

According to the United States Census Bureau, the Value of Iran's Exports to the United States Increased by 18 Folds in the First Nine Months of 2022 From The Same Period in 2021

# IRAN NEWS

International Organization Defending Victims of Terrorism in a Statement Has Condemned Terrorist Attacks Against Iranian Police Forces During Recent Riots in the Country

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Iran to Expand Healthcare Cooperation With Cuba  
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IRGC Launches Qaem 100 Solid Fuel Suborbital Carrier

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) successfully launches Qaem 100 three-stage solid fuel suborbital carrier. Qaem 100, the first of its kind manufactured by Iranian scientists, is capable of putting satellites weighing up to 80 kilograms into orbit 500 kilometers from the earth's surface.

The launch vehicle's solid-fueled first-stage engine, which had been subjected to ground tests early this year, successfully completed its first suborbital spaceflight on Saturday.

That means, according to IRGC officials, that Qaem 100 is now ready to launch Nahid, a satellite manufactured by Iran's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, into orbit in the near future.

Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Division, and other senior military officials, supervised the flight test of the satellite carrier.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, Hajizadeh said arrogant countries, led by the United States, are doing all they can to hinder Iran's progress, adding, "They cannot stand the impressive achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran." **See Page 7**

Iran Defense Ministry Unveils New Achievements



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Defense Ministry has unveiled the upgraded version of the domestically-designed and manufactured Bavar-373 (Belief-373) surface-to-air missile system, and inaugurated the production line of the long-range Sayad B4 missile. **See Page 7**

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ViewPoint  
 By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Iran's Rights of Retaliation Preserved

Last week the U.S. media reported some reports quoting the Saudi Arabian officials as saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran wanted to attack at some targets in Saudi Arabia and reacting to this report, the U.S. and European officials took stand and jumped to defend Saudis while this report was refuted by the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials but it was reiterated that Iran's rights in giving due response to any hostile act are preserved for the country.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani reacted to this report and categorically dismissed reports in Western media about a possible "attack" on Saudi Arabia, terming it a part of psychological warfare against the Islamic Republic.

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," Kanaani 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.

Of course one can understand why this claim has been published and gone viral as the U.S. and its allies are working to increase more pressure on Tehran to force it to sign the JCPOA by giving concessions and stop developing its military programs. **See Page 7**

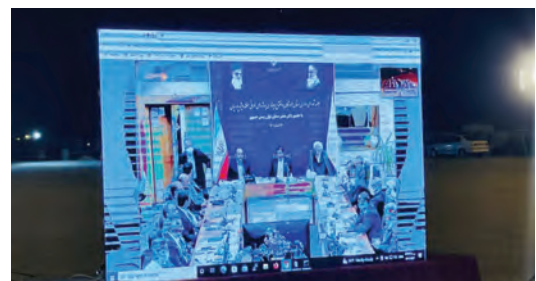
By Order of First Vice-President

7th and 8th Wharfs of Parsian Port Come on Stream Executive Operation of Methanol Production in Parsian Begins



By the order of First Vice-President Dr. Mohammad Mokhbar, wharfs No. 7 and No. 8 of the Parsian Special Economic Zone came on stream. Also, the operation of building methanol production as the second petrochemical complex in Parsian started. According to the public relations of Parsian Special Economic Zone, wharfs No. 7 and No. 8, located in the special economic zone of energy industries in Parsian, with a credit amounting to 30 million euros came on stream during a video conference by the order of the first vice president who had traveled to Hormozgan province. Wharfs No. 7 and No.8 of the Parsian Special Zone came on stream with an investment of 30 million euros in line with the implementation of IMIDRO's development missions. The unloading and loading capacity of these wharfs is 3 million tons and the amount of direct employment in these two wharf posts is 100 people. Parsian Special Economic Zone port is the largest specialized port in the country and the second port after Shahid Rajaei port. This port was built by the Iranian experts and youths, and one of our prides is that this port is 100% home-made and has come on stream by relying on domestic power and knowledge. Using 19 wharf posts and increasing the capacity of this port to 40 million tons can play a key role in the export and import of petroleum, petrochemical, industrial and mineral products. The Parsian Special Economic Zone is located on the border of the three provinces of Hormozgan, Bushehr and Fars, and adjacent to South Pars, petrochemical industries in Asaluyeh and Oil refineries in Fars province are one of the unique advantages of Bandar Parsian and this area is known as an investors' paradise due to its unique capacities. Also, the executive operation of the methanol production complex from natural gas with a credit amounting to 550 million euros in The Parsian Special Economic Zone was launched. The Port of Parsian Special Zone is the most important specialized port of the country The CEO of Parsian Special Economic Zone Seyed Ali Asghar Allameh said: The Port of Parsian Special Economic Zone is one of the important specialized

ports of Iran due to its strategic location. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 7th and 8th wharfs, which was held in a video conference with the presence of First VP Mohammad Mokhbar, Allameh stated: "We are at the service of you and the honorable people of Iran from the westernmost point of Hormozgan province and from the blue shores of the Persian Gulf, on the border of the three provinces of Hormozgan, Bushehr and Fars," and added: Parsian Special Economic Zone is the most suitable special region in the south of the country and the closest region to Iran's energy capital, South Pars, for the location of energy industries, including steel and petrochemicals and it is connected to open waters to create the necessary infrastructure, an area that can host knowledge-based companies in the field of petrochemicals and steel and downstream industries in the year of production, employment and knowledge, in order to prevent the sale of raw materials and realize the goals. He added: 1401 in line with me With the support of the Ministry



of Security and the IMIDRO organization, we achieved a 400% growth in all areas, including infrastructure, investment and export, with the capable hands of young people, which is a great honor. CEO of the Parsian Special Economic Zone stated: "We have proved that Iranian youths do not succumb to force and stated: In the worst and most difficult conditions of sanctions and under the cruel pressures of the West, at the head of that criminal America, we can continue on our way by relying on the abilities of the youth." He emphasized: The Parsian Special Economic Zone is a manifestation of the will of Iranians and Muslim youth, and this port will definitely be one of the most influential and important ports in the country's economy. He noted that today he had honor to inaugurate two wharf posts worth of 30m euros and its exploitation can contribute to the economic growth of the country in the maritime economy, along with other areas. He stated that the capacity of the two wharf posts is three million tons per year, which can greatly help non-oil exports in the current situation.



Allameh explained the specifications. Wharfs No. 7 and No. 8 stated: length a The length of the docks is 510 meters and the back shore is 28 hectares, which can directly employ 100 people, and along with indirect employment, this port can revolutionize the sea economy and increase Iran's share of the maritime economy.: Parsian Port is the only all-Iranian port, and all its stages, from design to engineering, from construction to installation and financing, are 100% Iranian, and in the field of port construction today, it does not need any other countries, and it is right here from the Khatam Al-Anbiya construction base. who played an incomparable role in the construction of these wharves and ports in the difficult conditions of the country, we have special appreciation and thanks, and also today, one of the country's major methanol production projects will be completed in the first phase of 350 million dollars, and in the second phase, God willing, the chain will be completed and propylene And polypropylene will be produced. The CEO of the Parsian Special Economic Zone mentioned the Parsian Special Economic Zone as one of the souvenirs of the 13th government and invited the first vice president to visit the Parsian Special Economic Zone and requested a meeting chaired by First VP Mokhbar to present development plans in the direction of The slogan of the government has been fulfilled so that investment barriers will be removed and we will see more employment of young people in this region. CEO of Parsian Special Economic Zone, Dr. Fatemi Amin, Honorable Minister of Silence from the friendship of the hard-working Governor of Hormozgan Province, from the CEO of IMIDRO Mr. Jafari, who is fair and just, with all his might in order to provide the infrastructure of the region Special support and also to Jabari, the compassionate representative of West Hormozgan, who has always been by our side for follow-ups, and to all our colleagues, especially the esteemed workers, contractors and investors who have been by our side in this difficult situation and have helped this region.

U.S., Ukraine Allegations About Iran Role in War Sheer Lies

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian military commander has strongly dismissed allegations by the United States and Ukraine that the Islamic Republic is involved in the war in Ukraine.

Speaking to reporters, Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesman of the Iranian Armed Forces, said the ruling regime in Ukraine is totally subservient to the Zionists and the Americans.

"These remarks and accusations attributed to Iran by the presidents of the United States and Ukraine are sheer lies and slander," he added.

He emphasized that Iran has had military equipment exchanges with Russia which date back to years before the war between Moscow and Kiev, stressing that "Iran is not involved in the war between these two states."

The senior commander emphasized that the US provides Ukraine's army with various types of weapons and military equipment, but accuses Iran of involvement in the war.

Iran has multiple times rejected in the strongest terms the Western claims of the Islamic Republic's delivery of weapons and drones to Russia to be used against Ukraine, saying the country has had defense cooperation with Moscow for long and pursues a resolution of the conflict through dialog and diplomacy.

"Our relations with Russia are based on neighborhood and mutual interests. I would like to emphasize here that the fuss made by some Western countries that Iran has provided Russia with missiles and drones to help it in the Ukraine war -- claims about the missile part is completely wrong," he said.

The drone part is correct, he said, but added that Iran had provided Russia with a limited number of drones months before the war in Ukraine.



## Afghanistan to Export Coal to Iran in Near Future

TEHRAN (MNA) - Afghanistan will soon ink an agreement with Iran on coal exports to the neighboring country, the Acting Minister of Industries and Commerce of the Taliban said.

Nuruddin Azizi said that the talks with the Iranian side for the export of coal witness progress, and a contract will be signed in this regard soon.

Azizi said that Iran and Afghanistan are trying to expand the number of exports so that Afghanistan's trade balance becomes equal. He also said that all exports of the country, including coal are done according to the prices of the international market, and that there is no reason to worry in this regard.

## Iran to Expand Healthcare Cooperation With Cuba

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

**TEHRAN - Minister of Health and Medical Education of Iran Bahram Eynollahi has underlined the need for expansion of strategic collaborations between Havana and Tehran in healthcare.**

Eynollahi made the remarks in a meeting with Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Elio Rodríguez Perdomo in Tehran, noting that the Iranian Health Ministry is in charge of heading the joint economic commission of Cuba and Iran, and that the commission provides a precious opportunity for both sides to develop relationship.

According to the Iranian minister, the 18th joint economic commission was held in Tehran this year and such interactions will consolidate mutual ties.

He underlined the need for implementation of joint documents signed by the two countries, adding that Havana and Tehran have had cooperation in healthcare sector especially in producing coronavirus vaccine.

