

**Health Ministry Announced on Sunday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 144,612 With Two More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours**

# IRAN NEWS

**Head of the National Iranian Oil Company Says in All Oil and Gas Contracts With Contractors Both Sides Sign an Agreement on Keeping Confidential the Details and He Is Russia Will Not Reveal the Details of Contracts**

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**President Calls for More Talks With Moscow On Expanding Ties**

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi tells his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin that increased political and economic consultations between the two countries will play a leading role in the expansion of mutual relations. In a phone call with his Russian counterpart on Saturday, Raisi welcomed Moscow's keenness to improve economic cooperation with Tehran. He said the expansion of infrastructural bonds, including the development of connecting routes among the Eurasian countries, would boost trade and economic cooperation in the region. Putin, for his part, said the North-South Corridor plays an effective role in reducing the cost of transporting goods, adding that the transit route would turn into a useful way for the expansion of trade and economic cooperation in the world. The Russian president emphasized that Tehran and Moscow enjoy great capacities to develop cooperation. In a statement earlier in the day, the Kremlin said the Iranian and Russian presidents had, in their phone call, stressed the importance of deepening bilateral cooperation in political, trade and economic fields as well as in transport and the logistics sector. **See Page 7**

**Tehran Slams German Chancellor, French President Over Interventionist Remarks**



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

Iran's Foreign Ministry has lambasted the German chancellor's recent stance against the Islamic Republic and his latest comments in support of the western-instigated riots in Iran as "meddlesome, provocative and undiplomatic". Nasser Kanaani made the remarks after Olaf Scholz criticized the Iranian government for what he claimed was "brutal crackdown" on violent protests after the September's death of a young Iranian woman of Kurdish descent in the capital Tehran. Kan'ani said the so-called human rights advocates have forgotten their "dark record" against the honorable people of Iran during their "blind and inhumane" support for the Saddam regime, pointing out Saddam's eight-year foreign-backed invasion of Iran. He added that they used human rights as a "tool for political games" by supporting cruel sanctions imposed on Iran after the US withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, as well as keeping silent on acts of terror by Daesh, the latest of which was the terrorist attack in Shiraz. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman underlined that the will of the Islamic Republic, in the fundamental principles of human rights, is confronting oppression and defending the oppressed. However, Kanaani said, Germany, presenting itself as a defender of human rights, evades its international responsibility to respect the sovereignty of countries, and provides refuge for terrorist and separatist groups opposing the Islamic Republic. The Iranian diplomat also rebuked Germany for adopting a "selective and dual approach" against the crimes of the child-killing Zionist regime in all parts of the world, including Palestine. Calling on the German officials to bring rationality back to the atmosphere of cooperation and prevent a further mess in bilateral relations with Iran, Kanaani stressed that respect and mutual interests are the sole way to enduring cooperation. Scholz claimed on Saturday that Germany would stand "shoulder to shoulder" with the Iranian people in their violent protests and riots across the country, accusing the Iranian government of being "solely responsible for this spate of violence." Meanwhile Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned a meeting between French President Emmanuel Macron and a US-based anti-Iran figure as a reprehensible show of support for recent western-provoked riots in the country. Kanaani made the condemnation in a statement on Sunday after a meeting that took place on the sidelines of the Paris Peace Forum between Macron and Masih Alinejad, an exiled Iranian-American journalist who is on Washington's payroll for instigating anti Iran sentiments inside and outside Iran, and those accompanying her at the Elysee Palace. "It is surprising that the president of a country claiming to support freedom, lowers his level and meets with a hated pawn who, in the recent months, has clearly tried to spread hatred, violence and terrorist acts in the Islamic Republic of Iran and also against its diplomatic missions as well as diplomats of the Islamic Republic abroad," Kanaani said in the statement published on the Foreign Ministry's website. Kanaani also called the statements quoted from Macron that the French president supports the so-called "revolution" in Iran as "regrettable and a cause for shame." The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman added that, "The meeting is a flagrant violation of France's international responsibilities in fighting terrorism and violence, and is regarded as a promotion of these vicious phenomena." Kanaani also underlined that such anti-Iran measures will undoubtedly be kept in the memory of the great Iranian nation, who are well aware of the selective approaches of some European leaders in breach of human rights. Macron's meeting comes in yet another belligerent move against the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation while the embattled French president and his administration is already engulfed by a vortex of political and economic woes amid the Yellow Vest movement.

**IRGC Not Allow Anyone To Interfere, Invade Iran**

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps says the brave forces of IRGC will not allow any foreigner to interfere and invade the country. Resistance of people in support of truth will thwart the enemy's plots, Brigadier General Ali Fadavi the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said on Sunday. "In order to be independent, we need to have complete independence in science, technology, economy, and culture, which are the main signs of a society's identity," he pointed out. Emphasizing that no one should decide about the future of the Iranian nation, he stated, "This is our message, if anyone seeks to decide our fate, we will deal with them seriously." "We will not allow anyone to interfere in the country's affairs," General Fadavi noted, stressing that Iran's power is unstoppable. Elsewhere in his remarks, General Fadavi said that today achieving new maritime technologies is one of the components of Iran's power.

**ViewPoint**  
By: Hamid Reza Naghashian  
**Enemies Benefit Violence in Iran**

For couple of weeks the Islamic Republic of Iran has been challenging with some unrests and better to say with riots which has been triggered by a simple accident and unfortunately it has been spread through the enemies' propagation and this bitter incident makes us ask this question who benefits the current condition and violence in the country. Iranian people mostly support the Islamic Revolution and of course some want some reforms in the system but they are not ready to clash with the system because of the country's integrity and respecting the majority but unfortunately few people have fallen in the trap of the enemies or they are themselves enemies of the Islamic Revolution and have begun damaging the country and they will be undoubtedly stopped by the nation and security forces soon. But this vicious violence which has been triggered and fanned by the enemies is just in favor of enemies and not of the people, and people should not follow this wrong road which will harm the country no matter they are pro-government or not because enemies make most of it to slow down progresses in Iran. The West has started its propaganda war and tried to magnify any incident in the country to encourage other countries for punishing Tehran while the West itself is the main violator of human rights in the world and there are many samples for this claim. Now a high-ranking official is New York to fight with this misinformation and propaganda war and he has started it with logical remarks in New York in condemning the riots in the country and support of the West. Iran's top human rights official said the Islamic Republic will not allow the "false and hostile" narrative of the United States and western governments regarding recent riots in Iran to divert the attention of the other world countries. Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, made the remark upon his arrival in New York to participate in the meetings of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and to hold bilateral and multilateral consultations with various judicial heads of states. "Regretfully, nowadays, [the issue of] human rights is politicized more than ever before. We are witnessing that the countries which consider themselves the flagbearer of rights advocacy, specifically the United States and some Western countries, blatantly violate human rights in their own territories or in other countries," Gharibabadi told reporters in New York. **See Page 7**

**U.S. Prevented Lebanon From Receiving 600,000 Tons of Iranian Fuel**

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - A high-ranking official with the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has said that the United States prevented crisis-hit Lebanon from receiving the fuel shipment to ease power outages amid the deepening economic crisis. Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem made the remarks in a post published on his Twitter page following a recent drone strike against an Iranian fuel convoy heading to Lebanon through Syria. "The U.S. prevented Lebanon from receiving 600 thousand tons of Iranian fuel, estimated to be worth \$350 million, which could provide 5 to 6 hours of daily power supply for several months," he tweeted. Earlier this week, Vice President of the Executive Council of Hezbollah Sheikh Ali Damoush said the US wants to deepen and exacerbate crises in Lebanon, and push the country to the brink of a social explosion, noting that a straightforward example of such an approach is the latest comments by Barbara Leaf, assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, at an event hosted by the Wilson Center in Washington DC on Friday. **See Page 7**

**RZD Logistics Boosts Russian Trade With Rail Link Via Iran to India**

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - RZD Logistics, a subsidiary of Russian railway monopoly RZD, has begun regular container train services from Moscow to Iran to serve growing trade with India by transloading. This is aimed at maximizing use of the alternative International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a Central Asia cross-border multimodal freight network helping the two strategic partners work around supply chain challenges created by western sanctions on Russia. With one round-trip a month, RZD links Chekhov, near Moscow, via Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, to Bandar Abbas, Iran's busiest port, where containers are loaded onto ships to Nhava Sheva (JNPT), the major gateway on India's west coast. The inland-ocean leg involves an estimated transit time of 35 days, compared with about 40 with previous traditional shipping, according to industry sources. "On the way back, the train will be loaded with products for the Russian market," said RZD. **See Page 7**

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## Iran Dismantles Int'l Drug Trafficking Network

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Ministry of Intelligence said on Sunday that it has dismantled a major international drug trafficking network, which operated using foreign nationals and distributed some 300 to 400 kilograms of drugs in Iran every day.

Iranian Ministry of Intelligence said on Sunday that extensive international drug trafficking and distribution team used foreign nationals and adopted professional methods under the guise of the public transport fleet.

Accordingly, this team was arrested for transporting large shipments of narcotics from the eastern borders of Iran.

## Iran-Venezuela Relations Grow In Recent Years

TEHRAN (MNA) – The relations between Iran and Venezuela have grown in the framework of the 20-year development roadmap of the two countries in recent years, said the head of the Joint Economic Commission of Iran and Venezuela.

Iran's Minister of Defense Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani who heads the two-day 9th meeting of the Iran-Venezuela Joint Economic Cooperation Commission which is underway in Tehran, said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran and Venezuela as two independent countries with close and common positions regarding many regional and international issues such as independence, the right to self-determination, multilateralism and the need to deal with oppressive sanctions, as well as the development and deepening of bilateral cooperation, have the necessary cooperation in all scientific, economic, industrial, agricultural, energy and cultural dimensions."

"Iran is pleased to host this major economic event and considers it an opportunity to expand the strategic relations between the two countries as well as expand economic and commercial cooperation in various fields between the public and private sectors of the two countries," he added.

