invitation of UN experts towards examination of Iran's so-called violation of Resolution 2231 is, therefore, "lacking in all legal foundation within Resolution 2231's framework," the Iranian official asserted.

The official called on the UN secretary-general to prevent any "misuse" of the resolution in relation to the war in Ukraine. He finally called on the world body to confront such unfounded anti-Iranian allegations.

## Security, Peace, National Interests Iran's Red Line

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Commander of the IRGC Ground Forces said Thursday Iran's national security and interests are a red line highlighting the importance of the drill in northern borders.

Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, Commander of the IRGC Ground Forces made the remarks on the sidelines of his forces' major military exercise in the Aras region dubbed Eghtedar (Might or Power) in Ardabil and East Azarbaijan Provinces.

Thursday was the fourth day of the Eghtedar drill which began on Monday in the overall Aras River region at the northern borders.

Pakpour said that the last stage of the drill would be held in Moghan region in Ardabil, adding that "Various exercise programs are on the agenda, but their place and time depends on the sensitivity of the region."

"Aras and Caucasus region also have the same sensitivities, when the Karabagh region was under occupation, we gave

several martyrs by sending troops, but I will not accept it in any way if there is a change in the geopolitical borders," the IRGC senior commander further warned.

"Our enemy, namely the Zionist regime, in the form of various companies, is setting up a base in some of our neighboring countries on the northern borders, and we will definitely not allow this criminal regime to have a base on our borders."

"Wherever the Islamic Republic feels a threat, it sends a huge number of armed forces to that area and deploys them there, indicating the power of the Iranian armed forces," Pakpour said.

"We are serious about our national interests and national security, and we do not accept any change in the borders that would harm our national interests and national security," he further underlined.

He further thanked the people of the region for their hospitality during the drill.

## Iran Slaps Retaliatory Sanctions on British Officials

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign ministry has slapped sanctions against a number of

British individuals and entities for their support of terrorism, inciting violence, and violating human rights.

In a statement, Iran's Foreign Ministry announced the embargoes as a "tit for tat" move against the sanctions that have been imposed by some European countries on Iran.

The sanctions are imposed on the British entities "due to their intentional actions in supporting terrorism and terrorist groups, promoting and inciting terrorism, violence, and hatred, and violating human rights," reads part of the statement.

The measures by the listed entities have led to "riots, violence, and terrorist acts" against the Iranian nation, the ministry added.

Reminding the British government of its international commitments to confront terrorism, hatred and, rights abuse, the Iranian Foreign Ministry noted that failing to confront the actions of the named entities or facilitating their measures amount to a gross violation of the UK's commitments in the international arena.

The statement went on to name three entities and nine individuals that have been blacklisted under the Islamic Republic of Iran's sanctions regime.

The named entities include the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and Government

Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) as well as Volant Media, Global Media, and DMA Media and anti-Iranian TV channels that they support namely, BBC Persian and Iran International.

According to the statement, sanctions have been imposed on Minister of State for Security Tom Tugendhat, Royal Navy Commodore Don MacKinnon, Chair of the Labour Friends of Israel in House of Commons Steve McCabe, Chair of Conservative Friends of Israel in House of Commons Stephen Crabb, and honorary chair of Conservative Friends of Israel in House of Lords Stuart Polak.

The sanctions have also targeted Conservative member of the House of Commons Bob Blackman, Member of the House of Commons and former secretary of State for environment Theresa Villiers, British politician Anthea McIntyre, and former Chief of the General Staff General Mark Carleton-Smith. The sanctions will bar the targeted individuals from obtaining visas and entering Iran and will freeze their assets and bank accounts inside Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also noted that it holds the UK government to account for supporting terrorists and human rights violators who are "organizing and inciting riots and terrorist acts" in Iran from UK soil.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:39
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:54
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:18

93. But (later generations) cut off their affair (of unity), one from another:

(yet) will they all return to Us.

94. Whoever works any act of righteousness and has faith.- His endeavour will not be rejected: We shall record it in his favour.

Surah 21. The Prophets (93 - 94)

## Minister in Qatar to Discuss Transport Ties

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - A senior Iranian government minister has travelled to Qatar to discuss increased transport ties with the Arab country just ahead of the World Cup 2022 tournament in Qatar.**

Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development (MRUD) Rostam Ghassemi arrived in the Qatari capital Doha to hold meetings with senior government officials, said the MRUD in a report.

The report said Ghassemi will discuss initiatives between Iran and Qatar to better handle civil aviation and maritime transport issues during the one-month World Cup event that starts in Qatar on November 21.

It said talks will also focus on preparations for the presence of Iranian fans in Qatar during the tournament, including match ticket quotas that will be assigned to the Iranians.

Senior transport ministry officials as well as representatives from Iran's ministries of sports and tourism are accompanying Ghassemi in his visit to Qatar, added the report.

Qatar's official QNA news agency said in a report that Ghassemi had met Qatar's



Minister of Transport Jassim bin Said Al Sulaiti.

The report said the two officials discussed efforts to boost bilateral cooperation between Iran and Qatar in the fields of transport, marine navigation, commercial ports, air transport, and civil aviation.

Iran and Qatar have expanded their economic and trade ties in recent years, especially since a political dispute erupted between Qatar and several Arab countries in the region in August 2019.

The two countries, which share the ownership of the world's largest gas reserve in the Persian Gulf, have deepened their warm ties even after the regional dispute was resolved early this year and in the run-up to the World Cup tournament.

Iran has vowed to provide logistical support to Qatar to help the small country better prepare for the prestigious international event.

## Iran's Alloy Steel Accounts for 1m Ton of Total World Production

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Iran Alloy Steel Company Eng. Alireza Chaychi believes alloy steel industry is one of the pillars of the country's export and economy.



Speaking in an interview and when he was asked about Iran's share of alloy steel production in the world, he said that some 1.8 to 1.9 billion tons of crude steel are produced in the world per year, and the share of alloy steel (in two groups of flat and long) is about 11-13 percent of the total production of crude steel. He added that Iran's share in the production of alloy steel is over one million, reiterating due to the country's need of profitable industries, it is needed some programs for developing this.

Touching upon the position of Iran Alloy Steel Company in the world and its growth, he said: Due to the quality of the products produced by Iran Alloy Steel Company and the completeness of the product portfolio, this company has a special position in the Asian, regional and especially in European export markets, and the IASCO brand is one of the most well-known and reliable brands accepted by these markets, and fortunately, the trend of demand for Iran's alloy steel products with the brand of this company is facing more and more success and is growing.

Chaychi then talked about the role of alloy steel in exports and national economy and said: Along with the role of the steel industry in the country's economic development, especially in recent years and in field of exports, the alloy steel industry, as one of the pillars of the country's export and economy, is very obvious and vital in such a way that not only will meet domestic needs, it will be effective in self-sufficiency, localization and development of the country's industries and it will lead to forex earnings.

On the role of creating jobs, he said: Based on the estimates made, for every ten jobs in steel production, about 13 jobs are created in the value chain, and Iran Alloy Steel Company, with the employment of more than 2 thousand people, has provided employment opportunities for more than 30 thousand jobs in the value chain. Of course, with the development projects being completed and implemented, job creation will be much more than this.

On the performance of the company in comparison to its rivals in the region and neighboring states, Chaychi said: "As mentioned in the previous questions, considering the quality and special position of the Iran Alloy Steel Company brand in overseas markets and the acceptance that this company's products have gained in all high-tech industries compared to many active competitors in the Middle East and especially Iran's neighboring countries have performed well. The volume of exports and the ever-increasing demand for Iran Alloy Steel Company's products, even from countries with alloy steel production technology, confirm the very good performance of the company."

