

According to the Report of UNCTAD,  
The Value of Foreign Direct  
Investment (FDI) in Iran in 2021 Hit  
\$1.425 Billion, Showing About 18.6%  
Hike as Compared to a Year Earlier

# IRAN NEWS

Security Forces Have Arrested a  
Team That Was Linked With the  
U.S.-Based Tavaana Tech Company  
And the Saudi-Sponsored  
Iran International TV 3  
Members of It Played a Role  
In Provoking the Recent Riots

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## Iran, Russia to Sign a \$40b Contract

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Deputy Minister of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that about 6.5 billion dollars of the memorandum of understanding with the Russian Gazprom have been converted into contracts and the rest of the memorandums worth 40 billion dollars will be finalized in the next month.

Referring to the opportunity to turn Iran into a gas hub in the region, the Deputy Minister of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mehdi Safari, said: Our plan for gas trade with Russia is to buy gas from the country to use in Iran then export our own gas to neighboring countries.

The diplomat said: About 6.5 billion dollars from the Memorandum of Understanding with Russia's Gazprom has been converted into a contract. God willing, the rest of the memorandums worth \$40 B. will be converted into contracts in the next month.

According to Safari, the Russian gas swap agreement is also being finalized.

"Regarding the construction of the high pressure pipeline, Iran will not hand over the pipeline to any country, the Russians are supposed to invest in this project. Russian companies are supposed to build gas transmission pipelines inside the territory of Pakistan so that the country's gas can be exported to Pakistan through Iran," he noted.

"Iran and Russia will soon establish a joint company to establish a gas pipeline to the Persian Gulf countries and the Oman Sea, in which the share of the two countries is 50%," underscored the diplomat.

## AEOI Aims for 20% Share of National Power Generation

TEHRAN (IFP) - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the organization intends to generate enough power to meet 20 percent of national demand, equaling 14,000 megawatts.

Mohammad Eslami said the nuclear share in power production currently stood at 1,000 megawatts, and facilities were being constructed to generate another 2,000 megawatts.

"Plans are in hand as well for a 10,000-megawatt package and a number of small power plants," Eslami added.

He said surveying operations had been conducted to determine site locations, adding that the AEOI attached importance to localities near bodies of water and had predicted generating 10,000 megawatts in Iran's southern regions, mostly along the Makran coastline in Hormozgan, Bushehr, and Khuzestan Provinces.

Eslami said the nuclear industry was "a propellant in advancing science and technology and can have extensive impact in the industrial sector."

# America Is No Untouchable Power



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that contrary to what some might naively think the United States is an "untouchable" power, it is totally vulnerable.

On the occasion of the National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei met with a group of Iranian students on Wednesday.

The 13th day of the Iranian calendar month of Aban, which falls on November 4 this year, is known as Student Day in Iran, marking the National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance.

On this day 44 years ago, a group of Iranian university students took over the US embassy in Tehran, which had turned into a center of espionage.

Each year, Iranians take to the streets across the nation to commemorate the occasion in massive rallies.

"The 13th of Aban is not only a historical day, but also a day of experience, said the Leader in today's meeting, adding that "the historical events that happened on this day cannot be forgotten, and they should not be forgotten."

The Leader also called on Iranians to use the experience of the 13th of Aban that has lessons for the people, their future, and the country.

Ayatollah Khamenei further pointed out that while some people naively think that the US power is unbeatable, they must know that it is very vulnerable.

The Leader said that Washington's animosity towards Iran goes back much earlier than the takeover of the embassy in Tehran in 1980 to the CIA-led coup against the Iranian Mossadegh government in 1953.

The 1953 coup was the starting point of the row between the Iranian nation and the United States, the Leader highlighted. "Our row with the Americans started that day (in the 1953 coup)," he pointed out.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the Mossadegh government trusted the Americans, naively thinking that they would support his government against the British, but he was toppled by them and taken to prison along with the people with him.

The Leader further said now the American politicians are hypocritically and shamelessly saying that they support the Iranian nation, noting that the U.S. is involved in any anti-Iran events.

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, they imposed history's most severe sanctions against Iran, he went on to point out.

The Leader also that Americans shamelessly announced that they assassinated the Iranian top commander Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, and were bragging about it.

"Martyr Soleimani was the hero of the region who played a great role in solving the problems of several countries in the region," he asserted.

The Americans supported the Zionists who assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists one after another, he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei further pointed to the recent riots in some cities in Iran, saying that the United States, the Zionist Israeli regime, and some malicious European regimes waged a hybrid war by fooling some youths and backing armed terrorist groups to foment riots in the country but failed to achieve their goal because of the nation's awareness.

He pointed to the recent terrorist attack in Shah Cheragh in Shiraz and vowed that the perpetrators will be identified and punished.

In the end, he pointed out that the US is not the dominant power in the world anymore in the newly emerging system, telling the youths to recognize Iran's important role and place in the new world system.

## Oil Price to Hit \$100 With EU Sanctions Against Russia

TEHRAN (MNA) - The International Energy Forum (IEF) on Wednesday anticipated that oil price will reach \$100 with the implementation of European Union's sanctions against Russia.

The IEF emphasized that the implementation of EU sanctions against Russia will reduce the country's oil supply to the world market by 1 to 3 million barrels per day and increase the price of oil to more than \$100 per barrel.

Headquartered in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh, the Oil Price added that if the EU sanctions against Russia's crude oil go into effect next month, oil price will easily reach more than \$100 per barrel.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV on the sidelines of ADIPEC Conference in Abu Dhabi, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum said that this forum and many consuming countries and the United States are much concerned about what will happen to the oil market after the implementation of EU sanctions against Russia. According to the announcement of the International Energy Forum, which is the largest international organization of energy ministers, the implementation of EU sanctions against Russia will reduce 1 to 3 million barrels per day of this country's oil supply to the world markets.

Implementation of EU sanctions against Russia will cause extreme instability in the market, because it is not clear how many barrels of Russian oil will be removed from the market, and this instability will bring the price of oil to more than 100 dollars, which is not good news for the global oil market, he said.

The price of Brent crude oil increased by two percent in the early hours of Tuesday.

## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

## U.S. in No Position to Preach

The U.S. administrations for decades or better to say for centuries have been trying to preach other countries and recommending governments and nations for peace and stability while the country itself for at least recent decades has acted otherwise and it has been struggling with domestic violence and racist acts.

On Monday a poll released by a famous American analytics and advisory company which shows an unpleasant social condition in the U.S. which worries the country.

The number of Americans who believe that crime in their respective neighborhoods has surged in the past year has reached the highest in over a decade, according to a new Gallup poll.

A total of 56 percent American adults reported an increase in local crime, marking a five point increase over last year. On the other hand, 76 percent of Americans believe there is more crime nationally compared to the last year.

Last October, after the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) 2020 crime report showed a sharp increase in the US, the perception of crime of Republicans jumped from 38 to 67 percent, while the perception of average independent Americans also rose.

The perception of Democrats, however, remained essentially unchanged partly due to Joe Biden holding the office.

According to the latest Gallup poll, 73 percent of Republicans said crime in their area has increased over the past year, while 51 percent of independents and 42 percent of Democrats said the same.

The survey also follows up on 13 different crimes, noting that worry about six of them has risen significantly. Worry about children's physical safety at school has increased by 13 percent, holding a record, a result of increase in high-profile school shootings this year.

There have been at least 53 school shootings in American schools so far this year, more than in all of 2021 and nearly double as many as in 2018.

The poll also shows Americans have become more worried about being sexually assaulted, getting mugged, getting murdered, being attacked while driving a car, and having one's home burglarized while they are at home compared to last year.

Nonetheless, the two highest sources of crime stress among Americans are computer hacking (75 percent) and identity theft (73 percent), and contrary to the western propaganda only 27 percent of Americans worry about terrorism that comes in as second last.

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## Switzerland Sanctions Iran Under Pretext of Backing Ukraine

TEHRAN (MNA) - Under the pretext of backing Ukraine and despite ruling out the trumped-up allegations of using Iran's drones in the Ukraine war, Switzerland has sanctioned Iran.

While anti-Iran measures are being taken by the western states under numerous pretexts, Switzerland has now joined the EU in imposing sanctions against Iran on what it claims to be sending drones to Russia.

On Tuesday evening, Swiss outlets announced that its government has resorted to imposing sanctions against an Iranian firm and three of its individuals in line with Iran's support of Russia in the Ukrainian war.

"The measures, against the company Shahed Aviation Industries and three senior military officers, are due to come into force later on Tuesday following a decision by the economics ministry, according to a statement by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)," swissinfo reported.

"Shahed Aviation Industries is a company affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' aerospace forces that is responsible for the design and development of the Shahed series of Iranian drones, according to SECO. These have been supplied to Russia and are being used in the war against Ukraine," it added.

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Sokhan Gostar Institute

# IRAN NEWS

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## MPs Appreciate Strength of IRGC in Defending Borders

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Lawmakers at Iran's Majlis (Parliament) issued a statement to appreciate the power of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force in staging drills in the northern country and Aras zone to defend the borders through its strong presence there.

In the statement signed by 223 parliamentarians, it is said that Iran will never tolerate change in borders.

The legislators also underlined the necessity of the IRGC and the Armed

Forces readiness to stand against instabilities, and creators of tension and conflict among the regional states.

The statement was read out to the Majlis open session this morning.

The IRGC Ground Force war game sent a clear message of peace and sustainable security for the neighboring countries and a warning to the enemies, according to the statement.

Islamic Republic will give a strong response to any plots, threats and interference.

## Riots Unable to Stop Government From Serving the Nation

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN - President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said that the enemy's attempt is to obstruct the government's activity and service to the people, but the government is determined to continue the path of service and progress strongly, and this movement will not stop with riots and propaganda.**

Speaking in the meeting of the cabinet, Raisi referred to the enemy's cognitive war and the massive propaganda attack against the Islamic Republic, and stated, "The Modern Ignorance, which is armed with all kinds of new weapons and tools, wants the nations not to know the facts and prevent them from knowing the truth".

