

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani Condemned the Attempt Made on Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's Life And Wished Health and Quick Recovery for Khan

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Labor and Social Welfare Minister Says Up to 2.4 Quadrillion Rials (About \$82.9b) of Investment Is Required for Achieving an 8% Economic Growth by the End of The Current Iranian Calendar Year

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Iran Challenging Fake U.S. Hegemony in Region, World

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Chief of General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri says Iran's Islamic Revolution has succeeded in challenging the "fake" hegemony of the United States in the region and the world.

Baqeri made the remarks in a statement, on the eve of the National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance, also known as the National Student Day, which marks the anniversary of the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran in 1979. This year, the day fell on Friday.

"Although 44 years have passed from the Iranian nation's independence-seeking and anti-arrogance [Islamic] Revolution, which led to the expulsion of the US and its allied government [in Iran], this inspiring revolution has now succeeded in challenging America's fake hegemony in the region and the world," he said.

"The octopus-like hands of this colonialist power [America] are being cut off in countries one after another, in a way that the walls of America's backyard are crumbling down," Bagheri added. **See Page 7**

President Blasts Biden, Says Iran Free for 43 Years Now



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ibrahim Raisi has addressed U.S. President Joe Biden, telling him Iran was freed more than four decades ago and is no longer under the control of U.S. hegemony.

"I was informed a few hours ago that the President of the United States has uttered some words due to distraction, he said we (the U.S.) are aiming to free Iran", President Raisi said.

"Iran was freed 43 years ago and is determined not to be occupied by you. And we will never be (your) milk cows," President Raisi said in response to Biden's comment.

In a speech he delivered at the Iranian rally on the anniversary of the US embassy takeover, better known as "Den of Espionage", President Raisi noted "today is the day to fight global supremacy; supremacy is arrogance and selfishness."

"Today is the symbol and manifestation of the arrogance of the ruling system of the United States, which, according to Imam Khomeini, is the Great Satan and is ready to destroy many nations and people of the world in order to achieve its interests," Raisi highlighted.

Raisi said, "Had it not been for the move taken by students who followed Imam's path, the fight against arrogance would be incomplete," adding that the "Day of Fight against Global Arrogance is a symbol of Iran's strength."

Pointing out to the hegemonic nature of the U.S., Iran's President underlined that the U.S. ruling system has taken part in more than 300 wars across the world, carrying out 62 coups against the will of the people of different nations, stood behind the deadly atomic bombings in Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing millions of people, and participated in the deadliest wars; including the Afghanistan and Vietnam wars, by causing tremendous killing and bloodshed.

President Raisi also noted that, "The U.S.'s military interventions in countries in the name of fighting terrorists and liberating nations, founding Takfiri terrorist groups such as Daesh and al-Nusra Front, supporting separatist and terrorist movements, launching sanction systems against independent countries, especially against the Islamic Republic of Iran" are some of the main other crimes committed by the US establishment.

Such examples, according to President Raisi, demonstrate that "the spirit of America is based on arrogance and dominance," pointing out "the U.S. wants people to think and act like the U.S. and become milk cows for the U.S."

The Iranian president criticized the U.S. for its crimes against humanity, underscoring that it is strange that at the time the US acknowledged founding and supporting terrorist groups such as Daesh that has been committing crimes across the world, Washington claims to be an advocator and supporter of freedoms and human rights.

Elsewhere in the speech, President Raisi touched on the U.S.-imposed sanctions, underscoring that despite the sanctions (imposed by the US and West), the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to continue its progress on different levels.

He highlighted that despite sanctions, "the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most advanced manufacturers in complex industries; be it nuclear industry or military industry."

Further elaborating, the president said, "Do you really think that we will be held back by your threats and sanctions? You aim to slow down the pace of the Iranian nation's movement, but that's just an illusion. Our men and women will not allow your malicious dreams to come true."

"Iran is a producing country and has exports. They wanted to reduce oil exports to zero and slow down and stop production in the country, they wanted to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran, but they failed," he added.

President Raisi emphasized that "owing to insight and good knowledge of the enemy, the younger generation in Iran today has the same view toward the United States as previous generations." **See Page 7**

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DOMESTIC

Iran Petrochemical Capacity to Be Doubled
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Tehran Slams U.S.-Organized UN Meeting

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian diplomat says a U.S.-organized meeting held at the United Nations over the situation of human rights clearly aimed to interfere in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state, which amounts to a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international law.

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saied Irvani made the remarks while speaking at the UN Security Council Stakeout in New York.

He added that the Arria-formula meeting took place as the US once again resorted to a "disinformation campaign in a blatant hypocrisy."

The Iranian ambassador said it is ironic that the US has alleged that the event is intended to "protect" human rights in Iran, "while Iranians continue to suffer greatly as the result of the United States' decades-long brutal sanctions; a true war in which the actual warfare is replaced with food and medicine."

"It has become a standard practice for the U.S. to abuse such valued concepts as human rights and manipulate the UN platforms and resources to advance its ill-based political agenda," Irvani emphasized. **See Page 7**

Iran Has Least Foreign Debt Among ME&CA Nations

TEHRAN (MNA) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest regional economic outlook for "The Middle East and Central Asia Region (ME&CA)" stated that Iran has the least foreign debt among the countries in the mentioned region.

The fund has put the ratio of Iran's external debt to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 0.5 percent in its report, IRNA reported.

Based on IMF data, the average ratio of foreign debt to total GDP for the countries of the region was estimated at 35.8 percent, while the figure for oil-exporting countries was reported to be 30.9 percent.

According to IMF, Bahrain had the highest volume of foreign debt in the region; the ratio of Bahrain's foreign debt to its GDP this year was 207.3 percent. Sudan ranks second with a ratio of 189.4 percent, and Qatar ranks third with a ratio of 134 percent.

Iran has been ranked the world's seventh country in terms of the lowest foreign debt to GDP ratio, according to established international sources. **See Page 7**

CBI Governor Signals Foreign Funds Could Be Unfrozen Soon

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Ali Salehabadi has signaled that billions of dollars in Iranian funds blocked in other countries because of U.S. sanctions could be unfrozen in the near future.

"After the funds are deposited into accounts we have designated we will disclose information about that. Talks are progressing well," Salehabadi was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency on Thursday.

The remarks came hours after the Iranian chief banker met Central Bank of Oman's Executive President Tahir Bin Salim Bin Abdullah Al Amri in Tehran. Local media said the meeting was in line with efforts to unblock around \$7 billion in Iranian funds that have remained frozen in two banks in South Korea in recent years because of American pressure on Seoul.

Speaking to reporters alongside Al Amri on Thursday, Salehabadi did not elaborate whether the two officials had specifically discussed the issue of South Korea funds but he said that central banks of Iran and Oman had closely cooperated on similar cases, including the unblocking of nearly \$500 million of Iranian funds in the United Kingdom last year. **See Page 7**

The promising news of Mobarakeh Fould CEO; Foulad Mubarakkeh organizes a large employment test in the country's industry with a capacity of employment of 1100 people.



By defining dozens of quantitative and qualitative development projects in Mobarakeh Steel Group, sustainable employment capacity of 1100 youths of the country was provided. The CEO of Foulad Mobarakeh stated in a conversation with a Foulad reporter: Undoubtedly, one of the most promising news that can promise a bright future for the educated youth is employment in one of the largest industrial companies in Iran. As the largest steel producer in North Africa and West Asia, Mobarakeh Steel is considered a powerful and leading industrial group in dear Islamic Iran, which always owes a large part of its success to its employees. Tayyabnia added: With the beginning of the 13th government and the new management of Mobarakeh Steel, one of our main slogans is to upgrade «human power» to «human capital». This matter carried an important message from this industrial and economic pole of the country for the society. He pointed out: Mobarakeh Steel, based on its planned routine, tried to attract educated and job-seeking youth once every three years. This year, with the announcement of the slogan «Production; Knowledge-based, job-creating» by the Supreme Leader, we decided that considering the defined capacities, the call for large-scale recruitment of Mobarakeh Steel will be made one year ahead of schedule. Mohammad Yaser Tayyabnia announced the public call for employment of Mobarakeh steel in the coming week. He said: Foulad Mobarakeh has always played a brilliant role in various fields of social responsibility. One of these areas, along with the sacred matter of production and self-sufficiency of the

country, has been creating equal and fair opportunities for the employment of the new generation in the industrial front of Mobarakeh Steel. Certainly, one of the situations that always gives hope to the young generation is the news of creating employment capacities. The fruit of this valuable is freedom from social harm and unemployment. Tayyabnia also added: One of the reasons for our emphasis on accelerating development projects, in addition to expanding production, is to pay attention to the issue of increasing employment capacities. He went on to say that the upcoming recruitment exam will be one of the rarest recruitment exams in the history of Mobarakeh Steel and the country's private sector in terms of the number of people required, with the recruitment of 1,100 people in the operator and bachelor categories. This test can be considered as the biggest private sector recruitment test in the country. The CEO of Foulad Mobarakeh said: The news of the provision of employment will definitely inject hope into the society. Foulad Mobarakeh has always tried to form its human capital body from expert and committed young people who consider work as a symbol of their honor. Foulad employees consider employment in this company not only as a place to provide livelihood, but also as a platform to serve the country and flourish their talents. On the other hand, the management of the organization is also committed to provide the opportunity for the emergence of talent and creativity of young people who serve Iran. Tayyabnia pointed out that Isfahan University of Technology held a recruitment test based on standards in order to maintain the health of the recruitment process. He added: «In the mentioned exam, our colleagues in different departments are trying to maintain the health of this process so that all eligible candidates can participate in this exam with justice.» In the end, the CEO of Foulad Mobarakeh invited the youth to participate in this competition. He expressed his hope that in this period as in previous years, the recruitment process will be a vehicle for increasing hope and motivation in the society. It should be mentioned that the details of the public call for employment of Foulad Mobarakeh will be announced in the coming week through the company's website and widely circulated newspapers.