The 9th meeting of the Iran-Venezuela Joint Economic Cooperation Commission is trying to increase the process of trade relations between the two countries in the context of economic diplomacy, the strategic advantages and the interactions of the parties, especially in dealing with oppressive sanctions, Ashtiani said.



He went on to say, "Holding an exclusive exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of science, technology and industry in 2022 in the city of Caracas, signing numerous technological understandings between the two sides and commercial and economic exchanges between the two countries have been among the most important actions within the past year."

Referring to the goals and priorities of the commission, Ashtiani said that in the new round of cooperation between the parties, actualizing existing capacities, defining new areas of cooperation, using the capacity of private and knowledge-based companies alongside state companies and organizations, as well as the presence of successful Iranian companies in Venezuela are among the goals of the joint commission.

The relations between Iran and Venezuela have grown in the framework of the 20-year development roadmap of the two countries in recent years under the leadership of the presidents of the two countries, he noted, adding that greater coordination and synergy between the different sectors of the two countries will remove existing obstacles and find solutions based on deepening relations.

"We are sure that with the effort, will, and expansion of cooperation, the commission will become a special and effective place in the relations between the two countries."

## Malaysian, Iranian Education Centers Sign MoU



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education (IRPHE) and the Universiti Sains Malaysia or University of Science, Malaysia, have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the aim of upgrading cooperation at international level.

The MoU paves the way for holding joint research and academic programs as well as educational workshops, and exchanging students and publications.

Ali-Bagher Taherinia, chairman of the Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education, said on Sunday that the MoU, which was prepared in cooperation with the Higher Education Institute of Malaysia in 2019 and is being extended today, should be inked on the basis of a new approach to expand collaborations.

He mentioned that the three-year-long activities have focused on scientific meetings and workshops, but we are keen on reaching the level of sharing policies and experiences because we are enthusiastic to know what is Malaysia's approach to dealing with international developments concerning higher education.

Morshidi Sirat, Professor of Geography at the School of Humanities, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang and the Director of the IPPTN, said that there has been a MoU between the governments of Iran and Malaysia, but we are preparing a new one.

Sirat went on to say that the MoU between IRPHE and Sains can turn into a prelude to a broader agreement to expand current cooperation.

Muhammad Muftahu, the acting director of IPPTN, said that one of the simplest ways to boost collaborations is to start small projects, and then, expand them to national or multinational cooperation.

Muftahu also said that we have a worldwide higher education network at our institute, whose members are top professors, academic directors, and industrial prominent figures, who are not merely famous at the regional level, and that this is a good pattern for establishing a regional network, which can be added to the current MoU.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organization Seeks Global Peace

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarz-Zadeh has said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) seeks global peace and aims to promote the world order.

In an interview with the Chinese People's Daily Online, the Iranian ambassador said that the SCO also aims to help offer better solutions to the issues faced by its member states, as well as the region.

In a question on the importance of Iran's joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Keshavarz-Zadeh said that the SCO has member states from Central and Eastern Asia, as well as other regions, and can serve as a platform for Iran to develop ties with all of those countries.

The SCO is the only organization in the world, which has no Western state as its member, he said, adding that Iran will see benefits of such an organization in the future.

In response to another question that some Western countries compare the SCO with NATO, the Iranian envoy said that such a comparison is wrong, because the SCO is an inclusive organization, and unlike NATO, it is not a military alliance.

The SCO was not established during the Cold War. It is an organization for cooperation, which has been formed with the aim of achieving a win-win situation and offering better solutions to the issues that the Asian countries face, he added.

The Iranian envoy also said that the SCO seeks global peace and aims to improve the world order, but NATO seeks to be dominant and has created conflicts in Europe, like the ongoing one between Russia and Ukraine. That's while, he added, the SCO does not want to be dominant, which is the reason why it is successful.

"The policies and performance of NATO are weakening the world peace," the ambassador stressed.

On fighting terrorism, Keshavarz-Zadeh said that Iran is one of the victims of terror, and having cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization would help the country uproot terrorism.

The Iranian envoy, speaking on the West's criticism of the human rights situation in China, said that Western countries, including the US, are using the human rights issue as a tool to interfere in China's affairs and pressure the country in order to create hurdles in its path of progress that's taking place very fast.

And, on bilateral relations between Tehran and Beijing, Keshavarz-Zadeh said that China is the biggest trade partner of Iran; the two countries have good ties, with their leaders constantly being engaged in close contact.

## Tehran-Moscow Ties, Successful Diplomacy Model

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The former director of international affairs of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said when the memorandums between Tehran and Moscow become contracts, other countries, such as the Caspian Sea littoral states, will be encouraged to cooperate with Iran more than before to access high seas.

Mohammad Ali Khatibi stated that the holding of the 16th joint economic commission between Iran and Russia and the signed memorandums indicate a new and strategic atmosphere in the relations between the two countries, and said that cooperation between Iran and Russia has entered a strategic stage and the two countries are considered as strategic partners of each other from now on.

He added: "Right now, we are witnessing that a significant part of the agreements between Iran and Russia worth \$40 billion is becoming contracts, among which the development of oil and gas fields and the development of relations in the economic fields are of double importance."

The former director of international affairs of NIOC, referring to the contract for the purchase and construction



of downhole pumps between the executive headquarters of Setad Farman Imam (RA) and Russian companies, said: "Using the technology available in these pumps, we can increase the production of low-yield oil wells, hence it can be said that cooperation with Russian knowledge-based companies will be very profitable for Iran's oil industry in the future."

Khatibi added: "Iran and Russia's determination to cooperate in the field of the oil industry and economic and banking relations to break the sanctions is serious. The cooperation capacities between the two countries are becoming actual day by day."

Emphasizing that the relations between Iran and Russia are becoming a successful model of diplomacy in the world, he said: "When the two sides' memorandums become contracts, other countries such as the Caspian Sea countries will be encouraged to cooperate with Iran to access high seas. Therefore, the operationalization of Iran-Russia agreements can reduce the doubts of other countries to increase relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

## Leader to Receive People From Central Province

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei is to receive people of different strata from the central Iranian province of Isfahan, a provincial official announced.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday (November 16) on the occasion of Day of Isfahan, Mohammad-Reza Jannesari, the province deputy governor for security and political affairs, was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, how to hold the meeting and details about it are the issues that are being followed up, the official added.

Isfahan Day commemorates 16 November 1982, the funeral ceremony of 370 martyrs of the Iraqi imposed war against Iran (1980-88).

## Hypersonic Ballistic Missiles Frustrated Enemies

TEHRAN (MNA) - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that the homegrown production of hypersonic ballistic missiles has completely disappointed enemies of the country.

Speaking in an open session of the Parliament on Sunday, Qalibaf pointed to the salient advantage of the newly-developed hypersonic ballistic missile by the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and stated that unprecedented maneuverability of breaking the record of the speed and ability to pass through the missile defense system and the ability to target them is one of the most important specifications of the recent achievements of scientists of the country.

He went on to say that both the government and Parliament have seriously determined to materialize the objectives of the country by taking advantage of all capacities to solve problems facing the people of the country.

## Iran Army Flotilla Docks At Indonesia's Port of Jakarta

TEHRAN (MNA) - The peace and friendship flotilla of the Iran Army Navy docked at the Port of Jakarta in Indonesia.

During an official ceremony attended by a group of Indonesian Navy commanders, the Iranian ambassador to Indonesia, as well as some Iranian political officials, the flotilla docked at the Port of Jakarta.

Umar Farouq, the commander of the third naval base of the Indonesian Navy expressed satisfaction with the presence of strategic naval vessels of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army in the capital of Indonesia, considering these relations as a guarantee of the deep bond between the two countries of Indonesia and Iran.

Referring to the long-standing and friendly relations between the two navies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia, Captain Farhad Fattahi, the commander of the flotilla, described the role of the countries bordering the Indian Ocean in creating peace and stability in the region as very important.

"The cooperation between the armed forces of Iran and Indonesia will be beneficial for peace and stability in the region and the whole world."

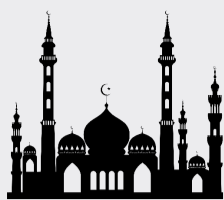
## Top Officials Stress Being In Close Contact With People

TEHRAN (MNA) - The heads of three power branches of the Iranian government emphasized President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Judiciary Chief Mohseni-Ejei, and Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf stressed the necessity of being in close contact with people in Saturday's joint meeting.

In Saturday evening meeting of the heads of the three branches, which was hosted by Raisi in the office of the President, the need to accelerate the submission of the Seventh Development Plan of the country through the Plan and Budget Organization to the government and the Islamic Consultative Assembly was emphasized.

The heads of the executive, legislative and judicial branches also called the presence of all the officials at different levels in public gatherings, especially the young, necessary.

In this meeting, it was emphasized to strengthen the cooperation and interaction of the three branches for more serious follow-up and double and coordinated efforts to solve the problems and shortcomings.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:17
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:13
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:40

22. "Now draw thy hand close to thy side:  
It shall come forth white (and shining), without harm (or stain),- as another Sign,-  
23. "In order that We may show thee (two) of our Greater Signs.

Surah 20. Ta-ha ( 22 - 23 )

## Mechanism for Transfer of Forex Between Iran, Oman Being Operationalized

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN - Undersecretary for Commerce and Industry at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion of Oman Mr. Saleh bin Said Masan in meeting with Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei announced talks between central banks of both countries for finding ways for transfer of forex and financial transactions.**

Said Masan who is leading a trade delegation to Tehran in meeting with Shafei exchanged views for removing hurdles in way of trade between Iran and Oman and finding ways for enhancing trade exchanges between the two states.

He admitted that the trade relation between Iran and Oman is not in the level of their political relation, adding that both sides try to increase their trade relation at least to 50% of their political relation. He acknowledged there are some challenges in way of trade relation between Iran and Oman, adding that despite efforts of both sides, these challenges still exist like problem in transfer of money between the two states and central banks of both countries have raised some initiatives to overcome these challenges.

