

**Head of Iran Veterinary Organization  
Mr. Muhammad Aqamiri Says the  
Organization Has Lifted Restriction  
On Export of Chicken and  
Eggs to Kuwait After the Kuwaiti  
Government Issued License**

# IRAN NEWS

**Sports Minister Hamid Sajjadi Is  
To Accompany Iran's Football  
National Team, Better Known as  
Team Melli, in Qatar World Cup  
And He will Watch Iran-England  
Match in Doha Today**

VOL. XXVIII, No. 7641 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

MONDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2022 - ABAN 30, 1401

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## Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia To Synchronize Power Grids

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Power Ali-Akbar Mehrabian has said that technical synchronization of power grids among Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran is underway.

Mehrabian made the remarks in the opening ceremony of the 22nd Iran International Electricity Exhibition on Sunday.

The preliminary synchronization of power grids between Russia and Iran has been completed, he said, adding that technical measures for joint synchronization of power grids of Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran are being carried out in order to create electricity connection because the effort will help stabilize power network in Iran.

The Islamic Republic is busy developing technical sectors of the project, the minister argued.

Mehrabian also said that the issue of barter of power is among the issues that negotiators from these four countries are discussing.

When we require electricity, we can import it from Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkmenistan, he said, adding that at times when we have a surplus, we can export power to other countries, of course, we will continue to implement the last years' contracts. **See Page 7**

## Iran to Launch "Nahid" Satellite Into Space Soon

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran will soon put another domestically-built satellite, dubbed 'Nahid', into space, said Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology.

Eisa Zarepour made the announcement in an interview with Iran-based Tasnim News Agency.

"This [Nahid] satellite will be launched soon and we are trying to put it into space this year [by end of March 20, 2023]," he said.

The ICT minister also spoke about Iran's space cooperation with Russia, saying that the country's interactions with Russia continue in the space field.

"We are going to build the second, third, and fourth versions of the Khayyam satellite and we have a 4-year long-term plan with this country [Russia]."

In the last four decades, Iran has taken continuous and progressive steps in the field of achieving space technology. **See Page 7**

## Tehran Warns of Firm Response To IAEA's Anti-Tehran Resolution



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the Islamic Republic will give a "firm response" to an anti-Iran resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors.

Mohammad Eslami made the remarks in an event in the Iranian city of Isfahan on Sunday while he condemned the anti-Tehran draft resolution as "unconstructive" and in continuation of the so-called Western-led maximum pressure campaign.

"We have already said that issuing a resolution is clearly an unconstructive measure to maintain maximum pressure and will not help the other parties to resolve the existing issues," Eslami said.

Stating that the IAEA's director general had earlier emphasized that issuing a resolution will not help to make progress in the matter, Salami said, "It seems that the three European countries and the United States are accustomed to using various methods of pressure, including resolutions and sanctions, and it is clear that such pressure will be of no avail."

Underlining that approving the resolution against the country was a "wrong measure" and will prompt a "firm response" from Iran, the AEOI chief said, "The nuclear programs of the Islamic Republic of Iran are moving forward according to the strategic action plan of the parliament, and the issuance of multiple resolutions against Iran will not cause any disruption in the progress of these programs."

Eslami also stated that "All the programs that are followed by us in the national arena are for the welfare and progress of the Iranian nation."

The draft resolution, ratified on Thursday, has criticized Iran for what it called a lack of cooperation with the IAEA. It was put forward by the United States, Britain, France and Germany, in continuation of their political pressures on Iran. Russia and China voted against the motion.

Iran's Ambassador to the international organizations in Vienna Mohsen Naziri-Asl on Friday strongly condemned the recent resolution passed by the IAEA Board of Governors against Tehran.

He said that in the course of discussing the issue, "the supporters of the draft resolution presented fake information and baseless claims to justify their unconstructive approach to the Board of Governors and tried to turn the meeting into a tool to pursue their short-sighted political goals while going beyond the framework of the agency's duties and powers."

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

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

## Iran to Begin World Cup Campaign Today to Silence Detractors

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The countdown is over. Battle lines are drawn. The biggest and grandest soccer extravaganza is underway in Qatar with 32 nations from Africa to Asia to Europe competing for glory and redemption.

One of them is the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is making its sixth grand appearance at the FIFA World Cup, the marquee event that takes place every four years.

Team Melli will kick off its campaign against the formidable England today (Monday) at Doha's iconic Khalifa International Stadium, which has previously hosted the Asian Games and AFC Asia Cup.

Carlos Queiroz's boys will take to the field with a long-cherished goal -- to qualify for the knockout stage, and possibly further, a feat the team has never been able to achieve since its maiden World Cup appearance in 1978.

England, on the other hand, start as favorites, having clinched the FIFA World Cup trophy in 1966, the first and only time, under the legendary Alf Ramsey. They would be raring to go and end their 56-year-long drought.

To achieve the ultimate glory, the teams need to navigate three group-stage games followed by three knockout matches before the high-voltage and high-adrenaline summit clash at Lusail Stadium, Doha, on December 18.

Iran has been clubbed in Group B with England, U.S. and Wales. After facing England on Monday, Team Melli will take on Wales on Nov. 25, followed by the US on Nov. 29. All three games promise high-octane action, but the game between Iran and England, in particular, will be exciting. Gareth Southgate's side, ranked fifth in the world, was recently relegated from the Nations League, and is evidently low on morale. Wales, although a star-studded team, faced the same fate. The US was handed a crushing defeat by Japan followed by a goalless draw against Saudi Arabia in the run-up to the Qatar World Cup.

On the contrary, Iran defeated Uruguay 1-0 and drew with African giants Senegal. The top Asian football side's World Cup qualification this time was surprisingly quick and effortlessly easy, topping their group with 25 points and a goal difference of +11. **See Page 7**

## ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

### IAEA Getting Distance From Its Real Mission

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in recent years has actually revealed its pro-West and Zionist nature and it acts to please the West and Zionists and one cannot any longer rely on its independence and impartiality because it pursues the guidelines of its lords.

On Thursday, IAEA in a strong resolution condemned the Islamic Republic of Iran for not following blindly its unfair decisions which have been all against Tehran. The agency approved the draft of a resolution which had been prepared by the Western countries.

The draft resolution, ratified on Thursday, has criticized Iran for what it called a lack of cooperation with the agency. It was put forward by the United States, Britain, France and Germany, in continuation of their political pressures on Iran. Russia and China voted against the motion.

The West uses the IAEA for blackmailing independent countries like Iran and unfortunately it is not ready to force Israel to join the NPT for a better and peaceful world.

Reacting to this funny resolution of the IAEA, Iranian officials slammed it and had due responses to it and even some famous Western analysts criticized the IAEA.

Political analyst John Bosnitch said that the IAEA's mistreatment of Iran is a preparation for imposing further sanctions and a justification for U.S. violation of the 2015 Iran deal.

Bosnitch made the comments in an exclusive interview with Press TV on Friday, after the IAEA board passed a resolution on Thursday, criticizing Iran for what it claimed was a lack of cooperation with the UN nuclear agency.

"There is no reason for the mistreatment of Iran other than as a preparation for further sanctions and try and justify America's own violation of its signature on the agreement", he said mentioning the Iran deal also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Pointing to the high-profile visit by the UN nuclear agency chief Rafael Grossi to Israel ahead of the body's Board of Governors meeting in June, Bosnitch said that the visit was "another example of IAEA's double standard."

"There is an obvious conspiracy here to denigrate Iran to serve the United States and serve the United States-Israeli Alliance," he said, highlighting that the IAEA "has been co-opted by the American empire and by its military allies, especially Israel to put pressure on Iran."

He further stressed that the nuclear agency is not functioning as an international body and within its terms of jurisdiction, but it is rather a "pressure group to press Iran into a corner" and "provoke conflict between the United States, its allies, and Iran." **See Page 7**

## U.S. to Send Over 100 Unmanned Vessels To Persian Gulf

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM) says a US-led task force will deploy over 100 unmanned vessels in the Persian Gulf region's strategic waters, in spite of stern warnings from Tehran against such deployments.

General Michael Kurilla said that the deployment will be completed by next year, claiming that it aims to stave off maritime threats.

"By this time next year, Task Force 59 will bring together a fleet of over 100 unmanned surface and subsurface vessels operating together, communicating together and providing maritime domain awareness," said Kurilla, who was sanctioned by the Islamic Republic last month for supporting terrorism and inciting violence against the Iranian nation during the recent riots.

Task Force 59 was created in Bahrain in September 2021 to integrate unmanned systems and artificial intelligence into the Pentagon's Middle East operations, after a series of drone attacks blamed on Iran. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said earlier in the day that the pervasive presence of unmanned vessels by extra-regional countries has doubled the region's problems. **See Page 7**

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## Redeeming U.S.' Allied Criminals Among Aims of Anti-Iran Warfare

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that one of the objectives of the media warfare and political pressure against Iran is to redeem U.S.' allied criminals.

The martyrdom and injury of 8,000 children in the war against Yemen and the arrest of more than 750 and the martyrdom of 47 and the injury of 164 Palestinian children in 2022 by the Zionist regime, with the help of those who claim to support human rights and the silence of international bodies! Kanaani wrote on his Twitter account on Sunday

One of the goals of the media warfare and political pressure against Iran is to redeem US' allied criminals, he added.

## U.S. Faces Defeat in Face of Iranians' Progress

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says the United States has been defeated in the face of the great progress made by the Iranian nation over the past four decades but it is yet to learn from its failures.

"The wrath and enmity of the Americans towards the progress of the Iranian nation has always continued in vain over the past four decades, but the Americans are yet to learn from their failures," Raisi said in a meeting with visiting Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi in Tehran on Saturday.

He added that the hostility of the arrogant system, led by the US, towards the Iranian nation is known to all.

