

The Iranian Army's Ground Force Has Launched a Large-Scale Three-Day Military Drill With the Participation of Combat Forces in A Border Area in the Country's West Azarbaijan Province

IRAN NEWS

Health Ministry Announced on Sunday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 144,544 With One More Iranian Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

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Shiraz Petrochemical Co. Wins Exemplary Exporter Of Year Award



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Shiraz Petrochemical Company as the oldest petrochemical company of the country achieved another honor and success and this time under the management of Mohammad Bahmei and received the plaque of honor for the exemplary exporter of the year award which was presented by President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

According to the public relations report of Shiraz Petrochemical Company, the ceremony for honoring the country's was held on October 30, the National Export Day, with the presence of the President, ministers and some senior officials of the country and representatives of top companies in the Iran International Conference Center, and Shiraz Petrochemical Company for the first time after six decades of activity was picked as the top and distinguished exporter of year 1401 (current Iranian calendar year) in the urea producing companies category, and Engineer Bahmei, the respected CEO of this company, received a special plaque and statue for this achievement in the ceremony.

On the sidelines of the event, Eng. Bahmei explained the performance of the company in the first half of the current year and stated that the achievement of this honor was due to God's blessing and the endeavors and hardworking of the committed personnel of the company. Congratulating this important achievement, he expressed hope that with the efforts of all colleagues, another golden leaf will be added to the company's honors by the yearend.

Media Terrorism, Enemies' New Method Against Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance said that the Islamic world has a common concern about cultural and media threats and Islamophobia.

The 12th session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers under the theme: "Combating Disinformation and Islamophobia in the Post-Truth Era" was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on October 21-22, 2022, with the participation of the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the sidelines of the conference and in response to the question of Iran Press correspondent about the media war of the enemies with the Islamic world and Iran in particular, Mohammad-Mahdi Esmaili said that Islamophobia has created problems for cultural and media interaction in the last two decades. He stated that the Ministers of Culture and Communication of the Islamic countries are trying to think of a solution to get out of the situation of media threats in the 12th conference.

Esmaili noted that Iran has been exposed to cultural threats for many years and has recently faced a newer issue called "media terrorism." He highlighted that in recent incidents, a foreign media system led by the security services is trying to do what they could not do through physical terrorism via media. He declared the awareness raising and common atmosphere of cooperation among Islamic countries to deal with media threats and terrorism as the most critical focus of his consultations in Istanbul.

He pointed out that in terms of media, Iran is trying to complete and strengthen the defense and offensive capabilities of Islamic countries and deal with media threats by increasing its internal capacities and the cooperation of cultural and media officials of Islamic countries. The Ministers of Culture and Communication of 57 member countries of the Islamic Cooperation Organization emphasized forming an atmosphere of cooperation to deal with the cultural invasion and media terrorism against the Islamic world.

Iran, Turkey Strike New Gas Deal



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The director of dispatching of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) announced holding of a meeting with the representatives of Turkey's Butas Company and reaching new agreements.

Mohammad Reza Julaei said: "According to the agreements, all technical, operational and executive activities of gas export to Turkey will be carried out within the next 6 months with the coordination of both parties, which include operational plans, overhauls, cathodic protection and coating of lines between Iran and Turkey and renovation of Bazargan Station and other matters related to gas export to this country."

He stated that in the intensive meeting, there was a discussion and exchange of views on gas transmission capacity, technical and engineering services, and increasing other forms of cooperation, adding: "The country's huge gas industry is moving rapidly on the path of development and Iran is known all over the world as a reliable source of gas supply, so we should consider this position important and sort out its challenges."

The director of the dispatching of NIGC also expressed his satisfaction with holding of the meeting and emphasized: "Let's not forget that the continuation and increase of gas exports will be possible by planning to develop and maintain existing production capacities and optimizing consumption."

A report by Iranian Oil Ministry's news service on Saturday said that Iran and Turkey had held ministerial-level talks in Ankara a day earlier to discuss renewing a 25-year gas supply contract or working out a new deal that could allow Iran to increase supplies to Turkey after 2026.

The report by the Shana news agency said that Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji had met senior Turkish government ministers and officials to discuss key issues in energy cooperation between the two countries.

It said that a main point of discussion was to set up a new gas exports pipeline across the border between Iran and Turkey.

Turkey relies on Iran for nearly 9 billion cubic meters per year of its natural gas demand. Ankara has indicated it will be willing to increase imports from Iran if the two countries can reach a sustainable framework on price and capacity issues.

However, former CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company Hamid Reza Araqi said on Saturday that it will be unlikely for Iran and Turkey to work out a new gas supply mechanism that could allow an increase in Iranian gas exports to Turkey.

Araqi told the semi-official ISNA news agency that a main obstacle to increasing gas supplies to Turkey is a growing domestic demand for natural gas inside Iran.

He suggested that Iran may seek to increase its gas exports to Iraq rather than to Turkey due to better price arrangements and the fact that the Arab country will experience a major increase in demand for natural gas in the upcoming years.

Erdogan Proposes Nationwide Vote On Women's Right to Wear Headscarf

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has proposed a referendum to amend Turkey's constitution in order to guarantee woman's legal right to wear the hijab in state institutions, schools, and universities.

Speaking in the city of Malatya in southeastern Turkey on Saturday, Erdogan challenged the leader of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) to take the issue of introducing a law to protect the right to wear a headscarf in state institutions "to the people".

The headscarf issue has dominated political debate in recent months ahead of general elections in 2023 that are set to be one of the most serious challenges to Erdogan's two-decade control of Turkey.

"If you have the courage, come; let's put this issue to a referendum... Let the nation make the decision," Erdogan said in remarks aimed at the main opposition party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

Kilicdaroglu, the leader of CHP, Turkey's second-largest party, recently shared a video on Twitter to announce the submission of a draft bill that would guarantee women the right to wear headscarves while working in public institutions.

"We had made mistakes in the past regarding the headscarf," Kilicdaroglu admitted earlier this month. "It's time to leave that issue behind us."

Experts believe Kilicdaroglu seeks to alleviate any fears his party would reinstate the ban and show religious voters they have nothing to fear from opting for his secular party next year as CHP has been established by the founder of the secular modern Turkish republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

Erdogan has proposed a constitutional change that would "soon" be sent for approval to the parliament. "If this issue is not resolved in the parliament, we will present it to the people," the Turkish president said. **See Page 7**

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

"No Entry" for Independent Media

For years the Western countries have resorted to double standard approach regarding freedom of expression and free flow of information and in fact they accept only those media which are in compliance with West and they take offensive stand against the independent and anti-West media.

In recent days while there have been some riots in Iran and hostile media outlets and networks have tried to fan the flame of unrests, the West has blamed Iranian media for not reporting truth or supporting violence and threatened them with punishment and sanctions while at the same time the hostile media are encouraged to continue their anti-Iran reports and coverage.

On Friday Tehran slammed Canada's fresh sanctions on Iranian media news outlets, saying the move is in violation of people's basic rights and exposes the West's empty rhetoric regarding free access to information and freedom of expression.

"The U.S. government's sanctions lunacy has turned into a virus that is rapidly spreading to its friends," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a post on his Instagram account.

Canada on Wednesday imposed new sanctions on six Iranian individuals and four entities over alleged human rights violations in the country and continued actions to destabilize regional peace and security.

The newly sanctioned individuals and entities include Iranian military figures, the Constitutional Council, and the Assembly of Experts.

Kanaani said the list also includes Keyhan newspaper, Tasnim news agency, Nour News and Fars news agency, as well as the current and former heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting along with an IRIB reporter. All these four media outlets are famous for exposing the West's plots against the Islamic Revolution.

He added that it is not the first time Canada has sanctioned prominent Iranian media outlets and journalists, pointing to its recent sanctions on Press TV.

The Iranian spokesperson said Canada and its anti-Iranian Western allies have targeted Iranian people with economic sanctions while depriving them of the right to express their opinions, "unless they speak like them and in their cultural language, such as 'Iran International', 'Manoto,' and other [channels]."

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AEOI Reacts to Hacking Attempt Against Its Subsidiary

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) in an announcement reacted to an infiltration attempt into the e-mail server of one of its subsidiaries

In a statement on Sunday, the AEOI said that the news published on cyberspace about the intrusion into the Atomic Energy Production and Development Company's email server was aimed at drawing public attention and is a part of media warfare.

The AEOI statement read, "According to the report received from the information technology department of Atomic Energy Production and Development Company, unauthorized access from a certain foreign country to the company's e-mail system led to the publication of the content of some e-mails in cyberspace.

It added that "shortly after the matter, the information technology department of the Atomic Energy Production and Development Company, based on the planned arrangements and in the earliest time while taking necessary and preventive measures, examined the issue from various dimensions and submitted its preliminary report to the AEOI officials."

"The content in users' emails contains technical messages and routine and daily exchanges of emails. It is obvious that the purpose of such illegal attempts, which is a desperate move, is to draw public attention and a part of a psychological operation and is worthless," the AEOI added.

Amirabdollahian Felicitates Kazakhstan Republic Day

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in a congratulatory message to his Kazakh counterpart Mukhtar Tleuberdi felicitated Kazakhstan Republic Day.

Iran's top diplomat congratulated the Kazakh government and nation on the occasion. Expressing satisfaction with the deep and historical relationship between Iran and Kazakhstan, Amirabdollahian called for increasing the mutual ties between the two countries in the direction of the interests of the two nations and regional peace and stability.

West Seeks to Create Crisis in Independent States

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad has said that the West is seeking to create crisis in independent countries such as Iran.

In a phone call with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amirabdollahian, Mekdad said on Sunday that the United States and the West in general want to see a destroyed Iran not an independent country.

The Syrian top diplomat noted that the public opinion in the world witnessed what the US and its allies have done in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

According to the Syrian official, the bitter results of foreign intervention in Syria's internal affairs under the pretext of supporting human rights were provoking crisis against people and government in the Arab country; however, their attempt to hatch plots against Syria doomed to failure.

The two ministers discussed issues of mutual interests, calling for expansion of cooperation at regional and international arenas.



