

Iran Health Ministry on Sunday Announced That No COVID-Related Deaths Were Reported Over the Past 24 Hours as the Country Is Recovering From a New Wave of the Disease

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Expressed Iran's Condolences With South Korean Government And Nation Over a Stampede During A Festival in the Country in Which Dozens of People Were Killed

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2 DOMESTIC

Recent Events Could Be Discussed at Universities



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Chinese Cars Can Have Significant Share of Iran Market



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

Russia Claims UK Navy Blew up Nord Stream



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Man City Go Top, Brighton Hammer Chelsea



> SEE PAGE 8

Terror, Assassination Sign of Lack of Logic

BANDAR ABBAS (IRNA) - Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri condemned the recent terrorist attack in Shiraz, saying that terror and assassination of the innocent people is a sign of lack of logic.

Speaking in Bandar Abbas while addressing commanders and officers of the IRGC Navy, Rear Admiral Tangsiri referred to the recent terrorist attack in Shiraz and said that the IRGC will not neglect its main mission and task which is monitoring and eradicating threats at its source, maintaining and improving the level of security stability in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

He added that despite all sanctions and obstacles the Islamic Republic of Iran is getting more powerful day by day, and the foes who had launched war against the Iranians think that they can stop the growing movement of Iran's Revolution and the nation, that is why they do such cowardly acts such as terrors that leads to the martyrdom of innocent people and pilgrims to the shrine of Shah Cheragh in Shiraz. **See Page 7**

UNSC Stance Encourages Zionist Regime Atrocities Against Palestine

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations said in a statement that the UN Security Council's current position has only encouraged and emboldened the Zionist regime to perpetuate its occupation and atrocities against the oppressed people of Palestine.

Amir-Saeed Iravani issued the call in a statement before the United Nations Security Council on "the situation in the Middle East including Question of Palestine" in New York.

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations said: The situation in occupied Palestine territories has deteriorated. The UN reports indicate that the year 2022 has been the deadliest year for the Palestinian people since 2006.

The Israeli regime has persisted with its oppressive, expansionist, and apartheid practices, as well as systematic violation of the human rights of Palestinians, through killing innocent people, including women and children, stealing and demolishing the property of the Palestinian people, and forcibly evicting them from their homes. **See Page 7**

Iran Trade With ECO States Near \$8.2b in H1



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Trade between Iran and the Economic Cooperation Organization's member states exceeded 10.67 million tons during the current fiscal year's first six months.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, trade between Iran and the Economic Cooperation Organization's member states exceeded 10.67 million tons worth \$8.19 billion during the current fiscal year's first six months (March 21-Sept. 22), registering a 30.28% decline in weight, but a 12.96% increase in value compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Turkey was Iran's main trade partner among the countries under review with 5.49 million tons worth \$5.3 billion, registering a 41.07% decline in terms of weight, but an 11.87% growth in terms of value, compared with the same period of last year, Financial Tribune reported.

It was followed by Pakistan with 1.76 million tons (up 19.46%) worth \$1.05 billion (up 61.29%) and Afghanistan with 1.59 million tons (down 36.83%) worth \$805.21 million (down 19.91%).

Iran's exports to ECO members stood at 8.56 million tons worth \$4.82 billion during the period, registering a 33.5% decline in terms of weight, but a 5.97% growth in value year-on-year.

Meanwhile Iranian customs office (IRICA) data showed the country continued to export increased volumes of commodities and products to other countries in October.

IRICA data published on Saturday showed that Iran's non-oil exports reached a total of \$28.406 billion in the seven months to October 22, up by 5.6% compared with the same period last year.

The figures showed that the total weight of Iranian export shipments had amounted to 61.283 million metric tons (mt) over March-October, a decline of 18.2% year on year.

Oil products and metals accounted for a bulk of exports from Iran in the seven months to late October, said IRICA spokesman Morteza Emadi.

Emadi said China was the largest customer of Iranian exports in March-October with some \$9.181 billion worth of purchases, followed by Iraq at \$4.029 billion and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at \$3.476 billion.

IRICA data showed that imports into Iran rose by 14.4% to \$31.727 billion in the seven months to late October. That comes as shipments fell by 15.7% in volume terms to a total of 19.747 million mt over the same period, according to the same data.

The Iranian customs figures showed that the UAE had been the largest exporter to Iran over the March-October period with \$9.435 worth of sales, followed by China at \$8.284 billion and Turkey at \$3.218 billion.

Really a Shame

For decades the Zionist regime has been using force and brutality against the Palestinians and even has occupied lands of the Palestinian people but the international bodies and above all the United Nations have remained passive and sometimes indifferent against these atrocities and when the UN has tried to take action, world powers have vetoed it and this cycle of crimes against the Palestinians has continued to date.

On Friday, the UN special coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process said the year 2022 has been the deadliest for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since 2005, sounding concern over the increasing violence perpetrated by Israeli occupation soldiers and settlers against Palestinians.

During the UN Security Council's quarterly open debate on Friday, Tor Wennesland pointed out that much of the violence took place in the context of military operations, noting that so far, "2022 is on course to be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs began systematically tracking Palestinian fatalities in 2005."

He expressed alarm at the intensity of violence in the occupied West Bank, and deplored the fact that children continue to be the victims of violence.

Wennesland said this period saw a spike in fatal violence across the West Bank, underscoring that "near-daily instances of violence, unfolding against a backdrop of unabated Israeli settlement expansion, evictions of Palestinians and home demolitions" are taking place.

Meanwhile, Norway's ambassador to the UN Mona Juul expressed concern over the increased use by Israeli soldiers of live ammunition against Palestinians.

"Over 100 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in 2022. That number makes 2022 the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2006," she reiterated.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health reported last week that Israel has killed at least 183 Palestinians since the start of 2022 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 26 since the start of October.

Norway's delegate also expressed deep concern over the rise in the number of children detained, and physical violence against children during detention.

Moreover, among delegates expressing views on the matter was the representative of France. The French envoy Nathalie Broadhurst Estival explained that one of the root causes of this resurgence of violence is "the continuation of the Israeli settlement policy, illegal under international law." **See Page 7**

Iran Airport Denies Lufthansa Claim About Dead Body

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Head of Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) has denied claims that a dead body found in the undercarriage of a Lufthansa plane in Frankfurt airport earlier this week was related to a flight that arrived from IKA.

Saeid Chalandari said on Saturday that authorities had checked CCTV cameras installed at IKA for any potential clue on the dead body that the German flag carrier claimed was found in the landing gear of its Airbus jet after it arrived from Tehran on Thursday morning.

"We have checked all cameras in the airport and there was no problem at all," Chalandari was quoted as saying by the semi-official Fars news agency.

He expressed doubts about the authenticity of claims by Lufthansa as he insisted that pilots normally carry out checks on landing gear bays of airplanes before flights.

The official also rejected media reports about the alleged incident and said that such cases are normally communicated to the airports via a written correspondence by the airline company involved. He said that Lufthansa had only reported the incident to IKA via a phone call some 14 hours after the body was discovered without providing any evidence to corroborate the claims. **See Page 7**

Hezbollah Chief Says Iran Enemies in Despair

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The head of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has said the huge processions that came in the aftermath of the Shiraz terror attack amounted to a "decisive message" to Iran's enemies that all their hostile efforts against the Islamic Republic would end in failure.

During a speech on Saturday, the Hezbollah chief pointed to the monumental rallies that took place earlier on Saturday following a terrorist attack on the southeastern Iranian city of Shiraz.

The tragedy saw an armed Daesh-affiliated terrorist storming Shah Cheragh — a sacred and popular Shia shrine in the city — and shooting indiscriminately at pilgrims. Scores were martyred and injured during the assault.

The huge processions that came in the aftermath of the attack, Nasrallah noted, amounted to a "decisive message" to Iran's enemies that all their hostile efforts against the Islamic Republic would end in failure.

The rallies indicated "the Iranian people's support for the country's [Islamic] establishment, and spelled despair for all those who are contemplating malicious activities against the country," the Hezbollah chief stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nasrallah attributed the Israeli regime's recent inking of a maritime deal with Beirut to Tel Aviv's fear of engaging in another conflict with his movement.

The resistance had threatened not to allow extraction of gas from the disputed Karish natural gas field in Eastern Mediterranean before conclusion of an agreement that would meet Beirut's demands, he noted.

Emphasizing that the resistance's threats confronted the Zionist regime with the prospect of a conflict with the movement and even a regional war, Nasrallah added, "It was [only] after the American and Israeli sides realized that the resistance was serious about what it says and witnessed [the resistance's] drones over Karish, that the agreement came about."

The remarks came two days after the Lebanese government and the Israeli regime separately signed a US-brokered deal that demarcated the maritime border in the Mediterranean Sea even though the two sides remain technically at war. **See Page 7**

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Iran Expresses Sympathy With Iraq Over Baghdad Explosion

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani expressed sympathy with Iraq over the explosion in Baghdad.

Kanaani extended a condolence message on Sunday to the Iraqi government and people over the explosion of a gas tanker which led to the killing and injuring of dozens of people in the country's capital. He also sympathized with the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery for the injured. Ten people were killed and more than 20 wounded in an explosion that took place in a garage near a football stadium and a café in east Baghdad on Saturday.

Recent Events Could Be Discussed at Universities

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi said that universities are the best places for reviewing recent developments and figuring out solutions.

The important prerequisite for the dialogue at universities is the proper comprehension of the matter in question, Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with the chancellors of Iran's universities.

If the subjects are not analyzed thoroughly, the analyses are mostly based on machinations and media hype, not based on truth, he said, noting that the proposed solutions will be of no use.

He termed domestic universities as vigorous and dynamic, noting that they have empowered the country and foiled the foes' plots by conducting and raising scientific projects.