The Iranian president once again reiterated his country's readiness to reach a "fair" agreement on the revival of the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), but criticized dual approaches by certain "regional and international parties" in this regard.

"Some regional and international parties keep sending messages through intermediaries on [continuing] cooperation and interaction, but their deed is different from their words in practice. This hypocrisy will definitely make them regret," Raisi said.

Pointing to deep-rooted and strong relations between Tehran and Muscat, Raisi said both sides have managed to improve ties much to dismay of the enemies.



He added that Iran and Oman have taken "positive" steps in recent months to implement agreements between the two countries.

The Omani foreign minister, for his part, hailed Iran's principled stance on regional and international issues and said Tehran and Muscat enjoy exemplary relations.

Albusaidi called for further improvement of relations with Tehran in various fields.

He also voiced support for Iran's positions in the talks to revive the JCPOA and remove sanctions, and expressed confidence that Tehran's steadfastness and sincerity will yield results.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, the Omani foreign minister arrived in Tehran on Saturday to hold talks with senior Iranian officials. He held two rounds of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and attended a joint press conference.

## Iran Does Not Seek Conflict With Azerbaijan



TEHRAN (MNA) - Rejecting allegations that Iran intended to attack the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ali Akbar Velayati, an advisor to Iran's Leader in international affairs said that every Azeri is Iranian and every Iranian is Azeri.

Ali Akbar Velayati praised the key role played by the Azeri people in Iran's history and their important steps in defending the country and promoting Iran's power and regional significance.

Velayati also refuted allegations made against Iran over rumors that the Islamic Republic planned to attack the Republic of Azerbaijan or seize power in the neighboring country.

He also addressed the political and media tensions that have spread between the two nations, reiterating that all Iranians, regardless of their ethnicity, are considered Iranians. Secondly, he said, Iran has never been envious of its neighbors; on the contrary, it has always shown consideration for them and a desire to maintain positive relations with all of them.

"Today, it should be said that every Azeri is Iranian and every Iranian is Azeri. This is true even if they have a non-Iranian passport or reside outside of Iran," the Leader's adviser continued, declaring, "I am Azeri too."

## U.S. Support for Iranian People "Sheer Lie"

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Chairman of Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said that the U.S. President's claim of supporting the Iranian people is a sheer lie.

U.S. support for the Iranian people must be shown practically and in the field of sanctions removal talks.

Abbas Golroo made the remarks in an interview on Sunday and stated that the negotiations process on the removal of anti-Iranian sanctions has been ceased by the United States in a way that U.S. legislators in nuclear talks showed that they are not serious in this regard.

The discussions that American officials conveyed to Iran through their European mediators in the negotiations process indicated that the Americans only wanted to waste time and were pursuing to return back the

percentage of uranium enrichment and also centrifuge production of the country to the previous years.

Some American officials, including the US Special Representative for Iran Affairs Robert Malley and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, recently announced that the JCPOA is not a US priority, he said, adding that US President Biden even announced that their priority is Iran's internal issues and supporting the people of Iran which is a lie.

All of the aforementioned cases show that the U.S. government in the current administration is unlikely to take any action in the process of negotiation, Golroo emphasized.

According to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, all efforts must be done by Iranian negotiators in order to remove cruel and unjust sanctions imposed against the country, he added.

## Tehran, Riyadh Willing to Continue Negotiations

TEHRAN (MNA) - Referring to Baghdad's continued efforts to host the dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein said that both Tehran and Riyadh are willing to continue the talks.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are holding talks at the security level after a period of cut diplomatic ties.

So far, five rounds of dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been held in Baghdad, hosted by Iraq, and several months ago, the former Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi made trips to Saudi Arabia and Iran in this regard.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister had previously said that Baghdad will use all its power to create suitable opportunities for reaching an understanding between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

## Heads of Three Branches Meet

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The heads of the three branches of the Islamic Republic of Iran discussed the most important issues of the country in the meeting held on Saturday evening at the President's office.

President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Judiciary Chief Mohseni-Ejei and Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf met to discuss different issues and recent developments in the country.

In this meeting, the heads of the branches emphasized the necessity of speeding up the handling of economic corruption cases raised in the judiciary and providing timely information in this field for the awareness of the public opinion.

In this meeting, due to the importance of the security of the society as a priority, the need to deal with rioters was emphasized.

The heads of the three branches urged all the officials of the country at different ranks and levels of the three branches to consider strengthening hope in the society with practical measures and non-stop efforts in order to solve the problems and fulfil their duties.

## Iran, Armenia To Make Joint Movie

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of the Department of Bordering Countries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Vahagn Afyan said that Iran and Armenia will start a joint cinema project.

Afyan said that the project will be a documentary about churches and religion.

It will be filmed in Iran and Armenia, he stated.

He also hailed the bilateral relations between Iran and Armenia, especially in the tourism and cultural fields.

He went on to say that 200,000 Iranian tourists visit Armenia per year.

## Iran Arrests 5 Terrorists Linked To Killing of Shia Cleric

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Intelligence Ministry announced that 5 perpetrators of the assassination of Martyr Sajjad Shahraki, a Shia cleric and Friday prayer leader of a mosque in Zahedan in Sistan and Baluchestan Province have been arrested.

According to the statement released by the ministry on Saturday, intelligence forces managed to arrest five perpetrators linked to the martyrdom of Martyr Shahraki.

In the initial confessions, the defendants accepted the links to counter-revolutionary groups abroad, as well as hostile spy services. They also confessed to the intention of continuing terrorist acts against Shia and Sunni figures and sensitive places in the province to create a bipolar atmosphere and wage religious warfare in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Earlier on November 3, the unidentified armed men killed a Shia cleric in charge of daily prayers at a mosque in Iran's southeastern Zahedan in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Sajjad Shahraki had been shot in the head and chest and had succumbed to his wounds despite being transferred to the hospital.

## ICOFC Ready for Winter Fuel Supply

TEHRAN (Shana) - The CEO of the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) voiced the company's readiness to supply winter fuel and fulfill its production plan instructed by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

According to ICOFC, Mehdi Heydari, during his visit to the operational district of Khangiran, stated the purpose of this visit in line with the request of the Minister of Petroleum for the proper supply of winter fuel, and referring to the severity of gas consumption in the country, he said: "We request the people of Iran to save gas consumption because this is the biggest reward for their children in the oil industry who are working in the most difficult conditions and weather."

Emphasizing the existence of a supportive attitude in the group of the Ministry of Petroleum and the NIOC, he pointed to the change of policy and work procedure in the ICOFC, and stated: "With the new mission that has been assigned to this company, it is moving towards being development-oriented and production-oriented."

Hormoz Qalavand, director of production supervision of the NIOC, emphasized the importance of the continuity of gas production in the northeastern region of the country, and stated: "Our presence on the part of the Oil and Gas Production Supervision Organization in the operational district of Khangiran is to hear the problems and challenges."

He added: "I will carry the message of the efforts of the colleagues of the Eastern Oil and Gas Production Company to the CEO of the NIOC, who, as the only gas producing company in the northeast of the country, are working day and night in the difficult conditions of the region."

## Mass Funeral Held in Isfahan for 3 Martyred Security Forces

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Thousands of people have taken part in a funeral procession for three members of the Iranian security forces who were killed in a terrorist attack during riots in the central province of Isfahan.

On Sunday, the participants turned out en masse to pay their respects to the victims while condemning all acts of violence and terror.

The ceremony was attended by people from all walks of life, state and provincial officials as well as senior military commanders.

They renewed allegiance to the Islamic establishment and denounced any move that would compromise national security.

Colonel Esmail Cheraghi, 41, and Basij members Mohammad Hossein Karimi, 30, and 54-year-old Mohsen Hamidi were martyred in an attack by rioters in the Khane neighborhood of Isfahan on November 16.

Foreign-backed riots have hit various Iranian provinces since 22-year-old woman Mahsa Amini died in hospital on September 16, three days after she collapsed in a police station. An investigation has attributed Amini's death to her medical condition, rather than alleged beatings by police forces. The violent riots, meanwhile, have claimed the lives of dozens of people and security forces, while also allowing terrorist attacks across the country. In the last two months, the terrorists have set fire to public property and tortured several Basij members and security forces to death.



## Iran Proposes Joint Action with Afghanistan in War on Terror

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Iranian special envoy for Afghanistan proposed the formation of a joint commission with Afghanistan for countering terrorism.

In comments after attending the Moscow format meeting on Afghanistan, Iran's special envoy Hassan Kazemi Qomi said it is necessary for Iran and Afghanistan to set up a joint security and information exchange committee in order to counter terrorist threats.

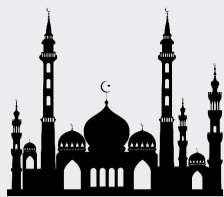
He also urged that the neighbors of Afghanistan should provide assistance to Afghanistan within the framework of a coordination or security committee. The neighbors of Afghanistan can cooperate with Kabul by training the security forces, exchanging information, and providing equipment, he added.

Terrorism is not confined to boundaries so instability and lack of security in Afghanistan will affect its neighbors and the entire region, Kazemi Qomi warned, noting that the stability of Afghanistan directly depends on the formation of an inclusive and popular government in that country.

The Iranian envoy went on to say that the initiatives developed during the Moscow format meeting do not mean interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, but could help improve the conditions in that country.

The Moscow format for consultations on Afghanistan, which was held in the Russian capital on November 16, called for respect for all Afghan ethnic groups and minorities in a bid to create national reconciliation in the war-torn country.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:50
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:13
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:19
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:47

34. "And remember Thee without stint:  
35. "For Thou art He that (ever) regardeth us."

Surah 20. Ta-ha (34 - 35)

# French Carmakers Have to Pay Damages Over Leaving Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Spokesman of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade says as long as French carmakers do not pay damages for leaving Iran market due to sanctions, they will be unable to re-enter Iran's market.**

Speaking to IRNA, Omid Qalibaf said that departure of French companies from Iran's auto industry after the reimposition of the U.S. sanctions against Tehran cost dear for Iran's automakers and auto part makers, and heavy investment in those sectors remained useless.