Amirabdollahian said that the Islamic Republic will continue to support Palestine, the resistance movement as well as the Syrian people and government.

The political and propaganda pressures will not create any hesitation among the Iranian government and people to preserve their independence and continue supporting security and stability of the regional countries as well as standing against foreign intervention in particular the occupation policy of the Zionist regime, the Iranian official said.

The Iranian nation will vigilantly nullify plots hatched by the enemies, the minister noted.

The two foreign ministers also called for pursuing bilateral ties especially in terms of economic and trade cooperation.

Iran-IORA Meeting Kicks Off in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Iran began in Tehran with a focus on perspectives and opportunities.

The meeting started with a focus on the prospects and opportunities hosted by Iran's Deputy Foreign Ministry for Economic Diplomacy in Tehran, Iran.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari, some ambassadors, as well as economic, and academic experts from member states, participated in the meeting.

The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian virtually participated in the 21st Annual Council of Ministers (COM) meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on 17 November 2021 which was held in Dhaka, the Capital of Bangladesh.

Addressing the Annual Council of Ministers (COM) meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the Iranian Foreign Minister expressed Iran's determination to expand relations with this association.

Cost of Internet Filtering to Businesses Well Over \$3b Announced

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian private sector's House of Industry and Mine says the cost of over a month of strict internet filtering in Iran due to protests and riots is far higher than the nearly \$3bn announced by the Iranian chamber of commerce.

The deputy chair of the HIM's foreign affairs commission is warning that continuation of the trend will force many companies into bankruptcy.

Sina Taghizadeh says the amount of damage filtering has caused is miscalculated because many individuals and companies hurt by the policy are not seen in the estimation.

Taghizadeh says these include companies that used to invest in Iran as well as firms that run representative offices in Iran and abroad.

These, he says, need to be connected to their CRM, which is not possible due to the filtering.

The official says many companies also run warehouses in other countries, where inventories were checked online, and this is no longer possible due to the restrictions to internet access.

Taghizadeh added that these are besides the fact that Iranian companies do their entire exports via WhatsApp messaging application, which is specially targeted during the recent crackdown in internet connections.

Taghizadeh noted that Iranian companies have also lost their marketing tools in WhatsApp.

Funding Riots, Protests in Western Capitals Useless

TEHRAN (MNA) – Criticizing interfering claims of US Special Envoy for Iran, Mohammad Marandi stressed that funding riots, terror, and organizing protests in western capitals are useless.

"Your regime commits crimes against humanity against Iranians through maximum pressure sanctions & you're implicated in these crimes," Seyyed Mohammad Marandi advisor to the Iranian negotiating team in the Vienna talks wrote in a tweet on Sunday.

"Keep dreaming, but Iran is on the rise. Funding riots & terror alongside "popular protests" in western capitals is useless. This isn't 1953 Iran," Marandi added.

He made the comments in reaction to interfering claims of Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley who expressed his support for the marchers in Washington and cities around the world in advocacy of the riots.

During the recent days and in the course of the protests against the sudden death of Mahsa Amini at a police station due to heart failure, a wave of organized unrest in some Iranian cities, noticeable material losses against public properties, ambulances, fire department vehicles led to getting killed dozens of people, relief and rescue personnel, and police forces.

Iran, Pakistan Stress Producing Joint Cultural-Artistic Films



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian and Pakistani culture ministers emphasized the need to produce cultural and artistic products jointly.

Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili, who has visited Turkish capital of Ankara to participate in 12th Conference of the Information Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), met and held talks with Pakistan's Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb on the sidelines of the Conference on Saturday evening.

During the meeting, Pakistani Minister of Culture and Information stressed the need to manufacture cultural and artistic products jointly as well as organize joint film festivals in the two countries.

Iranian culture minister pointed to the historical and cultural commonalities between Iran and Pakistan and stated that the joint culture and history between the two states can further deepen and strengthen these amicable relations.

Referring to the joint production of Iqbal-e Lahori's length-feature movie, Esmaeili pointed out that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance can strengthen the fields of cultural cooperation mutually, so that production of Iqbal-e Lahori movie is one of the most prominent of these programs. In the end, Iranian Minister of Culture invited his Pakistani counterpart to pay a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the next year's Nowruz celebrations.

Pakistan Information and Culture Minister, for her part, said that the two countries of Iran and Pakistan has established very good cooperation and collaboration in cultural and artistic fields and there are very intertwined relations between Tehran and Islamabad in relevant field.

Pakistan will look for holding of the film festival in Iran and invites Iranian filmmakers to travel to Pakistan to strengthen bilateral ties in the area of mutual concern, she added.

Iran, Uzbekistan Sign Agreement Worth \$5.5m

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's trade and technology delegation signed a technological cooperation agreement worth 5.5 million dollars and 15 technological cooperation MoUs worth 6.5 million dollars with the Uzbek public and private sectors.

The agreement and MoUs were signed during a meeting between the representative of the Iran National Innovation Fund and the CEO of the Uzbek Fund for financing science and innovation support.

The Iranian delegation is visiting Uzbekistan to take part in the country's Innovation Week exhibition. 29 Iranian knowledge-based companies are offering their products in this exhibition.

Railway Fleet Receives 413 Home-Made Wagons, Locomotives

TEHRAN (MNA) - In a ceremony attended by Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi, 413 new domestically-made locomotives and wagons worth over \$35 million were added to the railway fleet of Iran on Sunday, IRIB reported.

In the mentioned ceremony, 407 freight wagons valued at 8.36 trillion rials (about \$28.9 million) as well as seven locomotives worth 1.91 trillion rials (about \$6.6 million) were added to the country's railway fleet.

As reported, the produced freight wagons included various types of long-edge, short-edge, ballast, and grain wagons manufactured by Pars Wagon, Green Flour Industrial Group (GPIG), Arak Metal Steel Company, Iranian Rail Industries Development Company (IRICO) and Kowsar Isfahan Wagons.

The new and renovated locomotives were also produced by Mapna Group, Pars Wagon, and Karaj Locomotive Restoration Factories with the participation and investment of Mobarakeh Steel, Alborz Niro, Mapna, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI).

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony of the mentioned fleet, Qasemi noted that his ministry was implementing a comprehensive plan for the development of transit through Iran, saying: "This plan will lead to the transformation of the country's transportation sector in the next three years."

Stressing the significant role of the railway industry in the country's economic development, the minister said:

Zahedan Friday Prayers Leader Slammed for Provocative Sermon

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian deputy interior minister for security affairs has censured the Friday prayers leader of the southeastern city of Zahedan Molavi Abdul Hamid for his 'provocative sermon' following the recent deadly unrest in the city.

Molavi Abdul Hamid, in his sermon on Friday, said he expected the Iranian government officials to act more responsibly following riots and a shooting incident that left many people dead in the city's Makki mosque three weeks ago.

The deputy interior minister, Seyyed Majid Mir-Ahmadi, said the remarks played into the hands of the enemies and provoked some of the participants of the congregation prayers into renewed clashes on Friday.

Over a hundred rioters chanted slogans and pelted stones at the stores and cars and vandalized banks after the Friday prayers, but the police intervened in time and arrested ringleaders and agent provocateurs.

The tension in Zahedan and other cities across Iran sparked after the September 16 death of a 22-year-old Iranian woman, named Mahsa Amini, in a police station in the capital Tehran.

Official reports by the police and forensic organization said her death was related to underlying medical conditions, rejecting previous speculations that she died after being beaten up by the morality police.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mir-Ahmadi said the protests in cities are in the final days and calm has been restored to the country.

Average Monthly Tax Income Rises 80% yr/yr

TEHRAN (MNA) - Head of Iran's National Tax Administration (INTA) Davoud Manzour has said the government's average monthly tax collections have increased by 80 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) as compared to the previous year.

According to Manzour, last year every month about 250 trillion rials (about \$864 million) of taxes were collected on average, while the figure has reached 450 trillion rials (\$1.55 billion) in the current year, Tasnim news agency reported.

According to the official, INTA has been taking serious measures for battling tax evasion so that the organization has discovered more than 170 cases over the past year and the violators have been faced with heavy penalties.

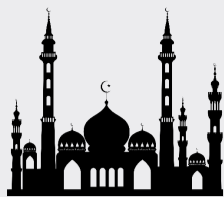
There are many methods of tax evasion and one of the most common is the creation of shell companies, he explained.

"Unfortunately, there are many problems in the regulations and laws regarding company establishment and there is no necessary strictness. We see such cases with regard to business cards and credit cards as well," the official added.

Back in September, INTA announced that the country's tax revenues stood at 1.853 quadrillion rials (about \$6.4 billion) in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

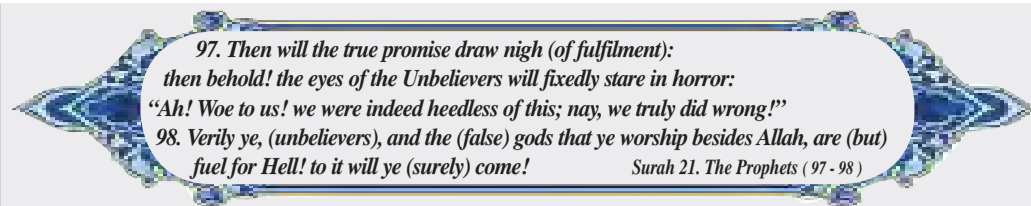
As reported, of the mentioned figure, 1.17 quadrillion rials (about \$4.04 billion) was direct tax, and 670 trillion rials (about \$2.31 billion) was indirect tax collected in the five-month period.

Iran's tax income reached over 3.54 quadrillion rials (about \$12.2 billion) in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:36
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:55
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:19



97. Then will the true promise draw nigh (of fulfilment):
 then behold! the eyes of the Unbelievers will fixedly stare in horror:
 "Ah! Woe to us! we were indeed heedless of this; nay, we truly did wrong!"
 98. Verily ye, (unbelievers), and the (false) gods that ye worship besides Allah, are (but)
 fuel for Hell! to it will ye (surely) come!
 Surah 21. The Prophets (97 - 98)

Iran Signs Deal to Export 40 Turbines to Russia

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN – The CEO of Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company (IGEDC) announced the deal for exporting forty home-made turbines to Russia and reiterated that Iran’s gas production has been doubled during the sanctions era.