The President added, "One of the main tasks of the ignorance movement and cultural terrorism is to not tell the truth or not to tell it completely, and that is why they are afraid of even the name of a child who lost his family in the terrorist incident of Shahcheragh Shrine in Shiraz, just like the name of Haj Qasem Soleimani was removed from the social media".

"The enemy's attempt is to obstruct the government's activity and service to the



people, but the government is determined to continue the path of service and progress with strength and this movement will not stop with riots and propaganda," he said.

Strengthening the activities of knowledge-based fields in line with the realization of the slogan of the year, seriously pursuing the implementation of the resolutions of the first round of provincial trips and planning to accelerate the development of the provinces in the second round of trips were the other issues emphasized by the President in today's meeting of the cabinet.

Referring to the Parliament's renewed vote of confidence in the Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade, the President thanked the nation's representatives for paying attention to Dr Fatemi Amin's successful career.

## Iran to Follow Up Adversarial Media Case at Int'l Bodies

TEHRAN (MNA) - The spokesperson for the Iranian Judiciary says the case of the adversarial media will be presented and followed up at the relevant international bodies.

The riots in the past weeks caused serious damage to the lives, and property of the Iranian nation. Martyrdom and injury of a number of security forces and innocent citizens is only a small part of the crime committed by rioters in recent weeks.

Speaking in an interview with Al Alam on Tuesday, Masoud Setayeshi said that these crimes will not go unpunished.

Documentation for legal actions against adversarial media has been done through the Attorney General's Office and the international department of the Judiciary, Setayeshi stated.

According to him, the case of the adversarial Persian media will be presented and followed up soon at the relevant international bodies.

Saying that protest has been authorized in Iran's constitution, he added that the country does bear the chaos in any way.

Earlier on October 24, the Iranian culture minister said that Iran will file a lawsuit to relevant international bodies against Europe and US-based Persian TVs for their role in fomenting riots.

## Iran, Syria Emphasize Developing Bilateral Ties



TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian in a meeting with Vice Chairman of Syria-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group Haifa Juma on Tuesday stressed the role of Parliaments of two countries in developing bilateral ties.

The Vice Chairman of Syria-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group Haifa Juma, who is in Tehran at the head of a group of representatives of Syria to meet with Iranian counterparts, met and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in Tehran on Tuesday evening.

During the meeting, she commemorated the name and memory of anti-terror commander Martyr Lt. Gen. Soleimani, martyrs of Syria and other martyrs of the Axis of Resistance who played a leading role in the fight against terrorism and defeating ISIL terrorists and pointed to the key role of parliaments of the two countries in pursuing the development of relations in various dimensions of bilateral cooperation.

Iran's top diplomat emphasized the necessity of implementation of agreements between the two countries in economic fields and added that the two countries of Iran and Syria enjoy high potential to expand their relations.

The Vice Chairman of Syria-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group, for his part, pointed to the strategic relations between the two countries of Iran and Syria and thanked Iran which stood by Syrian people and government in the fight against terrorism and extremism as well.

## Shared Culture, Literature, Language Linking Iran to Tajikistan

DUSHANBE (IRNA) - Culture Minister Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili said that the Islamic Republic should not permit borders to create obstacles between the two Iranian and Tajik nations, as they share culture, literature and language are undisputable ID, and best proof.

Esmaili, who was speaking for elite literary figures of Iran and Tajikistan in Dushanbe, the capital city of that country, said, "I am quite delighted to have this opportunity at this exalted gathering and thank God for it."

He said that the good poets and writers of the brother country, Tajikistan, the artists and all those who have in a way been related to literature, or are even interested in it, try to create new precious works in the prestigious Persian language in Tajikistan, which is praised all over the world.



Esmaili said that the contemporary Tajik poets refer to Iran as their roots, the origin, their ancestors,

their motherland, the palace of the world, the light of the glass in which the whole world is viewed, the house of piety, the meeting place, the cradle for phoenix, the home for the brave, the throne of God, the land of eternal glory, the realm of love and piety etc.

Esmaili said that when the Tajik poets speak about the solidarity between Iran and Tajikistan, they use the expressions, one soul in two bodies, two eyes of the same head, two shares of the same ocean, or two pistachio nuts in the same shell.

The event was a part of Iran Culture Week and attended by Iran Ambassador Mohammad Taqi Saberi and other ambassadors in Tajikistan, as well as a large number of Iranian residing in that country in the Opera-Ballet Hall of Dushanbe.

## Iran-Russia Media Cooperation Necessary

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) for overseas affairs and deputy head of Russia's Sputnik news agency for international cooperation agreed in a meeting on the need for broadening media cooperation.

IRIB's Ahmad Nowruzi in his meeting with Sputnik's Vasily Pushkov, referred to the great importance of having close and effective media cooperation, stressing that establishment of a joint media front to encounter the western media, and especially the NATO, is quite a dire need. The deputy IRIB head for overseas affairs said that the meeting is a pleasant opportunity for further proximity between Tehran and Moscow in cultural field.

He reiterated that if up to now media cooperation between the two countries was important, today it has become vital for both countries, as it secures the national interests of Iran and Russia.

Sputnik's Vasily Pushkov, too, said that Russia welcomes close cooperation with the IRIB, arguing that Iran and Russia have lots of commonalities and that he is very pleased that such commonalities have led to the establishment of a new atmosphere of bilateral media cooperation.

"We, too, are experiencing a similar media sanction status as Iran, and we hope cooperation with Iran will help us leave behind the difficulties for sanctions," reiterated the Sputnik official.

Referring to the reopening of the Sputnik Office in Tehran, he said, "One of the most important responsibilities for me was the reopening of our Tehran office, and this will lead to stabilizing Iran-Russia comprehensive relations."

The deputy head of Russia's Sputnik news agency for international cooperation said that Russia has great enthusiasm for having media presence in Iran, adding, "Our reporters in Iran are familiar and have full command of Persian language and can thus establish good interactions with the Iranian media, hoping to establish professional interactions with them."

## Iranian, Tajik Research Institutes Ink MoU to Bolster Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Officials from Tajikistan Strategic Research Center and Tehran International Studies and Research Institute in Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop cooperation.

The CEO of Tehran International Studies and Research Institute, Abed Akbari and Head of Tajikistan Strategic Research Center signed the MoU between the two think tanks on Wednesday.

The signed MoU aims to improve research capacities in the form of exchange of researchers, publication of books and scientific works, holding joint meetings, conferences, etc.

Historical and cultural ties and commonalities of the two countries were emphasized by the parties as a support and capacity for cooperation between the two sides.

## Volume of Russian Investments in Iran Oil Fields to Increase

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy prime minister of Russia said on Tuesday that Iran-Russia relations are based on mutual trust and at optimum level, adding that the volume of Russian investments in Iran oil fields will increase drastically.

Speaking in a joint press conference with the Iranian Petroleum Minister Javad Owji, Alexander Novak referred

to the 16th Joint Iran-Russia Economic Commission, saying, "I appreciate the Iranian petroleum minister, the head of the Iranian delegation in that commission in negotiations and Russian oil officials who spent great efforts to achieve fruitful outcomes for both countries in that meeting."

He expressed certainty that the outcomes of the 16th Joint

Iran-Russia Economic Commission will lead to evermore expansion of bilateral cooperation and relations with Iran.

The deputy prime minister of Russia said that the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation are at an excellent level in the political field, and in other fields, too, there are broad potentials to reach that level.

"Holding the 16th Joint Iran-Russia Economic Commission will further dynamize the Iran-Russia relation, which are built based on mutual trust between the two presidents of Iran and Russia," he said.

He said that in that meeting Iran and Russia discussed in details comprehensive cooperation, and for instance our bilateral trade in the first eight months of year 2022 increased 45%. "We have also already reach joint agreements between the Iranian and Russia companies for establishing joint investment companies and for presentation of facilities that are related to bilateral cooperation," he added.

He said that the two countries had begun swapping energy, especially oil products, and have now reached agreement to increase the swap deals.

Novak said that Iran-Russia swap oil and gas in October 2022 agreement will be signed by the end of this year, and accordingly in this phase up to five million tons of oil and 10 billion cubic meters of gas will be swapped.

## Kazakhstan, Iran Ink MoU to Bolster Agricultural Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Officials from Kazakhstan and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop cooperation in agriculture, trade, industry, logistics, transportation, and technology exchange.

According to the maj.ir, Minister of Agriculture Jihad of Iran Javad Sadatinejad and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan Serik Zhumangarin signed the MoU in Tehran on Wednesday.

Kazakhstan and Iran have targeted the increase of mutual trade to reach around one billion dollars in accordance with mutual understandings achieved by the presidents of both nations.

The exchanges of delegations specialized in veterinary medicine and plant protection along with formation of a committee within the next month to monitor the pace of coordination are among the goals of the MoU in order to pave the way for developing trade of agricultural products.



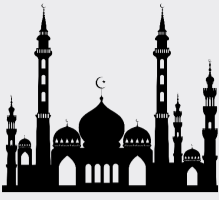
The two sides also underlined the need for introducing relevant entities from both parties to implement the agreements in terms of transit and swap of wheat in a two-week period.

Kazakhstan and Iran called for expansion of cooperation in the field of food security, for instance, supply of dairy products, fruits, dried fruits, and vegetables from the Iranian side as well as wheat, barley, and oilseeds from the Kazakh party.

On the basis of the MoU, Astana and Tehran reached a consensus to set up a joint merchant company to pursue trade of agricultural products and carry out joint agriculture projects.

They also agreed upon holding exhibitions by Kazakh firms in the Iranian capital concurrent with Kazakhstan Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov's visit to Tehran the next spring.

For his part, Serik Zhumangarin appreciated the warm hospitality of the Iranian side during their stay in the Islamic country.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:47
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:26
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:04
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:29

4. A revelation from Him Who created the earth and the heavens on high.  
5. ((Allah)) Most Gracious is firmly established on the throne (of authority).