On the role of knowledge-based in this industry, he said: "Today, the role of modern, high-tech and science-creating technologies in the development of industries and the rate of growth of any country is undeniable. This is important, especially in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which always cultivates mature specialists with modern knowledge. Knowledge-based companies can be in the fields of creating Development of technologies with complex technology and creation of added value for the country, localization and self-sufficiency of equipment and goods needed by domestic industries and even their export, followed by the export of services and technology to play a constructive role in the country's industries, especially the strategic steel industry. It is worth mentioning. Iran Alloy Steel Company has also succeeded in obtaining the title of knowledge-based in the field of the production of alloy steels with added value, and in this regard it also plays a role in the development of domestic industries."

## Mining Reference Lab to Be Launched in East Azarbaijan

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) says the company seeks to launch a mineral reference lab in the northwest and mainly in East Azarbaijan Province.

In the meeting of the industry and mine commission of Tabriz Chamber of Commerce and in presence of some government officials and representatives of East Azarbaijan Province in Majlis, Dr. Ali Rostami said that NICICO wants to launch a mineral reference lab in the province.

He pointed to the safe profit margin of copper industry and occupation of 28,000 people in this company. He also pointed to the low number of mining engineering



and exploration company and said that Azarbaijan Province with its high scientific and human capacities in the field of

mining should have more engineering companies in the field of mining engineering and exploration and in case of formation of this type of companies, they can push Sungun Copper Complex for holding tenders between engineering and exploration companies in this province.

Rostami added that to materialize the planned goals in this province, some one million ton of concentrate more is need to be produced and for producing this amount of concentrate, 40,000 tomans investment more is underway.

He also announced readiness of NICICO for developing investment in the downstream of copper industry in the cooperation form with the private and cooperative sectors.

He then pointed to some projects of the company which are underway like road construction, sport clubs and urban wastewater systems.

## Thwarting Sanctions Through Increasing Exports of Persian Gulf Star Refinery



The CEO of Persian Gulf Star Oil Company said: Despite the imposition of cruel sanctions against the country and placing the Persian Gulf Star Refinery on the global sanctions list, the profitability of the world's largest gas condensate refinery has increased significantly. According to the public and international relations report of the Persian Gulf Star Oil Company, Alireza Jafarpour congratulated the National Export Day and said: Persian Gulf Star Oil Company, in addition to fulfilling the mission of self-sufficiency and providing the country's fuel basket, is also one of the largest exporters of petroleum products in the Middle East region.

And despite the Persian Gulf Star Refinery being on the list of sanctions, with strategic approaches and planning, the company's exports through sea borders have prospered and a large amount of special products produced by the refinery, respecting the interests and interests of the company and maintaining national authority, from This route has been exported and has brought profit and currency for the country. He added: «Persian Gulf Star Oil Company is trying to find the export target points and applicant countries by solving the problems and bottlenecks in the export route with the cooperation of relevant bodies in order to expand the activities of foreign investors in the export field and create new export capacities by excelling in The export sector has identified and made this important as its work and organizational development goal. Referring to the importance of companies' exports as an economic engine and the key to their survival in global markets, Jafarpour said: October 29, the National Export Day, should be a symbol of honoring the efforts made by the young and expert workforce in line with Implementation of the slogan of the year «Production; knowledge-based and job-creating» and the effects of sanctions should be downplayed. By adopting practical policies in supply and demand management, these expert and capable youths have strengthened export capacities and provided a way to penetrate and be present in global markets and have become the basis for increasing negotiations and the development of targeted marketing. In the end, the CEO of Persian Gulf Star Oil Company said: This company has had the largest volume of sea exports of various special products produced by the refinery during the last 6 months of this year.



## Aluminum Output Up 22.5% in H1 Fiscal Year

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian aluminum smelters have reported a major surge in their output in the first half of the calendar year starting late March, according to figures by Iran's state metals and mining holdings IMIDRO.

IMIDRO figures covered in Thursday report by the ISNA news agency showed that four Iranian smelters had churned out a total of 318,091 metric tons (mt) of aluminum ingot in the six months to September 22.

The figure is an increase of 22.5% compared with March-September 2021 when IMIDRO had reported a half year output of 259,574 mt.

The South Aluminum Corporation (Salco), Iran's largest smelter which launched only three years ago, was responsible for 137,351 or over 43% of Iran's total aluminum output in the six months to late September, showed the figures.

They showed that the March-September production at Iran's second and third largest aluminum smelters Iralco and Almahdi reached 88,111 mt and 74,543 mt, respectively.

Iran's production of alumina powder, the key ingredient in aluminum manufacturing process, rose just 2% year on year in the six months to late September to reach 118,845 mt, according to the IMIDRO figures.

Iran's Alumina Company is the single producer of alumina powder and bauxite, the main aluminum ore, in the country.

IMIDRO figures showed that bauxite production in the company had declined against March-September 2021 to stand at 261,009 mt.

## Oil Products Exports Rise 40% in Value Terms in H1

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has reported a major surge in the value of its petroleum products exports in the first half of the calendar year 1401 which began in late March.

Hamid Hosseini, board director at Iran's Association of Oil Products Exporters, said on Wednesday that exports of products manufactured in the downstream section of the Iranian petroleum sector had amounted to some \$15 billion in the six months to September 22.

Hosseini said the figure was an increase of 40% compared with the same period in 2021.

He said, however, that oil products exports from Iran had declined by 20% in volume terms year on year in March-September to stand at 26 million metric tons.

Major export products included liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), polymers, methanol, bitumen and industrial lubricants, said the Iranian businessman.

Customs figures show oil products exports were responsible for nearly 55% of total exports reported by Iran for the calendar year 1400.

Those exports earnings helped the country better cope with the economic impacts of US sanctions that have targeted its trade of crude oil. Iran has introduced various measures to boost non-oil exports in recent years, including to grant tax exemptions, prizes and cheap loans to major exporters.

Analysts say the policy has clearly paid off as Iran reached a value of \$48 billion in annual exports in the past calendar year despite suffering from severe trade restrictions imposed by the US.

## Sherman to Discuss N.Korea, China, Taiwan in Tokyo Visit

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman will discuss North Korea's recent missile launches, China and tensions over Taiwan, in meetings with her Japanese and South Korean counterparts in Tokyo next week, a senior State Department official said on Thursday.

Sherman's Oct. 24-26 Tokyo trip will include a trilateral meeting with Japanese and South Korean counterparts and bilateral meetings with each country, the official told reporters. "We will discuss a range of issues, including the DPRK's numerous ballistic missile launches this year, the PRC, and Russia's unprovoked and devastating war against Ukraine," the official said, referring to North Korea and China by the initials of their official names.



## Brazil's Lula, Bolsonaro Statistically Tied in Presidential Race

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Brazil's presidential race has narrowed to a 4-percentage-point gap between leftist front-runner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and far-right incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro, and they are now statistically tied, according to a poll published.

Datafolha said Lula now has 49% of voter support against 45% for Bolsonaro less than two weeks from the second-round runoff on Oct. 30, compared to 49% and 44% respectively in the previous poll five days ago.

The poll has a margin of error of 2 percentage points up or down, meaning both could mathematically be tied at 47%.



## Truss Quits After Six Chaotic Weeks as UK PM



LONDON (Dispatches) - Liz Truss quit on Thursday after the shortest, most chaotic tenure of any British prime minister, forced out after her economic programme shattered the country's reputation for financial stability and left many people poorer.

The Conservative Party, which holds a big majority in parliament and need not call a nationwide election for another two years, will now elect a new leader by Oct. 28 - Britain's fifth prime minister in six years.

That contest is likely to pit ex-finance minister Rishi Sunak against Penny Mordaunt, but could also see the return of Boris Johnson, who was ousted as prime minister in July when his ministers resigned en masse to force him out of office.

The sight of yet another unpopular prime minister making a resignation speech in Downing Street - and the start of a new leadership race - underscores just how volatile British politics has become since the 2016 vote to leave the European Union.

Speaking outside the door of her Number 10 office, Truss accepted that she had lost the faith of her party and would step down next week. The pound rallied as she spoke.