Speaking in a meeting, Reza Noshadi said that industrial successes of the country are not limited to the missile and drone sectors and currently 85% of the installations and equipment required by the gas industry are manufactured in the country and due to this capability, Iran signed agreement with Russia to export 40 home-made turbines to Moscow.

He then said that for the first time in the country, the fully-Iranian made control system was used in the gas compressor station in Khormoj, and stipulated that young talented Iranians, after successful transfer of the technology of manufacturing turbines from eastern and western European countries, continued their sacred efforts for the industrial independence and today the country is in a position that the output of its home-made turbines is more than the foreign likes.

Emphasizing the brilliant achievements of the gas industry during the sanctions era, he compared the resistance of Iran’s oil industry with Venezuela during the sanctions.

Noshadi then pointed to the plots of the arrogant countries for thwarting efforts of the independent countries for achieving self-sufficiency. He also pointed to the sabotage of Americans in the world gas trade scene and said that in recent years the U.S. has started the launch of LNG production companies and they have recently imposed all-out sanctions against Russia and the explosion of the Nord-Stream pipeline has actually sidelined, Russia, one of the major rivals of the U.S. in gas exports.

He stressed that malicious acts are taken by the so-called pro-democracy countries and enemies are trying to undermine big achievements of the country through painting a dark picture of the current condition by resorting to misinformation.

Noshadi went on to say that the current price of energy does not at all match the costs of exploration, excavation, production, refinery and distribution, adding that any act which is not economic will face problem in the long time and it will have consequences like pollution and traffic.

29% Growth in Unload/Upload Operation of Chabahar Port in H1

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Director of Ports and Maritime Affairs of Sistan and Baluchestan Province says the load and unload operation in Chabahar Port has seen 29% growth in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year comparing to the same period last year.



Qasem Askari Nasab in an interview pointed to the size of operation of load and unload of goods either basic goods, non-oil exports or containers in Chabahar Port stood at 1,781,505 tons in the first half of the year, adding that the total load and unload operation in the port has grown 29% in the first half of the year comparing to the same period last year.

He went on to say that the amount unload and load of basic goods in Chabahar Port grew 9% in the first half of the year while oil and petrochemical products grew 6.5% and non-oil goods grew 46.2% in the same period comparing to the same time last year.

Askari Nasab added that security of Chabahar Port has also increased by 41% in the first half of the year and noted by the way, sea safety of the port comparing to past year has increased 43%.

He went on to say that the second phase of development project of Shahid Beheshti Port is considered as a good opportunity for foreign investment. He then highlighted the specifics of this project and called for acceleration in studies for construction of the rail network of Chabahar Port.

Iraq Buys 21.7% of Iranian Steel Exports in March-September

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iraq was the largest customer of Iran's overseas steel shipments in the six months to September 22, according to figures by Iran's state-run mining and metals holding IMIDRO.

IMIDRO's head of economy and investment development Amir Sabbagh said that Iraq had bought some 21.7% of Iranian steel exports in the March-September period as the Arab country overtook Indonesia and China as the largest buyer of products manufactured by Iranian steelmakers over that period.

Figures by the official IRNA news agency published on Saturday showed that Iran's steel exports had reached a total of \$2.587 billion in value terms in the six months to late September.

That comes as total exports from Iran's mining and metals sector rose to \$5.629 billion over the same period, showed the figures.

Sabbagh said steel exports from Iran rose for a second successive month in September to reach a two year high

of 767,000 metric tons despite pressures on the international steel market because of the war in Ukraine and the slowing demand in China.

He said Iranian steel shipments had reached a total of 56 countries in the six months to late September, adding that major buyers of Iranian steel over the period other than Iraq were Indonesia with 15.3% of purchases, followed by China at 15.1% and Thailand at 9.4%.

IRISL Supporter of Exporters

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – On the occasion of the National Export Day, the CEO of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line Group (IRISL) in an article announced the full support of the group for supporting the exporters.

Mohammad Reza Modarres Khiabani in his article wrote that National Export Day is a good opportunity for honoring efforts of those who earn forex for the country through exporting home-made products and they could have kept open the channels for required forex of the country in the past years that the country has been under the heaviest sanctions.

He added that IRISL as the supporter of different economic sectors of the country has tried to transport consignments of producers and exporters to different exporting destinations worldwide through precise planning and national determination. He added that the group has



achieved historic and unprecedented records in the field of transporting goods and it transported over 26.7m tons of cargo last year which shows 41% growth comparing to the preceding year.

Modarres Khiabani noted that 10.3m tons of the mentioned transported tonnage was the share of exporting goods which registered 9% growth. He added that this tranship sometimes has been combined and over 8.6m tons of the imported goods was transported by the IRISL fleet last year which shows 74% growth comparing to the preceding year.

He reiterated that currently 80% of needs of shipping lines of the country are provided by the domestic producers and it will save exodus of \$300m of forex from the country.

Modarres Khiabani then in his article highlighted some of the plans of the group for providing new ships, containers and spare parts for the shipping fleet.

Tehran to Host 3rd Iran-EEU Economic Diplomacy Conference

TEHRAN, Oct. 23 (MNA) – Tehran will host the third Iran-Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) Economic Diplomacy Conference in December.

Tehran Chamber of Commerce, industries, Mines and Agriculture, in cooperation with other chambers of commerce across the country and joint chambers with Eurasian states, is organizing the Third Iran-EEU Economic Diplomacy Conference on Trade and Investment in Agricultural Products and Food Industries in December, Financial Tribune reported.

The two previous events were held in fiscal 2020-21 with the aim of developing Iran's trade relations with this union.

This event has been scheduled for December 4 with the participation of foreign trade officials and the support of Iranian chambers of commerce, joint chambers with the Eurasian Union, agricultural and food industry organizations, and in the presence of experts from the member countries of this union. It will be held at the IRIB International Conference Center, the news portal of TCCIM reported.

Light of Training and Education of Rahmat Aeen School Turned On

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

ISFAHAN – Manager of Electricity Company in District 1 of Isfahan says custodians of schools should have no concerns but training and educating and they should only focus on their jobs which is training and boozing the stand of growth and dynamism of training.

Seyed Alireza Arizi said that due to applying for

electricity supply to the Rahmat Aeen girls' school simultaneous with opening of the academic year, this demand was fulfilled and the project was put on the agenda with high priority.

He then pointed to the specifics of this project and said that some 100 meters of installing low-voltage wires and installing 400 electrical panels were carried out in the shortest time possible.

It is worth noting that the project cost over 120m tomans.

Copper Cathodes Production Needs to Be Four-Folded

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) Dr. Ali Rostami in a press conference explained factors of development in the



copper industry in Iran and said that in the fields of exploration, extraction, developing human resources and markets, the company tries to increase the capacity of concentrate and copper cathode and pick up the exports.

Rostami said that in the past six months, the company devised a plan for development of NICICO to develop the copper chain from exploration to the downstream. He reiterated that the country suffers from extreme weakness in development in the copper industry while major part of the world copper belt lies in Iran and Iran has only explored 7% of its copper mines and the development does not match with this huge capacity.

He added that the first anode ingot in Iran was produced at Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex 40 years ago which is an honor and since then till last year, the production capacity in this complex had reached 300,000 tons, noting that in this line, the company is focused on exploration and discovery, and in this year's plan, the company has predicted drilling of over 200,000 meters which is unique in the history of the country and its copper industry.

Rostami admitted that the current capacity of the country in the field of exploration is not enough and announced readiness of the company for attracting the engineering companies of Kerman Province in the field of mining for creating more exploration capacity.

He stated that the company is to increase the exploration capacity in a range of time by the next year and increase 7% of the discovered reserves to 10%.

Rostami further said that the total value of exported copper last year was \$34b while NICICO by itself and through materialization of its developmental plans can earn the country \$10b of forex and this company has good capacity for growth and economic development. He said that in the field of extraction so far 200m tons of copper has been extracted in the NICICO group.

He said that Iran ranks 18th in the world in copper production and it ranks 5th in terms of having minerals. He reiterated that the company seeks to boost Iran's place in the world rankings and to take the country among the top 5 countries and therefore the current production capacity of 250,000 tons should increase to one million tons. He noted that capital is an important factor and if NICICO sells 80,000b tomans of products every year, half of it will be net profit.

\$27b in Oil Industry to Be Invested in Oil Industry



TEHRAN (MNA) - Head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) Masoud Mirkazemi said a recently formed consortium of Iranian banks and companies is going to invest \$27 billion in the country's oil and gas sector, IRNA reported.

"Recently, good cooperation has been established between the Planning and Budget Organization and the Oil Ministry, and a consortium of banks, domestic investment companies, and other contracting firms have been formed, which has resulted in signing a memorandum of understanding and a contract; this consortium is going to invest 27 billion dollars in oil and gas projects," Mirkazemi said on Sunday.

The official noted that investment in the mentioned sectors is targeted to be increased to \$80 billion, adding that "Investing in oil and gas projects is quick-yielding and its capital returns in less than a year."

Back in August, Mirkazemi had announced signing a \$7 billion contract for the development of the joint Azadegan oil field and a \$19 billion MOU for the construction of two petrochemical plants.

"We are also preparing another \$10 billion worth of projects to be awarded, so it is necessary to use different methods and initiatives to attract the necessary resources," Mirkazemi had said.

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji also said in September 2021 that his ministry was making necessary arrangements and planning for attracting \$125 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's oil and gas industry within the next four to eight years.

Later in August 2022, Owji reiterated that the oil ministry was seriously following the plans for funding the oil industry's development projects.

Lebanon, Syria Discuss Sea Border

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The Lebanese and Syrian presidents discussed delineating their countries' shared maritime border before a visit to Damascus next week by a Lebanese delegation tasked with negotiating the issue, a Lebanese official said.