Surah 20. Ta-ha (4-5)

## Azerbaijan Withdraws Financing Rasht-Astara Railway

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Abbas Khatibi, Deputy Head of Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructure Company, affiliated with the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, says Azerbaijan has withdrawn financing the Astara-Rasht railway and now Iran seeks getting financial sources from Russians.**

Speaking to ILNA and touching upon talks with Russians for financing the Astara-Rasht railway during recent meeting with Russian Transportation official, Khatibi said that the Astara-Rasht railway is of the most important developmental projects of the country and the country is determined to implement and construct it. He added that this project is the last missing link of North-South Corridor and this corridor due to its length and position in the region creates special transit opportunities and it is important for the country.

He went on to say that since years ago they were aware of the North-South Corridor and its first phase which was from Qazvin to Rasht was implemented and came on stream four years ago, adding that since the first day after the inauguration of Qazvin-Rasht railway, the ministry signed the MoU for executive work of constructing the Astara-Rasht railway and the operation for its substructure in the first 10 kilometers of this route ended, and this year another contract was signed for the 11 kilometers of final part of the route worth of 1,000b tomans.

Khatibi added that they had talks for construction of the middle part of the route which is 140 kilometers and in case of getting required license and budget, the executive measures will be taken.



He admitted that in the issue of financing the Astara-Rasht railway, the ministry looks at its Russian partner, adding that before talks with Russians for financing the project, talks with Azerbaijan continued in this regard and the Azeri side announced that it has no interest in entering the project but Russians are still interested in financing this project and they are serious and they have expressed their interest in recent meetings.

Khatibi went on to say that according to the estimates, excluding the costs of the land for the project, it needs some 800m euros of budget to be completed.

He added that at the same time, the ministry is in talks with some other options for financing and any one creates the access to the financial resources faster than others will be active in the project. He noted that since Russia is one of the countries in this transit route it is natural talks with this country would be pursued seriously.

He admitted that for reaching agreement, the ministry needs time because such agreements are not signed in just one or two meetings and technical and financial committees should be activated and the first meeting of these committees was held.

## Russia Studies of Iran Oil, Gas Fields in Final Stages

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The CEO of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) the study of Iran's oil and gas fields by Russian companies is nearing its end and the Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for these studies will soon turn into contracts.

Mohsen Khojstehmehr told Shana about the most important focus of Iran-Russia negotiations in the 16th Joint Economic Commission of the two countries: "The issue of energy, especially the upstream sector of oil and gas, was distinguished from other issues in this meeting."

He stated that one of the highlights of this meeting, which was examined very carefully, was the progress of the oil field development plan in Iran, worth about \$4.5 billion, and clarified that some of these plans have reached 40% physical progress and to speed up the physical and financial progress of the plans, constructive suggestions were raised."

## Iran Central City to Host 8th ECO Minerals Meeting

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The 8th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Minerals Experts Group Meeting is slated for November 14 in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

Isfahan's department of geology is to host the event for four days.

A senior official at Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Iran has announced the ECO meeting will be held with participation of seven countries of Iran, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Haniyeh Bakhshaei referred to exchange of modern views about geology and minerals as an important aim of the ECO meeting.

Exchange of such viewpoints would prepare the ground for sustainable development in ECO, she added.

Expansion of cooperation is at hand in the existing framework of the ECO, she said.

ECO has ten member countries – Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – which included 480 million population.



## Iran to Double Gas Supply to Armenia



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran will double its natural gas supply to Armenia under an extended gas-for-electricity swap deal that will run until early 2031.

Iran's Oil Ministry said in a report that Iran and Armenia had renewed a contract for swap of Iranian gas for Armenian electricity as Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan was in Tehran for an official visit earlier on Tuesday.

Deputy Oil Minister Majid Chegeni, who signed off on the extension of the contract, said that Iran's supply of gas to Armenia will double to 2 million cubic meters (mcm) per day under the new arrangement.

"Based on this, electricity swap figures will be modified in line with the increase in the size of gas exports," Chegeni was quoted as saying by Shana.ir.

The official IRNA news agency said that under the renewed deal, Iran and Armenia will commit to swapping gas for electricity until the end of the Iranian calendar year 1409 (March 2023).

Iran is a major producer and exporter of natural gas and electricity in the West Asia region. However, the country imports limited volumes of electricity from countries to its north to respond to peak demand over hot summer days and also during winters when Iranian power plants may face shortages of natural gas.

Iran's gas supplies to Armenia are small compared to the volumes exported to Iraq and Turkey which amount to 70 mcm per day during peak days.

## Iran Exporting Medical Equipment to 63 World Countries

TEHRAN (MNA)-The Director-General of Iranian Food and Drug Administration for Medical Equipment Affairs said that Iran is currently exporting medical equipment to 63 countries including European, Asian and South American nations.

Rouhollah Mazinani made the remarks on the sidelines of a meeting of managers of universities of medical sciences held in Kermanshah on Tuesday evening.

He put the number of current production licenses issued in this field at 1,800, 1,600 of which enjoy export licenses. The director-general also said that over 20-million-euro worth of medical equipment was exported from the country last year in the Iranian calendar (ended March 20, 2022), the value of which is increasing regularly.

Turning to the issue that there is not any restriction in the field of exporting medical equipment, Mazinani added that his administration has prioritized meeting domestic demands and then, has focused on exporting the related products overseas.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to the production of medical equipment in the country and stated that about 45 percent of country's requirements in the field of medical, dentistry, laboratory, clinical, hospital equipment and related industries are produced inside the country in line with reducing imports of these products into the country.

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## Zimbabwe, Iran to Hold Joint Economic Commission

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare (MCLSW) has announced that Zimbabwe and the Islamic Republic have reached consensus to hold a joint economic commission in Tehran.

Hamed Forouzan, an advisor to the minister of cooperatives, labor and social welfare and the head of International Affairs Office of (MCLSW), said on Wednesday that in a meeting with Zimbabwe's charge d'affaires in Iran, the two sides discussed topics of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for the future joint economic commission of both countries.

Forouzan explained the charts and duties of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare in the meeting with the Zimbabwean diplomat.

Never Mutizwa, Zimbabwean charge d'affaires to Tehran, pointed to the appropriate political and social interactions between Zimbabwe and Iran, calling for expansion of trade and economic ties between the two countries.



## Call for 3rd KANS Scientific Competition Released

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The 3rd KANS scientific competition will be held by Mustafa (PBUH) Science and Technology Foundation in 2022 with the goal of expanding collaboration, synergy, and uniformity in the realm of science and technology, with the presence of 19 international pavilions to solve the existing technological challenges facing the Islamic World.

The third round of KANS (Knowledge Application and Notion for Society) scientific competition is going to be held with a special focus on the Islamic World's scientific community and young scientists as the future makers of modern Islamic civilization.

In this competition, young scholars, university students, and professors (under 45 years of age) throughout Islamic countries will send their scientific and technological achievements in the form of ideas, research papers, books, prototypes, MVPs, or new products to the secretariat of the KANS competition.

The main theme of this year's competition is looking for the best scientific and technological approaches to solve the problems facing the Islamic World.

The 2022 KANS competition will assess the works submitted by young scientists from the Islamic World in

the following fields: Agriculture and Food Industries, Health and MedTech, Energy, Water and Environment, Electronics and Robotics, ICT and Artificial Intelligence, and Mining and Mineral Industries.

Young scholars can participate in this competition by submitting 3 to 5 minutes videos of their scientific and technological achievements or their solutions for challenges declared by international institutes till December 6, 2022.

To fill out the related documents and upload their recorded videos, applicants can visit the website kans.mstfdn.org.

During the selection process, the submitted solutions and scientific works will be screened and reviewed by the assessment committee, consisting of professors from different pavilions. The assessment committee will then nominate 24 solutions and scientific works.

On the last day of the competition which coincides with the 12th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition in May 2023, the committee will choose the 6 best solutions and scientific works as the winners of the competition.

To use the full potential of young scientists in solving the challenges, the secretariat of KANS scientific competition has invited special pavilions in different fields of science and technology to participate in this event.

Pavilions are national or international scientific institutions from all over Islamic countries which have declared their local challenges and invited scientists and innovators to answer these challenges.

KANS provides the ground for proper communication among pavilions and scholars, thus taking a step in connecting young scientists and scientific institutions to tackle the aforementioned challenges.

Competitors in the 2022 KANS competition can submit an achievement that is a response to one of the challenges declared by international institutes in the Islamic World. If their work is not related to any of the mentioned challenges they can participate in the free section of the competition.

The first round of this competition was held in 2018 in the fields of Health, Energy, Economy, Water and Environment, and Information Technology with the participation of over 600 Young technologists and researchers.

The second round of this competition was held in 2021 in the fields of Water, Environment and Energy, Health and MedTech, ICT, Economics, Banking and Finance, Transportation and Mining and Mineral Industries with the participation of nearly 700 technologists and scientists from over 20 countries.

## Oman Central Bank CEO to Visit Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Taher bin Salem al Omari, the CEO of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), was scheduled to arrive in capital Tehran last night to hold talks on development of banking ties with Iran.

According to the Central Bank of Iran, al Omari will hold talks with his Iranian counterpart on Thursday.

The Omani and Iranian sides will discuss expansion of banking interactions at bilateral and international levels.

Robert Malley, United States Special Representative for Iran, said that Washington tries to repatriate three Americans arrested in Iran as soon as possible and that this issue is a priority for the Biden administration.

Nournews already reported that the agreements for the swap of Iranian and American prisoners, which had been reached in other countries some months ago, are on the verge of implementation following the United States' preparation in this respect.

## Dozens Missing After Refugee Boat Sinks Off Greek Islands



**ATHENS (Dispatches)** - Greek authorities have launched a search and rescue operation for dozens of refugees who are missing after a boat they were travelling on from Turkey overturned and sank in rough weather. The vessel capsized overnight on Monday between the islands of Evia and Andros. The coastguard said on Tuesday that nine people, all men, had been found on an uninhabited rocky islet in the Kafirea Straits between the two islands, which lie east of the Greek capital, Athens. The survivors, who were picked up by a coastguard patrol boat, told authorities there had been a total of about 68 people on board the sailing boat when it sank, and that they had initially set sail from Izmir on the Turkish coast.