As to the resilience culture in Cuba, he noted that the Islamic Republic is happy with the revolutionary culture of the Latin American country, and that the culture of the Cuban resistance in the face of the US's cruel sanctions has been spread in other regional states.

"With the cooperation between Iran as well as friend and revolutionary countries can resist in the face of the global arrogance and American repression," Eynollahi added.



Elsewhere in his remarks, the health minister referred to the big march in the National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance on March 4, noting that the Iranian nation and friendly countries such as Cuba stand against the intervening policies of the US and its allies, and that history indicates that subjugation will not bear fruit, because the Islamic Republic and other independent nations have succeeded in becoming more powerful in spite of the cruel sanctions and economic pressures.

The Cuban deputy minister, for his part, said that the expansion of interactions between Iran and Cuba can help stand against challenges powerfully.

The joint economic commission has taken firm steps and the two sides have reached agreements, which should be implemented as soon as possible and in the best way, he said.

Referring to Iran-Cuba collaboration in producing coronavirus vaccine, he mentioned that the two countries have reached to the point that they can expand exchanges and cooperation in healthcare sector.

## Heads of Branches of Power Coordinate Economic Growth

TEHRAN (IP) - Iranian President, Parliament Speaker, and Judiciary Chief, in the meeting of the heads of three branches of power, coordinated possible efforts for economic growth to ensure the people of Iran's living conditions.

In a meeting on Saturday, President Ebrahim Raisi, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei met to discuss the recent situation in the country and coordinated possible efforts for economic growth to ensure the people of Iran's living conditions.

In the meeting, heads of Three Branches of Power appreciated people's participation in the "13th Aban" nationwide rallies to support the Islamic establishment in resistance against global arrogance.

Iranians from all walks of life, including students, have taken to the streets across the country to mark the anniversary of the US embassy takeover on the 13th of Aban (November 4th), better known as the National Day against the Global Arrogance.

Heads of branches of the Islamic Republic of Iran also emphasized the vigilance of people and officials in counting enemies' plots to provoke unrest in the country.

Iranian top three officials also stressed the continuation of the legal process of trials of the leaders of rioters in the framework of Iran's Judiciary law and regulations.

## U.S. More Isolated as Anti-Iran Meeting Failed to Gain Momentum



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has said that the U.S. is "more isolated" as the anti-Iranian UN Security Council Arrria-formula meeting failed to gain momentum, stating that the attempts to isolate Iran from the world are doomed.

"Known violators of human rights and supporters of the most notorious terrorist groups came together at the anti-Iranian Arrria Formula in New York in the mistaken belief that they could condemn and isolate Iran," Nasser Kan'ani wrote in a post published on his official Twitter page.

He highlighted that the organizers of the event, by means of media dictatorship, did not allow representatives of 19 countries opposing anti-Iran sanctions, including Venezuela, to deliver a speech there.

"Instead, the United States let two ill-famed women [Shirin Ebadi and Nazanin Boniadi], who support sanctions against Iranian women and children, take the podium," Kan'ani noted.

He went on to say that the U.S. administration failed in New York as delegates from the 19 states took part in a meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations in the Iranian capital city of Tehran less than a week later.

"Who is really isolated?" the senior Iranian diplomat also questioned.

## Iran, Zimbabwe Review Ways to Widen Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian held talks with the visiting Zimbabwean Deputy Foreign Minister David Musabayana on ways to expand bilateral relations.

The talks were held in Tehran on the sidelines of the First Meeting of the National Coordinators of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations on Saturday (November 5).

The two sides stressed the importance of acceleration of holding joint economic commission meeting to develop cooperation. Iranian foreign minister called for making use of capacities in both countries in order to promote ties.

First Meeting of the National Coordinators of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations was held in the Iranian capital with participation of deputy foreign ministers, representatives and envoys from the member countries.

In the meeting, the participants exchange views about important international questions and criticized unilateralism.

## Enemies Seeking to Turn Protests Into Riot

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has said that recent developments have shown the main elements (Mossad, CIA and their allied groups) behind the unrest are seeking to turn the protests into a crime scene and neo-Daesh terrorism.

Qalibaf made the remarks in a Sunday parliament meeting in Tehran, pointing to recent violent developments, which led to martyrdom of some security forces, noting that the enemies do not want to pursue demands of the protestors but they put riot and unrest on their agenda.

The enemies of Iran could not trespass into the country from border areas thanks to Martyr General Qassem Soleimani; so they regenerated Daesh, he said, expressing regret that certain cultural, artistic, sport or political figures support the neo-Daesh terrorism.

The neo-Daesh terrorists like their predecessors in Syria and Iraq kill and torture innocent civilians without any reason and publish the clips of their crimes proudly, the speaker said.

The people of Iran demand security; so, intelligent authority is needed in the hybrid warfare in order to reflect the whole reality, Qalibaf noted.

As the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution said, we are involved in hybrid warfare which requires the same type of response, he argued.

The parliament speaker expressed hope that the security situation in the whole country returns to normal in order to pave the way for initiating legitimate changes and new governance in economic, social and political arenas in line with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Call for Promoting Multilateralism, Multipolar System

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Members of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations has stressed the importance of preserving, promoting and defending the prevalence and validity of the UN Charter, both in its letter and spirit, calling for improving multilateralism and a multipolar system.

"We call for the redoubling of efforts towards the democratization of international relations and the strengthening of multilateralism and of a multipolar system," the group's member said in their final political declaration at the end of their meeting in Tehran on Saturday.

It added that such a multipolar system should be based on mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, the rule of law, diplomacy, political dialogue, peaceful coexistence, a culture of peace and non-violence, and due consideration for existing differences which are all essential for constructively and effectively working together on issues of common interest and concern.

It warned that double-standards, coupled with selective approaches or interpretations of the provisions of the UN Charter, which are aimed at advancing political agendas of dubious nature, represent "one of the major threats to the prevalence and validity of that universal and legally binding instrument that constitutes an exceptional achievement for humankind and a true act of faith on the best of humanity."

The group's members emphasized that the United Nations remains a "central and indispensable" forum for addressing and advancing issues relating to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, human rights and the rule of law.

They expressed their concern at the potential impact of ongoing geopolitical tensions in the world and urged respect for the sovereignty and independence of states, while rejecting any attempt at entrenching a Cold War-era mentality that is based on confrontation and the deepening of divisions.

"We call on the Secretariat of the United Nations to strictly adhere to the founding Charter of the Organization, in particular the provisions of Article 100, in the performance of its duties, in accordance with

their respective mandate, including when implementing General Assembly and Security Council resolutions," the declaration said.

The participants at the Tehran meeting expressed their "categorical rejection of all unilateral coercive measures, including those applied as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries."

They said the continued imposition and expansion of such measures would hinder the wellbeing of targeted populations, including their right to development, jeopardize international cooperation on aviation safety, and exacerbate global food insecurity, particularly at the current juncture.

"We reiterate our unwavering support and solidarity with nations and peoples subjected to unilateral and arbitrary approaches that violate both the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms of international law, especially those that are part of our Group of Friends, and further renew our call for both their complete, immediate and unconditional lifting."

"We, in accordance with international law, support any claim of states affected by unilateral coercive measures, including the targeted states, to compensation for the damage incurred as a consequence of the implementation and extraterritorial implications of such measures."

In line with the group's principled and historic positions, the declaration reaffirmed the members' firm commitment to the just cause of Palestine and their unwavering solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle to achieve their inalienable rights, freedom and justice.

They expressed their grave concern at the "instrumentalization of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council," by certain states with the purpose of meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign country in violation of the UN Charter.

The declaration renewed member states' firm determination to continue defending the UN Charter through concerted actions from the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations and to stand by one another in this noble endeavor.

## IRGC Dismantles Sabotage, Assassination Team

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Intelligence Organization has identified and dismantled a terrorist team backed by a European country in Iran's southwestern province of Khuzestan.

Iran's Fars news agency cited an informed intelligence source as saying on Sunday that the arrest of the "sabotage and assassination team" took place in Ahvaz, Khuzestan's provincial capital.

"The terrorist team was supported and orchestrated by a European country," the source said, making no exact reference to the country. "The sabotage gang was destroyed by the IRGC's Intelligence Organization before taking any anti-security measures."

The informed intelligence source stressed that the confessions of the arrested members of the sabotage team had revealed their plans to "assassinate a number of Arab people and personalities in Khuzestan."

The source added that the goal of the team was to repeat the scenario of fake killings and creating riots in Khuzestan similar to the recent ones in the southeastern city of Zahedan in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, and in Ardabil, northwest of Iran.

## Enemy After Creating Discouragement Via Media Terrorism



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance said here on Sunday that the enemy through media terrorism is after creating disappointment and discouragement among the Iranian nation.

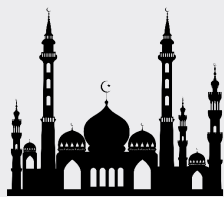
Enemies of the Islamic system are liars, Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili said at his speech to the 2022 Alborz Prize ceremony.

"Our enemies are against national unity," said he adding that they are after sowing discord among people, the nation and the generations.

He went on to stress that the future of the Islamic Iran will be shaped by "our dear students."

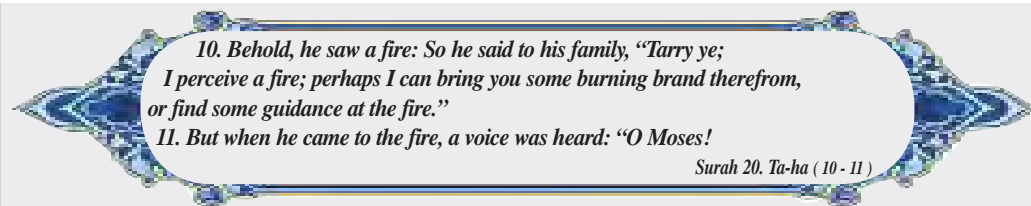
The 60th ceremony of Alborz Prize on hailing exemplary students was held in Tehran this morning.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:22
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:07
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:33



# Tehran, Hanoi to Cooperate on Halal Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – In a webinar held by Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) of Iran and Institute for Africa and Middle East Studies (IAMES) of Vietnam, both sides decided to sign a MoU on starting joint cooperation in the field of halal products.**

In the webinar which was held due to efforts of Iran's Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Ali Akbar Nazari and Director General of IAMES Mr. Le Phuoc Mineh on cooperation opportunities in the field of halal, Mr. Nazari, Mr. Phuoc Mineh, Secretary General of ICRIC Mr. Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Senior Advisor to ICRIC Mr. Shojaei, Technica director of ICRIC Mr. Eskandari, Founder of Halal Center of Vietnam Mr. Ramlan Osman were present.