The President stressed that the first and most important way to strengthen order and tranquility in universities is to elaborate on and resolve the preoccupations of students and professors.



He considered the mechanisms and capacities within the university sufficient to maintain order, discipline, and calm.

The enemies have made attempts to impede and slow down Iran's activities in science, industry, production, and service sectors and to stop Iran from having ties with the world, he pointed out.

He further noted that they started to design plots and sabotage when they could not achieve the desired results.

Tajikistan Hosts Iran Cultural Week

TEHRAN (IP) - Cultural Week of Iran will be held in Tajikistan with the presence of the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili, Iran's culture minister, will be in Dushanbe at the official invitation of the Minister of Culture of Tajikistan in early November to participate in the event's opening ceremony.

In the cultural and artistic event, which will be held with the presence of a group of people of Iranian culture and art, some capacities, productions, achievements, abilities, and creativity of Iranian artists in various fields of visual arts and music are supposed to be displayed.

Iranians Among the Dead In Seoul Halloween Festivities

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea's first big Halloween celebration since the end of Covid restrictions turned to tragedy on Saturday night, when at least 151 people, mostly teenagers and young adults, died as partygoers surged through a narrow alley in a popular nightlife district in Seoul, officials confirmed. The dead included several foreign nationals, including those from Iran.

Authorities are still investigating what caused the incident, but Choi Seong-bum, chief of the Yongsan-gu Fire Department, said it was a "presumed stampede" and that many people fell, injuring at least 82.

The dead included at least 19 foreign nationals, including people from Iran, Norway, China and Uzbekistan, he added.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol convened an emergency meeting in the early hours of Sunday, and later visited the scene to receive briefings from emergency officials.

Addressing the nation, he called a national period of mourning "until the handling of the accident is concluded."

Working Groups Meeting of Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission Begins

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The meeting of the working groups of the 16th Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Russia started in Grozny, Chechnya, in the presence of experts from different working groups to examine the capacities of cooperation.

The meeting of working groups of oil and gas, banking and finance, transportation, information technology, trade and investment, business groups, science and education, energy, standards, sports, customs, agriculture and industry began this morning (Sunday, October 30, 2022) in the presence of experts and representatives of Iranian and Russian ministries and organizations to examine the capacities of developing relations and prepare the final cooperation documents.

The meeting of various working groups will continue in the morning and afternoon in two sessions in order to negotiate the text of the final protocol of the joint commission of economic partners of Iran and Russia.

The meeting of the deputies of the joint commission for economic cooperation between Iran and Russia



will be the final part of today's plans for the meetings of the two sides.

The final summaries for the preparation of cooperation documents and the writing of the final draft of the protocol of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission will be done on Monday in the presence of experts and deputies of Iranian and Russian ministries and organizations.

Iranian Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji, as the head of the Permanent Committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, will leave for Russia on Monday with a delegation to attend the 16th meeting of the joint commission and sign the final protocol of the commission.

According to the agreements of the two sides, during the holding of the 16th Tehran-Moscow Economic Cooperation Commission in Russia, negotiations on the roadmap for economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation and the signing of the aforementioned document will be held.

More than 50 experts and deputies of Iranian ministries and organizations have traveled to Russia in the form of a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the meeting of the Economic Commission of Iran chaired by Javad Owji, Minister of Petroleum. Meanwhile, the Russian side is chaired by Alexander Novak, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia. More than 150 people from public and private sectors have participated in this meeting in the form of different working groups.

Tehran, Helsinki Confer on Boosting Environmental Cooperation

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran and Finland stress cooperation in environmental issues and consider common areas in this regard.

According to Iran Press report on Sunday, in order to expand cooperation with leading countries in the field of environment, a meeting with the presence of the ambassador of Finland to Tehran and the head of the regional center of Basel and Stockholm Conventions was held to examine the fields of cooperation and development of environmental activities of the two countries.

The regional center of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions in Iran is one of the 14 regional centers in the world in the field of education, information exchange, the provision of financial resources, technical assistance and transfer of new technologies in the field of proper management of waste and chemicals included in this the convention operates in the Asia-Pacific region.

The goals of the regional center of Basel and Stockholm Conventions in Iran are to transfer environmentally friendly



technologies, holding training programs, workshops, seminars and related projects in the field of proper environmental management of hazardous waste.

22 Countries including Bangladesh, Maldives, Afghanistan, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Bahrain, Yemen, Pakistan, Turkey, Syria, Oman, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan are members of Basel Convention Regional Center (BCRC) in Iran.

Basel Convention Regional Center (BCRC) in Iran is established according to Decision VII/10 of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7) of the Basel Convention in October 2004. Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, and Pakistan are members of the BCRC.

The role of the Center is to assist member states and non-member states through capacity building for environmentally sound management to achieve the fulfillment of the objectives of the Convention.

TCCIMA, TPO Sign MOU to Boost Trade With Pakistan

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) to pursue and develop free trade with Pakistan.

Signed by TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak and TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari on Saturday, the MOU is aimed at developing the exports of Iranian products to the Pakistani market, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Based on the MOU, TPO as a government body, and TCCIMA as a representative of the private sector are going to share their capabilities and development capacities to provide the basis for better identification of the Pakistani market and increase the export of Iranian goods to this country.

Preparation and formulation of laws and guidelines related to exports to Pakistan with the consultation and cooperation of TCCIMA, sending trade delegations to this country, and also cooperation to create financial and banking channels between Iran and Pakistan are also among the areas of cooperation between the two sides.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Peyman-Pak mentioned Pakistan as one of TPO's priority markets for enhancing the country's business plans and emphasized that establishing direct transit as well as creating a financial and banking mechanism between Karachi and Tehran are two key axes in the development of business relations with this country.

Also, Khansari, in his speech, underlined the TCCIMA plans and actions in recent years to develop the economic relations of Iranian companies with neighboring countries and expressed the chamber's full readiness to cooperate with TPO in order to develop exports to Pakistan.

He mentioned the exchange of several business delegations between Iran and Pakistan and the government's efforts for signing a free trade agreement between the two countries as positive steps for the development of economic relations, saying: "Establishing a free trade agreement is a big step towards long-term economic cooperation, especially the growth of Iran's exports to Pakistan."

FM Felicitates 68th Anniversary of Algerian Revolution

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian congratulated the 68th anniversary of the Algerian Revolution to his counterpart.

In a Sunday message to the Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra, Amirabdollahian congratulated the 68th anniversary of the Algerian Revolution to him, the government, and the people of the country.

He also expressed hope that with the efforts of the officials of the two countries, the two

countries will witness the growth and development of relations and cooperation in all international and regional fields.

The Algerian War, also known as the Algerian Revolution or the Algerian War of Independence, and sometimes in Algeria as the War of 1 November, was fought between France and the Algerian National Liberation Front from 1954 to 1962, which led to Algeria winning its independence from France.

Zionists, Region Reactionary States Cannot Hide Behind ISIL

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Zionist regime and the region's reactionary states cannot hide behind the mask of ISIL or London-based media, the Iranian Parliament speaker said, adding that they must be accountable for the blood of Iranians.

Addressing the parliament session on Sunday, Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said, "Shiraz terrorist attack proved that the enemies are seeking to disrupt the country's security, people's daily lives, and create division, wars, and conflicts in the country."

The Zionist regime and the region's reactionary states cannot hide behind the mask of ISIL or London-based media, he said, adding that they must be accountable for the blood of Iranians.

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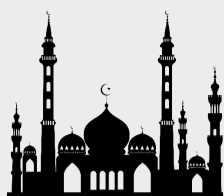


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■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:26

109. But if they turn back, Say: "I have proclaimed the Message to you all alike and in truth; but I know not whether that which ye are promised is near or far.

110. "It is He Who knows what is open in speech and what ye hide (in your hearts).

Surah 21. The Prophets (109 - 110)

Chinese Cars Can Have Significant Share of Iran Market

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC NEWS

TEHRAN - Chairman of Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce Majid Reza Hariri says 92% of Iran's exports which are exported to China are oil products that the government sector pursues it and the remaining 8% is carried out by the private sector and they are goods like carpet, dried fruits, saffron and handicrafts.

Speaking to ILNA, Hariri said that Iran is a good market for Chinese cars and added that lifting ban on imports of cars in Iran will provide good ground for Chinese cars to roll in Iran's market. He added that since the ministry has set a price cap for the imported cars, it has made the country have less options and importers will be unable to think of European, Japanese and South Korean cars.

He added that the price of Chinese cars is in the range of 10,000 to 20,000 euros, adding that with the set price cap, Chinese cars would dominate major part of Iran's car market and one cannot evaluate it as positive or negative move.

He went on to say that people's purchasing power is clear and due to the economic ties and development, people's purchasing power has strongly declined and purchasing a 20,000-euro car with inclusion of tax will not be economic and the question is how many people can buy cars with such a price.

Hariri noted that only some part of the middle class will be able to buy Chinese car with the price



around one billion tomans and European cars will still be leading ones in the market with higher prices.

He added that during the sanctions era, Chinese companies invested in Iran and could take some part of Iran's market, and by the way possibility for imports of Chinese cars is more than from other countries because the after sales services of Chinese cars in the country is possible and they can enter Iran's market faster.

He reiterated that Chinese cars have gained acceptable rankings in the world and some of them have received European standard certificates but some other factors are important in imports of cars from China and maybe some old models at first are imported from China.

Hariri added that the role of private sector in the foreign trade is not vast, adding that 55% of non-oil exports of the country last year and in the first half of the current year has been non-oil products and in this field, the private sector cannot play colorful role, adding that 24% of the foreign trade is also the mineral products that it is in the monopoly of the government sector and it means that government companies account for 80% of Iran's foreign trade.