## UK Home Secretary Slammed for Asylum Seeker Invasion Remarks



**LONDON (Dispatches)** - Home Secretary Suella Braverman has come under heavy criticism for describing the arrival of asylum seekers on the United Kingdom's southern coast as an "invasion", with lawmakers from across the political spectrum and non-governmental organizations denouncing her choice of language as "inflammatory" and "heinous". Braverman, who is fighting to save her job after she admitted breaching security rules, told Parliament on Monday that she was working to stop the "invasion on our southern coast" in reference to the arrival of migrants and refugees in small boats across the English Channel.

## Russia Announces Wider Evacuation of Occupied Southern Ukraine



**KYIV (Dispatches)** - Russia ordered civilians to leave a swath of Ukraine along the eastern bank of the Dnipro River, a major extension of an evacuation order that Kyiv says amounts to the forced depopulation of occupied territory. Russia had previously ordered civilians out of a pocket it controls on the west bank of the river, where Ukrainian forces have been advancing to capture the city of Kherson. Russian-installed officials said on Tuesday they were now extending that order to a 15-km (9-mile) buffer zone along the east bank too. Ukraine says the evacuations include forced deportations from occupied territory, a war crime. Russia, which claims to have annexed the area, says it is taking civilians to safety because of the risk Ukraine might use unconventional weapons. "Due to the possibility of the use of prohibited methods of war by the Ukrainian regime, as well as information that Kyiv is preparing a massive missile strike on the Kakhovka hydroelectric station, there is an immediate danger of the Kherson region being flooded," Vladimir Saldo, Russian-installed head of occupied Kherson province, said in a video message. "The decision (to expand the evacuation zone) will make it possible to create a layered defence in order to repel Ukrainian attacks and protect civilians," he said. Moscow has accused Kyiv of planning to use a so-called "dirty bomb" to spread radiation, or to blow up a dam to flood towns and villages in Kherson province. Kyiv says accusations it would use such tactics on its own territory are absurd, but that Russia might be planning such actions itself to blame Ukraine. The mouth of the wide Dnipro River has become one of the most consequential frontlines in the war in recent weeks. Russia has thousands of troops in their only pocket on the west bank and has been trying to reinforce the area. Ukraine's advance has slowed in recent days, with commanders citing increasingly wet and cold weather and tougher terrain. Saldo identified seven towns on the east bank that would now be evacuated, comprising the main populated settlements along that stretch of the river.

## North Korea Gives Warning Over U.S., S. Korean Military Air Drills



**PYONGYANG (Dispatches)** - North Korea has warned of "powerful follow-up measures" in response to the largest joint air exercises between the militaries of South Korea and the United States in almost five years. A spokesperson for North Korea's ministry of foreign affairs described the air drills on Tuesday as a "ceaseless and reckless" military provocation designed to prepare for attacks on North Korea, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported. The joint U.S.-South Korea air exercises — dubbed "Vigilant Storm" — were in preparation "for aggression mainly aimed at striking the strategic targets of the DPRK", the spokesperson was quoted as saying by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, according to Yonhap. The DPRK is the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "If the U.S. continuously persists in the grave military provocations, the DPRK will take into account more powerful follow-up measures," the spokesperson said.

## S. Korea Moving to Quell Anger Over Halloween Crush

**SEOUL (Dispatches)** - South Korea moved to calm public outrage over a Halloween party crush that killed more than 150 people, most of them young, promising a speedy and intensive inquiry and calling for tough new safety measures to prevent similar disasters. The death toll from the crush at a crowded Halloween street party on Saturday climbed to 156 with 151 injured, 29 of whom were in serious condition. At least 26 citizens from 14 countries were among the dead. Tens of thousands of revellers - many in their teens and twenties and dressed in costume - had crowded into narrow streets and alleyways of the popular Itaewon district for the first virtually unrestricted Halloween festivities in three years. The country's chief security officer, Interior Minister Lee Sang-min, apologised on Tuesday, vowing to find out the cause of the incident and prevent similar cases from recurring. "As the minister overseeing the safety of the public, I express sincere apologies over the incident," Lee said, adding that the government had "limitless responsibility over the safety of our people" as he addressed a parliamentary session televised live. He has come under sharp public criticism after saying that deploying more police would not have prevented the disaster. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon also tearfully apologized during a media briefing and said the city government would put all available administrative resources "until every citizen can return to their normal lives". National Police Commissioner General Yoon Hee-keun earlier on Tuesday acknowledged crowd control at the scene was "inadequate," noting that police had received multiple reports warning of possible accidents on the night of the disaster. "The police will speedily and rigorously conduct intensive inspections and investigation on all aspects without exception to explain the truth of this accident," Yoon told a news conference.

Pyongyang has also ramped up its rhetoric on nuclear weapons, recently adopting a nuclear doctrine that authorises preemptive nuclear attacks in loosely defined crisis situations. Seoul and Washington have repeatedly warned that Pyongyang could be close to testing an atomic bomb for the first time since 2017. Last week, the U.S., South Korea and Japan warned that an "unparalleled" response would be warranted if North Korea tests a nuclear weapon.

## Brazil's Supreme Court Orders Removal of Pro-Bolsonaro Roadblocks

**BRASILIA (Dispatches)** - Brazil's Supreme Court has ordered police to remove roadblocks erected by supporters of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who still has not publicly acknowledged his election defeat to left-wing rival Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Justice Alexandre de Moraes on Tuesday called on the Federal Highway Police to disperse the blockades, which were organised primarily by truckers, a key Bolsonaro constituency. The highway police said truckers had blocked highways at 271 points, partially or fully, as part of protests that have spread to 23 of Brazil's 26 states in the wake of Bolsonaro's loss to Lula in Sunday's election. The police force said another 192 roadblocks had been cleared. Bolsonaro has remained silent for more than 36 hours after narrowly losing the run-off with 49.1 percent of the vote compared with Lula's 50.9 percent. His silence - both in public and on social media - and his refusal to immediately concede defeat have spurred concerns that Bolsonaro could be seeking ways to contest the results. For months, the former army captain has falsely claimed that Brazil's electronic voting system is vulnerable to fraud. Critics said the allegation was part of a plan to contest his likely defeat and similar to tactics used by former US President Donald Trump, whom Bolsonaro has emulated.

Al Jazeera's Monica Yanakiew, reporting from Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, said many of the far-right leader's allies have acknowledged Lula's victory. "I doubt that he will say he doesn't accept the results because there's nobody to back him up on that," Yanakiew said. Still, she described Bolsonaro's silence as a "very loud" one that is complicating what should be a smooth transition. "The fact that President Jair Bolsonaro hasn't opened his mouth since the election results were broadcast, that doesn't help at all." It was not immediately clear when Bolsonaro would address the election outcome. Since Monday, protesters had blocked roads in major cities, including outside Sao Paulo's Guarulhos Airport, the country's main international air hub, as well as in Rio de Janeiro. A banner reading "Lula No!" hung off a bridge in Sao Paulo. But the state with the most roadblocks was Santa Catarina in the south, where almost 70 percent of voters backed Bolsonaro. "I hope that I can go back home," real estate agent Rosangela Senna, 62, told the AFP news agency at a bus station in Sao Paulo, where she was unable to take her bus back to Rio. "I could afford to pay for a day to sleep in a hotel here, but many people had to wait right here at the bus station," she said.



## Danes Vote in Battle For Center Ground

**COPENHAGEN (Dispatches)** - Danes went to the polls with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen hoping for a vote of confidence in her handling of the pandemic and for her leadership to overcome soaring inflation and geopolitical insecurity. The election has turned into a battle for centrist voters, with former prime minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen likely to become a king-maker with his new party, the Moderates, as neither the ruling left nor the right-wing opposition looks set to win a majority. The vote comes as high energy prices and the highest inflation in four decades eat into household economies, and only a month after the sabotage of two pipelines carrying gas from Russia to Germany through Danish waters fuelled an unprecedented sense of insecurity among Danes. Polls indicate that Frederiksen, 44, and her Social Democratic Party will gain slightly to again become the biggest party in parliament. It is however far from certain that she will be able to stay in power. A poll published late on Monday by Gallup for daily Berlingske showed that 24% of voters had not yet made up their minds. "I've been in doubt. It wasn't until I stood inside the ballot box that I chose who to vote for," Vibeke, who declined to give her surname, told Reuters outside a polling station in Copenhagen. "I was actually leaning towards the Moderates. But I don't know about Lars Løkke Rasmussen, whether he might be much more right-wing than you think. That is why I stuck with the Social Democrats," she said. Frederiksen, who became Denmark's youngest-ever prime minister in 2019, is seeking to form a broad coalition across the traditional left-right divide, arguing that political unity is needed at a time of international uncertainty. After a trailblazing election campaign, polls now indicate that Rasmussen and his Moderates, founded only four months ago, stand to become the third biggest party in parliament, behind the Social Democrats and his former party, the Liberals. "I voted for the Moderates. I think they will come up with something fresh, something new," Anders Lindeburg Møller, a university student, told Reuters in Copenhagen.

## For Water-Stressed Iraq, Wells Threaten Race To the Bottom



BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraq has long drilled the desert for oil, but now climate stress, drought and reduced river flows are forcing it to dig ever deeper for a more precious resource: water.

The war-scarred nation and major crude exporter is one of the world's five countries most impacted by key effects of the climate crisis, says the United Nations.

Compounding the water stress, upstream dams, mainly in Turkey, have vastly reduced the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates, the once mighty rivers that gave birth to Mesopotamian civilisation.

One of Iraq's millions of hardscrabble farmers bearing the brunt of this ecological crisis is Jabar al-Fatlawi, 50, a father of five with a rough beard and wearing a white robe.

Like his father before him, he has grown wheat and rice in the southern province of Najaf -- but not this year, he said, blaming the "severe water shortage".