"I have therefore spoken to His Majesty the King to notify him that I am resigning as leader of the Conservative Party," said Truss, who was supported only by her husband with her aides and loyal ministers noticeably absent.

Allied leaders said they would continue to work with her successor and emphasised the importance of stability.

Bar chart showing the tenure lengths of British prime ministers since 1970.

Truss was elected in September to lead the Conservative Party by its members, not the broader electorate, and with support from only around a third of the party's lawmakers.

She had promised tax cuts funded by borrowing, deregulation and a sharp shift to the right on cultural and social issues.

But within weeks she was forced to sack her finance minister and closest political ally, Kwasi Kwarteng, and abandon almost all her economic program after their plans for vast unfunded tax cuts crashed the pound and sent British borrowing costs and mortgage rates soaring.

Approval ratings for her and the party collapsed.

On Wednesday she lost the second of the government's four most senior ministers, faced laughter as she tried to defend her record to parliament and saw her lawmakers openly quarrel over policy, deepening the sense of chaos at Westminster.

New finance minister Jeremy Hunt is now racing to find tens of billions of pounds of savings to try to reassure investors and rebuild Britain's fiscal reputation.

With the economy heading into recession and inflation running at a 40-year high, millions of Britons are struggling with a cost-of-living crisis.

Hunt, who has ruled himself out of the leadership race, is due to deliver a new budget on Oct. 31 that is likely to cut spending on public services that are already showing clear signs of strain.

One senior Conservative lawmaker said Sunak and Mordaunt were willing to keep Hunt as their finance minister.

One of the most contentious issues facing the Conservatives is how they elect a new leader, after the party's 170,000 members chose Truss over the wishes of its elected lawmakers at Westminster. Groups within the party have battled over the direction of the country since the Brexit vote.

In previous contests the candidates were whittled down to two through a number of lawmaker votes over weeks, before the membership selected the winner. Many Conservative lawmakers say that cannot be allowed to happen again.

"Members can't have a say, we have to sort this out," one lawmaker said. Asked if the party could rebuild its reputation from this point, he added: "Never in a million years."

Organisers said that any candidate would need the backing of 100 lawmakers, and that if only one candidate passes that threshold by 2 p.m. (1300 GMT) on Monday they will automatically become prime minister. If two candidates remain, party members will get an online vote.

## Russia Says Philippines Should Honor Military Helicopters Deal

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia has told the Philippine government that it should honour a \$215m deal to buy 16 Russian military helicopters, which the country's former President Rodrigo Duterte cancelled due to fears of possible US sanctions imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Russian ambassador Marat Pavlov told reporters in Manila on Wednesday night that the Philippine government had not yet officially notified Moscow of its decision to cancel the purchase agreement, and a Russian company would continue to manufacture the Mi-17 helicopters that had been ordered.

The Philippine government made an initial payment and Filipino helicopter pilots had undergone Russian training, the ambassador said, adding that one of the completed Mi-17s had been ready for delivery since June.

"But, unfortunately, it was not accepted by your government," the ambassador told reporters.

"We are ready to fulfil all our obligations as a reliable partner of the Philippine side in the field of technical military cooperation and we consider that it will also be done by the Philippines," Pavlov said.



## Malaysia to Hold Elections on Nov 19

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysians will go to the polls in a month as the shaky coalition government of Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob attempts to win a solid mandate and bring an end to the political manoeuvring that has seen the country through three prime ministers in nearly as many years.

The federal election, which was not due until September 2023, will take place on November 19 after two weeks of campaigning, the Election Commission announced on Thursday. Elections for assemblies will also be held in some of the country's 13 states. About 21 million people are eligible to vote.

The last election in 2018 made history when the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) lost power for the first time in 60 years amid public anger over the multibillion-dollar corruption scandal at state fund 1MDB.

Voters this time appear more concerned about the cost of living amid rising prices and higher interest rates, but have also been annoyed by the jostling for power among politicians - even during the COVID-19 pandemic - which led first to the collapse of the elected Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition and then UMNO's return to government in administrations that have also proved unstable.

When Ismail Sabri dissolved parliament last week, just three days after his government had presented its 2023 budget, he said he hoped the election would end the instability that has plagued the country in recent years.

But analysts warn that another close race is likely and that could leave the newly elected government exposed when it comes to getting its budget through in parliament. "The same political instability is likely to persist and I don't see new leadership who can take the country to new economic heights," Oh Ei Sun, a senior fellow at the Singapore Institute for International Affairs, told Al Jazeera.

"It's an election without imagination. Without hope."

## Australia Committed to Military Cooperation With Indonesia

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Australia says it will continue to provide military training, conduct joint exercises and export weapons to Indonesia despite increased violence and allegations of human rights abuses in West Papua, in the far east of the archipelago, where conflict has been rumbling for decades.

The Australian Department of Defense confirmed in a statement to Al Jazeera that Anthony Albanese's government, which was elected in May, would continue to supply arms to Indonesian forces and provide them with military training.

"Indonesia is one of Australia's most important partners. Australia will continue to conduct joint exercises, provide military and policy training, and - consistent with appropriate legislation - export military equipment to Indonesia," the statement said.

Despite some rocky patches, Australia has had a longstanding military relationship with Indonesia, including joint training and weapons supply, with Thales Australia selling three Bushmaster troop carriers to Kopassus, Indonesia's elite forces, in 2014.

Military units, such as Kopassus, conduct joint training exercises with the Australian SAS, the country's special forces, while Detachment 88 - also known as Densus 88, a counterterrorism force set up in the wake of the 2002 Bali Bombings - gets funding and training from both Australia and the United States.

Such initiatives have been credited with reducing the threat from hardline groups, but Indonesian forces remain under scrutiny over allegations of serious human rights abuses in West Papua, where Indigenous people have been fighting for independence for 50 years.

Indonesia moved into the resource-rich region in the early 1960s, formalising its control through a controversial, United Nations-approved referendum in 1969.

Amid armed resistance from West Papuan independence fighters such as the Free Papua Movement, or Organisasi Papua Merdeka (OPM), which reportedly targeted Indonesian civilians, more military and special forces units were sent to the area.

Although the area was relatively peaceful during the presidency of Abdurrahman Wahid, Indonesian military engagement has remained during the administrations of other presidents, including President Joko Widodo, who is now in his second term.

A recent plan to create three new administrative regions in the area triggered peaceful protests in June where some 44 people were arrested. Amnesty International said the police responded with "an excessive use of force".

"The Indonesian government claims that it wants to 'develop' Papua and create prosperity for Papuans," said Amnesty's Indonesia Executive Director Usman Hamid. "But how can Papuans be prosperous if their attempts to express opinions and aspirations are met with violence."



## Chad Protest Clashes Leave About 30 Dead

N'DJAMENA (Dispatches)

- Deadly clashes between police and demonstrators protesting at the military's grip on power erupted in Chad, claiming "about 30" lives, including around 10 members of the security forces, according to an official toll.

Hundreds of demonstrators turned out in the capital N'Djamena to mark the date when the military had initially promised to hand over power -- a spell that has been extended for another two years.

"There were about 30 deaths, including about 10 among the security forces, and several injured," government spokesman Aziz Mahamat Saleh told AFP.

"A banned demonstration became an insurrection," he said. He accused demonstrators of attacking "public buildings", including the offices of the governor, the headquarters of the prime minister's party and that of the speaker of parliament.

An AFP reporter saw five bodies on the floor of the city's Union Chagoua Hospital, two of which were covered with the Chadian national flag and three with bloodied white sheets.

The head doctor, Joseph Ampil, later confirmed to AFP that five individuals had "died from gunshot".

Palls of black smoke could be seen in some parts of the city and the crack of teargas grenades could be heard.

Barricades were set up in several districts and tyres were set alight in the main avenues to block traffic.

In an opposition stronghold, streets were deserted and littered with tree branches and piles of bricks. Schools and university establishments were closed, and many traders in the city centre lowered their shutters.