He went on to say that the process for imports of cars is underway and the applicant companies have submitted their requests and one of them is on the verge of signing contract and it is expected soon the first batch of cars would enter the country in compliance with the approved conditions.

Qalibaf went on to say that one thing which is definite is that French cars currently are not allowed to enter Iran's market because French companies like Renault and Peugeot have no good records during the sanctions era and despite defining some joint projects, they left Iran very easily.

He added that before the imposition of the cruel U.S. sanctions, French companies had defined a joint project with Iran's SAIPA Company via Pars Khodro Company and a project with IRAN KHODRO Company via IKAP Company but they left Iranian carmakers in the middle of the road and they inflicted heavy damages on Iran's car industry.

Qalibaf reiterated that as long as the French companies do not compensate the losses, they will have no major share of Iran's market and import of any car from France is forbidden. He added that this ban does not include countries like South Korea and



Japan because they had not defined any joint projects with Iranian industrialists.

He concluded that the ministry has done its job on imports of cars and it will resolve any problems ahead of the importers.

Meanwhile a member of board of directors of Iran-France Joint Chamber Commerce told ILNA that French carmakers are waiting for the outcome of the JCPOA and FATF and if these issues are resolved, they will definitely return to Iran market and if Iran remains on the FATF blacklist, they will not come because there will be no chance for banking transactions with the French as they do not work with forex shops and they are waiting for what will happen in the international scenes.

Mohammad Reza Najafi Manesh also reacted to the ban slapped by the ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade on imports of French cars and said that during the sanctions era, there was no possibility for import of final car product to Iran but the French can return to Iran and produce their cars in Iran like what they used to do for production of Thunder 90 car in the past.

He reiterated that the ministry has said that if the French are eager to return to Iran market, they should produce their cars in Iran.

He added that if foreign carmakers are encouraged to invest in Iran market and they produce their cars in Iran, then it will undoubtedly help Iran's economy.

# Biggest Infrastructural Project At LSEZ to Be Operationalized



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Lamerd Special Economic Zone (LSEZ) is to hold a tender for its project for construction of the middle and peripheral canals of controlling the flood in the zone to protect facilities and infrastructural facilities with a credit over 11,000b rials.

According to the public relations of the Lamerd Special Economic Zone, during the past 18 months and because of constant pursuit of the CEO and staff of the zone, all infrastructural projects in this industrial and mining center have been handed over for implementation through holding public tender.

With implementation of this mega project in the Lamerd Special Economic Zone, all seasonal floods which is considered as the main challenge for the zone will be curbed.

During the past years, floods of Lamerd Plain have inflicted heavy costs on the region, adding that the mentioned tender and implementation of the project in a short and certain period will be an end to suffering those costs.

This project which is aimed at preventing floods from damaging the zone will be held in four north, south, west and middle sections. The implementation of the project will create at least 1000 direct and indirect jobs during its construction and it will be held with a credit over 11,000b rials.

# Online Shopping Increases Despite Ban On Instagram

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Figures by Iran's largest private sector union (TCCIM) show online shopping in the country continued to rise in October despite bans imposed on major U.S.-based social media platforms like Instagram because of the role they played in fueling street unrest.

TCCIM figures published on Saturday showed that online shopping in Iran rose 38% year on year in the calendar month to October 22 to reach 960 trillion rials (\$2.7 billion).

The figure was a decline of 4% compared to the calendar month to late September, said the TCCIM.

It added, however, that the year on year increase in online shopping in Iran in October proved that a government ban on Instagram imposed in the previous month had hardly affected online trade in the country.

TCCIM figures, published in a report by government-run Iran newspaper, showed that total online shopping in Iran reported in the seven months to late October had reached 6,430 trillion rials (\$18.3 billion), up 38% from the same period last year. Online shopping by users based in the province of Tehran, where the Iranian capital is located, had accounted for 89% of all transactions, showed the report.

Mohammad Hassan Mortazavi, a senior businessman and a member of the TCCIM, rejected claims that a government ban on Instagram and WhatsApp, another social media platform based in the United States, had played a major role in disrupting online trade in Iran. "It has been a long time since we became independence of foreign platforms in online trade and more than 90% of the (country's) electronic commerce in handled within the domestic platforms," said Mortazavi.

# Iran Exporting Daily 250m Tons of Foodstuff to Qatar

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran is exporting 250 million tons of foodstuff and agricultural products to Qatar per day during the World Cup event whose opening ceremony is to start on Sunday afternoon, the head of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran announced.

The Iranian products, some cargos of which have already been sent to Qatar, are dispatched to the neighboring states under the agreement between the two countries, Ali-Reza Peyman-pak said according to the TPO.

Grounds for implementation of such an agreement were prepared during the recent participation of the TPO in an exhibition in Doha, Qatar, the official underlined.

The official went on to say that promotion of trade with the neighboring countries is among the main approaches of the current Iranian government.

Qatar located in south of Persian Gulf is Iran's neighbor in south of the country. As the official noted, good agreements have been reached and necessary orders have been issued during the visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Doha and the travel of Qatari emir to Tehran.

# Detergents Crisis to Sweep Country In Upcoming Months

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Secretary of Iranian Association of Detergents, Hygienic and Cosmetic Industries says with continuation of the current trend, he has no doubt that the country will face the shortage of detergents and its crisis because about 15% of the small detergent producing companies have stopped production and some of big companies are working with one-thirds of their capacities to save their brands.

Speaking to ILNA, Hessam Bigdel Loo pointed to the command pricing of officials for detergents and said that command pricing changes once or at most two times a year while the producers provide their raw materials from state-run or private petrochemical companies each week with new prices.

He reiterated that the price of raw materials is fixed based on dollar rate and for this reason the prices of petrochemical products change every week.

He criticized the government's dual policy in tackling with producers of detergents and petrochemicals, and noted that detergent producers have to buy their raw materials with new price every week while they have to increase the price of their products once or twice a year.

Bigdel Loo went on to say that Iran is an oil-rich country but its oil products have not helped the price of detergents to become cheap and competitive, adding that the final cost of detergent products of Turkey which does not have petrochemical company is cheaper than Iran's while the Turks buy their raw materials from Iran, and facilities and potentials of Iran have not helped its producers to reduce their production price. Since Iran is under sanctions, the petrochemical companies sell their products to Turkey under the market rate, he added.

He admitted that the rise in the final cost of product has affected Iran's exports as the country has lost some of its export markets, for example Kyrgyzstan prefers to buy detergents from Turkey than Iran although the distance between Turkey and Kyrgyzstan is longer than the distance between Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

Bigdel Loo went on to say that Iranian producers have lowered the quality of their products to compete with their Turk rivals, and among Iraqis this idea has raised that Turkish products have better quality than Iranian ones and this low quality has forced Iraqis to reject Iranian goods.

He reiterated that if the problem is not resolved, the country would leap into detergent crisis in upcoming months.



# 22nd Iran Int'l Electricity Exhibition Kicks Off



TEHRAN (MNA) – The 22nd Iran International Electricity Exhibition was inaugurated at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Sunday with the participation of the Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian.

Over 350 domestic exhibitors along with the representatives of 22 foreign companies from various countries including China, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Finland, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and the Czech Republic will showcase their latest products and

achievements in this edition of the exhibition.

The specialized exhibition of Iran's electrical industry covers a variety of fields including lighting, wire and cable, panels, electrical equipment, automation and instrumentation systems, transmission lines, employers, consultants, and contractor groups.

The exhibitors will display their products in an area as large as 50,000 square meters which will run for four days and end on Nov. 23.

# Sharif University Ranks First in Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Sharif University of Technology ranks as the top university of Iran, based on the evaluation by QS Asia University Rankings for 2023.

Sharif University also ranks 84 among 750 universities in Asia that were evaluated based on QS Asia University Rankings.

This year marked the first time that Iranian universities took part in the ranking conducted annually by UK-based company Quacquarelli Symonds that specializes in the analysis of higher education institutions across the globe.

In total, a dozen Iranian universities took part in the ranking. The University of Tehran ranked 92 among Asian universities, meaning that the university along with Sharif are among the top 100 universities in Asia.

The ranking is conducted based on a wide range of criteria that are divided into four sections, including education and research.

# Tehran to Host Sixth Iran Int'l Fisheries Exhibition

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Sixth International Fisheries Industry Exhibition (IFEX 2022) will be held from Nov. 20-23 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

This exhibition will be held with the aim of exchanging information and developing economic and technical cooperation in the field of fisheries, strengthening and improving distribution systems and facilitating commercial and technical communication, marketing and recognizing commercial and production facilities in the domestic and international arena, and creating a platform for the export of fishery products, presenting improvements internally and externally in the field of the fisheries industry, promoting of technical knowledge in production, processing and marketing, generating employment, introducing new capacities.

A total of 112 companies active in the fields of fishing equipment, fish processing, packaging, aquatic feed, machinery, ornamental and aquarium fish breeding, export-oriented fishery products, refrigeration facilities and equipment, aquaculture and related downstream operations, water purification equipment and tools, efficiency and development of mechanization, algae and leeches, offshore fishing, distribution system, electronic aquatic market, banks and credit institutions, insurance and specialized publications, will showcase their latest products in this edition of the exhibition.



## Australia Aims to Host 2026 UN Climate Summit

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Australia hopes to host the 2026 COP summit, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said, seeking to overhaul his country's reputation for foot-dragging on climate change.

"It is a good opportunity, I believe, for Australia to show and to host what is a major global event," Albanese said during a visit to Bangkok.

Centre-left Albanese was swept to power this year on a wave of popular anger about the pro-fossil fuel stance of Australia's decade-old conservative government.