A dispute over their shared sea boundary emerged last year after Syria granted a licence to a Russian energy company to begin maritime exploration in an area Lebanon claimed. Several gas discoveries have been made in the eastern Mediterranean.

Lebanese President Michel Aoun earlier said demarcating the border would be next after Lebanon agreed its southern maritime boundary with longtime foe Israel following years of indirect U.S.-mediated talks.



Australia, Japan Agree to Expand Security Cooperation

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said their countries had agreed to deepen and expand their cooperation to respond to pressing security challenges in their region.

Kishida also said he wanted to reinforce the Japan's defense capabilities within five years, and would examine all options for national defense, including "counterstrike capabilities".

The two countries announced a critical minerals partnership to build secure supply chains for the materials needed in Japan's advanced manufacturing industry.



China's Xi Further Cements Power as Party Congress Closes



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's ruling Communist Party wrapped up its twice-a-decade congress on Saturday, cementing Xi Jinping's iron grip on power and revealing a new Central Committee missing two key officials lacking close ties to the leader.

Xi, 69, is poised to clinch a third five-year leadership term as party general secretary, breaking with precedent and solidifying his place as China's most powerful ruler since Mao Zedong, the founding leader of the People's Republic.

The new leadership will be unveiled at around noon (0400 GMT) on Sunday when Xi walks into a room of journalists at the Great Hall of the People, followed by the other members of the new Standing Committee in descending order of rank.

In an unusual moment during the closing ceremony, former President Hu Jintao, seated next to Xi, was escorted off the stage. Looking distressed, Hu, 79, appeared to resist leaving as stewards escorted him out. He had looked slightly unsteady last Sunday when he was assisted onto the same stage.

The party's new 205-member Central Committee, elected by delegates at the end of the week-long congress, did not include outgoing Premier Li Keqiang or former Guangdong party boss Wang Yang, who had been seen as a potential replacement as premier.

Analysts said their omissions were signs the powerful Politburo Standing Committee, to be revealed on Sunday, is likely to be stacked with people close to Xi.

"The main theme of this congress, as seen in the constitutional amendment and the report, is to highlight the core status of Xi," said Chen Gang, senior research fellow at the East Asian Institute in Singapore.

"With this congress, Xi's authority grows even more. Going forward, we will see more concentration of power around Xi and around the centre," he said.

Li, who will step down in March as premier, and Wang, who heads the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, are both 67 and therefore eligible under China's age norms to serve another five years on the Standing Committee, which currently has seven members.

Neither is seen to have long-standing ties with Xi, who is likely to bring four new faces onto the Standing Committee, according to analysts and media reports.

Li and Wang both have ties with the Communist Youth League, a once-influential group that experts say has lost power under Xi.

The premier is charged with overseeing the world's second-largest economy, although the influence of the position is widely perceived to have diminished as Xi has steadily consolidated control during his decade in power.

A Beijing-based politics scholar who asked not to be named because he is not authorised to speak with media, said Li had been the lone contrarian voice on the standing committee.

Ukraine Faces Power Cuts After Russian Strikes

KYIV (Dispatches) - Critical infrastructure across Ukraine was pounded by more than a dozen Russian missiles, the Ukrainian air force said, with several regions reporting strikes on energy facilities and power outages.

At the same time Russian occupation authorities in the Ukrainian city of Kherson urged civilians to leave immediately citing what they called a tense military situation as Ukraine's forces advance.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy wrote on the Telegram app regarding Russian attacks on infrastructure that began overnight: "The enemy launched a massive attack: 36 rockets, most of which were shot down." The air force command earlier had said 33 missiles had been fired at Ukraine on Saturday morning, adding that 18 of them had been shot down.

Since Oct. 10, Russia has launched a series of devastating salvos at Ukraine's power infrastructure, which have hit at least half of its thermal power generation and up to 40% of the entire system.

Shortly after daybreak on Saturday, local officials in regions across Ukraine began reporting strikes on energy facilities and power outages as engineers scrambled to restore the network. Governors advised residents to stock up on water in case of disruptions to supply.

Parts of Kyiv suffered power cuts stretching into the early evening. In one central area of the capital, shops were closed and traffic lights were off, leaving motorists to navigate busy junctions by themselves.

Reuters witnesses in the southern city of Mykolaiv reported a power cut lasting several hours, disrupting mobile phone signals on some networks.

In the southeastern city of Nikopol, which is regularly shelled from Russian positions across the Dnipro river, local authorities warned that air raid sirens would be switched off as a result of power cuts, and that instead emergency vehicles driving around the city would warn of incoming aerial threats.

Johnson, who was on holiday in the Caribbean when Truss resigned, has not commented publicly about a bid for his old job. He has received the support of dozens of Conservative lawmakers, but needs to secure 100 nominations to be considered.

Trade department minister James Duddridge said on Friday Johnson told him he was "up for it". He said on Saturday Johnson had secured 100 nominations, although a Reuters tally put him on about 40, while the tally showed former finance minister Rishi Sunak, for now the bookmakers' favourite, had exceeded 100.

Only former defence minister Penny Mordaunt has formally declared she will run, although a Reuters tally showed she only had 22 nominations so far before Monday's 1300 GMT deadline.

The next prime minister, a post that will have changed hands three times in four years, faces a huge inbox after Truss's economic plans hammered bond markets, raised government borrowing costs and added more strains on households and businesses already struggling with a cost-of-living crisis.

Johnson was booed by some passengers on the plane to Britain, according to a Sky News reporter on the flight which arrived in London on Saturday morning.

Wearing a dark jacket and backpack, Johnson waved to photographers at London's Gatwick Airport before driving away.

Johnson Returns to UK in Bid for Rapid Political Comeback

LONDON (Dispatches) - Boris Johnson returned to Britain as he considers an audacious attempt to win a second term as prime minister only weeks after he was forced to step down, with some colleagues warning his comeback could create more political chaos.

Potential candidates to replace Prime Minister Liz Truss, who quit on Thursday after six weeks in office, were embarking on a frantic weekend of lobbying to secure enough nominations to enter the leadership contest before Monday's deadline.

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S. Korean Officials Face Arrest Over 2020 Killing by North Korea

SEOUL (Dispatches) - Arrest warrants have been issued for South Korea's former defence minister and coast guard chief over their alleged involvement in a cover-up related to North Korea's killing of a South Korean fisheries official in 2020.

The Seoul Central District Court issued the warrants on Saturday for former Defence Minister Suh Wook and former Coast Guard Commissioner General Kim Hong-hee, citing risks of the suspects fleeing or destroying evidence.

Last week, South Korea's investigative agency, the Board of Audit and Inspection, demanded prosecutors probe a total of 20 people, including Suh and Kim, for allegedly covering up key facts related to the 2020 killing of 47-year-old fisheries official, Lee Dae-jun, by North Korean border soldiers.

The agency said its investigation into a previous government's handling of the killing revealed officials made no meaningful attempt to rescue Lee after learning that he was drifting in waters near the North Korean border.

The investigation revealed that Lee was left in the water for nearly six hours and had drifted in and out of

consciousness after being found and shot by North Koreans.

The South Korean coast guard and navy were also found to have violated rules during their initial rescue efforts by failing to seek help from other vessels and authorities nearby Lee's location.

After confirming Lee had been shot and killed by North Korean troops, officials in the previous administration of President Moon Jae-in publicly played up the possibility the victim had tried to defect to North Korea.

Officials played up the slain man's gambling debts and other family issues, while also withholding evidence suggesting he had no intention to defect to North Korea, the agency said.

The killing took place at a time when Moon was facing intense political pressure over a renewed push to engage politically with Pyongyang.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un also issued an apology after the killing of the South Korean. In a formal letter sent to Seoul, North Korea conveyed Kim's message that he felt "very sorry" for "disappointing" South Korea's then-President Moon.



Canada Bans New Handgun Sales In Latest Gun Control Action



OTTAWA (Dispatches) - Regulations prohibiting the sale, purchase or transfer of handguns within Canada took effect, as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the measure builds on earlier efforts banning handgun imports.

The handgun freeze was announced in May alongside proposed legislation that would implement the nation's strongest gun control measures in 40 years as part of Trudeau's plan to tackle gun violence, his office said.

But the freeze was criticized by the government of the western province of Alberta, which has previously said it will resist other gun control measures proposed by Ottawa.

"We have frozen the market for handguns in this country," Trudeau said at a news conference in Surrey, British Columbia, attended by family members of gun violence victims and other advocates.

"As we see gun violence continue to rise... we have an obligation to take action," Trudeau added. "Today our national handgun freeze is coming into force."

The action stops people from buying, selling or transferring handguns within Canada, and prevents them from bringing newly acquired handguns into the country, according to the prime minister's office.

Canadian Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino called it the most significant action on gun violence in Canada in a generation.

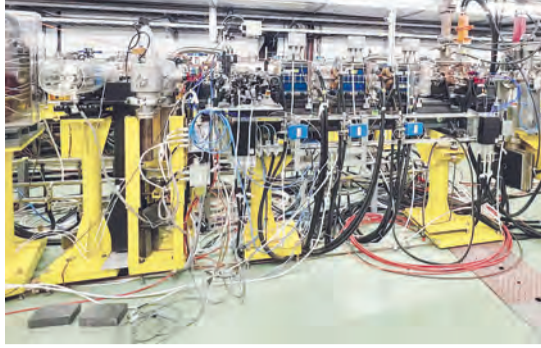
Trudeau's ruling Liberal government introduced bill C-21 to fight gun violence, and his office said Friday's move will help "keep Canadians safe" while the legislation is debated. In August, it banned imports until the law passes.

"We've got to get that law passed as quickly as possible," Mendicino said, speaking alongside Trudeau.

Under the executive action, any handgun applications submitted before Friday will still be processed, Trudeau's office said.

But Tyler Shandro, Alberta's Minister of Justice, said the move unfairly penalized law-abiding firearms owners.

Particle Physics Pushing Cancer Treatment Boundaries



GENEVA (Dispatches) - Researchers at Europe's science lab CERN, who regularly use particle physics to challenge our understanding of the universe, are also applying their craft to upend the limits to cancer treatment.