To help him keep alive at least his date palms and livestock, he has paid local authorities to dig a well on his dusty patch of land near the town of Al-Mishkhab.

Fatlawi watched as a noisy drill churned up the ground and eventually hit the water table far below, sending up a jet of muddy water that will allow him to battle on, for now.

As Iraq endures its worst drought since 1930, and frequent sandstorms turn the sky orange, he hopes the precious water will allow him to at least grow dill, onions and radishes. His well is one of hundreds recently drilled in Iraq -- at ever greater depth as the groundwater table below keeps dropping.

Fatlawi said he had once dug his own, small-scale well, before the government declared it illegal.

At any rate, he recalled, "sometimes the water was bitter, sometimes it was salty".

The short-term solution for farmers like Fatlawi exacerbates a long-term problem as frantic competition heats up for ever more scarce water, experts warn.

Another southern farmer, Hussein Badiwi, 60, said he had been planting barley and grass for livestock on the edge of the Najaf desert for 10 years.

Like his neighbours, he relies exclusively on water drilling and said the area had seen "a drop in the water level because of the multitude of wells".

"Before, we used to dig 50 metres (165 feet) and we had water," Badiwi said. "Now we have to go down more than 100 metres."

Iraq, a country of 42 million, is seeing a race to the bottom for the precious groundwater.

The Sawa Lake in the south, a pilgrimage site, this year vanished for the first time in recorded history as some 1,000 illegal wells had sucked away the water table below.

In a country where one in five people work in agriculture, water shortages have destroyed livelihoods and driven a rural exodus into crowded cities, heightening social tensions.

Anger has flared at a government seen as incompetent and corrupt, and sporadic protests have broken out in the south demanding Baghdad pressure Turkey to release more water from its dams.

Iraq's ministry of water resources warned during the blistering summer that "excessive groundwater use has led to many problems" and called for "the preservation of this wealth".

But they have also drilled some 500 new ones in this year's first half, with plans for more in at least six provinces ahead of what the ministry predicts will be "another year of drought" in 2023.

Najaf's head of water resources, Jamil al-Assadi, said fees to drill wells had been reduced by half, and many new ones had been sunk into areas formerly irrigated by rivers and canals.

## "Sharp" Global Labor Market Slowdown Underway



GENEVA (Dispatches) - The war raging in Ukraine and other overlapping crises are taking a toll on labor markets worldwide, the UN said Monday, suggesting a "sharp" slowdown was already underway.

In a fresh report, the International Labor Organization cautioned that the outlook for global labour markets has deteriorated in recent months.

"The ILO projects that if current trends continue, global employment growth will deteriorate significantly in the last three months of this current year 2022, and unemployment might start increasing," agency chief Gilbert Houngbo told reporters.

The UN agency warned that multiple, overlapping crises, compounded by Russia's war in Ukraine, were piling up with the world still in the grips of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Amid deepening energy and food security crises, swelling inflation, tightening monetary policy and fears of a looming global recession, it said both employment creation and the quality of jobs were declining.

"While it normally takes time for an economic slowdown or a recession to result in job destruction and unemployment, available data suggests that a sharp labour market slowdown is already underway," the report said.

At the beginning of this year, as the world began recovering from the height of the pandemic, employment-to-population ratios returned to or even exceeded pre-Covid-crisis levels in most advanced economies.

ILO said this uptick was especially apparent in high-skilled occupations -- but cautioned that it was also driven by a surge in informal jobs, where social protections are generally lacking.

The situation has worsened in recent months, ILO said, estimating that overall hours worked was 1.5 percent below pre-pandemic levels in the third quarter.

That amounts to a deficit of 40 million full-time jobs.

As the number of jobs available is shrinking, surging inflation is causing real wages to fall in many countries, as many households are still grappling with pandemic-induced income declines, it said.

Monday's report highlighted in particular the dire employment situation in Ukraine itself since Russia invaded in February.

Houngbo said the war had caused "a dramatic effect on Ukraine's own labour market."

Inflation in the conflict-torn country is expected to top 30 percent by the end of the year, while ILO estimated employment there would be 15.5 percent below the 2021 level.

That means 2.4 million jobs lost since the start of the war -- half the number predicted by ILO in April, when the number of areas in Ukraine under occupation or facing active hostilities was higher.

But the UN agency cautioned the "partial labour market recovery is modest and highly fragile."

It highlighted the large number of internally displaced people looking for jobs.

"This risks pushing wages down in these areas," Houngbo said.

The report also estimated that 10.4 percent of Ukraine's pre-war workforce -- some 1.6 million people, mostly women -- had fled to other countries.

A recent survey found around a quarter of Ukrainian refugees had found waged work or self-employment in their host countries, ILO said.

Monday's report called for in-depth social dialogue to create the policies needed to counter labor market downturns. It also warned that excessive policy tightening could cause "undue damage to jobs and incomes in both advanced and developing countries."



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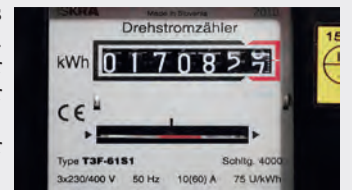
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## Germany Finalizes Details of Planned Gas Price Cap

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's expert gas commission presented proposals to the government for a gas price cap in Europe's biggest economy to help citizens cope with soaring energy prices and encourage companies to remain in the country and preserve jobs. Households in the country are paying more than 2-1/2 times as much for an average annual gas contract from their supplier than a year ago - before Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted gas supplies and pushed prices sharply higher - data from energy price portal Check24 shows.

In its final report, the commission said Berlin should cap gas prices at 12 euro cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) for 80% of households' basic consumption from March 2023 until at least the end of April 2024.



## OPEC Raises Long-Term Oil Demand View, Calls for Investment

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - OPEC raised its forecasts for world oil demand in the medium-and longer-term in an annual outlook released on Monday and said \$12.1 trillion of investment is needed to meet this demand despite the energy transition.

The view from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, in its 2022 World Oil Outlook, contrasts with that of other forecasters which see oil demand reaching a plateau before 2030 due to the rise of renewable energy and electric cars.

Another decade of oil demand growth would be a boost for OPEC, whose 13 members depend on oil income. The group has been arguing that oil should be part of the energy transition and that focus by investors on economic, social and governance (ESG) issues has worsened an investment shortfall.

"The overall investment number for the oil sector is \$12.1 trillion out to 2045," OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais wrote in the foreword to the report, which said the figure was up from last year's estimate.

"However, chronic underinvestment into the global oil industry in recent years, due to industry downturns, the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as policies centred on ending financing in fossil fuel projects, is a major cause of concern.

"OPEC made a shift in 2020 when the pandemic hit demand, saying it would eventually slow after years of predicting ever-increasing consumption. In the report, OPEC maintained its view that world demand will plateau after 2035. Other predictions from companies and banks see oil demand peaking earlier.

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.

The report said world oil demand will reach 103 million barrels per day in 2023, up 2.7 million bpd from 2022. The 2023 total demand is up 1.4 million bpd from last year's prediction.

OPEC also raised its demand forecasts for the medium term to 2027, saying the figure is up by almost 2 million bpd by the end of the period from last year. It said the upward revision reflects a more robust recovery now seen in 2022 and 2023 and a "strong focus on energy security issues" leading to a slower substitution of oil by other fuels such as natural gas, whose price has soared due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

By 2030, OPEC sees world demand averaging 108.3 million bpd, up from 2021, and lifted its 2045 figure to 109.8 million bpd from 108.2 million bpd in 2021. The group had lowered the 2045 projection over the last few years. OPEC and its allies, known as OPEC+, are again cutting supply to support the market.

The report sees supply restraint continuing in the medium term, with OPEC output in 2027 lower than in 2022 as non-OPEC supply grows. Still, OPEC is upbeat about its later prospects, seeing its market share rising. U.S. tight crude supply is seen peaking after the late 2020s, rather than around 2030 last year. "Oil is expected to remain the number one fuel in the global primary energy mix," the report said.

## Japan Spends Record of Nearly \$43b in October to Prop Up Yen

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan spent a record \$42.8 billion on currency intervention in October to prop up the yen, the country's finance ministry said, with investors keen for clues about how much more the authorities might step in to soften the currency's sharp fall.

The 6.3499 trillion yen (\$42.8 billion) was broadly in line with the estimates of Tokyo money market brokers who thought Japan had likely spent up to 6.4 trillion yen over two consecutive trading days of unannounced interventions.

A steep drop in the yen to a 32-year low of 151.94 to the dollar on Oct. 21 likely triggered the intervention, followed by another one on Oct. 24.

However, the amount was nearly double the 2.8 trillion yen Tokyo spent last month in its first yen-buying and dollar-selling intervention in more than two decades. The latest intervention records were registered from Sept. 29 to Oct. 27.

The interventions helped to trigger an immediate drop in the dollar of more than 7 yen on Oct. 21, and another dollar fall to the yen by around 5 yen on Oct. 24 albeit temporarily.

The Japanese currency has since come under renewed pressure.

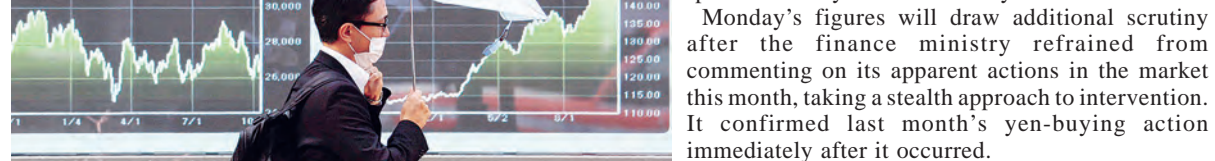
"Big spending on intervention has proved effective to a degree," said Daisaku Ueno, chief FX strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities. "The way Japan stepped into the market was a little indecent though as they apparently targeted thin trade seen late Friday evening and early Monday morning."

"This suggested that the Japanese authorities will continue to attack market players selling off the yen beyond 150 yen."