Pointing to signing MoU on cooperation in the trade field and easing customs affairs, Said Masan said that some executive and technical groups of both countries have been formed to operationalize these agreements and it has been decided the results of studies of these groups to be presented in the joint commission of both countries in upcoming months.

He added that Oman government emphasizes joint investment between the two countries especially by private investors of Iran and Oman and reiterated that there is readiness in all levels for political, economic and public support from these investments and Oman is ready to hand over its industrial zones to Iranian companies and offer any required facilities for them.



Said Masan then pointed to lack of enough trust from Iranian traders for investment in Oman, adding that Oman is ready to do anything to create this trust, adding that Muscat welcomes any joint investment in the field of medicines and production. He went on to say that Oman is ready to provide required conditions for Iranian traders to set up medicine production line in Oman and actually his country is ready for implementation of any joint agreement.

He stated that health tourism attracts many Omanis to Iran annually, adding that despite the high trust of Omanis to Iranian doctors, this issue needs more coordination to move forward properly for both sides.

He then pointed to the inauguration of new flights between big cities of Iran and Muscat and announced readiness of Oman for launching direct flight between Muscat and Isfahan.

Meanwhile Head of ICCIMA Mr. Shafei, for his part, said that despite the existing restrictions, the trend of trade between both country is positive, adding that although this year the trade exchange between Iran and Oman is growing by 50% and has reached \$1.5b, at the same time despite the capacities for trade cooperation between the two countries, the current trade volume is not satisfactory.

He went on to say that due to favorable geographical location of Oman and economic advantages of trade between the two states, both countries can export their products to other countries especially to African states via Oman and both sides will benefit of it.

Shafei noted that there are high capacities for joint investment in tourism industry especially in health tourism for cooperation between the two states. He reiterated that ICCIMA in collaboration with Oman Chamber of Commerce have done great efforts for opening banking accounts for investment of Iranian traders in Oman and if these efforts bear fruit, it will play a key role in enhancing trade cooperation between Iran and Oman.

He also supported exchange of trade delegations between the two countries for knowing trade capacities of both countries, reiterating that exchange of information is important for trade delegations.

## Era of Crude Oil Not Over

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The Director of Development and Engineering Affairs of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) emphasized that the era of crude oil has not ended and that this energy carrier is still well received in the world.



"According to the statistics of future research institutes of reputable companies in the world, crude oil in the future will turn from a strategic commodity into a common commodity, in other words, the golden and attractive era of selling oil is now, not the future," said Reza Dehghan at the first national conference on enhancing the productivity of oil and gas wells at the specialized conference center of NIOC.

He said more than 110 years of oil and gas production in Iran has been going on and in these years this industry has been accompanied by many ups and downs. Unfortunately, in the last few decades, due to various reasons, including imposed war, international sanctions and internal administrative paperwork, the speed of development of this industry has slowed down.

The NIOC official said: "According to the latest annual statistical report of BP, in 2022, with 156 billion barrels of oil in place (9% of the world's oil resources), after Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Canada, Iran will be the world's 4th biggest owner of oil reserves, but with the production of eight percent of the world's crude oil, our country is the world's 8th largest producer of the item."

He said that more than half of the world's crude oil reserves have been produced, adding: So far, after 110 years, Iran has recovered only a little more than a third of its oil reserves. In other words, Iran has not been able to produce more than 4 million barrels of oil per day on average during the last five decades."

Dehghan clarified: "All the big companies in the world such as Mackenzie, Chevron, BP and Totalenergies have future research institutes. According to some charts in the statistics of these institutes, the demand for crude oil will decrease by 2050, in other words, in the future, we will have reservoirs that will never be taken from and will be abandoned."

## Household Gas Usage Up 33% in Week to Nov. 11

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) says gas consumption by households jumped 33% in the week to November 11 with a 4-degree drop in average temperature in the country.

An official from NIGC's dispatching control operations said on Saturday that daily gas usage by Iranian households reached a total of 400 million cubic meters (mcm) a day earlier, up from 300 mcm reported on November 4.

Gholamreza Koushki said that gas usage by businesses had also increased to 65 mcm on Friday. He did not elaborate on usage by power plants and industries in the country.

Temperatures approached 10 C in the capital Tehran earlier this week, forcing many houses to turn on their heating systems.

Koushki said highest gas consumptions had been reported from the most populous provinces of Tehran in north and in Razavi Khorasan in northeast Iran. He said the NIGC expects household gas usage in Iran to increase to above 500 mcm per day in the coming weeks.

The official said the rising consumption may force the NIGC to restrict gas supplies to industries and power plants to prevent any shortages in the household sector.

Iran is one of the largest gas consumers of natural gas in the world with peak usages of more than 850 mcm per day reported over cold winters in recent years.

The country produces nearly 1 billion cubic meters of gas, with nearly 750 mcm coming from South Pars, the world's largest gas field that straddles the maritime border between Iran and Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

## 5th Noor School Student Competition Award Winners Announced

TEHRAN - The Mustafa (PBUH) Science and Technology

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

The students were to participate in the competition in groups of 2 or 3, or with their families.

Foundation held the closing ceremony of the 5th Noor School Student Competition on Thursday in Tehran.

The 5th Noor School Student Competition ceremony was held in commemoration of Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, celebrating the efforts of young winners.

In this round of the competition, 4,576 students from 19 countries submitted their works to the secretariat.

Out of the total number of 1,862 received works, 1,343 works were in the general category of 'Experiments on Vision and Visual Errors' and 519 works were in the special category of 'Creating Realistic Models of Mathematical Concepts.' The received works went through selection process and the ultimate winners were selected.

During the ceremony, awards were given to 100 works in the general category and 3 top works in the special category.

The works were received from 19 countries including South Africa, France, China, the U.S., India, Iran, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Mexico, Korea, Russia, England, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Canada, Pakistan, Brazil, Czech Republic, and Macedonia in this round of the competition.

The students had to produce 60-second scientific videos in the general category of 'Experiments on Vision and Visual Errors' or the special category of 'Creating Realistic Models of Mathematical Concepts.'



should be mentioned among the members."

Faripour highlighted the importance of group work in Noor School Student Competition, noting "We have received a number of great video clips which we could not select, because they were not performed in groups."

Advisor of the embassy of Pakistan in Tehran, Anbarin Gol Shahed, was also among the guests. The winner of the international section of the prize was from Pakistan.

During the event, live scientific experiments were performed on the stage for the audience. The students were invited to the stage to help with the experiments.

The live performance of an eleven-year-old student on the stage for the audience also added zest to the ceremony.

Noor School Student Competition is held annually by the Mustafa (PBUH) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) for school students. It aims to give hope, build identity, and promote science among the school students of the Islamic world.

## Jail Sentences for Bounced Checks Down by Over 80% in 5 Years

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A Central Bank of Iran (CBI) official says the number of people jailed in the country for bouncing checks has declined by over 80% in five years thanks to a new law that has tightened controls on who can use the document for making payments.

"In 2017, nearly 10 people were jailed every day for bounced checks but this has currently been reduced to (an average of) one person per day," said Mehran Moharramian, deputy CBI governor for modern technologies.

The announcement comes five years after Iran launched its new bank check law to crack down on the widespread practice of writing checks that bounced.

The new law has made it difficult to bounce checks as it only allows individuals with acceptable credit ratings to use bank checks for payments.

Post-dated checks are frequently used by Iranian individuals and businesses as guarantees for a variety of purposes, including rentals, purchases and deals clinched in the country's traditional bazaars.

Moharramian made the remarks in a ceremony where he and other senior government officials unveiled a new CBI scheme to allow bank customers to write digital checks rather than the traditional standard paper ones.

The official said three privately-owned banks in Iran will start issuing digital checks in a pilot scheme that will cover corporate customers in a first phase of the project.

Iran's finance minister Ehsan Khandouzi said digital checks would facilitate trade and business deals in Iran and would lead to increased economic activity in the country.

## North-South Corridor Best Way To Develop Russia-Iran Ties



CHABAHAR (IRNA) - Given the current situation, the best way to develop connections between Russia and Iran can be the set-up of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), an Iranian official said.

Managing Director of the Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone Amir Moghaddam made the remarks in a meeting with Director of Russia's Astrakhan Special Economic Zone Sergei Miloshkin and Deputy of the State Duma Oleg Savchenko on Saturday night.

Moghaddam said that the next year can be the year of economic boom for the transport corridor because both governments are determined to develop the corridor.

Iran imported some commodities from India and then transported them towards Russia on a trial basis, he said, adding that the Iranian side backs the formation of a committee to reform laws, facilitate relations, and speed up the transit pace.

The Saturday meeting indicates that both countries are ready and serious to pursue the goal of developing the INSTC within a year, so the Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone will ask Tehran to coordinate in this respect and help make operational the corridor.

The managing director also described Russia as a successful trade partner of Iran, noting that the Iranian side is prepared to expand cooperation.

The director of the Astrakhan Special Economic Zone said that the government of Russia is ready to facilitate the plan and change regulations, noting that restrictions should be discussed and resolved.

Underlining that the Russians will rely on joint decisions, he said that ministries of economy or possibly heads of state should support the program in order to remove obstacles.

Presently, the objective of the union is to develop the International North-South Transport Corridor and technology transfer, which may improve in the future, he said.

## Cuba Agrees to Accept U.S. Deportation Flights



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Cuba has agreed for the first time since the pandemic to accept U.S. deportation flights carrying Cubans caught at the U.S.-Mexico border, three U.S. officials told Reuters, giving U.S. authorities a new but limited tool to deter record numbers of Cuban border crossers.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has about a dozen Cubans in custody who failed an initial screening for asylum at the border, the officials said, requesting anonymity to discuss the diplomatic situation. The U.S. agency is waiting until it has enough Cuban deportees to fill a plane before sending one to Havana, they said.