Iranians Want Gov't to Fight Corruption

TEHRAN (IP) – The government spokesperson said that people expect that some measures are taken against corruption.

Ali Bahadori Jahromi said: "In today's cabinet meeting, the report by the president's special representative on fight against corruption was reviewed."

He said: "In the report, solutions were presented regarding the evaluation of the performance of the executive bodies in the fight against corruption, and the strengths and weaknesses of the executive bodies were discussed, and some of the bodies were praised."

Unilateral Sanctions Biggest Project of Human Rights Violations

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani called cruel sanctions the biggest systematic project of violating human rights, which is managed by the U.S. and implemented by many Western states.

Bagheri Kani was speaking at a meeting with ambassadors and representatives of other countries to Tehran, which was held at the Foreign Ministry building and aimed to clarify recent developments in Iran.

The diplomat referred to unilateral coercive measures imposed by the US against Iran, including sanctions on medicine imports, which he said have resulted in the death of many people, among them children suffering from chronic diseases.

On the negotiations aimed at reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and removing sanctions against the country, Bagheri Kani said that Iran has in the past few days sent a number of initiatives to the EU coordinator of the talks in order for the negotiations to reach a conclusion.

Meanwhile, he said, an Iranian technical team will go to Vienna over the next days for talks with the UN nuclear watchdog over safeguards issues raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Unilateral sanctions biggest project of human rights violations: Iranian official Bagheri Kani also spoke about the October 26 terrorist attack in the southern city of Shiraz that left 13 people dead and was claimed by the Daesh terror group.



He said that the attack at the Shah Cheragh holy shrine is another proof that Iran is on the right path to counter Daesh terrorism and violent extremism in West Asia.

The Shah Cheragh attack also showed that Iran, the region and the world are beholden to lieutenant general Qassem Soleimani, he added.

The general was a top anti-terror figure which played a key role in defeating Daesh in Iraq and Syria, and was killed in a US drone attack in Iraq in January 2020.

Bagheri Kani said that Iran has a glorious record of fighting terrorism, stressing that the terror attack in Shiraz will make the country more resolute in its fight against terror.

The diplomat referred to riots across Iranian cities in recent weeks as well.

He said that certain Western-backed media outlets hostile to Iran spread lies about those riots, which he said led to the killing of 30 policemen, among other people.

The riots and chaos also led to the burning and destruction of hundreds of public places, as well as firefighting cars and ambulances, Bagheri Kani added.

Iran to Continue Path of Progress With Strength

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi in a meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said that Iran will continue the path of progress, justice, and resistance with strength.

President Raisi met and held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad here in Tehran.

Stressing the need for full implementation of the agreements between the two countries, President Raisi said that Syria, after several years of crisis and conflict and the defeat of its enemies, is in a position today that can enter its strategic relations with Iran into new fields by focusing on economic cooperation.

Stating that the same people who pushed Syria to the crisis are working against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Raisi highlighted that when the enemies saw that the coup, the Imposed War [with Iraq], and years of threats, terror, and sanctions could not stop the progress of the Iranians, they openly carried out the conspiracy to incite riots against the Iranian nation.

Stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue the path of progress, justice, and resistance with strength, President Raisi reiterated that attempts to destabilize Iran are manifestations of the enemy's anger and desperation to achieve its goals in Iran and the region.

He added that these conspiracies will not make the great nation of Iran hesitate in achieving its great goals.

Mekdad, for his part, condemned the terrorist crime in Shiraz's Shahcheragh Shrine and emphasized that strategic relations between Iran and Syria will continue on their path.

The Syrian foreign minister noted that it is obvious that when the enemies of the regional nations are defeated in Syria, they will definitely not have a chance to achieve their goals against the powerful nation of Iran.

He also emphasized his country's commitment and interest in enhancing economic cooperation with Iran.

National Epic Creates Identity, Defends Cultural Boundaries

TEHRAN (IP) - The scientific secretary of the 3rd National Award for Epic Story said in the press conference of this event: The task of epic is to create identity and defend cultural boundaries.

The press conference of the 3rd National Epic Award was held in the presence of the artistic deputy of the art department, the head of the Khorasan Razavi art department and the scientific secretary of the National Epic Story Award in the hall of the late Tahereh Safarzadeh of the art department.

In this meeting, Mohammadreza Sharfi Khobushan, the scientific secretary of the 3rd National Award for Epic Stories, explained the objectives of this event and said: The award should be influential both in the level of the society's culture and in the works produced.

The National Award for Epic Story presents the epic story as a species in the country's fiction literature, which is a special type of story arising from the history of civilization, culture and collective actions of the people.

Tehran Debunks Media Rhetoric About Possible Attack on Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has categorically dismissed reports in Western media about a possible "attack" on Saudi Arabia, terming it a part of psychological warfare against the Islamic Republic.

The spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry, Nasser Kanaani, rejected a report published by the US-based daily Wall Street Journal about threats from Iran against Saudi Arabia. He said the report was biased and part of psychological warfare against the Islamic Republic.

"Such biased news stories are cooked up by certain Western and Zionist outlets with an aim to poison the atmosphere against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and buck the current positive trends [of growing relations] with regional countries," Kan'ani said in a statement on Wednesday evening.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran pursues the policy of good neighborliness with its neighbors on the basis of mutual respect, and within the framework of international principles and rules."

Kanaani further noted that Iran believes that the promotion of stability and security in the region is possible through the establishment of constructive interaction with neighbors, adding that the Islamic Republic will therefore follow such a policy seriously.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday that Saudi Arabia had shared intelligence with the United States about an imminent attack from Iran on targets in the kingdom.

Last Saturday, the chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) lashed out at the United States, the Israeli regime and Saudi Arabia for plotting riots in Iran, warning the Riyadh regime and the media outlets under its sponsorship that they will have to pay a price.

Iran Sanctions Several Canadian Officials, Entity

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Ministry has imposed sanctions on eight Canadian officials and one institution over their support for anti-Iran terrorists and acts of terror among other things.

The ministry announced the sanctions in a statement, saying it has adopted the measures over, inter alia, the targeted individuals' support for the anti-Iran terrorist cult of the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO).

The MKO is responsible for causing the largest part of the 17,000-plus-strong Iranian fatalities that have been resulted by acts of terror since the 1979 victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

The ministry named the sanctioned individuals as Canada's Minister of Public Safety, Marco Mendicino; Minister of National Defense, Anita Anand; Chief Justice, Richard Wagner; Chief of the Defense Staff, Wayne Eyre; Commander of the Royal Air Force, Eric Kenny; Navy Commander, Angus Topshee; Commissioner of the Royal Mounted Police, Brenda Lucki; and Judge David Brown, who has ordered seizure of Iranian assets in Canada.

The sanctioned entity has been named as Canada's National Post, which has been found liable for backing anti-Iran sanctions as part of an Iranophobic agenda.

The targeted individuals and body have also been found responsible for encouraging terrorist and violent activities against the Iranian people, disseminating misinformation about the Islamic Republic, and contributing to enforcement of oppressive sanctions on the Iranian nation.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry's statement obliges all Iranian mechanisms and organizations to comply with the sanctions, including by refusing to issue visas for the targeted entities, preventing them from entering sovereign Iranian territory, enabling closure of the bank accounts that are associated with them, and freezing their Iran-based assets.

Iran Delegation Due in Vienna for Talks on Technical Issues With IAEA

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says an Iranian delegation is set to visit Vienna to hold talks with officials of the International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEA) on the remaining technical issues related to Tehran's nuclear program.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad in Tehran, the top Iranian diplomat pointed to the latest developments concerning talks on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal as well as the status of Iran-Syria bilateral ties.

"We will dispatch an Iranian delegation to Vienna in the coming days" to start talks and strengthen cooperation with the IAEA officials, Amirabdollahian said.

He said that there was "consensus" between Iran and the IAEA, expressing hope that "from a technical perspective [and] according to what we have agreed in the past days, the IAEA would address the accusations made against Iran so that we can pass this phase of technical cooperation."