The physicists here are working with giant particle accelerators in search of ways to expand the reach of cancer radiation therapy, and take on hard-to-reach tumors that would otherwise have been fatal.

In one CERN lab, called CLEAR, facility coordinator Roberto Corsini stands next to a large, linear particle accelerator consisting of a 40-metre metal beam with tubes packed in aluminium foil at one end, and a vast array of measurement instruments and protruding colourful wires and cables.

The research here, he told AFP during a recent visit, is aimed at creating very high energy beams of electrons -- the negatively charged particles in the nucleus of an atom -- that eventually could help to combat cancerous cells more effectively.

They are researching a "technology to accelerate electrons to the energies that are needed to treat deep-seated tumours, which is above 100 million electron volts" (MeV), Corsini explained.

The idea is to use these very high energy electrons (VHEE) in combination with a new and promising treatment method called FLASH.

This method entails delivering the radiation dose in a few hundred milliseconds, instead of minutes as is the current approach.

This has been shown to have the same destructive effect on the targeted tumour, but causes far less damage to the surrounding healthy tissue.

With traditional radiation therapy, "you do create some collateral damage," said Benjamin Fisch, a CERN knowledge transfer officer.

The effect of the brief but intense FLASH treatment, he told reporters, is to "reduce the toxicity to healthy tissue while still properly damaging cancer cells."

FLASH was first used on patients in 2018, based on currently available medical linear accelerators, linacs, that provide low-energy electron beams of around 6-10 MeV.

At such low energy though, the beams cannot penetrate deeply, meaning the highly-effective treatment has so far only been used on superficial tumours, found with skin cancer.

But the CERN physicists are now collaborating with the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) to build a machine for FLASH delivery that can accelerate electrons to 100 to 200 MeV, making it possible to use the method for much more hard-to-reach tumours.

Deep-lying cancer tumours that can't be rooted out using surgery, chemotherapy or traditional radiation therapy are often today considered a death sentence.

"It is the ones which we don't cure at the moment which will be the targets," Professor Jean Bourhis, head of CHUV's radiology department, told AFP.

"For those particular cancers, which may be one third of the cancer cases, it could be a game-changer." Professor Jean Bourhis says the programme, which will target deep-lying cases, could be a "game-changer."

There are particular hopes that the FLASH method, with its far less harmful impact on surrounding tissue, could make it possible to go after tumors lodged in the brain or near other vital organs.

Bourhis said it might not relegate deaths from stubborn cancer tumours to the history books, "but at least there will be a new opportunity for more cures, if it works."

One challenge is making the powerful accelerator compact enough to fit inside a hospital.

As U.S. Treasuries Tumble, Some Investors Say Turning Point Is Near



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Some investors believe Treasury yields are close to peaking, even as markets continue pricing in more hawkishness from a Federal Reserve bent on taming the worst inflation in decades.

It's a refrain that has been heard more than once in 2022, as a steep selloff in Treasuries steamrolls investors who bet markets would soon reverse, while battering stocks and fueling the dollar's climb.

The tumble in bonds has intensified in recent days, as U.S. Treasury yields - which move inversely to prices - hit their highest levels since the 2008 global financial crisis on concerns that the Fed would need to raise rates more aggressively to bring down consumer prices.

Meanwhile, fed funds futures late Thursday priced peak U.S. interest rates of 5% in May next year, up from bets this month that saw the rate at 4.4% by that time.

Yet some investors see the Treasury selloff nearing an end, believing the Fed will slow the pace of its increases next year as inflation ebbs or the economy falls into a recession.

John Vail, chief global strategist at Nikko Asset Management, expects the Fed to raise rates by 150 basis points in total over the next two months, then start cutting rates in the first half of next year.

"This forecast is dovish after January, which should provide major relief for equity and bond markets," he said.

Others think higher yields will soon start luring investors into Treasuries. Joachim Fels, a managing director and global economic advisor at U.S. bond giant PIMCO, recently wrote that markets have already priced in future rate increases and "absolute yield levels appear much more attractive than they have for a long time."

Benchmark 10-year yields were at 4.23% late Thursday while two-year yields were at 4.61%, presenting a more alluring picture for income-seeking investors compared with the beginning of the year, when those yields stood at 1.5% and 0.7%, respectively.

Among those espousing the view of a coming peak in yields is DoubleLine Capital chief executive Jeffrey Gundlach, who on Thursday tweeted that there are "signs of yield increase exhaustion. Treasury yields may well be peaking between now and year-end."

Fund managers in a recent BofA Global Research survey, meanwhile, are the most bullish on long term bond yields since November 2008, with 38% expecting lower long-term rates in the next 12 months.

Vanguard, the world's second-largest asset manager, last month told Reuters that U.S. Treasuries are near the end of a painful decline.

Nascent Treasury bulls also point out that many yields are very close to where the Fed has said it believes interest rates will end up next year.

Some investors have been more hesitant to call a peak, citing the Fed's single-minded focus on bringing down consumer prices, which have proven far more stubborn than many expected this year.

"With inflation so high and still rising, it would be a mistake to assume that central banks will pivot to easing if something indeed breaks," BoFA's strategists wrote. "Depending on where they are in their tightening cycle, they may not even pause."

The Fed has raised rates by 300 basis points so far this year. Fed funds futures traders are pricing in a 95% chance of a 75 basis points hike at the central bank's Nov. 2 meeting, with Fed Chairman Jerome Powell's views on inflation and the economy seen as the next potential catalyst for yield moves.

Futures show traders pricing in a 75% probability of another 75 bps hike in December, according to CME Group data.



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Renault Says Price Hikes Help Sales Grow

PARIS (Dispatches) - Renault said its sales rose to 9.8 billion euros (\$9.57 billion) in the third quarter as price increases allowed the French carmaker to more than offset a fall in the number of cars sold from the previous year. Overall group revenues grew by 20.5% when adjusted for the disposal of its former Russian unit AvtoVAZ, Renault said, adding that it had recorded its best-ever price effect as quarterly vehicle sales decreased by 2.4% from last year.

Global carmakers are grappling with a semiconductor shortage, soaring energy costs in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, supply chain bottlenecks and a looming recession in Europe.



UK Economic Outlook Downgraded To Negative by Rating Agency

LONDON (Dispatches) - The UK's economic outlook has been downgraded from "stable" to "negative" by the rating agency Moody's because of political instability and high inflation.

Moody's said the change in outlook was driven by "heightened unpredictability in policymaking amid weaker growth prospects and high inflation" and "risks to the UK's debt affordability from likely higher borrowing and risk of a sustained weakening in policy credibility".

Rating agencies rate a country on the strength of its economy and provide governments with a score based on the likelihood that they will be able to pay back debt.

The rating affects how much it costs governments to borrow money in the international financial markets. According to the agency, an outlook period "typically lasts 12 to 18 months".

However, while the UK's economic outlook has been graded as "negative", Moody's credit rating for the UK remains unchanged at Aa3.

The agency said this rating reflects the UK's economic resilience "despite the weakening in fiscal policy predictability in recent years".

It added: "The country's longstanding institutional framework remains strong and will continue to support the UK's ability to respond to shocks, as seen during the pandemic. Furthermore, the structure of the UK government debt, with a very long average maturity of around 15 years, as well as a deep domestic investor base adds a degree of resilience to the credit profile in the face of shocks."

"The UK's local and foreign currency ceilings remain unchanged at Aaa. The three-notch gap between the local currency ceiling and the sovereign rating is driven by the government's relatively small footprint in the economy, a fairly robust external payments position and a diversified economy."

The chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, has vowed to do "whatever necessary" to drag government debt lower after official figures revealed that borrowing swelled to £20bn in September.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that a jump in debt interest grew borrowing beyond the expectations of economists, laying bare the challenge facing the chancellor and new prime minister before the fiscal event at the end of this month.

The latest reading for borrowing, excluding state-owned banks, marked the second-highest September on record, only surpassed during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ONS said.

Borrowing in September outpaced the predictions of economists, who had forecast £17bn for the month, and was significantly above the £14.8bn estimated by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) back in March.

Hunt said: "Strong public finances are the foundation of a strong economy. To stabilise markets, I've been clear that protecting our public finances means difficult decisions lie ahead. "We will do whatever is necessary to drive down debt in the medium term and to ensure that taxpayers' money is well spent, putting the public finances on a sustainable path as we grow the economy."

Inflation in Sri Lanka Hits Record 73.7%

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka's National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) rose to a new high of 73.7 percent in September from a year earlier, quickening from 70.2 percent in August, the statistics department said.

Annual food price inflation picked up to 85.8 percent from 84.6 percent in August, while prices of non-food items rose 62.8 percent. Sri Lanka's Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe predicted earlier on Thursday that inflation in the island nation is peaking, with price rises likely to ease this month.

The NCPI captures broader retail price inflation and is released with a lag of 21 days every month. The more closely monitored Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI), released at the end of each month, rose 69.8 percent in August. It acts as a leading indicator for national prices and shows how inflation is evolving in Sri Lanka's biggest city.

But the higher-than-expected inflation numbers are unlikely to push the central bank to increase rates next month, analysts told Reuters.

"Tariff increases for power and water implemented in August has spilled over into September along with a tax hike for telecommunications," said Dimantha Mathew, head of research for Colombo-based investment firm First Capital, giving reasons for the inflation spike.



"However, the central bank is unlikely to increase rates as the economy is cooling down and we expect to see the pace of inflation slowing down from October."

Sri Lanka is planning to increase direct taxes to reduce the deficit in its upcoming budget for 2023 and put the economy on a more stable footing, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said.

An acute dollar shortage, caused by economic mismanagement and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, has left Sri Lanka struggling to pay for essential imports including food, fuel, fertilizer and medicine.

In September, the country reached a preliminary deal with the International Monetary Fund for a loan of about \$2.9bn, contingent on it receiving financing assurances from official creditors and negotiations with private creditors.

U.S. Budget Deficit Halves to \$1.375 trln

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The U.S. government reported that its fiscal 2022 budget deficit plunged by half from a year earlier to \$1.375 trillion, due to fading COVID-19 relief spending and record revenues fueled by a hot economy, but student loan forgiveness costs limited the reduction.