PGPIC Sets Record for Production, Sales and Profitability

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Corporation (PGPIC) announced a new record by the company for production with 8.2% growth and getting consolidated income of 94,800b tomans.



During the annual general meeting of the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Corporation which was held by the presence of almost 80.45% of the share-holders at Milad Tower Conference Hall, the CEO of the company Dr. Ali Askari addressing the meeting said that the corporation is a shining gem and belongs to the Iranian nation. He added that PGPIC is a development-oriented and leading company and this company in the field of petrochemical is the only Iranian company in the world level and it has won brilliant achievements in the world rankings.

He then gave some report of the performance of the corporation and said that petrochemical industry has earned some \$10b for the country so far this year and \$4b has been the share of PGPIC in this achievement. Askari noted that in June 2021, the production of the group was around 20.5m tons and the figure rose to 22.2m this year and it is the highest ever production in the history of the holding and it shows 8.2% growth comparing to last year.

He added that the total sales of the group in the financial year leading to June 2022 were 307,000b which shows 86% in the collective sales. He noted that the consolidated income of the group was 94,800b tomans which shows 41% growth, reiterating that the main profit of the company was 55,800b tomans which has shown 44% growth comparing to the same period last year and the net profit of the Mother Company and consolidated income have set new records for the group.

He also announced registration of new record for sales with \$14.5b which equals with 87% growth comparing to the previous year. He stated that the outcome of these measures was the 14 places jump of the group in the ICIS world ranking and added that today PGPIC stands at 23rd place in the world ranking.

Askari also said that the value of the shares of the group has also increased in the domestic stock market and its share is currently the most valuable share in the capital market of the country.

Investment Directives Under Revision in Industry Ministry

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Industrial Development and Organization of Iran (IDRO) says the investment directives are under revision in the ministry and some incentives are being added to the directives.

Speaking in a meeting for reviewing problems of Jahrom Special Economic Zone, Mr. Ali Nabavi said that IDRO as a developmental organization is tasked with investment and support of investors. He reiterated that the task of IDRO is not to run any enterprise but it is tasked with creating and providing required industrial

infrastructures for the country, reiterating that the organization is determined in activating Jahrom Special Economic Zone.

Nabavi went on to say that the investment directives are under revision in the ministry and currently some incentives are being added to the directives to encourage more investors for investment in the free zones. He reiterated that all required infrastructures are ready in the Phase 1 of Jahrom Special Economic Zone and investors have no shortages and problems for activities in the zone.

Head of IDRO further noted that due to the capacities of the organization, it is ready for helping and supporting investors in the region. Then Governor of Fars Province Mr. Mohammad Hadi Imanieh who was in the meeting announced readiness of the governor general for support and acceleration in activating activities in Jahrom Special Economic Zone. He added that creation of any job and hope



among the youths will be more valuable than any other job.

He went on to say that since the major railway network of the south will pass through Jahrom, this special economic zone and Fars Province will become a very dynamic area in the country.

CEO of Yazd Faranasooz Company in an Interview Says:

Asian and European Customers Eager to Cooperate With Iran in Insulation and Fireproof Products



Yazd Faranasooz Company is a manufacturer of special refractory products. The focus of this company has been on the engineering and production of advanced refractories since the beginning of its establishment, and during the past twenty-five years, it has continuously been active in the field of refractories, and so far it has more than 600,000 tons of engineering resume and production of various insulating and refractory products. We hand an interview with Dr. Daoud Azimi, the CEO of this company, which follows as:

Your comment on the Aachen Exhibition in Germany and the presence of Yazd Faranasooz Company and its economic effects on the company?

Refractory conference and exhibition is held biennially at Aachen University of Germany, which is one of the most prestigious scientific events in the world. One of the most important academic centers in the field of refractory and ceramics in the world is Aachen University in Germany, and an exhibition is held along with this event. Companies that want to display their scientific power and achievements and actually their research and development units are present in this event and exhibition. This year, Yazd Faranasooz Company had submitted an article that was accepted in this event. Articles presented in this event either are rejected or become posters, or they are accepted and then presented at the university. After accepting the article, Yazd Faranasooz Company presented it at Aachen University and by the way, it was well received and the acceptance of this article was a great achievement for the company and the refractory industry of the country, and it was a shame if we did not present it and if we did not welcome this, the achievement would be missed and in the following years we might not have been taken seriously. Also, we had a booth next to the most prestigious brands in the world, and these events happened for the first time in the history of our country's refractory industry where an Iranian company both presented an article at the Aachen Symposium in Germany and at the same time had a booth, and as far as I know, no company from Iran

has had a booth there. Dr. Azimi said, in fact, we have announced to our global rivals that we have a position in terms of technical knowledge and scientific discussion of the refractory industry, while in fact, with this work, we boosted the confidence of the R&D unit, which is the heart of the factory and the most important part in the refractory industry. You know that the refractory industry cannot progress without paying attention to research and scientific issues. When your R&D unit can research and present world-class products to the market. The next issue is that we announced to the most reputed refractory manufacturing companies that we have a product that can even compete with European rivals. This means when you are present at this exhibition, you announce to your rivals that «our products have global standards and can compete with you in terms of quality and price.» We produced products that can compete with one of the most prestigious European brands. And in one of the steel factories, they took the delta record of electric arc furnace of a European company simultaneous with taking it from Yazd Faranasooz Company, and the result was that our product's efficiency was two times of its rival. He said that in this exhibition, negotiations were held with companies from other countries over the prices, and at the same time, of course they have made higher progress in other areas compared to us.

What is the advantage of attending exhibitions like the Aachen Exhibition compared to domestic exhibitions, and can you have economic interaction with your foreign partners despite the sanctions?

In this regard Dr. Azimi explained that participation in this exhibition has a very high degree of credibility and world class. "Of course, I am a member of the board of directors of the Refractory Association of the country, and we have done many follow-ups within the association for several years to establish a symposium and an exhibition of refractory, which happened with the follow-ups" Dr. Azimi said and continued, «We are present in all these exhibitions, such as steel and cement. We are present in 100 domestic exhibitions, which are always very serious with conferences and symposiums, presenting articles that have scientific and economic aspects and are carefully examined." He added that the Aachen exhibition has a very high scientific grade, as well as the presence of foreign competitors and the latest achievements of the refractory industry around the world, and very good ideas can be taken from there, and very good interactions are also established. Therefore, the whole world welcomes these exhibitions, and fortunately, we managed to attend them despite all the problems and troubles. He said, "There are many problems regarding sanctions and it is obvious that when there is a sanction, you cannot use all the capacities and potentials of the world. In fact, in my opinion, the biggest threat that can cause problems for our industry due to the embargo is the fact that we are far away from modern

technologies, which causes us to lose many good achievements that can be obtained through research, machinery and technology in the world. Of course, let's not forget that the embargo provides unique opportunities to manufacturing companies, including refractory manufacturers; because in fact, foreign competitors are eliminated and this situation can provide better opportunities to the domestic refractory industry, and also consumers are forced to accept a higher risk and not import all the goods that they used to import into the country. Many companies, when the domestic opportunity is provided, forget that it is possible that one day this issue can be reversed and they do not prepare to leave the embargo and international competition. In fact, the advantage and smartness of many companies is their full attention on the international market and to keep themselves in that level. Therefore, in order to be able to reduce the effects of the embargo and export goods and import the required standard raw materials and to minimize the problems that the embargo has created for our company and not to lag behind the main achievements of the world, we have all solutions for the so-called confronting with sanctions.

Please tell me what is your company's export plan, and secondly, what are your suggestions to ease the obstacles to your export, and what is your request from the government regarding support for exporters?

First I congratulate National Export Day to all exporters and those who play a role in the country's exports and play a role in generating wealth and currency for this country, which is a very important role, and I wish them success. French Company of Yazd is looking for the long-term export of refractory products with a written and very ready plan. Dr. Azimi added, the problems that previously existed for the refractory industry in the field of exports were that there were companies without export activities, or that they had short-term exports, or that they were not ready for the international market. In my opinion, whether in the refractory industry or in other industries, the most important thing a company should do before exporting is to prepare itself for export and to internationalize its company's standards. In simple words, it means to offer a product to the global market that is competitive in terms of price and quality. For this, it is necessary to build a coherent and strong international structure, build a good brand and produce quality goods, otherwise export may happen on a case-by-case basis, but if this has not already happened; It causes the export to be a case or even ruins those markets for the country, which means that the exporter not only did not help, but also created a bad resume for his country in the field of industry or economy. Also, Yazd Faranasooz Company is fully ready to export. In no way did we start exporting before this even though it was very emphasized and announced that you have the potential to export until we did the full resumes of the country. In addition to four hundred full-time and part-time active personnel, more than

50 post-graduate and doctoral staff are stationed in different departments in the Yazd Faranasooz Company. The majority of these forces are able to speak English and they presented a product that has a very good competition with its European examples and has performed twice as well. In fact, the result of 25 years of round-the-clock efforts has reached a point where this company is ready for export. Dr. Azimi continued that the most important suggestion is that we can remove the barriers to interacting with the world. To implement the export plan, dialogue-negotiation-commuting is needed. We face a lot of problems to get a visa. At the Aachen exhibition, I had to do all the work that should be done by three or four experts from the country alone; From selling - preparing the booth and presenting articles, they said that now, considering the problems that have arisen between Russia and Europe, one of the most important opportunities in the field of refractory industry has been provided for our country; Because our country is basically at a high level in terms of technical know-how and production, and our proximity to Central Asia and Russia lowers costs. Transportation costs and rising energy prices create this unique opportunity that exports did, but I wish they would reduce the sanctions, which means that if the JCPOA comes to fruition, it would be a very good opportunity. Dr. Azimi added that now, according to the experience gained at the German exhibition, while we were also present at the Ancross exhibition in Turkey the following week, we talked with customers from Central Asia and Russia who wanted to They cooperate and this is an opportunity that the authorities can pay attention to. Plan in this area the times when, for example, officials are traveling to countries. This is the most important thing that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can do. For this exceptional opportunity, there should be a plan so that the producers, artisans and merchants of the two countries can have good communication with each other and take advantage of this exceptional opportunity that has arisen.