The headquarters of Prime Minister Saleh Kebzabo's UNDR party was also attacked by demonstrators "and partially burned down", UNDR Vice President Celestin Topona told AFP.

France, Chad's former colonial power, condemned the violence, noting it featured "the use of lethal weapons against demonstrators".

"France is not playing any part in these events, which lie strictly in Chad's domestic political domain," the foreign ministry said.



## Renewables Shift Lays Bare Africa's Energy Dilemma

DAKAR (Dispatches) - Africa must build oil and gas pipelines, liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, distribution hubs and gas-fired power plants over the next 20 years to unlock its energy market of over 600 million people, officials, executives and analysts say.

But the rapid shift in the rest of the world towards renewable energy means that countries in the region that boast vast untapped hydrocarbon reserves and depend on exporting those resources for revenue and attracting investment funding, will face increasing challenges.

Some projects are underway, and more are needed, according to six officials, investors and experts, but challenges including financing, security and coordination are vast.

"We have been hearing that by 2030 developed nations will no longer need our oil and gas," Gabriel Mbagi Obiang Lima, Equatorial Guinea's hydrocarbons minister, told a recent oil conference in Senegal's capital, Dakar.

"The question is, what are we going to do if we can no longer sell to Europe, America or Asia?"

At least eight memorandums of understanding (MOU) have been signed in recent weeks for major oil and gas infrastructure networks that would criss-cross the continent, targeting export, domestic, and regional markets.

Obiang Lima said that by 2030, African fossil fuel producers' main market will be Africa itself, and without it they were likely to be left with stranded assets.

He was presenting the Central Africa Pipeline System (CAPS), a new 6,500-km oil and gas network with hubs, terminals, and storage facilities expected to stretch from Chad to Angola and inland into Rwanda.

"The objective of the project is to create areas where we can transport, store, distribute and create petroleum hubs. The best example of this is Rotterdam," he said.

Other projects include a trans-Sahara gas project involving Nigeria, Algeria, and Niger who have revived decades-old talks. The 4,000 km, \$13 billion pipeline could send up to 30 billion cubic meters a year of gas to Europe.

Senegal and Mauritania on Oct. 15, signed four MOUs with Nigeria and Morocco for the estimated \$25 billion Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline project, while construction is underway on the 2,000 km Niger-Benin oil pipeline.

Africa holds around 13% of the world's natural gas and 7% of its oil but has the world's lowest per capita energy use.

Although renewables could play a major role in Africa's energy supply in the years ahead, governments say they need fossil fuels for baseload power generation that will power industries. Africa is home to 60% of the best solar resources globally, yet has only 1% of installed solar capacity.

Energy demand is expected to grow rapidly over the next two decades, 30% higher than today, compared with a 10% increase globally, consultancy McKinsey said in a report in June.

While projects like the trans-Sahara and Niger-Benin pipelines are focused on exports, potentially boosted by moves in Europe to wean itself off Russian energy, Obiang Lima and others said it was a chance to develop regional markets.

Besides the 678-km West Africa gas pipeline completed in 2008, linking Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana, few regional oil and gas projects exist to take products where they are needed.

Senegal, which joins the continent's oil and gas producing club next year, and others, have laid out gas development plans which include terminals, pipelines for domestic and regional markets, and conversion of coal-fired power plants to gas.



## Chemical Hair Straighteners May Cause Uterine Cancer

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Women who frequently use chemical hair straightening products could face more than twice the risk of uterine cancer compared to those who never use them, according to a new study published.

The findings, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, have particular relevance for Black women, who make up a majority of users of straightening products in the United States.

Scientists lauded the work, calling for action even though more work is required to confirm the conclusions, in what is an understudied area of research.

Lead author Alexandra White, a cancer epidemiologist with the National Institutes of Health led the study, told AFP it grew out of her previous research that found a link between permanent hair dye and straighteners and breast and ovarian cancers.

"We know that these straighteners contain many different chemicals, including endocrine disruptors, and we would expect them to have adverse health effects for hormone sensitive cancers," she said.

"That led us to extend our previous work, just focusing on uterine cancer."

Uterine cancer accounts for three per cent of all new cancers but is the most common cancer of the female reproductive system, with more than 65,000 new cases and 12,500 deaths are expected in 2022.

The outlook is generally good if the cancer is caught early, but treatment often involves removing the uterus, which would preclude child-bearing.

The new paper relied on data from more than 33,000 US women aged 35-74 who took part in the Sister Study, which is led by the government and designed to identify risk factors for cancer and other conditions.

Over the course of 11 years, 378 women developed uterine cancer, which primarily affects tissue lining the uterus called endometrium. Type 1, the most common form of the cancer, is thought to be linked to having too much of the sex hormone estrogen.

Women who reported using hair straightening products in the past year were almost twice as likely to develop uterine cancer compared to women that never used them, the researchers found.

The link was stronger still for frequent users — defined as more than four uses in the past 12 months. These women had around 2.5 times the risk of developing the cancer compared to women who never used the products.

No similar associations were found for other hair products including dyes, bleach, highlights, or perms. "The concern is that there are chemicals in these products that act essentially like estrogen in the body," said White, disrupting normal hormonal processes that could influence cancer risk.

A second possibility is that some products include carcinogens, such as formaldehyde, to break the bonds between keratin proteins in hair, which changes its structure and makes it straight.

Though the study did not specifically ask women what products they used, a particular keratin treatment known as "Brazilian blowouts" was popular at the time the women were enrolled for this study, between 2003 and 2009, though its use has decreased since.

White said one of the strengths of the study was that it asked women about the products years before they actually went on to develop cancer, which limits the possibility of people misremembering or wrongly attribute their exposures.

But a key limitation was they weren't able to collect information on the types of straighteners used or specific brands, which would have further strengthened evidence.



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## Poland Has No Ample Space to Hike Rates

WARSAW (Dispatches) - The Polish central bank does not have ample room to increase interest rates amid an expected economic slowdown, central banker Cezary Kochalski said. Poland's inflation would remain high in coming months and the first quarter of 2023 but would not exceed 20%, Kochalski told TVN24 television in an interview. Poland has plenty of room for interest rate rises, and a hike by 100 basis points might be needed in November, fellow central banker Joanna Tyrowicz was quoted as saying earlier on Tuesday. "I'm far from this opinion, it seems there's no room for that," Kochalski said commenting on Tyrowicz words.



## U.S. Says Russia Oil Price Cap Will Not Be Aimed at OPEC

LONDON (Dispatches) - New steps from Group of Seven countries to cap Russian oil sales at an enforced low price will not be replicated against OPEC producers, whose plans to cut output have irked consumer countries, a United States Treasury official told Reuters.

Washington has communicated to representatives of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reassure them of those limits to its plans, the official added.

The comments could help ease a spat between the United States and Saudi Arabia, the top oil exporter and de facto OPEC leader, over what Washington sees as collaboration with Russia to deprive markets of supply just as a global recession looms.

Tensions have simmered between consumer countries, such as the United States and oil producers over output policy, with sources telling Reuters that OPEC anger about the price cap plan was among the reasons for its decision to cut output.

OPEC+, which groups the producer bloc with allies, including Russia, announced last week that it would cut production by 2 million barrels per day to balance markets and quell volatility.

Saudi Arabia said the real reduction would likely be around 1 million barrels per day (bpd) as several OPEC members have struggled to meet their existing output targets.

The White House said the United States' analysis showed the cut could have waited until the next OPEC meeting, after the November U.S. midterm elections.

But OPEC officials did not link the move to the Russian oil price cap in their discussions with the United States, U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said last week.

The United States last week said the cut would boost Russia's revenue and suggested it had been engineered for political reasons by Saudi Arabia, which on Sunday denied it was supporting Moscow in its invasion of Ukraine.

The price cap due for Dec. 5 was designed specifically to address Russia's invasion of Ukraine and will not be carried over to other producers, the official added, as their moves to rein in output drive up prices.