## UK and France to Strike Migrants Deal



LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain and France are set to agree a deal possibly as soon as Monday to ramp up their joint efforts to stop illegal migrants from making perilous crossings of the English Channel, a British newspaper reported.

The agreement will significantly increase the 200 French officers and volunteers who operate on Channel beaches and France will aim for a "much higher" proportion of migrants to be prevented from leaving, the Telegraph newspaper said.

France will agree to a joint control center where British immigration officials will be stationed, it said.

## Ukrainians Celebrate Soldiers Retaking Kherson



BLAHODATNE (Dispatches) - Jubilant residents welcomed Ukrainian troops arriving in the center of Kherson after Russia abandoned the only regional capital it had captured since its invasion began in February.

"Today is a historic day. We are getting the south of the country back, we are getting Kherson back," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in an evening video address.

"As of now, our defenders are on the outskirts of the city, and we are very close to entering. But special units are already in the city," he said.

Russia said it had withdrawn 30,000 troops across the Dnipro River without losing a single soldier. But Ukrainians painted a picture of a chaotic retreat, with Russian troops ditching their uniforms, dropping weapons and drowning while trying to flee.

The withdrawal marked the third major Russian retreat of the war and the first to involve yielding such a large occupied city in the face of a major Ukrainian counter-offensive that has retaken parts of the east and south.

Video footage verified by Reuters showed dozens of people cheering and chanting victory slogans in Kherson city's central square, where the apparent first Ukrainian troops to arrive snapped selfies in the throng.

Two men hoisted a female soldier on their shoulders and tossed her into the air. Some residents wrapped themselves in Ukrainian flags. One man was weeping with joy.

Ukraine's defense intelligence agency said Kherson was being restored to Ukrainian control and ordered any remaining Russian troops to surrender to Kyiv's forces entering the city.

Locals had placed Ukrainian flags in the square as news of the end of more than eight months of occupation filtered out.

"Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes! Glory to the Nation!" one man shouted in another video verified by Reuters.

Zelenskiy said measures to make Kherson safe - in particular, removing what he called a large number of landmines - would start as soon as possible.

Dmitry Rogozin, a senior Russian official giving military advice to two occupied regions of Ukraine that Moscow claims as its own, said on Friday that the withdrawal across the Dnipro was painful but necessary, RIA news agency said, and suggested Moscow could regroup and launch another offensive.

"We must carry out this task, hoping that when we gather our strength, when new weapons arrive, when well-trained mobilized units arrive, when volunteers arrive, we will rally and take back this land," the agency cited him as saying.

As Ukrainian forces surged forward during one of the most humiliating Russian retreats of the war, villagers came out of hiding and, amid tears of relief and joy, described how Russian troops had killed residents and looted homes.

Reuters could not independently verify the accounts and Russia's defence ministry did not immediately respond to questions about allegations made by residents of the recaptured village of Blahodatne, 20 km (12 miles) north of Kherson.

## Turkey Seeks Ukraine Peace Talks Despite Western Actions



ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkey is committed to seeking a peace dialogue between Russia and Ukraine, Turkish media cited President Tayyip Erdogan as saying, as he accused the United States and other Western countries of provoking Moscow.

State broadcaster TRT and other media quoted Erdogan as saying: "The West, and especially the U.S., is attacking Russia seemingly endlessly," without elaborating on what he meant.

"Of course, Russia is displaying great resistance in the face of all this," Erdogan was quoted as telling reporters on a flight from Uzbekistan.

Western countries have armed Kyiv and provided other assistance and have also imposed stringent sanctions on Moscow since its invasion of Ukraine in February.

"We are working on how to create a peace corridor here, like we had the grain corridor. We think the best way for this is a path from dialogue to peace," Erdogan said, adding Ukraine's view would be important.

NATO member Turkey hosted talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations earlier this year, and has sought to balance its criticism of the invasion and opposition to the sanctions.

Ankara and the U.N. brokered a deal to re-start Ukrainian grain exports from Black Sea ports over the last four months.

Erdogan said "it would be wrong" for Turkey to propose a specific time frame for extending the deal beyond its Nov. 19 deadline but added it should run "as long as possible."

There have been no public attempts to reconvene peace talks between the two sides since initiatives to bring about a ceasefire in Istanbul during the first weeks of the conflict broke down without progress.

Ukraine denied on Tuesday that it was under Western pressure to negotiate with Russia, doubling down on its insistence that talks could be held only if Russia relinquishes all of the territory it has occupied since the February invasion.

Russia said on Friday that it was committed to achieving the goals of what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine, adding such goals could be achieved through peace talks but that Kyiv's position meant holding peace talks was impossible.

## Bolivia Calls Census in 2024 as Protests Reach Three-Week Mark

LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Bolivia will hold its first census in more than a decade in 2024, President Luis Arce said in a midnight speech, scheduling it a year later than demanded by the opposition, as protests crippling part of the nation hit the three-week mark.

The largest city of Santa Cruz, a relatively wealthy farming hub and opposition bastion, has ground to a halt in recent days amid a general strike demanding that the census be held next year, before elections due in 2025.

In an apparent bid to calm the waters, Arce said the census would be held on March 23, 2024, or three months before a previous government deadline.

"We have a responsibility to carry out a quality census in which everyone participates," Arce said. "We call for the return of calm, peace and normality in the department of Santa Cruz."

On Friday, protesters had clashed with government-aligned groups, with television showing images of altercations featuring Molotov cocktails, motorcycles, firecrackers, stones and sticks.

The three weeks of protests have killed four and injured more than 170, the government said. It has blamed the surge of violence on Santa Cruz Governor Luis Fernando Camacho, who began the strike on Oct. 22, along with other opposition groups.

The strike has worsened food shortages and sent already high prices soaring, costing about \$700 million, Economy Minister Marcelo Montenegro said on Friday. Arce said distribution of benefits based on census results would come in September 2024, a month prior to the original date proposed.

Regional and opposition groups say the socialist government in La Paz delayed the census as it would have given them more seats in Congress and more state resources. Recent years of migration from rural areas to Santa Cruz could disadvantage the governing Movement to Socialism party in Congress, former Economy Minister Oscar Ortiz said in an opinion column.

## Guterres Urges Myanmar Military Gov't to Return to Democracy

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged the Myanmar military government to immediately return to democracy, saying the current situation in the country was a threat to peace in the region.

Myanmar has spiralled into bloody conflict since the military removed Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government in February last year, with thousands killed.

The escalating crisis dominated a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional bloc, which has led so far fruitless diplomatic efforts to end the bloodshed.

"The situation in Myanmar is an unending nightmare for the people and a threat to peace and security across the region," Guterres told reporters.

"I urge the authorities of Myanmar to listen to their people, release political prisoners and get the democratic transition back on track immediately. That is the only way to stability and peace."

After meeting ASEAN leaders, Guterres said it was vital that a peace plan agreed with the military government - but so far not enforced - came into effect.

"Indiscriminate attacks on civilians are horrendous and heartbreaking," he said.

The military has faced widespread armed opposition to its rule and has responded with brutal force.

More than 2,400 people have been killed in the past two years, according to the monitoring group the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, while the UN children's agency estimates that one million people have been displaced.

In a reminder of the daily horrors faced by the Myanmar people, residents and media on Friday accused the military government of burning houses and killing at least five civilians in a raid on a village in western Rakhine state.

ASEAN leaders blocked Myanmar's military ruler, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, from attending the gathering over the spiralling violence in his country, and amid frustration that the generals in Myanmar are uninterested in implementing a peace plan.

The group agreed to a "five-point consensus" with the military government in April last year aimed at ending the chaos in Myanmar, but it has so far been ignored by the generals.

Increasingly frustrated ASEAN leaders on Friday tasked their foreign ministers with coming up with a concrete plan to implement the consensus.



## Kelly's Win in Arizona Leaves Democrats One Seat Shy of Senate Control



PHOENIX (Dispatches) - Incumbent Democrat Mark Kelly defeated Republican Blake Masters to win a U.S. Senate seat in Arizona, a contest that left Democrats one seat short in the battle for control of the chamber with two more races to be decided.

The win by Kelly, a former astronaut whose wife, Gabby Giffords, survived an assassination attempt when she was a U.S. lawmaker, meant Democrats had battled to a 49-49 tie in the race for the Senate.

"I'm humbled by the trust our state has placed in me to continue this work," Kelly said on Twitter.

Control of the Senate - and the shape of President Joe Biden's next two years in office - will now hinge on contests in Nevada and Georgia. Biden's party avoided historical trends by limiting their losses in Tuesday's midterm elections, shocking Republicans who had expected big gains.

Democrats needed one more seat for control, since Vice President Kamala Harris can cast the tie-breaking vote.

In Nevada, incumbent Democratic Senator Catherine Cortez Masto had closed to within about 800 votes of the Republican state attorney general, Adam Laxalt. Georgia's outcome is weeks away as Democratic incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock will face Republican Herschel Walker in a Dec. 6 runoff.

In the Nevada governor's race, Republican Joe Lombardo defeated Democrat Steve Sisolak, Edison Research projected. Sisolak conceded the race.

"Whether you voted for me or Sheriff Lombardo, it is important that we now come together to continue moving the state forward," Sisolak said in a statement posted on Twitter. "That is why I reached out to the sheriff to wish him success."

Political analysts anticipate a rush of campaign funds into Georgia as Republicans and Democrats gear up for the final battle of the 2022 midterm elections.

In Arizona, law enforcement officials remained on high alert for potential protests, with barricades and security fencing erected around the Maricopa County elections department, where dozens of officials are working 18-hour days to verify outstanding ballots and tabulate votes.

Kari Lake, the Republican candidate for Arizona governor, has criticized election officials in Maricopa County, the state's most populous, as "incompetent" and "despicable," accusing them of deliberately delaying the vote counting.

# How Climate Change Affects Health

PARIS (Dispatches) - Deadlier than Covid, or even rivalling cancer? Researchers have been increasingly attempting to calculate the effect climate change will have on health if the world does not act quickly to reduce carbon emissions.