Can you explain about the article you presented at the Aachen Exhibition Event Symposium?

The subject of the article is the corrosion of alumina spinel masses. In fact, we chose a topic that is the topic of refractory industry day in advanced crimes, and in the text of the article, there was a mention of the company about advanced products and the refractory industry of the world, and the article was a part that was welcomed.

As a final note, if there is anything left that I did not mention, please tell me.

In the end, I would like to thank Iran News and Sobh Eghatsat newspapers for paying attention to the events that happen in the field of refractory industry and highlighting these important issues shows that you are professional and pay attention to important news issues in the field of economy. Thank you very much for your attention.

Franco-Australian Conservation Park Manager Abducted in Chad

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - A Franco-Australian person has been kidnapped in eastern Chad, near the Sudanese border, "by as yet unidentified individuals", the government in N'Djamena said in a statement on Saturday.

"The government has mobilised all security and human means to catch the kidnappers," the authorities said. "This abduction occurred yesterday, in the afternoon of October 28, 2022," a statement added, without giving details of the abduction.

The victim had been working in a park run by the Sahara Conservation Fund, a wildlife NGO.



Russia Suspends Participation In Ukraine Grain Exports Deal

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia has suspended participation in a U.N.-brokered deal to export agricultural produce from Ukrainian ports after attacks on ships in Crimea, Russia's defence ministry said, dealing a blow to a three-month agreement aimed at easing a global squeeze on grain supplies.

Russia said that Ukrainian forces, with the help of drones, attacked ships from the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, the biggest city in Russian-annexed Crimea, in the early hours of Saturday.



Russia Claims UK Navy Blew up Nord Stream



LONDON (Dispatches) - Russia's defense ministry said that British navy personnel blew up the Nord Stream gas pipelines last month, a claim that London said was false and designed to distract from Russian military failures in Ukraine.

Russia did not give evidence for its claim that a leading NATO member had sabotaged critical Russian infrastructure amid the worst crisis in relations between the West and Russia since the depths of the Cold War.

The Russian ministry said that "British specialists" from the same unit directed Ukrainian drone attacks on ships of Russian Black Sea fleet in Crimea earlier on Saturday that it said were largely repelled by Russian forces, with minor damage to a Russian minesweeper.

"According to available information, representatives of this unit of the British Navy took part in the planning, provision and implementation of a terrorist attack in the Baltic Sea on September 26 this year - blowing up the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines," the ministry said.

"To detract from their disastrous handling of the illegal invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Ministry of Defense is resorting to peddling false claims of an epic scale," the British defense ministry said.

"This invented story, says more about arguments going on inside the Russian government than it does about the West."

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for Russian foreign ministry, said Moscow will seek reaction from the U.N. Security Council saying on social media Moscow wanted to draw attention to "a series of terrorist attacks committed against the Russian Federation in the Black and Baltic Seas, including the involvement of Britain in them".

Russia, deeply isolated by Western nations since its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, has previously blamed the West for the explosions that ruptured the Russian-built Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines on the bed of the Baltic Sea. But it had not previously given specific details of who it thinks was responsible for the damage to the pipelines, previously the largest routes for Russian gas supplies to Europe.

A sharp drop in pressure on both pipelines was registered on Sept. 26 and seismologists detected explosions, triggering a wave of speculation about sabotage to one of Russia's most important energy corridors.

Reuters has not been able to immediately verify any of the conflicting claims about who was to blame for the damage.

Sweden and Denmark have both concluded that four leaks on Nord Stream 1 and 2 were caused by explosions, but have not said who might be responsible. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has called the damage an act of sabotage. Sweden has ordered additional investigations to be carried out into the damage done to the pipelines, the prosecutor in charge of the case said in a statement on Friday.

Thousands of Workers Evicted in Doha Ahead of World Cup

DOHA (Dispatches) - Qatar has emptied apartment blocks housing thousands of foreign workers in the same areas in the center of the capital Doha where visiting soccer fans will stay during the World Cup, workers who were evicted from their homes told Reuters.

They said more than a dozen buildings had been evacuated and shut down by authorities, forcing the mainly Asian and African workers to seek what shelter they could - including bedding down on the pavement outside one of their former homes.

The move comes less than four weeks before the Nov. 20 start of the global soccer tournament which has drawn intense international scrutiny of Qatar's treatment of foreign workers and its restrictive social laws.

At one building which residents said housed 1,200 people in Doha's Al Mansoura district, authorities told people at about 8 pm on Wednesday they had just two hours to leave.

Municipal officials returned around 10.30 pm, forced everyone out and locked the doors to the building, they said. Some men had not been able to return in time to collect their belongings.

"We don't have anywhere to go," one man told Reuters the next day as he prepared to sleep out for a second night with around 10 other men, some of them shirtless in the autumn heat and humidity of the Persian Gulf Arab state.

He, and most other workers who spoke to Reuters, declined to give their names or personal details for fear of reprisals from the authorities or employers.

Nearby, five men were loading a mattress and a small fridge into the back of a pickup truck. They said they had found a room in Sumaysimah, about 40 km (25 miles) north of Doha.

A Qatari government official said the evictions are unrelated to the World Cup and were designed "in line with ongoing comprehensive and long-term plans to re-organise areas of Doha."

Brazil Presidential Race Down to the Wire

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Brazil's presidential race has drawn about even, a new poll showed on Saturday, a day before the tense runoff vote between right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro and his leftist challenger Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Lula has 51.1% of the valid votes and Bolsonaro has 48.9%, a difference that is equal to the margin of error of the MDA poll commissioned by the transport sector lobby CNT.

Most polls suggest Lula is the slight favorite to come back for a third term, capping a remarkable political return after his jailing on graft convictions that were overturned. But Bolsonaro outperformed opinion polls in the first-round vote on Oct. 2, and many analysts say the election could go either way.

The deeply polarizing figures attacked each other's character and record in a televised debate on Friday night. They accused each other of lying and refused repeatedly to answer each other's questions.

Bolsonaro opened the debate by denying reports that he might unpeg the minimum wage from inflation, announcing instead he would raise it to 1,400 reais (\$260) a month if re-elected, a move that is not in his government's 2023 budget.

Still, with their campaigns focusing on swaying crucial undecided votes, analysts suggested that the president gained little ground in the debate to win a race that polls had shown roughly stable for weeks since Lula led the first-round voting by 5 percentage points.

Riding a wave of conservative voter sentiment, that result was better for Bolsonaro than most polls had shown, giving him a boost of momentum to start the month, but the past two weeks of the campaign have presented headwinds.

On Sunday, one of Bolsonaro's allies opened fire on federal police officers coming to arrest him. A week earlier Bolsonaro had to defend himself from attack ads after he told an anecdote about meeting Venezuelan migrant girls in suggestive terms.

Car Bombs at Somali Education Ministry Leave Scores of Casualties

MOGADISHU (Dispatches) - Two car bomb explosions at the education ministry in Somalia's capital Mogadishu killed or wounded scores of people on Saturday, police and the state news agency said.

It was not known who was behind the blasts but the Islamist group al Shabaab frequently carries out bombings and gun attacks in Mogadishu and elsewhere.

"Two car bombs hit the walls of the ministry," police captain Nur Farah said.

The first explosion hit the ministry then the second blast occurred as ambulances arrived and people gathered to help the victims, Farah told Reuters.

A police officer guarding the ministry, who gave his name as Hassan, told Reuters he saw at least 12 bodies and more than 20 people wounded.

State news agency SONNA, said the blasts had

caused "scores of civilian casualties including independent journalist Mohamed Isse Kona."

A Reuters journalist near the blast site said the two explosions occurred within minutes of each other and smashed windows in the vicinity. Blood from victims of the blasts covered the tarmac just outside the building, he said.

"The second blast burnt our ambulance as we came to transport the casualties from the first blast," Abdikadir Abdirahman of the Aamin Ambulance Service told Reuters.

A driver and a first aid worker had been injured in the blast, he said.

Al Qaeda-allied al Shabaab, which has been fighting in Somalia for more than a decade, is seeking to topple the central government and establish its own rule based on a strict interpretation of sharia law.



At Least 146 Killed In Halloween Stampede In South Korea

SEOUL (Dispatches) - At least 146 people were killed in a stampede when a huge crowd celebrating Halloween crammed into an alley in a night

life area of the South Korean capital Seoul night, emergency officials said.

A further 150 people were injured in the crush in Seoul's Itaewon district, Choi Sung-beom, head of the Yongsan Fire Station, said in a briefing at the scene.

Many of the injured were in serious condition and receiving emergency treatment, the officials said. Many of the party-goers were wearing masks and Halloween costumes.

The incident took place at about 10:20 p.m. (1320 GMT).

"A number of people fell during a Halloween festival, and we have a large number of casualties," Choi said. Many of those killed were near a nightclub, he said.

Many of the victims were women in their twenties, Choi said.

Witnesses described chaotic scenes moments before the stampede, with the police on hand in anticipation of the Halloween event at times having trouble maintaining control of the crowds.

Social media footage showed hundreds of people packed in the narrow, sloped alley crushed and immobile as emergency officials and police tried to pull them to free.

One woman heard on a social media post cries out in English: "Oh my God, oh my God, Jesus fucking Christ."

Other footage showed chaotic scenes of fire officials and citizens treating dozens of people who appeared to be unconscious.

A Reuters witness said a make-shift morgue was set up in a building adjacent to the scene. About four dozen bodies were carried out later on wheeled stretchers and moved to a government facility to identify the victims, according to the witness.