Nor do the new sanctions signal the beginning of a buyer's cartel to counter the impact of OPEC policies on the oil market, the official, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the situation, said.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency grouping of consumer countries said last week that the OPEC+ cut has driven up prices and could push the global economy into recession.

But the U.S. Treasury official saw the cut's price impact as muted, saying it might take a \$30-\$40 price surge or an output cut 10 times the size of the actual cut to OPEC+ output of around 900,000 bpd to trigger a recession.

The G7 is keen to deprive Moscow of wartime revenues but seeks to avoid a global supply shock, which could raise prices and hit their own citizens as global recession fears deepen.

Agreed by G7 nations in September, the price cap plan faced clashing with much stricter European Union bans on Russian shipments ratified in June.

## Germany to Cap Electricity Prices by Taxing Excess Profits

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's government plans to introduce a cap on electricity prices for households and industry to ease the impact of soaring energy costs, a ministry document seen by Reuters showed.

To help finance the cap and pay for the stabilization of power transmission grids, Berlin is considering skimming off some electricity companies' profits, the document showed.

The scheme would also be financed by a 200 billion euro (\$196 billion) relief package Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government announced late last month to help households and companies cope with soaring energy prices in Europe's largest economy.

The document did not specify how much funds would be drawn from the package and how much from the profits levy.

The cap, which the draft did not quantify, would be based on historical annual electricity consumption. Its design would be similar to a price brake for gas, details of which the government announced earlier this month, the document showed.

But unlike the proposed relief for gas consumers, the draft does not include a one-off payment to cover one month's electricity bill this year.

As part of the plan, Berlin may skim off 90% of the power profits that electricity companies make above production costs, the paper showed. For spot prices, the levy would apply retroactively from March, and for future prices from December, it said.

Shares in RWE, Germany's largest power producer and one of the companies potentially affected, were 1.5% lower following the news. "We see some increased earnings risk, and, in our view, any retroactive changes in Germany would be both surprising and a clear negative signal to industry investment," Jefferies analysts wrote, keeping a "buy" rating on RWE.

The document, to be presented to Germany's cabinet on Nov. 18, said prompt and future power had been affected by runaway wholesale power prices as a lack of gas drove up prices. The overall energy scarcity also stretches to crude oil and coal.

The paper, from Germany's Economy Ministry, showed that power production from hard coal, gas and biomethane would not be included in the measures, due to their higher production costs.

Italy and Britain have implemented similar levies, while Spain has introduced a temporary one.

Last month, the European Commission set the framework for windfall profit levies on energy firms, but upon Germany's insistence the Commission left a lot of leeway for the bloc's members to design their own measures.



## U.S., Japan Agree To Partner On Advanced Air Mobility

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) agreed to partner on advanced air mobility certification and operations, the U.S. regulator said.

The two countries in Tokyo were set to sign a declaration of cooperation to support future aircraft development and operation and formalizing ongoing discussions on certifying and validating new aircraft, production, airworthiness, operations, and personnel licensing.

The announcement comes as companies around the world are racing to develop and eventually win regulatory approval to deploy air taxis known electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft (eVTOL).

"The FAA and the JCAB have enjoyed a long and strong working relationship, and that will extend into this new era of aviation," said Acting FAA Administrator Billy Nolen in a statement. "Close collaboration with our international partners is critical to successfully and safely integrating these new technologies."

The announcement follows the FAA's announced partnerships with the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in the National Aviation Authorities Network to harmonize certification and integration plans.

The low-altitude eVTOL urban air mobility aircraft has drawn a huge amount of interest around the world as numerous eVTOL companies have gone public.

Last week, Delta Air Lines (NYSE:DAL) said it invested \$60 million in air taxi startup Joby Aviation for a 2% equity stake, in a partnership that initially plans to offer passengers air taxi transport to and from airports in New York and Los Angeles.



Airlines and others are looking at developing transport services using battery-powered aircraft that can take off and land vertically to ferry travelers to airports or on short trips between cities, allowing them to beat traffic. Joby in May received its Part 135 Air Carrier Certification from the FAA, but before it can begin service will need additional regulatory approvals for its eVTOL aircraft, as well as for building airport infrastructure and so-called "Vertiports" in neighborhoods for takeoffs and landings. It hopes to receive approval to begin commercial flights in 2024.

## Soaring Food Prices Push UK Inflation Back to 40-Year High

LONDON (Dispatches) - The biggest jump in food prices since 1980 pushed British inflation back into double digits last month, matching a 40-year high hit in July in a new blow for households grappling with a cost-of-living crisis.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said the consumer price index (CPI) increased by 10.1% in annual terms in September. A Reuters poll of economists had pointed to a reading of 10.0%, after a 9.9% rise in August.

The pound slipped below \$1.13 on the news and was last down 0.2% on the day.

The figures hammered home the difficult environment for British households, especially those on the lowest incomes, who face new uncertainty about the extent of financial support available to them after recent government U-turns.

The Bank of England (BoE) will also feel under pressure to step up its interest rate hiking campaign next month in light of Wednesday's data.

Short-dated British government bond yields, which are sensitive to changes in interest rate expectations, rose strongly in early trading. Food and non-alcoholic beverages prices were the biggest driver of inflation in September as they rose by 14.5%, the biggest jump since April 1980 according to historical modelled estimates of the CPI.

Hotel prices also increased in September, the ONS said.

"Today's release highlights the danger that underlying inflation remains strong even as the economy weakens," said Paul Dales, chief U.K. economist at consultancy Capital Economics.

## ECB to Go Big Again on Oct. 27 With 75 bps Rate Hike

LONDON (Dispatches) - The European Central Bank will go for another jumbo 75 basis point increase to its deposit and refinancing rates when it meets on Oct. 27 as it tries to contain inflation running at five times its target, a Reuters poll found.

As in much of the world, euro zone inflation has soared on skyrocketing energy prices and supply chains still healing from the coronavirus pandemic have taken a further hit from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The ECB targets inflation at 2.0%, yet it was 10.0% last month. It will average at a peak of 9.6% this quarter, higher than thought last month, before gradually drifting down but will not reach target until late 2024, the poll found.

"Inflation is far too high. Rapid rate rises are needed. However, the ECB also needs to keep an eye on bond spreads, so more than 75bps seems unlikely," said Brian Martin at ANZ.

Much of the price pressure is coming from energy costs. With no end in sight to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, nearly 65% of 34 respondents said the cost of living in the euro zone would worsen or worsen significantly. Only 12 said it would improve.

"The worst impact of the energy crisis on the household sector will develop in Q4 2022 and Q1 2023, when the demand for gas is seasonally higher," said Luca Mezzomo at Intesa Sanpaolo.

In the run-up to winter, forecasters are expecting the ECB to be more aggressive in tightening policy.

The bloc's central bank will take the deposit rate to 1.50% and the refinancing rate to 2.00% next Thursday, a view held by an overwhelming majority of respondents in the Oct. 12-18 Reuters poll of more than 60 economists.

Three-quarters of respondents to an additional question, 27 of 36, said the bank ought to choose a 75 basis point lift to the deposit rate while two said it should go harder with a 100 basis point increase. Only seven recommended 50 basis points.

The ECB's first increase did not come until July, when it added 50 basis points to all its rates - taking the deposit rate to zero, its first time not in negative territory since 2014 - and followed that up with a 75 basis point lift in September.

That was slow compared to peers like the United States Federal Reserve, which has contributed to a fall in the euro to below parity to the U.S. dollar.

By year-end the deposit and refinancing rates were forecast to be at 2.00% and 2.50% respectively compared to 1.25% and 2.00% predicted in a September poll.

## Thai Growth Could Reach 3.5% This Year



BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Thailand should see economic growth of 3.0%-3.5% this year, driven by its key export and tourism sectors, a recovery that is best supported by gradual interest rate hikes, its finance minister said.