Iran has already voiced readiness to hold technical talks with IAEA experts to discuss the accusations related to so-called "undeclared" nuclear sites, which were made based on false reports provided by the Israeli regime.

Tehran has asked the IAEA to avoid politicizing the issue and focus on technical aspects in line with the organization's mandate.

Amirabdollahian also noted that Iran has not abandoned the talks on the revival of the 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Despite contradictory remarks by some American officials, the exchange of messages between us (Iran and the U.S.) still continues," he said.

He also said that he will speak to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to discuss the "latest status and coordination" of Vienna talks.

Iran Serious About Its Strategic Goals in Syria

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Chairman of Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that Islamic Republic of Iran is closely following up on developments in Syria and is serious about its strategic goals in that country.

Vahid Jalalzadeh made the remarks in his meeting with the visiting Vice Chairman of Syria-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group Haifa Juma in Tehran on Wednesday evening, saying that Iran is serious about its strategic objectives in Syria.

Jalalzadeh pointed to the shared cultural, historical and religious history of peoples of the two countries and added that supports of the late Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in the course of eight years of Sacred Defense during the Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988) is unforgettable and today, Iran will stand by Syrian people and government in the fight against terrorism aimed at helping restore security and stability in the region and Syria.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the cooperation of the two countries of Iran and Syria in economic field and emphasized that the two countries managed to defeat the enemy at the battlefield and now, they can accelerate their trade and economic activities in cooperatn with each other. Regarding the cooperation of the two countries in various levels, the lawmaker added, "In addition to establishing military and political cooperation, practical and serious promotion of commercial and economic cooperation between Iran and Syria is taken into serious consideration and Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any cooperation in the economic and trade sectors with Syria."

He described the exchanges of visits between the parliamentary friendship groups "important" in order to strengthen the level of relations between the two countries and stated that Iran welcomes any initiative in line with developing and expanding relations with Syria.

The Vice Chairman of Syria-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group Haifa Juma considered the relations between the two countries as 'strategic' and based on the mutual respect and added that parliamentary relations play an important role in advancing strategic ties, and the relations between the two countries in various fields have created a good opportunity for Syria to benefit from Iran's experiences and capabilities in various fields.

Containing Global Crises Requires Collective Measures

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Mohsen Naziri, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative at the United Nations Office in Vienna, said on Thursday that overcoming pandemics and other wide-scale crises require the collective measures of all the UN member states to help other member countries.

He made the remarks during a meeting of a joint cooperation project of Iran and UNIDO in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

Naziri urged the need for maintaining the existing global resolve to fight the disease until it is fully eradicated.

He said that the implementation of this project was indicative of successful cooperation between South-South countries which can set a role model for future cooperation.

Armed Rioters Kill Member of Basij Volunteer Force

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Protests have turned violent in Iran's Alborz Province, west of the capital Tehran, with reports saying armed rioters have killed a member of the Basij volunteer force and injured at least 10 police officers in the unrest.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said on Thursday that a number of rioters in Karaj, the capital city of Alborz Province, under the pretext of the 40th day since the death of one of those killed in the recent foreign-backed protests, tried to block one of the main roads connecting the western city to Qazvin Province, creating heavy traffic.

Following the havoc, police and security forces intervened to disperse the rioters and reopen the road, however, the rioters tried to keep the road closed by lighting a fire and throwing rocks and construction debris at the forces.

The rioters also started destroying the road signs and provoking the public by chanting slogans.

According to IRNA, the rabble-rousers, along with violent protesters, attacked the police forces while stopping one of their cars, seriously injuring three officers.

The rioters also set fire to a police kiosk in Hesarak Square in Karaj and a police van in a nearby neighborhood.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:47
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:24
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:05
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:31

6. To Him belongs what is in the heavens and on earth, and all between them, and all beneath the soil.

7. If thou pronounce the word aloud, (it is no matter): for verily He knoweth what is secret and what is yet more hidden.

Surah 20. Ta-ha (6-7)

Iran Petrochemical Capacity to Be Doubled in 12 Years

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) says the average speed of development of petrochemical industry is doubled in every 20 years in the world but Iran wants to double it in 12 years and to produce 200m tons of products per year due to the efforts of domestic experts and blessing of the sanctions.

Speaking in a ceremony, Morteza Shahmirzaei said that when the Islamic Revolution was established in Iran in 1979, the country had only 6 petrochemical complexes but today due to the blessing of the Islamic Revolution, the production capacity has reached 90m tons per year.

He added that Iran is determined to double the speed of development in its petrochemical industry in 12 years and to increase the production capacity to 200m tons.

He added that the country produced 1.5m tons of petrochemical production in 2000 ago but today the capacity has increased significantly and the country converts products into valuable products.

He admitted that the demand for the oil products is facing downward trend in the world because the world is moving to use clean energy and to put aside fossil fuels.

Shahmirzaei added that currently over 500 grades of different petrochemical products are produced in Iran and the government is determined to complete the value chain. He stated that over 110 small and big projects are underway that some of them are valued at over \$4b.

He noted that since Iran has been permanently under the military and coup d'etat threat from the beginning of the Islamic Revolution and the country has been under



the threat of dissolution and the country also faced war and post-war reconstruction and after them economic sanctions appeared. He reiterated that in any component that the country progressed it faced sanctions and this is the miracle of the revolution and despite all sanctions, the production capacity of 1.5m tons was increased to 90m tons, it means in 43 years the production has become sixtyfold.

Shahmirzaei reiterated that doors of the oil installations are to open for the youths in the country, adding that the company is ready to hand over implementation of the underway projects to the youths.

He said that currently the petrochemical complexes has increased from 6 to 73 and 67 of them have been constructed by the domestic experts after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Shahmirzaei went on to say that last year the value of petrochemical production was \$23b that \$15b of it was exported, and \$2.5b of the earned money from exports has been used for buying equipment but the construction chain has not been completed.

He reiterated that the main strategy of the company is to move towards creating forex, jobs and honors. He stated that almost 70% of the required equipment of the industry is home-made and for this reason the self-sufficiency center was launched in the oil industry of the country and all required goods of the industry is tried to be produced by the domestic forces.

Shahmirzaei stated that production of every one million tons of petrochemical product in the field of value chain creates 170,000 jobs in the downstream industries.

Reducing Pollution in Production Processes Should Be Institutionalized

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of Iran Alloy Steel Company in the opening ceremony of the 24th Steel Symposium on Kish Island said that the issue of green steel is so dominant that it is considered as one of the basics of the steel production in the future.



Addressing the participant in the symposium, Eng. Alireza Chaychi said that along with the key word of "Green Steel" which has been chosen as the topic of this symposium, it is necessary two other key words of "future" and "resources" should be taken into consideration.

He reiterated that reaching the green steel is only possible through the green process, adding that the goal behind producing green steel is to reduce environmental pollutions resulted by the steel production especially the reduction in carbon dioxide production and it is only possible through the green process and reduction of pollution in the production processes should be institutionalized.

The three-day symposium ended on Thursday on Kish Island.

Design and Manufacture of Biggest Ball Mill Shell in Country

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – In presence of the deputy industry, mine and trade minister the biggest indigenized ball mill shell of the country which has been designed and manufactured by the engineers of Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company in collaboration with Tamkar Industrial Group of Isfahan was unveiled.



According to the public relations of Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company, the indigenized ball mill shell was unveiled in a ceremony in the presence of deputy industry minister Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Baradaran. The indigenized ball mill shell has been designed and manufactured by engineers and experts of Gohar Zamin Company in collaboration with Tamkar Industrial Group.

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Baradaran expressed his satisfaction over materialization of such a big project for the first time in the country and noted that it is necessary to support the knowledge-based companies and taking risks even the outcome of the investment fails.

Then manager of indigenization department of Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company Mr. Sina Salari, for his part, pointed to the achievements in indigenizing this technology product under the international sanctions and stated that despite sanctions and hurdles in provision of special steel sheets required by the project, the company could achieve the production of this product.

It is worth noting that the home-made ball mill shell with diameter around 6 meters and weight of 120 tons is used in the concentrate lines of Gohar Zamin Company for producing concentrate.

The design and manufacture of this product took some three years and was implemented in three phases including design, producing required steel sheets and manufacture operation and over 50 elite engineers and experts of the company and Tamkar Industrial Group were involved in the design and manufacture of this product.

Gov't Bans Use of Non-Persian Words in Domestic Trademarks



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The government has banned the use of non-Persian words and signs in trademarks that are registered by national government agencies.

Details of a decree by President Ebrahim Raisi to Iran's culture ministry published on Wednesday showed that manufacturing, trade and business entities will be prohibited from using non-Persian words and writing methods in products that are targeted at domestic consumers as well as in shops and business centers they own.

The decree said penalties will await people violating the terms of a law entitled "Ban on Use of Alien Nouns, Titles and Terminology", including brief closures of factories or business places and permanent cancellation of certificates.