The U.S. Treasury said the \$1.400 trillion reduction in the deficit was still the largest-ever single-year improvement in the U.S. fiscal position as receipts hit a record \$4.896 trillion, up \$850 billion, or 21% from fiscal 2021.

President Joe Biden touted the deficit reductions in remarks at the White House and at Delaware State University, and said the deficit would shrink by another \$250 billion over the next decade, given Medicare's ability to negotiate lower drug prices.

Biden chided Republicans for voting against the deficit reduction. While his administration lowered the deficit, it has boosted spending on infrastructure and expanded benefits for middle- and low-income Americans.

"You know, we've gone from a historically strong economic recovery to a steady and stable growth, while reducing the deficit," Biden said.

Outlays for fiscal 2022, which ended Sept. 30, fell by a record \$550 billion, or 8% from last year to \$6.272 trillion. But the outlays for September, the fiscal year's final month, included the recognition of \$430 billion in costs from the Biden administration's plan to forgive student debt of up to \$20,000 for former college students now earning under \$125,000 a year and under \$250,000 for married couples.

The move brought the September budget deficit to \$430 billion, more than six times the prior-year September deficit of \$65 billion. In most years, September is a surplus month due to the payment of quarterly corporate and individual taxes.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the plan would cost about \$400 billion. It also includes the extension of a COVID-19 moratorium on all student loan payments until the end of 2022, which added about \$21 billion in budgetary costs.

Non-governmental budget analysts have estimated that the plan would wipe out a much-touted deficit reduction from Democrats' recently enacted climate, healthcare and Internal Revenue Service funding bill.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told reporters that the Biden administration was maintaining a "credible fiscal policy" despite the unfunded student debt relief that was a Biden campaign promise.

"I do see our debt as being on a responsible path," she said, adding that net interest on the debt as a share of GDP was forecast to only rise to about 1%, a "low" historical level.

Revenue gains during September started to slow from prior months, growing only 6% from a year earlier to \$488 billion.

Japan Intervened, Buying Yen in Foreign Exchange Market

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan intervened in the foreign exchange market to buy yen for the second time in a month after the currency hit a 32-year low near 152 to the dollar, a government official and another person familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Japan has been attempting to shore up the battered currency as the central bank sticks with ultra-low interest rates, countering a global trend of tightening monetary policy and widening the gap between U.S. and Japanese interest rates. After the dollar rose to 151.94 yen, its highest since 1990, the intervention drove the Japanese currency down more than 7 yen to a low of 144.50 yen. The U.S. currency was last down 1.8% at 147.34 yen.

The Ministry of Finance (MOF) intervened in several stages from around 9:35 p.m. (1235 GMT), one source said. "We are maintaining our stance of being ready to take appropriate action against excessive forex volatility," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters on Saturday after meeting with Australia's Anthony Albanese, reiterating that such volatility could not be tolerated.

Kishida declined to comment further, saying, "I will not make any detailed comments on forex" when asked about Friday's intervention.

Japan's top currency diplomat, Masato Kanda, also declined to say whether the MOF had intervened.

"We won't comment now on whether or not we conducted an intervention," Kanda, the vice finance minister for international affairs, told Reuters on Saturday, saying that this was a stance the MOF has stuck to over the past several weeks.

Pakistan Removed From FATF's Grey List

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - The global money laundering and financing watchdog on Friday removed Pakistan from its list of countries under "increased monitoring" after four years.

Pakistan has been on the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since 2018 because of "strategic counter-terrorist financing-related deficiencies".

The removal decision was announced by FATF President T Raja Kumar at the end of a two-day meeting in Paris, France.

"Pakistan had addressed technical deficiencies to meet the commitments of its action plans," Kumar said in his speech.

At the last FATF meeting in June, the organization said Pakistan would be kept on the list until a visit to the country took place to verify progress.

Subsequently, a FATF technical team travelled to Pakistan in late August and the visit was declared a "success" by Pakistan's foreign office, which said it expected a "logical conclusion" at the next evaluation meeting in October.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a tweet after Friday's decision was announced congratulated the country on its removal.

"Pakistan exiting the FATF grey list is a vindication of our determined and sustained efforts over the years. I would like to congratulate our civil & military leadership as well as all institutions whose hard work led to today's success," he wrote.

After placing the country on the grey list in 2018, FATF gave Pakistan a 27-point action agenda, which was later increased to 34-points, related to money laundering, terrorist financing, and action against armed groups and individuals.

Being on the list can severely restrict a country's international borrowing capabilities.

The decision comes at a time when Pakistan's credibility on the global market has taken a pounding because of its precarious economic situation.

Earlier on Friday, global ratings agency Fitch cut Pakistan's sovereign credit rating, blaming its funding situation as well as declining foreign reserves.

Ratings agency Moody's Investor Service also cut Pakistan's sovereign credit rating earlier in October, citing the government's declining foreign reserves and growing economic stress in the aftermath of devastating floods earlier this year.

The floods, caused by unprecedented monsoon rains, killed more than 1,700 people, affected 33 million, and caused \$30bn in damage, according to the government.

Kazakhstan Calls for Freedom of Choice of Currency When Paying for Russian Gas



ASTANA (Dispatches)- Kazakhstan Energy Minister Bolat Aqsholaqov has called for freedom of choice in the matter of what currency to use when paying for Russian natural gas, rather than following Moscow's demand for countries to pay in rubles only, RFE/RL reported.

Aqsholaqov told reporters on October 21 that members of the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) should not be restricted to the Russian national currency in the payments, which was sparked by international sanctions against Moscow that cut it off from the global financial payment system because of the war in Ukraine.

"Our position has been that it must be up to the partners. It must be a commercial condition in bilateral agreements. When buying [Russian] gas, a side can choose any currency. It is about freedom to choose that currency," Aqsholaqov said.

Aqsholaqov added that Russia had proposed using the ruble as the currency for the future single market for oil and gas within the grouping that also comprises Armenia, Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan. According to Aqsholaqov, the creation of such a market is currently under discussion.

In March, Moscow demanded that Western nations pay in rubles for Russia's energy supplies to avoid its assets being frozen by foreign banks and to reduce the U.S. dollar's role in global trade.

Three other members of the EEU — Armenia, Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan — have said they are ready to pay in rubles for Russian gas deliveries.

While Kazakhstan, the second-biggest economy in the EEU, exports gas to Russia, it also imports to some parts of the country since most Kazakh oil and gas is found in western regions.

China Says Against Putting Sanctions on Iran

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wang Wenbin has announced that Beijing is against the imposition of any unilateral and illegal sanction on Iran.

The spokesman reacted to the fresh round of sanctions on Iranian individuals and entities by the European Union.

He noted that China opposes imposition of any illegal and unilateral sanction on Iran without permission from the United Nations Security Council and without considering international laws.

On Saturday, the European Union imposed sanctions on three Iranian military officials as well as a company active in manufacturing drones in Iran.



Money Market Woes Cast Shadow Over \$1.6 trln UK Commercial Property Sector

LONDON (Dispatches) - Owners of Britain's largest malls, skyscrapers and industrial hubs face hikes in borrowing costs and a recession that could depress prices by up to a fifth, forcing lenders and investors to reassess their appetite for commercial property.

Developed economies globally are grappling with far-reaching consequences of an end to years of ultra-loose monetary policy, which kept asset prices high and the cost of debt low.

So far, nowhere has the shock of this reversal hit harder than in Britain, where clashes between policymakers on how to revive growth and halt inflation have triggered a dramatic repricing across sterling money markets.

As homeowners reel from a sudden surge in mortgage costs, a spike in five-year UK swap rates has also sent chills across Britain's \$1.6 trillion commercial property sector, where asset prices could slump by as much as 20% by end-2024, analysts at Goldman Sachs said.

Data from MSCI, which tracks monthly changes over 1,794 properties valued at around 37 billion pounds (\$42 billion), showed values fell by 2.6% in September, the largest monthly decline since July 2016, the month after Britain voted to leave the European Union.

Commercial property investors like real estate investment trusts (REITs) rely on being able to earn more in rents and profits from sales than they shell out in expenses, including costs of debt and equity capital.

Bellwethers like Land Securities, British Land and Hammerson have pushed major refinancing beyond an expected mid-2023 peak in Bank of England's benchmark rate, earnings statements show.

But good financial housekeeping is just one challenge, as labour, fuel and commodities expenses also raise risks of cash-strapped tenants handing back their keys.

Although less exposed to risky property loans than before the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, banks are already on alert for breaches in loan terms linked to an asset's market value or the rental income relative to the debt secured on it, sources said.

If these terms, or covenants, are breached, investors may need to refinance earlier than planned, at higher rates. Goldman Sachs analysts predict gross finance costs for the listed UK real estate firms it covers may rise by 75% over the next five years.

James Liddiment, managing director in Real Estate Advisory Group at Kroll, said commercial property prices were already hit by higher borrowing rates, which were a fundamental cost for occupiers and investors alike.

"Given the likely number of those impacted, and the level at which rates are projected to rise, lenders may be forced to agree covenant waivers in an attempt to stabilise loan books," he told Reuters.

UK REITs are using less leverage now than before the financial crisis. But as property values dip, average loan-to-value ratios have crept up to 28% from 23% at the start of the year, according to Zachary Gauge, head of real estate research at UBS.

Worries about financing costs follow years of concern over rents for some REITs, as the pandemic emptied offices, shops, pubs and restaurants, reducing businesses' demand for space.

UK office occupancy rates were around 30% in recent weeks compared with an estimated pre-pandemic average of 80%, according to Remit Consulting.

Leisure and retail property vacancy rates also remain above pre-pandemic levels, Local Data Company figures show, at 10.6% and 15.4% respectively. Footfall at



UK retail destinations is down around 15% on average in 2022 compared to 2019, according to Springboard data.

Central London office space demand, particularly in older buildings, is also weakening.

Just 2.6 million square feet (241,548 square metres) of space was let in the third quarter, 30% down from the second quarter and 14% below the 10-year quarterly average, CBRE said.