In the webinar, Director General of IAMES Phuoc Mineh said that the issue of halal industry in Vietnam is pursued seriously, adding that Vietnam is planning a 10-year strategy in the halal industry which will be signed into effect by the prime ministry and currently specially in north Vietnam, there is no correct understanding and cognizance about the halal products, and providing these products in stores are not easily possible.

Then Iran's Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Nazari pointed to the high and growing capacity of halal products in the global market as well as growing population of Muslims in South and West Asia and North Africa. He added that according to statistics, costs which are spent for halal products was 1.3% of total \$4.1b 4.in 2020 and it is predicted that this figure will reach \$9.1 trillion in 2024 and \$15b in 2050.

He went on to say that halal is not today limited to food and there is a vast range of products like in cosmetics and medicines and these products have very positive impact on developing the tourism industry, economy and marketing services in Vietnam.

Nazari noted that Vietnam is interested in increasing its halal products to halal market especially in West Asia, adding that Iran due to its 90m population whose majority is Muslim is a good market for halal products of Vietnam and Iran also has excellent experience and knowledge in the field of halal.

He added that every year some 50 Vietnamese companies get certificate for halal products while only products of 20 companies of this country are exported.



He announced readiness of Iran for developing Vietnam's halal market into the country and halal market through holding necessary grounds like signing agreement, holding seminar, training and sharing experiences and certificates of halal.

Meanwhile Founder of Halal Center of Vietnam Mr. Ramlan Osman said that there is no certain understanding about the meaning of halal in Vietnam and only the looks are directed at the logo of halal while using the principles of sharia in making a product halal is very necessary. He added that due to the experiences of the OIC members especially Iran in this field, he called for cooperation with Tehran for broadening cognizance and knowledge about halal products in Vietnam.

Then Secretary General of ICRIC Mr. Karbasi said that halal industry is expanding in the world and it is predicted that the value of global halal market would reach \$2 trillion in 2027 and Iran ranked 6th in the world in 2020 in producing halal food among Muslim and non-Muslim states.

He then pointed to imports of \$348b of goods by Vietnam and said that import from Iran accounts for \$81m of the total amount of Vietnam's imports, and only \$15m belongs to import of food. Karbasi noted that Vietnam's exports are valued at \$418b and \$43m of the amount is Iran-bound and \$34m of it belongs to exporting food products to Iran.

He added that major part of trade between the two countries is foodstuff and there are other grounds in the halal field for cooperation between the two states.

Karbasi also called for establishment of ICRIC office in Vietnam and raised the issue of signing MoU on cooperation in the fields of inspecting halal food producers and exchange of information in the field of OIC halal standards.

Then Mineh welcomed the suggestion for signing MoU and exchange of information and emphasized sharing experience of Iranians in halal products for implementing a national plan in Vietnam, added that launching halal restaurants and halal tourism in Vietnam are on the agenda of Halal Center of Vietnam.

## Abdolmaleki Appointed as New Secretary of Free Zones

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi appointed Hojatollah Abdolmaleki as the new Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones.



In a decree, Abdolmaleki was tasked to take all the necessary measures for strengthening the position of the free trade zones in the country's economy by making the zones more attractive for investors and by further supporting producers and exporters in these areas.

Facilitation of business and offering tax and customs exemptions, submission of a draft for amending the law on how to manage free zones, combating smuggling by establishing customs at the zones, and focusing on quality were also among the subjects emphasized by the economy minister in his decree.

Abdolmaleki replaced Saeed Mohammad who was in charge of the mentioned position since last September.

Abdolmaleki was first labor minister of President Ebrahim Raisi who resigned earlier this year.

## 114 Hectares of Land Predicted for Producing 2.5m Tons of Production at LSEZ

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Public Relations of Lamerd Special Economic Zone (LSEZ) Mr. Hamed Farahani says this zone will turn into an industrial and economic hub in the near future.



Speaking on the sidelines of the Steel Symposium and Exhibition on Kish Island, Farahani said that this economic and industrial center with using capabilities and opportunities and huge potentials will turn into an industrial and economic hub in the near future.

He then pointed to the properties and investment attractions of Lamerd Special Economic Zone and named some of them like connecting transit corridors of Iran in South, easy access to ports and sea transportation, closeness to international airports of Lamerd, Assalouyeh, Larestan and Bandar Lengeh.

Farahani went on to say that some 114 hectares of land has been predicted for annual production of 2.5m tons of downstream products in the field of steel industry in the zone, adding that downstream iron and steel industries can be considered as the change in the form of products.

He then called o investors to take advantage of this opportunity and diverse industrial opportunities in the zone as well as the strong management of the Lamerd Zone for investment.

## Iran, Thailand Customs Sign Cooperation MoU

TEHRAN (MNA) – Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration and Thailand's Customs Department signed a cooperation memorandum of understanding.

Both sides expressed hope that by signing this memorandum and using all capacities, the volume of trade between Iran and Thailand will increase.

Referring to the long-term history of commercial cooperation between the two countries, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Alireza Moghaddasi stated, "By fully implementing the provisions of this memorandum of understanding, which can be implemented after one month, we can take a practical step in expanding trade and customs relations and fighting smuggling."

Iran is ready to conduct study visits between the delegations of the two countries to exchange experiences and knowledge, Moghaddasi added.

The president of Thai customs Patchara Anuntasilpa, for his part, said that preventing customs violations, protecting material and social interests and protecting the economy of the two countries will be among the main points of the MoU.

Thai customs is ready to cooperate with Iranian customs in the field of training and research in customs issues and signing a memorandum of understanding regarding the identification of authorized economic activists and welcomes the expansion of customs cooperation with the customs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added.

## Oil Sale, Cash Transfer Easily Done for Iran

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The first vice president said: "Today we are selling oil well, and money transfer is done properly and current expenses of the country are provided without borrowing and methods that lead to inflation."

According to the information base of the first vice president, Mohammad Mokhber, during his one-day trip to Hormozgan province, southern Iran, on Saturday said that last year the administration had problems in the staple commodities sector and it was difficult to earn oil revenues and transfer money.

Corona claimed more than 750 victims daily and the enemy had great hopes for the downfall of the country in this situation, he said. He added: "Today, we sell oil well, and money transfers are carried out in a favorable manner, and the current expenses of the country are provided without borrowing and methods that lead to inflation."

## Gov't Blocks 2,300 Foreign Currency Bank Accounts

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian intelligence ministry (WAJA) has identified and blocked more than 2,300 foreign currency bank accounts that were used to trigger instability in the country's forex market.

A Saturday statement from WAJA's information and public relations department said that judicial authorities would prosecute the criminal acts of the holders of the bank accounts who it said were involved in profiteering practices through creating a demand bubble in the Iranian currency market.

The statement came on the day the US dollar hit an all-time high of over 360,000 against the Iranian rial. The dollar closed at 361,000 per the rial on Saturday after reaching 361,900 earlier in the day.

"Our investigations show these people have been involved in the illegal trade of foreign currency in the unofficial market or have carried out futures trading to disrupt the country's forex market," said the WAJA statement carried by the official IRNA news agency.

The rise in the price of foreign currencies in Iran came as there was no clear economic reason to justify the sudden surge. That comes as talks between the country and world powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal have stalled for months with no breakthrough in sight. The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) introduced various measures on Saturday to contain the rising forex prices. It said in a statement that foreign currencies will be available for sales of up to 2,000 euros per person or its equivalent in the US dollar as of Sunday. The CBI said applicants will receive the dollar at a

consensus price in currency exchange centers as well as in selected branches of four national banks. Local media reports said the consensus price of the US dollar against the rial was over 340,000 at the close of trade on Saturday.

## Iran's \$10m Investment in Salianka Port of Russia

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Pick-up in the North-South Corridor depends on broadening trade with the Caspian Sea countries especially by Russia as Russia has annual import volume of \$300b and it is considered a big market.

Accordingly, for more development of the North-South Corridor, Iranian economic and transportation activists are focused on Russia and amid this focus, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line Group (IRISL) has taken a long stride in this regard and it has taken the leadership of Salianka Port of Russia on the Caspian Sea.

According to the IRISL report, Salianka Port accounts for 20% of the total portal operation volume in the ports of Astrakhan of Russia. The total area of Salianka Port is 150,000 square meters that with the approval of the prime minister of Russia, soon 3,000 hectares will be added to it and the total area of Salianka Port will increase to 180,000 square meters. This port has 5 wharfs and the capacity of its roofed warehouses is evaluated around 11,600 tons that the area of the warehouses for imported goods is 7,000 square meters, and after the completion of the development project of the port by the IRISL group it will increase to 17,000 square meters.

The amount of investment by IRISL in Salianka Port is around \$10m that some part of the money is used for purchasing vessels with capability of carrying 270 containers that major part of the cost for its purchase has been financed by Russian banks; and some of the new equipment required in the port has been provided with investment.

The amount of load and unload in Salianka Port before the investment was 50,000 tons per month and it is expected after the current investment, the amount would increase by 70% and reach 85,000 tons. In the first three quarters of 2022, some 470,000 tons of portal operation has been carried out in this port which shows 30% growth comparing to the same period last year and major part of the exchanged goods belonged to trade between Iran and Russia.



## Sanctions No Longer Suitable Tool to Control Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) –Oil Minister Javad Owji says that imposing anti-Iranian sanctions is no longer a suitable option for controlling the country.

Saying that Iran has secured its energy sector against the sanctions, the Iranian minister added, "Favorable steps have been taken in the country's energy sector, including bypassing sanctions, creating appropriate infrastructure, and identifying partners and reliable export markets in the world."

Increasing relations with the countries of the world have led to the acceleration and

facilitation of the supply of oil, gas, and gas condensates from Iran to the world markets, Owji stated in a radio interview.

Saying that the only tool left for the domination system against Iran is imposing sanctions, the Iranian oil minister stressed that the effectiveness of this weapon (sanctions) will also be neutralized and destroyed soon by the effective measures of the government and the presence of the Iranian nation.

He also criticized the act of enemies in creating chaos and unrest inside Iran.



## Twitter Spews Lies Across the World

ROSEMONT (Dispatches) - U.S. President Joe Biden said that Elon Musk had purchased a social media platform in Twitter that spews lies across the world.