## Colombia, ELN Guerrillas To Start New Peace Talks

BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Colombia's government and a delegation from the leftist National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla group will resume peace talks suspended since 2019 today (Monday) in Caracas, the parties announced.

The resumption of negotiations "will be on Monday, November 21, in the afternoon in the city of Caracas," read a statement posted to Twitter and signed by the Colombian High Commissioner for Peace, Danilo Rueda, and ELN peace delegation member Pablo Beltran. Colombia has suffered more than half a century of armed conflict between the state and various groups of left-wing guerrillas, right-wing paramilitaries and drug traffickers.



## APEC Says Most Members Strongly Condemn War in Ukraine

# APEC 2022 THAILAND



BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Leaders from around the Asia-Pacific called for an end to Russia's war on Ukraine and pledged to steer the region's economies toward sustainable growth as they wrapped up summit meetings.

Host Thailand garnered a diplomatic coup in managing to bridge divisions among the 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum by saying that most members had condemned the war. Russia is an APEC member, as is China, which generally has refrained from criticizing Moscow.

The declaration issued by APEC leaders acknowledged differing views on the war and said the forum, which is devoted largely to promoting trade and closer economic ties, was not a venue for resolving such conflicts.

But it noted that the war and other security issues can "can have significant consequences for the global economy." It said most members had strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and worsening inflation, supply chain troubles, food insecurity and financial risks.

The statement echoed the wording of a March 2 United Nations General Assembly resolution that "deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine."

In other developments Saturday, a White House official said U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris exchanged brief remarks with Chinese President Xi Jinping before the final APEC meeting began, calling for both sides to keep lines of communication open.

The 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum's long-term mission is promoting closer economic ties, but its summits often are sidetracked by other more urgent issues.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha opened Saturday's meeting by urging the leaders to push ahead with APEC's agenda of promoting free trade in the Pacific region.

"We have to give priority to turning this plan into action," Prayuth said.

The meetings Saturday wrap up a flurry of leaders' meetings in Southeast Asian countries this week. Much of the activity at such summits occurs on the sidelines and in the interludes before and after meetings begin.

The U.S. Vice President and leaders of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea met separately Friday to voice concerns about North Korea's launch earlier in the day of an intercontinental ballistic missile that landed near Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

The summits over the past week gave leaders a chance for face-to-face encounters that have been rare in the past two years due to the pandemic.

Both at APEC in Thailand and at the G-20 meeting in Indonesia, officials appear to have chosen to agree to disagree about the war. In both Bangkok and Bali, countries that had refused to condemn the invasion refrained from blocking the release of statements harshly criticizing Moscow.

APEC members account for nearly four of every 10 people and almost half of world trade. Much of APEC's work is technical and incremental, carried out by senior officials and ministers, covering areas such as trade, forestry, health, food, security, small- and medium-size enterprises and women's empowerment.

Other APEC members include Brunei, Chile, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who was to represent the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, did not attend after getting COVID-19.

## Anwar Seen Leading Tight Race in Malaysia's Election

KUALA LUMPUR (Dispatches) - Malaysians voted in a general election that may fail to end the recent phase of political instability in the Southeast Asian nation as polls have predicted no clear winner.

The alliance led by veteran opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim is forecast to take the most seats in parliament but fail to reach the majority needed to form a government.

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob's ruling Barisan coalition and another bloc led by former premier Muhyiddin Yassin are other leading contenders. Muhyiddin's alliance was a junior partner in Ismail's coalition government, and the two could come together again to block Anwar. Without a clear winner, political uncertainty could persist as Malaysia faces slowing economic growth and rising inflation.

It has had three prime ministers in as many years, including 97-year-old Mahathir Mohamed, who ruled Malaysia for more than two decades during two stints in power, and has roused himself for one last fight, though he is not considered a leading contender.

If Anwar clinches the top job, it would cap a remarkable journey for a politician who in 25 years has gone from heir apparent to the premiership to a political prisoner convicted of sodomy to the country's leading opposition figure.

"Right now, I think things are looking good and we are cautiously confident," Anwar told reporters after casting his vote in the state of Penang.

Ismail said his coalition was targeting a simple majority, but would be open to working with others if it failed to do so.

Malaysia's 21.1 million eligible voters, including 6 million new ones, will choose 222 lawmakers for the lower house of parliament. The race was fluid, with opinion polls showing significant numbers of undecided voters in the days before the vote.

Some 70% of voters had cast their ballots by 4 p.m., the Election Commission said.

Voter turnout in the previous election was one of the highest at 82%, but given the bigger pool of voters in this poll, Saturday's turnout had already surpassed the prior election by nearly 2 million voters.

The top issues are the economy, along with corruption as several leaders from the incumbent Barisan Nasional coalition face graft accusations. Malaysians are also frustrated with the political instability, seen as hampering development efforts.

"I hope there's a change in the government," Ismat Abdul Rauf, a 64-year-old retiree, told Reuters. "There are many issues that need to be addressed - the economy, the wealth of the country, the people who did wrongdoing who are not being prosecuted."

Anwar's bloc is multiethnic, while the other two prioritise the interests of the ethnic-Malay Muslim majority. Muhyiddin's bloc includes an Islamist party that has touted shariah law.



## Pentagon Claims Russia Trying To Exhaust Ukraine's Air Defenses

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Russia's surge in missile strikes in Ukraine is partly designed to exhaust Kyiv's supplies of air defenses and finally achieve dominance of the skies above the country, a senior Pentagon official said.

Russia has been hammering cities across Ukraine with missile strikes over the past week, in one of the heaviest waves of missile attacks since Moscow began its invasion nearly nine months ago. Ukraine says the strikes have crippled almost half of Ukraine's energy system, creating a potential humanitarian disaster as winter sets in.

Colin Kahl, the Pentagon's top policy advisor, cautioned that Moscow also hoped to deplete Ukrainian air defenses that have so far prevented the Russian military from establishing dominance of the skies above Ukraine.

"They're really trying to overwhelm and exhaust Ukrainian air defense systems," Kahl told reporters during a trip to the Middle East. "We know what the Russian theory of victory is, and we're committed to making sure that's not going to work by making sure that the Ukrainians get what they need to keep their air defenses viable."



## North Korea's Kim Brings Daughter to Oversee Test of Missile

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a test of Pyongyang's newest intercontinental ballistic missile with his daughter in tow for the first time, state media reported Saturday.

Declaring he would meet perceived US nuclear threats with nukes of his own, Kim supervised the launch on Friday of the black-and-white missile, which the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said was the Hwasong-17 - dubbed the "monster missile" by analysts.

The launch was successful, KCNA said, adding that the "test-fire clearly proved the reliability of the new major strategic weapon system".

KCNA said Kim attended the launch "together with his beloved daughter and wife", and state media images showed a beaming Kim accompanied by a young girl in a puffer jacket and red shoes as he walked in front of the missile. Pyongyang's state media has never mentioned Kim's children, and this was the first official confirmation that he had a daughter, experts said.

The latest launch shows that "the nuclear forces of the DPRK have secured another reliable and maximum capacity to contain any nuclear threat", KCNA said, using the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Since Kim declared North Korea an "irreversible" nuclear state in September, Washington has ramped up regional security cooperation, including its largest-ever joint air exercises with South Korea.

The South Korean military said it staged joint air drills with the United States on Saturday involving the US B-1B long-range heavy bomber -- which was deployed to the Korean peninsula for a separate joint exercise earlier this month.

Kim slammed what he called "hysterical aggression war drills" and said that if America continued to make threats against the North, Pyongyang would "resolutely react to nukes with nuclear weapons and to total confrontation with all-out confrontation," KCNA reported.

## Francophone Countries Meet for Summit in Tunisia



TUNIS (Dispatches) - The world's club of French-speaking countries will meet in Tunisia from Saturday for talks focused on economic cooperation, more than a year after President Kais Saied began an internationally criticized power grab.

Around 30 heads of state and government, including French President Emmanuel Macron, his Senegalese counterpart Macky Sall and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, are set to attend the summit of the International Organisation of Francophonie (OIF) on the southern Tunisian resort island of Djerba.

While the two-day summit and an associated economic forum will officially focus on digital technology's role in development, it will also be an opportunity for Western and African leaders to discuss issues like Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Many African countries have decried what they see as a lack of international solidarity in the face of crises on their continent, in sharp contrast with European nations' swift support of Kyiv.

The summit coincides with the final stage of UN climate talks in Egypt, and comes just days after G20 leaders met in Indonesia for a meeting dominated by the war in Ukraine, which is an OIF observer state.

Normally held every two years, the meeting was postponed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and then last year after Saied sacked the government and suspended parliament, later dissolving the legislature entirely.

Hosting the summit is a "success" for Saied, said French political researcher Vincent Geisser.

It will see him "leave his isolation -- at least temporarily", Geisser told AFP, after Canada, France and other developed nations last year called on Saied to restore "constitutional order".

The summit will belatedly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the now 88-strong group whose members, such as Armenia and Serbia, are not all French-speaking.

The world's French-speaking community is around 321 million-strong, and is expected to more than double to 750 million in 2050.



## Catastrophic Solar Storms May Not Explain Shadows of Radiation in Trees



LONDON (Dispatches) - A cryptic chemical signature of unknown origins, hidden for centuries inside the trunks of Earth's trees, just became even more mysterious.

In the last decade, scientists have discovered traces on Earth of six intense bursts of radiation, known as Miyake events, scattered over the last 9,300 years. The most popular explanation is that these mysterious signatures were left behind by massive solar storms, leading some scientists to warn that the next Miyake event could cripple the world's electrical grid. But new research, published in the October Proceedings of the Royal Society A, suggests that more than just solar flares might be behind the enigmatic radiation.

The finding underscores the need for further investigations into these strange bursts, which could potentially harm our society in the future, says physicist Gianluca Quarta of the University of Salento in Lecce, Italy, who was not involved in the study. "Something is not fitting with what we know at the moment."