The World Health Organization, which says climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity, has called for the issue to be "front and center" in negotiations at the COP27 summit being held in Egypt.

But quantifying the overall impact is an extremely complicated task, experts told AFP, because global warming affects health in many different ways, from the immediate dangers of rising heat and extreme weather to longer-term food and water shortages, air pollution and disease.

The WHO estimates that climate change will cause 250,000 extra deaths a year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress between 2030 and 2050.

That is widely thought to be a "massively conservative estimate" of the true toll, partly because it only comes from four sources, said Jess Beagley, policy lead at the NGO Global Climate and Health Alliance. "Climate change is a threat multiplier," she told AFP.

"As climate change worsens, we're going to see the biggest threats to human health increase."

Nearly 70 percent of all deaths worldwide are from diseases that could be made worse by global warming, according to a report this year from the IPCC, the United Nations' panel of climate experts.

Another major health threat comes from food shortages. Nearly 100 million additional people faced severe food insecurity in 2020 compared to 1981-2010, according to a report last month from The Lancet Countdown, a leading effort to quantify climate change's impact on health.

Extreme drought has increased by nearly a third over the last 50 years, it added, putting hundreds of millions at risk of lacking access to fresh water.

And air pollution contributed to 3.3 million deaths in 2020, 1.2 million of which were directly related to fossil fuel emissions, the report found.

Researchers have also been sounding the alarm that warmer temperatures are pushing virus-carrying animals like mosquitoes into new areas, increasing the spread of existing diseases -- and raising the risk of new ones jumping across to humans.

The likelihood of dengue transmission rose by 12 percent over the last 50 years, while warming temperatures extended malaria season in parts of Africa by 14 percent, the Lancet Countdown report said.

Projecting into the future, a new platform launched last week by the United Nations Development Program and the Climate Impact Lab warned that global warming could become deadlier than cancer in some parts of the world.

Under the modelling research's worst-case scenario in which fossil fuel emissions are not rapidly scaled back, climate change could cause death rates to increase by 53 deaths per 100,000 people worldwide by 2100 -- around double the current rate for lung cancer. For the current global population, that would mean 4.2 million additional deaths a year, more than the official toll from Covid-19 in 2021.

Climate Impact Lab's Hannah Hess told AFP that the projections were probably conservative because they compared previous data on mortality and weather with possible future temperatures, so did not include potential threats such as vector-borne diseases.

The platform also gave specific local projections for more than 24,000 regions worldwide. Under the worst-case scenario, it found that in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, climate change-related deaths could double those from all cancers by 2100.



# Finland's Foresters Decry Unfair EU Climate Plans

ASKOLA (Dispatches) - Standing next to a freshly-cut clearing the size of seven football fields, Finnish forest engineer Matti Jappila pointed to growth rings in an up to 300-year-old tree stump.

"I have started to systematically carry out these loggings, sort of in advance," he said.

Like many other Finns, Jappila fears that the EU's upcoming biodiversity strategy, which aims to protect 30 percent of the EU's land area, will make his forestry livelihood "completely unprofitable".

The loud noise of a clearing saw filled the thick boreal forest of spruce and birch, as Jappila prepared another part of his estate to be cut down in December -- before the EU can force him to protect it.

"It's better to fell old spruce areas now than wait."

If he is suddenly forced to designate a large chunk of the forest that has been in his family for three centuries as protected, passing it on to his children would be "impossible".

"It is very worrying," he said.

As part of the biodiversity strategy, the EU also proposed a new Nature Restoration Law in June that aims to restore by the end of the decade 20 percent of nature areas like forests and wetlands to the state they were in 70 years ago.

In a landmark report last year on climate impacts and vulnerabilities, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that restoring natural forests and drained peatlands and improving sustainability of managed forests "generally enhances the resilience of carbon stocks and sinks."

In Finland, where forests cover around 75 percent of land, the proposals by Brussels have sparked outrage in the forestry industry, as well as a rift in the coalition government.

Finland's main opposition parties have proposed a no-confidence motion Friday against Prime Minister Sanna Marin's centre-left government over its handling of the issue.

"This regulation proposed by the Commission is exceptionally unfair to Finland," Saara-Sofia Siren, an MP in the opposition National Coalition Party, told AFP.

The opposition claims the heavily forested Nordic country will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of the EU's plans.

"For Germany the cost is estimated at 190 million (euros), while for Finland, a significantly smaller country, it is close to one billion euros per year," Siren said.

In 2020, the value of Finnish exports of forest industry products was 10.4 billion euros, amounting to 18 percent of the country's total exports.

While Siren acknowledged that more environmental protection is needed, it is "important" for Finland that forestry policy is decided at the "national level", she said.

And Finland is not alone in its concerns: in July 2021, 10 EU member states wrote a joint letter to the Commission expressing "deep concern" over the forestry initiatives.

"We reiterate that the responsibility for forests lies with the Member States," said the letter signed by Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

France is also opposed to the move, as is Sweden, which takes over the rotating EU presidency on January 1 and has said it plans to push for forestry issues to be decided at the national level.

The issue has also divided Finland's five-party government coalition.

The Greens, in favor of the protection measures, have been at odds with the Centre Party, traditionally strong supporters of the forestry industry.



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## Germany Faces 10b Euro Rise in Interest Costs

BERLIN (Dispatches) - The rising cost of borrowing and high inflation mean Germany's federal government faces some 10 billion euros (\$10.25 billion) more in interest payments than previously expected in 2023, a parliamentary budget committee document seen by Reuters shows.

The interest burden would rise to some 40 billion euros from 29.6 billion estimated by the government, according to a summary of the results of the so-called adjustment meeting by the budget committee of the Bundestag, the lower house of parliament.

This would be 10 times the expenditure of 3.9 billion euros in 2021. There was no comment immediately available from the finance ministry or budget experts in the ruling coalition.



## EU Warns of Difficult Months As Eurozone Faces Recession

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The EU warned Friday the eurozone was set to fall into recession this winter as Brussels hiked inflation forecasts for 2022 and 2023 on the back of high energy prices.

Europe is reeling from the economic shockwaves unleashed by Russia's war on Ukraine, which have fuelled a spike in energy costs and hit the wallets of consumers around the continent.

The EU's executive arm said increased uncertainty and prices "are expected to tip" the eurozone and most of the bloc's member states into recession in the last quarter of this year.

"The contraction of economic activity is set to continue in the first quarter of 2023. Growth is expected to return to Europe in spring," the European Commission said.

"With powerful headwinds still holding back demand, economic activity is set to be subdued, with GDP growth reaching 0.3 percent in 2023."

Brussels predicted that the EU's biggest economy Germany would fare the worst of the member states with a contraction of 0.6 percent next year.

Overall eurozone GDP growth for 2022 was put at 3.2 percent after early strong months of the year.

But the EU's economy commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said "the impact of soaring energy prices, rampant inflation, are now taking their toll."

"We have some difficult months ahead of us," Gentiloni said. He cautioned that "the potential for further economic disruptions due to Russia's war is far from exhausted."

The downbeat forecast came as the commission sharply raised its predictions for inflation in this and next year.

It said eurozone inflation was expected to stand at 8.5 percent for 2022, a point higher than earlier forecast, and 6.1 percent in 2023, over two points higher than predicted previously.

"Inflation has continued to rise faster than expected, but we believe that the peak is near. Most likely at the end of this year," Gentiloni said.

"We are projecting a very gradual reduction of inflation because inflation next year is still projected to be quite high."

He warned however that inflation could end up two points higher in 2023 if the EU "fails to prepare" adequately in advance for next winter by filling up its gas stores.

The baseline prediction put inflation in 2024 at 2.6 percent, still higher than the European Central Bank's (ECB) target of two percent. The ECB in October forecast a recession was on the way, as it announced another jumbo interest rate hike to try to curb inflation driven up by the fallout from Russia's war on Ukraine.

Bank president Christine Lagarde said last week that a "mild" eurozone recession was looming but would not be enough to bring down record-high inflation.

Gentiloni said that one "bright spot" remained the resilience of the EU's labour market and that there was only expected to be a "moderate" increase in unemployment before a decline in 2024.

## BOJ Urged to Phase Out Yield Cap, Negative Rate

TOKYO (Dispatches) - The Bank of Japan (BOJ) must redefine its inflation target and phase out a radical yield-cap policy to mitigate mounting costs of prolonged monetary easing, Yuri Okina, a member of a key government panel and possible future BOJ executive, said.

The BOJ remains an outlier in a global wave of central banks tightening monetary policy by maintaining yield curve control (YCC), a policy under which it guides short-term interest rates at -0.1% and caps the 10-year bond yield around 0%.

The negative short-term rate and the BOJ's relentless defense of its yield cap have drawn criticism for distorting the shape of the yield curve and crushing commercial banks' margins.

"Given the strong side-effects, the BOJ must review its current policy when the appropriate time comes" by tweaking both the negative rate target and the 10-year yield cap, Okina told Reuters in an interview.

"While interest rates need to stay low for the time being, the BOJ must head toward policy normalization in the long run," said Okina, who is seen as among candidates to join the central bank's leadership when the posts of governor and two deputy governors open up next year.

The BOJ must also re-define its 2% inflation target as a long-term goal with some leeway, instead of the current "rigid" definition that could force it to keep ultra-low rates for longer than desirable, she said.

"The 2% inflation target shouldn't be considered a binding rule that prevents the BOJ from tweaking monetary policy even when it needs to," said Okina, a former central bank official.



## Food Import Costs Rise to Record in 2022

LONDON (Dispatches) - Food imports costs across the world are on course to hit a near \$2 trillion record in 2022, piling pressure on the globe's poorest countries who likely shipped in considerably less volumes of food, the U.N. Food Agency said.

World food prices soared to record levels in March after Russia invaded Ukraine, a key grains and oilseeds producer, and while they have since retreated somewhat, they remain above last year's lofty levels.