Twitter laid off half its workforce but said cuts were smaller in the team responsible for preventing the spread of misinformation, as advertisers pulled spending amid concerns about content moderation.

Biden said at a fundraiser: "And now what are we all worried about: Elon Musk goes out and buys an outfit that sends - that spews lies all across the world... There's no editors anymore in America. There's no editors. How do we expect kids to be able to understand what is at stake?"



## Bardella Elected as Le Pen's Successor

PARIS (Dispatches) - France's far-right Rassemblement National (RN) elected Jordan Bardella as its new president on Saturday, overwhelmingly backing the 27-year-old European Parliament member to succeed Marine Le Pen in the post.

Jordan Bardella, a self-confident 27-year-old, saw his status as rising star of the far right confirmed on Saturday, after party members elected him to succeed veteran leader Marine Le Pen as head of the National Rally.

The Paris-born politician was the odds-on favourite to take over the party after Le Pen decided to step back from the role after 11 years at the helm. Formerly known as the National Front, the party had been run by Le Pen's father Jean-Marie for 40 years before that. Bardella is now the first party chief outside the family dynasty in a half-century.



## Ukrainian Forces Brace for Bloody Fight for Kherson



KHERSON (Dispatches) - Oleh, the commander of a Ukrainian mechanized infantry unit dug into trenches west of Kherson, is confident his Russian foes will be forced to abandon the strategic port by winter weather, logistical logjams and the threat of encirclement.

But neither he nor his men think the Russians will go quickly or quietly and nor do they intend to let them.

His comments raise the specter of a bloody slog in the coming weeks for control of a key city on the west bank of the Dnipro River which acts as a gateway to the peninsula of Crimea annexed by Russia in 2014.

"They will keep fighting. They will defend their positions as long as they have the ability to do so," said Oleh, 26, a battle-hardened major who has risen through the ranks since enlisting as a teenager 10 years ago. "It will be a hard fight."

Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian-installed administration in Kherson region, said on Thursday that he hoped Russian forces would put up a fight.

"If we leave Kherson, it will be a huge blow," he added, in comments broadcast by Russia's RT television.

The contest for the only provincial capital seized by Moscow in the full-scale invasion launched on Feb. 24 may be one of the most consequential of the war so far.

For Russian President Vladimir Putin, it would be another setback following a series of significant battlefield losses since mid-August.

With control of the Dnipro's west bank, military experts said, Ukrainian forces would have a springboard from which to seize a bridgehead on the east side for an advance on Crimea.

Crimea is home to Russia's Black Sea fleet and Kyiv has made the peninsula's recovery its sworn goal.

Were Kherson to fall in the counter-offensive, the experts added, it would also be a political humiliation for Putin, as Kherson is one of four partially occupied regions of Ukraine that he announced would be part of Russia "forever" with great fanfare on Sept. 30.

"It would be a massive blow, primarily politically," said Philip Ingram, a retired senior British military intelligence officer. "And it would cost him (Putin) militarily. If the Ukrainians were able to get a bridgehead on the east side of the Dnipro, that would be even worse for the Russians."

The Ukrainians "will be able to hammer the Russians defending the approaches to Crimea," said retired U.S. General Ben Hodges, a former commander of U.S. Army forces in Europe.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it appeared the Russians already had begun "an organized, phased withdrawal" from the Dnipro's west bank.

Thousands of civilians from the city and surrounding areas have been evacuated to the east side of the Dnipro in recent weeks after Russian-appointed occupation authorities warned of the dangers posed by Ukrainian advances.

On Friday, Putin publicly endorsed the evacuation that Kyiv says has included forced deportations of civilians out of Russian-occupied territory - a war crime - which Russia denies.

## Malaysian Leaders Kick Off Election Campaigns in Tight Race

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysian political leaders began their election campaigning for what is set to be a close race, with incumbent Prime Minister Ismail Sabri facing off with veterans Anwar Ibrahim and Muhyiddin Yassin.

Polls and analysts say no single party or coalition will win a simple majority in the 222-seat parliament, and that opposing alliances will have to come together to form the next government.

Around 21 million Malaysians are eligible to vote in the Nov. 19 election, with inflation and recent political instability on the top of their minds in the backdrop of a slowing economy. Malaysia has had three premiers since the last election in 2018.

Rival coalitions are headed by Ismail, former premier Muhyiddin and long-time opposition leader Anwar. There are several other parties in the running, including one founded by another former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, a factor that is expected to split the votes more than ever before.

"This is the first time we are seeing three equally strong coalitions with experienced leaders contesting," said Adib Zalkapli, a director with political consultancy Bower Group Asia.

He said there was a high possibility that there won't be a clear winner in the polls, and that coalitions will have to negotiate to form a government.

Prime Minister Ismail, who is from the Barisan Nasional coalition, said there were no easy wins in any parliamentary seats in this election, state news agency Bernama reported.

He and other leaders filed nominations on Saturday, officially kicking off the two-week campaigning period.

The election comes as the Malaysian economy is expected to ease due to a global slowdown, impeding a recovery from a pandemic-induced slump. Inflation is also rising, with the Malaysian central bank increasing interest rates this week for the fourth straight time.

In the last election in 2018, Malaysia's opposition came together to defeat Barisan, which had governed the country uninterrupted for 60 years since independence from British rule.

## China Vows to Continue With Dynamic-Clearing COVID Strategy

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China will persevere with its "dynamic-clearing" approach to COVID-19 cases as soon as they emerge, health officials said, adding that measures must be implemented more precisely and meet the needs of vulnerable people.

The country's strict COVID containment approach is still able to control the virus, despite the high transmissibility of COVID variants and asymptomatic carriers, an official from the China National Health Commission told a news conference.

China's zero-COVID policy includes lockdowns, quarantining and rigorous testing, aimed at stopping the spread of the coronavirus.

Asked if there would be a change of policy in the near term, disease control official Hu Xiang said China's measures are "completely correct, as well as the most economical and effective."

"We should adhere to the principle of putting people and lives first, and the broader strategy of preventing imports from outside and internal rebounds," she said.

The briefing followed a week in which markets surged on hope China would relax restrictions, buoyed further on Friday when a former disease control official told a banking conference that China would make "substantial" changes to COVID policy in the coming months.

Some areas had been guilty of unscientific "one-size-fits-all" lockdowns, the officials said, singling out the southwestern cities of Nanchong and Bijie, and Zhengzhou city officials in central Henan province for deliberately turning thousands of citizens' health codes red. "We attach great importance to these problems and are rectifying them," said Tuo Jia, another disease control official.

Epidemic-hit areas must meet the needs of the elderly, sick, disabled, young and pregnant, Tuo said.

Officials said they would begin a push to increase vaccinations among the elderly, noting that while 86.35% of citizens aged 60 and over are fully vaccinated, fewer people 80 and older have had vaccinations and boosters.

## North Korea Fires Four Ballistic Missiles

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea fired four short-range ballistic missiles into the western sea, South Korea's military said, as Seoul and Washington ended a high-profile six-day military exercise.

North Korea has launched a series of missiles this week, including a possible failed intercontinental ballistic missile, drawing condemnation from the United States, South Korea and Japan, and raising speculation it could be preparing to resume nuclear weapons testing for the first time since 2017.

Saturday's launches between 11:31 and 11:59 a.m. come as the United States and South Korea finished the "Vigilant Storm" exercise they began on Monday.

The missiles flew about 130 km (80 miles), reaching an altitude of about 20 km (10 miles), Seoul said.

The allied exercise involved some 240 military aircraft and two U.S. B-1B strategic bombers, as well as four F-16 and four F-35A fighters, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas

This is the first time the B-1B has been deployed in U.S.-South Korean drills since 2017, showing "the combined defense capabilities and determination of the Republic of Korea and the U.S. to resolutely respond to

any provocations from North Korea, and the will of the U.S. to implement a strong commitment to extended deterrence," the joint chiefs said in a statement.

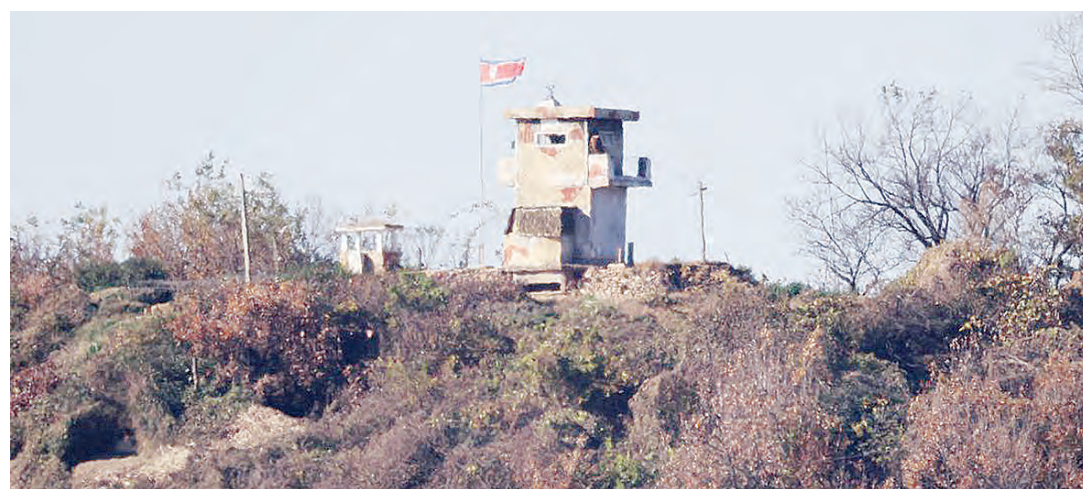
Pyongyang on Friday demanded the United States and South Korea halt "provocative" air exercises. South Korea said it scrambled warplanes in response to 180 North Korean military flights near the countries' shared border.

On Wednesday, North Korea fired a daily record 23 missiles, with one landing off the coast of South Korea for the first time, after Pyongyang threatened to take powerful measures unless Washington halts allied air exercises with South Korea.

As the tit-for-that exchange continued through the week, Washington called for a public United Nations Security Council meeting on Friday, where it accused Russia and China of providing "blanket protection" to North Korea from further Security Council action.

A North Korean foreign ministry spokesman issued a statement late on Friday warning that "sustained provocation is bound to be followed by sustained counteraction," said state media KCNA.

In recent years the Security Council has been split on how to deal with North Korea. In May China and Russia vetoed a U.S. attempt to impose more U.N. sanctions in response to North Korean missile launches.