Some occupiers are scaling back to curb costs and energy consumption, which is likely to further compress property firms' rental incomes further.

HSBC told staff this month it was cutting its office space globally by around 40% from 2019 levels.

The lender could ditch its iconic skyscraper home in London's Canary Wharf as part of a broader review and in the meantime is consolidating staff across fewer floors at the 45-floor tower, reducing the occupied space by 25%.

Marks and Spencer is accelerating plans to shut 67 larger "full line" stores over five years in a blow to its landlords and nearby businesses.

Uniform Business Rates (UBR), a tax levied on commercial property, are likely to leap by 3 billion pounds next April, the biggest annual jump since 1991, after inflation hit 10.1% in September, the month in which rates for the following year are set.

"...further business failures and shop closures will result unless the UBR is frozen again," Jerry Schurder, Business Rates Policy Lead at Gerald Eve, said.

The \$2.2 billion LXI REIT scrapped a planned sale of new shares expected to price at a premium to its net asset value (NAV) to support a 500 million pounds acquisition of 18 Sainsbury's (SBRYL) stores.

But the government's Sept. 23 announcement of its ill-fated growth plan sent the stock down 11%, below NAV, making it impossible for the company to raise equity at an acceptable price for investors, a person close to the deal said.

LED Tech Boosts Saplings, Hopes for UK Net Zero Bid



DUNDEE (Dispatches) - Surrounded by rows of healthy saplings grown using the latest LED technology, Scottish forestry researcher Kenny Hay has been left in little doubt that the science can boost Britain's net zero efforts.

The trays of young trees stacked nine metres (30 feet) high inside the James Hutton Institute near Dundee in eastern Scotland are budding proof for Hay and others that LED light can be relied on to speed up their growth.

The specimens housed in the vertical farm unit there grew six times faster than using traditional outdoor planting methods, according to Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), a government agency that manages the nation's forests.

Its growth trials -- in partnership with indoor horticultural specialists Intelligent Growth Solutions (IGS) -- could kickstart a transformation in the forestry sector and help the UK meet its net zero targets quicker.

"Initial results were astonishing," Hay, a manager at FLS, told AFP during a tour of the vertical farm, as a technician controlled a mechanical elevator accessing the stacks of shelves filled with seedling trays.

"We can grow a huge amount of trees in a very, very small area, which is obviously going to help climate mitigation. We will now look very carefully at how we might be able to integrate this into our normal processes."

The vertical farm project, which occupies just 300 square metres (360 square yards), has "tremendous potential" for tree production, according to Hay.

The trials found some saplings grew 40-50cm (16-20 inches) tall in 90 days. A similar rate of growth would take up to 18 months in an outdoor field.

Falling Demand for COVID Boosters Puts Price Hikes on the Table

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - With most Americans delaying or skipping new COVID-19 booster shots, analysts and investors are now predicting far fewer will be given each year, pushing the number of shots well below annual flu vaccinations.

With fewer shots needed, vaccine makers including Pfizer Inc, partner BioNTech SE, rival Moderna Inc and Novavax Inc could have to hike prices as much as three times current levels if they hope to meet Wall Street revenue forecasts for the shots for 2023 and beyond, several analysts said.

Last year, many on Wall Street were estimating the number of COVID-19 shots would be in line with the annual flu vaccine, which is the vaccine market leader with more than 160 million shots per year in the United States and 600 million shots globally.

Now the slowing pace of the early COVID revaccination campaigns - particularly in the key U.S. market - is changing that view. A recent poll by Kaiser Family Foundation found that two-thirds of American adults do not plan on getting a COVID vaccine soon. Analysts are expecting the U.S. market to be as low as one-third the size of the flu.

"The fact that you have people saying the pandemic is over doesn't motivate people to get vaccinated," said Dr. Bruce Farber, chief of public health and epidemiology for New York hospital system Northwell Health.

He added that instances of COVID infections in those who have been vaccinated has left many to question the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Healthcare investor Bijan Salehzadeh with Navimed Capital, previously thought demand would likely mirror that of the flu, but now believes it will be much smaller without significant evidence that updated shots are better.

"The average person is not going to jump to get it" without signs of improved efficacy, he said.

Over the first six weeks of the roll out, around 14.8 million people have received the updated COVID-19 booster shots which target the original coronavirus strain and the Omicron strain. In the first six weeks of the 2021 vaccination campaign, over 22 million people received their third shot even though only older and



immunocompromised people were eligible at that point.

Uptake of the boosters this year in the European Union did not spike as hoped after new, updated shots that target Omicron were released, staying in a range of 1 million to 1.4 million doses a week.

Wall Street analysts and investors agreed vaccine sales could improve if the companies provide proof new boosters protect people from mild illness; if they develop pan-coronavirus vaccines; or if the shots are combined as a single shot with the flu vaccine. A new wave of infections could also spur demand.

For 2023, analysts on average estimate Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax could generate sales of \$16.3 billion, \$7.9 billion and \$2.8 billion from their COVID-19 vaccines, respectively, according to Refinitiv data.

Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna declined to discuss their outlook for COVID related sales.

Novavax Chief Commercial Officer John Trizzino said that although vaccine fatigue and the belief the pandemic is over are currently tamping down demand, the drugmaker expects the COVID market will eventually be at least as big as flu. He said increased infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths will drive people to get boosters.

"Unfortunately, the virus does that work for us," Trizzino said.

Moderna has also suggested several times that it believes flu is a good comparison both in the United States and globally.

The companies could make up for some of the weaker demand with price increases. Moderna has said that it could aim to charge as much as \$100 a dose for shots that it originally priced at around \$16.50.

SVB Leerink analyst Daina Graybosch is skeptical the companies will be able to raise prices that high.

But Jefferies' Michael Yee said it is plausible private health insurers and U.S. government health plans would spend up to three times more than the current price of around \$30 to prevent the significant costs of hospitalizations or long COVID. That would mean annual revenue of \$3 billion to \$5 billion over the long-term for a company like Moderna, he added.

"No Entry" for...

FROM PAGE 1

"Resorting to force and sanctions to prevent the voice of others from being heard by a country whose human rights claims have deafened the world is not so surprising," Kanaani added.

He said Canada tends to show its apartheid behaviors occasionally, a proof of which, he said, is the discovery of mass graves of indigenous children in that country.

But Ottawa has now launched a "media apartheid," he said. "When [empty] slogans are unmasked and logic becomes weak, there is no option but to resort to force and sanction. Sanction has become the international language of the U.S. and its allies," the spokesperson said.

Of course everybody is well aware of Canada's intention over sanctions on Iranian media outlets and they know that Canada is hapless in taking action against the Islamic Republic and it tries to impose sanctions on media, individuals or entities to silence some hostile voices against Iran.

Canada has proved in the past that it is not a real supporter of freedom of expression or free flow of information because in the past it has taken action against independent media outlets.

For the West, free flow of information means any report and news against anti-Islamic Revolution or against Islam and Muslims, and anybody who writes or talks against the West will come under fire and will face sanctions and penalties.

Canada is recommended to first resolve its own domestic problems and human rights issues and to stop giving shelter to the corrupts and terrorist group members as Ottawa is also recommended not to follow blindly the U.S. policy of sanctions because Washington's policy of sanctions especially against Iran has been so far in vain because the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved that it has been growing and getting stronger under sanctions and sanctions on its media cannot discourage them from assuming their responsibility of exposing the West; because this is the main policy of Iranian media to enlighten the world public opinion and expose the crimes of the world arrogance and what Canada has done against these Iranian is just for laughing and fooling the public in Canada and the world.

So, for countries like Canada there is No Entry sign only for the independent media and this is the mere and apparent sign of double standard approach regarding the free flow of information.



Erdogan Proposes...

FROM PAGE 1

Under Turkish law, changes to the constitution require the approval of 400 lawmakers without the need for a referendum, and therefore any change requires a consensus of the parties so the CHP would need to give its backing. Otherwise, it can be put to a referendum with 360 votes.

The ban on wearing headscarves in public institutions was introduced following the 1980 military coup and affected university staff, students, lawyers, politicians, physicians, and others in the public sector.

In 2010, Ankara lifted a ban on wearing hijab on university campuses and allowed female students to wear it in state institutions in 2013. A year later, high school students were also allowed to wear hijab.

In the final level of the ban, 5 years ago officers in the police and military were permitted to wear headscarves during their work.

Exxon Shares Surge to Record High on Strong Earnings Outlook

HOUSTON (Dispatches) - Exxon Mobil Corp shares passed their all-time high as oil prices resumed their climb and analysts raised their long-term views of top U.S. oil producer's cash flow and earnings outlook.

Exxon is leading a parade of record profits among oil majors this year after doubling down on oil during the pandemic, when energy prices fell to a two-decade low and European oil majors slashed spending and moved further to renewable projects.

The stock hit \$106.40 on Friday before closing at \$105.86, above the prior record high close of \$104.59 from June 8.

The rally comes as vindication for Chief Executive Darren Woods, who as oil prices fell in 2020 decided to "lean in" to oil investments. Exxon, he said then, would not engage in a "beauty match" with its peers pursuing solar and wind.

"Managing cash flow and focusing on what they are good at is a strategy that worked," said Brian Mulberry, a portfolio manager at researcher Zacks Investment Management.

Former Japan Int'l Dies After Brain Surgery

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Former Japan international forward Masato Kudo, who also played for Kashiwa Reysol, Vancouver Whitecaps and Brisbane Roar, died aged 32 following brain surgery, his club Tegevajaro Miyazaki has announced.

Kudo was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a buildup of fluid in the ventricles in the brain and was hospitalised on Oct. 3 after falling ill a day earlier, the Kyodo news agency reported. He died on Friday.

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Dutch Name Preliminary World Cup Squad List

AMSTERDAM (Dispatches) - Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal sprung some surprises as he named a 39-man preliminary squad for the World Cup in Qatar next month.

Mitchel Bakker, Xavi Simons and Micky van de Ven were named for the first time while uncapped Sven Botman, Jeremie Frimpong and Pascal Struijk, who have received previous call-ups, were also included in a list dominated by nine players from Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam.