With solid U.S. consumer spending data focusing attention on persistent inflation and dampening expectations of slower interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve (Fed), while the Bank of Japan remains committed to ultralow interest rates, the dollar was rising again late on Monday, up 1% at 148.45 yen.

Japan's currency intervention data, comprising monthly totals released around the end of each month and daily spending released in quarterly reports, is watched closely for clues on how much more Japan might be willing to spend in its forays into the currency market.

Monday's figures will draw additional scrutiny after the finance ministry refrained from commenting on its apparent actions in the market this month, taking a stealth approach to intervention. It confirmed last month's yen-buying action immediately after it occurred.



## Turkey Mulls New Steps To Boost Financial Infrastructure

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's Treasury and Finance Minister Nureddin Nebati said the government was working on new steps to further strengthen the country's financial infrastructure, which he said would eventually help boost financial stability.

"We are working intensively together with all our related institutions for the development of financial architecture and infrastructure," Nebati told the 2nd Future of Finance Summit, organized by Turkuvaiz Media Group's broadcaster A Para.

"We will unveil the new steps we will take in this context with the public in the near future. These new steps will also contribute to financial stability," Nebati said, citing a scheme that protected the value of the Turkish lira deposits.

Ankara introduced the scheme, which sought to compensate for losses incurred against foreign currencies, to prop up the lira in December.

Nebati said the implementation of the scheme had helped stabilize high volatility in the exchange rate, as he stressed that the government would be developing new financial business models to ensure the expansion of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Turkey in the coming period.

The minister also said touted the government's new economic program, which he said had contributed to the country's economy.

Dubbed Turkey Economy Model, the program was unveiled last year and prioritizes low-interest rates to boost exports, production and investments, aiming to lower inflation and flip the country's chronic current account deficits to a surplus.

In line with the model, Turkey's central bank cut its policy rate by 350 basis points to 10.5% in the last three months, surprising markets after inflation surged to a fresh 24-year high in September.

The central bank had embarked on a rate-cutting cycle more than a year ago as it lowered its one-week repo rate by 500 basis points to 14%, where it had left it steady in the first seven months of this year.

"We are explaining our model. They are listening to us, they are watching us, they are curious about us. They were questioning, now they're looking at 'how did it happen.' The Turkey Economy Model is on the world's agenda as a model," Nebati said.

He stressed that government policies helped the economy maintain growth in the last eight quarters.

The Turkish economy expanded by a better-than-expected 7.6% year-over-year in the second quarter on strong domestic demand and exports. The rate made Turkey the second-fastest growing economy in the G-20.

The country's GDP had expanded by 7.5% annually in the second quarter. Last year, the economy bounced back strongly from the COVID-19 pandemic and grew by 11.4%, its highest rate in a decade.

## Eurozone Inflation Jumps To Record 10.7%



LONDON (Dispatches) - Eurozone government bond yields have risen after inflation data showed consumer prices climbed at a record pace in October, heaping pressure on the European Central Bank to continue aggressive policy tightening.

Consumer price growth in the 19 countries with euro as their monetary unit accelerated to 10.7 percent in October from 9.9 percent a month earlier, Monday's data showed.

Inflation excluding unprocessed food and energy accelerated to 6.4 percent from 6 percent, while an even narrower measure that also filters out alcohol and tobacco rose to 5 percent from 4.8 percent.

The data points to further rate increases from the European Central Bank (ECB) in an attempt to bring inflation back down towards its target.

"The ECB's goal of pushing the inflation rate back to just under 2 percent on a sustainable basis seems a long way off," Commerzbank senior economist Christoph Weil said, noting the ECB forecast inflation at 9.2 percent in the final quarter of 2022.

"This also increases the pressure on the ECB Governing Council to further raise key rates sharply," Weil added. Germany's two-year yield was up 4 bps to 1.968 percent.

The ECB policy meeting on Thursday had pushed investors to bet on a slower pace of rate hikes, but policymaker comments since the meeting and elevated price pressures suggest the central bank remains in tightening mode.

Money markets are pricing in a 50 bps rate hike at the December meeting, with about 140 bps of further tightening priced in for this cycle, according to data from Refinitiv.

On Sunday, ECB governing council member Klaas Knot helped push back expectations for a slower pace of tightening, saying it was likely the next hike would be a choice of 50 or 75 bps.

## Italy Gets GDP Boost as Gov't Pledges Action Against Inflation

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy's economy performed unexpectedly well in the third quarter, data showed on Monday, offering a welcome boost for the country's new government as it plans extra borrowing to help families and firms cope with surging inflation.

Gross domestic product grew by 0.5% in the third quarter from the second and 2.6% year on year, national statistics bureau ISTAT said.

Both preliminary readings were around half a percentage point higher than expected in Reuters survey of analysts, while the Treasury had said last month it expected a third quarter contraction.

Resilience in the service sector shored up domestic demand, ISTAT said.

Industry contracted and trade flows were a drag on growth, however, and the outlook is clouded by sky-high, energy-driven inflation exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, which has sapped business and consumer confidence, crimped investments and hit families' spending power.

In his first speech since taking office this month as economy minister in Giorgia Meloni's nationalist administration, Giancarlo Giorgetti said on Monday the government would cut the budget deficit and huge public debt over coming years, but promised more spending in the near term.

The government plans to raise next year's budget deficit to 4.5% of GDP, up from the 3.4% projected last month under current trends, a senior official said. This would give Meloni room for expansionary measures worth almost 21 billion euros (\$20.8 billion).

## Saudi Arabia May Cut Crude Prices for Asia for December Cargoes

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia may cut the prices of most crude grades to Asia in December as weaker-than-expected fuel consumption in China amid its strict COVID-19 rules put a lid on regional demand, trade sources said.

State oil giant Saudi Aramco may lower the official selling price (OSP) for its flagship Arab Light crude by about 30 to 40 cents per barrel in December, according to five respondents surveyed by Reuters.

The price cut comes as China, the world's largest crude oil buyer, extended stringent mobility controls to contain the highly transmissible Omicron variant after a surge in daily reported cases.

Changes in the market structure for the Dubai Middle East oil benchmark typically guides how the Arab Light OSP is set.

The premium of the first-month Dubai price over the third-month Dubai price narrowed by 59 cents during oil cargo trading in October versus the difference in September. That softening in the backwardation, or the structure when prompt prices are higher than for later delivery, suggests lower demand for oil.

"Chinese demand is much weaker than expected," said one respondent, adding that the market has already priced in the expectation that Chinese refineries will fully use their oil product export quotas.

China in late September issued an additional 15 million barrels of new export quotas to boost its faltering economy, but some refineries have said the incentives to hike operational rates are low because of poor margins.

The refining margin for a typical Asian refiner who processes the Middle Eastern crude fell to an average of \$2.59 a barrel so far in October from \$3.30 in September.

But the respondents said that the OSP cut could be moderate given a tighter market supply.

OPEC+ has planned to trim 2 million barrels per day of output from November to support oil futures prices that have dropped to about \$90 from \$120 three months ago on fears of a global economic recession, rising U.S. interest rates and a stronger dollar.

For other grades, three respondents expect the OSPs for Arab Medium and Arab Heavy to see a bigger reduction following a weaker refining cracks for fuel oil compared to middle distillate products such as diesel fuel and kerosene.

## Armenia, Iran Not Have Any Misunderstandings

TEHRAN (MNA) – Saying that Armenia doesn't have any misunderstandings with Iran, the Armenian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson says Yerevan and Tehran do not have different opinions on most issues.

Armenian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Vahan Hunanyan said that Armenia and Iran enjoy very long historical relations and

these relationships are not only limited to governments but also exist between the two nations.

Describing Iran as a key partner for Armenia, he expressed hope to see that these relations will become stronger in all fields. "I think we don't have any misunderstandings with Iran," he said and added that Yerevan and Tehran do not have different opinions on most issues.



## Russia Stirs European Worry on Home Appliance Imports Stripped for Arms

LONDON (Dispatches) - A sudden and surprising spike in European exports of washing machines, refrigerators and even electric breast pumps to Russia's neighbors is raising concerns among officials the trade boom may be helping Vladimir Putin's war machine in Ukraine.

Armenia imported more washing machines from the European Union during the first eight months of the year than the past two years combined, according to data compiled by Bloomberg from the EU's Eurostat database. Kazakhstan imported \$21.4 million worth of European refrigerators through August, more than triple the amount for the same period last year.

Kazakh government data meantime show a jump in refrigerators, washing machines and electric breast pumps being shipped into Russia.

Some trade via Eurasian states into Russia may be opportunistic businesses making up for shortfalls of imports from elsewhere, or for Russian companies to break up the appliances and use components and semiconductors in civilian manufacturing.

But European officials familiar with the figures say they worry at least some of the goods and their components may be finding their way into military use, and are closely tracking the rise in exports to countries on Russia's periphery.

Officials in Europe have already said publicly they have seen parts from refrigerators and washing machines showing up in Russian military equipment such as tanks since its invasion of Ukraine. People familiar with the assessments said it was quite possible that components and microchips from other household goods were being used for military purposes, too, even if mostly in relatively low-grade equipment.

The trade data show for example that EU exports of electric breast pumps to Armenia nearly tripled in the first half of 2022 versus the prior year, despite a 4.3% drop in the Armenian birth rate. Likewise, Kazakhstan's demand for breast pumps from the EU soared 633% in the first half of 2022 even though the national birth rate fell 8.4% during the same period.

Putin's war has seen Russia hit by sanctions on almost every sector of its economy, depriving it of imports including chips and other components it has long relied on for basic military equipment like radios and guns through to more sophisticated weapons including missile systems, fighter jets and submarines.

Authorities in Moscow stopped publishing trade figures after the invasion of Ukraine. Still, Russian demand for electric breast pumps from Kazakhstan more than doubled during the first eight months of the year versus all of 2021, according to Kazakhstan government data. The country also shipped \$7.5 million worth of washing machines to Russia so far in 2022 — versus nearly zero the previous two years. Its exports of refrigerators to Russia have surged ten-fold versus the prior year.