The increase is disproportionately affecting economically vulnerable countries, and is expected to continue doing so next year even as the overall agricultural supply situation is set to improve a bit.

"These are alarming signs from a food security perspective," the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said its twice-yearly Food Outlook report.

The world's food import bill is projected to reach \$1.94 trillion this year, up 10% year-on-year and higher than previously expected, the FAO said.

It noted that low income countries' food import volumes are seen shrinking 10% as their food import bill for the year remains almost unchanged, pointing to growing accessibility issues.

"Importers are finding it difficult to finance rising international costs, potentially heralding an end of their resilience to higher international prices," the FAO said.

In terms of agricultural inputs like fertilisers, which require a lot of energy to produce, the FAO said global import costs are set to rise nearly 50% this year to \$424 billion, forcing some countries to buy and use less.

This will inevitably lead to lower productivity, lower domestic food availability and "negative repercussions for global agricultural output and food security" in 2023, it said.

Looking to the 2022/23 season, the agency sees wheat production jumping 0.6% year-on-year to hit a record 784 million tons, but notes increases are expected mostly in China and Russia, leaving inventories down 8% in the rest of the world.

Production of coarse grains like corn, barley and sorghum is meanwhile seen falling 2.8% in the season.

## Malaysia's Economy Posts Double-Digit Growth for First Time in a Year

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysia's economy posted double-digit growth for the first time in over a year in the third quarter, boosted by rising domestic demand and strong exports, the central bank said on Friday.

Gross domestic product (GDP) in July-September rose 14.2% from a year earlier, at a faster pace than the 11.7% growth forecast in a Reuters poll and up from the 8.9% annual rise in the previous quarter.

That was also the fastest pace of growth since the second quarter of 2021, when the economy expanded 16.1%.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said the jump was driven by a continued expansion in domestic demand, a firm recovery in the labor market, robust exports, and ongoing policy support.

"Because of the healthy growth outturn, growth this year will exceed the 7% projected earlier," BNM Governor Nor Shamsiah Yunus told a news conference.

The challenge for Malaysia's economy will be the fourth quarter of 2022, says finance minister Malaysia's economy has recovered strongly from a pandemic-induced slump, though risks of a global slowdown are clouding the outlook.

The government last month revised up its growth forecasts for 2022 to 6.5%-7.0% from 5.3%-6.3%, but it expects economic growth to slow to 4.0%-5.0% next year.

Headline inflation likely peaked at 4.5% in the third quarter and is expected to moderate thereafter, but it will remain elevated, BNM said.

Inflation in Malaysia has been largely contained by record government subsidies and price control measures this year, but upside risks remain, with the central bank delivering its fourth consecutive 25-basis-point rate hike last week.

Since May, BNM has raised rates by a total of 100 basis points from a historic low of 1.75%, in a bid to temper inflation.

## Turkey Central Bank Firms Grip on Lira

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's central bank has put the finishing touches to a reserve-management system that has stabilized the lira currency ahead of elections in 2023, thanks to nearly 100 new regulations this year, industry sources and officials said.

The policy, adopted in the wake of a historic currency crash a year ago, relies largely on foreign funds obtained from export revenues, foreign homebuyers and other sources to finely balance the market's supply and demand, the officials added.

Unlike past schemes to support the lira, the central bank no longer needs to constantly tap its own reserves, according to 10 bankers and economists and one Turkish official.

The central bank declined to comment for this article, but senior officials and President Tayyip Erdogan have regularly praised the new regulations.

Bankers' calculations show the central bank has obtained about \$100 billion this year under the new policy. For much of October and November, the lira has very closely tracked the dollar and held steady near 18.6.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said the policy has given the central bank tight control over the fore rate "policy" and may help Ankara keep it stable through to presidential and parliamentary election set for June.

Avoiding further economic or currency upheaval is crucial to Erdogan's re-election hopes, with Turks already facing 85% inflation. Still, the vote could bring volatility as the opposition has vowed to reverse his policies.

The lira plunged 44% last year, with particularly sharp falls in December, triggered by unorthodox rate cuts pushed by Erdogan that sent prices soaring.

While the currency shed another 29% this year, it has dipped only 3% since mid-August. A near full exodus of foreign investors from money markets in recent years has strengthened authorities' hand.

One banker said the new policy has smoothed syndications and eurobond redemptions and achieved "huge benefits" for the forex market.

Erdogan, in a speech in June, said: "We are planning to ensure price stability by increasing the current account surplus with an exchange rate that is at the level that suits us."

Critics, including some bankers and economists who spoke to Reuters, say the policy has slowed lending while Ankara's prioritizing of monetary stimulus and cheap credit for exporters and smaller businesses has allowed inflation to soar.

## Lula Faces Setback as Markets Fret Over Spending



BRASILIA (dispatches) - Markets appeared to be giving Brazilian President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva his first clear setback as he advocated more room for social spending without setting long-term fiscal rules or appointing his top economic policymaker.

As he prepares to depart for the COP27 climate summit in Egypt on Monday before naming any cabinet members, Lula received criticism even from an ally for the delay in appointments.

Senator Simone Tebet, of the centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement party (MDB), said the economy minister should be his first cabinet pick to make clear what his policies are going to be affecting the economy.

"An economy minister is needed to explain the president's political thought," she told reporters.

Brazil's currency BRBY and benchmark Bovespa stock index (.BVSP), which rose last week as fears of political volatility subsided after Lula's election victory, plunged around 4% on Thursday on comments by Lula and details of his transition team.

Markets deepened losses after the announcement of four economists aligned with the leftist Workers Party (PT) to handle budgetary issues as part of Lula's transition team, including former finance minister Guido Mantega.

The rout made clear that many investors want to see more clarity over ministerial appointments and how he aims to stabilize Brazil's public finances.

"Lula is making a serious mistake by delaying key cabinet positions, especially who will be his economy minister," said Andre Cesar, a consultant at Hold Legislative Advisors in Brasilia, adding Lula should name them immediately.

"That would be a very positive signal and put an end to the unnecessary noise that has arisen now on the market," he said.

## “Adjustment” Goes to Chicago Int’l Children’s Film Festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian short film ‘Adjustment’ will take part in the 39th edition of the Chicago International Children’s Film Festival in the U.S. Directed by Mehrdad Hassani and produced by Hassan Mohammadi, the Iranian short film is scheduled to vie at the competition section of the Chicago International Children’s Film Festival. The film is about Shahrokh, a nine-year-old effeminate boy humiliated

and pushed away by his family and friends, who makes up his mind to assume a new identity and comes out to the people of his village. Having been through a series of ordeals, Shahrokh, dressed in girl’s clothes, shows up at school and confronts his classmates. The film has previously won the Grand Prix at the Busan International Short Film Festival in South Korea.



## Middle East Needs to Invest \$1 Trillion By 2030 to Meet Emissions Pledges

LONDON (Dispatches) - The Middle East has shown that it means business at COP27. The 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference kicked off Monday in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt and already, less than a week into the event, leading Arab Nations have been making big green energy deals. Saudi Arabia has pledged \$2.5 billion to build and host a green initiative in the Middle East over the next 10 years and signed an energy deal with Oman which includes renewable energies, while on the sidelines the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has inked a deal with Egypt to develop one of the world’s largest wind farms.



While these deals show a promising dedication to decarbonizing the global cradle of crude oil right at the gate of COP27, a recent report from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows that it will take a whole lot more time, effort, and money to get the Middle East on track to meet their own emissions reduction targets. The report focuses on two regions: the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAP) and the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA). These two regions provide an enormous share of the world’s oil production, but could also be major leaders in the global clean energy transition.

reduced by two thirds and without any carbon tax.” \$770 billion of that would come from MENAP, and \$114 billion would come from the less wealthy CCA region.

The UAE, which is currently OPEC’s third-largest producer of crude oil, was the first Persian Gulf country to announce plans to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain soon followed suit, announcing their intentions to become carbon neutral by 2060, and Oman by 2050. Kazakhstan, which has the largest proven oil reserves in the Caspian Sea region, has also pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

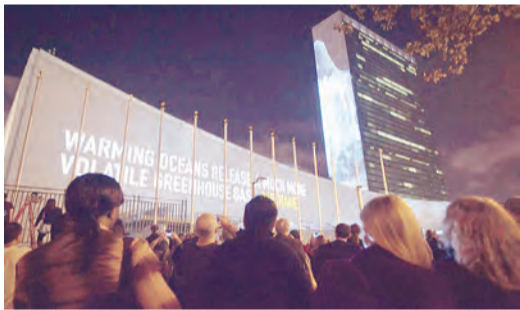
It’s a sobering amount of money. In fact, it’s equivalent to “more than a fifth of the current gross domestic product of the 32 countries across the two regions,” according to a Monday Forbes report. “The sums involved are not a major concern for the likes of Qatar and the UAE, which are enjoying a windfall from high oil and gas prices at the moment,” the report goes on to say. “However, some other countries may find it hard to commit the finance to replace existing, conventional power plants.” While fronting the money may be difficult for more cash-strapped countries, however, delaying action will cost these nations even more in the long run.

The IMF lays out two pathways for these two regions to achieve their own espoused decarbonization targets. One trajectory pairs a gradual removal of all fuel subsidies over the next eight years, paired with a phased introduction of carbon taxes: \$8 per metric-ton of CO2-equivalent in MENAP and \$4 in CCA. This approach would allow these regions to achieve 2030 emissions targets without investing any additional capital into renewable energies.

The good news is that several large-scale renewable projects are already underway in Persian Gulf states, on top of the projects announced this week in Sharm El Sheikh. Saudi Arabia announced five new renewable energy projects with a total capacity of 3,300 megawatts in September. Neighboring Qatar is building the 800MW Al-Kharsaah solar energy plant which will be able to meet a tenth of domestic electricity demand upon completion. The UAE is outdoing Qatar by building the world’s largest single-site solar park, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Solar Park in Dubai. That park, a \$13.6 billion investment, will have a 5GW producing capacity by that all-important 2030 deadline. The UAE also will host COP28 in 2023.