The decree said businesses and manufacturers with affiliations to Iranian ethnic groups will be able to market their products in local languages for consumers in a closed geographical area.

It said that products meant for exports will be exempt from the law while adding that old trademarks with foreign elements will remain valid if they are approved by the Coordination Council on Preservation of the Persian Language.

Iran, Oman Confer on Banking Ties

TEHRAN (IP) - The governors of the Central Bank of Iran and Oman held meeting to discuss the issues of mutual interest in Tehran.

The Governor General of the Central Bank of Oman arrived in Tehran on Wednesday, and today, on Thursday, at the Central Bank of Iran, he started negotiations on banking issues with Iranian authorities.

The development of banking and international relations between Iran and Oman has been announced as the focus of the talks between Ali Saleh Abadi and Tahir Bin Salim Abdullah Al Amri, the governors of the central banks of Iran and Oman, respectively.

In the meeting, Salehabadi underlined the need for expansion of banking cooperation, saying that the two countries enjoy good capacity to improve cooperation at mutual and international level.



The Omani official, for his part, described the bilateral interactions as very good, emphasizing that his country is ready to expand banking and international collaborations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The visit of the head of the central bank to Oman to Tehran is carried out. At the same time, news

has recently been published about progress in the process of freeing Iran's blocked currencies in some countries, including South Korea. As if in the process of this matter, Oman has played a vital role in receiving Iranian assets into the account of the Central Bank of Iran in Oman.

In recent years, Oman has played the role of a mediator in negotiations to lift sanctions and free Iran's frozen currencies.

Iran, Syria Talk on Enhancing Cooperation in Health

TEHRAN (IP) - Member of the People's Assembly and deputy head of the Iran-Syria Parliamentary Friendship Group, discussed with Iranian Health Minister to boost cooperation in the health field and the exchange of therapeutic medical applications between the two countries.

In the meeting, Bahram Einollahi affirmed Tehran's willingness to cooperate with Syria and set up a committee of Syrian and Iranian MPs to activate the previously signed agreements for fostering ties of friendship and rehabilitating and training human resources in the health and technology fields.

The Syrian MP also asserted the necessity of cooperation in medical and therapeutic areas in addition to the reconstruction of healthcare infrastructure damaged by acts of terrorism.

"Syrian People's Assembly is ready to cooperate with the Islamic Consultative Assembly in order to enact laws and legislations to speed up the implementation process of signed agreements for addressing impacts of the economic blockade against both countries," Haifa Juma'a said.

Juma'a has also held talks with Iran's Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, Ensieh Khazali, and exchanged views on women's rights issues and various challenges in this regard.



Iranian Ship Carrying \$1m Worth of Fruits Sinks in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian vessel carrying more than \$1 million worth of fruits and vegetables sank in the Persian Gulf waters near a port in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Head of Iran's National Association of Agricultural Products said on Wednesday that Iranian cargo ship, dubbed Self 2, sank some seven miles off the UAE port of Sharjah.

Reza Nourani said the ship was carrying 17 reefer containers of fruits and vegetables from Iran's Bandar Lengeh for sales or re-exporting purposes in the UAE.

Nourani added that the cargo, which belonged to 15 Iranian companies, was worth some 350 billion rials (over \$1 million). He told the semi-official Fars news agency that the ship, which was worth 650 billion rials (nearly \$2 million), drowned because of a hole in its hull.

Mercury, a Hong Kong-flagged vessel that was sailing nearby, had rushed to the area and rescued the ship's crew, said Nourani.

Iran is a major supplier of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. Exports have surged in recent years in line with growing demand for Iranian crops in the region and also the increased government support for exports of non-oil products from Iran.

16th Iran-Russia Joint Commission Determines Future Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Kazem Jalali has said that the biggest achievement of the 16th Iran-Russia Economic Cooperation Commission is the determination of a mutual relationship in the next year.

Jalali said that the 16th Iran-Russia Economic Cooperation Commission, which was held in Grozny, Russia, from October 29 to November 1 helped the two countries to decide on the bilateral ties within the next year and also the venue of the next meeting in Iran.

During the meeting, the two sides also signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs), the first one was over a loan for Incheh Borun-Garmsar railway project, the second one related to health cooperation, and the third one

was concerning to APC project for transfer of products, the ambassador said.

According to the diplomat, Russia and Iran collaborate in different sectors, including baking and financial affairs, energy and logistics.

Business, commercial, banking, transit, logistical, industrial, cultural, academic, tourism, energy, standards, labor and social welfare, free zones are among issues, which are being discussed in the joint economic issues, he noted.

The commission includes 10 working groups in Iran, who held joint webinar and then, their chairmen traveled to Russia, he added.

Jalali also evaluated the 16th joint economic commission as positive, expressing hope that the decisions will be implemented in the future.

Japan, Germany Eye Military Logistics Pact

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan and Germany have agreed to work towards a military logistics pact, a Japanese government official said, as Tokyo and Berlin tighten security relations on the back of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's growing military might.

The official made the comment during an online media briefing following a meeting of the two countries' foreign and defense ministers in Germany.

"They agreed to press ahead with coordination to launch negotiations aimed at setting up a legal framework to facilitate joint activities between Japan's Self-Defence Forces and the German military," the official said.



Myanmar Court Sentences Ex-Politician to 173 Years in Prison

YANGOON (Dispatches) - A court in military-ruled Myanmar has handed a 148-year prison sentence to a former parliamentarian from the deposed National League for Democracy (NLD) party, adding to a previous conviction which will now see Win Myint Hlaing, 52, spend a total of 173 years in prison.

The sentence, which was handed down on Monday to Win Myint Hlaing after his conviction on terrorism charges, appeared to be the longest jail term given to any member of Aung San Suu Kyi's government and NLD party since the military grabbed power in February 2021.



North Korea Fires Suspected ICBM, Warns U.S.



TOKYO (Dispatches) - North Korea fired multiple missiles into the sea, including a possible failed intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), prompting the United States and South Korea to extend air drills that have angered Pyongyang.

Despite an initial government warning that the apparent ICBM had flown over Japan, triggering warning alarms for some residents, Tokyo later said this was incorrect.

The launches came a day after the North fired a daily record 23 missiles, including one that landed off the coast of South Korea for the first time, and drew swift condemnation from Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

Since Monday, South Korea and the United States have been conducting one of the largest air exercises ever, with hundreds of South Korean and U.S. warplanes, including F-35 fighters, staging around-the-clock simulated missions.

After Thursday's ICBM launch, the allies agreed to extend the drills past Friday, when they had been scheduled to end, South Korea's Air Force said in a statement.

"A strong combined defense posture of the ROK-U.S. alliance is necessary under the current security crisis that is escalating due to North Korean provocations," the statement said, using the initials of South Korea's official name.

Late on Thursday, Pak Jong Chon, secretary of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, said the United States and South Korea had made a very dangerous decision by extending the drills, and were "shoving" the situation out of control. "The United States and South Korea will find that they have made a terrible mistake that cannot be reversed," Pak said in a statement carried by state news agency KCNA. He had previously issued statements demanding the drills be stopped.

South Korean and U.S. stealth aircraft simulating attacks during drills are most likely what led North Korea to test a record number of missiles this week, experts say, but Pyongyang may also be turning up the heat before a potential nuclear test.

Officials in South Korea and Japan said one missile on Thursday may have been an ICBM, which are North Korea's longest-range weapons and are designed to carry a nuclear warhead to the other side of the planet.

North Korea also launched as many as five short-range ballistic missiles.

South Korean officials believe the ICBM failed in flight, Yonhap news agency reported, without elaborating. Spokespeople for the South Korean and Japanese ministries of defense declined to confirm the possible failure.

Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the government lost track of the ICBM over the Sea of Japan, prompting it to correct its announcement that it had flown over the country.

Retired Vice Admiral and former Japan Maritime Self Defense Force fleet commander Yoji Koda said the loss of radar tracking on the projectile pointed to a failed launch.

"It means at some point in the flight path there was some problem for the missile and it actually came apart," he said.

North Korea has had several failed ICBM tests this year, according to South Korean and U.S. officials.

The United States condemned North Korea's ICBM launch, State Department spokesman Ned Price said, adding that it demonstrated the threat from Pyongyang's unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs.

South Korea issued rare air raid warnings and launched its own missiles in response after Wednesday's barrage. On Thursday, the South's transportation ministry announced that air routes had reopened in the area where the missile had fallen, having been closed for around 24 hours.

Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan Shot And Wounded

LAHORE (Dispatches) - Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was shot in the shin when his anti-government protest convoy came under attack in the east of the country in what his aides said was a clear assassination attempt.

Several others in the convoy were wounded and the information minister said a suspect had been arrested. One party member said there were reports one person had been killed.

"It was a clear assassination attempt. Khan was hit but he's stable. There was a lot of bleeding," Fawad Chaudhry, a spokesperson for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, told Reuters.

"If the shooter had not been stopped by people there, the entire PTI leadership would have been wiped out."