Arkhom Termpittayapaisith in an interview with Reuters said that a weak baht was helping exports, which should grow 8% this year, and tourism.

"The main drivers of growth are tourism and exports ... (private) consumption is also growing, but not too quickly," he said on the sidelines of a meeting of finance officials from the Asia-Pacific region.

The economy was expected to grow 3.7% next year, Arkhom said, adding he expected tourist arrivals of 8-10 million this year, which should double to 20 million in 2023, about half of the pre-pandemic figure.

Recent flooding in Thailand had not impacted the economy much, he said.

Arkhom said the Bank of Thailand (BOT)'s headline inflation target range of 1%-3% was still appropriate, despite consumer prices still exceeding the target.

Arkhom said the baht was still moving in line with regional peers, adding the central bank would only manage excessive moves in the currency.

The baht has been hovering at a 16-year low against the dollar and depreciated about 12% against the greenback so far this year.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy is expected to return to its pre-pandemic levels late this year or early next year, the central bank predicts, lagging neighbors as tourism has only recently begun to recover.

Last year's economic growth of 1.5% was among the slowest in the region, but the April-June period saw expansion of 2.5% from a year earlier and 0.7% from the previous quarter.

Arkhom said third-quarter economic growth should be faster as more foreign tourists returned.

Last month, the BOT raised its key interest rate for a second straight meeting, by a quarter point to 1.00%. Arkhom on Wednesday reiterated that rate hikes should be gradual and not aggressive as "we need to be confident that the economy will recover and (rates) won't add much costs to businesses".

## Health Official Sounds Alarm At Rising Influenza Cases

TEHRAN (IFP) - An Iranian health official sounds the alarm at a rising trend in infections with respiratory diseases ahead of the cold season, saying 334 cases of influenza have been recorded over the past week alone, including fatalities.

Ebrahim Ghaderi, a senior official with the Health Ministry's Center of Communicable Disease Control, told Khabaronline news website that this

year, the country is bracing for not just influenza but a host of other viruses, including coronavirus, in autumn and in winter.

"That is because the level of immunity has decreased in the society. In particular, children are at the risk of dangerous viral diseases," he warned. "In the past week, 334 patients were diagnosed with flu. We have had fatalities as well, but the final death toll is yet to be calculated," Ghaderi said.



# Japan Rushes to Rearm With Eye on 2027

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Between China's 20th Communist Party Congress, that began Sunday, and the next one in 2027, Japan will undertake its biggest arms buildup since World War Two in a race to deter Beijing from war in East Asia, according to Japanese government officials and security analysts.

Japan identified China as its chief adversary in its 2019 defense white paper, worried that Beijing's flouting of international norms, pressure on Taiwan and rapid military modernization posed a serious security threat. That anxiety has intensified since Russia invaded Ukraine, weakening Japanese public opposition to rearming, security experts say.

Japan's government "has the wind at its back and will use that to do whatever it can," said Takashi Kawakami, a professor at Takushoku University in Tokyo. By pointing to 2027 as the moment when East Asia's power balance may tip in China's favor, Japan's government can rally support for greater defense spending, he added.

In addition to being the next time Communist Party delegates gather in Beijing, 2027 is the next major milestone on China's military modernization roadmap and the centennial of the founding of the People's Liberation Army. At a congressional hearing last year, U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Admiral Philip Davidson said that China's threat against Taiwan could "manifest" that year.

For Japan, losing Taiwan to mainland Chinese control could be a disaster because it would jeopardize key shipping lanes that supply nearly all Japan's oil and many of the materials it uses for manufacturing. It would also give the Chinese navy unfettered access to the Western Pacific from bases on the island.

"There are different shades of opinion, but generally, government officials share the same view of the significance of 2027," said a senior Japanese government official involved in defence buildup plans.

"This has been discussed internally," he added, asking not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue.

China's foreign ministry said Japan was using China as a pretext for a military buildup. "Political forces in Japan have repeatedly used China as an excuse to deliberately exaggerate regional tensions. In doing so, the Japanese side is only looking for excuses to strengthen its own military and expand its military," the ministry said in a written response to Reuters.

At the congress in Beijing, Chinese leader Xi Jinping called for accelerating China's plans to build a world-class military and said his country would never renounce the right to use force to resolve the Taiwan issue.

Japanese defense ministry officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Japan's delicate diplomatic and economic relations with its bigger neighbour mean it is unlikely to commit to directly defending Taiwan. But with Japan's nearest territory only about 150 kilometres (93 miles) from the island, it could be drawn into conflict with an adversary that spends more than four times as much on its military.

China could try to capture Japanese islands close to Taiwan to establish air defenses and fend off any counter attack, said another Japanese government official involved in planning, who also asked not to be named because he is not authorized to talk to the media.

China lobbed missiles into waters less than 100 miles (160km) from those islands in August during exercises after a visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, which Beijing slammed as American interference.

Japanese military bases, airports, seaports, and other logistical hubs could also be tempting targets for Chinese missile strikes because they would be staging grounds for U.S. forces.

In crafting its defense plans, Japan needs to consider a scenario in which Washington does not respond to a Chinese attack on Taiwan, said Yasuhiro Matsuda,



an international politics professor at Tokyo University and former Ministry of Defense senior researcher.

"If Japan can strengthen its defense capability ... then China's calculation to attack U.S. forces on Japan will be quite different, the cost and risk of a Taiwan operation will be quite high," Matsuda said this month during an online discussion hosted by the Rand Corporation think tank.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which it calls a "special operation", has helped shift public opinion in Japan away from the postwar pacifism that has dominated defense policy for decades.

In an opinion poll published by public broadcaster NHK this month, 55% of 1,247 people surveyed said they supported increased defense spending, compared with 29% who opposed it. Of those backing a stronger military, 61% said Japan should pay for it with public spending cuts.

In July, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida won national upper house elections with a pledge to "substantially" increase defense spending. His ruling Liberal Democratic Party promised to double the military budget to about 10 trillion yen (\$68 billion) within five years.

That extra money will pay for longer-range missiles - improved Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) Type 12s, Kongsberg Joint Strike Missiles and Lockheed Martin Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles - that can strike distant warships and land targets in China or North Korea.

Big projects include a new jet fighter for deployment in the 2030s that will most likely be merged with Britain's proposed Tempest stealth plane into a program led by MHI and BAE Systems. The splurge of defense spending should also benefit U.S. suppliers such as Lockheed, Boeing Co (BA.N) and Northrop Grumman Corp.

More immediately, it will help Japan increase stockpiles of spare parts and ammunition that its untested military would need to sustain any fight.

"We will need to give priority to things that we can deploy within five years," the first government official said.

Kishida will unveil details of military spending plans in December along with a revamped security strategy. That strategy is expected to give Japan a bigger regional security role alongside the United States, which has thousands of troops, hundreds of aircraft, and dozens of warships deployed in Japan.

## Double Standard...

FROM PAGE 1

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

The decision is the exact example for double standard approach regarding the human rights issue and European countries once again proved this fact that human rights issue is just a game in hands of the West and they use it whenever they want.

Meanwhile Iran has slammed the racist "garden and jungle" metaphor used by European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to differentiate between the West and other parts of the world, saying an era of multipolarity is "imminent".

"The garden/jungle metaphor arises from an utterly unacceptable colonial mentality which gives the West a right to invade & occupy," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a post on his Twitter account on Tuesday.

"That era has long gone. Multipolarity is on the doorstep," he added.

The Iranian spokesperson urged the 27-nation EU to adopt the realities or it "will continue to decline and fade."

This is not the first time that Europeans resort to sanctions against Iran as it seems they follow the addition of their lord, the U.S., which is addicted to sanctions against nations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown the world that it has found its path of prosperity and it has been challenging from February 1979 when the Islamic Revolution emerged as a new political pole in the world.

So Europeans are recommended to stop following the wrong path of the U.S. because this will have no impact on Tehran's strong determinations and Europeans will be the main losers of these sanctions.