It was the first Halloween event in three years after the country lifted COVID restrictions and social distancing. Some witnesses described the crowd becoming increasingly unruly and agitated as the evening deepened.

The Itaewon district is popular with young South Koreans and expatriates alike, its dozens of bars and restaurants packed on Saturday for Halloween after businesses had suffered a sharp decline over three years of the pandemic.



Japan to Spend 29.1 Tril. Yen On Economic Package Amid Inflation



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan will spend 29.1 trillion yen (\$199 billion) under an economic package unveiled Friday, featuring steps to alleviate the pain of accelerating inflation and lift the economy out of the doldrums amid COVID-19, Russia's war against Ukraine and a weaker yen.

Faced with faltering public support, the government of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is reducing household utility bills as a major pillar of the package. It estimates the average household will save 5,000 yen a month from January to September.

The total size of the stimulus package, approved by the Cabinet in the afternoon, will reach 71.6 trillion yen when spending by municipalities and companies is taken into account.

The massive spending plan comes despite the country's tattered public finances, with most of the necessary funds likely to be secured by issuing government bonds.

To finance the envisaged spending, the government is expected to submit an extra budget for fiscal 2022 through next March to the current parliamentary session.

"We are targeting energy prices, a major factor behind the recent inflation and curb rising prices in a visible way," Kishida told a press conference as he explained the details of the package.

"We will spend 6 trillion yen in total on energy-related steps and extending support worth 45,000 yen to each household," he added.

Rising inflation has hit Japan while its economy recovers from the COVID-19 fallout much more slowly than in other advanced economies.

Surging commodity prices and the yen's rapid fall of late are adding to its woes by inflating import costs for the resource-poor nation.

The government plans to lower household electricity bills by 7 yen per kilowatt-hour, meaning that an average household will save around 2,800 yen a month. Companies will receive support worth 3.5 yen per kilowatt-hour.

For city gas charges, the government will provide support worth 30 yen per cubic meter of consumption, enabling an average household to save about 900 yen a month.

Existing subsidies for oil wholesalers to lower retail gasoline and kerosene prices will be extended beyond December. They will be reduced from June next year.

Japan, a country known for its years of chronic deflation, has seen its inflation accelerate at its fastest pace in over three decades.

The gain has been mainly caused by surging energy, raw material and food prices amid Russia's war, with core consumer prices, a key gauge of inflation, topping 3 percent in September and exceeding the Bank of Japan's inflation target of 2 percent.

The energy-related measures will help curb the rise in consumer prices by around 1.2 percentage points, while the broader economic package could boost Japan's real gross domestic product by around 4.6 percent, according to government estimates.

The impact of the yen's rapid depreciation has been increasingly felt, as the BOJ maintains an ultralow rate policy while its global peers have already shifted to monetary tightening.

"Speculative and rapid currency movements are not desirable for anyone. The government will be keeping close tabs on developments in the foreign exchange market in communication and coordination with the BOJ," Kishida said.

In Britain's Inflation Crisis, Healthy Diets Are a Casualty



LONDON (Dispatches) - Fresh vegetables and fish are falling off the menu. Packaged pizzas and processed meat are the dishes of the day.

Many British households are turning away from healthier foods as rampant inflation pushes them towards cheaper processed meals, according to consumer data and experts who are worried about the nation taking a nutritional nosedive.

Joanne Farrer used to regularly serve her three children roast beef dinners or stews packed with fresh vegetables. Now she's more likely to give them chicken nuggets and fries or sausages and mashed potatoes, which are "cheaper and filling".

Her monthly welfare payment's mostly swallowed by rent and the rising cost of gas and electricity.

As grocery prices rise across the board, the cost of fresh food has largely been outpacing processed and packaged products, according to the official UK consumer price index (CPI).

Prices for fresh vegetables rose about 14% in September versus the same month last year earlier for example, while fresh beef also jumped 14%, fish 15%, poultry 17%, eggs 22% and low-fat milk 42%.

Meanwhile, salted or smoked meat such as bacon and crisps went up a slower pace of about 12% each, packaged pizzas rose nearly 10%, sugary snacks like gummies increased by 6% and chocolate increased by just over 3%.

Shopping habits are changing too, according to exclusive data from NielsenIQ, which created a basket of 37 food products for Reuters. Volume sales of fresh vegetables fell by more than 6% and fresh meat by over 7% in August, for example, while sales of snacks and candy rose almost 4%.

The data underscores the trend towards processed food implied by the CPI figures, which do not include sales, raising red flags for public health advocates.

Packaged food products often contain unhealthy levels of salt, fat and sugar, plus flavor-enhancers and preservative chemicals to give them longer shelf lives, and are associated with higher risks of obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancers.

Britain is already near the forefront of an "obesity epidemic" across Europe, where almost 60% of adults are overweight or obese, raising their risk of premature death and serious disease, according to a World Health Organization report in May.

Fresh food has become more expensive because it is more energy intensive to produce than packaged food made consumer goods companies such as Nestle and Unilever, which are also more able to absorb a hit to margins due to their scale.

So far this year versus last year, the average price of healthier foods such as vegetables and fish have risen by more than 8 pounds (\$9) per 1,000 kcal in Britain compared with about 3 pounds for less healthy foods like bacon and crisps, according to data from the Food Foundation.

For some, the consequences of rising prices are dire.

Close to 10 million adults - or one in five households - are unable to put enough food on the table, with some skipping meals or going without for an entire day, the charity's nationwide survey carried out in late September suggests.

That's double the number affected in January.

Sharon Spice, a London-based youth worker, said people visiting food banks had stopped requesting fresh food because they worried about having to use gas or electricity to cook it.

She added that many parents would go for buy-one-get-one-free deals in supermarkets: "Cheap food like pizza and everything that's unhealthy for you, basically."



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EU Approves Effective Ban on New Fossil Fuel

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Union struck a deal on a law to effectively ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2035, aiming to speed up the switch to electric vehicles and combat climate change.

Negotiators from the EU countries and the European Parliament, who must both approve new EU laws, as well as the European Commission, which drafts new laws, agreed that carmakers must achieve a 100% cut in CO2 emissions by 2035, which would make it impossible to sell new fossil fuel-powered vehicles in the 27-country bloc.

"This deal is good news for car drivers... new zero-emission cars will become cheaper, making them more affordable and more accessible to everyone," Parliament's lead negotiator Jan Huitema said.



OPEC Expected to Stick to View of Long-Term Oil Demand Rise

LONDON (Dispatches) - OPEC is likely to maintain its view world oil demand will rise for another decade, longer than many other forecasters predict, in a forthcoming major report, despite the growing role of renewables and electric cars, two OPEC sources said.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is scheduled to update its long-term oil demand forecasts in its 2022 World Oil Outlook on Oct. 31. The 2021 version sees oil demand reaching a plateau after 2035.

Another decade or more of oil demand growth would be a boost for producers and OPEC, whose 13 members depend on oil income, and would justify continued investment in new supplies. Consumers and governments urging efforts to curb oil use to combat climate change would be less happy.

OPEC made a shift in 2020 when the pandemic hit demand, saying it would eventually slow after years of predicting ever-increasing consumption. The latest update is likely to keep OPEC among the more bullish forecasters of oil demand.

"It is similar to last year in terms of the demand outlook," one of the OPEC sources said on condition of anonymity. The second source said OPEC has not brought forward its timeline for when plateau demand is forecast.

Other predictions see oil demand peaking earlier. TotalEnergies has forecast this will take place before 2030.

The International Energy Agency on Thursday for the first time in its history of modelling said demand for all fossil fuels was set to peak, with oil demand levelling off in the middle of the next decade.

OPEC's Vienna headquarters declined to answer questions ahead of the publication's launch on Monday in Abu Dhabi that will be attended by OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais and other OPEC officials.

Another OPEC source said Russia's invasion of Ukraine - which has sent oil and gas prices soaring and led to an energy crisis - could boost oil demand in the near term due to fuel switching, as could the ongoing recovery from the pandemic.

"It is expected that oil and gas will remain as the dominant fuels in the world's energy mix until the middle of the century," this source said.

Last year, OPEC saw oil demand reaching 108.2 million barrels per day in 2045, up from 90.6 million bpd in 2020.

The group steadily lowered the 2045 projection over the last few years, citing changes to consumer behaviour brought about by the pandemic and competition from electric cars. By contrast, this year OPEC is expected to increase the 2045 demand forecast, two sources said.

Two former OPEC officials, however, cited longer-term trends that will weigh on demand.

"Even oil-producing countries are interested in electrification because of pollution," said Hasan Qabazard, OPEC's head of research from 2006 to 2013, and a Kuwaiti. "In Kuwait, people are starting to buy electric cars."

Qabazard last year said demand could peak within a decade but maybe later and maintains that view.

U.S. Consumer Spending Rises Strongly

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. consumer spending rose more than expected in September while underlying inflation pressures continued to bubble, keeping the Federal Reserve on track to hike interest rates by three-quarters of a percentage point next week.

But there was some encouraging news in the fight against stubbornly high inflation, with other data from the Labor Department on Friday showing private industry wage growth slowed considerably in the third quarter.

"Americans may say they are worried about inflation, but they are still out shopping which keeps the economy growing for another quarter," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS in New York. "There can be no chance that inflation pressures will subside in the near term from slowing demand."

Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, rose 0.6% last month, the Commerce Department said. Data for August was revised higher to show spending increasing 0.6% instead of 0.4% as previously reported.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast consumer spending would gain 0.4%. Consumers stepped up purchases of motor vehicles and spent more on food, clothing, prescription medication and recreational goods. There were also increases in outlays on services, driven by housing and utilities as well as travel and dining at restaurants.