Local media showed pictures of Khan, 70, waving to the crowd after being evacuated from his vehicle following the shooting.



He was taken to hospital in Lahore after the attack in Wazirabad, nearly 200 km (120 miles) from the capital, Islamabad.

Protesters poured out on to streets in some parts of the country as PTI leaders demanded justice.

Pakistan has a long history of political violence. Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in December 2007 in a gun and bomb attack after holding an election rally in the city of Rawalpindi, next to Islamabad.

Her father and former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged in the same city in 1979 after being deposed by a military coup.

Former cricketer Khan was leading a protest march on Islamabad to demand snap elections. There were hundreds of people in the convoy.

Party colleague Faisal Javed, who was also wounded and had blood stains on his clothes, told Geo TV from the hospital: "Several of our colleagues are wounded. We heard that one of them is dead."

Scholz Urges Western Balkans to Resolve Conflicts

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has told leaders of six Balkan countries aspiring to join the European Union that "it is high time to overcome regional conflicts" and stand together as Russia wages war in Ukraine.

Scholz and the EU's top officials - Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel - joined leaders from Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Albania on Thursday for the Western Balkans Summit in Berlin.

Addressing the meeting, he said the six countries "belong to the free and democratic part of Europe" and highlighted the need to deliver on their longstanding desire to join the EU, which he described as being in the bloc's "interest".

"The stability and prosperity of your region cannot be detached from the stability and prosperity of Europe as a whole," Scholz said.

The parties are expected to sign agreements on easing regional travel arrangements and mutual recognition of academic qualifications at the summit. They are also expected to discuss energy issues.

But, with tension brewing again between Serbia and Kosovo this week, Scholz said the nations themselves need to overcome problems that have slowed their path to the EU and pointed to "a sense of urgency".

"Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine forces us to stand together to preserve Europe's freedom and security," Scholz said. "It is high time to overcome regional conflicts that have continued for far too long - conflicts that divide you and hold your countries back on your European path."

"The normalization process between Serbia and Kosovo in particular must speed up, so let's get it done," he added. Serbia does not recognize its former province's 2008 declaration of independence.

Alongside regional reconciliation and cooperation, "the challenges of irregular migration, corruption and organized crime are crucial issues for all of us," Scholz said, adding that the Balkan countries' commitment to align visa policies with those of the EU is "essential in this context".

Bolsonaro Backers Call on Military To Intervene After Lula Victory

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Supporters of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro held rallies to call for an armed forces intervention following the election of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a move that military experts say is out of the question.

The country's electoral authority on Sunday said Lula won almost 51% of the vote. Bolsonaro has not officially acknowledged the result, though his cabinet has initiated a transition, with Lula set to take over the presidency on Jan. 1.

Bolsonaro's supporters in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro led festive rallies, carrying Brazil's yellow-and-green flag draped over their shoulders, blowing horns and chanting anti-Lula slogans.

"We hope the army will intervene in this situation, we know that those elections were fraudulent," said Reinaldo da Silva, 65, a retired government worker at a rally at the entrance to a Sao Paulo army barracks.

"I came today because I want Brazil to be free, socialism does not work with the Brazilian nation."

Similar rallies were held in 24 of Brazil's 26 states, as well as the capital Brasilia, according to Brazilian online media portal G1.

In response to a request for comment, Brazil's defense ministry said peaceful demonstrations were part of free expression under Brazilian law, adding that "the Defense Ministry is guided by the Federal Constitution."

Bolsonaro, a former army captain, has cultivated strong ties to the military since his 2018 election, winning over the political sympathies of some of the top brass.

Like many politically conservative Brazilians, he has often waxed nostalgic for the 1964-1985 military dictatorship. Lula, by contrast, was jailed in the 1970s for protesting against the military government.

But the armed forces have been wary of direct involvement in politics since the dictatorship, which left the country in economic chaos.

Paulo Chagas, a retired cavalry general who campaigned for Bolsonaro in 2018, said in a message to Reuters: "The military know full well what their duty is: the constitution does not allow them to intervene in politics."

General Otavio Rego Barros, a former spokesman for Bolsonaro, said in a column published on Wednesday that it was time for the election losers to concede and think of Brazil's future. He criticized "groups with no sense of responsibility that still seek to destabilize a weakened social fabric with provocations and misinformation."

Chagas and Rego Barros fell out with Bolsonaro over his pressure on the armed forces to endorse him politically.

Political leaders around the world have congratulated Lula on his victory, with the White House commending him for winning "free, fair and credible elections."



Biden Warns Election Deniers Pose Threat, Blames Trump



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Joe Biden said that threats by some Republican candidates to refuse to accept results from the Nov. 8 elections if they lose is a threat to democracy and he blamed former President Donald Trump for inspiring them.

"Make no mistake, democracy is on the ballot for all of us," Biden said in a speech just days before Americans decide whether Democrats maintain control of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives or hand over power to Republicans.

Biden, speaking at Washington's Union Station not far from Capitol Hill, used the hammer attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, at their San Francisco home as evidence that democracy is under threat less than two years after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

"The assailant entered the home asking, 'Where's Nancy? Where's Nancy?' Those were the very same words used by the mob when they stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6," Biden said.

He urged voters to "think long and hard about the moment we are in." "As I stand here today, there are candidates running for every level of office in America -- for governor, for Congress, for attorney general, for secretary of state -- who won't commit to accepting the results of the elections they're in," he said.

Biden said election deniers have been inspired by Trump, who is pondering a run for president in 2024 just as Biden works to decide if he wants to seek another four-year term. "He refuses to accept the will of the people, he refuses to accept that he lost," Biden said.

Separately, former President Barack Obama also raised concerns about the state of democracy. Speaking at a Democratic rally for state candidates in Arizona late on Wednesday, Obama looked back to past movements to ensure that women, African-Americans and others who have been marginalized could take part in a democracy that he said now was at a risk.

Bitcoin Wants To Break Its Bond With Stocks



LONDON (Dispatches) - After months of tears and tantrums, bitcoin wants to split up with stock markets.

The cryptocurrency, which has been closely correlated with tech stocks for much of its torrid 2022, is staging one of its strongest efforts yet to break away.

Its 30-day correlation with the Nasdaq slid to 0.26 last week, its level lowest since early January, where a measure of 1 indicates the two assets are moving in lock step.

The correlation, which shows the degree to which the two move in sync with each other over a 30-day period, has hovered above 0.75 for much of the year and at times has approached perfect unison - at 0.96 and 0.93 in May and September.

For some crypto backers, any bitcoin break-up from Big Tech is a sign of strength.

"The latter's growth has been somewhat tapped out, and investors are looking for the next growth industry. Bitcoin and crypto is one of those 'next' growth industries," said Santiago Portela, CEO of FITCHIN, a Web3 gaming ecosystem.

The nascent uncoupling does indeed coincide with a period of comparative calm and consolidation for the teenage cryptocurrency a year after it began its epic nosedive from the heady heights of \$69,000 hit in November last year.

Bitcoin is hovering near one-month highs around \$20,500 and rose over 5% last week, outperforming the Nasdaq's 2% gain as dour quarterly results from Microsoft, Alphabet, Meta and Amazon weighed.

The total market cap for cryptocurrencies has shrunk by more than two-thirds to \$984 billion from nearly \$3 trillion in November 2021, according to CoinMarketCap.com.

Market participation has also dwindled, with the average daily trading volume of digital asset products falling to \$61.3 million as of Oct. 25, far from the daily volumes of around \$700 million seen last November, CryptoCompare data shows.

Nonetheless, months of persistent selling has failed to shake out the old hands, who are digging in despite a grim economic backdrop.

The dollar wealth held in bitcoins that haven't been traded for three months or more is at an all-time-high, indicating accumulation by long-term holders or "HODLers", according to blockchain data firm Glassnode. The name for that group of diehard crypto investors emerged years ago from a trader misspelling "hold" on an online forum.

Furthermore, a record 55,000 bitcoin were withdrawn from the largest exchange Binance on Oct. 26, according to analytics platform CryptoQuant showed, flows that typically signal coins are moving to wallets for longer-term storage.

"The holder base of BTC has changed drastically from being heavily weighted towards speculators, which largely came in in 2021, to the near cult-like 'HODLER' community which would not sell their BTC in almost any macro circumstance," said Stéphane Ouellette, CEO at crypto derivatives provider FRNT Financial.

"The market is now looking to the Fed meeting next week for further confirmation of the risk asset/BTC correlation breakdown."

Samuel Reid, CEO of consulting firm Geometric Energy Corporation said heavy outflows from exchanges could potentially indicate some large buyers were "sniffing out" the end of the bear market.

Yet it's anyone's guess whether fickle bitcoin will begin to rally, or slide anew, or if it will swiftly rebound to the embrace of technology stocks.

Cholera Spreading Throughout Lebanon



GENEVA (Dispatches) - The first cholera outbreak in nearly three decades in Lebanon is now spreading throughout the country, with more than 1,400 suspected cases, and 17 reported deaths so far, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned.