They have slapped sanctions on individuals who do not have any banking accounts abroad or are not keen to travel to Europe and it shows that the sanction is just a show and pretension to convince other nations that they are supporters of the human-rights but the meaning of human rights of the West and independent countries differs and other countries should obey the Western style of human rights or else they will be penalized for disobeying it.

The Islamic Republic of Iran once again recommends the West to stop such useless sanctions because they have no impact on Iran because the country is marching strongly ahead and Europe is better to mind its own business and fix its economic condition which has led to series of strikes, and sanctions against Iran will not save the European governments by distracting their own nations through such actions against Iran.



## Tehran Slams West's...

FROM PAGE 1

"We denounce this allegations which are nothing more than a political attempt to politicize women's rights because we see no good faith or genuine in these states' to support Iranian women given their hypocrisy, double standard and selective application of human rights.

Her remarks come as Western countries have voiced support for violent riots that erupted in Iran after a young Iranian girl fainted at a police station and was later pronounced dead at a hospital in Tehran.

The riots has claimed dozens of lives from security forces and innocent people as some elements derailed the protests to attack the establishment. Many Western countries have expressed their support for rioters in acts which Tehran describes as "inciting" violence and hatred.

Regretting the tragic death of Mahsa Amini, the envoy said reports on the circumstance of her death has been shared with member states and UN-affiliated organizations.

An official report by Iran's Legal Medicine Organization said that Amini's controversial death was caused by an illness rather than alleged blows to the head or other vital body organs.

Ershadi went on to note that Iranian women are "well educated" and know how to engage with government. "Iranian women are smart, well educated, dedicated and

patriotic and are aware of their rights. They also understand how to engage with the government in a peaceful and constructive manner in order to advance their rights."

"Therefore we advise those Western states that they are not required to act as guardians or caretakers of Iranian women or speak on their behalf," she highlighted.

The envoy also urged Western states to "uphold their international obligations under the UN Charter and respect the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other sovereign states."

Elsewhere, she said that the Islamic Republic of Iran since its establishment "has promoted the cultural, social, economic and political status of women as a key element in its policy making, legislation, and national planning."

Naming women's education in Iran as one of the examples of women empowerment, the envoy said, "Women and girls count for more than half of all university students and currently 73% of medical professionals and 49% of doctors in Iran are female."

Ershadi reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to "respecting, protecting and promoting the human rights of all including women and girls," adding that "no country can claim to be perfect when it comes to human rights or the rights of women and girls" and that Iran strives to improve these rights.

## Iran, Russia...

FROM PAGE 1

The Iranian envoy once again voiced support for "ongoing efforts to find a peaceful solution to this conflict" and noted that Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has made contacts with his counterparts from both sides on several occasions.

Iravani said it is "disappointing" that the West has mounted a "disinformation campaign against Iran" and made "misleading interpretation of the Security Council Resolution 2231" as an attempt to "wrongly establish a link between their baseless allegations against Iran with this resolution."

"Iran emphasized that the issues surrounding the ongoing conflict in Ukraine are completely irrelevant to the Resolution 2231 both in substance and format and any activity in this regard fall outside the scope of the resolution and secretariat mandate," he added.

He emphasized that "Iran is of the firm belief that

none of its arms exports, including UAVs, to any country" violate the Resolution 2231.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its constructive engagement to help the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine," he pointed out.

The United States, France and the United Kingdom called a closed-door Security Council meeting following some Ukrainian officials' claims about alleged unmanned aerial vehicles provided by the Islamic Republic to Russia.

During a telephone conversation with his Croatian counterpart Gordan Grlic Radman on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister once again denied the allegations, asking Kiev to submit evidence of such drones if it has any.

"We have told Ukrainian officials to produce any evidence on deployment of Iranian drones in the Ukraine war," Amirabdollahian said.

Russia's Deputy UN Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy also said that his country will reassess cooperation with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres if he sends experts to Ukraine to inspect drones that Western powers claim were made in Iran and used by Moscow in the ongoing war in that country.

Speaking to reporters after the UN meeting, the Russian diplomat called on the UN chief and his staff to "abstain from engaging in any illegitimate investigation."

"Otherwise, we will have to reassess our collaboration with them, which is hardly in anyone's interests. We do not want to do it, but there will be no other choice," he said.

He emphasized that the drones found in Ukraine are not Iranian but Russian-made, explaining that images of the drones downed in Ukraine clearly have Russian inscriptions on them.

## Iran Pursuing Mutual Monetary Treaty With Trading Partners

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced the latest measures in the field of international banking transactions and noted that a bilateral monetary treaty with the four main trading partners is on its agenda.

Referring to the latest measures in the field of international banking transactions, CBI stated that the System for Electronic Payment Messaging (SEPM) as an alternative to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) in relations with many countries is being developed and a bilateral monetary treaty with the four main trading partners of the country is also on the agenda.

CBI added that due to SWIFT sanctions and the impossibility of financial and banking transactions in this system, the infrastructure required in SEPM has been fully provided by the central bank's new technologies.

Currently, the use of SEPM as an alternative to SWIFT is operational between banks in Iran and other states, and messages are exchanged between the parties, CBI said adding that the possibility of launching this messenger in other countries is also being pursued.

Iran has already stepped in with Russia, Iraq, and Turkey to conclude and implement a bilateral monetary treaty aimed at removing the dollar from trade exchanges and using national currencies, it highlighted, adding that Iran has even held talks with the Pakistani government.

## McIlroy Dismisses Mickelson View

LONDON (Dispatches) - Rory McIlroy said he did not agree with Phil Mickelson's assertion that the PGA Tour is "trending downwards" and added that golfers who joined the Saudi-backed breakaway LIV Golf Series have thrust the sport into a state of flux.

The LIV Series, which launched in June, has lured away some of the sport's biggest names with enormous purses while those who joined the rebel circuit are no longer eligible to participate in PGA Tour events.

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## India to Tour Bangladesh In December

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - India will tour Bangladesh in December for the first time since 2015 to play two tests and three one-day internationals, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said on Thursday.

Rohit Sharma's men will kick off the month-long trip with the three ODIs, which will all be played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, Dhaka.

Chattogram will host the first test from Dec. 14 with the second in Mirpur from Dec. 22.

# Suns Hit Late Shot To Cap Rally From 22-Point Hole

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Damian Lee knocked down the game-winning shot with 9.7 seconds left and the Phoenix Suns rallied from a 22-point, third-quarter deficit to notch a 107-105 victory over the visiting Dallas Mavericks in a rematch of last season's Western Conference semifinals.

Lee hit a 10-foot fallaway jumper over Spencer Dinwiddie to cap an electric Phoenix comeback in the season opener for both teams. Dallas star Luka Doncic missed a 3-point attempt just before time expired.

Devin Booker recorded 28 points and nine assists and Deandre Ayton contributed 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns. Cameron Johnson added 15 points, Mikal Bridges had 13 points and 11 rebounds and Lee scored 11 points off the bench.

### Timberwolves 115, Thunder 108

Rudy Gobert scored 23 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to help Minnesota earn a season-opening win over Oklahoma City in Minneapolis.

D'Angelo Russell added 20 points and Jaden McDaniels had 19 for Minnesota. Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 12 points and seven assists.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 32 points on 12-of-23 shooting. Josh Giddey added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

### Trail Blazers 115, Kings 108

Jerami Grant capped a team-high 23-point performance in his Portland debut with a go-ahead, three-point play with 50.4 seconds remaining, lifting visiting Trail Blazers past Sacramento on Opening Night.

Anfernee Simons scored 22 points, Damian Lillard 20 and Josh Hart 19 in a balanced attack that allowed the Trail Blazers to avenge a three-point home defeat at the hands of the Kings in last year's opener.

De'Aaron Fox poured in a game-high 33 points and Kevin Huerter had 23 for the Kings, who finished three games ahead of the Trail Blazers in the final Western Conference standings a year ago.