The data was included in Thursday's advance third-quarter gross domestic product report, which showed economic growth rebounding after contracting in the first half of the year.



French Economy Ekes out Meager Growth in Q3

PARIS (Dispatches) - France's economy eked out meager growth in the third quarter as household spending stagnated and a sharp jump in inflation in October signaled headwinds looming in the final quarter of the year.

France's economy grew 0.2% in the July-September period, in line with market expectations, preliminary data from the INSEE official statistics agency showed.

Stubbornly high inflation, export weakness and risks to energy supply will weigh on the eurozone's second-largest economy in the months ahead, analysts said, just as the European Central Bank jacks up rates to tame price rises.

Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said he saw no reason to revise his forecast downwards for 2.6% GDP growth in 2022 but that there were clear signs of weakness in the eurozone as a whole.

"That means resilient growth this year and at least a significant slowdown next year," Villeroy told a webcast hosted by financial site Boursorama.

Villeroy, who is also a European Central Bank member, said "substantial" progress had already been made in the ECB's bid to fight off a historic surge in inflation.

France has fared better than its neighbors in taming price rises thanks in part to early energy price caps and fuel subsidies, but economists have warned that its heavy spending on blanket protection for households is storing up pain for later.

Russia's Finance Ministry Cuts 2023 Taxable Oil Expectations

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's finance ministry has significantly cut expectations of taxable oil production for 2023, according to the draft budget for the next three years, in the expectation Western sanctions will mean an overall decline in output and refining volumes.

Selling oil and gas has been one of the main sources for Russian foreign currency earnings since Soviet geologists found reserves in the swamps of Siberia in the decades after World War Two.

The draft budget anticipates Russian oil and gas condensate output at 490 million tons in 2023 (9.84 million barrels per day (bpd), a 7%-8% decline from 525-530 million tons expected this year (10.54 million bpd - 10.64 million bpd).

The fall could be even deeper, according to a Reuters analysis based on the published budget expectations for excise duty and revenue from oil refining and exports.

The budget data showed that oil refining and exports volumes, eligible for taxes, have been revised down to 408.2 million tons (8.20 million bpd) in 2023 from previously seen 507.2 million tons (10.15 million bpd).

Of this, refining volumes were revised down by 56 million tons, or almost 20%, to 230.1 million tons from 286.1 million tons seen in previous forecast.

Oil exports, eligible for exports duty, are expected at 178.2 million tons, down 19.4% from the earlier made projections.

In comments to Reuters, the finance ministry said it drew its assumptions on the economy ministry's projections of exports and other parameters.

"The economy ministry's forecast is based on overall oil exports increase, including an increase of exports eligible for tax relief, which is related to an expected rise of production at fields, which have exports duty relief," it said.

An addendum to the draft budget, which parliament needs to approve, said that the refusal of a number of countries to cooperate with Russia in the oil sector, as well as a discount on sales of Russia's main exports, led to a revision of the forecast trajectory of oil production in Russia.

"The estimate for 2022 was reduced to 515 million tons, in 2023 to 490 million tons. In 2024-2025, the level of oil production will average about 500 million tons," it said.

So far, Russian oil production, the third-largest after the United States and Saudi Arabia, has been resilient to sanctions, buoyed by rising sales to China and India.

Recession Fears Stalk Europe Despite Surprise German Growth

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - Germany's economy unexpectedly grew in the third quarter, official data showed Friday, but slowing growth in France and Spain added to fears that high inflation and an energy crisis will tip the region into recession.

Europeans are bracing for a difficult winter as Russia crimps gas supplies in the wake of the Ukraine war, sending heating bills soaring and worsening a cost-of-living squeeze for millions.

Despite the gloomy outlook, Germany surprised analysts by posting growth of 0.3 percent quarter-on-quarter, driven mainly by consumer spending.

France and Spain meanwhile reported 0.2 percent growth each from July to September, a sharp slowdown however from the 0.5 and 1.5 percent expansion they saw in the previous quarter.

"The German economy managed to hold its ground despite... the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, supply chain interruptions, rising prices and the war in Ukraine," federal statistics agency Destatis said about the preliminary data.

Germany narrowly eked out 0.1 percent growth in the second quarter, surpassing analyst predictions that Europe's biggest economy would shrink by 0.2 percent in the third quarter.

But economists warned that Friday's data merely provided a brief respite and that a downturn was coming, as Russia's war in Ukraine sends food and especially energy costs surging.

The fallout from the war has fuelled eurozone inflation, running at a record 9.9 percent in September, depressing household income and raising costs for companies.

"Today's positive growth data is a welcome surprise. However, it does not mean that the German economy will be able to prevent a recession," said ING economist Carsten Brzeski.

"The recession is only delayed, not cancelled."

Germany, whose energy-hungry industries are key to its success as an export nation, was heavily reliant on Russian gas before the war and it has been hit harder than other EU nations

by Moscow's gas cut. The German government expects the economy to shrink by 0.4 percent in 2023.

In France, the EU's second-largest economy, strong business investment helped to keep momentum going but the post-lockdown boost in the services sector was fading, analysts said.

Anaemic French growth in the third quarter might be "the last hurrah before the recession," said Maxime Darmet, an economist at Allianz Trade.

And with consumer prices in France soaring to their highest level since 1985, households "will feel severely the fall in their purchasing power," Darmet said.

French President Emmanuel Macron recently promised to support households through the difficult times in a rare TV interview, after the country was hobbled by weeks of strikes over pay by workers at oil refineries and fuel depots.

Spanish Economic Growth Slows Sharply, Inflation Eases



MADRID (Dispatches) - Spain's economy narrowly dodged a contraction in the third quarter with growth of 0.2%, the national statistics body said.

The country's growth is sharply down from 1.5% in the previous quarter, according to provisional data from the National Statistics Institute (INE).

The slowing growth is largely down to poor performance in the real estate sector, where activity contracted by 2.5%, and a drop in exports and business investment.

However, inflation in Spain eased in the last three months, reaching 7.3% in October, the INE said.

This is a sharp drop from the 10.8% in July, which was the highest in nearly 38 years.

Like other countries across Europe, Spain has been struggling with soaring inflation as a result of the fallout from the war in Ukraine and the reopening of the economy after pandemic-related lockdowns.

Among Western economies, Spain was also one of the worst hit by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, largely due to its heavy dependence on tourism.

The country's public accounts control body has warned that the Spanish economy could contract in the last quarter of this year and the first quarter of next - putting Spain in a technical recession.

But the government has insisted the country can dodge a crisis.

Spanish economy minister Nadia Calvino said in a TV interview Wednesday that it was "obvious" the country was "at a delicate moment", but that the economic indicators do not suggest there will be a recession.

The government has targeted gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 4.4% this year.

Iran, Romania to Expand Transport Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) - In a meeting between Javad Hedayati, the director-general of Transit and International Transportation Affairs Bureau of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO), and Romanian Ambassador to Tehran Mirela Grecu on Sunday, the two sides stressed the need for expansion of transportation ties.

Speaking in this meeting, Hedayati stressed the need for taking the necessary measures for holding an Iran-Romania Joint Transport Committee meeting in the near future, IRIB reported. The two sides also discussed the challenges and opportunities of mutual transport cooperation considering the geographical position of Iran and Romania with regard to the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).



New Italian Gov't Seeks to Raise Cash Ceiling

ROME (Dispatches) - Cash is king in Italy, and the debate over limiting payments in notes and coins is heating up again under the country's new right-wing government.

A new bill introduced this week by the League party, a member of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's coalition, would raise the cash payment ceiling for Italians to 10,000 euros from 2,000 euros today.

The ceiling was already scheduled to decrease further to 1,000 euros as of January 1. Credit card use has been steadily on the rise throughout the eurozone in recent years, but Italy has doggedly persisted in its preference for cash despite numerous incentives to encourage electronic payments.

Italians used cash for 82 percent of transactions, versus the 73 percent eurozone average, according to a 2020 study by the European Central Bank.

Defenders cite high card fees for shopkeepers and the preference among the elderly for cash. However, critics say its use contributes to tax evasion and money laundering -- two problems that have long dogged the Italian economy.

"Mafia and (tax) evaders thank you," tweeted Andrea Orlando, labour minister under former premier Mario Draghi, about the League's bill.

Meloni -- who has sought to reassure the EU that she will be fiscally prudent -- told the Senate Wednesday she will support a higher cash ceiling, although reports suggest she will back a lower level than proposed by the League.

She denied any link between high cash limits and the shadow economy, saying the higher ceiling "helps the poor".

Cash is preferred by low earners in the centre and south of Italy, where unemployment is higher, and among women and the self-employed, according to a Bank of Italy analysis of European Central Bank surveys published in March.

In a May report, the ECB estimated there were 13.5 million people in the eurozone with no bank account or access to financial services, arguing that cash needed to be remain accessible and accepted.

However, an October 2021 Bank of Italy research paper found a direct correlation between the use of cash and the shadow economy, noting that restrictions on cash use "are an effective instrument to tackle tax evasion".

A 2016 decision to raise Italy's ceiling from 1,000 euros to 3,000 euros to boost spending raised the share of the shadow economy by about 0.5 percentage points, the Bank of Italy report found.

Italy's cash ceiling has gradually been lowered over the past three decades, although it rose to a high of 12,500 euros under two governments of then-premier Silvio Berlusconi, whose Forza Italia party is also part of Meloni's coalition.

Elsewhere in Europe, Greece has the most stringent cash limit, at 500 euros, while the ceiling rises above 10,000 euros in countries such as Malta, the Czech Republic and Croatia.



Germany, Sweden and Ireland, among others, have no limits, but restrictions exist. Italy's largest business association, Confindustria, said that as soaring inflation eats into household budgets, "it does not appear appropriate to impose new limitations on forms of payment".