"Even highly sophisticated Russian weapons systems are often built with run of the mill microelectronic components found in a range of commercial goods," said James Byrne, director of Open Source Intelligence and Analysis Research at the Royal United Services Institute, a UK think tank. "It's entirely possible that Russia's military industrial complex is importing commercial off-the shelf goods to cannibalize for parts."

Assessing the final destination and the use for the household goods is complicated. Armenia, Kazakhstan and Russia are all in the Eurasian Economic Union, which means there are no customs borders between them. European companies may not want to ship directly to Russia even if their products are not sanctioned, given the optics of being seen to do business with the country right now. They also may not be aware their goods are being sent onto Russia.

European officials say targeting trade in household appliances is difficult, as those items and their so-called sub-threshold components are often not sanctioned. That's even as the EU has recently introduced new powers that allow it to sanction entities outside the bloc if they help European companies evade its restrictive measures.

Kazakhstan has vowed to not help Russia circumvent sanctions and there is no evidence the government is aiding Moscow to do so. Officials in both Armenia and Kazakhstan did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said last month the Russian military was using chips from dishwashers and refrigerators in its military hardware because it was running out of semiconductors. The Biden administration made a similar claim earlier this year, citing reports of parts that had been found in captured Russian tanks in Ukraine.

It isn't clear exactly which components might be salvaged from household goods,



although they generally all contain microchips. And without workarounds for foreign parts, Russia could find its ability hindered to check Ukrainian military advances on the ground, shaping the course and outcome of the war.

European Commission spokeswoman Miriam Garcia Ferrer said the bloc was watching trade flows to identify where sanctions against Russia might be skirted. The commission also monitors "the items used by the Russian army in Ukraine based on forensic analysis of the debris of the remnants of destroyed Russian weapons," she said.

She added low key components from washing machines or refrigerators are commercially available in many countries and regions and where the EU can identify items that are being used in Russian weapons it considers extending trade restrictions to them. For example a number of electronic components were sanctioned under the latest measures adopted earlier this month, Garcia Ferrer said.

After more than eight months of high-intensity warfare, Russia has sustained substantial equipment losses. The U.S. and European officials also say Moscow has run down its stockpiles of key weapons systems, such as high-precision missiles. Ukraine, by contrast, continues to draw on supplies of modern arms from its allies that, together with other advantages such as a ready supply of motivated recruits, has transformed the balance of forces on the battlefield.

Bloomberg News reported earlier in October that Russia had tried for years to reduce its reliance on imports for a vast array of its military equipment — and an internal review in 2021 found it was falling short on almost every metric.

The US has pushed since the war broke out to cut off Russia's supplies of semiconductors. "One of the things I've been able to do, and I make no bones about it, because of — with Russia's activities, we have curtailed their ability to access some of this stuff," President Joe Biden said on Thursday.

"They're not able to rebuild those devastating weapon systems to take out those civilians in Ukraine as well," he said. "Not a joke. It makes a big difference. These things matter, and they matter a great deal."

Other countries that Russia regards as partners, such as China, have largely remained reluctant to supply it with semiconductors and key components even if they have not signed up to the sanctions imposed by the US, Europe and others.

Still, Russia had long experience in evading sanctions to supply its military during the Soviet era, through smuggling and espionage.

An August study of 27 advanced Russian weapons systems by RUSI found 450 unique foreign made components, a majority of which were manufactured in the US, and most of the rest in Europe and other nations that have imposed sanctions on Russia.

"Common components used in weapons platforms such as microprocessors, analog-to-digital converters, field-programmable gate arrays and micro controllers can also be found in a wide range of commercial goods such as televisions, cars, computers and cameras," said Byrne, one of the authors of the RUSI report.

At the same time, a global semiconductor shortage "has reportedly caused many firms struggling with their semiconductor supply chain to cannibalize goods for their microelectronics."

One European official noted that Russian troops were also systematically seizing and looting household appliances in Ukraine. The theft has been widely documented, but it isn't clear how much has been taken for state use or personal use.

### U.S. in...

FROM PAGE 1

As mid-term elections approach in the United States, a second poll done by Gallup Institute shows economy featuring on top of voter demands with 85 percent favoring it, while crime also remains in focus with more than 71 percent voted for it as an important issue.



Election campaigns reflect their reality and Republican Congress candidates have spent \$64.5 million on advertisements focused on crime, compared to their Democrat rivals who have spent \$58 million on advertisements mentioning crime.

Even though polls show a high rise in crime worry in America, and despite the growth in number of shootings across the country U.S. Congress has consistently failed to pass federal gun control legislation owing to the influence exerted by the powerful gun lobby.

No major national legislation to increase gun control has succeeded in the decade since, despite numerous politicians, calling for bans on sales of assault-style weapons and other measures.

Meanwhile at least 14 people, including two children and a teenager, were shot in a drive-by shooting in western Chicago on Halloween night on Monday, but there were no immediate reports of fatalities, police said.

The injured were in various conditions, with several in critical and others non-life threatening, Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown said in a press briefing. One more person was injured after being struck by a vehicle at the site of the shooting.

So the country with such a disputable record of crime and violence is better not to write prescription for other countries while it needs itself prescription by others.

In recent days the U.S. has taken offensive stance against the Islamic Republic either by verbal threat or imposing sanctions just under the pretext of suppressing recent riots in Iran which has been triggered by the hostile countries, mainly the West and Israel, against Tehran.

The U.S. claims of supporting Iranian people and other nations against their governments but it is unable to defend the rights of Palestinians and Yemenis which have been violated by Israel and the Saudi-led coalition forces.

As one American analyst has said, the U.S. is losing its power and dominance in the world and such useless attempts for defending nations' rights do not work any longer and now even Iranian people even those have staged protests do not believe in the void promises and slogans of Washington because Iranians and almost all people in the world have experienced disloyalty of the U.S. when Washington's allies are under pressure or threat. Have you ever seen any pro-U.S. dictator to take shelter in the U.S. after his or her collapse? The answer is "no" because the U.S. uses its lackeys and throw them away like a used handkerchief and for this reason Washington is better to find other audience for preaching because there is no buyer for its worthless stuff.

### Switzerland Sanctions...

FROM PAGE 1

"The people targeted by the sanctions are the chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces, Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, as well as General Saeed Hojatollah Qureishi and Brigadier General Saeed Aghajani," the source said.

The source went on to note that "they are subject to entry bans. In addition, no more business may be done with them, and any assets they may have in Switzerland will be frozen."

Referring to the dismissing the unfounded claims by Iranian officials on sending drones to Russia, the source added that "but critics say the sanctions are largely symbolic."

Switzerland is not a member of the EU but it agreed to take over in principle sanctions by the 27-nation bloc following Russia's invasion of Ukraine," it concluded.

Earlier, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Amir Saeed Irvani has strongly rejected delivering drones to Russia as totally baseless, saying Tehran has maintained "a position of active neutrality" since the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict.

Also, Iranian foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has strongly dismissed Iran delivered drones to Russia to use in the Ukraine war, saying Tehran is ready to discuss the issue in a meeting with Ukraine.

## Colombia's Oil Industry in Jeopardy

BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Leftwing Senator Gustavo Petro's electoral victory, which he was inaugurated as Colombia's 34th president, saw a wave of optimism sweep across the strife-torn country. The term of President Petro's predecessor Ivan Duque was marred by a spike in violence and crime, nationwide anti-government protests, a surge in the activity of illegal armed groups and soaring cocaine production. Fallout from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, which caused Colombia's GDP to contract by 7% that year and spiraling poverty, contributed to rising lawlessness, crime and violence.



counter-narcotics operations, leaving Colombia as the world's number one cocaine producer.

UNDOC estimates that 2021 cocaine production grew 14% year over year to 1,400 metric tons, while the amount of land utilized for coca cropping surged by a whopping 43% to half a million acres. Burgeoning cocaine production, along with the vast profits that narcotics trafficking generates, was responsible for funding the immense escalation of Colombia's multiparty asymmetric conflict during the 1980s.

Cocaine profits have long funded various armed non-state groups in Colombia with soaring production responsible for a surge in the number of illegal armed groups, combatants and related violence since 2018. The vast earnings generated by cocaine in Colombia are thought to be as high as \$12 billion annually, which is equivalent to 4% of the Andean country's GDP.

It is cocaine production and coca cropping, the leaf of the coca plant being a necessary precursor, as well as associated violence which is responsible for the 260,000 plus deaths that have occurred during Colombia's armed conflict. Most of those casualties were civilians who also suffered forced displacement by various illegal armed groups, with it thought that as many as 8 million people having been forced to leave their homes.

The recent spike in Colombia's cocaine production, along with the associated escalation in violence linked to illegal armed groups was responsible for a sharp uptick in the number of civilians displaced during 2021. According to the UN, at least 74,000 Colombians were displaced during that year, which is more than double 2020. The volume of direct attacks against civilians during 2021 also trended higher, rising by 37% year over year to total of more than 2,400 occurrences. These worrying events underscore the growing violence gripping Colombia, most of which is associated with coca cultivation and the manufacture of cocaine. Massacres, which are another symptom of growing cocaine production, lawlessness, rising insecurity and an ineffective state, have surged since 2018. Colombian peace think-tank Indepaz recorded 85 massacres, which is the murder of three or more people in a single event, up until 9 October 2022. That is 10 greater than the same period a year earlier and more than double the 36 massacres recorded during 2019 before the pandemic.

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## Kimpembe Suffers Achilles Discomfort

TURIN (Dispatches) - France defender Presnel Kimpembe has suffered an Achilles injury three weeks away from their first game at the World Cup, his club Paris Saint-Germain announced. Kimpembe, 27, has already missed seven weeks of action this season due to a thigh issue. Les Bleus start the defense of their title on November 22 against Australia in Al Wakrah. "Following a knock, Presnel Kimpembe has discomfort in his right Achilles tendon and will remain for treatment at the training center," PSG said in a statement.