However, the deals being made at COP27 clearly indicate that the Middle East, at least, is ready to commit to a renewable agenda. But the ultimate price tag makes this week’s \$2.5 billion Saudi green energy initiative look like peanuts. In a renewable energy-based scenario, the IMF says that “additional combined public investments of close to US\$900 billion in renewable sources of energy between 2023 and 2030 would allow achieving the region’s emissions reduction targets with fuel subsidies

## U.N. to Hunt Sources of Climate-Warming Methane From Space



SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Dispatches) - The U.N.’s environment watchdog said it will launch a public database of global methane leaks detected by space satellites - part of a new program to encourage companies and governments to curb emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas.

The system, dubbed MARS or Methane Alert and Response System, will build on a pledge signed by 119 countries since last year to cut methane emissions by 30% this decade, a goal scientists say is crucial to averting extreme climate change.

“The Methane Alert and Response System is a big step in helping governments and companies deliver on this important, short-term climate goal,” Inger Andersen, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program, said in a statement issued at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt.

“Reducing methane emissions can make a big and rapid difference, as this gas leaves the atmosphere far quicker than carbon dioxide.”

Methane, which has a much higher warming effect than carbon dioxide during its short lifespan, is responsible for about a quarter of the global rise in temperatures so far, scientists say.

The MARS system will rely on an existing network of space satellites to spot methane plumes around the globe, estimate how big they are, and identify the company or government responsible, UNEP said.

UNEP’s International Methane Emissions Observatory will then share information about the leak with whoever is responsible in the hope they will find the cause of the leak and repair it.

After a period of 45-75 days, the observatory will release information about the leak, and the company or government response to it, to the public database, UNEP said.

The system will first focus on global oil and gas operations, among the biggest sources of methane, before gradually expanding to cover other industries like coal, waste, livestock, and rice.

The initiative will be funded in part by the United States and European Union governments, along with philanthropic organizations including Amazon founder Jeff Bezos’ Bezos Earth Fund and the Global Methane Hub, UNEP said.

U.S. Special Climate Envoy John Kerry, who helped spearhead the Global Methane Pledge to cut methane emissions last year, called the new system “critical” to climate efforts.

## Philippines’ Debt-to-GDP Ratio Hits 17-Year High

MANILA (Dispatches) - The Philippines’ debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio ballooned to a fresh 17-year high as of the third quarter of 2022, data from the Bureau of the Treasury (BTR) showed.

As of end-September this year, the debt-to-GDP ratio—the amount of the government’s debt stock relative to the size of the economy—rose to 63.7% from 62.1% in the second quarter of 2022.

This is the highest debt-to-GDP ratio since 2005, when it hit 65.7%, well over the internationally recommended threshold of 60%. The amount of the government’s debt relative to the size of the economy or debt-to-GDP ratio rises to a new 17-year high as of the third quarter of 2022, data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed.

The economy as measured by GDP, or the total value of goods and services produced, grew by 7.6% during the July to September period, faster than the upwardly adjusted 7.5% GDP growth in the second quarter of the year.

The country’s debt, meanwhile, swelled to a new record high of P13.517 trillion as of the end of September 2022, as the government issued securities to raise funds to support the budget, coupled with the peso’s weakening against the US dollar.

ING Bank Manila senior economist Nicholas Antonio Mapa told GMA News Online that the “debt-to-GDP ratio inched higher despite the sterling third quarter GDP report.” “This highlights the need for the government to address issues such as escalating debt and surging inflation. Third quarter GDP was stronger than expected, but other factors such as high debt and inflation could translate to headwinds that would slow growth and lead to other issues down the line,” Mapa said.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s chief economic manager, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, earlier announced that the administration aims to bring down the debt-to-GDP ratio to 52.5% by 2028. The debt-to-economy level is intended to decline continuously to 61.8% in 2022, 61.3% next year, 60.6% by 2024, and 59.3% by 2025.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines’ debt-to-GDP ratio reached a record low of 39.6% in 2019.

“The recent sharp increase in the national government’s borrowings through RTBs (retail treasury bonds) and global bonds to hedge or even frontload the financing requirements amid the rising trend in US and local interest rates... would likely keep the debt-to-GDP ratio at 63% to 64% for the rest of 2022, above the international threshold of 60%,” Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort said.

## U.S. Prevented Lebanon...

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Leaf said Lebanon will likely have to bear more pain before the impoverished Mediterranean country forms a new government.

“Things will have to get worse before the public pressure mounts in such a way,” that parliament selects a new president, she asserted.

Iraqi security and border officials said an airstrike by a drone targeted a convoy of 22 tankers carrying Iranian fuel that had entered Qa’im border crossing on the Syrian side of the border with Iraq late on Tuesday. Some reports said Israel carried out the strike, saying at least two fuel trucks were destroyed as a result.

A huge blaze was seen on the Syrian side of the border, a security official said.

The convoy crossed the borders into Syria after obtaining

“all necessary legal approvals from Iraq” and according to the transportation documents the Iranian fuel was heading to Lebanon through Syria, two border police officials noted.

Back in September, Lebanon’s then Minister of Energy and Water Walid Fayad said an Iranian fuel delivery was vital to Beirut’s plans to reform its electricity supply system.

He added that fuel deliveries from Iran would enable the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water to boost its finances by increasing electricity supply to customers in the country.

Fayad admitted, however, that Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and leader of the Lebanese Free Patriotic Movement Gebran Bassil had been influential in the success of Iran’s initiative to send fuel to Lebanon.

## Enemies Benefit...

FROM PAGE 1

“These countries have no jurisdiction whatsoever from our point of view to be a flagbearer in the field of human rights.”



Pointing to the recent western-provoked unrest in Iran after the death of a young Iranian woman of Kurdish descent in the capital Tehran, Gharibabadi said, “Recently, following the riots that took place inside Iran, these countries have again voiced their support for the human rights of the Iranian people.”

The top Iranian rights official stressed that the purported support comes as “thousands of our innocent people lost their lives during the coronavirus pandemic due to the lack of vaccine and medicine at the beginning of the disease over illegal, cruel and unilateral sanctions and lack of money transfer through financial channels.”

Gharibabadi added that the Islamic Republic has 17,000 terror victims by the same terrorists currently living in European countries and the U.S., residing in the “safe haven of the West.”

He noted that, “We are in New York...to present a correct narrative of the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the recent riots and the destructive role of some countries to authorities, and not allow the false and hostile narrative of the Western countries and the United States to distract the minds of the world countries.”

The official said 40 security forces were killed by rioters during the recent unrest, and more than 1,200 facilities, cars, motorcycles, public and emergency vehicles, such as ambulances, were set on fire and destroyed.

Gharibabadi also said over 80 people affiliated with various Kurdish terrorist groups and more than five people linked to Daesh have been arrested.

He noted that the Iranian Judiciary will refer to law and evidence for passing judgment on the detained rioters and that, “Our judicial system will have a very fair treatment” toward them.

Of course this is not the first time such riots happen in Iran and the West and hostile countries support the unrests and each time riots are quelled and people realize that this is the West which benefits the unrests in the country and for this reason they retreat but the West still continues condemning Tehran for its defensive act against the unrests and to defend innocent people against the violence.

The West should know this point that Iranians know who are the main winner of violence in the country and those rioters who have been deceived by the enemies’ propagation machine will soon realize the fact and will stop violence and everything will become normal and of course these unrests unfortunately inflict damages on the country and even to the nation who have suffered in these weeks.

The West should know that it can deceive just few people in the country but majority are wise and supporter of the Islamic System and they will not turn against this system which has been established by their own votes and hands and what the West tries to achieve will never happen as a proverb says: The cat dreams of mice.

## President Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

“A number of topical issues on the bilateral agenda were discussed, with the emphasis on further enhancing cooperation in the political, trade and economic fields, including the transport and logistics sector,” the Kremlin said.

The phone conversation came after Russia’s Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev held talks with senior Iranian officials in Tehran on Wednesday, during which the two countries pledged closer ties.

Patrushev traveled to Tehran amid allegations that Iran has provided Russia with weapons and drones to be used against Ukraine. Tehran has multiple times rejected in the strongest terms the Western claims, saying the country has had defense cooperation with Moscow for long and pursues a resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

## RZD Logistics Boosts...

FROM PAGE 1

The service follows pilot train trips since early July, as India-Russia trade stakeholders marshalled logistics and other transaction-easing efforts to reinvigorate the flow of goods.

In addition to the Reserve Bank of India implementing new regulatory guidelines to help exporters settle shipments in rupees, instead of traditional US dollars that had run into sanctions-related bottlenecks, customs authorities at Nhava Sheva recently trialled truck movements to Iran with Russia-bound cargo under the TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) initiative, which makes transporting goods across multiple borders seamless.

While some concerns persist, a few banking institutions have reportedly agreed to align with the rupee invoicing system.

“We are now expecting a government notification allowing exporters to claim incentives/duty rebates for rupee-denominated orders, as they are generally available for dollar transactions,” an exporting group representative in Mumbai told The

Loadstar. “We believe the necessary approvals are in the final stages.”

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) has also been pressing government leaders to extend the alternative currency method beyond Russian markets.

“While the Russia-Ukraine war is a setback to our exports in the short run, we are looking to increase our exports to Russia once the rupee payment mechanism gets operationalized,” FIEO noted.

According to available data, bilateral trade between India and Russia hit a new high, of some \$18.2bn by value, from April through to August, versus some \$13.1bn reported for the whole of fiscal year 2021-22. With that sharp spike, Russia became India’s seventh-largest trading partner.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has been the lead player among regional ocean carriers deploying capacity into the resurgent trade corridor.