Miyake events were first discovered in trees. As trees grow, their trunks accrue layers, or rings, which lock in chemical signatures from their surroundings. By analyzing the composition of individual tree rings, researchers can uncover clues about environmental conditions going back thousands of years.

In 2012, physicist Fusa Miyake of Nagoya University in Japan was studying Japanese cedar tree rings when she found a sharp spike in radiocarbon — a variant of carbon that can form when cosmic radiation strikes Earth's atmosphere — in rings dating to about A.D. 774. Since then, five other similar bursts, now named Miyake events, have been detected in tree rings around the world as well as in polar ice cores.

Due to the spikes' global occurrence, many scientists contend that the events have an extraterrestrial origin. The most popular explanation is that especially large solar storms, or flares, blasted Earth with big bursts of radiation.

The most powerful solar storm in recorded history was the 1859 Carrington event, which broke telegraph lines and sparked a circuit fire in Pittsburgh. The radiation levels associated with Miyake events are more than 80 times those of the Carrington event, says physicist Benjamin Pope of the University of Queensland in St. Lucia, Australia. "They could pose serious risks to global technology."

But the solar storm story has holes. Radiation levels from the 774 event would have been too high to have come from a single solar flare, some researchers have suggested. And ice cores, which can also store chemical traces of solar flares, have not yet yielded evidence of increased solar activity for every Miyake event.

So, Pope and his colleagues put the leading hypothesis to the test. They analyzed all publicly available tree ring data on the six Miyake events using computer simulations of Earth's carbon cycle. This allowed the team to calculate the duration, timing and amplitude of each event.

If Miyake events are tied to solar activity, they could align with the solar maxima, which occur roughly every 11 years when solar flares become more frequent. But the researchers found no correlation between Miyake events and any phase of the solar cycle. What's more, the researchers found that two of the events appeared to last longer than a year — unexpectedly long for solar storms, which typically rage for hours or days.

And if solar flares did cause the events, then trees nearer the poles, where Earth's protective magnetic field is weaker, should contain higher levels of Miyake event radiation. But the researchers found no such trend.

The findings don't rule out the solar flare hypothesis, Pope says. Insufficient tree ring data could be hiding a link between solar activity and Miyake events, he says. New Antarctic ice-core data — being analyzed by researchers at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization and hopefully published next year — may provide more answers.

## Cuba Bets on Specialty Coffee to Boost Industry



HAVANA (Dispatches) - In the lush, fertile mountains of Cuba, farmer Jesus Chaviano dreams of adding his arabica beans to a list of specialty coffees the country hopes will lift an industry in decline.

It's harvest time on Chaviano's eight-hectare (20-acre) plantation in the central Guamuaya mountain range, and his 42,000 coffee plants burst with ripe reddish fruit in the shadow of avocado and banana trees.

At 800 meters (2,600 feet) altitude, conditions are ideal for the eight varieties of high-quality arabica coffee beans he planted with his "own hands."

While Cuba has been growing coffee for almost 300 years, it has never produced the specialty coffees beloved worldwide for their unique flavor profiles that come from careful cultivation in a specific terroir.

In the past two decades, the appeal of high-end coffee has soared, and so has its price on the international market.

"I think that needs to be the path we take: going after specialty coffees. Not large quantities... small batches that we can sell well," said Chaviano, 46.

As the island catches on to the appeal of high-end coffee, the first five specialty coffees will be unveiled in December at the first-ever Cuba-Cafe producers fair, which is being held in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba.

The name and origins of the chosen coffees are being kept secret.

"We are taking the first concrete steps to add value to this coffee," said Ramon Ramos, the scientific director of Cuba's National Institute for Agroforestry Research. He added that "with the same production, the same yield, it will be sold at a much higher price."

According to Ramos, the price for 1,000 kilograms of commercial coffee varies between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Meanwhile, a kilogram of specialty coffee can sell for "up to \$10,000."

According to the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) a coffee must score above 80 points on a 100-point scale to reach the required standard, after being evaluated by "a certified coffee taster."

The final score will influence the price at which it is sold.

"It's the future," says Chaviano, who built his house in the middle of his plantation, in the style of the French colonists who fled Haiti in the 18th century and brought the culture of coffee cultivation to Cuba.

In 1960, Cuba produced more than 60,000 tons of coffee. Last year, this figure stood at only 11,500 tonnes, less than half of what is consumed locally.

According to official figures, only 1,365 tons were exported.

Farmer Jesus Chaviano stands amid his coffee bushes at his plantation in Jibacoa, Villa Clara province, Cuba

Experts say climate change -- drastically reducing coffee-growing areas worldwide -- is partly to blame for the drop in production.

In Cuba, the emigration of plantation workers has also impacted the industry.

"Why did the country once produce a lot of coffee, but now it can't produce coffee?" asked Chaviano.

"I'm focused on doing it right and demonstrating that it's possible to produce coffee, and quality coffee," but "you have to put your heart into it," he added.

In 2021, his yield was one ton of coffee per hectare, four times the national average.

Some 25 kilometers from his farm, researchers at the Jibacoa Agroforestry Research Station, have been tasked with training and providing technology to producers to improve their yields.

Director Ciro Sanchez, said the goal is to produce 30,000 tons of coffee by 2030.



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## China Considers Holding Belt and Road Forum in 2023

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Chinese President Xi Jinping said that China would consider hosting the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation next year, which would be the first staging of the event since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Belt and Road (B&R) is Xi's signature infrastructure investment initiative and previous editions of the forum, in 2017 and 2019, drew leaders and officials from dozens of countries.

In the latest gathering of countries members of the initiative Xi called for the inclusion of more countries in the network, citing that his government wants to "deliver benefits to all."



## Japan Inflation Hits Four-Decade High in October

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese inflation hit a four-decade high last month, government data showed Friday, fueled by high energy costs and a weak yen, ramping up pressure on the central bank to move away from its ultra-loose monetary policies.

Core consumer prices excluding volatile fresh food rose 3.6% on-year in October, marginally higher than analyst expectations.

The reading marked the fastest pace since 1982, although it remains below the sky-high levels that have pummeled the United States and other countries. In reaction to the data, chief cabinet secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters the government "must protect people's livelihoods from these price rises."

"Price increases have continued for items closely related to daily life such as utilities and food, due to rising raw material prices and the weak yen," he said.

The government said last month it would spend \$260 billion on an economic stimulus package that includes support for energy bills, which have spiked since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February.

"Policies targeting energy and food, which are the main causes of high prices" are included in the relief measures, Matsuno said as he vowed to "pass the extra budget as soon as possible."

Darren Tay, Japan economist at Capital Economics, told Agence France-Presse (AFP) that the impact of inflation on the average consumer was "very real."

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has responded with an "aggressive" stimulus package because "he knows that his electorate is not too happy with rising prices," Tay added.

When energy prices were not taken into account, October's inflation was a more moderate 2.5%, but still higher than in September.

The headline core consumer price index (CPI) has now risen for 14 straight months - putting pressure on the Bank of Japan (BoJ) to tweak its longstanding monetary easing policies.

The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) and other central banks have sharply hiked interest rates this year to tackle inflation.

But Japan, which since the 1990s has swung between periods of sluggish inflation and deflation, has gone against the grain and continues to keep interest rates at ultra-low levels as it tries to kick-start the torpid economy.

Although inflation is now higher than the 2% targeted by the Bank of Japan for the past decade, it sees the recent price rises as temporary and says there is no reason to change course.

The starkly different approaches taken by the BoJ and the Fed have driven down the value of the yen against the dollar this year from levels of around 115 yen per dollar in March to 140 on Friday, having hit a 32-year low of 151 yen last month.

But while the bank keeps a close watch on inflation, Tay added: "I still don't think it's enough for them to change their policy at this point."

One reason is that Japan's latest growth data, released on Tuesday, showed a surprise contraction of the world's third-largest economy in the July-September quarter.

## German Industrial Workers to Get Pay Raises in 2-Year Deal

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's biggest industrial union agreed with employers on a pay deal that will see millions of workers get raises totaling 8.5% over two years as well as one-time payments meant to cushion the effect of sky-high inflation.

The IG Metall union and employers reached a compromise in the southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, a key industrial region. In Germany, wage deals are typically hammered out in negotiations between employers' organizations and unions that cover a whole sector and an agreement reached in one region is generally applied nationwide.

IG Metall negotiates for workers in the auto and machinery industries among others, representing a total of more than 3.8 million workers.

The union initially demanded an 8% pay increase and a one-year deal. It first made the demand in early July; since then, Germany's annual inflation rate has risen from 7.6% to 10.4%.

In their fifth round of talks, both sides agreed to raises of 5.2% next June and another 3.3% in May 2024. On top of that, workers will get one-time payments of 1,500 euros (\$1,550) each at the beginning of 2023 and another 1,500 euros a year later.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who has sought to find ways with unions and employers to address the impact of rising prices while preventing an inflationary spiral, has been keen to promote such tax-free payments of up to 3,000 euros.

"We have succeeded in an extremely challenging time in appreciably unburdening employees, sustainably stabilizing incomes and strengthening purchasing power," IG Metall Chairperson Joerg Hofmann said in a statement. He argued the agreement would strengthen the German economy, which is expected to shrink next year.



## Turkey to End Easing Next Week With One Last Rate Cut to 9%

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkey's central bank is expected to cut rates by another 150 basis points next week to 9% and halt the easing thereafter, a Reuters poll showed, after President Tayyip Erdogan called for the stimulus despite more than 85% inflation.

The predicted cut would bring the cumulative easing in four months to 500 basis points, which the central bank says is necessary given signs of economic slowdown. It is swayed by Erdogan who had called for a single-digit rate by year-end.

The central bank will announce its rate decision at 1100 GMT on Nov. 24.