It said that lowering merchants' credit card processing fees was a priority. Massimo Vidiri, 51, who runs a Rome tobacco shop, said clients increasingly wanted to use credit cards, although he himself likes carrying cash.

"If something happens, like a blackout, what do I do?" he asked. "If the internet goes down throughout Italy, what do we do?"

He complained about high fees, a view shared by another shopkeeper nearby, Angelo Bruno.

Bruno, 71, denied small merchants like himself were a problem, telling AFP: "The big cases of tax evasion are the politicians, the only ones who get picked on are the little shopkeepers."

The Bank of Italy report found that because small business owners were more susceptible to bureaucratic burdens and high taxes, they were "more prone to shifting into the shadow economy".

Digital payments accelerated in Italy during the Covid-19 pandemic, when shops were shut and online shopping spiked.

A "cashback" scheme put in place in 2021 by then-prime minister Giuseppe Conte to encourage consumer spending and fight tax evasion through refunds on credit card purchases was considered inefficient and costly, and suspended by Draghi.

Global Warming Palpable For 96% of Humans



PARIS (Dispatches) - Whether they realised it or not, some 7.6 billion people -- 96 percent of humanity -- felt global warming's impact on temperatures over the last 12 months, researchers have said.

But some regions felt it far more sharply and frequently than others, according to a report based on peer-reviewed methods from Climate Central, a climate science think tank.

People in tropical regions and on small islands surrounded by heat-absorbing oceans were disproportionately impacted by human-induced temperature increases to which they barely contributed.

Among the 1,021 cities analysed between September 2021 and October 2022, the capitals of Samoa and Palau in the South Pacific have been experiencing the most discernible climate fingerprints, the researchers said in the report, released on Thursday.

Spiking temperatures in these locations were commonly four to five times more likely to occur than in a hypothetical world in which global warming had never happened.

Lagos, Mexico City and Singapore were among the most highly exposed major cities, with human-induced heat increasing health risks to millions.

Researchers at Climate Central, led by chief scientist Ben Strauss, looked for a way to bridge the gap between planetary-scale global warming -- usually expressed as Earth's average surface temperature compared to an earlier reference period -- to people's day-to-day experience.

"Diagnosing climate fingerprints lets people know that their experiences are symptoms of climate change," Strauss told AFP. "It represents a signal and shows we must adapt."

Using seven decades of high-resolution daily temperature data from the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and two dozen climate models, Strauss and his team created a tool -- the Climate Shift Index.

The tool calculates the likelihood that unusually warm weather at a specific location on any given day is due to climate change.

For Twitter Boss Musk, Now Comes the Hard Part

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Overspending on Twitter Inc for \$44 billion was the easy part.

Now, Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk must prove why he believes that Twitter is worth 10 times that amount and turn around a social media platform that he has spent months ridiculing.

Earlier this month, the outspoken billionaire said: "Myself and the other investors are obviously overpaying for Twitter right now. The long term potential for Twitter in my view is an order of magnitude greater than its current value."

Musk has provided few concrete details about his plans, and what he has shared appears far-fetched or contradictory.

Here is what lies ahead for Musk, the self-proclaimed "Chief Twit", according to current and former Twitter employees, analysts and investors who considered funding the deal.

Musk has promised to preserve free speech of all kinds, but has also struck a more conciliatory tone with global leaders who aim to rein in Big Tech, worrying activists and former leaders of Twitter.

Just three hours after Musk declared victory by tweeting "The bird is freed," European Commissioner Thierry Breton shot back "In Europe, the bird flies by our rules."

He reshared a video from May, in which he said in a Twitter video that he agreed with the European Union's new digital media regulation, which will force Big Tech to do more to tackle illegal content or risk fines of up to 6% of global revenue, in one of the world's most severe approaches to regulating content online.

UNSC Stance...

FROM PAGE 1

Today, Gaza has become the world's largest prison, and the voice of the oppressed people of Gaza is silenced. Many people, including women, and children face severe deprivation and violations of their basic rights.

This is a crime against humanity, a violation of all international laws and norms, and a serious threat to international peace and security.

According to Iravani, for 74 years, such brutal crimes and atrocities have been committed against the Palestinian people without ceasing, and neither the occupation has ended, nor has the occupier and apartheid regime faced any consequences.

Today, the Palestinian people need effective support and decisive action from Security Council to stop the aggressor and end the occupation, not its sympathy.

The Israeli regime ignores and violates brazenly all UN resolutions, including the Security Council resolutions.

Due to the Security Council's silence, all UN resolutions from the past several decades have remained on paper only while we continue to witness more atrocities committed

against Palestinians by such a despicable regime.

This regime is fully aware that, due to consistent support and a cart de Blanche from one permanent member of the Security Council, it will not be held accountable by the international community.

Members of the Security Council must consider whether any UN resolutions, particularly those urging an end to the occupation, settlement expansions, or blockade of Gaza, have been implemented.

We believe that the conflict in Palestine can only be resolved if the occupation ends and the inalienable rights of self-determination of the Palestinian people, are fully recognized, restored, and protected, resulting in the full restoration of Palestinian sovereignty over the entire Palestine, he added.

This, however, will not be achieved until the Security Council's inaction remains an option. The Council's current position has only encouraged and emboldened the Israeli regime to perpetuate its occupation and atrocities against the oppressed people of Palestine, Iravani noted.

Hezbollah Chief Says...

FROM PAGE 1

The revered resistance leader also expressed satisfaction that Lebanon had achieved whatever it had desired in negotiating the agreement, hailing it as a "historic victory."

"Lebanon had insisted on gaining access to all the maritime blocks that exist in its own special territory, and [eventually secured] complete access to all of them," Nasrallah said, noting that the deal marked a "great and historic victory" for the people of Lebanon as well as the resistance movement.

He, however, pointed to an exception, namely the status quo of a 2.5 square kilometers (0.9 square miles) of remaining maritime expanse, whose final status was yet to be determined.

Hezbollah considers the remaining territory to be occupied waters, which have to be freed from Tel Aviv's occupation, Nasrallah added.

Really a Shame

FROM PAGE 1

"Increasing settler violence must stop and those responsible must be held accountable by competent authorities," she said, slamming the ongoing evictions of Palestinians and the demolition of their home, stressing that this is no longer acceptable.



Also, Venezuela's delegate, Joaquín Alberto Pérez Ayestarán, criticized the silence of the international community, pointing out that "the international community and [the UN Security] Council cannot continue to stand idly by in the face of policies of aggression, settler occupation and apartheid that have resulted in the death of more than 10,000 Palestinians, including at least 2,000 children in the last 20 years."

Only last month, 32 Palestinians, including six children, were killed by Israeli forces during demonstrations, clashes, search-and-arrest operations, attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis, while another 311 Palestinians, including one woman and eight children, were injured.

Attacks perpetrated by Israeli occupation soldiers and Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and other areas have been on the rise, in an attempt to forcibly expel Palestinians from their lands and make way for expanding illegal Jewish-only settlements.

These are just few examples of the Zionist regimes' crimes that even have forced the Westerners to acknowledge them and openly utter these crimes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the main supporter of Palestine and Palestinians in the international bodies and scenes especially in the United Nations, but it has always been accused of supporting terrorism while the Zionist regime is the terrorist Number One in the world and this fake regime has long record even in state terrorism and assassinations of the freedom-seekers who have been against this fake regime.

Now that the UN coordinator has openly admitted the crimes of the Zionist regime, the UN is better to take a serious action against the Zionists to show that this international body has not turned into a useless body or into a tool for pleasing the world powers.

For years Palestinians have tried to show the world the true nature of the Zionists through the international bodies like the UN but they have failed to convince the UN to take serious action against Israel. You know why. Because the UN is fully under control of the big powers and what they dictate the body should follow and when the body decides to take action, one of the five powers vetoes it.

So the coordinator is recommended to convince the UN to defend rights of Palestinians rather than publishing such useless reports which is just for entertaining the media and wasting the time.

It is really a shame that such a big international body knows what is going on in Palestine but still remains quiet, indifferent and passive.

Terror, Assassination...

FROM PAGE 1

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy in his remarks said that of course Iran is moving forward day-by-day on the path of becoming stronger and with no doubt revenge on these crimes.

Rear Admiral Tangsiri said that now "we are just at the beginning, we successfully completed the first Step of Iran's Islamic Revolution with all enmities and jealousies, and are starting the Second Phase of the Revolution, but the arrogant world of the westerners and the aggressor US have reached the end line".

On Wednesday (October 26) a terrorist armed with a machinegun opened fire on the pilgrims and evening prayer worshippers at the Shah Cheragh holy shrine in Shiraz, martyred 15 innocent people, including some women, children and elderly folks, and seriously wounding tens of others.

The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the heinous act.

Iran Airport...

FROM PAGE 1

Lufthansa cancelled two flights from Tehran to Frankfurt scheduled for Friday and Saturday after reports emerged of the discovery of the body. However, the company said services would resume on Sunday.

Chalandari described Lufthansa's decision to cancel flights as "questionable".

The decision came after Germany's foreign ministry said it will impose entry restrictions on Iranian nationals over what it called the worsening of human rights situation in the country.

That comes as Iran's foreign ministry has protested against Germany's interference in the country's domestic affairs.

Switchboard:
(+98) (21) 44253448
Public Relations Tel:
(+98)(21) 44253450
Editorial Board: 44253449
Public Relations Fax:
(+98)(21) 44253395
Advertising Department:
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
Website:
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:
info@irannewsdaily.com
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Mari Sidelined For Two Months

MILAN (Dispatches) - Serie A football player Pablo Mari faces at least two months out of the game after an operation for stab wounds from an attack in an Italian supermarket that left one man dead. Milan's Niguarda hospital said its trauma team had reconstructed two muscles in the back of the 29-year-old Spanish centre-back on loan at Monza from Premier League club Arsenal. "This type of muscle injury usually requires two months of rest before one can resume physical activities," it said, adding that surgery went well and rehabilitation would follow.