## Attack on UK Immigration Center "Terrorist" Incident

LONDON (Dispatches) - British police have said a petrol bomb attack on an immigration center in Dover last week was motivated by extreme right-wing ideology.

Nobody was seriously hurt in the October 30 incident in the southern English port town, and police said 66-year-old Andrew Leak, who was found dead at a nearby service station soon after the attack, had apparently acted alone.

"Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) ... have recovered evidence that indicates the attack at an immigration centre in Dover on Sunday, 30 October 2022, was motivated by a terrorist ideology," the body said in a statement on Saturday.

"There is currently nothing to suggest the offender was working alongside anyone else and there is not believed to be any wider threat to the public," the police statement said.

Tim Jacques, senior national coordinator for counter terrorism policing, added that while there were "strong indications that mental health was likely a factor", he had concluded that the "suspect's actions were primarily driven by an extremist ideology".

These met the "threshold for a terrorist incident", he said. Homemade incendiary devices were thrown at the Western Jet Foil Border Force centre in Dover on Sunday, leaving two staff with minor injuries.

The Dover immigration facility is the first stop for thousands of people who made the dangerous journey across the English Channel to seek asylum in the United Kingdom.

Immigration has become a heated political issue in Britain. Since the beginning of the year, an unprecedented 38,000 people have made the perilous journey, the government's home affairs select committee was told on October 26.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said the UK is a compassionate and welcoming place for asylum seekers, but this depends on the country being able to effectively police its borders.

The UK's Home Secretary Suella Braverman earlier this week caused outrage - and earned a rebuke from the new UN rights chief - for describing the arrivals as an "invasion".





## Boeing Outlines Risky Waiting Game for New Launches With Eye on Airbus



LONDON (Dispatches) - Boeing has embarked on a high-risk waiting game over the next round of jet developments, betting nascent technology will restore it to glory in the 2030s while ceding the upper hand in a key part of the market to Airbus for the rest of this decade.

Chief Executive Dave Calhoun buried the prospect of an early bid to rebuild Boeing's battered position at the top of the single-aisle market with a new jet, pledging to focus on cash as it recovers from safety and other crises.

The move marks a victory for engine-maker CFM which had publicly trailed a radical design offering 20%-plus fuel savings but not before 2035 - effectively nudging its biggest customer away from acting any sooner with a more conventional plane.

Industry sources said lifting the specter of a new jet also cheered Airbus (AIR.PA) which - like CFM - has most to gain from milking a favorable status quo and avoiding a premature product race. Between them, billions of dollars in potential R&D savings are at stake.

CFM, co-owned by General Electric and Safran, powers Boeing 737 MAXs and about half the Airbus A320/321neo family, which has a strong market lead.

That doesn't bother Calhoun who played down runaway sales of the A321neo.

"I don't want to fill a gap in a product line. I want to build a product that's going to differentiate in a way that absolutely substitutes the airplanes that came before it," Calhoun told analysts at an investor day.

Such a plane would be 20-30% more efficient and start to lay the groundwork for future autonomous or machine-driven flight.

"There'll be a moment in time where we'll pull the rabbit out of the hat and introduce a new airplane sometime in the middle of the next decade," he said.

Analysts said that was meant to reassure investors Boeing would not embark on a \$15-billion spree before reducing its \$45 billion of net debt, while reassuring restless airlines any 737 successor would be worth the wait.

That marks what some industry sources described as a quiet but decisive U-turn behind the scenes after months in which the planemaker had been informally touting the possibility of a pair of late 2020s jets known as 5X and 6X to block the A321neo.

It now calculates the MAX family of aircraft will carry it through the decade, as originally planned, in the face of still-evolving technology and limited resources.

Investors mostly agreed, pushing up Boeing's shares some 10%.

But industry insiders said there were a number of risks in Calhoun's strategy of waiting out the 2020s. First, Boeing is now more than ever dependent on getting its MAX 10 - needed to counter the A321neo - certified.

That depends on a Congressional waiver which although far from automatic is ultimately likely to happen, congressional aides say. If it fails, the 5X/6X may yet see the light of day. Second, it leaves Airbus with an entrenched market lead through the decade, rather than the 50/50 split seen over time.

That offers Airbus a cost advantage as well as a useful negotiating currency with which to convert existing customers to its own next jet likely to appear in the 2030s.

Calhoun stressed market share was not the issue.

But industry experts said it appeared no accident that Boeing's mid-decade delivery forecasts - 50 single-aisles a month compared with Airbus' goal of 75 - gave Boeing an implied share of 40%, widely seen as the lowest needed for a duopoly to remain stable.

## Indian Auto-Parts Makers Face Job Losses as EVs Rev Up



CHENNAI (Dispatches) - In Coimbatore, a city that manufactured one of India's first homemade diesel engines, K. Rajesh finds himself at a crossroads as automakers rush to produce more electric vehicles (EVs).

The boss of a local auto-component manufacturing firm in southern Tamil Nadu state, Rajesh is part of a supply chain that industry experts say will be shaken up as India accelerates its transition to EVs, to help meet its climate goals. "For small players like me, the rise of EVs means business will go down," said Rajesh, who runs Autotech Engineers, a factory that makes parts for two-wheelers.

"We are aware that the business will change, but right now I am sticking to what I know and have been doing for the last 20 years - replicating design drawings sent by companies into perfect parts. The future, however, is uncertain," he added. His voice echoes the concerns of others in India's small and medium-sized auto-component industry, whose workforce is estimated at about 5 million. Millions more are employed in informal repairs and maintenance.

In a first, the Tamil Nadu state government initiated a mapping of this supply chain last month, in an effort to understand the impacts on companies and their workers of the transition to making cleaner cars and scooters. "We know for a fact that there will be a serious loss of business," said V. Arun Roy, secretary of the Tamil Nadu department for medium, small and micro enterprises, adding that they will have to be prepared for the hit.

"At present, there is not enough information on who and how many will be impacted. Mapping this data is essential to plan for the EV transition, which is inevitable," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. India sees clean auto technology as central to its plans to curb its dependence on petroleum products and ease debilitating air pollution in its cities, while meeting its national commitment to cut planet-heating emissions from fossil fuel use to net-zero by 2070. The government is aiming for 30% of total car sales to be electric by 2030, up from EVs being just half a percent of all vehicles on Indian roads today, according to official data. It is offering companies billions of dollars in incentives to build clean cars and their components.

A September study by McKinsey and Company, in collaboration with the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), states that about 75% of the inventory for EVs will consist of components requiring new design and manufacturing processes. The consultancy estimates that a transition to EVs could impact up to half of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle-parts suppliers - from those producing components from plastic and rubber or engine parts, to electronics makers.

Ashwini Hingne, a senior manager in the climate programme at the World Resources Institute (WRI) India, said conversations about a "just transition" to a low-carbon economy often focus on the shift away from fossil fuels like coal but should be wider. "The reality is that everyone in the value chain will have to make the switch and there are many high-risk category clusters like the auto sector and the many small manufacturers in its supply chain," said Hingne, whose research organisation is working with Tamil Nadu's government on supply-chain mapping.

India is the world's fourth-largest car market. Both foreign and Indian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) rely on local auto-component makers in hubs like Coimbatore, researchers say, also pointing to the large network of garages and scrap dealers linked to the industry.

Depending on the level of local manufacturing, a scenario with 30% electric cars by 2030 may support around 20-25% fewer jobs than the ICE industry now as EVs rely more on software and electronics, according to a 2019 report on India's transition. The report by two nonprofits - the Council on Energy, Environment and Water and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation - said catering to the new EV jobs would require re-skilling and vocational training for the workforce.



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## Fed Seen Sticking to Rate Rises After Jobs Report

LONDON (Dispatches) - The Federal Reserve is seen taking its benchmark policy rate upward after a government report showed U.S. employers hired more workers than expected last month, but also signaled some signs of slack in the labor market. Futures contracts that settle to short-term U.S. interest rates added to losses immediately after the report, as traders priced in a bigger chance of higher interest rates, and then reversed course. The unemployment rate rose to 3.7%, from 3.5%, the report showed. Futures prices currently reflect close to even odds of a half-point rate hike versus a 75-basis point increase in December, about the same as seen before the report, and a subsequent continued march upward into next year, to a policy rate in the 5.00%-5.25% range.



## Russia Seeks Sanctions Exemptions for State Bank in Ukraine Grain Deal Talks

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia wants the West to ease restrictions on state agriculture lender Rosselkhozbank to facilitate Russian grain exports, according to four sources familiar with the request, made during talks to extend a deal on food shipments from Ukraine. Moscow suspended its participation in the secure Black Sea grain corridor in late October but rejoined after four days, easing fears of further disruptions to grain exports from key supplier Ukraine at a time of rampant global food inflation.

President Vladimir Putin has reserved Russia's right to halt the United Nations-brokered agreement again, while U.N. chief Antonio Guterres is pushing Moscow to agree to extend the pact beyond its scheduled expiry on Nov. 19.

Russia has not detailed its demands publicly beyond calls to unblock Russian fertiliser stuck in European ports and warehouses and resume exports of ammonia, an important ingredient in fertiliser, through a Russia-Ukraine pipeline. The four sources, who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the subject, said Russia was asking Western countries to allow state lender Rosselkhozbank to restore its relations with correspondent banks despite Western sanctions.

This would allow the bank, which has not had a major role in the international grain trade so far, to process payments for Russian grain and other foodstuffs, two of the sources added. Before the latest sanctions, such payments were handled by international banks and subsidiaries of other Russian banks in Switzerland.

The sources did not say what response, if any, Russia had got to its proposals.

Russia has said the sanctions imposed after the start of what it calls its special military operation in Ukraine make it hard for Russian grain and fertiliser traders to process payments and access vessels, insurance and ports, even though food is exempt.

Russia's Foreign Ministry and Rosselkhozbank did not reply to a request for comment.

The U.N. has said it "remains committed to removing the remaining obstacles to the exports of Russian food and fertilizer". It did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Russian proposal.

A U.N. source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said facilitation of payments for Russian food and fertilizer through Rosselkhozbank is being discussed with the European Union and other parties. The European Commission did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Moscow has said its consent to extend the Black Sea grain deal depends on support for its own grain and fertiliser exports. Russia is a major agricultural producer and the world's largest exporter of wheat.

Ukraine, whose shipments to global markets were blocked by the conflict and Russia's control of Black Sea waters until July, is one of the biggest suppliers of grains, oilseeds and vegetable oils.