The bank cut its policy interest rate by an unexpectedly aggressive 150 basis points last month, and said at the time it evaluated a similar move for November before ending the current easing cycle.

All 14 economists that participated in the Reuters poll expected a 150 basis-point cut to 9% in the one-week repo rate.

Of the 15 that gave year-end predictions, only one economist saw another cut in December, bringing the policy rate to 8.0%, while the others saw the bank holding steady after November.

In response to a question about the policy rate at the end of 2023, six of seven economists expected a pivot to tightening that would bring it to a range between 16% and 35%.

One economist noted that policy would depend on whether Erdogan is re-elected in a presidential vote in May or June next year.

## India Has the Best Int'l Trade Prospects Among Top 10 Economies

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Among the group of top 10 economies, the most positive prospects in terms of international trade are related to India and the country does not seem to be impacted by the global economic slowdown to a large extent, S&P Global Market Intelligence said in its latest Global Trade Monitor report.

The top 10 economies by GDP in 2022, according to the report, include the US, EU27, mainland China, Japan, the UK,

India, Brazil, South Korea, Canada, and Russia. These countries are responsible for approximately four-fifths of the world GDP and three-quarters of global exports, with most trade carried out within the group.

The section in the report on expectations for international trade in the next months said the global economic slowdown now is more and more visible.

Monthly historical data clearly shows that in the top 10 economies exports are primarily impacted slowing down in the majority of economies within the group.

"The picture is slightly more optimistic for imports, yet the situation is expected to deteriorate in the forthcoming months for both exports and imports, which is reflected in the most recent PMI NEXO readouts," the report said.

The consequences of the global economic slowdown are not that apparent in the monthly data for 2022 as in the first three quarters of the year, the dynamics of exports and imports were relatively strong in the top 10 economies.

"This should translate in still positive growth in 2022 from the yearly perspective, yet in 2023 global trade contraction may be expected. GTAS Forecasting expects trade recovery to start in 2024, returning to the long-term stable growth path," it added.

On economic growth, the report said the months ahead will likely bring recessions in Europe, the US, Canada, and parts of Latin America. With moderate growth in Asia Pacific, the Middle East, and Africa, the world economy can avoid a downturn, but growth will be minimal.

Global real GDP growth is projected to slow from 5.9 per cent in 2021 to 2.8 per cent current year and 1.4 per cent in 2023. Notably, S&P Global Market Intelligence revised down the 2023 growth rate 0.6 percentage point from the last month's forecast.

## ECB May Have to Cool Growth To Control Inflation

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - The European Central Bank may need to raise interest rates so much that they dampen growth as it fights sky-high inflation, while any runoff in the ECB's bond holdings must be "measured and predictable", its chief Christine Lagarde said.

The ECB has raised rates by an unprecedented 200 basis points since July and flagged yet more policy tightening via rate hikes, the reduction of its 5 trillion euro (\$5.2 trillion) debt holdings and more expensive bank funding.

"We expect to raise rates further - and withdrawing accommodation may not be enough," Lagarde said in a speech at a conference.

"Interest rates are, and will remain, the main tool for adjusting our policy stance," she said. "Acknowledging that interest rates remain the most effective tool for shaping our policy stance, it is appropriate that the balance sheet is normalized in a measured and predictable way."

The comments suggest the euro zone's central bank aims to shrink its 3.3 trillion euro Asset Purchase Program of mostly government debt passively, possibly putting it on auto pilot instead of using it to actively manage the ECB's policy stance.

At 1.5%, the ECB's deposit rate is not far from the so-called neutral rate, where the bank is neither stimulating nor holding back growth. Most estimates of the neutral rate are between 1.5% and 2%, suggesting that after an expected December hike "accommodation" will have been removed.

The problem is that inflation, running at 10.6%, is far above the ECB's 2% target and even a recession, now almost certain over the winter months, is unlikely to ease price pressures enough to let the ECB step off the brakes.



In what may be a relief for the ECB, a key German union agreed to a modest wage deal overnight, indicating that rapid inflation has yet to set off a wage-price spiral.

IG Metall, Germany's largest trade union, struck a deal for a 5.2% wage increase next year and a 3.3% rise in 2024 in Baden-Wuerttemberg, averting the threat of broader strikes.

The deal, which also includes a 3,000 euro one-off payment but fell short of an 8% wage demand, is likely to set a benchmark for millions of workers in other German states.

"It's not good news for the ECB, but we would argue that it's not bad news either," Pictet Wealth Management economist Frederik Ducrozet said.

"With inflation running at double-digit rates in Germany, this is not the definition of a wage-price spiral."

## China's Property Prices To Rise in 2023



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's property sector will remain weak but will see a gradual recovery in 2023, economists said in a Reuters poll, expecting further stimulus measures and looser COVID-19 curbs to support the crisis-stricken sector next year.

New home prices are expected to fall in the first half of next year before rising for the whole of 2023 while sales are seen falling more slowly as the year progresses, according to the 16 analysts and economists polled by Reuters between Nov. 9 to 17.

According to the survey, new home prices are seen falling 0.5% in the first half of 2023, down from a 2.0% growth forecast for that period in a September survey. But prices were expected to rise 1.8% for the full year.

"For 2023, property indexes are expected to see a turning point and consumer confidence will improve with the economy completely stabilised after COVID restrictions ease," said Li Zongguang, chief economist at China Renaissance Holdings Limited.

"Property measures are expected to strengthen support, which will improve residents' confidence."

Woes in China's real estate market, which accounts for about a quarter of its \$17 trillion economy, deepened in October, weighed down by COVID-19 curbs and industry-wide problems. New home prices fell at their fastest pace in over seven years in October and sales slumped for the 15th straight month.

A recent slew of support measures, including loan repayment extensions, aimed at improving liquidity in the property sector has underpinned market sentiment.

But analysts and economists in the poll expected concerns about falling house prices, protracted COVID restrictions, and delays in construction to continue to weigh on demand.

Property sales were seen slumping 5.0% in the first half of 2023, a smaller drop than the 15.0% fall forecast in the September poll. Economists expected a 1.0% slump in sales for the whole of 2023, the survey showed.



## Iranian Qari Vying in Quranic Contest in Russia

TEHRAN (MNA) – Representatives from 21 countries are competing at the 20th edition of the Moscow international Quran competition underway in Russia.

The Quranic event was launched in a ceremony in the Russian capital city on Friday and will run until today. Iranian Qari Seyed Mostafa Hosseini will be the 17th contender to showcase his Quran recitation talents in the competition.

The competition is being held again after a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Qari, in Islamic terminology, refers to one who recites the Qur'an according to the tajwid, or proper rules of recitation.



## India Power Binges on Coal, Outpaces Asia

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - India's coal-fired power output has increased much faster than any other country in the Asia Pacific since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, underscoring the challenges the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter faces in weaning its economy off of carbon.

Coal fuels nearly three-quarters of the power output of India, which presented its decarbonisation strategy at the United Nation's COP27 climate summit this week - the last of the world's five largest economies to do so.

Use of coal globally, including in power generation, has grown since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February sent prices of other fossil fuels surging, derailing efforts to transition to cleaner fuels.

But the increase in India's coal-fired power output has outstripped its regional peers, data from the government and analysts showed.

India's power ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. When asked about high coal use, the government has previously cited lower per capita emissions compared with richer nations and surging renewable energy output.

India's coal-fired power output increased more than 10 percent year-on-year from March to October to 757.82 terawatt hours, an analysis of government data shows, as electricity demand increased off the back of a heatwave and pickup in economic activity. The government expects this output to grow at the fastest pace in at least a decade in the current fiscal year ending March 2023.

An analysis of data from independent think tank Ember shows India's surge in coal-fired output for the March-to-August period was 14 times faster than the average in Asia Pacific. The heat wave and economic revival following the pandemic meant overall electricity demand grew twice as fast as rest of the region, Ember's data shows.

The European Union was the only region where coal-fired power output grew at a rate faster than India, the Ember data says, as nations in the region scrambled to reduce their reliance on Russian supplies.

India is also the only major country in Asia, besides Japan, where the contribution of coal-fired power in overall electricity production increased in the six months since March, the data shows.

India wants countries to agree to phase down all fossil fuels at the COP27 summit, rather than a narrower deal to phase down coal as was agreed last year.

State-run Coal India, the country's dominant coal miner, ramped up production to meet the utility demand. It reported a 13.5% year-on-year increase in its coal output in March-October to a record high of 432 million tons.

Imports of thermal coal, predominantly used in power generation, rose by



more than a quarter in the same period, double the pace seen in the pre-COVID years between 2017 to 2019, data from consultancy Coalmint showed.

"Like in China, Indian coal-fired generation will be correlated with Indian power demand - if total demand increases, then more coal-fired generation will be needed," said Jake Horslen, an analyst at Energy Aspects.

In China, the government's strict "COVID-zero" policy and resulting restrictions, plus increased use of renewable and hydro sources of power generation, led to a decline in coal use. Consultancy Wood Mackenzie expects India's coal-fired power output to grow 10% in 2022 compared to the previous year. China's generation from the polluting fuel is expected to decline marginally.

India's government has said it was committed to achieve net zero emissions by 2070, and official data reviewed by Reuters shows that renewable energy generation grew 21% in March to October, even as coal use for power increased.

India is expected to add up to 360 gigawatts of power generation capacity from clean energy sources to its overall output over the next decade, said Hetal Gandhi, director of research at CRISIL Market Intelligence. "This would help lower coal's contribution in generation by 40-45% by fiscal 2032," he said.

### IAEA Getting Distance...

FROM PAGE 1

"It is a tactic intended to provoke war. There is no other explanation of what's been going on given the fact that Iran has done everything reasonable and everything it could do as a sovereign state to cooperate," he added.