The first case was reported to WHO by the Ministry of Public Health on 6 October, and there have been 381 laboratory-confirmed cases.

While the outbreak was initially confined to northern districts, it has spread rapidly said WHO's office in Lebanon, with laboratory-confirmed cases now reported from all eight governorates and 18 out of 26 districts.

Serotype Vibrio cholerae O1 El-Tor Ogawa was identified as the cholera strain in circulation, similar to the one circulating in Syria.

"Cholera is deadly, but it's also preventable through vaccines and access to safe water and sanitation. It can be easily treated with timely oral rehydration or antibiotics for more severe cases," says Dr. Abdnasir Abubakar, WHO Representative.

"The situation in Lebanon is fragile as the country already struggles to fight other crises - compounded by prolonged political and economic deterioration."

WHO is working alongside the public health ministry to try and curb the outbreak, along with other humanitarian partners.

Together they have drawn up a national cholera preparedness and response plan, outlining the most urgent response interventions required, while scaling up surveillance and active case-finding in case hotspots.

Given the shortage of both health staff and medical supplies in the country, WHO has provided the two reference laboratories, three prisons and 12 hospitals designated for cholera treatment with laboratory reagents, treatment kits and rapid diagnostic tests.

The UN health agency has also deployed nurses and doctors as surge capacity to hospitals in the most affected areas. The procurement and prepositioning of additional cholera supplies are being also finalized, said WHO.

Additionally, WHO is ensuring that proper clinical management practices, infection prevention and control, and cholera testing protocols are in place to complement the surge in cases.

Under WHO's emergency response to the Cholera outbreak in Lebanon, the first shipment of medicines and supply kits arrived from WHO's Dubai hub.

In recent weeks, WHO has supported a series of training sessions nationwide to improve early detection and reporting of suspected cases, enhance clinical management and raise awareness among the public and frontline health workers.

Despite global shortages in cholera vaccine, WHO is supporting the Ministry of Public Health to secure 600,000 doses for those most at risk, including frontline workers, prisoners, refugees and their host communities.

Given the rapid spread of the outbreak, the agency is trying to locate more doses.

The vulnerability of people in Lebanon is being exacerbated by the prolonged economic crisis and limited access to clean water and proper sanitation across the country.

The migration of health care workers, disrupted supply chains and unaffordable energy supply have severely weakened the response capacity of hospitals and primary healthcare facilities.

"There is still an opportunity to limit the spread and impact of the outbreak by intensifying response interventions, including improving water and sanitation quality", said Dr. Abubakar.



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Lebanon Raises Cost of Electricity for First Time Since 1990s

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon's state power company Electricite du Liban (EDL) raised the price it charges for electricity for first time since the 1990s, an EDL spokesperson said, in a move officials say will pave the way for an eventual increase in power supply.

Lebanon has not had round-the-clock power since the 1990s and cash transfers to EDL to cover chronic losses have contributed tens of billions of dollars to the country's huge public debt. Electricity-sector reform is a key demand of donor nations who have pledged to help Lebanon exit a financial crisis if it undertakes reforms.



Asia's Factory Output Weakens on Global Slowdown, China COVID-19 Curbs

LONDON (Dispatches) - Asia's factory output weakened in October as global recession fears and China's zero-COVID policy hurt demand, business surveys showed on Tuesday, adding to persistent supply disruptions and darkening recovery prospects.

Further U.S. interest rate hikes are also expected to force most Asian central banks to prevent sharp capital outflows by tightening their own monetary policies, even if it means cooling already soft economies, analysts say.

Manufacturing activity shrank in South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia in October, and expanded at the slowest pace in 21 months in Japan, highlighting the pain from slowing Chinese demand and stubbornly high import costs.

China's Caixin/S&P Global manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) stood at 49.2 in October, up from 48.1 in September but remaining below the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction.

The private sector survey was in line with an official PMI survey released on Monday that showed China's factory activity unexpectedly fell in October.

"Asia is extremely reliant on China. Its zero-COVID policy continues to disrupt supply chains and keep Chinese travelers from returning to Asian tourist destinations. It's also hurting the region's exports," said Toru Nishihama, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute in Tokyo.

"Another big risk is the pace of U.S. rate increases. If the Federal Reserve (Fed) continues to hike rates steadily, that could ignite capital outflows from Asia and hurt exports."

Japan's au Jibun Bank Japan Manufacturing PMI fell to 50.7 in October from September's 50.8 final, marking the weakest growth since January last year.

Highlighting how the pain from soaring material costs and supply constraints outweighed the boost from a weak yen, auto giant Toyota Motor Corp on Tuesday posted a 25% drop in quarterly profit and cut its annual output target.

South Korea's factory activity shrank for a fourth straight month in October as orders for exports fell for the eighth month, the PMI showed.

That followed data that showed South Korea's exports fell the most in 26 months with shipments to China, its largest market, extending declines.

"Given the country's open economy and its subsequent reliance on exports, the looming global downturn certainly poses a downside risk for future growth," Laura Denman, an economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said on South Korea's PMI.

Taiwan's PMI slid to 41.5 in October from 42.2 in September, while that for Malaysia fell to 48.7 from 49.1, surveys showed.

Factory activity in Indonesia expanded at a slower pace in October with the PMI standing at 51.8, down from 53.7 in September.

India was an outlier with factory activity expanding at a stronger pace in October as demand remained solid.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut Asia's economic forecasts as global monetary tightening, rising inflation blamed on the war in Ukraine, and China's sharp slowdown dampened the region's recovery prospects.

U.S. LNG Exports Dip in October, More Cargoes Head to Asia

HOUSTON (Dispatches) - U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in October remained capped by plant outages, with producers shifting more cargoes to Asian buyers last month, according to Refinitiv Eikon tanker monitoring data, after of a pipeline leak cut supplies from Malaysia.

LNG prices recently have cooled with Europe's gas storage levels rising to over 90% of target capacity and a slow start to winter.

In Asia, however, a declaration of force majeure on gas supplies by Malaysian state-energy company Petronas has LNG customers in Japan scrambling for alternative cargoes. Malaysia was the second biggest supplier of LNG to Japan in 2021.

A total of 88 tankers carrying 6.27 million tons of LNG departed in October from U.S. ports, mostly heading to Europe, the data showed. The share of sales to Asian customers rose to 24% from 19% the previous month, while shipments to Latin America and the Caribbean dropped to a couple cargoes.

The export volume was just below September's 6.32 million tons.

LNG shipments from U.S. ports fell slightly to 6.27 million tons in October, with more cargoes going to Asia, where customers of Malaysian liquefied gas scramble to source alternative supplies.

Prices at the Dutch hub this week fell to \$27 per million British thermal units as high inventory levels and above-normal temperatures pushed European gas prices to their lowest since June.

"Europe has enough gas stored to survive this winter unless it gets very, very cold," said analyst Nikoline Bromander from consultancy Rystad Energy in a note to clients last week.



Record Central Bank Buying Lifts Global Gold Demand

LONDON (Dispatches) - Central banks bought a record 399 tons of gold worth around \$20 billion in the third quarter of 2022, helping to lift global demand for the metal, the World Gold Council (WGC) said.

Demand for gold was also strong from jewelers and buyers of gold bars and coins, the WGC said in its latest quarterly report, but exchange traded funds (ETFs) storing bullion for investors shrank.

Gold is typically seen as a safe asset for times of uncertainty or turmoil, but many financial investors sold shares in gold-backed ETFs as interest rates rose and pushed up returns on other assets.

Offloading of bullion by ETFs helped push gold prices down 8% in the third quarter, but this price fall helped stimulate demand for jewelry, the WGC said. In total, the world's gold demand amounted to 1,181 tons in July-September, up 28% from 922 in the same period in 2021, the WGC said.

Demand in the year to September had recovered to pre-pandemic levels, it said.

Buying by central banks in the third quarter far exceeded the previous quarterly record in data stretching back to 2000 and took their purchases for the year to September to 673 tons, more than the total purchases in any full year since 1967, according to the WGC.

Among large buyers were the central banks of Turkey, Uzbekistan, Qatar and India, but the WGC said a substantial amount of gold was also bought by central banks that did not publicly report their purchases.

It did not give any details on which countries these could be, but banks that do not regularly publish information about their gold stockpiles include those of China and Russia.

Argentina Set to Permit Wheat Export Delays Amid Drought

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Argentina's government is set to announce measures, potentially within days, to allow wheat exporters to delay agreed shipments after a major drought hammered the crop, raising concern about domestic supply.

A source at the country's CEC grains exporting chamber, which represents companies buying the grain, said measures would be released "in the coming days" to allow firms to reschedule agreed wheat exports without facing

the normal 15% fine from authorities.

A government source with direct knowledge of the matter said that measures to permit wheat shipment delays were "probable". "It's being studied," the source said.