Russia's resumption of the deal on Nov. 2 followed mediation from Turkey, which helped broker the agreement alongside the United Nations.

A Western diplomat briefed on the talks said Turkey had leaned heavily on Russia to stick to the deal and that Rosselkhozbank was a part of the discussions, but not directly related to Moscow's suspension of the deal or subsequent switch.

## Euro Zone Downturn Deepens, Points to Winter Recession

LONDON (Dispatches) - The downturn in the euro zone economy has deepened as high inflation and fears of an intensifying energy crisis hit demand, adding to evidence the bloc is heading for a winter recession.

A closely-watched survey showed euro zone October business activity contracted at the fastest pace since late 2020. German industrial orders also slumped more than expected in September as foreign demand sank, putting Europe's largest economy on course for recession.

S&P Global's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the euro zone, seen as a good guide to economic health, fell to a 23-month low of 47.3 in October from September's 48.1, albeit just above a preliminary 47.1 estimate.

Anything below 50 indicates contraction.

"The final euro zone PMIs for October paint a clear picture of falling activity and sky-high inflation," said Jack Allen-Reynolds at Capital Economics.

"While it does not yet point to the 0.5% q/q contraction that we have pencilled in for Q4, the new orders and future output PMIs suggest that worse is to come."

Asked what type of recession the euro zone would endure, 22 of 46 respondents in an October Reuters poll said it would be short and shallow while 15 said it would be long and shallow. Eight said it would be short and deep and only one said it would be long and deep.

In France, the bloc's second biggest economy, earlier data showed industrial output declined in September although its PMI indicated services sector growth slowed less than initially forecast in October.

Spanish services sector activity contracted for the second straight month in October, weighed down by high inflation again, its PMI showed.

Inflation in the 19 countries using the euro currency surged more than expected last month, reaching 10.7% and more than five times the European Central Bank's target. Consequently, the ECB is likely to press ahead with more interest rate rises, which will add to the burden faced by indebted consumers.

The ECB was the last among its peers to begin raising rates in this cycle, waiting until July. By year-end the deposit and refinancing rates were forecast to be at 2.00% and 2.50% respectively.



## U.S. Job Growth Beats Expectations In October

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. job growth increased more than expected in October, but the pace is slowing and the unemployment rate rose to 3.7%, suggesting some loosening in labor market conditions, which would allow the Federal Reserve to shift towards smaller interest rate increases starting in December.

The Labor Department's closely watched unemployment report on Friday also showed annual wage growth moderated last month. There was a decrease in household employment and the prime age employment-to-population ratio dropped.

"The foundation of the labor market strength story fades a little when you pull back the tarp and look more closely at the details," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS in New York. "The report to us looks like payroll jobs growth will falter in coming months as companies batten down the hatches as the Fed continues to take away the economy's punch."

The survey of establishments showed nonfarm payrolls increased 261,000 last month. Data for September was revised higher to show 315,000 jobs added instead of 263,000 as previously reported.

Employment growth has averaged 407,000 per month this year compared with 562,000 in 2021. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 200,000 jobs, with estimates ranging from 120,000 to 300,000. Still, the labor market remains tight, with 1.9 job openings per unemployed person at the end of September.

The government said Hurricane Ian, which lashed Florida and the Carolinas in late September, "had no discernible effect on the national employment and unemployment data for October."

The Fed on Wednesday delivered another 75 basis point interest rate hike and said its fight against inflation would require borrowing costs to rise further. But the U.S. central bank signaled it may be nearing an inflection point in what has become the fastest tightening of monetary policy in 40 years.

Last month's broad-based increase in hiring was led by healthcare, which added 53,000 jobs. Professional and technical services payrolls rose by 43,000 jobs.

Employment in manufacturing rose by 32,000 jobs, while leisure and hospitality added 35,000 positions. Leisure and hospitality employment remains 1.1 million jobs below its pre-pandemic level. The sector has the most job openings.

Government payrolls rebounded by 28,000 jobs. There were moderate employment gains in the interest-rate sensitive sectors like financial activities and retail trade.

Construction payrolls barely rose, while transportation and warehousing added 8,000 jobs.

U.S. stocks opened higher. The dollar fell against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices were mostly higher.



## ECB's Top Brass Keep Focus on Fighting Inflation

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - The European Central Bank's two top officials emphasized the central bank's focus on bring down inflation in the euro area before it becomes entrenched.

Investors are trying to gauge how far the ECB is prepared to go in fighting double-digit growth in prices, with pressure on central banks across the world building after the Federal Reserve flagged more, albeit maybe smaller, interest rate hikes.

ECB President Christine Lagarde and her deputy, Luis de Guindos, both signalled the central bank was determined to do its part and called on the 19 governments of the euro zone to avoid fuelling prices with overly generous spending - a point also made by Greek governor Yannis Stournaras.

Lagarde acknowledged the ECB's interest rate increases -- which have taken its deposit rate from -0.5% to 1.50% in three months -- worked with a lag, but she argued policymakers did not have the luxury of waiting to see their full effect. "If we were to see, for example, inflation becoming more persistent and expectations being at risk of de-anchoring, we could not wait until the full impact of the policy measures materialises," Lagarde said in a speech in Estonia.

"We would need to take additional actions until we are more confident that inflation will return to target in a timely manner," she added.

Speaking in Spain, de Guindos also said the ECB had to "remain focused on reducing support for demand and guarding against the risk of a persistent upward shift in inflation expectations".

## Italy to Unveil Higher Deficit Targets to Help Economy

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy's new government will hike its borrowing plans for this year and next to fund support measures for the economy when it unveils its first public finance targets on Friday, two sources close to the matter told Reuters.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who took office last month at the head of a right-wing coalition, has said her first budget will be centred on softening the impact of sky-high energy costs for firms and families.

The Treasury's annual Economic and Financial Document (DEF), which forms the framework of the 2023 budget, will set the fiscal deficit at 5.6% of gross domestic output in 2022, the sources said.

That is up from a September forecast of 5.1% made by the previous government led by Mario Draghi. The target for 2023 is expected to be hiked to 4.5% from 3.4%.

This gives Meloni room for expansionary measures worth around 0.5% of GDP this year and an additional 1.1% in 2023 to expand the economy while still keeping the deficit-to-GDP ratio on a downward trajectory from one year to the next.

With the cabinet due to meet at 1700 GMT to approve the DEF, the figures could be subject to last minute changes as ministers fight to obtain more spending resources for their departments, the sources said.

Public finances this year have gone better than forecast, with value added tax revenues and excise duties boosted by high inflation and surging energy prices.

Inflation, which under the EU-harmonised index hit 12.8% in October and marked the highest reading since the series was introduced in 1996, has also helped cut Italy's huge public debt.

Moreover, the European Union's fiscal rules are still suspended to help the bloc's economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, giving Meloni valuable breathing space.

Nonetheless, with interest rates on an upward trend she will be wary of triggering a negative market reaction by hiking the deficit too much.

Meloni has already said she will push back some of the coalition's more ambitious campaign promises of higher pensions and swingeing tax cuts.

The 2023 budget is expected to detail higher spending and tax breaks worth over 30 billion euros (\$29.73 billion), one of the sources said, of which at least 21 billion will be funded by extra borrowing. To finance the rest, Rome is considering cutting part of almost 9 billion euros earmarked in 2023 for income support for the poor. It will also tighten the terms of incentives aimed at helping people green their homes, the sources said.

## Japan Minister Warns of Yen Risks From Fed Tightening



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki said authorities should be vigilant to any downside risks stemming from the U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary policy tightening, which has pressured the yen to historic lows.

The yen has tumbled on the widening spread between U.S. and Japanese interest rates, with the Fed's aggressive interest rate hikes contrasting sharply with the Bank of Japan's massive monetary stimulus.

"We need to continue to monitor how U.S. inflation and any changes in its monetary policy could affect Japanese and global economy," Suzuki told reporters.

The minister echoed Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's recent caution about any spill-over effects from aggressive monetary policy tightening by the United States on Japan and other countries.

The Fed raised interest rates by three-quarters of a percentage point this week, signalling that it may be near a turning point in its aggressive monetary policy tightening. However, Fed Chair Jerome Powell has dashed expectations for any pivot.

The Japanese yen rose a marginal 0.07% to 148.155 per dollar on early trade on Friday, hovering below its 32-year low near 152 yen.

Turning to currency intervention, Suzuki said Japan was not targeting any specific levels when intervening in the currency market to prop up the yen.

Japan spent a record \$43 billion supporting the yen last month after it slumped to a 32-year low. In September, it conducted its first yen-buying intervention since 1998.

"Basically the exchange rates need to move stably reflecting fundamentals," Suzuki said.

"We cannot tolerate excessive fluctuations driven in particular by speculative trading, which could badly affect households and businesses," he said. "We will stick to our stance of taking necessary action if such moves emerge."



## “Cloudy Man” Goes to Azeri, Chinese, American Film Festivals

TEHRAN (MNA) - Written and directed by Shahin Jalali, the short film ‘Cloudy Man’ will take part at three film festivals in Azerbaijan, the United States, and China.

The 13th Baku International Short Film Festival, the Route 66 International Film Festival, and the Hong Kong International Film Festival will host the Iranian short film ‘Cloudy Man’.

The 13th Baku International Film Festival will be held from November 11 to 15, in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The 21st edition of the Route 66 International Film Festival will be held from November 4 to 14, 2022.



# Gentrification Fuels Ire in Iconic Athens Neighborhood

ATHENS (Dispatches) - The historic Athens district of Exarcheia has been a famed anti-establishment haven to some and a hideout for firebomb-wielding anarchists and drug dealers to others.

Now two regeneration projects are sparking controversy, protests and fears that a gentrification drive will forever alter the 19th century district’s bohemian character.

Construction is underway on a new metro station on Exarcheia Square -- for years iconic as the culmination point of countless demonstrations in the volatile political culture of the Greek capital.

There is also an ongoing makeover of nearby Strefi Hill, a rare, albeit run-down spot of greenery in congested Athens with a panoramic view.

Protesters say the two projects combined will “kill off” Exarcheia’s libertarian spirit.

With discontent bubbling under the surface, multi-million-euro investments at stake and demonstrations, locals now complain that Exarcheia has more police guarding its streets than outside parliament or government offices.

City and government officials are taking no chances in a neighbourhood synonymous to most Greeks with far-left unrest.

Under Strefi Hill, motorcycle police watch a group of teenagers shoot hoops at an outdoor basketball court. Others stand guard around the metro construction site.