James Still Hopeful of Making England's World Cup Squad

LONDON (Dispatches) - England right back Reece James still has hopes of playing in the World Cup in Qatar next month despite being in the early stages of his recovery from a knee injury. The 22-year-old defender sustained the injury playing for Premier League side Chelsea in their Champions League clash with AC Milan this month and looked certain to miss the World Cup, which begins on Nov. 20, after being ruled out for eight weeks.

Man City Go Top, Brighton Hammer Chelsea

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City moved to the top of the Premier League thanks to Kevin De Bruyne's stunning strike in a 1-0 win over Leicester, as Chelsea boss Graham Potter suffered a nightmare return to Brighton with a 4-1 defeat. Tottenham fought back from 2-0 down to beat Bournemouth 3-2 to remain in third ahead of Newcastle, who thrashed Aston Villa 4-0. City were without the free-scoring Erling Haaland for the trip to the King Power due to a foot injury and were blunted up front without the firepower of the Norwegian. But one moment of magic from De Bruyne was enough for the winner as the Belgian's free-kick four minutes into the second half clipped the inside of the post on its way past Danny Ward. City needed one brilliant save from Ederson to prevent another sensational strike from a Belgian international as he turned Yuri Tielemans' volley onto the crossbar. "I want this Kevin and we need this Kevin. The goals and assists he can do blind. But we need this type of involvement in the game and today that was the case," said City boss Pep Guardiola. With Arsenal not in action until Sunday when they host Nottingham Forest, victory lifts City one point ahead of the Gunners at the top of the table. Potter had been unbeaten in his first nine games since leaving Brighton to take over at Chelsea last month. By contrast, the Seagulls had not won in their first five games under new boss Roberto De Zerbi, but that all changed in a dominant first half by Brighton. Thiago Silva twice cleared off the Chelsea goal line in the first five minutes before Leandro Trossard fired home the opener. The visitors were then their own worst enemies as both Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Trevoh Chalobah deflected crosses into their own goal.



Kieffer Moore struck twice for Bournemouth either side of half-time. Spurs have at times looked toothless at times going forward in recent weeks, but won the game thanks to two set-pieces after Ryan Sessegnon pulled a goal back just before the hour mark. Ben Davies rose highest to head home Ivan Perisic's cross to level before Rodrigo Bentancur smashed home the winner from another corner in stoppage time. Newcastle underlined their threat to the traditional powers for a place in the top four with a dismantling of Villa. Callum Wilson struck twice to further his case for a call-up to England's World Cup squad with Gareth Southgate in attendance at St. James' Park. Joellinton rounded off a fine counter-attack to make it 3-0 before Miguel Almiron continued his sensational form with his sixth goal in as many games. Crystal Palace moved into the top half with a 1-0 win over Southampton as Odsonne Edouard slotted home the only goal at Selhurst Park. Wolves remain in the bottom three despite coming from behind to salvage a 1-1 draw at Brentford. Ben Mee put the Bees in front before Ruben Neves levelled with just Wolves' sixth goal in 13 league games. And Wolves' issues in front of goal will not be helped by a suspension for Diego Costa after he was sent off in stoppage time.

Medvedev Eases Into Vienna Final

VIENNA (Dispatches) - Daniil Medvedev made short work of his last-four match against Grigor Dimitrov to reach the final of the ATP tournament in Vienna. The former world number one did not face a single break point in a dominant 6-4, 6-2 victory. Medvedev will face either Denis Shapovalov or Borna Coric on Sunday as he bids to win his second title of the season. The Russian's only tournament success this year came in an ATP 250 event in Mexico in August, which ended a run of five straight final defeats. He had lost his previous meeting with Dimitrov at Indian Wells last year but had no such problems this time around, securing victory by winning the last five games of the match. Medvedev is edging closer to securing his place at the ATP Finals which get underway in Turin on November 13. The 26-year-old, who won the season-ending event in 2020, sits fifth in the standings.

Bayern Fire Six Goals Past Mainz

MUNICH (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich demolished visitors Mainz 05 6-2, with Sadio Mane scoring once and setting up two more goals, to take over the lead in the Bundesliga. Senegal international Mane, who scored in Bayern's 3-0 midweek win at Barcelona in the Champions League, also missed a penalty. Germany international Serge Gnabry, Jamal Musiala and Leon Goretzka were also on target for Bayern along with substitute Mathys Tel and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting. Mainz briefly cut the deficit twice, with goals from Silvan Widmer and Marcus Ingvartsen, after also missing a penalty. The champions went two points clear at the top of the league with 25. Union Berlin, in second place on 23, are in action against Borussia Moenchengladbach. Mainz drop to eighth on 18.

Kai Havertz's header early in the second half pulled a goal back, but Pascal Gross rounded off a memorable win for Brighton late on. Tottenham were staring a third consecutive league defeat in the face after



Raducanu Pulls out of Billie Jean Cup

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Former U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu has pulled out of Britain's Billie Jean King Cup team because of a wrist injury, dealing a big blow to the host nation's hopes. "I'm disappointed to get the news from the doctors that I won't be ready in time, particularly with it being on home soil," Raducanu said in a Twitter post.

Britain is hosting the 12-nation event in Glasgow from Nov. 8-13 where teams will play in four groups of three with the group winners progressing to the semi-finals. Britain face Kazakhstan and Spain. Raducanu, 19, has struggled with a succession of injuries since her stunning U.S. Open triumph last year when she came through qualifying and took the title without losing a set. "I tried to do everything possible to get it ready in time, since my last tournament I have been working every day on physical training and rehab. "I've got confidence in my team mates and look forward to playing next year." Raducanu pulled out of the Transylvania Open this month due to the wrist injury.

Swiatek Poised for Picture-Perfect Finish to 2022 at WTA Finals

LONDON (Dispatches) - World number one Iga Swiatek is the hot favorite when the season-ending WTA Finals kick off on Monday in Fort Worth, Texas, as she looks to put the cherry on top of a blockbuster 2022. The 21-year-old Pole collected her second Roland Garros title and won four WTA 1000 tournaments amid a staggering 37-match unbeaten streak before hoisting the trophy at the U.S. Open this year. A pair of confident wins over Americans Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula en route to the San Diego title earlier this month underlined her claim as the biggest threat and she is the only Grand Slam winner in the field. Regardless of who comes out on top, a new champion will be crowned after 2019 winner Ash Barty retired this year and 2021 champion Garbine Muguruza failed to put herself in contention. There was no 2020 edition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tunisian fan favourite Ons Jabeur will feature for the first time with revenge on the agenda after losing in back-to-back Grand Slam finals, most recently in Flushing Meadows against Swiatek.

Cavs Beat Celtics in OT

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Caris LeVert scored Cleveland's last 10 points in overtime and sparked the Cavaliers to a 132-123 NBA victory at Boston. LeVert and Donovan Mitchell each scored a game-high 41 points as the Cavaliers improved to 4-1 while Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum each had 32 to lead the Celtics. "I knew it was coming," LeVert said of his big night. "I put in a lot of work. I was due for this. We're having so much fun out here. We can't wait to keep doing it." It was only the second time the Cavs had two 40-point scorers in a game, the other time by LeBron James and Kyrie Irving in game five of the 2016 NBA Finals, which Cleveland won in seven games. Brown's overtime dunk lifted Boston level at 121-121, but LeVert answered with a 3-pointer and two free throws and, after Brown sank two free throws, LeVert added two free throws of his own and closed out matters on a 4-point play with 32.2 seconds to go, making a free throw after a flagrant foul by Malcolm Brogdon. "He did it all. He literally carried us," Mitchell said. "He led us from the start. We fed off that." After trailing by as many as 15 points, LeVert's 3-pointer put Cleveland ahead 113-112 in regulation. A Brown basket put Boston ahead 114-113 with 28 seconds remaining, only for Jarrett Allen to sink a free throw that led to overtime. "For us to have the perseverance as a group... that was big time," said Mitchell. "For us to have a collective solidarity this early in the season as a group, that's going to take us far. Wins like this are huge." LeVert said referee calls in the first half disrupted the Cavs' rhythm. "We kind of let the refs get in our heads," LeVert said. "We stopped playing Cavs basketball. In the second half we were a lot more physical. We lived with some of the foul calls and we just fought." He also credited pre-season workouts for the fitness to fight to the end.



Chelsea Manager Opens up on Mental Health Battle

LONDON (Dispatches) - Chelsea manager Graham Potter said he felt like he was "fixing the plane while it's up in the air" as he opened up on struggling to come to terms with the deaths of his parents while at Brighton. The 47-year-old returned to Brighton later on Saturday hoping to maintain his unbeaten record since replacing Thomas Tuchel last month. Potter said it became difficult to distinguish whether his emotions were caused by football or the loss of his parents. His mother Val died in July 2019 — he had been appointed Brighton manager in May that year — and his father Steve passed away in January 2020. "You're going 'OK, I've got these feelings here that are powerful and raw' but then you're also trying to compete in the Premier League so then you're trying to manage," he said. "OK, am I getting angry or disappointed or frustrated or whatever the feelings are because of this or because of this?" "So that was the first six months of life in the Premier League and I think the quote is 'You're fixing the plane while it's up in the air'." Tuchel is one of four Premier League managers to have been sacked this season — Steven Gerrard the latest to be fired from his post at Aston Villa. The average tenure for a Premier League boss is two years and four days. "We are part of a sport where we create pressure," said Potter. "Somebody has to be under pressure, whatever it is and it will be one after the other, after the other." "Then one's gone and it is on to the next. It was Steven Gerrard a few weeks ago and then it will be somebody else and then somebody else."