## Wolves Interim Boss Davis to Stay in Charge

LONDON (Dispatches) - Wolves interim manager Steve Davis will remain in charge of the Premier League strugglers until the new year, the club said on Thursday.

Davis has been given his extended spell as boss after QPR manager Michael Beale rejected the chance to move to Molineux.

Beale was widely expected to accept Wolves' offer but he decided to remain with the Championship leaders, who only hired him for his first managerial role in the close-season.

Wolves were also snubbed by former Sevilla boss Julen Lopetegui, who turned them down for personal reasons last week.

The midlands club's Chinese owners Fosun have been looking for a new manager since sacking Bruno Lage earlier this month.

Former Watford boss Rob Edwards and ex-Lyon coach Peter Bosz were reportedly interviewed for the job, while Nuno Espirito Santo, who led Wolves from 2017 until 2021, was also said to be under consideration.

Davis has been in charge for three games on a temporary basis and will now continue until at least the start of 2023.

"In the short time Steve and his team have been in interim charge of the first-team, we have already seen improvements to the group, with the players responding well to their methods and the changes they have started to implement," Wolves chairman Jeff Shi said.

"Steve understands the culture and standards set at this club, and we want to give him and his team clarity on their positions and allow them the best possible opportunity for success.

"While there are no outstanding candidates to appoint on a permanent basis to the head coach position, we have complete faith in their ability and leadership to continue their roles into the World Cup break and new year."

Davis, who will continue to be assisted by James Collins and Tony Roberts, is preparing third-bottom Wolves for a crucial clash with bottom side Leicester on Sunday.



Jazz 123, Nuggets 102

Collin Sexton scored 20 points and Lauri Markkanen added 17 as Utah earned a season-opening win over Denver in Salt Lake City.

Seven different Utah players scored in double figures to help this new era of Jazz basketball begin with a surprising victory. The Jazz had a wild offseason, which included trading away All-Stars Donovan Mitchell and Rudy Gobert, among others, and hiring Will Hardy as head coach after Quin Snyder's resignation.

### Bulls 116, Heat 108

DeMar DeRozan scored 28 of his game-high 37 points in the second half as visiting Chicago beat Miami in the season opener for both teams.

Ayo Dosunmu had 17 points while Nikola Vucevic tallied 15 points and 17 rebounds for the injury-depleted Bulls, who played without starting guards Lonzo Ball and Zach LaVine. Jimmy Butler had 24 points and eight rebounds for Miami, while Tyler Herro scored 23 points and Max Strus made five 3-pointers off the bench and finished with 22 points.

### Hornets 129, Spurs 102

Terry Rozier poured in 24 points and all five Charlotte starters scored in double figures as the visiting Hornets cruised past San Antonio in the season opener for both teams.

Gordon Hayward scored 20 points and Nick Richards added 19 points and 10 rebounds off the bench for the Hornets. P.J. Washington hit for 17, Kelly Oubre Jr. racked up 13 and Dennis Smith Jr. and Mason Plumlee contributed 12 points each. Keldon Johnson led the Spurs with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Jakob Poeltl and Tre Jones scored 14 points apiece, Doug McDermott added 12 off the bench, Devin Vassell put up 11 and Joshua Primo had 10 points.



## Ronaldo Axed From Man Utd Squad

LONDON (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo has been dropped from Manchester United's squad for Saturday's clash with Chelsea after his tantrum against Tottenham.

Ronaldo stormed down the Old Trafford tunnel with several minutes remaining in United's 2-0 win over Tottenham on Wednesday.

The 37-year-old star reportedly told United manager Erik ten Hag that he did not want to come on as a late substitute.

Ten Hag said after the Tottenham match that he would "deal with" the issue on Thursday.

It was not the first time Ronaldo had shown public dissent at his role in Ten Hag's team's and the United manager has finally responded by wielding the axe.

"Cristiano Ronaldo will not be part of the Manchester United squad for this Saturday's Premier League game against Chelsea. The rest of the squad is fully focused on preparing for that fixture," a United statement said on Thursday.

It is believed Ten Hag's decision to remove Ronaldo from the squad has the full backing of the United hierarchy.

United chiefs are said to be weighing up a decision on Ronaldo's long-term future after the disciplinary issue. But whether there can be a way back for the unhappy Portugal striker remains to be seen.

United would have to wait until the transfer window reopens on January 1 before they could sell Ronaldo.

# Arsenal Reach Europa League Knockouts With Victory Over PSV



LONDON (Dispatches) - Granit Xhaka's second-half winner secured Arsenal a 1-0 win over PSV Eindhoven at the Emirates and a place in the Europa League knockout phase on Thursday.

Mikel Arteta's men moved five points clear of PSV at the top of Group A in a rescheduled game which was postponed last month following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The two sides meet again in a week's time, when a point for Arsenal would be enough

to wrap up top spot and qualification directly into the last 16.

A fourth victory in as many games in Europe mean Arsenal have won 13 of their 14 matches in all competitions this season.

The Premier League leaders dominated for long periods but had to wait until 19 minutes from time to take the lead when Takehiro Tomiyasu chipped the ball back for Xhaka to drill home his third goal of the season.

Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli both came close to extending the advantage late on, but Ruud van Nistelrooy's PSV rarely threatened an equaliser.

Arsenal, who are four points clear of reigning champions Manchester City, return to Premier League action on Sunday with a visit to Southampton.

## Infantino Concerned About Violent Incidents in Argentina

LONDON (Dispatches) - FIFA president Gianni Infantino has expressed concern over the recent violence in Argentine soccer after a league game was suspended following clashes that led to the death of one fan.

Police fired tear gas outside the stadium during a match between Gimnasia La Plata and Boca Juniors on Oct. 6, which drifted into the stadium making it difficult for spectators to breathe and causing people to leave in a state of panic.

"While I have a deep admiration for South American football, I must also express my concern about some of the incidents that have occurred recently, such as the violence in an Argentinean league match, Gimnasia-Boca," Infantino said at an online summit organised by the Buenos Aires-based Ole newspaper.

"We must make sure that such incidents are avoided so that our sport is not tainted.

"Football should be pure passion, joy and fun. What happened is far from embodying the real values of football."

Infantino also visited Jakarta this week to meet with Indonesian president Joko Widodo after a stampede at a stadium this month killed more than 130 people.

The deadly stampede after a league match in the city of Malang on Oct. 1 has been blamed on police firing tear gas in the stadium, a crowd control measure banned by FIFA.



## Verstappen Shoots For Record to End Mercedes' Title Streak

LONDON (Dispatches) - Red Bull's double world champion Max Verstappen can equal a Formula One record in Sunday's U.S. Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, and officially end Mercedes' unprecedented run of eight constructors' titles in a row.

Verstappen, last year's winner at the Circuit of the Americas, needs one more victory to join German greats Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel as the only drivers to have racked up 13 wins in a single season.

At the same time Red Bull can clinch their first constructors' championship since 2013. That would be the team's first title double since 2013 when Vettel saw out the V8 era with his fourth and final crown before the switch to the V6 turbo hybrids that powered the rise of Mercedes.

"That is the next target and I'm going to give it everything I have, of course, to make sure that we're going to win that one as well," said Verstappen after retaining his driver's crown in Japan.

The reality is that the 25-year-old may not have to do much at all to clinch the team title, with Red Bull 165 points clear of second placed Ferrari and only 147 remaining to be won after the race in Austin -- more than usual due to a remaining sprint race in Brazil.

If Ferrari fail to score 19 points more than Red Bull in Texas, the contest is over.

The Italian team have managed that only once this season, when Red Bull suffered a blank in the opening Bahrain Grand Prix and Ferrari finished one-two with fastest lap. Red Bull have won the last seven races, and 14 of 18, with five one-two finishes constituting the team's most successful season yet -- even if one overshadowed by a budget cap breach that remains a major talking point.