“We have more police than the prime minister’s office,” quips 66-year-old Thodoris Kokkinakis, a lifelong Exarcheia resident who says he sees around 200 officers in his neighbourhood at any given time of the day.

Residents accuse city officials of neglecting the heavily graffitied Strefi Hill for over two decades. The local playground is gutted, pathways are eroding, fire hydrants are faulty and there is no garbage collection.

Residents have often banded together in the past to clean up garbage, douse fires and discourage drug trading, Kokkinakis told AFP.

“We would repeatedly call the police. They claimed not to know where the hill was... or never turn up,” he said.

While the metro station project has been on the drawing board for over a decade, opponents accuse the conservative government of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis of weaponising the project as part of its law-and-order agenda.

“The government has a political obsession, a vendetta towards youths living or enjoying themselves in this historic district,” wrote Nikos Belavilas, an architecture professor at the National Technical University of Athens, on Facebook.

After police in October beat up a protesting resident in front of his children, Greece’s main opposition Syriza party said there was an “explosive mix” of “chronic neglect, unchecked real estate and police barbarity” in Exarcheia.

Yet others welcome the extension of the metro line.

“The nearest stations are too far to walk,” said a 75-year-old Exarcheia pensioner. “A lot of people here want the metro” but are reluctant to speak openly, she added, declining to give her name to avoid antagonising neighbours who disagree.

Athens Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis, whose office did not respond to an AFP request for an interview, has dismissed protesters as “a few dozen” wandering “nihillists” in comments to Skai TV last August.



He told the municipal council last month that the regeneration project was aimed at “mums with prams”. Greece is banking hard on tourism to shore up its economy ahead of a tough winter compounded by soaring energy prices.

After slashing most of its coronavirus restrictions, tourism arrivals more than doubled year-on-year in the first eight months of 2022, to over 19 million.

But residents fear Exarcheia may soon follow the fate of Koukaki, another historic Athens district that saw rents skyrocket due to short-term property rentals and holiday lets owing to its proximity to the Acropolis.

A study by the Greek realtor group Remax last month showed Exarcheia rents rising on average 18 percent since last year.

“The shop next door had to shut down after the landlord hiked the rent from 600 to 900 euros,” says Angelos, a bookstore owner a short distance from Exarcheia Square.

Critics also view with suspicion the awarding, without tender, of the Strefi works to a major Greek real estate investment company.

Athens’ mayor -- a nephew of Mitsotakis -- has also drawn fire and comparisons to France’s 16th and 17th century spendthrift King Louis XIV over an ambitious pedestrianisation project.

A key part of the 50-million-euro (\$49 million) Great Walk project, sold as “Europe’s loveliest promenade”, involved sealing off a lane on one of Athens’ busiest avenues with large palm trees, flower planters and benches.

The mayor has promoted the project, which began in 2020, as necessary to modernize and revitalize downtown Athens. “Fewer cars, more greenery, less noise, more pedestrians and cyclists,” he told Kathimerini newspaper last month.

But a year into the four-year project, a survey found in 2021 that over 85 percent of residents and local business owners were dissatisfied with the initiative.

Much of the criticism has been levelled at the cost. According to a municipal budget sheet published at the time, some six-meter palm trees cost 3,200 euros each and the largest planters a hefty 5,000 euros.

## EU Approves Preventative Treatment For Common Infant Virus



PARIS (Dispatches) - The European Union has approved a preventative treatment for the very common virus that causes the chest infection bronchiolitis in infants, the companies that developed the drug said.

The greenlight from the European Commission comes as several countries have seen surging cases of bronchiolitis put pressure on hospitals.

British-Swedish pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca and France’s Sanofi said their approved drug nirsevimab, marketed as Beyfortus, was the first treatment to prevent severe illness from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in all infants.

RSV infects nearly all children by the age of two, the companies said. It is the most common cause of bronchiolitis, a respiratory infection that is normally mild but in some cases can make infants seriously ill.

While not a vaccine, nirsevimab has a similar aim: to give protection against RSV with a single injection.

It is a monoclonal antibody treatment, which directly arms the body to fight against the disease, rather than a vaccine which triggers the immune system’s own antibodies.

“Today is a landmark day for RSV prevention, as decades of research and development come together in the world’s first approval of a broadly protective option against RSV disease,” Sanofi’s vaccine executive vice president Thomas Triomphe said in a statement.

The drug will not be available to help fight this season of bronchiolitis in the Northern Hemisphere, which has spurred the highest rate of hospitalisations for the disease in years in France.

“Beyfortus will be available for the next season -- 2023 -- of bronchiolitis,” Sanofi told AFP.

## Dream New Zealand Job Becomes a Flight of Fancy

WELLINGTON (Dispatches) - From Colombia to Sweden, applicants are lining up for what has been touted as a dream job in the ruggedly beautiful New Zealand wilderness watching over a shy flightless bird.

The job, like the bird, hardly got off the ground when it was first advertised by New Zealand’s Department of Conservation last month, attracting just three applicants.

But then word seeped out that the position of biodiversity supervisor in the tiny town of Haast involves hiking and riding in helicopters and jet boats through some of the world’s most beautiful scenery.

Would-be kiwi watchers have since flocked to put in their applications.

The primary task for the successful candidate will be to help protect rare species on the west coast of New Zealand’s South Island.



That includes a rare breed of kiwi — the bird, not the fruit — as well as patrolling the spectacular landscape and watching over penguins and lizards.

The department has now received as many as 1,400 applications, from as far afield as Finland, Romania, Paraguay and South Africa.

Operations manager Wayne Costello said the latest response has been overwhelming.

“I have an Instagram account and my number is on WhatsApp, so I started having quite a few requests from Colombia, Romania and Sweden, all around the world,” Costello told AFP on Thursday.

“I might have to go and change a few search engines,” he said.

The deadline for applications was extended until the end of October, and Costello said the list had been whittled down to “40 or 50” suitable candidates.

## Iran Defense Ministry...

FROM PAGE 1

“Bavar-373 system was initially capable of destroying targets at 200 kilometers and now the upgraded system, aiming to attack targets at very long ranges, [including] ballistic missiles, fighter aircraft, and bombers can destroy targets at 300 kilometers,” Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said on Sunday during the unveiling ceremony.

The missile system can engage up to six targets at a time and destroy them, he said, stressing that many technologically advanced countries aspire to possess such a system.

According to a report in the long-range test of the Bavar-373 system, a stationary target was detected at a range of more than 450 kilometers by the optimized radar of the Bavar 373 system, and it was tracked at a range of about 405 kilometers and was hit and destroyed at a range of more than 300 kilometers.

The Bavar-373 system detection radar was said to have increased from 350 to 450 kilometers, and the range of its engagement range has risen from 260 to 400 kilometers, the report added.

It also noted that the missile range has gone from 200 to 300 kilometers, and its engagement altitude has increased from 27 to 32 kilometers.

The report also announced the launching of the Sayad B4 missile’s production line (pictured below), saying the long-range missile, running on solid propellant, was operationally evaluated for the first time.

The Bavar-373 system was formally unveiled during a ceremony attended by former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on August 22, 2019. It was reported at the time that the road-mobile system can detect targets or planes at more than 300 kilometers, lock them at about 250 kilometers, and destroy them at 200 kilometers.

Iran for the first time employed the homegrown Bavar-373 missile defense system during a joint air defense exercise, codenamed ‘Guardians of Velayat Sky-99’, in late October 2020.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made substantial headway in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sphere.

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, saying the Islamic Republic’s defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

## Iran’s Rights of...

FROM PAGE 1

Although foreign ministry spokesman refuted this report, Iran’s rights are preserved to give due response to Saudi Arabia or any country which takes evil action against Tehran.

The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) was the one who warned enemies after this report that the Islamic Republic will definitely avenge their “interventionist and mischievous actions.”

Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks in Tehran on Friday while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the nationwide rallies to commemorate the anniversary of the U.S. embassy takeover in 1979, better known as “Den of Espionage,” which is named the National Day against Global Arrogance.

“The enemies are well aware that we will definitely respond to their interventionist and mischievous behavior; but now, we cannot say where and how this will take place,” Salami stated. Whoever disturbs the Iranian nation’s peace will never enjoy peace, he said.

Pointing to the people’s massive participation in the rallies, he said there is no danger against the Islamic Revolution due to the fact that “the enemies of our country are disappointed with the outcome of their actions against these people.”

“Those enemies who said they were not focusing on the revival of the JCPOA (the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) have now focused on Iran’s internal affairs,” the IRGC chief said.

“The enemies have put their forces on alert and are worried the Islamic Republic may take action against them. Accordingly, they have now retreated into a defensive shell for fear of Iran’s action. Indeed, this demonstrates the truth about us,” Salami stated.

Referring to the riots in Iran sparked by the death of a young Iranian woman in police custody last month, the Iranian general said Iran has warned the main culprits to stop walking such a “perilous” path, which has been outlined by adversaries to mislead people.

Of course Western media and hostile countries try to provoke Tehran for an unwise and hasty reaction to increase more pressure on Tehran through imposition of more sanctions especially through the UN Resolution but Tehran is wise enough in order not to fall in the trap of them but they should not forget this fact that Tehran has promised to take revenge of anyone who tries to take evil action against it and it will have due responses in due times for any atrocities so Iran’s rights are preserved for giving due response to countries like Saudi Arabia or the U.S. as the countdown has begun but no one but Iranian officials know the exact time of punishing the offenders.

## IRGC Launches...

FROM PAGE 1

Previous launches have drawn criticism from the United States and its allies, which have long been wary of Iran’s satellite program as the same technology can be used to develop long-range missiles. Iran says its satellite program is aimed at scientific research and other civilian applications.

Hajizadeh emphasized that the Iranian youths are overcoming the “heaviest” sanctions in history to make such great achievements. Iran has over the past years succeeded in manufacturing and putting into space different satellites as well as launching various carriers.

Late in June, Iran tested its domestically-developed hybrid-propellant satellite carrier rocket called Zuljanah for “predetermined research purposes” for the second time.





## Muscat Leads Marinos To J-League Title

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Australian manager Kevin Muscat said it felt "a little bit surreal" after leading Yokohama F Marinos to the J-League title in Japan on Saturday after a nervy end to the season. Marinos lifted the trophy after a 3-1 win away to Vissel Kobe on the final day, clinching the title two points ahead of defending champions Kawasaki Frontale, who beat FC Tokyo 3-2. Muscat follows in the footsteps of current Celtic manager and Australian compatriot Ange Postecoglou, who led Marinos to the title in 2019.