The comments are the strongest indication yet that Argentina, one of the world's top wheat exporters, will seek to delay exports of the grain amid a drought that threatens to cause the worst harvest in nearly a decade.

The CEC source called for quick movement on the plan. "If the government is going to do it, let it do it now, because we have to turn around and talk to customers in Indonesia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and tell them that our wheat has burned and renegotiate those contracts," the person said.

The move could heat up global prices further, after dry weather hit growers in the United States and Russia's invasion of Ukraine snarled shipments. Russia and Ukraine are both major producers of wheat, used for cereals and bread.

Argentina's government met with wheat millers and exporters in October to discuss concerns over the drought-hit crop, with pressure from millers rising to keep more supply for the domestic market.

The major Rosario grains exchange has slashed Argentina's 2022/23 wheat harvest forecast to 13.7 million tons, which would be the lowest nationwide in seven years and far below a bumper 23 million tons in 2021/22.

The country's producers have already formally declared overseas sales of 2022/23 wheat of 8.9 million tons, official data shows. Argentina's domestic wheat consumption from the 2021/22 harvest totaled 7.6 million tons.

Some 2 million tons of wheat were left unsold from 2021/22. There is an existing export cap of 10 million tons for the 2022/23 season's wheat harvest.

Diego Cifarelli, head of Argentina's milling industry body FAIM, told Reuters the sector was "concerned" about supply and confirmed the talks with the government over potential shipment delays.

Oil Investment Lag Sowing Seeds for Future Energy Crises

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - The world must act swiftly to invest in oil to prevent future energy emergencies as global demand for the hydrocarbon grows in the long term, OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais said.

"If we don't get it right this time we are sowing the seeds for future energy crises - not just one, but multiple," he told Reuters in an interview.

Al Ghais sounded a note of optimism that policymakers at the upcoming COP27 climate summit will be more open to hearing the oil industry's point of view on the climate change debate.

He was speaking a day after the organization released its 2022 World Oil Outlook which estimated that \$12.1 trillion were needed in investments to meet rising oil demand in the long term.

Of the total, \$9.5 trillion would be for exploration and production, or upstream, investments, he said.

"It is critically important for the future because of the time it takes for investments to come online."

"The average annual decline rates are around 4%-5% so you are talking about needing to add 5 million bpd just to maintain today's global production, let alone future demand," Al Ghais said.

"We are already falling behind that and feeling the implications on a wider scale."

The OPEC forecast, which saw demand for oil plateau by 2035, put demand at 109.8 million barrels per day by 2045.

It also saw oil at 29% of the energy mix by 2045, down from a current 31%, in a scenario where the global economy is expected to double in size from \$135 trillion to \$270 trillion.

"Because of the sheer magnitude of the growth of the economy, the demand can't be met by renewables alone," Al Ghais said.



"The reality of the matter is there were people predicting peak oil demand since the eighties to last year. We should learn from history."

The OPEC forecasts were released a week before global leaders are set to convene in Egypt's Sharm al-Shaikh for the climate summit.

The organization has firmly taken the position that attempts to cut investment in oil and gas to combat climate change are "misguided," and a lack of funds for fossil fuels could lead to energy shortages, market imbalances and higher prices.

OPEC sees a future energy mix that includes lower emission hydrocarbons in addition to renewables to reach climate goals.

Al Ghais said there were signs that this year's gathering would be more receptive to hearing all points of view without "demonizing" the oil and gas industry.

Greece to Borrow Up to 8b Euros From Bond Markets in 2023



ATHENS (Dispatches) - Greece plans to raise up to 8 billion euros (\$7.91 billion) from debt markets in 2023 by issuing new short- and long-term issues, two government sources told Reuters.

The country emerged from a decade-long debt crisis in 2018 and since then has relied solely on bond markets to cover its borrowing needs.

It expects to achieve a primary surplus again in 2023, three years since the COVID-19 pandemic which hampered its fiscal progress, and regain investment grade status despite the energy crisis engulfing Europe.

Athens issued a 10- and a 5-year government bond this year and reopened several others maturities through auctions to inject liquidity at selected points of the yield curve. It has raised about 8 billion euros so far this year.

It also plans to repay ahead of schedule 2.7 billion euros of bilateral Greek Loan Facility (GLF) loans due in 2023, owed to euro zone countries under the first bailout.

"Our borrowing needs for next year are limited, especially after the early repayment of GLF loans. We will borrow 7-8 billion euros from the bond markets," a finance ministry official told Reuters.

A second government official confirmed the country's borrowing plan for 2023.

Greece also plans to issue its first green bond in 2023, an issue which was initially scheduled for this year.

"We didn't want to go ahead with such a sensitive issue in such a volatile market. We will do it next year," the first official said.

Greece posted a budget gap of 15.1% of gross domestic product in 2009, when its crisis broke out and forced it to sign up to three international bailouts that kept it afloat. Since then, its finances have improved.

Qatar's Al Ruwais Port to Become Iran-Link Bazaar

BUSHEHR (IRNA) - Vice president for economic relations said, "Qatari investors are ready to establish a joint intelligent port in Bushehr and accordingly, Emir of Qatar had ordered that Qatar's Al Ruwais Port will turn into Iran-link bazaar.

Bushehr Governorate Public Relations on Thursday evening quoted Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Rezaie as saying in Bushehr

Province Economic and Job-Creation Workgroup that the popular and revolutionary government of Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi has taken important steps to break the enemies' sanctions. "For instance, the Qatari officials are ready to construct large storages in their Al Ruwais Port so that the exported goods from Iran's Bushehr Port will be stored there and then distributed in the countries in the Persian Gulf region," added Rezaie.



Tesla Plans Mass Production Start for Cybertruck at End of 2023

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tesla aims to start mass production of its Cybertruck at the end of 2023, two years after the initial target for the long-awaited pickup truck Chief Executive Elon Musk unveiled in 2019, two people with knowledge of the plans told Reuters.

Tesla said last month that it was working on readying its Austin, Texas plant to build the new model with "early production" set to start in the middle of 2023. "We're in the final lap for Cybertruck," Musk told a conference call with financial analysts.

A gradual ramp in the second half of next year to full output for the sharp-angled electric truck would mean that Tesla would not be recording revenue until early 2024 for a full-quarter of production on a new model seen as key to its growth.

It would also mean a wait of another year for the estimated hundreds of thousands of potential buyers who have paid \$100 to reserve a Cybertruck in one of the most highly anticipated, and closely tracked electric vehicle launches ever.

Tesla did not immediately respond to a request to comment.

It has not announced final pricing on the Cybertruck, showed the production version of the vehicle or specified how it will manage the battery supply for the new model.

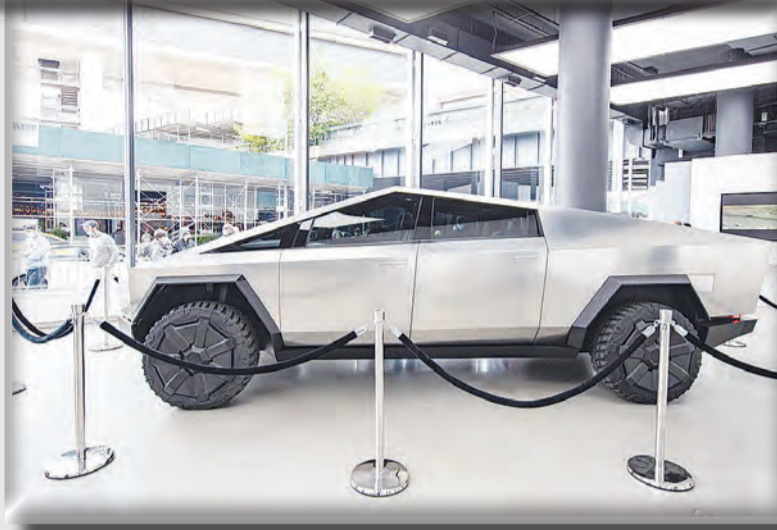
In 2019, Tesla had projected an initial price of under \$40,000, but prices for new vehicles have shot higher since then and Tesla has raised prices across its lineup.

Musk introduced Cybertruck in a 2019 reveal where the vehicle's designer cracked the vehicle's supposedly unbreakable "armor glass" windows. The company has pushed back production timing three times since: from late 2021 to late 2022, then to early 2023 and most recently to the mid-2023 target for initial production.

The launch of the Cybertruck will give Tesla an EV entrant in one of the most profitable segments of the U.S. market and a competitor to electric pickups from the likes of Ford Motor Co (F.N) and Rivian Automotive, both of which have launched models in still-limited numbers.

In January, Musk had cited shortages in sourcing components as the reason for pushing the launch of Cybertruck into 2023.

In May, Tesla stopped taking orders for the Cybertruck outside North America. Musk said then the company had "more orders of the first Cybertrucks than we could possibly fulfill for three years after the start of production."



Automakers often ramp production slowly for an all-new model like the Cybertruck. Analysts have also cautioned that a weakening global economy will start to weigh on sales for Tesla, which has so far been able to sell every car it makes. Musk has said he expected a coming recession would last "probably until Spring of '24."