Bosnitch is not the only impartial analysts who criticized the IAEA decision and he openly unveiled the goal behind such a strong resolution. The accusations leveled by the agency against Iran are primarily based on documents supplied by Israel, which Tehran has rejected as fake and fabricated and provided by members of the anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO).

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

Elijah Magnier, another political analyst, also slammed the IAEA Chief Rafael Grossi's unprofessional conduct by taking sides and acting beyond IAEA jurisdiction.

Magnier criticized the "exaggerated and fabricated" intelligence information provided by the Israel and U.S. intelligence services citing ex-chiefs of IAEA Hans Blix (1981-1997) and Mohamed ElBaradei (1997-2009).

He told Press TV that U.S. president Joe Biden "is clearly telling us that he is not interested in signing the deal because he's allowing the IAEA to insist on false information coming from intelligence services, and stating that he's not going to continue and respect the JCPO as he promised during his presidential campaign."

Meanwhile on Saturday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says Tehran will take retaliatory action against a recent "unconstructive" anti-Iran resolution passed by the IAEA.

He said the IAEA Board of Governors made an "unconstructive" move by adopting the anti-Iran resolution as a delegation comprising of officials with Iran's Foreign Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran held "constructive" talks with the agency's Director General Grossi in Vienna some two weeks ago.

However, Amirabdollahian said, the anti-Iran draft resolution was unexpectedly proposed to influence the internal situation in Iran and in line with the United States' so-called maximum pressure policy against Tehran.

So one can easily realize that the IAEA does not make a decision independently and it follows the prescriptions which are dictated the West and its ally the Zionists.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been honest in cooperating with the IAEA and it will not give any more concession to this agency and its lords, and it will cooperate based on its commitments, and nothing more than it, because the era of giving free concessions with gaining nothing has come to its end and the West and IAEA's bullies will have no effect on Tehran's behavior as the country is firm on its policy of win-win in talks with anyone either the IAEA, or countries and international bodies. The IAEA is actually getting distance from its main and natural task which is to stop non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and is turning to a puppet for frightening the independent countries.

Now it is Tehran's turn to give a firm and logical response to the IAEA in upcoming days to show it that Iran is not so weak that it thinks.

### Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia...

FROM PAGE 1

As to the power consumption and network in Iran, he said that the power industry in the country experiences a good situation in terms of unbalances and economic growth.

Referring to the achievements in this industry, he went on to say that domestic achievements in the electricity industry have been unique, which have been achieved for the first time in the Islamic country.

The power industry in Iran had been 100 percent dependent, but it has developed drastically, he noted, saying that some 95 percent of the parts, equipment, and facilities in this industry are being made and prepared inside the country.

## How the World Health Organization Might Fight Future Pandemics

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Negotiations on new rules for dealing with pandemics are underway at the World Health Organization (WHO), with a target date of May 2024 for a legally binding agreement to be adopted by the U.N. health agency's 194 member countries.



A new pact is a priority for WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as his second five-year term at the head of the global health agency gets underway. It seeks to shore up the world's defences against new pathogens following the COVID-19 pandemic that has killed more than 6.5 million people, according to the WHO.

The global health agency itself is facing calls for reform after an independent panel described it as "underpowered" when COVID-19 struck, with limited ability to investigate outbreaks and coordinate containment measures.

The WHO already has binding rules known as the International Health Regulations (2005) which set out countries' obligations where public health events have the potential to cross borders. These include advising the WHO immediately of a health emergency and measures on trade and travel.

Adopted after the 2002/3 SARS outbreak, these regulations are still seen as functional for regional epidemics like Ebola but inadequate for a global pandemic.

Suggested proposals for the pact include the sharing of data and genome sequences of emerging viruses and rules on equitable vaccine distribution.

Member states agreed in July that the new agreement should be legally binding. Another key meeting is scheduled for December.

It would be only the second such health accord after the 2003 Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, a treaty which aims to reduce smoking via taxation and rules on labelling and advertising.

The EU proposed the accord and is seen as its biggest backer. Developing countries are keen to use the negotiations as an opportunity to secure better access to vaccines, following allegations of "vaccine apartheid" from the WHO's Director-General Tedros.

Members are due to give their initial feedback to the draft in a public meeting between Dec. 5-7. With so many member countries involved, securing agreement is likely to be tricky.

It is not yet clear how the 2005 regulations and the new pandemic accord might fit together.

One suggestion is that they should be complementary, so that existing rules apply to local outbreaks with the new rules kicking in if the WHO declares a pandemic -- something it does not currently have a mandate to do.

## Webb Observations Point to a Shorter Cosmic Dark Age

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The first galaxies may have formed far earlier than previously thought, according to observations from the James Webb Space Telescope that are reshaping astronomers' understanding of the early universe.

Researchers using the powerful observatory have now published papers in the journal *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, documenting two exceptionally bright, exceptionally distant galaxies, based on data gathered within the first few days of Webb going operational in July.

Their extreme luminosity points to two intriguing possibilities, astronomers on a NASA press call said Thursday. The first is that these galaxies are very massive, with lots of low-mass stars like galaxies today, and had to start forming 100 million years after the Big Bang which occurred 13.8 billion years ago.

That is 100 million years earlier than the currently held end of the so-called cosmic dark age, when the universe contained only gas and dark matter.

A second possibility is that they are made up of "Population III" stars, which have never been observed but are theorized to have been made of only helium and hydrogen, before heavier elements existed.

Because these stars burned so brightly at extreme temperatures, galaxies made of them would not need to be as massive to account for the brightness seen by Webb, and could have started forming later.

"We are seeing such bright, such luminous galaxies at this early time, that we're really uncertain about what is happening here," Garth Illingworth of the University of California at Santa Cruz told reporters.

The galaxies' rapid discovery also defied expectations that Webb would need to survey a much larger volume of space to find such galaxies. "It's sort of a bit of a surprise that there are so many that formed so early," added astrophysicist Jeyhan Kartaltepe of the Rochester Institute of Technology.

The two galaxies were found to have definitely existed approximately 450 and 350 million years after the Big Bang. The second of these, called GLASS-z12, now represents the most distant starlight ever seen.

The more distant objects are from us, the longer it takes for their light to reach us, and so to gaze at the distant universe is to see into the deep past.

### Iran to Launch "Nahid" ...

FROM PAGE 1

The enemies have tried to prevent economic and scientific progress with all kinds of sanctions, including in Iran's space industry, however; despite all the restrictions and pressures, the country has achieved all kinds of space and space-related technologies that should be considered a great success for Islamic Iran.

Iran has just launched its Khayyam satellite into orbit in August. The satellite was sent into space from the Moscow operated Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, utilizing a Soyuz 2.1 B rocket.

Iran said that it would use imagery from Khayyam to monitor Iran's borders and improve the country's capabilities in the management and planning of agriculture, Natural Resources, Environmental issues, mining, and natural disasters.

### U.S. to Send...

FROM PAGE 1

Although faced with severe U.S. sanctions targeting its military, Iran has successfully advanced its defense program in recent years, achieving what the former head of the US Central Command once called "overmatch" - a level of military capability in which a country is extremely difficult to be defeated.

Iran "can strike effectively across the breadth and depth of the Middle East. They could strike with accuracy, and they could strike with volume," General Frank McKenzie said last year.

"Iran's strategic capacity is now enormous," he said. "They've got overmatch in the theater - the ability to overwhelm."

Despite the commotion created over its military development, Iran has made clear that its missile and drone programs are defensive in nature.

### Iran to Begin World Cup...

FROM PAGE 1

Last week, when Queiroz was interrogated by English reporters at a press conference in Doha and asked to comment on riots in Iran, he quite rightly reminded them of the immigration crisis in the United Kingdom. The only difference is, British problems are of their own making, while Iran's problems have been manufactured in the West.

Skipper Jahanbakhsh too slammed the British media for "destabilizing" the team and playing "mental games" by tossing political questions at players ahead of the all-important game on Monday. What's clear is that the British and US media are going to make it hard for Team Melli off the field.

Iranian players have been under tremendous psychological pressure the past few

weeks amid a relentless campaign by hostile forces in the West to de-legitimize them and affect their morale ahead of the World Cup. They have been viciously trolled and abused online under a deep-rooted conspiracy. But, what matters to them at the moment is to bring laurels to the country and cheer millions of fans back home.

"For us, qualifying (for the knockout phase) would be huge. We will give everything we have to achieve," Taremi, one of Team Melli's all-time leading scorers told the FIFA website recently, calling it the "greatest honor" to represent the country.

Iran's performance in Qatar will be a fitting answer to those who have sought to play the spoilsport. It will also bring much-needed cheer to people in the country.



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**E-Mail Address:**  
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**ISSN 1024-6053**  
**P.O. Box:** 15875-8551  
**Address:** No 13, Pajouhesh St.,  
Golestan II St, Golestan St. Marzadaran  
Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Printed by:** Honar Sarzmin Sabz  
**Distributed by:**  
Cities of Iran Cultural and  
Artistic Institute  
**Managing Director:** Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

## Ko Takes Five-Shot Lead at LPGA Tour Championship

MIAMI (Dispatches) - Lydia Ko produced a near immaculate round of golf to take a commanding five-stroke lead at the LPGA's season-ending Tour Championship. Looking confident and comfortable with both her long and short game despite windy conditions, the New Zealander shot a bogey-free six-under par 66 to reach 13-under for the tournament and lead South Korea's Kim Hyo-joo, who shot a 69.

## Neuer Pledges to Wear "One Love" armband at World Cup

DOHA (Dispatches) - Germany captain Manuel Neuer said he was had "no fear" about possible repercussions from FIFA for his country's human rights stances, while acknowledging the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the Qatar World Cup. Speaking at a press conference at the team's training base in Al-Shamal, in northern Qatar, Neuer pledged to wear the controversial "One Love" rainbow armband during matches to promote diversity and inclusion.