## Chilwell to Miss World Cup With Hamstring Injury

LONDON (Dispatches) - England's Ben Chilwell will miss the World Cup in Qatar with an injury, the Chelsea fullback said after scans showed he had suffered significant damage to his hamstring. Chilwell pulled up in stoppage time of Chelsea's 2-1 Champions League win over Dinamo Zagreb on Wednesday. The 25-year-old grabbed the back of his left thigh after making a sprint, falling to the ground. He was helped from the field by Chelsea's medical staff and was pictured leaving Stamford Bridge on crutches. The Premier League club confirmed on Saturday that he had "suffered a significant injury".

# Short-Handed Warriors Cap 0-5 Trip

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Brandon Ingram returned from a four-game absence caused by a concussion to score a game-high 26 points as the host New Orleans Pelicans held off the short-handed Golden State Warriors 114-105. Larry Nance Jr. and CJ McCollum added 20 points each, Zion Williamson scored 16 and Trey Murphy III and Jose Alvarado had 10 points each. Jordan Poole scored 20, Jonathan Kuminga and Ty Jerome had 18 each, Anthony Lamb scored 16 and Moses Moody had 14 for the Warriors, who completed an 0-5 trip and dropped to 0-6 on the road. Golden State played without Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Andrew Wiggins because of injury maintenance.

### Trail Blazers 108, Suns 106

Jerami Grant sank a fadeaway jumper from the right baseline as time expired to give Portland a dramatic victory over host Phoenix. Grant scored a season-best 30 points as the Blazers defeated the Suns for the second time this season. Jusuf Nurkic recorded 14 points and eight rebounds, and Justise Winslow had 12 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. Devin Booker scored 25 points for Phoenix, which had a five-game winning streak halted. Deandre Ayton contributed 24 points and eight rebounds after missing the previous two games with an ankle injury. Damian Lillard (calf) and Anfernee Simons (foot) sat out.

### Nets 128, Wizards 86

Kevin Durant collected 28 points, a season-high 11 assists and nine rebounds to help visiting Brooklyn overcome the absence of Kyrie Irving and breeze to a victory over Washington.

Durant, who is from the Washington D.C. area, made 10 of 21 shots from the floor and all six attempts from the free-throw line. Nic Claxton recorded 18 points and nine rebounds while Cam Thomas contributed 17 points and six assists off the bench. Royce O'Neale added 13 points with eight assists and Edmond Sumner had 11 points while making the start in place of Irving.

Irving sat out the first contest of his team-imposed suspension that spans "no less than five games" after he failed to formally apologize for the hurt caused by his posts following his promotion of a book and film with antisemitic messages. For the Wizards, Bradley Beal scored 20 points, Kyle Kuzma had 19 and Kristaps Porzingis collected 14 points and 10 rebounds.



### Bucks 115, Timberwolves 102

Jrue Holiday scored 29 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo recorded his first triple-double of the season as Milwaukee improved to 8-0 for the first time in franchise history with a win over Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Antetokounmpo finished with 26 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists. Bobby Portis added 18 points, rookie MarJon Beauchamp scored a career-high 14 and Grayson Allen chipped in 10 for Milwaukee, which never trailed after the opening two minutes and led by as many as 22 points in the third quarter. Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 24 points, while Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points, 11 rebounds and five assists.

### Mavericks 111, Raptors 110

Luka Doncic scored 35 points and made some history as Dallas held on to defeat visiting Toronto. Doncic has scored 30 or more points in each of his first eight games of the season, a feat accomplished previously by one player: Wilt Chamberlain (1959-60, eight games; and 1962-63, 23 games). Spencer Dinwiddie had 21 points for Dallas, which has won three in a row. Christian Wood added 13 points, and Dorian Finney-Smith had 11 points.

The Raptors lost Pascal Siakam to a groin injury late in the third quarter, and he did not return. He had 18 points in 32 minutes. O.G. Anunoby scored 27 points for the Raptors.

### Pacers 101, Heat 99

Buddy Hield tied his season high with 25 points, leading Indiana to a win over Miami in Indianapolis.

Miami's Tyler Herro, who had a game-high 29 points, missed a would-be winning 3-pointer off the front rim at the buzzer. Miami, which was without leading scorer Jimmy Butler for a second straight game due to a sore left hip, also received 18 points and 10 rebounds from Bam Adebayo. Max Strus added 17 points, Gabe Vincent had 15 and Kyle Lowry 10.

Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton had a near triple-double with 22 points, nine assists and nine rebounds. Benedict Mathurin, Indiana's rookie first-round pick, added 23 points off the bench, going 10 for 12 from the foul line.



## Wolves Name Lopetegui As New Head Coach

WOLVERHAMPTON (Dispatches) - Wolverhampton Wanderers have appointed Spaniard Julen Lopetegui as their new head coach, the relegation-threatened Premier League club announced.

Former Spain, Real Madrid and Sevilla coach Lopetegui replaces caretaker manager Steve Davis, who was put in charge of the team following Bruno Lage's dismissal last month.

Lopetegui will take up the role after the club's league fixture against Arsenal on Nov. 12. The 56-year-old had been linked with a move to Wolves last month, but initially turned down the offer, according to reports in British media.

"Julen is a top coach, with excellent experience at an elite level of the game, and we are very pleased to have agreed a deal to bring him to Wolves," Wolves chairman Jeff Shi said in a statement.

"Since the very beginning, Julen has been our number one choice to manage Wolves, and we look forward to welcoming him and his team when they join us in the coming weeks."

Lopetegui began his coaching career in Spain's youth set-up, before spells at Rayo Vallecano in the Spanish second division and Portuguese club Porto.

He took over as Spain coach in 2016 following the retirement of Vicente Del Bosque, leaving to become Real Madrid manager in 2018. He was dismissed just three months into his stint with the Spanish giants.

Lopetegui's most successful foray into club management came at Sevilla, leading them to the Europa League title in 2020, but he was sacked by the LaLiga side last month after a poor run of results left them 17th in the standings.

## Sabalenka Knocks Pegula Out of WTA Finals

FORT WORTH (Dispatches) - Aryna Sabalenka eliminated Jessica Pegula from the WTA Finals with a 6-3 7-5 group stage victory yesterday and will have to wait to see how the match between Ons Jabeur and Maria Sakkari plays out to see if she reaches the semi-finals. Belarusian world number seven Sabalenka, who finished the group stage with a 2-1 record, advances if Sakkari wins one set. If the Greek drops a set, or even loses in three sets, there are still mathematical possibilities for Sabalenka to progress.

Sabalenka made a blistering start, breaking Pegula to open the match and again for a 5-2 lead. World number three Pegula then fought off four set points to break straight back but Sabalenka broke to love in the next game to wrap up the set.

Pegula fell behind 2-0 in the second but fought back before Sabalenka, at 3-3, delivered a love hold and then came back from 40-15 down for a crushing service break before the top-ranked American returned the favour to extend the set.

But Sabalenka held to love for the third time in the set and fourth in the match for a 6-5 lead and then closed it out on her second match point when she ripped a backhand crosscourt winner.

"She's an amazing player and she made me really work tonight," Sabalenka said in her on-court interview. "Just happy that I was really focused from the beginning to the end and I was able to finish this match in two sets."

## South Korea Confirm Successful Son Surgery

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korean superstar Son Heung-min has undergone a successful surgery following a facial injury, the country's football federation said, but declined to say if he will be ready for the World Cup in Qatar. The Tottenham Hotspur forward sustained the nasty injury — reportedly multiple fractures to his eye socket — during a Champions League win over Marseille this week.



# Eriksen Brings Calm to Denmark Squad

COPENHAGEN (Dispatches) - Denmark's number 10, Christian Eriksen, will be a quiet but inspirational figure for his team during the World Cup, after his sudden cardiac arrest during a Euro 2020 game traumatised a nation.

The Middelfart-born playmaker spent eight months out following his collapse on June 12, 2021. He returned in a Premier League game for Brentford on February 26 this year. A few weeks later, he was back playing for Denmark in a game against the Netherlands. Even though the Danish squad proved their worth without him, reaching the semi-

finals of the Euro and easily qualifying for the World Cup, Eriksen's return was warmly welcomed.

"His return to the team less than one year after, it's a little cliché to say but it's a fairytale story which almost seems unreal," Andreas Kraul, a sports commentator for broadcaster DR, told AFP.

"And from the minute he was back, he has made a difference," Kraul added.

At press conferences, coach Kasper Hjulmand has praised Eriksen's contribution to the team.

"The Danish national football team is better with than without Christian Eriksen, because his calmness is infectious, so the whole team is better able to make the right decisions," Hjulmand said recently.

## Djokovic Sets Up Paris Masters Final With Rune

PARIS (Dispatches) - Defending champion Novak Djokovic set up a Paris Masters final against Holger Rune by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2 3-6 7-6(4) to continue his outstanding recent run of form.

The six-time champion extended his winning streak to 13 matches in his hunt for a third consecutive ATP title, but he was pushed hard by his Greek opponent.

Djokovic will face Holger Rune in the final, after the Danish teenager overcome Felix Auger-Aliassime in straight sets.

Fifth seed Tsitsipas, who, like Djokovic, was yet to drop a set ahead of the match, was broken twice in the opening set and couldn't make any progress on the Serbian's imperious serve.

The Serbian was almost faultless as he took the first set in just 31 minutes, but he was faced with a much sterner challenge in the second.

Tsitsipas began to put pressure on the Djokovic serve and pounced on his first break point opportunity to go 3-2 up, before breaking again late in the set to take it 6-3 and set up a decider.



## World Cup Organizers Recruit Fans to Sing Qatar's Praise

PARIS (Dispatches) - A scheme by World Cup organizers to recruit fans to act as cheerleaders for Qatar as well as their nations, has brought jeers from some supporters.

Fans who accept will receive free hotel rooms, match tickets and a daily allowance. In return, they are expected to live up the opening ceremony and to post positive social media comments about the host country, according to supporters' accounts and documents seen by AFP.

Organizers confirmed in a statement that Qatar is paying for fans from the 32 competing nations to attend the World Cup but said that reports that it was paying for "coordinated promotion" were "absolutely false".

Other sporting events have used the same system. Qatar approached hundreds of football bloggers, influencers and leaders of fan associations offering to make them "Fan Leaders".

"We gagged on reading the document," said Fabien Bonnel, spokesman for the French Irresistibles, a group of fans contacted in 2021.