IDRA Group, the Italian company making the Giga Press that will be used for die casting parts for the Cybertruck, said in a LinkedIn post last week that the 9,000-ton machine for truck part production was packed and ready to be shipped.

The post did not name Tesla. Tesla has been using the Giga Press to cut the cost and complexity of production of its Model Y, an innovation other automakers, including Toyota, have studied.

Ukraine Urged to Abandon Groundless Accusations Against Tehran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has once again rejected Ukraine's repetitive and groundless accusations that it provides Russia with weapons.

This comes after Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he had asked Tehran to "cease the flow of weapons to Russia."

"Emotionally-charged claims and non-evidentiary accusations do not help resolve Ukraine's crisis," Iranian Foreign Ministry's Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said. Kanaani repeated Iran's position of "active neutrality" concerning the ongoing war in Ukraine, urging Kiev to stop its "blame game."

Instead, Kanaani said, Ukrainian officials should heed Tehran's "constructive proposal" for bilateral technical meetings, where they could provide whatever evidence they might have about their allegations. The official, meanwhile, reminded that the Islamic Republic had, since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine, been exerting diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Both Iran and Russia have repeatedly denied claims made by Kiev and its Western allies that Tehran has provided Moscow with drones to be used in the war in Ukraine.

U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Network Backing Iran's Oil Exports

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States has issued sanctions against an international network of people and entities supporting Iran's efforts to export crude oil.

A Thursday statement from the U.S. Treasury Department designated members of the network assisting exports of oil from Iran as smugglers who generated revenues for Iran's elite Quds military force and the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah.

Iran has increased its supply of crude oil to international customers over the past year in a clear defiance of American sanctions targeting its energy sector.

That has irritated Washington which seeks to increase pressure on Iran to force the country into concessions about its defense and foreign policy agenda.

The U.S. Treasury said the network targeted in Thursday sanctions included individuals, front companies and vessels that were involved in blending oil to conceal the Iranian origins of export shipments.

It claimed that a network of individuals and companies based in the Port of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates has used storage units in the area since mid-2022 to blend products of Indian origin with Iranian oil to obfuscate the origin.

Washington said counterfeit certificates of origin and quality for the oil were modified or created by the designated companies before shipments were transferred for sale abroad, including exports to Asia buyers that took place since late 2021.

The sanctions order asset freezes in the U.S. for dozens of individuals, companies and tankers while prohibiting Americans from dealing with the designated entities.

The illegal regime of the so-called U.S. secondary sanctions also urges non-Americans to avoid engaging in certain transactions with sanctioned people as this could risk them being hit with sanctions

Pfizer Boosts 2022 COVID Vaccine Forecast

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pfizer Inc raised its forecast for 2022 sales of its COVID-19 vaccine by \$2 billion to \$34 billion, and said new deals and drugs in development should help replace future declining vaccine sales and lost revenue from patent expirations.

The U.S. drugmaker's shares rose 2.7% to \$47.84 as its third-quarter profit beat estimates, mainly due to higher-than-expected sales of the vaccine it shares with German partner BioNTech.

The upbeat earnings also sent shares of rival COVID-19 vaccine makers higher. Novavax Inc and Moderna Inc were up roughly 2% each.

Sales of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID vaccine are down from pandemic highs as many countries have neared the end of their primary vaccination campaigns. There are also concerns about soft demand for newly updated booster shots.

Tehran Slams...

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He noted that the U.S. has never been really concerned about human rights in Iran or elsewhere as the history is self-evident enough to prove it.

The Iranian diplomat reaffirmed the country's strong objection to the politicization of human rights issues and manipulation of the UN system by certain states to advance their short-sighted political objectives, saying, "This is a dangerous precedent, and Iran has already warned against it."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been and continues to be committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. We are determined to continue our efforts in pursuit of these noble goals," he added.

Iravani noted that Iran's Constitution recognizes the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly while the government has always supported the enjoyment of these rights by the Iranian people.

He added that Iran has no intention to compare itself to other countries that lag behind it when it comes to respecting human rights, stressing that Tehran seeks to evaluate its situation in relation to the aspirations and values that it revolutionized 43 years ago, as well as the overall administration of justice, morality, and religion.

"We are determined to continue our efforts in promoting and protecting human rights situation," the senior Iranian envoy said.

"All Iranians within and outside the country who are concerned about Iran's territorial integrity, political independence, and national sovereignty are of the view that whilst such enjoyments of rights should be deemed inviolable, protests should

not lead to violence and destruction, chaos, or instability," he added, referring to recent riots in the country that followed the death of a young Iranian woman in a police station last month.

Iravani said every government is responsible to protect its people against insecurity and violent and terrorist acts, and upholding the law and order, and that Iran is no exception.

He reiterated that Iran has always made its utmost efforts to address human rights issues and would "continue to give the Iranian people the better living circumstances they deserve and establish a legal framework to alter laws and regulations."

Iranian law enforcement have the ability prevent or manage any unrest and maintain complete tranquility across the country, but they will not do so at any cost, he said.

He noted that the process of decision-making in Iran is based on the importance of human life and dignity, saying, "Therefore, the restraint displayed by Iranian law enforcement should not be a sign of weakness."

"We believe that exaggerating or underestimating protests in Iran serves only as a diversion from finding a viable solution and resolving the problem," Iravani added, reminding the UNSC of the Iranian government's efforts to present a "thorough solution" to the ongoing problem "by making use of its elite, academic, and scientific resources and capacities."

The ambassador urged the international community to respect and uphold the principles of national sovereignty of states and non-interference in their internal affairs.

President Blasts Biden, Says...

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Touching on the latest developments in Iran and the protests that were taking place, President Raisi stressed that universities, scientific development and technology are at the heart of targets the U.S. along with the enemies of Iran are trying to hit, with focus on destroying the security and progress of Iran in particular.

Addressing the Iranian nation, President Raisi warned that today, the U.S. and some Western powers have aimed at sabotaging Iran's national unity and cohesion, saying "the people of Iran, the dear Kurds and Balochs, Turks, Persians, Turkmen, Arabs and everyone should know that the Americans and the enemies of the Islamic Revolution are targeting national unity and cohesion."

President Raisi also said that the U.S. thought Iran is just another country in the region, in which U.S. ploys could be implemented such as Syria, Libya and other countries, underlining the "U.S. is mistaken and this is just a false imagination."

President Rasi concluded his speech by further advising the West to learn lessons from the failed policies and not make other attempts against Iran.

On Friday, Iranians from all walks of life took to the streets across the country to mark the anniversary of the US embassy takeover, better known as Den of Espionage, which is named the National Day against the Global Arrogance.

The rallies were held in 900 cities on Friday, including in the capital Tehran where demonstrators gathered outside the former US embassy.

Demonstrators chanted slogans as they carried banners against the US and the Israeli regime, strongly condemning the hostile policies of the Global Arrogance against Iran. Some 3,500 Iranian and foreign reporters covered the demonstrations.

The demonstrations turned into a venue to put the unity of Iranians on display. Young people sang a number of songs written in the early years of the Islamic Revolution, bringing to life the air of the Revolution days of 1979 when Iranians put end to the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime.

People also held placards in support of the security forces who have been confronting foreign-back violent riots in the past few weeks.

"Police is the main pillar of security," read one of the placards amid a media war to undermine police forces and turn people against them.

Demonstrators also voiced their strong support for Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei by chanting slogans such as "Labaik ya Khamenei" [I respond to your call O Khamenei], "down with America" and "down with Israel".

A group of women held placards that read "Hijab is the rule of God not government," signaling that the propaganda waged by Western media will not harm the Iranian women's adherence to Islamic rules.

Demonstrators also walked over and set on fire the U.S. and Israeli flags during the rallies which marked President Raisi addressing the rally in Tehran.

Iran Challenging Fake...

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The Iranian military chief said prominent American institutions, theorists and strategists have acknowledged that the United States is in decline that the US-led unipolar world order is nearing its end.

"They speak of the formation of a multipolar world in the near future, in which the Islamic Republic will be "one of the effective players," Baqeri added. "The secret to the conspiracies of the US and its regional lackeys against the Iranian nation lies in this point."

The top commander was echoing comments by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who told students on Wednesday that signs of a new world order are emerging around the world, and the youth need to recognize Iran's role and position in the imminent world order.

"Unlike in the past, when the Americans considered themselves the only dominant power in the world, the US does not have an important position in the new order and is isolated," the Leader stated.

CBI Governor...

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"I hope we could publish some good news in this regard very soon," he was quoted as saying by the IRNA.

Previous media reports had tied the unblocking of Iranian funds in South Korea to indirect talks between Iran and the United States to swap prisoners.

Iranian officials have denied the two issues are linked while maintaining that unblocking foreign funds are a prerequisite to further steps to revive an international deal on Iran's nuclear program that has unraveled since US withdrawal from the agreement in 2018.