Haaland Hits Double For Man City

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool's Premier League title challenge suffered another massive blow in a 1-0 defeat to Nottingham Forest as Erling Haaland returned Manchester City to winning ways in a 3-1 victory over Brighton.

City's first defeat of the season to Liverpool last weekend looked to have kick-started the Reds' season, but Jurgen Klopp's depleted side slumped to a shock defeat at the City Ground.

Forest began the day bottom of the table, but their first win since August lifted Steve Cooper's men to within one point of safety.

Taiwo Awoniyi, who spent six years at Liverpool without making an appearance, scored the only goal 10 minutes into the second half.

"To score against Liverpool is a day I will never forget," said Awoniyi.

Without the injured Darwin Nunez, Diogo Jota and Luis Diaz and with Thiago Alcantara missing due to illness, Liverpool lacked the guile to break Forest down from open play.

But they did have plenty of opportunities from set-pieces as Virgil van Dijk was denied by a stunning save from Dean Henderson deep into stoppage time.

"How we cannot score from the set-pieces, I have no idea," said Klopp. "That's it pretty much. So the performance I can explain, the result not really."

Defeat leaves Liverpool still down in seventh, 11 points adrift of leaders Arsenal having played a game more.

Normal service was resumed at the Etihad as City moved to within a point of the top with Haaland taking his tally for the season to 22.

The Norwegian failed to score for the first time in 10 games at club level at Anfield last weekend, but quickly made amends by showing his immense pace and power to latch onto Ederson's long ball, round Robert Sanchez and barrel Adam Webster off the ball to tap into an empty net.

Haaland then smashed home his 17th Premier League goal of the campaign from the penalty spot.



Brighton are still to win under new boss Roberto De Zerbi but did push the champions back after the break when Leandro Trossard fired in at the near post.

But another piece of City brilliance, this time from Kevin De Bruyne, killed the game off as the Belgian curled in from outside the box.

Everton ended a run of three straight defeats by beating Crystal Palace 3-0 at Goodison Park.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin's return from injury is a huge boost for Frank Lampard's men and the England international showed quick feet to fire home his first goal of the season early on.

Anthony Gordon then tapped in the second just after the hour mark before Dwight McNeil rounded off the scoring six minutes from time.

Victory lifts the Toffees above Palace on goal difference into 11th.

Meanwhile Casemiro rescued Manchester United as the Brazil midfielder grabbed his first goal for the club in stoppage-time to salvage a dramatic 1-1 draw at Chelsea.

Erik ten Hag's side were seconds away from defeat after Jorginho's 87th minute penalty put Chelsea ahead in United's first match since Cristiano Ronaldo was sent into exile.

But former Real Madrid star Casemiro ensured United left west London on a six-match unbeaten run as he netted with a header that was awarded by goal-line technology after crossing the line by millimetres.



LONDON (Dispatches) - Poland's Robert Lewandowski said they have been handed a difficult group alongside Argentina, Mexico and Saudi Arabia at the World Cup in Qatar but he believes they can progress.

The Polish side failed to get out of their group four years ago in Russia and Barcelona striker Lewandowski is keen to avoid a similar outcome.

"The pressure that comes with the expectations of our fans and the nation as a whole is massive and I'm well aware of it. I have to and want to feel motivated to show them what I can do on the football pitch," Lewandowski told the FIFA website.

"Although that's not always easy, I don't want to complain about it. I must always find a solution and try to give my best."

The 34-year-old said Argentina were one of the favourites to win the title and Mexico were always dangerous in major tournaments.

"With an absolute legend like Leo Messi as their figurehead, there's no doubt that'll be our toughest match. It'll be great to take on such a great side with such talented players," Lewandowski added.

Sakkari Storms Into Guadalajara Semis

GUADALAJARA (Dispatches) - Fourth seed Maria Sakkari overcame Veronika Kudermetova 6-1 5-7 6-4 to reach the Guadalajara Open semi-finals and grab the eighth and final spot at the year-ending WTA Finals.

Sakkari saved 14 of 15 break points on the night to outclass her determined opponent and will join Iga Swiatek, Ons Jabeur, Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff, Caroline Garcia, Aryna Sabalenka and Daria Kasatkina at the season finale.

"Without fire you cannot win these matches," said Sakkari, whose victory denied her opponent a debut singles appearance at the tournament.

"Without heart, without courage, without going for it and being brave you cannot get these opportunities, you cannot win them."

The WTA Finals, featuring the world's top eight singles players and doubles teams, will start in Fort Worth, Texas on Oct. 31.

Earlier, experience triumphed over youth as 33-year-old twice major winner Victoria Azarenka beat 18-year-old American Gauff 7-6(2) 4-6 6-3 to stay on track to end a two-year title drought.

Azarenka kept her poise under a barrage of powerful serves as the world number seven lobbed 10 aces across the net. She broke down Gauff's stout defence to convert on 5 of 13 break point chances and set up a meeting with American Jessica Pegula.

"She served really well, she was mixing a lot so I was trying to adjust," Azarenka said. "I tried to just stay consistent."

Gauff, who reached her first Grand Slam final at Roland Garros this year, had already booked her WTA Finals spot.

"She's the same age as my career so it felt pretty interesting," said Azarenka. "She's such a great athlete, I can't wait to see how far she can go."

Pegula has been playing the best tennis of her career in 2022 and showed no signs of losing that momentum Friday when she rolled over compatriot Sloane Stephens 6-2 6-2.

The quarter-finalist at the Australian Open, Roland Garros, and U.S. Open set the tone when she broke Stephens immediately to open the first set and dropped only three of her first-serve points in the second frame.

Thiem Beats Hurkacz in Antwerp



won 51 of his 63 first-service points (81 percent).

Thiem will face Sebastian Korda in the semifinals after the 22-year-old American walloped Japan's eighth-seeded Yoshihito Nishioka 6-0, 6-2 in less than 53 minutes.

No. 2 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada had to storm back to defeat British fifth

ANTWERP (Dispatches) - Austria's Dominic Thiem saved three match points rallied for a 3-6, 7-6 (9), 7-6 (4) win to oust No. 1 seed Hubert Hurkacz of Poland in the quarterfinals of the European Open in Antwerp, Belgium.

Thiem, who claimed the 2020 U.S. Open but hasn't won since then due in part to a wrist injury, absorbed Hurkacz's 17 aces and Victory lifts the Toffees above Palace on goal difference into 11th.

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seed Daniel Evans 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2. He'll meet Frenchman Richard Gasquet in the semis; Gasquet beat Belgium's David Goffin 6-2, 7-6 (6).

No. 1 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece handled Sweden's Mikael Ymer 7-5, 6-3 to reach the semifinals in Sweden.

Tsitsipas will face Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori, who surprised American third seed Frances Tiafoe 6-1, 6-2 in less than 65 minutes. Ruusuvuori won a whopping 26 of 27 first-service points (96.3 percent).

The other semifinal will pit fifth seed Alex de Minaur of Australia against seventh seed Holger Rune of Denmark. De Minaur outlasted Canadian fourth seed Denis Shapovalov 6-2, 7-6 (4) and Rune turned the tables on second seed Cameron Norrie of Great Britain 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3.

Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia, the fifth seed, upset top seed Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 7-5, 6-2 in the quarterfinals in Naples, Italy.

Kecmanovic saved seven of eight break points while converting four of seven opportunities to break Carreno Busta's serve. Earlier in the day, Carreno Busta had to play his second-round match and swept Italy's Fabio Fognini 6-1, 6-1 in 53 minutes.

Dortmund Crush Stuttgart 5-0 With Bellingham Double

DORTMUND (Dispatches) - Borussia Dortmund stormed past VfB Stuttgart 5-0 with two goals from England international Jude Bellingham to notch up their first win in four league games and climb to fourth place in the Bundesliga.

The hosts, who lost to leaders Union Berlin last week, entertain Manchester City in the Champions League on Tuesday with a spot in the knockout stage at stake. They scored after two minutes through Bellingham and were 3-0 up by halftime.

"It was a deserved win today. We wanted play with a lot of confidence and wanted to win it and we did it really well," said Dortmund coach Edin Terzic. "We hope to fill up on self-confidence."

"The early goal made it a lot easier. But we stuck with it and it was not just one solo goal but we combined as a team, won possession as a team and that is how we scored our goals."

"We know we have to keep working and not praise the team too much and on Tuesday we have to show an even better performance."

Dortmund opened their account with Bellingham slotting in from a Niklas Sule pass for his first league goal this season.

The early opener threw Stuttgart, who had won their last two matches in the league and German Cup under interim coach Michael Wimmer, off their game plan and before they had any time to react, Dortmund struck again.



Defender Sule was left with too much space in the box, allowing him to volley in a cross after 13 minutes before U.S. international Gio Reyna, making his first start of the season after a string of injuries, threaded home the third in the 44th.

Clearing House to Bring Transparency To Transfer Market

AUCKLAND (Dispatches) - FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the creation of a centralized clearing house will bring "transparency and accountability" as the sport's governing body looks to crack down on the multi-billion dollar global transfer market.

Infantino, speaking after Saturday's FIFA Council meeting in Auckland, said the new Paris-based entity would focus on ensuring smaller clubs receive compensation owed for developing players before tackling the broader market.

"This will change the lives of these small clubs because it's big, big money and it's due and we're very proud to do this," said Infantino.

"This will bring finally some transparency and accountability in the whole transfer market."

Infantino said only \$60 million to \$70 million of the estimated \$400 million owed to clubs who have developed players for the professional game reaches the relevant parties.

The creation of the clearing house is the latest step in FIFA's effort to reform the way transfers are conducted and ensure money is not redirected outside the sport.

"Whenever you deal with transfers of players, whenever some police authorities go and dig into transfers they find some strange payments to some strange places linked and connected with transfers," said Infantino.



"Well, this is not going to happen any more as far as training compensation is concerned but also, as a next step, as far as all transfer payments are concerned."

"Payments to the agents and payments from one club to another club, all this will be processed through this FIFA clearing house."