## Injured Al-Faraj in Saudi Arabia World Cup Squad

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia coach Herve Renard named Al-Hilal midfielder Salman Al-Faraj in his 26-man squad for the World Cup, despite sustaining a shoulder injury in a friendly. Al-Faraj, the national team captain, was taken off at halftime during Saudi Arabia's 1-0 win over Iceland, but he will be fit for the tournament, Renard said.

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## Haas to Announce Mick Schumacher's F1 Fate

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Haas will announce next week whether Mick Schumacher is staying or going, the Formula One team's boss Guenther Steiner said. Schumacher, the 23-year-old son of Ferrari great and seven times world champion Michael, is out of contract at the end of the season which ends in Abu Dhabi on Nov. 20 and risks being without a drive next year. The German's predicament was not helped by qualifying for Saturday's Sao Paulo Grand Prix sprint race when he ended up last while team mate Kevin Magnussen took a surprise pole position.

# Tatum Out-Duels Jokic In Celtics Win

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Jayson Tatum scored 34 points and Jaylen Brown added 25 as the Boston Celtics cruised to a fifth straight NBA victory, 131-112 over Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets.

Boston's star duo paced a ruthlessly efficient Celtics offense that ended Denver's four-game winning streak, while elsewhere the San Antonio Spurs snapped a five-game skid with a 111-93 victory over the league-leading but injury-depleted Milwaukee Bucks.

In Boston, Brown knocked down the first 10 shots he took, adding eight rebounds and eight assists. Tatum connected on 11 of 21 from the floor for his seventh game this season of 30 or more points and the Celtics received key contributions from Al Horford, Grant Williams and reserve Payton Pritchard in the victory.

"Guys have bought into making each other better whether they have the ball or not," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said of his team's vibrant offense, which Tatum said was a product of trust. "We're trusting each other, we're moving the ball. You pass and you trust that you're going to get it back. The only thing you can do wrong is stay still," Tatum said in an on-court interview. "We just continue to keep moving, find the open man and make the right play."

Jokic paced the Nuggets with 29 points, but again found himself frustrated by early foul trouble in a sometimes testy encounter.

Denver's Aaron Gordon added 17 points and eight rebounds -- and was assessed a flagrant foul after he crashed into Boston's Grant Williams with 5:06 left in the fourth quarter.

The move didn't slow the Celtics, who continued to build on their 13-point lead. Denver had kept the deficit within single digits much of the night, but never led after taking a brief one-point advantage early in the first quarter.

In San Antonio, the young Spurs squad took full advantage of the absence of Milwaukee's two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and Jrue Holiday to topple the Bucks. Keldon Johnson scored 29 points for the Spurs, who took the lead in the first quarter and rolled from there.



Devin Vassell had 22 points and Jakob Poeltl added 15 with 10 rebounds for San Antonio. Antetokounmpo missed a second straight game with a sore left knee and Holiday missed his second with a sprained ankle.

The Bucks, who are still awaiting the return from injury of 2021 championship contributor Khris Middleton, were also without Pat Connaughton and Joe Ingles, and lost Grayson Allen to illness shortly before the game.

Jevon Carter scored 21 points for Milwaukee and Brook Lopez added 19, but the Spurs out-scored the Bucks 50-32 in the paint and 21-0 on the fast-break.

In Orlando, the Magic notched a second straight victory for the first time this season as they downed the short-handed Phoenix Suns 114-97.

Wendell Carter Jr. scored 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Magic. Franz Wagner added 17 points as six Orlando players scored in double figures to make up for the absence of dynamic rookie Paolo Banchero, who missed a second straight game with a sprained left ankle.

Cameron Payne scored 22 points for the Suns, who were without veteran point guard Chris Paul for a second straight contest because of a sore right heel.



## Brentford Stun Man City Thanks to Toney Double

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ivan Toney bounced back from missing out on the England World Cup squad by scoring twice as Brentford stunned Manchester City to win 2-1 at the Etihad. Pep Guardiola warned before the game that his stars could have "one eye" on staying injury free before the World Cup and the City boss' fears were realized as the champions slipped to a first home defeat since February.

City could now go into the World Cup five points off the top of the table should Arsenal win at Wolves later on Saturday.

Guardiola's concerns did not stop him naming a starting line-up containing 10 players going to Qatar.

Erling Haaland was the only exception as Norway failed to qualify and he returned to the starting line-up for the first time in six games due to a foot injury.

But Haaland was for once upstaged by his opposite number as Toney produced the perfect riposte to being overlooked by Gareth Southgate.

Toney should have opened the scoring when he fired too close to Ederson with just the goalkeeper to beat early on.

## Leclerc Qualifies 10th After Ferrari Tyre Blunder

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Ferrari added another blunder to a season's list of errors when they sent Charles Leclerc into a pole position shootout in Brazil with different tyres to everyone else.

The gamble on the weather backfired and the unhappy Monegasque qualified 10th for today's Sao Paulo sprint race after red flags and rain at Interlagos left him with no lap time on the board from the final phase.

"Am I the only one on inters?" Leclerc asked over the team radio during his first lap out of the pits when he realised everyone else was on soft slick tyres rather than the slower damp track option. "There's no rain," he added.

The Ferrari driver was then forced to pit again but Mercedes' George Russell slid into the gravel and triggered red flags to halt the session.

The rain then came down more heavily, denying him the chance of a flying lap.

Leclerc, who is battling Red Bull's Sergio Perez for second place in a championship already won by Max Verstappen, will start alongside the Mexican today in a 100km race that determines the main grand prix grid.

## Son Named in South Korea's World Cup Squad

SEOUL (Dispatches) - Son Heung-min was named in South Korea's squad for the Qatar World Cup starting next week but it remains to be seen if he will play after a serious facial injury.

South Korea's captain and talisman suffered a fracture around his eye during a Champions League match for Spurs and then had surgery last week.

"We are in contact with him and Tottenham's medical department," said South Korea's Portuguese coach Paulo Bento as he named his squad.

"About the exact day he can train with the team, we don't have that information," he said.

"We need to wait, we need to analyse day by day his situation."



# Klopp Unfazed by Liverpool Sale Talk

The Boston Globe, the newspaper belonging to Liverpool's principal owner John W Henry, reported FSG president Mike Gordon — the main link between the America-based group and Anfield — was transferring some of his job responsibilities to Reds chief executive Billy Hogan.

LONDON (Dispatches) - Jurgen Klopp insists he won't fret about talk of Liverpool's owners selling the Premier League club until things are "not positive".

Fenway Sports Group, the Boston-based consortium that owns Liverpool, recently admitted they are looking at potential new investment, sparking reports that they are ready to sell up.

Klopp had already responded to the takeover rumors by stressing his commitment to fulfilling a contract that runs until 2026.

The German has always had a good relationship with the owners but, while he admits a boost to the club's finances would be welcome, he sees no reason to concern himself by what happens next at boardroom level.

"In the structure we had, we were obviously able to spend money, but we always had to look and say 'What did we earn?'" Klopp told reporters yesterday.

"The two biggest transfers we did in the past with Ali (Alisson Becker) and Virg (Virgil van Dijk), we all know how it happened, we got some money from Barcelona (£142million for Philippe Coutinho) and spent it wisely, I would say.

"For me, how we did it so far brought us to where we are. But fresh money is no mistake, let me say it like this!"

## Nadal and Tsitsipas Eye No 1 Spot

TURIN (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz will spend a nervous week watching the ATP Finals as Rafael Nadal and Stefanos Tsitsipas bid to usurp the Spanish teenager as year-end men's world number one.

The top-ranked Alcaraz is powerless to stop his rivals because he is out with an abdomen injury he suffered at the Paris Masters over a week ago.

Nadal will hope he has shaken off the rustiness he displayed in Paris when he lost in his first singles match in two months after spending time at home in Mallorca with his wife and newborn son. The 36-year-old fell to American journeyman Tommy Paul.

The surest way for Nadal, who won the Australian and French Open titles in 2022 and is ranked second, to finish year-end number one for a sixth time is by winning the title in Turin.

Yet he is seemingly unconcerned about joining Pete Sampras in second on the all-time list of year end number ones.

"Like I've often said, it's not a priority for me anymore, because you need a consistency of results that is really only possible for the younger players," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport. "And to be honest I don't like talking about what could happen in the future."

Nadal could also top the rankings if he wins all three of his Green Group games and reaches the final while Tsitsipas stumbles.

The third-ranked Greek, who is in the Red Group, needs to win all his matches on his way to the title.

Nadal would topple US Open champion Alcaraz if the two Spaniards finish level on points. Nadal has a better overall record in the Grand Slams and Masters tournaments

Nadal opens his campaign on Sunday against big-serving American Taylor Fritz. His other two group rivals are Norwegian Casper Ruud and in-form Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime.



## Guardiola Says Man City Will Be His Longest Reign

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola admits he can't imagine managing any other club for longer than his golden spell in charge of Manchester City.

Guardiola is in the final year of his contract as City boss and has yet to reveal if he will extend his stay with the Premier League champions.

The 51-year-old was equally coy before eventually renewing his deal twice before in his six years in Manchester.

Guardiola has won nine major trophies, including four Premier League titles, since taking over at City in 2016. By the end of the season he will have been in charge at City for as long as he was at Barcelona and Bayern Munich combined.

And the Spaniard admits City's Abu Dhabi-based owners have provided the perfect environment for him to thrive in.

"Stay in another place for seven years? No, I don't think so. It is difficult to find what I have here as a manager," Guardiola told reporters.

"To be a manager for a long time you need to be so supported. The results help a lot, that is undeniable. In this world they sack you, they fire you, we know that."

"But, at big clubs, part of the success of the manager is the chairman, the sporting director especially, the CEOs and all the people here. "It goes to the media, fans and players. There is stability. This is why I think only in few clubs this can happen."

The upcoming World Cup means the Premier League is going on pause, offering an opportunity for Guardiola to meet with his employers to discuss his future beyond the end of the campaign.

But whether or not that will happen remains unclear, with Guardiola typically guarded.