# Celtics Roll to Ninth Straight NBA Win

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - The Boston Celtics rolled to a ninth straight NBA victory while Dallas Mavericks star Luka Doncic notched another milestone with his 50th career triple-double.

Doncic scored 33 points with 12 rebounds and 11 assists in the Mavericks' 127-99 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

At 23 years and 263 days old in his 279th game became the second-youngest and second-fastest NBA player to 50 triple-doubles.

Oscar Robertson was 23 years and 32 days old when he achieved the feat in his 111th career game. It marked the 25th time that Doncic has scored at least 30 points in a triple-double. He's got four 30-point triple-doubles in 14 games this season.

His exploit came as the Nuggets are without two-time Most Valuable Player Nikola Jokic, who missed a second straight game due to Covid-19 protocols.

"It's great," Doncic said of the achievement, albeit without much enthusiasm, adding: "A win is a win."

Mavericks coach Jason Kidd was a big more effusive in discussing his young star. "He's already rewriting the record books," Kidd said. "Oscar is pretty special, so to be in there behind Oscar — it just shows you how good he is."

In New Orleans, the Celtics improved their league-leading record to 13-3, their latest long-range barrage burying the Pelicans 117-109.

Each of Boston's five starters scored in double figures and each drained at least two of the Celtics' 20 three-pointers — Derrick White connecting on six.

Jaylen Brown paced the Celtics with 27 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists and White added 26.

New Orleans cut a 13-point deficit to six midway through the fourth quarter before the Celtics pulled away again, and Brown said that despite their recent dominance the Celtics can improve their focus.

The Golden State Warriors, who beat the Celtics in last season's championship series but have struggled in the early stages of their title defense, rebounded from an ugly loss to Phoenix with a 111-101 victory over the New York Knicks.

In Philadelphia, 76ers center Joel Embiid scored 32 points and out-duelled Milwaukee big



man Giannis Antetokounmpo to lead the injury-depleted hosts to a 110-102 victory over the Bucks.

The Sixers, missing James Harden, Tobias Harris and Furkan Korkmaz going into the contest, lost Tyrese Maxey to a foot injury at halftime.

Maxey had scored 24 points before he limped out late in the second quarter.

Embiid's 19 second-half points propelled the 76ers past the Bucks, who led 62-55 at halftime. Embiid — coming off 42-point and 59-point performances on Saturday and Sunday — added 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 25 points and 14 rebounds. But he connected on just four of 15 free-throw attempts.

In Memphis, Jaren Jackson's 25 points and 12 rebounds led the Grizzlies in a 121-110 victory over Oklahoma City, but it could prove a costly win after Grizzlies star point guard Ja Morant departed late in the contest with a left ankle injury.

The Cavaliers needed two overtimes to put away the Charlotte Hornets 132-122 in Cleveland. Darius Garland scored 41 points and Donovan Mitchell added 34 for the Cavs, who saw their 10-point lead erased in the final 52.4 seconds of regulation.

It also went to overtime in Washington, where the Wizards edged the short-handed Miami Heat 107-106.

Bradley Beal scored 27 points, Kyle Kuzma added 21 and Kristaps Porzingis added 20 with 17 rebounds for the Wizards, who withstood a triple-double of 24 points, 10 rebounds and 15 assists by Miami's Kyle Lowry.

In Los Angeles, the Lakers beat the Detroit Pistons 128-121, despite the absence of superstar LeBron James for a third straight game with a groin injury.

## Shiffrin Strikes in Slalom to Win World Cup Opener



LEVI (Dispatches) - Reigning overall World Cup champion Mikaela Shiffrin laid down a marker for the new ski season with victory in the slalom in Levi, the belated opening event of the tour.

Shiffrin was third after the first run, 0.55 seconds off the pace, but produced a superb second run to clock a combined time of 1 minute 51.25 seconds.

That was good enough to beat Sweden's Anna Swenn Larsson by 0.16sec and claim her 75th victory on the World Cup circuit.

At 27, the American is fast approaching the overall alpine ski record of Swede Ingemar Stenmark, who claimed 86 wins, and the women's record of 82 held by her compatriot Lindsey Vonn.

Shiffrin's great Slovak rival Petra Vlhova, Olympic champion in the discipline in Beijing earlier in the year, finished third, 0.20sec behind the winner.

Germany's Lena Duerr, who finished third in the overall slalom standings last season, set the fastest time in the first leg but a sluggish second run meant she could only finish fourth, ahead of Switzerland's Wendy Holdener.

Levi, a city in the far north of Finland, located above the Arctic Circle, marks the opening of the women's season after the cancellation in October of the giant in Sölden because of the weather.

## Perez Puts Red Bull On Top in Final F1 Practice of the Season

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - Mexican Sergio Perez pipped Red Bull team mate Max Verstappen to the fastest time in the final practice session for the Formula One season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The 32-year-old Perez, hoping to wrap up second place in the overall standings behind world champion Verstappen on Sunday, lapped the 5.2-kilometre track in one minute 24.982 seconds, 0.152 seconds quicker than the Dutchman.

Lewis Hamilton was third, 0.240 seconds adrift of Perez, and ahead of Brazilian Grand Prix-winning Mercedes team mate George Russell.

But the seven-times world champion, still hunting for his first victory of the year to keep his record of winning a race every year intact, is under investigation for passing two cars under red-flag conditions.

Lando Norris took fifth for McLaren ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who is level on points with Perez and the Mexican's main rival for second in the overall standings.

Carlos Sainz was seventh in the other Ferrari ahead of Daniel Ricciardo who finished his final practice session for McLaren in eighth.

Sebastian Vettel, who is calling time on his career after Sunday's race, was ninth for Aston Martin ahead of Williams racer Alexander Albon who rounded out the top 10.

## Iniesta Backs Spain's Youngsters To Deliver at World Cup

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Spain's World Cup-winning midfielder Andres Iniesta said head coach Luis Enrique's youthful squad has plenty of first-team experience at club level to deliver international success.

The 2010 champions have opted for a new generation of talent with the likes of Liverpool midfielder Thiago Alcantara and Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea left out.

A lot will be expected from exciting Barcelona teenagers Pedri and Gavi at the finals in Qatar and Iniesta said he had full confidence in the duo and the rest of the players.

# Rublev Reaches ATP Finals Last Four



TURIN (Dispatches) - Andrey Rublev produced a stunning come-from-behind victory to down Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6 6-3 6-2 and reach the last four at the ATP Finals, while Novak Djokovic stayed unbeaten in the round-robin stage with a win over Daniil Medvedev.

Tsitsipas came out firing to dominate the first set, pouncing on a shallow ball from Rublev to crush a forehand winner for the early break and a 3-1 lead as the fiery Russian's temper began to boil over.

The Greek claimed the set when Rublev failed to put one of his second serves into play

and it appeared the Russian might go quietly from there. Instead, Rublev cut down on the errors in the second set and let out a mighty roar at Pala Alpitour when he broke Tsitsipas for a 5-3 lead.

Rublev saved a break point in the next game and held his fist up high when Tsitsipas' forehand went wide to level the contest at a set apiece.

From there it was Tsitsipas who struggled to keep his composure as Rublev continued to apply pressure, breaking for 2-1 in the third set and again for 5-2 on back-to-back double faults by the world number three.

"I just kept telling myself to keep fighting, keep playing, and we'll see what happens," Rublev said.

"I was happy that I was mentally strong today and I was able to turn the match around because Stef in the beginning was hitting super hard, hitting so many forehand winners."

## Germany Ready to Pay Fines Over Human Rights Stance at World Cup

MADINAT AL-SHAMAL (Dispatches) - German Football Association president Bernd Neundorff said the organization was ready to face financial sanctions for taking a stand on human rights issues at the World Cup in Qatar.

DFB chief Neundorff said he was "irritated" by statements made by FIFA in the run-up to the tournament.

The world governing body earlier this month told the 32 participating teams to "focus on football" and avoid ideological battles.

The build-up to the World Cup has been dominated by concerns over the Gulf state's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community.

Neundorff said he "did not want to rule out further actions" in support of human rights.

Captain Manuel Neuer has committed to wear a "One Love" armband to promote diversity and inclusion — along with skippers from several other European teams — with Neundorff saying it was unclear whether FIFA would take action.

He said wearing the armband "was not a political declaration, but a statement (of support) for human rights".

"Should there be financial sanctions, I am personally ready to pay a fine," he said.

He also reiterated that the DFB would not support the re-election of FIFA boss Gianni Infantino, who is running unopposed for a third term as head of the governing body.

"We need to send a signal," he said. "His (Infantino's) statement that human rights should not be focused on because of the World Cup, that really irritated me."



## FIFA Chief Blasts Hypocrisy of Western Nations On Eve of World Cup

DOHA (Dispatches) - FIFA President Gianni Infantino blasted the "hypocrisy" of Western critics of Qatar's human rights record on Saturday, making a passionate defense of the World Cup in the Persian Gulf state on the eve of the kick-off.

The build-up to the tournament has been dominated by concerns over Qatar's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community, to the visible annoyance of organizers.

Qatar officials say their country has been the target of "racism" and "double standards" and they point to the reforms on working conditions and safety that have been hailed as groundbreaking in the region.

Football itself again took a back seat on Saturday, with the focus firmly on off-field politics just 24 hours before hosts Qatar were due open the tournament against Ecuador.

Infantino, speaking at his opening press conference of the tournament in Doha, had harsh words for critics of Qatar.

"This moral lesson-giving — one-sided — is just hypocrisy," said the Swiss.

"I don't want to give you any lessons of life, but what is going on here is profoundly, profoundly unjust."

He added: "For what we Europeans have been doing for the last 3,000 years we should apologize for the next 3,000 years before starting giving moral lessons to people."

Infantino also expressed his support for marginalized communities.

"Today I feel Qatari, today I feel Arab, today I feel African, today I feel gay, today I feel disabled, today I feel a migrant worker," he said.