## Thailand's Thitikul Becomes Women's Golf Number One

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Thai teenager Atthaya Thitikul has become the second-youngest world number one in women's golf history after a stunning debut year on the LPGA Tour. The 19-year-old, who has triumphed twice on the US-based elite women's tour in 2022 and has 12 other top-10 finishes this season, takes over at the top from South Korea's Ko Jin-young. Ko had been top of the rankings since January but suffered a recent wrist injury and withdrew from her home BMW Ladies Championship last month after two poor rounds.

# Spurs, Frankfurt Into Champions League Last 16

PARIS (Dispatches) - Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg scored a 95th-minute winner as Tottenham Hotspur came from behind to beat Marseille 2-1 and reach the Champions League knockout stage on Tuesday, where they were joined by Eintracht Frankfurt after their victory at Sporting Lisbon.

Liverpool ended Napoli's unbeaten start to the season with a 2-0 success at Anfield, but the Italian club did enough to finish top of Group A.

Atletico Madrid crashed out of Europe altogether with a loss to Porto, while Bayern Munich made it six wins from six matches by beating Inter Milan.

At a raucous Velodrome, Tottenham knew they would progress if they could avoid defeat by Marseille, although manager Antonio Conte had to watch from the stands after being red-carded in last week's dramatic draw with Sporting.

Spurs were camped inside their own half for the majority of the first period and fell behind just before the break when Chancel Mbemba headed in Jordan Veretout's cross after a quickly-taken corner.

The Premier League side were much improved after the restart and Clement Lenglet glanced in a 54th-minute equaliser.

Former Arsenal left-back Sead Kolasinac nodded a glorious late opportunity to send Marseille through wide.

He was made to pay as Hojbjerg struck on the counter as Spurs snatched top spot in the group and denied Marseille the consolation of a Europa League place.

"I just spoke with Antonio. He's tired because to watch from the crowd is not normal," Tottenham assistant coach Cristian Stellini told BT Sport. "He wasted a lot of energy."

That Hojbjerg goal pushed Eintracht, who also won 2-1, down into second in Group D and kept Sporting in European competition.

Like Tottenham, Sporting only needed a point to qualify and they forged ahead six minutes before half-time as Arthur Gomes volleyed home at the back post.

But Frankfurt, playing in the competition for the first time since losing the 1960 European Cup final to Real Madrid, did not give up and Daichi Kamada scored a 62nd-minute penalty awarded for handball.

Randal Kolo Muani provided the winning moment, latching onto Ansgar Knauff's hooked pass and hammering the ball into the far corner.



The players celebrated wildly on the pitch after the Europa League holders' latest European exploit, with Sporting coach Ruben Amorim left looking stunned on the touchline.

Liverpool brought an end to Napoli's 21-game unbeaten run but could not win by four goals to take first place.

Both teams were already assured of a knockout-phase berth.

Liverpool put Saturday's surprise Premier League home loss to Leeds behind them, as late goals from Mohamed Salah, scoring in a fifth straight Champions League game, and Darwin Nunez gained a measure of revenge for the 4-1 loss in Naples in September.

Ajax saw off Rangers 3-1 at Ibrox to inflict a sixth straight defeat in Group A on the Scottish giants.

Earlier, Atletico failed to finish third in Group B and drop into the Europa League as a 2-1 loss at Porto saw Bayer Leverkusen take third thanks to their goalless draw at Club Brugge. Atletico, the 2014 and 2016 runners-up, were beaten by early goals from Mehdi Taremi and Stephen Eustaquio despite Ivan Marceno's stoppage-time own goal.

Bayern finished with a 100-per cent record by seeing off Inter 2-0 at the Allianz Arena in Group C.

Benjamin Pavard headed home a corner and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting crashed in his seventh goal in six games.

Barcelona's bitterly disappointing tournament came to an end with a 4-2 victory at bottom club Viktoria Plzen.

Barca will have to settle with being one of the favourites to win the Europa League.

Ferran Torres scored a brace, with Marcos Alonso and teenage midfielder Pablo Torre also on target.

## Number One Ranking No Longer The Fight



PARIS (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal, who makes his return to the court at the Paris Masters after a two-month break, insisted Tuesday he was no longer fighting to be world number one.

"I just fight to keep being competitive in every event that I play," said Nadal, currently second in the ATP rankings behind fellow Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz.

Nadal, winner of 92 ATP singles titles, has been ranked world No. 1 for 209 weeks of his glittering career and has finished as the year-end No. 1 on five occasions.

"I will not fight anymore to be No. 1," he said.

"I did in the past. I achieved that goal a couple of times in my career and I have been very, very happy and proud about achieving that."

"But I am in a moment of my tennis career that I don't fight to be No. 1."

Nadal will take on either compatriot Roberto Bautista or American Tommy Paul first up in the French capital, where he has won a record 14 French Open titles.

"I'm happy to be on the tour again after a while," Nadal said. "I was not able to play much the last five months."

"So, yeah, always happy to be back in a city that everybody knows how important is for me, even if it's true that at the same time that in this (Masters) event I never had a lot of positive things in my career."

Nadal, who said it had been "tough" to leave home and his three-week-old son, also played down concerns over his fitness.

## Nets Hold Off Pacers for Second Win of Season

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Kevin Durant scored 36 points on a milestone night to help the Brooklyn Nets fend off the Indiana Pacers 116-109 and claim a badly needed second win of the NBA season.

As the Nets ended a four-game slide, the Milwaukee Bucks remained the only unbeaten team in the league, improving to 6-0 with a hard-fought 110-108 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

The Bucks, led by 31 points from Giannis Antetokounmpo, led by as many as 16 points in the third quarter, but were pushed to the wire by the Pistons.

Cade Cunningham, who led Detroit with 27 points, was off-target twice in the final minute — with the Bucks' lead down to three — and two free throws from Milwaukee center Brook Lopez proved to be enough.

Lopez finished with 24 points and Jrue Holiday added a double-double of 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, who play the Pistons again on Wednesday.

In Brooklyn, Kyrie Irving scored 28 points and Nic Claxton chipped in 19 for the Nets, who led by as many as 24 points but were tied at 100-100 with 6:54 to play.

"We stayed poised," Durant said in an on-court post-game interview. "They threw a lot of junk in the game, running and jumping us at halfcourt, pressuring us, trying to speed the game up."

"I think we took our time, guys made shots down the stretch, got stops as well."

Brooklyn took a 92-85 lead into the final quarter, but Indiana tied it up on Chris Duarte's driving layup.

Brooklyn answered with a two-handed dunk from Claxton off a miss by Irving and a pull-up jump shot from Durant — who finally clinched the victory with a pair of free throws. Durant passed Vince Carter for 19th on the NBA's all-time scoring list. He now has 25,752.

After watching his star-studded team get off to a struggling start this season, Nets coach Steve Nash said he liked what he saw from them on court.

"The win is nice, but I care much more about the process," Nash said. "I thought our process was great, our spirit was great. We were connected. We played hard."



## Walker, Phillips Likely to Be Fit for World Cup

LONDON (Dispatches) - England internationals Kyle Walker and Calvin Phillips are likely to recover from their injuries before the World Cup begins in Qatar later this month, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said.

Walker underwent groin surgery in early October, while Phillips has been sidelined due to a shoulder problem. The pair are racing against time to be fit before England begin their World Cup campaign against Iran in Group B on November 21.

England, who will also face Wales and the United States in their group, reached the semi-finals at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

"It's likely (they can be ready), the way they recover," Guardiola told reporters. "I don't know intentions for Gareth. He spoke with the players and doctors regularly. They know better than me. What I hear in the dressing rooms is that they can be ready."

Asked if Walker and Phillips are desperate to return, Guardiola replied: "I would say yes. You don't play a World Cup every week."

Phillips has been doing partial training sessions with the team but has yet to resume contact training, Guardiola said.

"We'll see his evolution. I know how important is the World Cup but I don't use a player I don't think is ready," the Spanish manager said when asked if Phillips could play for City before the World Cup.

## Fritz Leads American Quartet Into Paris Masters Next Round

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ninth seed Taylor Fritz kept his hopes of qualifying for the season-ending ATP Finals alive when he was among four Americans to record straight sets victories at the Paris Masters to move into the second round.

Fritz, the highest-seeded American in the draw beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 7-5 6-2 on the back of a decent first serve despite trailing by a break in the opening set.

Fritz hit only 11 winners to the Spaniard's 20 but he converted five break points to wrap up the match in 90 minutes to beat Davidovich Fokina for the first time in three meetings.

"Really happy, he's a tough person to play against. He's got weapons on both sides, he's extremely quick as well, so there's nowhere you can really play with a lot of safety," Fritz said. "He makes a lot of crazy shots and he's beaten me the past two times."

Fritz needs to reach the final to have any chance of sealing a place in the ATP Finals in Turin ahead of Andrey Rublev or Felix Auger-Aliassime, who has won his last three tournaments.

"Turin is still in the picture, obviously, but there's not much else I really could have done. I won Tokyo," he added.

Fellow American John Isner can remove one hurdle in the form of Rublev after he booked a place in the second round against the Russian with a 6-4 7-6(3) win over Germany's Oscar Otte.



## PFA Asks UEFA To Add Concussion Substitution Rule

LONDON (Dispatches) - UEFA must play a leading role in efforts to minimize the risk of head injuries in football by introducing concussion substitutes, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) said.

IFAB, the game's rule-making body, gave the go-ahead for trials of permanent concussion substitutes in 2020, following which the Premier League and the Women's Super League introduced the system in England last year.

However, the players union said European soccer's governing body had not integrated concussion substitutes into major competitions like the Champions League, Europa League and Nations League. "This situation needs to be addressed urgently," Adam White, the head of the PFA's dedicated Brain Health department, said in a statement.

"As a bare minimum UEFA, as one of football's major bodies, must lead by example and introduce the available permanent concussion substitution rule. This an issue the PFA will be raising with UEFA directly."

The union added that football authorities in England had to go a step further and introduce temporary concussion substitutions.

Under current protocols, players are assessed on the pitch and either cleared to play or substituted. Medical staff can take as long as they need but there is pressure to make decisions quickly.

